



# GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS

## MAIN LINE

JANUARY, 2016

Volume 25

Number 1

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dave Brown

Welcome to 2016. I hope all of the football games went your way! But now it's time to start thinking of trains again.

Our first meeting is on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the show and tell subject is "What happened at Christmas?" - if not this year, maybe sometime in the past - ghosts of Christmas past or present. Don't forget Dues are Due and that there will be raffles as well. I will be hosting January's after meet visitation. For those who don't know we have been going to the Streets of New York for an after meeting lunch. So, please join us there before the layout tour.

We have a full calendar already for early this year. Next month we will have a February meeting just to make sure everything is ready for our Winter Cactus Meet the following Saturday. The swap meet will be our meeting for March.

There may be a run for the replacement for "The Great American Train Show" on February 6 and 7. The "may" has to do with the weekend they have picked, Super Bowl weekend. This is a two day run for us, and while Saturday maybe good, I think Sunday is going to be a ghost town.

March 26<sup>th</sup> is a double run of a kind. P and P will be borrowing the three rail module for their run at the church Saturday before

Easter, and the "S" gauge and "O" gauge modules will be at Falcon Field for that Run. Please, if you can help on that day, the more hands the better.

The first Saturday in April is the three club picnic at the Railroad Park. And that's just the first four months as we see it now. There will probably be work parties on one or both of our operating systems tossed in for the continued functioning of these layouts.

One of the most important things you can do is bring in a new member to our club. We need to share our fun with as many people as possible, and at the same time keeps this club growing.

### CALENDAR

*GCMR meets are held at 9:00am in the Parish Hall of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at 1212 E Glendale Avenue in Phoenix, located on the north side of Glendale, just east of the traffic light at 12th St. It is easily reached off the Glendale Exit of either I-17 or SR 51. Go east from I-17 or west from SR 51 to 12th Street.*

**January 23** - GCMR meeting - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

**January 30** - Desert Division auction, Phoenix. Info: [www.tcadd.org](http://www.tcadd.org)

**February 6, 7** Great Train Show - Arizona Fair Grounds, Phoenix. Info: [www.greattrainexpo.com/index.html](http://www.greattrainexpo.com/index.html)

**February 27** - GCMR meeting - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

**March 5** - Winter Cactus Swap Meet - North Phoenix Baptist Church

Note: No formal March club meeting

**March 26** - Club modules at the Falcon Field event

**April 2** - Joint Club's Picnic - Scottsdale Railroad Park

**April 23** - GCMR meeting - Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

## CACTUS MEET INFORMATION

by John Draftz

This is a reminder that I've sent to previous vendors about the annual Winter Cactus toy train swap meet that is approaching. I thought members might be interested in more information on our new date and location.

As was our fall Cactus Meet, our new location is the North Phoenix Baptist Church hall on the SE corner of Bethany Home Road and Central Avenue in Phoenix.

Please note the following changes. Our previous 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in February date has been changed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in February.

Unfortunately, due to a scheduling mix up, this winter's show date will be March 5<sup>th</sup> – the first Saturday in March. For 2017 and following, the meet will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in February. Our apology for this date confusion.

The times are as in previous meets. Please see our [www.gcmrr.org](http://www.gcmrr.org) web site for more details along with the registration form. (And included in this issue)

About 10% of the tables are already sold and we expect this meet to be larger than previous years.

Please send registrations to me as noted below or you may register and pay online via PayPal. My goal is to confirm your reservation within a week of receiving it. Feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions you may have.

## MENARDS AND OTHER GOODIES

by John Horvath

For me, after years of culling my O train stuff and years of storing, I bought some new stuff this year. The new middleman for us O gauge, Menards housing supply, tempted me. These Menard flatcars are under \$8 each, new. The lettering is crisp. Simple sturdy, nicely made. The underside has simple operating truck coupler sets, for half the price of buying a slightly better and not easy to find, operating coupler truck sets. The cost works fine for scratch building and modifying. Steel wheels. The 6464 style box cars, by the case, are quite nice. The real wood deck flat car set is impressive.

Another buy was a couple of complex Ross switches with TMCC switch machines. Both are #4, a 3 way and a double slip. They seem costly, but actually cost less than buying 7 individual switches that do the same thing, and they take up little space. The same two factors that make these designs useful to the prototype make them useful to a floor layout retiree.

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## EDITOR'S CONTRIBUTION

by Peter Atonna

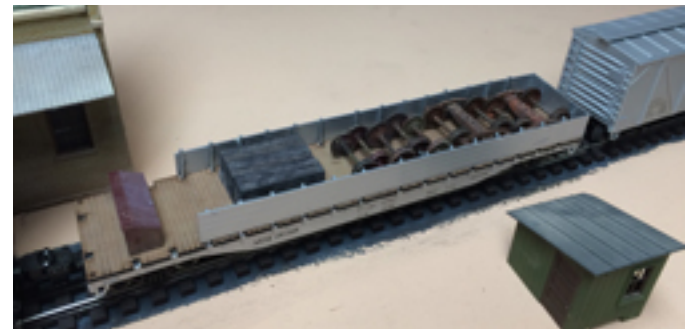
I agree fully with John's notes about the Menard's train products. Like him, I've recently discovered items whose price and quality scream "kitbash me".

The first shots are of the scale length flat cars, which although not as fully detailed at their Lionel counterparts, are close enough at a third of the price to become candidates for kitbashing

Here are two flats that I've modified. The first is simply adding wheel chocks to some John Deere



tractors which are headed for the dealership in downtown Douglas on the layout. Next you see a more significant project, conversion of a flat car to an equipment storage flat to go with my wreck train. Here I repainted the car an aluminum color with new decals to match that of Santa Fe work trains. Then, I've added side boards and equipment to the car. One of the only drawbacks of the Menards flats is that they leave a pretty large hole in the wood deck for attaching the truck screw.



In this case, a storage bin was located over one hole and one of the replacement trucks over the other. Finally, I read online that their automobiles are a pretty good quarter inch scale (as opposed to some of those 1:43 scale vehicles which look like they were





meant for standard gauge). When Menards offered a 16 pack for less than \$3 apiece, I could not resist. So they are now an automobile storage yard for my intermodal complex. They also fit well into my Lionel auto cars and will have an unloading ramp built so they can be driven off.

## CHRISTMAS TALES

Paul Boston

And the circle is complete!

This train ran under my Christmas tree on my first Christmas in 1939 and now here it is again. My father was asked by his parents what they should buy me for my first Christmas. He suggested a train, but they protested that I wasn't old enough to play with the train. His reply was "I'm old enough!", referring to himself.

Well the old train missed a few Christmases over the years, but here it is again running good as new like every old Lionel does with a little help from Gerry Klei.

Merry Christmas and happy new year!



Rod Johnson

There are two shots here of the Christmas Train layout in Sun Lakes, AZ where of course we now spend the winter. Anyway, the small oval under the tree is an On30 set from Bachman-----Great Northern of course. Space in the two bedroom winter location is limited which keeps everything tight in a corner of the living room; but we managed to include a number of Dept. 56 lighted structures and an animated skating rink, etc.



Peter Atonna

We built this permanent Christmas layout some years ago and store it in our barn between seasons. It is basically two insulating foam boxes laid on three foam sheets. All is coated with texture paint for a slightly rough "snow" texture, then painted with gloss white paint and sprinkled with "snow sprinkles" while wet. LED Christmas lights are permanently mounted in the upper level.

Using FastTrack, it has two levels and circles. I have it wired for both conventional and TMCC control, but find myself running almost always postwar conventional sets. But the CAB 1 lets me control trains from the convenience of a chair rather than having to kneel on the floor by the transformers!

When I still had my prewar train collection, I would run a prewar set on the upper loop and postwar on the bottom. This year it was a Marx theme on the upper level and postwar cataloged sets on the lower level. Sometimes I would just put together sets for miscellaneous postwar locos and cars.



Here is the upper level with a Marx Mercury set.



And on the lower level, one of my favorite early postwar passenger sets, from 1949 pulled by a #2026 before they “simplified” it in the 50’s.

## NICK LADD

The GCMR as well as the entire toy train world lost a friend when we learned of the passing of Nick. He was known throughout the toy train world as a Vice President of K Line and a great supporter of this club during those years. In addition he was a President of the Train Collectors Association.

Here is a summary from his funeral notice:

CHAPEL HILL: Nicholas B. Ladd, 78, died at home Friday. He was born January 20, 1937 in Atlanta, GA. Nick’s family moved frequently though his formative years were spent in Chevy Chase, MD. He was a graduate of the University of Maryland, then received a Master’s in retailing from the University of Pittsburgh. Nick spent his career in retail management, beginning with Woodward & Lothrop in Washington. He moved to Philadelphia and joined his beloved company, the famous Wanamaker Dept. Store, where he worked in several capacities, ultimately becoming V.P. of branch store operations. Nick retired from Lord & Taylor in 1997. Pursuing his passion for toy trains, he moved to Chapel Hill to become V.P of Sales & Marketing with K-Line, a leading toy train company.

## GCMR HOLIDAY SHOW AT THE PARADISE VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Photos by John Draftz







**"ONE OF ARIZONA'S LARGEST  
MODEL RAILROAD SWAP MEETS"**  
**THE CACTUS  
WINTER MEET**

**9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**\$6.00/PERSON \$11.00/FAMILY**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 5th, 2016**

(Large Farmers Market at the same time!)

**NORTH PHOENIX BAPTIST CHURCH**



**FELLOWSHIP CENTER**

5757 North Central Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Free Parking \* Great Location  
A Family Affair \* Food Available  
Train Layouts \* Test Track  
Door Prizes \* Raffles  
"End-O-Swap" Auction

**ALL SIZES AND SCALES FOR SALE!**

Presented by your pal Casey Cactus and the  
**GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS**  
 Visit us at [www.gcmrr.org](http://www.gcmrr.org) email: [info@gcmrr.org](mailto:info@gcmrr.org)



**CACTUS WINTER MODEL TRAIN  
SWAP AND SHOW**

**Saturday, March 5, 2016**

**\$6.00 Single - \$11.00 Family**

**This coupon good for \$1.00 off cost of admission**

One coupon per party Received at the GCMRR Mini Swap

**"ONE OF ARIZONA'S LARGEST  
MODEL RAILROAD SWAP MEETS"**  
**THE CACTUS  
WINTER MEET**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 5th, 2016**

**9 AM - 1 PM    \$6/PERSON \$11/FAMILY**

(\$1.00 off cards and coupons available - next to large Farmers Market!)



**NORTH PHOENIX BAPTIST CHURCH**

**FELLOWSHIP CENTER**

5757 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012

**Aggressive Promotion, All Scales,  
Great Location, Train Layouts,  
Test Track, Food Available, Raffles  
Free Parking, "End-O-Swap" Auction**

Presented by your pal Casey Cactus and the  
**GRAND CANYON MODEL RAILROADERS**

To reserve your space and required admission name  
badges, submit this form by February 26, 2016

No refunds after February 26, 2016.

Set-up opens at 6:00 AM    Please print form legibly.



Name _____	
Address _____	
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____	Email _____
Buying, selling, ethics and behavior: In case of dispute, the Meet Chairperson and/or impartial referee appointed by the Meet Chairperson shall arbitrate the dispute and render a timely decision and I hereby agree to be bound by such decision. I will not pack until 1:00 PM. Not responsible for lost or stolen articles.	
Signature _____	Date _____
Make check payable to: <b>"Grand Canyon Model Railroaders"</b> Mail to: John Draftz, 1507 W Willow Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85029 or Credit cards accepted via PayPal - Visit <a href="http://www.gcmrr.org">www.gcmrr.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:info@gcmrr.org">info@gcmrr.org</a> Info: John Draftz 602-942-3457; Glenn Saber 602-956-6695	

**\$25 per 8' banquet table**

(Bring a table cover, if desired)

How many tables? \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Request? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you participate in the auction? \_\_\_\_\_

Seller? \_\_\_\_\_ Buyer? \_\_\_\_\_

**Admission Name Badges**

**1 or 2 tables = 2 badges max.**

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_

**3 or more tables = 4 badges max.**

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_

**More badges available at \$5.00 each**

## **THE MAIN LINE**

**Peter Atonna, Editor**

**25375 N. Feather Mountain Rd.**

**Paulden, AZ 86334**



**Here is a scene from the GCMR's modular layout entertaining the public at the annual Christmas season setup at the Paradise Valley United Methodist Church. A wonderful way to share the joy of toy trains with kids of all ages during the holiday season!**