

Down the Line

Arizona Model Railroading Society, Inc.



Web Site: www.azmodelrr.com Volume XVIII Number 1 Jan. 2008

President:Larry Hatch



HAPPY NEW YEAR

With a new year upon us, we need to look back at everything thing that went on at the club in the past year. If we do this we can make our club and all the events better in the future.

We had a great many good things happen and some real challenges over the past year. If we pull together in 2008 we could make this one of our best years. All of the events in 2007 went very well, but we all know we can make improvements on these in the coming year. One way is for everyone to participate fully in each of the events. In the past just a few people have been doing the bulk of the work on these events. If we were to lose any of these people we really don't have anyone to take their place. If more people become involved and learn how to put on these event it would secure that our events in the future would not be jeopardized and it would lighten the load on the people that are doing the work now.

Another thing we can do is to pay closer attention to the rules of the club that we all have agreed on and set down in the past. By doing this we will have more pride in the Club, its property and for our fellow members. It takes team work to keep a club together and I know with the people we have in the club we can do it.

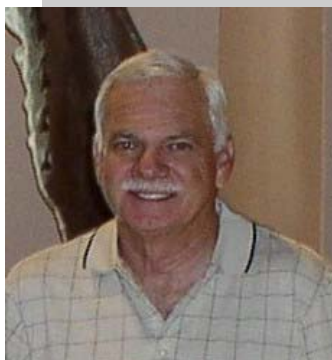
New membership is another place we could do a lot better at. We need to respect our current members and need to instill in the public how much fun and the great people are in the club. There is a wealth of knowledge, fun and skill that can be had by joining the club an participating.

Remember this is a social club formed for the enjoyment of model railroaders. Were here to build models, run trains, hold events and be with good people that have the same interests as we do.

My hope for 2008 is that we have a good time and that we have very few problems during the year.

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT 2007

Editor:Jerry Oyler



Are you kidding me, it's 2008 already. What happen to the time. The last thing I remember was wishing this place would cool down, now that the weather has cooled down the year is over. I wish I could say I finished every project I started, or half of them anyway. The truth is I only knocked a dent in some of them. Just about the time I finished one project, two more would pop up in it's place. I want to thank the members who found the time to stop by the Museum and give me a hand every once in a while.

I also would like to thank and commend Marshall Wales for stepping up to the plate at the last minute and taking over as superintendent of the H.O. Division and Sid Suydam for the G scale division. This is a thankless job that gets very little respect and no time to play. Past Superintendents Gene Frank and Alan Metzger did an outstanding job and both are

responsible for many of the improvements made to the H.O. and G scale division. The Superintendents job can be like herding cats. Each person with a mind of their own going different direction, it's the Superintendent who gets everyone going the same direction marching to the same beat. Some days it's easy, most days it's hard and sometimes a strain on friendships. We would not be where we are today if it were not for our Superintendents leading the divisions. I'm thankful we have them.

Down the Line

N ScaleBob Ginger Sup.



It's two days after Christmas and Gail and I are in Vermont watching white stuff pile up outside. Locals call it snow and then ask us "Why are you in Vermont in the winter?"

It is beautiful here but driving was a sweaty white knuckle experience this afternoon. On a tour of the Hildene estate we learned that Robert Todd Lincoln (Abe's son) was president and CEO of the Pullman Car Company for many years. He led the company's climb from \$350,000 in yearly sales to over \$10 million. Today new railroad knowledge; tomorrow a ride in a one horse open sleigh.

The N scale division continues work on projects we hope to complete for the March show. Dramatic rock facings are rising along the narrow gauge line. In a few days the southwest corner of the layout will also be "rocked" joining the existing lower rock face with the fascia board. Once colored, the challenge will be to install the Digitrax DCC jacks into the rock.

Almost everyone has seen the colored track plans that Dick Oberholz has been drawing as we plan phase three of the layout. Please feel free to comment and offer suggestions to help work towards a final design. Once finalized, the track laying will begin on the current empty benchwork. In the meantime, the existing benchwork will be modified and strengthened in preparation for the start of the project. Steve David has made tremendous progress on mainline ballasting. Now we have to finish the rock in order to clear the plastic so he can move onto phase two trackage.

With only three or four major projects underway at a given time our goal is to show significant changes with each public event. 2008 is shaping up to be a year of big possibilities as the park grows in awareness and popularity. Bob Christ and I measured the area around the clubhouse and those measurements have been put into the CAD system for planning purposes. It is important for everyone to offer constructive input on the direction and focus of our club. It is also exciting to see discussion of mutual events between AMRS and MLS which I believe will have strong benefits for both organizations. Let's have a most Happy and Exciting New Year!

G Scale Bob Rys Supt.



As the new year comes in, take a few moments to reflect back as to what has been accomplished. The big event has to be the pond being completed. That has been the best add on to the layout, drawing much praise from the visitors. A new layout sprung up from the

ground. This one will be used by those that don't want to convert their equipment over to batteries. Deciding that the track needed to have some improvements for reliable running, implemented a multi step upgrade where the track base has been installed to provide a stable surface for the track to lay upon. Depending on the location either concrete, blocks or foam is being placed under the track. The track is being installed with expansion sections to take up the movement of the rail as it grows in the heat of the summer. In the sections that have been done, the trains are running smoother without derailments.

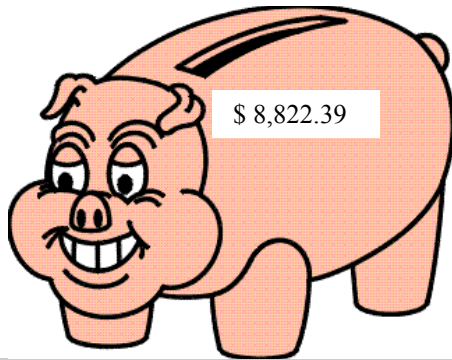
As I am going over my thoughts, remembering that the BIG EVENT is only a few months away, hoping that all the work that needs to be done will be. The observation platform to be completed, More ballast spread out for the track and walkways. Some additional drainage pipes to remove the water that was contained in the pathway. Scenic touchups, model buildings worked over, sidings to be added ect.

Currently the yard is being installed with donated 332 aluminum rail. Will be a great place to hold and stage trains. The helix will be next. The 250 brass handling track will be removed and replaced with 332 brass and aluminum rail. It looked good and ran well but the effects of the weather has taken its toll on the installed track. It is slow speed only navigating the spiral. Expansion on the East end will be fitted in between all of this other work. There are plans for several sidings over there. There is sufficient material for the expansion, just a matter of manpower to get all the roadbed ready for the track to be laid and joined in. An order for more turnouts needed will be keeping yours truly busy.

Good to see members coming out to run their equipment. Remember Sundays are run days for the public. WE all need to try to come out and operate the trains for the public while M.L.S is offering free train rides, noon to 5 pm. Enjoy the weather while it is still cool out, before Mother Nature turns up the heat. Nothing beats finding faults as much as trying to run in front of people. It seems to draw out the faults in stuff. A constant vigil is needed to keep ahead of them.

Come on out. Dust off that piece of equipment in the corner, charge up the batteries and lets run some trains. .

Down the Line



AMRS News

New Member:

Stephanie Marks	Family Membership	HO
Donnie Marks	SON	HO
Jerry Moore	FATHER	N

Eric Pautsch	Family Membership	HO
Logan Pautsch	SON	HO

James Ashcraft	Regular Membership	HO
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Remember once again AMRS will be hosting Arizona for Kids for a day at the Park. This is Maricopa County's abused, abandoned and neglected children who need foster care. Once again will enjoy a day of railroading and lunch.

Things to think about

1. Avoid cutting yourself slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold while you chop.
2. A mouse trap, placed on top of your alarm clock, will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.
3. You only need two tools in life—WD-40 and Duck Tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.
4. Remember: Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.
5. Some people are like Slinkies, not really good for anything but they bring a smile to your face when pushed down the stairs.
6. Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
7. Birthdays are good for you, the more you have, the longer you live.

Officers & Committees

President **Larry Hatch**
 (602) 493-0461 Lhah@aol.com

Vice President.....**Jerry Kneisel**
 Jer.kn@juno.com

Secretary.....**Steven David**
 (623)362-2138 Steves-train@cox.net

Treasurer.....**Anita Hatch**
 (602) 493-0461 Lhah@aol.com

Editor **Jerry Oyler**
 (623) 815-1939.....Jerryoy147@msn.com

Web Master **Terry Taylor**
 (623) 556-2016 ttaylorcon@msn.com

Video Librarian **Larry Kemling**
 (623) 561-6857 Jlkemling@cox.net

Librarian..... **Gordon Clark**
 (480) 773-7412 rf101c@cox.net

Project Coordinator **Jerry Kneisel**
 (602) 278-9557 Jer.kn@juno.com

Soda Fund **Paul Gamble**
 (623) 487-7306 Pgamble40@msn.com

G Scale Superintendent **Bob Rys**
 (602) 589-7616 fixitbobbe@cox.net

HO Scale Superintendent**Marshall Wales**
 (623) 537-0356 fen7777@cox.net

N Scale Superintendent. **Bob Ginger**
 (602) 843-2307..... bginger@qmail.com

Down the Line

H.O. Supt..... Marshall Wales



Here it is the day before Christmas and I'm wondering if my SP 2-10-2 I ordered will appear under the tree on Christmas day. In the meantime, I have the January, 2008 newsletter to write. So, I thought I would share with you what the club has learned and the improvements to the HO environment made during 2007. This only covers the period from May to December which is as long as I have been a member.

We had three public events; Scouts in September, October swap meet, and Starlight Christmas. The Scouts event was particularly interesting because we learned that we needed crowd control. So the Public Rules of Operation was written and mostly approved. We have yet to actually put them into affect.

We learned about car cards and had some operating sessions using the car cards. I believe that most of us enjoyed these operating sessions. I know I did.

During the public events, the HO layout suffered from momentary shutdowns of the DCC system. The initial assessment of the problem led to the rewiring of the 110V AC under the layout and to bring it into electrical code compliance. Even though these changes were made, the layout continued to experience momentary shutdowns. Purely by accident, it was discovered that if the loconet is shorted when plugging in a throttle, the entire DCC system shuts down. When the short is removed, the DCC system comes back to life. Just before Christmas, the loconet was redesigned creating a "public" loconet and a "protected" loconet. Problems on the public loconet will not affect the protected loconet. Eventually the public loconet will be broken into two segments which are isolated from each other.

The track under that layout leading to the staging yard now has protective guard sides. Hopefully this will keep any "out-of-control" train going to and from the staging yard train from falling on the floor. The staging yard is now functional and operational. Please feel free to use it.

The scenery is growing leaps and bounds thanks to John Meyers and all of those who help him from time to time. One of his greatest achievements is the area under the Irene bridge. He continues to work his way around toward the Tucson area. Ben has been ballasting the Phoenix mainline and yard giving it a touch of realism with ash dumps in the tracks...looks great. He has also built and weathered the coaling tower located near the Tucson roundhouse. Ben's attention to detail is unsurpassed.

Sadly, we witnessed the resignation of both the HO superintendents. In part, both resigned because of people not respecting the rules and not respecting the layout. I want to point out that as more and more scenery take shape one has to keep in mind that the scenery is not as hard as rock. Much of it does not have wood supporting it. Think before you put your hands on the scenery. Also, scenery items such as buildings, people, cars, trucks, etc. are not to be moved or played with without the permission of the scenery lead. The edge of the layout is not a place to rest your arms and elbows. Clean up after yourself; don't expect someone else to do it for you. And lastly, we are not a baby sitting service. So don't drop off your children expecting someone else to look after them.

Down the Line

Winslow Railroad Days

From: John Scott

There will be a deadline of March 15 2008 for clubs to participate in the layout . Obviously we want as many different modules and clubs to be a part of our Display. However it would be nice to have a 100 percent commitment from clubs within a month of the show. The list of building available are at our web site (look under events on your web site) for the link. The dead line is to make space for each layout. Members who are a part of the displays have the opportunity to stay at **The Lodge Hotel (928-289-4611)**. This hotel is giving us a discounted rate and the rooms have been re-done. Please contact **John Scott (bnsfry@yahoo.com)** for the reservation code. ASAP

If you, your organization or train club would like to set up a display in anyone of these available spaces please contact **John Scott (bnsfry@yahoo.com)**

More From Starlight Christmas

The Starlight Christmas event was held on December 6th. From 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Our visitors started arriving at 5:30 and about 15% of the attendees stayed most of the evening. Approximately 200 kids, Mom's, Dad's and Grandparents Attended the event.

Announcements were sent out to Valley papers about 90 days ahead of time. The original 2006 flyer was modified and reused. Dave Kampf walked the neighborhood and handed out flyers. AMRS posted it on the web site 30 days prior to the event. Gail Ginger took flyers to Affair with Trains, Hobby Bench and Freight Yard Hobby shops for posting.

425 Cookies served, Marshall's wife and one of the other wives baked a large cake and large batch of Brownies. All of the cake and brownies were consumed. Over a hundred cups of hot chocolate

The Freight yard brought their Thomas the Tank layout and set it up near the end of the N scale wharf area. MLS brought 12—15 bears to sell, Sahuaro Central set up a Modular "G" scale layout under the canopy just east of the center for kids to operate a Thomas the Tank engine.

Lights, Christmas Music, Decorations, Cookies, Cakes, Hot Chocolate, and Santa. What more could we ask for. Everyone had a good time, most of all our visitors. Who I'm sure will be back next year.







AMRS Objectives

Membership in the Arizona Model Railroad Society is open to anyone with an interest in Model Railroading, creation of layouts, construction and operation. At our meetings, items of mutual interest associated with the hobby are discussed.

Our members represent a wide variety of interests ranging from "N" scale to Garden railroading. Meetings are typically held the second Saturday of the Month at Adobe Mountain Park, 23280 N. 43rd. Av. Glendale Arizona. AMRS welcomes and encourages individual and family participation.



Coming Attractions

- Dec. 29, Sat. **AMRS/AGRS Board Meeting**
9:am. 22822 N. 43rd. Ave. Phoenix
Adobe Mountain Park. Museum
- Jan. 12, Sat. **AMRS/AGRS Monthly Meeting**
9:am. 22822 N. 43rd. Ave. Phoenix
Adobe Mountain Park. AMRS Club House
- Jan. 16/20 **MLS Running Meet**
- Jan. 26, Sat. **AMRS/AGRS Board Meeting**
9:am. 22822 N. 43rd. Ave. Phoenix
Adobe Mountain Park. Museum
- Jan. 26, Sat **Arizonans for Children, Inc.**
22822 N. 43rd. Ave. Phoenix
Adobe Mountain Park, AMRS Club House
- Feb. 9, Sat. **AMRS/AGRS Monthly Meeting**
9:am. 22822 N. 43rd. Ave. Phoenix
Adobe Mountain Park. AMRS Club House
- Feb. 23, Sat. **AMRS/AGRS Board Meeting**
9:am. 22822 N. 43rd. Ave. Phoenix
Adobe Mountain Park. Museum



Arizona Model
Railroading Society, Inc.
Jerry W. Oyler, Editor
9186 W. Grovers Ave.
Peoria, Arizona 85382

Coming soon 2008

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| Sahuaro Central Swap meet | Mar. 15th. |
| MLS Steam Up | Mar. 13th. / 16th. |
| Annual Winslow Railroad Days. | Apr. 21st. / 27th. |
| G Scale Convention Bar-B-Q. | May 2nd. |