



# GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

## MAIN LINE

JANUARY, 2024

Volume 33

Number 1

---

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by John Draftz

Welcome to 2024! Our next meeting will be January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Our Savior's hall on E Glendale. The BoD usually meets that morning about 8:30 with the general member meeting at 10. The January theme is "What'd ya' get?"

AKA What did Santa bring?" It doesn't have to be from 2023 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 2024 are John Draftz - president, Dave Brown - vice-president, Chris Allen - secretary, and Glenn Saber - treasurer. Terry Haas, Janet Mattern, and John Zaval are your other BoD members.

As a reminder, 2024 dues (\$35 regular member) 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 Chris Allen (480-820-9559 or [sparkyshome@cox.net](mailto:sparkyshome@cox.net)) as soon as practical to let him know your intentions.

Our annual raffle will again 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 Chris 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.

We operated the mobile layout December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 & 16 from 5:30-8 pm each day in the AMRS area at Adobe during their open house. The MLS also gave train rides during those times. Members who were there to help run trains were Michael Darus, John Draftz, Janet Mattern, Larry Melvin, Keith Olmanni, Glenn Saber, Ralph Treichel, and John Zaval. Much thanks to all who helped. After the event, John Zaval moved the layout to its Adobe parking area. Our next scheduled event for the mobile layout will be the ARM spring open house.

The ARM spring open house in Chandler is planned for Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> (the Sat after our Cactus meet). Our layout is a popular attraction thus we plan to be there that day. If ARM has to cancel the event due to parking issues, you'll be notified.

Our upcoming Winter Cactus swap meet will be Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Visit our [www.gcmrr.org](http://www.gcmrr.org) web site for more details and to make a table reservation. We usually have sellouts. As of this writing we have about 2/3 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](mailto: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 4 to get tables labeled and otherwise get

the hall ready. From 4:30-6 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 such as train sets.

The 2024 annual spring mini-meet will be on our regular meeting day, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>) 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 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 13<sup>th</sup>, at the McCormick RR Park in Scottsdale. More details later.

The 2024 projected calendar of activities is elsewhere in this newsletter. Please review the calendar noting especially what the different themes are and when. Several entries may 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. (Note: the calendar has revisions being made, will include it in next month's newsletter)

See you the 27<sup>h</sup>. Plan to bring a favorite "present" to show everyone. Individual layouts

are always welcome at the meetings so feel free to bring one

## 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 27** - GCMR meet - Our Saviors Lutheran Church

**February 3** - Souper Saturday - Desert Division all day auction. Catalog at [tcadd.org](http://tcadd.org)

**February 17** - Winter Cactus meet. See the flyer this issue

**March 23** - GCMR meet - Our Saviors Lutheran Church

## DUES ARE DUE!

**We hope you will continue joining all your friends with this year's upcoming activities. Please make out the form attached and send it in ASAP**

### Board of Directors

President:	JOHN DRAFTZ	602-942-3457
Vice Pres:	DAVE BROWN	480-650-5336
Secretary:	CHRIS ALLEN	480-820-9559
Treasurer:	GLENN SABER	602-956-6695

Board Members:	
JOHN ZAVAL	602-980-5444
JANET MATTERN	602-569-0568
TERRY HAAS	602-319-0499

## YOUR CHRISTMAS TRAINS

Mike Darius sent these delightful photos of his Christmas train setup.



## NOT EXACTLY A CHRISTMAS TRAIN, BUT

by Peter Atonna

In early December, I looked at the 2023 Lionel catalog to see if there were any interesting new Christmas themed items. The Christmas Doodlebug struck me, but the catalog had no special information about it - other than price, of course.

I wondered if it played any special holiday sounds, so I called two major dealers to see if they knew. Turns out they had not played them, so did not know. But since it really looked interesting, I ordered it, and it arrived a few days before my birthday.

More background. Mary Jane has "suggested" for many years that any trains bought from September on, become my Christmas "gift". And since I already has something for that day, this could become my birthday "gift" which happens to fall three days before Christmas.

Opening it, I was delighted. Wonderful graphics on a near scale sized unit. But when I put it on the tracks, the sounds were fantastic. First, you push the bell button and it plays jingle bells. Then, keep pushing the whistle, engineer or dispatcher buttons and more new dialog comes on.



But there was one MAJOR omission. No children in the empty seats heading to the North



Pole! So, I had to remedy that, hence the second picture. Now, all excited kids are heading to the North Pole. (And hopefully in the next issue of Gauge Railroading, you will see how I did that)



## GRAND RAILWAY HOTELS:

### PART 2

by Ken Withers

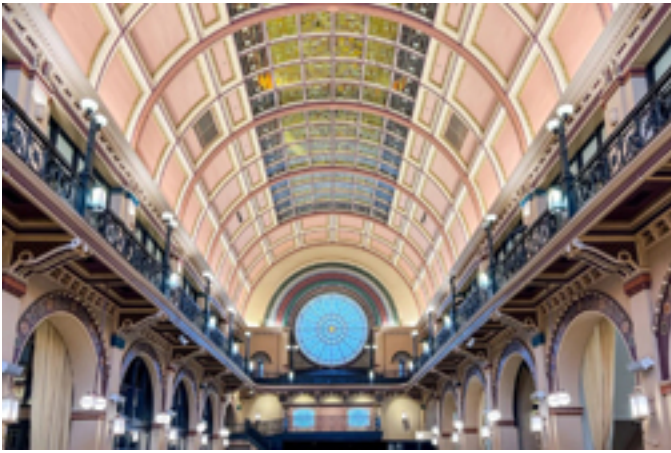
Last month I was called out of retirement to attend a business meeting in Indianapolis. Since I work for a nonprofit charity, I always try to save money whenever possible and was delighted to find out that it was cheaper to fly from Phoenix to Chicago and take Amtrak to Indianapolis, than to fly direct to Indianapolis and take a cab from the airport to the city. The \$5.00 Blue Line “L” connection from O’Hare Terminal 2 to Chicago Union Station was fast, efficient, and didn’t significantly add to the bottom line.

Arriving in Indianapolis, however, was a nasty shock. The Indy Amtrak station is dark, dank, and forbidding, tucked under the train shed. It’s only saving grace is that it is centrally located and easy walking distance to major downtown attractions and hotels. I checked into the hotel that I was assigned, which was pleasant enough, only to discover the next day that I

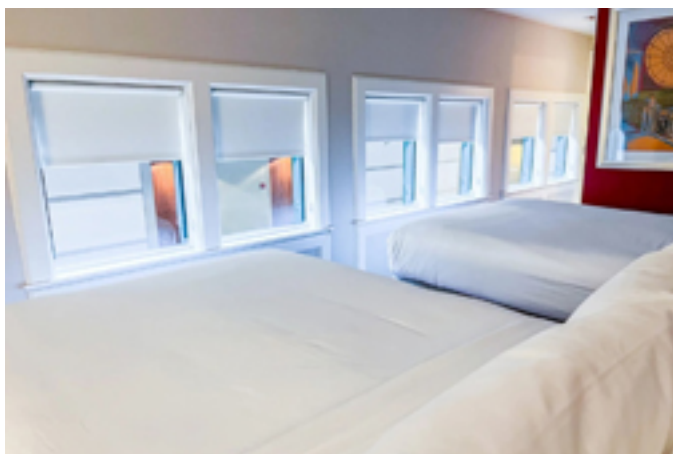
could have stayed at an entirely different hotel, closer to the station and a world apart – the Crowne Plaza Downtown Indianapolis!



The Crowne Plaza’s 273 modern rooms are housed in the converted train shed, which has a turn-of-the-century factory feel. The real attraction is the Romanesque head-house, dating back to 1888.



The interior of the head-house has been lovingly preserved in all its glory, with stained glass, glazed tiles, 60-foot vaulted ceiling, and exposed iron beams.



The really unique feature of the Crowne Plaza, and what sets it apart from the other grand railroad hotels, is the collection of 13 Pullman

cars, on their tracks, which have been converted into two hotel rooms each. The interiors of the rooms are modern – the original Pullman bunks and plumbing probably wouldn't get occupancy permits in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – but you can still experience the thrill of climbing the stairs to board the car and squeezing down the train car's corridor. The rooms are tiny and narrow, but your nighttime dreams will be large.



We all know how this kid feels!

For an exhaustive list of railroad themed hotels and restaurants, go to railroad historian and photographer Christopher Muller's Railserve.com web site at [https://www.railserve.com/Lodging\\_Restaurants/](https://www.railserve.com/Lodging_Restaurants/).







## 2024 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? \_\_\_\_\_

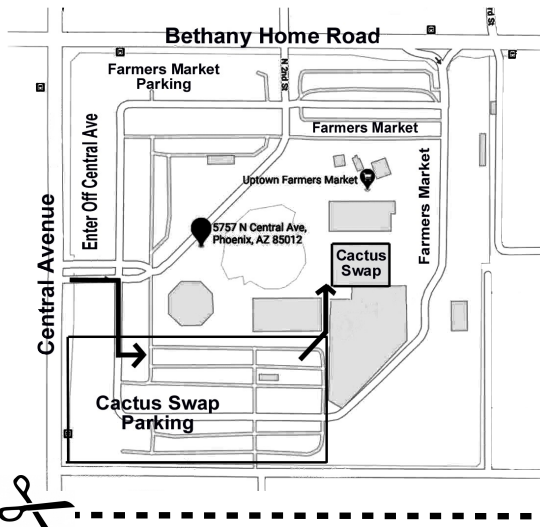
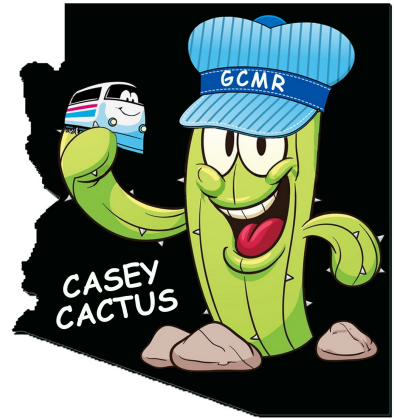
If your membership interests have changed, please fill out the following with your current interests.

<input type="checkbox"/> ERA	<input type="checkbox"/> K - N	<input type="checkbox"/> W - Other
<input type="checkbox"/> A - Prewar	<input type="checkbox"/> L - Z	
<input type="checkbox"/> B - Postwar	<input type="checkbox"/> M - Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> C - Modern		
	<b>MANUFACTURER</b>	<b>PERIPHERALS</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> GAUGE	<input type="checkbox"/> N - American Flyer	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 - Figures
<input type="checkbox"/> D - 0/027	<input type="checkbox"/> O - Lionel	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 - Toys
<input type="checkbox"/> E - Scale	<input type="checkbox"/> P - Marx	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 - Paper, Books
<input type="checkbox"/> F - Std	<input type="checkbox"/> Q - Ives	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 - Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> G - LGB/G	<input type="checkbox"/> R - Dorfan	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 - Railroadania
<input type="checkbox"/> H - S, Flyer	<input type="checkbox"/> S - MTH	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 - Other
<input type="checkbox"/> I - HO	<input type="checkbox"/> T - Williams	
<input type="checkbox"/> J - OO	<input type="checkbox"/> U - K Line	<b>LAYOUT?</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> V - Kusan	<input type="checkbox"/> Y - Yes
		<input type="checkbox"/> N - N

After completion, please make a check for \$35.00 made payable to **GCMR** and bring it to a monthly meeting. You can renew online through PayPal at: **[gcmr.org/Membership.html](https://gcmr.org/Membership.html)** or mail it to:

Chris Allen  
1119 W. Plata Ave.  
Mesa, AZ 85210

“ONE OF ARIZONA’S LARGEST  
MODEL RAILROAD SWAP MEETS”  
**CACTUS WINTER  
TRAIN SWAP**  
SATURDAY, FEB. 17TH, 2024  
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 RAILROADERS**

Print legibly. No refunds after Feb. 10, 2024

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](http://www.gcmrr.org)

Email: [info@gcmrr.org](mailto: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**

Name Badges **REQUIRED** for your security

**1 or 2 tables = 2 badges max.**

First and last name please

Your Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Helper Badge \_\_\_\_\_

**3 or more tables = 4 badges max.**

Helper Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Helper Badge \_\_\_\_\_

**4 BADGES MAXIMUM**