

TCA Mission: To develop an appreciation of and to preserve an important segment of history – Tinplate Toy Trains –through research, education, community outreach, fellowship, establishment of collecting standards, and to promote the growth and enjoyment of collecting and operating toy, model and scale trains.



Desert Division

DISPATCH

ARIZONA • NEW MEXICO • WEST TEXAS



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Volume 44, No. 7

Summer, 2015

TIME TO BEAT THE HEAT

Do the people who say, “Yeah, but it’s a dry heat” ever visit during monsoon season? Welcome to the Valley of Humidity and another summer of humid fun. Normally your humble editor and his family plan a few trips spread throughout the summer to get away each month, but this year because of family commitments we did everything in June and boy am I ready for some high country relaxing. I have been going up to Prescott for more years than I care to remember. In the early days we made this a family outing since I was in buying mode and loved meeting fresh faces and tables full of trains. Laurel would take our daughter into town while the boys and I bummed around the Amory. With the kids all grown and families of their own these days, I sell more than I buy, at least that’s the story I tell my wife anyway. With the new location this year I am excited to see the familiar faces in new surroundings. The Beat the Heat Meet is one of my favorite getaway’s of the year. I am never in a rush to leave and head back down the hill. I hope to see you there!

Vice President Mike Dietrich called the June meeting to order at 10:00 AM. There were an estimated 40 members in attendance and with it being June, there was no surprise that we had no visitors to our fair city. Secretary Angelo Lautazi announced that our current Active Division membership stands at 255. Treasurer Bob Herman reported the current financial situation with the Savings account balance of \$27,798.37 and the checking account sitting at \$23,377.81.

Mike reported the sad news that long time Division volunteer and mother of Katie Elgar, Ruth Elgar passed away on June 10 at the age of 103. There was a card for those in attendance to sign. Ruth helped the club in many areas and her bright smile and happy disposition will be missed by us all.

Mike had on display the paint sample from the Rio Grande fundraiser that was highlighted in the June issue. He also gave an update to those in attendance about the latest delivery schedule sent to us from Lionel. So impressed was Division founding member Bob Johnston that he ordered his car on the spot.

Next item up was an update on the HO and G gauge auction scheduled for Saturday September 19th. The auction will be held at our usual location, Shepherd of the Valley Church in Phoenix. Because it is a bit smaller with about 200+ lots and split into two gauges, the walk through will begin at 10:00 AM. That’s right you will be able to sleep in on Saturday morning, have a leisurely breakfast and still make it to the auction on time. We will begin the auction at 11:00 AM with G gauge and then have a quick break while those who wish to check out may do so. During the break refreshments and light snacks will be available for free but if you want something more substantial plan on bringing your own sandwich. We will start up the afternoon HO auction promptly at 1:00 AM. This should give the HO people enough time during the break for a preview of their items.

Vice President Dietrich went on to announce that the trailer module is located again in the club’s new storage locker and is primed for a summer wiring update prior to the October Rail Fair. Rail Fair signup sheets will be at the September Meet since Rail Fair runs October 10 & 11 the same weekend as our October Meet. We will need volunteers to run trains during those two days.

Mike then announced that this is the year for Division elections. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the September Meeting. Terms for Directors and Officer’s in Desert Division are for a two year term. The Division has a BOD meeting the Wednesday before

every General Meeting, usually on a rotating basis at each Board of Directors home. You may nominate yourself to run for any office and if you have any questions please feel free to call any Division Board of Director listed elsewhere in this issue.

Angelo Lautazi wears many hats, one of which is the webmaster to our Division website. Angelo discussed the changing world of technology and how the current generation accesses information today mainly on mobile devices rather than sitting in front of a computer. This presents challenges for us as we consider how our members and others will interface with the Division in the future. We have two pieces to our electronic exposure, one is our long running and established website the other is the Division facebook page.

The Division was one of the first in TCA to go online, starting in April 2002. Over the years we have used the website to sell promotional fundraising cars, promote our events, and even store past issues of this publication. It is an important resource for many and one of the key methods of communication between the general public who are looking for information about toy trains to get in contact with our organization.

This is the key reason we keep the website as current as possible with all the content about our organization and we need to consider how this new generation will continue to interact with us.

The facebook page is already mobile compliant having been "birthed" during the mobile revolution. But it is really not an effective two-way tool. Facebook is our electronic face to the community but allows very little interaction and even less retention of information.

Angelo took an informal poll among those in attendance at the June meeting and the Board of Directors will continue to look at our options and how much of our resources and time we will wish to invest in bringing the website up to date for the mobile community.

Division member Bonnie Rudy made an announcement from the floor about the Bradshaw Mountain Hi-Railers running trains in a store front at the Prescott Gateway Mall off Highway 69. The Hi-Railers Club operates the first Saturday of the month from 11:00 AM until 4:30 PM. You can read more about this club and see pictures from their July 4th train run starting on Page 6.

Terry Bunish set up a very impressive display of items that gave a nod to the upcoming TCA National Convention in New York. Terry noted that the convention will have a tour of the Edison Laboratory in

West Orange, New Jersey and brought in quite a wide selection of Edison paraphernalia. One of the biggest crowd pleaser that he brought in was a 1906 Edison phonograph and several wax cylinder "records". Terry demonstrated that it still works and those in attendance got a big kick out of the scratchy old time melody that it played. Terry did a nice job of tying it together with the Lionel issue of the Thomas Edison boxcar and had numerous photographs on display as well. With that super presentation Terry won the 10 raffle tickets for the best educational item. Jerry Sienkiewicz was awarded 10 raffle tickets by the Mystery Greeter. Don't forget to wear your name badge!

June raffle prize winners in no particular order Beth Stange Hudson Ticket, Dave Brown Lionel Boxcar, Ralph Treichel Lionel Boxcar, Bill East Weaver Boxcar, Steve Rudy Bachmann Union Station, Craig Morris Fire Engine, Brody Lazenby UPS Delivery & Taco Food Trucks. The winner of the Hudson Hundred before the summer break was Chet Henry.

The July Mini-Meet was held July 11 and was an informal meeting of those in town. A sight mix-up between Chris Allen and Janet Mattern resulted in more donuts than people that day. Since there was no planned agenda Chris had several announcements. First was the announcement that there would be no Arizona Toy Train Show this December. There is more information as to how this decision was reached in the Presidents Message. Chris and outgoing TCA National President Katie Elgar next spoke on the work that was done at the last TCA National Convention. Of great concern is the continual shrinkage of membership in the National Association. TCA historically recruits about 1,000 new members each year but we fail to retain many more members come membership renewal time and so our total membership continues to slide. The TCA membership numbers that were reported at the convention are 22,943 Regular Members, Life Member (closed) 250, Honor Roll (closed) 970, Honorary 0, for a total membership of 24,163. To the best of our knowledge, at least 195 members passed away last year and are included in the net decrease of 1,401 members in the last fiscal year.

Chris informed those present that we have much work to do and spoke of the positive feedback from the discussion we had at our March meeting. Starting next year we will again have several workshops aimed at those of you who operate as much as you collect, or maybe operate more than you collect. There is room for both in the Division and TCA.



Before the meeting raffle ticket sales. Two the five people seen here won prizes



Look at all the conversations going on here, everywhere you look people are saying how great to see you!



Yes, the magazines are free, please take them...



Part of Terry Bunish's great Thomas Edison display for the June Educational segment



Terry Bunish describing many of the aspects and why he brought this great display honoring Thomas Edison



Chet Henry won the Hudson Hundred in June while Vice President Mike Dietrich looks on

TCA Desert Division BOD Meeting – June 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM at the home of Beth Stange

In Attendance; Chris Allen, Michael Dietrich, Bob Herman, Angelo Lautazi, Beth Stange, on teleconference, Phil Todd, Greg Palmer and David Nycz

Approval of Agenda - The agenda was approved as distributed

Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Membership Report - Angelo reported that membership stands at 255 members.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Bob Herman reported that the Savings Account has \$27,798.37 and Checking has \$23377.81.. Bob submitted the Income/Expense report for May 2015.

Old Business:

Rio Grande Fundraiser Sales – We have 173 cars sold so far. Chris brought the paint sample boxcar shell for the C&TS car that was received from Lionel. The Board was impressed with the quality of the graphics. We will show the shell to the members at Saturday's meet and hopefully generate some sales. The shell will then be sent to the Rio Grande chapter where they will display it at various events. Work on the second fund raising car is proceeding as scheduled.

Arizona Toy Train Show – The contract has not been signed with the hotel because so far we are not able to get access to the hall on Friday. John Uphur is in contact with the hotel with the hope of resolving our issues. Chris will speak with John about the idea of a modified train show if a suitable venue can be found on the same date..

The HO and G gauge Auction - The HO/G gauge auction is set for Sept 19th. The hall will be setup on Saturday morning, Sept 19. The auction will start with the G gauge in the AM and then the HO in the PM. No lunch food service is planned but light snacks and refreshments will be available for free. Because of the uncertainty of the amount of bidders staying over the Division will provide food for the Division auction volunteers only.

New Business

Division Module Trailer - The trailer has been moved to the storage facility. It's a tight fit but everything is there. Chris is hoping to have a work party during the summer so the trailer can make an appearance at the Sept Meet.

Hudson Raffle – The unofficial poll conducted by Chris at the May meet provided some insight and useful information. The BOD will begin looking for a postwar replacement and a modern era TMCC or Legacy equipped Hudson style locomotive in the price range and quality required for the Hudson Raffle. It is the full intention that the 2016 Hudson Raffle will offer the winner a choice between postwar collectable, modern era desirability or the \$750 cash option.

Ajo consignment – Chet and Chris would like a few volunteers to travel to Ajo to pack a collection that has been consigned for the fall auction. The trip is scheduled for June 20th.

Railfair – The date for this year's RailFair is October 10 & 11th. Mike will have a signup sheet at the meet on Saturday.

Fall Elections - The Division elections are coming up this Fall. Chris suggested the Board review our bylaws in case any changes are needed.

Website "mobile ready" - Changes as how Google searches has made sites aware that they need to be 'Mobile' friendly. In other words, people that access sites from their smart phones want sites that work well on their phones. Angelo is aware of what changes need to happen but warns that the desktop version of our website might become very simplified.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

The next board meeting is scheduled to be on Wednesday September 12th at the home of Beth Stange

Minutes submitted by: Secretary, Angelo Lautazi

President's Message

I certainly hope the summer has been treating you well. Outside of attending the National Convention in New York and a quick family reunion in Pinetop we've been here in the Valley of the Monsoon.

The National Convention was quite a lot of fun for my first ever trip to New York City. Being on the Board of Directors I do not experience many tours because of meetings, but I can go on trips outside of normal meeting hours. My wife Laurel, her sister Karen, who joined us as a guest for the convention and I were able to hook up with Barbara and Angelo Lautazi and dear friend Marty and Irene Visnick for the convention dinner cruise. While we cruised the Hudson River and saw the spot where Captain Sully ditched his plane and up a part of the East River past the famous Brooklyn Bridge, and yes, I would buy it, all these good friends made this cruise extra special.

Being a newbie to New York City I was surprised how choked up I got seeing the Statue of Liberty in person for the first time and how proud I was to see the Freedom Tower standing where the Twin Towers fell. What an incredible city, full of such a wide cast of characters. I don't think I could ever live there but I can understand why so many people want to come back and visit it again and again. I know I do.

There will be some Bylaws Amendments coming out in the September National Headquarter News for you to consider. They all were approved by the National Board of Directors and sent on to you, the general membership, to approve before they can become effective. Some are housekeeping, trying to get all of our committees in the right place in both our Bylaws and Rules and Regulations, while others deal with how the Executive Committee can better function on behalf of the full Board of Directors between meetings. I hope you read up on them and don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions. I voted in the affirmative for all of them at our meeting.

Speaking of calling me, please do! If you hear a rumor floating around or something that just doesn't sound right to you call me or any of your Division Officers or Directors.

It appears there is some misinformation about the Arizona Toy Train Show going around so let me try to set the record straight. I spoke on this at the July meeting, but with it being July not many attended.

The Board of Directors and I are still 100% behind and appreciate all the hard work that John Upshur and Fred Hunter put in trying to get a contract

with the Renaissance Hotel in Glendale. Unfortunately the hotel booked a larger event in the space we had used the previous two years. John and Fred negotiated a contract for the second ballroom at the hotel. Although it was just slightly smaller (you would not have noticed) it was actually in a better location for the public access. There was one small problem with it however. It was also being used and would only be available to us after 11:00 PM on Friday evening.

In other words there would be no Friday setup for our table sellers or anyone bringing in train modules. The only room that would be available to us to use on Friday was a small 40' x 77' room where we would need to unload the truck with all the trees and items for the show and where the Cactus Brick Lego User Group could begin to set-up their very labor intensive layout.

John and I met with the hotel people and reviewed the property, the parking area where the sellers would unload and the space where we were to stage everything for the Show. I felt there were several problems with this arrangement. First, getting the entire hall setup in just three hours was going to be quite a task. Second the workload and long hours for our volunteers, many of whom help out the following day at the Christmas Holiday Party. In addition I did not like the flow trying to have table sellers and modules working through the back door and while some could use the public entrance that would only work for a short period of time. We would not be able to have our "early bird" registration folks get into the hall an hour early because with everyone getting in the hall at the same time I felt very few would be setup in two hours. I was also concerned that the module people would be under the gun getting things up and running and that they typically take up a lot of floor space during setup and we would have a flow of table sellers crossing their work area.

John felt he could hire some day (or in this case night) laborers to setup the hall overnight. This would alleviate some of the workload on our volunteers. He felt that it was workable for both the module folks and the table seller to hit the doors

(continued on Page 9)

CELEBRATE THE FOURTH WITH THE BMHR

by Peter Atonna TCA 75-7578

BMHR? That is the Bradshaw Mountain High Railers. This is an informal group that five tinplaters formed three years ago when we felt more needed to be done bringing toy trains to the public. The idea was that we would build portable 4 by 8 foot layouts to bring to events. So, with a set of common plans, five of us built our tables and then decorated them to each of our own personal preferences.

The five, Marlin Benson, Steve and Bonnie Rudy, Rod Lorenz, Mark Ziven and myself brought our layouts to Chino Valley Schools, Prescott Valley Days events and Williams Train Days. It was not long before we had three new fellows join us: Stan Cedarleaf, John Knoll and Joe Fauty. These fellows don't have layouts, but help us at all of our shows and events. And note that several of us Prescott area folks are also Desert Division members.

Then, last year, Mark Ziven, through a contact at the Prescott Gateway Mall, was able to obtain use

of a vacant storefront. We thought this would enhance our exposure to the public, so we moved our five layouts, plus my Polar Express layout into a store right next to Penney's at Prescott Gateway Mall. We are now open the first Saturday of every month to run trains on our layouts. At other times folks can always see the displays through the store front. We even now wear "club shirts" for our run days.

Courtesy of Paul Boston, we now also have a proximity device switch. This allows mall patrons who might see the display a chance to activate one of the layouts automatically when we are not open.

The 4th? Well July 4th fell on the first Saturday of July and also happened to be the first anniversary of our being in the mall. So, we wanted to make it a special day. Mark hung a huge flag while several of us celebrated the day on our layouts. Here are some shots from the day.



The entry from the mall



Mark Ziven's buildings were decorated for the holiday



Our sign over the entry



Here I am not waiting long to run my trolley from the Convention



Stan Cedarleaf at Marlin Benson's layout



Wondering what red - white - blue set to run, Mary Jane said "I don't care if it has never been run before, run your TCA Bicentennial set"



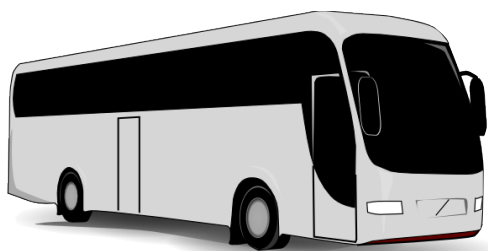
Fourth of July colors were pretty subtle on my Polar Express layout. The Milwaukee EP-5 came from the Convention, my big purchase there.

DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014-2015

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Name _____

Phone Number _____

Pickup Location:

< > Arizona Mills at 6:30 AM

< > Paradise Valley Mall at 7:00 AM

< > Metrocenter Mall at 7:30 AM

< > Carefree Highway at 7:45 AM

Number of Adult riders: _____ at \$30 each \$ _____

Number of children under 14: _____ at \$12 each \$ _____

Number of lunches (OPTIONAL): _____ at \$7 each \$ _____

Total. **Make checks payable to “GCMR”** \$ _____
(no refunds after August 8, 2015)

Mail this form and check to:

David Brown
3534 W. St. Charles Av.
Phoenix Az. 85041

DON'T MISS THE BUS!!!!

By Dave Brown TCA 94-38441

It's that time of year again, you live either in the pool or somewhere that's air conditioned. Well for a nice trip up to cool Prescott in August, set aside August 15th and catch the bus in one of four great locations. This year the meet is in Prescott Valley and will be bigger and better cooled. We'll go to the "Beat The Heat" meet, and then we will visit some great layouts.

The cost is just \$30 for adults and \$12 for kids. You may purchase an optional \$7 bag lunch and there will be videos on the bus up and back for you to watch

or you can sit and chat with many of your friends. Fill out the form that is in this newsletter, and get it to Dave Brown. If you have any questions, call Dave at 480-650-5336

One more thing, there is a new layout on tour, and you have to be on the bus to see it, and Peter Attona's layout will also only be open to bus people. Peter has started over again and we get to be the first tour of the new layout now under construction. So, hurry up and get your reservation in soon!

President Message (cont. from page 5)

between 6:00 AM and 9:00 AM since many other groups do a setup in that same time. I took several pictures during our time at the hotel and shared them and my thoughts with the Division Board of Directors who agreed with my observations.

I told John to go back and contact the hotel. If they could get us the two additional rooms so all the modules could be setup the day before then I would go along with his idea of a night crew and we would deal with just the table sellers Saturday morning. Unfortunately, after much additional negotiations with the hotel they could not guarantee us those rooms. I was not going to go along with a verbal "we'll do the best we can" or "let's wait and see what happens closer to your date." I instructed John to release that date back to the hotel, we would not do a show in the Renaissance Hotel this year.

Both John and Fred put a lot of time in working out a contract with the hotel. We are a small contract to them. Most of their bookings for ballroom space also include hundreds of room nights at the hotel itself; we just needed an event space. The hotel had to protect their best interests as we had to protect ours. My concern has always been on volunteer burn out. Division volunteers provide a priceless, precious asset to this club that can never be underestimated. The precious time that you donate to our club is worth literally worth thousands of dollars of labor costs we would otherwise have to spend.

I spoke to John about another venue and if we could downsize the show, maybe layouts, Santa and some face painting. John felt he wanted to maintain the quality show that he had worked hard to establish and declined a show that picked his better points. I

agreed with his thoughts. The Division BOD began contacting other venues and it quickly became apparent that nothing was going to be available in December, so that left us with two options, cancelling the show for the year or having just a regular train swap meet.

We are committed to a very large multiple consignor auction on Thanksgiving Saturday November 28 and all the other dates in November were booked by other clubs in town or are well known enough that they attract many of our own sellers. Looking at October we found it was quite busy already with Halloween falling on Saturday this year, the GCMR monthly meet and Rail Fair.

So what is the answer? Simply there will be no Arizona Toy Train Show in 2015, there also will be no train meet sponsored by Desert Division in 2015 either. We have always worked with the other clubs in our area regardless of their size, and we will not step on another clubs established date simply because things did not work out for us they way we had planned.

But don't despair, January and the early part of next year could be quite different. At the present time we are working with several facilities to host a simple train meet on Saturday January 16th. This will be a stripped down show with basically just table sales and a few operating layouts. We are looking at a facility in the East Valley and one in the Central I-17 corridor. Neither location has hosted our show in the past but have experience in dealing with the needs of a simple hobby or craft venue.

The Board of Directors has talked about hosting both a train meet and the Arizona Toy Train Show. Maybe in 2016 we will begin a new tradition.

G and HO Scale Auction Set

Desert Division will host a multi consignor auction that will consist of G Gauge and HO Scale trains, kits, buildings, and layout supplies. The Auction is set for Saturday September 19 at our usual location of Shepherd of the Valley Church.

We have been contacted by several past member estates to help them out with these items in addition to the O scale trains that will be in our November auction. Although not as large as our normal auctions we have over 200 lots that will go under the hammer that day. To avoid a conflict and accommodate members of the Scale Model Railroad community that will be attending the NMRA Regional convention in Scottsdale that day we have decided on a later start time.

Preview for the G Gauge will be at 10:00 AM. The HO items will also be available to view at that time but we will begin the G Gauge Auction at 11:00 AM and will stop when all of the approximately 70 lots of G have been auctioned. We will have checkout at that time for anyone who wishes to leave for the day.

Preview for the HO portion of the auction will begin at 12:00 noon with the HO Auction scheduled to begin at 1:00 PM.

There will be coffee, soda, and water available along with light snacks during the noon break. There will be no food service so plan on bringing something for lunch if you want to make it an all day affair.

Catalogs are available now for \$5 from Peter Atonna. He will have them at the Beat The Heat Meet and Chet Henry will have them available at the September General Meeting. You can also purchase one by mail; Peter Atonna 25375 N. Feather Mountain Rd. Pauldin, AZ 86334 and Peter will get one out to you right away.

This should be a very exciting auction and Desert Division is looking forward to branching out our auction venues if this proves to be a successful venture and we generate interest from outside of our club and the general public.

More TCA National Convention Pictures



Angelo Lautazi was able to go on some interesting tours and shared some pictures from them



Angelo was able to get a behind the scenes look at the NJ Transit Maintenance Facility

Pictures from the 61st TCA National Convention

More pictures and videos are available on the clubs facebook page



Think the youth are missing from our hobby?
Checkout this huge module from the Sommerset NJ
4-H club manned and built by members under 18



Angelo Lautazi and I chatted with the “inventor” of
this home built Ferris Wheel fashioned from a bicycle
wheel and powered by a little HO switch engine



The New Jersey Hi-Railers had a gorgeous main
layout and former TV host Tom Synder’s beautiful
Standard Gauge layout



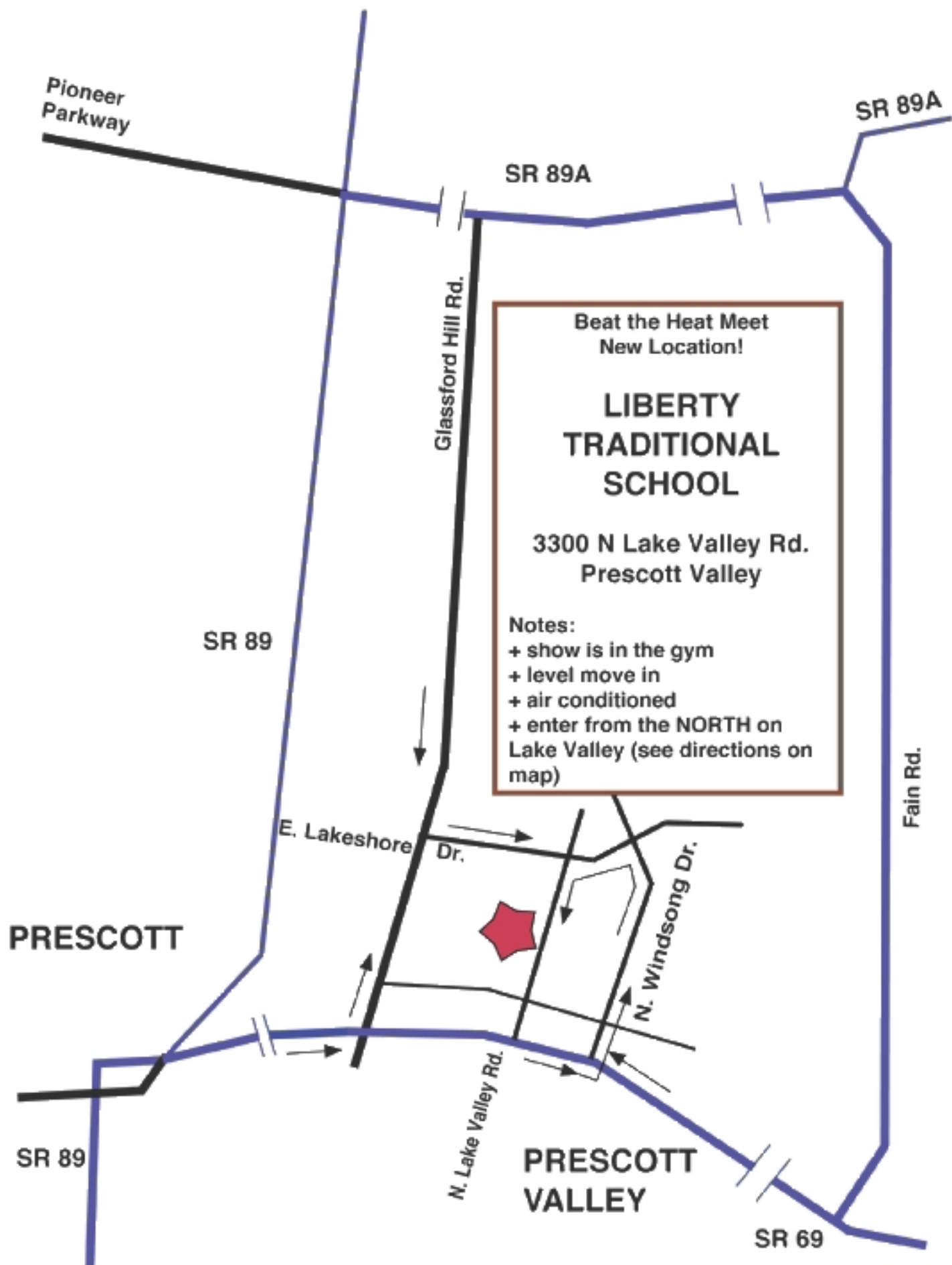
In another room The NJ Hi-Railers had this well
known layout from the HBO series The Sopranos
where Bobby Bacala got “whacked”



Angelo Lautazi took this great photo during a visit to
Phil Kloop’s layout. Real smoke and drama in this scene



Quite a freight operation that even includes a coal
tipple in the yard



RAILROAD



-CHANGE



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FOR SALE: Out of print Greenberg books: Lionel, American Flyer, Marx, etc. Call Bruce Greenberg at 703-461-6991 (9-5 Eastern Daylight) or visit his web site, www.sykesvillehistory.us, for a current list.

FOR SALE: Lionel 6-24177 Balloon Ride \$200/obo - K Line UP MP-15 Switcher w/lighted caboose \$80 - Lionel 6-52078 TTOS 30th Anniversary SD9 w/matching SP Division caboose \$175 - Scale O 6-52500 Desert Division ATSF Grand Canyon Reefer \$50, Lionel 6-18562 SP GP9 w/TMCC \$150 – 356 Freight Station w/carts no box \$50- Chris Allen 480-820-9559 sparkyshome@cox.net

WANTED: Neon Lionel sign used in hobby stores – I have the bell now I am looking for a cradle and yoke for a 12" locomotive bell – semaphore working or pieces – do you have a real RR crossbuck? Call me Chris Allen 480-820-9559 sparkyshome@cox.net

This page is provided as a service to our members for trading among themselves on a space available basis. Contact them directly for items listed above. Contact Editor when your item sells so space can be made available to other members. ****DEADLINE FOR AD's – THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH ****

THE BACK PAGE

FOR THINGS THAT DIDN'T FIT ELSEWHERE or BREAKING NEWS



I wasn't at the Meet but I sure would like to know more information about this nice little Flyer set that was for sale



More from Terry Bunish's great Edison Educational segment. Terry brought in numerous items and tied them all into the National Convention. Nice Job!



A few more pictures sent in from Angelo Lautazi's visit to the Phil Kloop layout



So much attention to detail in every scene. It's all the little touches that make the view come to life.

The 62nd [TCA National Convention](#)
Houston, Texas



DIVISION MEET LOCATION

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
1500 W. Maryland Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85015



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