



SPUR LINE



PSR Convention 2023

June 7 - 10, 2023

<https://www.azdiv-nmra.org/psr2023convention/index.php/registration?view=upcomingevents&id=0>

Be sure to register soon!

Editor: Charlie Nidever



It is my pleasure to take over the editor's position from Frank Baker. I will try to come close to the high standards set by Frank. Please help in improving the Spur Line with your suggestions and articles you would like published.

2023 SPRING ISSUE



The Arizona Division held its Spring division meeting on March 11th at the Scottsdale Congressional United Church of Christ in Scottsdale. Division attendance was good, and we all enjoyed the free lunch. The contest room had a low turnout of models, so we all need to start planning on bringing more entries to the model contest and the popular vote categories. There is a display category for those that would like to show the group what they have been working on, or a favorite model you have built in the past that would be shared with the other modelers.

Jim and Paul are working with Jeff Liedl's widow to liquidate his immaculate layout and holdings. Jeff was within 2 certificates of his MMR and an amazing modeler. The sale will be in Gold Canyon on April 22. Bring your NMRA membership card for admission. 4213 S Lysiloma Ln, Gold Canyon, AZ 85118



NMRA Arizona Division / Terry Fearn / Director Report

The date is fast approaching for the 2023 PSR convention in Flagstaff, hosted by our Division. The last time the PSR convention was held in Flagstaff was 2011. The committee has put many hours of work into making hotel and convention center arrangements plus working with the Grand Canyon Railway on the charter train trip, pulled by steam locomotive #4960. I joined the planning committee several weeks ago to tour the hotel and convention center facilities and they are first class. The location is adjacent to the Northern Arizona University campus and a short walk from the Flagstaff train station. A full slate of clinics is planned together with an ice cream social, swap meet, tour of the Grand Canyon Railway shops and railfan event at the Flagstaff depot. Tickets are selling fast, especially for the train trip, so don't wait too long to register if you are thinking about going.

The latest PSR roster shows membership in the Arizona Division of 314 members. This is a slight decrease from the prior months. However, when I was elected as the Division Director, the membership of the Arizona Division was 337 members. Unfortunately, this follows the trend of the total NMRA membership, which decreased by 2% this past year, according to the recent article by NMRA president Gordy Robinson in the April 2023 NMRA Magazine. Gordy also talked about initiatives planned by the national officers to recruit and retain more members.

In the Arizona Division, a challenge we have is keeping in regular contact with members across the entire state. Approximately 60% of our members live in the Phoenix area, 22% in the Tucson area with the remainder spread across smaller towns in northern and southern Arizona. To maintain regular contact with those members, we started subdivision mini meets this past year. Paul Buhrke schedules quarterly meets of the Sonoran Subdivision in Tucson. The group meets at a restaurant for lunch followed by a layout tour. Since I live in Prescott, I worked with several local NMRA members in northern Arizona to create the High Country Subdivision. We also meet once a quarter for lunch and layout tours. To date, we have held meetings in Williams and Prescott with the next meet planned in Flagstaff. These meets are in addition to the full Arizona Division meets held three times a year in various locations. If you have not attended any of these meets, please consider going. It's a great way to learn new modeling techniques and meet other model railroaders. The schedule of our events is posted to the NMRA Arizona Division website under the heading of Coming Events. The next item is to get them going in The Valley, either East Valley or West Valley or both. Anybody up for coordinating them?

NMRA Arizona Division / Bruce Petrarca / Superintendent's Column



2022 was a good year in the Arizona Division (AZD). Three in-person meets; seven Zoom meets; the beginning of Subdivision mini-meets; Leadership Committee meetings almost monthly; continued interest in the Achievement Program.

SPUR LINE: Charlie Nidever, as Contest Chairman, has been sending out results from the contest room after each meet. He has agreed to head the Communications Committee. As such he is bringing his **Contest Results** newsletter and the **Spur Line** together. This is the first combined issue. Thank you Charlie. The **Spur Line** is the source for official announcements. It will be posted on the division website and an eMail will be sent with a link to the new issue. The plan is to issue one between in-person meets, covering what happened and what's coming up.

DIVISION MEETS: There will be two AZD only meets this year. We already had the first in Scottsdale in March. The Annual Meeting of the Members will be in Tucson in November - date to be announced later, but pencil 11/18 into your calendars. At the Annual Meeting, we will transact any business or do any voting needed for the year. The third AZD meeting of the year will be Wednesday June 7 at 8:00 AM at the 2023 Grand Canyon Special convention in Flagstaff, as part of the PSR Members Meeting. It will be followed at 9:30 with a "meet and greet" with Mike Mackey, MMR, the Western District Director (member of NMRA board). If you want your voice heard on either the regional or international level, plan to attend these two meetings.

BYLAWS: AZD has been hampered by 35 year old bylaws (dated August 1988). They discuss mailing ballots and newsletters and the Railette program, just to name a few things. Chris Thompson is the Chair of the Bylaws and Manual of Operations Committee. He and I have been working with the PSR folks to come up with bylaws that work for all PSR divisions. We are tantalizingly close and expect a vote to ratify them at the convention in June. In the meantime, he will be working on a Manual of Operations to define how we really operate the division. He could use some help in this endeavor.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS: We have a unique situation in AZD, a high percentage of "snow birds." Many of these folks have their primary residence in other states or countries. They may not show up on our membership lists from HQ. We now

have a MailChimp account populated with data from HQ and a few folks that have been added manually. There is a sign-up link on our website (<http://eepurl.com/hZDInj>). Here folks who are not full time AZD residents can sign up to get our communications. Tell your friends.

In the process of setting up this MailChimp account, we have found errors in the membership rosters coming from HQ. Deceased members, inaccurate or missing eMail accounts and / or phone numbers. Fixing these issues has reduced our mailing list to below 300. Adding some non-AZD folks to the list has us back up to about 300. I'm working with HQ to fix their records as quickly as I can. So, we may see some variations in membership numbers from HQ during this year as we fix several years of attrition and other issues.

MEMBERSHIP: The membership committee has been realigned, incorporating Member Aid into it. Paul Buhrke, MMR is the Chair and Jim Dennis is the Member Aid Coordinator.

Terry has discussed the membership numbers in his column for this issue. Paul's goal is to get the Membership Committee more interactive with new members to help them fit into the fold. Growth is good, but retention is vital. Folks stay where they feel welcome and appreciated. Everybody needs to be an ambassador for the NMRA for us to flourish.

Jim and Paul are working with Jeff Liedl's widow to liquidate his immaculate layout and holdings. Jeff was within 2 certificates of his MMR and an amazing modeler. Look for an inventory of HO and HOOn3 items coming soon from the Member Aid Coordinator.

MINI-MEETS: In order to bring the NMRA a bit closer to home, we have started having mini-meets throughout the division. These are informal get togethers: lunch at a local restaurant with fellowship and sharing, followed by a layout tour or two. The AZD sanctions these events so that the layout owners are covered by the AZD insurance, but does not contribute financially to them.

We have divided the AZD into four subdivisions: Sonoran (Casa Grande and south), High Country (New River and north), East Valley (East of Phoenix Central Ave), West Valley (West of Phoenix Central Ave). Folks have been put into these various subdivisions based on their addresses. Now actual geography and interests may want you to know about a different sub or, perhaps, two subs. Let me know and I'll adjust your groupings in MailChimp. As of this writing, we have the following quantity of members following subdivisions: East Valley (112), Sonoran (84), West Valley (55), High Country (45).

Paul Buhrke, MMR, kicked the ball off with Sonoran mini-meets. Terry followed with High Country. Don Wilde is putting together one for the East Valley and I'll get one going in the West. What's next? Perhaps a Colorado River sub, centered on Yuma?

PULLING IT TOGETHER: We need more participation in the operations of the Division. You get out of the NMRA in proportion to what you put in. Every officer and committee Chair needs an assistant. Please step up. Thanks to those who are helping to make Arizona the best division it can be. We all appreciate your efforts.

REMEMBER: Get your GCS train tickets now. There are only about 60 left!

Bruce Petrarca, MMR, Superintendent AZD

Help Wanted-lots of Volunteer points available:
contact any AZ Div. Officer for more INFORMATION!

**Summer Meet is replaced with the PSR Convention in Flagstaff
June 7-11 2023**

Next AZ Division Meet

Location

Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center
1660 West Ruthrauff Road
Tucson, Az 85705

Date and Time

Saturday, Nov 18, 2023
9:00am to 4:00pm

Doors open at 8:30am

Directions

From the north, drive southeast on I-10 to the W El Camino Del Cerro / Ruthrauff Rd Exit. Follow Ruthrauff Rd till you come to the Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center.

“Stay tuned location and or date could change”

Levity: (Modelers Choice)

Favorite Train: (Mixed Freight)

Contest Results – NMRA Arizona Division Spring Meet

Scottsdale - 03/11/2023

Best of Show 1st Place



Jim Fairbanks

20 Ton Plymouth

Scratch Built



Model Construction

2nd Place

Alan Olson

MILW ROAD BOX CAR 55158

Kit Built



Model Construction

3rd Place Alan Olson MILW ROAD BOX CAR 55225 Kit Built



Favorite Model

1st Place Jim Fairbanks 20 Ton Plymouth Scratch Built



Levity ((**Box Cars**))

NO ENTRIES

Favorite Train (Passenger Train)

1st Place Mike Guinn

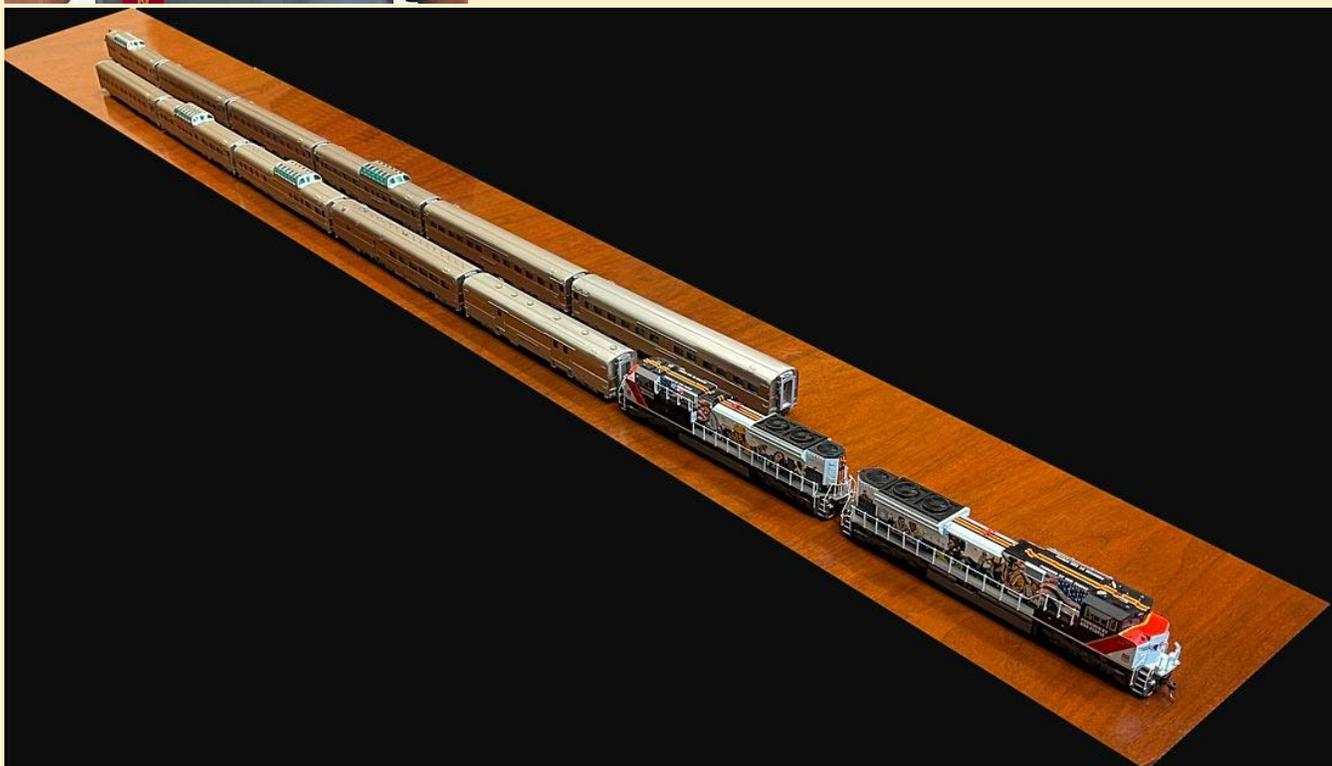
Passenger Train



Favorite Train (Passenger Train)

2nd Place John Mick

Passenger Train



Favorite Photo (Color Prototype)

1st Place

Allen Greger

NNRY #81



November 2021

Nevada Northern Railroad Yard

Ely Nevada

Just finished morning prep's and is ready for the days events with a Trains sponsored event "81 for 81"



Favorite Photo (Color Prototype)

2nd^t Place

Allen Greger

SP NG #18

September 3, 2021

SP NG #18 approaching Tefft Bridge going south.

Trains sponsored trip on the Durango & Silverton



Favorite Photo (Color Prototype)

3rd^t Place

Allen Greger

Double Header

August 31, 2021

Double Header west bound climbing Gravity Hill

Rio Grande Southern theme train on the
Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad- A Trains



Display Only

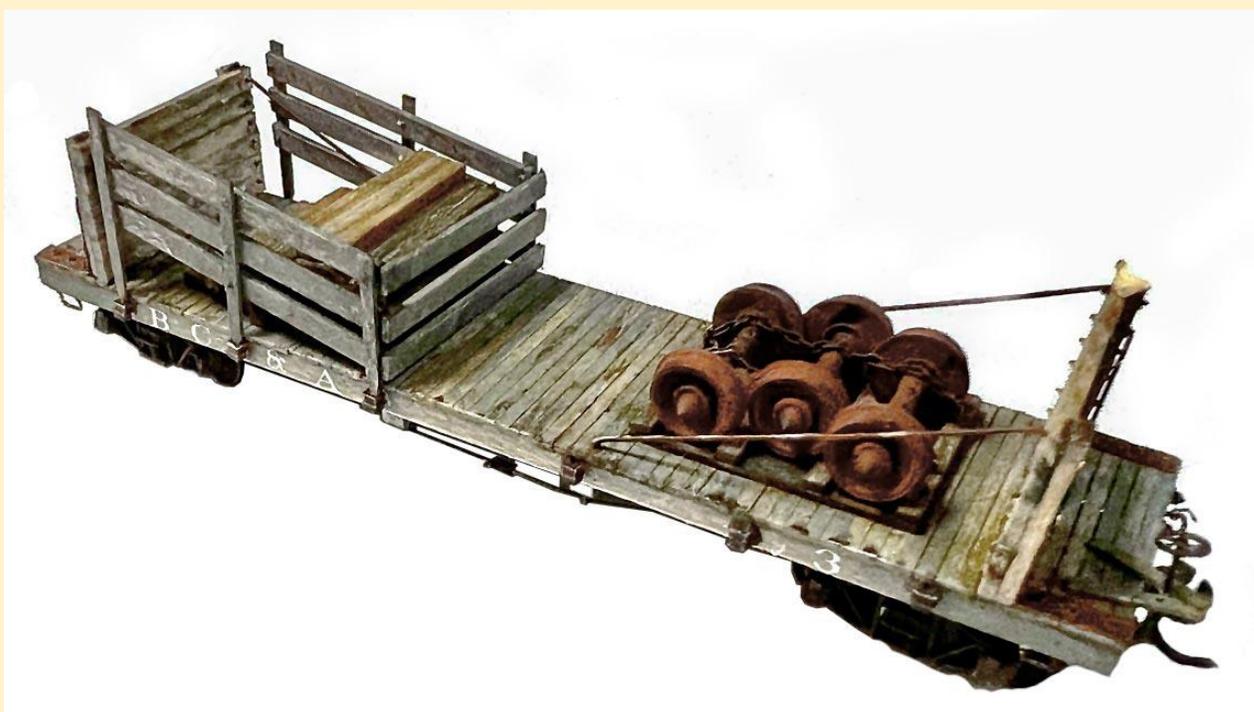
Bruce Petrarca, MMR #574 Modified FOS Laser Kit Building



AP Evaluation Only

Gerald Mabry

MOW Flat Car





Leancy Rupert, Gerald Maby, Neal Replogle, Dan Thompson, and Don Wilde

"Thank you to all our judges, without them we would not have a contest room."

Volunteer to be a judge and you will find it rewarding and may even improve your modeling skills. Every time you are a contest judge you qualify for 1 point towards the Association Volunteer certificate.

Next NMRA AZ Div. Meet: **Fall Meet will be on November 18, 2023 in Tucson.**

Levity: (Modelers Choice)

Favorite Train: (Mixed Freight)

“The “SPUR LINE” is the official publication of the Arizona Division, Pacific Southwest Region, National Model Railroad Association (NMRA), and is published three times a year in Scottsdale, Arizona. The “SPUR LINE’ is available to all members of the NMRA who live in Arizona.

RESPONSIBILITY: Except for official reports, all opinions are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Arizona Division or its parent organizations.

SUBMISSIONS: Contributions of articles on any railroad or model railroading topic of interest to the membership are welcome. There is no compensation, but published articles can be credited to the NMRA Author Achievement Certificate. If you are interested in submitting articles, event information, or other information of interest to the members of the Division, please follow these guidelines:

1. Preferred method is by email to the Spur Line editor with the submission attached as a word text document.
2. Keep in mind that submissions may be edited for length or formatting, or not used, at the discretion of the editor.
3. Submission deadlines for publication are: **December 1st., April 1st. and July 1st.”**