



GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

MAIN LINE

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 2021

Volume 30

Number 11

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dave Brown

Well we've reached it, the end of the year. It all came down to the October meeting. Our new Secretary, Rod Johnson, was taking notes. I refer them to you for details. Our monthly raffle winners included "Mr. I don't win" Gordon Wilson and not just winning just once, or twice, but two times in the monthly prizes and the mystery prize.

We also had the drag races for three annual tickets. There were only two contestants, Bill Richardson and myself. Bill won the competition against my freight trolley. But as a demonstration, he lost against my modified hot rod. However, congratulation to Bill who won the official race.

As for the annual drawing, with Gordon Wilson pulling the tickets, the results were: Third Place John Draftz, Second and First Place went to Katie Elgar. Congratulations goes to all winners.

The last thing at the October meeting was a pizza party. One problem, no one ordered pizza. So we adjourned the meeting and had a makeshift party at Zipps Sports grill on 16th Street and Bethany Home Road. Everyone that came had a great time. Ever since we lost Streets of New York, we have been looking for a replacement, and I think we've found it.

Upcoming events: As of this writing, the run at the Arizona Rail Road Museum is done. More

on that in the news letter. We are scheduled to run trains three weekends in a row at Adobe Park in North Phoenix/Glendale.

As I reported last time we are going to see how this is running. One change, the live steamers will be running at night. However I don't know how well it will go over with the people that do the decorating vs. a dispute with the people running. How will the public react when rather than finding lighted displays in the desert, they will find nothing but darkness.

AMRS will be open so we will be there. Next Year??? Other events this weekend are the TCA auction in Paradise Valley, the TCA Turkey

Meet on the 27th and the three club Christmas party on December 12th All in all, a great way to end 2021 and was much better than 2020.

Next year we start out with our first meeting of the year on January 22nd followed in February by our Cactus meet on February 19th. The next week we will be back in Chandler at the Arizona Railroad Museum for their normal event. So next year we will finally get back to normal.

Happy Holidays!

CALENDAR

GCMR meets are held at 9:00am in the Parish Hall of Our Saviors Lutheran Church at 1212 East 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 20 - Desert Division Turkey Auction, Paradise Valley United Methodist Church. Info: tcadd.org

November 27 - Desert Division Turkey Meet, Shrine Auditorium, Phoenix. info: tcadd.org

December 12 - All club Christmas party featuring the Desert Division's 50th Anniversary
January 22 - GCMR meet - Our Saviors Lutheran Church

February 19 - Winter Cactus Meet - North Phoenix Baptist Church

MINUTES

By Rod Johnson

Board Meeting:

A decision was made to stick with a smaller bus for the Beat the Heat meet next year considering the rent cost and space. No decision on trailer shade structure will be made until January 2022.

For the Church swap meet, the O gauge modules are not usable. For Railroad Day at the Museum, tow the trailer to the site sometime during the week. John Zaval will tow it over. We should continue to wish John Draftz get well wishes via cards and calls, etc.

Treasurer's Report was given.

Search for a permanent meeting location in a building of our own, probably is not in the cards due to the fact we have a lack of manpower or a sustained income to pay down the loan, etc.

John noted that the varmints now are not a factor around the trailer if we keep the weeds down and the noodles are there to close the gaps in the cover. Noodles means the swim type noodles. John checks the trailer regularly.

A work party for the trailer to work on the outside track should happen in the near future. It was agreed that we need protection for the

trailer. We do have evidence of some dry rot occurring. Is a new trailer in our future?

Improvements on corner action items on the trailer: we could acquire a Menards alien ship extracting the cow for one corner action item. Where is the arm for the rotating aircraft? Suggestion that we procure a biplane or another plastic model aircraft.

Membership Meeting:

Some Discussion on getting an aircraft on the train board such as a kit model plus a flying saucer cow kidnapping on one of the corner buttons. New edging on the trailer should be inexpensive.

Trailer operations: For the Holiday of lights weekends in early December, we will set up for the First Friday as a test because there will be no train rides which means very slim attendance overall.

The Arizona Railroad Museum run on November 13th will start a 9 am. The 4th Saturday in February is again the run. The three Club Christmas party will be at the Elks Lodge

on 32nd Street, December 12. Lets get Runners for the Museum Run a little early so we're ready to run at the appointed hour.

All officers now serve a two year term. We should get new member questions and flyers for membership at a table when we run and encourage membership during run days. Ask someone near our layout if they would be interested in running a train either theirs or one of ours.

We should buy a table at swap meets for membership advocacy and have membership forms to pass out. Lots of membership forms should be available at all events we do. Consider designing a new membership form.

Beat the Heat train meets are moving their location to an Emery University hall in Prescott.

We should do bearing pack checks on our trailer every 700 miles or so and other items to review such as trailer covers, etc.

GCMR AT THE ARIZONA RAILROAD MUSEUM

photos by Dave Brown



THE GATE

by Peter Atonna

If you've visited my layout, you may remember the "featured attraction", the lift section that I could raise and lower to let you into and out of the layout. It was the element that made my rebuild of the layout several years ago work when I converted it into a double main line wrapping all around the room. It was necessary to let you into and out of the layout.

I was fortunate, when creating the new layout's theme, to see it demonstrated by a train table manufacturer while at the York train meet. It is powered by a large winch driving cables strung to both sides of the lift section to raise and lower it with limit switches at the top and bottom.

Why didn't I originally just use a hinged lift section, such as I have done on my upstairs layout? That was because the design had two track levels at that point and the geometry does not allow a lift section.

So, the lift bridge was installed during the layout reconstruction and worked fine.

For six months.

Suddenly, when lifting it, the cable snapped. Checking with the manufacturer, he said that was unusual. I was only the seventh person to say that had happened. (thought to myself, why have others had the same problem?). Nonetheless, I ordered a new cable (no, he didn't offer a free replacement) and over two days finally got it installed into the already constructed benchwork.

And it has worked fine for five years. Until six weeks ago. When lifting the bridge for a couple of days, it made a bit of an unusual sound, which I ignored since it was still working fine. Then one afternoon, Mary Jane was downstairs ready to go into the layout as I was demonstrating my newly arrived Amtrak passenger cars. Suddenly, the bridge collapsed! Right down between us!

The cable had snapped.



This time I decided that, although I had five years of it working, I didn't want to gamble on a new replacement. I decided to remove the lift bridge altogether and replace it with a swing gate. I didn't do that originally because the lift bridge was so cool!

It would have gone much easier had I built it originally as the retrofit is not as clean as it could have been. But the old bridge is gone, with only the top portion with the track and scenery remaining.

Following is a photo story of its reconstruction. So, now when you visit, you can still walk into the layout, but I will have to manually close the "gate" and crank up the trains.





Adding the new "swing portion"



And landscaping.
And it is done!



WINNERS

Gordon Wilson - MTH Rotating Beacon

Gordon Wilson - AFL gondola

John Zaval - Lionel boxcar

Larry Melvin - Lionel hopper

Rod Johnson - Lionel Hopper & Flatcar

MYSTERY BOX

Gordon Wilson

ANNUAL RAFFLE

1st & 2nd Katie Elgar \$300 & \$200





TCA DESERT DIVISION ANNUAL MODEL & TOY TRAIN SWAP MEET

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2021
9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon



EL ZARIBAH SHRINERS AUDITORIUM **552 N. 40th St. Phoenix, AZ 85008**

40th St. and Fillmore St.
Exit 2 Loop 202 or McDowell Rd via Hohokam Expressway 143

TRAIN MEET HOURS

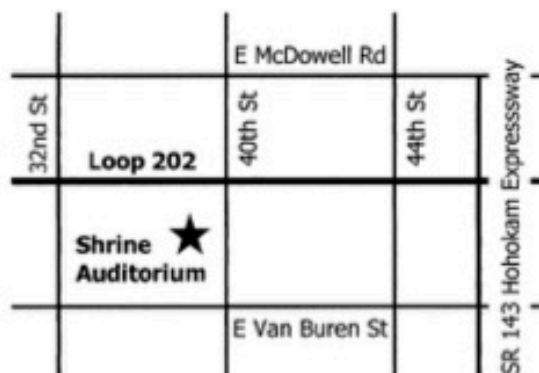
SAT, November 27, 2021

9:00 AM - 12:00 noon

Admission \$5

Children Under 16 Free w/adult

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Table Top Auction
Free with Show Admission



- Admission \$5/person - Children under 16 Free w/adult
- 12,000 Sq. Ft of Toy Trains - All Scales and manufacturers - old and new
- Free Parking on site for your convenience
- It's all about the trains! - Over 130 tables loaded with bargains just in time for the season or your holiday gift
- End of show seller auction - free with admission
- Multi-scale Test Track - test your purchases on site before you buy
- Have a Train to Sell? Multiple Vendors on site will BUY your train TODAY!
- Hourly Door Prizes - Raffle Prizes - Fun for the Whole Family
- Easy access from Loop 202 - or - Hohokam Expressway 143

NOTICE: We will adhere to ALL STATE, COUNTY, and CITY safety protocols in effect at the time of the show

**** MASKS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED AT THIS INDOOR EVENT ****

Desert Division's 50th Anniversary / Christmas Party

Sunday December 12, 2021

Elk's Lodge

14424 N 32 St
Phoenix, AZ 85032

4:00 PM Meet & Greet

Cash Bar Available

5:00 PM Dinner



Reservations Deadline: Nov. 27th

Clip here and send with Check



Dinner will be Buffet style with Servers.

Cost of the Dinner is \$30.00 per person.

Please print First and Last Names of persons attending.

Write the Meal# choice after each Name.

Guests are Welcome.

Entrée Choices: Please enter your selection with the number of dinners next to the entree

Meal #1- Prime Rib with horseradish and au jus How many _____

Meal #2 - Chicken Marsala How many _____

Meal #3 -Grilled Salmon How many _____

Meal #4 -Vegetarian dish How many _____

Meals will include a Salad, Dinner Rolls, Baked Potato and Green Beans Almondine.

Beverages will include Ice Tea, Lemonade and Water. Dessert and Coffee .

Make Check Payable to : Desert Division TCA. Send form and check to:

Angelo Lautazi
6109 E Sonoran Trl
Scottsdale, AZ 85266

Number of Persons @ \$30.00 _____

Total \$ Enclosed _____

Ballroom will be set to tables of eight. Business Attire is Suggested.