



# Paradise & Pacific Railroad

At McCormick Stillman Railroad Park, Scottsdale

## Welcome to the P&P model railroad club

Visit us on our web site [pandpr.com](http://pandpr.com)

### ***Who we are:***

We're an O-Gauge model RR club that operates at this Park for the benefit of the Public. The club is operated in a City of Scottsdale building, and Scottsdale pays our utilities. The Paradise & Pacific Railroad Club, Inc. has been at the Park for over 30 years and is a private club that built and owns this layout.

### ***How long did it take to build this?***

It has taken a couple hundred men and women more than 30 years to build the layout that you see here. Part of being a member in the club is participating in the improvement of the layout. As regular visitors have seen, the layout is under continuous change. The changes that take place are the result of the dynamics of membership and the development of new techniques and technologies. The club always encourages its members to try new things and keep caulk and paint handy in case they don't work.

### ***Who pays for all of this?***

Our "rent" is to run our model trains for the benefit of the public on weekends and during special events like Rail Fair in October and the Festival of Lights in December. Money for operation comes from member dues, club sponsored raffles, and donations from our guests.

The club owns some trains, but the members own many of the trains that you see running.

### ***When are we open?***

We regularly run 4-hrs on Saturday and on Sunday (which 4-hr period is decided by the person running and the weather). If you want to find out who's running just go to our web site, [www.pandpr.com](http://www.pandpr.com), and click on Run Schedule. We have our club meetings on Thursday evenings, so come see us then.

### ***Can we come in?***

A few years ago we enhanced our facility to allow the public to come in and see the trains up-close. Prior to that, public viewing was only from outside the windows. We limit the number of people in the room and ask that parents keep an eye on our young guests. The trains look like toys but most are very expensive and delicate.

### ***What size are the trains?***

The trains are called O-Gauge, which is a measure of the distance between the outside rails. It is based on O-Scale in which 1/4 inch of the model is 1-foot of the real thing. This is a gauge made popular by the Lionel Corporation. On the layout you will notice some cars look larger than others. This is because Lionel made trains for small rooms and they had to shorten the trains from scale to make sharp turns. These compressed proportions have become known as "classic" size. You can see both scale and "classic" size rolling stock on the P&P layout.

### ***Who makes the trains on the layout?***

The trains come from a variety of manufacturers. In our club the most popular brand is MTH (Mikes Train House) but Lionel is also heavily represented. Other locomotives and rolling stock (cars) are from Williams, Weaver, K-Line and Industrial Rail (the last two are out of business).

The track is from Gargraves and the turnouts (switches) are from Ross and Gargraves. These were chosen because of a rather realistic appearance, but the track is more delicate than track supplied by MTH and Lionel in their sets. All AC three rail O-gauge trains will run on the P&P layout.

### ***Do you use computer control?***

Many of the locomotives have rather exotic digital controls built in each engine. This allows the club member to walk around with a wireless remote and blow the whistle, change speed or direction, uncouple cars from the engine and a host of other operations.

At the same time, and on the same track we can run non-digital controlled engines or digitally controlled engines made by a different manufacturer. Our digitally controlled engines have a sort of cruise control built in. A really neat feature that allows us to talk to our guests and only have occasional rear end collisions. The club owns the digital equipment, but members may choose to bring their own and have multiple controllers running multiple engines.

### ***Who can be a member?***

If you're interested in trains, or your children are, consider joining our club. Membership is open to all persons age 21 or older. Any member of the club can give you an application form. It costs \$100 yearly to belong to the club and we would like you to take your turn running trains on the weekend. At this time each member is scheduled for one weekend day ever six to eight weeks. Of course, members have their own key and are encouraged to run their trains or the club trains at any time.