



GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

MAIN LINE

OCTOBER, 2021

Volume 30

Number 10

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dave Brown

Welcome to the beginning of train season. The first event has already happened, Railfair. To start out, I would like to send out a big thank you to Dallas Dixon and our friends in Paradise and Pacific. With their help, we had a location to set up and run for this first event. Due to a communication break down, we almost had to cancel that event. Thank you P and P and Dallas for the last minute help. More on the run later in the news letter.

As mentioned Railfair is our first big event of the year, and thanks to those who helped set up and run on those two days. The one problem is that group who have been doing this has been shrinking over the years. People pass away and the active group is shrinking. I remember when you had to wait your turn to get a track to run trains. Now it is falling to a small group of people to run.

We have some 40 some odd people in this club and that the responsibility falls to about a half dozen or so to keep this up. On Sunday It was Bill Richardson and myself that ran for the first half of the day. Please remember that the genesis of this club was the Toy Train Operating Society, and running is still a big part of what we do. Yes, we have swap meets and other events, but running trains for the public is also a big part of what we do. Our next run is a replacement of an earlier canceled event at the Arizona Railroad Museum down in Chandler on November 13th. I hope to see lots of people there.

I was not able to be at the September mini meet. However from the reports I've heard, it went off quite well. My thanks to all that made this happen. Our October meeting on the 23rd is our last meet of the year. I'm hoping for a pizza meet as well as drag races and of course our annual 1,2,3 raffle. I hope everyone will be there. We will have sign ups for the November run as well as train runs in December for the Adobe Mountain and Paradise Valley Christmas runs.

See you on October 23

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.

October 23 - GCMR meet - Our Saviors Lutheran Church - Annual raffle drawing, pizza, drag races

October 30 - "Everything Railroad" Swap Meet Adobe Mountain Desert RR Park

November 20 - Desert Division Turkey Auction, Paradise Valley United Methodist Church.

Info:tcadd.org

November 20 - Desert Division Turkey Meet, Shrine Auditorium, Phoenix. info:tcadd.org

December 12 - All club Christmas party featuring the Desert Division's 50th Anniversary

RAILFAIR 2021

by Dave Brown

The first big surprise on Saturday was Bill Richardson up on the trailer cleaning track. Bill has been missing for the past few months with health issues so it was very nice to see him back doing train activities. And who would have had any S Gauge to run if he didn't show up? A thank you goes to John Zaval for towing the trailer to Scottsdale. Set up and track cleaning thank you's go to Glen Saber, Herb Andreen, John Zaval, Rod Johnson, and Doyal Bain.

After the track cleaning, tracks ran well. That is after a few shims were added here and there. Not bad for twenty months of non use. A big thank you goes to Janet Mattern for the donuts that kept us alive through out the day.

After the shut down on Saturday, P and P provided storage for stuff left overnight. Sunday Morning it was Bill Richardson and myself that got trains going again and ran most of the day. Shut down was Rod Johnson, Bill Richardson, Herb Andreen and some help from Paradise and Pacific. A Big thank you to all that made this a successful run.



DAVE'S RAILFAIR PHOTOS



BYLAWS PROPOSAL

The Board has worked on some changes to update the club's by laws, which follow. A "formal" first reading will take place at this month's meeting where no action will be taken. The formal vote will be at the January, 2022 meeting where there is further discussion.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS, SECTION A

Amendments to these By-Laws may be proposed at an official business meeting and added to the agenda for discussion at the next official business meeting.

Current

Article V MEETINGS, SECTION A Club Meetings: para 5. Guests shall be permitted to attend not more than two meetings in a calendar year.

Proposed

para 5 **Visitors are those people with no direct affiliation with the GCMR at this point and** shall be permitted to attend not more than two meetings in a calendar year.

para 6. **Guests are those people who have an existing affiliation with the GCMR, e.g., the spouse/friend of a member.**

Rationale

Guests in the current context are really considered visitors. They're attending the meeting to find out more about the GCMR and thus an interest in joining. The 2-visit limit is to prevent abuse. After two meetings, visitors should have some idea as to whether they want to join. More than two visits implies the visitors want to get the benefits of the club without joining.

The change defines two categories. Visitors are those people with no direct affiliation with the GCMR at this point. They're potential members.

Guests represent those people who have some affiliation with the GCMR, e.g., the spouse/friend of a member. We want to encourage such people to attend meetings with a member recognizing that such guests have no formal say in the affairs of the GCMR but are attending as a courtesy/consideration of the members.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Arizona Railway Day 2021 is just around the corner. This year, it will be on Saturday, November 13 from 9am-4pm. This is a HUGE fundraising event for the museum and an opportunity to "show off" all the accomplishments (and new acquisitions).

We need your help to staff all the cars with two volunteers. Staffing the cars requires little (no) experience. Most of the cars have a detailed information plaque that explains the car history.

MINI MEET REPORT

by Janet Mattern

The number of sellers exceeded past Mini Meets and, maybe, there were a few less buyers. When I canvassed the line of buyers waiting to get inside, about 75% indicated that they were looking to purchase HO items. I think that the Mini Meet went well. I asked those who attended, whether seller or buyer, and all expressed that they were satisfied with the event.

BIG CHANGES TO THE BEAT THE HEAT MEET

by Peter Atonna

The Central Arizona Model Railroad Club has leased a new facility for next year's Beat the Heat meet. It will now be in the Activity Center at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University's campus in Prescott. The date will also change to the first Saturday in August.

The new hall is almost twice as big as the school. It has internal food service, convenient access and parking and is easy to get to from the Valley. (A map will be forthcoming as we get closer next spring)

About 150 sales tables will be available and there will be room in the hall for displays and layouts for those who would like to bring one. (And there is room outside in case the GCMR trailer would like a trip to Prescott)

Much more information as well as directions will come as we get closer to the event next spring.

HOW TO ACTIVATE A LIONEL HIGHWAY FLASHER WITH AN AUTO TURN SIGNAL RELAY

by Terry Gibbs

Years ago at one of the Sunnyslope TTOS meets, Bill Schulte handed out a diagram to wire a Lionel 154 highway flasher using an insulated outside rail and a NAPA 537 auto relay. I had one working on my layout, but when I started on the new layout, I couldn't get it to work.

I went to NAPA, but they no longer carry the relay Bill used. None of the other auto parts stores I checked carried the 537 relay either. So I bought some auto relays with three prongs thinking any one with three terminals would work. None of them worked.

A few weeks ago, I was cleaning out some clutter and found a relay in a box that was under Bill's layout. I checked it out on the desk with a highway flasher and it works.

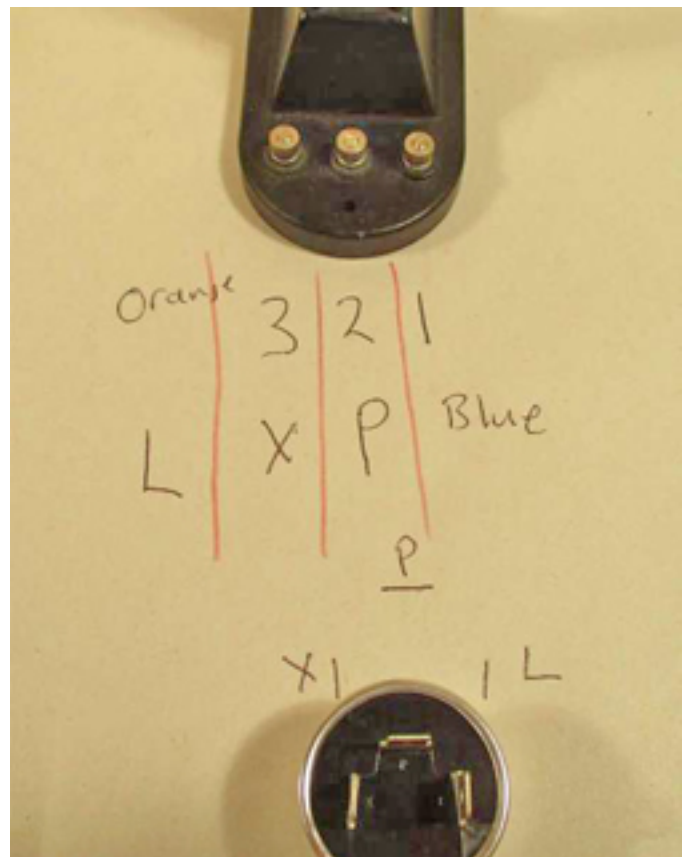
I don't know why only the model 537 relay works. Probably something with ohms or impedance or maybe turtlebytes.

I searched online and found a seller with a bunch of Wagner brand model 537 relays. I was able to get a bunch for under \$10 each postpaid. I don't think it matters who makes the relay as long as it is a MODEL 537.



On my layouts I use a blue wire to bring the ground off the insulated outside rails when the train is present, and use an orange wire for the "+" side of crossing accessories.

The 154 highway flasher has three terminals numbered from left to right as 3, 2, and 1. Terminal 1 is the ground and gets connected to the blue wire from the insulated outside rail. The other two terminals go to the bulb centers and are wired to the relay.



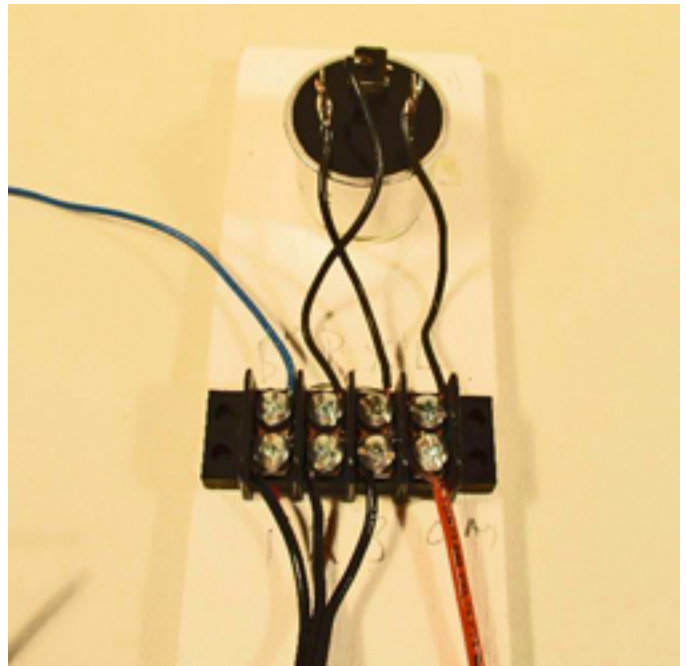
Wiring it the way I have with the blue wire from the insulated rail to the highway flasher ground means if the sign touches the track it will activate rather than cause a short.

The 537 relay has three terminals L, X and P. Terminal L is the “+” current in which on my layout is an orange wire. Terminals X and P go to the bulbs in the highway flasher through terminals 2 and 3. The order of X and P to 2 and 3 does not matter.

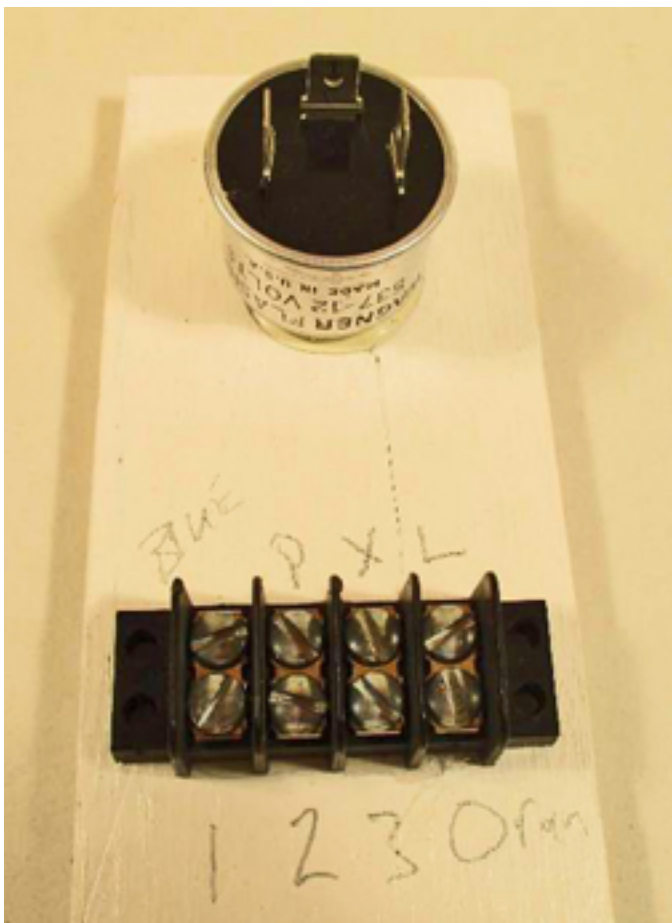
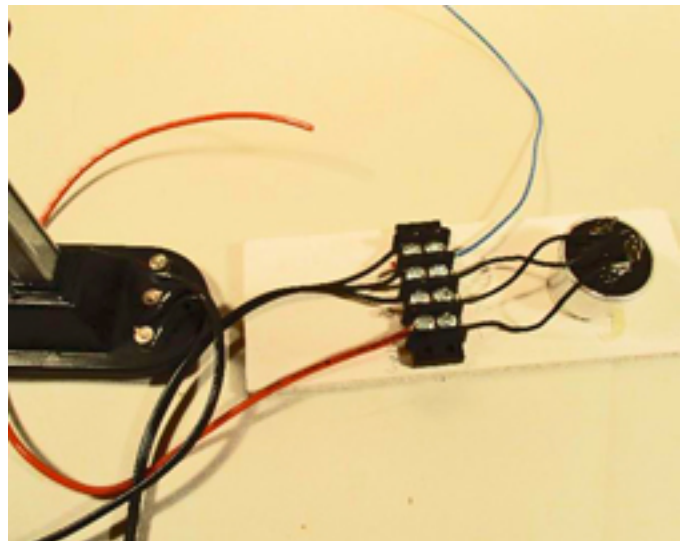
Above is a simple wiring diagram.

I put the relay and a terminal strip on a piece of scrap plywood with a glue gun. can just put it under the layout and hook it in.

Here's some photos of the assembly in progress:



Once I have it wired, I use black 3-strand wire from 022C switch controllers so the exposed wires at the signal look good.



ARIZONA RAILROAD RELATED TRAVELS: PART 2

by Lin Sinclair

This is Mogollon Rim hiking. There are several approaches to this trail. One starts: "From Payson, travel north on State Route 87 and turn right onto Forest Road 300, heading east 12 miles to the Battle Monument on the north side of Forest Road 300." MANY more details/trip tips are available online for this trail.

Tunnel Springs Trail: Length: 1.9 miles. This trail begins just north of the Railroad Springs neighborhood in Flagstaff, and goes under the BNSF (Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway) tracks in a bicycle/pedestrian underpass. The trail climbs steeply and gains almost 400 feet in elevation for the first mile, and then levels off. Technically, this is NOT a rail-trail. However, this trail DOES traverse a working BNSF freight train line that regularly carries lengthy trains in the area of this trail's path in Flagstaff, replete with its periodic metal-on-metal screeching and freight-car rumbling. It's sort of like having your own personal SAFE "real" train pathway. It is graded as a moderate trail ("steady, rigorous climb through Ponderosa pine forest"). Surface: Aggregate. Grades: 5% to 13%. Endpoints: Railroad Springs FUTS Trail to Mars Hill FUTS Trail.

Yuma Crossing Bike Path: Length: 1.55 miles. It is an urban trail. This trail was previously an unused railroad corridor (part of the abandoned connection with the Southern Pacific Railroad Sunset Route {Union Pacific today}, east of Yuma?) Trail end points: Yuma (north of Yuma Crossing Park) and Yuma (Joe Henry Athletic Fields). [Note: The Yuma Valley Railroad was cut back from San Luis to Gadsden in 1952, with the remainder of the line abandoned by Southern Pacific in 1980. San Diego interests purchased the existing Yuma Valley Railroad line (from Yuma to Gadsden) for the purposes of running a tourist excursion train during the fall, winter and spring seasons. The ride is listed as offering a two-hour narrated excursion in restored Pullman passenger cars behind a vintage GE 44-tonner. While not an abandoned

rail bed, this for sure is a pleasant use of an abandoned rail line.]

You can find links to Arizona rail-trails at <https://www.railstotrails.org/our-work/united-states/arizona/#state>.

You can BUY a book on rail-trails of the southwestern region of the U.S. on Amazon: "Rail-Trails West: California, Arizona, and Nevada" (paperback, April 15, 2009), Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, author.

For a nationwide link to trails you can go to <https://www.traillink.com>, but you have to register to use it. You can put keywords in as well as city/state/zip. This map is not exclusively railroad trail related, but the keywords do seem to be able to pull up rail-trail specific NAMED trails.

You can view a map of the northern U.S. coast-to-coast rail-trail ("The Great American Rail Trail") map at: <https://www.railstotrails.org/greatamericanrailtrail/route/>. It's kind of the Lewis & Clark of rail-trails. It has links to rail-trails in each of the states that this route traverses.

For my money, one of the most tempting non-Arizona rail-trails to try is in Washington State. In Olympic National Park, The Spruce Railroad Trail (an upgraded ten-mile multipurpose trail that follows the former Port Angeles Western Railroad grade along the north shore of Lake Crescent) connects to existing trails on the east and west sides of the lake. Photos of this trail are scary gorgeous--with a long, low, flat bridge above a water inlet, some places where the water appears aqua, seemingly out-of-place tropical-looking flowers, an easy access tunnel, very tall/thick evergreens. Bonus: The directions seem easy enough to follow.

ARIZONA LOST - railroad line factoid: Some folks have asked why the Union Pacific railroad tracks between Buckeye and Yuma were abandoned in 1995. It seems as if once Amtrak trains stopped using the line running from Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (about 50 miles west of Phoenix) to Wellton (east of Yuma), that stretch of tracks has been mostly

unused. However, Tim McMahan, a Union Pacific rep, is reported to have said that line is still ACTIVE. It serves several industrial customers along the route and is called the "Roll Industrial Lead", having been named for the wee community of Roll located on this line.

ARIZONA NEW - railroad line factoid. Amtrak's President and CEO jointly announced on July 27, 2021 that work on a new passenger rail service connecting Tucson to Phoenix to Yuma will begin, subject its funding currently included in the bipartisan infrastructure bill working its way through Congress in Fall 2021. According to Engineering News Record (07/28/21), this service would have three trips daily serving seven cities total, at an estimated cost of \$925 million.

THE HOBBYIST'S PARK & SWAP MEET

First Saturday of Each Month From 7 to 9:45 AM

The early morning meeting time leaves your day open.

Come to Hobbyist meet ups in Mesa. Short 3 hour meetings in a restaurant parking lot. There is no charge for buyers or sellers. Bring your own table or sell from your car.

A place to trade & share:

- Toy and Model Trains
- Diecast and Slot Cars
- RC models
- Plastic Model kits
- Construction Sets
- Whatever shows up

Full details at ArizonaModelTrains.com

2021 Dates: Sept. 4th, October 2nd, November 6th, December 4th.

The Arizona Railway Museum Proudly Presents
ARIZONA RAILWAY DAY
2021

November 13, 9 AM–4 PM

Admission & Parking are FREE!

330 East Ryan Road

Chandler AZ 85286



www.azrymuseum.org

480-821-1108



Event Sponsored By

CHANDLER
arizona





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**

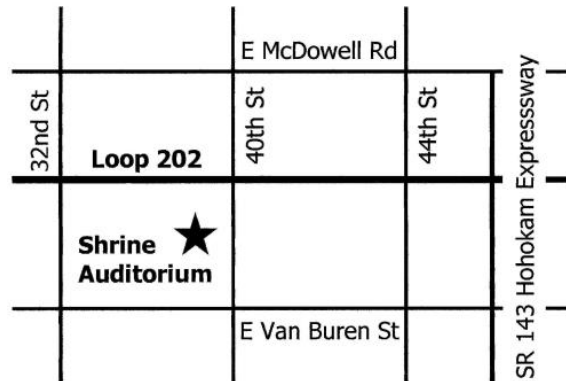
TRAIN MEET HOURS

**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 ****