



# GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

## MAIN LINE

**FEBRUARY, 2019**  
**Volume 28      Number 2**

---

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by John Draftz

As a reminder, 2019 dues were due by the end of January. If you haven't yet paid, please contact Bill Richardson (623-203-0329 or [willielumplump@cox.net](mailto:willielumplump@cox.net)) as soon as practical to let him know your intentions. A renewal form is available on-line at the [www.gcmrr.org](http://www.gcmrr.org) site.

Our upcoming Winter Cactus swap meet will be Saturday, February 16th. We'll be setting up the hall about 4pm on the Friday afternoon before and then we will be having a pre-meet dinner that evening at 6pm at the Denny's on 35th Ave & Bethany Home. Contact Glenn for more details and if you plan to attend the dinner.

The meet is a sellout and we can use members to help before, during, and after the meet. Rod is coordinating assignments. Please let him know how you can help (602-625-4168 or [crodjohanson@hotmail.com](mailto:crodjohanson@hotmail.com)).

I've already received train ride tickets for three other railroads thus we'll now have seven such raffle prizes at the Cactus meet. These rides have been extremely popular. Be sure to look for them at the show.

Our 2019 annual spring mini-meet will be on our regular April 27th meeting day and follow the format we've used before. Initially only GCMR members can have a free sale table at the church to sell to the public. Any tables still available at the first of the month before the meet (April 1st) will be made

available to members of other railroad clubs. The meet is free to the public. Janet has been willing to serve as the event coordinator. Let her know if you want a table (602-569-0568 or [tjmattern@cox.net](mailto:tjmattern@cox.net)). Our challenge is to get the word out to the public. See if schools near you will let you post an announcement.

See you at Winter Cactus.

### 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.

**February 9** - Sun City Model Railroad Club Swap Meet - Fairway Recreation Center 10600 W Peoria Ave, Sun City

**February 15** - Pre-Meet Dinner at Denny's 3456 W Bethany Home Rd, Phoenix (602) 973-7716. We will meet at 6:00 PM in the private back dining room. Each is responsible for their own check.

**February 16** - GCMR Winter Cactus Meet

**February 23** - AZ Railway Day, Chandler – ARM: mobile layout

**March 3** - Nor Cal Spring Cal Stewart meet San Ramon, CA. For info, email: [rdgoslee@aol.cocm](mailto:rdgoslee@aol.cocm)

**March 16** - Phoenix - Adobe Mountain Model Train Show All gauges. Adobe Mountain Railroad Park 22822 N. 43rd Ave

**March 23** - GCMR meet - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Theme: A Favorite Holiday Car (you pick the holiday)

**March 30**- P&P/GCMR/TCA picnic – McCormick RR Park – Aste Ramada 11am -1pm

**April 20** - Paradise Valley United Methodist Church– Easter Saturday, P&P use mobile

**April 27** - GCMR meet - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Spring mini swap meet & regular meeting

## MEETING NOTES

by Bill Richardson

### January GCMR Board Of Directors Meeting

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Some discussion on the fabric garage opening being too short for our mobile trailer. Will have to install up off the ground. Glenn will go purchase.

Discussion on making our next Prescott bus tour more attractive to potential riders. Things like: prepaid first in, an on the bus prize, equal pricing member non-member, and early bird discount were all noted. No decisions yet.

Some discussion on improving Cactus Meet attendance. Maybe post flyers at schools. John Draftz has received tickets for four new railroad rides. This may improve raffle sales. We now have seven different train rides!

Similar discussion on Mini-meets. How can we improve attendance? No brilliant ideas were put forth. Perhaps holding only one mini-meet per year was suggested. Eliminating the raffle prize was also discussed, since we really don't make any money on it.

No news on establishing a permanent location. Bill Richardson will renew the \$30.00 Sahuaro Central membership for 2019 out at Adobe Mountain. This is where we keep our trailers throughout the year.

### January GCMR General Membership Meeting

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Two people were recognized as new members: Rolland Lahaie and Doyle Bain.

Glenn Saber gave the treasurer's report noting the amounts available in our accounts. He also noted the church hall fee has increased from,\$100/month to \$110/month and there is now a \$100 cleaning deposit. Glenn will pay the 2019 fees.

Bill Richardson gave the secretary's report noting 47 club members. Both reports were received as presented by the membership present.

2019 GCMR dues are due now.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Bill Richardson reported that the "Starlight Christmas at the Railroad Park" out at Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Park was once again a huge success. We had good weather and lots of people checked out our mobile layout. Several members came out multiple times to run and show their trains. Janet Mattern probably had the neatest Christmas train. We even made over \$76.00 in donations.

Glenn Saber will get us a fabric garage for storing our trailer. Some fabrication will need to be done because the trailer is taller than the doorway.

Glenn also reported to the membership that we will be making some changes to the "Beat the Heat" bus

### Board of Directors

President:	JOHN DRAFTZ	602-942-3457
Vice Pres:	ROD JOHNSON	602-625-4168
Secretary:	BILL RICHARDSON	623-582-5672
Treasurer:	GLENN SABER	602-956-6696

Past President	DAVE BROWN	480-650-5336
Board Member:	JOHN ZAVAL	602-980-5444
	JANET MATTERN	602-569-0568

Editor: Peter Atonna 928-636-4228 [mjatonna@gmail.com](mailto:mjatonna@gmail.com) - Website: [www.gcmrr.org](http://www.gcmrr.org)

trip. We will be downsizing the bus to a 40 passenger bus with a restroom. We will also try to make the experience more of a VIP experience with prepaid admission, maybe private admission, and maybe some kind of prize.

The race track will be at one of our Fall meetings.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

GCMR will be participating in the The Arizona Railway Museum's 6th annual open house on February 23, from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. The museum is located at 330 E. Ryan Road, Chandler AZ 85286. The trailer and runners will need to be there for setup by 7:00 AM. So come on out, bring your trains, and enjoy the day at the museum. Let Vice President Rod Johnson know if you can attend. Our trailer is always a crowd pleaser, and we have a premium location right up front by the caboose.

The Winter Cactus Meet will be upon us very soon, February 16. The swap meet goes from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM at the North Phoenix Baptist Church at Central and Bethany Home Rd. We need all hands on deck. As of now we are planning to bring the mobile trailer, so we will definitely need runners. If you can help out for a couple of hours, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Vice President Rod Johnson who has the list of chores. Treasurer Glenn Saber has indicated that we are currently at 137 tables sold out of 152. A sell out is expected.

John Draftz informed the membership of some new train rides that we have been given which will probably become Cactus Meet raffle prizes.

Once again we are trying a Friday night pre-meet dinner at Denny's at 35th Ave and Bethany Home at 6:00 PM on the Friday before the meet. Any members, vendors, or interested train people are welcome.

#### SHOW AND TELL:

The theme was "What'd ya get? AKA What did Santa bring".

John Draftz showed us his Budd cars.

Bill Mayhan brought in his Ready Made Trains (RMT) Santa Fe Budd car.

Rod Johnson showed us an F7 ABA by K-Line.

John Zaval showed us his post war cup set and motor spreader.

Glenn Saber brought in a Green Giant car, and the original Green Giant jingle his father wrote.

Janet Mattern has a Navy car from the TCA Road Island convention.

Dave Brown brought in his very first engine; a Gilbert American Flyer HO steam engine, the Wabash Cannonball.

John Draftz ended "show and tell" with his DT&I 1776 Bicentennial loco by MTH.

## A LIONEL WINNER!

by Peter Atonna

Since the Lionel BluTooth starter sets started coming out a few years ago, I have found a new set almost every year that I could not resist. First up was the Charlie Brown Halloween set (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kh0WWaTMtuU>).

Following that was the Batman set, the First Responders set and when the Blu Tooth version of the Polar Express came out, I upgraded mine with that one. They are great to take to our Prescott Mall layout to run for the public and when our group goes to local schools to run trains for the kids.

Last year's Lionel Vol 2 catalog didn't have anything I thought was interesting, so nothing was ordered. Then on the OGR chat line, a fellow did a photo review of the Budweiser Clydesdale train set. It looked really cool. In my other life, the Atonna's are horse and carriage people and the Budweiser Clydesdale hitch has always been a delight to follow. (We have a family room full of beer signs featuring them.)

I was so impressed with the review, I immediately ordered the set, plus the add-on Clydesdales box car. It arrived in time to be my principal Christmas present.

All of the previous sets have had one serious problem, although the sounds are nice, their volume is not loud. And when you are running them in a noisy environment, it is hard to hear the sounds - clever as they are. I even replaced the speaker in the Polar Express set with a higher end one - not enough improvement. Running the newer ones on my Lionel phone app where you can adjust the sounds



didn't help enough either. So, on Christmas, I opened the Clydesdale set and it was really nicely done - and colorful!. But what really delighted me were the sounds. Not only were there several times the number of "dialogs" as in previous sets, but you could HEAR them! So the set ran on our Christmas layout till it was taken down.

The set has run at our January and February mall runs and I still delight in playing the dialogs as the set starts and runs on its layout.

And another surprise, if you open the new 2019 Lionel catalog on their website, you will see that several of the BluTooth set pages have a "dialog" button on them. You can actually play the set's sounds from the catalog. And yes, the Clydesdale set has its sounds! Go to the catalog and see what I am talking about.



**Dave Brown talked about starting in HO gauge!**

## **WINNERS!**

**Monthly Raffle prize winners:**

**Roger Bourque - Lionel 6-52021**

**Weyerhauser**

**Bill Mayhan - MTH 30-7939 Crane Tender**

**Rod Johnson - Lionel 6-16680 Cherry Picker**

**Dave Brown - Lionel 6-19601 Dome Tank Car**

**Roger Bourque - Lionel 6-16323 Flat with Trailer**

**Glenn Saber - American Flyer 6-48304 Box Car**

**The Mystery Raffle prize winner:**

**Roger Bourque - MTH #334 Dispatch Board**

**The Monthly 3-2-1 Raffle prize winner:**

**Dave Brown - who won 3 more tickets to the**



**Rod Johnson with his K Line set**



**Glenn Saber shows his Green Giant boxcar**



# NOBODY PLAYS

by Peter Atonna

Last month, I was interested to see if there were other GCMR members who collect Lionel paper. If you remember I wanted to compare the classic 1950 Lionel catalog with its later "Sorry" catalog to see how many differences you may find between the two. How many responses did I get - zero!

OK, enough of that. But in case you have these catalogs, here is what I found:

1) #1461S freight set: Sorry has the correct plastic truck side frames from the Scout series, regular catalog shows them with metal side frames. (This is the famous, or infamous, set with smoke but no bellows to make it puff. Loco #6110 has a hole in the boiler front and air "rushing" in was supposed to carry the smoke from the heater through the stack. Needless to say, it didn't work very well. But they priced the set \$5 less to keep it in the low price range.)

2) #1457B diesel switcher set. Catalog shows the loco with New York Central lettering, which was never made. Sorry shows it with the correct ATSF lettering.

3) #1464W, #1467W Alco diesel sets (including the famous orange Union Pacific colors sets). The catalog shows the locos rendered correctly as the locos were made. Sorry shows them as a strange graphic looking more like a GM E series diesel. So, they started showing it correctly and then changed to an incorrect graphic.

4) #2330 GG1. Neither catalog mentions that the GG1 now has two motors

5) Sorry catalog introduces the ATSF and NYC B units. No mention in the regular catalog.

6) #213 lift bridge, the one that was never made. Both catalogs show this. So, the decision not to run this accessory must have been made late in the production cycle.

7) Both catalogs show the #2035 steamer as #6035 on the locomotives page, even though the set listings show it correctly.

8) #4333 Electronic set is no longer in the Sorry catalog

9) #455 Sunoco oil well sign has two versions of the sign in each catalog, mentioning "Sunoco Dynaflow". As produced, no mention of that, instead, below the Sunoco logo is simply the name and item number.

Let me try one more catalog play this month. As all know, Lionel, as well as Flyer, always showed their lowest price sets first in the catalog, then moved to the more and most expensive sets. But I was curious to see exactly how they added features to the sets as their prices rose. So, I took the 1962 catalog, where that is pretty obvious, and the last catalog before Lionel's precipitous decent into mediocrity, to illustrate their pattern.

Here is a table of all the sets in that catalog with each set's component.



Under Engine: Steam\* is the cheap Scout type motor; Diesel (2) means two units, power and dummy; Engine Features: L - light; S - smoke; W - whistle; H - horn; Op. Cars - operating cars; Play cars - cars with removable loads

Table 1

Set No.	Price	Engine	Engine Features	Total Cars	Op. Cars	Play Cars
<b>027 SETS</b>						
11201	\$20	Steam*	L	3	0	1
11212	\$25	diesel, SW1	L	3	1	1
11222	\$30	Steam*	L,S	3	1	1
11232	\$30	Diesel, Alco	L	4	1	1
11242	\$40	Steam*	L,S,W	4	0	1
11252	\$40	Diesel (2), Alco	L	5	1	2
11268	\$50	Diesel, GP7	L	5	3	1
11278	\$50	Steam	L,S,W	5	0	3
11288	\$50	Diesel (2), Alco	L,H	5	2	1
11298	\$60	Steam	L,S,W	5	4	0
11308	\$70	Diesel (2),Alco, pass	L,H	3	0	0
<b>O SETS</b>						
13008	\$50	Steam	L,S	4	1	1
13018	\$50	Diesel, SW1	L,H	5	3	1
13208	\$60	Diesel, GP7	L,H	5	4	0
13036	\$60	Steam, pass	L,W	4	1	0
13048	\$75	Steam	L,S,W	5	2	2
13058	\$90	Diesel (2), F-3	L,H	5	4	0
13068	\$100	Electric	L,H	7	0	3
13078	\$125	Diesel (2), F-3, pass	L,H	4	0	0

Notes: Steam engines cost more to make than diesels, hence are higher priced forcing fewer cars in the same priced set. Same with passenger cars, they cost more than freight cars. A curious fact: the GG1 was priced \$5 higher than the 2383 Santa Fe F-3 diesel! Note the sweet spot in 027 sets: 5 of the 11 sets are priced at \$40 or \$50. Finally, there are only two O gauge and one 027 passenger sets. Freight sets always were considered to have more “play value” and sales must have born that out.

**"ONE OF ARIZONA'S LARGEST  
MODEL RAILROAD SWAP MEETS"**  
**CACTUS WINTER  
TRAIN SWAP**

**9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

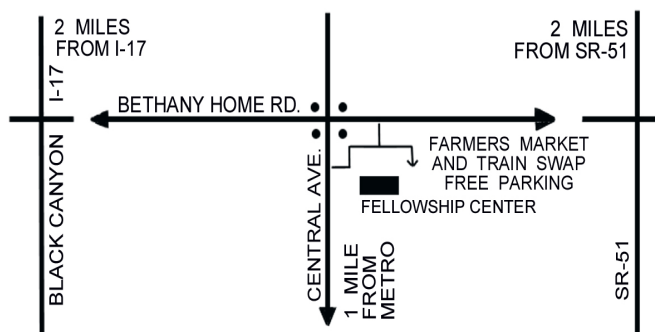
**\$6.00 admission per person  
Children under 12 free with adult**



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 2019**

**(Large Farmers Market at the same time!)**

**NORTH PHOENIX BAPTIST CHURCH**



**FELLOWSHIP CENTER  
5757 North Central Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85012**

**Free Parking \* Great Location  
A Family Affair \* Food Available  
End-O-Swap Auction \* Raffles  
Door Prizes \* Test Track  
Train Layout (weather permitting)**

**ALL SIZES AND SCALES FOR SALE!**

Presented by your pal Casey Cactus and the  
**GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS**  
Visit us at [www.gcmrr.org](http://www.gcmrr.org) email: [info@gcmrr.org](mailto:info@gcmrr.org)



printed from [gcmrr.org](http://gcmrr.org)



**CACTUS WINTER TRAIN SWAP**

**Saturday, February 16th, 2019**

**This coupon good for \$1.00 off  
your \$6.00 cost of admission**

**Children under 12 free with adult  
One coupon per person**

## THE MAIN LINE

Peter Atonna, Editor

25375 N. Feather Mountain Rd.

Paulden, AZ 86334



Folks don't go to monthly GCMR meets just to win a raffle prize. But with the generous number offered, a lot of members manage to take one home each month



**ONLINE EXTRA: for those receiving this newsletter by email, here is an extra we hope you might enjoy**

From [TrainOrders.com](http://TrainOrders.com), a poster made a once in a lifetime shot in the Bay Area, east of highway 101. He spotted a DMR train northbound in San Rafael. He referred to the SMART schedule figured he could probably catch a southbound before the rainbow dissipated. He ended up getting to this curve between Civic Center and Gallinas and was amazed to see the end of the rainbow was right on the tracks. (A DMR is the modern version of a Budd car, in that it contains its own diesel power, but does not require a separate locomotive. This is a new commuter railroad in the suburbs north of San Francisco.

