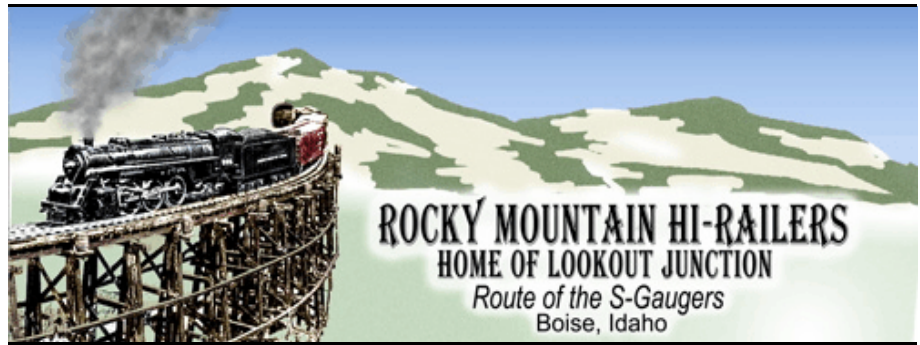


S Say

Volume XXII, No. 8
August 2017
Boise, Idaho



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Ambitious Work Plan Commences

THERE ARE 23 months until we take Lookout Junction IV to the National Train Show in Sandy, Utah. July 2019 is our target date to have the second phase of the layout ready for prime time on the national stage.

We always met our schedules when displaying Lookout Junctions II and III at the Seattle and the Sacramento National Train Shows, but that doesn't mean it hasn't been tight.

Our next NTS will allow us to breathe a little easier, we hope, as we have devised a general work plan and its attendant completion schedule. But, of course, that all depends on the number of members showing up for any particular session and the vagaries of Murphy's Law. (As an aside—ask me sometime about the direct Boise connection to that famous statute.)

Now that we have a rough outline of what needs to be done by

when, we can begin to focus on the individual steps and their details. We're jumping right in with two work sessions per month scheduled for August and September, before we take Lookout Junction to "Railshow 2017" in Idaho Falls in October.

These next four meetings will be hosted by **Shane Jibben**, who

resides at 1825 E. Seaside Court in Boise. After our show at the Cherry Festival, Shane took tables #2 through #8 (the "right pod") to his garage, where we will begin re-doing the trackwork.

All of these decisions were voted on at our July 8 meeting in Winstead Park. Attending the

meeting were **Charlie Stenzel, Glenn Hadden, John Crites, Shane Jibben, Mike Graefe, Rick Emerson, John King, Van Porr, and John Eichmann.**

After much debate, the club decided to return to the use of modified track fitters over the layout's table joints in lieu of butt joints. These would be similar to our original fitters, but without roadbed attached to the ties.

One suggestion, presented by **Bill Seader**, is that we install wooden roadbed to the ends of the permanently laid track on each module table, then remove the plastic ties near the ends of that track,

This Month's Meetings

Saturday, August 12, 2017

→ 8 a.m. ←

(Note the earlier time)

Tuesday, August 22, 2017

9 a.m.

**1825 E. Seaside Court
Boise, Idaho**

(See Map)

substituting copper ties which would be screwed into place on the wooden roadbed. Bill offers that this would produce a very rigid track section, consistently located on each table, to which the floating fitter sections would be attached.

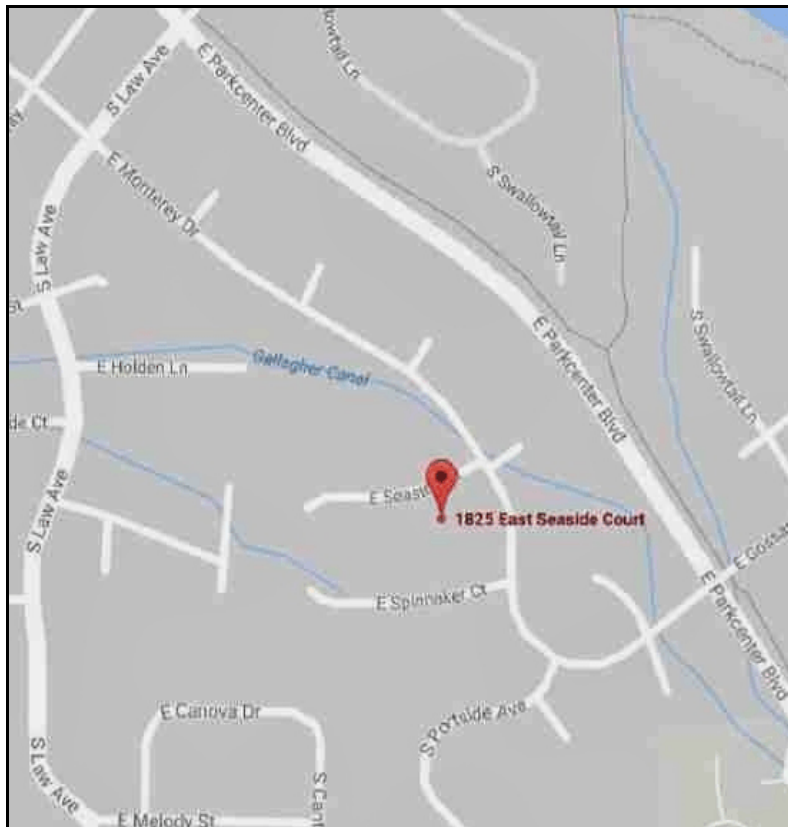
We voted to install American Models Flex Bed vinyl roadbed across the entire layout, including the yet-to-be constructed upper tables.

Therefore, we'll rip up the old sill-seal roadbed for replacement. What that means, of course, is that all track will be lifted and replaced with precision on the new bed. The Flex Bed will be spray painted with "stone texture" paint to simulate ballast.

When Shane and **Kelly Lloyd** began to work on the butt-joint project last winter, they noted that our original track-laying effort varied as much as one-half inch on some tables. Obviously, that discrepancy cannot work for modular consistency. Hence, a complete overhaul of the track is in order. That is Project #1 on our list.

Our first meeting on **Saturday, August 12**, will be held one hour earlier than our usual time. We'll gather at Shane's garage at **8 a.m.** in an attempt to beat the summer heat. The remainder of our meetings will revert to the regular time of 9 a.m. as, we hope, temperatures will drop somewhat.

Shane proposes the following task schedule for August and September:



Shane's house—1825 E. Seaside Court. Go east on Parkcenter Boulevard or on Boise Avenue, towards Bown Crossing.

- **Saturday August 12, 8 a.m.** – Remove track and roadbed from tables 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and an extra corner table (remember, we have two spares). Clean leftover ballast and roadbed from track and tables. Fix any broken leg sockets. Sand tables as needed and prime (white paint).
- **Tuesday August 22, 9 a.m.** – Carefully measure and draw lines for roadbed. Once drawn out, dry-fit track to make sure it's fitting with NO gaps. If we have gaps, we stop, figure out why, and fix it.
- **Saturday, September 9, 9 a.m.** – Apply roadbed. Once applied, paint.
- **Tuesday, September 19, 9 a.m.** – Begin laying track.

(Directions to Shane's house: approaching from the north, take Parkcenter Blvd., turn right on S. Law Ave., then left on E. Monterey, and right on E. Seaside Ct.; approaching from the south, take Boise Ave., turn left on S. Law Ave., right on E. Monterey, and right on E. Seaside Ct.)

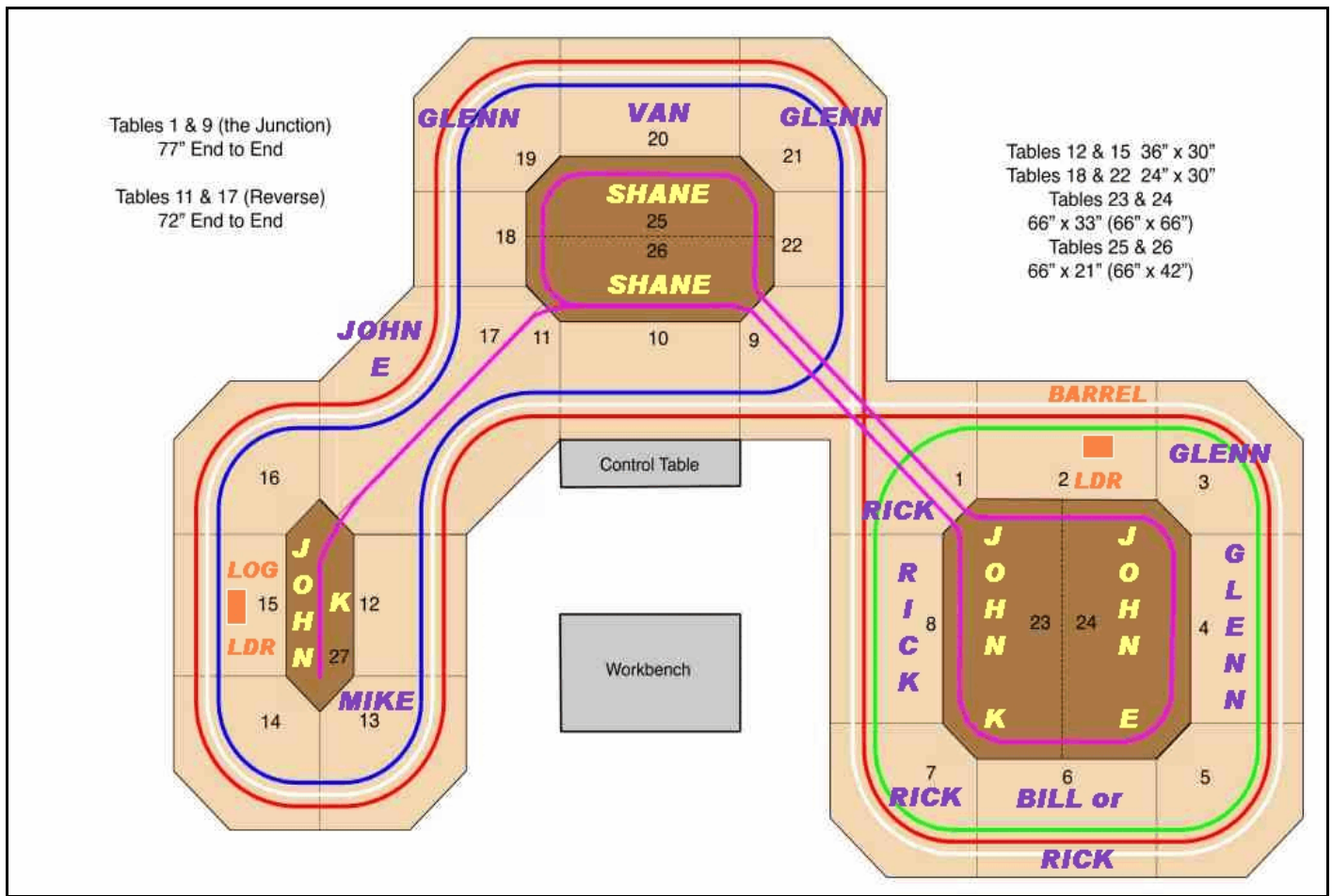
Since the tables on the right pod will be under (re)construction this fall, we had discussed taking only the center and left pods to Railshow 2017 in Idaho Falls. However, Glenn, as the designer of our layout, has a nearly mirror image layout in his home, and he volunteered to loan us tables #2 through #8

for that show.

We will need to fit Lookout Junction's table #1 to Glenn's tables to ensure alignment, which means the trailer will be taken to his home before October for that purpose. If successful, we can load his tables for the cross-state trip. If not successful, we will finish off the center pod with one of our spare corner tables in lieu of the double-crossing junction (#1 and #9).

Individual Scenic Areas and Dioramas Discussed

Members were asked their preferences for claiming specific areas to decorate on the expanded layout. These tables will be assigned and totally under the purview of their "landlords"



Tentative requests for diorama placement. Lots of space still available.

(with the exception of track and operating accessories, of course).

Compromise on at least one table (#6) will be worked out, and nothing has been formally decided, but the adjacent plan shows a preliminary idea of what may be literally coming down the pike.

As seen on the plan, there are still plenty of unclaimed tables which are available: part of #2, #5, #9, #10, #11, #12, #14, part of #15, #16, #18, and #22. Some of these areas are rather small, so think about adopting one or more in addition to what you have already claimed. Throw your hat in the ring and tackle your winter project at home.

Bridges will be laid between upper tables #23 and #26 (two tracks) and tables #26 and #27

(single track).

Members who have been assigned an area are reminded that dioramas are expected to be completed no later than summer 2018.

We also want to coordinate compatible transitions from area to area, so get with your neighbor to discuss each other's design plans and how they can fit together.

How Does Our Proposed Expansion Stack Up?

In addition to the new Flex Bed vinyl roadbed we'll be installing, we will need more track for the upper level. **Shane** computed track lengths for each of Lookout

Junction IV's existing four lower loops and the proposed upper loop and siding.

While the upper loop is estimated, these are fairly accurate calculations (rounded up to closest foot).

(Lower)

Red: 93 feet
White: 92 feet
Blue: 43 feet
Green: 27 feet

(Upper)

Magenta: 71 feet

Total: 326 feet

By way of comparison, the track lengths on Lookout Junction III for all four loops, including passing sidings and

wyes, was **315 feet** (but I don't think that includes the 8-track yard we had at the rear of the layout).

New Club Shirts

After last month's *S Say* article on the design, style, and color(s) for new club polo shirts, a spirited discussion ensued via email and at the July meeting.

I predicted that the final decision may be akin to herding cats, as we have preferences all over the map.

Fortunately, we have no urgency to make our choice, so we have time to discuss, negotiate, lobby, and coerce each other before we go to Sandy. Perhaps we can develop some preliminary options and then ask members to vote.

Stay tuned.

Are You Up For An Additional Library Show?

Bill Seader and I will be meeting with the Boise Public Library staff this month to schedule our winter train shows at the Main and the Cole & Ustick Libraries. The new branch at Bown Crossing would also like us to display, perhaps in March. Their room is reportedly comparable to the one at Cole.

We'll discuss it at this month's meetings, while bearing in mind our work schedule.

S Say is the official newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Hi-Railers. Unless otherwise noted, all articles are written by the editor/coordinator, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the club. Articles and letters are encouraged. Address comments and correspondence to:

John Eichmann, Coordinator
john@rockymountainhirailers.com
www.rockymountainhirailers.com

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RMHR Calendar

Saturday, August 12, 2017

8 a.m.
1825 E. Seaside Court
Boise, Idaho

Tuesday, August 22

9 a.m.
1825 E. Seaside Court
Boise, Idaho

Saturday, September 9

9 a.m.
1825 E. Seaside Court
Boise, Idaho

Tuesday, September 19

9 a.m.
1825 E. Seaside Court
Boise, Idaho

October 14-15

Display Lookout Junction
"Railshow 2017"
Idaho Falls Rec Center
Idaho Falls, Idaho

July 12-14, 2019

Display Lookout Junction
National Train Show
Sandy, Utah



The Gang at our July meeting in the park: Van, Mike, Shane, John K. Charlie, John C., Rick, Glenn.

