



GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS MAIN LINE

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 2009

Volume 18

Number 11

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bill East

The October meeting was well attended. The election committee was formed and now Board members have been named and will be voted on soon. The trolley race was won this year by the Kids Club.

We looked for volunteers who could go to the Cal Stewart show to help run the modules. We have five and need three more. We also need volunteers for the TCA Turkey Meet to be held on November 28 and 29. Yes it's a two-day meet this year, so if you're not getting enough running of trains, then come out and join the fun of running trains.

The Paradise and Pacific picnic will be held on November 7th. If you plan to go please let David Brown know at 480-423-8725. The picnic will be held at the Railroad Park.

November 14th is our last meeting of the year. We will have the BIG drawing, and lots of fun, I hope to see you there.

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.

November 14 - GCMR Meeting - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

December - No meeting

January 23 - GCMR Meeting - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church



December has two events, the first is the train run for the Church that will be held on Saturday the 5th. Contact John Draftz on that one. The next day on the 6th is the TCA Christmas Party. If you are a TCA member, please see their newsletter on this. If not look for more info inside this letter.



OTHER TRAIN EVENTS

November 20 - 22 - Cal Stewart Meet, Pasadena Convention Center, Pasadena, CA. Note: the construction is done and everything will be held in a brand new 53,000 square foot hall. For info: www.cal-stewart.org

November 28 - 29 - Turkey Meet, Mesa Convention Center. Note: this is a two day meet for the first time this year. See flyer this issue.

December 5 - GCMR Public train display at Our Saviours Church

December 6 - GCMR-Desert Division Christmas party. Marriott Hotel, Mesa

February 13-14 - Long Beach, CA Worlds Greatest Hobby trade show with manufacturers booths, display layouts, clinics. Sponsored by Kalmbach and several major manufacturers. Long Beach Convention Center. info: wghshow.com

February 20-21 - Denver, CO Then the World's Greatest Hobby trade show moves on to the National Western Complex in Denver. Same info contact.

June 30-July 3, 2010 - Santa Clara, CA O Scale National Convention For the first time in years, the national O scale convention comes west. Large swap meet, manufacturers booths, great layout tours. No membership required. For info: www.2010oscalenational.com/

MEETING/BOARD NOTES

Noted by the President:

Elections coming up, Wayne Ross will contact members for candidate requests. Members nominated at this meeting, and current officers running are:

President - Bill East

Vice President - Wm. Richardson

Treasurer - Bob Prehara

Secretary - Paul Boston

At Large Board of Directors - Bill Rodgers

Glenn Saber - Dave Brown

+ Update on Cal-Stewart. Both GCMR modular's will be there. We have received eight free passes. So far we have five members going. Wayne Ross will call other members asking if they are interested.

+ The Paradise and Pacific club invites all GCMR members to its picnic on November 7th at the Scottsdale Railroad Park, starting at 10 am.

+ The Turkey Meet. We need as many kids as possible to run the Kids' Layout.

+ The GCMR Open House at our Lutheran Church will be held on December 5th from 10am to 2pm. Set

up will start at 8am and take down from 2pm to 3pm. Contact John Draftz for more information.

+ The TCA/DD Holiday Party is on December 6th and GCMR members are invited. The registration information was in the last newsletter or contact Katie Elgar for more information

New Business:

+ Club shirts are now available at \$22 each, up to size XL. For each size over XL add \$2. Contact Bill Rodgers for details.

+ An Affair with Trains has donated a Lionel NYC Steam Engine to the Kids' Club. The GCMR will send them a thank-you note.

+ Trolley Races - The Kids' Club Santa Fe Diesel won the event by beating Dave Brown's trolley (last couple years winner) and Sam McElwee's diesel switcher. Way to go, kids!

Show and Tell:

+ John Pryor displayed his "once a basket case" Lionel 671 steam engine.



+ Dave Brown showed his die cast trolley and a almost assembled die cast work car

+ Bill Rodgers talked about a time delay (25 sec) super glue called MaxiCure; some software programs for printing signs, building sidings, etc. by Evans Design; a crimping tool for turning aluminum foil and other materials into corrugated roofing, siding, etc. for

buildings. Available at most craft stores for about \$20. Bill also displayed Peter Atonna's Scenery Demo.

RAIFAIR HIGHLIGHTS



It was a great weekend for trains at 2009 Rail Fair at the McCormick Stillman Railroad Park. The GCMR members were spread out among *three* clubs, and *six* layouts; three belong to the GCMR, one to TCA and two to P&P.

Crowds were heavy and lots of kids, young and old, were glued to the layouts, many for hours at a time. It seemed that we saw a lot of people returning to the layouts all through the day, all having a great time and asking a lot of questions about our trains.



Both O and S gauge GCMR layouts were set up under a single tent in front of the bunkhouse building, and the trailer ran non-stop the entire weekend just outside the train station. The Park's O-27 layout was a big hit because it has a LOT of buttons for the kids

to push. We should keep this in mind as we go forward with our modules and the trailer. The Park's trains only ran as long as someone was holding the button down, and there seemed to be no shortage of button-pushers for both days. The O and S gauge trains seemed to gather the greatest number of visitors. The action seems to draw the people like a magnet.



At the end of the weekend the GCMR O gauge layout was loaded into the P&P club's trailer solving two problems. Paul Boston finally got a little more room in his shop and a P&P club member, Bob Cowles, (a former GCMR member) towed it to his home for storage. Now all we need to do is get Bob to rejoin the GCMR so that his grandkids can become active in our Kids Club.



APACHE BEER CAR STATUS

by Peter Atonna

We ran the ad in the last issue of the Main Line for the current Desert Division Atlas car, the Apache Beer car. I wanted to let you know that orders are coming in quickly and if you are interested in a car to get your order in. As opposed to the other special run cars, we ordered a set number of 250 of three rail and 24 two rail cars, so when they are sold, there will be no more. As I write this in early November, we are at 116 orders for the three rail car and 8 for the two rail version. The ad for it just came out in CTT and the TCA Headquarters News ad will be out shortly. You can order it from the Desert Division website, tcadd.org, and using PayPal if you wish or by the CTT or TCA ads.

PUFFIN BILLY

by Paul Boston



This looks like something out of Thomas the Tank Engine, but it is really Puffin Billy on a small railroad outside Melbourne, Australia.

From downtown Melbourne it is a subway/light rail ride to the end of the line and onto Puffin Billy. Accommodations are coach and "Devonshire Tea". The latter is recommended if you are going to go all the way to Melbourne for a train ride. The cars are Quaint, restored to their prime and the people are all smiles and eager to "chat you up" to see where you come from. There were no locals on the ride

From Wikipedia:

The railway was originally one of four narrow gauge lines of the Victorian Railways opened around the beginning of the 20th century. It runs through the southern foothills of the Dandenong Ranges to Gembrook. Being close to the city of Melbourne and with a post-preservation history spanning over 50



years, the line is one of the most popular steam heritage railways in the world and attracts tourists from all over Australia and overseas.

The railway owns every remaining narrow-gauge locomotive of the former Victorian Railways, and has restored to operating condition all except one, although not all are in serviceable condition at any one time. This fleet comprises five restored and one unrestored 2-6-2T NA class locomotive. All are restored, or are being restored, to represent different eras in their development.

The railway also has a number of other steam locomotives from various sources, either on static display in its museum or in operating condition. These include a Peckett 0-4-0ST and Decauville 0-4-0T formerly from the West Melbourne Gasworks, and a Climax geared locomotive from the Tyers Valley Tramway. None of these locomotives are powerful or fast enough to operate on regular services, however they can occasionally be seen on special trains and at events such as Thomas the Tank Engine days.

Puffing Billy also offers driver experience days on the smaller steam engines. The Climax engine is being restored for this purpose as this engine has a commodious driving cab and is unique in Australia.



For more on Puffin Billy go to:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puffing_Billy_Railway,_Melbourne

STATUS OF THE HOBBY

by Peter Atonna

Mary Jane and I were able to make our fall trip to York this year and as we look back, the most interesting part was the three seminars we attended (the fact that it rained all three days, probably helped remembering indoor activities).

A large part of the interest in York is the ability to see each of the major manufacturers displays and new products as well as dozens of the smaller ones and major suppliers. Although we did not attend them, the TCA hosts a manufacturers forum at the Museum which is then filmed and you can view it at: www.tcamembers.org/netvision/index.htm

Additionally, O Gauge Railroading Magazine hosts a presentation by lots of manufacturers in the grandstands of the Fairground's racetrack. Given the cold and rain, we decided to skip that too, although later see that Lionel offered their building to the group. That summary is readable at: ogaugerr.infopop.cc/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/57660482/m/584107262?r=584107262#584107262

What did we then get to? First Lionel had perhaps the major presence this year at the show. Their display in the Orange Hall was new and drew constant crowds. You however saw the main portion of it as that was the traveling display they brought to Phoenix for the TCA convention last summer. But the surprise was that they also rented an unused hall at the fairgrounds and gave presentations every other hour. You got to see many of the new, upcoming products, but they demonstrated them for you as well as told you a little of the story behind each. Not only that, you were treated to popcorn, M&M's and could buy t shirts and caps with the proceeds donated to the TCA.

Then, we attended an annual evening presentation by a group called the HighRailers Unlimited. In a more informal setting they invite three or four representatives from major or minor manufacturers to talk about what is current in their company. The audience has lots of time to ask questions and get into discussion.

Finally, there is a new group devoted to the Lionel TMCC operating system that has a breakfast meeting to go over the current status and issues of the TMCC system. It is a techie group, but really helps with issues, problems and new goodies coming with this

system.

Here is a summary of each of these meetings:

Highlight of the Lionel meeting were demonstrations of the new Vision Line locomotives. For the first time, they had operating samples of the new Pennsy 0-8-8-0 switcher and the GE Evolution Hybrid diesel. Personally, I am not terribly excited about their choice of prototypes for steamers or the addition of swinging bells and extra ports for steam to emit, but will be interested to see improvements in the sound systems and the Legacy operating system. However, the hit was the light show put on by the GE diesel. Lights along the sides of the loco show whether the power system is charging or draining the onboard batteries, and it pretty fun to watch them travel forward and back along the loco.

They also spoke of the strengthening of their starter set line, but spent most of the rest of the time explaining how they were reaching out farther to other aspects of toy trains for youngsters. Another highlight was showing the children's train as well as a preview of the new DVD movie as shown in the current catalog. (I know a certain grandson who will be getting the train set for Christmas)

The HiRailers Unlimited meeting had Lionel, Atlas and MTH attending. Both Atlas and MTH agreed that the classic counter cyclical economy for hobbies is alive during this recession. Their sales are not down this year rather are holding steady,. Jim Weaver from Atlas said they guessed wrong by scaling back their Master Line thinking the lesser priced Trainman Line would do better. In fact it turned out to be just the opposite. He also noted that track sales are going through the roof as folks seem to be staying home and working on layouts.

MTH noted their success in penetrating new markets such as HO scale and the European market. In fact their biggest seller this last catalog was the new French steamer, with half the sales going to Europe. They also noted that some of the new electronics developed for the HO line will also show up in the O gauge line such as scale sized automatic couplers.

Mike Reagan, head of Lionel's Service department gave a good overview of how he is operating the department since its relocation to Ohio. He discussed the better online access and availability of replacement parts and their goals for a two week turnaround for service itself.

The final seminar was put on by the TMCC Group from the OGR Magazines online forum of that name. Here we were able to discuss the status of the

upcoming upgrade for Lionel's Legacy Command system. As one using it on my layout now, I was able to hear one of Lionel's Beta testers give a detailed description of the upgrades and changes on their way. A main issue with Legacy is the distance from the base you can operate and the upgrade is supposed to be an improvement there. There will also be a lot of new commands you can issue from the controller for special equipment such as the operating crane car. You will also be able to "build" a train to include operating cars, such as the talking diners or operating cars, along with your locos and be able to toggle among them.

We also got another dose of Mike Reagan (he was in great humor for both meetings) For a summary of the meeting, go to:
ogaugerr.infopop.cc/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/54860292/m/210104432/p/2

TCA HOLIDAY PARTY

Don't forget that GCMR members are welcome to join their fellow train fans at the Desert Division Holiday party at the Marriott Hotel in Mesa on December 6th at the Marriott Mesa at 200 N. Centennial Way in the same complex at the Turkey Meet. Come at 11am for Meet and Greet. Santa will bring presents for the kids under 12. Brunch is served at noon.

The reservation deadline is November 30th. Please use the form in last month's Main Line or just send your names with a check payable to the Desert Division TCA to: Ralph Treichel 16802 N. 1st Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85023

Prices for Non-Desert Division Member are:

Adults: \$42.00

Couple: \$74.00

Children 12 and under: \$15.00

Children 2 and under: Free

Please print names of persons attending, giving ages of children 12 and under.

UPDATE ON RR PARK TRAIN CLUB BUILDING

by Paul Boston

In the last week of October the City of Scottsdale sent out final designs for the new model railroad building McCormick Stillman RR Park to solicit bids for construction. The bid opening is scheduled for the first week in December this year, and the goal is to have the new building completed by Rail Fair 2010.



AMTRAK SURPRISE

by Peter Atonna

On Mary Jane and my trip to York last month, I discovered our train had an extra car on the end. Turns out we had Amtrak President, Joseph Boardman, traveling with us. Well, his car was. He actually chatted with passengers all during the trip and on our stop in Albuquerque, his car attendant not only let us take his shot, but invited up onto the platform and took one of us!

WINNERS!

Regular Meet Drawings

Conrail boxcar	Olivia Prehara
UP Tank Car	Bill Rodgers
NYC Gondola	Glenn Saber
Milw. Road Box Car	Bill East
SF Caboose	Ken Barnes

Mystery Raffle

K Line engine & work car	Bill East
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\$50 Drawing

Wm Ricardson



34th ANNUAL DESERT DIVISION TURKEY MEET MESA CONVENTION CENTER



November 28-29, 2009

TWO DAY SHOW

TOY TRAIN SWAP MEET - The Toy Train Swap Meet is our 34th Annual Turkey Meet. The meet features approximately 200 sales tables of toy trains and related model railroading items for sale by local train enthusiasts. The Swap Meet brings people together with special interests in the model railroading hobby to buy and sell toy trains and train related items of all gauges.

ADMISSION FEE

Pre-registration admission fee for the event is \$5 cash donation per person. Children under 14 years of age are admitted FREE when accompanied by an adult. Admission fee at the door is \$6 cash donation per person.

REGISTRATION

Everyone must register. Registration fee is not included in table fees. **Pre-Registered members of TCA, GCMR, LOTS, LCCA & TTOS, in good standing,** will be admitted to the trading hall thirty minutes prior to the general public.

TABLE SALES

Tables will be assigned on a first come - first serve basis. The tables are approximately 30" wide x 8' long. Consult posted floor plan for seller assignments. Limited electrical outlets are available for an additional fee and must be requested at registration. Special table requests with friends must be made in writing with pre-registration. Every effort will be made to accommodate special requests. **TRADING WILL NOT BE PERMITTED DURING UNLOADING OR SETUP**

RULES

- Seller badges must be worn at all times.
- All sale items must meet TCA policies.
- Restoration and reproduction items must be marked per TCA policy.
- Table holders must remain setup until 3:00 PM on both days of the meet.
- Trading will not be permitted during unloading or setup. Persons not involved in setup will be asked to leave the hall.
- NO SMOKING PERMITTED in trading hall.
- Keep your table covered for security when leaving the hall.
- Sellers are responsible for obtaining the sales tax permit from the City of Mesa unless the exemption for Casual Sales applies [Ref: City of Mesa ordinance, Chapter 5-10 Privilege and Excise Tax].
- "I agree to comply with all of the rules and regulations of the Train Collectors Association (TCA) and its Divisions and Chapters in effect from time to time, especially including all rules and regulations of all TCA Committees and any actions and rulings of all TCA Committees."
- "I also agree that all items sold by me to any TCA Member or at any TCA sponsored meet shall be sold on the basis that I represent that all such items are authentic and in the manufacturer's original condition unless I have caused any such item to be appropriately marked as a restoration or reproduction."

www.tcadd.org

For Additional Information and Registration
Contact: Bob Herman 480.948.2730

REGISTRATION - PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

FEES:

NAME _____ TCA# _____ Registration* \$5.00
 ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____ *(Registration fee not included in Table Fee)
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ (Children under 14 FREE)
 SPOUSE _____ GUESTS _____ Spouse or Guests ____ x \$ 5 ea \$ ____
 Table Fee ____ x \$35 ea \$ ____
 I hereby agree to be bound by the rules of the Turkey Meet in regards to buying, selling, ethics and behavior. I further agree, that in the case of a dispute, the meet chairman, or an impartial referee appointed by the Meet Chairman shall arbitrate the matter and render a binding decision. I shall upon the direction of the Meet Chairman, in the case of a disputed sale, refund a buyer's money.
 TOTAL Enclosed \$ ____

Signed X _____ Date _____

Make check payable to: Desert Division TCA

Mail Registration to: Robert Herman, 11429 N. 68TH St. , Scottsdale, AZ 85254-5148

NO MAIL REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER NOVEMBER 20, 2009

Reg# _____ Date Rcvd _____

Chk# _____ Chk Amt _____

THE MAIN LINE
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The GCMR had a major presence at this year's Scottsdale Railroad Park Railfair. Looks like both the public and our members really enjoyed the show.