



Tucson Garden Railway Society's

Time Table

Society web site: <http://tgrs.homestead.com>
Editor e-mail: jmiller66@cox.net

July, 2005

Just a friendly reminder "Dues are due"

A second friendly reminder, we will NOT have a meeting in July or in August.

The next meeting will be September 17 at Barbara and Bill Dillon's home at 10:00 AM.

Layout at the American Home Show

We had a successful three day show at the American Home Show at the Tucson Convention Center June 10th through 12th. A big thanks to everyone who helped out.

We ran the children's layout and displayed two of our scenery modules with George Fitzner's carnival .



Home Show Layout

Thank you from Gadsden Pacific

We received the following thank you from the Gadsden Pacific Division for our participation in their swap meet on June 4th.

Dear Norm:

Please extend my thanks to the Tucson Garden Railway Society for honoring us at our June 4th meet with their always impressive toy train module and that great group of energetic exhibitors who set up so early in the morning. Your layout is truly enjoyed by young and old alike. It is the continued presence of displays such as yours that give our meet its special quality and help demonstrate the pleasure and satisfaction our hobby brings to people of all ages and walks of life.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Enclosed is a check for \$20 as a token of appreciation for your assistance. We look forward to your valued participation in the future.

Sincerely,

Bob Grassi

Gadsden Pacific Division Train Meet

Alaska Trains

By Dick Izen

In the beginning of June, Jeanne and I took a cruise in the south eastern Alaska waterways. I could write a long article on the beautiful scenery, the wild life and the glaciers but most of that would have nothing to do with trains. In Skagway, however we did have some railroad adventures both full sized and G gauge.

The White Pass and Yukon Route (as the current name is) had its origin in the gold rush of 1896. Construction began on the 3 foot narrow gauge in 1898 and eventually ran 110 miles from Skagway (at sea level) over White Pass Summit at 2,865 feet where it crossed from Alaska into British Columbia and eventually into the Yukon Territory where it reached Whitehorse at mile post 110.4. Today's railroad has been cut back to Carcross, Y.T. at milepost 67.5 .

Even with the lighter construction of 3 foot gauge the railroad became designated a Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, an honor shared with only 36 other sites in the world (including the Eiffel Tower, the Statue of Liberty and the Panama Canal). Construction workers battled temperatures as low as 60 below zero but managed to complete the line. In 1901 the railroad constructed the tallest cantilever bridge in the world which was used until 1969. In that year a new 675 foot tunnel allowed a line relocation and the bridge was abandoned. It is still visible from the right of way.



Steel cantilever bridge on WP & YR

The rolling stock consists of 20 diesels and two steam locomotives now used largely for display. The diesels are GE's from the 1950's and Alco's from the 1960's. They are basically road switchers which have been covered with shrouds to allow the crew to remain indoors while working on the engines. The most unique part of the rolling stock are 69 passenger coaches who average 49 years old. These are wood coaches with open vestibule platforms at either end but they have been rebuilt with large windows to allow enjoyment of the magnificent scenery.



Three green and yellow diesels pulled our Wooden open vestibule passenger cars.

Of course no trip would be complete without a garden railroad. At Gary Martin's recommendation we visited Jewell Gardens in Skagway. This is basically a landscape nursery focusing largely on flowers and edible plants. It is very attractively laid out and features a garden railway based on (what else) the White Pass and Yukon. The railroad was originally a long figure eight that could also be run as two separate loops. When we visited, one of the loops had been broken to provide a substantial expansion featuring a long curved trestle and several bridges including two from Phoenix's Eagle Iron Works.



LGB WP&Y diesel pulls box car and Passenger coaches over a short trestle

Note the magnificent full sized scenery that forms a backdrop for the model train. If you ever get to Skagway you ought to take a look.

Hosting Meetings

By Dick Izen

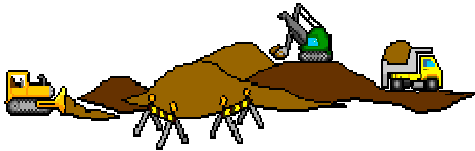
One of the new members asked what hosts were supposed to do at a meeting. With so many new members I thought it might be time to review this in the newsletter.

Most hosts have a cooler or two with bottles of water and soft drinks. This is especially helpful in the hotter months. Many hosts also have a few snack finger foods or cookies available. In fact none of this is required. The club has provision for a \$25 reimbursement if the hosts request it. In point of fact, this has pretty much fallen into disuse.

The main thing is to have your trains up and running so that other club members can admire your layout before and after the business meeting.

Under Construction

By Jerry Tulino



We're building a new web site! It will replace the existing one at the end of July. Everything that is on the current site will be moved over. Initially, any access to the old address will be automatically redirected to the new site. An email with the new site address will be sent so you can change your link to point directly to it. The new site will also have it's own mailing list, so the Yahoo! list we now use will be eliminated. This new list has many more features than the old one. The most obvious is the requirement for new members to acknowledge their inclusion on the list. When your email address is added, you will receive a message from the system indicating that you are being asked to join. You must acknowledge this message before your name can be activated on the list. The new list will be built as quickly as possible, but, during the transition, both lists will be active. Email will have to be sent to both lists to be sure to contact everyone. A manual describing the features of this new mailing list program is at <http://www.gnu.org/software/mailman/mailman-member.pdf>.

More information about the transition, including the address of the new site, the "official" cutover date and the status of the mailing list will be

emailed periodically. If you have any questions, please email Jerry Tulino at lackawanna79@yahoo.com.

Minutes of the June 18, Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser

The meeting was held at the Buchholz/Ker house at 9:00 A.M.

Nick thanked Mary for hosting.



A Uintah Loco on the trestle at the Buchholz/Ker Layout, June meeting

There were 44 attendees at the meeting. There was one new member.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Cook, filling in for Willis Fagg, reported a:

1. Current account balance of \$5,439.23
2. Revenues to date for fiscal year 2004-2005 are \$10,663.15 and expenses \$6,752.78 for a net increase to date of \$3,910.37.
3. Insurance coverage for this year was shifted from Nova to Auto-Owners Insurance Co.

We now have \$1M liability and approx. \$40K (\$500 deductible) property loss coverage. The total premium for the coverage was \$759. The premium for renewal of our original \$1 M liability from Nova would have been \$502.00.

4. **Total Membership** to date is 99. Renewals to date, including life members, are 22.
5. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Editor's Report. Jim Miller asked "that any member who has pictures or articles that they would like in the newsletter, would they please submit them to him"

JPEG is a good format; he can work with all the other formats.

Venues Report:

1. **American Home Show:** Norm reported that the Children's Layout was used and everything went well.

2. Toy Train Operators Swap Meet

Norm said" the event was well attended. We received a "Thank you "letter and a \$20.00 check for participating in the show. .

Education Committee: Janet Mitchell reported that Sallie will give a "prune a tree clinic" after the meeting. Janet would also like to hold a plant clinic in October with the members bringing a plant to prune. Nick will give a lighting clinic after the meeting today. He will show how to put lights in engines and buildings.

Old Business: Nick reported the BOD will put \$1500.00 away in a saving account and each year a portion of the **Rails in The Garden** monies will be put in the account.

This money will be used for various projects. A prioritized capital improvement list will be in the next **Time Table**. There is more list, than money.

Changes made to **election by-laws** are available on our website. There will be a modular repair session this summer at Jim Cook's home, date to be announced later.

New Business: Nick would like input from members if they would like to hold "layout support meetings" in between regular meeting. Members would help people with getting their layouts up and running in various ways.

Announcements: Gary Martin would like us to know he holds, **Open House**, every Tuesday from 6:00 P.M. to dark. All are welcome to come look or run trains.

Wayne Wesolowski would like to hold a clinic in October on adhesives. He is experimenting with all kinds of glues and materials. Wayne would also like information about a "Little Tank Car".

Show and Tell: Alan Lathrem talked about "dual gauge ties" that can run standard or

narrow gauge trains. You would need to make your own switches.

Questions & Answer Section:

Queen Mary Show: Gary said "that it was a very good show" also he stopped at Palm Desert and was invited to tour Fairplex.

Frank Trunzo would like to know where to get cars to go with his Play Mobil.

Norm Ulmer would like to get information on where to get a Bachmann "0-4-0 Porter side tanker" to "kit bash".

Jerry said" the Dish Network, RFD, TV, 96.09, has a show that shows steam engines and layouts. Direct also has a train show. Alan said "there is also an I Love Toy Train Video".

The next regular meeting will be held on Sept.17, at the home of Barb & Bill Dillon at 10:00 A.M.

Minutes of the June 14

BOD (Board of Directors) Meeting

Honorably submitted by Curt Collins

Abbreviated by Jim Miller

June 14, 2005 7:00pm at the home of Nick Buchholz & Mary Ker.

Previous meeting notes approved with no corrections.

Treasury Report: (same as June 18 meeting)

The newly revise By-Laws were passed out to the board.

Rails in the Garden III. Five members have already agreed to participate. A total of eight layouts to be included in the event.

The TGRS web site hosting was proposed to have the host changed. The change would give the TGRS its own domain. The proposed name is TucsonGRS.ORG The board approved the change.

The board approved the opening of a savings account with a beginning balance of \$1,500.00

New lights are to be installed on the work bench for the module layouts.

Board was challenge to look for an affiliate i.e. Ronald McDonald House, to increase the TGRS Club public awareness.

Board members are to take the TGRS Project Priorities list and submit their idea of which projects are most important and have the highest priority.

Approval was given for the DM Layout and VA Layout if the TGRS is asked to participate.

Purchase of a new train for the kid's layout was suggested and approved by the board. A Safari 0-4-0 Porter with matching cars will be purchased.

Trimming Dwarf Trees

By Sallie Sanders

Sallie Sanders presented this clinic at the June meeting.

Many of us are intimidated by the word bonsai because of the strict rules involved. I'm no exception, so what I have ended up doing is a bit of an outlaw version. Sheer laziness keeps me from wanting to wire trunks and weight branches for months in order to achieve an interestingly formed tree. By working with the natural tendency of the plants I think you can end up with a realistic looking result with a great deal less effort. One way to start is with a runt of a plant. I have had great results with plants that the nursery was throwing away because they were stunted or misshapen. Half the work has already been done for you.

Lets begin with the choice of plants. Any number are suitable but some that work well in our heat are dwarf pomegranate, trailing rosemary, pyracantha 'red elf', youpon holly, dwarf cotoneasters junipers and boxwood. You will want to look for a plant with one main trunk and four or more strong side branches. There will be many more than that but you will eliminate all but the best placed in order to form a well rounded tree. The goal is to get the trunk and the branches into what look like realistic proportions. To this end you are going to remove at least 50% of the plant! Yes, I saw you flinch but be fearless...it will grow back and there are really no mistakes, only interesting trees. Each one is unique.

To display its tree form, the miniaturized tree

must have fewer branches than the standard size tree and have foliage that is thinned out sufficiently. Four to six branches are usually enough. Prune the lower branches high enough up the tree to display the trunk. Prune the main branches as well, removing all minor and crossing branches from the center of the tree. Shorten the tips at the end and remove leaves at the base of the branch to make it look more like a tree limb. Be sure to turn your tree as you prune it so it isn't lopsided. Remember that every time you pinch out a tip it is going to encourage side branching and this is going to fill in your tree as it grows.

The last thing to do before planting is to prune the roots by a third. At this point you can plant directly into the ground or put the tree back into a pot with fresh topsoil and sink the pot. If you plant directly into the ground there is a technique that commercial growers use to keep plants from growing too fast. They are root pruned usually once a year by cutting around the plant with a spade or old knife. If you leave the tree in a pot it will have to be lifted and repotted yearly. At that time you retrim roots and add fresh soil. This is probably the time to add that your plant should not receive "an excess of nourishment"! Feed at half strength once a month at the most unless things are turning yellow or worse.

General maintenance just requires pinching back when things get out of proportion. On deciduous trees take advantage of the winter bareness and really trim them back hard. It is the best time to correct a shape problem as you can really see the branching pattern. This is especially true of the dwarf pomegranates.



Sallie trimming a dwarf tree

New Members

The TGRS regrets to announce that no new members joined the club in the past month.

Electronic News Letter

With so many new members, I want to remind you that you can have the news letter delivered by e-mail. The club saves printing and postage costs but more importantly you get the news letter faster and can view the photos in color.

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 30th 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 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:

lby Ulmer
4935 N. Craycroft Road
Tucson, AZ 85718

Calendar of Events

July 27-31	National Garden Railway Convention, Saint Charles (Chicago), Illinois
August	No meeting
Sept 17	Meeting at Barbara and Bill Dillon's home—10:00 AM
Oct 15	Meeting and workshop at Glenn and Janet Mitchells
Nov	Meeting at Bob Hoffman's
Dec 10	Meeting and Holiday Party at Mike and Jane Dorgans

TGRS Officers and Board of Directors

President:.....Nick Buchholz.... 520-744-4932
V-President:.....Chuck Cook.....520-888-3264
Secretary:.....Curt Collins.....520-405-9522
Treasurer:.....Willis Fagg.....520-760-0147
Editor:.....Jim Miller.....520-886-7611

At Large Board Members
Jim Cook.....520-760-2325
Rick Gast.....520-721-8305
Lew Sleeper.....520-751-9628
Joe Stoesser.....520-577-1210

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