



GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

MAIN LINE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dave Brown

Earlier this week, I had Peter Atonna send to everyone an E-blast asking who might come to March's meeting given the current situation. The overwhelming response was "no". So I'm canceling the March GCMR meeting set for March 28th.

What is still up in the air is what will happen to April's mini meet. That decision will be made early in April depending on how the corona virus is doing. We aren't the only train club curtailing events, the Desert Division has canceled its April meeting, the TCA Eastern Division has cancelled the April York train meet, and the Paradise and Pacific has shut down for a while.

So I think this decision is reasonable and prudent. One thing that can help keep us together would be for everyone to take some pictures of your train activities at home or write an article for the news letter about your model or real train activities are during this down time. I'm sure Peter would welcome the input from members.

It is my hope that we will have a mini meet in April. If not, I hope we can have just a regular meeting with the train drag races that were planned for this month. At this point the three club picnic set for May is still a go. I know this virus is putting a cramp on the club's activities, but we will get through this and have fun the rest of the year.

Don't forget to send Peter your pictures and/or articles for next months news letter.

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.

March 28 - GCMR meet - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church **CANCELLED**

April 25 - GCMR meet - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church - mini meet

May 2 - Joint club spring picnic: Asti Ramada at Scottsdale Railroad Park

May 23 - GCMR meet - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

WINTER CACTUS MEET REPORT

by Glen Saber

The net profit for the meet of \$3,325.59 is average for the winter swaps. We sold 141 swap tables not the maximum of 152 which would have been another \$275. The door was only one person shy of last year's winter swap meet. We average about 400 attendees per swap.

The Fantastic Raffle was shy of prizes and showed in low ticket sales. I mailed the final check for this swap to the church and the deposit for the Summer Cactus meet.

Now a question. Should we change the swap hours to 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon and then conduct the Table-Top auction?

These swap meets are specifically for the benefit of the Grand Canyon Model Railroaders to cover club expenses and build the treasury for a future permanent home. This is OUR meet and we need to put our best foot forward. For a club with 48 members, we struggle with lack of volunteers which puts an unnecessary burden on the 6 or 7 that run the entire swap.

This needs to change by the July Cactus Meet or I will have to propose drastic measures. Here is what we need in volunteers: sign-in needs 2; the door needs 5-6; raffle ticket sales needs 2-3 security needs 2-3; the info table/test track needs 1-2; signage needs 1 coffee/donuts needs 1; and clean-up needs 1. So, as you can see, more of our members need to step up to make sure we can continue to offer this ongoing event not only for our members, but for other club members and the public.

ARIZONA RAILWAY MUSEUM ACQUIRES ATSF EL CAPITAN CARS

Two historically significant passenger cars have recently arrived at the Arizona Railway Museum in Chandler. These are two high level cars that ran on the Santa Fe's El Capitan. This was the Santa Fe's first class, all coach train running parallel to the all sleeper Super Chief.

Not only did they introduce a new passenger car design, but they were the prototype for Amtrak's Superliners, still running throughout the country today.

Car #708, high level coach



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(Editor's note: for those coming on the bus trip to this summer's Beat the Heat meet, you will be able to see a Lionel-K Line El Capitan running on your editor's layout)

NOTE ON THE SUMMER CACTUS MEET

by John Draftz

This may change after our next Board meetings but as of now, the Summer Cactus meet will be held on Saturday, July 25th. As of this date we reservations for 10% of the available tables.

Since the meet is four months away, we can probably assume the virus problem affecting the world will have gone away and some sense of normal will have returned. My personal belief is that it's too soon to make a call thus we need to proceed as if the meet will be a go.

ARIZONA RAILWAY MUSEUM TRAIN DAY REPORT

by Dana Price

The annual running of trains on Feb. 29th at the Arizona Railway Museum in Chandler was another successful and well attended event. The GCMR trailer was delivered at 6:30 by John Zaval and John Draftz. The trailer was set up and opened for business after a quick vacuuming and track cleaning.

Janet Mattern brought doughnuts and the sun shined all day. The crowd was large and very interested in all types of trains. It was a fun day for all. The members in attendance included: John Zaval, John Draftz, Dave Brown, Bill Richardson, Janet Mattern, Rod Johnson, Bill Lazenby, and Dana Price. Thank you to everyone for your help and support at this year's event.

Here are some John Draftz photos from the event.



And now some from the Cactus Meet



GLENN SABER THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS

From Railway Modeler

He's one of rock's biggest stars, but Sir Rod Stewart has finally revealed the fruits of his other great passion - model railways.

In between making music and playing live, Sir Rod has been working on a massive, intricate model of a US city for the past 23 years. He unveiled it as part of an interview with Railway Modeler magazine. He then phoned in to Jeremy Vine's BBC Radio show to rebuff the host's suggestion he had not built it himself.

"I would say 90% of it I built myself," he insisted. "The only thing I wasn't very good at and still am not is the electricals, so I had someone else do that."

Sir Rod has released 13 studio albums and been on 19 tours during the time it took to build the city, which is modeled on both New York and Chicago around 1945.

"A lot of people laugh at it being a silly hobby, but it's a wonderful hobby," he said. He told Railway Modeler he worked on the skyscrapers and other scenery while on tour, requesting an extra room for his constructions in his hotels. "We would tell them in advance and they were really accommodating, taking out the beds and providing fans to improve air circulation and ventilation," he said.

The scenery and structures are his forte, rather than the locomotives and tracks. "I find beauty in what everyone else sees as ugly - rugged skyscrapers, beaten-up warehouses, things that are very run down." Photos of the layout show dozens of highly detailed buildings plus bridges, ships, vegetation and streets teeming with vintage cars and taxis.

"When I take on something creative like this, I have to give it 110%," he said. "For me it's addictive. I started, so I just had to finish. I'm lucky I had the room. If I'd have realized at the



start it would have taken so long, I'd have probably said, 'No! No! Nah!'" The 74-year-old singer, who once had a hit with a cover of Tom Waits' song Downtown Train, put the model city together in an attic at his home in Los Angeles.

Describing the level of detail that went into the scenery, he told Vine that even the pavements had to be suitably grimy. "You start off with a grey. And then you add a little concrete color, so every paving stone is slightly different," he explained. "And the cracks have to have some black chalk... and then you add a little bit of rubbish in the gutters, you add a little bit of rust here and there. I enjoyed the building more than I did the running."

Fellow musician and model railway enthusiast Jools Holland also appeared on Vine's show, telling him: "When you get these big scale ones like Sir Rod's they are like a work of art. They're like an amazing painting that's been created in three dimensions."



DAVE BROWN FROM THE RAILWAY MUSEM

