



# GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

## MAIN LINE

JUNE, 2014

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by John Draftz

Our June meeting will be on our regular date, the 28<sup>th</sup>. We'll start running trains around 8:30am with the meeting starting at 10. This month's theme is Hot Dogs and Apple Pie; Flag Day; Red, White, and Blue trains; patriotic trains, cars, etc., item(s) w/ flag(s). The more people that bring things, the more we learn about our hobby.

Please note that our July meeting has been moved to the 19<sup>th</sup>. The theme will be: skill at kit bashing, scratch building and repainting AKA what do you have that's unusual?

The Central Arizona Model RR Club "Beat the Heat Meet" will be coming up August 16<sup>th</sup> from 9-1 at the Prescott Activity Center on Gurley and the bus is reserved. Please contact Dave Brown (480-650-5336 or [eaglefour@juno.com](mailto:eaglefour@juno.com)) for more details and to reserve your spot on the bus. The bus is open to non-members but seating is limited.

We need a swap meet chairperson soon and one or more assistants if the 2015 February swap meet is have the success we want. This is our major revenue generator. The various tasks are documented along with a timeline so it shouldn't be a burden for just one person especially if everyone helps out somehow. If you would be willing to serve as the chair or an assistant, please contact anyone on the board of directors.

Our last venue was the Arizona Train Days display at Williams on Saturday and Sunday, June 14 & 15 (Father's Day weekend) where Bob Prehara

and I displayed the mobile layout. It was well received as always.

Having individual members bring in trains to run at meetings in lieu of trying to set up either the O-gauge or S-gauge modules seems to be working well. Jack is coordinating this approach. If you're willing to bring an oval of track and a train to run on it, please let Jack know (623-249-7297 or [jeaton9@cox.net](mailto:jeaton9@cox.net)). It can be any gauge.

In Vol 49, No 1 of the Winter edition of The Bulletin (the TTOS national magazine) on page 5 was "An Open Letter to the Members of the Former T.T.O.S. Grand Canyon and Southwestern Divisions" signed by Randy Giroux, the current national president, asking them to "return to T.T.O.S." The full text of the letter will be available at the meeting for those interested.

See you June 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. Remember to bring something patriotic to celebrate Independence Day.



## 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.*

**June 28** - GCMR meeting, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church - individual modules Theme: Hot Dogs and Apple Pie; Flag Day; Red, White, and Blue trains; patriotic trains, cars, etc., item(s) w/flag(s)

**July 19** - GCMR meeting, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (note the change in date, this month only) – individual modules Theme: skill at kit bashing, scratch building and repainting AKA what do you have that's unusual?

**August 16** - Beat the Heat Swap Meet, Prescott GCMR Bus Trip (see the registration form this issue)

**August 23** - GCMR meeting, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church – individual modules Theme: Tell us about your entry "Guess the heat meet" - enter with any numbered item. Last 2-3 numbers of the engine or rolling stock is the way you guess the heat at 11am that day (we will call national weather service)

**September 20** - Phoenix Crowne Plaza - Arizona Railroadania Show and Sale (more info upcoming issue)

## MEETING NOTES

### Announcements

- Williams Train Days are June 14-15

### Show and Tell

- Bill Lazenby ran his Ready Made Train on track supplied by Dallas Dixon.

- John Draftz brought his red, white, and blue train sold by Hawthorne.

- Glenn Saber brought a cars and an engine from the Civil War set produced by Kalamazoo Trains. The engine (General Lee) and tender were from the Confederate set. The naval gun and siege mortar were

from the Union set. Glenn also gave a brief history of the set and Kalamazoo Trains.

### Old Business

- John Draftz gave a report on the module/trailer work day held in lieu of the meeting last month. The trailer was cleaned out and a number of items that were stored there were relocated to the storage facility. The dome on the top of the trailer was repaired, a dent in the front was pulled out, and leaks were sealed. The tire still needs to be mounted on the outside and Ken Barnes volunteered to do this.

- John Draftz gave a report on the possible location of a permanent building(s) at Adobe. He discussed restrictions to building size (700 sq ft) necessitated by the need for a sprinkler system in buildings over that size. Possible locations for buildings at Adobe were discussed along with the requirement to be within a set distance from a fire hydrant. Two buildings are a possibility, one for a permanent layout and one for trailer storage/meeting room.

### Board of Directors

President:	JOHN DRAFTZ	602-942-3457	Treasurer:	GLENN SABER	602-956-6696
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- The September 27 mini-meet was discussed. Because this event would be open to the public the question was brought up about sales tax. John Draftz said he will check this issue out.

### New Business

- There is a July conflict with both the church schedule and the In the Heat Meet. A vote of the members attending decided to meet on July 19 instead of the normal meeting date.

- A 2015 Swap Meet chair is needed. A suggestion was put on the floor to make it a two day meet. No action taken at his time.

- John Draftz brought up the upcoming out of valley venues. The Williams event is two days and no rooms will be comped for members taking a layout there. Without a room made available it is unlikely the club will be able to support this event. Also, a question was brought up about doing Cal-Stewart because of wear and tear on the trailer. This question was tabled till June.

- The question of meeting activities will be sent to the board.

- It was announced that Dwane Turner volunteered to be the prize chairperson person to deal with the monthly raffles.



**Dwayne Turner eyes the goodie table**

## **GCMR AGAIN AT WILLIAMS NATIONAL TRAIN DAY**

The folks at Williams decided to move their Train Day off Mother's Day weekend to Father's Day weekend hoping that dad might be more interested in going to a train exhibit than mom did!

So, John Draftz and Bob Prehara brought the GCMR trailer to Williams for the weekend and were parked under the big tent right at the entrance to the festivities.

Attendance did seem better than the earlier date, although this spring's strange weather continued with winds blowing both days. Here are some shots of the GCMR trailer and other exhibits. Then, this great location



**The Fourth is coming up - how about one of these for your barbecue?**







meant that folks stopped by both days to visit and watch toy trains.

Here are some more scenes done by your editor from around the show.





# HERE COMES THE WRECKING BALL!

by Peter Atonna

TCA National Convention came to Phoenix and I was honored to host two bus loads of visitors from the convention. But, following the convention, again during our afternoon tea, Mary Jane's question was



It is hard to believe, but I started my Paulden layout fifteen years ago. Over that time, you have probably noticed that there have been quite a few changes made.

The first major one was ten years ago when I replaced the American Flyer S gauge layout with the "Lowell Branch". Why that? Two reasons which still resonate today. The first was that the S gauge layout was pretty much "complete". That is I really only worked on it or ran it when visitors were over. It was like a museum exhibit - static. The second came from discussions with Mary Jane during our afternoon teas in the train room. She wondered why the layout didn't have more vertical scenery, that is stretching toward the ceiling and toward the floor.

Since I was really enjoying my high rail layout, I thought, why not bring it onto the Flyer table and highlight scenery. An Atlas bridge to cross the aisle made that possible and I envisioned a branch line to the town of Lowell, in the Mule Mountains of southeastern Arizona. To drop the scenery toward the floor, I would build a scene of the Hell Canyon bridge on the BNSF, just north of us here. So, from year five to ten, the Lowell branch was under construction and then in operation.

One of the areas of the hobby I enjoyed was collecting prewar O and Standard gauge trains and from the beginning, a layout to run those trains in a '30s type setting was planned. Five years ago, the



"what are you going to do for the next five years?" Like the S gauge layout, I had to admit that the prewar layout was "done" and was run only for visitors - and that fairly briefly since it got VERY noisy! Upon reflection, my response was still that





my greatest enjoyment comes from the high rail layout. So, a decision was made, take down the prewar layout and extend the high rail layout onto that table. Hence, five years later, we now have the Ash Fork extension and the Mantisee and Southern On30 narrow gauge railroad.

This spring we took an extended trip to celebrate our 50th anniversary. That trip included horse and carriage activities, touring and the spring York. Travel to and from was by Amtrak. During the trip I was able to enjoy a spectacular view of Chicago Union Station, see several neat new products at York as well as modular layouts. As my five years are again now up, it allowed us time to reflect about what I still enjoy in the hobby - a great thing to do while watching scenery go by while riding on Amtrak.

Here is the current revelation - the design of the current high rail layout works but does not totally reflect what I enjoy most. That is, like many of us, I like watching trains run. But in addition, as you may note from my recently completed Chicago scene, I

also really like big city terminals, complete with a subway.

So, I put ideas on paper and a totally new layout emerged. With minor modifications to the existing benchwork, I could create a double track main line in a folded figure eight configuration by simply closing off the opening between the left and right tables you see when entering the room (for example, one of those York "benefits" was that the Mainne benchwork folks demonstrated a brand new powered lift section so you would not have to crawl under the layout to enter it!)

The visual highlight of the new plan is a seven by forty foot long table, down the center of the room, featuring a passenger terminal, passenger yards, double track subway, intermodal yards and locomotive facilities. On a second level will be a seven by eight foot depiction of Chicago Union Station (as in my current Chicago scene) and adjacent downtown buildings.

When will this begin? My plan is to start removing items from the layout following the Beat the Heat open house and hope to have trains running on the new layout by next year's Beat the Heat.

If anybody is interested in a more private farewell visit to the layout, I have set aside Saturday and Sunday July 26 - 27 for anybody to visit. You are welcome to come any time between 10am and 4pm and on Saturday evening and stay as long as you like. (Do please let me know if you are coming and if you need one, I can email you a map on how to get here) In addition, since the new plan does not accommodate many of my existing buildings and accessories, I will be selling

them. If you are interested in what will be available, feel free to email me for the list. You can reserve the ones you are interested in. I will also have copies at the open houses.

Similarly, I will not be able to use the narrow gauge, so all the locos, rolling stock and DCC controls will also be for sale.







# **"BEAT THE HEAT" SWAP MEET & LAYOUT TOUR**

TO COOL PRESCOTT, AZ

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2014**



- LET THE GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS DO THE DRIVING
- DELUXE MOTORCOACH WITH ON-BOARD FACILITIES
- SAVE ON GAS, PARKING AND STRESSFUL DRIVING
- ON-BOARD TRAIN VIDEOS AND BOTTLED WATER
- ON-BOARD STORAGE FOR YOUR SWAP MEET ACQUISITIONS
- VISIT SEVERAL TRAIN LAYOUTS AFTER THE SWAP MEET
- A FAMILY EVENT – ANTIQUES, SHOPS, DINING ALL NEAR BY



**PICK-UP SCHEDULE:**

6:30 AM – ARIZONA MILLS MALL  
7:00 AM – PARADISE VALLEY MALL  
7:30 AM – METROCENTER MALL  
7:45 AM – CAREFREE HIGHWAY & I-17

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**480-650-5336**  
FOR RESERVATIONS

**RESERVE EARLY BEFORE THIS POPULAR ANNUAL BUS TOUR SELLS OUT  
\$30.00 PER SEAT + \$7.00 PER BROWN BAG LUNCH, IF DESIRED**

CHILDREN UNDER 14 ARE ONLY \$12.00

NOTE: THE \$5.00 SHOW ADMISSION FEE IS NOT INCLUDED

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Select Your Pickup Location:**

< > Arizona Mills at 6:30 AM

< > Paradise Valley Mall at 7:00 AM  
south side at JC Penney

< > Metrocenter at 7:30 AM  
east side near public library

< > Carefree highway east of I-17 at 7:45 AM  
north of the McDonalds

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") \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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The public had another chance to see what fun playing with toy trains can be over Father's Day weekend in Williams at this year's Train Day. Here is Bob Prehara chatting with a future model railroader at the GCMR layout trailer.