



GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

MAIN LINE

JANUARY, 2023

Volume 32 Number 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by John Draftz

Welcome to 2023! The January theme is "What'd ya' get? AKA What did Santa bring?" It doesn't have to be from 2022 and it doesn't have to be rare or exotic – just memorable to you. A goal of this activity is to give members a chance to share the hobby with other members thus increasing our appreciation for our hobby.

Your officers for 2023 are John Draftz - president, Dave Brown - vice-president, Rod Johnson - secretary, and Glenn Saber - treasurer. Terry Haas, Janet Mattern, and John Zaval are your other BoD members.

As a reminder, 2023 dues are due by the end of this month (before February). This is so the Secretary can create a current member directory and get it distributed in February. A renewal form is elsewhere in this newsletter. If you haven't yet paid, please contact Rod Johnson (602-625-4168 or crodjohanson@hotmail.com) as soon as practical to let him know your intentions.

For this year, our annual raffle will be: first prize - \$300 cash, second prize - \$200 cash, and third prize - \$100 in cash. Tickets are \$10 each, three for \$25, or 10 for \$50. See Rod or Glenn to get yours. We'll continue giving three more raffle tickets to the winning white ticket drawn at regular meetings. The winner need not be present to win.

Our upcoming Winter Cactus swap meet will be Saturday, February 18th. Visit our web site www.gcmrr.org for more details and to make a table reservation. We usually have sellouts. As of this writing we have about 75% of the tables "sold" with another sellout projected.

We'll need members to help before, during, and after the meet. Dave is coordinating assignments. Please let him know how you can help (480-650-5336 or eaglefour@juno.com) even if it's just for a few hours. We plan to open the hall the Friday afternoon before the meet about 4pm to get tables labeled and otherwise get the hall ready. At 4:30 sellers wanting to set up early will be allowed in. Contact Dave for more details and if you can help.

I've already received train ride tickets and I anticipate getting more in addition to getting non-ride donations.

The 2023 annual spring mini-meet will be on our regular meeting day, April 22nd, from 9-11 and follow the format we've used before. Initially only GCMR members can have a free sale table at the church to sell "stuff" 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). Our challenge is to get the word out to the public and thus potential buyers. Any ideas?

Thanks to the TCA group for inviting us to join them for the Christmas party. Our next joint venture will be the picnic on Saturday, April 1st, at the McCormick RR Park in Scottsdale. More details later.

The 2023 projected calendar of activities is elsewhere in this newsletter. Please review the calendar noting especially what the different themes are and when. Several entries have question marks after them 'cause the details are not yet finalized. Mark your calendar appropriately. Also, let me know of changes and/or other entries to add that you know of.

See you the 28th. Plan to bring a favorite "present" to show everyone.

CALENDAR

GCMR meets are held at 9:00am in the Parish Hall of Our Saviors Lutheran Church at 1212 East 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.

January 28 - GCMR meet - Our Saviors Lutheran Church. Theme: What'd ya' get? AKA What did Santa bring? Doesn't have to be 2022

February 4 - Desert Division Super Saturday auction, info, catalog: tcadd.org

February 18 - Cactus Winter Swap meet, see flyer this issue

February 26 - GCMR meet - Our Saviors Lutheran Church

March 18 - Adobe Mountain Swap Meet - see table reservation form this issue

March 26 - GCMR meet - Our Saviors Lutheran Church.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

(Note: this is a tentative listing. Specific dates and information will be listed on the monthly calendar as information becomes available)

January

Regular meeting – individual layouts

Theme: What'd ya' get? AKA What did Santa bring? Doesn't have to be 2022

TTOM Winter Swap Meet

Maricopa Live Steamers Winterfest operations meet

February

Winter Cactus swap meet (9-noon – (non-seller pre-meet set up the 17th 4:00pm)

AZ Railway Day, Chandler – ARM: mobile layout

March

Regular meeting – individual layouts. Theme: A Favorite Holiday Car (you pick the holiday)

Maricopa Live Steamers spring meet

Sahuaro Central swap meet

Falcon Field Open House, Mesa – mobile ABTO open house

April

GCMR/TCA picnic – McCormick RR Park – Aste Ramada

Spring mini swap meet (& regular meeting)

Rails, Rods & Steel Wheels Car Show, Pioneer Park, Mesa – mobile layout

Paradise Valley United Methodist Church

Easter Sat P&P use mobile layout

Board of Directors

President:	JOHN DRAFTZ	602-942-3457
Vice Pres:	DAVE BROWN	480-650-5336
Secretary:	ROD JOHNSON	602-625-4168
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JOHN ZAVAL	602-980-5444
JANET MATTERN	602-569-0568
TERRY HAAS	602-319-0499

Editor: Peter Atonna 928-308-3559 mjatonna@gmail.com - Website: www.gcmrr.org

May

Regular meeting – individual layouts. Theme: Memorial Day; Space/Military Trains/Hardware
Drag races stock & custom

June

Regular meeting – individual layouts. Theme: Hot Dogs and Apple Pie; FlagDay
Tucson swap meet

July

Regular meeting – individual layouts. Theme: Favorite accessory – operating or not
“Beat the Heat” meet and bus tour

August

Regular meeting – individual layouts. Theme: “Guess the heat meet” Tell us about your entry

September

Fall Cactus swap meet: 9-noon – (non-seller pre-meet set up the 22nd 4: 00pm)

October

Regular meeting – individual layouts – annual raffle drawing. Theme: pizza meet - beverage cars (beer, wine, soda pop, etc)

RailFair – mobile layout

MLS public runs start

Maricopa Live Steamers fall meet

Sahuaro Central swap meet

November

AZ Railway Day, Chandler – ARM: mobile layout

No regular meeting - Fall picnic/potluck

Fall mini swap meet – kid’s layout & test track

Pioneer Park, Mesa: mobile layout (Rails, Rods & Steel Wheels)

12 Gadsden Pacific swap meet Tucson at Museum

TCA fall auction

December

No regular meeting – election results

Adobe evening lights – mobile layout

TCA/GCMR/PnP Holiday party

Paradise Valley United Methodist Church: module

REMINDER: DUES ARE DUE!

Yes, it is that time of the year, while you are thinking of it, please fill out the form in this issue and send it into Rod to keep you “on board” for 2023

HOW GOOD THINGS ARE NOW!

by Peter Atonna

As I write this, Lionel has just released the 2023 catalog. In it are the wonders of beautiful, scale (and near scale) locos, cars and sets. But we may not remember in the history of our hobby, things were much different.

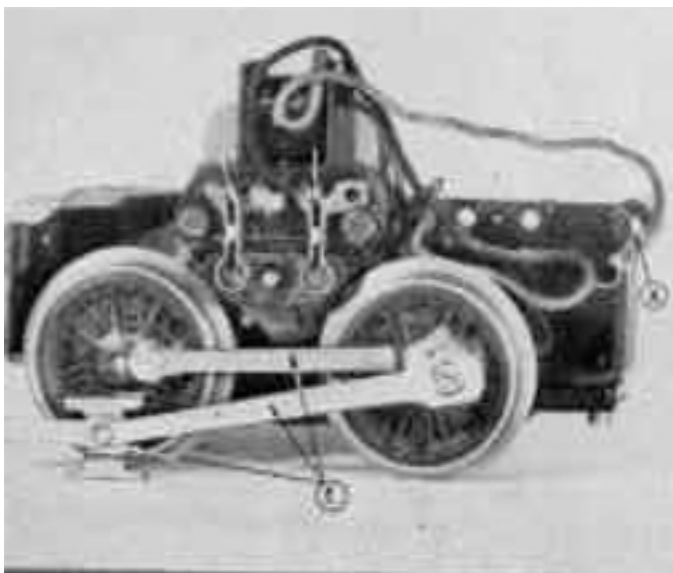
In past articles, I have shared the genius of the layout drawings from the creative imagination of Bob Sherman. Before, during and after the War, Lionel’s ads, booklets and in particular, in the in house publication “Model Builder”, many of these were imagined to become real in many kids bedrooms or basements.

But, before and in particular, during the War, Model Builder featured articles on how to “scratch build” more realistic, or just unavailable, cars and locomotives. In the past, I’ve shared some of Sherman’s articles with readers of the Main Line.

But, even after the war, when new items were beginning to become available, Bob continued his articles. (remember the one on cars that may have been the inspiration of future Lionel production - coincidence?) Well, he also did articles on taking more modern locomotive mechanism’s as the basis for unique locomotives.



But when you read the articles, it is hard to imagine folks actually doing what Bob said to do in order to create his items. Here, for example, in late 1948 is how he constructed a unique steam engine. Just follow the procedures, would you have created this neat loco yourself?



and the tiny nails.

Now notice the detailing carefully. The cylinder ends may be made from several thin washers; the poling sockets on the ends of the pilot beam from smaller ones. There is an air hose made from light solder bent to shape. Drilled mounting pins or model ship parts and a wire will make your coupler lift bar.

The pilot steps are made from strips of illustration board which can be purchased in any art supply store and in most stationery stores. Slats should be $3/32$ " high by $1\frac{3}{8}$ " long. The step itself should be a thin piece of wood held securely by two braces which can be seen in the photographs. It is $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide and $2\frac{1}{16}$ " long.

The cylinders must be drilled to receive the piston rods and also to take the crosshead guides (see Figure 2). The guides may be short sections of coat hanger wire clipped off and filed square on the ends.

Add the saddle support of thin cardboard and the thin dowel pieces that support it. Illustration board tops on the valve chests will overlap the edge slightly as shown, and short solder with wire will make those tubes which lead from the valve chests.

The front coupler, a dummy, will be attached so that it can swing freely in

MODEL BUILDER

AMRS UPDATE

by John Draftz

For many years, the AMRS group at Adobe Mountain has held a Christmas holiday open house in the evening the first three Fridays and Saturdays in December complete with cookies, coffee, and hot cocoa. GCMR is invited to set up the mobile layout as an additional exhibit for the people who attend. This past year saw the first Saturday open house cancelled due to rain but the other five were held.

GCMR members are encouraged to help run trains and monitor the layout. The layout has two buttons at each of the four corners that activate action accessories. Adults, kids, and not so little kids love to push all eight buttons and activate the accessories. This time we had small pictures mounted by the buttons so people could tell what accessory each button operated along with signs encouraging people to push the buttons. One of the more popular buttons is for the whistling station that doesn't move but does make noise.

Some members were only able to be there one evening. Others were there several evenings. Members who help included John Draftz, Rod and Penny Johnson, John Kendig, Janet and Terry Mattern, Larry Melvin, Glenn Saber, and John Zaval. A special thanks to John Z for moving the layout from its parking space to the AMRS area and back.

The next anticipated venue for the layout will be next March at the ARM in Chandler. It's a 1-day event and is a great way to reach people with a train/railroad interest some of whom might become new members.

YES IT IS A MARKLIN!

by Peter Atonna

Sometimes things happen suddenly and this is one of those stories. As many members are aware, a group of three railers here in the

Prescott area have a group we call the Bradshaw Mountain HighRailers and have a small storefront in the Prescott Mall. Since I am the area "repair guy" each run day, I have a few folks stop by to ask about repairing or evaluating their trains. A few months ago, this gentleman stopped by crying a large, beat up garbage bag.

"Do you know about Marklin trains?", he asked. "I don't own any, but I am familiar with them, they are one of the longest lived train makers." "Take a look at this", he replied and proceeded to set out this Marklin HO passenger set. Then out came track, a transformer, instruction manuals and the bits and pieces remaining from the original box.

"Are you interested in selling it?" "No, I wanted to see if you would like have it." It turns out his father was stationed in West Germany right after the war and bought it there. His father ran it a bit, but then it was put away for the next 70 years. Now it was mine.

It was a low end set, but with the early three rail track (later they replaced the third rail with low studs that an elongated shoe rides on. It has a cute 0-6-0 steamer and four, four wheel passenger cars - all in perfect condition. A "3 rail" train of course I have to keep it.

So, it came home, but again, what to do with it? Make a portable layout for it. So, to Home Depot for a 1" sheet of foam insulation board which was cut down to about 3 1/2 by 5 feet to match the oval of track plus a pair of switches and a short siding. Coated with a layer of heavy ceiling paint and painted green, it was ready to go

But a layout. needs buildings and scenery, so at the Summer Cactus Meet, I search for HO gauge, German style buildings and kits. Found a kit and then at Terry Gibbs' table, a building. If you remember from his articles, Terry also has a Marklin layout on his complex of layouts, so I knew he was a kindred spirit in this project.

Following that, I went to the Walther's website and ordered two more building kits. And then at the Fall Desert Division meet, I looked again and up comes Terry with a box FULL of little buildings and scenery materials. I was in business.



I couldn't use his transformer, since the cord had deteriorated. Opening it up to replace it, the metal housing took a morning to get apart and then the insides were full of circuits in the way of the transformer terminals. Finally exposing them, the new cord was soldered in





place. But when put back together, all worked except the speed control knob! But, a Lionel transformer works fine.

So, what to do with the layout? Since there is no room in my place for ANOTHER layout (remember the upstairs Retro layout?), it will remain stored until there is a show or other display to take it to. Note to the swap meet organizers, if you have an event where tables are not sold out, and would like an operating display layout, let me know. I can bring it and set it up next to my sales table, as I did once with a temporary Lionel setup, a few years ago at the Summer Cactus meet .

Is that the end of the story? Not at all.

As these things happen, at the very next month's run at the Mall, I heard a conversation "220 volts, I am not sure, you had better talk to Peter". A new person came and asked if it would be OK to run this MARKLIN engine with its 220 volt transformer? I explained that it would not work here, but that the train will run on a standard 110 volt AC transformer (I have already figured out that they are AC powered and standard Lionel transformer runs them fine.). "I don't think the engine runs either" he said. I took a couple of test leads and he was right. So, the engine came home with me, got fixed and a Lionel transformer sold.

It turns out, this Marklin was a later version with the power pickup longer to work with the more current stud rail track. He wanted it to run on the center rail track, so I adjusted the spring tension on the pickup and it happily ran around my layout.

But, no, other than hopefully finding a few four wheel freight cars, I am not beginning a Marklin collection.



The layout is now officially completed, buildings and scenery in place. And my little passenger train happily runs around its oval. But there is nothing on the siding, and I have been looking for a few four wheel freight cars, but no luck on them so far.

DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES!





2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

It's that time of year again. Dues are Due. GCMR Annual Dues are \$35.00. Please renew by filling out this form and mailing it in or bring to the next meet. Club dues are due on January 1 and are delinquent after February 1.

(PLEASE PRINT!)

NAME _____ SPOUSE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE/ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Would you be interested in holding a layout or collection open house? Yes _____

How would you be willing to volunteer your time to the Club? _____

AREAS OF INTEREST: If yours have changed, please update

Please circle your areas of interest. You may circle as many in each category as you wish.

ERA GAUGE MANUFACTURER LAYOUT PERIPHERALS

A-Prewar D-O/O27 N-American Flyer Y-Yes 1-Figures

B-Postwar E-Scale O-Lionel N-No 2-Toys

C-Modern F-Std P-Marx 3-Paper, Books

G-G or #1 Q-Atlas 4-Buildings

H-S, Flyer R-Dorfman 5- Railroading

I-HO S-MTH 6-Other

J-OO T-Williams

K-N U-K Line

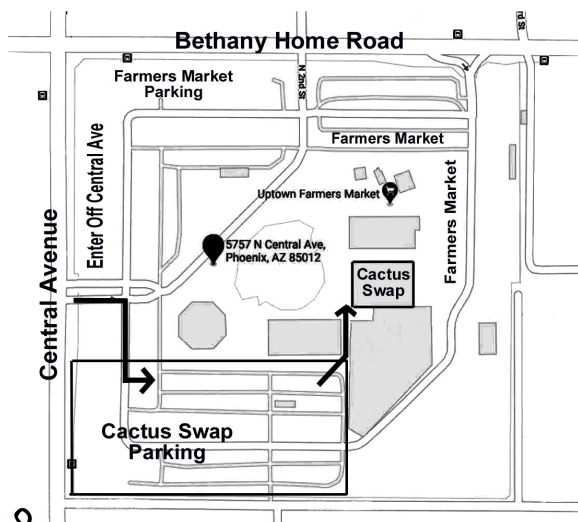
L-Z V-Marklin

M-Other W-Other

After completion, please mail it now along with your check in the amount of \$35.00 made payable to GCMR to

Rod Johnson
26606 S. Sageberry Dr
Sun Lakes AZ 85248

“ONE OF ARIZONA’S LARGEST
MODEL RAILROAD SWAP MEETS”
**CACTUS WINTER
TRAIN SWAP**
SATURDAY, FEB. 18TH, 2023
SWAP FROM 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



**NORTH PHOENIX
BAPTIST CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP CENTER**

5757 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012

Due to Saturday Farmers Market restrictions:
Friday vendor unloading East-side 4 – 6 PM
Saturday vendor unloading East-side 6 – 9 AM

Presented by your pal, Casey Cactus, and the
GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILRODERS
Print legibly. No refunds after Feb. 11, 2023
Table-top auction at 12:00 PM

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 12:00 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

\$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