



GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

MAIN LINE

APRIL, 2020

Volume 29

Number 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dave Brown

The Corona virus continues to change everyone's daily life and our train club activities. So, as you may have heard, we have had to cancel the April Mini Meet. Working with the Presidents of the other two train clubs, the May three club picnic has also been canceled.

The May meeting is still up in the air. It will depend on how the virus dies off over the next month or so. Beyond that I hope things will get back to normal and July and August events will go as planned. One thing that is in the talking stage right now is the possibility of a three club potluck dinner sometime this summer to take the place of the three club May picnic. The date and location is still in the works, so stay tuned to this newsletter.

During this down time, it is a great time to fix that engine that's been squeaking down the track or smoking without the benefit of a smoke unit. Don't forget to lube the wheels on your cars. They'll pull a lot easier come Railfair. That's right, with all the down time, we need to start thinking of the start of the railroading season.

Don't forget to send Peter a picture and or a short article for the newsletter to keep everyone in the club up to date on your layout, or new trains you've gotten. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at which ever is our next GCMR meeting.

CALENDAR

GCMR meets are held at 9:00am in the Parish Hall of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at 1212 E Glendale Avenue in Phoenix, located on the north side of Glendale, just east of the traffic light at 12th St. It is easily reached off the Glendale Exit of either I-17 or SR 51. Go east from I-17 or west from SR 51 to 12th Street.

April 25 - GCMR meet - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church - mini meet **CANCELLED**

May 2 - Joint club spring picnic: Asti Ramada at Scottsdale Railroad Park **CANCELLED**

May 23 - GCMR meet - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

June 27 - GCMR meet - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

July 25 - Summer Cactus Meet

A HISTORY OF OUR TRAIN CLUB

by John Draftz

The history of the GCMR traces its roots to the Southwest Division of TTOS.

In early 1972, several toy train enthusiasts wanted to form a "club" whose focus was toy trains. They approached the Southwest Division of TTOS who in turn made them Section 1 of that division. A section could be thought of as a satellite.

In March, 1972 Volume 1, Number 1 of the newsletter was published. The officers were Cliff Williams, President and Tom Stange, Secretary-Treasurer. [A complete list of officers will appear later.]

In April 1972, the membership also included John Barnes, John Catalano, Charles Fink and George Sokol. By May, Bernie Davis was Vice President and John Balian and Ken Scharman were the Board of Directors.

By June, the Section 1 status was replaced by formal Division status. It included Arizona, New Mexico and the 12 counties in West Texas. Unfortunately, the new division had no name and two of the Texas counties were later dropped.

In June, the club name was officially Arizona, Texas and New Mexico or AT&NM and the club was having regular meetings. Meetings were held in places like 1st Federal S&L.

At the start of 1973 the club had \$69 in the bank and 12¢ cash on hand. Train races were held and by February there was \$55.90 in the bank and \$20.12 on hand. The club participated in the joint Christmas party with the also new, Desert Division.

In 1974 members got badges and a joint TCA-TTOS meeting (picnic?) was held in May. Club membership was up to 14.

In 1975, Phoenix was selected as the site of the August 1975 national convention. The club now had 32 members. A club outing was held to Ajo to ride on the TC&GB RR.

The national convention was done well, reflecting on the quality of the club members.

In its first five years, the club had shown itself to be a group "to be reckoned with".

Editor's note: I had moved to Phoenix in June of that year. Mary Jane had remained in Toledo to finish selling our house, but arrived in Phoenix by car, with three of our children, at 8pm the night before the convention. I told her, "guess what, there is a national train convention right here in Phoenix TOMORROW! " We went. I joined TTOS that morning. By 10am I got "that look" and we returned home for her to catch up with her sleep.

'72: Pres - Cliff Williams; Veep – Bernie Davis, Sec-Trea – Tom Stange, BoD: John Balian, Ken Scharman

'73: Pres – Cliff Williams, Veep – Bernie Davis, Sec-Trea – John Catalano, BoD: John Balian, Ken Scharman

'74: Pres – Ken Scharman, Veep – Tom Stanga, Sec-Trea – Nancy Catalano, BoD: John Catalano, Bob Guildig

'75: Pres – John Catalano, Veep – Gerry Kickert, Sec – Nancy Catalano, Trea – Paul Schmidt, BoD: Ken Scharman, Cliff Williams

'76: Pres – Ken Scharman, Veep – Cliff Williams, Sec – Ron James, Trea – Paul Schmidt, BoD: Dave Arthur

'77: Pres – John Woods, Veep – John Hammons, Sec – Phil Hill, Trea – Fred Goulden, BoD: Nick Grippe, Ken Scharman

(to be continued)

Board of Directors

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Editor: Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 mjatonna@gmail.com - Website: www.gcmrr.org

Editor's Note: With these times of cancelled activities, our newsletter will not be able to report on any Board or Meetings not held. But, this is a good time for us to share what is going on with how we are enjoying this hobby of ours. Hopefully, you will use your extra "spare" time with your trains - cleaning and organizing your collection, working on building your layout, adding projects to the layout, and just running trains..

If so, could you send me some notes, photos and even articles to share with your club friends. Then newsletter does not have to be a "one pager" if you share your train activities with others.

To start, I've included a couple of articles I have also shared with the Desert Division and our local Prescott club.

GOOD READING

by Peter Atonna

As many of us have noted, with the travel, visitation restrictions, this is a really good time to enjoy your layout. And as many of you know, I am primarily a layout person. As a result, since the beginning of this series, I have really enjoyed reading this Kalmbach annual publication. Even though they are all "scale" layouts, it is still enjoyable to see the

craftsmanship that people in our hobby put into their home layouts.

If you are interested in ordering, here is the link to the page:

https://kalmbachhobbystore.com/product/special-issue/vt-GMR211001-C?utm_source=Yesmail&utm_medium=email&utm_email=mjatonna@gmail.com&utm_campaign=SA000_HBS_200410_P37864_GMR2021Presale_MRR-HBS

MINI SCENES

by Peter Atonna

As people who have visited me here know, my layout is in a pretty complete state. So, there are few new project opportunities. But that does not mean that working on the layout is done. Now, I can look for opportunities to add small scenes.

Here is the story of my most recent.

It came about when I ordered a few packages of people that Scenic Express had on sale. In one of them, in addition to the figures, was equipment for a construction site: a porta potty, pylons, a security fence. That got me wondering how to use them. There was not a lot available for a big construction project, so what would be a small one?

How about a storm sewer pipe replacement? That could work as I could cut down through the half inch of Celotex to the layout's plywood underlay and in O gauge have a two foot deep trench. A piece of pipe, some workers and landscape material and I am done.

Here is the chosen location with the first cut into the Celotex in order to go down to the plywood.





Next, I dug out the rest of the “trench”. But, OOPS! we go all the way through and you can see the subway tracks below! Turns out there was a 4” wide area where the plywood base pieces did not butt together. And I had dug into it! Quickly a filler piece was cut and inserted and construction continued. (How often have you heard of a real world water or sewer project finding something not foreseen - I am just imitating real life)

I am now ready to put a base color onto the scene and cover it with real dirt. But wait, how were we able to dig the trench? A quick visit to the Diecast Direct website found an inexpensive (a relative term) backhoe. And here is the finished scene, with the figures that started it all, included.



Construction continued and when the hole is done, an excavation pile is formed from scrap insulating foam and coated with texture paint.



A TALE OF THREE TROLLIES

By Peter Atonna

First I admit I like trollies. I don't know why since I am too young to remember ever seeing one as a youth. But I think it is how they thread their way through cities – downtowns, uptown, and even into the country. When I built my first layout here in Paulden, my Douglas, AZ town scene had to have a trolley. (Yes, Douglas did have a trolley, and as a kid, the rails were still imbedded in one street over from our house. And yes, I rode my bike many times up and down that street in the middle of the tracks!)

So, on to my tale. On my layout, my Douglas town has a trolley leading from a fictional subway stop under the train station and up to the downtown area. At that time a company called Western Hobbycraft had imported a very well done, die cast model of a traditional trolley. And that trolley still travels the streets of Douglas.



When it was time to do the current iteration of my layout, Douglas stayed and it was joined by the main theme of the new version, a downtown for a mid-sized city. And of course, it had to have a trolley line. Fortunately, K Line SuperStreets were still available and provided the route through downtown.

I have always like the style of the PCC trolley car. It was a modernized design created before WW11 and was much more streamlined than traditional trollies of the day. Unfortunately, nobody has ever made a scale sized O gauge

PCC trolley other than a non operating version by Corgi. (MTH had one, but to me, it was way oversized and sat way too high on its trucks) At one time, Bowser made a mechanism for the Corgi, but that been many years ago and a month's long search didn't turn up one.

At that time, Bachman was offering a nicely done Peter Witt trolley, so one was bought, some passengers added and it has been running in downtown for five years now. (**trolley #1**)

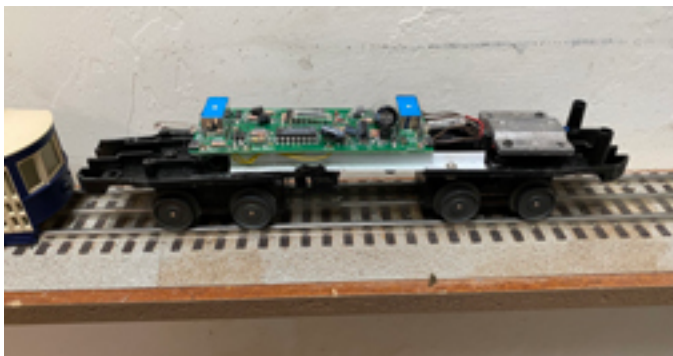


But the PCC bug never left. So, earlier this year, I bought a Corgi and had the brilliant idea of powering it by modifying an Industrial Rail trolley. These are inexpensive, Brill styled trollies sold a while ago by Bachman.

The IR trolley mechanism was taken apart, lengthened to fit the Corgi dimensions and worked so it would fit into the Corgi shell. Testing the motor and frame on the trolley tracks, it ran fine all around the downtown loop.



I put the Corgi shell on it and powered up. It would not move. I took the shell off and it ran fine. Turns out this “thing” was so under powered that it would only run with its lightweight plastic shell. The metal Corgi was too much for it! (**trolley #2**)



Back on went the Peter Witt. But wait, why not try Ebay one more time. Bingo! There was listed a Corgi PCC with the Bowser mechanism. “Buy it Now” was invoked.

It arrived promptly and was equally promptly was put onto the tracks. It ran, almost. Turns

out the Super Street curved were a little too sharp. So, apart it came. After a full disassembly, I was able to widen the frame where the wheels turned to let it travel the sharper curves. But I figured while I as in there, let’s add some lights and every trolley needs a motorman. So in these went.

So now, the happy ending. At last, a sleek PCC trolley winds its way through downtown. It took three tries, but downtown now has contemporary trolley service (and now, **trolley #3**)



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6020LTS	Lionel Steam Turbine Loco with Smoke and Whistle	31.00	23.50
6751LTS	Lionel Steam-Type Loco with Smoke and Whistle	28.00	19.25
6711LTS	Lionel Steam Turbine Loco with Smoke and Whistle	27.50	24.75
7261LTS	Lionel Steam Loco with Smoke and Whistle	42.50	29.50



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SWAP FROM 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Large Farmers Market at the same time!



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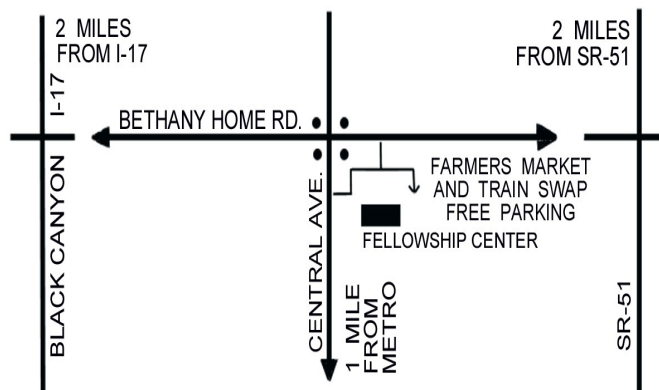
GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILRODERS

Print legibly. No refunds after July 18, 2020

Join Our Fun Friday Pre-meet Denny's Dinner !

Saturday set-up opens at 6:00 AM

NOTE: unclaimed tables will be released at 8:00 AM



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Security: I will abide with badge identification entrance requirements.

Buying, selling, ethics and behavior: In case of dispute, the Meet Chairperson and/or impartial referee appointed by the Meet Chairperson shall arbitrate the dispute and render a timely decision and I hereby agree to be bound by such decision. **I will not pack until 1:00 PM.** Not responsible for lost or stolen articles.

Signature _____ Date _____

Make check payable to: **"Grand Canyon Model Railroaders"**

Mail to: John Draftz, 1507 W Willow Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85029

or

Credit cards accepted via PayPal - visit www.gcmrr.org

Email: info@gcmrr.org

Info: John Draftz 602-942-3457; Glenn Saber 602-956-6695

\$25 per 8' banquet table

(Bring a table cover, if desired)

How many tables? _____

Amount enclosed? \$ _____

Request? _____

Will you participate in the auction?

Seller? _____ Buyer? _____

Admission Name Badges

1 or 2 tables = 2 badges max.

First and last name please

Badge Name _____

Badge Name _____

3 or 4 tables = 4 badges max.

Badge Name _____

Badge Name _____

More badges available at \$5.00 each

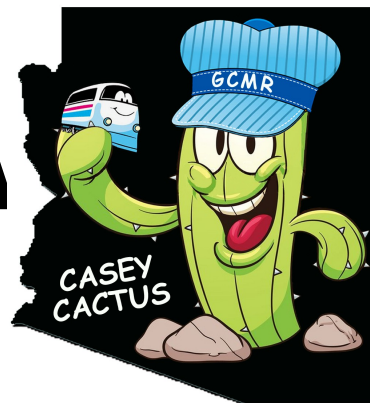
Name Badges **REQUIRED** for your security

MORE THAN 4 TABLES - CALL

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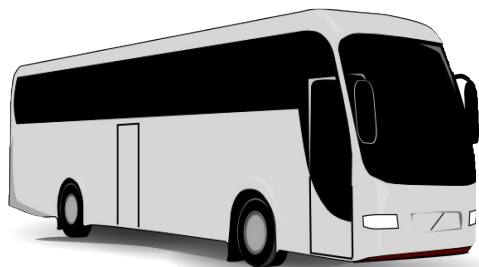
(Swap meet presented by Central Arizona Model Railroad Club)



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Arizona Mills leave at 6:00 AM _____ **Paradise Valley Mall at leave 6:30 AM** _____

Metrocenter Mall leave at 7:00 AM _____ **Carefree Highway McDonald's leave at 7:15 AM** _____

Number of adult GCMR club members: _____ at \$35 each = \$ _____ Bus Trip Presented By: _____

Number of adult Non-GCMR members: _____ at \$40 each = \$ _____

Number of children under 12: _____ at \$15 each = \$ _____

Number of bag lunches (OPTIONAL): _____ at \$7 each = \$ _____

Total: **Make checks payable to "GCMR"** \$ _____

Mail this form and check to:

Make your reservation early!

Limited Seats Available

David Brown

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Phoenix, AZ 85041

(480-650-5336)



All payments required prior to August 8, 2020

No refunds after August 8, 2020



Prescott Area

BEAT THE HEAT

Model Trains, Accessories & Toys

SWAP MEET

Saturday, August 15, 2020, 9 AM – 1 PM

At the Liberty Traditional School

3300 N. Lake Valley Rd, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

Presented By:

The Central Arizona Model RR Club

Adults \$5.00 – Children 12 and under Free

Contact: Dick Gage © 802-272-1352 or Doug Gilliatt 480-390-0320

Table Reservations \$30.00 per table in advance

**** 1 Free Admission with Each Table purchased ****

Dealer Setup Time 7-9 AM – No Early Public Admission

The CAMRRC is Not Responsible for Lost or Stolen Items

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

of Tables _____ (Limit 4 per seller) @ 30.00 each _____

Helper Name _____ @ 4.00 ** _____

Helper Name _____ @ 4.00 ** _____

Lunch Reservations (sandwich, chips, soda) _____ @ 7.00 ea _____

Special Requests _____ Total _____

**Make Checks payable to: CAMRRC and mail to
CAMRRC, 514 Goshawk Way, Prescott, AZ 86301**