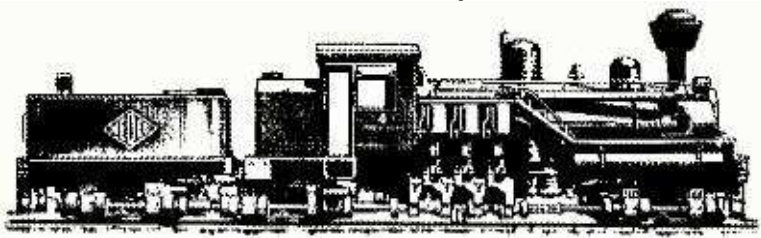


# The Manifest



**May, 2012**

Official Publication of the Southern Oregon  
Chapter of the National Railway Historical  
Society

P.O. Box 622  
Medford, Oregon 97501  
<http://www.soc-nrhs.org/>

**Special MEDCO NO. 4 FUND RAISING Offer – Matching Donations are Back**  
By: Jerry Hellinga

Jerry Hellinga, Project Manager of the Medco No. 4 Restoration Project, is offering special gifts for donations of \$500 or more. The gifts are blue denim shirts embroidered with the Willamette logo and “Medco No. 4”. For donations of \$1000 or more the shirt will be personalized and the Patron label added in gold embroidery.

In addition to the shirts all donations of any amount received for Medco #4 will be matched.



Embroidered design on gift shirts for donations of \$500 or more.



Embroidered design on gift shirts for donations of \$1000 or more.

## **Bullis Logging Railroad and Rail Trail** By Ric Walch

After the initial rediscovery of the history of the Bullis Logging Railroad that operated up Jackson Creek the Southern Oregon Chapter NRHS has worked with the Jacksonville Forest Park Rangers to help develop the rail trail, recover and display artifacts and relocate the original write of way. This winter the JFP Rangers have located additional right of way continuing up Jackson Creek and running south towards the eventual connection with the Rogue River Valley Railroad.

We are planning a GPS mapping expedition sometime this spring to plot the exact location of the existing known right of way (Rail Trail) and hopefully discover additional extensions and spurs. Our goal is to eventually trace the line from its connection with the RRVRR to its final location in the Jackson Creek area. When complete the mapping of the Bullis extension will recover a valuable part of history that was almost lost. We are also planning on making a video on the mapping expedition that will feature the current Rail Trail and our efforts to rediscover additional artifacts and document the entire right of way. We have also had a request to submit a comprehensive article to National to include in the NRHS quarterly magazine. Anyone that would like to join this foray into the wilds of Jackson Creek or help document this effort please confirm back to me with a call or E-mail.

Ric Walch

[engmgr@medfab.com](mailto:engmgr@medfab.com)

541-840-4380

## **Siskiyou Summit Rail Plan Gathers Steam** Excerpts from articles by: Greg Stiles

Work on tunnels on the Siskiyou line to re-establish the Oregon-California service is the top priority on ODOT's wish list for getting federal cash.



Like The Little Engine That Could, the Siskiyou Summit Railroad Revitalization project is pushing along with its growing list of backers thinking it can.

After the Coos-Siskiyou Shippers Coalition and the Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad called a truce in an impasse that effectively closed rail activity between Weed,

Calif., and Ashland in 2008, it took a while to gather momentum. Now the project tops the Oregon Department of Transportation's rail wish list as it seeks \$7.05 million in federal funds to complete the \$9.5 million effort to improve tunnels on the tracks.

The final submission — backed by both Oregon and California officials as well as a couple of dozen local governments and agencies — is now being considered in Washington, where \$500 million will be divvied up in the coming months.

Rail traffic on the Siskiyou Pass line previously suffered because the route is not only a steep grade, but also has several tunnels that are not built to handle the taller freight cars now often used by railroads. But the route does provide a potentially lucrative link between Oregon and California.

About 56 percent of the costs would be expended in Oregon and 44 percent in California. Private partners are kicking in nearly \$2.4 million and local governments about \$30,000.

A key argument in the proposal is that thousands of trucks would be taken off the freeway over the Siskiyou Summit. Another element is that construction-related employment would add the equivalent of more than 31 full-time jobs. It also would allow Southern Oregon manufacturers to ship products more competitively.

## Historic Alaska Railroad Steam Locomotive Arrives in Anchorage

By Ted Land



Steam engine 557, a 69-year-old Alaska Railroad locomotive, rolled into Anchorage for the first time in many years Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.

“It’s a pretty big moment for Alaska and the railroad,” said David Blazejewski, the Alaska Railroad’s transportation superintendent.

Blazejewski gathered along the Seward Highway with several other railroad fans to see the locomotive make its

way from Whittier to Anchorage on a flatbed railcar, towed by a pair of diesel locomotives.

Engine 557 was the last regularly-scheduled steam locomotive to run on the Alaska Railroad, before it was retired in the 1960’s and sent to a museum down in Washington State.

The man who owned 557 passed away recently and some buyers up North decided to jump at the opportunity to bring the machine back to Alaska. The owners of Lynden Transport purchased the locomotive and donated it to the Alaska Railroad. As part of the deal, the railroad now has eight years

to refurbish the engine and get it back into passenger service or the locomotive goes back to the donors.

“Should be able to do it sooner than that for sure, we'll be shooting for 2013. Whether we make it or not, not positive, but we can do it,” said Chris Aadnesen, the railroad's president and CEO.

Perhaps no one is looking forward to the next ride more than 89-year-old Weaver Franklin, who was among several people to gather at the downtown rail depot to greet 557 upon its arrival.

Franklin was a locomotive engineer and fireman on the Alaska Railroad in the 1940s, who says he used to run engine 557 and others like her.

“I got a lot of memories of that thing, it's quite an experience,” he said.

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Southern Oregon Chapter – National Railway Historical Society  
Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting

Minutes of March 27, 2012

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM by Vice-President Ric Walch
2. Roll Call: John Powell, Jerry Hellinga, Ric Walch, Larry Tuttle and 3 other members were present. E. Don Pettit was absent
3. Consent of the Agenda: Consent of the Agenda by consensus.
4. Approval of the February 28, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes. Jerry Hellinga moved to accept the minutes as presented. John Powell seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
5. Treasurer's Report: Jerry Hellinga presented the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by consensus.
6. Committee Reports:
  - a. Newsletter: Allen Dobney presented that 60 people now get printed copies; we're saving about \$250 per year in printing and mailing costs. Allen suggested that the Chapter charge an additional \$6.00 per year for new members to receive the Manifest in print. Discussion. Larry Tuttle suggested that the Manifest be emailed unless members request hard copies. More discussion. Consensus to accept Larry's suggestion. Allen noted that he needs newsletter articles.
  - b. Membership: Jerry Hellinga noted that 12 people have not renewed their 2012 membership and that he will call most of them.
7. Old Business:
  - a. Medco 4: Jerry Hellinga reported that he took a load of boiler parts to Richfield, WA where the locomotive boiler is being rebuilt. Discussion about progress and options.

- b. CTC Relay Panels: no update.
- c. Conversion of CB&Q Caboose to Children's Museum: Ric Walch reported that Larry and Alice Mullaly are making changes and the progress is nearly complete. Jerry Hellinga expressed concern about who would be responsible for a loss in the event of theft of displays.
- d. Signs for Railroad Park: No update.
- e. Open House Staffing: Nothing new to report

8. New Business:

- a. Membership: Allen Dobney talked about an email conversation with Janet Klase of the Gold Hill Historical Society where 3000 mailings yielded a 3% return and effectively doubled their membership. 3000 mailings cost about \$700; do we want to do a "trial balloon?" Discussion about targeting specific groups for a mailing from the Chapter. Allen will look into a focused direction for any such mailing.
- b. Fund Raising: Allen Dobney is considering selling prints of digital, historical photos on eBay. Discussion. Allen will try it out. Jerry Hellinga suggested producing a calendar of the Chapter's photos.

9. Good of the Order: Larry Tuttle reported that the Wi Fi router is still out; a suitable replacement is being sought. Ric Walch mentioned the TV in the museum; Larry Tuttle will make a shelf for it and Jerry Hellinga will change the bulb. Ric Walch said the concession stand sold a lot of hats and Jerry said there were some in the store room. Ric Walch stated that we need to order stuff to sell in the stand and that a barbecue is being built. Jerry Hellinga brought up the issue of locating the porta-potties; discussion. Question and discussion about getting the boiler back into the Railroad Park and how the size and location of the gate creates a problem. John Powell suggested that we consider having a Chapter barbecue at the equipment in White City. Jerry Hellinga mentioned that Burrill is getting irritated about trespassers and their climbing on our equipment.

10. Adjournment: Jerry Hellinga moved to adjourn; John Powell seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Larry Tuttle, Secretary

Next General Meeting: April 10, 2012 at 7:00 PM

Next Regular Board Meeting: April 24, 2012 at 7:00 PM

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING ENTERTAINMENT**

If you have railroad slides or videos that you would like to present, please email me at ([adobney@gmail.com](mailto:adobney@gmail.com)) or call me at 541-582-0605 with the details and I will put you on the schedule.

## ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

As always we need articles for the newsletter. If you have something you would like to see included in an upcoming newsletter, please send your submission to; [adobney@gmail.com](mailto:adobney@gmail.com) or call 541-582-0605. Thanks.....Allen

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	E. Don Pettit		541-601-4772
Vice President	Ric Walch	<a href="mailto:engmgr@medfab.com">engmgr@medfab.com</a>	541-772-6255
Treasurer	Jerry Hellinga	<a href="mailto:ghelling@jeffnet.org">ghelling@jeffnet.org</a>	541-944-2230
Secretary	Larry Tuttle	<a href="mailto:larry@alpharail.net">larry@alpharail.net</a>	541-660-0989
National Director	John Powell	<a href="mailto:rebel_780@hotmail.com">rebel_780@hotmail.com</a>	541-601-9256

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Newsletter & Entertainment	Allen Dobney	<a href="mailto:adobney@gmail.com">adobney@gmail.com</a>	541-582-0605
Webmaster	Larry Tuttle	<a href="mailto:larry@alpharail.net">larry@alpharail.net</a>	541-660-0989
Medco #4 Restoration	Jerry Hellinga	<a href="mailto:ghelling@jeffnet.org">ghelling@jeffnet.org</a>	541-944-2230

## UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

**Saturday May 5, 2012, 12:00 Noon – 5:00PM:** Railroad Park open house for the PNR-PCR NMRA convention. If you can help during this special open house contact Dan Wilkinson at [whetstone@budget.net](mailto:whetstone@budget.net) or (541) 479-1210.

**May 8, 2012, 7:00PM @ Model Railroad Clubhouse:** Membership Meeting. Allen Dobney will be presenting a DVD "Rotaries, Avalanche on the mountain" Winter of 2011 broke records on Donner pass dating back nearly 30 years.

**May 13, 2012, 11:00AM – 3:00PM:** Railroad Park open house. We need your help, prior experience not required in the following areas, (you can sign up for all or part of the 11:00AM-3:00PM time):

- 4 people – Concession stand operation
- 3 people – Motor Car Operation
- 1 person – CB&Q Caboose Children's Museum Docent
- 1 person – Hand Car Operation
- 1 person – SP 1107 Caboose Docent
- 1 person – Museum Docent

If you would like to help during the open house, contact Dan Wilkinson at [whetstone@budget.net](mailto:whetstone@budget.net) or (541) 479-1210.

**May 22, 2012, 7:00PM @ Model Railroad Clubhouse:** Southern Oregon Chapter of the NRHS Board Meeting.

**May 27, 2012, 11:00AM – 3:00PM:** Railroad Park open house. If you would like to help during the open house, contact Dan Wilkinson at [whetstone@budget.net](mailto:whetstone@budget.net) or (541) 479-1210.

**June 10, 2012, 11:00AM – 3:00PM:** Railroad Park open house. If you would like to help during the open house, contact Dan Wilkinson at [whetstone@budget.net](mailto:whetstone@budget.net) or (541) 479-1210.

**June 12, 2012, 7:00PM @ Model Railroad Clubhouse:** Membership Meeting. Allen Dobney will be presenting a slide show on short line and fallen flag railroads in the West plus a few museum shots.

**June 24, 2012, 11:00AM – 3:00PM:** Railroad Park open house. If you would like to help during the open house, contact Dan Wilkinson at [whetstone@budget.net](mailto:whetstone@budget.net) or (541) 479-1210.

**June 26, 2012, 7:00PM @ Model Railroad Clubhouse:** Southern Oregon Chapter of the NRHS Board Meeting.

**Thursday June 28, 2012, 12:00 Noon – 2:30PM:** Railroad Park open house for the N Scale convention. If you can help during this special open house contact Dan Wilkinson at [whetstone@budget.net](mailto:whetstone@budget.net) or (541) 479-1210.

## NOTABLE NON-CHAPTER EVENTS

**May 2 - 5, 2012** – PNR & PCR / NMRA Siskiyou Summit 2012 Joint Convention, Medford, Oregon. For more information go to: <http://www.pcrnmra.org/conv2012/>

**May 11, 2012 – 6:30PM:** Ashland Railroad Museum, 258 'A' STREET #7 (Upstairs). Tony Johnson will be giving a lecture on the many railroads which connected with Southern Pacific's 300-mile long Siskiyou Line.

**May 13, 2012 thru December 16, 2012** – Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad 2012 operations. For more details go to: <http://www.ocsr.net/>

**May 25, 2012 thru December** – Sumpter Valley Railway 2012 steam operations. For more information go to: <http://www.sumptervalleyrailroad.org/index.html>

**June 27 – July 1, 2012** - The N-scale Convention, also in Medford, Red Lion, will be asking for a day at the park during this week. For more information go to: <http://www.nationalscaleconvention.com/>

**July 7-11, 2012** - Great Northern Historical Society 2012 Convention will be held in Klamath Falls. For more information, email: [ask@gnrhs.org](mailto:ask@gnrhs.org)

**If you know of any other events that should be added to our newsletter, please email, ([adobney@gmail.com](mailto:adobney@gmail.com)), or call, (541-582-0605), with the details.**