



CHANDLER BRANCH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ARIZONA RAILWAY MUSEUM

P.O. BOX 842 CHANDLER, ARIZONA 85244

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WWW: <http://www.azrymuseum.org>

E-Mail: azrymuseum@cox.net



Closed for the season

From the Editor
by
Mark J. Redmond

I want to start this issue with a thank you. I appreciate all of the comments I have received. Keep the comments coming as it helps to make a better newsletter.

One of the things that I recently noticed is not only the number of people who have interests in trains, but the diversity of them. While I was in Munich, Germany for business, two of my coworkers showed a fondness for trains. One of them told me about the worlds largest model train display in Hamburg, Germany. Of course I had to visit it. In my Tempe office, several of my coworkers, male and female, come to my cube to discuss trains instead of work. As hard as it is to believe, one of my coworkers is more "crazy" about trains than I am. We are constantly sharing train stories. As always, I try to recruit them to join the Museum. Another one of my coworkers is from India. He saw all of my train stuff and asked me about railroading and passenger service in the Phoenix area. He also has an addiction for trains and wants to ride one real soon. Just another example of how universal railroading has become.

I have to make a special thanks to my wife, Fran, for being my proof reader.

I always welcome your input and feedback. I can be reached at redmus@cox.net. Thank you for your continued support.

Well the heat is back and once again it is time to close the museum from normal visitor operations. It is just too darn hot. Visitors can still stop by and check us out on Saturday mornings, while the crews work, but there will be no docents to open the cars and the gift shop will remain closed. In the summer, the work does not stop, it is just done earlier in the day. The museum will reopen for the 2008-2009 season Labor Day weekend August 30, 2008.

ATSF #504

As reported in the last newsletter, we received the ATSF #504 Astra Dome lounge car. The car is in pretty fair shape. The previous owner was in the process of restoring the car to Amtrak specifications. Some of the electrical work was already done and as an added bonus, the air conditioning works! There were new windows in crates for the dome inside along with the stainless steel moldings that were missing on the outside. The chairs and benches for the lounges are in excellent shape. The dome is covered with a tarp to help keep it cooler inside a.

Initial things that will need to be done are;

- Replacing the carpet.
- Cleaning the seals around the existing dome windows and replacing the plywood fillers on the dome windows.
- Repair the outside stainless steel moldings.



ARM in the news

Courtesy of Tom Klobas, a nice article about the Museum was published in the Saturday April 26th East Valley Tribune. Accompanying the article was a website with a video that combined a slide show and an interview with our VP of Operations Bart Barton. The link to that video is

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/video/?bcpid=1155316042&bclid=1155075693&bctid=1522751366>

ATSF #405 comes to the museum

The museum has acquired a new car. It is a ATSF #405 supervisor's business car. This 52' car was retired by Santa Fe in 1966 and was owned by the Railroad and Heritage Museum of Temple, Texas. The museum lost its switch and was unable to get the car into their museum tracks. After some discussion it was decided that our museum would be the best place to preserve and display the car. The Railroad and Heritage Museum donated the car to our Museum. The car arrived at the Museum in May and I will have pictures and an update in the September newsletter.

Update on the Denehotso

Since the last newsletter, Craig Shields has been a busy boy. He has replaced all but one of the windows. He is still working on getting a new water tank. We are hoping to get a stainless steel tank as it will last longer. Craig would love to have some help on this project. If you are interested, please let him know.

TC & GB box car progress

The restoration of the TC & GB box car continues. The west side of the car was the first side to be repaired. The east side repairs will start in the fall.

The current progress on the west side of the car:

- New wood siding has been completely installed.

- The door has been permanently re-hung.
- The steel ends of the car have been needle chipped to remove the old paint.
- All of the hardware was sand blasted, painted and installed.
- Primer paint applied to the wood.

ARM and the movies

In case you were not aware, our museum has a few upcoming movie stars.

- The ex-C&NW E8 has been in at least 1 movie, ***Mona Lisa Smiles***.
- The *Denehotso* has starred in the 70's B horror flick ***Terror Train*** starring Jamie Lee Curtis.
- We have on the property, the hand car used by George Clooney in ***Oh Brother Where Art Thou***.
- The *Desert Valley* has been used in a number of independent films
- A number of our artifacts from the Mesa station were sent to Marfa, Texas and were used in the Oscar winning film ***There Will Be Blood***.

Changes to the newsletter

One of the most frequent comments I have received was about the great pictures in the newsletter. Based on those comments and the fact that I usually have more pictures than I can share in the newsletter, I am going to have 2 versions starting in June. The paper newsletter will be limited to 8 pages and will still include pictures, but the online/e-mail version will include more pictures. I think having pictures showcase the great work being done at the Museum will allow those who cannot visit regularly a better view of the progress being made.



Several groups have visited

The following groups have visited the Museum in the past few months.

- Holly Antosz gave members of the Short Line Model Railroad Club from Sun Lakes a guided tour. They all had a very good time.
- The Grand Canyon Chapter of the NRHS (National Railroad Historical Society) and Central Arizona Model Railroad Club (CAMRC) from Prescott came for a special tour. One of my contacts with the CAMRC said, "We did have a great time, and what you all have done in the short time since the move is nothing short of spectacular. The fellows - and gals - were wonderful hosts and had everything open and accessible for us." Many had never been to the museum before.

From Diane and Al Ramsey

- The Arizona Historical Society (AHS) had its 2008 convention at the San Marcos Hotel in Chandler, AZ from April 24th to 27th. Part of its offerings to attendees was a tour of the AZ Railway Museum (AZRY) on the afternoon of Saturday, April 26th. Members of the AZRY who had docent duty on that day were Art Bliss and Ken Dickinson. There were additional members at the museum that helped to show off the facility and talk to the AHS. Those members were: Russ and Kathy Lassuy, Craig Shields, Jerry McGonigle, Hal Whitehead, and Diane and Al Ramsey.

The AHS group was scheduled to arrive at 3:30, but was a little late. The group consisted of twenty-seven (27) AHS members and they were immediately welcomed and given a tour through the four open passenger cars. They were then given the opportunity to visit other cars that were open and walk around the yard. The AZRY members made themselves available at various

locations around the facility to answer questions and assist the guests. The AHS members were from various places in Arizona and some had interesting comments about what railroad buildings or equipment was available in their hometowns for visitors to see. Others shared memories of railroads they once rode. Several spoke in railroad lingo and some asked questions like "what's a hot box?" Several visitors commented that they were surprised at the large amount of rolling stock that the AZRY had in the collection.

One visitor described a caboose she owns as done up inside to look like one of the cars used in the old TV Series, "Wild, Wild West." Another lady in the group was the donor of the Verde Valley RR wooden "tunnel inspection car" that is located in our speeder collection. It was a little warm, but everyone had a good time.

Grounds keeping update

Russ Lassuy had some help recently and has made large progress on the areas between the tracks. Dirt and rock have been put in place making the walkways between the tracks almost level with the track ballast. This will give the museum much needed drainage and keep the yard from becoming a mud pit. The walkways between tracks 2, 3 and 4 are almost complete.

Still need more Docents

Yes, once again we are asking for more volunteers to be docents. As the museum grows there will be a need to have more than two docents on duty. It is important to be able to spend time with our guests. Even if you don't have all the answers, just being there to talk to visitors makes a great impression. Contact Al and Diana Ramsey at harquahala@earthlink.net



Member's only section of the web site.

Did you know that there is a "member's only" section on the ARM website? Here you can read past newsletters, read minutes from board meetings and find out about member's only specials. If you are a docent and lost your schedule, you can find it on the website.

Contact Steve Whisel at azrymuseum@cox.net

ATSF 580 update

By Jerry McGonigle

As with others, progress on the car has been distracted by a number of other projects around the property, yet there is still significant progress to report. Since the last update the north end of the car has been completely finished, the car rewired and work has begun on the south end. Work here began with removing, stripping, repairing, priming and reinstalling the last two vestibule panels. Next, areas above both south end doors was likewise stripped, primed and painted. After that, rivets in the old vestibule floor were torched out. The Swiss cheese-like steel piece of old floor was removed and all the draft gear underneath, now exposed, and was needle-chipped, wire brushed and primed and painted. A new piece of ¼ inch steel plate has been cut and put in place. The next step will be to drill holes (18) to fasten plate to the frame. Once this floor plate is finish painted all of the major steel work on the car will be complete and work can continue on woodwork above to finish the south end of the car.

One interesting note: in needle chipping the end casting, a date appeared cast into the steel. It read: "1-10 AT&SFRY," Jan 1910. Also one of the original gold leaf car numbers 580 can still be seen above south entry door.

We hope to finish this car completely some time before for its 100th year anniversary (1-10) with any and all help greatly appreciated to speed the work. Jerry provided pictures that I will have in the September newsletter.

Welcome New Members

We had some new members join the museum and a couple of past members rejoin.

- Mel Hanson
- Dave Olson
- Laura Van Ness
- Al Richmond
- Mark A. Brown
- Ken & Mary Rhoads
- David & Laura Greenberg
- Terry Lacey
- Marc Pearsall

Welcome aboard!

- Lin & Bob Leivian
- Ken Kyer

Welcome back





The #504 Astra dome car Broadway.



Inside the #504. A view of the center lounge below the dome.





The #580 car as it looked 5 years ago in 2003.



What a BIG difference 5 years later. Almost ready to open as a display car.





Here is the hand car used by George Clooney in *Oh Brother Where Art Thou*.



Art Bliss, Tom Klobas, Russ Lassuy and Craig Shields taking a break





The grading between tracks 2, 3 & 4 are almost done.



The west side of the TC & GB box car after a coat of primer. Looks brand new!





Jerry McGonigle getting ready to paint the trim on the #580.



Gerry McGonigle, boy he gets around, works to get the bolt through the brace on the TC & GB boxcar.





Hardware for the TC & GB box car all sand blasted and looking like new.



Dirt has been laid out waiting for gravel between tracks 1 & 2.





A view of the #504 main lounge. Carpet needs to be replaced but the seats are in good shape.



A look at the hallway under the dome. Center lounge is to the left.





A look at the dome section of the #504.



A view outside from the dome of the #504.





The 'Turquoise Room' where you could gather for a meal or snack.



A view of the small kitchenette in the #504.





P. O. Box 842 Chandler, AZ
85244 Sat. & Sun. 12:00 -
4:00 (480) 821-1108

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP AND FOR THE A.R.M.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Entitled to all museum benefits, with full voting rights. Dues are a single \$300.00 payment.

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP: Entitled to all museum benefits, with full voting rights. Dues are \$25.00 per year.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: A family living in the same household, entitled to all museum benefits, with full voting rights for one person only. Dues are \$30.00 per year.

SENIOR CITIZEN MEMBERSHIP: A person over age 62, entitled to all museum benefits, with full voting rights. Dues are \$20.00 per year.

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP: Entitled to all museum benefits, with full voting rights. Contribution of more than \$50.00 but less than \$500.00 per year.

CORPORATE SPONSORS: Entitled to all museum benefits, with full voting rights for one person. Contribution of \$500.00 or more per year.

Membership renewals are due on January 1st. Make checks payable to: Arizona Railway Museum, Inc. Mail to: Membership Chairman Arizona Railway Museum

P.O. Box 842
Chandler, AZ 85244

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE A.R.M.

Yes, I am interested and concerned with the preservation, restoration and exhibition of relics, artifacts and materials pertaining to the railways of Arizona and the Southwest. I hereby apply for membership and submit my check or money order for the amount of

\$ _____ for one year's dues. (Please check the appropriate item)

Life Regular Family Senior Citizen Sustaining

Corporate Sponsor

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Family Names (as applicable for Family Membership) _____

Phone No. _____ Signature of Applicant _____

Please check your particular interests and experience: Restoration

Carpentry/Woodworking Electrical/Mechanical Painting General

Maintenance Research Clerical

Public Relations Other _____

