

Arizona Railroad



Historical Society

The Desert DISPATCH

Timetable

Layout Work Sessions

Every Wednesday and Saturday starting 9am:
Arizona Capitol Museum
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ

ARHS Spring Swap Meet

Saturday, May 16, 2020
9am-1pm

Location: Glendale Christian Church 9661 N. 59th Ave, **Glendale, AZ**

More information, call:
Craig 623-340-3529
DeWayne 623-308-1574

Model Rail Events

Sun City Swap Meet
Saturday, February 8th 9:00am

Fairway Recreation Center
10600 W Peoria Ave
Sun City, AZ

Cactus Swap Meet
Saturday, February 22nd

N. Phoenix Baptist Church
5757 N. Central Ave
Phoenix, AZ

Happy New Year!



ARHS members prepare the layout for Holiday visitors. L-R are John Clark, Dan Kubarych, Adam Weiss, Don Stewart, Ken Wolfe and Craig Faris. More photos on page 4.

Photo by Bob Bridges

President's Message

By Don Stewart, ARHS President

Trains are still running on the 40" SP1 track, SP2 track 40" to 25" level, and the SP3 track on the 25" level. We were running with tablets throwing the turnouts on Saturday, November 23 with good luck. We also were running two trains opposed to each other and made good use of the passing sidings near Picacho Peak.

Lighting has been installed under the upper level to light up Phoenix. Track has been laid on the upper level in Ash Fork. More wiring has been completed on signal cards and detectors.

Continued next page



The Desert Dispatch

ARHS Officers 2020

President - Don Stewart
Vice President - Craig Faris
Secretary - Dave Brown
Treasurer - Dan Kubarych
Director - Ken Nelson
Director - DeWayne Koltin
Past President - Jesse Poole

The Desert Dispatch is a publication of the Arizona Railroad Historical Society.

Editor - Bob Bridges
 email:
rkbridges611@gmail.com

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.

President's Message Continued

Dee has donated lots of cars to the ARHS. Don is tweaking them (adding metal wheels, KD couplers, sometimes replacing entire trucks, and weathering the cars) before adding them to the roster for operation. So far there are 98 cars on the roster including Dee's, the WVRHS and some Don donated. We will need more stock, box, reefers tank cars and flat cars prototypes that were built before 1960.

A few things to note as we continue running trains:

1. Become familiar with the tablets and how to set them up. Throwing turnouts is really easy.
2. Be careful when cleaning track as the turnouts are sensitive to rough handling.
3. When installing the Tortoise switch machines, ensure there is not too much pressure on the points and throw bars, several points have required re-soldering due to being forced to the side rail too firmly. There should be spring tension but should be moveable with your fingers from side to side.
4. If you encounter a problem, note it or bring it to someone's attention.
5. Be cognizant of who is running ahead of you and who is behind you. Head-on meets (cornfield meets!) are not good. You may also be impeding another person's train that is following you.
6. There are several passing sidings on the main level (40" level). Know where they are and use them. There are two near Picacho Peak and at least one in the Phoenix area.
7. Bring your throttles and some engines and cabooses to run as we go forward.

Continued next page



The Desert Dispatch

Presidents Message Continued

We operated from December 7 through the 23rd for the Holiday season

We held an open house to kick off the Holiday season on Saturday, December 7. This is the same time as the Museum holds a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. We advertised the event in conjunction with the museum and had trains running. The Hobby Depot has a Lionel Polar Express train that we purchased but it needs some work.

Keep the Layout Clean

Reminder: Cleaning up after work sessions is becoming more important as we are being visited more often. The museum also likes the look with the buildings in place. As we work on the upper levels, please cover the lower levels with plastic sheet and vacuum up before you leave. We will also be running trains a lot with the increasing number of visitors, so please do not lay anything, especially metal, across the tracks.

The November 16 Swap Meet was successful

We earned more than earlier Swap Meets. This will help with the construction costs of the layout. Members did a great job and pitched in and helped. Another great showing by the members of this group!

General Information-Milestones

We have exceeded 20,000 volunteer hours since we started. It was 20,751 as of November 25, 2019.

More than half of the track has been installed.

Almost all of the existing turnouts have been wired into their respective locations and can be controlled from the tablets (9 tablets have been purchased).

We need to focus on finishing the electrical work, buildings and scenery in the near future.

Money collected from the donation jars are starting to add up. We are up to about a Swap Meet profit from the jars.

We had a Holiday party between Christmas and New Year's Day on Friday, December 27, 2019 at Don Stewart's house.

2019 was a great year for the Society with the donations, grant income and work we accomplished! 2020 will start work on the top level with roadbed, track, and electrical. The shelf portion near the Mobest yard will be installed in January and be tied into the area near the Grand Canyon to stabilize it. Four medium sized steam engines are being purchased for the ARHS to run on the layout.

Don



The Desert Dispatch

December 2019 Open House

Between Saturday December 7 and Christmas Eve, Trains ran daily except Sundays on the ARHS Capitol Railroad layout. Thanks to all club members that were able to man the railroad and inform and entertain visitors to the Museum during the Holiday season! Below are photos of preparations for the event



Ken Nelson keeps a close eye on a steam locomotive as it rolls through a turnout on the SP1 level.



Prospective member James Cairo cleans up Tempe in preparation for running trains.



John Clark is on top of the world as he assists Don Stewart with trackwork on the top level.



Ken Wolfe check wiring in the helix.



ARHS Past President Jesse Poole and Treasurer Dan Kubarych gave a presentation on the club's experience with LCC at the November NMRA AZ Division meeting held in Tucson.



The Desert Dispatch

Operating with the NCE Pro Cab

By Don Stewart

Normal Operation:

DIRECTION button changes the direction

MOMENTUM button changes the acceleration/deceleration rate of a locomotive or consist

SPEED Control – Left buttons increase/decrease by 4 (28 speed step mode) or 10 (128 speed step mode), right buttons increase/decrease by 1 speed step, thumb wheel increases and decreases as a function of how fast you turn the wheel.

HORN/WHISTLE blows the horn or whistle as long as you have the button pushed

BELL button turns on the bell on one push and turns it off on the next push

HEADLIGHT toggles the headlight on and off as it is pushed

OPTION button is the brake (it sets the speed to zero) – momentum is engaged

EMERGENCY STOP – push once and your loco will stop without momentum, push three times and the entire layout is shut down (this is cleared by pressing the enter button on the cab that hit the emergency button 3 times). Normal restart with the emergency button pushed once is by advancing the speed control

RECALL – toggles between the last two trains selected (factory default).

It allows you to independently control two locos. When a loco number is selected and you push the select loco button, you overwrite the loco number in the memory (the one you currently have selected)

SELECT LOCO – push the button, enter the loco/consist number and press ENTER to operate a loco.

MACRO is for controlling multiple accessories with one button (we do not use this yet)

SELECT ACCY used to control accessories (turnouts, etc.)

Number keys turn on decoder functions (and loco numbers when selecting a loco)

ENTER is used to confirm your selections

CONSIST buttons:

SET UP – starts the consist setup sequence

CLEAR – starts the consist clearing sequence (select the consist number and then ENTER)

ADD – adds a loco to the consist

DEL – deletes a loco from the consist





The Desert Dispatch

Programming and Extended Function Controls

PROG/ESC – Selects various system menus. It also acts as the escape key to get out of programming mode.

EXPN is reserved for future features
28/128 shifts between 28 and 128 speed steps

SHIFT button – press and hold while pressing another button to get additional functions (this allows functions 10, 11, 12)

Intermediate Cab Operation:

Normal Operation:

Status LED – This briefly flashes when a key is pressed and glow steadily when a data entry is needed (loco number)

REV button puts the locomotive into reverse

OPTION button is the direction toggle (if going forward, it reverses the loco)

FWD button puts the locomotive (or consist) into forward

SELECT LOCO button – push the button, enter the loco/consist number and press ENTER to select and operate a loco.

HORN blows the horn or whistle as long as you have the button pushed (function 2)

MACRO is for controlling multiple accessories with one button (we do not use this yet)

Number keys turn on decoder functions (and loco numbers when selecting a loco).

0 key turns the headlight on and off (toggle) NCE - CV=120 (headlight) and 121 (Backup light)

1 key turns function 1 (usually a mars light or rotating beacon) on and off (toggle) NCE - CV=122 Note that on sound locos this is the bell on and off toggle

2 key turns horn on and off (toggle)

3 key turns function 3 on and off (this may be the bell on some sound decoders)

ENTER is used to confirm your selections

Note that the number keys can be programmed into the decoder using function mapping so they control what you want them to be.

Using the CVs, you can set lighting effects and sounds to be active in three ways:

- If the CV value is increased by 1, the function is active in only the forward mode (i.e. a Mars light is 8, but a 9 will activate it only in the forward mode)
- If the CV value is increased by 2, the function is active in only the reverse mode (i.e. a red backup warning light)
- If the CV value is increased by 3, the function is active in either forward or reverse mode (i.e. a rotary beacon)



The Desert Dispatch

Fall Swap Meet



Crowds fill the fall ARHS swap meet at the Glendale Christian Church. Good weather and great vendors were a magnet for model train enthusiasts.



Dave Brown, right, helps test locomotives



Craig Faris, left, presents a Christmas Train set to a lucky door prize winner and his Dad.

Photo courtesy of Kathie Summers



Ray Rumble, left, helps a happy shopper at the ARHS tables during the Fall Swap Meet.

The meet was very successful. We sold out all available tables to 31 vendors and had a total attendance of 202 patrons at the door. Thanks to all members that volunteered to make this a successful fund raiser for the club. Our Spring meet is scheduled for Saturday May 16, 2020.



The Desert Dispatch

Big Boy in Arizona

Photos by Bob Bridges



Union Pacific Big Boy 4014 steams across the Arizona desert west of Maricopa in October 2019 as part of a tour to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. It traveled across the southern part of Arizona from Yuma to Tucson before traveling east. Twenty-Five Big Boys were built exclusively for the UP, beginning in 1941. The largest locomotive ever built, they were 132 feet long and weighed 1.2 million pounds. They had a 4-8-8-4 wheel arrangement. There are seven Big Boys on public display around the country. Number 4014 was retired from service in December 1961, having traveled 1,031,205 miles during 20 years of service. It was restored to excursion service in May 2019 and is on display in Cheyenne, WY. Information is from the **UP Heritage Steam** website: <https://www.up.com/heritage/steam/index.htm>



UP crew check out 4014 during a stop at Casa Grande





The Desert Dispatch



Big Boy Stops in Tucson



Thousands were on hand to see UP 4014 in Tucson.