



SPUR LINE

Volume 46, Issue 1

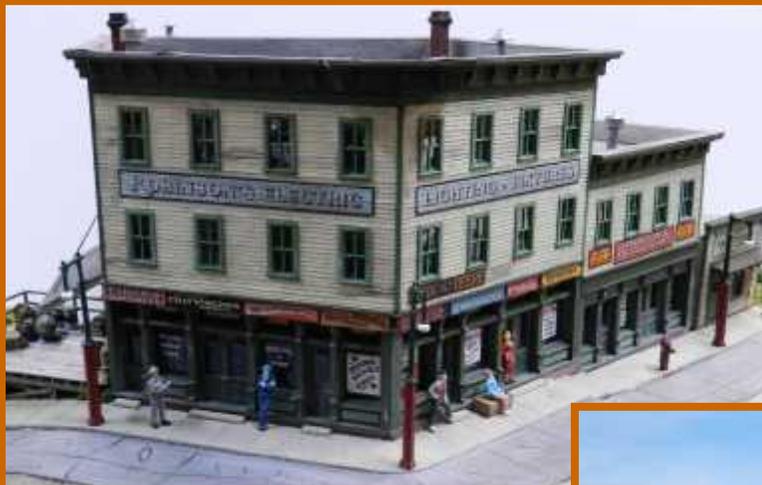
January 2012

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SPRING MEET - ARIZONA DIVISION, PSR, NMRA

Saturday, March 10, 2012 - Sun City, Arizona

More info and schedule on page



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SPUR LINE NEWSLETTER

The "SPUR LINE" is the official publication of the Arizona Division, Pacific Southwest Region , National Model Railroad Association (NMRA), and is published three times a year in Scottsdale, Arizona. The "SPUR LINE" is available to all members of the NMRA who live in Arizona.

RESPONSIBILITY: Except for official reports, all opinions are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Arizona Division or its parent organizations.

SUBMISSIONS: Contributions of articles on any railroad or model railroading topic of interest to the membership are welcome. There is no compensation, but published articles can be credited to the NMRA Author Achievement Certificate. If you are interested in submitting articles, event information, or other information of interest to the members of the Division, please follow these guidelines:

1. Preferred method is by email to the Spurline editor with the submission attached as a word text document.
2. Keep in mind that submissions may be edited for length or formatting, or not used, at the discretion of the editor.
3. Submission deadlines for publication are: December 5th, April 5th and July 5th.



MEMBER AID

Recognize this person? Well, he is George Lopez Cepero, and he is our Member Aid Director, a volunteer who likes to help fellow modelers.

George is the answer man, the go to guy for all things in this wonderful hobby. Got a question ie, How did a particular railroad accomplish their tasks; What color was a particular piece of equipment.? Ask George. He is not going to tell you the answer, but he will do his best to tell you where to look for the answer.

Member Aid is all about helping others learn new ways of enjoying the hobby. The best way to reach George is by phone. (see below for phone number)



ARIZONA DIVISION ROSTER

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ARIZONA DIVISION WEBSITE: www.AzDiv-nmra.org

SPRING MEET - ARIZONA DIVISION, PSR, NMRA

Saturday, March 10, 2012 - Sun City, Arizona

DEPOT Sun City Model Railroad Club @ Recreation Center
 NE. corner of 107th Ave and Peoria Ave. (map on last page)
 Meet Contact: Alan Vincent (623) 249-7553

REGISTRATION \$7.00 - Coffee Provided; 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: "What is the "Q" in CB&Q?"-Dave Irick
- 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:"Magnetic Flat Car & Gondola Loads"- Ed Urmstron
- 1:30 pm - CLINIC: "Trains around the World"- Frank Baker
- 2:00 pm - CLINIC: "PFE Reefer Operations" - Alan Vincent
- 3:00 pm - Announce contest winners, door prize drawings.
- 3:45 pm - Layout Tours – Flyers available at the meet

CONTESTS

A complete line up of NMRA contests is planned. We are including Levity, Favorite Train and the ever popular photo contest. The Favorite Train subject will be "Your Favorite Train",. Levity will be "Economy Passenger Travel ". 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. AZ Division Swap Tables are free for members with a quality donation to the door prize collection. Swap Tables for non-members is \$10.00 with a quality donation to the door prize collection.

RAILETTES: 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!

**** WANTED ****

GOOD QUALITY MODEL KITS, TOOLS, RR EQUIPMENT, ETC.
 FOR DOOR PRIZES AT THE MARCH 10TH MEET IN PHOENIX.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

BY: ALAN VINCENT

Greetings fellow Ferroequinologists!



Many of you might recognize this term, and some of you may not. To those of you who do, the end of 2011 and coming events in 2012 will truly be a feast for our ilk. If you are still trying to figure out what I'm talking about, I'll clue you in shortly, but first things first. I would like to personally thank everyone who made the journey to attend the November Division Meet in Tucson. If you were unable to share this time with us, you missed out on a great day of rail related activities. I want to give a special word of thanks to our Division hosts in Tucson, great job as always guys! Everyone had a fun time as we were treated to a variety of informative clinics, some outstanding models in the contest room, and the fun of meeting and reigniting that passion for our love of trains! I hope you were able to take advantage of the Layout Tours, and enjoy the beautiful home layouts that were graciously made available to the Division by their talented creators. As I get to travel around the Division, it's a pleasure to see my old friends and meet many new ones! Lets keep the Arizona Division growing.

To do this I want to personally challenge each and every one of you to make plans to join us at the Spring Meet in Sun City, hosted by the Sun City Model Railroad Club. If you haven't ever been to a meet, or it's been a while since you have, take a moment and put it on your calendar and make plans to attend. Bring a model to share in the contest room, sign up to give a Clinic and share your knowledge, open your Layout and share it with the Division, and lastly, call a friend and bring them along!!

I'm starting a new program for the Arizona Division, and I want you to help me as we grow! I want you to invite as many non-members to an NMRA sanctioned PSR – Arizona Division Meet as you can. You will be the member sponsor of this (**guest**) individual. The guest you bring with you (yes, you must sign them in) will have their initial admission fee covered by the Division. They will have a Nametag with "Guest of:" (your name here), and we will have a Sponsor and Guest listing for each Division Meet. At the 2012 November Meet in Tucson, the Arizona Division member with the greatest number of Sponsored "Guest" will win a special door prize. Just remember the guest you bring, who joins the NMRA, will them self be eligible for the "Guest of:" program. Remember this is a competition, and my nametags will say: **Guest of Superintendent!** So I want you all to try to beat my total (if you can), and help me grow the Division in 2012.

Other changes that will be in effect or are being considered are for all Arizona Division Meets starting with the Spring Meet in Sun City will be as follows:

- 1) Arizona Division Members who present Clinics at an Arizona Division Meet will get free admission to the Meet at which they present their clinic.
- 2) AZ Division Swap Table fee: **Free** (per table) for members with a donation of a door prize.
- 3) AZ Division Swap Table fee: **\$ 10.00** (per table) for non-members* All fees collected will be used to purchase additional door prizes, special door prizes, and awards. *You can also donate a door prize(s) of equivalent value and the fee will be waived for that meet.*
- 4) The AZ Division would like to verify your information, sometimes we are the last to know of a status change, so we will have sign in sheets so we can make sure our records are up to date! See you in Sun City!



DIRECT FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY: DAVID IRICK



Happy New Year to the Arizona Division.

Cooler and shorter day's means more time in the train room. We in Arizona are not like our brothers and sisters back East who hibernate in the basement all winter, this is the time of the year for rejuvenating us all to build models and bring the trains out. Many of us don't have space to build our dream layout in our house or garage. Some of us sit on the side lines reading magazines and build models that go on shelves and dream. Many of us have found the answer to our problems by joining a club. Folks, if you are one of the first group, I encourage you to join a club, clubs increase your own circle of friends, can help improve your modeling skills, helps you gain knowledge that you would not otherwise have and simply enjoy running trains. Participate. Join a club.

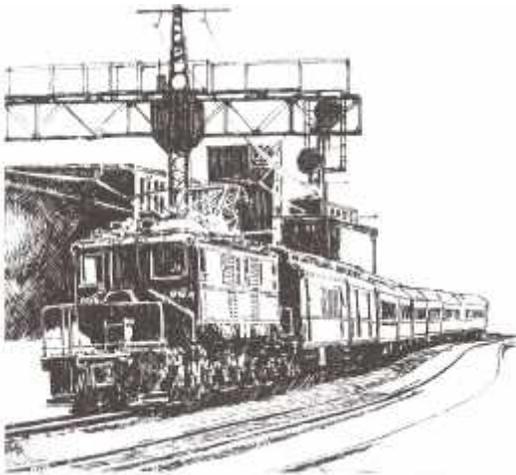
Secondly support your local hobby shops. Purchasing off the web is great, but what about going into the hobby shop and looking around at all of the neat stuff, sometimes finding that hidden treasure. Your local hobby shop can be a source of help, a warehouse of building items and ideas. Knowledgeable sales personnel who work with train aficionados every day can be a valuable resource for you. Pick their brain, they want to help you. Saving 50 cents on the web is not always the most prudent move.

As Director it's my privilege to announce the Arizona member of the year. That person who the staff feels stands above the crowd and worked hard for the betterment of our Division. This year's winner is no surprise to any of us; it's our own Chief Clerk and Paymaster – Richard Dick. Richard spends many hours keeping the books, paying the bills and yes, sitting at a table all day while the rest of us are running around the meets having fun. I personally feel that the Chief Clerk and Paymaster is the most un-appreciated position in the Division, but yet the most important and most demanding of time. Richard exemplified the best, always doing a commendable job and always with a humble approach. All of you, please take the time to walk up to **Richard Dick** and say thank you.



See you in Sun City!





FROM THE EDITOR

BY: FRANK BAKER

A new year has begun along with new officers. Please take the time during the next meet to personally welcome them.

Our meet is in a new location this time. The Sun City Model Railroad Club has been gracious enough to invite us to use their new facility. Please remember to thank the Sun City members when you see them.

A special thanks to Bob Libbey for his report and pictures from the PSR Regional Convention in Flagstaff.

We have a new section called "DERAILED". The first article is from Lenny Smith. If you have any practical jokes that you would like to share, please send them in to the editors desk.

I would also like to extend a special thanks to Bill Hadsell, a former co-worker and long time friend, for taking the pictures of the Union Pacific #844 at Vale, Arizona.





CHIEF CLERK & PAYMASTER REPORT

BY: RICHARD DICK

:We had a great turnout in Tucson, Nov. 12. There were 79 registered and we had 3 new NMRA members. The fact that UP 844 was leaving Tucson that day, headed to Phoenix, cut into our attendance. We have consistently signed up 2-4 new members at each meet as well.

During the PSR Convention in Flagstaff, many of the remaining convention cars were sold. There are still a few from the 2003 PSR Convention in Phoenix, a number from the 2007 PSR Convention in Tucson and some from the 2011 PSR Convention held this past September in Flagstaff. And there are pins and patches from all PSR Conventions held in Arizona starting with the 1991 Convention in Tucson. Don't delay if you want any of these past Convention Cars, pins and patches.

The checking account has been changed to a Business Freedom account. This type has no monthly maintenance fee which has been \$10-\$11 a month lately (big savings). This information was discovered by our new Chief Clerk/Paymaster, Jim Tuck. Thanks, Jim!!

The balance sheet for the period August – November 2011 is included for your information:

Account Balance, July 31 , 2011	\$5,809.94
Revenue:	
Division Meet: November 12, 2011:	
Attendance Fees	\$553.00
Sales, Pins and Patches, Convention Cars	\$71.00
Donation	\$20.00
Total Meet Revenue	\$644.00
Other Revenue:	
Sales at PSR 2011 Convention	\$236.50
Total Revenue	\$880.50
Expenses:	
Division Meet: November 12, 2011:	
Club/Hobby Shop Flyer Postage	\$31.36
ImageWorx - News letter/posters/flyers	\$379.54
Tucson Meet Facility Expense	\$250.00
Insurance Certificate Request	\$10.00
Total Meet Expenses:	\$670.90
Other Expenses:	
Bank Fees	\$30.73
Contest Plaques and Ribbons	\$747.74
Software for New Webmaster	\$139.00
	\$917.47
Total Expense	\$1,588.37
Income	-\$707.87
Account Balance, November 30, 2011	\$5,102.07



DERAILED

...One year at the Flagstaff meet swap table Bob Sherlock and Bill Kress sold me a project sold me [a super deal] project, a brass camelback all in pieces in a PFM BOX.

When I got home and onto my workbench and opened the box and there were all kinds of mix - matched brass engine parts , it did not appear to be what I remembered buying , BUT IT WAS THE SAME BOX????

I called Sherlock and he said I must have been so excited to get a deal that I grabbed and ran. The next meet Bill Kress and Bob Sherlock called me over for another deal—an identical box, another brass parts camelback.....What were the chances???

They confessed that at the last meet they had planned this , waited for me to put the box down and pulled the old switcheroo...I can't get even with Bill Kress as he has gone to the big RR in the sky, but Sherlock.....AHAAA !!! That's another story.

Lenny Smith

FROM THE PSR REGIONAL CONVENTION IN FLAGSTAFF

BY BOB LIBBEY



Greetings Fellow Model Railroaders,

Now I realize as newly appointed PSR Secretary I am not yet obligated to write my first “official” report but after such a great time in Flagstaff I thought I would get an early start. Besides, having taken just short of 300 photos I wanted to share a few of them. I thought it might be fun. Some of my favorites were: Bob Holstein and his many door prize tickets; Janet Spooner, with an ear to ear grin, having just learned she earned Best in

Show; and a personal favorite, our PSR AP Chairman, Don Stewart, spilling water on himself not once, not twice but three times during the banquet dinner. If there was an AP Award for “Biggest Mess” he would have accumulated many points. Thankfully his fiancée, Jill, was there to clean him up...again...and again...and again. But I digress.

My hat’s off to the Flagstaff folks. What a great Rails to Rims 2011 PSR Convention they put on. It was a great opportunity to make new friends, keep up with old ones, swap stories, see some great layouts, learn from great clinics, accumulate those ever-needed AP points and just have a lot of fun. The amenities at the Radisson Woodlands Hotel were awesome, the facility itself was top-notch. The Timetable given out at registration listed all the important information and was truly a must-carry-at-all-times item. It really showed you everything you needed to know for the entire event. Everything was very well organized down to the last detail. And let’s face it, when the person in charge of name tags managed to spell “Bruce Petrarca”, “Carl Heimberger”, and Ted Ferkenhoff” correct the first time you are paying attention to detail.

One of the many highlights that stand out was listening to our key-note speaker, NMRA Director-at-Large, North America, Charlie Getz. What a hoot! His take on the past, present and future of the NMRA and the Model Railroading Hobby in general was entertaining, thought provoking and motivating. Looking at the hobby and our organization from the perspective of having fun was his mantra from the beginning and continued long after his introduction and speech. He commented that we as individuals and as an organization take ourselves too seriously. “We need to keep the fun in model railroading,” he said. He made a number of good points but my favorite one was, “This is just a hobby. It’s not congress.

FROM THE PSR REGIONAL CONVENTION IN FLAGSTAFF (CONT)

We tend to take ourselves way too seriously and it is keeping our clubs and our organization from growing.” When you think about it, would you rather spend time in a group having fun or in group of fuddy-duddies?

Of all the clinics I attending, the one that made me want to rush home and work on my layout was Gary Robinson’s Flockinator clinic. What he is able to do with static grass and some canopy glue was amazing. I have been itching to build my own Nock-type static grass tool for a couple years and this clinic just cemented the idea. Now if I can keep from electrocuting myself all will be well. But hey! Even if I do I will make sure I am having fun while doing it.

Bruce Petrarca and I had a fun time doing our DCC Clinics. Doing a basic and then advanced DCC installation seemed to work well from a presentational standpoint. We made sure to leave time for a question and answer session in between and after each clinic. Unfortunately we may have left a little too much time as someone managed to walk off with my 30 yr old Gulf Mobile and Ohio Atlas RS-3 with a TCS M4 Decoder installed. It has no hand rails, looks great, and runs like a champ. If you happen to see someone having fun with it please let me know. I would like it back. -Bob Libbey



FROM THE PSR REGIONAL CONVENTION IN FLAGSTAFF (CONT)



FROM THE CONTEST ROOM / TUCSON

BY: DAVID IRICK

Another great Arizona Division meeting was held in Tucson on November 12, 2011. The contest room was well attended, with many excellent models as usual. Thank you to all the attendees who browsed the models in the room. The members that have spent many hours working on the models that you are viewing really appreciate your oo's and ahh's for their work. Also taking the time to talk to them about their models can help you become a better modeler yourself.

I received an e-mail from Alan Barnes MMR, my right hand person and by far the most knowledgeable member of the contest room staff, outlining thoughts on the contest room. Alan is an excellent modeler and his presence in the room is appreciated and respected by all of us.

Here is what Alan sent to me that I may share with you:

From Alan Barnes MMR

- 1) Thanks to the entrants, your models and photos spark the conversations which encourage better and more modeling by the attendees.
- 2) Thanks to the Judges for their dedication to their responsibilities, despite sharing the contest room with the railettes and the excellent clinic which was occurring at the same time. Unfortunately, a closeout time with the Judges did not occur. Judges comment forms were completed – an extra job well done to the judges.
- 3) A special thanks to Kevin Looff for his 3D modeling demonstration. If you missed it, you missed something truly awesome.
- 4) The members of the contest room staff, and I am sure the contest entrants, are more than willing to help you with any modeling concerns as well as contest room questions – Just ask!. You must please be patient and persistent, we do not bite. Because the contest room can get very hectic at times, if we have to interrupt to take care of contest room business and return, please take no personal offense. If you would like help with a model, display it in the Lenny's Challenge area and ask for help. We all started in this hobby as beginners. There are many ways to solve most problems, and one of the offered ways may work for you. Send an e-mail to the contest chair listed in the masthead for additional contest concerns prior to the meet. Some entry forms are available on the NMRA web site, or pick them up ahead of time from the contest room. If you have them filled out when you are relaxed at home, you may remember to include you conformity documentation, supporting jigs, construction photographs, etc.
- 5) Many models, especially by first time entrants, receive low scores do to lack of conformity documentation. The contest room staff can help you here. Hopefully the contest judges remarks help you to improve your future efforts. Some models have been improved and re-entered, resulting in Merit Awards.
- 6) Ed Urstom showed me how he attaches loads to his flat cars with magnets. This is a great idea that I will be researching more in the future. Thanks Ed! There are lots of learning opportunities in the contest room. Pay us a visit and show your appreciation to the entrants for their work by voting.
- 7) Models may be included in the contest room for Merit Award judging only, Lenny's challenge (also for non-NMRA members), and in favorite model (no judging documentation required). Unfortunately, some "dreaded paperwork" is required, you must leave a name and contact information with the model. More than once, the Contest room staff has had to baby sit models until they could be returned to their rightful owners. None have become door prizes yet.

8) A gentle reminder, please do not handle models in the contest room, without the permission of the owner. Also, models placed on display boards/display tracks, allow the model to be rotated for viewing and judging with less/no damage. The boards are not judged, but please no Hot Pink. Entrants please note any extra fragile details, or movable/removable features in you documentation. How are the judges to evaluate that working "N Scale" brake mechanism? Instructions Please!

How could I have said it any better.

Thank's Alan



CONTEST RESULTS - TUCSON DIVISION MEET*NOVEMBER 12, 2011***Model Construction:** (* Indicates Merit Award Winner)**Best In Show**

SP Auto Box 67920* – Paul Chandler*

Rolling Stock—Open

1st Place - Door and Guide Car—Alan Barnes * MMR

Rolling Stock—Kit

1st Place - B&O Wagontop M53 Box —Paul Chandler*

2nd Place - Bottle Car 11—Alan Barnes *

Structures – Open1st Place – Icing Platform – Richard Pertina *2nd Place - Lumber Loads - Paul Chandler ***Structures – Kit**1st Place – Robinson's Electric—Stephen Drees**Display—Open**1st Place – San Francisco Cable Car Turnaround—Myke Bruessel2nd Place – F&M Schaefer Brewing Co.—Myke Bruessel3rd Place – DSS&A RR yard at Marquette, Mi.—Myke Bruessel**Favorite Model**1st Place – Seawall's Foundry—Richard Petrina2nd Place – Robinson's Electric—Stephen Drees3rd Place – F & M Schaefer Brewery— Myke Bruessel

Favorite Train

- 1st Place – Hot Metal Train—Alan Barnes MMR
2nd Place – D&RG Work Train - Roger von Seeburg
3rd Place – Flat Iron—Ed Urmstron SR

Levity

- 1st Place – Throw Momma from the Train—John Stockton
2nd Place – Quick Coagulating Sand—Don Stewart
3rd Place – Grab the Mail Bag—Alan Barnes MMR

Photography

Model - Color

- 1st Place – Shay with Cat—Roger von Seeburg
2nd Place – Riding the Rail—Bob Libby

Prototype - Color

- 1st Place – Engine #486—Terry Dorsett
2nd Place – CNTS Evening—Allen Greger
3rd Place – Snow & Steam—Jon Wolfe

Prototype - B&W

- 1st Place – Steam #12—Bob Libbey
2nd Place – Engine #476 D&S—Roger von Seeburg

Slide

- 1st Place – Snow Train 1988—John Wolfe

Contest Room Judges: Alan Barnes MMR, Richard Petrina, Bruce Petrarca, Jack Debolt, Don Stewart, Terry Dorsett, Rick Watson, Kevin Looff, David Starkman, Dick Vogler, Bob Libby, Jon Wolfe

CONGRATULATIONS!

KEEP ON BUILDING THOSE MODELS

***MAKE SURE TO BRING YOUR
MODELS, PHOTOS, AND LENNY'S CHALLENGE ENTRIES
TO SUN CITY ON MARCH 10TH!!!***



BEST IN SHOW
PAUL CHANDLER
CONGRATULATIONS!



Rolling Stock—Open
1st Place
Door & Guide Car
Merit Award Winner
Alan Barnes MMR



Rolling Stock—Kit

1st Place

B & O Wagon Top M53 Box

Merit Award Winner

Paul Chandler

Rolling Stock—Kit

2nd Place

Bottle Car

Merit Award Winner

Alan Barnes MMR





Structures Open

1st place

Icing Platform

Richard Petrina

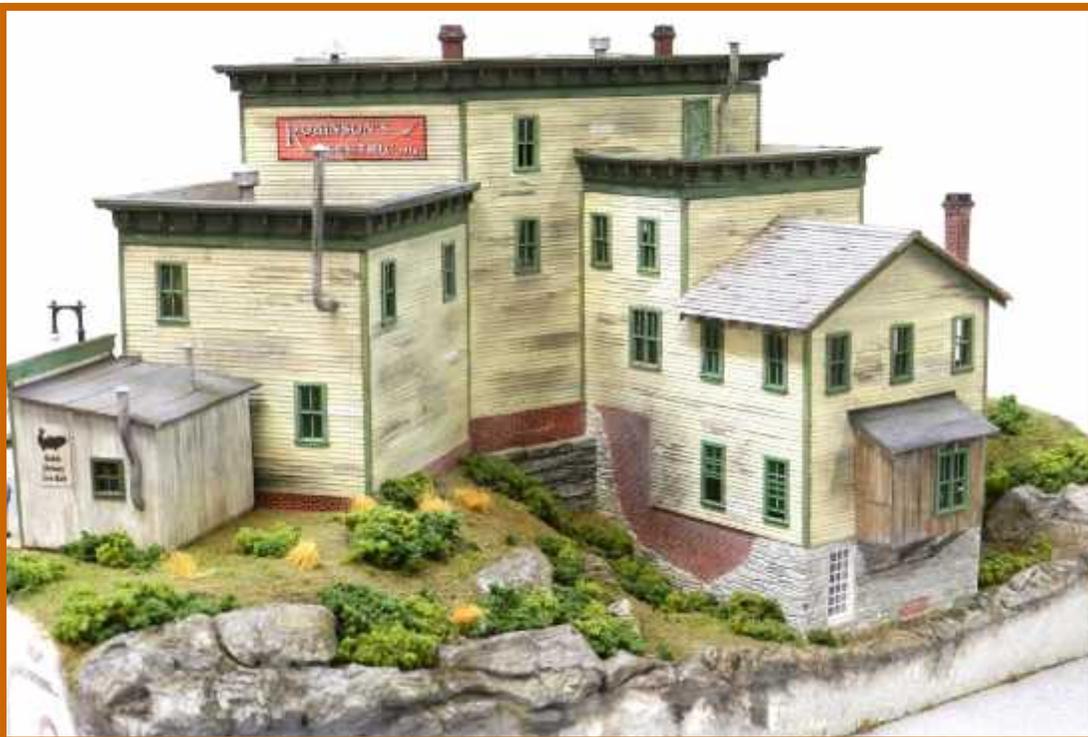
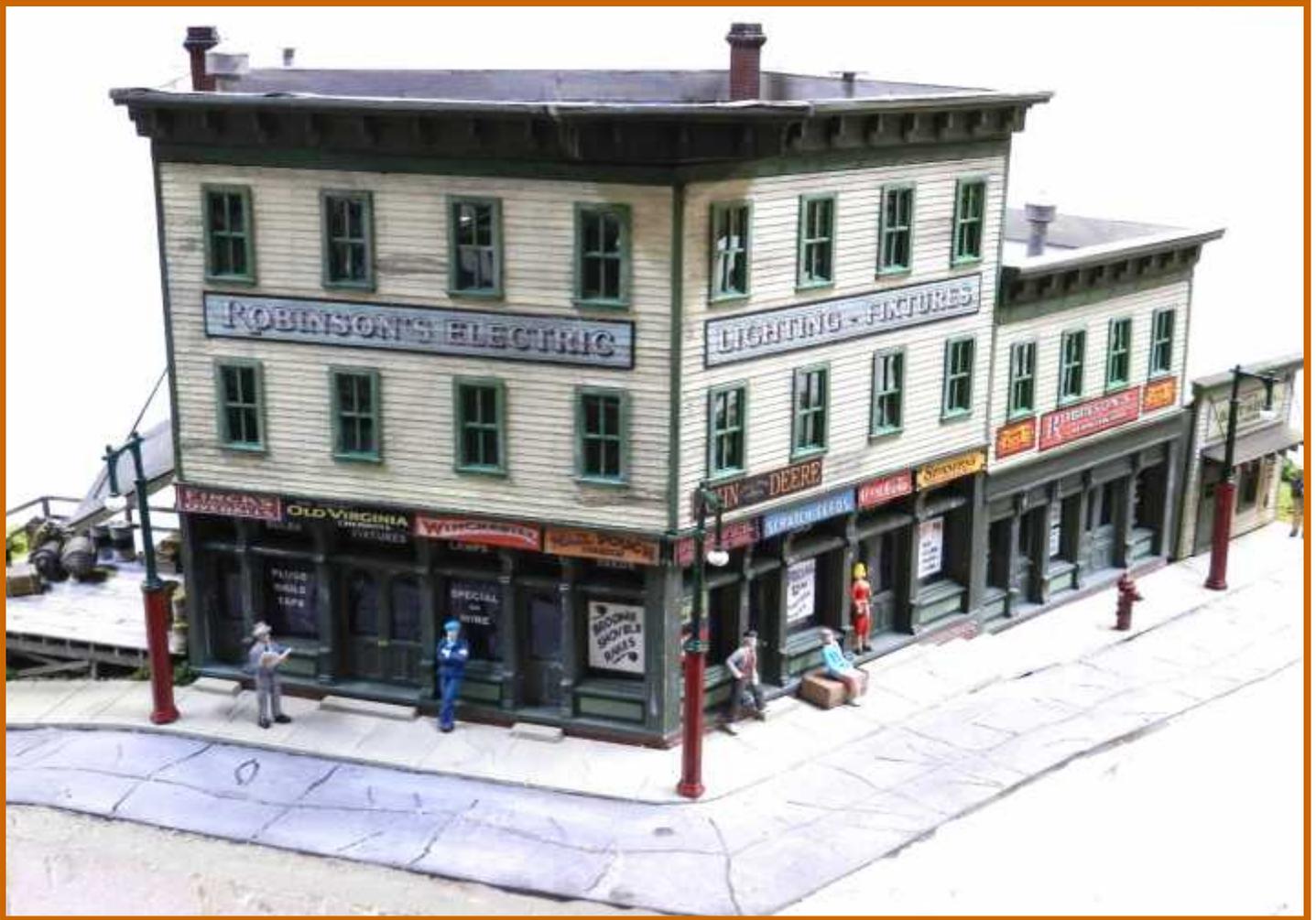
Structures Open

2nd place

Lumber Loads

Paul Chandler



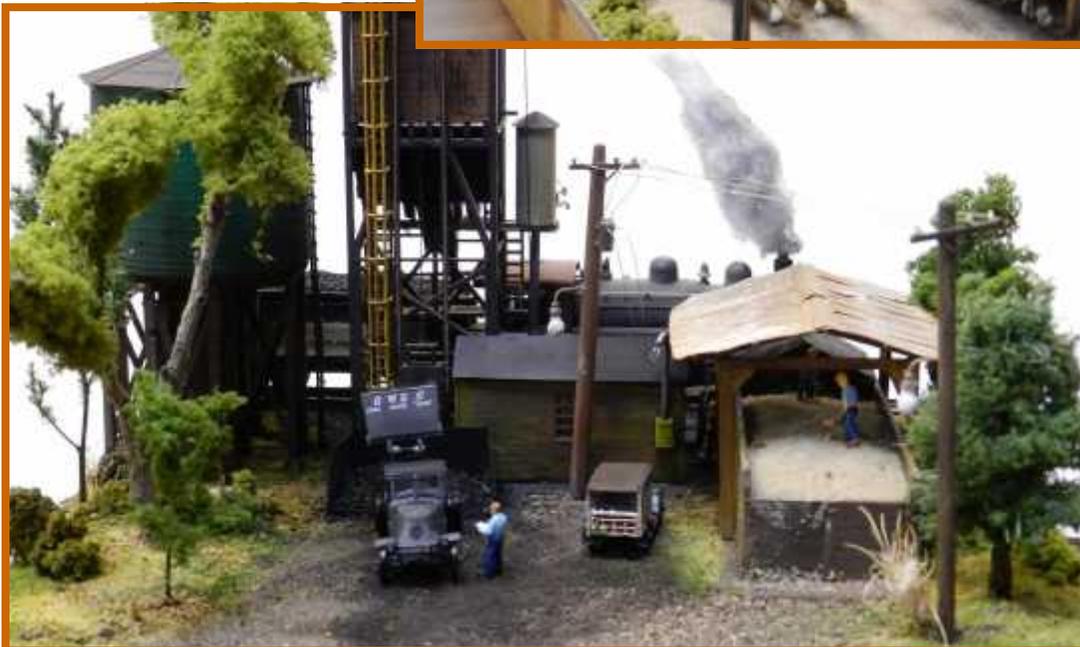
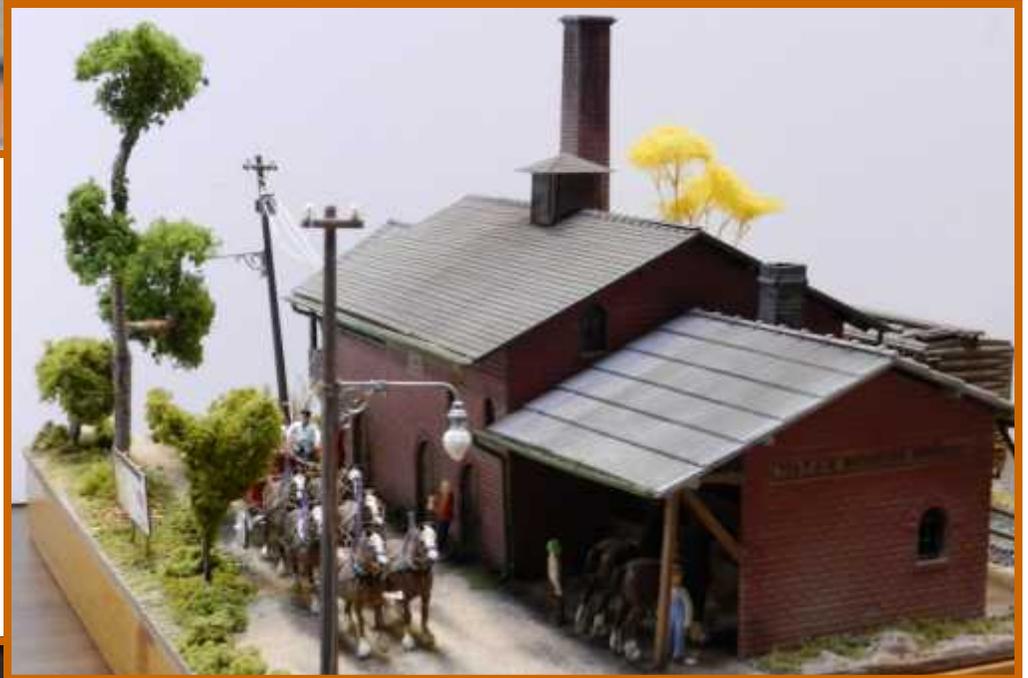


Structures—Kit
1st Place
*Robinson's
Electric*
Steven Drees



Display Open
1st place
San Francisco
Cable Car
Turnaround
Myke Brussel

Display — Open
2nd Place
F & M Shaeker
Brewing Co.
Myke Brussel



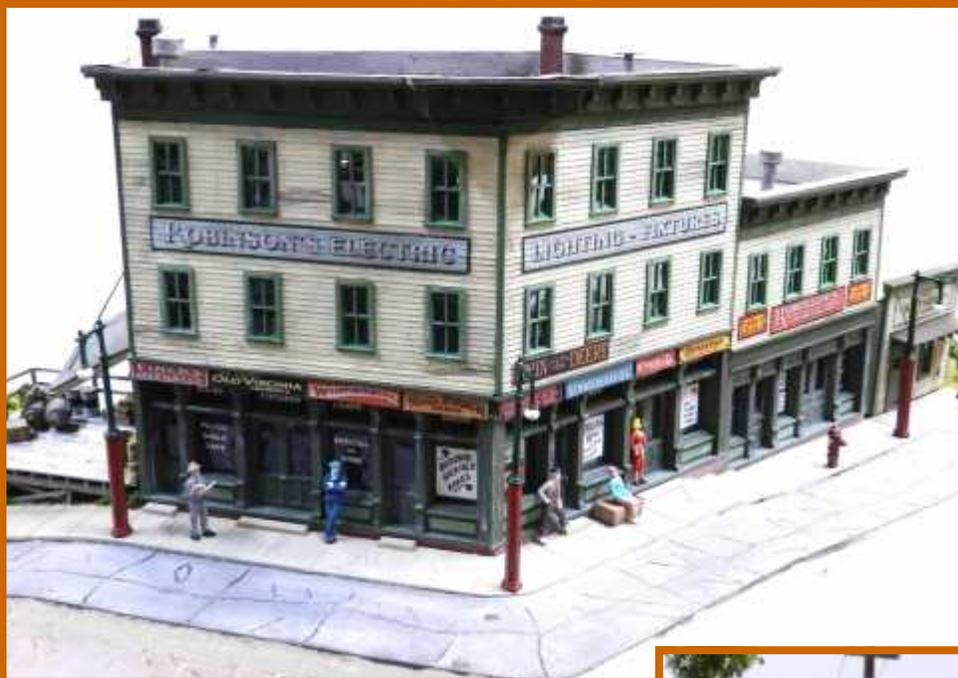
Display — Open
3rd Place
DSS&A Yard
At Marquette, MI
Myke Brussel



Favorite Train
1st place - Alan Barnes MMR
HOT METAL TRAIN



Favorite Trains
2nd place - D&RG Work Train
3rd place - Ed Urmstron SR



Favorite Model
1st place
Seawall's Foundry
Richard Petrin

Favorite Model
2nd place
Robinson's Electric
Stephen Drees

Favorite Model
3rd place
F&M Schafer Brewing
Myke Bruessel





1st place
*Throw Momma on the
train*
John Stockton

Levity!!!



2nd place
*Quick Coagulating
Sand*
Don Stewart



3rd place
Grab the mail bag
Alan Barnes MMR

PHOTOGRAPHY—MODEL COLOR



Model Color
1st place
Shay with Cat
Roger Von Seeburg



Model Color
2nd place
Riding the Rail
Bob Libby

PHOTOGRAPHY—PROTOTYPE COLOR



Prototype Color

1st place

Engine #486

Terry Dorsett

Prototype Color

2nd place

CNTS Evening

Alan Greger



Prototype Color

3rd place

Snow & Steam

John Wolfe



PHOTOGRAPHY—PROTOTYPE BLACK & WHITE

Prototype B&W
1st place
Engine #12
Bob Libbey



Prototype B&W
2nd place
Engine #476 D&S
Roger von Seeburg

Model—Black & White
1st place
Rail Bridge
Bob Libby





ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

BY: DON STEWART

Bob Libbey was presented his Electrical and Chief Dispatcher Certificates at the PSR Regional Convention. Gordon Geiger was presented his Scenery Certificate at the November Division Meeting. Since the November Division Meeting, Paul Chandler's first four Certificates have arrived from National. They are: Association Volunteer, Model Railroad Author, Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical and Chief Dispatcher

In addition to these four, his Model Railroad Engineer – Civil was approved in November and sent to National. These Certificates will be presented at the March Arizona Division Meet in Phoenix.

Alan Barnes has submitted his certificate for Master Builder – Cars. The SoQ was approved at the regional level and sent to National for final approval and Certificate generation. It will be presented at the March Meet.

Bob Libbey also submitted his Civil Engineering SoQ. When approved and returned from National, it will be presented at the March Division Meeting.

Achievement Program activity has increased in the last two years. You are keeping me busy. Keep it up!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
CHECK THE NMRA WEBSITE AT: WWW.NMRA.ORG/ACHIEVEMENT**

COMING EVENTS

<i>March 10, 2012</i>	Arizona Division Spring Meet - Phoenix, AZ
<i>June 12, 2012</i>	Arizona Division Summer Meet - Flagstaff, AZ
<i>July 29-August 4, 2012</i>	NMRA National Convention—Grand Rapids, MI
<i>November 2011</i>	Arizona Division Fall Meet - Tucson, AZ
<i>March, 2013</i>	Arizona Division Spring Meet - Phoenix, AZ

**** WANTED ****

VOLUNTEERS TO CONDUCT CLINICS FOR THE SUMMER AND FALL/WINTER MEETS.

30-45-60 MINUTES SLOTS AVAILABLE.

CONTACT ALLEN VINCENT AT (623) 249-7553

RAILETTES

BY: JANET SPOONER

Hi Railettes,

Well, I hope everyone had a good time in Tucson. I was on a Caribbean Cruise, so I was having a great time. But in some strange way, I still missed all of you. I was told there was a pretty good turnout. I'm so glad. I know Linda Irick had things for all of you to do. I need to give Linda a great big thank you for taking over for me, so I could get away. I appreciate it more than I can say.

Our next meet is in Phoenix, in March. Hopefully we will have another good turnout. What we are going to do is a complete blank to me at this time. But I guarantee that I will come up with something. I usually do come up with something. If any of you ladies have any suggestions on what you would like to do, learn, or experience let me know and I will look into it. If I don't know how to do it, I will try to find an expert for you. If an expert is unavailable, we will just wing it. That can be fun, at times. If nothing else we can gossip, er discuss things, laugh and generally have a good time.

Hope all of you had a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." See you in Sun City in March!



PHOTOGRAPHY OF UNION PACIFIC 844 BY BILL HADSELL



David Starkman of The Scottsdale Club sent in this interesting article from Wikipedia.

Even if you didn't work for the railroad

If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station! Sound a bit funny? Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found.

Why were the best watches found at the train station? The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all. The telegraph operator was. Most of the time the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town. It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-ways had already been secured for the rail line.

Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and that was the primary way that they communicated with the railroad. They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station. And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches. As a matter of fact they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years.

This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the east. It was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them.

So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches. The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. So Richard did. He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch. He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit.

That started it all. He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers. It worked! It didn't take long for the word to spread and, before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches.

Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watch maker to help him with the orders. That was Alvah. And the rest, as they say, is history.

The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods. Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago -- and it's still there.

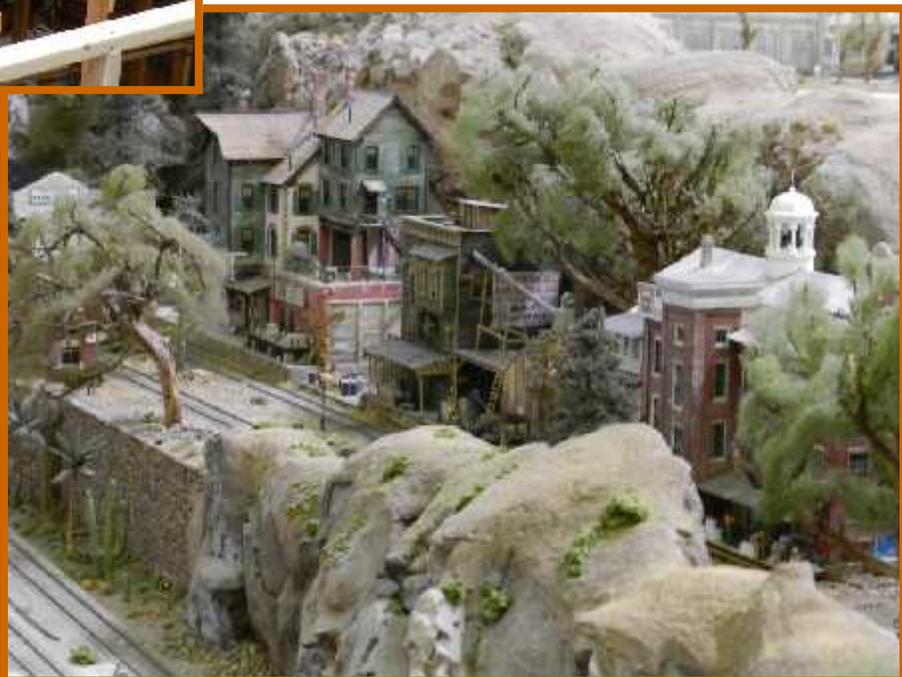
It's a little known fact that for a while in the 1880's, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at The Train Station.

It all started with a telegraph operator:

Richard Sears and his partner Alvah Roebuck!

THE BLACK CANYON RAILROAD (UPDATE)

The Black Canyon Railroad has settled into its new home at **An Affair with Trains**. Bob Kocher, Alan Vincent and their team have done a marvelous job of putting it back together. There is still a lot of work to go, especially scenery renovation, but trains run. Stop by and see this wonderful railroad built by Harold Shelton.



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Scales: HO, HOn3, and N

Contact: Larry Gibbs (928) 779-2282

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Goodyear**PebbleCreek Model Railroad Club**

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On the web: www.pcmrc.org

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Ponderosa North

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Contact: Matt Furze - mattfurze@cox.net

On the web: www.arizonarails.com/pncpage

Thunderbird Model Railroad Club

Scale: HO

Contact: Larry Platt

On the web: www.trainweb.org/tbird

Prescott**Central Arizona Model Railroad Club**

Scales: Multiple

Contact: Steve Bumgardner (928) 775-3184

On the web: www.camrrc.com

Scottsdale**Scottsdale Model Railroad Club**

Scales: HO and HOn3

Contact: SMRC01C@ScottsdaleModelRRClub.org

On the web: www.scottsdalemodelrrclub.org

....continued on next page

ARIZONA CLUBS**Scottsdale****Sun'N'Sand Model Railroad Club**

Scale: N

Contact: Mark Vanacore (602) 410-1110*On the web:* www.sun-n-sand.org**Sun City area****Sun City Model Railroad Club**

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Contact: Bob Batt (623) 734-6377*On the web:* <http://hometown.aol.com/newriverwestern/NRNW.htm>**Sun City West Model Railroad Club**

Scales: HO and N

Contact: Bob Butler (623) 556-5179*On the web:* <http://www.scwclubs.com/> then select Model Railroad**Tucson****Arizona & Southwest Model Railroad Society / Tucson NTRAK**

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Contact: John Scott (520) 250-2800*On the web:* <http://home.comcast.net/~tucsonntrak>**Rincon West Garden Railroad Club**

Scale: G

Contact: John Lawrence - johnlaw1931@hotmail.com**Southern Arizona Society of Model Engineers (SASME)**

Scales: HO and HOn3

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

Scales: Multiple

Contact: Lee Stoermer (928) 344-9417*On the web:* www.yumamodelrailroaders.org**Gilbert****Gilbert Model Railroad Club**

Scales: HO

Contact: Joe Padberg (480) 626-5289*On the web:* www.gmrctrains.com

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

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