



# Tucson Garden Railway Society's

## Time Table

Society web site: <http://tgrs.homestead.com>  
Editor e-mail: [dizen@aol.com](mailto:dizen@aol.com)

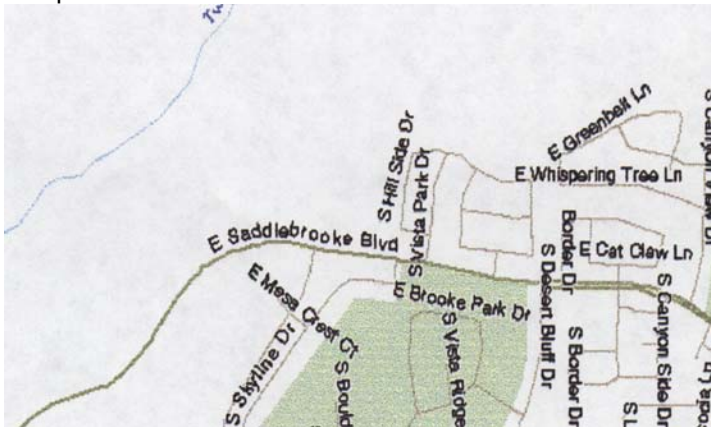
March 2004

### Meeting This Month

This month's meeting will be on March 20 at 1:00 PM at the home of:

Barbara & Bill Dillon  
37098 S. Hill Side Drive  
Saddlebrook, AZ 85739

Telephone 818-2635



### Directions:

Take Oracle road north through Oro Valley and Catalina to just after the Pinal County line. Turn right onto at the traffic light onto Saddlebrook Blvd. and follow the road over the ridge (about 2 miles). As you start down the other side the road will change from two lane to four lane and the speed limit will drop to 35 MPH.

Take the second left turn (the first is a closed entrance to an under construction gate house) onto Vista Park Drive and follow the road to it's end (1 block) at the stop sign. Turn left onto Whispering Tree Lane. This becomes Hill Side Drive at the corner which is where the Dillion's house is. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING CHAIRS.**

### The Railroad:

Bill began work on his railroad early in 2002. It is a long (over 600 feet), battery powered, raised loop with towns at each end and many scratch built structures. A large water fall is featured in one corner. Bill's railroad is powered by battery and uses Locolinc for control. Recently he added a separate track powered modular loop which is used to race "egg liners."

### THANK YOU TO AND FROM OUR CLUB!

By Roy Eberbach, Chair New Venues Committee

Some may find this column boring --- but I hope that you will read it anyway, thank your fellow club members and feel extremely good about our club. The Rails In The Garden fund-raiser brought in a net of almost forty three hundred dollars which can be used to help our club share the joys of Garden Railroading with others.

I will begin by thanking my wife Mary Ann who not only served as my hands and legs during this project but also added many good ideas which helped to make it a success. She also produced our tour maps and many of the graphics used on the tour. Next there are committee members Jay Sanders and Jerry Springstead who helped with the planning of the event and did much of the leg work involved with it. Nick Buchholz designed and printed our tickets while Norm Ulmer, Bob Dirkson and Willis Fagg supervised their sale and accounting. Norm Ulmer also manufactured the eight cross buck signs used to identify the tour stops. Ken Karrels handled our publicity and got us a great story with picture in the Arizona Daily Star. Joe Findysz (22nd Street Ace Hardware), the Gadsden Pacific Division Toy Train Operating Museum and the Tucson Botanical Garden all gave us space to sell tickets before the event.

There could have been no Rails In The Garden without the work and efforts of the eight families who hosted the tour. They are Jane and Mike Dorgan, Sue and Rick Gast, Marty and Loyal Hart, Jean and Bob Hoffman, Peggy and Gary Martin, Dorothy and Garb Mechigian, Janet and Glenn Mitchell and Pat and Jerry Springstead. Each of the railways was beautiful and offered a unique experience to the touring public. In addition there were more than thirty members of our club who worked at the eight layouts as train persons, ticket persons and support staff.

Lastly, I want to thank all of you who sold tickets, stuffed envelopes, put up posters and generally promoted this event with your friends and neighbors. This was truly a club event and all of your willing hands (and backs) made it happen. THANK YOU ALL.

# Flashing Crossing Signal

**Editor's Note:** Remember the flashing lights and “ding, ding, ding” as you waited for a train at a crossing? Norm Ulmer has added a crossing signal with flashing red lights and a ringing bell to the standard X shaped cross buck. It serves as a warning where his track crosses a pedestrian walkway. This is not only a good looking item, it is practical and useful for many applications. In this issue Norm tells us how to build the signal. We will try to get a report on how to mount the signal or how to build a base for it in a subsequent issue.

## “How To” Build your own Railroad Crossing Flasher and Bell

By Norm Ulmer

Some time ago, while contemplating the construction of the “Cactus Flats Division” of our Hanging Mountain Railway, I thought “Gee, wouldn't it be nice to have a RR crossing sign complete with flashing lights and bell?”. Well, that began a search for the appropriate parts, and at long last, the crossing is properly outfitted. If you would like to build one of your own, here is how I went about building mine. There is nothing magical about mine, so feel free to make whatever modifications you'd like, to suit your tastes and situation.

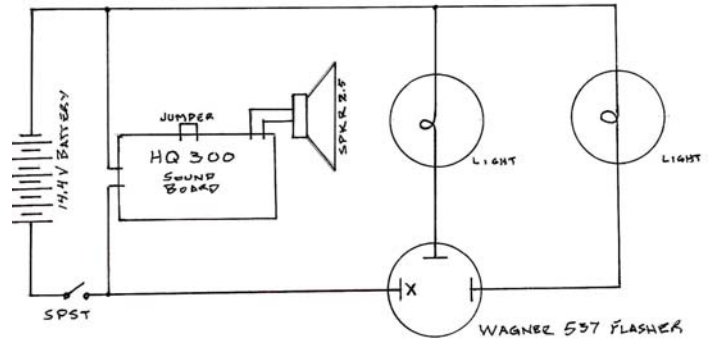


The completed unit in place on Norm's Railroad

First, a parts list. The heart of the thing is a flasher - Wagner #537, 12 VDC, readily obtainable at any Carquest Auto Parts store for about \$5. This will make the lights flash alternately from side to side. Be sure to get a mounting bracket with the flasher unit.

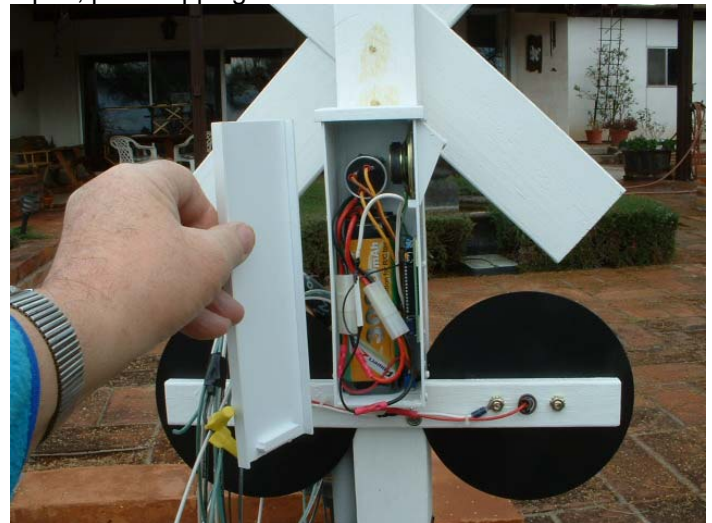
Next, the sound board. Mine is one of ITTC's Grade Crossing units, part number HQ-300 - ordered on the web from [www.ittsound.com](http://www.ittsound.com). Together with a 2 1/2" speaker, part number SPKR2.5, and shipping, the cost is about \$38. While at their website, check out their Application Notes. You want to use the battery operated design which utilizes a jumper wire in lieu of a switch on the side of the board.

You will need a switch to turn the thing on and off. Either a SPST or DPST will do, depending on how you want to wire power to the sound board. Using a DPST switch, you can use one side to power the lights and the other side to power the sound board. ITTC sells a DPDT switch, part number SW4, for \$.85, which is a lot cheaper than Radio Shack. They also sell SPDT switches, part number SW3, cheaper than Radio Shack. Either of these switches can be used in this application by connecting to just the center terminals and one side only, thus using it as a single throw switch. If you use a SPST switch, it will be necessary to solder a lead to the wire which runs from the switch to the flasher, and feed the sound board with that lead. See the wiring diagram below.



CROSSING SIGNAL WIRING DIAGRAM

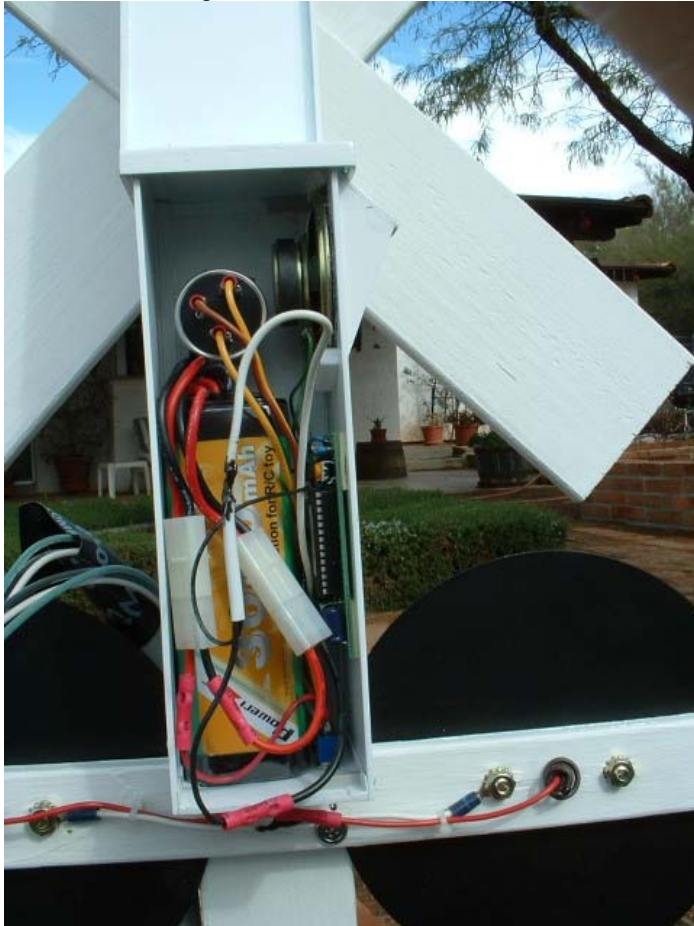
Now, you'll need a way to power this jewel. Any 14 volt direct current source which can supply 3 amps will do the job. I'm using two 7.2 V NiMh 3000 Mah batteries, in series, to provide 14.4 VDC to the system. These batteries are available from [www.batteryspace.com](http://www.batteryspace.com) for \$30 a pair, plus shipping.



Norm holds the front of the plastic box he built to house the components. Note the angled “rain shield” to protect the speaker.

The lights I'm using are a pretty standard trailer light which has both stop light and turn indicator functions. They are PMCO, about 4" in diameter and the lenses are marked “SAE - IST - 75 - DOT” followed by “420-15” Be sure to get the style that does NOT have a license plate light lens. I

got mine from Wheel Equipment Co. located at E. President and S. Randolph Way, one block south of Ajo. The cost of the lights was about \$4 each.



**In this closer view of the open box you can see the speaker (upper right), the flasher unit (top center), the battery packs and their wires and connectors (lower two thirds) and the sound board (just to the right of the batteries). The On-Off switch is hidden at the lower right corner.**

I backed up each light with a flat plate, 7 1/2" in diameter, painted flat black. The plates are the bottoms of quiche pie pans I got at 22<sup>nd</sup> Street ACE for \$2 each, and are separate from the rim of the pan, so no cutting was necessary.

The whole assembly, that is, batteries, flasher, speaker, sound board and switch, can be mounted in a box whose inside dimensions are 3" square by 9" long. I used Evergreen white styrene sheets, .080" thick for the sides, top and bottom, and glued it together with Testor's Plastic Cement. On the inside corners of the back, bottom, top and one side, I reinforced the assembly with Evergreen styrene 1/4" angles. The second side, on which I mounted the speaker and sound board, I fastened to the back, top and bottom with five #4 X 1/2" screws, so that it could be removed in case it became necessary to work on the sound board. The front is made to just slip on the box, so that it can be easily opened to remove the batteries for recharging. See the accompanying photos.

Another way to build the box would be with wood, or buy a project box from Radio Shack. Just remember to maintain the inside dimensions. I do not recommend using metal because of the possibility of short circuits with the components.

## More About Figures

By Marty Hart

Willis had suggested that I send a tidbit about where I get my figures etc. Noticed Roy did one last month. I would add that if you are looking for whimsy...try Christmas ornaments (Target, WalMart, Sears etc.). Lots of the displays have miniature ornaments that are great (This year I found the barn, John Deere tractors and windmill that are in my playground at Target.) Hallmark has lots of miniatures that fit in too.

Surprise! Find out what the fast food places are giving out and get a kids meal. McDonald, Wendy's and Burger King have many of the movie figures. Some are just right. I got my brewmaster, Jack, at Jack in the Box. Also when a Disney movie comes out there is usually a "set" of figures at the toy stores (KB, Toys R Us etc.). I got my wonderful knights at Kid Center after I found some in California. They are a special set from France.(knights, unicorn, fairy, wizard, ogre). I also look at the Michael's Christmas display..and at Ace. Wait until closer to Christmas for sales unless you are looking for a special piece. My playhouse was at Michaels. The stone fences are great. This year we found western wood fences that we used in the Native American compound.

Someone asked where I got the "ghost" hearse. It was a gift from my daughter..the Haunted House hearse. The horse and the driver are ghosts so naturally they don't appear.

When at Disneyland or Knotts Berry Farm etc. look in the stores for small figures. Harry Potter and the Lord of the Rings figures came from "sets" and Christmas ornaments. I think they came from Sears. I know my Elvis Presley came from Sears. My Lone Ranger came from the Christmas collection at Kohl's, as did my Cat in the Hats. Check birthday favors for some unusual figures too..horses, soldiers, cows etc...at Party Works.

Look at conventions. Not just for Just Plain Folks but for independent figure makers..thats where I found my marching band and the Revolutionary fife and drum corps.

Never stop looking. You can find stuff everywhere if you just keep your eyes open. Of course, I am looking for different figures than some of the members but you never know when you will find something.

## Eliminating Sliders on the USA TRAINS PA-PB

Text by Ken Martin, photos by Tom Correa, both members of the Bay Area Garden Railway Society

I recently wrote about the problems I had with the sliders used for electrical pickup on my PA and PB units. As I mentioned, I decided to find a way to just completely eliminate the sliders.

I first tried simply removing them and running the locomotives. That was OK at fairly fast speeds but the engines tended to "hiccup" on switches at low speeds. Obviously, and probably due to the traction tires virtually insulating two of the driving wheels on each truck, more pick up points were needed.

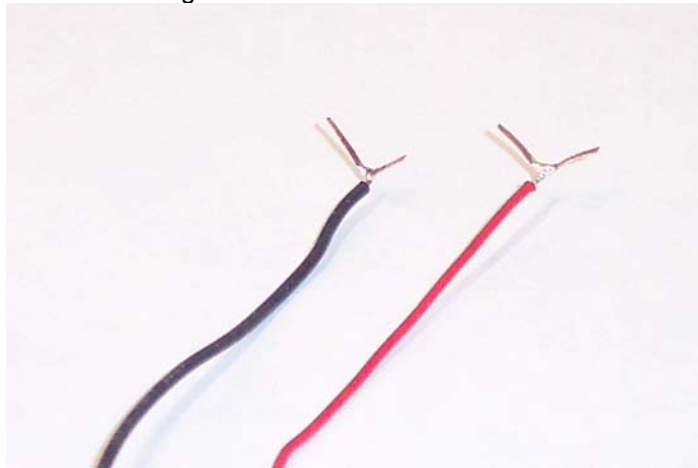
Two driving wheels on each truck are pivoted to allow the units to operate on fairly tight curves. These two wheels do not pick power. There, I thought, was the solution. If these wheels were set up to pick up power, they would adequately supplant the sliders.

So I proceeded to do exactly that and it worked extremely well. Here's how it's done:

Plug in your soldering iron. 25-watts or less is most desirable.

It is best to do this one truck at a time. Invert the engine (preferably on a nice work stand) and remove both bottom covers from the truck.

Turn the small end cover over. Note that there are two slots that form a "V" on each side. These are there to align the axle bearings.



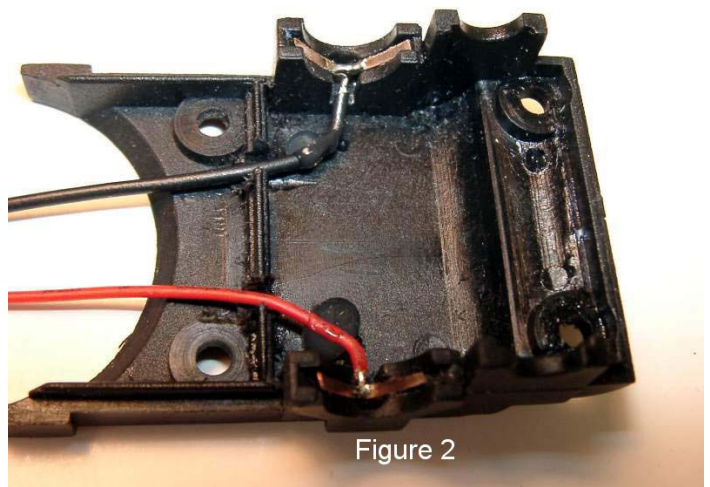
**Figure 1 Wires soldered to the "V" shaped brass strips**

Cut two small strips of .005" brass 3/64" by 9/16". Bend each strip in the center to form a 90-degree "V".

Cut two lengths of 24-gauge stranded insulated wire about 6¼" long (preferably one red and one black). Strip one end about 1/8" and the other about 3/16". Tin both ends.

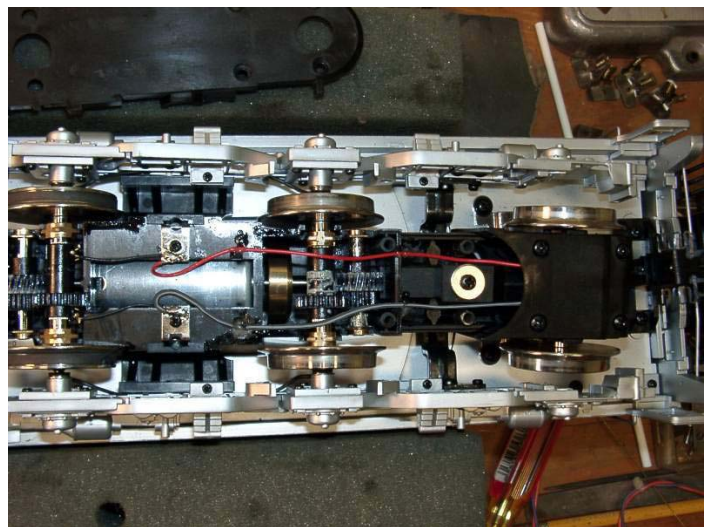
Using the minimum amount of solder, tin the point of the "V" of the brass strips. Solder the short stripped end of the each wire to the point of the "V" at a 90-degree angle to the strip. (See figure 1.)

Insert the strips, with the pointy side and the soldered wire down, into the slots in the small cover and bend the wires back toward the truck. (See Figure 2.)



**Figure 2**

**Brass strips inserted into the slots**



**Figure 3 Small cover back on truck with wires from new pickups soldered to old slider mounts.**

Being careful to align the axle bearings properly, install the small cover back onto the truck making sure that both wires come out from under the cover and lead toward the center of the truck. It may be necessary to cut two small notches in the bezel under the cover to avoid pinching the wires. Also, be sure to leave enough slack in the wires to allow the axle to pivot without any binding. (See Figure 3.)

The small brass strips should be in contact with the axle bearings. This will transmit power from the wheels via the bearings through the wires and eventually to the motor.

If you haven't already thrown the sliders away, do it now.

Being careful to watch the polarity, lead the wires through the truck (it may be necessary to cut a couple more clearance notches under the cover for the wires) and solder them to the now-unused slider mounts. (See Figure 3 again.)

Helpful hint: I used hot glue to hold the wires in place inside the truck.

Replace the large cover, being sure that the axle bearings are properly aligned with the cover (one of the points on each bearing should be up).

That's it! All six wheels of each truck will be power pick ups and the sliders will have been appropriately assigned to the trash heap. I have done this on both my PA and PB and they run beautifully.

## I THINK I KNEW THAT! #14

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.

### #14-1. ONGOING PROBLEMS WITH ONE RETAILER.

Last year in this column, I talked about problems with certain retailers. At least two of us in the club have had ongoing problems with St. Aubin which has two locations, one in Illinois and one in Nevada. The problems are similar. We paid for new merchandise and received used or damaged merchandise. When we contacted the company we were given the runaround. Finally when we did nail them down they refused to stand behind their shipment and said that we must deal with the manufacturer even though the problem was theirs. There are many fine retailers in our hobby and we don't have to put up with this kind of treatment. I have not ordered from these folks for almost two years and no matter how good the price they offer I will not. Let the buyer beware.

### #14-2. THE NEW PIKO SOUTHWESTERN KITS.

Last year Piko announced a new series of southwestern (USA) kits named for the city of Las Cruces. The first of the kits, the Bahnhof or train station came out at the end of 2003. It is kit number 62252.



Southwestern station in place on Roy's layout.  
Picture by Mary Ann Eberbach.

Two more kits are due in 2004. They are a church and a town building. The kits appear to be made from new castings and as is typical with German offerings, the parts are designed to be used in more than one building. The walls are thicker than other Piko kits and should hold up in our climate better. The roof is also thicker but I doubt that it will last in our summers. The castings are well done and the overall design is pleasing to the eye. On the downside Piko has elected to include the same flimsy plastic window material used in other Piko Kits. That material turns yellow when it is placed outside. In my kit I replaced that material with clear PVC sheets bought at 22nd. St. Ace Hardware.

We will see how well this material holds up. The material is found in the Hobby Place (department) in the Midwest Products display. Piko has given us a nice but pricy kit to start that southwestern town. (see picture)

### #14-3. Lincoln Funeral Train

New members Wayne and Mary Cay Wesolowski, who have written more than 130 articles for the model railroad press, have, together with their son, built a 1/2 inch scale diorama of the Lincoln Funeral Train. The original train was not preserved and eventually destroyed by fire, so this diorama is the best most authentic piece of history that we have.

This superb model has toured the country and will find its permanent display place in the Lincoln Library in Springfield, Illinois. The diorama is fifteen feet long and took four years to research and build. We journeyed to Springfield in the mid 1990's to see the diorama and were overwhelmed by its detail and completeness. Wayne and Mary Cay have a booklet which tells the whole story of the project..

## Medical News

Two of our members underwent operations and, we are happy to report, are recovering very well. Augi Gustillo underwent quadruple heart bypass surgery. As this is written (mid February) he is home and comfortable. Gertrude reports that while he is not yet able to travel outside, he is ambulatory and slowly regaining his strength.

Bill Dillion, host at the March meeting, also had internal surgery but has recovered and sent along the following: "Thanks to the members that sent cards, and to those for their concerned, positive thoughts, as this was my first time under the knife internally. I myself was somewhat concerned. So far the surgery is successful. Thanx Bill Dillon"

## Condolences

The TGRS offers it's sincere condolences to Marilyn Snyder and her family on the death of club member Lou Snyder in late January.

## Great American Train Show

On February 7 & 8, we set up a large modular layout and the children's layout at the Pima County Fair Grounds. There were sizable crowds on Saturday even though the show had less vendors than the TTOM swap meet in Jan.

The club kept two long diesel trains running on the outer loop. The inner loop was devoted to steam engines (and a brief appearance of a propeller driven "Fortuna Flyer") with two trains running on this loop and opposite direction running with battery trains featured Saturday.

The town had more residences and less commercial structures at this show. George Fitzner continues to enhance the fair grounds modules and Madelyn Cook demonstrated her artistry with three spectacular modules

including a garden center complete with a large green house.

## Minutes of BOD Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser

February 10, 2004-7:00 P.M. at Nick Buchholz's House

President Nick Buchholz presided over the meeting with all officers and members at large attending except Roy Eberbach. President Nick called the meeting to order.

The December 16, 2003 **minutes** were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Willis Fagg reported a current account balance of \$6,904.65. Revenues to date for fiscal year 2003-2004 are \$8,443.35 and expenses \$4403.52 for a net increase to date of \$4,039.83.

Revenues for the Home Tour are \$4,757. Expenses for the event were \$468.96. Net gain is projected at \$4,288.04. Some of the money included in the above revenue has yet to be collected.

We received a \$200.00 fee from the GAT Show.

Final figures for the Phoenix Round-a-Bout were \$1224.00 in revenues and \$915.38 in expenses.

**Newsletter:** Dick Izen is going to have 100 copies of a Member Handbook made up for club members and new comers. The handbook will contain club history, by-laws and a membership roster. Cost for each book will be approximately \$2.00.

There will be an article in the newsletter about cross bucks with signals.

Condolences to the Lou Synder family will be in the newsletter; also a sympathy card will be mailed to the home.

**Events:** Norm Ulmer stated our last three shows and our home tour have been successful. All those who came to see us enjoyed it very much and wanted to see more. The GAT Show will probably not be here again until late 2005. We would have liked to have seen more vendors at the GAT Show.

County Fair days are going to be from April 15-25. We will be able to start set-up April 12, at 10.00 A.M., with a sign up sheet at our Feb. meeting. There is going to be repairs done on the layout at the fairgrounds before we begin the actual set-up.

Bob Dirkson will have an RV at the fair.

At the Home Show we will be in the ballroom with the same amount of layout space as the last time. The Home Show is scheduled for June.

**Membership:** Ibbey Ulmer reported we have 86 members.

**Mentors:** Joe Stoesser would like the new members to contact him, if they are in need of help getting started with their layouts.

**Publicity:** The newspaper article was very helpful in getting people to come see our Home Tour, since we did not do any paid advertising. To get more information out,

maybe interested persons could attend our meetings; meeting dates could be put in the Caliente. This will be discussed with the general membership at our next meeting. We could be listed in the American Home Show booklet, maybe give away raffle tickets over the PA system. There will be a meeting with Ken Karrels to discuss this.

**TBG:** Nick will meet with Gary Martin to discuss taking down the layout at TBG at the end of Feb. as the equipment may be needed for our other shows. There were 2 starter sets at the TBG, TBG auctioned off one and the other was raffled. The trolley needs a motor block (\$30.00) and the Sumpter Valley needs to be repaired. TBG will get a bill for expenses, glue, starter set and repairs, etc.

**Garden Railway Home Tour:** Discussion on the Home Tour was delayed until Roy and his committee could attend the meeting. Nick would like suggestions from members/committees, on how to spend the money made at the Home Tour (around \$4200.00). Suggestions so far: trailer-digital projector-video camera.

Willis and Norm will look into getting an interest bearing account for the money.

**Trailer:** There will be a work session to redo the light system on the trailer, Ron Dirkson, Bob D. and Norm U. will do this.

Nick B., Norm U. and Joe D. will form a committee to decide the requirements for a new trailer. Things to be considered: storage, doors, height, braking system, gross carry on weight, and the length needs to be more than 16 feet. There will have to be a list of things going in the trailer.

The raffle prize, which was purchased at the Chocolate Shop, won at the last Home Show was missing the transformer. A used transformer was given to the winner until the Chocolate Shop replaces it. If the problem is not corrected, the club will follow-up with other options.

**Modules:** Joe Duda had a magnetized diagram to use when we do a layout. There will be numbers on the diagram and numbers on the modules with color coding on the corners. This way any one could take a module and just place it where it goes. The V.P. tells Joe how big the layout needs to be and Joe just sets up the diagram. We will need a place where everyone could see the diagram, maybe it could be set-up on a music stand?

Nick presented a list of items to be repaired. We will also need replacements for some things. They will try to accomplish this while setting up for the county fair.

**Policy Committee:** Because of dirt on the track the Policy Committee is looking into a policy that after January, 2005, only metal wheels are to be used on the modular layout. Norm will have a sign-up sheet at the Feb. meeting for members can purchase metal wheels for a price of \$8.00 per package of 4 axles (8 wheels). The club will place the order with St. Aubin.

No date was set for the next board meeting.

# Minutes of General Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser

The meeting was held at Jay & Sallie Sander's house on February 14, 2004. President Nick Buchholz called the meeting to order and thanked the Sanders for hosting. Guests and new members were warmly welcomed.

**The minutes** were approved as written in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report** was read by Nick. As of 2/10/04 the current balance was \$6900.00, revenue was \$8400.00, and expenses were \$4400.00. Increase to date of \$4039.00. The report and the projected budget were there for anyone to read.

**Editor's Report:** Dick Izen gave out the Members Handbook.

**Vice President's Events Report:** Norm Ulmer reported on the Home Show and the GAT Show. Norm is going to talk to the people, who schedule the GAT show, to encourage them not to schedule the show during the Gem and Mineral Show because of a lack of rooms for the vendors needed to make it a success.

Norm had a sign-up sheet for the County Fair, which for us starts on 4/12/04 at 10:00AM.

Monday: Unload the trailer, do repair work, and coordinate with Joe Duda's new magnetic board. Norm will need 8 people per shift to cover all phases of the operation.

Tuesday & Wednesday: set-up

Thursday: The fair opens at 9:00AM (new time).

Norm will know at the April meeting, the dates of the June Home Show which will be our last show of 2004.

The club has a sign-up sheet for purchasing bright metal wheels (which can be painted) at \$7.99 per set-4 axles. Basically these will fit all rolling stock. The plastic wheels leave a dark residue which forms an insulator on the track and the metal wheels will run smoother. Ace has ball bearings which can be put in the metal wheels and San - Val has metal wheels (black or bright).

**Membership:** Ibbey Ulmer has name tags for members. We now have 86 members.

**Mentor:** Joe Stoesser would like new members to see him if they need a mentor to get their layout started, he also has hats, shirts and decals for sale.

**Education:** Janet Mitchell and her committee are still working on the Green Valley Presentation. They need a digital projector to get it from power point to the screen. They are trying to borrow one from their church. Janet is going to put a survey on our website to see what classes we would like held.

**New Venues:** Roy Eberbach passed out a "thank you" letter thanking all those who worked on the (very successful) Home Tour. He also gave us a "thank you" letter from one of our happy guests. The net total was \$4,288.04; expenses incurred included pamphlets, tickets,

hand outs and maps. Around 1000 smiling faces visited Gary's, 700-800 in the center area, with 200-400 at the outer edges. The rumor that \$200.00 was spent on paid advertising is unfounded. Ken Karrel contacted the Star and they in turn contacted Roy. This article sent 200 phone calls to Roy's house. The picture was of Gary's layout which is on file there. Norm is compiling a data base of all the people who want to be notified of the next one. Bob Dirkson has consented to head it. Roy and his committee will meet to evaluate the tour. Nick thanked the committee and the layout hosts.

**Old Business:** The TBG layout will run until the end of February. The TBG volunteers would like to run the trains from the start-up date, so maybe next year it will run longer.

**New Business:** If at all possible all meetings should be held on the 3rd weekend of that month so that members can plan their trips and still make the meetings. Can future meeting dates and addresses be publicized in the Caliente and What's Happening? Ken Karrel would contact the hosts to see if they want to do this. If a lot of guests come it would be hard to conduct a business meeting. We could try this for 2-3 months and see how it works. There was an article in the Arizona Highways about the Toy Train Museum. We could try this for free advertising.

Nick would like suggestions from the members/committee on how to spend the Home Tour money. A trailer, since we are paying \$550.00 for storage. Maybe a digital projector. From the list the Board will prioritize the items and probably make the purchased within 6 months.

**Module Town Sites:** Dick Izen brought up the question of buying kits to have to use if members do not bring enough for the shows. Should we have fold up ones? The Module Committee will look into making a list of proposed standards for this. The Policy Committee will publicize the rules of how to donate a module to the club.

**Videos:** Chuck Cook would like TGRS Videos that you are thru viewing to be returned so other members can see them.

**Announcements:** there will be a Memorial Service for Lou Snyder at 2:00PM on 2/18. Condolences were sent from the club.

EAGLEWINGS will hold an Open House on 4/17/04 & 4/18/04. For more info: [www.eaglewingsironcraft.com](http://www.eaglewingsironcraft.com) or call Dan Hoag at (602) 276-8101.

Rail Quest: will be held August 18-22. Contact website [www.durangotrain.com](http://www.durangotrain.com).

Toy Show & Sale: 3/7/04-9:00-3:00—at the fairgrounds-Thurber Hall.

Garb Mechigian thanked his helpers for helping at his layout for the Home Tour.

Next Board Meeting: 4/6/04 at 7:00PM at Norm & Ibbey Ulmer's

## New Members

The TGRS welcomes new members Chris Wendling, Don & Dee Fisher, and George & Elaine Anderson.

## More on Switches

Gary Martin really liked Ken Martin's article on how to prevent problems with switches, including the use of jumper wires for LGB switch points. He noted, however, that for switches already in the ground he has been successful in cleaning the contacts with Muratic Acid.

Gary puts a drop or two on each contact and moves the Switch points back and forth. The acid dissolves the tarnish on both the contact strip and the underside of the rail.

Gary advises to be careful as the acid is strong and will dissolve skin.

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 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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

Mar 6	Toy Show 9:00 AM – Pima County Fairgrounds
Mar 20	Regular meeting at Barbara and Bill Dillon's home - 1:00 PM
April 6	BOD meeting at Ibby and Norm Ulmer's house - 7:00 PM
April 12-14	Set up for Pima County Fair beginning 10:00 AM on Monday the 12 <sup>th</sup> - Fairgrounds
April 15-25	Pima County Fair – Fairgrounds - 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM daily
May 15	Regular meeting at Herb & Terry Hoffman's home - 1:00 PM
June	Open- HOST NEEDED
June	Possible Home Show – Dates will not be known until April
July	No meeting
Aug 12-15	National Garden Railway Convention - Denver

### TGRS Officers and Board of Directors

<b>President:</b> .....Nick Buchholz.... 520-744-4932	<b>At Large Board Members</b>
<b>V-President:</b> ..... Norm Ulmer.....520-299-9401	Bob Dirkson.....520-742-9503
<b>Secretary:</b> .....Ellen Stoesser.....520-577-1210	Roy Eberbach.....520-531-1087
<b>Treasurer:</b> .....Willis Fagg.....520-760-0147	Bob Hoffman.....520-825-6967
<b>Editor:</b> .....Dick Izen..... 520-498-4634	Joe Stoesser.....520-577-1210

**Tucson Garden Railway Society**  
**12356 North Mount Bigelow Road**  
**Oro Valley, AZ 85737**