

Down the Line

Arizona Model Railroading Society, Inc.



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President:Larry Hatch



As always things are staying busy at the park. Two big event's are coming up fast and there are always the unforeseen events that seem to keep us busy every week.

Well we had a great day with the Arizonans for Kids picnic a week or so ago. There were over 250 kids and adults that attended this year. They were a very well behaved group of young people as in the past and seemed to have a great time. Kay McCarthy the coordinator of the group was very happy about how everything went that day and is looking forward to coming back next year. I hope everyone in the club feels the same way as I do about having the kids at the park. It makes me feel good that we can put a little fun and happiness in the lives of these kids that are going thru a rough time in their lives. I would like to especially Thank the train crews from MLS for running their trains for the kid during their time at the park. It has to be a lot of work to get together the train crews and schedules on a Saturday afternoon. I'm looking forward to next year.

Well like I said we have two big events coming up in the next 60 to 90 days. The first is the Sahuaro Central Swap Meet on March 15th. This will be held in conjunction with the MLS Steam Up this time and looks to be an even bigger event than last years. The word is the Antique Tractor Club will also be having a display during the meet. Sahuaro Central has OK'd the purchasing of 10 new tables for to be used at the Swap Meet and other functions in the Park. As you all know we need all the help we can get to pull off another great meet. So please contribute your man power and any ideas you may have to help us.

The second event is the National Garden Railway Convention BBQ. This event will be on of the biggest events we have ever put on. There will be people from all over the country and overseas coming out to the club to enjoy a day at the Railroad Park. The National Vendors and National Press (Magazines) will also be there. This national coverage will be great for the promotion of the whole park in the years to come. All the Clubs in the park will come together to make this a great event. So let's do everything we can do to make the Park a show place for our visitors to enjoy.

Also the board has approved the purchasing of new trees for the south side of the building. We should have these trees in the next couple of weeks and will need your help in getting them planted properly.

I know we have had some rough time over the past few months, but its time to forget about the past and continue to do what we joined the club to do. And that's to have fun and enjoy the hobby with all the members of the club.

Keep on running those trains and having fun.

Down the Line

Editor:Jerry Oyler

G Scale Sid Suydam Supt.



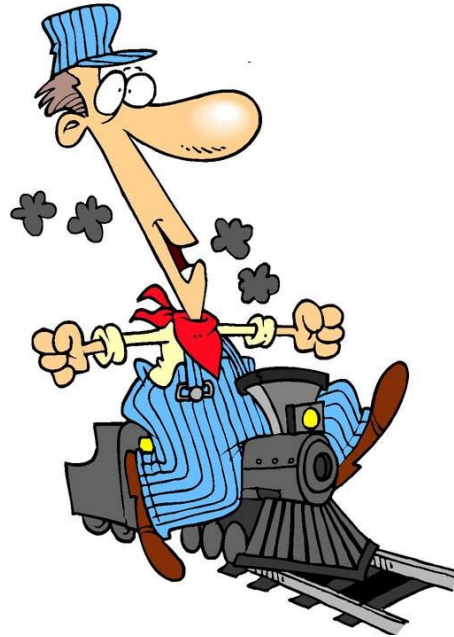
Ok, Now that the year is under way and in full swing, it's time to get down to business. If your not involved in the swap meet, or in line to run trains during the weekend for our visitors, then your missing out on half the

fun of being a member of AMRS. This year is shaping up to be a very busy year. Aside from all the stuff we do during the year, 2008 will be hosting the Bar-B-Q for the Garden Railway Convention. I can tell you from first hand experience if you have not been to a Garden Railway Convention it's well worth your time and money to go. Not only is it about Model railroading in the larger scale but about meeting new friends and learning how to merge your railroad into the outdoors and the outside environment.

Not only will you get to enjoy a number of open homes during the convention but the best part is your given the opportunity to learn the electronics of the hobby, Modeling using real stone or Jig-Stones, how to use dwarf and miniature plants to make memorable and realistic scenes on your garden railway, Introduction to Garden railway live steam locomotive operation and much, much more than I can list on the limited space I have.

Now the best part of all of this is, AMRS member can be a part of this experience. Ok, so your not into G scale but no matter what scale your in taking the time to go to the convention in our town is an opportunity you don't want to pass up. I guarantee you will walk away with a number of ideal you can use in any scale.

If this sounds like a sales pitch, it is.. I'm not making a penny for this but I know how serious many of you are about model railroading and the enjoyment we all get from building different scenes around the different layouts. So if you don't take part in the Bar-B-Q or go to the Convention then all I can say your missing out.



This is Sid's newsletter this month bringing you all up to date on the many improvements and happenings the last few months on the Garden RR Layout.

The g-scale members are moving forward, preparing for the swap meet and the G-Scale convention. Priorities have been established and work crews formed. !. buildings are being re-furbished, track maintenance is on going, and scenery is being finished or constructed. Members are getting their equipment in shape to run at both of these events. Operating rules have been drafted and ratified by the members and an operating board with tags is being constructed. There will also be visitor tags required in the future for member guests to operate trains. Signs are being re-furbished and new ballast is being installed as needed. A storage for operators is being built to to store equipment when members are operating their trains. A 4 track yard has been installed and additional sidings are being planned.

A new "Name the town contest" is on for all the members of MLS and AZ RR Org. The prize will be 2 lots given to the winning member either in Dusty flats, the new town, or Adobe City. The new town is being built now on the SE corner of the present layout. Submit your selection to Bob Ry's, Norm Jenson, or myself. The deadline is Mar. 15th, the day of the swap meet Good Luck! Remember we are here to have fun and operate trains.

Down the Line

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



Following the January board meeting, AMRS hosted about 250 children from Arizonans for Children Inc. There were 3 to 5 trains running on the HO layout. The children for the most part found the trains exciting. Some commented on the scenery, especially in Maricopa with all the cows, camels and small people as they put it. Many children counted the number of cars as the train passed by them saying “that’s a long train.” I believe they all had a good time.

Now that a new year has started, I would like to manage this layout by projects. Some projects are large, some are medium to small. Over the next month, the projects will be identified with proposed target dates for completion. The target dates will probably line up with a public event such as our swap meets. I think it’s important to show those who come back to our public events, that the layout looks different from the last time they were here. Some of the more obvious projects are scenery, Ray Mine, Hayden smelter, Tucson roundhouse, Phoenix/Mobest turntable/engine facility, Tucson/PFE diesel facility, and the DCC problems.

In December the DCC loconet was redesigned creating a “protected” and “public” loconet using loconet repeaters. During February, the public loconet will be divided into two sections that will be isolated from each other. During the show for the children, the layout did not exhibit the total DCC “black out” that was experienced at previous public events last year. The layout did experience some momentary train stoppage thought to be caused by some engines running at the time.

We also experienced loss of throttle control at times. This required plugging the throttle into a loconet jack to regain control. After the show, the command station slot table was found to have a very large number of entries. It is thought that even though most of the engines in the slot table are not on the layout, the command station must send commands to all the engines in the slot table. When you are finished running your train and you take your engine off the layout, remember to “dispatch” your engine using the throttle. From now on, the slot table will be cleared before every public event.

Thanks to Bruce Shanks and Alan Metzger, we now have an engine programming/testing station located by the PC. You can program and test your engine on the same piece of track. You no longer need to test your engine on the layout after making changes to your decoder(s). You can also test your DC engine at this station as well. If you need help understanding the new programming/testing station, ask Bruce, Alan or myself for help.

March 15th is the AMRS swap meet now called the Adobe Mountain Model Railroading Adventures & “Everything Railroad” Swap Meet. MLS will be providing free train rides. As usual we will have our HO table. All the tack and turnouts that we have under the layout has been sorted into keep for use, sell at the swap meet, and scrap. We have many structures stored under the layout and I would like to go through them as well. I’m sure we can find some that we can sell at the swap meet in order to make money for the HO division.

Down the Line

N ScaleBob Ginger Sup.



It is just over a month before the March 2008 Model Railroading Adventure show. That means lots to do beforehand. Our pre-show project list includes benchwork, more scenery and new trackwork. The new benchwork and modifications to the old benchwork is almost complete. For those of a betting nature, the big question is whether we will have more track laid in time for the show. Dick has presented a number of track plans which are still being discussed. Alan Metzger has volunteered to assist in the design process. I am confident that his operations knowledge will go a long way in helping develop the final plan.

The scenery crew is busy building the framework for mountains, gorges and waterfalls at the southwest corner of the layout. The shapes coming together create a dramatic transition from high desert to forested mountain landscape. Several tunnels through the region are finally seeing portals constructed to finish them off. Ernie and Reggie have found that they are good at scenery and have jumped in to color mountains and build the plaster superstructure.

I'll keep the column short this month so that there is more room for recent photos of everyone working on the layout. Come on by and have fun building with us!



More of the “N” Scale Division Moving forward



Arizonans for Children, Inc.





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

- Jan. 26, Sat. **AMRS/AGRS Board Meeting**
9:am. 22822 N. 43rd. Ave. Phoenix
Adobe Mountain Park. Museum
- 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
- Mar. 08, Sat. **AMRS/AGRS Monthly Meeting**
9:am. 22822 N. 43rd. Ave. Phoenix
Adobe Mountain Park. AMRS Club House
- Mar. 13 - 16 **MLS Steam up.**
22822 N. 43 rd. Ave. Phoenix
Adobe Mountain Park, Ford Building
- Mar. 15, Sat **Sahuaro Central Swap Meet**
9: am - 3:pm 22822 N. 43rd. Ave. Phoenix
Adobe Mountain Park
- Mar. 29, Sat. **AMRS/AGRS Board Meeting**
9:am. 22822 N. 43rd. Ave. Phoenix
Adobe Mountain Park. Museum



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Coming soon 2008

Annual Winslow Railroad Days. Apr. 21st. / 27th.
G Scale Convention Bar-B-Q. May 2nd.