



# GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

## MAIN LINE

SEPTEMBER, 2023

Volume 32

Number 9

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John Draftz

We continue to get table reservations for the Fall Cactus swap meet on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and are over 95% sold out at this point. Visit our [www.gcmrr.org](http://www.gcmrr.org) web site for more details and the vendor form. Sellers are also able to set up from 4:30-6pm on Friday afternoon before on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and I know they appreciate that option.

We open the hall Saturday morning from 6-9am for those sellers who didn't come Friday afternoon. We are able to use the NE door of the hall for unloading with a reserved area in the parking lot for that purpose. Our sellers welcome that ability. Sellers can park in the south part of the east parking lot (just north of the sports fields) thus are near the hall.

Members (and their friends) who can help getting the hall ready Friday afternoon and can help on Saturday during the meet are encouraged to come as they are able. Our Cactus meets are a major source of club income and the meet raffle is usually a success. So, it is important that we do a smoothly run event for our sellers and buyers.

The August meeting theme was "Guess The Heat". We had quite a few entries. The temperature at 11am was 103 and Terry Haas had the winning guess of 102. Thanks to those who brought items.

Our next planned public exhibit is with the mobile layout at Scottsdale Railroad Park during Railfair on Sep 30 & Oct 1. This is followed by a Trunk Or Treat Sunday afternoon event on October 29<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7 pm where we'll bring the small 2-loop 4x6 kid's O-gauge layout to the Life in Christ Lutheran Church in Peoria/NW Phoenix.

There is a possible change to our October meeting. If it happens, we'll get the word out as soon as practical. In the meantime, take care especially with the heat, stay healthy, and keep on training.

### 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.

**September 23** - Fall Cactus Meet. See flyer this issue

**September 30, October 1** - Railfair, Scottsdale RR Park GCMR trailer to be there

**October 28** - GCMR meet - Our Saviors Lutheran Church – individual layouts – annual raffle drawing Theme: pizza meet - beverage cars (beer, wine, soda pop, etc (note from President's message, possible date change)

**November 4** - Desert Division Turkey Meet.

See the flyer this issue

**November 11** - Desert Division fall auction. To see the catalog, go to: [tcadd.org](http://tcadd.org)

**November 11** - Arizona Railway Museum Fall Railway Day, GCMR trailer to be there

## MINUTES

by Chris Allen

The Meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM at Our Saviors Lutheran Church by President John Draftz with twelve members present.

Treasurer Glenn Saber reported the PayPal account was zeroed out and transferred to the checking and three CD's. Member John Kendig asked treasurer, Saber, about the safety of the three CD's in light of the current banking news. Glenn reported he felt they were safe because we had three small separate accounts, and each was FDIC insured.

President Draftz made the following announcements:

Fall Cactus is 80% sold out. He will need help at 4:00 PM on Friday September 22. Table sellers will be admitted to the hall when the setup is finished at 4:30. The hall will close at 6:00 PM and reopen Saturday morning at 6 AM. The swap meet opens to the public at 9:00 AM and closes at 12 noon with a tabletop auction to follow shortly after.

Rail Fair is a week early this year and will be held on Saturday September 30 and Sunday October 1. The trailer will be dropped off on Friday afternoon. Setup will begin Saturday morning at 7AM. Rail Fair hours for the public are 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM both days and volunteer operators are needed both days.

The club will set up two portable "Kids Modules" on Sunday, October 29 at the Life in Christ Lutheran Church, 14802 N. 75th Ave in Phoenix as part of the church's community outreach "Trunk-or-Treat" event. The scheduled time for the event is 5-7 PM. Volunteers are needed to help set up and run trains.

The Arizona Railway Museum will host a one day Fall Railway Day at the Museum on Saturday, November 11. The club will have the trailer on location with setup beginning at 7 am. The event is open to the public from 9:00 am – 4:00pm with free admission. Volunteers are needed for this event because there are two other model train events going on in the Phoenix area that day.

The Educational Segment was kicked off by Glenn Saber showcasing his MTH replica of the original Lionel train, the #100 motorized gondola. Glenn had it running on 2 7/8" track and showed some of the ties and explained how difficult it was to set the rails into all the wooden ties without splitting them. The train runs on D.C. and he went on to explain finding a transformer that would not pop the overload when running it. It made several successful trips around the track to everyone's delight.

The Educational Segment was the Guess the Temperature competition with a large turnout of nine members participating. Just about every degree between 95 and 107 was chosen.

+ Mike Darus who had a Lionel 6-9510 Pennsy Mail Car and entered with the number 95. His strategy was to be the highest without going over.  
+ Janet Mattern with her Lionel 6-16974 Marvin the Martian Box Car and entered 97.  
+ John Draftz had an American Flyer 989 Box Car and entered 98.  
+ John Kendig had a nice Southern Pacific 4449 and then told the tale of being in Phoenix in 1976 when the Freedom Train was parked at ASU. Several longtime Phoenix residents mentioned that event and retold their own stories of the Freedom Train visit to Tempe.  
+ Chris Allen had a lowly Marx 347100 NYC gondola and entered the number 100. Glenn Saber had a Standard Lines standard gauge NYC Box Car with road number 101.  
+ Terry Haas also had a Freedom Train HO Car that carried the road number 102.  
+ Bill Lazenby had a K Line Westinghouse caboose in blue that matched his Schnable cars with a road number of 104.

+ Katie Elgar was the most heat weary of all saying the June heat is going to last until Halloween and had a Menards M&M Box Car with a 107 road number.

President Draftz again reminded that the next three months will be very busy and asked everyone to please consider stepping up and helping out at least at one event.

### New Business

John reminded those present that the October Meet will be the Annual Drag Races. There will be three classes that members can enter, slowest, stock out of the box unaltered, and modified. It is always a fun event and bragging rights to the winners of each class.

The Prescott Beat the Heat Meet was discussed in detail especially if there was something that was successful that we could incorporate into our Cactus Meets. There was an accident on I-17 that morning that had the interstate closed so many did not attend. Both Mike Darus, who detoured through Wickenburg-Yarnell, spoke as a buyer and Chris Allen, who detoured through Strawberry-Camp Verde, spoke as a seller had very positive comments about the Meet. Both noted the extra non-club members help that was available from the Boy Scouts and how organized everything seemed to run.

Janet Mattern and Glenn Saber gave reports on the Mini-Meet held in July. The unusual July heatwave might have been a contributing factor for the less than expected turnout of sellers and buyers. Janet mentioned that most table sellers did quite well despite the lighter crowd and it was decided to do the event again next summer.

John mentioned that in cleaning out the storage locker there was a collection of twenty+ VHS tapes from the lending library we once had. After a short discussion it was decided to put them on the "freebie" table at the Fall Cactus and any leftover would be donated to a charity.

Bill Lazenby gave a quick update on fellow member, Dana Price. Bill stated he continues to be in good spirits. Those present shared a story

of Dana's smile (and good luck at raffles) and all present are hoping for the speedy recovery of our close friend and his return.

With all that said the clock struck 11:00 AM and several members reported that the temperature was 103°. John announced that Terry Haas has the closet entry without going over. Terry won three tickets for the 3-2-1 drawing to be held later in the year.

### **ATTENTION!**

The GCMR now has its own facebook page! Chris Allen has produced a page for us which will feature club events as well as a lot of model and real railroad information.

Check it out!

<https://www.facebook.com/61550831344547>

## **WAKE UP MAGGIE, IT'S TIME TO PLAY WITH TRAINS**

By Ken Withers

Seventy years ago, a British schoolboy was enthralled by the railroad outside his bedroom window and dreamed of the model train set he wanted for Christmas. His father gave him a guitar instead.

In later years, that guitar and his trademark gravelly voice made the schoolboy into an international pop music sensation. This past August, Phoenix classic rock fans of "a certain age," to be diplomatic, were able to see the now 78-year-old (but "Forever Young") Rod Stewart in concert at the Footprint Center.

However, only the most ardent fans know of the passion he shares with many of us, also "of a certain age." For that British schoolboy never forgot model railroading, and rock stardom gave Sir Roderick David Stewart, CBE, the resources to build a layout that we mere mortals can only dream of.

The layout, which Stewart named the Grant Street and Three Rivers City Railway, is a



fantasy American city of the 1940s, based on vintage images of the New York Central and Pennsylvania railways. It took him 23 years to build, working backstage between sets and

in hotel rooms while on tour, but in November 2019 he revealed it to the public in a cover story for *Model Railroader*, all 2,800 square feet of it.



According to *Model Railroader*, Stewart would request a large table in his dressing room when touring so that he could work on buildings and other scenery for his layout. He also had a fan installed so that glue fumes would not affect his voice, not that anyone would necessarily notice.



But he never drank before working on his layout. "I can't build after a couple of glasses of wine - the results are never good," he said.

A few months before the *Model Railroader* feature was published, Stewart publicly demonstrated his love for the hobby when a

small British model railway club in Lincolnshire was vandalized one night by a quartet of juvenile delinquents who destroyed an exhibit the club had set up in a school gymnasium.



Saying that he "felt the pain" of the club members, Stewart led a fundraising effort to replace the lost collection, personally donating £10,000 and encouraging fellow rockers Jools Holland and Roger Daltrey, also model railroading fans, to pitch in. They raised a total of £70,000, or \$87,500, for the club.

During the Pandemic, Stewart arranged to ship the layout from his U.S. residence in California back to his home in Essex, England. It was a monumental operation to dismantle the layout—larger than a substantial Phoenix ranch house—and ship it in pieces over eight months, at a cost of \$90,000, in time for Christmas 2021. He got the Christmas he wished for after all.

## AT LAST THEY GET IT

Lionel, in the mid 50's, decided that kids buying their trains wanted more than just playing with miniatures of the real trains outside their windows. So, Lionel began introducing more fanciful models, including cold war related rockets and ammunition dumps; a beautiful Civil War era steam train, and cars that were "fun" - cars where a giraffe ducked his head to go under a bridge, a sheriff chasing an outlaw around boxes in a gondola. But perhaps the climatic moment came when a "cattle" car was introduced with "horses" heads bobbing in and out of the car. It was insanely popular and even in the 60's continued in the line. And it is still issued by the current Lionel.



But, oh how did the scale folks laugh at us! "Playing with toys, I see". "Wait, make sure the doors are closed, your "horses" might get loose. Oh I see, you cannot even open the door!"

But wait, guess what the scale folks have just discovered!



**Bachmann's Animated Stock Cars**  
**Bring Your Railroad to Life in Large Scale or HO**

## A WINDOW INTO THE WORLD OF REAL RAILROADING

by Peter Atonna

I admit I am a fan of real railroads as well as models. And the world of technology has opened many new windows to enjoy and share information about the world of contemporary railroads.

One source I check daily is the chatline, [Trainorders.com](http://Trainorders.com). It has many categories of trains to which people post information, photos, videos.

A second source is Virtual Railfan, which is a UTube site and has dozens of cameras located at towns, stations and rail fanning spots around the country. You can watch the action live or scroll back 12 hours. Go to it at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOIkT9bq-1N2BvrsBjhNlag>

And we in the Southwest even have our own video service: SouthwestRailcams at: <https://southwestrailcams.com/LiveRailCams/Index.html>. This site has cameras in north and southern Arizona as well as New Mexico and California.

Recently, I was following the story of another Amtrak engine breakdown, in this case just east of Kingman. Running hours late, they set off the dead unit and proceeded to Winslow, where the BNSF has a division point. Amtrak had contacted them and a relief engine was waiting to add onto the late train.

Following the story, I found out the time #4 was due into Winslow and then got to watch "live" the process of adding a new engine and the time it to get all hooked up and tested before



the Southwest Chief could proceed east. But, poor #4, Later it had to take a detour east of Kansas City because of a problem on the main line. And at Fort Madison, it had to wait an extra half hour for the Mississippi River bridge to let a boat through. It arrived in Chicago at 8pm instead of 10am!

## WINNERS!

Raffle prize winners:

Mike Darus: Little Debbie porcelain  
Bakery accessory

Chris Allen: American Flyer UP  
searchlight car

Bill Lazenby: Lionel Centennial Box Car

Terry Haas: Lionel 90th Anniversary  
caboose.

John Draft: The mystery box which was  
too large to fit in the box and was stored  
behind "door number 1". It turned out to  
be a nice K Line Diner.

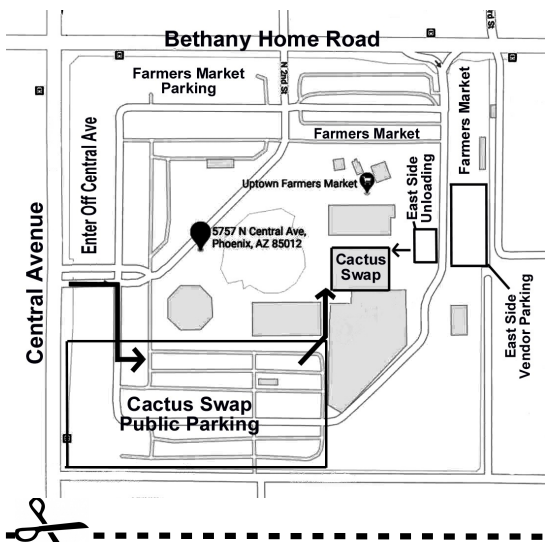


## Guess the heat entries





“ONE OF ARIZONA’S LARGEST  
MODEL RAILROAD SWAP MEETS”  
**CACTUS FALL  
TRAIN SWAP**  
SATURDAY, SEPT. 23RD, 2023  
SWAP FROM 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



**NORTH PHOENIX  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
FELLOWSHIP CENTER**

5757 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012

Due to Saturday Farmers Market restrictions:  
Friday vendor unloading East-side 4:30 – 6 PM  
Saturday vendor unloading East-side 6 – 9 AM

Presented by your pal, Casey Cactus, and the  
**GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILRODERS**  
Print legibly. No refunds after September 16, 2023  
Table-top auction at 12:00 PM

**NOTE:** unclaimed tables will be released at 8:00 AM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Security:** I will abide with badge identification entrance requirements.  
**Buying, selling, ethics and behavior:** In case of dispute, the Meet Chairperson and/or impartial referee appointed by the Meet Chairperson shall arbitrate the dispute and render a timely decision and I hereby agree to be bound by such decision. **I will not pack until 12:00 PM.** Not responsible for lost or stolen articles.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: “Grand Canyon Model Railroaders”

Mail to: John Draftz, 1507 W Willow Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85029

or

Credit cards accepted via PayPal - visit [www.gcmrr.org](http://www.gcmrr.org)

Email: [info@gcmrr.org](mailto:info@gcmrr.org)

**Info: John Draftz 602-942-3457**

**\$25 per 8' banquet table**

(Bring a table cover, if desired)

How many tables? \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Request? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you participate in the auction?

Seller? \_\_\_\_\_ Buyer? \_\_\_\_\_

**Admission Name Badges**

**1 or 2 tables = 2 badges max.**

First and last name please

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_

**3 or 4 tables = 4 badges max.**

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_

**More badges available at \$5.00 each**

Name Badges REQUIRED for your security

**MORE THAN 4 TABLES - CALL**



# TCA DESERT DIVISION ANNUAL TOY TRAIN SWAP MEET

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2023**  
**9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon**



**Formerly known as the Turkey Meet**  
**The oldest train meet in Phoenix**



**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**

## Featuring

- **YES We still have 8' tables**
- FREE Parking and easy access from Loop 202 - or- Hohokam Expressway 143
- Multi gauge Test Track will be available on site
- **Vendor drawing for \$100 at 12 noon** - If you are setup when your ticket is called, you win \$100 on the spot! One ticket for each table purchased

## TRAIN MEET HOURS

**Saturday, November 4, 2023**

**9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon**

**Admission \$5**

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Table Top Auction**

**VENDOR SETUP:**

**Saturday 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM**

### TABLE REGISTRRTION – PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TCA# \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email for table confirmation \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby agree to be bound by the rules of the TCA & the Desert Division Train 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.

Signed X \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Desert Division TCA

Mail Table Registration to: TCA Desert Division, 1119 W. Plata Ave. Mesa, AZ 85210

More info: Chris Allen Meet Chairman 480-820-9559 or email tcadesertdivision@gmail.com

**\$30 per 8' table**

(Bring your own table cover if desired)

Tables @ \$30 each \_\_\_\_\_

Requests? \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR TABLE REGISTRATION  
INCLUDES ONE FREE HELPER  
NAME BADGE PER TABLE IF NEEDED**

Helper Name \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Table Helper Badges are \$5 each

Special Requests? - Contact Meet Chairman

**NO MAIL REGISTRATIONS OR CANCELLATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER OCTOBER 27, 2023**