



GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

MAIN LINE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dave Brown

Did you miss the 2016 Beat the Heat bus tour? Boy, you really missed out on a fun trip. The meet had lots of trains, and we were able to see four layouts, including one new one. No movie this year, just train videos. All in all, lots of fun for every one.

The theme for this month's meeting is Guess the Heat. Here's how it works. Bring in your car with your guess of what the temperature is at Sky Harbor is at 11:00 am. The closest without going over it will be the winner. If all guesses are over, then the closest will win. In the past there has been some confusion between radio stations and the FAA. But the official temperature from the phone call will be the official and winning reading. If there is a glitch in the system, and the call gets that the outside temperature is 32 degrees, then 32 is the winning number no matter if lead is melting out side out doors, it's freezing at Sky Harbor!

Next month is our next Mini Meet. So make sure that you have your table reservation in as soon as possible. After that is the start of the 2016-2017 train season with railfair in Scottsdale, then all the other events that come after that. One event that has just been added is the return of TCA to the swap meet schedule with a swap meet on December 10th. At this time we don't know if we will be running at that meet. Our trailer will be at Adobe Mountain, and the Christmas run in Paradise Valley hasn't been set yet. So stay tuned to the news letter for more info.

That's it for now, see you at the August 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.

August 27 - GCMR meeting - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

September 17 - Desert Division G Gauge auction - Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. Info and catalog: tcadd.org

September 24 - GCMR fall Mini-Meet - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

October 8, 9 - Railfair at Scottsdale Railroad Park

October 22 - GCMR meeting - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

November 26 - Turkey Auction - Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. Catalog online in September at tcadd.org.

December 10 - Desert Division Swap Meet - El Zaribah Shrine Auditorium, Phoenix

CACTUS MEET REVIEW

by Glenn Saber

Following is a preliminary accounting of the Cactus Summer meet. First, the numbers were down. This is the least amount we've made in years. It's still decent money (\$2,162.00 profit) that helps the club throughout the year. I've found it hard to put my finger on it. Here are a few thoughts:

Is there a glut of toy train shows now? Tucson Gadsden has multiple day shows in June, November and Januar. We have the Cactus Summer Meet in July, the Prescott folks have the Beat the Heat Meet in August, The Sun City group does a HO something somewhere, Saguaro Central is in October and March, the TCA-DD maybe something somewhere, World's Greatest Hobby has scheduled a two day show in February (Super Bowl weekend), our Cactus Winter Meet is in February, and finally we have two Mini-Meets. Eleven train swaps or more per year?

Table sales were down to 114. We average 129 - 139 tables. Vendor burn-out?

Attendance was a low 329. It was hot. Maybe the small Cactus business-size cards are not as eye catching as the half sheet fliers of the past. Should we switch back for one show? At this show, many more people paid the full price without coupons than before. Where and how can we increase exposure?

We currently post on Craigslist, Phoenix Back Page, Trains.com, Arizonamodeltrains.com (Gibbs), Modelshopsusa.com, rmodelcraftsman.com, email blast other clubs, email and call past vendors, post ads in other train club newsletters, send out PSA's.

In the past, newspaper advertising never brought in anything close to what we spent for that advertising.

Several attendees remarked how great the swap was when they were leaving - one said the best he's been to in a long time.

Raffle sales were down. Made \$217.00. Usually in the \$300's.

We forgot to put out a donut contribution box. Usually nets about \$25.

End-O-Swap auction is growing in popularity. It is a fun conclusion that more and more are looking forward to. We made \$50

Would like to see total profits in the \$3,000 + range again.

Already sold 13 tables to Cactus Winter swap.

The Armory Meet attendance was approximately 550, 445 and 659 over the last three years. The 445 was the date change year that screwed everyone up.

Attendance and raffle sales is our bread and butter.

Table sales go mainly to pay the hall rental. The more at the door, the more in our pocket. What do we have to do to revive that 650 people \$4,000 profit show? We advertise more online now than in the past - and amazing how many people at the show said they don't even have a computer!

I thought we had very good raffle prizes. More train related with starter sets and train rides. I won the HO starter set that will be donated to the Cactus winter swap raffle. Do any of us have a train item to donate to the raffle? Engine, car, accessory - something that is just sitting around taking up space?

Even something we won at a monthly raffle that is not being used? What if we had 20 buckets to put tickets in like at the TCA holiday party? Might get more sales of 25 tickets for \$20.

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WILLIAMS TRAIN DAY

The GCMR traveling trailer made its usual appearance at this year's Williams Train Day and spent the day entertaining the folks who came to ride the Cataract Creek Express, visit with the Winslow Harvey Girls and enjoy the other model railroad displays. Here are some photos taken by Dave Brown.



AND THIS YEAR'S BEAT THE HEAT BUS TRIP VISITS

photos by Dave Brown



At the swap meet, then first stop at Mark Ziven's



Then on to Peter Atonna's



While there, Peter had Janet Mattern looking down the track to see herself on the TV monitor. And finally, Paul Boston made Peter a gift of a flickering campfire. So, next during next year's tour, there will be a hunt for the new campfire scene. He didn't tell where it will be!



Then it was on to Marlin Benson's



GHOSTS OF TOURS PAST

by Dave Brown

A very few of us can remember that the bus tours of the past were quite different than the one of last week. Back then Peter Atonna would rent a passenger van, and take a few people down to Tucson for the swap meet down there. One of riders on the van ride always was a portly gentleman named Miles Butler. Being as big as Miles was, Peter would have to bring a step stool on the trip to help Miles get in and out of the van, often with assistance from the caboose end. Due to his weight, the step had to be super strong, like the ones used by the railroads for passenger service. Peter just had such an item, so the next time your visiting his layout, look for this step.



The "Official" Bus Photo
The group is parked at the Atonna's and ready to head to the basement for trainwatching.

THE MAIN LINE

Peter Atonna, Editor

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Where is everybody? Mary Jane shot this photo of the Beat the Heat tour bus while parked at the Atonna's and all were in the basement watching trains run. Even the bus driver came downstairs to see what all the train nuts were heading to. There are a lot more photos from the day inside.