



Tucson Garden Railway Society's

Time Table

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August, 2005

**Thank you to all who
have renewed their
membership.**

**A friendly reminder, we
will NOT have a meeting
in August.**

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

**From the President
by Nick Buchholz**

Capital Projects Underway

The board reviewed the list of capital project at its meeting on August 4th and determined that three of the projects were urgent enough to start on now. These three projects were: A storage rack to safely store the track curve modules to avoid further damage; Two of four proposed racks to safely store the tall Scenery modules; and 2-4 sturdy rolling bins to store the clamps, legs, electrical cords and ropes.

Planning, design and procurement for these projects will proceed over the next month. If you know of someone capable of building the sort of racks we use to store the modules, please contact Nick at (520) 744-4932 or nbuchholz@noao.edu

A report will be made on progress at the next general meeting in September.

In addition at the September meeting, the board will be requesting your input on additional projects and the order of projects

on the priority list. Bring your decision making pencils along.

Administrators Meeting

The President would like to meet with all of the administrators of our committees after the September TGRS meeting at Bill Dillon's house. The purpose of the meeting is to go over what's happening in your areas and to give the administrators a chance to bail out if they wish.

Any TGRS member who wishes to get more involved in the workings of the Society can attend the meeting, especially if you are interested in helping with the committees. As a reminder we have administrators for:

Membership – Ibbby Ulmer
Education – Janet Mitchell
Mentors – Joe Stoesser
Modules – Joe Duda
Venues – Chuck Cook
Publicity – Ken Karrels
Historian – Phyllis Dirksen

Every TGRS member should also take the time to thank the administrators for a job well done over the past two and a half years.

Kid's Layout

As everyone knows Lew Sleeper has done a fine job creating and maintaining the Kid's layout over the last several years. Lew would like to become less involved in the running and maintenance of the layout. In addition due to its age and the amount of usage it gets the layout itself needs a good deal of repair and needs to be modified to make it easier to put together.

For these reasons we are looking for a group of people to get together and make a decision and take control of the Kid's Layout.

Since we are coming up on the holiday season, when the layout gets some heavy usage we would like to start this process as soon as possible.

If you would like to get involved in the effort to refurbish, redesign?, rebuild?, or just maintain the Kid's Layout please talk to Joe Duda, Chuck Cook or Nick Buchholz.

Work Session August 27

There will be a work session at Jim and Madelyn Cook's house starting at 8:00 AM on Saturday August 27. The purpose is to determine what parts of the modular layout, (modules, buildings, rolling stock) need repair. About 6-10 volunteers are needed to help unload, access modules and reload the trailers. Future work sessions will be held to actually perform the needed repairs.

2005 Garden Railway Convention- Chicago

By Willis Fagg

I preface the following summary by saying that these are the observations and opinions of Dottie and myself and may not reflect those of other attendees from TGRS. Some of the observations are from a perspective of learning for our 2008 event. Every event of this type provides every attendee an opportunity to see and learn new things, regardless of the overall quality. That said, the convention was of similar organization to previous conventions; layout tours, meal events, vendor hall, and the standard compliment of clinics.

One of the highlights was the Chicago Botanic Garden Tour. The Chicago Botanic Garden is 385 acres of very unique display and experimental gardening. It also has garden railway display that was professionally designed and built and could only be considered superb. Part of the display was a small loop sporting Thomas the Train that led to my inquiry about maintenance of Thomas. I not only found out that repair parts are available, but was also provided contact information for Lionel.

There were 36 layouts open during the four days of the convention. We were able to view all but one. The layouts provided a broad spectrum from complex to simple and very good to very poor. Indeed, some of the very simple we would categorize as very well done. In comparison to the two previous conventions we have attended, we thought that these layouts included a much higher percentage of poor quality displays. However, the good ones made the trip well worth the effort. There were several that had sufficient space and track length to sport unusually

long trains. Most of the layouts included water features, some very elaborate, and lots of plants. I have included a couple of photos of the more memorable scenes.

The Ahnapee & Western of Downers Grove was located in a yard that was on a private airstrip; planes trains and..... The Cripple Creek RR featured an operating scale model of a pile driver. The G & R RR featured a major waterfall and a viewing platform 15-20 feet above the center of the layout. The Illinois Live Steamers features 6,000+ feet of 7.5" gauge track, 5,000+ feet of 4.75" gauge track and 1,300 feet of 3.5 gauge track and the largest collection of rolling stock I've ever seen.

Of special note was the Drev Line that started with a set of 13 Egg Liners, one for each of the hosts' grandchildren. The line expanded from a simple loop inside the house to an enormous collection of small whimsical scenes covering half the yard. The scenes were added over time as the layout owners envisioned something different. Scenes included a beer garden containing miniature beer bottles and six packs (growing in the ground) and a Miracle Grow sign next to the top of a giant bottle protruding out of the ground. Other scenes included Old McDonalds farm complete with growing hamburgers and French fries, a superhero section, 101 Dalmatians, pink flamingos and Jurassic Park. Marty Hart would love this layout!

Meal events included a Hobo dinner, BBQ and the ever-present banquet. The Hobo dinner was over-sold, crowded and had marginal food. By contrast, the BBQ and banquet were excellent. The BBQ was held at the Illinois Railway Museum and, other than the long food line, the food was excellent. The Illinois Railway Museum was an excellent facility sporting the largest collection of historic rolling stock we've ever seen. We even got a ride on the Nebraska Zepher, which was in excellent condition.

Finally of note, over 2,000 regular registrants attended the event. The convention was highly successful in that regard. Several events were sponsored by manufacturers. The first three hundred registrants for the Hobo dinner received convention boxcars from USA Trains and several more were raffled off during the event. Hartland Locomotive Works provided convention hopper cars to the first three hundred registrants for the BBQ. Finally, LGB sponsored the banquet evening providing a jazz combo for entertainment during the pre-dinner social and during the meal and also provided a large quantity of LGB items that were raffled off after the dinner.

The 2011 convention was awarded to Kansas City.



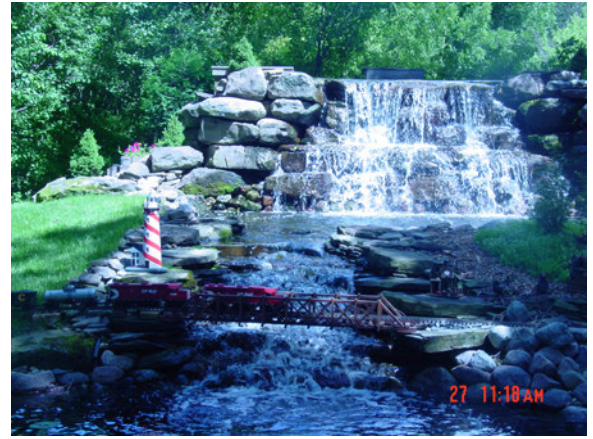
Old McDonalds Farm on the Drev Line. Photo by Willis Fagg



Garden RR with private airstrip. Ahnapee & Western of Downers Grove. Photo by Willis Fagg



Operating pile driver on The Cripple Creek RR. Photo by Willis Fagg



Wish we had this much water in Tucson. The G & R RR. Photo by Nick Buchholz

21st National Garden Railway Convention

by Dick Izen

The TGRS was well represented at the convention. In addition to Jeanne and I we saw the Blackwell's, the Dorgan's, the Fagg's, the Karrels', the Lathrem's (who were exhibitors in the vendor hall), the Martin's, the Stoesser's and the Ulmers. There were 36 layouts (10 on Wednesday, 7 on Thursday, 11 on Friday and 8 on Saturday) open for viewing from 8 AM to 1 PM over various parts of the Chicagoland area.

While some of the layouts were relatively small others were spectacular. We did get to see that many of the people in the Chicago area were using LGB's electronic train control system which allows automated operation of multiple trains on a single loop. Rather than try to describe the layouts here is a sample of the photos I took. Hopefully I have properly identified the layout and owner in each case.

Obviously the following is only a brief sample of the many layouts we saw.

Photos by Dick Izen



No buildings and just a simple loop but those heavyweight passenger cars sure look good on Rob and Gail Howden's Lincolnshire Railroad.



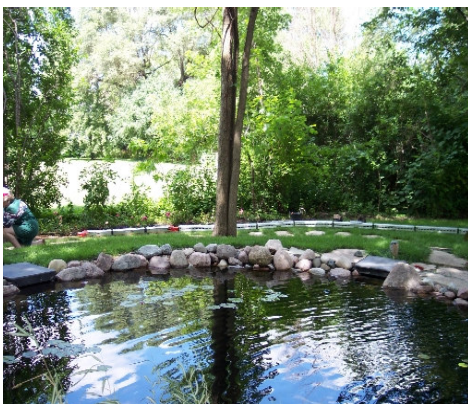
Brad & Carol Bennett have elevated the freight line with a great deal of trestle work and concrete arch bridges.



Long (28 car) freight crosses in front of the spectacular waterfall on Gayle & Ron Althardt's G&R RR.



The California Zephyr pulled by Western Pacific diesels exercises trackage rights on the lower level of the Bennett's B&C Railroad.



Passenger trains are just as long as the freights on the G&R RR.



Cow and Calf diesels cross bridge on Bernie & Delores Rich's pike.



After crossing the bridge the train circles the Koi filled lake on the Rich's Pelican Pass RR.

Surprise Birthday Party

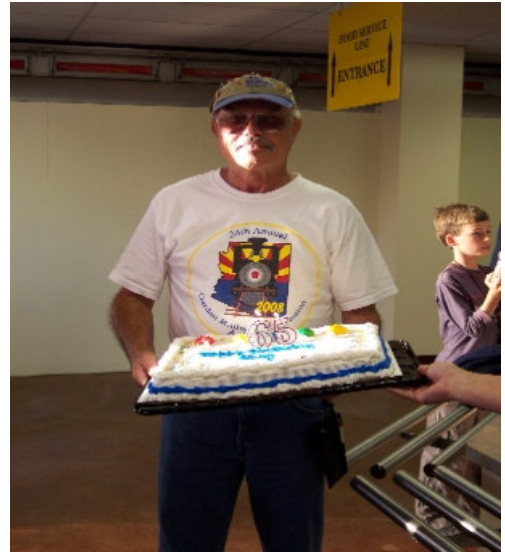
By Dick Izen

While at the recent 21st National Garden Railway Convention we visited the Illinois Railroad Museum where the barbecue was held. The museum was interesting with a focus on interurban and trolley cars but with plenty of main line Electric, Steam, Diesel and even a Oil-Turbine- Electric locomotive on display.



The author standing in front of the Union Pacific turbine locomotive.

While there Peggy Martin invited the TGRS members to join in celebrating Gary Martin's 65th birthday. Joe Stoesser had arranged to have a cake delivered to the museum. In addition to the above, the Izen's, Ulmer's, Karrels', Fagg's and Lathrem's shared the cake.



Gary Martin poses with his 65th birthday cake.

The museum provided rides on a Chicago Surface Line's trolley car, a CSL trolley bus, Chicago Transit Authority elevated/subway cars, and Chicago, North Shore and Milwaukee interurban cars but the queen of the evening was the museum's articulated Nebraska Zephyr car set pulled by an E-5 diesel.



E-5 Diesel locomotive pulling the Nebraska Zephyr.

Board Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Curt Collins, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm on August 4th.

Board approved June 14 Board Meeting Notes

Treasurer's Reports 76 Members have renewed their dues. Treasurer's budget approved by the board (see page 7).

Events, GATS is changing their name. Big Brother Big Sister October 29th, will have three to four layouts for event. Letters of inquiry sent to the Dept. of Veteran Affairs and Davis Monthan Air Force Base asking if the club will be having layouts for their events this year. Waiting for response.

No Administrators input.

Old Business, Capital Project Priorities 1, 2, and 4 approved to begin work. Work session meeting scheduled for late August.

Children's Layout to have a committee develop new layout design, build and maintain. Nick will be asking members to get involved.

New Business. Nick to seek member approval for purchase of another Sumpter Valley Loco at next meeting.

Other Business, Treasurer still looking for membership dues to be paid.

Meeting closed at 9:20pm

Big Brothers Big Sisters

By Jerry Tulino

Big Brothers Big Sisters has been the nation's preeminent youth-service organization for nearly a century. Locally, they have provided high quality mentoring services since 1963 and have proven a success in creating and nurturing relationships between adults and children. Their service is based on volunteers. Big Brothers and Big Sisters are, foremost, friends to children: They share everyday activities, expand horizons, and experience the joy in even the simplest events. Within those little moments lies the big magic that a Big Brother or Big Sister brings to the life of a young person. Professionals in youth development support these individual, responsible relationships. And

national research has shown that the shared experiences between Bigs and Littles have a direct and lasting impact on children's lives. A Big can help a child discover a world of possibilities and opportunities simply by being a genuine friend.

We (the New Venues Committee) are planning a mini version of the Rails-in-the-Garden tour for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BBBS). It will be on Saturday, October 29. . We would like to have 3 layouts open for about 3 hours each, preferably in the same area of the city. We will schedule the visitors so you will know approximately what time they will be at your layout. BBBS estimates that there will be 15 to 20 "matches" (a "match" is a BBBS pair; adult and child) that will attend. While most of their events are attended by the 9 – 12-year old age group, there may be some of the older (up to 16) children attending also. If you would like to offer your layout to be open for this event, please contact Jerry Tulino at lackawanna79@yahoo.com. Thank you.

A fond farewell

Donald Worchester Land

November 26, 1938—July 3, 2005

Don passed from this life at his West Virginia home on Sunday, July 3rd, 2005. With great thanks to Hospice, his transition was peaceful and comforted with family and friends.

He is survived by mother Rose Veslak Land of St. David, Arizona; sister Anna Lands of Benson, Arizona; stepsister Mary Johnstone of Boston; stepbrother Chisolm McAvoy of Washington, D.C.; aunt Marion Haggarty of Putnam Valley, New York and many cousins and many friends. He was preceded in death by father William Goodfellow Land and stepmother Frances Chisolm Land, both of Washington D.C. and Islesford, Maine.

Don earned the love and respect of his colleagues during his many years of service as a paramedic in the Emergency Department of Inove Alexandria (Virginia) Hospital. He was a machinist, electrician, plumber, mechanic, engineer, draftsman, caver, model railroader, woodworker, beekeeper, gardener, sailor and tinker. He was a graduate of Marlboro College in Marlboro, Vermont. He was a decent and generous person.

Tucson Garden Railway Society

Approved Budget

Fiscal Year 2005-2006

REVENUE

Dues	\$3,000	85 renewals @ \$30 and 15 new @30
Badges	\$0	
Shirts	\$600	Push with purchases
Bus trip	\$1,200	Similar to 2004 Trip
Raffles	\$1,300	Fair Only
Pre-Paid	\$0	
Group Equip. Sales	\$600	Wash with purchases
GAT Prize	\$0	
Donations	\$0	
GR Mag Revenue	\$0	
GR Home Tour	\$5,000	
Misc	\$200	
Total Revenue	\$11,900	

Expenses

News letter	\$600	12 months @ \$50
Membership	\$150	Estimate
Modules	\$2,500	Estimate-module upgrade
Raffle Expense	\$250	Prizes
Hats & Shirts	\$600	Estimate, Wash with sales
TBG	\$0	
Storage	\$0	
Insurance	\$800	Estimate 20% increase over 2004
Group Equip. Purchase	\$600	Random number, wash with sales
Round About	\$1,200	
Misc	\$350	Estimate
Trailer	\$250	Minor repairs
Tools	\$100	Estimate
Meeting Fees	\$0	
GR Mag Payment	\$0	
Rolling Stock	\$1,000	Estimate
2008 Convention	\$1,000	
GR Home Tour	\$1,000	
Cash Reserve	\$1,500	
Total Expenses	\$11,900	

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:

Ibby Ulmer
4935 N. Craycroft Road
Tucson, AZ 85718

Calendar of Events

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 19	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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