

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 41, No. 6

June, 2012

## SUMMER IS AROUND THE CORNER

With all the 100° days that we have already had here in the Valley of the Sun, it's hard to believe that summer won't officially be here until we are ready to head off to the TCA National Convention in Atlanta later this month. But record heat did not deter the Division faithful from showing up for the May meet. The tables were filled early and anxious buyers were looking for "fallout" items from April's Pizza Meetza auction. Often when items are combined into one lot at an auction and the buyer was only looking for one, the unwanted pieces show up the next month at good prices, and a few tables had some of these for sale. President Peiffer opened the General Meet with the announcement that Division Secretary Angelo Lautazi was suffering from jet lag, having arrived in town only four hours earlier from his recent and well deserved vacation, so there would be no membership report. Jonathan then introduced the guests that were present. Bill Herron, a friend of Sam McElwee, was introduced and said that he would be giving a short talk about the railroads in China during the Meet. Treasurer Herman reported \$56,288.96 in Savings and \$10,653.42 in checking. Under Old Business Jonathan reminded the members to get their registration in for the National TCA Convention as tours were filling up and the early bird registration was set to expire soon. (editors note: Early Bird registration is now closed but you can still make all of your hotel, taxi, and convention registrations by visiting the Dixie Division website at <http://www.dixiedivisiontca.com>) Next under old business Jonathan reported that the third in a series of Atlas Beer reefers has seen an unfortunate delay due to the consolidation of toy train manufacturers in China. Correspondence between Peter Atonna and Atlas has indicated a delay of a year and maybe longer. Peter did contact Weaver who indicated that they could complete the reefer sooner if we decided to have them manufacture the car. Several members noted that this was the third car of a set of A-1 Beer Reefers and that the collectability and desirability of the three car set would be greatly diminished if the first two cars were manufactured by Atlas and the third car in the set by anyone else. A vote that was called to show support for having Atlas be the manufacturer of the final car in the set passed unanimously. Marty Wik then

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

\*\*\* New Location \*\*\*

**June 1 – 2 Gadsden Pacific TTOM Train Swap Meet – Tucson EXPO Center – Tucson, AZ**

**June 9 – Regular Division Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM**

**June 23 – July 1 – 58<sup>th</sup> TCA National Convention – Atlanta, GA**

**July 14<sup>th</sup> – Desert Division “mini” Meet – Phoenix, AZ – 9 AM**

**August 18 – Central AZ Model Railroad Club - Beat the Heat Meet – Prescott, AZ – 9 AM**  
(ride the bus information inside)

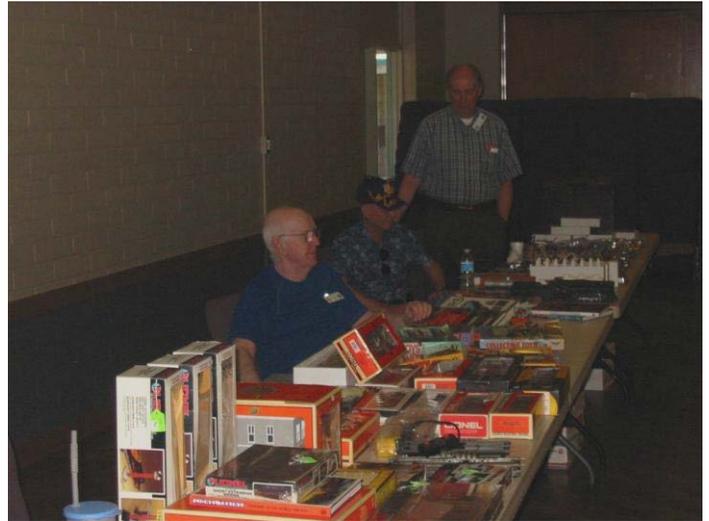
gave a detailed debriefing on the recently held Goodyear Rods and Rails show. Everyone agreed that the event was off to a great start and business was very good early in the morning. Ron White, a founding Division member, helped coordinate the sales tables and layouts along with Beth Stange. The Grand Canyon Model Railroaders brought their module and set it up outside and the “new” old guys in town, the Fountain Hills S Gaugers had a layout inside as well. Everything went well except for the early arrival of summer and the 100° plus temperatures we had that day. Once they kicked in both the Pebble Creek Car Club and the City of Goodyear who were sponsoring the food tent saw business drop off. Chris Allen reported that this was the first time in many shows that trains came walking in the door for us to buy and evaluate. Bob Johnston voiced an opinion that many others agreed with that the club should pursue this avenue of co-sponsorship with other clubs outside of our normal area. Marty pointed out that the Pebble Creek Car Club did all of the advertising at no cost to our club and that they were open to doing it again. President Peiffer then asked Marty a question about his speeder that he had on display. Seems that during the time when he and other members were providing the motive power to get the speeder into position he noticed “traction tires” were installed. Marty replied that his speeder had originated in Washington state and that the rubberized wheels were used to increase traction in the rainy weather that is common to that area. As President Peiffer opined, traction tires on toy trains are more proto-typical than we first thought. Under New Business President Peiffer noted that the Spring Raffle Drawing would be held next month at the June General Meeting and that tickets are still available. He also announced (since the next issue of the DISPATCH will be in early August as the “Summer Issue”) about the upcoming July “mini” meet. The Division started the “mini” meet for those of us who do not escape the Valley and live here year round. There is no Business Meeting and there will be no raffle or Hudson drawing but if you are in town, feel free to stop in a share a chat with friends. Also a reminder about the Central Arizona Model Railroad Club’s Beat The Heat Meet that is coming up in August. The Grand Canyon Model Railroaders will be running a bus up the hill again and contact information is available elsewhere in this issue if you’d like to leave the driving to a professional. The bus company they use is the same one the Division contracted during our last National Convention. Bill Herron then got up and spoke to the members about the Rail systems in China from his perspective as a long time business man and customer. A synopsis of his presentation is inside. The Division suffered from a lack of memorable trains or had a memory loss. Gordon Wilson had on display the four versions of the 1949 catalog mentioned in his article last month. Gordon mentioned that his bringing a display of military loads and variations to an Atlantic Division Meet lead him to meeting Bruce Greener. Bruce hired Gordon to write for his publications and in so doing, while reading Robert Osterhoff’s Greenberg’s Guide to Lionel Paper and Collectibles he first learned of a variation in the 1949 catalog. So began the search in 1985 that was finally completed at spring York. (after Gordon’s talk I know I went home and looked at my 1949 catalogs, just on the chance that my search might be little shorter than his – ed.) Terry Bunish was next up and had on display his first train from Christmas 1955. Unfortunately Terry reported that it is no longer complete as the cars in the set got separated and he accidentally sold one of them. Winners of the May raffle prizes, Ken Barnes – Hudson ticket, Brad Martin - Lionel Online Boxcar, Marty Wik – Cottonbelt Boxcar, Jonathan Peiffer C&O Boxcar, Jim Vokac – TCA visor and TCA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plate and stand, Larry Teresi – Toy Trains Vol. 1 & 2, Tony Saulina – Lionel 2012 Catalog and Division Holiday members gift. The winner for the Hudson \$100 drawing was Sam McElwee. Congratulations winners and thank you all for your donations or purchasing raffle tickets to support the Desert Division.

## **JUNE EDUCATIONAL TOPIC – HOT TIMES/HOT TRAINS**

Summer and trains don’t normally mix. We tend to spend less time with our toy trains during the summer months and more time on vacations with family and friends. A few of us are lucky to mix those vacation plans with a train excursion during that time off and there are several such trips planned this summer in Atlanta with the National Convention I hope you will be able to enjoy. But don’t just limit your thoughts to train travel. With the summer temperatures with us for good, what train reminds you of summer heat? One of my all time favorites is the Fast Eddie’s Salsa Smoking Tank Car. Let your imagination run wild! Hot cars, hot food, hot times, let’s see what sun baked ideas you can come up with and bring to the June General Meet.



**Bill Freeman was selling next to John Wiley but had to get a closer look at John's items, while Gerry Klei is busy getting change for another happy customer**



**Business on the other side of the hall wasn't as bad as the look on Ken Barnes' face indicates. After all the coffee and donuts were still free! Sam McElwee and guest Bill "lucky charm" Herron agree**



**A sleepy Division Secretary sips on his coffee as the meeting gets underway. Ralph and Sally Treichel filled in for Barbara and Angelo while Diane Martin assisted at the meet.**



**Terry Bunish with a photo of himself playing with his then new Lionel train set from the Christmas of 1955. The set unfortunately became separated in his collection and he sold one of the cars.**



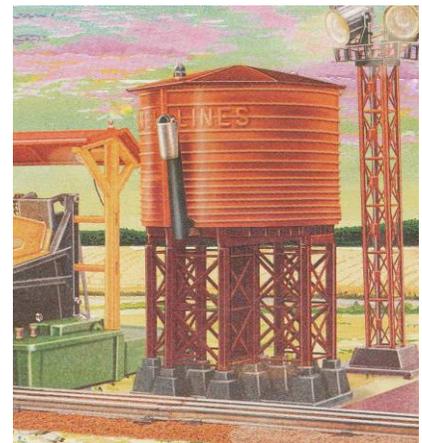
**Larry Teresi is all smiles with his raffle prize!**



**Sam McElwee says he plans to bring more guests to the meets if they can all bring him this kind of luck!**

# Spring Raffle To Be Drawn

Desert Division's Spring Raffle for 2012 will be drawn at the June General Meet. First Place is a gorgeous Lionel Santa Fe F3 A-B-A. Lionel 6-11711 was among the last of the production of trains featuring Rail Sounds prior to the introduction of Train Master Control. This mint Collector Edition set is followed by the equally stunning Artisan Collection of the Rockville Bridge. Lionel's 6-37816 current production bridge is an impressive 40 inches in length and the simulated water base can be removed if you prefer. Rounding out the spring raffle this year is the re-issue of the classic 138 water tower. Lionel 6-12916 offers all the charm of the original 138 with updated circuitry for improved operation.



There still is time for you to purchase tickets for any of these great prizes. Last minute ticket purchases can be made at the June Meet prior to the drawing or by contacting Division Treasurer Bob Herman. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. You do not need to be present to win, but it is fun to show off your new prize winnings to your friends and even better to have your picture in the next issue of the DISPATCH.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that June is already upon us. The TCA National Convention will be at the end of the month. If you have not registered, there is still time and some great tours are still available. While Atlanta will certainly be cooler than Phoenix, perhaps it is a bit disingenuous to suggest that you can escape the heat there considering there is this rare atmospheric phenomenon known as humidity in Georgia. However, Dixie Division is putting on quite an event and Atlanta is one of the great historic railroad towns of the United States. Hope to see some of you there.

In many ways, Desert Division is at a crossroads or more specifically in railroad terms crossing the diamonds. For an organization in its 41<sup>st</sup> year, this is quite common. Like any volunteer organization we are involved because we get something out of our membership and that is important. However, we can enhance our membership experience by giving back as well. One area to consider is service; service to fellow members, your chapter, your division, TCA National and to the public.

While we often discuss service and support in financial terms, let's focus service in terms of actions. For me, I am looking most at how we can further the mission of TCA through our service to the public. The Goodyear show was an excellent example of the Division making a late commitment to an event and being able to put something together that truly benefitted the public. We have other opportunities as well, such as finding a home to display trains with their significance to provide a historical context for the public. We need to find a way to operate our trains for the public more effectively and more often.

We need to have a presence in our community in creative ways that no one has even considered. As I look into the past history of what this Division has accomplished, several thoughts come to mind. First and foremost, members actively participated in public events. The Los Arcos Mall events, Christown Mall and others forged good relationships with the public as well as lifelong friendships from this active participation. What we do in the coming months and years, is not nearly as important as simply doing more things for the public in activities we enjoy and want to share.

As always, please provide your feedback on what we are doing well, what we could be doing better and what we could be doing differently. Our Division and Chapter thrive on the fact that we are small enough to know each other. Through our personal connections, we have the opportunity to continue to be the small Division that does big things. This is our time to think big and lead by example.



Editors Note: There was no Desert Division Board of Directors Meeting held in May due to a lack of a quorum. The next scheduled BOD meeting is scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The minutes from that meeting will be published in the Summer edition of the DISPATCH.

### DESERT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012 - 2013

President:	Jonathan Peiffer	602-561-4131	Directors:	Greg Palmer	505-898-3840
Vice-President:	Art Triant	480-284-4665		Beth Stange	480-947-5663
Secretary:	Angelo Lautazi	480-575-7006		Ralph Treichel	602-863-6985
Treasurer:	Bob Herman	480-948-2730		Marty Wik	480-488-8625

### RIO GRANDE CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012 - 2013

President:	Greg Palmer	505-898-3840	Directors:	Carl Cataline	505-450-7575
Vice-President:	George Swajian	505-298-7099		Art Lites	505-463-1951
Secretary:	Scott Eckstein	505-332-0947		Jon Spargo	575-835-1606
Treasurer:	Bill Harris	505-771-2970			

## Interesting Finds at the New Mexico Railroad Fair

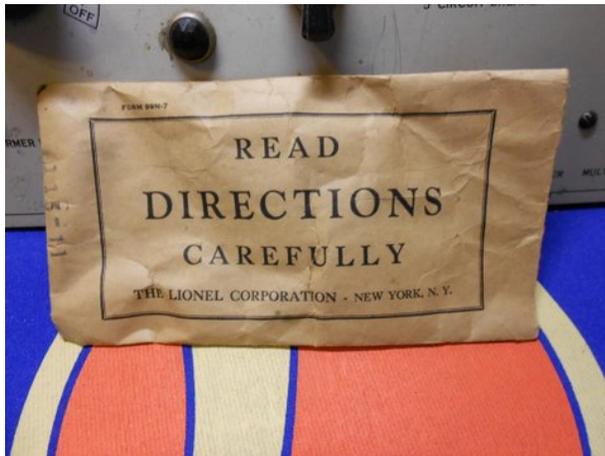
Photos courtesy Greg Palmer



Looks like it just came off the Hobby Store shelf



Very nice Marx remote control switch panel in its original box



You always need to keep your eyes open, even in a box of American Flyer parts



Sorry for the blurry photo, but it does say 115-11. Not too many of these around!

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### WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?



This picture was not taken before the Division May Meet, but almost an hour after!



Join the fun in June. We hope to see YOU at the next Division Meet

## TCA Rio Grande Chapter News

By Gregory E. Palmer TCA#94-39039

The May 19th New Mexico Railroad Fair Meet was fantastic again this year. The weather was great and the School Arts Building on the Expo New Mexico Grounds had over 80 tables filled with Toy Trains, Railroadiana, and Model Railroading Supplies. Items ranged from Railroad Art and Books, to Lanterns, China, and Lionel Trains. Several unusual items were purchased by Rio Grande Chapter Members. One very scarce item was a Lionel Pre War Packet marked 115-11. This is the packet that came with the 115 Stop Station. It contained the 115-11 Clock and Frame and is the part that is put on the Station. Most people put the clock on their new station and then threw away the packet. This unusual item was found inside a box of American Flyer S Gauge items. Former Division President Paul Wassermann always told stories about his finds in the "bottom of the box" and this proves you must always keep your eyes open when at a Train Show. The Business Meeting was very well attended, however the sound level in the hall makes it difficult to hear, thus we will move next year's meeting to another area of the school Arts Building with less noise. We discussed the October 28th Pumpkin Meet. Our chief goal this year is getting more public in the door at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown Hotel. A motion was made and passed to ask the Desert Division for \$500.00 to help with increased costs for the meet. It was also decided that there was a need for increased newspaper and other advertising as the consensus of those present that improved advertising, timed and placed in the right venues, will increase our public attendance. There is still a need for help at the October 28th Pumpkin Meet. We need a lot of folks at the Door, as well as help during the Meet. Please come to the September 15th Meet and let us know how you can help, or call me at 505-898-3840. You can purchase your tables now to sell trains. The Flyers are already out, and we passed them out at the door and to vendors at the New Mexico Rail Fair, or you can pick them up at Trains West. They will also be in the next issue of the Desert Division Dispatch. Please make a point to purchase a Table or two and help make the Pumpkin Meet another great success. During the meet we also will make a final decision on the possible move to another Meeting Hall for our Regular Chapter Meets. Don Kuster has come up with a great place, however the only problem is the backup Hall is on the third floor up stairs without a ramp and elevator. We will talk about it at the September 15th Meet and Meeting. We will also discuss having donated items go into an Auction. The donated items would be Auction at Mecheles' Touch of Class Auction House. We would just need to pick a Thursday night to do it. So think about what you would like to donate to the Chapter Auction, and at the September 15th Meet we will decide if we want to do this or not. As you can see the September 15th Meet will be full. That is why we voted to have an August Meet and Meeting on the 18th. However I have just learned the Beat The Heat Meet is also on the 18th. We have several Members who always go to that Meet so we will have to put the August Meet on hold until The Chapters' Board of Directors Meets in June and finds another date in August. You will be notified by E-mail when this will happen. Scott Eckstein has a TCA Rio Grande Chapter Roster for you. Please give him a call, or come to the September 15th Meeting to pick yours up. Also all Chapter Members should have received their Desert Division Roster and Membership Card, If not give Angelo a call or E-mail to let him know. Thanks to our Secretary Scott Eckstein for getting our own Roster together for us. One last thing make sure both Angelo, and Scott have your current Phone Number, as well as your current E-mail addresses. This is super important. It is the only way the Chapter and Division can keep in touch with you. We are spread over hundreds of miles and in order to keep in touch we need current addresses and information. I will for sure see all of you September 15th at 10:00AM at the Sombra Del Monte Church at 2528 Utah N.E. After Meet activity on September 15th will be a tour of Scott Ecksteins' Layouts. Thanks Scott for doing this again. He has remodeled his layout area, and it is a must see on September 15th. See all of you at 10:00AM on September 15th.



# Prescott's **Beat the Heat**

## **Model Trains & Old Boys Toys**

# ***SWAP MEET***

**Saturday, August 18th, 2012 9am to 1pm**

**Adults \$4.00, under 12 free with adult**

**At the Prescott Activity Center 800 E. Gurley**

**Presented by:**

## **The Central Az Model RR Club**

For information call: Norm Delucchi 928-445-5379

Brent Schnitzius 928-445-6560

**Not responsible for lost or stolen items**

**Table reservations \$25.00 per table in advance**

**Table sales subject to availability**

**1 free admission with each table**

**Dealer setup time 7am to 9am-No Early Public Admission**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Tables \_\_\_\_ (Limit 4 tables per seller) @\$25.00 each \_\_\_\_  
Helper Name \_\_\_\_\_ @ 4.00 each \_\_\_\_  
Helper Name \_\_\_\_\_ @ 4.00 each \_\_\_\_  
Lunch Reservations (sandwich, chips, soda) \_\_\_\_ @ 7.00 each \_\_\_\_  
Special requests \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "CAMRRC"

Please mail payment to:

Norm Delucchi, 242 Thoroughbred Dr, Prescott Az. 86301-6688

# BEAT THE HEAT MEET

by Peter Atonna

Yes, this year's Beat the Heat Swap Meet is already gearing up. We hope you will join us for a day or a weekend in Prescott. This year's event will be held on August 18th. Our traditional event is sponsored by the Central Arizona Model Railroad Club and features over 90 tables of goodies, an afternoon of layout visiting and an invitation for you to enjoy the weekend in the Prescott area. The meet is held at the Prescott Activity Center, 800 E. Gurley in downtown Prescott. If you haven't come before, the Activity Center is right on the main street, a half mile after you enter town on SR 69 or 89, just follow the signs to Gurley Street.

You will have a great selection of trains, our tables sold out by the end of June last year (hint, for you sellers!). Admission is \$4 with kids under 12 free with an adult. The show starts at 9am and runs to 1pm. Tables are \$25 each which includes meet admission. Table reservations must be paid in advance. Send your reservation with your check to Norm Delucchi at 242 Thoroughbred Dr. Prescott, AZ 86301-6688. If you have questions, call him at 928-445-5379 or email to: [npdelucchi@cablone.net](mailto:npdelucchi@cablone.net). Dealers can set up starting at 7am.

To help you plan, here are some of the weekend's activities around the Prescott area.

**Shopping** - Prescott has one of the finest antique and arts districts in the state. Located conveniently downtown, less than a mile from the Activity Center, the district lines Cortez and Marina Streets.

**Museums** - Next door to the Activity Center is the Smoki Museum, while downtown is the Sharlott Hall Museum and just north of town is the Phippen Art Museum

**Train Rides** - Both the Grand Canyon Railroad and the Verde Canyon Railroad are less than two hours from Prescott and would make a great Sunday activity. If you like train watching, there are a couple of superb locations near Williams and Ash Fork. Just check with me for some good locations.

**Outdoor activities** - The Prescott area is a jumping off point for camping and fishing in the Bradshaws, bike riding on many of the area highways and hiking in Thumb Butte, Granite Mountain or the Peavine Rails to Trails.

**Farmers Market** - Yavapai College, located on Sheldon St. just north of the Activity Center, hosts a farmers market Saturday's 7:30 till noon.

**Downtown** - Acker On The Plaza: 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. Full day of musical entertainment at various locations on the Courthouse Plaza. Free.

**Young's Farm** - Good news. For those of you, for whom a Prescott visit tradition was a stop for corn at Young's Farm, the Mortimer Nursery family has reopened the farm and will have a crop of corn ready this summer. So check it out on your way home.

**Open Houses** - We are happy to share some of our member's layouts with our Beat the Heat visitors. Six fellows have generously opened their layouts and collections for your enjoyment. Time for visiting starts at 2pm on Saturday, after the meet. There will be maps available at the meet registration table.

**Mike Nelson** - An O scale layout with multiple tiers and an including operating On30 layout. Large collection of O scale locomotives on display (please note: Mike is open from 4 to 7pm)

**Jim Hanna** - A large HO scale scened layout complete with multiple layers and bridges. Jim operates multiple trains with DCC

**Marlin Benson** - Three train rooms filled with trains and displays. His high rail layout occupies two rooms. A Large Scale loop lines the walls of one train room and a Christmas layer is now open.

**Peter Atonna** - Large O gauge high rail, fully scened layout. The Ash Fork extension is well under way and you can now take a trip to Chicago. Displays of prewar and postwar trains. By the way, if you are coming up on Friday and would like to come by that evening to avoid the crowds on Saturday afternoon, just send me an email.

**Scott Hicks** - A garden layout in the large back yard of his historic Victorian home, just walking distance from the Activity Center

**Donn Pease** - A spectacular new HO layout with its first Beat the Heat open house. It is modeling the Southern Pacific, starting in Tucson and heading east. Track and a spectacular painted backdrop are in and scenery is under way.

We hope you plan to spend the weekend in Prescott. If you would like a nearby motel for your stay, here are some suggestions (the Prescott area code is 928):

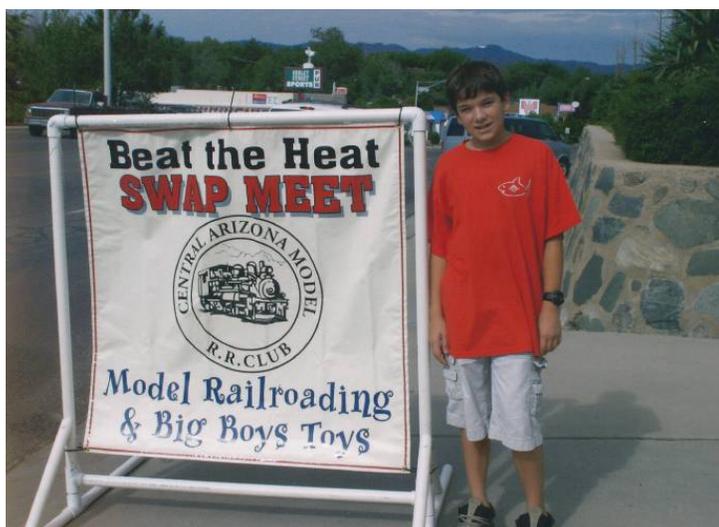
A short distance from the Activity Center are:

- + Heritage House Motel (across the street from the Activity Center) 819 E. Gurley 445-9091
- + Apache Lodge (a genuine 30's motel) 1130 E. Gurley 445-1422
- + American Motel, 1211 E Gurley 778-4322
- + Econo Lodge, 1225 E. Gurley 445-7057
- + Super 8 (on the next street to the north) 1105 E. Sheldon 776-1282
- + Motel 6, 1111 E. Sheldon

If you would like to stay at a beautiful historic downtown hotel, we have:

- + Hotel St. Michael 205 W. Gurley 776-1999
- + Hotel Vendome 230 S. Cortez 776-0900
- + Hassayampa Inn 122 E. Gurley 778-9434
- + Marriott SpringHill Suits in Depot Square 776-0998.

Don't forget the downtown hotels are right in the middle of Prescott's arts and antique shopping district.



How long have we been going "up the hill to Beat the Heat"? Let's just say the young man in this picture is now in college!



The Activity Center is constantly in motion and the CAMRRC always has a day full of events beside the swap meet to fill out the day and make the trip worthwhile!

## Railroads and Trains In China (Pt. 1)

Excerpts from the talk given at the May Meet by Bill Herron

### The Qinghai-Xizang or Qinghai-Tibet Railway

The story of this railroad is both interesting from the technology that was used to build it along with the technology that is used to operate and utilize it. This railway is the first to connect the Tibet Autonomous Region to any other province in mainland China via China's extensive railroad system. The ambitious project that began in 1984 and completed in 2006, begins in Xining the capital city of Qinghai Province and ends in Lhasa, capital city of the Tibet Autonomous Region and is 710 miles in length. It has 675 bridges, which alone total over 100 miles in length. Because so much of the railroad is laid on permafrost, bridges were sometimes the only method available to provide a stable railbed. The Qinghai-Tibet Railway is now the highest Railway in the world, wresting that title from the Peruvian railway in the Andes, which was formerly the world's most elevated track. The Tanggula railway station, located at 16,627 ', is the highest station in the world, less than 1 miles from the highest spot on the railway, Tanggula Pass. Originally built for passengers to get a view from the platform of the high Tibetan plateau, the station is now unstaffed since the region is uninhabited, although a train may stop at the station to wait for another train coming from the opposite direction, passengers are required to remain on the train. Its usefulness appears to be solely for the purpose of setting a world record and not for practicality. Although the station has questionable use, two definite world record holders show some of the technology and human hardships that had to be overcome. The Fenghuoshan Tunnel, is the highest railway tunnel in the world. It is 4,390 feet long, and stands 16,093 feet above sea level. During the construction, workers had to carry oxygen bottles on their back and during the first year used over 120,000 5kg (11 lb) of these oxygen cylinders. In addition special oxygen stations were built to house workers who became ill in the thin atmosphere. Also along the way is Kunlun Mountain Tunnel which runs over a mile in length and is the longest tunnel built on permafrost. Not only did the workers have to overcome difficulties with the harsh conditions of the area, the train itself is specially modified to run at this high altitude. The passenger coaches are all pressurized similar to flying in an aircraft, have a medical doctor on board each train, and have heated water in the bathrooms so the plumbing doesn't freeze. The locomotive itself was also modified with an oxygen "booster" to allow for proper combustion and power when working at these higher elevations.



Bridge construction along the Qinghai-Tibet railway

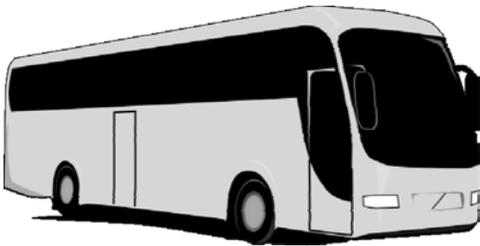


Two high speed "G" trains ready for departure on the Beijing-Shanghai High Speed Railway

## The Beijing-Shanghai High Speed Railway

The Beijing-Shanghai Railway connects the two major economic regions in the People's Republic of China. What used to take days, and could only be completed with the help of a ferry, now takes hours on the new High Speed Railway (HSR). There has been some criticism that the only reason these trains can reach such high speeds in excess of 300 mph was due to the fact that the rail line was built on a virtual straight line between the two cities, leaving some train stations along the way in an uninhabited area. Construction began in 2008 and was completed in 2010 three years ahead of schedule. The railway is almost 820 miles long with 86% of the tracks elevated, accounting for the fact that the Beijing-Shanghai Railway has three of the four longest bridges in the world. Elevated track was chosen because it saves land and the impact it has on rural communities. It also allows for better land utilization in urban planning, development and construction. Power consumption for the bullet trains proved to be challenging early in the operation cycle, taxing the local infrastructure, and numerous delays were experienced during early operations. These problems have been overcome by reducing the speed the trains travel from their earlier operational goals. Although original travel time was estimated at four hours, current travel time on the bullet trains is now a still remarkable 5 hours and 30 minutes, for an average speed of over 150 mph. A conventional train running along parallel tracks makes the same journey in about 9 hours. These specially modified HSR trains use extensive amounts of aluminum alloy and have specially designed windscreen glass to protect against bird impacts. ....to be continued.....

(Part 2 will be in the Summer edition of the DISPATCH)



# “BEAT THE HEAT” SWAP MEET & LAYOUT TOUR TO COOL PRESCOTT, AZ



## SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2012

- LET THE GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS DO THE DRIVING
- DELUXE MOTORCOACH WITH ON BOARD FACILITIES
- SAVE ON GAS, PARKING AND STRESSFUL DRIVING
- ON-BOARD TRAIN VIDEOS AND BOTTLED WATER
- ON-BOARD STORAGE FOR YOUR SWAP MEET ACQUISITIONS
- VISIT SEVERAL TRAIN LAYOUTS AFTER THE SWAP MEET
- A FAMILY EVENT – ANTIQUES, SHOPS, DINING ALL NEAR BY

### PICK-UP SCHEDULE:

6:30 AM – ARIZONA MILLS MALL  
7:00 AM – PARADISE VALLEY MALL  
7:30 AM – METROCENTER MALL  
8:00 AM – McDONALD'S AT CAREFREE HIGHWAY & I-17

CALL DAVE BROWN  
**480-650-5336**  
FOR RESERVATIONS



**RESERVE EARLY BEFORE THIS POPULAR ANNUAL BUS TOUR SELLS OUT  
\$35.00 PER SEAT + \$7.00 PER BROWN BAG LUNCH, IF DESIRED**

RAILROAD



-CHANGE



ARIZONA TRAIN DEPOT – MTH Norfolk Southern SD 40-2 PS/1 \$179.95 – MTH BNSF SD-70 MAC PS/1 \$179.95 – MTH Santa Fe Warbonnet E8 A-B-A PS/2 w/ 4 passenger cars \$369.95 – Full length 18” Vista Domes SP Daylight and UP \$69.95 – **MTH PS/3 Engines have ARRIVED!** - Always ask for your TCA member discount! AZ TRAIN DEPOT, 755 E. McKellips Road, Mesa ph 480-833-9486 Mon-Sat 9-6 open late Wed. until 9 PM – **Lionel & MTH Authorized Service Station**

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