



# The Desert DISPATCH

## Open for Visitors!

### Timetable

#### ARHS

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

The AZ Capitol Museum is open **Monday thru Friday**, 8:30am -4:30pm

#### Events

**ARHS Swap Meet**  
**Saturday May 14, 2022**  
9:00am -1:00pm

**Glendale Christian Church**  
9661 N 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Glendale, AZ 85302  
Admission \$5.00

**Adobe Mountain Model Train Show**  
**Saturday, March 19**  
9am - 2pm

**Adobe Mtn. Railroad Park**  
22822 N. 43rd Ave,  
Phoenix, AZ

**Arizona Division PSR-NMRA Spring Meet**  
**Saturday, March 26**  
9:00am - 4:00pm  
Scottsdale Congressional United Church of Christ  
4425 N Granite Reef Road,  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
<http://www.azdiv-nmra.org/index.php/division-meets/spring-meet>



A young visitor’s attention is riveted as a diesel freight train leaves Tucson headed towards Phoenix on the Arizona Capitol Railroad.

*Photo by Bob Bridges*

**By Don Stewart, ARHS President**

Following a visit by the Arizona State Fire Marshall on December 13, 2021 the Arizona Railroad Historical Society was given the green light to open the Arizona Capitol Railroad display to visitors. We have been conducting tours of the exhibit as we work and run trains. Members have added “tour guide” to the many hats we wear. Greeting and meeting people from all over the world is very interesting. As of mid-February, over 400 people have signed our guestbook.

They have all complimented us on the work we are doing. Those that have visited before were excited to see the progress we have made and were eager to hear about our future plans. Most say they want to come back soon to see our progress.

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# The Desert Dispatch

## ARHS Officers 2021-2022

- President** - Don Stewart
- Vice President** - Craig Faris
- Secretary** - Dave Brown
- Treasurer** - Dan Kubarych
- Director** - Ken Nelson
- Director** - 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.

02/20/22



The wall for the mural of the north rim of the Grand Canyon was built and painted. It even has two storage areas for needed items. A floor was added over the Museum floor to allow an electrical conduit to pull power from the south wall for layout power and allow us to paint the Colorado River on the floor.

## Presidents Report

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We have also added drops to the upper levels, completed wire runs to the yards on the upper loop, and cleared electrical issues in yards and sidings. This work is critical to the success of the exhibit, but largely remains unseen. Kudos to the electrical guys!



Scenery on the Narrow Gauge line over the Dispatcher's office has been added. It includes a mountain leading up to Mt Humphries (which will be on a backdrop) and includes some Arizona animals. Many windows in the lower level feature native desert animals. Eventually all windows will have animals.

*Don Stewart photos*



# The Desert Dispatch

## Trackside Photos

By Bob Bridges



ARHS member Jesse Poole smiles as a young visitor watches a train approaching Picacho Peak



Overview of the layout from the south end in early February



John Clark, right, points out scenic details in the desert below Picacho Peak.



The Arizona State Capitol building is the centerpiece of the city of Phoenix on the Arizona Capitol Railroad. The model was scratch built from plaster castings by Wayne Wesolowski of Tucson. It took over a year to complete.



Warehouse and other industrial structures have been added to the area adjacent to Yuma.

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Dave Brown, left, assists Al Shultz in laying roadway for Route 66 above the helix in Williams



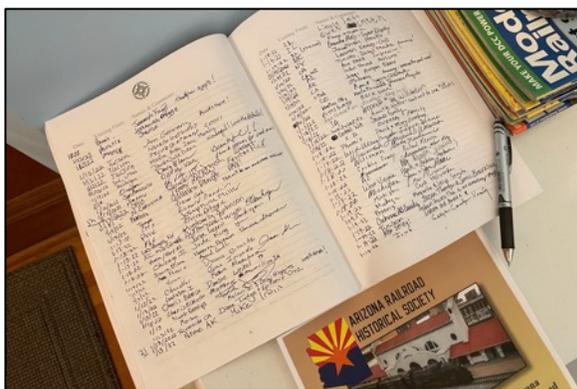
Ken Nelson has scratch built a highway underpass near the Tucson depot.



A residential area in Phoenix begins to take shape.



Adam Weiss, Dave Brown and Dee Koltin track down short circuits in the Southern Pacific Phoenix yard on the lower level of the layout.



Shortly after re-opening the Arizona Capitol Railroad to visitors in December, a guestbook was added. As of mid-February, over 416 entries have been tallied. The book shows that visitors from across the US and several foreign countries have enjoyed their visit to the layout.



A Santa Fe freight rolls past the Flagstaff Depot

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On a recent Monday morning, half of the entire ARHS membership showed up to work on the layout, run trains and provide guided tours to visitors. Left to right from the back and Dennis Ranke, Al Shultz, Ray Rumble, Dee Koltin, Craig Faris, Jesse Poole, Dan Kubarych and Dan Brown. As usual, photographer Bob Bridges is behind the camera high above the layout.



Trains began running on the lower level below Tempe. Hayden Butte, also known as "A" Mountain is under construction on the benchtop level above a Goodyear cotton field in the window below.



Dee Koltin cleans track on the top level.

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Jesse Poole, Dan Kubarych and Craig Faris work on JMRI control panels in the dispatch desk of the Arizona Capitol Railroad.



Dee Koltin left, and ARHS Vice-President Craig Faris clean track on the upper level of the layout.



Ray Rumble connects wiring below the ice dock.



John Clarke and Ray Rumble inspect the wheels on a box car.



ARHS President Don Stewart, left, leads a layout tour.



A Southern Pacific streamliner diesel leads a passenger train through a citrus grove between Tempe and Phoenix. Citrus is one of the 5 "C" s of Arizona represented on the layout: Citrus, Cattle, Cotton, Copper and Climate.