

TCA Mission: To develop an appreciation of and to preserve an important segment of history – Tinplate Toy Trains –through research, education, community outreach, fellowship, establishment of collecting standards, and to promote the growth and enjoyment of collecting and operating toy, model and scale trains.



Desert Division

DISPATCH

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Volume 50, No. 4

Summer 2021

FALL TRAIN SEASON IS HERE

This will be a shorter than normal newsletter. Now that we are planning a somewhat modified but normal fall and winter train season, we will begin to publish the newsletter back on its normal cycle. Many of us will be at the TCA National Convention in California next week and when we return, we will have the regular size newsletter for September.

One of the things we need to alert you about are the location changes for the next two upcoming monthly meetings. **The September Meeting will be back at the Phoenix Elks Lodge on 32nd St.** There is work scheduled to be done on the HVAC system at Paradise Valley United Methodist Church and they did not know if the work was going to be completed in time for our September meeting. No A/C in September? The decision to find an alternate spot was pretty simple.

We would like to make this another Mini-Meet like we had in June. Division members will be able to have a free table and if available we will sell non-Division members space. Since this is a last-minute location change, we need to see if there is enough space and tables to make this happen so watch for the next newsletter and keep your eye out for an eBlast from the Division.

The Rio Grande Chapter is also resuming their meets. I've saved Chapter President Greg Palmers article for the next newsletter so it will be more of a timely reminder.

The Chapter will hold its next meeting on September 18 and will start an hour later at 11:00 AM. Be sure to mark your calendars now.

Of course Summer wouldn't be Summer here in Arizona without the **Beat the Heat Meet**. That Meet is scheduled for **August 21**. Dave Brown tells us that seats on the GCMR bus are still

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

August 21 – CAMRRC “Beat The Heat Meet”

9:00AM – 1:00 PM Liberty Traditional School, Prescott Valley, AZ

September 11 – Welcome Back! September General Meeting – LOCATION CHANGE

8:30 AM member only swap – 10:00 AM General Business Meeting

Phoenix Elks Lodge - 14424 N 32nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85032

September 18 - Rio Grande Chapter Meeting

11:00 AM Meet - Los Altos Christian Church - Albuquerque, NM

October 2 & 3 – Rail Fair 2021 – Welcome Back to the Park

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM Saturday & Sunday - McCormick Stillman Railroad Park - Scottsdale, AZ

available, so contact him quickly if you'd like to do the show but leave the driving to someone else.

As I mentioned many of us will be over in California attending the TCA National Convention. We will be running our module trailer during the convention week and hope to have several live broadcasts from the convention on our facebook page. They will happen at various times so be sure to stop in and subscribe to the Division page so you can be alerted when a new post appears.

If you read the latest, July 2021, issue of the TC Quarterly you might have noticed that there will be a special FEMA Covid Boxcar offered at the convention for auction.

I thought No-Cal member Dr. Robert Lieberman's idea was fantastic. Setting the political rhetoric aside, one inescapable fact is that we have all struggled with the effects of the pandemic.



As Mark Boyd described in the article, Dr. Lieberman's idea was to make a FEMA/National Guard train. I contacted Peter Atonna (who else) and we discussed several ideas that we could use to commemorate the Division's 50th Anniversary year that was so deeply affected by the pandemic.

The result will be unveiled at the TCA Convention first and run on the module both at the convention and then throughout the rest of the year.

But like I stated we all have suffered these past months, so we made a few extra. One will be mint in the box and raffled in December. Our goal will be to sell 100 tickets like the Hudson drawing and sell them for \$10 each. That drawing will be held at the 50th Anniversary Party. We will have the runner on display at the September Meet. Peter did his magic as we used the Division 2009 Celebrate America "Wavy Flag" Mint Car. Trust me, it looks fantastic in person.

Our hardest task was obtaining the used empty Pfizer vaccination bottles. We did not have access to the thousands of empty bottles the good doctor had, and it required building a degree of trust with various pharmacies that we are not using them for nefarious purposes. The out-of-pocket costs to obtain the 2009 car in the secondary market, the electronic mods that Peter installed, and "the chase" of securing the bottles will make this quite an exceptional car.



I'll go over the mods that were needed to make this car happen at the September Meet. We will also have the tickets for your chance to win it for sale as well. Remember we will only sell 100 tickets, when they are gone, they're gone and so will be your chance to win this most unique car.

As I mentioned we are back to normal with some of our events still in the early planning stages. The Delta variant has given us some slight issues but nothing that will have the same consequences that we went through last year.

Rail Fair is planned for the weekend of October 2nd and 3rd. We will have the trailer at the park for the weekend and would love you to volunteers for a time slot to run trains.

The October Meet will be on October 9th. There is a location change, and we will be meeting back at **Paradise Valley United Methodist Church (PVUMC)** on Lincoln Dr. It will be a regular meet will member selling beginning at 8:30 and the general meet beginning at 10 AM.

The Fall Train Auction will be at PVUMC on November 20th Auction catalogs go on sale at the September Meet.

The November Train Show will be November 27 at the Shrine Auditorium in Phoenix. Table registration will begin in early September

Presidents Message

Dear Friends,

I must apologize for the lateness for the summer edition of the newsletter. I've had a couple of minor hiccups with my health, but everything seems to be back on track with some medication changes. I'm looking forward to taking the trailer module to California next week and run trains rather than be in meetings all day.

Our fellow members over in Western Division have had quite a challenge putting together the convention and we will support them to the fullest and hope you will as well. Yes, I know it's SoCal and all that, but we had their support when we hosted our convention here in Phoenix and everyone said, "Are you crazy? Arizona in June?"

We continue to tip-toe through all the changes the current Delta variant is throwing our way. While it is serious, it is not having the same adverse impact of last year. We will continue to have safety measures in place at all our meets. If you need a mask, ask. We have them available as well as hand sanitizer and will have them at every event for the foreseeable future.

I have looked at the fall event schedule and am encouraged to see that all the clubs are coming back to full strength, starting with the Beat the Heat Meet. I will be with the module over at the convention rather than in Prescott, but I will be with you in spirit. What a great history we have with that meet and who can ever forget the old days when we, well some of us, waxed so eloquently about a pancake breakfast at 4-B's in Black Canyon City?

Working with the auction committee I've had a sneak peek at some of the items in the upcoming auctions. I've already begun to save some extra pennies. Since I've begun to downsize, I've got some room for new acquisitions. Looks like I will need to work on my auction poker face.

Unfortunately coming out of the recent shutdown our proposed new meeting home on 32nd St. has had a change of heart, or should I say a change of price. The price we had agreed on prior to the pandemic for a new meeting location has changed. For the smaller size meeting room the price has gone up considerably. We have removed them as an option for future meetings. While PVUMC fits our needs and price point, as does the Elks Lodge both have some limitations for our monthly meets. The search will continue but thankfully for the short term we have two very good locations we can fall back on.

Speaking of location changes, we will be back at the Elks Lodge for September. If you were with us in June, you might have noticed that the HVAC at Paradise Valley United was struggling along. Replacement costs and availability hampered a quicker replacement schedule, and they could not guarantee that it would be repaired in time for our meeting, so we switched back to the Elks Lodge.

We would like to kick off the fall train season how we left off in June with a mini meet opening the doors to the public. Many came to our outdoor Parking Lot Meets at the Elks Lodge. We are hopeful for similar results even if we move indoors. We know it will be a smaller meet but think it could be successful. As the old adage goes, you never know unless you try. Stay tuned as we work out the details.

The next newsletter will be more back on schedule with photos and stories from the June Meet, the Beat the Heat Meet and of course the convention.

I am looking forward to the fall and looking forward to greeting you after such a long time away. It's always been our friendships and fun times we share together that makes the hobby so enjoyable for me.

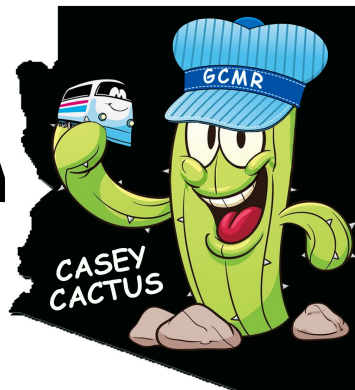
Stay safe, I hope to see you soon.

- *Chris*

IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR THE FANTASTIC
BEAT THE HEAT

**SWAP MEET BUS
 WITH MULTIPLE LAYOUT TOUR
 IN COOL PRESCOTT VALLEY, AZ**

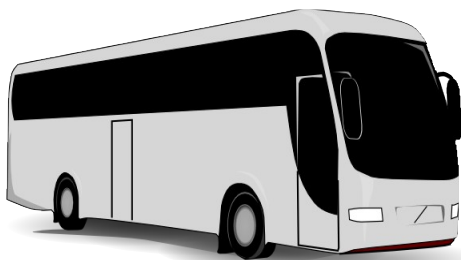
(Swap meet presented by Central Arizona Model Railroad Club)



SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2021

CASEY SAYS; "IF YOU LIKE MY CACTUS SWAPS, YOU'LL **LOVE** MY BUS TOUR"

LET CASEY DO THE DRIVING!



COMFORTABLE DELUXE MOTORCOACH
 SAVE ON GAS AND STRESSFUL DRIVING
 ON-BOARD VIDEOS AND BOTTLED WATER
 ON-BOARD RESTROOM AND STORAGE
 PRIORITY ENTRANCE INTO THE SWAP MEET
 MULTIPLE LAYOUT TOUR INCLUDED
 OPTIONAL BAG LUNCH WITH BEVERAGE
 LUCKY RIDER WINS A DOOR PRIZE

SWAP MEET ENTRANCE FEE INCLUDED!

Of Course I'm Going: _____ Wouldn't Miss It!

Phone Number: _____ Email _____

Select Your Pickup Location:

Arizona Mills leave at 6:00 AM _____ Paradise Valley Mall at leave 6:30 AM _____

Metrocenter Mall leave at 7:00 AM _____ Carefree Highway McDonald's leave at 7:15 AM _____

Number of adult GCMR club members: _____ at \$35 each = \$ _____ Bus Trip Presented By:

Number of adult Non-GCMR members: _____ at \$40 each = \$ _____

Number of children under 12: _____ at \$15 each = \$ _____

Number of bag lunches (OPTIONAL): _____ at \$7 each = \$ _____

Total: **Make checks payable to "GCMR"** \$ _____

Mail this form and check to: **David Brown**
 Make your reservation early! **3534 W. St. Charles Ave.**
Limited Seats Available **Phoenix, AZ 85041**
(480-650-5336)



All payments required prior to August 14, 2021

No refunds after August 14, 2021