

The New Desert Dispatch

Timetable

ARHS

Tempe Museum

Work Sessions

Monday & Wednesday

9:00am to 4:00pm

Tempe Museum

2530 S. Rural Rd.

Tempe, AZ

2026 Events

The Hobbyist

Model Train Show

1st Sat. of the Month, 7am

1764 W. Broadway Rd.

Mesa, AZ

Grand Canyon

Mini-Swap Meet

Saturday April 25, 9am

Our Savior's

Lutheran Church

1212 E. Glendale Ave

Phoenix, AZ

ARHS Swap Meet

Saturday May 9, 9am

Glendale Christian Church

9661 59th Ave

Glendale, AZ

ARHS East Side Swap
Meet (NEW)

Saturday July 11, 9am

Tempe Nazarene Church

3929 Rural Rd.

Phoenix, AZ

From the Business Car

By Craig Faris, President ARHS

Hello guys! It hasn't been that long, since our last newsletter.

There are quite a few new things happening. Those members who haven't visited lately, will notice we have started on the east wall upper level. Beginning with the Flagstaff Subway. (inside joke). Roadbed is being tacked down with track following close behind.

Track signals are in the design phase and will be installed in early summer. Components for the neo pixel ceiling light system are also in the design phase. The neo pixel power supply has been plotted. Software to drive the lighting system, is ready to go. These will Work in conjunction with the current building lights.

The Grand Canyon is progressing nicely and looks great! Tempe's buildings are installed and Mill Ave looks fantastic!. Most of the Tucson buildings have been positioned and are waiting for final installation. The scenery at Picacho Peak is finished. The farm fields and buildings in Casa Grande are currently under development. Then It's on to Winslow!

Thanks to everyone for your hard work! Craig

Arizona Railroad Historical Society



The Burger Chefs Corner

TIPS ? "No cash, checks or credit cards, but I do except rolling stock!" Bob Gibbs



NOTE: Correction: MARCH edition, page 2, column 1. Under NMRA Events. The 2026 PSR Regional Convention in San Diego is on *Sept. 9-13, 2026*

Beat the Heat Train Show

Saturday July 25, 9am
Embry Riddle University
 3700 Willow Crk. Rd.
 Prescott, AZ

NMRA Events

2026 National Convention

Chattanooga, TN
July 27- August 2,

2026 PSR Regional Convention

San Diego, CA
Sept. 9 - 13,

Tucson Div. Meet

Sat. Apr. 4, 9am to 3pm
 Elle Towne Flowing Wells
 Com. Center
 1660 W. Ruthrauff Rd.
 Tucson, AZ 85705

Prescott Div. Meet

Sat. June 27, 9am - 3pm
 Quad City
 Christian Church
 501 S. Senator Hwy.
 Prescott, AZ 86303

Scottsdale Div. Meet

Sat. Oct. 25, 9am to 3pm
 4425 N Granite Reef Rd.
 Scottsdale, AZ 85251

It's Picnic Time Again !

The 2nd annual family picnic was held on Saturday March, 7, from noon to 2 pm, at the Tempe Museum. The ARHS members were excited to celebrate museum progress, with wives, family and friends. The enthusiastic crowd started arriving at 9:30 am to view the layout and help set up tables and chairs. By noon the crowd had swelled to 38 people. This was our largest event since moving to the new location. Many folks brought delicious side dishes and extra deserts, to add to the feast. Burger Grill Master, Bob Gibbs and Hot Dog Meister, Roy Martin (Jesse's son-in-law) began serving a delicious hot picnic lunch, at Noon. After the memorable ribbon cutting nearly a year ago, We were thrilled and delighted to watch trains circle the entire layout!



(left) Beautiful train of vegetables created by Jenny Poole.



(above) Craig introducing our many new members. (lower left) the group enjoying the fine food under our new shade screen.

ARHS Seminar Teaches Realistic Weathering Techniques for Model Railroading



Instructors: Don Stewart & Clark Kooning MMR #225 (above) Bob Gibbs (right) Members of the 2026 Golden Spike Class (below right)



On Wednesday, March 11, Don Stewart and guest instructor Clark Kooning (Master Model Railroader No. 225) led a hands-on seminar on weathering techniques for rolling stock and buildings. The session attracted ARHS members eager to deepen their finishing skills and learn practical methods for giving models a lifelike, aged appearance.

Stewart and Kooning demonstrated a range of materials and approaches, including acrylics, oil paint, pan pastels, and powdered pigments. They discussed when to use each medium, how to layer effects for realism, and tips for achieving authentic rust, grime, sun-fade, and streaking. Gold Spike Class members worked on pieces they brought to the class while the instructors, offered tailored advice and demonstrative techniques specific to each model.

The seminar emphasized hands-on practice and individualized coaching, with participants applying methods directly to freight cars, and building models under expert guidance. The combination of technique demonstrations and one-on-one feedback aimed to boost both confidence and craftsmanship among modelers of varying experience levels.

TIPS ON REPLACING KADEE COUPLER SPRINGS

- ✦ Use an Exacto knife with #11 blade. Stab the spring about 2-3 coils from the end. You should now have the spring with a long end 6-7 coils and a short end 2-3 coils. Insert the spring into the coupler, on the solid section of the coupler, place the long coil section onto the nub. The short coil section is now easily maneuvered onto the other nub, on the movable section of the coupler. You can put a miniscule drop of CA glue on one end of the spring to help retain the spring once it is in place on the coupler.
- ✦ Run a sewing thread through the spring so if it flies, it will stay on the thread, for easy retrieval. Once the spring is securely in place remove the thread.
- ✦ Use a T-pin, sewing needle, or atlas track spike. Run the tool through the center of the spring. Place the spring over the first nub then drop a dab of glue on it. After the glue dries, approximately 30 minutes, place the spring on the other nub. Use a pair of tweezers to retract the spring and hold it against the other nub. Then pull the pin out.
- ✦ From Model Railroader Magazine, use a small flat blade screwdriver with a dab of Vaseline on it and set one end on a nub, then compress the spring enough to move over the other nub. The Vaseline keeps the spring from flying.
- ✦ Use the Kadee tool #235 (no longer made) or #241 dual tool, the blade end has nubs so it can double as a spring pick for fitting small coil springs.



THE BIG BOY, PART -II

Eastern Leg Schedule

After a multi-day locomotive maintenance period, the Coast-to-Coast Steam Tour will resume with the eastern leg on May 25. A detailed schedule for the eastern leg will be released at a later date. Join the UP Steam Club at <http://UP.com/SteamClub> to be notified when more details become available!

Display days will occur in:

- Omaha, Nebraska
- Chicago, Illinois
- Buffalo, New York
- Scranton, Pennsylvania
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Additional display days

are anticipated in:

- Altoona, Pennsylvania
- St. Louis, Missouri
- Kansas City, Missouri

Remember Safety First

- Stay back at least 25 feet from all railroad tracks. This includes drones.
- Railroad tracks, trestles, yards and right of way are private property - do not trespass.
- Never assume tracks are abandoned or inactive - ALWAYS expect a train.
- Be a safe and considerate driver - do not pace the train.



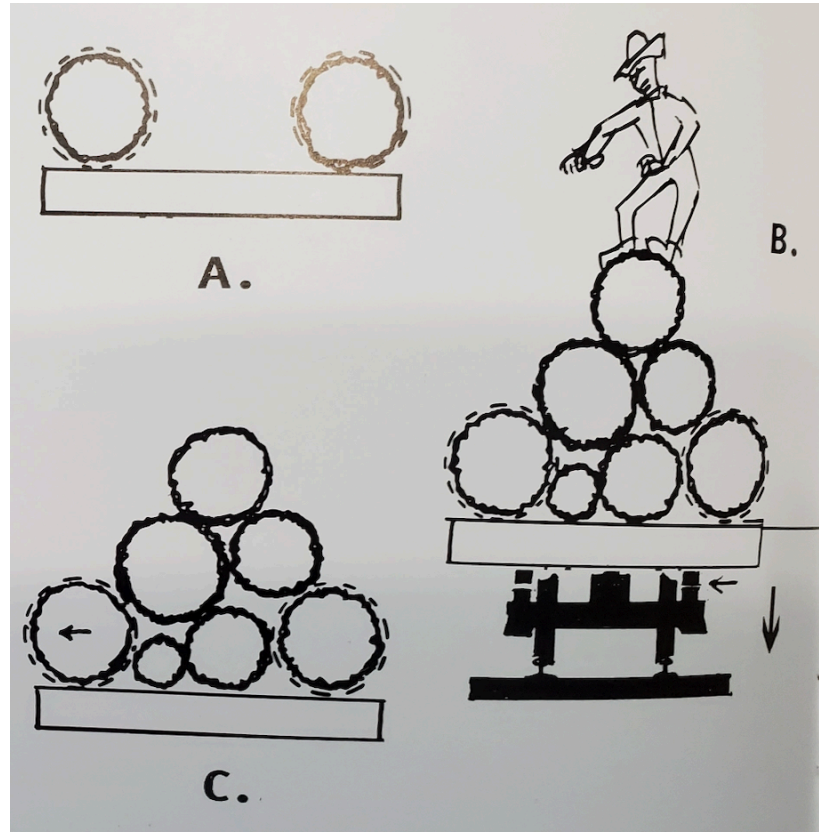
Balancing the Load on a Log Car

According to Morris Long

A. The first two logs are loaded on the car as shown and chained to the frame. These two logs provide a secure base for the remaining load.

B. To test for a balanced load, a man stood on the top log and shifted his weight from side to side. If the car rocked, the load was balanced. If he could not rock the car, it was heavy on one side.

C. The loggers would determine which side was too heavy and loosen the two corner-binding chains on the light side. They would roll this log slightly toward the outside edge of the car until the load was balanced.



EDITORS NOTE: I guess all of you know by now, there have been some issues with the toilets in our building, They've been shaking when flushed. The toilets in the rental space have also had frequent problems with leaks and clogs. I was there the other day, when Craig spoke to the plumber, from Abel Toffulya Plumbing in Tempe. Unfortunately, the only solution is to dig up the main sewer lines between the toilets and the street. This will mean tearing up part of the concrete floor in the train room. The good news is, we can continue to work on the layout. The bad news is, Tempe, the Grand Canyon and part of the helix will have to be taken down to make way for the repairs .The job should take approximately 2 weeks if all goes to plan. President, Craig Faris will address the members at our next meeting. Check the website below for more information*