



SPUR LINE

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Volume 43 Issue 2

Tempe, Arizona

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Arizona Division, PSR, NMRA

April 2009

SUMMER MEET - ARIZONA DIVISION, PSR, NMRA Saturday, June 20, 2009 - Sedona, Arizona

DEPOT **St. John Vianney Catholic Church West Sedona**
180 Soldier Pass Road West Sedona, Arizona
(See locator map on last page)

REGISTRATION \$7.00 or FREE - If you join the NMRA at Registration.
\$3.00 - If NMRA member under 21 years of age. *(Bring your membership card.)*

SCHEDULE

- 9:00 am - Registration opens. Enter contests until noon.
- 10:00 am - CLINIC: Computer Generated Carcards and Waybills - Dick Vogler
- 11:00 am - Business Meeting and door prize drawings
- 11:45 am - Break for lunch at a restaurant of your choice
- 1:00 pm - CLINIC: Measuring and Developing Plans from Historic Photos - Allen Gross, MMR
- 1:45 pm - CLINIC: Wooden Flat Car Decks - Don Stewart
- 2:30 pm - CLINIC: How to Build Tight Lock and Barbed Wire Fencing - Art Carlton
- 3:15 pm - Announce contest winners, door prize drawings.
- 4:00 pm - Adjourn

CONTESTS

A full line up of NMRA contests is planned. Also included are Levity, Favorite Train and the ever popular photo contest. The Levity theme is TOFC - anything beginning with a 'T' On Flat Car. The Favorite Train category will be Intermodal to consist of a maximum of ten cars plus motive power. Bring your favorite model for the popular vote Favorite model contest and share it with other attendees. You must be a member of the NMRA to enter contests.

Give our contests a try. You may win an award!

SWAP MEET: Tables will be available at 8:30 AM after the sellers' registration is paid. There is no fee for tables, but only Arizona Division members are allowed to sell. Anybody can buy! Please only one table per seller until everybody has a table.

**Please note all swap meet sellers must be NMRA members and must register.*

RAILETES: A fun & exciting project activity is planned for the ladies. We promise that you are going to laugh and have a good time making it. Come join in on the fun!

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

BY: ART CARLTON

“A few months back while waiting for my daughter’s school bus to pick her up and take her to school, I heard a faint train whistle. About six miles east of our house are the Picacho to Phoenix tracks of UPRR (formerly SPRR), and that whistle was from a freight train headed towards Phoenix. I asked my daughter if she could hear it. She stopped for moment from what she was doing and said “yup”. As I watch her play at the bus stop, I listen to the train blowing the whistle for each crossing it went through. It was at this point I began to remember back to my youth.

I was raised in a small farming community of La Palma, Arizona, approximately seven miles south of Coolidge. It was here my folks owned (still do today) one of the forty 3 1/3 acre lots that made up La Palma. That small plot consisted of a main house, my grandparents’ house, a large workshop, several out buildings (one being an 8’x12’ shed from my HO trains) and various animal pens. Surrounding the neighborhood were cotton fields. About a half mile to the east was the best part of all – the Picacho to Phoenix tracks of the Southern Pacific Railroad. These particular set of tracks were constructed in 1925 to handle freight and passenger service from Phoenix to the main transcontinental line of SPRR.

As a youth, I was the first one up in the morning. I would go out to the kitchen and start a pot of coffee. While the coffee was brewing (or percolating in the aluminum pot on the kitchen stove), I would head out to the chicken coop to feed and water the chickens, and gather their eggs for that morning breakfast. Upon my return, my mom would be sipping on a cup of coffee at the kitchen table. I would wash the eggs and place them in bowl next to the kitchen stove. Then I would pour myself a cup of coffee and go out on the front porch. I would sit on the porch and sip on my coffee and gaze to the east waiting to see the first SPRR morning train.

I could always here the train before I could see it. I would try to guess which crossing it was at and how many engines it had (I was always wrong on the number of engines). At this time Mom was in the kitchen fixing breakfast. She would open the kitchen window and ask if I could hear the train. I would smile and say “yup” and give its location.

From the porch I had a clear view of the crossing at

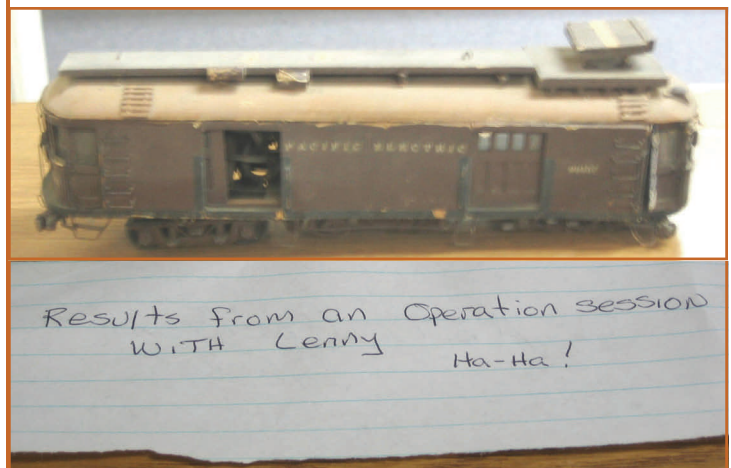
State Route 287. I would wait to see the train go by before going back into the house to eat breakfast. After breakfast there were more chores to do and get ready to go to school. While waiting for the bus, I would here the second train of the morning coming up from the wye at Picacho. Sometimes I would be able to see the train before the bus came, but majority of the time the bus would arrive before I could see the train.

On Saturdays, I would finish my morning chores and go set on the porch and wait for the unique sound of Amtrak’s Sunset Limited. It would go by La Palma about nine in the morning. After going through La Palma, it would pass through Randolph (named after the famous SPRR construction engineer), and then on to Coolidge. At Coolidge, it would stop at the Coolidge “station”; nothing more than a bench under a lean-to (much like today’s bus stops). After the Coolidge stop, it would head off to Phoenix.

After SPRR abandoned the portion of the line west of Phoenix, Amtrak was rerouted to the main line and established a station at the City of Maricopa. This abandonment also limited the number of freight trains going through La Palma. However, a couple times a week around 6:45 in the morning, one can still hear a whistle of a train head north to Phoenix.

Now, while waiting for the bus to arrive, my daughter and I listen for that faint whistle from the distant train. As soon as we hear it, I look at her and ask if she could here the train whistle. She looks up at me with those cute blue eyes and utters “yup”. It’s at this point I think of how things have changed over the years, but yet how many things have stayed the same. And it’s those things that never change that we should treasure the most.

... I think it time to go have a cup of coffee at Mom’s.



DIRECT FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY: RICK WATSON

Arizona Division meets continue to see an increase in attendance. The last meet in Phoenix had three folks join the NMRA and two re-rails. Our membership continues to be strong at just over 400. We had some great clinics, many of which you can find on the website. And, we had five layouts open for the layout tours after the meet. Thanks to those who opened their layouts!

Although Art, Richard, and I are running unopposed in the upcoming election, I would ask you to cast your votes. That will let us know that you appreciate the work we've done and that we have your support moving forward.

The PSR held a Board of Directors meeting in March. We covered a number of topics, but two of the key ones were 1) What can we do to add value for our members? and 2) How can we grow our membership? In addition, all division director candidates were recognized. There was only one candidate for each division. And, you may not be aware, but the LA Division doesn't have regular meets like we do. I've found it interesting to learn about what the other divisions are doing for their members. As of the meeting, we are now the second largest division. Cajon passed us by two people.

I hope most of you are aware of the upcoming Regional Convention in Las Vegas hosted by the Cajon Division. The dates are September 2-6, 2009. A copy of the registration form can be found on the website and in this issue. I'm looking forward to it. The Regional Convention schedule for the next two

years are San Diego in 2010 and Arizona in 2011. So, I'm looking for volunteers to champion this effort. We need to get the ball rolling. How about Flagstaff, Yuma, or ????. If you're interested, please drop me a note, give me a call, or talk to me in Sedona!

In the Arizona Division, we are focused on provid-



1ST PLACE LEVITY - ALAN BARNES, MMR
ANYBODY WANT AN OREO?



ing value for our membership. While we can't always satisfy everyone, we sure do try. Hopefully, you've enjoyed the enhanced meeting format with more and shorter clinics. Clearly, we've tried to improve our communication tools with the website and the e-Spur Line. The NMRA is undergoing change: change in membership, change in demographics, and change in the leadership. I've recently implemented a process to send welcome letters to new members when they join the division. I now get monthly reports from the NMRA on our membership which identifies the new members each month.

Come join us in Sedona on June 20th. I'm looking forward to it!

**** WANTED ****

VOLUNTEERS TO CONDUCT CLINICS FOR THE SUMMER AND FALL/WINTER MEETS. 30-45-60 MINUTES SLOTS AVAILABLE. CHEAP

CONTACT ART CARLTON AT 520-560-3368

CHIEF CLERK & PAYMASTER REPORT

BY: RICHARD DICK

Did we ever have a crowd at Phoenix for our Spring Division Meet! We had 120 attendees with four of them joining the NMRA! However, notice that we still had a "loss" for the meet. Our expenses continue to go up as the bill for Kwik-Kopy was more than it has been in the past.

I was asked if the Division has to share any revenue from our Division meets with the Region or National. The answer is "No". We keep all the revenue from the Meet, and have to pay all the expenses.

Below is financial data for the Division since December, 2008. We still have plenty of PSR 2007 Convention Cars, t-shirts, patches and pins, as well as other cars, pins and patches from previous Conventions.

LENNY'S CHALLENGE MODELS

(SEE MORE ON THE NEXT PAGE)



*Join us in Sedona
Bring your models!*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Account Balance December 31 , 2008	\$7,428.61
Revenue:	
Division Meet: March 7, 2009	
Attendance Fees	\$812.00
Sales, Pins and Patches	\$15.50
Sales, Convention Cars	\$10.00
Donation	\$8.00
NMRA Dues	\$64.00
Total Meet Revenue	\$909.50
Total Revenue	<u>\$909.50</u>
Expenses:	
Division Meet: March 7, 2009:	
Club/Hobby Shop Flyer Postage	\$32.24
KwikKopy - Newsletr/posters/flyers	\$532.56
Phoenix Meet Facility Expense	\$200.00
Railette Expenses	\$64.86
Total Meet Expenses	\$829.66
Other Expenses:	
Bank Fees	\$23.90
NMRA Dues	\$64.00
Total Other Expenses	\$87.90
Total Expense	<u>\$917.56</u>
Income	-\$8.06
Account Balance, Mar. 31, 2009	<u>\$7,420.55</u>

** WANTED **

GOOD QUALITY MODEL KITS, TOOLS, RR EQUIPMENT, ETC., FOR DOOR PRIZES AT THE JUNE 20TH SEDONA MEET.

** WANTED **

MEMBERS OF THE ARIZONA DIVISION-PSR-NMRA TO ATTEND A DIVISION MEET. THREE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS: NORTHERN, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ARIZONA. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION VISIT WWW.AZDIV-NMRA.ORG



LENNY'S CHALLENGE MODELS





ATTENTION LAYOUT OWNERS

BY: RICK WATSON

If you have a layout, it can be listed on the Arizona Division website. If you're not on the internet, no problem, mail your contact info to me. My address info is listed in the roster on page 7. If you have a website for your layout, you can have it linked to from the Arizona Division website. Send the address info to Webmaster@AzDiv-nmra.org Don't have a website? Not a problem, send your info and contact information to the same email address.

Check it out at:

<http://www.azdiv-nmra.org/Presentations/Presentations.html>

GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS

THEY DO PAY OFF!!!



THE NMRA'S NATIONAL CONTEST INVITES YOU TO

A CELEBRATION OF MODELS, PHOTOS & CRAFTS



MODELING,
PHOTOS, &
AD BY:
TONY BUCCA

VISIT US AT...

WWW.HN2009.ORG OR WWW.NMRA.ORG

JOIN...THE NEW JUDGED KIT BUILT MODEL CONTEST

MEET...FELLOW MODELERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, & CRAFTERS

VOTE... FOR YOUR FAVORITE IN THE "PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS"

SHOW & TELL...YOUR LATEST EFFORTS IN THE MODEL SHOWCASE

PLUS ALL THE STANDARD CONTEST EVENTS AT THE...

HARTFORD NATIONAL CONVENTION JULY 5TH~11TH

FROM THE CONTEST ROOM

BY: KEVIN LOOFF

The recent Phoenix Division Meet was another well attended event. The contest room was again a busy place, but there is always room for a few more models and photos. We had eleven models entered in four different categories with three earning enough points for Merit Awards. There were ten photos entered across all five of the categories. Unfortunately, we are still having trouble getting more than one entry in our Levity contest.

For the Favorite Model contest I plan on continuing the practice of allowing any model in the judged Model Contest to be voted Favorite Model in addition to any models entered strictly for the Favorite Model contest. Bring your contest models to the Sedona meet in June and have them judged as it is the last opportunity to get good feedback on your efforts prior to the Regional Meet in Las Vegas in September. We have gone to using a new Judges' Comment Sheet to provide modelers with useful feedback on the judging process. I hope our members find this beneficial.

For the Sedona Meet on June 20th, the Levity category will be "TOFC". That will be anything that begins with the letter 'T' On Flat Car. The Favorite Train category will be **Intermodal**. The limit as usual is motive power plus up to 10 Intermodal cars. It you choose to enter stack cars, each unit is counted toward the 10 cars. So, if you have a 5 unit well car set, that will count as 5 cars.

Also remember to bring your in progress models and other models to display in Lenny's Challenge.

CONTEST RESULTS PHOENIX DIVISION MEET

MARCH 7, 2009

MODELS

Best In Show

Sn3 D&RGW Stock Car*—Don Stewart

Rolling Stock - Kit

1st Place – Milw. Road Tap Lounge –Alan Vincent

Motive Power – Kit

1st Place – D&RGW F3B* – Alan Barnes, MMR

Structures – Open

2nd Place – Yard Office – David Irick

Structures – Kit

1st Place – Citrus Packing House* - Tom Gilliard

2nd Place – Palmer's Dry Goods – David Irick

3rd Place – Miller Building – David Irick

Display - Kit

1st Place - Through Truss Bridge* – Richard Petrina

Note: In the category where there was no first place winner, there was insufficient point total (76) to allow a first place award in accordance with Arizona Division Contest rules. * Indicates Merit Award

Levity

1st Place – Cookie Box Crumbs – Alan Barnes, MMR

Favorite Model

1st Place—Citrus Packing House – Tom Gilliard

2nd Place—Robbles Station – Tom Gilliard

3rd Place—Through Truss Bridge—Richard Petrina

Favorite Train

1st Place – Shay - Lenny Smith

2nd Place – GN – Duane Buck

3rd Place – D&RGW – Don Stewart

PHOTOGRAPHY

Model - Color

1st Place – Refinery – Nelson Steinmetz

2nd Place – Fall Stock Rush – Don Stewart

3rd Place – Helper Roundhouse – Alan Barnes, MMR

Model - Black & White

1st Place – Haulin' Oil – Don Stewart

Prototype - Color

1st Place – Mt. Washington Cog – Nelson Steinmetz

2nd Place – Needleton Water Stop – Allen Greger

3rd Place – BNSF7002@Flagstaff – Al Barnes, MMR

Prototype - Black & White

1st Place – Two ATSF Locos – Jon Wolfe

Prototype - Black & White

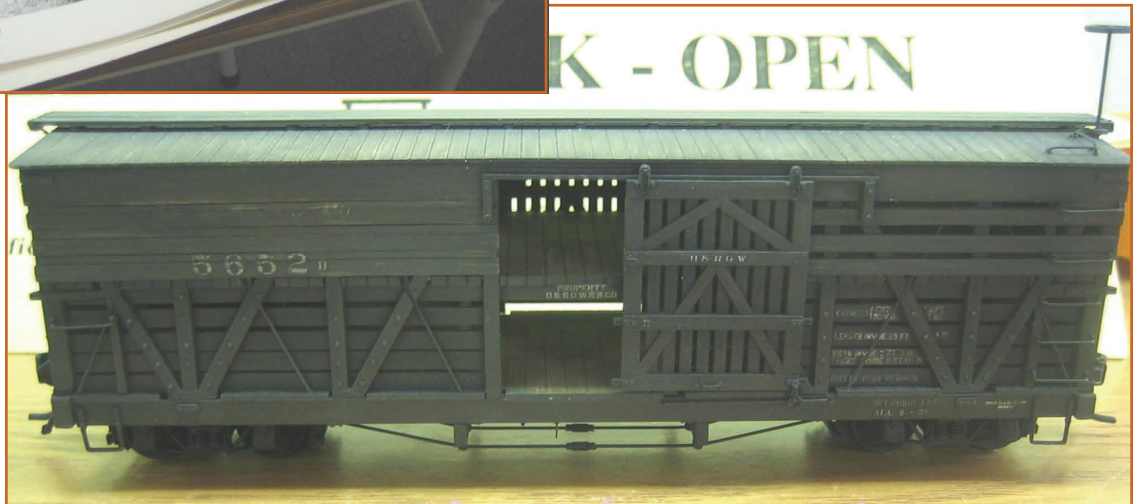
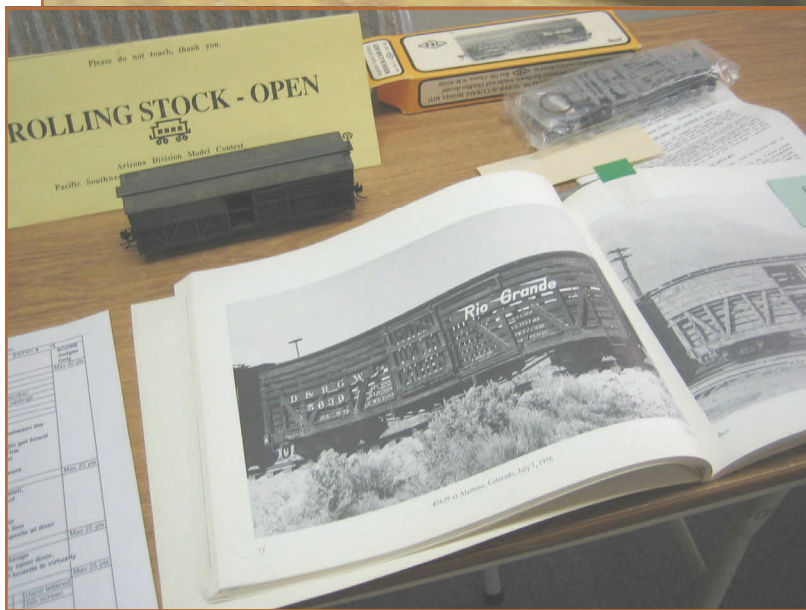
1st Place - Two Harbors – Allen Greger

CONGRATULATIONS!

KEEP ON BUILDING THOSE MODELS

**MAKE SURE TO BRING YOUR MODELS
TO SEDONA JUNE 20TH!**

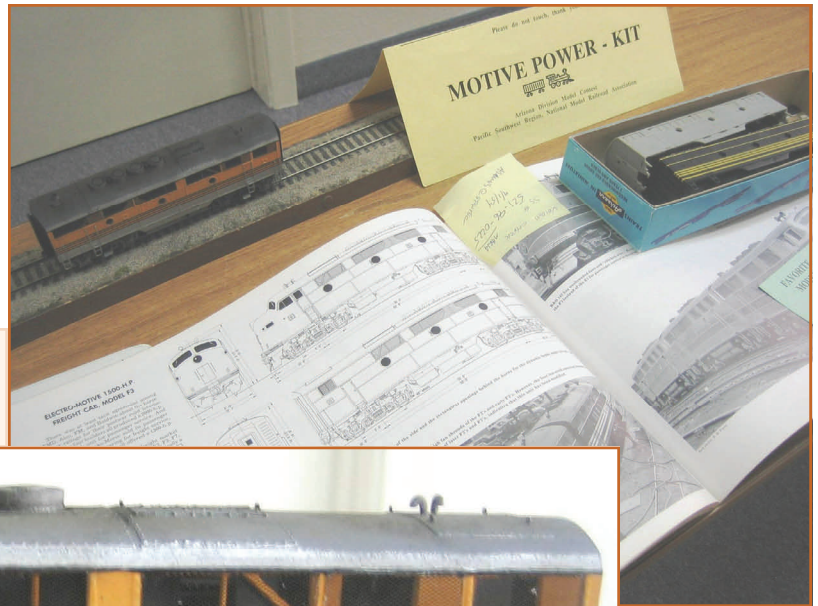
BEST IN SHOW - DON STEWART





First Place - Rolling Stock Kit - Alan Vincent

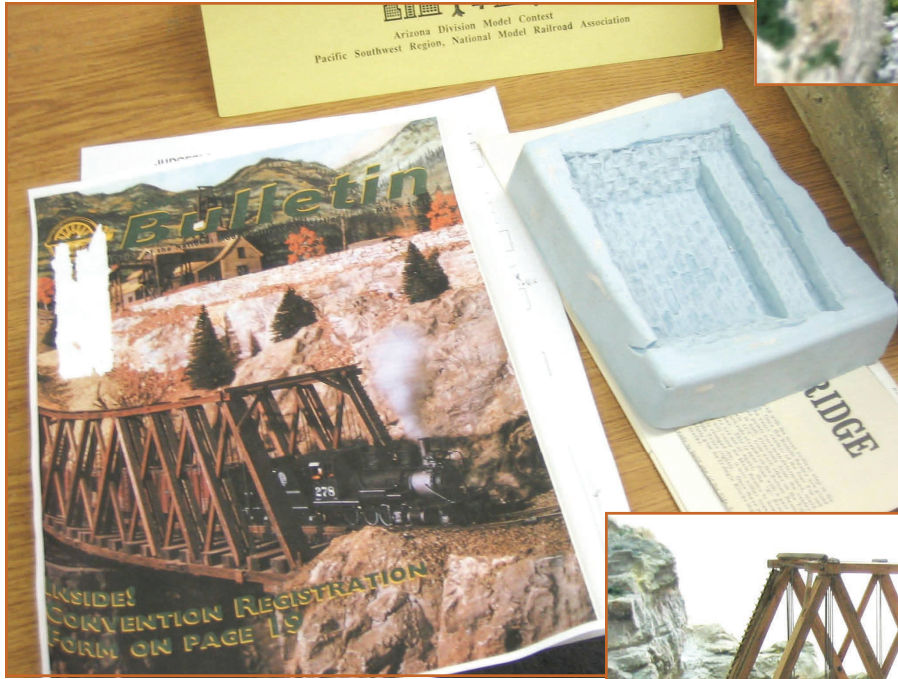
First Place - Motive Power Kit - Alan Barnes, MMR





First Place - Structures Open
Tom Gilliard





1st Place - Display Kit
Richard Petrina



ARIZONA DIVISION ELECTIONS 2009 - CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

SUPERINTENDENT***ART CARLTON***

I can not believe it will be two years this November (2009) that you elected me as the Superintendent of the Arizona Division-PSR-NMRA. As we prepare for another election for the Division, I would like to thank all of the Division members who have voted and supported me over the two years. I also like to thank all of you for nominating me for a second term as your Superintendent.

If elected to a second term of office, I will continue to bring high quality clinics to the meets; work towards increasing the number of entries in the model contest; work towards increasing membership; and listen to, and be opened minded to new ideas to improve our Division.

Again, thank you for your vote of confidence.

CHIEF CLERK / PAYMASTER***RICHARD DICK***

I am running for a second term as Chief Clerk/Paymaster of the Arizona Division, having served the Arizona Division as Chief Clerk/Paymaster for the last two years. I have also served the Arizona Division as Superintendent, Director and worked on three PSR Convention Committees over the last 20 years.

I am asking for your vote to continue as Chief Clerk/Paymaster for one more term. I have enjoyed seeing and talking with many of you as you have attended our Arizona Division meets over the last two years.

Please vote during this election. It only costs one stamp and shows your interest in the Division activities. Our attendance at meets has been increasing; I believe this shows an increased interest on behalf of the members in the Division's activities.

DIVISION DIRECTOR***RICK WATSON***

When I ran for the office two years ago, I stated that I am a change agent. So what has changed? First, our division membership has grown. New members are joining at each meet. Second, our division meet attendance is up significantly each meet. Third, we now have a website. I had the region reimburse the cost to our division. Fourth, all division members now get the newsletter. This was not happening previously. Fifth, we have an online version of the Spur Line to which 1/3 of our membership subscribe. This reduced our publication costs significantly. Sixth, I recommended the new afternoon clinic format which implemented more and shorter length clinics. This provides more info to attendees and makes it easier to prepare a clinic.

So, what more will I target if re-elected? I believe we have established a very strong base and now have the opportunity to mature it. These successes included the help of Art, Richard, and others. We need to keep up the pace and find more improvement opportunities. I also believe that despite the economy, we can continue to grow our membership if we continue to provide value to our members.

I would like to thank all who have provided me feedback over the past two years. I ask for your continued feedback on the changes made, and your ideas for new opportunities. Tell me what you're thinking.

I humbly ask for your vote. I will keep making progress and help our division to grow!

PLEASE VOTE!!!

The printed version of the Spur Line is sent to all division members this issue as the Arizona Division Election ballot is included. Please take the time to vote. Additionally, you will receive another ballot in the mail from the PSR for Division Director elections.

Please take the time to complete and mail your ballots. By voting, you're letting the candidates know that you support the work they've done and that you support the work they will do in the future!

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

BY: DON STEWART

The Arizona Division continues to produce good model contests with a large percent of the entered models earning Merit Awards. At the March Division Meeting, several Merit Awards were earned. See the contest area for the results. Photographs of the models are contained in the Spur Line (at least the web site version).

The forms that need to be submitted with models for judging continue to be a source of discussion. Let me provide a quick comment on this. Think of your forms from the judges point of view. There are always judges that have been judging for a while and newer people. They do not know the details of your model. How does it compare to the prototype? Without a reference (photo) it is difficult to tell, even for an experienced judge.

If you built the model from a kit, bring the

instructions or another kit. This will go a long way in filling in the Construction and Detail sections. If any extra details are added, list them in the Details section and describe how you built them in the Construction section. A prototype photo essentially addresses the Conformity category. The Finish and Lettering section

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

CHECK THE NMRA WEBSITE AT:
WWW.NMRA.ORG/ACHIEVEMENT

needs a few words to describe how you painted and weathered the model. In this section the work you did will speak for itself. For the Scratch-building section list what you scratch-built. How you built the scratch parts goes in the Construction category.

Thinking from the judges point of view, or judging a contest with an experienced judge will go a long way in improving your scores and modeling capability.



2ND PLACE - PALMER'S DRY GOODS (LEFT)
 3RD PLACE—THE MILLER BUILDING (RIGHT)
 BOTH MODELS BY DAVID IRICK
 IN STRUCTURES KIT



RAILETTES

BY JANET SPOONER

Hi Railettes!!

Well, if you want to cool off Sedona is the place to do it in. The AZ Division meet will be in Sedona in June and what could be better than a few days of the cooler temperatures up in AZ's northern country. Those beautiful Red Rocks are inviting us to a restful and relaxing time. We will be making Patriotic placemats and napkin holders, so you can dress up your 4th of July celebrations. Hope to see many of you in Sedona and if not there then in Las Vegas in September.

vey Girls looked like. Kim Fowler is planning something for us. Knowing Kim hold on to your hats, it is going to be fantastic. These two incredibly talented ladies are going all out for you. They are planning something for you to have fun doing and learning about. What more can we ask. Well, to show our appreciation for all they are, and will be doing, we need to come to the clinics and participate in what they have brought for us. I will, once again, be bringing



Las Vegas! Just the name of that town is exciting. Well, in September, we will all be meeting at the Texas Station for four days of fun. Linda Irick has planned a talk about the history of the Harvey Girls. Knowing Linda it is going to be spectacular. I think she even has costumes to wear showing what the Har-

washcloths that with the help of a little lace, artificial flowers, ribbons, and the goodies from hotel rooms, we will be making shelter gifts. The shelter in Tucson, where we sent them, was extremely grateful and delighted to get them. There will be a ladies luncheon, sign up on the extra fare form. Looking forward to seeing all of your happy faces in Vegas, ready to gossip, laugh, play and generally have a great time.



There were a number of entries for Favorite



THE 2009 PSR CONVENTION IS COMING!

SEPTEMBER 2-5 IN LAS VEGAS, NV

SEE THE CONVENTION WEBSITE AT: WWW.PSRCONVENTION.ORG



City of Las Vegas 2009

Pacific Southwest Region, NMRA®2009 Convention

September 2nd-6th, 2009

Presented by the Cajon Division, PSR, NMRA®

Texas Station Hotel-Casino and Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada
2101 Texas Star Lane, North Las Vegas, NV 89032 (Rancho Rd. at Lake Mead Blvd)

Name(s)* (1) _____ (2) _____
(3) _____ (4) _____
Address _____
City _____ State & Zip _____
Phone & Area Code _____ E-Mail** _____
NMRA Member (yes or no) _____ I.D. # _____ Registration Date _____
Region _____ Home Division _____
* As you want it to appear on your badge(s) ** E-Mail is the preferred communication method

For more info contact Bob Mitchell at cajondivision@coastinet.com

FARE	QTY	EACH	TOTAL
Full Registration (Includes Banquet Dinner)	@	\$ 99.00	
Spouse & Youth (7-18) Registration (Includes Banquet Dinner)	@	\$ 79.00	
Banquet Meal Choice <input type="checkbox"/> New York Steak <input type="checkbox"/> California Chicken			
Full Registration (Excluding Banquet Dinner)	@	\$ 65.00	
Spouse Registration & Youth (7-18) (Excluding Banquet Dinner)	@	\$ 45.00	
Non-Members are welcome at no additional charge However, are encouraged to purchase a 6 month membership Rail Pass	@	\$ 9.95	
Banquet Dinner Only (<i>Guest Speaker is Charlie Getz</i>)	@	\$ 45.00	
Bowling for Trains (Division Team Challenge) ~ Wed Night Mixer	@	\$ 10.00	
Day Fare/Per Day (Excludes Banquet) <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	@	\$ 40.00	
Hobo Breakfast (for qualified Hobos and their guests only ~ Sat Morn)	@	\$ 15.00	
Raillette Luncheon ~ Friday	@	\$ 15.00	
Convention Car with Decals (Kadee PS-1 Box Car with Data)	@	\$ 24.50	
Convention Patches	@	\$ 3.50	
Convention Pins	@	\$ 4.00	
Manufacture Hands on Clinic (Includes Laser Kit) 4Hrs ~ Thursday.	@	\$ 45.00	
Layout Bus Tour to Pahrump, Nevada (Includes Sack Lunch) ~ Friday	@	\$ 30.00	
Hoover Dam Bus Tour (Includes Tour Guide & Chocolate Factory)~Thurs	@	\$ 78.00	
Layout Bus Tour Las Vegas (G, O, On3, HO, N) ~ Saturday Morning	@	\$ 25.00	
'Chinese Auction' Friday Night (Don't miss this one)		Free	

Payment by Check or Credit Card **TOTAL \$**

We will call you for credit card information. Best Time Morning Afternoon Evening

Mail to Charlie Abbott, PSR 2009 Registrar, 8224 Impatients Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89131-4634 or

Email to Charlie@abbottstdg.com or FAX to 702-871-5463

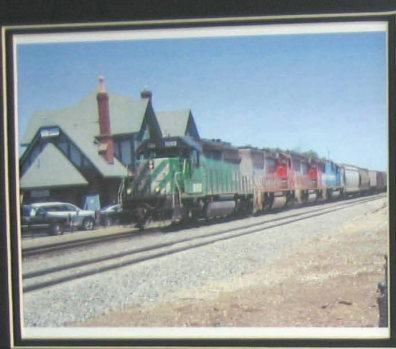
Available to Volunteer Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Primary Scales of Interest HO N Z S O G Narrow Gauge Other _____

Hotel Reservations: Room Rates are Wed and Thurs \$49 Fri and Sat \$70, plus State and Local Taxes.

Contact Maria Shellhase using her direct number during business hours 702-631-8358. Or her cell number 702-425-0650. (Report any problems to Bob Mitchell at 951-440-9729 cajondivision@coastinet.com)

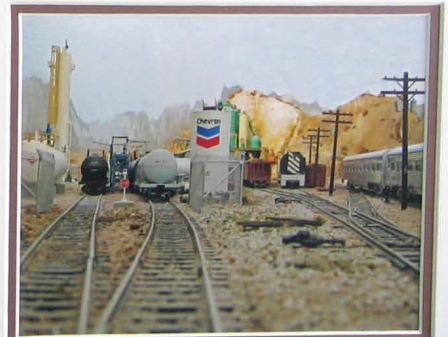
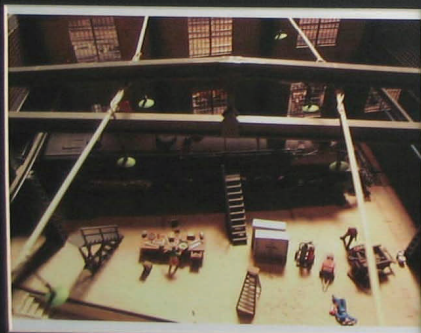
or you can contact the Reservation line 800-654-8804, Select #1, Tell Reservation what nights you will be attending ~ then tell them you are with the Cajon Division and the Group Code is TCICADV.



A RAINY COLD DAY AT THE MOUNT WASHINGTON CO. RAILROAD



Some great photos in the contest room



NMRA NATIONAL CONTEST IMPROVEMENTS!

Hello Everyone,

Let me introduce myself. I have been the National Contest Chairman for several years now and I and my staff have been working hard to improve that activity and make it more appealing to attendees. In Anaheim we added two events: the People's Choice Awards, a direct entry, minimal paperwork pop vote contest and the Model Showcase, a non-competitive, display-only event (complete or in process models are okay) again with little paperwork. For Hartford we are premiering three new activities: a Kit Built Contest to run in parallel with the regular Scratch Built contest (with a parallel array of place awards); an event we are calling "An Afternoon of Meet the Modeler, Photographer, & Crafter" in which entrants in the Showcase and all the contest entrants are encouraged to come to the contest room and be with their entries to explain, discuss, and generally showoff their works. Now entrants may stay with their entrees at any time the contest room is open (except for Wednesday when we are judging) but we are trying to focus this on Tuesday to get the most people to attend. The third new event is a Thursday morning score review period for the judged contest (Kit and Scratch) during which contestants may discuss and ask questions of the judges and staff. (The awards will take place on Thursday afternoon.)

Now to why I am writing to all of you, I know from last year that the principal problem I have with these improvements is GETTING THE WORD OUT quite simply because I have limited ability to do that. Last year I wrote an article in Scale Rails and of course put them on the contest webpage. However, the article was included in the Bulletin section, and I wonder how many people especially those that may have been turned by the contest and have never tried it. Now I'm not here to criticize its placement. It is organization business and was thus properly placed. However, that still does not again GET THE WORD OUT as well as I need to, so this year I am taking a more comprehensive approach. Another article has been written

and submitted to Scale Rails along with a series of promotion ads (see below). These comprise neat little graphics that note the contest improvements. I have asked that they be run in the front section of Scale Rails and included in the May, June and July issues. Hopefully the combination will get to more people and raise awareness. This is where you guys come in. I am asking you, the regions to run these ads, which are attached, in your newsletters, on your websites and in whatever other manner you may be able to get them out there including simply spreading wording by email and word of mouth. You know over the years there has been a lot of criticism regarding the contest, too much of this, too little of that, etc. etc. Well folks, we're working hard to make it better, so please help us out!!!

Now my last item, and this one is aimed primarily at the region contest chairman, as part of the contest improvements I am working with Paul Richardson, National AP Chairman to improve the judging, both to improve and expand the judging guidelines as well as provide better training for judges. While we have laid some of the groundwork, we would like to engage your help as region chairman to identify, discuss and suggest solutions to some of these issues, and you will be hearing from me in the coming months on that topic, so thanks in advance for your participation.

Many, many thanks in advance for your help,

Bob Hamm, MMR

NMRA National Contest Chairman

NO MORE EXCUSES!

The NMRA's National Contest
has expanded into a

**Celebration of Models,
Photos & Crafts.**

with a greater choice of events!

- **NEW** Kit Build Contest
- An afternoon of "Meet the Entrants"
- People's Choice Award (Popular vote)
- Model Showcase - non judged "show & tell"

Plus, all the normal contest events.

It's fun and a great chance to improve your skills.
If not now, when?

Visit the National Model Railroad Assn.'s website/contest page for details!
<http://www.nmra.org>

Hartford National
Convention 2009



More models from the contest room



ARIZONA CLUBS:

Arizona & Southwest Model Railroad Society / Tucson NTRAK - N scale, Tucson, AZ

Contact: John Scott (520) 250-2800 On the web: <http://home.comcast.net/~tucsonntrak>

Black Canyon Model Railroad Club - Ho scale. Phoenix, AZ area

Contact: Harold Shelton (602) 242-0751 On the web: <http://www.bcerraz.net/>

Central Arizona Model Railroad Club - Multiple scales. Prescott, AZ area

Contact: Brent Schnitzius (928) 445-6560 On the web: www.camrrc.com

Flagstaff Model Railroad Club - HO, HOn3, N scales. Flagstaff, AZ

Contact: John Lovely (928) 774-7589 On the web: <http://ucc.nau.edu/~twp/railclub>

Grand Canyon State Model Railroaders - HO scale Modular, Phoenix, AZ area

Contact: Bob Gibbs (480) 968-1760 On the web: www.GCSMR.org

PebbleCreek Model Railroad Club - HO and G Scales, Goodyear, AZ

Contact: Gary Gelzer (623) 935-4870 On the web: www.pcmrc.org

Ponderosa North Model Railroad - Round Robin, Phoenix, AZ area

Contact: Matt Furze mattfurze@cox.net On the web: www.arizonarails.com/pncpage

Southern Arizona Society of Model Engineers (SASME) - HO, HOn3 scales, Tucson, AZ

Contact: Richard Dick (520) 790-5356 On the web: www.sasme.org

Scottsdale Model Railroad Club - HO, HOn3 scales, Scottsdale, AZ

Contact: SMRC01C@ScottsdaleModelRRClub.org On the web: www.scottsdalemodelrrclub.org

Sun City Model Railroad Club - HO scale, Sun City, AZ

Contact: Bob Batt (623) 734-6377 On the web: <http://hometown.aol.com/newriverwestern/NRNW.htm>

Sun City West Model Railroad Club - HO, N scales, Sun City West, AZ

Contact: Bob Butler (623) 556-5179

On the web: <http://www.scwclubs.com/Clubs/CT20/forums/thread-view.asp?tid=1427>

Sun'N'Sand Model Railroad Club - N scale, Scottsdale, AZ

Contact: Mark Vanacore (602) 410-1110 On the web: www.sun-n-sand.org

Thunderbird Model Railroad Club - HO scale, Phoenix, AZ

Contact: Larry Platt On the web: www.trainweb.org/tbird

Yuma Model Railroaders - Multiple Scales, Yuma, AZ

Contact: Lee Stoermer (928) 344-9417 On the web: www.geocities.com/yumamodelrailroaders

To have your club added to the list, please email your club info to SpurLine@AzDiv-NMRA.org

COMING EVENTS:

****MORE INFO ON THE WEBSITE**

June 20, 2009	Arizona Division Summer Meet - Sedona, AZ
July 5-11, 2009	NMRA National Convention - Hartford, CT
July 25, 2009	'In The Heat' Swap Meet - Phoenix, AZ
August 15, 2009	Beat the Heat Swap Meet - Prescott, AZ
September 3-6, 2009	PSR Regional Convention - Las Vegas, NV
October 10-11, 2009	Rail Fair - McCormick-Stillman RR Park - Scottsdale, AZ
November 14, 2009	Arizona Division Fall Meet - Jr. League of Tucson, Tucson, AZ

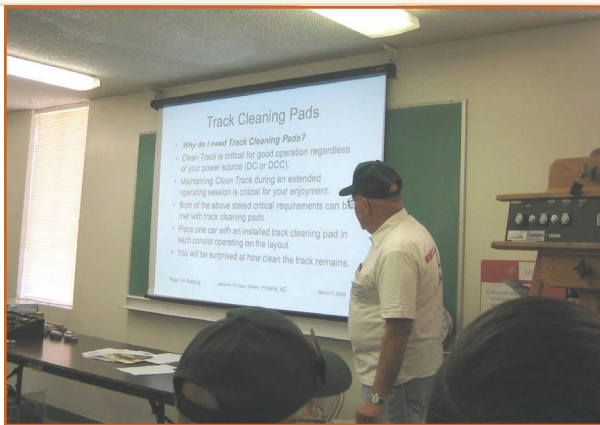
KEVIN LOOFF'S STUCCO CLINIC



ALAN OLSON'S VEHICLE CLINIC



ROGER VON SEEBURG'S TRACK CLEANER CLINIC



BRUCE PETRARCA'S DCC SOUND CLINIC



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SPUR LINE

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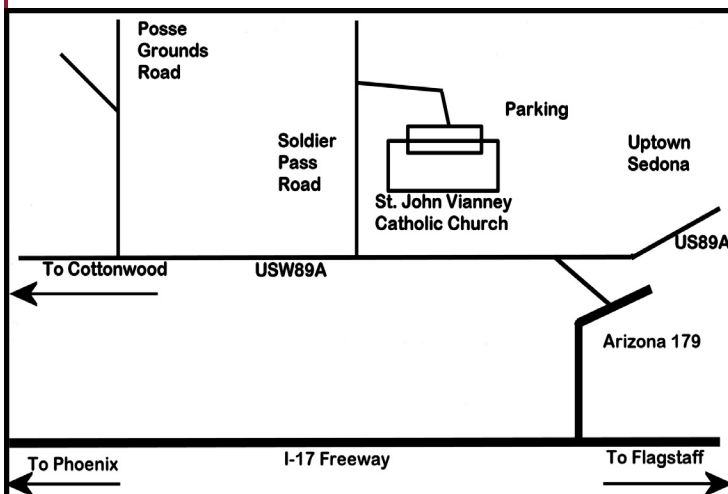
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*Support your local
Hobby Shop!*

*Join us in Sedona
Bring your models!*



SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2009
SEDONA, ARIZONA

Depot:

St. John Vianney Catholic Church West Sedona
180 Soldier Pass Road West Sedona, Arizona

Directions:

North from Phoenix on I-17 to Arizona 179. Go west 15 miles to Sedona. From US 89A, west of the junction, turn on Soldier Pass Rd. The address is 180 Soldier Pass Rd, but you will turn to the right from Soldier Pass Rd. onto St. John Vianney Rd.