



GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

MAIN LINE

JULY, 2011

Volume 20

Number 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by George Bean

As you know I did not make last months meeting. We had a family reunion in Minnesota that I just could not miss. We spent two weeks relaxing and catching up on the family gossip. We had the AC running the first two nights out, but had to run the heater in Minnesota until our return trip and we got within two day of AZ. The temperature in Minnesota dropped to the low 50s at night.

I understand that we are not going to have a potluck at the July meeting. Work on the trailer will still be completed at the Adobe Mountain location. I am looking forward to getting the repair completed and some of the upgrades we need.

After returning from Minnesota, I was looking at my layout and decided I did not like the way it was turning out. Sooo, I ripped it apart and started a rework. The changes made include adding a second level and trying to display some of the standard gauge items that I have been collecting. I also wanted to have a complete 072 loop that I could run my big engines on.

Most of you have seen the bridge I built to span the large gap where the door opens. The bridge is now installed and Dave Brown is working on the motor control for the lift. I ran the EM-1 B&O engine

around the track and all works well. I have also added a small island where I have the Lionel engine backshop and the Lionel factory installed.

I added a section where I will install the standard gauge 840 power station and the switching station. It looks good and does not appear to be out of place on an O-gauge layout. Here are some shots of my projects.



We are also adding a water fall in the back yard and it has a tunnel that goes under it. I will be installing a "G" gauge track run around the yard and under the water fall. I hope to have a small Tombstone town using the desert theme.

I know that many of you will want to go to the in the "In the Heat" swap meet. If you finish early at

the swap meet please take the time to come out to Adobe Mt. and help with the trailer.
Don't forget to let Dave Brown know if you are going to ride the bus to Beat-the-Heat.



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.

July 23 - GCMR meeting - Work party on trailer at Maricopa Live Steamers facility

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

September 24 - GCMR meeting - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

OTHER TRAIN EVENTS

July 23 - In the Heat swap meet, Phoenix. North Phoenix Baptist Church

August 20 - Beat the Heat meet, Prescott. Dave Brown is again coordinating the bus trip. Be sure to sign up for the trip to make sure it is a go.

November 18-20 - Cal Stewart Meet, Pasadena, CA

November 26 - Turkey Meet - Chaparral Suites, Scottsdale

November 27 - Turkey Meet Auction - Chaparral Suites, Scottsdale

MEETING NOTES

Treasurer's Report

+ All bills are paid.

+ We are in the process of switching banks from Chase to US Bank. The change will happen in the next couple of weeks.

Old Business

+ Some members still need to get the red vests they ordered. There are still four other vests available.

+ Glenn gave a report on the O-gauge module work party held Saturday June 4th at the MLS clubhouse at the Adobe Dam complex. The straight moduls were adjusted and connected to

Board of Directors

President: GEORGE BEAN 623-975-3823
Vice Pres: GLENN SABER 602-956-6696
Secretary: ROD JOHNSON 480-314-3373

Treasurer: BOB PREHARA 602-841-9552
Past Pres: BILL EAST 602-374-3255
Board Member: BILL RICHARDSON 623-582-5672
WAYNE ROSS 602-953-9709

Editor: PETER ATONNA 928-636-4228 mjatonna@gmail.com - Website: gcmrr.org



In line for the hot dogs and apple pie

where an engine could run back and forth with no problems; however, the corners had significant issues (warping) such that new ones will be needed. George Bean was going to re-do the corners to include the addition of levelers. There was also a center rail spacing error that required the straight modules tracks be re-spaced.

Glenn also reported on the plans to build four racks on wheels, each of which would hold up to six straight modules. The racks would roll in and out of the trailer thus making set up and tear down easier. Two of the racks would be for O-gauge and the other two for S-gauge. The eight corners would be stored in the trailer along with other items necessary to run trains on the modules.

New Business

+ The mobile layout (big gray) work day will be Saturday, July 23rd, at the MLS patio at the Adobe Dam Recreation Area. The work party will be from 6am-6pm (unless completed sooner) and will be in lieu of the regular July meeting. Ken Barnes will let Our Savior's Church know that we won't need their facility that day. The club will provide a continental breakfast. It was decided that in lieu of the potluck lunch we would see if work is still being done at lunch and consider ordering pizza instead. The GCMR would provide the beverage.

The plan is to move the HO track down to the main deck, move the O-27 up to the first layer, and move and reconfigure the MTH O-31 on the main deck. As time and energy permit, we will replace the

outside O-gauge track with FasTrack. Members were encouraged to show up and help for as long as they can, realizing that the day also happens to be the In the Heat Meet day. The MLS clubhouse/patio is located across from the water park and ball fields on 43rd Av south of Pinnacle Peak Road. From I-17 & Pinnacle Peak, go west two miles to 43rd Av. Turn left (south) and go 3/8" mile to the main gate on the right (west). The patio is by the gate.



Show and Tell - John Draftz

The Saguaro Central umbrella organization at Adobe said we could store both the mobile layout and the module trailer in their enclosure by the museum on a "hold harmless" basis, i.e. Saguaro Central would not be responsible for any damage and/or loss. Since half of our public displays are at Adobe, this seems a practical option. With no overhead covering, the effect of the weather was discussed but no conclusion reached. Bob Dennison offered the club a metal shed. John will look at it to see if it might be useable.

+ Dave Brown mentioned that the Methodist church in Paradise Valley was interested in our setting up trains in December. The format would be similar to the open house format we've tried but have had little public response. In this instance, the church will be alerting its members and the public thus we should have a good turnout.

+ Dave also reminded the members of the Beat the Heat Meet Saturday, August 20th, in Prescott. Forms and information were in the June Mainline. Interested members should contact Dave at 602-264-8725 for more information especially if they are interested in the bus trip.

+ Ken Barnes mentioned that the town of Walker (SE of Prescott) has a Walker Days celebration in July and asked about our interest in participating. The main concern was the cost involved since we would probably not be compensated. With the mobile layout work scheduled for July, the topic was postponed for this year.

+ Show 'n Tell: the theme was red, white and blue patriotic cars and trains.

- Bill East brought his American Flyer State of Maine boxcar
- John Draftz brought his K-Line O-gauge Spirit of 76 bay window caboose and a K-Line Loves America boxcar



Show and Tell: Bill East

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Glenn Saber

It was fun filling in for President Bean for ... a day! Hope his vacation reinvigorated him for the tough job of steering this great club forward for the rest of the year and beyond. Not only George missed the June hot dog and apple pie meet - 18 heads were counted meaning there was plenty of food for those that wanted to wolf down seconds and thirds. It also meant that June monthly raffles had staggering odds; which all present made use of. Even I did not go home empty handed. Three club members were not present when called for the \$25 drawing. Remember, you have to be present to win that monthly drawing.

Just a reminder that the August 20th Beat The Heat bus tour is fast approaching. Get with member Dave Brown and sign up. For those of you that have never gone, you've heard all the good about this trip. Do it once and you'll be hooked.

Our club's Saturday, July 23rd meet will be different than usual. We are not meeting at the church, but at Adobe Mountain Railroad Park to work on Stalwart Gray (not Big Blue) - our 18 year old, portable train display layout - getting it ready for the heavy fall operating season. Adobe Mountain is on the Southwest corner of Pinnacle Peak Road and 43rd Avenue across from the Wet-N-Wild water park. The Maricopa Live Steamers graciously offered us the use of their canopy shaded work area and air conditioned club house. Club provided coffee, soda, water and donuts will be present for that early morning jolt. If the work party extends through lunch time, there is a good pizza place that regularly delivers to Adobe Mountain.

Work will include installing HO scale on the lower level with expansive curves allowing members to finally bring their biggest HO engines and long consists to show off. Eventually, carnival rides and other HO items will grace that loop. O-27 will move back upstairs on the second level which is more to scale with the lighted Lionel 115 station that resides there. Work party time is 6:00 AM until whenever we call it quits or the onset of heat stroke, whichever comes first. The "In The Heat" meet is the same Saturday at the Baptist Church. There is plenty of time to attend both - work for a while on the trailer, then run on down to the meet or come to Adobe and help after you're done scouring the meet's isles. We really would appreciate your help and support.

So come one, come all, for a fun day of camaraderie and witness the birth of new cuss words as track and wire are forced to do the unimaginable. Always fun with toy trains.

FUN SUGGESTION FROM JOHN DRAFTZ

Thought the members might like to know about this. This is the only train game my wife was willing to play. It's a little like Monopoly but easier and ends with most players still in the game. This second edition uses US cities. The first edition used Canadian cities. It's a good family game.

Visit: <http://www.columbiagames.com>
and click on GAMEPLAN



CHANGE IS A COMING

by Glenn Saber

What should one do when it is too hot outside? How about scraping my twelve year old indoor tinplate train layout table clean and then starting over? Sounded like a good idea to me!



Out with all the old, tight radius track and in with 72" and 54" radius Standard and O gauge so I can now run all my trains. Take everything, and I mean everything, out of boxes and find a home for it on the layout. Display it all. Fill it to the brim. Create a new Main Street with all those cars and lighted porcelain structures. Then find a spot for

that huge 115 station and terrace platform. The MTH tinplate race cars finally see the light-of-day and can run on a single track that meanders around the layout.

I've always admired Ward Kimball's tinplate layout and was especially fond of the old, cast iron Christmas fence he had everywhere. Years ago, that exact fence came available at the first Ward Kimball auction - had to have it! Now, it protects the perimeter of my layout with just the right amount of pieces left over to fully enclose the carnival and 840 power station. I love Ward's presence on the layout!



Now it's time to wire all this - every light, every building, every signal - which means clearing out all boxes from under the layout to gain access. My poor breakfast room! So much for using that table for a while.

Looks like it will be time for another open house when it's all done :-)

AS THE TWIG IS BENT

by Peter Atonna

One of my retirement goals was to preserve all the slides and photos I had taken over the years. Fortunately I was a camera nut from earliest days and have photos of my earliest trains as well as real trains of the late 40's and early 50's. So, over the years, I've scanned them as well as my slides. But I could not get a good scan of the original negatives, so had to do it from 50 - 60 year old photos - not always very good. I recently had to buy a new scanner and it turned out to be doing really good, high resolution negative scans.

So, I have finished scanning my earliest toy train photos. And although I remember doing it, I now have an excellent history of it. What you ask? Why repainting all my original trains and trying my hand at scratchbuilding. Oh yes, I was reading model railroad magazines back then and they informed us that we had to repaint those "toy looking" Lionel's and Flyer's to make them look more real - so I did. And of course destroying all potential value. But then who even thought of that?

I couldn't afford many Lionel accessories, but Plasticville was affordable and in addition the magazines had articles on scratchbuilding buildings. They, too, became "personalized".

There is no question those early experiences have colored my enjoyment of this hobby. Beginning with college I spent many years in HO and N gauges, not rediscovering tinplate until my mid '30's. And from the start, even during my "collecting" phase, layouts were custom built, wide radius curves, modified kits and buildings, etc.



Here is my mixed passenger train, the second car was made out of balsa wood, since that is all our local store carried. The other two, later ones, are from layered illustration board from a classic construction technique written about in the Model Railroader. Lastly are my three 2400 series passenger cars repainted in SP Sunset Limited colors, since that is what I saw in Douglas, AZ.



Here is my version of the Lionel operating freight station with the scratch built mail car.



By my second, high school era layout, I was getting "sophisticated". Here is a study model of the main station made out of American Plastic Bricks (remember them? they were pre-Legos)

Then the resulting town included the station, now made from printed brick paper glued onto a box shell made from shirt cardboards. The rest of the town included Plasticville stores complete with interiors and another scratch built building.



You will see the latest with the town of Ash Fork when you join us at the layout open house after Beat the Heat. It may be 60 years later, but I am still headed the same direction. How about you, did your earliest exposure to trains color how you still enjoy them.



Jack Eaton, a Winner!

WINNERS!

Dave Brown

Lionel Cowen standard gauge years boxcar

Jack Eaton

Lionel visitor center tank car

Glenn Saber

Lionel cherry picker flat car

Ralph Treichel

Lionel Tidewater boxcar

Mystery box:

Bob Prehara Lionel Burro crane

**\$25 Cash Drawing: Bob Prehara
(Rod Johnson, Dallas Dixon and Bill Richardson)**

BEAT THE HEAT MEET BUS TOUR

Don't forget to sign up for the bus tours. This annual event is one of our most fun activities of the year.

We need your phone number because the person of pickup point you choose will contact you with instructions on where to meet for the pickup. If you have any questions, call Dave Brown at 480-650-5336. I'm looking forward to seeing you on the bus on August 20, 2011

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Pickup Location:

< > Arizona Mills at 6:30 AM

< > Paradise Valley Mall at 7:00 AM

< > Metro Center at 7:30 AM

< > Carefree highway at 7:45 AM

Number of Adult riders _____ at \$30 each \$ _____

Number of children under 14 _____ at \$12 each \$ _____

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

Total. Make checks payable to "GCMR". \$ _____

Mail this form and check to: David Brown 2625 W. Lynne Ln. Phoenix Az. 85041

THE MAIN LINE

Peter Atonna, Editor
25375 N. Feather Mountain Rd.
Paulden, AZ 86334



Glenn Saber is doing some really neat things to his layout at home.
Read about them in this issue.