

Tucson Garden Railway Society's *Time Table*

Submissions are requested for the TGRS Newsletter in the categories of Modeling Activities, Railroad News and Technical Notes. Articles should be submitted to:

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January 2003

No Meeting This Busy Month

There will be no formal meeting this month as we have many activities to absorb our railroading time.

First of all there is the American Home Show at the Tucson Convention Center. The show runs from Friday January 3rd through Sunday January 5th. Setup, however will begin at 9am on Thursday January 2nd. This may run most of the day (depending on how many people show up to help set up the modules). Setup will continue on January 3rd from 9 am till about 2:30 when the show opens but we ought to be able to have some fun running trains early on the third. Tear down will be after the show closes at 5pm on Sunday the 5th until about 10 PM. If you haven't signed up to help set up, run or tear down you can contact Vice President Norm Ulmer (299-9401) to add you name to the list.

On Saturday, January 18th we have the one day Toy Train Operators Museum's Swap Meet. This will be at the Ramada Inn at Grant and I-10 (South West side). Norm is again the contact for this. He is working to get us in to setup on Friday the 17th but as of this time we are scheduled to meet at the Ramada at 6am on the 18th. Given drive times, etc. lets hope Norm succeeds in getting us in early.

The following weekend, on Saturday the 25th and Sunday the 26th there will be the Great American Toy Train show at the Pima County Fairgrounds. As most of you know that's all the way down Houghton Road south of the Interstate. The setup will be from 3pm to about 9pm on Friday the 24th and tear down will be after 5pm on Sunday the 25th. Norm is also the contact for this.

If you want to run more trains, the Tucson Botanical Gardens have asked us to keep the garden railroad running not only through January but through mid March. They have also begun to talk to our officers about a permanent set up. As this is being written we have told them that they will have to provide operators but that we could provide occasional backup and maintenance help. Dave Tiefenbach (825-7546) is the contact for this project if you want to help.

Editor's Rants

Well here we go. This is my first newsletter as editor and I want to remind you that content has to come from the members. I promise to do my best to keep up the content though graphics may be a bit sketchy as neither Nick nor I could manage to get the Logo to print on my machine.

If you have a meeting scheduled next month please send me a description of your railroad (Name and theme if any, track or battery power, approximate size, etc., etc.) and directions on how to get to your house (along with any additional comments on parking, chairs needed, etc., etc.). If you can send it via e-mail as a Word file it is easier for me but snail mail is OK if you get it in early enough to allow for retyping.

If you don't have the next meeting but have an interesting modeling technique or have had an interesting rail related experience, write it up and send it along so that we can share it with the other members.

Minutes of meeting

TGRS MEETING Dec.14, 2002

Hosts: Mike & Jane Dorgan
Christmas Pot Luck
Attendance:76

President Gary Martin called the meeting to order and thanked the Dorgans for hosting. He also thanked the members for bringing food and stated that new membership lists were available.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

A financial report was not submitted.

Old Business:

Dave Tiefenbach reported that the layout at the Tucson Botanical Gardens (TBG) was successful with a 99%approval rating. He thanked the members for their work in the set-up and running of the trains. More members are needed to run the revised hours of 10:00 to 4:00. TBG would like us to be there until the end of March.

(Minutes cont.)

They would have to furnish the docents to run the trains. If it becomes permanent, it would be in a different area.

All members were urged to attend the National Garden Railway convention.

All members are welcome to come to the Hart's Open House on Saturday and Sunday.

Sign up sheets were passed around for the:

Home Show-Jan. 2-5
ABTO Swap Meet-Jan. 18
GATT Show-Jan. 24-26

There are still openings for the monthly meetings.

New Business:

Gary Martin and Jon Anderson were given Ace Hardware certificates and billboards with their name on them for their service as past Presidents of the TGRS. The presentations were made by new President Nick Buchholz. Gary was also presented with a proclamation designating him as "Ambassador at Large" for the TGRS.

Jan Lathrem would like someone to replace her as Membership Chairman.

Jon Anderson asked for, and received, approval to buy a train set for the Home Show raffle.

Dick Izen wanted to know about buying an engine and sound systems. This will be discussed at the next board meeting to which all members are invited. Board meeting at Nicks on Dec.17,2002 at 7:00 P.M.

Shirts and hats were available to purchase.

Styrofoam Workshop:

Ken Karrels had a sign-up sheet to see if there was any interest in having a 2-day workshop to make a styrofoam house. Glenda Bockel would give this. It could be given in February or March.

The next meeting will be at Rick and Debbie Taylor's on Saturday, Feb.15 at 1:00P.M.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Stoesser

Open Meetings for 2003

While most meetings for 2003 have been scheduled we still have a few months looking for host members. Specifically there are **August** and **November** still open. August will be the first meeting after the National Convention. If you haven't hosted a meeting for a while consider signing up for one of the open months, Contact Nick or Norm to get your name down.

19th Annual National Garden Railway Convention

Several Members have asked for information about the National Garden Railway Convention which will be held in mid July (the 9th through the 13th) in and around Sacramento California.

The convention itself will be located in the Doubletree Hotel which is near the Arden Fair Mall some distance from downtown Sacramento. Special rates (we got \$88 @ night plus taxes) are available if you mention the convention when booking. The model contests, vendors hall, live steam set up, gravity race, clinics, ice cream social and banquet will be in the Doubletree. Buses will leave from there for the Barbecue dinner and the various bus tours of layouts.

The layouts will also be available by private auto and the Sacramento Valley Garden Railway Society (convention hosts) will publish a book of maps. Not only does this allow you to avoid the crowds the busses bring, it also enables you to see a number of layouts that will be open at night and available only by auto. In addition outlying layouts in the towns of Redding, Reno and Vallejo will be open prior to the convention on July 8th and will be accessible only by auto. From what I have heard at our meetings there will be quite a few of us there with our cars so car pooling is a possibility if you prefer not to drive yourself.

You might also want to consider an extra day to visit the California State Railway Museum which is located in Sacramento. The museum is very well done and has some smaller scale layouts as well as some full size locomotives (ranging from a 4-4-0 to a Southern Pacific cab forward articulated – where else could you get up close and personal with a full sized 2-8-8-4 steam locomotive)

If you want more information on the convention activities check out the Sacramento Valley Garden Railway Society site at www.SVGRS.org.

Board of Directors Meeting

On December 17th there was a joint meeting of the old and new Boards of Directors (BOD). Nick will discuss many of the items the BOD discussed at the February meeting. Briefly the BOD covered the following.

It was agreed that a meeting needed to be set up, in December if possible, to discuss future plans with the Tucson Botanical Gardens. Dave Tiefenbach will contact the TBG.

Each of the January shows was discussed and Gary asked a couple of people to help him get the trailer repacked in anticipation.

(BOD meeting cont.)

Joe Stoesser gave an update on procurement. The new track cleaning engine has been ordered. The vendor is trying to locate the rolling stock we asked for (but is having some problems due to the LA port strike). The BOD also asked Joe to order smoke units and sound systems for the two diesel units that had been donated to the club.

Jerry Tulino will update the club web site with the new officers names and begin posting the newsletters in an archive on the site. He will also set up an application form that prospective new members can print from the site.

Nick will contact the Phoenix club to see if they are planning to host a round-a-bout for us this year. In addition, at the February meeting we will discuss a possible club outing by train and a possible get together at the Sacramento National Convention.

We agreed that we needed a membership chairperson and a historian. Nick will talk with the people currently filling those roles. It was also agreed that the current Vice President should focus on events and that we should discuss (with the members) creation of a Vice President for Education to facilitate the development of a curricula and promote educational events. We also want to ask the members to expand the BOD with one more member at large. This additional member would be the outgoing president (if he or she agrees) to provide more continuity after the change in officers.

Willis Fagg, Treasurer has been asked to review the benefits of and requirements for changing our Federal status from a C(7) hobby non profit organization to a C(3) educational non profit organization.

The BOD approved exchanging newsletters with other interested garden railroad clubs and asked the editor to investigate the possibility of reprinting articles of general interest from other club's newsletters.

The Treasurer was asked to prepare a financial report for review by the President and Vice President. This report will be available to members and may be published in a future newsletter.

The BOD agreed that a Module Committee should be appointed to review various module related issues including (but not limited to) storage of scenery and accessories (e.g. second trailer vs. storage space rental), changes in layout configuration, access to the children's layout (e.g. better internal barrier vs. moving controls to outside the layout) storage and display of trains not running, an improved repair work station, and barriers to protect the modular layout.

There was also some discussion of how to get members more involved in club activities, how to involve new members and reviving the club's mentor program. There was some discussion of revising both content and format for the new members package.

Signs for Your Garden Railway

The following article is copyright in 2002 by John MacDougall, the author, and previously appeared in the November 2002 issue of Trellis & Trestle, the newsletter of the Bay Area Garden Railway Society

I suppose that, sooner or later, all of us have thought that the personal computer and the inkjet printer would be marvelous tools for making garden railway signs. Then the reality became evident when the signs faded away in the California sun and then washed out completely when the rains came. It happened to me and I ended up with all my signs on portable mounts that could be put out by the tracks for one-day stands at open houses. Then I read the advertisements for Epson's "Archival Inks" and just had to buy a C80 printer to find out if it was really true.

It was. The inks didn't fade and they didn't wash away in the sprinklers. My signs became permanent – sort of! Because what did wash away was the paper backing! So back to the drawing board, literally and here's what I came up with.

- Unavoidably, buy yourself an Epson inkjet printer (or make friends with someone who has one) that uses the Epson archival inks.
- Obtain from a drafting supply store a packet of their inkjet adhesive backed transparent film. I've tried using ordinary projector film but it doesn't work very well. The drafting film is intended for sticking labels on blueprints.
- Print your sign on the film, peel the backing and carefully adhere it to a thin white PVC sheet.
- For additional mechanical protection, if you want, add a layer of cold adhesive laminating film. When run through the pressure rollers this film will inevitably have some small bubbles in it. Prick the bubbles to let the air out and press them down.
- You can then glue the sign to a suitable display stand.

Found

Gary Martin has two light weight yellow and green rain jackets which were left at his house several months ago during a module work session. If they are yours please give Gary a call at 299-7428 to arrange for pick up.

Web Site of interest (?)

Now that I have spent hours building fruit crates for the Sunkist loading dock on the module display, Nick Buchholz has come up with a manufactures of G scale fruit and vegetable crates as well as grain, feed and coffee sacks. It is called "Fruit and Freight" and can be found at www.fruitandfreight.com. I haven't checked prices but if you need some sacks or crates it might be worth a look.

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 invite you to consider joining. Members help each other build home layouts and learn about railroads and modeling. In addition they participate in public and school exhibits.

Dues are \$30 per family, per year, payable on June 30 of each year. New members dues are prorated at \$2.50 per month until the next June 30. In addition new members are charged a \$15 initiation fee which covers new member material and name badges. Replacement badges at \$1 each.

If you are interested in joining please contact one of the officers listed below. If you wish to join immediately send a check with your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and the names for any additional badges to:

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

Calendar of Events

Jan- March Running at Tucson Botanical Garden
 Jan 2-5 Setup and running at Home Show at Tucson Convention Center
 Jan 18 Setup and running at Toy Train Operators Swap Meet at Ramada Inn
 Jan 24-26 Setup and Running at Great American Train Show at Pima County Fairgrounds
 Feb 15 Meeting at Rick & Debbie Taylor's home – 1:00 PM
 March Meeting at Jim & Madelyn Cook's home
 April 11-27 Setup and running at Pima County Fair
 April Meeting and open house at Gary & Peg Martin's home
 May Meeting at Glen & Janet Mitchell's home
 June 5-8 Big Train Show on the Queen Mary in Long Beach, CA
 June Meeting at Norm & Ibbly Ulmer's home
 July 9-13 National Garden Railway Convention at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento, CA

OFFICERS

President	Nick Buchholz.....	(520) 744-4932
V-President	Norm Ulmer.....	(520) 299-9401
Secretary	Ellen Stoesser.....	(520) 577-1210
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