



# SPUR LINE

Volume 45, Issue 2

May 2011

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## SUMMER MEET - THERE WILL BE NO SUMMER MEET



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**\*\* WANTED \*\***  
GOOD QUALITY MODEL KITS, TOOLS, RR EQUIPMENT,  
ETC. FOR DOOR PRIZES AT UPCOMING  
ARIZONA DIVISION MEETS

**SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER*****BY: ART CARLTON***

Prior to an emergency management meeting the other day, I was speaking to a colleague about the model railroading. He stated he did not have the talents to build models. Well this comment lead me to explain that model building is just a small part of model railroading. Knowing what a fine carpenter this individual is off duty, we discussed how some individuals are just interested in constructing the framing for the layout. While others are interest in doing the electrical and wiring work. After our discussion, I began to think about all the possible interests there are in the hobby. I know we have all heard of the various aspects of the hobby before, lord knows I have heard several times, but it really hit home when he thought modeling was the only part to model railroading. Shoot! NMRA has categories on other things other than modeling.

One of the many interests I enjoy about model railroading is the history aspect. Lately, I have been conducting presentations of Pinal County's railroad history. It's truly amazing how many people will pay to hear me, of all people, speak about the history of railroads.

My latest presentation was about the Maricopa and Phoenix Railroad. The presentation covered two 30 minute sessions. Between the 30 minutes sessions the guest were served a meal from a SPRR menu, which was a big hit. Especially, the strawberry covered sweet bread dessert. Man was that good! Oops, sorry for getting a little sidetracked there, but it was good.

To make this event such a success I had to do a little . . . or I should say a lot of research at various museums. While doing this research, I got a little distracted (which I think is a common trait with model railroaders) by a file about a railroad detective named "Maricopa Slim."

To keep this short, Maricopa Slim was born in Texas and his real name was John C. Power. He worked as a detective for the SP between Gila Bend and Casa Grande in the early 1900's. At the same time he was a Pinal County Sheriff's deputy for the Maricopa area. One night in late 1913 a circus train stopped in Maricopa before heading to Phoenix. While the train was stopped, Maricopa Slim searched the train for hobos and while doing such mistaken a circus employee for a hobo. He began to beat what he thought was a hobo off the train with a wood club filled with lead. This badly beaten employee swore the next time he was in Maricopa he would get even with Maricopa Slim. Well, on the night of November 4, 1914, the circus train arrived in Maricopa and a gun battle broke out between the circus employee and Maricopa Slim. To make a long story short, both individuals died that night from their wounds. Maricopa Slim was only 30 years old.

There is more to this story, which I hope to do a presentation on in the near future. But my point to this article is that modeling is just part of the hobby. There are many different facet of this great hobby that one can devote their time in to enjoy the world of railroading. They just need to find what fits their interest and jump in.

Side Note:

Please do not forget to vote for your next superintendent, chief clerk and paymaster, and director. All votes count! And do not forget that the summer meet has been canceled so everyone can attend the regional conference in September. Happy railroading . . .

**DIRECT FROM THE DIRECTOR*****BY: RICK WATSON***

I'd like to thank everyone who took to opportunity to attend the meet in Phoenix. It was a great success. Great clinics, a lot of activity in the contest room, and some additional candidates through their hats in the ring. We now have two candidates for each of the three positions available. That's awesome!

As of the Phoenix meet, we had still not identified a location and/or date for the summer meet. With the Santa Fe convention in Tempe in June, and the Pacific Southwest Region Convention in Flagstaff in September, we agreed to let the membership determine if we would have a summer meet or not. The meet attendees voted during the business meeting and overwhelmingly chose to pass on a summer meet. So, our next meet will be in Tucson, in November. Hopefully many of you will be able to attend the PSR Convention in Flagstaff. The guys have really been working hard to make this an excellent convention. Hotel rooms are filling up fast, so don't hesitate!

As this issue of the Spur Line is an election issue, I would like to personally thank those that have stepped up to run for office. Since I've been involved in the division, this is the first time we have had two candidates for each of the elected positions. As a reminder, the PSR will process the ballots for Division Director, but we are including candidate statements in this issue as well.

As you can see, this election will be of importance to us. Please take the time, spend the money for two stamps and vote! Yes, you will receive two ballots. One from the PSR (Region) for the Director candidates and one from the Arizona Division for the Superintendent and the Chief Clerk & Paymaster. I know Art is really looking forward to handing over that bell!

**DIVISION DIRECTOR CANDIDATES****\*NOTE: DIVISION DIRECTOR BALLOTS WILL BE MAILED BY THE REGION****DIVISION DIRECTOR CANDIDATES: DAVID IRICK**

For a number of years I have considered running for Director from AZ, but due to a lack of time I did not feel that if elected I could give the PSR the attention it deserved. Now that I have recently retired, after 40 years in the Transportation Industry, and having the titles past this and past that from other organizations I feel that the time is right to throw my hat into the ring.

I was raised in Quincy, Illinois, 6 blocks from the Mississippi River and the CB&Q Railroad, moving to Glendale, Arizona in 1993. I have been a model railroader most of my life, and a member of the NMRA since 1984. Currently a member of the Thunderbird Model

Railroad Club, the Quincy Society of Model Engineers and have worked for you since 2003 as Secretary of the PSR.

Secretary of the PSR Board is a non-voting appointed by the President position, a position that has given me the unique access to ideas, directions and programs based on proven results and some failures.

I have experience serving in a variety of positions with other clubs and organizations with membership ranging from 25 to 10,000 members. I have extensive experience in organizing conventions for groups with 3,000 to 5,000 participants.

As most of you know my great love is in the contest room. I am an active participant in the contest room and have judged contests at the Division, Region and National level. I look at the contest room as a learning tool for improving my own modeling skills and teaching others how to improve their artistic abilities.

What is my agenda? The Arizona Division has seen unprecedented growth and success in the past few years. Our meeting rooms are crowded and we need larger facilities. Our membership base is large, diversified and spread out over 113,635 sq miles of Arizona. As our numbers grow we need to look at adding venues for member's participation. Members want and deserve more bang for their buck and we all know that the buck is getting tight. Furnishing more on a limited budget is going to be the challenge.

To accomplish some of our challenges we will need the backing and resources of the Region. A strong Director who knows how the PSR Board works and has established communication with other Division leaders and PSR Board members is accentual.

I am not going to make a lot of promises that I cannot keep. But you will find that I will always be accessible to you and will fight in improve our Region and our Division.

I am asking for the privilege of sitting on the PSR Board as you're representative.

**DIVISION DIRECTOR CANDIDATES: BOB LIBBEY**

Stephen Priest, MMR 377 and Joe Robertson, MMR 216 first introduced me to the NMRA in 2005 when we were members of the Southern Kansas City Model Railroad Club in Kansas City, MO. The club had 100% NMRA membership and I was eager to join and becoming a MMR became a goal. I was ready to reenter the model railroading world and having two MMR's in the club was an awesome experience. The next year my wife and I found out we were being transferred to the Phoenix area. I was not going to let this derail my MMR goal. While my wife was looking for houses I was looking for NMRA PSR information, making sure we moved to a location where I could continue to pursue my MMR.

I have always prided myself in being an active member of any club or organization I belong to, and this includes the NMRA, the PRS and our Division. While I haven't made it to a national event, I have attended all but one divisional meet and make most of our regional events. I've always felt it was important to be involved. But my involvement in the past is not enough. I realized this when I was scrolling down Rick Watson's January, 2011 Spurr Line column and read, "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem." He's right! Up to this point the most I have contributed has been some of my *Scale Detail* resin detail parts or trees as give-a-ways. It is time I got off the siding and hit the mainline. I have too much respect for what the NMRA stands for to be part of the problem.

One thing that impresses me is how well Rick worked with Art Carlton and Richard Dick during his tenure. Since he became Division Director in 2007 our membership has grown, attendance is up at each meet and we have a website with an online version of the Spurr Line. We have a very strong base, now we need to build on it. Through Rick's team approach these successes were achieved. Come November we will have new leadership in the roles of Director, Superintendent, Chief Clerk & Paymaster and Contest Chair joining our returning leaders or Gordon Geiger, Don Stewart, Lenny Smith, Janet Spooner, Frank Baker, and Lee Stoermer. It is important we continue to a team approach to keep our momentum up, provide value to our members and find more opportunities for improvement.

I believe we have the ability to make the model railroading community even stronger and more prominent. We have a number of Master Model Railroaders in our division and many more, like me, who are striving to achieve their own MMR number. We need to work together to help each other get to that goal. We also need to develop plans that will help get the younger generations as excited about trains and model railroading as we were when we were kids. They are the future of the NMRA and model railroading. We are extinct without them and without each other and that just isn't acceptable.

As Division Director I will continue to build on Rick's successes. Our current leadership has taken us in many positive directions and I look forward to working closely with the new board to see that we continue as such. We will continue to set goals and we will continue to work together as a team to achieve our goals.

I am proud to be a member of the NMRA, our Region and our Division and wish to see it succeed. I humbly, and sincerely, ask for your vote.

## DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT CANDIDATES

### SUPERINTENDENT CANDIDATES: ALAN VINCENT



My name is Alan Vincent, and I would first like to take a moment to introduce myself. For those of you I have not formally had the privilege to meet, I have been nominated to fill the position of Arizona Division Superintendent. Although I may be a fresh face to some, I have been a member of the Arizona Division for over ten years. I am a member of the Thunderbird Model Railroad Club, and have served that organization in several capacities, including the Board of Directors, Vice President, and President. I am the Club Historian and current Vice President. Professionally, I am one of the owners of Aqua Essence Pools, and serve on the Board of

Directors of the Southwest Pool and Spa Association as the Ethics Chair.

Like many of you, my Dad's gift of a train set began my very humble beginnings in this hobby as an eight year old. That childhood empire began with a Tyco 44 ton switcher, three cars, and a 36" diameter circle of track. Needless to say, sitting on the tile floor I ran the wheels off that set. Coming years would see the construction of two distinct, and very memorable layouts constructed with my Dad. Fond memories of that time make up a touchstone that fuels my love and passion for trains and this hobby. In my own way, I've worked to pass a portion of this love to my own children. Both my son and daughter have grown up sharing memories with me in the Thunderbird Club, first as Youth Affiliates, and finally as Members.

Like it or not we are a rapidly aging hobby, and capturing young minds and imaginations becomes more difficult with each passing year. We owe it to all those who came before us, who introduced us to the hobby, nurtured us as we grew (and continue to grow), to share it with a new generation or introduce it to others. The many advances in the last ten years, in details, prototype options, Digital Command and Control, and of course sound, offer many new and very intriguing ways to capture those imaginations! These are not your father's trains, and we all face a tough choice as we seek to preserve the past and embrace the future. Adapt and re-capture the imaginations of those that we would have follow, or remain static and slowly fade to memories ourselves. I feel we can both adapt and re-capture dreams and imaginations equally well, if we all take a step out of our own comfort zone and help others discover the fun that we share. That can be as simple as encouraging a young modeler taking their first faltering steps into the hobby, or lending the knowledge, expertise, and memories of our own life experiences.

I invite you to join me in making our Division all it can be! Learning as we enjoy each other's company, by sharing our combined skills, passion, and love for the greatest hobby ever! As I get to know you all better, I look forward to your kind support and serving as your next Superintendent.

### SUPERINTENDENT CANDIDATES: DAVID JERRY

No Candidate Statement available.

**CHIEF CLERK & PAYMASTER CANDIDATES****CHIEF CLERK & PAYMASTER CANDIDATE: DOC SCHAFFER**

I have been a model railroader for 60 years and a member of the NMRA (off and on) for most of that time. Now that I am retired, I have the time to give back to the organizations I have belonged to for all these years. Therefore I have responded to the call for volunteers and will serve as Chief Clerk and Paymaster if elected

**CHIEF CLERK & PAYMASTER CANDIDATE: JIM TUCK**

Although I had the traditional Lionel set as a child, I became more interested in model railroading with the births of our sons over 20 years ago. I've been more active over the past 6 years, and have a start on an N-Scale layout at home and an N-Trak module.

Member of Flagstaff Model Railroad Club since 2005; former Secretary & Treasurer for 3 years. Member of Katy Railroad Historical Society, National Railway Historical Society and Fort Smith Trolley Museum.

Was the treasurer of Boy Scout Troop for about 5 years and a Rotary Club about 3 years.

Member of NMRA since 2003; attended 2008 and 2010 national conventions, and a number of division meets. Managed logistics for 2006 and 2008 Flagstaff Arizona Division meets.

Former Board of Directors of Rotary Clubs (President), Flagstaff Leadership Program, Boy Scouts (District Chair, Cubmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster), Flagstaff Disability Awareness Commission, American Youth Soccer Organization & Toastmasters (President).

Retired National Park Ranger, former Navy officer and employee of Mountain Line Transit and Museum of Northern Arizona.

I'm detail oriented and good at bookkeeping, and wish to contribute back to the hobby. I will appreciate your support.



### **Pacific Southwest Region's 2011 Convention "Rails to Rims" Flagstaff, Arizona 2011**

This year's event is being hosted by the Arizona Division ([www.azdiv-nmra.org](http://www.azdiv-nmra.org)) from Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> through Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The venue is the Radisson Woodlands Hotel on historic Route 66 in Flagstaff. The Convention Committee has planned a variety of activities that will be interesting, informative, and unique. There will be over 30 prototype and model railroad oriented clinics, many operating sessions, and prototype tours. The keynote tour is the Grand Canyon Railway shop facilities in Williams with a visit to the Fray Marcos (site of the proposed Arizona State Railroad Museum) and NRHS rolling stock at the shop. Tour arrangements are being finalized for rail operations at the Camp Navajo Army Depot, SCA Tissue paper mill, and the Ralston-Purina pet food plant. The "Haunted Flagstaff" and "Theme Town" tours will also be highlights. Northern Arizona is home to many spectacular rail-fanning locations. A field trip to the Johnson Canyon Tunnel and Steel Dam historic locations is a planned and detailed guides to other areas of interest will be provided. The Flagstaff area is home to several unique layouts that will be available for tours including a compressed version of the Grand Canyon Railway from Williams to the Grand Canyon! The Flagstaff Model Railroad Club, home of the Mountain Pacific Lines (a bridge line connecting Phoenix and Provo Utah) will be hosting operating sessions through the Convention. The Convention schedule will be full including the NMRA Contest, the annual Awards Banquet, Auction Night, Swap Meet, and the annual PSR membership meeting. Janet Spooner, our Railette Chair, has again planned a busy and interesting time for the ladies. Many opportunities for fun and unique non-rail family activities are available in the Flagstaff/Northern Arizona area and details will be provided at the Convention.

As you can see, we have a lot of great activities planned for this year's event. We have planned with the goal of providing you with the best of what the railroad "rich" town of Flagstaff has to offer. ( continues on next page )



Thank you to the many Division members that have registered!

If you haven't and your schedule allows - get on board and register today – you'll miss a great time if you don't! Also, our Convention Hotel is filling up and the weekend is also Northern Arizona University's Parents Weekend, so timely reservations are advised.

## **The 2011 PSR Regional Convention is Coming to Flagstaff!!!**

***What:* PSR 2011 Regional Convention**

***When:* September 21 – 25, 2011**

***Where:* Flagstaff – Radisson Hotel?**

**What can you do? Help make it a huge success!**

**Need volunteers for planning, clinics, contests, etc.**

**Contact: Larry Gibbs, Flagstaff Model RR Club**

**[Flagmrrc@gmail.com](mailto:Flagmrrc@gmail.com) or (928)699-3449**



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**CHIEF CLERK & PAYMASTER REPORT**

*BY: RICHARD DICK*



We had a tremendous turnout in Phoenix, March 12. There were 128 registered and we had 2 new NMRA members. That's wonderful and the second big turnout in a row for Phoenix. We have consistently signed up 2-4 new members at each meet as well.

I was asked a question concerning the financial report. A member asked me (I think jokingly) if ImageWorx was a day spa I was treating myself to!! Just so it is clear, ImageWorx is the new name for Kwik-Copy, who has done the printing and mailing of the Spur Line for many years now.

We did sell a number of convention cars and other items; however, we still have plenty left! Come see me after lunch at the next meet for these items (cars, pins and patches).

The balance sheet for the period January--March 2011 is included for your information: I had an error in the Report in the last SPUR LINE. The combined Railette expense for the Flagstaff and Tucson Meets was \$131.97, rather than that amount for Flagstaff alone. The correction is reflected in Other Revenue below.

The balance sheet for the period January – March 2011 is included for your information:

Account Balance, December 31 , 2010		\$5,997.43
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Division Meet: March 12, 2011:		
Attendance Fees		\$896.00
Sales, Pins and Patches, Convention Cars		\$212.00
Donation		\$2.25
NMRA Dues		\$97.00
Total Meet Revenue		\$1,207.25
Other Revenue:		
Printed Version of SPUR LINE		\$20.00
Railette Expense error from last report		\$28.65
Total Revenue		\$1,255.90
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Division Meet: March 12, 2011:		
Club/Hobby Shop Flyer Postage		\$34.46
ImageWorx - News letter/posters/flyers		\$279.92
Phoenix Meet Facility Expense		\$200.00
Copies of Layout Tour Maps		\$7.00
Railette Expenses		\$42.48
		\$563.86
Other Expenses:		
Bank Fees		\$26.87
Contest Plaques		\$55.44
NMRA Dues		\$97.00
		\$179.31
Total Expense		\$743.17
<b>Income</b>		
		\$512.73
Account Balance, March 31, 2011		\$6,510.16

**FROM THE CONTEST ROOM***BY: DAVE IRICK*

At the Phoenix meet I volunteered to run the contest room for the Arizona Division. I have many years experience in the contest room as a judge and participant, so with that in mind I feel that I can give you efficient, honest and impartial judging. We were short some tags for plaques and ribbons for the winners in Phoenix and I apologize to the winners who did not receive their just rewards at the meet. We have ordered more supplies and the problem will be corrected by the Tucson meet. Thank you to all who participated in the Phoenix contest room, we had a good selection of models. I want to encourage more of you join us in the contest room in Tucson.

**Contest results – Phoenix Division Meet  
March 21, 2011****Best in Show**

Channel Gondola 4723 – Alan Barnes, MMR – Merit Award winner

**Rolling Stock – Open**

Channel Gondola 4756 – Alan Barnes, MMR – Merit Award winner

**Rolling Stock – Kit**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Boston & Maine Type A Jordon Speeder – Ed Urstrom

**Structures – Open**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Winterhaven Ag Insp Station – Tim Gilliland

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Victorian House – James Currie

**Structures – Kit**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Texaco Station – Lee Stoermer – Merit Award winner

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Andy's Garage – Tim Gilliland

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Carcross Depot – Robert Sherwood

**Display Open**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Black Mesa & Lake Powell – David Nash

**Favorite Train**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – GM&O – Bob Libbey
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Moving the N-Scale Museum – Steve Engelhardt
- 2<sup>rd</sup> Place – SP Passenger Train – Joe Skamel

**Favorite Model**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – the Rock – Richard Petrina
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Andy’s Garage – Tim Gilliland
- 2<sup>rd</sup> Place – Texaco Station – Lee Stoermer

**Photography**

**Model Color**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Sante Fe – Nelson Steinmetz
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Engine House 1 – David Starkman
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Engine House 2 – David Starkman

**Prototype Color**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Winter Caboose – Jim Tuck
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Fullerton – Jim Tuck
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – CT&S – Lee Stoermer

**Slide**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Sperry Rail Service – Allen Greger

**Note:**

- 1: Model scoring 87 ½ points receive a Merit Award
- 2: In order for a model to receive a 1<sup>st</sup> Place award it must receive a total 76 Points.

**Coronado**  **SCALE MODELS**

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**BEST IN SHOW – CHANNEL GONDOLA #4723  
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALAN BARNES !**



**ROLLING STOCK #4756 – CHANNEL GONDOLA #4723**



**\*\* WANTED \*\***

**VOLUNTEERS TO CONDUCT CLINICS FOR THE SPRING,  
SUMMER, AND FALL MEETS.**

**30-45-60 MINUTES SLOTS AVAILABLE.**

**CONTACT ART CARLTON AT  
520-560-3368.**

**CONTEST RESULTS - PHOENIX DIVISION MEET**

*MARCH, 2011*

**Rolling Stock—Open**

**2nd Place—Boston & Maine Type A Jordan Spreader —Ed Urstrom**



**Structures—Open**

**1st Place—Winterhaven AG Inspection Station—Tim Gilliland**



**2nd Place- Victorian House**

**James Currie**



**CONTEST RESULTS - PHOENIX DIVISION MEET**

*MARCH, 2011*

**Structures—Kit**

**1st Place—Texaco Station Lee Stoermer—Merit Award**



**CONTEST RESULTS - PHOENIX DIVISION MEET**

*MARCH, 2011*

**Structures—Kit**

**2nd Place—Andy's Garage—Tim Gilliland**



**3rd Place—Carcross Depot—Robert Sherwood**

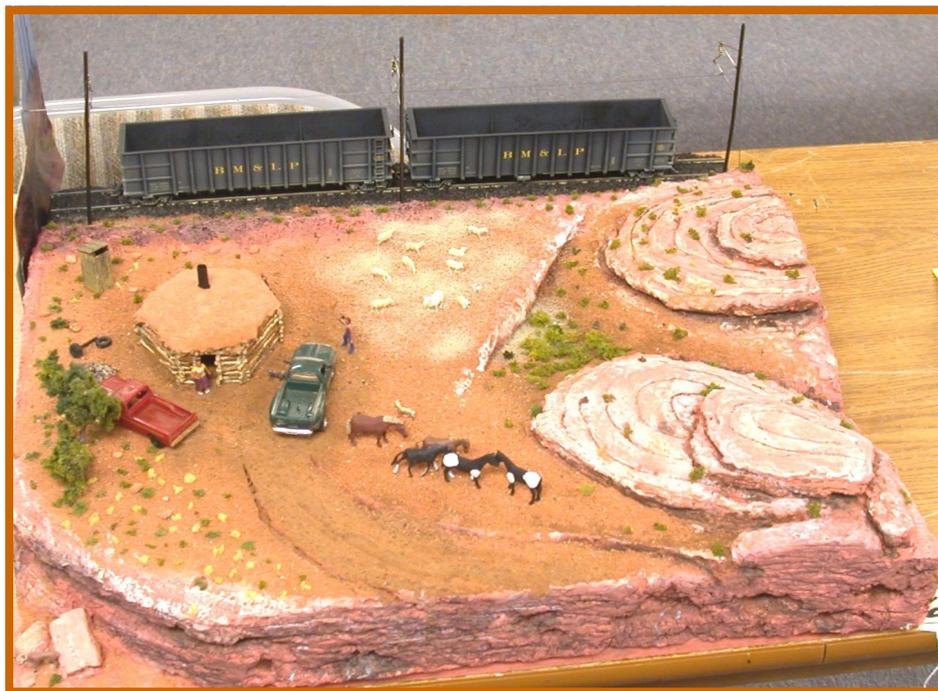


**CONTEST RESULTS - PHOENIX DIVISION MEET**

*MARCH, 2011*

*Display Open*

*2nd Place—Black Mesa & Lake Powell—David Nash*



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

*KEEP ON BUILDING THOSE MODELS*

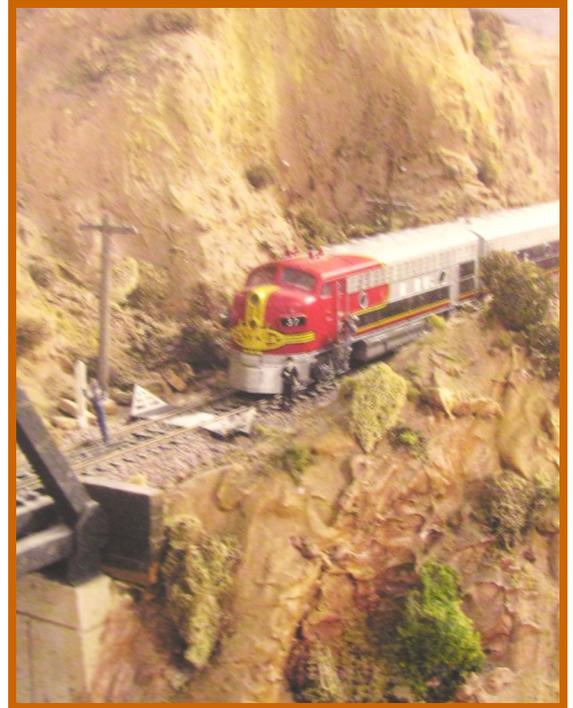
**CONTEST RESULTS - PHOENIX DIVISION MEET**

*MARCH, 2011*

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

*Model - Color*

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Santa Fe - Nelson Steinmetz



2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Engine House #1—David Starkman

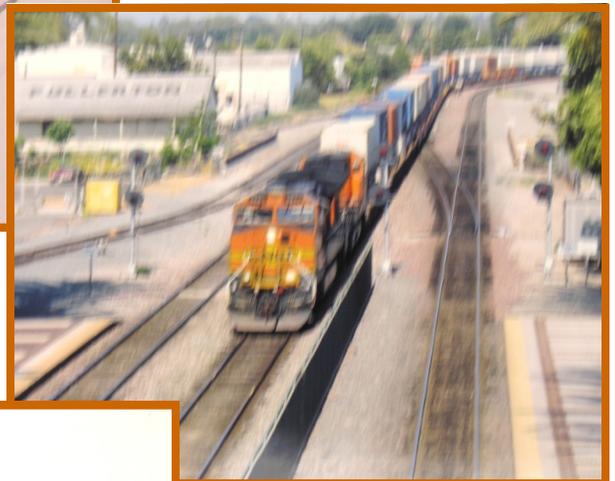


3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Engine House #2  
David Starkman



Prototype - Color

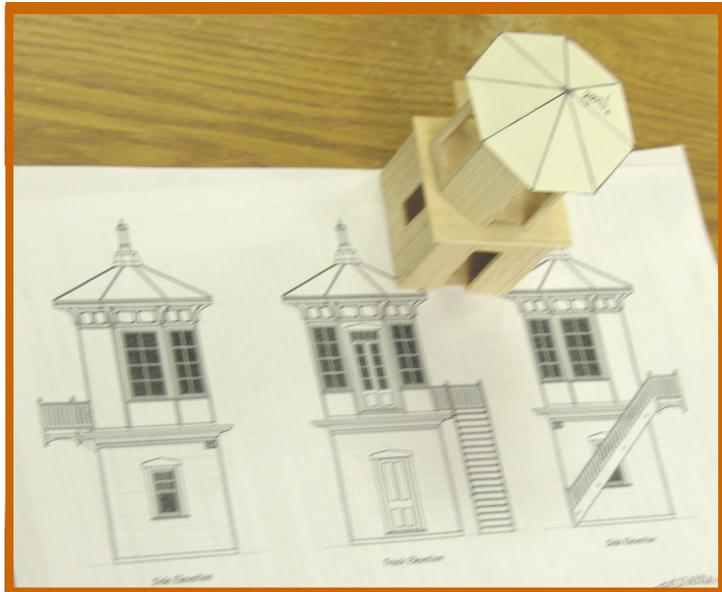
1<sup>st</sup> Place – Winter Caboose—Jim Tuck



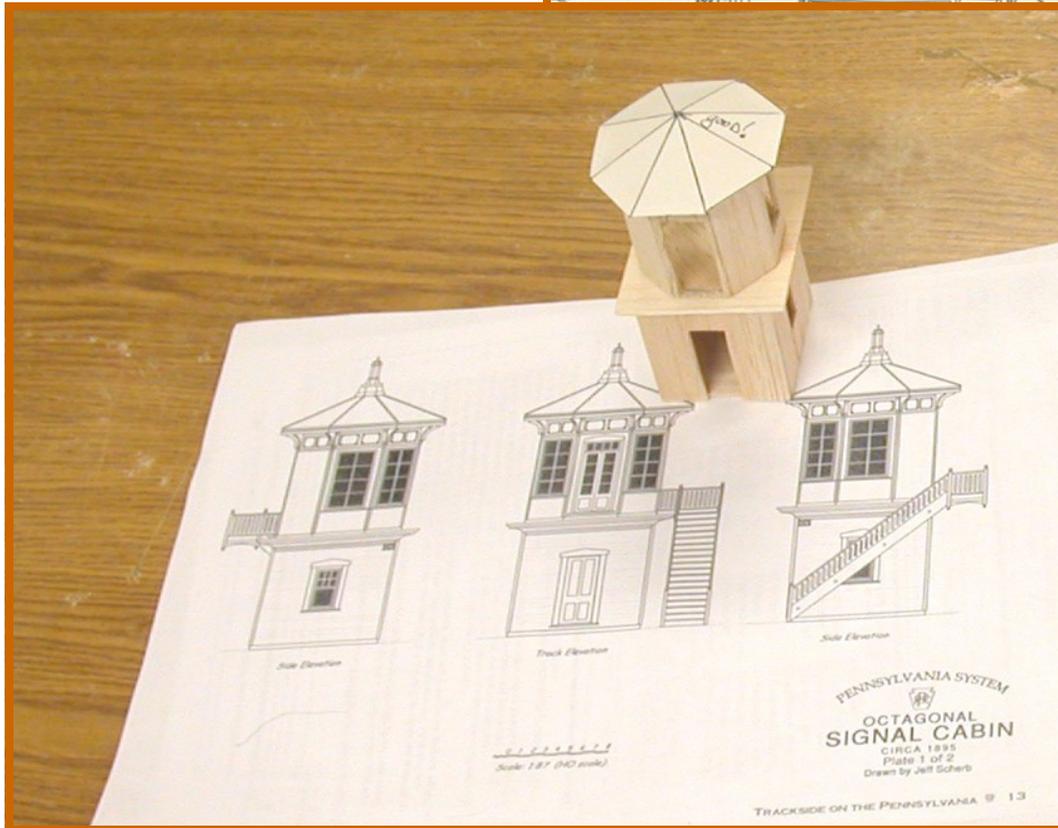
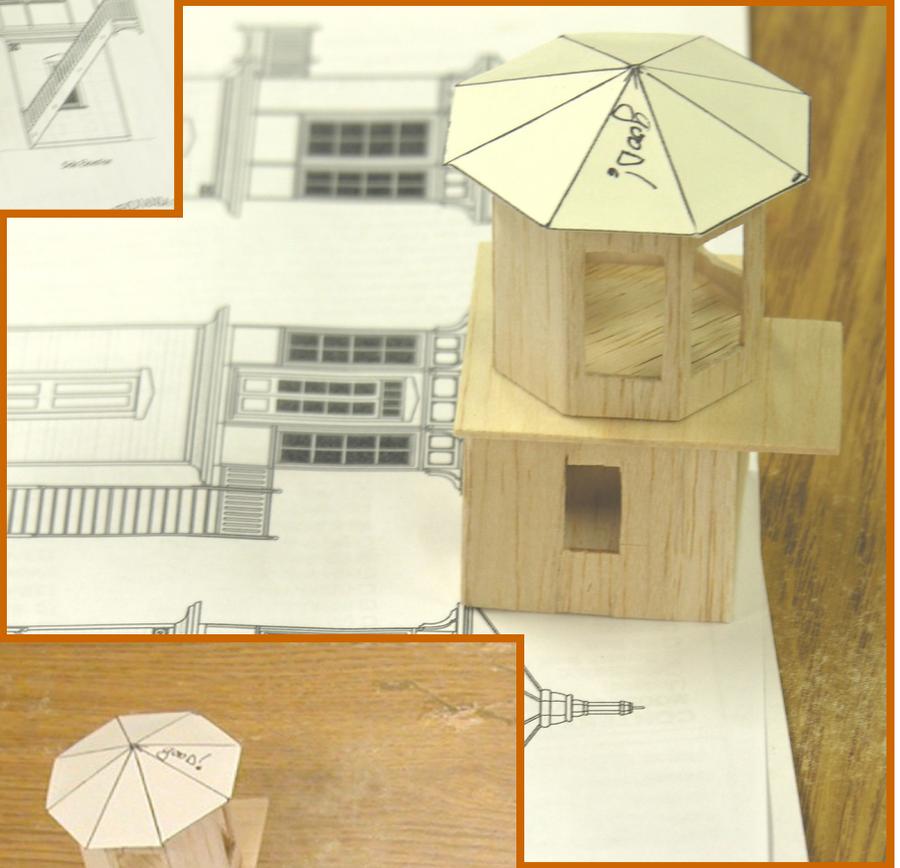
2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Fullerton—Jim Tuck



3<sup>rd</sup> Place – CT&S  
Lee Stoermer



LENNY'S  
CHALLENGE





## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

BY: DON STEWART

Statements of Qualifications continue to roll in from the Arizona Division. Gordon Geiger earned his Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical (PSR Certificate #303). It was presented at the Arizona Division Meeting in Tucson. Gordon has submitted his Master Builder – Scenery Statement of Qualifications (SoQ) (PSR Certificate #304). It was approved and sent to National for final approval and generation of the official certificate.

Rick Watson submitted his SoQ for Association Official. He has been the Arizona Director for the last 4 years. His PSR Certificate number is #305.

Five Merit awards were earned at the March meeting and will be presented at the PSR Regional Meeting or at the AZ Division Meeting in November.

Alan Barnes, MMR earned two for his Channel Gon's

David Irick earned one for his Derrick Tender

John Lovely earned one for his Inspection Car

Lee Stoermer earned one for his Texaco Station.

Congratulations to these modelers for their excellent work!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

**CHECK THE NMRA WEBSITE AT: [WWW.NMRA.ORG/ACHIEVEMENT](http://WWW.NMRA.ORG/ACHIEVEMENT)**

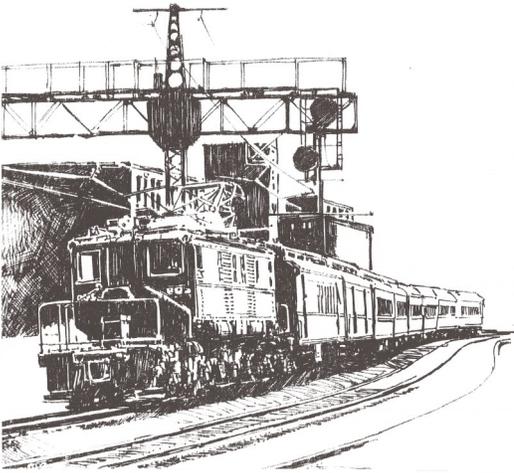
## EDITOR'S UPDATE

Here is my second issue and I am trying hard to remember all the tricks that Rick has shown me. One small whoops occurred during the recent meet. Somehow the vibration reduction feature on my camera was turned off resulting in many fuzzy photos. (MY BAD) The result was that I had to ask Allan Barnes for his photographs of the contest room. Thank you Alan for coming to my rescue.

I know that somebody reads the newsletter. This newsletter is a two way communication and it is my goal to add to the already good publication that it is. That includes feedback on what you read and see in the newsletter. Since my memory is fast approaching the senior moment stage, please email me with your comments and ideas to: [spurline@azdiv-nmra.org](mailto:spurline@azdiv-nmra.org)

While I might edit some of the expletives, I want to hear from everyone on what you want to see with this publication. If you like an article, let me know. My first article in the "idea exchange" produced a total of one response. Drop me an email, please. Let's not be bashful.

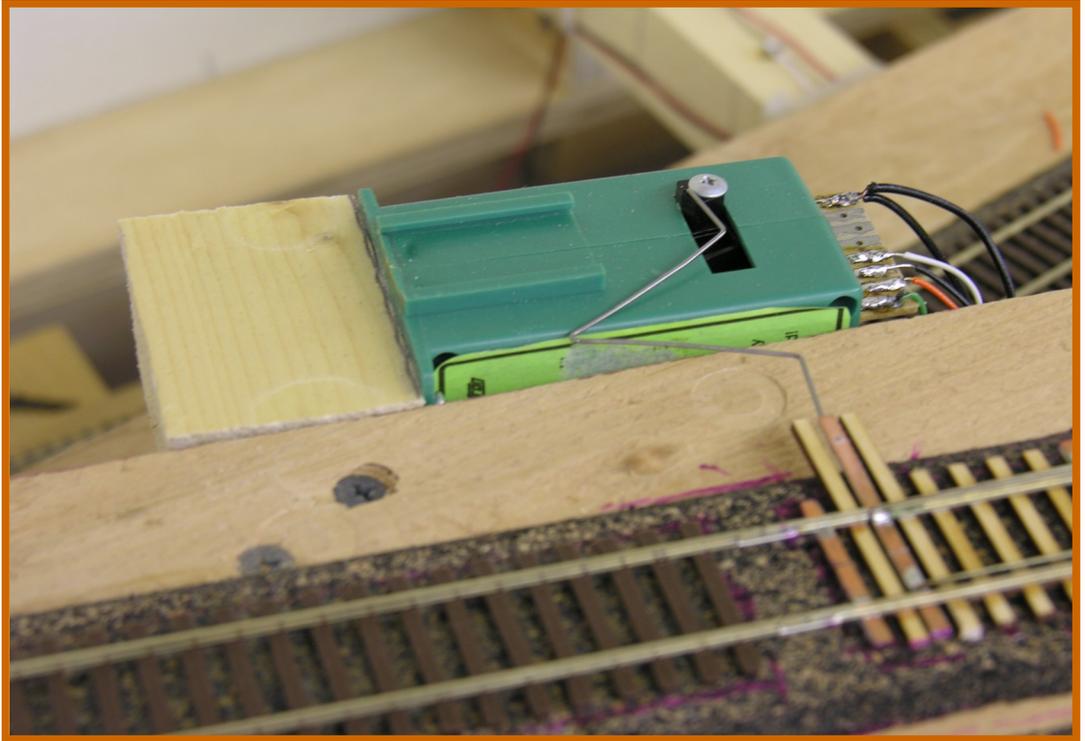
Three events of note: PSR Convention in Flagstaff, Santa Fe Historical Convention in Tempe and election of officers for the NMRA AZ, Div. **REMEMBER TO VOTE.**



## IDEA EXCHANGE

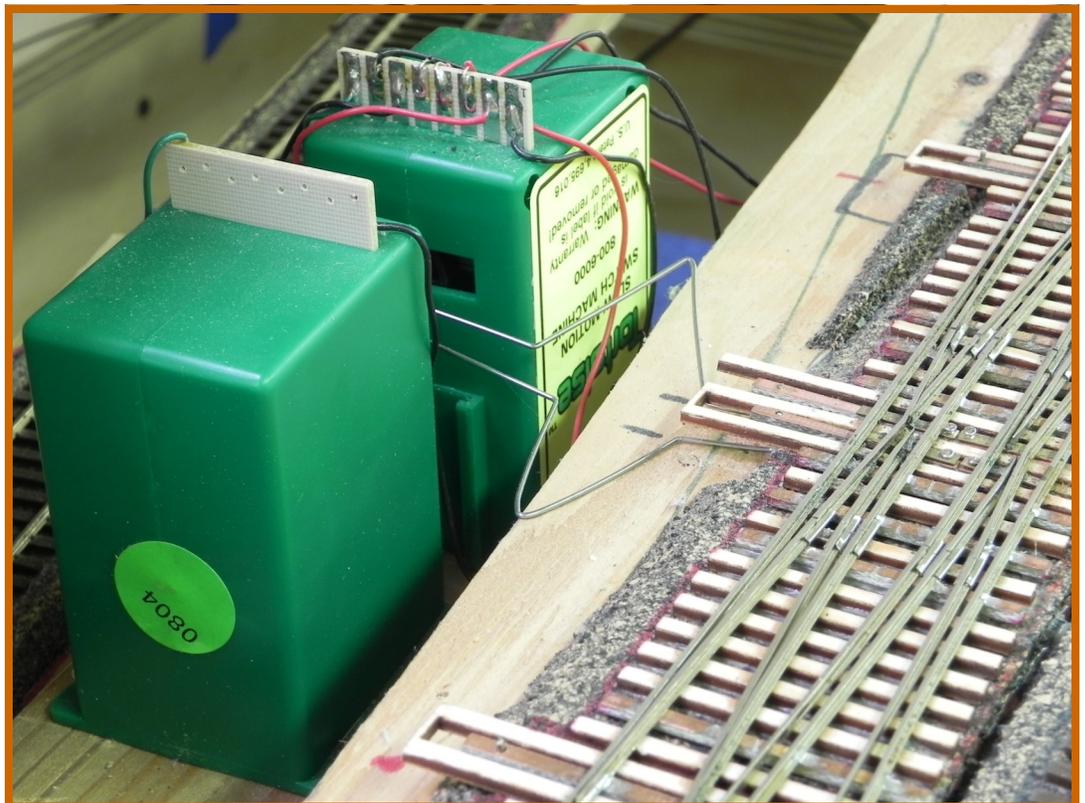
FRANK BAKER & RUSS HENZEL

During the NMRA convention in Philadelphia in 2006, we had the pleasure of seeing the layout of Howard Zane. A magnificent layout with many scratch built structures. Part of the railroad was under construction with track and some definition of the scenery. Out of the corner of my eye, I spotted an unusual mounting of a Circuitron / Tortoise switch machine. I took a picture of the mounting hoping that it might be of use in the future.



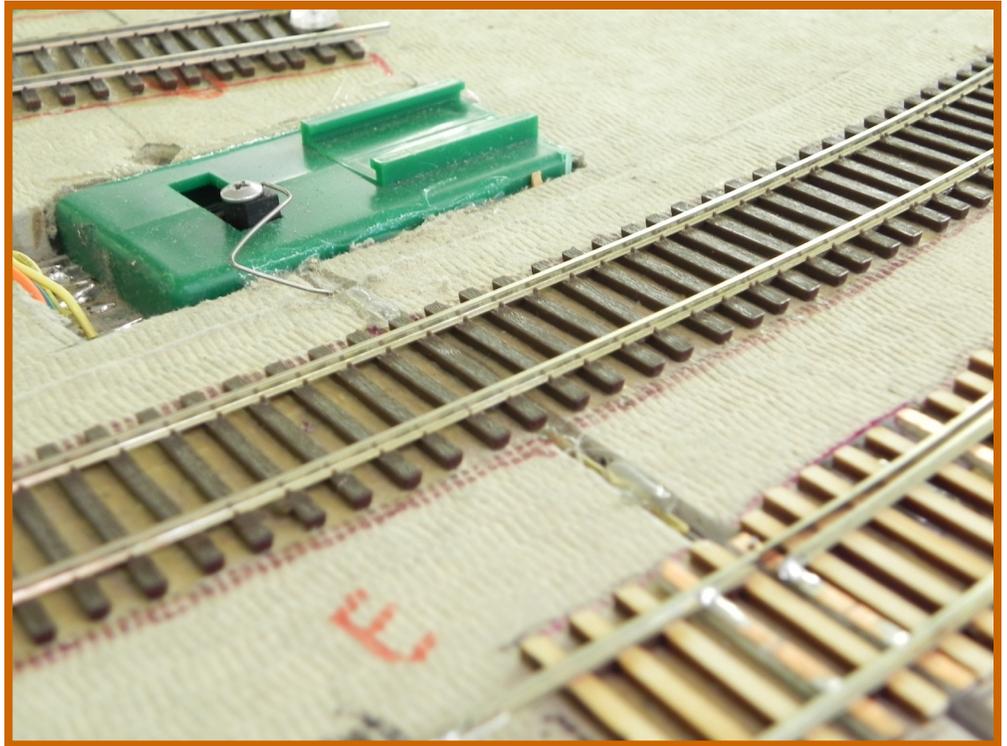
Well, they say that all good things come to those who wait. As many of you know, my neighbor and I have been working on my layout for many years and his layout for the past three years. During the build of his layout and the replacement of switch machines on my layout, these mounting techniques have been put to use.

The top picture shows the mounting technique that we saw on Howard Zane's layout. The next series of photos illustrate alternative ways of mounting for side mount, bottom mount and top mount.



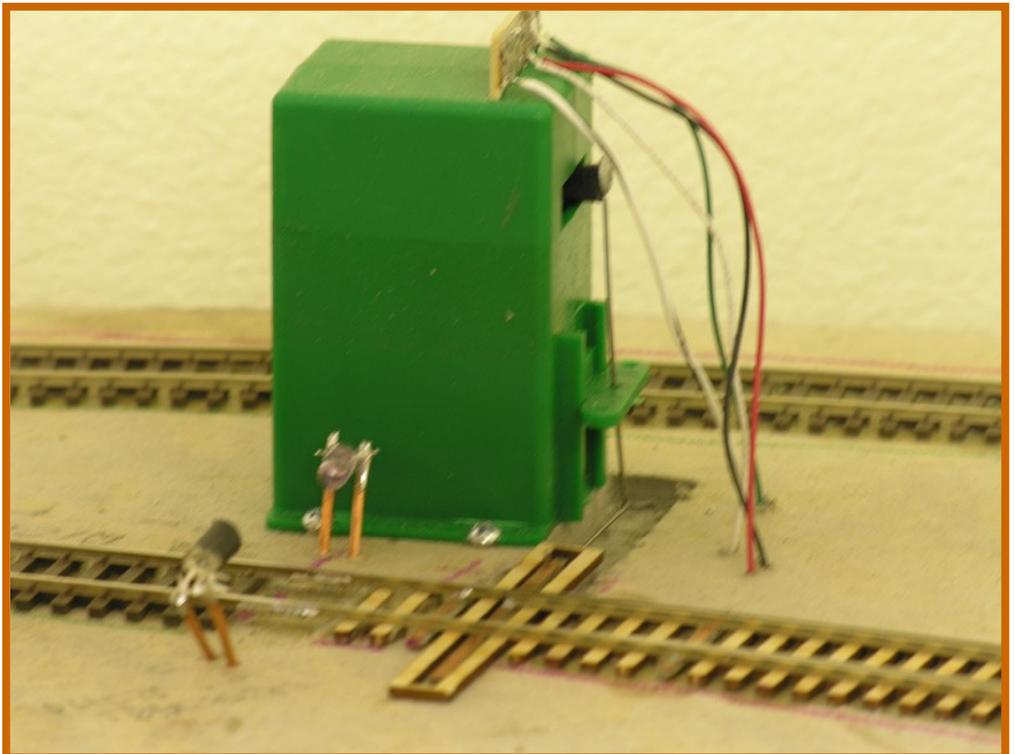
## IDEA EXCHANGE (CONT.)

You may find the spring wire supplied (.026 piano wire) may be too flexible and not have enough strength to throw the switch. The next size (.035) piano wire should be suitable. We have switch machines that throw a switch across one track onto another track where we cannot mount the machine. Picture three illustrates this. We have been putting the throw wire in a tube because the distance causes the wire to bend. Hot glue the tube in place to prevent any movement during actuation.



Picture four shows the tortoise mounted upside down. The throw rod is basically a "L" with returns at both ends to secure into the machine and the switch throw rod. You will have to dig out a little homosote to allow the throw rod to move freely.

We hope that these pictures give you a better idea of some alternative ways of mounting the Circuitron / Tortoise switch machine. If you come up with another idea, please send it in. This forum is for sharing ideas and helping each other with the building of our respective railroads.



## YUMA MODEL RAILROADERS

The Yuma Model Railroaders of Yuma, Arizona at the Yuma County Fair 2011..

by Lee Stoermer

This year marked the fifth annual Yuma Model Railroaders Modular railroad display at the Yuma County Fair. The Fair is held during the last week of March into April each year and is a typical County Fair. Animals, plants, rides and games of chance abound. During these last five years, the YMRR has grown from 12 modules in 2006 to more than 30. It began five years ago with an idea that has become one of the primary attractions during the Yuma County Fair. This year 28 modules were available to be displayed. Themes ranged from across the U.S. included Old Tombstone, an Arizona Mainline Water stop, Alaska, Cannery Row, a Pennsylvania Amish farm and many locales in between.

At this year's display it occupied a space of 28' by 48' set up in a long L shape. There were 22 straight modules, 5 outside corners and one pair of a specially designed inside corner known as 'Perryville'. Our modules follow the basic NMRA design of height and setbacks. Our main difference is the connections between modules for track power use a standard 4 wire automotive trailer wiring plug set. These are inexpensive, easy to find and most importantly, they are rugged. We can run either DC, DCC or both as each loop is independent of the other loop. A single



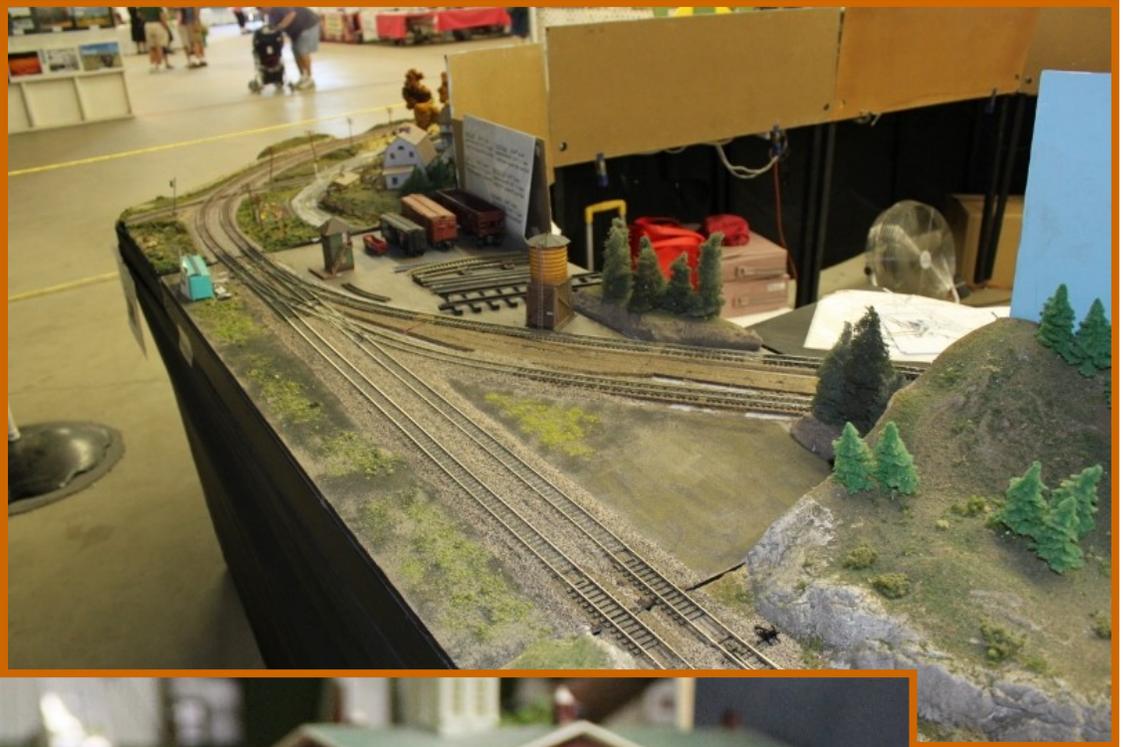
loop around of the dual track mainline ran 126' giving a total of 256 feet of mainline. That totals out to 22,272 HO scale feet or a shade over 4.2 HO scale miles!

The Yuma Fair had an open operating time of 65 hours over the six days and YMRR members contributed nearly 300 hours during the open Fair time. We maintained at least two members on site at all times. However, we usually had at least three. This allowed us to have one member operating the trains while another was available to answer questions. In addition to YMRR module club members being NMRA members, we are also affiliated with the World's Greatest Hobby promotion. The promotional materials provided by them are invaluable; providing us with ready-made professional materials to handout.

YMRR members have as wide a variety of rolling stock as there are personalities. One can at any time find most any type of train running or sitting in the staging yard, from the most modern of locomotives and paint schemes to early steam powered drag freights. Early streamline passenger trains, work trains and even Thomas the Tank Engine (an all time kid's favorite!) make their rounds. In fact, Thomas has logged in so many hours of run time that the original one wore out and had another replacement running in its place. One can usually find Thomas parked on one of the sidings, ready at the moment's notice as the younger kids notice it right away. Kids have been known to run laps several times around the display, keeping pace with Thomas as he makes his rounds.

## YUMA MODEL RAILROADERS (CONT)

. This year the inside hidden 6 track (3 per main) 24' long staging yard modules were totally rebuilt. Funny thing is that they don't really seem to hide that well because the visitors that are watching, always seem to want to peer over and see "what's behind the hill". Also this year the junction modules leading into the staging yard received new turnouts. The original turnouts we had installed on the junction modules, were from a member's previous layouts donated several years ago, and they had begun to show signs of some wear on the frogs. Besides the inherent dangers during transportation that seems to happen during moving them no matter how careful we may be, things get tweaked and need to be adjusted.



## YUMA MODEL RAILROADERS (CONT)

. Members of the Yuma Model Railroaders with modules displayed this year included: Alan Barr, Myke Bruessel, Dave Church, Jim Currie, Tim Gilliland, Herb Harries, Ed Heikila, Courtney Norton, Bill Otterstien, Stan Ramey, Gary Southworth, Lee Stoermer, and Jeff Tellechea. Additional members of the YMRR that helped out or operated during the Fair display included: John Dye, Wayne Hammer, Cameron McArthur, Jose Ramirez, Robert Sherwood, Jeff Smith and Skip Williams. Wendell and Betty Snyder, and Paul Muthart also offered their help, which was greatly appreciated. As always, I am afraid to post specific lists of members' attendance, as I inevitably miss someone, and since this info is taken from our sign



Back row l-r: Heikila, Southworth, Barr, Gilliland, Currie, Norton, Church, Williams

Front row l-r: Stoermer, Tellechea, Bruessel, Ramey, J Smith

in roster, it may be a little off.

# YUMA MODEL RAILROADERS (CONT)



## YUMA MODEL



The photos here don't really do justice to the great work and significant amount of detail that has gone into these modules. In additional articles we will highlight some of our members' individual modules. As you can see, the Yuma Model Railroaders have been quite busy over the last five years, and if talks are any indication, future plans should show continued progress.

Check out our web site at [www.yumamodelrailroaders.org](http://www.yumamodelrailroaders.org)

**COMING EVENTS**

- June 16-19,2011** Santa Fe Historical & Modeling Society / Tempe, AZ
- July 3-9, 2011** NMRA National Convention, / Sacramento, Ca.
- July 23, 2011** *“IN THE HEAT”* Swap Meet / Phoenix@ North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Ave.( 9 AM to 1PM )
- August 1,2011** *“BEAT THE HEAT”* Swap Meet / Prescott Prescott Activity Center, 800 Gurley Street, Prescott (9AM to 1PM )
- September 21-25, 2011** PSR Regional Convention / Flagstaff, Az.
- October 8-9, 2011** Scottsdale Annual Rail Fair / Scottsdale McCormick– Stillman RR Park (10AM to 5PM)
- November 2011** Az. Div. Fall Meet / Tucson
- March 2012** Az. Div. Spring Meet / Phoenix



## RAILETTES

BY: JANET SPOONER

Hi Ladies,

Well, it is time for another Railette article and I really am not sure what to write about, but I bet I will come up with something. If you were not at the meet in Phoenix in March, we are sorry that you could not join us. We made Spring door wreaths that I brought back to the Lifecare Center where I live and used them as door prizes for the residents in my area. We keep our hallway doors decorated with seasonal decorations for the year. These were perfect for springtime. As there is no meet this summer, I am busy preparing for the PSR Convention in September. It is being held in Flagstaff. What a beautiful city set in some spectacular surroundings. The plans are all ready in motion for a fabulous time for all of you ladies. Kim Fowler, Diane Forbes, Linda Irick and I are busy planning for three days of fun, make an take, discussion, and gossip. Throw in a wonderful luncheon and you can't ask for much more. Hope you stop by the Railette room and say hi, you might even feel like staying to make something, learn something, or laugh. I would like to ask you to bring to the convention all of those hotel soaps, shampoos, and lotion bottles that you pick up on your travels. We are going to take them, a couple of wash clothes, some creativity, and turn them into gifts that will be given to a local homeless shelter. We have done this at past conventions and it is a very successful project and the shelters are delighted to get the items.



I know many of you ladies come to the conventions with your husbands and never set foot in the Railette Room. Give us a chance, stop by Thursday 9 a.m. for our Welcome and see if there is something you would like to do, learn, share, or participate in. There may be something you can teach us how to do. We are always ready to learn new things. Take a chance, you might like it.



Hope to see you in Flagstaff.



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Scales: HO, HOn3, and N

Contact: Larry Gibbs (928) 779-2282

On the web: <http://ucc.nau.edu/~twp/railclub>

**Gilbert****Gilbert Model Railroad Club**

Scales: HO

Contact: Joe Padberg [jpadberg@cox.net](mailto:jpadberg@cox.net)

On the web: [www.gmrctrains.com](http://www.gmrctrains.com)

**Goodyear****PebbleCreek Model Railroad Club**

Scales: HO and G

Contact: Dick Vogler (623) 535-3904

On the web: [www.pcmrc.org](http://www.pcmrc.org)

**Phoenix****Arizona Model Railroading Society**

Scale: N, HO, and G

Contact: Steven David (623) 889-4613 [steves-train@cox.net](mailto:steves-train@cox.net)

On the web: [www.azmodelrr.com](http://www.azmodelrr.com)

**Black Canyon Model Railroad Club**

Scale: HO

Contact: Harold Shelton (602) 242-0751

On the web: <http://www.bcrraz.net/>

**Grand Canyon State Model Railroaders**

Scale: HO modular

Contact: Bob Gibbs (480) 968-1760

On the web: [www.GCSMR.org](http://www.GCSMR.org)

**Ponderosa North**

Scales: Round Robin

Contact: Matt Furze [mattfurze@cox.net](mailto:mattfurze@cox.net)

On the web: [www.arizonarails.com/pncpage](http://www.arizonarails.com/pncpage)

**Thunderbird Model Railroad Club**

Scale: HO

Contact: Larry Platt

On the web: [www.trainweb.org/tbird](http://www.trainweb.org/tbird)

....continued on next page

**ARIZONA CLUBS****Prescott****Central Arizona Model Railroad Club**

Scales: Multiple

*Contact:* Steve Bumgardner (928) 775-3184*On the web:* [www.camrrc.com](http://www.camrrc.com)**Scottsdale****Scottsdale Model Railroad Club**

Scales: HO and HOn3

*Contact:* [SMRC01C@ScottsdaleModelRRClub.org](mailto:SMRC01C@ScottsdaleModelRRClub.org)*On the web:* [www.scottsdalemodelrrclub.org](http://www.scottsdalemodelrrclub.org)**Sun'N'Sand Model Railroad Club**

Scale: N

*Contact:* Mark Vanacore (602) 410-1110*On the web:* [www.sun-n-sand.org](http://www.sun-n-sand.org)**Sun City****Sun City Model Railroad Club**

Scale: HO

*Contact:* Bob Batt (623) 734-6377*On the web:* <http://hometown.aol.com/newriverwestern/NRNW.htm>**Sun City West****Sun City West Model Railroad Club**

Scales: HO and N

*Contact:* Bob Butler (623) 556-5179*On the web:* <http://www.scwclubs.com/> then select Model Railroad**Sun Lakes****Short Line Model Railroad Club**

Scales: Open to all scales

*Contact:* Dave Olson (480) 895-7411**Tucson****Arizona & Southwest Model Railroad Society / Tucson NTRAK**

Scale: N

*Contact:* John Scott (520) 250-2800*On the web:* <http://home.comcast.net/~tucsonntrak>

....continued on next page

## ARIZONA CLUBS

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#### Rincon West Garden Railroad Club

Scale: G

Contact: John Lawrence [johnlaw1931@hotmail.com](mailto:johnlaw1931@hotmail.com)

#### Southern Arizona Society of Model Engineers (SASME)

Scales: HO and HOn3

Contact: Richard Dick (520) 790-5356

On the web: [www.sasme.org](http://www.sasme.org)

### Yuma

#### Yuma Model Railroaders

Scales: Multiple

Contact: Lee Stoermer (928) 344-9417

On the web: [www.yumamodelrailroaders.org](http://www.yumamodelrailroaders.org)

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