



The Chandler Branch

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA RAILWAY MUSEUM

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Arizona Railway Day 2018

February 24th's Arizona Railway Day was an outstanding success! Although the temperature was a bit chilly early in the day, the skies were clear and the sun warmed things up nicely as the day progressed. Visitor flow was steady throughout the day, with a final count of 1700, a nice increase from last year. Thanks to a grant from the City of Chandler, the event was advertised on KTAR Radio on the two days prior to the event, and several local newspapers and "things-to-do" websites picked up on the Press Release issued by the City of Chandler.

Our museum was joined by several other organizations for Arizona Railway Day, who provided essential services at the event: The Chandler Police Explorers, who assisted with traffic control and general security, the Chandler Fire Department, the Chandler Kiwanis Club hot dog wagon, our neighbor farmer Bill Schrader, who provided hay-wagon rides from the further reaches of the parking lot, and Joyful Delights ice cream. Other organizations adding visitor interest to the event included the Na-

tional Railway Historical Society—Old Pueblo Chapter, Mountain States Railroad Contractors, Grand Canyon Railway, Pennsylvania RR Technical & Historical Society, Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, Union Pacific RR Signal Department and locomotive display (with running prime-mover!), Grand Canyon State Model RR Club, Operation Lifesaver, Gadsden Pacific Toy Train Museum, and Grand Canyon Model RR.

Thanks to a fantastic level of donations during the past year, our curator was bursting at the seams with excess books, periodicals, and model trains. The book sale was an enormous success in reducing our excess inventory, as well as netting nearly \$2500 for the museum. Your editor walked away with about ten books for around forty bucks—what a deal!

Arizona Railway Day 2018 would not

have been possible without the large number of volunteers contributing to the planning and execution of the event. Many thanks to all of you who were involved! Yes, the event is a lot of work, but the opportunity to meet with visitors is priceless and a tremendous amount of fun. For those of you who didn't help with this year's event, you missed out on a great time. So please consider lending your help next year.

Unfortunately, your editor's camera picked that day to vastly underexpose every photo, so I wasn't able to get any photos of the event. However, a number of members came to the rescue with photos of their own, some of which are presented in this issue. For you, this is good news since it provides a variety of perspectives on the event (instead of the same-old photos by your editor).

Staffing the *Desert Valley* business car, docent Eric Olson dressed in formal wear and posed as Robert Baker Pegram III, Vice-President of the Southern Railroad from 1920 to 1945. During his Vice-Presidency, Pegram was also President of short line Tallulah Falls Railway and President of the Atlanta Terminal Company. Today's *Desert Valley* was known as the Southern Railway Business Car #16 when it was Mr. Pegram's home-on-the-rails from 1921 to 1928. Here, Eric corrals his grandkids for a portrait by Jerilyn Olson.



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All Text and Photos by Andy Szabo unless noted.

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Open to the Public Saturday & Sunday

Noon—4 PM

Closed Memorial Day thru Labor Day

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Board Meetings	Second Saturday of each Month at 9:30 AM	Open to All Members

Arizona Railway Day 2018



Tom Bartlemy greets visitors in the Southern Pacific Horse Car. This car has displays of track working and baggage handling equipment, and includes our fiberglass horse "Old Paint" in a restored stall. Photo by Lisa Bartlemy.



The Three Conductors. L-to-R, Jan Barham, Ken Crompton and Dianne Roberson show off their authentic conductor uniforms. Dressing in uniform is all part of the fun! Photo supplied by Dianne Roberson.



Docents Jason & Jack Koeller warm up in the sun aboard Southern Pacific caboose #999741. Photo by Amanda McNally Koeller.

Jan Barham waves from the platform of her Rio Grande caboose. Photo by Pete Cook.



Arizona Railway Day 2018



Union Pacific spotted this *running* locomotive in our yard for all to enjoy. Photo by Marc Pearsall.



The Grand Canyon Model Railroaders' multiple-loop layout entertained visitors of all ages. Photo by Susan Ashton.

Union Pacific dining car *City of Chandler* was the perfect display space for the NRHS - Old Pueblo Chapter, the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, the Gadsden-Pacific Toy Train Museum, and the PRR Technical & Historical Society. Photo by Ken Sandock.



Arizona Railway Day 2018



The Curator's Book 'n Model Sale and the sale of Raffle Tickets were major contributors to the financial success of the event. Thanks to Robert Ashton for providing this view from the platform of the Party Caboose.

Docent Tiernan Fraser shares his enthusiasm as he shows visitors how to ring the bell on steam locomotive #2562. Photo courtesy of Jamie and Andrew Fraser.



Robert Ashton caught this scene in the Regal Phoenix, where Grand Canyon State Model Railroaders introduce some young visitors to the joys of switching cars on their portable layout.

2018 Annual Picnic and Membership Meeting



Jake Jacobson cuts the ribbon on the GE Bicentennial locomotive.

The museum held its Annual Membership Picnic and Meeting on Sunday January 28. The event was well attended with about fifty members and their families. Burgers, hotdogs and beverages were provided by the museum, with potluck side dishes and desserts.

A special treat this year was a dedication ceremony for the newly acquired GE #801 locomotive and Magma Arizona rider hopper car. Jake Jacobson with Copper Basin Railway and Ron Lewallen from San Manuel Arizona Railroad were present to receive thanks from President Larry Benedict and to participate in ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the two pieces of equipment.

At the Annual Meeting following the picnic, President Larry Benedict presented his "State of the Museum" speech, and handed out Certificates of Appreciation to members with outstanding contributions throughout the past year. Larry was followed by brief presentations by Bart Barton (VP Operations), Steve Whisel (VP Administration/Curator) and Andy Szabo (Motive Power).



President Larry Benedict assists Ron Lewallen with the ribbon cutting on the rider hopper car

2018 Election of Directors and Officers

The ballots collected from the membership at the Annual Meeting reflected a unanimous election of the Director candidates, with no write-in votes. Directors Larry Benedict, Stan Garner, Andy Szabo and Steve Whisel were re-elected to begin another two-year term, along with current Directors Bart Barton, Jim Byrne, Tom Klobas and Craig Shields, who are serving the second half of their two-year terms.

At the February 10th Board Meeting, the Directors unanimously appointed Larry Benedict as Presi-

dent, Craig Shields as Treasurer, and Andy Szabo as Executive Secretary.

Jake Jacobson (waving at extreme right) joins the Board of Directors after the Annual Picnic. Front row, left to right: Steve Whisel, Tom Klobas, Craig Shields, Larry Benedict, Stan Garner, and Bart Barton. Rear row, left to right, Jim Byrne and Andy Szabo. Photo by Dave Luca.



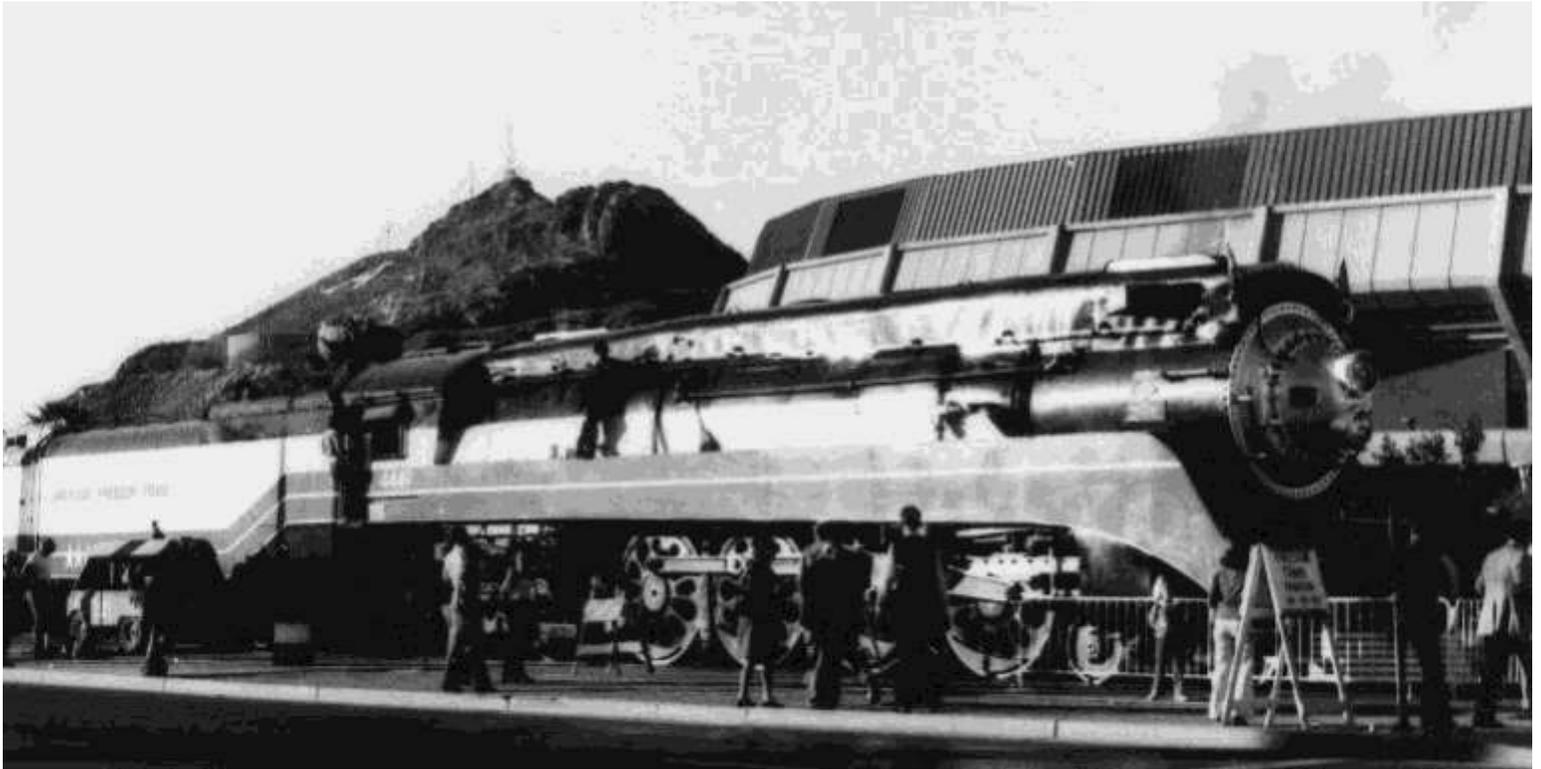
Curator's Corner

The Curatorial folks were busy the past few months processing several large donations consisting mostly of books, magazines and a variety of other "cool" items. Mostly, everyone was focused on identifying duplicate books and sorting surplus magazines in preparation for the book sale at Arizona Railway Day. This was one of the largest book sales to date. Several recent donations filled our Reference Library AND provided plenty of duplicates to sell as a fundraiser. Going through the books takes a lot of

time. Each new book is checked against the existing shelves to determine if it is new to our collection or a duplicate (and if so, is it in better/worse condition). The new (and upgrade) books are entered into the database and the duplicate books are priced and stored separately. Magazines are treated similarly, except they also require sorting and grouping by publish date. Each stack is checked to see if a complete year can be bundled for sale. Some magazines with a long publishing history

(like *Trains* or *Model Railroader*) required almost every flat surface in the display building. Donations often contain multiple publications jumbled together. Fortunately, this year all the incomplete-year magazines have been sorted and marked so future donations should be easier to process throughout the year and make for less work before our next Arizona Railway Day.

-Steve Whisel, Curator



A recent donation contained a large quantity of photos and slides. Above is a photo of the American Freedom Train on display in Tempe during its nationwide tour celebrating America's bicentennial in 1976. The train, pulled by Southern Pacific's 4-8-4 #4449, was parked just south of the ASU basketball arena along Veterans Way. The 26-car train was comprised of passenger cars and 10 specially configured display cars



exhibiting more than 500 of America's historical artifacts (Washington's copy of the Constitution, Judy Garland's ruby dress from *The Wizard of Oz*, Jesse Owens' gold medals from the 1936 Olympics). The tracks are long gone and have been replaced with Valley Metro Rail. The original print is a small wallet size. Alas, this photo has no markings, but the provenance is believed to be from Roger Netz.

Update: Lease Agreement with the City of Chandler

It's been a while (September 2017 issue) since any mention has been made regarding our impending Lease Agreement with the City of Chandler. That's because the process has been very slow, and there's been nothing to report until now. In February, the city presented the Board of Directors with a newly revised draft of the agreement. The new agreement is much

changed from previous versions and reflects a greater understanding on the part of the city about the nature and operation of our museum. In addition, it's gratifying to see that the city listened to our many suggestions and counter-proposals, to the extent that several paragraphs written by the board were wholly incorporated in this version. It would be fair to say that

this latest version is "very close", with just a few minor points and clarifications to be ironed-out. Stay tuned... more details will be shared once the agreement is signed by both parties and made official. And of course, in keeping with our policy of open communication, the entire agreement will eventually be published on the *Members-Only* portion of our website.

Photographic Arts at the Museum



Our museum frequently hosts special events for photography groups who are looking for something a little different. Our museum appeals to them for both its historic elegance and its gritty industrial feel. This photo was shared

with us by Cody Tracy, student in the Arts Department at Mesa Community College. This artful low-angle shot was taken inside the 580 Smoker Lounge, and showcases our eclectic display of passenger coach seats.

This collection ranges from a primitive hard-backed wooden bench from a Hawaiian narrow gauge railway, examples from the golden age of passenger travel, right through to the Amtrak era. *Thanks Cody!*

From the Archives



Here are a couple of photos that came to the museum in a recent donation. Above, the eastbound Southern Pacific *Imperial* pausing at Phoenix Union Station was photographed by Russ Joslin on January 22, 1954. Running between Los Angeles CA and Chicago IL, the train would be handed off to the Rock Island at Tucumcari NM before continuing to Chicago. The train's name comes from the circuitous route to provide additional service to the Imperial Valley area of southern California. Pulled by an A-B-A set of Alco PA2's, engine #6036 is just months old (delivered in late 1953). After leaving Phoenix, the train will also make stops in Tempe, Mesa, and Chandler before continuing eastward.—*Steve Whisel*



Russ Joslin caught Southern Pacific locomotive #4622 in front of Phoenix Union Station on February 12, 1954. The switcher, sporting humongous front/rear "barrel" headlights for visibility and noticeability, is an EMD SW8. Also visible in the photo is the noticeable lack of today's microwave transmitting tower near the station.—*Steve Whisel*

Visitor Statistics for 2017

During our open season of 2016-2017, visitation data was derived from the Visitor Log Book only. This information was only approximate, as it depended upon visitors signing the book, so visitors who didn't sign-in didn't get counted. Beginning in September 2017, the museum made a major change in visitation policy and procedures. All visitors must now enter the museum through a new side door directly into the gift shop. All visitors must purchase a ticket, except for children two years and under, and Bluestar guests. There are different colored tickets for children, adults, and family. The ticket stubs are now kept and counted, providing a more accurate method of counting our visi-

tors. Going forward, visitor count will be collected from ticket sales, but we will continue the Visitor Log Book for its valuable information on where visitors are from, how they discovered the museum, and repeat visitor status.

From January thru May 2017, data was collected by Visitor Log Book only. From September thru December 2017, data was tabulated by tickets sold. The *total* count for calendar year 2017 was 2,966 guests, which includes 241 special event guests. It does not include Arizona Railway Day, which counted for another 1255 guests in 2017. There were 110 *repeat* guests, which is 4% of total visitors (data by Visitor Log Book).

Our guests came from thirty-five states and five different countries. These countries were the United Kingdom, Germany, Mexico, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

The vast majority of our guests wrote they visited because of Media/ Internet. Others found us as they "drove by" or by recommendations of family or friends. Some guests noted they learned about the museum through Trip Advisor, Bluestar Information, the Chuckwagon Cook-off, and "special group" visits. Special event groups in 2017 included Canon Camera Club and Model T Club, among others.

-Dianne Roberson

Did you know....?

...that the Arizona Railway Museum has an **Endowment Fund**? We do! In 2008, the Board of Directors established an Endowment Fund to ensure the long term sustainability of the museum. This fund is not used for the normal day-to-day operations of the museum, nor is it used for acquisitions or restoration projects. Rather, it is a "nest-egg" for future contingencies, to ensure the museum's continued existence for future generations, and to cover any "catastrophic" events the museum may face (for example, in the unlikely event that the museum needed to move to a new

location).

Currently, the only regular sources of funding for the Endowment is 10% of the fees collected for private car storage, and 10% of the fees charged for leasing museum-owned excursion cars. With that rather slow pace of funding, the Endowment isn't growing very quickly, with a current balance of approximately \$35,000. This is where you can make a difference! Tax-deductible contributions to the Arizona Railway Endowment Fund can be any amount and can be made any time that suits your schedule or finances: it can be a one-time contri-

bution, it can be an annual contribution, or you can provide for the Endowment Fund in your estate planning. Please consider contributing to this fund to help ensure the long-term success of the Arizona Railway Museum.

If you'd like to contribute today, or contribute in the future, please contact Craig Shields, Treasurer, at craig.shields@azrymuseum.org. Craig will provide you with the details, as well as make sure that your contribution is ear-marked for the Endowment Fund. *Thank You!*

...that the museum keeps track of **Volunteer Hours**? We do, and here's why. When the museum applies for grants for equipment acquisitions, restoration projects, and educational projects, we are often asked about the number of volunteer hours expended at the museum. This helps the granting organizations gauge our level of participation and commitment. In other words, if the organization gives us money to acquire a piece of equipment, what guarantee do they have that it won't just sit here and rust? By providing the number of volunteer hours, along with a breakdown of how those hours are used, we give our grantors the confidence that funds awarded to the museum will be put to good use in preserving railway history for future generations.

Being able to document our quantity of volunteer hours also benefits our reputation with the City of Chandler, as it helps to demonstrate our level of passion and commitment to this serious business of operating a world-class railway museum right here in Chandler!

If you volunteer any amount of time at, or for, the museum, we ask that you enter the information on our website. It's easy: sign-in to the *Members-Only* portion of the website, click *Time Clock*, and then fill-in your name, date, start time, total time (in 15-minute increments) and then select the work category from the drop-down menu. Click *Submit!*

If you don't have a user name and password to access the *Members-Only* portion of the website, please

visit www.azrymuseum.org and click *Members Only*. Then click *No - I am a member of the Arizona Railway Museum but I do not have a Members Only access*. Fill out the requested information and click *Submit*. The webmaster will respond with a login/password as fast as he can.

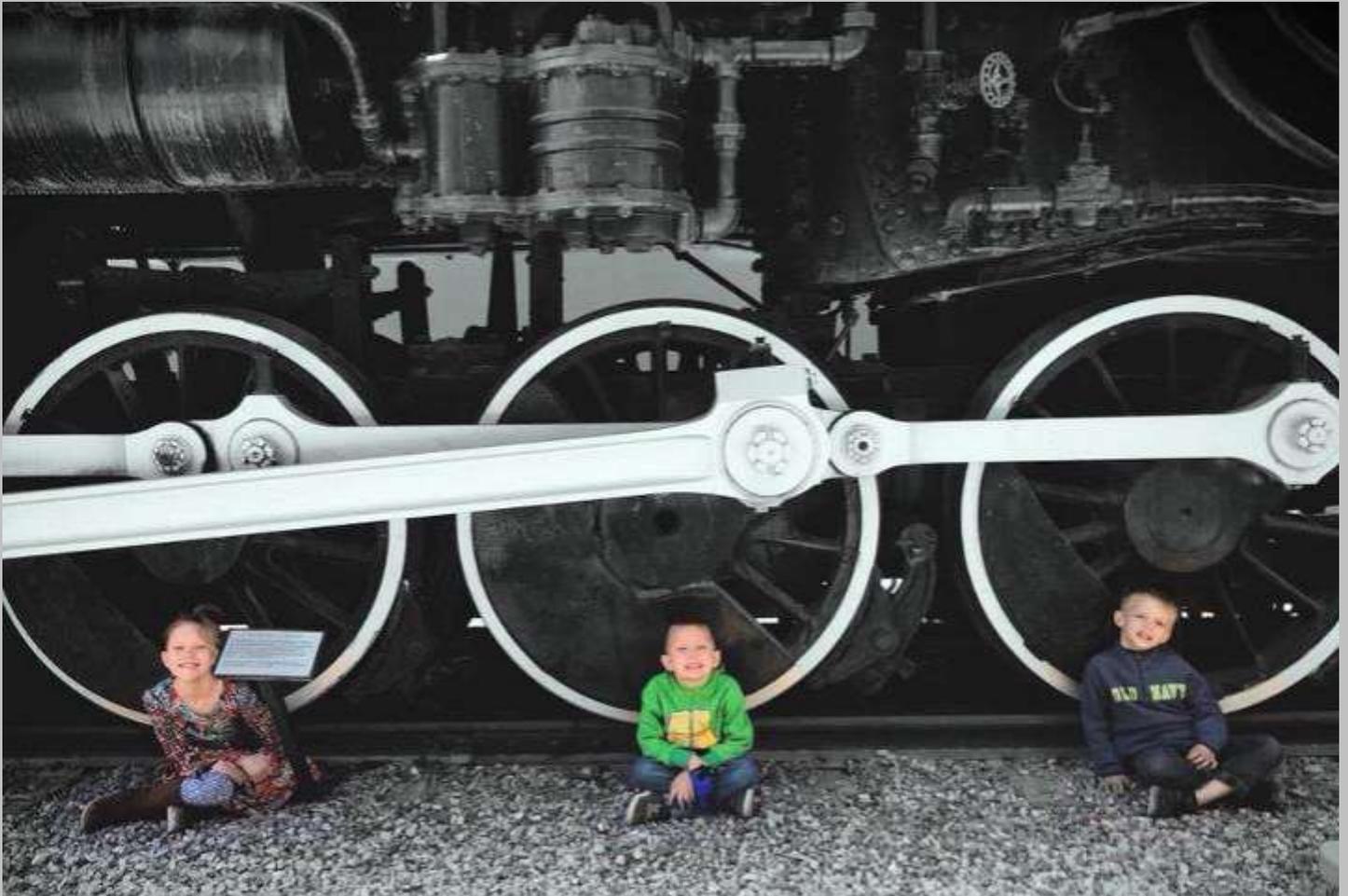


*New Members
Welcome Aboard!*

Bill Gallo
Kevin Flanagan
Pat & Frank Proud

Matthew Luca
Eric Olson

Editor's Pick



Jerilyn Olson took this creative photo of her children on Arizona Railway Day, posed against three of the driving wheels of our #2562 Southern Pacific steam locomotive.

*Member's Last Run
A Memorial*

Carolyn Meitzler