



NEWSLETTER

**Central Arizona Model Railroad Club
October - December, 2017**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jim Hanna

Welcome to Fall everyone!

Looking back on 2017, it's been a very good, as well as a very eventful year. We just had our annual picnic out at Jim and Eleanor Sigmon's home in American Ranch and it was great. We had over 50 people which is the most we have had at one of our picnics. From the feedback I get, everyone really enjoyed the hamburgers and beer brats and all the delicious salads and desserts. Good job and thanks to all who attended.

One of the highlight events of 2017 was our Sharlot Hall Museum exhibit. We had many volunteers who worked diligently from March to November of 2016 to get the exhibit ready for installation in November to go on display in December. The exhibit which includes a prototypical operating HO layout depicting the Santa Fe railroad in Prescott in the 1920's and 30's as well as a 100 year old restored Railway Express baggage cart went on display December 2, 2016 and will run until November 15, 2017. The museum has received many favorable comments from the public and said that it is one of the best exhibits to date. Thanks to all the volunteers who have worked on the construction of the exhibit and all of those who have acted as docents for the exhibit on Saturdays each week. As mentioned above, the exhibit will be dismantled and closed in November.

Another highlight of 2017 was our outing to the Grand Canyon Railway shops in Williams, AZ. This was also attended by 50 plus people and was organized by Peter Atonna who did a great job.

Thanks to Peter. By the way, we hope to have more of these outings in 2018. If you have any requests, please let any of the board members know.

Our annual "Beat The Heat Swap Meet" was again a successful highlight of our 2017 year. Thanks to club secretary Dick Gage for all his work in organizing this event. Also thanks to all the other members who assisted in making this the best railroad swap meet in Arizona. This will be Dick's last term as Secretary and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his great work organizing and running this event for his past two terms. Dick tells me that he will continue on in helping the new incoming Secretary. Again, thanks to Dick Gage.

Elections are coming up at the October meeting and the nominating committee has a slate of candidates for the positions of President, Secretary and Director. They are Terrel Tinkler, Doug Gilliatt and Julie Gladish respectively. If you have any additional nominations, I will open the floor for these at the upcoming meeting on October 11. Thanks to outgoing Board Member Jim Sigmon for serving and for the good job he did.

Our Christmas Party is coming up on the 13th of December which is the second Wednesday of the month, our regular meeting night. We will have more information for you, as well as sign-up sheets, at the October and November meetings.

This will be my last message to you for my term as President of your club. Thank you for your support during these past two terms. It has been my honor and great pleasure to serve you and I will always remember the experience and the people who made it so enjoyable.

SCHEDULE

CAMRRC regular meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month. They feature tables where you are welcome to bring items for sale and most months also feature a program. They are a also great way to get together with your fellow members. Meetings begin at 6:30pm for socializing and swapping and the meeting at 7pm located at the Prescott First Lutheran Church, 231 W. Smoketree Lane off Willow Creek

October 11 - CAMRRC meeting, First Lutheran Church

October 14 - Airbrushing Class - Anthony Piscitelli's house. Starts at 1pm. Can accommodate eight people. To come, contact Anthony at: 759-5774 (c) 928-910-2999; email: cvbackshop@cableone.net

October 28 - Adobe Mountain Swap Meet, Phoenix
Info: <http://www.arizonamodeltrains.com/am.shtml>

November 8 - CAMRRC meeting, First Lutheran Church

November 18 - Desert Division Swap Meet, Phoenix, info: [www:ddtca.org](http://www.ddtca.org)

December 2 - Prescott Resort train run/display (see article this issue)

December 13 - Annual Christmas party, Prescott Centennial Center at the Antelope Hills Golf Course (more information will be sent out)

SWAP MEET WRAP UP

by Dick Gage

Phew!!! The air conditioner did not fail, the monsoon held off and the crowds again appeared on the 25th for the annual Beat the Heat swap meet held at our new location, the Liberty Traditional School in Prescott Valley.

Before going into any details, we would like to thank the membership for their cooperation, strong support and help during the swap meet. Kudos go out to those members who helped us with the setup on Friday as well as the takedown on Saturday. Members Norm Delucchi, Julie Gandish, BJ Rudy, Steve Rudy and George Klimas manned the ticket booth. Several other members helped at the club table where raffle tickets were sold, free items were given out along with maps to the open houses and

applications for those interested in joining the club. Thank you Patti Curran, Bruce Maurer, etc. Special thanks to Mark Ziven and Bill Mitchell for helping vendors move their goods into the building early Saturday morning.

Dan LePage, known as Engineer Dan, gets a round of applause for all the work he put into rebuilding the four gauge layout used for demonstrations, not only at the swap meet but at schools around the area. He also refurbished the test track used by customers to test the possible purchase of a locomotive in any scale.

We again thank RJ Mayer, teacher and student council advisor, whose students operated the refreshment stand and provided assistance to the vendors and aided in the parking. For the first time, students took over the sale of refreshments as a fund raiser for the school. The club used to provide the goodies in prior years. Mayer said his students were delighted with the profit they earned where they made over \$180.

The attendance of 401 paid admissions was down from last year, but the crowds actually seemed larger and more energetic. We also counted 38 children who all seemed quite excited about Engineer Dan's layout on the stage. There were twelve guests of the club. We appreciate each and everyone who attended the event. We had 46 vendors who rented 94 tables with only one "no show". And that was due to an illness in the family.

We appreciate vendors like Roscoe Danny and son, Richie, of Payson, Larry Perna of Payson and Terry Has, Ken Gosch and members of the Scottsdale club - all from the Phoenix area.

There also were Cherie Payson of Santa Fe, NM, Rodney Guggenheim of Dolores, CO, Mark Johnson and Frank Soranno from Nevada. A very helpful vendor and swap meet favorite, Greg Anastopoulos of California had four tables. Other regulars like Roger and Rena Hatala of Prescott and Kieth Olmanni/Terry Gibbs and Oldani/Moline who team up year after year to attend the show. Club members who had tables again this year also made up significant numbers of vendors.

Again, we included surveys in the vendor's packets and asked them to give an assessment of this year's swap meet. Only a handful returned them, but most had favorable comments. For example, club member Anthony Piscitelli said he sold out his table while Ed Marco, from the Phoenix area, said he "loved the show" and sold more than three times the amount as the previous year.

Last but not least, the Open Houses (organized by Peter Atonna, a longtime member) which are a special feature of the swap meet. The attendance at open houses was fair in some and remarkable in others. Atonna reported over 75 visitors while Paul Janowski said he had at most 140 folks. Dr. Scott Hicks reported a modest 40 folks visiting his outdoor G gauge and indoor O gauge layouts. Richie Scanapico reported 70 visitors to his outdoor layout while in Prescott Valley, Anthony Piscitelli listed over 20 visitors. Marlin Benson estimated 65 visitors. Members Walt Bowman and Scanapico Pete Hartman also hosted open houses. The annual bus from Phoenix came to the meet and a few of the open houses and had about 29 folks riding this year.

YES, WE WILL!

by Peter Atonna

You might remember the emails I send out asking if there was interest in reinstating the tradition of members hosting open houses at their layouts. This was a tradition for many years until participation by both members and hosts fell off. But with some inquiries this spring, I sent a note out to all CAMRRC members to see if there was interest in hosting an open house. And, yes, there was, five members responded:

Steve Hatch
Jim Downey
Anthony Piscitelli
Jeff Lowe
Walt Bouman

So, put Saturday afternoon, December 9th on your calendar right now. We will again be able to enjoy the craftsmanship of our members in this hobby of ours.

A week or so previous to that date, I will email all members a map with information about each layout

and detailed maps to each host, similar to what I do for the Beat the Heat open houses.

PRESCOTT RESORT INFORMATION

by Stan Cedarleaf

We're all set up to run from 9:00am to 4:30-5pm on Saturday, December 2nd. We will be in the same room we've had in previous years. Set up will start at 7am or so. Any "free stuff" like magazines, toys, pictorials, etc that can be used as giveaways will be helpful.

If you have questions or to just let me know you can make it, call me at 928-778-3732 or cell: 520-831-3390.

WINNERS

by Dick Gage

ONE THING THAT BUGS ME is that you never really hear the names of the winners of the Beat the Heat raffle prizes.

Well the winners of the Beat the Heat Swap Meet raffles were folks from the valley. This year's winner of the two tickets on the Verde Canyon Railroad were Dave and Lois Potts of Scottsdale. They were very excited about getting those tickets. They love tourists railroad adventures and have already enjoyed a ride or two on that tourist railroad plus several others in the Southwest. They also thoroughly enjoyed the swap meet but were unable to attend the open houses.

Bill Richardson of Glendale and a Grand Canyon Model Railroaders member, won the Roundhouse HO Gauge steam locomotive. His remarks were muted but does enjoy our annual event.

Happy Fall and keep on the lookout for our flyers advertising the 2018 Beat the Heat Swap Meet. And also under consideration is a second Mini swap which we tried this year back in April.

FOR SALE

I am selling off all my HO collection which is steam era around TOC. Freight cars are mostly Roundhouse. There are some structures kits etc. I will create a price list and description for anyone interested. I may have a few limited run kits that are out of production. I will not put any of these items on eBay until the club has a chance at them. If interested please send me an email: Colin Claxon Colincroft70@gmail.com with your request and email address.

LAST CALL FOR THE MUSEUM LAYOUT

by Jim Hanna

For those new members who have joined this year and may not have seen the layout at Sharlot Hall Museum, here are a few pictures, both under construction and finished and placed in the Museum exhibit.

Remember, if you have not seen the exhibit, it will be dismantled on the 15th of November this year.



NOT QUITE STARS YET!

by Peter Atonna

Again this year, Stan Cedarleaf and I were on Channel 7's Sandy and Friends morning show to promote our Beat the Heat meet. Stan brought a Thomas G gauge set to display, but as usual I brought a set for Sandy to operate. So, viewers got to see me frantically trying to get the set to run until the techs finally figured out they had not plugged in the extension cord to my power pack! Yes, it finally ran - during her closing summary!



YES, IT DID RAIN

by Walt Bouman

Walt hosted an open house for the first time following the Beat the Heat meet. And like many of us, the rains did fall. But in contrast to your Editor's nice, dry basement, Walt's layout is a back yard G gauge layout. He sends these photos of the rainy afternoon to share with those of us who enjoy the comforts of indoor layouts.



MIKE STURGEON UPDATE

I have been working on a layout at my home. Although I have not started any track yet, here is a picture of the mountain range that I have been constructing.



ATONNA LAYOUT UPDATE

My layout reconstruction is moving along well (too fast according to Mary Jane!) and I am now filling in scenes. A recently completed one is in the outskirts of Douglas (Mary Jane and my home town, so a major town on the layout). I was able to expand it when the loco servicing facilities were moved across the aisle to the new “Chicago” part of the layout. So, I was able to do the “Atonna Ranch”



SOUNDTRAXX ACADEMY

by Anthony Piscitelli

Last July I attended the Soundtraxx Academy. It was a two day seminar where we were taught the basics of soldering, DCC basics, programming, and installation of a decoder in diesel and steam locomotives.

Soundtraxx has a modern, state of the art, two story building in Durango Colorado, they build their decoders on site, and the first floor of their building is the decoder assembly facility. We were given a tour of the facility, I was impressed, the room was quiet, cool, and very well lit. Decoder assembly is almost 100% automated, there are two machines that install most of the components and solder them in place. There are some components that have to be soldered by hand because they are too fragile to be handled by the machines.

Every decoder is tested before it is packaged and shipped to distributors. The testing is automated, the decoder board is placed in a jig and a computer tests every function of the decoder.

The second floor of the building has the administrative offices, research and development facility, sound recording studio, and a speaker testing facility. All the sounds generated by a Soundtraxx decoder are recorded sounds of a real operating locomotive.

As part of the seminar, we were given a behind the scenes tour of the Durango & Silverton locomotive repair shop, they have a full service shop, they can rebuild a locomotive from the ground up. They also have a car shop where they rebuild and build new passenger cars.

I enjoyed the Soundtraxx Academy, it is a very good program. I have been an electronics technician since 1970 and involved with DCC since 1992. I have learned over the years that there is always more to learn.



WEBCAMS

Chatting with George Klimas after the February meeting, he gave me a note with a couple of railroad webcam sites. Turns out we both occasionally like to watch the real thing live. If you have not done so, go to: <http://www.railserve.com/RailCams/> and see

the variety of locations that offer them. Some are live while some show new action only every so many minutes. One of his favorites is UP's Baily Yard live webcam of the UP's North Platte huge yard. I used to watch the Horseshoe Curve one, but it has been down recently. However the one in Altoona at the Railroader's Museum shows the NS main line and Amtrak station there and live! I think my favorite is the one at Chama with three cameras at the Cumbres and Toltec depot and yards. I've watched them load passengers and take off for their morning trip. A little bit of voyourism!!



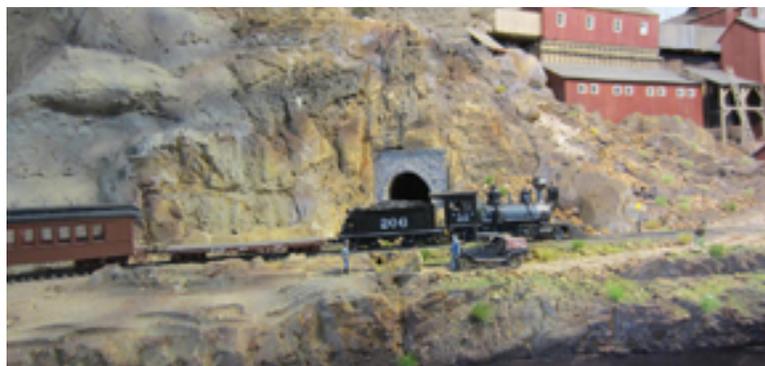
STEVE HATCH LAYOUT UPDATE

Steve sent us some photos of current scenes on his layout. Remember he will host one of our fall layout open houses - Ed

I've been working on my RR here in Dewey and the latest effort is to install a mill into the side of a mountain.

I make my mountains by gluing chunks of styrene insulation (the kind with tinfoil backing) together using foam. The hole filler foam is from Home Depot or Walmart. I stack up the chunks of styrene and squirt the corners and joints and let the foam fill and join.

Then take a steak knife and carve and gouge chunks out and slash striations in the mess. Then I use cans of Camouflage paints to highlight it all. I can fit the foam panels all around the buildings to make them look like they are actually nestled into the mountain.



COLIN CLAXON'S BUILDINGS

As we know Colin as a master builder of structures, I've asked him to send us some notes on the construction of them. Here is a photo story of several of his creations - Ed

This is my most ambitious build, a version of the Prescott depot. It is compressed in order to fit on a modest size layout. If anyone is interested in the technique and materials used I can provide a copy of an article that was in the 2010 ON30 annual.

Initially a mock up was made with ordinary foam core to judge proportions and what to edit. The actual model walls were from balsa sheets which were covered with Durhams water putty mixed with N scale ballast, or sanded grout plus a little chopped sisal twine for a little rustic look(optional)

Balsa walls reinforced with old strips



Martinez Mercantile: I think this was from an old photo from Congress, AZ



Church of the Magnificent Seven: Tower not attached to Church for easier storage. Details on front of church not done



Lupe's Cantina: Be careful if you go here,,,,,try to blend. (This idea came after watching a spaghetti western)



Zuma's Rail Restaurant: always enjoyed eating on a train so I came up with this



Rural depot: I think this was imagineered



HALLOWEEN AT THE MALL

by Peter Atonna

As many club members may know a group of we three railers, calling ourselves the Granite Mountain HighRailers, were offered a storefront at the Prescott Gateway Mall. We then open to the public the first Saturday of each month to run trains for them.

Each Halloween season, I transform one of my layouts into a Halloween theme. Why? Well I am not sure why I find Halloween so much fun. It is not that I get to enjoy the trick or treaters, I have not lived in an urban area for over thirty years and have not had even one during that time. (Although when we lived in Central Phoenix, I did put a little train layout on a door and set up on our sidewalk to entertain the neighborhood parents walking their kids for trick or treating. The kids could not care less, they were heading for the door and candy, but I had a great time chatting with the parents!)

Maybe it is just because Halloween has no pretensions - it is just a fun holiday to play and party.

So, each year we've been at the mall, I redecorate my layout for our October and November runs and just have fun watching the kids check it out. Here are a couple of shots of this year's setup.

