



2024 Summer ISSUE

Next NMRA AZ Div. Meet:
Fall Meet will be on
October 19, 2024 in Scottsdale
Scottsdale Congregational
United Church of Christ
4425 N Granite Reef Rd,
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Levity: (Skeleton cars)
Favorite Train: (Modelers Choice)

This will be my last edition as editor of the Spur Line. Bob Ginger MMR has volunteered to take over the position of Communications Chair and will be publishing future Spur Lines.

Dan Zintz is the new Contest Chair for future Division meet contests.



Editor: Charlie Nidever

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<https://azdiv-nmra.org/index.php>

NMRA National Convention

<https://www.surfliner2024.org/>



August 4 - 11, 2024



Terry Fearn Received the Golden Spike Award at the Summer Meet

Mike Quinn Received the Achievement Award at the Summer Meet



NMRA Arizona Division / Bruce Petrarca / Superintendent's Column

I'm writing this just before I get on the big silver bird and go to the SurfLiner2024 convention. One of the high points will be presenting the AZD Member of the Year award. Y'all need to come to the PSR Members meeting on Wednesday night (8/7 8:00PM) and find out who the deserving recipient is.

While we didn't have a 3rd Saturday meet in July due to schedule conflicts, we will have a Zoom meet on August 17 at 10:00 AM. The discussion will revolve around "Everything AP." Bring your questions, concerns and ideas to share. The sign in credentials are the same as they have always been. There will be a flier with them distributed through the PSR soon.

There are lots of changes in the works for AZD.

Charlie Nidever is retiring from the AZD committees he's been chairing. It's going to take two people to replace him:

Bob Ginger MMR will be taking over the job editing the Spur Line once this issue is put to bed. He will always need material for the Spur Line. Contact him with articles and photos to be printed. Author AP points are in the offing here.

Dan Zintz will be taking over as Contest Chairman with the October meeting. Charlie will be mentoring Dan and Leancy as this goes forward.

We have an Activities Committee with no chair. Lots of folks working who just need a coordinator. This position accrues one Volunteer AP point a month. See me if you are interested.

October 19, 2024 will be our Annual Meeting of Members at the Scottsdale Congregational United Church of Christ (4425 N Granite Reef Rd, Scottsdale AZ 85251). We will be having an election for Superintendent for a 2-year term. Contact Chris Thompson if you are interested in this position. Plans are underway for the normal meeting events that day, amongst which is a two part clinic on "Creating Realistic Water" by Peter Youngblood MMR.

The weekend of November 16 - 17 will be our inaugural Cactus Crawl. Peter Youngblood MMR brought us this idea from the Piedmont Division where he was a member for many years. Layouts belonging to NMRA members (for insurance purposes) will be open one or both days to the public. It has been a fantastic recruiting tool in the Piedmont Division. So, if you have a layout you would like to have open to the public contact Peter. We will also need helpers for open layouts. There are AP Volunteer points available here.

Speaking of the Achievement Program, here is the current news.

There is a new National AP Chairman, Ray Persing. He replaces Frank Koch who has held the post for over a decade. Ray brings a new perspective on the program, being an avid 3D printer user. I know Ray and the new National Contest Chairman, Sam Swanson, have been tasked with bringing the two programs more in sync with each other and throughout the entire NMRA. A big job, but needed, IMHO.

We will have some AP certificates and other awards to present at the October meet. You don't want to miss it!

Hope to see you at the convention in Long Beach. I gotta go pack my bags.
Bruce Petrarca, AZD Superintendent

| 2024 AZ Division NMRA calendar | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Date | Time | Event | Location | Register? |
| 08/4 -11/24 | - | SurfLiner - National Convention | Long Beach, CA | Open now |
| 08/17/24 | 10 AM - noon | 3rd Saturday Zoom meet | OnLine | No |
| 09/21/24 | 10 AM - noon | 3rd Saturday Zoom meet | OnLine | No |
| 09/28/24 | 9AM - 12 PM | Cactus Fall Train Swap meet | Phoenix | Sellers only |
| 10/19/24 | 9 AM - 4 PM | Division Fall meet | Scottsdale | At meet |
| 10/26/24 | 9 AM - 1 PM | Swap Meet | Adobe Mountain | Sellers only |
| 11/16/24 | 10 AM - noon | 3rd Saturday Zoom meet | OnLine | No |
| 12/21/24 | 10 AM - noon | 3rd Saturday Zoom meet | OnLine | No |
| 01/18/25 | 10 AM - noon | 3rd Saturday Zoom meet | OnLine | No |
| 02/15/25 | 10 AM - noon | 3rd Saturday Zoom meet | OnLine | No |
| ? | 9 AM - 4 PM | Division Spring meet | Tucson | At meet |
| | | | | |

For more information on events see AZ Div website
<https://www.azdiv-nmra.org/index.php/calendar>

Train Tips by Peter Youngblood MMR



Stretching Space:

The trouble with model trains is they're limited by space. Much as we'd wish, we can't physically duplicate the stretching-to-the-horizon mainline tracks of the real thing, but we can create that illusion. Consider the following scenic devices you can implement for stretching space.

Backdrops:

When one or more sides of a layout butt against a wall, the wall can be covered with backdrop material (tempered Masonite is a popular choice), then sealed and painted to add apparent depth to the scene. Paint, rolled, brushed, or airbrushed on to simulate sky and clouds will, by itself, begin to increase distance. Add some painted topography, such as nearby hills and not-so-nearby mountains, and the illusion is further enhanced. If you don't care to paint backdrops yourself, there are numerous commercial ones available from several different companies (i.e. Walthers, SceniKing, Backdrop Warehouse). Most are made of paper and are applied much like wallpaper. Designed to overlap, a long, continuous scenic panorama is possible, or sections can be cut apart to satisfy a confined area. Some enterprising modelers have also successfully had their own landscape photography processed as photo murals or used cutouts from scenic calendar photography as backdrop paste-ups. Clouds, unless you're an artist, are more easily rendered using commercially available stencils (i.e. New London Industries) and paint spray cans in flat white and light gray colors.

Flats:

Thin, three-dimensional hills or mountains, abutted to painted continuations on the backdrop add considerable depth to a scene providing that joints are properly blended or hidden. Sometimes, however, the space available between track and wall is too confined to permit this approach. In that case, profile flats (1/4" Masonite, plywood, Luan, Foamcore, etc.) cut to contours representing rolling hills or mountain ranges can be layered two or three deep, placing the lowest in front and the highest closest to the backdrop. Very little separation is required between them to create the three-dimensional effect of looking at a series of progressively higher and distant ranges. In urban areas, city or industrial building flats built as a single wall against an appropriately painted backdrop will lend sufficient depth to again create the illusion of three-dimensional structures. The illusion can be further enhanced by adding three-dimensional building details (i.e. window air-conditioners, balconies, fire escapes, awnings among others).

Mirrors:

Large or small mirrors are excellent space stretchers when care is taken in their placement. Reflected scenes and details are wrong at a rakish angle, right when the image is a continued one and, of course, you don't want to see yourself. A mirrored scene continuation becomes even more effective by using reversed lettering on the backs of signs and buildings so the reflected images will look normal and readable. In urban industrial scenes, small mirrors are most easily concealed when their tops and sides are hidden by overpasses and building walls. The master mirror illusionist you may recall, was the late John Allen and his famous "Gorre & Daphetid Railroad." John used mirrors large and small so effectively you couldn't tell where they were until, if asked, he pointed them out.

View Blocks:

A free-standing island layout or a "balloon" peninsula where none of the sides butt against a wall can be made to look larger if a section is divided by a false, double-faced backdrop that blocks a complete view of the section from either side. This view block needs only to be as high as necessary to prevent looking over the top to the opposite side. Built from the same backdrop material you prefer; each side will be painted to continue the scene leading into it. These scenes can be as different as urban on one side and rural on the other, thereby stretching space and creating the illusion the layout is larger than actual size.

Peter Youngblood, MMR

Contest Results – NMRA Arizona Division Spring Meet

Prescott – 06/29/24

No entries in the Judged Contest at the Prescott Meet

Favorite Model

1st Place

Mike Guinn

“J W Allen Cabommetru Building”

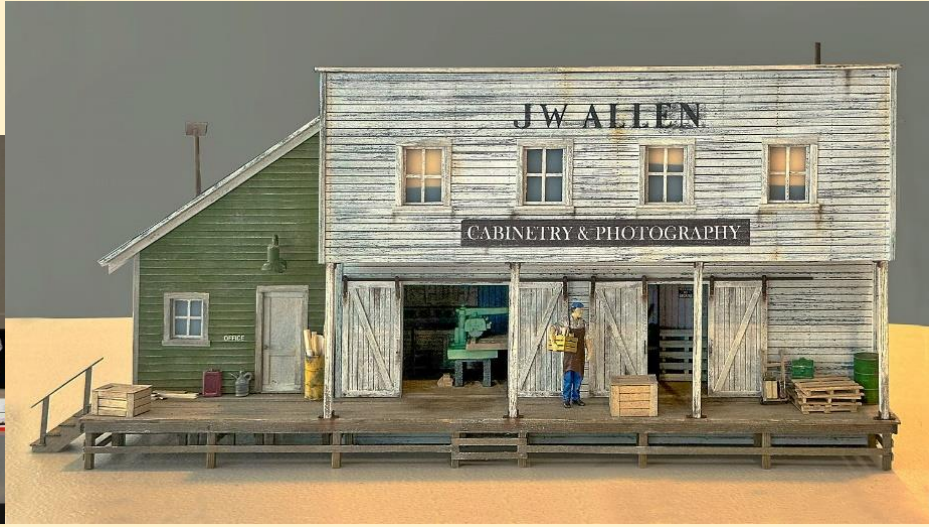


Photo By Hank Morris

2nd Place

Donn Pease

“Southern Pacific 17 car Reefer Train”



Photo By Hank Morris

Levity (Flat Cars)

1st Place Hank Morris

FIBER OPTICS WASTE LOAD



1st Place Larry Gauthiet "Now What Happened" ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

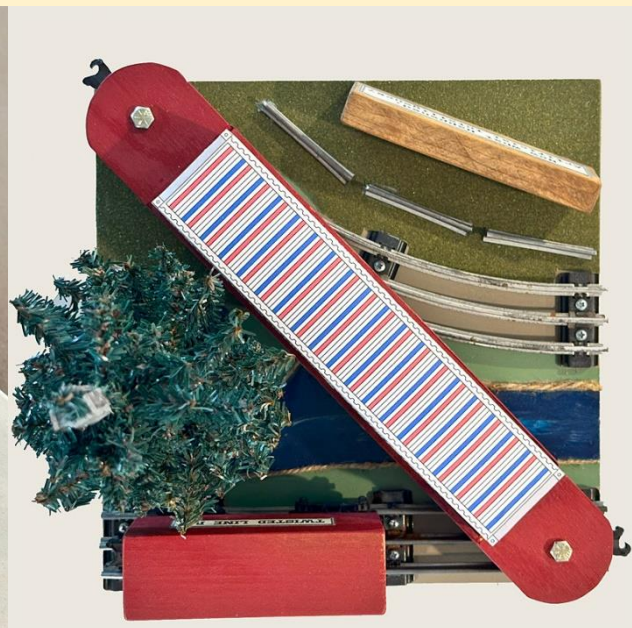


Photo By Hank Morris

Favorite Train (Reefer Cars)

1st Place

Donn Pease

"Southern Pacific 17 car Reefer Train"



**NMRA AZ DIVISION MEET
JUNE 29, 2024 PRESCOTT, AZ
REEFER TRAIN DISPLAY**

LOCOMOTIVE-
SP 4239 AC-10 4-8-8-2 by Intermountain Hobbies, Dec 2013
CABOOSE- SP 661 C-30-1 WOOD WITH CUPOLA by Walthers
REEFER CARS—P.F.E.—SP, UP, WP

NOT
ENOUGH
SPACE

| NUMBER | CLASS | WOOD/METAL | MANUFACTURER |
|---------|-----------|------------|---------------|
| 74583 | R-30-9 | WOOD | ACCURAIL |
| 96763 | R-30-9 | WOOD | RED CABOOSE |
| 5792 | R-40-23 | STEEL | RED CABOOSE |
| 14760 | R-30-11-4 | WOOD | RED CABOOSE |
| 74781 | R-30-16 | WOOD | ACCURAIL |
| 46279 | R-40-20 | STEEL | INTERMOUNTAIN |
| 37039 | R-40-2 | WOOD | TICHY |
| 74584 | R-30-16 | WOOD | ACCURAIL |
| 47408 | R-40-23 | STEEL | INTERMOUNTAIN |
| 91789 | R-30-12-9 | WOOD/STEEL | ATHEARN |
| 91022 | R-30-12-9 | WOOD/STEEL | ATHEARN |
| 31924 | R-30-13 | WOOD | ACCURAIL |
| 45901 | R-40-14 | STEEL | ATHEARN |
| 41945 | R-40-10 | STEEL | ATHEARN |
| 44801 | R-40-14 | STEEL | ATHEARN |
| 44820 | R-40-14 | STEEL | ATHEARN |
| WP51359 | R-40-2 | WOOD | ATHEARN |
| WP52061 | R-40-2 | WOOD | ATHEARN |
| 91637 | R-30-12-9 | WOOD | ATHEARN |
| 94014 | R-30-12-9 | WOOD | ATHEARN |

BILLBOARD REEFERS

| | | | |
|-------|------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| 10700 | UNION REFRIGERATOR CO. | ACCURAIL | WESCOTT & WINKS |
| 1058 | WVWX | ATLAS | WESCOTT & WINKS |
| 12302 | UNION REFRIGERATOR CO. | ATHEARN | FOX RIVER BURRER CO. |
| 11417 | UNION REFRIGERATOR CO. | ATHEARN | DE SOTO CREAMERY |
| 60129 | G.A.R.E | ACCURAIL | DOGGIE DINER - SIMPSON PRODUCTS |



Favorite Photo (Color Prototype)

1st Place **Allen Greger**

Big Hook Ely NV



Photo By Hank Morris

2nd Place **Allen Greger**

D&RG #493



Model Evaluation

Mike Guinn

“J W Allen Cabinetry Building”



Evaluation Team



Volunteer to be a judge and you will find it rewarding and may even improve your modeling skills. Every time you are a contest judge you qualify for one point towards the Association Volunteer certificate.

Help Wanted lots of Volunteer points available:
contact any AZ Div. Officer for more INFORMATION!

Next AZ Division Meet

Location

Summer Meet will be on October 19, 2024, in Scottsdale

Scottsdale Congregational

United Church of Christ

4425 N Granite Reef Rd,

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

9:00am to 4:00pm

Doors open at 8:30am

Levity: (Skeleton Car)

Favorite Train: (*Modelers Choice*)

Arizona Division Leadership Roster

[HTTPS://AZDIV-NMRA.ORG/INDEX.PHP/LEADERSHIP](https://azdiv-nmra.org/index.php/leadership)

CONTACT THROUGH ABOVE LINK

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Director | Chris Thompson |
| Superintendent | Bruce Petrarca |
| Chief Clerk & Paymaster | John Mick |
| Achievement Program | Bruce Petrarca |
| Contest Chair | Charlie Nidever |
| Membership Chair | Paul Buhrke |
| Election Chair | Chris Thompson |
| Operations Chair | Rick Watson |
| Legacy Committee Chair | Jim Dennis |
| Spur Line Editor | Charlie Nidever |
| Webmaster | Marshall Wales |

“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 Spur Line 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 1st., April 1st. and July 1st.”**