



## Tucson Garden Railway Society's

# Time Table

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

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

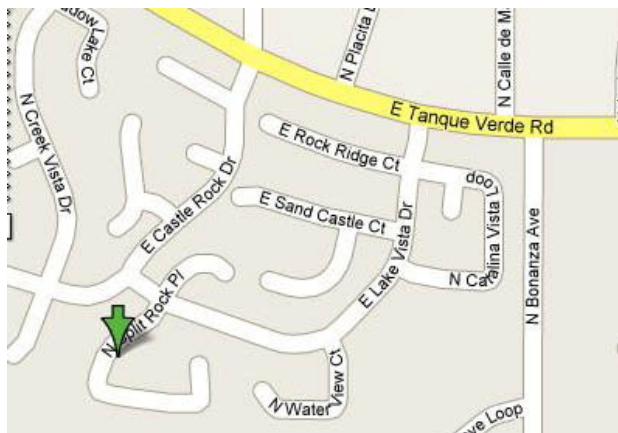
November, 2006

### The Meeting this month is at Garb and Dorothy Mechigian's On November 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

Location: 2142 Split Rock Place, phone 760-8503.

Directions: From the West go East on Tanque Verde past Catalina Highway, turn right (South) on Lake Vista, at the East (second) gate at Lakes of Castle Rock. Follow it around until you get to Split Rock Place turn right and go to 2142.

From the South, go North on Houghton and turn West on Tanque Verde then turn left (South) on Lake Vista



The D&G Railroad was a joint effort by Dorothy and Garb. About seven years ago we visited some Garden Railway Club members and decided to join.

We had three phases of our railroad. We added buildings and other features thru the years.

The layout includes a 1930's town, a western town and an Austrian Village. The equipment is of German design and there is a fire fighting train that sprays real water. The layout is next to the family pool and has many lush plantings.

We hope club members will come and enjoy.  
**Please bring chairs.**





# History of the TGRS

By Ibbey Ulmer

Bob and Phyllis Dirksen moved to Tucson in 1991 and joined TGRS in 1995. It seems that Bob has been a fan of trains since childhood. Like many he started with a Christmas train and was hooked. There was not much room for a railroad in their Tucson home, so Phyllis said, "go outside." Thus began their Garden Railroad.

Phyllis was originally from Illinois and Bob from New York, but they have lived many places. Although they call Tucson their home, they spend their summers in Canada. Both were teachers and librarians. Phyllis is active with the Friends of the Library in Tucson. They are members of St. Mark's Methodist Church where Bob sings in the choir.

The Dirksens have been active in several capacities with TGRS. Phyllis served as Secretary at one time and is currently our Historian. Bob has served as Vice President and a member of the board. For the last few years he has been the organizer and coordinator of the Rails in the Garden Tour. They can always be found at our displays at Home Shows, the County Fair, etc. where they display some of their clever tableaus.



**Bob and Phyllis Dirksen**

## Photos from the SANDS Buddy Walk at Reid Park on October 21<sup>st</sup>

This was the first time the new Children's Layout was used. Bob Conrad, his wife Jackie, Chuck Cook and Jerry Tulino set it up, manned it and took it down.

A special thanks to all who were involved and especially to Gary Martin and any others who built the new Children's Layout.



**The new Children's Layout**



**A close-up of the layout**





## Copper Canyon Trip – Part 2

By Dick Izen

After breakfast Monday we returned to the train and rode to Creel where we shopped for native crafts and then took a bus to the Sierra Madre Lodge for lunch.



Photos by Bob Conrad

### Holiday Party Plans

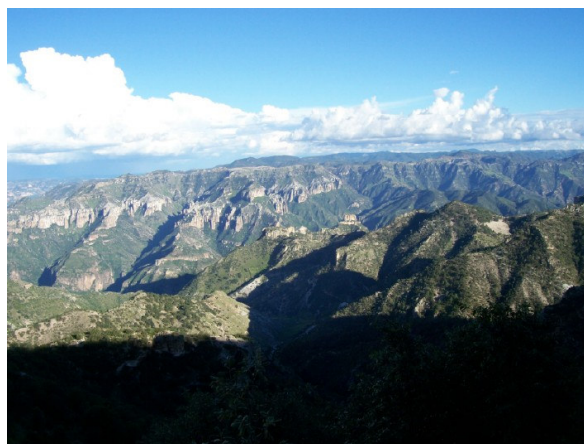
The annual TGRS holiday party will be held at the Hometown Buffet on Oracle on December 2nd. This format replaces the traditional pot luck.

The price is \$9.25 per person for full access to the buffet and includes tax and gratuity. We will have a separate room that will accommodate the entire group in a comfortable setting. We have the room from 12:00 to 4:00 PM. Since we need to pay the bill as a group, we are collecting payments for the event ahead of time. Payment for the event must be received on or before November 24th in order to participate. Checks should be made payable to: TGRS. Payment may be made at the November meeting or mailed to:

Willis Fagg  
12440 E. Ave. De La Vista Verde  
Tucson, AZ 85749



Gary and Peggy Martin enjoy the view from the next room over.



Another view of the canyon from the Posada Barranca Mirador.



It is hard to resist a sales pitch from this basket vendor in Creel.



Inside, however we found 46 religious paintings by European artists, the oldest of which dated back to 1647.

After lunch we drove to Cusarare in the state of Chihuahua where we found an unexpected treasure in the form of the Museo Loyola. Named after Saint Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit Order, the museum is housed in an unassuming stone building. So unassuming, in fact, that several of our group stopped to examine the native crafts without actually entering the museum



**The Sierra Madre Lodge. That's Janet Mitchell carrying a basket she just purchased, and, I think, Peggy Martin at the top of the steps dealing with the native vendor (in the yellow dress).**

There was also a church which we visited before bussing back to Creel and boarding the train back to Divisadero and the Posada Barranca Mirador where we were treated to dances by Tarahumara natives who live on the canyon slopes. One man danced with rattles on his ankles made from butterfly cocoons while two other men provided the music with a guitar and locally made violin.



**The not particularly impressive Museum entrance.**



**Jeanne Izen, Rebecca Stapleton (from Scottsdale) and another passenger in the museum.**



**Tarahumara musicians and dancer preparing to perform.**

Tuesday we rode the train from Divisadero to Bahuichivo where we took a bus to the Cerocahui. Once there we presented the toiletries and school supplies the TGRS members had donated and toured the school facilities.



**Jeanne Izen and some of the young girls at the school.**

After lunch at the hotel we had time to visit the Mission Church.





**The Mission Church at Cerocahui.**

Then the school children lined up and sang for us. Note the pleated skirts the girls make for themselves.

After a bus ride back to the station we reboarded the train for our trip home. The scenery going down the canyon was as spectacular as it had been going up.

We tried to avoid the rail congestion at Nogales by having the coach meet us at Magdalena. We did miss the slow moving rail yard but U. S. Customs decided to pull the bus over for passport scrutiny and examination of our hand luggage. To add insult to injury, ADOT decided to make us all get off a second time so that they could safety inspect the bus. After frustrating delays we returned to Tucson and home.



**Tarahumara girls sing to us at the school.**

Despite the various delays and changes in plans it was a great trip. We saw some spectacular scenery, sampled Mexico, had some great meals, enjoyed the train travel and even interested some of the other passengers in our group in garden railroading.

## **2007 RAILS IN THE GARDEN TOUR SHAPING UP**

The 2007 Rails in the Garden Tour has had a cancellation. I will try to find another before press time. Although there is nothing magic about having eight layouts on the tour, it is important that we do not decrease the number of our sites. We also would like to have a volunteer to submit a press release to the weekly/monthly newspapers in the area. If someone wishes to volunteer for that, call me at 490-5987. I will supply the press release text and a list of the publications.

Although the tickets will not be officially on sale until January first, we will be distributing ticket packets to members at the Christmas party and they will be available to the public at the VA hospital open house after Christmas.

As previously announced in the newsletter, the tour will be March 3 and 4 from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. each day. The sites this coming tour will be the Schwabs, Bob Hoffmans, Eberbachs, Buchholz-Kerrs, Martins, Dorgans, the Rincon West RV Park and a as yet unnamed site.

This tour is our major fund-raising event of the year. It funds all our many traditional activities and allows us to plan new ones. Keep that weekend open to volunteer to help at one of the sites. It is not really any work and you get to meet a lot of nice people.

Last year we had people drive in from Albuquerque, NM; Van Buren, AK; and from California expressly for this event.

Bob Dirksen

### **From the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum**

Courtesy Ken Karrels

The Ridin' the Rails Raffle benefits the nonprofit Southern Arizona Transportation Museum. Grand Prize: Trip for two aboard the **Sierra Madre Express**, a five night, all inclusive tour valued at \$6,590.00. Second prize, win an Old West round trip for two on the Grand Canyon Railway! Third prize consists of a round trip for two on a spectacular canyon journey aboard the Verde Canyon Railroad!

\$25 a ticket, 2 tickets for \$45, 4 tickets for \$80. We now accept Visa and Mastercard. Drawing held: Sunday, December 10th, 2006 at 3 PM.

Event HOLIDAY EXPRESS at the Depot: *Photos with Santa & the locomotive, story time, "Steam & Sound" at the locomotive, free gifts & treats.*

EVENT: STEAM LOCOMOTIVE SATURDAYS

DATE: EVERY SATURDAY

TIME: 10AM - 1PM

PLACE: 414 N. Toole Ave.

SPONSORED BY: The Southern Arizona

Transportation Museum

PRICE: Admission Free

CONTACT: Laura Caywood Barker, 623-2223

RELEASE: November 4th 2006 to January 27th , 2007

LEARN! and have all your steam locomotive questions answered by knowledgeable volunteers at the locomotive no.1673 ramada. Explore transportation history in Southern Arizona through interactive museum exhibits! LISTEN and LOOK! at the modern day freight trains passing by! Ring the locomotive bell! Pick up an audio phone in the museum to learn an exciting story of a railroad job or rest your feet in front of our beautiful photo media wall. CAPTURE! your photo with the "Doc" Holiday & Wyatt Earp, life-size sculpture or relax on an original 1941 bench while taking in the beauty of the restored and still operating passenger lobby. SHOP! for that train fan in our unique gift shop!

For more information: check out the new museum website: [www.TucsonHistoricDepot.org](http://www.TucsonHistoricDepot.org)

Call: 623 -2223



ALL ABOARD  
YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL OPEN  
HOUSE OF GARY AND PEGGY MARTIN'S EAGLE  
MOUNTAIN RAILROAD  
DATE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2006  
TIME: 12:00PM – 5:00 PM  
PLACE: 4625 E CERRO DE AGUILA  
TUCSON, ARIZONA  
QUESTIONS OR DIRECTIONS CALL GARY OR  
PEGGY MARTIN AT (520) 299-7428

## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

Respectfully submitted by Ibby Ulmer

The meeting was held at the home of Rick and Sue Gast at 10:00 A.M.

President, Nick Buchholz, thanked the Gasts for hosting.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Willis Fagg reported the following.

1. Current checking account balance is \$8,795.28.
  2. Reserve account balance is \$3,005.76 for a total of all accounts \$11,801.04.
  3. Revenues to date for fiscal year 2006-2007 are \$899.00 and expenses are \$1,514.08 for a net decrease to date of \$615.08.
  4. Membership is currently at 92
  5. Sign-up count for the Holiday party is 41.
- The treasurer's report was approved.

**Editor's report:** Jim Miller asked members to submit articles and pictures to be included in the newsletter.

**Vice President's report.** Chuck Cook reported the following:

1. We are currently talking to the people at the Hotel Arizona downtown for a possible display during the week before Christmas.
2. We are also talking to UMC about a possible layout there in the future.
3. On October 21 we are displaying the new kid's layout to the SANDS Buddy Walk at Reid Park.
4. October 29 to 31 we will have a Halloween display at St Thomas Church.
5. November 7 & 8 we will have the children's layout at the Casa de Los Ninos.
6. We will have a full set up at the VA hospital again between Christmas and New Year's.

### Committee Reports:

**Membership:** Ibby Ulmer reported that she had sent out copies of the new roster for the fiscal year on e-mail. She also had corrections. Jerry Tulino, the webmaster, said that he would look into a secure section of the Website, where the Roster could be posted and kept up to date. New members, Don and Dolores Anderson signed up today.

**Modules:** New racks have been completed and on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September they were loaded and the trailers were re-organized.

**Education:** Janet Mitchell reported that it has been suggested that we have a figure making clinic.

**Old Business:**

**Capital Projects:** Nick reported that a rack is under construction for storing the curved modules.

**Convention:** Norm Ulmer said that we will need everyone's participation at the convention. There are many places to serve and signup sheets are available. If a member is going to volunteer, but is not going to attend any of the events, such as the BBQ dinner, the Mexican Fiesta, or the banquet, they will not have to register at the convention. They will be able to attend the Vendor Hall. Volunteers will have name badges for identification. If, however, they want to attend any of the events, they will have to pay the registration fee and the fee for the events they are attending. Glenn Mitchell requested that anyone who wished to have their layouts open for the self guided tours before, during or after the convention should contact him.

**Tucson Botanical Gardens:** Gary Martin reported that we will be in the Bird Garden area. Set up will begin at 9:00 on Nov. 27 and run through Dec. 1. The trains will begin running for the Luminaria nights at 5:00 p.m. on December 2 and run through the 17<sup>th</sup> with the possibility of running on the weekends of the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> if staffing is available. Sign up sheets will be available at the November meeting.

**New Business:**

1. Glenn Mitchell has agreed to set up a system for the animations on the kid's layout. It was moved and seconded that the club authorize the expenditure of up to \$300 for the equipment to do so. After discussion, the measure passed.
2. Rails in the Garden Tour chairman, Bob Dirksen, reported that the tour will be held the first weekend in March and that tickets would be available at the Holiday Party, December 2.
3. It has been suggested that the club consider a small, car-towable trailer for the kid's layout only. It was moved and seconded that the Board of directors should investigate what might be available and report to the club. Motion passed.

**Announcements:** The Holiday Party at the Home Town Buffet requires reservations in advance and they should be paid for by Thanksgiving. The price is \$9.25 a person. The rules for the gift exchange are as follows.  
1. One gift per family not to exceed \$15.00 in value. They should be wrapped.  
2. Each family will have a number indicating their turn to choose.  
3. They have the ability to choose a gift that has already been chosen. However, each gift can only be "stolen" twice.

The next meeting will be at the home of Garb and Dorothy Mechigian on November 11.

## New Members

New members who joined at the October meeting are Don and Dolores Anderson. They moved to Tucson two and a half years ago from Chino, California. They were active with the Fairplex train layout at the Pamona County Fair Grounds so they're not strangers to Garden Railroads.



Don & Dolores Anderson

We would also like to welcome Roland "Cal" Calhoun. He came to Tucson in 1990 while he still maintains the Chicago area as his home base. He went to the U of A in 1942, so he has a long time connection to the area. He has a layout at his town home here which is called "Las Cumbres & Catalina Railroad."



# 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.

To join the email mailing list send an email to [members-subscribe@tucsongrs.org](mailto:members-subscribe@tucsongrs.org); include your name and a simple message like "I am a new TGRS member and would like to join the mailing list".

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:

Ibby Ulmer  
4935 N. Craycroft Road  
Tucson, AZ 85718

## Calendar of Events

Nov 11	<b>Meeting at Garb &amp; Dorothy Mechigian</b>
Dec 2	<b>TGRS Christmas Party</b>
Jan	<b>No meeting due to multiple setups</b>

### TGRS Officers and Board of Directors

<b>President:</b> .....Nick Buchholz.... 520-744-4932 <b>V-President:</b> ..... Chuck Cook.....520-797-1066 <b>Secretary:</b> .....Ellen Stoesser.....520-577-1210 <b>Treasurer:</b> .....Willis Fagg.....520-760-0147 <b>Editor:</b> .....Jim Miller..... 520-886-7611	<b>At Large Board Members</b> Jim Cook.....520-760-2325 Rick Gast.....520-721-8305 Lew Sleeper.....520-751-9628 Joe Stoesser.....520-577-1210
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**Tucson Garden Railway Society**  
**8132 E. Baker Dr.**  
**Tucson, AZ 85710**