

## **Tucson Garden Railway Society's**



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September 2003

#### **Meeting This Month**

This month's meeting will be on September 20 at 10:00 AM at the home of:

> Jay & Sallie Sanders 8060 E. Paseo de Beatriz Tucson, AZ 85750

Telephone 731-1999

#### **Directions:**

Take Grant Road east to Tangue Verde. Turn left (east) onto Tangue Verde and drive for about one half mile to Sabino Canyon Road. Turn left (north) onto Sabino Canyon and drive about 1.2 miles to E. Cloud Road and turn right (east) onto Cloud...

(Note that from the north side it is also possible to take River road all the way to Sabino Canyon. If you do this turn right (south) onto Sabino Canyon and left (east) onto Cloud. Then follow the directions below.)

Once on Cloud go about one half mile to N. Paseo del Torito. It is the first road after you cross N. Pantano Road and is marked by a stone wall that says, in red, "Hacienda del Joven Estates".

Paseo del Torito ends at Cloud so you can only go left (north). In about one half mile you turn right (east) onto Paseo de Beatriz. The Sanders' lot extends from the corner of Paseo del Torito and Paseo de Beatriz to Cloud. They note that parking is limited and ask that you park on Cloud and Paseo de Torito as well as on Paseo de Beatriz. They also ask that you remember to bring chairs.

#### The Railroad:

Building the railroad began in March of this year with construction of a raised bed to match the wall in the patio area. The layout is 22' by 10' and has two loops with separate track controlled power. The upper level was constructed with boulders and has a water feature that flows to the lower level. The Sanders have a dedicated drip system for the miniatures they have planted and the plants have done well through the hot summer months.

The Sanders think that there is much to be done in terms of more plants, more buildings and the construction of a mine on the upper layer with a track reversing unit. Also, Jay has yet to construct a box for the transformers and switches. Jay's hip replacement surgery may prevent further construction before the meeting. The Sanders' thanks go out to the mentoring program and to Gary Martin who assisted in the layout and track construction.

## I THINK I KNEW THAT! #8

#### BY ROY EBERBACH

This column presents my ideas and is not intended as the only way or the right way of doing things. This is what works for me. If you have different ideas that work for you send them along and I will share them with the club

#### #8-1. What kind of rail joiners do you us.?

Over the last several years I have tried several different brands of rail joiners. Gary Martin suggested using Split-Rail rail joiners and I fell in love with them. They are the easiest to use and stay together as well as any other kind. What I like about them is that they are very easy to take apart without disturbing the surrounding area. This means that if a turnout goes bad and must be replaced, it is just a matter of loosening six screws and the offending track pops right out and a new one can be dropped in place. I found it very helpful to buy the special screw drivers that are available from the company. They are of the swivel type which makes it easier to work in tight places. I like these joiners so much that I am going back and replacing the other types that I used before. I buy them direct from the company, but they are available from some dealers. See their ad in Garden Railways.

#### #8-2 Do you ever buy trains from E-Bay?

In a word NO. Let me explain. Recently one of our members, who I am sure was acting in good faith, put out an e-mail stating that he had bought a USA Diesel for #145.00 on e-bay by mistake. He would sell it to any member of the club for the same amount. Check it out. First, buying something on e-bay does not mean that you are getting a good price. At the very same time that the email appeared, San-Val, a reputable mail order house with a large store, was selling the exact same locomotive for \$119.00. Yes, you would have to pay a few dollars shipping. Second, when buying on e-bay, if there is a problem you are stuck. When you buy from a reputable dealer, you can resolve the problem. The dealer will want repeat business from you, so he or she will usually go out of their way to help you. You can always hear stories about what great deals someone got on e-bay, but you

seldom hear stories about how people got took or paid too much for something. It is like those casino stories, you only hear when someone wins big, not when they go home broke. As always "LET THE BUYER BEWARE" and always check it out.

## #8-3. Why do you use track power instead of battery power?

I chose to use track power because it allows me to run longer trains without the hassle of changing batteries every hour or two. It is also cheaper and less time consuming to set up and I don't have to be constantly charging batteries. On the down side, is the fact that I must keep my track clean and that can take some work. There are just no free lunches. I use an LGB Track Cleaning Loco which does a great job. Also I use a hand operated track cleaner designed by Gary Martin. (see Gary for details) The very best method of operation is a hybrid system which is coming soon. It allows the train to run on track power but switches to battery power when needed. This means that the train keeps moving smoothly no matter what the condition of the track. I am told by Dick Izen that the Locolinc System allows for this type of hybrid operation. Talk with him for more information on the capabilities of Locolinc. Other systems that are headed in that direction still have some work to be done, especially in the area of cost.

## **Rail Bits #6**

(A stopover at the Digital Station) by Jerry Tulino

#### How do I find information on the Internet?

The internet is a wonderful and immense resource but it can be hard to find the information that you need. As a matter of reference, the latest estimates are that there are over 3 billion pages on the web. These include the simplest sites created by children (or parents for their children) that display their own hand-drawn pictures of the Teletubbies to the large, complex, feature-rich, interactive Flags sites like Six Magic Mountain (http://www.sixflags.com/parks/magicmountain/Rides/index .asp) which includes videos of their latest roller coasters in action. So how do we sort through this mass of data to find the information we want?

In order to find information on the Internet you have to go to a special kind of web site. These sites provide a "search engine" which is used to look for the information you want. Some of the most well known sites are Yahoo, Lycos and Google. These sites have programs that run constantly and analyze the information available on the web. They "rank" all of the sites they locate based on proprietary methods of analyzing the information found there and build their own databases. As pages are added, deleted and changed some of the information in their databases becomes inaccurate but they try to keep their information as current as reasonably possible. When you perform a search on their site they actually search their own "snapshot database" of the web to give you their list of results. Although some of the links returned to you may no longer be available, this results in a very rapid reply to your inquiry.

Many ISPs also provide access to search the Internet from their "home" pages. Usually they identify the search engine/site (the Cox cable home page (http://tucson.cox.net) provides searching using Google). Other sites have more specific searches available. For example, the Arizona Daily Star's home page (http://www.azstarnet.com) has a link to search the QuestDex database for businesses.

Currently the web site of choice for most users performing general searches is Google. It has a simple, clean interface, has no advertising, returns very accurate results and is extremely fast. Although most of the "search engine" sites operate in a very similar fashion, I will limit my descriptions to this site. To get to the Google site, go to http://www.google.com (Shortcut - Most versions of Windows provide a simpler way to access a web site. If the URL begins with "www" and ends with "com" you can go to it by typing just the name (i.e. Google).and then holding down the control key (labeled Ctrl) and pressing the Enter key) Rather than try to explain all of the combinations and options available on Google, I will refer you to their "Help" pages. You can then delve as deeply as you wish into the capabilities of the site. Follow the next 2 screens and you will get to "Google Help Central"...



As you can see, the Help screen provides a wealth of information including how to use the search facility, other features available (like what the "I'm Feeling Lucky" button

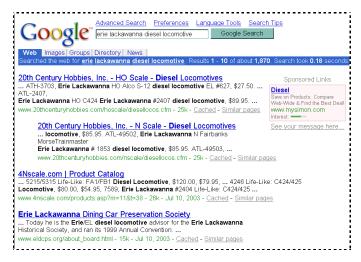
does), additional services and tools and also how to contact them with questions, feedback, suggestions, etc..

Googl	C <sup>™</sup> Google Help Centra	al	Home - All About Google
	t display pop-up advertising. I nd discuss Google services ir	Here's why. 1 our <u>user support discussion f</u>	iorum.
Search Help	Basics of Search	Interpreting Results     Customize Results	Advanced Search Tips
Web Search Features	Cached Links     Dictionary Definitions     File Types     I'm Feeling Lucky	News Headlines     PhoneBook     Similar Pages     Site Search     Spell Checker	• <u>Stock Quotes</u> • <u>Street Maps</u> • Web Page Translation • Who links to you?
Google Services & Tools	<u>Google Answers</u> <u>Google Browser Buttons</u> <u>Google Catalogs</u> <u>Google Groups</u> <u>Google Image Search</u>	Google in your Language     Google News     Google Special Searches     Google Toolbar     Google Translate Tool	Google University Search     Google Web APIs     Google Web Directory     Google Web Search     Google Wireless
Contact Us	<u>Google Search</u> : suggestions, comments, and questions about our web search <u>Corporate Google</u> : inquiries regarding press and business services <u>Google Groups</u> : feedback about our Usenet discussion search <u>Google Web Directory</u> : feedback about our categorized web directory <u>The Google Toolbar</u> ; feedback about our browser add-on search tool		
Search Our Site		Search the Google site	

A sample search: Suppose you are looking for information about the Erie Lackawanna Diesel Locomotives...

Google				
Web	Images	Groups	Directory	News
erie lacka	awanna diesel locomo	tive		Advanced Search     Preferences
	Google Search	I'm Feeling Lucky		Language Tools
Advertise with Us - Business Solutions - Services & Tools - Jobs, Press, & Help Make Google Your Homepage! ©2003 Google - Searching 3,083,324,652 web pages				

You simply type in a description of what you are looking for (the more specific you can be, the more accurate the result) and click on the "Google Search" button. You will see a screen that displays the results of the search similar to this...



The display you receive back is a list of links that contain some or all of the text you have entered and some information describing it. All of the words that match the ones you entered will be highlighted. It is now up to you to click on the links and determine if they contain the information you are seeking.

This search returned 1,870 sites. To perform a more specific search you can scroll down to the bottom of the page and pick an option that allows you to search just within the list of sites that have already found...

Goooooooogle ► Result Page: 12345678910 <u>Next</u>			
erie lackawanna diesel locomotive Google Search Search within results			

Enter some more text in this field, for example, a certain city...

Google       There were about 1,870 Google results for erie lackawanna diesel locomotive.         Search within results       Use the search box below to search within these results.         clifton new jersey       Search within results				
<u>Google Home</u> - ,	Advertise with Us - Business Solutions - S	ervices & Tools - Job	os, Press, & Help	
Advanced Search Preferences Language Tools Search Tips erie lackawanna diesel locomotive cliftol Google Search Web Images Groups Directory News Searched the web for <u>erie lackawanna diesel locomotive clifton new jersey</u> Results 1 - 10 of about 75 Search too				
Clifton, New Jersey NeighborhoodScout.com	Find ideal neighborhoods for you & yo	ur family in just minu	Sponsored Link tes	
Delaware & Hudson Ra <b>Lackawanna</b> & Western Railroad, The ( Bulletin	ibject Title Author Volume Issue Ye ilway, - Diesel Locomotives, D&H under th Great steam locomotives, Some Early <b>E</b> lex/nrhs_bulletin_index_1986_to_2001_file ages	e Delaware,	Sponsored Links iesel ver Products. Compare Ver Wide & Find the Best Deall www.mysimon.com terest.	

Now the search has returned only 75 entries. I can continue to "Search within results" and refine the list of links as many times as I want.

I hope this has helped you feel confident about the wealth of information on the web and how to find what you want. If you have any questions about searching, please feel free to email me at tgrsemail@cox.net.

#### 2004 Convention in Denver

I know we just finished 2003's Sacramento national convention but several members have been discussing the 2004 convention which will be August 12<sup>th</sup> through 15th in Denver. I have attended a national convention in Denver and can tell you that they have some spectacular layouts and some great railroad sites (including the museum at Golden, Colo.) in the area. Plan to spend a few extra days to take in some of these sites or to ride the many nearby narrow gauge railroads.

If you are interested you can go to the Denver Garden Railway Society web site, <u>http://www.denvergrs.org</u> For more information and the registration form.

One note of interest. The registration form doesn't include an option for having the map book mailed out early. I sent and inquiry and am told that the book won't be available until about a month before the convention but that they are planning to post the maps on their web site in June or July.

#### **Open House at the Hart's**

Marty and Loyal Hart held an open house for on July 23<sup>rd</sup> for 35 kids from Fountain of Life School. The kids arrived by bus about 10:00 AM and, as usual loved the layout. Marty reported that teachers returned throughout the day so the open house lasted longer than planned. Marty also reported that late morning in Tucson in July is probably not the best time to schedule visitors to the railroad. In fact I think I heard her say "Never again." But knowing the Heart's love of children, somehow I doubt it.

#### We Got Workshops

Save Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> on your calendar as TGRS members will be privileged to have four and perhaps five great workshops offered on that day.

Jane Dorgan will hold a make and take workshop on building you own unique outdoor figures from Sculpy modeling clay. Jane asks each participant to bring \$1 to defray the cost of the Sculpy. In addition, as the figures are baking in the oven, she may also hold a 'miniworkshop' on building adobe structures from Styrofoam.

Janet Mitchell will demonstrate casting concrete roofs for buildings. Many of you have asked for more information on how she does this after seeing the beautiful roofs on the buildings on the Mitchell's layout.

Gary Martin will demonstrate weathering by painting a car or locomotive. I have seen Gary's artistry with an air brush more than once and can guarantee that you will be awed by how rapidly he turns a plastic toy into a realistic looking model. He has asked that you bring along a locomotive, a car or structure that you would like to weather.

A session on installing battery power and remote control in locomotives will be hosted by Nick Buchholz. He will demonstrate techniques on one of his locomotives and will also answer questions about installation in other popular locomotives.

All of the workshops will be held in one of Jim and Madelyn Cook's air cooled garages at their home; 10420 East Fort Lowell. Details are still being worked out but I urge you to keep that date open. Tentative plans are to begin about 9:00 AM and run through most of the day. Attendees should plan to bring a sack lunch.

Space is limited so you should call Madelyn Cook (760-

2325) or Janet Mitchell (743-9263) or Jane Dorgan (529-2430) to reserve a place. All of the women have some travel plans between now and October 4<sup>th</sup> so if you don't reach one, try another. This is definitely <u>not</u> an event you will want to miss.

Just to whet your appetite Jane Dorgan recently presented her Sculpy figure workshop to the ABTO in Phoenix. Mike reports that the presentation was well attended and so favorably received that one club member went home and created six more figures that night. See picture below.



Jane Dorgan shows the Phoenix folks how to make unique durable outdoor figures from Sculpy.

#### **Phoenix Roundabout**

Vice President Norm Ulmer has announced that the Phoenix area roundabout hosted by ABTO (Arizona Big Train Operators) will be on November 8.

The plan is that we will meet, not later than 7:30 AM, at the west side of the Foothills Mall parking lot (between the cinema and Keaton's restaurant). When you get there look for the bus marked Mountain View Tours. Please get to the parking lot and board our chartered bus on time so that we can depart the parking lot no later than 8:00 AM.

The bus will take us to five or six Phoenix area layouts (details are still being worked out) and at some point the

ABTO will provide soft drinks and Hoagie sandwiches for lunch.

We anticipate getting back to Tucson around 6:00 PM and some members are contemplating a joint dinner at Keaton's or one of the other mall restaurants. Details of this will be discussed at the September meeting.

Reservations have to be made with Norm **now** as seating on the bus is limited. The cost will be \$18 per person, primarily for the bus rental. Checks, payable to TGRS, should be sent to Treasurer Willis Fagg (12440 East Ave. de la Vista Verde, Tucson, AZ, 85749) or given to him at the September club meeting. Payment **must** be in his hands no later than October 15<sup>th</sup> or your bus seat will be given to the next person on the list.

#### **Dues Past Due**

As most of you know TGRS has been growing rapidly. Despite that good growth we would rather not loose any of our members. Annual dues were supposed to be paid by the end of June. When you receive this news letter it will be the end of August or the beginning of September.

Willis Fagg, Treasurer has advised me that several members have not yet paid their dues. Please check the address label on this newsletter. If there is a large red dot after your name, club records show that you have failed to pay dues for this fiscal year. If you have a red dot after your name please contact Willis and make arrangements to pay immediately. If you do not we will have to assume that you have decided not to remain a TGRS member.

#### **Stone Planters**

By Norm Ulmer

There is an article in the September issue of Better Homes & Gardens, page 98, that describes how to construct very realistic looking "stone" planters. The same method could be used to construct "stone" blocks for low retaining walls around a garden railroad layout. The ingredients are simple - cement, peat-moss, perlite and fiberglass fibers such as used to reinforce stucco and concrete. These fibers are available through masonry and building supply houses such as Border Products, G & W Masonry Supplies, etc. After gathering the materials, your imagination is the only obstacle you have to overcome, and the results can be very rewarding.

## **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser

The meeting was held at the home of George and Kathy Fitzner, on August 16, 2003. Attendance: 62 members and guests

Pres. Nick Buchholz called the meeting to order and thanked the Fitzner's for hosting. New members and guests were introduced.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved after a correction of Norm Ulmers name.

**Treasurer's report:** Willis Fagg reported a current account balance of \$3,771.41. He also asked if any member was uncertain about their membership status or if your renewal date on G.R. Magazine is not correct, you should contact him.

Willis had information sheets on the 20<sup>th</sup> Garden Railway Convention to be held in Denver, August 12-15, 2004. Website: http://www.denver .org/convention.html. Some members have reported problems getting back on the website after registering.

**Editor's Report:** Dick Izen would like more articles for the newsletter to keep it interesting. Dick will try to get the September newsletter out early to notify the members about the 10/4/03 workshop at Madelyn and Jim Cook's house.

Workshops:	Gary Martin-airbrush and weathering Janice Mitchell-concrete roofs
	Jane Dorgan- Sculpey people
	Nick Buchholz- battery power locomotives

Dick also talked about a demo plaque made by Still Meadow Pottery with colors and prices being negotiable. We would not be ordering these as a club. Prices: 25-49 \$35.00 50 and up \$30.00

**Vice President's Report:** Norm Ulmer passed around a sign up sheet for the Phoenix trip. We will meet at the Foothills Mall and leave at 8:00 A.M. sharp on 11/8/03.

He also reported the Sacramento trip was great fun and the Denver Convention (2004) is ready to go.

Phoenix will co-host with Chandler the 2008 Convention. Norm will co-chair with Rich Hall, Willis Fagg will assist the treasurer, and Gary Martin will assist with the vendors. Jerry Tulino will be the webmaster. Volunteers are needed to help the secretary, help with attendance, transportation and other positions.

Norm also reported we might not be at the American Home Show because the rental rates have increased 30% and the decorator raised the rates by 50%. They would then need to sell all the spaces with none left for us. He will know by our Christmas meeting.

Norm and Joe Duda have been making barricades for around the trains at a cost of \$4.50 for each stanchion and we would need 28 of them. It was approved by the members that they should continue to make them. They would like 3 lb coffee cans, but would accept peanut or paint cans. Questions were raised about how to store them and if volunteers were needed to help make them.

**Committee Reports:** Ibby Ulmer had new member badges. She will have new membership rosters at the September meeting.

Joe Stoesser has all the new members with their mentors. Joe is trying to get better prices with a new supplier for our shirts and caps. If you would like a shirt or cap, contact him as he would like to put in an order.

Janet Mitchell reported on the 10/4/03 workshop, which would start at 9:00A.M. So please bring a sack lunch, also tools will be required. If you would like something weathered please bring it to the workshop. You should call before coming, phone number and complete info will be in the Sept. newsletter.

**Tucson Botanical Gardens report:** The committee met in July with TBG. The choices for set up are The Children's Garden or where we were last year with crowd control being a challenge.

TBG has advertised in the paper for helpers as we would work shorter hours, 11-3. If set up is still there in January, TBG would maintain.

\$350.00 was spent last year with a loss of \$150.00-\$175.00. Some members requested a meeting to see both spots. It was approved we would do the set up in December. Tony Edmond who started this joint venture died and there is a gathering to honor him on 8/24/03 at 6:00 p.m.

The Fountain of Life school, which consisted of 35 kids plus counselors, visited Mary and Lloyd Hart on 7/23/03. Afterwards the counselors went to visit Joe at Ace Hardware. Job Corps visited Gary and Peg Martin to see the trains. There were 16 people from all over the world.

The revised by-laws were passed. They will be on our web site; also hard copies will be mailed or given out at the meeting.

Our "how to" and" for sale" table were loaded with various items.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next Board Meeting will be held at Willis Faggs on August 18, at 7:00 P.M.

The next meeting will be held at Jay and Sallie Sanders at 10.00 A.M.

#### **Board of Director's Meeting**

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser

Aug 18, 2003-19:30 Location: Willis & Dottie Fagg's house

President Nick Buchholz presided over the meeting with all officers and members-at-large attending except one.

Minutes of the May 19, 2003 were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Willis Fagg reported a current account balance of \$3730.37. Revenues to date for fiscal

year 2003-2004 are \$670.00 and expenses \$293.74 for a net increase to date of \$376.26.

Fiscal year 2002-2003 ended with an account balance of \$3,354.71. Revenues were \$9,629.56 and expenses were \$10,496.60 for a net decrease of \$867.04. A total of 71% of our current members have paid their dues for the current year. Members who not paid will have a red dot on their newsletter.

**Newsletter:** Dick Izen is waiting for information from Janet Mitchell on the 10/4/03 workshop.

**Events:** Norm Ulmer reported there were 56 people signed up for the Phoenix trip and then he got 2 more. A van will also be used if necessary. We will have a 57 seat Mountain View Tours bus which we will rent for \$700.00, which will cost each person \$18.00. The \$18.00 will cover, driver, info, and drinks. Norm will need the check by 10/15/03, made out to Mountain View Tours. (Editor's Note: This is the TGRS check to pay for the bus. Your \$18 checks to sign up for the trip should be payable to TGRS)

The bus will be located at the west side of the Foothills Mall between the theater and Keatons. We will meet and leave from there, to return around 6:00P.M. Norm will check out eating at Keatons and Thunder Canyon Brewery when we return. He will have a sign up sheet at the September meeting for those who want to attend the dinner at Foothills Mall.

**Membership:** Ibby Ulmer reported the e-mail list on Yahoo is not up to date. Questions were raised should each person be responsible for their own profile or should one member be responsible for all?

Also raised was about the danger of member addresses being on the web, those that are in the newsletter. Norm will talk to Jerry Tulino about privacy and protected pages. The advantages of e-mail addresses being on the website are that a message can be send to all members at the same time. The issue was tabled until we get more information.

**Modules:** Joe Duda raised several questions about the modules and the track.

1.Could modules be joined together with the same size clamp? Since new clamps would cost \$3.00 each at the swap meet, it was decided to just drill out the holes with a router. This will be done at a meeting at Gary's house.

2 Could the track be put together with metal rail joiners? It is better and faster for us to use split jaws because our track is not a solid surface and is on Styrofoam.

3. Because of several incidents at our last show, should train operators just run the trains and give this all their attention. Do we need more members there to talk to the people and fulfill other obligations? We could try to have a training meeting before running the trains. This would include running 1&2 trains, knowing where the switches are and define were blocks are for people just learning.

4. Should there scenery on the outside of the trains? This can be done, maybe on part of the track, we would need special things and they would need to be stored. It was decided to wait on this.

**Publicity Coordinator:** Ken Karrel will fill this position. He will work under Dick Izen.

Phoenix Round-a-bout has requested our website address from Norm.

**TBGardens Layout:** For the Christmas Layout, we would run the trains in Nov, and Dec, with TBG running them in January, as we do not know when the GAT Show will be or how busy we will be then. There will be a meeting for members who want to check out both of the sites being offered to us. The committee will meet again with TBG to finalize plans for the Christmas Layout. We will ask if we could co-run the raffle, get club expenses back and split whatever money is left?

For the permanent layout Gary will talk to TBG about how much space we would need and how expenses and work duties would be divided up. That there would be room for TBG'S plants as well as the trains.

**Preparations for 2008:** We need to budget money to buy buildings for double staffing. Should the buildings be permanent with lights and sounds as this would be hard to store. Should they come apart? Should the plug be on the building and the connection on the module? Should the members maintain and store their own buildings?

We need to buy or design and have some one make a trailer for storage; maybe a flatbed with racks and canvas was suggested. Should modules be a set size or maybe came apart? The Module Committee will look into all these options.

**Layout Tours:** Norm Ulmer is still looking for more volunteers to help with Programs, Events and Transportation. Jerry Tulino is checking with Denver and Sacramento on how to collect money on the web. Reservations for rooms for Denver can not be made yet.

**Home Show Replacements:** To be checked out: Shaba, Swap Meets at Irvington and Tanque Verde.

**Other Business:** Joe Stoesser is looking at a new supplier for shirts and caps. Discount Embroidery offers better prices and we could also get t-shirts.

There is a 9<sup>th</sup> Board position open because of the revised by-laws. Gary was asked if he would like to fill the position. He declined. If you are interested please contact Nick.

The sitting board will need to serve 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  years because of the revised by-laws.

The next board meeting will be at Norm Ulmers on 10/27/03 at 7:00P.M.

## 2004 Meeting Host Signups

As the end of the year grows near, it is time to think about hosting a club meeting in 2004. Not only do you get to show off your railroad, it is also a great incentive to finish up those "almost complete" projects you have been planning to do.

Sign up sheets will be available at the September meeting so pick the month you want to host and get your name in.

# RailKing Action Cars: A Review

By Dr. Roy W. Eberbach

The line of RailKing #1 Gauge freight cars made by M.T.H. is now appearing in stores. M.T.H. is best known for its lines of O Gauge model railroad equipment. When it decided to enter G Gauge, it choose #1 scale which means that the cars and locos are 1 to 32. Aristo Craft and USA trains are 1 to 29 while the rest of the G Gauge family are 1 to 24, 1 to 22.5 or 1 to 20.3 scale. What this means is the equipment from RailKing looks much smaller than all the rest. When you place some of their freight cars in a train of regular G scale cars, they look pretty funny. Included in the line are several action cars which are reminiscent of the Lionel operating cars of the forties and fifties. There is a flying helicopter car which launches its chopper 50 feet into the air. You have to go chase it. There are dumping log cars and dumping coal cars with more to come.

The log and coal cars while they are small do look good because they represent specialty cars used in mines and on logging railroads. Just picture a string of six or seven of the log cars being pulled by one of Gary Martin's Shay locomotives. They come to his lake and one at a time they dump their logs into the pond. Of course he would have to retrieve the logs by hand.

I chose one of the coal dump cars which I will use in conjunction with the Piko gravel loader. The cars work very smoothly and completely dump their loads. To make them and future RailKing Action cars work you need a special activation package. It includes a four switch control station and a center rail which must be placed between the regular rails. It looks just like the old Lionel three rail track. Also the package has complete instructions. You only put the third rail at the spot where you want the cars to dump. These cars are probably not for the serious railroader, but for those of us who like to have a little fun with our trains, this might be just the thing.

List price for the dump cars is \$150.00 and the control package is another \$50.00. Look for street prices which should be cheaper.

#### **Anonymous Submission**

The following item was submitted anonymously and is presented un-edited.

#### House Rules When Visiting My Railroad

If you open it, close it If you turn it on, turn it off If you unlock it, lock it If you break it, fix it If you can't fix, it report it If you borrow it, return it If you make a mess, clean it up If you move it, put it back If it doesn't concern you, don't mess with it If you don't know, ask (unknown) 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 wish to join immediately, send a check and your name, address and telephone number and the names for any additional badges to:

Ibby Ulmer 4935 N. Craycroft Road Tucson, AZ 85718

Calendar of Events					
Sept 20	Meeting at Jay & Sallie Sanders' home - 10:00 AM				
Oct 4	Multiple workshops at Jim and Madelyn Cook's home. Begins at 9:00 AM and runs most of the day. Bring sack lunch.				
Oct 25		Meeting at Neal & Winnie Mosely's home 1:00 PM (evening showing 7:00 PM)			
Oct 27	Board of Directors meeting at Ibby and Norm Ulmer's home – 7:00 PM				
Nov 8	Roundabout in Phoenix (with Arizona Big Train Operators) – bus labeled Mountain View Tours departs west side of Foothills Mall parking lot (between Cinema and Keaton's) <u>promptly</u> at 8:00 AM. Lunch provided by ABTO. Return estimated around 6:00 PM				
Nov 15	Meeting at Ken & Mary Karrels' home - 1:00 PM				
Nov-Dec	Tucson Botanic Garden holiday layout (details to come)				
Dec	Meeting and Holiday lunch at Roy & Mary Ann Eberbach's home				
		President:Nick Buchholz	520-744-4932		
		V-President: Norm Ulmer	520-299-9401		
		Secretary:Ellen Stoesser	520-577-1210		
		Treasurer:Willis Fagg	520-760-0147		
	Editor:Dick Izen 520-498-4634				

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