

Arizona Railroad



Historical Society

The Desert DISPATCH

Fall Layout Update

Timetable

ARHS

Arizona Capitol Museum
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ

The AZ Capitol Museum is open **Monday -- Friday**, 9:00am 4:00pm

Events 2023

Sun City Swap Meet

Saturday Feb. 11, 2023, 9am
Fairway Rec Center
10600 W. Peoria Ave
Sun City, AZ

Winter Cactus Meet

Saturday Feb. 18, 2023, 9am
N Phoenix Baptist Church
5757 N. Central Ave
Phoenix, AZ



PSR Convention

The Grand Canyon Special

June 7-11, 2023
Flagstaff AZ

<https://azdiv-nmra.org/psr2023convention/>



ARHS VP Craig Faris (3rd from right) educates visitors on the geology of the Grand Canyon and the modeling techniques used by Ken Nelson to create the miniature version of the South Rim. *Bob Bridges photo*

As the end of the year approaches, ARHS continues to make significant progress on The Arizona Capitol Railroad. During October and November, the following progress on the layout was reported by Layout Chairman Jesse Poole.

Milestone R4, "Purchase lighting necessary for underside of layout" was completed. Milestone R5 "Upper-level scenery, completion due June 1, 2023" is on track. Milestone R6, "Grand Canyon Complete by Nov 1, 2023", the Canyon south rim carving and the North Rim mural are nearing completion one year ahead of schedule. Buildings for the South Rim are in various stages of planning and construction.

In October, work was accomplished in the Dispatch Area, Grand Canyon, and the Bookshelf area. Tempe Mayor Dewayne Koltin placed shops and other businesses on the layout, adjusted the location of cross streets and began work on the sidewalks. Crossing signals were ordered and ready for installation in November.

continued next page



The Desert Dispatch

ARHS Officers 2022-2023

- President** - Don Stewart
- Vice President** - Craig Faris
- Secretary** - Dave Brown
- Treasurer** - Dan Kubarych
- Director** - Dennis Ranke
- Director** - Dewayne Koltin
Bob Bridges
- Past President** - Jesse Poole

The Desert Dispatch is a publication of the Arizona Railroad Historical Society. Views expressed by guest authors are their own and do not reflect the opinions or positions of the ARHS.

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Mission Statement

The Arizona **Railroad Historical Society** strives to create a world class railroad experience which includes history, education and railroad operations centered around the state of Arizona.

We are honored and excited by the opportunity to create an exciting experience in the Arizona State Capitol Museum in downtown Phoenix.

12/10/22

Layout progress continued

continued from page 1

As reported, The Grand Canyon carving and painting has been completed by Ken Nelson. Don Stewart and Dennis Ranke completed installation of narrow gauge track in the canyon area.

Recommendations for a geological cross section graphics panel were made by the Layout Chairman. Bob Bridges began work on creating test prints of the design.

Connection to the NCE power booster is the final step need for completion.

These near-term priorities were set during October:

1. Install LEDs in Houses—Tucson, Prescott, and Tempe
2. Work Grand Canyon from sides to the middle—next building should be Kolb Lookout Studio
3. Set up Auto-throws on Narrow Gauge Turnouts
4. Get Power from the NCE Booster to Panel A enabling trains to run to the Grand Canyon and on the Narrow Gauge

Planning for upcoming priorities were discussed. Craig Faris and Jesse Poole are planning the Signal Bridge and accompanying lift bridge, Dennis Ranke volunteered to construct the Vertical Shaft Mine.

Jesse Poole presented a final drawing for the Wall of Fame



plaque and reports that we have obtained rights to a vector drawing of the Arizona State Capitol building as a background.

continued next page



The Desert Dispatch

In Tempe, the street layout was adjusted, and sidewalks reinstalled. Buildings were modified to fit the new street plan and Dee has begun installing building lights. Jesse began installing the automated crossing signals.

Grand Canyon construction continues with further scenery details being added to the South Face and the canyon plateau areas. Further planning on the creation of the geological cross section continued. A photo has been obtained from the Grand Canyon for use as a template.

In the Bookshelf area, the connecting bridges has been tested and is operable. The NCE booster is supplying power to the power panel. All track and electrical drops have been added to the bridge.

In Prescott, Mayor Ken Nelson has installed lights in the Courthouse, Sharlot Hall, the Hotel St. Michael, and the Palace Bar. John Mick is working with Bob Bridges on coordinating lighting functions for Prescott and other layout buildings. John conducted a workshop on building lighting installation at the layout in November.



Sharlot Hall in Prescott

Bob Bridges photo



John Mick, right, with Al Shultz and Jesse Poole during fall lighting workshop. *Bob Bridges photo*

In November, the Layout Chairman reported the following near-term priorities:

1. Install LEDs in Houses—Tucson, Prescott, and Tempe
2. Work Grand Canyon from sides to the middle—next building should be Kolb Lookout Studio
3. Set up Auto-throws on Narrow Gauge

The layout chairman reports additional planning is needed in the following areas

1. Plan and build Phoenix
2. Find an artist and plan backdrops for Phoenix and Tempe.
3. Signal Bridge (Craig)
4. Vertical Shaft Mine—we need someone to lead this activity

The Wall of Fame project is in production at Lane Awards. Ideas for ARHS member recognition are being discussed.



The Desert Dispatch

ARHS in the News

Axios.com features the Arizona Capitol Railroad

<https://www.axios.com/local/phoenix/2022/12/13/massive-model-train-set-shows-arizona-1950s>

President's Message

By Don Stewart, ARHS President

Progress over the last year has been phenomenal! This is thanks to the dedicated work and talents of the ARHS members.

Electrical: The electrical system in the upper level has allowed continuous, smooth operation of a train on the upper loop. Craig Faris, Al Schultz, and Ray Rumble added drops, turnouts, and other electrical connections to the upper level. Turnouts and drops are fully operational. The lower level is now also operating well with minor difficulties due to derailments or train issues. The bench-level area is still having some issues with engines stopping and starting near turnouts. The Museum provided computer was fried during a power surge and needed replacement. This required a new monitor (matching the other two) and for Craig Faris to rebuild all the panels

Trackwork on the upper shelf and the Grand Canyon area was started and completed, including manual turnout throws. Three remote electronic throws (Tortoises) still need to be added, with a bit of planning on how to install them. Dennis Ranke installed almost 50' of narrow gauge track (he will add another 10' to fully meet the requirement) to meet the NMRA requirements for Civil Engineer

Scenery has seen big improvements in the last year. Phoenix has seen major improvements under Ray Rumble's guidance with the addition of East Lake Park, the Stockman's bank, a mockup of the Stockyards restaurant, and the baseline flower gardens. Tempe (Dee Koltin is the Mayor) had the streets revised and many downtown buildings added. The Hayden Flour Mill was built and added to the area by Dee. Jess Poole is adding grade crossing lights at intersections in Tempe. Flagstaff continues to be expanded by Dennis Ranke. The area near the station is currently being worked to add a small stream and wooded area. Ken Nelson built up the Tucson area, including the streets, buildings, and scenery this year.

Grand Canyon: This has become a phenomenal addition to the layout! The entirety of the Grand Canyon was built this year. At the beginning of the year the plywood atop the south rim was not yet in place. Ray and Ken took care of that at the end of March 2022.

Work on the layout during the Fall and into the holidays focused on details in many of the areas described earlier. This fall many tours of the exhibit were held and lots of positive comments made by those people who visited.

I am proud of the work we have accomplished in the last four years. The running qualities of the layout, the details on the layout, and the friendly tour guides have made this exhibit a top destination for people revisiting the Capitol Museum. Congratulations!

Don



The Desert Dispatch

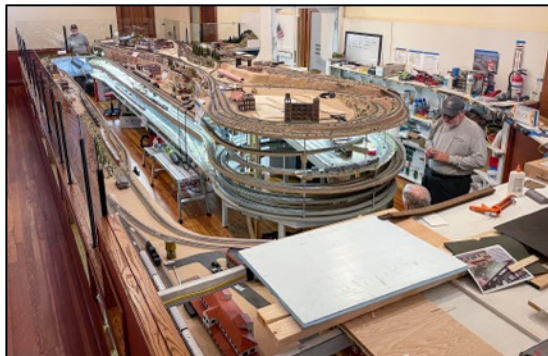
2023: A Review in Pictures

Photos by Bob Bridges and Don Stewart as noted

JANUARY



Citrus groves on the North end of the layout



Layout from the South end, showing the future Grand Canyon plateau in the foreground



John Clark and Ray Rumble inspect boxcar couplers.



John Clark, left, points out details at the base of Picacho Peak to visitors.



Dave Brown and Al Shultz install Route 66 near Williams. The special roadbed will guide the operating Faller trucks and cars.



The Arizona State Capitol building model was completed by Wayne Weslowski and placed on the layout in January. The highly detailed model was scratch built. Construction took over a year.



The Desert Dispatch



Craig Faris tests track voltage in the Ice Dock Yard.



Jesse Poole, Dan Kubarych (center) and Craig Faris solve another LCC mystery in Dispatch.

FEBRUARY



Ray Rumble wires one of the layout's 220 Tortoise switch machines.



The ATSF Ash Fork yard begins to take shape on the upper level.



Dave Brown cleans track on the top level of the layout.



Flagstaff "Mayor" Dennis Ranke shapes the terrain for Flagstaff. The clear plastic protects previously completed scenery.



The Desert Dispatch

MARCH



By March, roads were completed in Phoenix and building locations were planned.



Two historic Tucson buildings, the Hotel Congress and the Tucson SP depot were completed and placed on the North end of the layout. Dave Irick scratch-built the structures.



"A" Mountain in Tempe was detailed in March. The pink spackling compound will turn white when dry and will then be painted and detailed.



Jesse Poole leads a tour of the Arizona Capitol Railroad. Layout visits resumed to pre-pandemic levels in 2022.



Jesse Poole, right, and Ken Nelson install one of the motorized lift sections in the Helix below Williams.



The first test building for John Mick's Arduino controlled lighting system. The system will cycle through a 24-hour day in twenty minutes. Individual lights can be programmed to cycles on and off throughout the day.



The Desert Dispatch

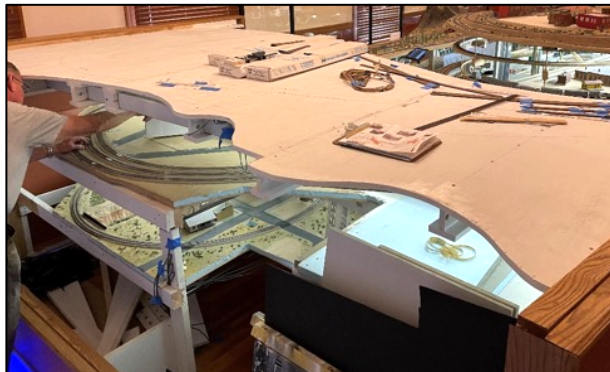


On March 29, 2022, Ray and Ken start adding the supports for the upper plywood for the Grand Canyon South Rim. Don Stewart photo



A tour group visits the exhibit.

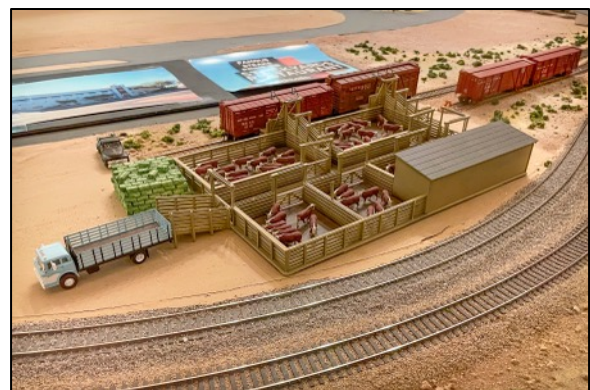
APRIL



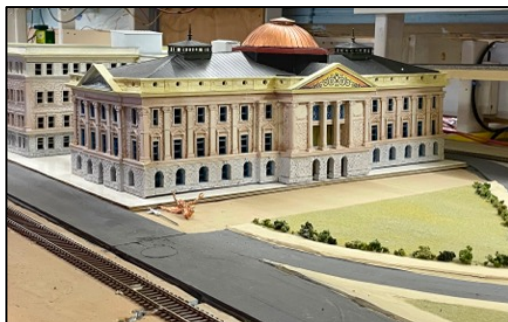
The plywood for the South Rim of the Grand Canyon has been installed, contoured, and painted by April 12. By the end of the month, standard-gauge roadbed was in place. Don Stewart photo



Downtown Phoenix continues to take shape with houses and business located in front of the Capitol.



The stock yards, just south of downtown Phoenix. The location will include several iconic buildings: Tovrea Castle, Stockman's Restaurant and the Stockman's Savings and Loan.



By April, sidewalks and ground cover had been added to the Capitol grounds.



The Desert Dispatch

MAY



Dee Koltin's model of Hayden Flour Mills stands below the completed "A" Mountain in Tempe.



Dee Koltin and Craig Faris work on Williams



Preparations for laying the narrow-gauge track were being made at the end of May.

Don Stewart photo



Don Stewart works on laying roadbed and track in the bookshelf area approaching the Grand Canyon.



Ken Nelson begins construction of the support structure for the South face of the Grand Canyon.



A Teepee tourist attraction along Route 66 between Williams and Flagstaff.



The Desert Dispatch

Building the Grand Canyon



Ray Rumble, left and Ken Nelson work on the contours of the South Rim in early May.

Don Stewart photo



Ken meticulously carves the rock face of the Grand Canyon.



Ken Nelson took the lead in building the Grand Canyon South Rim scenery. Here, Ken puts the finishing touches on the Styrofoam substructure of the Canyon.



Ken paints the South Rim of the Grand Canyon as Dennis installs narrow-gauge track above the rim.

Don Stewart photo



A worker installs the Grand Canyon north rim mural. The 9' by 27' photograph was made by professional photographer Dianne Dietrich-Leis.



The completed Grand Canyon rock face shows the colors and geological details of the Canyon's strata.



The Desert Dispatch



Don Stewart and Denis Ranke lay narrow-gauge track on the plateau near the south rim of the Grand Canyon.



Downtown Tucson



By year's end The Grand Canyon railway depot at the south rim of the Grand Canyon was in place.



A park and Gazebo in the center of downtown Tucson

JUNE-JULY



Tucson is virtually complete by the middle of July 2022. Ken reinstalled the buildings and added the details.

Don Stewart photo

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER



John Mick, right, leads a workshop on lighting installation for buildings. Al Shultz and Jesse Poole plan the lighting program for a building.



The Desert Dispatch



Ray Rumble, right, watches Don Stewart solder a lighting board for a building.



Jesse Poole and Stephen Drees from Tucson discuss plans for the Cattleman's Restaurant, that Stephen is building for the layout.



John Clarke, left, and Dennis Ranke work at the table at the successful November ARHS Swap Meet.

The Grand Canyon Special 2023



The PSR-NMRA Convention

June 7-11, 2023

This coming June, The Arizona Division, led by members of ARHS and the Flagstaff Model Railroad Club will be the hosts of the exciting Grand Canyon Special 2023 Convention for the Pacific Southwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association.

Flagstaff Arizona, with over 100 trains passing through each day, is the centerpiece of the convention highlighted by a steam train excursion from Williams, AZ to the Grand Canyon. Nestled in the pines of the Arizona High Country, the City of Flagstaff offers cool summer temperatures and a rich diversity of downtown attractions and activities along historic Route 66.

The High-Country Convention Center is the venue, and the theme is Steam to the Grand Canyon. There are clinics and activities for everyone including a series of clinics dedicated to the Grand Canyon excursion. The format is new, unique, and exciting, featuring two days of indoor convention activities with the third day devoted to the Steam Train and the Grand Canyon.

Join fellow ARHS and NMRA members at this unique and exciting convention June 7-11 in Flagstaff. Follow this link for registration information. All Aboard!

<https://azdiv-nmra.org/psr2023convention/index.php>





The Desert Dispatch

ARHS at the PSR Convention



John Clark and Craig Faris enjoying the Hobo Auction at the annual PSR-NMRA convention held in San Diego in September. A happy Craig Faris shows off his Hobo Auction prize: a pair of Missouri Pacific diesel locomotives. Dave Irick, Jess Poole, Don Stewart, and Bob Bridges also attended and assisted in promoting next year's event "The Grand Canyon Special" which will be Co-sponsored by ARHS and the Flagstaff Model Railroad club. The convention will be held June 7-11 in Flagstaff.



Dennis Ranke was awarded First Place in the Levity category for his "Livestock" Music Festival car, which featured a variety of farm animals *Moo'vin to the Moo-sick*.