

Down the Line

Arizona Model Railroading Society, Inc.



Web Site: www.azmodelrr.com Volume XVIII Number 3 Mar. 2008

President:Larry Hatch



Many things are happening at the Club these days. Some are good and others not so good. As the Club grows so do the problems that we have to face. In the last couple of weeks we found that our Club House had been entered again by someone. We lost some money and personal property of our members to this person. This was after we changed the locks and thought we had secured the building. Some how the building was left unlocked and opened for the thief to come in. As a consequence of this we now have a video security system in the building, but this only will tell us after the fact what is going on in the building. We need the help of every member to make sure that the doors are always locked when you are the last one out. We are looking into other solutions to the problem, but if everyone would just do their part we would not have the problem.

On a good note, you may have seen that we now have four new trees on the south side of the building. I want to thank everyone that helped dig the holes and plant the trees. A special thanks to Gail Ginger for all her hard work in picking up the mulch and helping with the digging of the holes.

The next couple of months are going to be very busy at the park. On March 2nd we will be setting up for the Sa-hauro Central Swap Meet and then holding the meet on the 15th. Then on May 1st we will setup for the Convention BBQ and hold it on May 2nd with around 600 people attending. These are both very big events for both the Club and the Railroad Park. There will be people and press from all over the US and the world coming to see what we have created at the Park.

The Board of Directors has decided to move the Annual Membership Meeting to June 15th 2008 due to all the event going on at this time. We will be taking nominations for one position in each of the Divisions for Directors to be vote upon at the Meeting. You can present the nominations to Larry Hatch up until the week prior to the Meeting.



Down the Line

Editor:Jerry Oyler

G Scale Bob Rys Supt.



In the mist of all that is going on around the park. I'm sorry to say we lost one of our long time members, and a friend. Jerry Kneisel,

Jerry was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in May of

1929. He met his wife Nancy, an Iowa gal, at college in Illinois. They became parents to five children, Greg, Todd, Ross, Julie and Andy. Jerry was employed by the Goodyear Tire and rubber Company in Akron, Ohio and transferred to Goodyear Aerospace Division, in Goodyear, Arizona where he retired around 1989.

Jerry was one of those guy's who you expected to always be around. When I called Ellie Barbieri to give him the news, he said "I was just thinking about him and was going to call and ask him a question." Ellie said "he did a whole lot for the club over the years". Jerry's current position was Vice President, and Project Coordinator. In the past Jerry served many other positions. Membership coordinator, Division Superintendent, and the list goes on.

In this issue you will find an article about Jerry written by: Jerry Kelley another friend of Jerry's. As members we see each other in different lights Sometimes were a student, sometimes a teacher, sometimes a mentor but always a FRIEND.

Jerry Kelley tells his story as only a friend can about another. Coming from the pen of Jerry Kelley take a minute and read it.

On another note I would like to inform the membership I have informed the President Larry Hatch, I will no longer be the editor of this New Letter. I'm moving my focus to the Museum and plan to spend more time up grading the museum. It's been a fun 8 years and I thank all the members who supported me over the years.



Here we are at that time of the year again, swap meet. If the weather holds as how its been lately, It should be a beautiful day for the event. Hopefully all of the preparations will have been done and are ready to go out and

enjoy the day. Time has run out.

If anybody noticed that the last couple of weeks have been mainly directed towards clean up. A few projects have been worked upon, but the attention is now on beautification of the area. The main event is just around the corner. Only have about a month of weekends free left to use to finish that project. There is still a lot of small touches left to spruce up the appearance of the park. The eye has to be on the lookout for that eyesore that is lurking in the background.

As stated elsewhere, the annual meeting has been moved to June. This will be the time for election of superintendents. Also will be needing other people to fill the vacancies of President, Vice President, Newsletter editor.

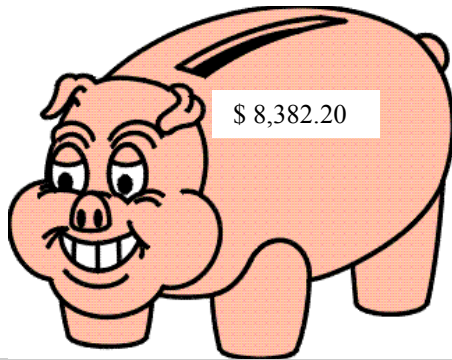
Time to get going. So many things to do and not enough time to do them in. It always seems that way. Need a better time management system. O well just have to do the best with what is dealt out and not worry about it. That just wastes time doing that. Just get in there and do the best that can be done and not fret at all over it.

Lets go have some fun and run the trains and not worry over what might or could have been. It's either done or not, so don't let it get to you.

All Aboard



Down the Line



AMRS News

Web page: New Web Master Marshall Wales is working on updating site-site is out of space-have a lot of backup files-format will be changing. If you have any suggestions feel free to contact Marshall.

Adobe Mountain Report: Arizonans for Kids were out-over 250 people-they were happy with it as was MLS, swap meet 3/15-with MLS steamup and static tractor display-set up is 3/14-we have 10 new plastic tables from Sahuaro Central-42 tables sold-all printing is at printers

Things to think about

1. Military intelligence is a contradiction in terms.
2. Your brain uses less power than a 100 watt light bulb.
3. You can't keep your eyes open when you sneeze.
4. Every time you blink, you wash irritating contaminants out of your eyes.
5. Sharks lived more than 400 million years ago 200 million years before dinosaurs existed.
6. Unlike other fish, sharks lack air bladders and consequently have to keep moving to avoid sinking and drowning.
7. Beauty parlor: Place where women curl up and dye.
8. Committee: A body that keeps minutes and wastes time.
9. Secret: Something you tell to one person at a time.

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Down the Line

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



Well here it March already. Where has the time gone? It is hard to think what to write about since we had a theft at the club house during the last week of February. Personal property, an engine of a member, was stolen as well as club money from a donation can. Attempts were made to gain access to other member's personal storage cabinets without success as well as one HO storage cabinet. It is unknown how the perpetrator gained access since the doors show no sign of forced entry. We need to be more cognizant about the security of the building. If you are the leaving the building to go home, you shouldn't assume that the remaining person or persons have keys to lock the building. Not all members have keys. Also if you are the last person to leave, take extra time to make sure all the doors are locked and latched

properly. Security is "everyone's" responsibility and should not be taken lightly. After all, it could have been your personal property that was stolen.

With the swap meet coming up in a week (March 15th), we took time to sort through the track and structures that have been "hiding" under the layout. The track was sorted into piles to keep or get rid of. The structures were sorted into keep or sell at the swap meet. We also received a donation from a family in Chandler, much of which will be offered for sale at the swap meet.

Scenery continues to "grow" especially on the south end of the layout and in Casa Grande. Bill Gall is making progress with scenery detail in Mobest. Stop by and see the lumber mill/yard taking shape. Jack Walsh is bringing the "town" by the orange grove to life with scenery detail. Eric Kaehr is doing a great job of ballasting the main lines as well as the yards. He has also added detail to the yard in PFE. Take a look at what some of our members have been doing. Their work is starting to bring the layout to "life."

A big effort is underway with the mine/smelter. The underlying structure has been built and placed on the layout to get the track from Magma Wye to the smelter. It will also serve as the base to build a mountain with the smelter access track meandering on the mountain and/or through it to the smelter. Track is being laid in the mine or "tub" as some have called it. Maybe it looks like a tub when yours truly is sitting inside it trying to glue track to the foam.

In addition, new fascia has been installed around the smelter end of the layout. It will have "port" holes so you can see inside and probably put your hand in just in case you lose part of you train in the "tunnel". The inside of the "tunnel" will be lighted with rope light and there will be a backdrop scene. Likewise the fascia on the mine end of the layout will also have access/viewing holes and will be lighted with rope light.

I want to thank all those who are working so diligently on the layout to bring it to life.



Down the Line

N ScaleBob Ginger Sup.



Well Spring is in the air... and what better way to celebrate? Planting trees of course! Thanks to all who helped with the tree planting project, especially to my wife Gail who spent our date night last week digging holes. I do have to admit that 'N' scale holes are sure a lot easier to dig than the prototype but the workout is great!

The N scale track plan changes are just about finished and the benchwork is ready for tracklaying. As soon as the Homasote arrives we will begin to lay the track. While we are a small group, the N scale division is moving ahead with a host of projects. The mountains and mesas are rapidly growing and taking on color. Some of the portals are installed giving the tunnels a completed appearance. The town at the east end of the layout has been improved and has more color as well.

We are honored to have members from the other divisions stopping by to check out what we are doing and even running their own N scale equipment on the layout. Feel free to visit more often and stay awhile. It's exciting to see and hear some of the new sound equipped N scale locomotives that folks are running on the layout. We are giving those HO guys a run for their money on our own smooth running, noisy trains.

I am still looking for help the weekend of March 8th and 9th to staff the AMRS exhibit at the Great Train Expo at Westworld in Scottsdale. I have a couple people for Saturday but no one yet for Sunday. We hope to introduce expo attendees to the club, our activities and layouts. If you can, please stop by the Expo for a couple hours to help.



A Tale of Two Jerrys

My first visit to the AMRS club was toward the end of 1999. It was December and as was my custom, I was using up what was left of my annual vacation time. I had had a foot surgery recently, so I was kind of gimpy and unable to work on the “honey do” list at home, so I decided to come out to the train park to see what was happening. I knew that there was a model railroad club in the area as I had seen their display layout set up at different swap meets and shows. I didn’t know anyone in the club, but the people I met there that day were friendly and allowed me to pretty much look around, browse thru the magazine library, and watch those that were trying to run trains. That was probably the time that I first met Jerry Kniesel. He was kind of a crusty sort of guy wearing an old engineer’s hat loaded with pins and buttons. Sometimes, he wheezed as he talked and he smoked more than a steam locomotive.

After that, I thought about joining the club, but I decided I had too many things going on. I think I made annual visits to the club around December to see what was up. I would hang around the old HO layout in the steel shed and watch the fellows run trains. It was on one of those visits that I ran into Jerry again. He asked me what my name was. I said, “Jerry.”

He chuckled. “My name is Jerry too!”

“I think there are bunch of Jerry’s around here”, I said. “What’s your last name?”

“Ka Nee Sell,” he sounded it out. “It’s easy to remember, because it rhymes with diesel.”

Well, he was right. I never forgot the name.

It must have been December 2001 that I started to come around the club more. Things were starting to happen. I heard that there was enough money in the treasury to build a clubhouse to house some new layouts. The last of my kids had gone off to college at long last so I had more time. My son had finished school and was out living on his own, so I found that I actually had some money! I wasn’t kind of torn between the model railroad club and the airplane club down the road. It was a tough decision.

I was out to the club watching trains run on the HO layout one day when some kind of electrical problem developed. As I recall, Jerry asked if I knew anything about wiring. I poked around a little and was able to find a loose wire on the back of the control panel that fixed the problem. He was impressed. I didn’t tell him that I was an electrical engineer!

I’d been coming out to the club a number of weeks, doing this and that, helping to get the HO layout running better, when Jerry finally put the question to me.

“Well? Are you gonna join us?” asked Jerry.

“What?”

“Are you gonna join us?”

“Mmmm. Guess I should.”

“Yep! If you give us a check, we’ll give you keys to the place. We’ll let you work all you want!”

I was hooked – thanks to that Kniesel guy! He as a master at low pressure sales – just my kind of guy!!

Jerry liked to tell stories. He especially liked to tell the horror story about how AMRS had by the HO layout we were working on. It had been donated to the club by someone living in California and Jerry had gone out there with some other guys to move it back to Arizona. "I just took the saw and cut it right down the middle," he said. "It was the only way to get it in the trailer! Bench, wires, track, the works!! We just cut it in two!!" I looked at the wiring under the layout. There was no doubt in my mind that Jerry was telling the truth!

Even though enough money had been raised to build the new clubhouse, there was still no building permit from the county. Seemed like every monthly meeting, Jerry would get up and talk about what has happening with the permit. Then finally one day, he said "Well, the county can't find the paperwork for our permit!" I guess that was one thing that I really liked about Jerry. He never gave up. Somehow, he bugged the right people until it happened. We finally got our permit.

I remember the day of the ground breaking for the new clubhouse. It was a really big day for Jerry. He was right in the middle of it, as usual. There were the usual shovels turning some dirt, and food of course – lunch for everybody. And after that, Jerry told the whole story about the history behind the clubhouse project – raising the money, getting plans drawn up, getting the building permit. It took a while, but it was a story that needed telling. You could tell that he was excited to have arrived at such a significant milestone for the club.

The day came that a guy was to come out with a tractor and dig the trench for the foundation. He didn't show up the first week. He didn't show up the next either.

"What are you going to do, Jerry?" I asked.

"We'll just dig it by hand," he said.

"You're kidding, right?"

No, he wasn't. Next thing I knew, the stem wall was going in.

Jerry was always out on Saturdays to see that the work on the clubhouse moved ahead. He really liked trains and you could tell that this clubhouse was his dream coming true. He would be stretching a line to make sure the foundation was level. Or he would be checking the plans to make sure the door was going in the right place. There was always something. He surely wasn't going to be left out.

Before the clubhouse was finished, we were still doing swap meets and shows all over town to raise money. Jerry took charge of putting up the modular layout for these events. That was kind of his baby. He would scratch his head as he tried to figure out how to arrange the modules to fit the available space.

"Where does this one go, Jerry," someone asked.

"I'm trying to remember. Now lemme see? The whole thing fits a 24 x 30 ft space. How much space do we have here?" Jerry asked.

"Don't know. About this much, I think."

"Well module 5 hooks to module 6 and then the end piece unless we don't have room and then that one goes next to this one in which case we use number 4 instead."

"Oh."

Somehow, we got it put up every time. It was part of the fun!

In October of 2004, we finally moved into the clubhouse. The HO layout was under construction. We were working Wednesday nights so we could get some track down and get some trains running. There was Jerry with his toolbox. His hands weren't quite strong enough any more to cut the homasote. But he had this big ugly black ruler that was just great for laying track. I'd never seen a 4 foot yardstick before. Who ever heard of a yardstick with an extra foot? But Jerry had one. "Hey! Any body seen the big black ruler? Gotta lay some yard tracks!"

As time went on, the layouts went up. Sometimes I didn't see too much of Jerry. He was sick or his wife was. He couldn't make it out to the park every week any more. That was sad. Something was missing.

One day, I Jerry brought out a decoder to put in his steam engine. That was pretty easy. It just plugged into the socket and away it went. But Jerry said that the tender needed a light on it. He wanted it to look like the Milwaukee road engines that he used to see years ago. He had an old casting for the lamp. "Mount it right here on the back," he said. Finally, I got some time to put it on for him and hook it up.

"Hey! It works!! See! Push this button here! It comes on in reverse and goes off in forward, just like it should!"

Jerry ran that engine over the whole mainline. I think he had a lot of fun that day. I did too.

Yes, Jerry really liked trains. I think he liked people too. He was always coming up with a new idea. The last few meets we had, he would go around handing out Ding Dong treats to the kids. He would ask them a question about trains and if they could answer it, Jerry would give them a Ding Dong. If they couldn't answer it, I think he would answer it for them and then give them a Ding Dong anyhow. He would come by once and a while and tell me how many he had managed to hand out. If I was good, he would give me a ding dong too. Thanks, Jerry. I think I needed that.

Jerry's gone now. It's hard to believe that he isn't going to come walking around the corner any minute. I know I'm going to really miss him. He made a real difference in this club and it won't be quite the same without him. He was very proud that AMRS was a friendly club and he was one of the key guys that made it that way. I hope that part of the club lives on even though Jerry's gone. I hope that I can be the kind of friend to others that Jerry was to me.





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

- 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. 14, Fri **Set up for Swap Meet**
- Mar. 15, Sat **Saharo 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
- Apr. 12, Sat. **AMRS/AGRS Monthly Meeting**
9:am. 22822 N. 43rd. Ave. Phoenix
Adobe Mountain Park. AMRS Club House
- Apr. 26, Sat. **AMRS/AGRS Board Meeting**
9:am. 22822 N. 43rd. Ave. Phoenix
Adobe Mountain Park. Museum



Arizona Model
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Coming soon 2008

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Annual Winslow Railroad Days. | Apr. 21st. / 27th. |
| Set-up for Convention Bar-B-Q | May 1st. 8:am |
| G Scale Convention Bar-B-Q. | May 2nd. 12:noon |
| Annual Membership Meeting | June 15th. |