

The New Desert Dispatch

Timetable

ARHS

Tempe Museum
Work Sessions

Monday & Wednesday

9:00am 4:00pm

Tempe Museum

2530 S. Rural Rd.

Tempe, AZ

2026 Events

The Hobbyist
Model Train Show

1st Saturday of the

Month, 7am

1764 W. Broadway Rd.

Mesa, AZ

Sun City Model Railroad
Swap Meet

Saturday Feb. 14, 9am

Fairway Rec. Center

10600 W. Peoria Ave.

Sun City, AZ

Winter Cactus
Swap Meet

Saturday Feb. 21, 9 am

N. Phx. Baptist Church

5757 N. Central Ave

Phoenix, AZ

Adobe Mt. Swap Meet

Saturday Mar. 21, 9 am

Adobe Mt. RR Park

22822 N. 43rd Ave

Phoenix, AZ



From the President's Desk

By Craig Faris, President ARHS

As we look forward to this Christmas, I think back to my own childhood, and Christmases past. Like most of us, my first train set was a Christmas gift. It was a Lionel Orbiter, and the year was 1964. I was enthralled! The set was based on the space program. It had a car with two Mercury capsules, a tank car that said Rocket Fuel, a cherry picker with an astronaut in the basket, and a rocket launch vehicle, that actually launched the rocket. The next day, Mom took me to a hobby store. I was allowed to pick out one more car, the helicopter car. I still have that set, however, I was not kind to it. The "B" unit was left in the rear window deck of our car, which melted it. The railings on the rocket car just don't exist anymore. The rocket got a big crack in it, and I used grey JB Weld to glue it. The rocket was white. Even with all of these issues, all of which were self-inflicted, I treasured that train, and still do. It was the start of my personal obsession. I am sure there are many other similar stories out there among our group.

To everyone in the ARHS, I hope you and your families *have a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!* We have many exciting things coming our way in the upcoming year. Thank you all for being part of this wonderful group!

NMRA Events 2026

2026 National Convention

Chattanooga, TN
July 27 to August. 2,

2026 PSR Regional Convention

San Diego, CA
July 27 to August. 2,



ANARHS CHRISTMAS STORY

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through our house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even Craig's mouse.
The stockings were hung in the engine house with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

Society members were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of running trains danced in their heads.
When out in the parking lot there arose such a clatter,
Yours truly, John Mick went to check on the matter.

Away to the window I chugged like a steamer,
Tore open the doors and spilled the powdered creamer,
When, what to my wondering eyes... was this a big joker?
In a miniature work train, and a crew of track workers.

He was a big old engineer, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than a Zephyr, his workers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!

"Now, Jesse! Now, Don! Now, John, Ken and Den!
On, Bob! On, David! On, Dan and Jim!
Oh, Bill! Oh, Ray! Oh, Richard, Oh Al! Dee and more!"
"To the top of the helix! To the top of the wall!
Now hammer away! solder away! and paint away all!"

So into the museum, the track gang they flew,
With a box car full of tools, and all the supplies too.
And then, in a twinkling, I heard the work pool,
The hammering and sawing of each little tool.

With a bundle of cork and a box of track,
He looked like a railroader, ready to drop on his back,
His eyes-how they squeezed! What was he thinking,
Red, blue and green lights why are they blinking?

His body was drawn up like a bow,
he scratched his beard, how did he know?
The stump of a screwdriver he held tight in his teeth,
And the wires encircled his head like a wreath.

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
Plugged in a board, then turned with a jerk.

And laying his finger aside of his nose,
giving a nod, from the floor he rose.
He sprang to his work train, and to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.

"The trains are all running! and to all a *Good Night!*"

ARHS Officers
2023-2025

President - Craig Faris
Vice President - Ken Nelson
Secretary - Dave Brown
Treasurer - Dan Kubarych
Director - Dennis Ranke
Director - Dewayne Koltin
Past Presidents - Don
Stewart, Jesse Poole

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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.

Arizona Railroad Historical Society



DIY Tips on Making Temporary Snow

- **Baking Soda & Glue:** Mix baking soda with PVA glue and a little water for thick drifts; add glitter while tacky. (Caution: can corrode tracks if wet).
- **Baking Soda & Shaving Cream:** Mix equal parts until it has a snow-like texture for a moldable, cool-to-the-touch option (best for temporary play).
- **Crushed Craft Foam:** Grind styrofoam (carefully!) in a nut grinder or blender for flaky bits to sift onto glue.
- **Paint & Powder:** Paint surfaces white, then sift on powdered marble, non-sanded grout, or even baby powder.

Application Techniques

- **For Flat Surfaces:** Paint white, then sift snow material onto wet paint/glue.
- **For Drifts & Banks:** Apply thick glue or paste, build up layers, and shape with tools like spatulas or brushes.
- **On Trees:** Dab snow paste or spray with glue and dip in snow powder; use white paint for frosted branches.
- **Snow Falling Effect:** Flick white paint from a toothbrush onto paper or surfaces.

Tips for Tracks & Operations

- **Keep Rails Clear:** Clean the tops of rails with a track eraser or brush after snow application for smooth running.
- **Avoid Switches:** Don't put snow or glue in switch mechanisms or on hinges.
- **Vacuum:** Vacuum up loose material after the glue dries.

Thank you Train World for these helpful ideas!

For additional information go to: <https://www.trains.com/mrr/how-to/build-model-railroad/how-to-model-snow/>



ARHS members at the 2026 Christmas Party (above)



PLAY ALONG, ARE YOU.....



Naughty!

- I don't clean up my mess
 - I don't return tools
 - I leave my junk on the conference table
 - I tell the worst jokes
 - I don't take out trash
 - I never say "Thank you"
 - I complain about other members
 - I don't RSVP
 - I don't bring in snacks for the conference room
 - I don't participate or contribute from home
- (Building kits, Doing research, writing articles, etc.)
- TOTAL NAUGHTY POINTS.



Nice!

- I donated a case of water
 - I bring in bake goods
 - I empty the vacuum
 - I say "Hi" and "Good Bye" to the crew
 - I leave seats at the conference table
 - I clean track when there's nothing to do
 - I ask first before borrowing tools
 - I help others with their projects
 - I clean the sink and / or microwave
 - I compliment members on their work
- TOTAL NICE POINTS

Collect one point for each check mark.
 Subtract the total naughty points from the total nice points. (Yes you can have a negative number)
 Bring your score to the January 14th General Meeting!
 Prizes for the 3 nicest and the one naughtiest member!!

Whether you've been Naughty or Nice, Thanks for being one of our Fabulous Society Members!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!! and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!