

The New Desert Dispatch

From the Business Car

Craig Faris, President ARHS

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

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

Beat the Heat
Train Show

Saturday July 25, 9am

Embry Riddle University

3700 Willow Crk. Rd.

Prescott, AZ



Na'u me ka mahalo, na Craig

A HELPFUL WAY TO BORROW TOOLS

Most members are happy to share tools and supplies, but please check with the owner before borrowing anything. When you borrow an item, return it at the end of the day clean and ready for the next person to use. This helps keep everything organized and running smoothly for all.

For consumable items such as glue, adhesives, soldering supplies, and similar materials, please return them at least half full. If supplies are running low, kindly replace them or let Dee Koltin know. We appreciate everyone helping care for shared materials.

At the end of the day, please return all tools and supplies to their proper storage locations. If you're working on a longer project and need to keep items for more than a day or two, feel free to use one of the short-sided project boxes. Just label it with your name so others know it's in use.

If you're in a hurry and know the owner is comfortable with it, leaving a quick note is a thoughtful way to let them know you borrowed something. Finally, after using the vacuum, please empty it completely, including the filter, so it's clean and ready for the next person.

Thanks for helping keep our shared workspace organized and enjoyable for everyone!

NMRA Events

2026 National Convention

Chattanooga, TN
July 27- August 2,
 Chattanooga
 Convention Center
 One Carter Plaza,
 Chattanooga, TN
 37402

2026 PSR Regional Convention

San Diego
Sept. 9 - 13,
 Doubletree Hilton
 Mission Valley
 7450 Hazard Center Dr
 San Diego, CA 92108

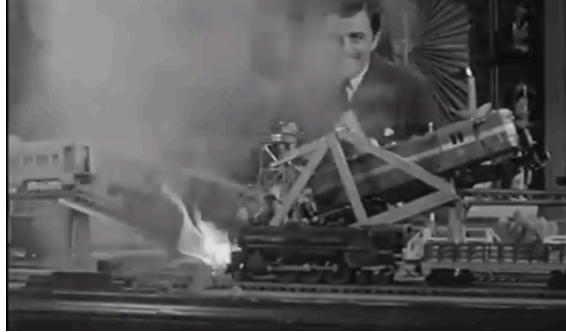
PSR Prescott Div. Meet

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

PSR Scottsdale Div. Meet

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

The Adam's Family, 1961, episode one, the first of many train wrecks!



“Mind the 3rd Rail !!”

[No Animals or Lionel Trains were harmed in the making of these images.]

PSR Tucson Division Meet

By Dennis Ranke

The NMRA Pacific Southwest Spring Division Meet took place from 9 am to 3 pm on April 4th, at Elle Towne Flowing Wells Community Center, 1660 W. Ruthrauff Rd., Tucson, AZ. There were 38 members in attendance. After the Business meeting, 3 seminars were held, and lunch was provided.

Keith Pashina opened the session with a detailed discussion of Colorado's gold and silver mining regions and the railroads that once served them. He highlighted prototype mining operations and explained how their structures, logistics, and rail connections can be accurately interpreted and adapted for model layouts.

Greg Carr and Didrick Voss followed with a presentation on 3D printing in model railroading. They demonstrated various methods for creating digital models suitable for printing and explained the slicing process used to prepare designs for fabrication.

The final presentation was given by Paul Chandler, who examined a range of widely recognized modeling standards through the lens of Southern Pacific Railroad practices. Chandler discussed how understanding prototype standards can help modelers enhance realism, particularly in the design of line side infrastructure.

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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Views expressed by guest
authors are their own and do
not reflect the opinions or
positions of the ARHS.
Editor - Dennis Ranke
Dranke@aol.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.

Arizona Railroad Historical Society



**PSR Div. Meet
Photo Contest
Winners**

“The Yard”

First Place

Model Railroad
-- Color

Photographer:
Dennis Ranke

“Gears”

First Place

Prototype
Railroad

- Black &
White

Photographer:
Dennis Ranke



“Oil Man”

First Place

Prototype Railroad
- Color

Photographer:
Dennis Ranke

KNOW YOUR GLUES

Here are six kinds of glue used by model railroaders and their applications:

Cyanoacrylate (CA) / Super Glue: Used for quick bonding of metal detail parts, plastics, and dissimilar materials. Available in thin, medium, and thick viscosities (e.g., Zap-A-Gap, Gorilla Super Glue).

Liquid Solvent Cement / Plastic Cement: Welds styrene plastic kits together by softening the surfaces. Examples include Tamiya Extra Thin and Plastruct Bondene.

PVA / White Glue / Scenic Cement: Ideal for porous materials, gluing ballast, and ground cover. Examples include Elmer's Glue-All, Wood Glue, and matte medium.

Epoxy: A two-part adhesive providing high-strength bonds for items like metal-to-plastic or wood-to-metal, often used in heavy-duty structural joints.

Aliphatic Resin / Wood Glue: Preferred over PVA for wooden structures/kits, as it penetrates wood better, dries faster, and is easier to sand.

Construction Adhesive / Latex Caulk: Commonly used for fixing roadbed to subfloor or large foam sheets, such as Liquid Nails or acrylic-latex caulk.

Bonus - Specialized Adhesives:

Canopy Glue/Clear Adhesive: Dries clear for attaching windows and plastic parts without frosting them (e.g., Formula 560, Mod Podge).

Contact Cement: Used for bonding large, flat surfaces like cork or foam sheets.

EMD Introduces Dynamic Braking to the A.T.S.& F.

By Bill Chamberlain

The original General Motors., Electro-Motive Division (EMD) FT demonstrator, which was introduced in 1939, did not have dynamic brakes. The Santa Fe Railway was impressed with the performance of the FTs and soon ordered several sets of A-B-B-A units from EMD. The first 5 sets of FTs that were received from EMD, #100-#104, did have dynamic brakes but they only had two designated speeds which dynamic brakes could be used. The engineer had to slow the train down to either 13 MPH or 21 MPH using the air brakes, then engage the dynamic brakes. This was handy on a steep grade, but they were not much use on the down grade. Consider the Seligman to Needles California, a long gradual downgrade, which was approximately 1.4% for about 140 miles.

When the next group of FTs arrived from EMD the dynamic brakes had been changed to allow for the engineer to set the dynamic brakes to any desired speed without having to slow the train down using the air brakes. The first successful road switcher introduced by EMD, the GP7 also had dynamic brakes as an optional feature. When the upgraded GP9 came out 4-5 years later the dynamic brakes were by then a standard feature.



IT'S TOOL TIME!

By Dennis Ranke

t's time to put together your own tool kit. Bring it along whenever you're working on the railroad. Every member should have their own basic set of tools. A solid starter kit includes:



1. Scissors – handy for cutting paper and plaster cloth.
2. 2-inch paint brushes –for painting, but also useful for dusting, spreading ballast, and applying glue.
3. #1 and #2 brushes – perfect for touch-ups and adding small details.
4. Small toolbox – an old Athearn car box works well until you're ready for an upgrade.
5. Screwdrivers – a Phillips head for car trucks and a flat head for jobs like clearing ballast from turnouts.
6. Tweezers – useful for picking up and holding small parts.
7. X-Acto knife with extra #11 blades.
8. Xuron track cutters –keep these just for cutting track, never wire, other metals can damage the blades.
9. Needle-nose pliers – Helpful for use with rail joiners and bending wire.
10. Sharpie markers.
11. Toothpicks – handy for spreading super glue, rosin, or plugging small drill holes.
12. Superglue - Don Stewart suggests a rubberized gap-filling super glue.
13. A Small set of metal files, including a triangle file – great for shaping rails and other metal parts.
14. A model railroad reference ruler – includes an HO scale gauge, millimeter ruler, and 1/64-inch ruler.

Most railroad hobby dealers carry a wide selection of modeling tools, while large hardware stores and home improvement centers offer access to well-known brands commonly used by hobbyists. Seasoned Modelers note that top-tier tools often come with a higher price tag, but many enthusiasts consider them a worthwhile investment due to their longevity and performance.

Several specialty manufacturers have carved out a strong reputation within the model railroad community by focusing on tools tailored specifically for detailed craftsmanship.

General Tools & Instruments is widely recognized for its precision measuring products, including a popular 12-inch stainless steel model railroad reference rule featuring etched markings for accuracy. The company also produces a broader line of precision tools suited for fine-scale work. www.generaltools.com

Mascot Precision Tools has maintained a loyal following among hobbyists by offering moderately priced equipment designed for modeling applications. The company's products have remained popular for years due to their accessibility and reliability. www.grobet-usa.com

Cutting tools remain essential for hobbyists constructing layouts, modifying structures, and shaping materials. X-Acto continues to serve as a leading manufacturer in this category, offering specialized blades intended for detailed and delicate tasks. www.xacto.com

For shaping and trimming metal components, Xuron has earned a strong reputation for producing high-quality pliers, side cutters, and metal shears used by experienced modelers. www.xuron.com

Meanwhile, Wiha provides an extensive lineup of specialty screwdrivers, socket sets, and precision drivers. Known for hardened tips and durable working surfaces, the company's tools are frequently used by hobbyists who require accuracy in assembly and maintenance work. www.wihatools.com

I'd suggest you put your name on all your tools, including adhesives and brushes. Another way to ID them is to paint the handles with a spray paint use an ugly color that nobody would want. Tired of your black Sharpie disappearing? Buy a second different color Sharpie, like silver sparkle, neon, etc. Swap the caps.