

Arizona Railroad



Historical Society

The DESERT DISPATCH

Time Table

Layout work sessions

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

ARHS Spring Swap Meet

Saturday, May 11, 2019
9am-1pm

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

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

Grand Canyon Mini Swap

Saturday April 27 9-11am

Location: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1212 E Glendale Ave,
Phoenix, AZ 85020
Free Admission



Ken Nelson and Ken Wolfe check the grade on the spline sub-roadbed connecting Mobest yard to Prescott.

photo by Bob Bridges

The Arizona Capitol Railroad

“Steel Rails Connecting the Copper State”

Progress Update

Arizona Railroad Historical Society members continue to make significant progress in a number of areas on the Arizona Capitol Railroad layout including track laying, wiring and benchwork according to Don Stewart, ARHS Vice President and Layout Chairman, As of early April the following projects have been completed:

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ARHS Officers

President - Jesse Poole

Vice President - Don Stewart

Secretary - Dave Brown

Treasurer - Dan Kubarych

Director - Ken Nelson

Director - DeWayne Koltin

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

Editor - Bob Bridges

Associate Editor: Dennis Ranke

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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 that world class railroad experience in the Arizona State Capital Museum in downtown Phoenix.

- Spline sub-roadbed has been installed to connect Mobest Yard with Prescott on the third level of the layout
- Track work has been completed in the Mobest Yard.
- Electrical work on the 25 inch level nears completion with the goal of having trains running by the end of the month. Electrical drops have been connected on the lower 25 inch level, which includes Goodyear Naval Air Station, Avondale and Yuma. The electrical panel at the North end is



Dave Brown prepares to solder a power drop. *photo by Bob Bridges*

completed. Test running is in progress.

- Ken Nelson has completed running 110 volt power and installing outlets on the inside operator's aisle.



John Clark and Ray Rumble (under the layout) have installed the majority of the Tortoise switch machines on the lower level. *photo by Bob Bridges*

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April Layout Progress

photos by Don Stewart

Yuma: Scenery in Yuma is being worked to allow Tucson to be built over the area. The bridge over the Colorado River is being installed, roads and buildings are being situated, and scenery being installed.



Prescott: The city site has been installed after the spline from Mobest Yard has had track laid and drops installed. It was painted on April 6, 2019.

Mobest Yard: This yard is nearing completion after the manual turnout throws were installed. The track is being painted

Tempe to Tucson: Wires have been installed on the stretch to Tucson with the



lights to be added to the shallow trough near the edge of the layout before the plywood and foam are installed. This will be completed shortly. Picacho Peak will be built in this area. There will be a curved

section of track around the peak and a 1% rise in the track around the peak.



and the tank farm is being measured for its installation. Ballast will follow and the yard will be ready for trains.

Along the Line: Most of the Tortoise turnout controls have been installed and are operating well by hand. Scenery and details are being added as available.

Controls: We received a shipment of control parts recently. Dan put together a demonstration of the LCC system. It worked well. The components will be installed as the fascia is painted. The control panels are being populated.



A school group watches work in progress on the Arizona Capitol Railroad

Working on the Railroad



Left, Ray Rumble describes the layout to visitors. **Above,** Dick Christ solders power drops from the track to the main power bus wires. *photos by Bob Bridges*



Donations now Accepted via PayPal

Helping build the Arizona Capitol Railroad is now just a click away. Visitors to the www.AZRHS.com website will find a PayPal button at the bottom of the page. Clicking the button will enable PayPal users to make one-time or recurring monthly donations to help the ARHS build the layout.

The **Arizona Railroad Historical Society** is located on the 2nd floor of the Arizona Capitol Museum, 1700 W Washington St., Phoenix AZ 85007.

Tax-Deductible donations to the ARHS may be made through the **Arizona Capitol Museum Guild**, a 501(c)(3) organization. Please specify that your gift is for the **ARHS**. The ARHS is a 100 percent National Model Railroad Association club.

visit us on the web at:

www.azrhs.com

On Track

by Jesse Poole — ARHS President

We have “turned a corner” with our layout. I felt it at the last NMRA AZ Division meet. I briefed the division on the progress that we have made and afterward several individuals approached me saying “a year ago I didn’t believe you could build this, but now it is real.” Several others were inquiring about becoming members. Donations have also started coming in. This is great progress in less than a year!!

The momentum is just beginning. Very soon we will have the benchwork finished in the Tucson area. When the track is laid at this end of the layout the Southern Pacific loops will be connected and trains will be capable of continuous operation. At this point we can create enough activity to interest local television and other media. This will dramatically increase our exposure and hopefully assist with fund raising.

Fundraising continues to be our biggest challenge, but our finances are improving. We have applied to several Arizona organizations and have received generous donations from both APS and SRP. Other individuals (both from within the club and from others) have also provided generous donations. I think the best indication of our success is reflected in the growing sum collected weekly from the donation jar in the room. As visitors see the progress, they are happy to participate in our success.

Adopting Layout Command and Control (LCC) for the controls system clears a major decision hurdle. The system design is now proceeding, and installation of components will begin shortly. The first phase will be implementation of block detection and turnout control. We must be able to throw the turnouts in order to fully operate the trains.

Our goal for this year is to have the mainline trains operational. As trains begin to move we will be able to invite more news media. We are in a perfect location to attract local politicians. Running the trains puts a smile on everyone face. Imagine the excitement at Christmastime when children and families start coming to see trains the running!



How to Model Realistic Palm Trees

By Ken Nelson
photos by Bob Bridges

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Tacky Glue, Feathers, Brawny Towels, Tapered Dowels, Spray Paint, Brown Stain, Pan Pastels, Wax Paper, Small Scissors, Small Drill Bit, Small Sharp Awl, Pin For Base, Hobby Knife, Tape.

INSTRUCTIONS: Tape wax paper to work surface. Take a section of paper towel and roll as shown in *photo 1* below.



1- Trunks made from tapered dowel or old paint brush handled wrapped in paper towel coils.

Cut rolled towel into ¼ inch coils. Make a tapered dowel or use a paint brush handle. Use tacky glue to wrap the dowel with the towel segments. Make a larger bulge at the top to be the

branch area. Also, slightly flair the bottom. Towel can be applied in layers to create above form. I rolled this section on the wax paper before the glue set to take out any large bumps.

Next work on the leaf fronds. The feathers I used were from Michaels. (*photo 2*) They had three styles in the bag for about \$3.50 per bag



2 – Feathers from Michaels

I sorted the feathers by quality and suitability for trees: the first type was ready to use. The second needs some work to make similar to first group, and third group was not used. The second group requires shaping the top to size, then wetting and aligning the fronds separately to mimic the “ready to use” feathers. (*photo 3 - next page*)



How to Model Realistic Palm Trees



Next the stems on the feathers need to be trimmed, but not fully removed. Put a small amount of glue on stem and roll in between fingers until glue sets. This makes a stronger stem around the feather. I then place the feathers on a strip of 1-1/2" tape. Put them on the top half of the tape and

fold the bottom around over the top.

The stems will be secured in the "V" of tape and ready for painting. I used two colors of Rustoleum spray paint: Hunter Green and Eden Green. I took the tape strips outside and sprayed Hunter first and misted Eden Green for accent color.



Modeling Realistic Palm Trees

Trunks

Back to the trunks made from dowels wrapped in paper towels. By now the glue is dry, so they can be stained a light brown. I used a Minwax furniture stain marker, “Early American” from Home Depot. When it was dry I did some detailing with Pan Pastels, Raw Umber, Neutral Gray, Orange Extra Dark, and Burnt Sienna.



Palm Fronds

Next is building a palm tree frond by frond. Start in the center top of the trunk and make a hole with a bit or the awl about 1/16 inch. Trim the leaf to desired length and cut the bottom on an angle. Dip the stem in glue, and place in the top hole.

Continue this process going around the first leaf. Place all leaves with any curve facing down as this represents gravity. As you go add layers make a gradual change from vertical in the middle to more horizontal at the outer branches. It is more difficult to place the first few feather fronds in the trunk dowel area, but it becomes really easy in the paper towel bulge.

To create the dried fronds that hang downward from the

green fronds, use the downy portion of the feathers and remove them from the main feather stem, pulling backwards to the grain of the feather. I wrapped these around the base under the green fronds and colored them with pan pastel dark orange. They start out gray.



Model Train Swap

Meet

Save this Date

Saturday May 11th.

All Scales

Arizona Railroad



Historical Society



9:00am - 1:00pm
Glendale Christian Church
9661 N. 59th Ave.
Glendale, AZ 85302

**Sponsored By the
Arizona Railroad
Historical Society**

**Everything Trains, Food, Fun!!
Admission Only \$5.00**

Vendor Tables \$25.00 each
To sign up, send stamped
envelope and check or
money order to:

**ARHS, P.O. Box 5816,
Glendale, Az. 85312-5643**

For More Info, Call:

**Craig Faris
623-340-3529**

OR

**DeWayne Koltin
623-308-1574**





Arizona Junction 2019 PSR Convention



September 25-29 2019

Sheraton Mesa at Wrigleyville W.
860 North Riverview
Mesa, Arizona 85201

[http://azdiv-nmra.org/
psr2019convention/](http://azdiv-nmra.org/psr2019convention/)

- Tony Koester, guest speaker and clinician
- Over 35 Layouts in Tucson, Prescott and metro Phoenix area.
- 40 plus Clinics
- OPS Sessions
- Special Day trip / ride the Verde Canyon Railroad / private car
- Self Guided tour to the AZ Railway Museum
- Hobo Auction
- Opening night BBQ at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park / Layouts on display
- Kalmbach book signing, layout room / manufacturers displays
- The Beginners' Corner
- And much, much more!

Links to Library Documents

The staff from the Arizona State Library visited the layout recently. Discovery Librarian Brandy Helewa has done some research for us and provided the following links to information available at the library.

[Phoenix City Building Drawings, 1919-1991](#)- this collection is currently being updated by a volunteer. These are architectural drawings of buildings in Phoenix! [Architectural Drawings of Thornton Fitzhugh and Associates](#)-collection of architectural drawings of buildings and bridges from all over the state, mostly Phoenix and suburbs. Does have drawings for [Combination Depot for Tempe Arizona Eastern Railroad](#).

[Arizona Highways Online](#)- nearly all the Arizona Highways magazines are online. The 1930s-50s issues aren't completely online, but those are in the works and should be up maybe by the end of 2019. It is a great resource and a quick search of the term "railroad" in the collection brings up articles on the [Southern Pacific \(75 Years of Service to Arizona and the West\)](#), [Arizona Railroads Past and Present](#) As is expected with AZ Highways, the images are outstanding. [Arizona State Archives Historic Photographs](#). Images current and old of rail cars, bridges, etc. when searching for the term "rail".

[Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company Collection](#)- Lots of plans and drawings. [Atlantic & Pacific RR Co. Route Map & Land Grant Filing Maps](#)-maps.

[Vail Arizona Train Depot](#) image.

[Jane Karl Mid-Century Modern Architectural Renderings](#)- architectural drawings of homes and other buildings from the 1950s.

[Lescher-Mahoney Architectural Drawings](#)- architectural drawings of numerous buildings across Arizona.

[Show Low Historical Society Collection Highlights](#)- a few images relating to [the Apache Railway](#) .

[Williams, Arizona Historic Photo Collection](#)- several railroad related images included.

ARHS MEMBERS WIN AZ DIVISION AWARDS

by Dennis Ranke



Dennis Ranke's First Place winning entry in the Levity Contest at the Spring NMRA AZ Division Meeting held in Scottsdale.

Ray Rumble and Dennis Ranke were awarded first place ribbons for their entries in the National Model Railroad Association, Pacific Southwest Region, Arizona Division Meet held in Scottsdale on March 30, 2019.

Ray's color photograph of a wintery Freight train received a first place in the Prototype Color Photography Category.

Editors Note: A copy of Ray's photo was not available at press time. It will appear in a future issue of The Desert Dispatch.

Dennis received his first place for Levity. This year's theme was "Economy Passenger Travel." Lowdon & Berroch RR. Car #8, started as a Classic Cars Miniature, 1906 Rolls Royce. The swap meet find was disassembled, repainted in gloss black and detailed with silver on the grill, toolbox and running lights. Steam boiling out of the radiator was

created using a cotton swab. The lettering for "L&B" and car "8" were created using stickers from Hobby Lobby. The wheels were replaced with a set of HO scale brass wheels. 11 people are struggling to hold on, as the economy passenger car takes a curve on 2 wheels.

More Historic Links Online

- Historic American Buildings Survey/ Historic American Engineering Record/ Historic American Landscapes Survey from the Library of Congress: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/index/places/>
- Maricopa County Historical Aerial Photography/Maps: <https://gis.maricopa.gov/GIO/HistoricalAerial/index.html>
- Library of Congress Sanborn Maps of Arizona: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/?fa=location:arizona>
- Arizona State Knowledge database: <https://ask.azlibrary.gov/starweb/l.skca-catalog/servlet.starweb>
- Arizona State Archives maps (different collection than what the State Library has): <https://azlibrary.gov/arm/research-archives/maps-arizona-state-archives>

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- Arizona State Archives Research request form (their items generally must be viewed in person at 1901 W Madison): <https://azlibrary.gov/arizona-state-archives-reference-question>
- Williams, Arizona Historic Photo Collection: <http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/digital/collection/wplphoto>
- Sharlot Hall Museum collections: <http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/digital/custom/shm>
- Search for State Capitol: <http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/digital/collection/statepubs/search/searchterm/state%20capitol/field/title/mode/exact/conn/and> and Capitol Complex: <http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/digital/collection/statepubs/search/searchterm/capitol%20complex/field/title/mode/exact/conn/and/order/nosort/ad/asc>
- Search in Arizona State Archives Historic Photographs Collection for Capitol in 1900s: [http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/digital/collection/histphotos/search/searchterm/1900s%20\(1900-1909\)!capitol/field/cover!title/mode/exact!exact/conn/and!and/order/nosort/ad/asc](http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/digital/collection/histphotos/search/searchterm/1900s%20(1900-1909)!capitol/field/cover!title/mode/exact!exact/conn/and!and/order/nosort/ad/asc) and in 1950s [http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/digital/collection/histphotos/search/searchterm/1950s%20\(1950-1959\)!capitol/field/cover!title/mode/exact!exact/conn/and!and/order/nosort/ad/asc](http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/digital/collection/histphotos/search/searchterm/1950s%20(1950-1959)!capitol/field/cover!title/mode/exact!exact/conn/and!and/order/nosort/ad/asc)
- Search in Arizona State Archives Historic Photographs Collection for Rail* : http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/digital/collection/histphotos/search/searchterm/rail*/field/title/mode/exact/conn/and/order/nosort/ad/asc
- Search for Yuma Rail*: http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/digital/search/searchterm/yuma%20rail*/field/title/mode/all/conn/and/order/nosort/ad/asc
- Search for Litchfield Park: <http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/digital/search/searchterm/litchfield%20park/field/title/mode/exact/conn/and/order/nosort/ad/asc>
- Story map with images of Ash Fork: <https://azlibrary.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=4b903db0abbd49ab9eb7a18cf04ff05b>

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