



# GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

## MAIN LINE

JULY, 2020

Volume 29

Number 7

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by John Draftz (filling in for Dave)

The June meeting theme was "red, white & blue". A special thanks to those who brought in items.

The 2020 Summer Cactus had to be cancelled thus that date, July 25th, will be a regular meeting at Our Savior's Church instead. The theme will be "A Favorite Car" meaning toy train car versus an automobile. Bring in a favorite car of yours and tell others why it's a favorite. This helps us all to learn more about the hobby and our members.

August will be the "Guess The Heat" meeting. Note that August has five Saturdays and the fourth one is the 22nd.

The Annual 3-2-1 Raffle drawing (\$300 first, \$200 second, \$100 third) is still ongoing along with the red and blue ticket raffles. Tickets are available at the meetings. The annual raffle drawing is still planned for October.

The virus situation has had its effect on everyone. The good news is that we can still meet to enjoy our hobby albeit on a limited scale. Until advised otherwise, we'll keep safe distance at the meeting and will wear a mask of some kind.

We're still planning on a September mini-meet but it's subject to change depending on what

the world is like at that point. Let's think positive and assume it'll be held and plan to bring "stuff" to sell. In the meantime, take care and stay healthy.

### 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.

### THE MEETING IS ON!

**+ wear a mask**

**+ keep safe distance  
during the meeting**

**July 25** - GCMR meet - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

**July 25** - Summer Cactus Meet - North Phoenix Baptist Church **CANCELLED**

**August 15** - Beat the Heat meet and bus trip to Prescott **CANCELLED**

**August 22** - GCMR meet - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

**September 26** - GCMR meet - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church - Mini Meet

**November 7** - Desert Division fall auction - Paradise Valley United Methodist Church

## MEETING NOTES

by Bill Richardson

General Membership Meeting Minutes:  
The meeting was called to order by Past President John Draftz.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

John Draftz informed the membership that President Dave Brown was unavailable and had asked John to fill in for him.

Bill Richardson gave the Secretary's Report noting 42 club members. Glenn Saber gave the Treasurer's Report.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Reminder was made that the "Beat The Heat" meet in August has been cancelled.  
Reminder that the July "Summer Cactus Meet" has been cancelled.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Lin Sinclair donated a Lionel 6-1284 Allegheny Train Set to the club. Thank you Lin. This will probably end up as a club raffle prize in one of our raffles.

John Draftz informed the membership that Rich Fortmeyer will be unable to complete his term as Board Member. The Board is looking to the membership for a replacement. Doyle Bain and John Kendig were candidates for the Board in the last election. Both have agreed they could serve.

For those who haven't heard yet, our July 25th, 2020, In the heat Summer Cactus Swap Meet at Phoenix Baptist Church has been CANCELLED.

However, since there is no swap meet, the board decided to have a regular membership meeting instead. As usual, the meeting will be at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at 9:00 AM.

GCMR is considering buying its own PA system for use at our swap meets. This would save us the rent we pay Phoenix Baptist Church.

For Your Information, GCMR member Katie Elgar was elected as National Secretary of the TCA. Congratulations Katie.

The TCA did cancel their June 2020 convention in Jacksonville Florida, but they are planning to return to Jacksonville in 2025.

For Your Information, Mike Wolf from MTH will be retiring and MTH will be closing. The DCS system will become its own business and the parts will become their own business.

### SHOW AND TELL:

The Theme for June was Red, White, and Blue

Now what does that mean? To John Zaval that meant his Post War 226E original 1938 "O" gauge Blue Comet set. John informed us that the cars were named after comets.

Katie Elgar brought in her red, white, and blue Lionel metal sign.

Bill Richardson brought in one red, one white, and one blue matchbox cars. He also showed three different AF train cars, one red, one white, and one blue. Finally, he showed us a red, white, and blue On30 Freedom train passenger car.

### Board of Directors

President:	DAVE BROWN	480-650-5336
Vice Pres:	DANA PRICE	602-909-0657
Secretary:	BILL RICHARDSON	623-582-5672
Treasurer:	GLENN SABER	602-956-6696

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## JOHN DRAFTZ CONTINUES WITH HIS CLUB HISTORY

In January **1987**, it was suggested we have presentations at meetings.

Christown booked us for November.

GATS in January. Modules will be there.  
Nor-Cal in Feb; picnic in Apr; open house in May.

In February, we'll be part of the Sunnyslope's Winter Carnival.

Trailer for the new layout to be 4-wheel flatbed tandem 6x12 min.

May open house to be all day swap meet.

New masthead is planned.

In March, people are needed for Publicity & Advertising, Recruitment, and Layout Design.

Special joint meeting at Korte's for the joint picnic in April.

Open house & swap meet in May.

Gadsden Pacific show noted.

Sahuaro Central swap meet in May noted.

In June, the May open house & swap meets were a success but more help was needed.

New trailer layout is under construction for \$1700.

Railfair in October. Prescott meet in September. Sahuaro Central in October. Turkey meet in November.

Layout for new trailer to be constructed soon. Need trains, track & accessories.

In February **1988**, the Winter Carnival in February was noted.

A Prescott RR club is being formed.

The picnic is May.

The TTOS national convention is to be in Tucson.

The Korte joint meet is in March. Nor-Cal is in March.

The trailer layout schedule: stage 1 in May, stage 2 in July, stage 3 in October, stage 4 in winter. Goettl donated wire for layout.

In March, layout design was presented. Has two levels. Stage 1 – lower level carpet & track – work is to start in May.

In June, Tucson brought modules to the meet.

Help is needed for trailer layout construction.

National convention in Tucson noted as a success.

Trailer layout work slowed due to builder's schedule.

Waterproof tarp needed for trailer.

Joint Christmas party in December. Turkey meet in November.

Trailer layout is done and will be at Christown in October.

We have 82 members.

May meet to be two days.

In January **1989**, the trailer at GATS in February was noted.

We have 88 members.

GATS was a success. Trailer was well received.

Joint picnic in March.

In March, Toy Fair was noted.

Korte picnic is now a TCA function.

Maintenance tips were in the newsletter.

The open house and meet are in May.

The Mesa Museum request for train displays was noted.

Sahuaro Central is in May. Gadsden Pacific Roadrunner meet is in June. Joint Mile High meet in Prescott is in August.

200 people attended the open house in May.

Tri-City mall display is in September.

Tri-City is cancelled.

Railfair in October. Trailer is to be there.

Trailer height prohibits normal garage access.

Christown is in November.

Turkey meet is in November.

Christmas party is now a joint event.

In February **1990**, the joint picnic was noted.

Auction items are needed for the May meet.

Bob Dennison's son, Bill, tows the trailer.

In April, the club is on Sunnyslope probation due to members smoking and not cleaning up afterward.

Sahuaro Central is in May. Gadsden Pacific in June. Prescott "Beat the Heat" meet in August.

The trailer needs work.

Frank Mareska is the new secretary.

We have 85 members.

In September, TCA doing the Valley West and Christown displays was noted.

Book and video reviews were in newsletter.

Mobile display trailer total cost over \$2000 and it needs a storage place. A covered area would work. Closed it is 8x16. Open it is 16x26. Height is 8'.

Trailer needs maintenance.

Trailer goes to Christown and GATS and gets \$150.

Member articles requested.

In October, the trailer may have a home was noted.

Cal-Stewart in November. Railfair in October. Sahuaro Central in October.

Joint Christmas party in December.

Phil Hill had club history article in newsletter.

Trailer layout lacks accessories.

Trailer needs to be at Sunnyslope Christmas party in December.

The importance of the trailer was noted. It's the only one like it in the U.S.

In January **1991**, a new masthead was shown.

GATS is in February.

The Sunnyslope Christmas part went well. AGRS forming.

In February, it was noted the trailer will not be at GATS.

Still need a home for trailer.

Mats to be gotten to protect the trailer layout corners when stored.

Joint picnic is in March.

The trailer to be at Sunnyslope in May.

The restored Union Station opened.

Bank balance thru '90: \$1134.46 + \$35 cash on hand.

In April, we had 100 members.

Prescott meet is in July.

May open house was bigger than ever.

Looking for a newsletter name.

In August, we had 118 members.

GATS now twice a year here.

Railfair is in October. Christown is in November.

Turkey meet is in November. GATS is in December.

Trailer needs maintenance.

In November, the trailer was painted.

Joint Christmas party is in December.

In December, Christown had a problem when trailer arrived during a kid's party.

Accessory buttons added to layout. Switches were a problem.

## SOME NOTES FROM THE JUNE MEETING

The Board decided to elect Rich Fortmeyer's replacement to the BoD by a ballot in this newsletter. The two choices are Doyle Bain and John Kendig. Members are asked to e-mail Bill Richardson ([willielumplump@cox.net](mailto:willielumplump@cox.net)) or call him (623-203-0329) with their vote. Just send the email with the title "Ballot" and in the message just write your choice and your name. No names will be published, we just need it to check you off that you voted.

## JIM'S LAYOUT

Jim Fornabi shared these shots of his layout with us.



## ROD JOHNSON'S LAYOUT

Ignore the lousy trackwork that needs attention. Work is still in progress on the layout, but the creek is pretty much done. It could use a little more vegetation. The creek runs mostly across the corner of the layout with two bridges where it begins and two where it ends. If you look real close there is a fly fisherman working his line in the flow.





## THE FREEDOM TRAIN

by Peter Atonna

When a train friend here sent me an article about the 1946 Freedom Train, just before the 4th of July, it got me to remembering details about that landmark train and its followup with #4449 in 1975-6.

I was fortunate that my mother took a photo of me and my sister as well as the train itself when it visited Douglas, AZ in 1946.



That kindled my interest in the train and I've been fortunate in obtaining one of the booklets you were given when visiting the train.

Thus, when Lionel came out with their version of the train, it immediately found a home here.

So, when the second, bicentennial version was on the road, I was again fortunate to see two of the three engines pulling that train!

Shortly before moving back to Arizona from Toledo, we found that the Reading Northern pulling the train would be passing the back property line of good friends of ours. So off we went with what turned out to be several others



who had gotten the word.

And again, in the fall, after our move to Phoenix, it came here. This time being pulled by ExSP 4449. Naturally, I spend a day following it as it made its way to its display position at ASU.



Sadly, I will not be around to see what train is used to celebrate the tricentennial!

## THE LAYOUT CONTINUES

by Terry Gibbs

Since the May issue much has been done on the layout. I played with the trains for a while and decided I didn't like the S curve going into the station area. I moved the outer line inward to straighten it. I didn't have to move the inner loops.



Not shown in the photos, but IMPORTANT to the appearance of the layout. One day I was looking on eBay for the Lionel 38 locos I collect, and I saw a listing for 38" long Lionel Track. It was a K-line carton with 16 sections of extra tie straights that match the 072 curves. I bought the box for the amazing price of \$56 postpaid. Now I have enough of the extra tie track to do the layout except the area in the passenger station. You won't see the track there anyway because of the platforms.

With the track where I wanted it, I marked it so I know where the roadbed goes. I tried using a sheet of cardboard held along the edge of the ties, but that was unwieldy. So I mounted a block of scrap wood on tender frame with trucks from my junk box and used cable ties to attach a marker. Rolling it along the track made a good line.







Then I added the track for the Hornby engine shed. I won't use this, but I like the building.



I found another box of Schoenhut buildings. I know there is still another box somewhere because I have a barn that is not out yet. So now I have both gas stations, the church, and the station on the layout. The station is in the picture on the left edge with the roof off. I'll repurpose the station as a school when I clean it up.

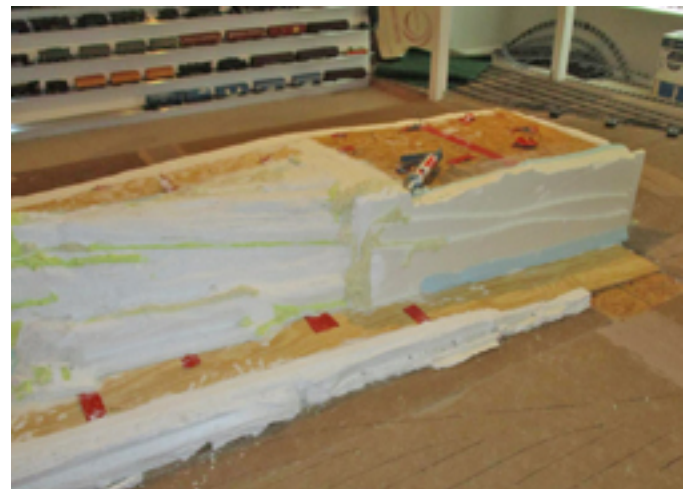
The Schoenhut buildings were wood kits and didn't come with lights. I cut the bottoms out with the router so bulbs can be mounted on the layout. Because the Schoenhut town area cannot be reached from under the layout, I cut grooves in the homasote with a circular saw so I could wire the lights.

At that point, I marked the roads and took everything off the layout except the houses and streetlights on the mountain. Then I wired them up using Scotchlock connectors.



Now for the styrofoam mountain. . . Last year, I got a bunch of the blue foam for free, and would have taken more if I'd known how much it cost. I did buy some small sheets of white foam. I blocked out the mountain using foam, and then started carving. I have hot wire tools, but found a drywall saw and a wire brush worked really quick.





With the mountain shaped but for the two ends where the glue failed, I put plaster cloth where the foam meets the wood. Hopefully this will prevent cracking, and will certainly help keep plaster off the carpet underneath.

That's where I'm at now. I'm going to do three different colored coats of plaster. The first coat will be black, second coat will be gray, and the third coat will be a tan color. I have different plasters so the outer coats will be softer. Then I'll wire brush the plaster to get texture and color.



If this works, we'll call it the Gibbs method. If it doesn't work, I'll paint over it, and we'll never mention it again.

Find out in the next installment.

### RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS:

Bill Richardson - Lionel 6-14092 8 light Floodlight Tower  
 John Kendig - AF 6-48513 CSX Flatcar With Generator  
 Katie Elgar - Lionel 6-17873 1988 LCCA Ashland Oil Convention Tank Car  
 Glenn Saber - MTH 33-7504 Santa Fe 3-Bay Covered Hopper Car

Mystery Raffle prize winner:

Bill Richardson - K-Line Santa Fe GP-7 Diesel 2842

Monthly 3-2-1 Raffle prize winner:

John Zaval - who won 3 more tickets to the 3-2-1 annual raffle.

May-June 1936  
 Lionel Magazine

We have two new prominent members in the Lionel Engineers Club. They are Bruno and Vittorio Mussolini, young sons of Premier Mussolini, the powerful ruler in Italy. They read each issue from cover to cover and anxiously await the next one.

Model Builder  
 Nov-Dec 1937

Will Trade: Cocker Spaniel pup, black & white, 10 weeks old, fine stock, eligible to register FOR Standard Gauge equipment such as rolling stock, remote control switches, signals, etc. Only equipment in A-1 condition considered. Margaret - - -, Brownstone, Indiana

### THE KING OF SIAM AND HIS RAILROAD



*On his 10th birthday, King Ananda, boy ruler of Siam, posed for this photograph with his Lionel railroad and Lionel Mickey Mouse handcar.*





John Kendig



Bill Richardson



John Zaval



Glenn Saber