



GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

MAIN LINE

JULY, 2012

Volume 21 Number 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by John Draftz

The changes to the by-laws have been approved. On behalf of the BoD, thank you. These changes will help us to better lead the club. There is still one more change that needs to be made regarding the policy book and it will be presented at the August meeting.

The July 28th meeting has been replaced by a mobile layout work party at the MLS patio at Adobe beginning at 7am. You can get there earlier if you wish. The goal is to get the layout decorated so as to have minimum set up and take down time. Along with that, we'll be doing whatever tweaking and adjusting is needed to ensure all loops and equipment are functioning properly. The In the Heat Meet is the same day. Last year some members work on the layout early and then went to the meet. Any help you can give will be appreciated.

Glenn, George, Dallas and Larry assembled one of the modular layout racks. It gives us an idea as to needed changes along with capability. Will give you updates and maybe even photos as they're available.

The mobile layout has represented the club for many years and attracts visitors where ever it is. Unfortunately, transporting it at high speed for long distances is having an adverse effect on it. This may necessitate making changes to the layout beyond just a different axle. The club needs to reflect on the layout and how we want to use it. The BoD will make a recommendation at the August meeting where the members will need to make a decision.

The future of any organization is having young people join as old members leave (for whatever the reason). If we are to not just survive but also grow, we need to find ways to bring young people into the hobby. Kids will grow into this hobby not by simply watching a toy train run but by actually running the toy train. What can we do to make that happen? Give us your thoughts.

The Beat the Heat bus trip is still a go for August 18th. Contact Dave Brown (480-650-5336 or eaglefour@juno.com) for details and reservations.

Lastly, we need to make our annual raffle tickets available to other train clubs unless you, the members, want to keep digging into your wallet to buy them. If you know of another club that doesn't have such a fund raiser (we don't want to compete), please contact them to see if they'd let us show up at a meeting with tickets to sell. Remember, the first prize is whatever the Arizona Train Depot has to sell and that can include things other than O-gauge. The drawing will be at the October meeting and the winner doesn't have to be present to win. The objective is to make money not lose money.

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 28 - the regular GCMR meeting is canceled. All members are invited to the Adobe Mountain Park for a work session to upgrade the trailer. See the President's Message for details. Come out at 7am and beat the heat.

August 25 - GCMR meeting - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church - theme: S-gauge modules
Your favorite operating car. Guess the Heat – enter w/numbered item. Skill at kit bashing, scratch building and repainting

September 22 - GCMR meeting - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church - theme: – O-gauge modules; pizza meet - beverage cars (beer, wine, soda pop, etc) “trolley” drag races

OTHER TRAIN EVENTS

July 28 - In the Heat Swap Meet, North Phoenix Baptist Church. For info: 602-336-0973

August 18 - Beat the Heat Meet, Prescott. Don't forget to sign up for the bus trip.

November 24 - Turkey Meet, Scottsdale

November 25 - Turkey Meet auction, Scottsdale



Checking out the goodies

MEETING NOTES

Old Business:

+ Policy Book items will be developed by the BoD and presented to members for comments, suggestions, etc.

+ We need at least three members with some knowledge of trailers to assess the mobile layout. Art Triant is the chair with Glenn Saber and Ken Barnes completing the team.

+ The ballots for the proposed Bylaw changes have been mailed to all members. Ballots can be given to Wayne Ross today, or mailed to Rod Johnson. All mailed ballots must be postmarked no later than June 30, 2012.

+ Later next year we need to change the month for elections in the Articles of Incorporation, presently it is December. Also, we need to amend the Bylaws to address Proxy Votes for the BoD and to address a procedure for formal ratification of the Policy Book.

+ Beat the Heat Bus Trip Report: This is a fun way to attend the meet in Prescott on August 18, 2012. The cost per person is \$30 for the round trip, children are \$12. A bag lunch is available for \$7. Pick up locations are: Arizona Mills, PV Mall, Metro Center, and at I-17 & Carefree Highway. Contact Dave Brown for details.

+ A big round of applause was given for Bill Lazenby for his work on two of the “O” gauge modular corners.

+ Club Goals – A discussion resulted in the following short term goals:

Start an auxiliary group for spouses/significant others not interested in trains.

Board of Directors

President:	JOHN DRAFTZ	602-942-3457	Treasurer:	GLENN SABER	602-956-6696
Vice Pres:	JACK EATON	623-580-6957	Past Pres:	GEORGE BEAN	623-975-3823
Secretary	ROD JOHNSON	480-895-4053	Board Member:	BOB PREHARA	602-841-9552
				BILL ROGERS	480-529-6181

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

Website to incorporate email contact to office holders, GCMR calendar, a “contact button”, Paul Boston will look into it.

Some sort of raffle (like a starter set).

Develop a list of parks are we would be able to run trains at. Check out www.gcmrr.org.

+ The July GCMR meeting will be a work session on the trailers, at Adobe Mountain starting at 6 a.m. Also, where would we want to have a slab for our trailers? Check out some of the areas available at Adobe.

+ Assembly of modular racks. George Bean, Dallas Dixon, Bill Richardson, and Glenn Saber will decide on a time and date after today’s meeting.

New Business:

+ All welcomed new member, Dennis Gritz.

+ A discussion as to getting new members: have a membership table set up where we run trains; hand out GCMR business cards (Jack Eaton will investigate getting the cards). Consider selling our Annual Raffle tickets to non-members at other venues. Using display cases in public libraries. Any volunteers?

Show & Tell:

Bill Richardson – American Flyer Rocket Flatcar and a State of Maine Boxcar. A John Wayne Set. An Module



scenic corner by Bill Lazenby

On3O Steam engine.

Jack Eaton – 2009 TCA Convention Car

John Draftz – Kline “O27” size “I Love America Boxcar

ROD JOHNSON IN UTAH

by Rod Johnson

As most members know, our Rod Johnson is enjoying retirement by having a home in Sandy, Utah (for the summer, surprise!) and here in the valley. Rod sent me some photos of the backdrop he is having done and I was so impressed I asked him to send me some more information on them and on the layout he is building. Here is what you would see if you were to visit Rod in Utah - Ed

My intent was to construct a layout with a rural theme sort of following the route of the Great Northern Empire Builder across the Northern plains, skirting the badlands, into the Eastern Montana landscape and finally on to the Rockies. The backdrop painted by the young artist reflects these scenes from East to West.

The support tables are all 4’ x 8’ with a couple of exceptions on the length to fit the space. They are covered with ½” plywood and ½” foam insulation sheets from Home Depot. The foam cuts down on sound, and is easy to paint; and a bonus benefit is that it makes it easy to plant trees. Finally, but a long way to go yet, is cork roadbed under all the track plus ballast. I’m not a big fan of ballast; but it





sure looks neat-----but what a pain in the you know what to add.

Five things came to mind before I got started.

- + First, total access all around the layout was number one.
- + Adequate space in the middle of the tables with a lift up bridge (manual) was second
- + Table height about four inches above waist high for access underneath was next
- + Run the locos, turnout and accessories with DCS or Legacy as much as possible (I am not into extensive control panels)
- + And finally, wide radius curves as much as 80" diameter wherever possible.

The overall size is 22 feet by 13 feet which is a reasonable amount of space to work on but not overwhelming. Probably another couple of summers to finish most of it will be needed. But as we all know, a layout is really never done. It is a lot of fun to do the work, and it kind gives one a sense of purpose----especially if you like model railroading.

On the photos, I have to really do two of them because the layout is divided in sort of an East/West setup and I can't get far enough away to do both parts. Still have a long way to go to be mostly finished; but am still pressing on.

To give you some idea about the layout, the outer main loop is elevated for the truss bridge crossing of Coyote Creek. The next track to the inside is the inner main loop which has not yet been elevated. My plan is to finish modeling the creek and elevate the inner loop in the next four to five weeks, and then start on my mountain down at the other end including two tunnels. Working on the creek is very tedious and time consuming----but, what the heck, it is all fun.

Once the creek is finished the inner loop will be elevated and three more bridges will be in place-----one more on the outer loop and two on the inner. Maybe later some day I'll have more and better photos of the whole setup, and not just sections.

We talked briefly about backdrops for layouts, and here are three shots of the backdrop which continues all around on three walls of the basement. I was very fortunate to meet a young lady by chance who had a music and art scholarship to Utah State University, and painting my backdrop was her



summer job after high school. It took her a good eight weeks to complete it from photos I gave her. I'd have to say she did an excellent job. I had absolutely no talent in this area, but she sure did.

The first two photos show the Badlands backdrop, and the third is the northern prairie with a farm off in the distance which is barely visible----but it provides some forced perspective. I elected to be able to walk

all around the layout so the backdrop is really about 18 inches away from the board.

The far west end of the layout changes to the Montana foothills and then the Rockies both not shown. The theme of the layout is basically rural with a small village, etc. again, not shown here. Anyway, I would encourage anyone not to be afraid of diving into scenery and modeling a layout with no previous experience or talent-----I sure didn't have any; but, you learn as you go and sometimes you surprise yourself.



Roxanna McElway was a winner



hot dogs and apple pie at the June GCMR meeting

WINNERS!

Katie Elgar	prewar Tank Car
George Bean	Dow Chemical Tank Car
Art Triant	Lehigh Valley Boxcar
Art Triant	Minnesota, Dakota & Eastern Boxcar

Mystery Prize Drawing

Jack Eaton	Operating Cattle Car and Corral Set
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\$25 Drawing

Roxie McElwee

The Main Line

Peter Atonna, editor

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Rod Johnson tells us about the new layout at his summer home in Sandy, UT and about the spectacular scenic backdrops he had painted for it.