



# Tucson Garden Railway Society's

## Time Table

Society web site: <http://tucsongrs.org>

Editor e-mail: [jmiller66@cox.net](mailto:jmiller66@cox.net)

December, 2005

### Meeting and Holiday Party

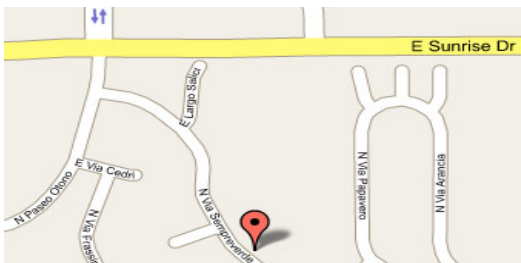
December 10 at 12:00 noon

#### Driving Directions

The meeting will be at the Fairfield Mountain View Estates Recreation Center (next to the pool ) on the corner of Paseo Otono and Via Sempreverde.

We are at 5416 Via Sempreverde. Best bet is Sunrise to Paseo Otono ( Big Fairfield Sign) Turn South and the Recreation Center is the first building.

We are up the street to the left, about 2 blocks and will be running one hour before and after the meeting.



### THE RED ROCK RAILROAD

Jane and Mike Dorgan

Started in mid 1999 and named after the RED ROCK Water Tower near Picacho Peak. The period is late 1800's and the two towns, Red Rock and Rock City, are old western towns. The layout also has an Indian Village, an old Fort Knocks, settler's cabins, a gold mine, a saw mill, boot hill, a fishing lodge, and a circus.

With three loops and a point to point we run five trains at one time. There are 10 engines and about 70 rolling stock.

The majority of buildings are home built or kit bashed and now many of the people and animals are home grown. There are 120 structures, 450 people, 400 animals, 3 depots, 8 bridges, 30 wagons etc.

The layout covers the front, back, and side yards.



A train is approaching the passenger platform on the Red Rock Railroad



A train passes through a town on the Red Rock Railroad

# Holiday Party

A last minute reminder, please make sure that you call or e-mail Mike and Jane Dorgan as soon as possible if you plan to attend and what dish you plan to bring? Also, if you plan to participate in the gift exchange it is a one gift per family (under \$15).

## Children's Layout at Casa de los Niños

The first day of the children's layout went over very well. The layout was decorated and looked splendid. Several children came and watched the trains and some of them would have liked to stay longer.



The children's layout at Casa de los Niños, photo by Phyllis Dirksen

## Rails In The Garden TOUR FINALLIZED

By Bob Dirksen

The 2006 Rails in the Garden Tour will be on March 4 and 5, 2006, from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. both days. The following members have volunteered to show their railways: Bruce and Carolyn Lynn, Nick Buchholz and Mary Ker, Glenn and Janet Mitchell, Gary and Peggy Martin, Marty Hart, Garb and Dorothy Mechigian, Jim and Madelyn Cook and Jay and Sallie Sanders. Thank you in advance to all of these people.

Tickets are being printed and will be available to members at the Christmas Party. Tickets will go on general sale at the VA hospital after Christmas. Ticket forms will be mailed to those on our mailing list in mid-January.

**WE ASK YOU TO PARTICIPATE ON THE WEEKEND BY VOLUNTEERING TO HELP AT**

**ON OF THE VARIOUS LAYOUTS. YOU CAN VOLUNTEER BY CALLING THE MEMBERS WHO ARE SHOWING THEIR LAYOUTS OR BY CALLING 551-4699 AND LEAVING A MESSAGE.**

BUCHHOLZ 744-4932  
COOK 760-2325  
HART 298-4006  
LYNN 744-1232  
MARTIN 299-7428  
MECHIGIAN 760-8503  
MITCHELL 743-9263  
SANDERS 731-1999

Spend a few hours in March with fellow garden railroaders and have some fun.

## Adhesives and Solvents ©(Wayne and Mary Cay Wesolowski 2005)

By Wayne Wesolowski

**ALWAYS PROTECT YOUR EYES AND  
USE GREAT VENTILATION!!!!!!!**

Part II of a Two part article on adhesives

•Super glues –Eastman 910 (first one) (alpha-cyanoacrylates) are powerful bonding agents between surfaces. When I was a graduate student at the University of Arizona in the 1960's we had one bottle in a refrigerator and had to record on a sheet of paper how many drops we used. How times have changed.

ACC now comes in many grades, with fillers, thickeners, instant to slow bonding. It's best for non-porous surfaces, but the thick version will also work for porous materials. By adding rubbers they can be flexible as well.

Water initiates the reaction so keep in very DRY atmosphere – Silica Gel (flower drying agent) Certainly not a problem in Arizona.

ACC suffers from shock breaking. They have very high tensile strength (pull to break) and low shear strength (snap across).

### General Adhesives:

•**PLIOBOND** is a super strong elastic cement which can be thinned with lacquer thinner. I has an MEK solvent with rubber base – super rubber cement. It's very strong yet flexible – I have used it on all my traveling models including the Lincoln funeral train which traveled thousands of

miles. It will attack plastic unless you are careful use a thin coat, blow off solvent.

●**E6000** (Michael's craft stores) – powerful and flexible – glues almost anything. Contains perchloroethylene as a solvent. No other information. Stays flexible even under extreme conditions – very strong – even metal to metal. Solvents will attack it!!! Paint thinners are especially bad.

●**Marine GOOP** – flexible and very strong can be used both indoors and outside. I find it very good for almost all materials. It has a thick base so MEK is better on styrene.

●**Epoxies**—two part – strong bonds – rigid—much cheaper than ACC

Jet 6 Micromark; Milliput solids –Micromark

### Other hobby/consumer glues

#### Alene's Tacky Glue

**J-D Weld** – failed for me on heavy metal. hot glue—

**Contact Cement** – look for water-based, but hard to find.

**Walther's GOO** – too weak for me

**Spray adhesive** –let dry as directed—watch spray pattern

### Solvents:

Outdoor tests:

How adhesives behave in the harsh summers of Tucson, AZ was put to the test. Two pieces of four materials were cleaned and a 0.25 inch bond made. Each joint was clamped for 24 hours and then screwed to a wood pallet. The frame was placed in full sun at 45 degrees. They were given full desert exposure – packrats and all. Four materials: redwood, cement board, styrene and sheet metal. Test adhesives were Gorilla glue, Marine Goop, IC ( ACC gel), Titebond III. Also used for styrene were MEK and Dichloromethane.

Each piece was given two tests---wife Mary Cay Pull Test – pulling as hard as she could to break the bond (tensile strength). Each sample that passed the pull test was given a good hard-hammer whack across the joint (shear test).

Results: All the glued pieces held and passed both tests except metal to metal with Gorilla glue which just fell apart and styrene to styrene with

Titebond III...both were expected to fail. The styrene has yellowed but is welded by the solvent glues and the other cements. The samples have been returned to the desert for an additional year of testing.

If you have a favorite adhesive not mention but easily commercially available please let me or the editor know so we can add them to our testing field.

## CONVENTION QUILT

### Ibby Ulmer

The quilt project for the 2008 convention in Chandler is coming right along. Between TGRS and ABTO in Phoenix we now have 23 people promising to make squares. If there are any more of you who wish to participate, please let me know. You can reach me at [iulmer@earthlink.net](mailto:iulmer@earthlink.net) or 299-9401.

## Weathering (Again)

### By Dick Izen

Last month we talked about using Gary Martin's techniques of using spray cans of flat red and gray primer and flat brown camouflage tan to weather freight cars. Those of you at the Hoffman's at the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> saw my Sumpter Valley pulling a string of cars weathered with those methods.

The problem I encountered was how to weather the light bright colored cars. I have a white Tiffany Refer and two yellow (a Colorado and Southern and a Pacific Fruit Express) wood refrigerator cars. I was afraid that even a light dusting of the light gray primer would change the color and hide the base coat.



White car about 2/3 coated with dilute Ink and Alcohol solution.



In the end I fell back on Gary's suggestion of using India ink diluted in rubbing alcohol. Gary said that he bought his India Ink at Ben Franklins. Of course they have gone out of business and I am too lazy to drive all the way to Grant Street anyway, so I stopped in at Office Max. They had never heard of India Ink but they had a self brand of 're-inking fluid' available in small (7 cc) bottles. It is intended for use in re-inking pads for rubber stamps. If you go this route be certain to get the black (it also comes in blue and red).

The picture shows the white Tiffany Refer car with one side about 2/3 completed. I simply diluted the ink in rubbing alcohol and brushed the solution along the top of the car and then down the sides. The ink covers unevenly just as dirt and dust will. Note how the completed portion still looks like a white car but a dirty white car that has seen some travel. The lettering is still clearly legible.

If you want your cars to look more like a real railroad, give light weathering a try.

## **Invasion by Uninvited Guest!** by Pat Tiefenbach

Last spring Dave removed his Mule Ear Station from our layout for renovation. He stored it temporarily outside on decorative rock near our garage door and covered it with a large plastic container topped with a heavy rock to prevent pests. Several months later he was ready to begin work and removed the plastic container. As he pushed the building across the stones, a furry creature shot out the back door and fled into the bushes.



**Damage caused to the building and figure**

Dave looked through the windows into the station's waiting room and saw a fully furnished

packrat nest, complete with people which had been glued to the outside platform. The enterprising packrat had taken up residence in the safe, warm station and begun accumulating little figures to live with him. Several of the people had their hands gnawed off or heads chewed. Two doorways were gnawed to gain access, and interior electrical wires and lights were also destroyed.



**Close up of damage caused to the figure**

The moral of this story is, if you keep buildings outside, beware of uninvited guests!

## **Spyware reminder** By Jerry Tulino

The cover story of the April 22, 2003 issue of PC Magazine is an article all about a pervasive type of software called "Spyware". The article provides an in depth analysis of these parasitic products and also includes reviews of the software available to remove these items from your system. On the TGRS web site, click on "Links of Interest" and then "Computer security". The following menu will be displayed.

<a href="#">PC Magazine article about spyware</a>
<a href="#">How to identify bad email messages</a>
<a href="#">How to download, install and run Ad-Aware</a>
<a href="#">Download Ad-Aware</a>
<a href="#">How to download, install and run Spybot S &amp; D</a>
<a href="#">Download Spybot Search &amp; Destroy</a>

Links are provided to the PC Magazine article, an article about email scams and viruses, a download link for Ad-Aware and a download link for Spybot Search & Destroy. Both of these programs are discussed in the PC Magazine article and run on all "current" versions of Windows including Windows 98, Windows 2000

and Windows XP. I have also written extensive "tutorials" describing the steps necessary to download, install and run Ad-Aware and Spybot. Links to these 2 articles are also included on this menu. Virtually every screen that either program can display is pictured and discussed.

## Holiday Express at The Depot Submitted by Ken Karrels

The Southern Arizona Transportation Museum is having a free event on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm at the Historic Depot, 414 N, Toole Ave. in downtown Tucson.

This event is free to the public, there are free arts and crafts for children and local vendors set up in tents.

After 4:00 pm at the Main Library there will be a story time with a reading of the Polar Express, carolers, a local school jazz band, photos with Santa & Locomotive, dramatized locomotive with sound and steam, toy train display in Depot lobby, free hot cocoa, cookies and popcorn.

Tours of the locomotive cab are available with a gift for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona.

The Photo With Santa requires a \$9.95 sitting fee and there is a 5X7 print, extra prints are available.

For more information, call the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum (520) 623-2223.

## VP report Chuck Cook

Hi Everybody,

Here is a brief VP report. Below is the updated schedule of planned layouts for the club. The only notable change is that The American Home show is definite. We will be getting a 21x60 space, so we will run our narrowest/shortest layout equivalent to the one we did last year at the VA.

Ellen Stoesser sent me an e-mail about using the kids layout at a school, but I have not heard back from her. At the meeting this weekend, Jerry should be getting more signups for the Casa display, and I will

begin the signups for the VA display. Speaking of the meeting, I will be sending an e-mail to all club members later this week with advice on how to best get to the meeting with regard that El Tour will be going through Rancho Vistoso that day.

The results of the open houses for Big Brothers/Sisters was very disturbing. Only one pair went around and saw all 3 places. We are trying to get the organization to give us an explanation. My second mini layout (made it even smaller this time at 4'x10') at the Ariz. Historical Society went well. I got 8 more names for the Rails in the Garden mailing list, we met many nice people and the museum raised \$64K with the art auction.

The only other issue to talk about/resolve is the status of the new kids layout and when it will be ready for display. Also, the status of the current kids layout and what work needs to be done on it. Maybe Lou and Nick can provide some of that tonight. I have my last board meeting of another organization to attend tonight. If it weren't for me getting some kind of award as an outgoing board member, I would attend your meeting.

Hope to see you all on Saturday.

## TGRS Layout Planning Grid

Event	Date	Type	PIC	Status
Ellen Stoesser	12/9	kids	E. Stoesser	Unk
St Marks	12/10-13	kids	B. Dirksen	Prob
Jim Click	12/11	kids	N. Bucholz	Def
VA Hosp	12/26-30	full	L. Sleeper	Def
Winterhaven	unk.	unk.	B. Dirksen	Unk
Am. Home Sho	1/6-8/06	full?	-----	Def
TTOS	1/21/06	kids	-----	Prob
GATS	1/28-29/06	full?	-----	Prob

## Minutes of the November 19, Meeting Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser

The meeting was held at the home of Bob & Jean Hoffman 10:00 A.M.

Nick thanked the Hoffman's for hosting.

There were 40 attendees at the meeting. There were two new members and one guest.

There were no minutes to be approved. Nick announced Ellen Stoesser was approved as Secretary.

**Treasurer's Report:** Willis Fagg, reported a:

1. Current checking account balance of \$4749.79
2. Reserve account balance is \$1,500.00 for a total of all accounts of \$6,249.79.
3. Revenues to date for fiscal year 2005-2006 are \$1,271.00 and expenses are \$1,514.24 for a net decrease to date of \$243.24.
4. Total Membership to date is 99, including 6 new members
5. The Treasurer's report was approved.

**Editor's Report.** Jim Miller asked "that members keep submitting articles for the newsletter".

**Venues Report:**

1. **American Home Show:** Chuck Cook reported we are doing this event. It is scheduled for Jan 6-8, it will be the smallest full layout, with no Children's Layout. It is not known if it will be upstairs or down. Chuck will check on this.
2. **Toy Train Operators Swap Meet:** This event is scheduled for Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> and we will use the Children's Layout.
3. **Gats Show:** will be held on Jan. 28 & 29 at the Fairgrounds. There was discussion about doing the Gats Show because of last year. It is owned by a new company this year, unknown if it would be better
4. **VA.** This event is scheduled for 12/26-setup at 10:00 A.M-run 27-28-29-30 with tear down at 2:00 P.m.
5. **St. Marks** dates have been changed to 12/12-14 with volunteers being needed.

**Membership Committee:** Ibbby Ulmer reported that we now have 99 members. Ibbby also needed several more people to make quilt squares for the quilt to be raffled at the 2008 Con. Several people signed up.

**Education Committee:** Janet Mitchell reported that Phyllis Dirksen and her will go to a Green Valley Garden Club meeting in Feb. and give a presentation.

**Old Business:** Nick reported there will be a practice setup at Lew Sleeper's house on the 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. If you would like to help and

bring some Christmas decorations please contact Lew. This will be the Children's Layout.

**Casa de los Niños:** volunteers are needed.

**Gift Exchange** will be one gift for family with the gift to cost less than \$15.00 and 2 "steals" being allowed. Sheets were passed around for the potluck dinner with the meeting being at 12:00 and the lunch being at 1:00 P.M.

**Jim Click:** Layout will be stored at LaPaloma on Friday, with move in on Sunday. We will be giving out their small gifts to the children.

**Rails in the Garden:** Bob Dirksen Bob has maps for the Round a Bout and he would like one more family in a central location. The Sanders volunteered their layout. There will be ticket packets at the Christmas Party. One more person for the Committee is needed (Norm volunteered) and also volunteers are needed to man Ace Hardware. A good job of publicizing this event is being done.

**2008 Convention:** Norm Ulmer reported there will be a meeting the first weekend in Jan. The number of volunteers needed are going to be calculated at this meeting. Volunteers are needed to man the Santa Clara booth.

**New Business: Signs:** Doug Lyle is going to make direction signs for the **Round a Bout** and other events. They will be 18x24 and have a solid foam center with aluminum facing on the outside. The wording will be **TGRS Garden Railways** with an arrow. The cost will be around \$600.00.

**Announcements:** Gary Martin would like us to know he is holding an **Open House**, on Dec 4<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 -5:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome. You can bring your trains to run. Bring your own "beer".

**Ken Karrels** would like us to know on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>, the Depot is having an "Arts & Crafts" Fair, kids will get in free, there will be a Holiday Express Reading, Engine 1673 from **Oklahoma**, and in the evening, photos with Santa.

**Bob Dirksen:** Open House is on 1/1/2006.

**Bruce Lynn** would like to know if any one is working on the "live stream" we discussed at a past meeting.

**Joe Findysz's** father passed away. He started the first Ace Hardware west of the Mississippi.

Discussion: Jay Sanders would like an evaluation of our events so that we be more selective to get the most good out of the events we do.

Norm would like us to critique our events and would like all members to volunteer to help at events.

Willis also would like the new members to get involved to get the experience on how to do setups, have a chance to mingle with members and run trains.

Dave Tiefenbach volunteered to critique our events.

Jay also would like a new venue for the Christmas Party.

**Show and Tell:** Janet showed a Christmas car she had fun making.

The next regular meeting will be held on Dec 10, at the home of Mike & Jane Dorgan's at 12:00 P..M.

## **Minutes of B. O. D. Meeting** **Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser**

November 15, 2005-7:00 P.M. at the home of Willis and Dottie Fagg.

All Board Members were present except two.

There were no minutes to approve.

Ellen Stoesser was approved as the new secretary

**Treasury Report:** Willis Flagg reported:

1. A current checking account balance of \$4,749.79.
2. Reserve account balance is \$1,500.00 for a total of all accounts of \$6,249.79.
3. Revenues to date for fiscal year 2005-2006 are \$1,271.00 and expenses \$1,514.24 for a net decrease to date of \$243.24.
4. Total membership to date is 99.
5. Treasury Report was approved.

**Events:**

1. **American Home Show** ---We will be doing this event which is scheduled for 1/6-1/8. We will have a 20x60 layout.

2. **St Marks** has been changed to setup on the 12<sup>th</sup>-run on the 13<sup>th</sup>&14<sup>th</sup>, tear down on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

3. **Big Brothers & Big Sisters** was a big disappointment.

4. **Ariz. Historical Society** went very well. They made \$64K with their art auction.

5. **GATS**—1/28-1/29—setup 27<sup>th</sup>—tear down 29<sup>th</sup>. The full layout will be used.

6. A motion was made and passed to have Joe Stoesser buy a Christmas Train Set and 2 extra cars. It will be purchased with part of the (\$500.00)Donation from the Jim Click Christmas setup.

7. There will a **Christmas Decoration Workshop at Low Sleepers on the 26<sup>th</sup>**. He would like members to let him know if they would bring buildings, etc or have ideas for decorating the setup for all the events we will be doing. This will start at **10:00 A.M.**

8. **Rails in the Garden**---publicity has already started. The cost of the event will be slightly more then last year. One more layout is needed. We already have, Marty Hart, Gary Martin, Jim Cook, Glen Mitchell, Garb Mechigian, Doug Lyle. Nick Buchholz.

**Old Business:** Work Sessions may start again in March. Designs for the racks are ready. Measurements will be checked to make sure they fit in the trailer. There was discussion on both the old and new Children's Layout.

**Signs** for our events will be made. They will have a solid foam center with aluminum coating. They will cost \$25.00 each and say, TGRS Garden Railways and have arrows on them.

**Children's Layout:** At our regular September meeting a motion was made by Roy Eberbach and amended by Norm that the board proceeds to construct the layout, subject to Board approval. This was voted on by the board at the October meeting where no minutes were taken. This is being included in the November minutes for clarification.

The next board meeting will be in February.

# New Members

The TGRS extends a warm welcome to new members Bob & Jackie Conrad and Tom & Gretchen Schaefer

# 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 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 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

- Dec 10 Meeting and Holiday Party at Mike and Jane Dorgan's**
- Jan No meeting scheduled due to multiple displays**
- Feb 18 Rincon RV Park**
- Mar 18 Meeting at Jim and Madelyn Cook's**
- Apr No meeting scheduled due to the layout at the Pima County Fair**
- May 20 Meeting at Garb & Dorothy Mechigian**

### TGRS Officers and Board of Directors

**President:**.....Nick Buchholz.... 520-744-4932  
**V-President:**..... Chuck Cook.....520-797-1006  
**Secretary:**.....Ellen Stoesser.....520-577-1210  
**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

**Tucson Garden Railway Society**  
**8132 E. Baker Dr.**  
**Tucson, AZ 85710**