



Tucson Garden Railway Society

# TIMETABLES

March 5, 2002

Submissions are requested for the TGRS Newsletter in the categories of RailRoad News and Tech-Notes. Articles should be submitted by **March 20, 2002**, send submissions to:  
Email to: nbuchholz@noao.edu  
Snail mail to: TGRS, 3401 W. Blackbill Dr., Tucson, AZ 85741

## Meeting on Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> at the Mechigians.

Where: Garb and Dorothy Mechigan's Home  
2142 Split Rock Place  
Tucson, AZ 85749

Telephone: (520) 760-8503

Start Time: 1100 (11:00 AM).

Instructions: Take Tanque Verde East past Catalina Hgwy to the Gate of "The Lakes at Castle Rock" turn right. Take Castle Rock Rd to Lake Vista Dr. and turn right. Go to Split Rock Dr. and Turn Right again.

## G Scale Equipment Sales at Events

by Lew Sleeper

For the benefit of our members, we will set up a table or provide an area to buy or sell G Scale supplies during our monthly meetings. Therefore, members are encouraged to bring train equipment that they wish to sell to future meetings. Attach a tag with your name on the items you wish to sell and the price.

## Two Part JigStones Workshop at the Lathrem's on March 23.

You have an opportunity to learn about the JigStones System as we present a two part clinic on March 16th. You will receive all the materials and guidance you need to construct this line side building for your own layout. This is a concrete building that will be enjoyed for years

**Come join the fun!**  
**Build this Line side shack!**



## Editor's Notes by Nick Buchholz

We have some changes happening in the Club. Please be sure to check the Minutes from the February meeting. They won't be read at the meeting. We're going to have a busy few months from now till summer. Check out the article on events and the Calendar on page four.

**Part 1: 10:00 a.m. - Noon** - In part one of the clinic you will see how to construct a simple building from the casting of blocks to completion. You will get ideas for a variety of structures which can be built from JigStones, find out what materials work best and hear helpful hints. You will also see how to: use the JigStones mold system to con-

struct retaining walls, construct double sided walls with wall capping, create Santa Fe/stucco style buildings, do resin casting, cast the window surround and arch molds, mold lightweight blocks and be given a variety of other useful techniques. There is no charge for part 1.

**Part 2: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Make & Take Hands On Workshop:** Make a building for your layout. In part two of the clinic, learn the techniques of building with JigStones while constructing a line side building to take home. You will be provided with all the materials needed to construct a building using the JigStones System and be guided through the construction process. At the end of the workshop you should have a building to take home to paint and place on your layout. Fee: \$22 per participant for TGRS members. Preregistration required. Observers welcome.

## Radio Control of Garden Railway Trains Part I by John MacDougall

Updated by the author from an article First published in the Bay Area Garden Railway Society newsletter, Trellis and Trestle in January 2001 Text and Photos, copyright ©John MacDougall

There are four systems on the market that are best suited to battery operation of garden railway trains. In three of these the transmitter only operates when sending a control signal. A fourth system ("Instant RC" from Michael Pfulb, backshop@pacbell.net) has great range advantages but the transmitter is on all the time and thus is wasteful of batteries.

The three radio systems that I considered for my layout were Radio Control Systems (RCS), Locolinc from Keithco and Aristocraft's Train Engineer, so I went out and bought one of each. All of these use very low power radio signals and thus have very limited range. All three systems transmit only when a control button is pushed and all three systems can be used with track power or battery power. The Train Engineer also can be used to control central track power. These three systems are described in parts 1 and 2 of this article. In my opinion, they all have very poor documentation.

Radio Control Systems (RCS) (figure 1): This system has the smallest transmitter (about the size of a pack of cigarettes) and the largest receiver (in two large sections). It has full functionality with independent control of throttle, horn and bell and momentum is built-in. Engine selection is by means of DIP switches in the transmitter and receiver. A transmitter is required for every receiver. Both the transmitter and receiver have very short antennas and communication depends on using the track as both a transmitting and receiving antenna. I did not try extending the unit antennas to increase range. As a walk-around system this works very well. I liked this system except for the bulky receiver.

Train Engineer from Aristocraft (now marketed by Aristocraft/CREST) (figure 2): This CREST Train Engineer is the only system that I have seen sold in retail stores. I like this system very much. It has momentum control built-in and is very realistic in operation. The company claims that ten receivers on each of ten Stracks® can be controlled by one throttle. In practice, however one throttle is usually used for each receiver although I have seen two engines controlled by one transmitter by using the Strack®

switch to change from one engine to the other. The receiver is linked to the throttle by using a Synchronization button on the receiver. Although this is a switched output system it has a large heat sink and they provide a 12v output plug for using a fan. One of the operational characteristics that we like is the reversing function. For instance, if you push the reverse button when the engine is going forward, the engine slows to a stop, pauses and then accelerates in the opposite direction. This looks very realistic and is quite convenient. Both the momentum and reverse delay can be programmed. The Train Engineer can interchangeably be used with a central track-power control box. When buying the package you have to be careful to get the one you want even though the transmitter works with either method. The throttle as shown in the picture only controls the motor. The bundle of wires on the left go to a mysterious and undocumented plug that connects to a board that has all the outputs for controlling other engine functions such as bell and whistle.

I, and at least one other user, have found that the TE is subject to occasional losses of synchronization and you have to be prepared to have to jump to turn off the power at the engine (in the case of battery operation).

CREST has just announced a new throttle for HO operation. Operating at 75 MHz, it is the first system to break away from the 27 MHz band. This means a much shorter antenna and, with FCC approval, operation with very much higher transmitter power and range. I'm very anxious for more on this new system. I'm also very interested in the Aristo-craft announcement that all new engines will be equipped with a plug so that rewiring of the engine will not be needed for battery/radio control installations.

In part 2, I will describe the Locolinc system and show a simple installation.

## Joining The Email Group at Yahoo

The TGRS email list at Yahoo is a useful source of information about the Club. Everyone who's email is known to TGRS can send emails through the group. (That was the message you received about being added to the group)

However to access the Files, Photos and Calendar on the group you have to be a recognized member. To do that there is a short procedure to follow.

First, if you don't have a Yahoo account you have to create one. You can give as much or as little info as you wish. Once you have an account, go to the following URL

<http://groups.yahoo.com/>

This page will have a grey bar near the top. It will say **Welcome YourAccountName** at the left and **Start a Group - My Groups - Sign Out** at the Right. If it says **Sign-in** instead then login to Yahoo using the name and password you set up. Once you sign-in there should be a column at the left called **My Groups**, if it includes **TucsonGRS** then click on that link and you are ready to use the group area. If **TucsonGRS** is not there then go to the URL

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tucsonGRS/>

At the upper left corner there should be a **Subscribe Button**. Push it and follow the instructions. Be sure to select text only and individual emails. I will get a message from this and will sign you up. (PS. this may result in you receiving two copies of the emails until I fix things).

Don't be too intimidated by the process. It really is pretty easy. If you have problems send me an email at

[nbuchholz@noao.edu](mailto:nbuchholz@noao.edu)

Financial Report 2001

	Yearly Summary for TGRS 2001												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year End
<b>Revenue</b>													
Dues	112.50	85.50	47.50	45.00	105.00	1110.00	417.50		90.00	180.00	60.00		2253.00
Badges	10.00	10.00	5.00				2.00			20.00			47.00
Shirts	195.50	165.00	80.50	74.25			439.50	303.00	280.50	119.00			1657.25
Bustrip													0.00
Raffles	802.02			2047.23									2849.25
Pre-Paid	560.00												560.00
Msc					1000.00		688.75	2094.60					3783.35
Total Revenue	1680.02	260.50	133.00	2166.48	105.00	2110.00	1547.75	2397.60	370.50	319.00	60.00	0.00	11149.85
<b>Expenses</b>													
New's letter			141.61	40.32			74.37						256.30
Badges	24.08	28.89	152.97										205.94
Modules	61.90	117.02	82.60	711.93			201.57			490.76		96.80	1762.58
Prizes			418.58									199.98	618.56
Hats & Shirts	73.29						1134.31	224.56					1432.16
Bus trip													0.00
Msc	62.55	51.58	46.05	138.65	391.44	567.80	2783.35			227.51		25.00	4293.93
Trailer	169.70												169.70
Tools	12.81												12.81
Meeting Fees													0.00
Rolling Stock				872.37									872.37
													0.00
Total Expenses	404.33	197.49	841.81	1763.27	391.44	567.80	4193.60	224.56	0.00	718.27	0.00	321.78	9624.35
Net Increase	1275.69	63.01	708.81	403.21	286.44	1542.20	2645.85	2173.04	370.50	399.27	60.00	321.78	1525.50
Beb. Balance	3829.31	5105.00	5168.01	4459.20	4862.41	4575.97	6118.17	3472.32	5645.36	6015.86	5616.59	5676.59	

## TGRS Meeting Minutes

Feb. 16, 2002

Hosts: Jerry and Joyce Diesing

Attendance: 62

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Gary Martin, who thanked Joyce and Jerry Diesing for hosting. New member Paul Mella was introduced, as was the Diesing's grandson Cameron.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as amended. Gary announced that we are going to put the minutes in the newsletter for at least the next three months as a test. We will shortly also put the newsletter on E-mail, and if it proves effective, those on E-mail will no longer receive a copy in the mail.

The financial report was missing.

Mike Dorgan reported on the project at Magic Garden Nursery. Set up will be on March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00a.m. We will run trains March 5,6, & 7, with work times running 10:00 – 1:00 and 1:00 – 4:00. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Sign-up for the County Fair will be at the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Set-up will be April 17 & 18, and we will run from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>. We plan to have day managers, with that person being responsible for that day's workers.

The Phoenix Exchange Round-a-bout will include Eberbach's, Bob Hoffman, Dillon's and Izen's. We would like to add one more layout. Our club round-a-bout on May 18<sup>th</sup> will include 7 houses open from 10-2, with the meeting at Harts at 2:30.

The TGRS booklet will have the picture from Hoffman's layout on the cover, probably for the next two years.

Sign for trailer: Steve Dunlap has been investigating possibilities, and presented his findings. It was moved, seconded and passed that we order two 3 foot vinyl signs and one 1 foot (for the back). We will look further into ordering 4" or smaller decals, some for members and some to put on the clubs cars.

New Business: Gary told us of the decision to put minutes in the newsletter in an attempt to shorten our meetings. There was a discussion of whether or not we are accomplishing all we want to, and perhaps should consider having a meeting every other month, with a round-a-bout every quarter. Options will be discussed and voted on at a later date.

Dave Tiefenbach will be contacting several places in town to see if they have an interest in our doing a layout. Roy E. suggests we move slowly on doing a new project.

Workshops: The next one will be at Lathrem's on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. First session is at 10:00 a.m., and is free. The second session is a "make and take", and require pre-registration at least a week before the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is a \$22.00 charge for the second session.

Frank Trunzo has been in contact with some people from Kalmbach Publishing, and they may at some future date do an article on layouts in our area.

Jan Lathrem has name tags and rosters available.

The next meeting is at the Michigian's March 16, at 11:00 a.m. We are reminded to PLEASE BRING CHAIRS. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Dorgan



The Tucson Garden Railway Society is a non-profit corporation incorporated in Pima County, Arizona. Society members are interested in all areas of garden and modular large scale model railroading. We welcome new members and hope you will consider joining. Members help each other build layouts and learn about railroading and modeling.

The TGRS dues are \$30.00 per year and are due on June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. For new members dues are pro-rated at \$2.50 per month remaining in the year until June 30th plus a \$15.00 initiation fee, the first year. Additional name badges cost \$1.00 for each badge after the first.

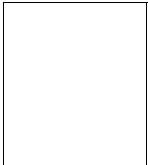
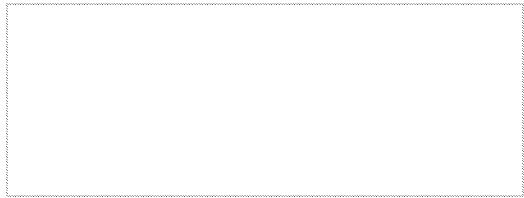
If you are interested in the TGRS please contact one of the officers at the phone number listed in the Calendar section below. If you just **have** to join immediately, send a check and your name, address and telephone number and the names for any additional badges to:

Jan Lathrem,  
1750 West Tangerine Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85737

## CALENDAR

- MAR. 8-10 - Magic Garden Nursery Outdoor Layout - Talk to Mike Dorgan or Gary Martin.  
MAR. 16 - TGRS Meeting - Garb and Dorothy Michigan's - 11:00 AM  
MAR. 23 - Workshop - Buildings from Jigstones - Jan and Alan Lathrem - 10:00 AM  
APR. 5-7 - SAHBA Home Show - Talk to Mike.  
APR. 16-18 - County Fair Setup -  
APR. 18-28 - County Fair Display and Running -  
May 11 - Special Phoenix/Tucson Round-about -  
May 18 - TGRS Round-about and Monthly Meeting -  
June 5-9 - Queen Mary Train Show  
June 20-22 American Home Show

<b>President:</b>	Gary Martin .....	(520) 299-7428
<b>V-President:</b>	Mike Dorgan.....	(520) 529-2430
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jane Dorgan .....	(520) 529-2430
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Fred Wray .....	(520) 648-5609
<b>Editor:</b>	Nick C. Buchholz .....	(520) 744-4932



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