



Tucson Garden Railway Society's

Time Table

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

Editor e-mail: jmiller66@cox.net

September, 2007

The September meeting will be at George and Kathy Fitzner's on the 8th of September. The trains will start running at 8:00am and the meeting will start at 9:00am and remember to bring chairs

Their address is 2722 West Dove Rd., Phone is 578-0064. Go West on Valencia past Mission to Cardinal, Turn North on Cardinal go ¾ miles (5 streets North of Bilby Road) turn East and go 1 & ½ blocks, they live on the North side of the street.



George and Kathy have an indoor railroad. It is European style and has many interesting features. There are Gondolas going back and forth suspended just under the ceiling. One track uses a catenary overhead power line to run its train.

George has been a member of TGRS since early in 1994 when the club was founded.

PRESS RELEASE
August 2007

On the occasion of the 50th wedding anniversary of Robert and Phyllis Dirksen, the Turtle River Railroad car shop is proud to announce the completion of the refurbishment and repainting of CSRR boxcar #857 to commemorate the happy event. Please see the accompanying photo that shows #857's new, commemorative herald.



For questions, please contact the Turtle River Railroad Public Relations Department

Convention News



The 2008 Convention Car

Membership Renewal Time is Now

Membership renewal for fiscal year 2007/8 is now due. Current membership expired on June 30 and renewal is \$30.

Payments may be made at our next monthly meeting or by mail (please do not send cash through the mail) to:

Willis Fagg
12440 E. Ave. de la Vista Verde
Tucson, AZ 85749

This year our membership chairman has changed the format of our badges. Badges in the new format will be printed for members upon receipt of dues payment.

Presentations to BBQ's Galore and Ace Hardware for RITG 2007

By Norm Ulmer

Joe Stoesser accompanied me to the Ace Hobby Place and to BBQ's Galore on Tuesday, August 21st, where we presented them with the framed Certificates of Appreciation, in gratitude for their assistance in selling Rails in the Garden tickets last March. George Holley of BBQ's Galore graciously accepted the award, and told us he was more than happy to do it, 'cause of the customers it brought in. At Ace, we learned that Joey Findzs has taken a permanent leave of absence from the store, and Dean Newman was not on duty. We made the presentation to Scotty, who was very appreciative of the award. Many thanks to Joe for accompanying me to make these presentations, and to all our members who worked so hard to make RITG 2007 the great success it was.



Scotty at Ace Hardware's Hobby Place accepts their award



George Holley of BBQ's Galore accepts their award

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Be sure to save October 27th; the date for the first roundabout of the season. We will have 3 members displays open for drop in viewing. One of them will be the Mitchell's, where the monthly meeting will be held. The meeting will be followed by a picnic put on by the club. See next month's newsletter for exact times and locations. It will be a grand time, with cooler weather, and all our snowbird members back in town.

2008 National Garden Railroad – Tucson Layout Tours



“ALL ABOARD!!”

Have you ever wanted to shout those words to a bunch of eager passengers?? Well, the 2008 convention may be your opportunity to do just that!! We are looking for a few (about 5) good men and women who want to serve as Bus Guides for the day of bus tours in Tucson [Thursday May 1st]. Besides getting to wear a cool conductor's hat and carry a loud megaphone, you will have the responsibility of guiding the bus drivers to each layout quickly and efficiently while entertaining the passengers with stories of local color and highlights of each anticipated layout. In March or early April, you will be asked to attend a training session led by a professional tour guide to receive pointers on being the most effective bus guide ever. If you are interested, please notify Glenn Mitchell by email at gemitchell.az@comcast.net or by phone at 743-9263. Also, if you are familiar with the Phoenix area and have an interest in being a Bus Guide for one or more of the tour days in Phoenix [Wednesday April 30th, Friday May 2nd, Saturday May 3rd], please contact John and Pat Meyers at 602 841 7564 or jtpmeyers@cox.net.

Taping for the Layout DVD

An important reminder for layout tour hosts: remember that taping for the layout DVD is still scheduled for the first full week in November. Believe it or not that's less than three months away! Tim from Movie Mix will be coming to your layout to tape the DVD of all convention layouts and hosts for the convention. Have your layout as ready as you can for a nice showing and be prepared to talk about your layout - you can use the descriptions that you sent in for the convention program. Tim is also sending a questionnaire out (you should have already received it) through the DVD coordinator,

Gerry Pfeiffer, to gather a little background about your layout. This will help Tim help you with the interview process.

Volunteer Opportunity

Of the many opportunities to volunteer to assist with the success of the 2008 NGR Convention, here is a need to help with a task related to the Tucson bus tours. Each layout location (eight in Tucson) needs a couple of traffic cones that will be used to mark a reserved area for tour bus parking. We are going to rent the traffic cones and need someone that will:

- On Wednesday April 30th, pick up the cones from the rental company and distribute them to the Tucson layouts and
- On Friday May 2nd, collect the cones from each of the layouts and return them to the rental company.

This is a task that can be accomplished by one person, or couple, or it can be split up with one person handling the Wednesday distribution and a second person taking care of the collection and return. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact either Glenn Mitchell at gemitchell.az@comcast.net or 743-9263, or Norm Ulmer at nhulmer@earthlink.net or 299-9401. Thank you.

ALL MANNER OF RAILROADING

By Chuck Cook

While on vacation in Pennsylvania, Debbie and I found an area with more varied railroading per square mile than anywhere else. The town is Strasburg, and it is about 2 hours west of Philadelphia in Lancaster County. Now don't confuse this with Stroudsburg, there's some great railroading there too. At the east end of town, and all within walking distance are The Strasburg Railroad, The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania and The Choo Choo Barn. The Railroad is a 45-minute ride through Amish country with nice narration along the way. At the end of the route, the engine disconnects and makes a runaround the passenger cars and pulls you back to the start. More on this later. The Museum has a large collection of actual engines and cars. The Choo Choo Barn is famous for it's VERY action filled depiction of Amish life. In actuality, you become so enthralled with the action displays (baseball game, house fire, circus, military parade, and of course night fall) that you almost forget that there are some O-gauge trains running through the scenery. My favorite action was an exact operational duplication of the Strasburg Railroad. All automated; at each end of the line the train would stop, the cars would uncouple, the engine would run by on the side track, then back up and couple to the cars, and head off in the opposite direction. One mile down the road out of town you will find the Red Caboose Motel and Restaurant. We had lunch there and walked among 15 or so authentic 25-ton N-5 cabooses. Each

caboose has been turned into a motel room with varied room arrangements. The surprise of the day was that as we walked near the rear of the property we saw a large modern building. It is the National Toy Train Museum; and we didn't even know it was there. That was a fabulous place and would have been worth the trip to see that alone. Each gauge has a section with an operational display and shelves above with some of the finest old collectibles one could want to see. If anybody is heading to that area, we have all the brochures to guide your outing.

Photos from the August meeting at Martins



Minutes of the August 18, 2007 meeting
Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser

The meeting was held at the home of Peggy and Gary Martin. Pres. Norm thanked the Martin's for hosting.

There were 47 attendees at the meeting, this includes 4 new members.

Minutes of the July meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: There is a:

1. Current checking account balance of \$3,077.86.
2. Reserve account balance is \$3,912.88 for a total of all accounts of \$6,991.74.

3. Revenue to date is \$582.00 and expenses are \$2,006.09 for a net decrease to date of \$1,424.09.
4. The major expense for the year has been the 501 © application process.
5. Membership renewal is 76.
6. The treasurer's report was approved.

Editor's Report: Jim Miller reported that the newsletter is going well and he would like the club to continue to give him suggestions and articles.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: lby reported we would get new name tags after we pay our annual dues. The new roster will be out in the near future, possibility October. It will be on the website

Old Business:

A. Non-Profit Status: Nick reported the Non-Profit is done and has been sent with the user fee. This consisted of 50 pages. Events we that we have done and future events were listed.

B. Articles of Incorporation: Norm reported that the revised and restated AOI's have been approved by the Corporation Commission and will be published in the *Daily Territorial*. We are now an official non-profit.

C. Revised by-Laws are available on the website or Norm will email them to you.

D. Norm and Joe Stoesser will make the presentation of the "**Thank you plaques**" to Ace Hardware and BBG. Presentation of the "**Thank you billboards**" was made by Norm to all the RITG hosts that were present at the meeting. He will be contacting the rest of the hosts to give them their billboard later.

E. 2008 Convention Report: Norm reported that things are going well. He let us know that there are 2 municipal parking garages across from the hotel that we can park in for free, as there is a shortage of parking space at the hotel.

F. Committee Chairmen: We are in need of a Mentor Chairmen. Janet will stay as Educational Chairmen until a new one can be found. Chuck Cook will chair the Social Committee.

G. New town design will not be needed for the convention.

I. The new bench stool is being taken care of.

J. Torque screwdriver: Nick will look into this.

K. Track Voltage: Nick will increase this at the next show.

L. Cross over bridge steps: Norm has rebuilt this and George Fitzner will work on the railings.

M. 2-2 ft connection modules for the lift bridge will be made by Norm.

N. Member survey: Norm is still looking for input from the members. He has had only 13 responses. Suggestions were made to have less events, more seminars and social activities. We will start, by every quarter having a round-a-bout with lunch at a restaurant. This will be tried at the October Round-a-bout.

IX. New Business: Questions and Answers:

A. Maintenance Committee description- responsible for maintaining all rolling stock and engines and keeping them ready to go. Glenn Mitchell will assist Gary in this.

B. Is the San Marcos taking reservations? They are taking reservations, you must say you are with TGRS or they will tell you they are full. 1-800-528-8071 or 480-812-0900.

C. Daily Activities:

Wednesday: Phoenix Bus Tour ----Southwest Fiesta

Thursday: Tucson Bus Tour

Friday: Phoenix Bus Tour----BBQ at Adobe Mountain ----Dinner

Saturday: Phoenix Bus Tour---Banquet

D. Pre/Post tours:

Verde Valley. Connect Trains Unlimited at 1-800-359-4870. This is for 3 days and 2 nights.

4/27/2008---4/29/2008

Copper Canyon: Connect Sierra Madre at 1-800-666-0346. This is for 8 days and 7 nights. 5/4---5/11/2008

For complete details our website for the 2008 Convention is—www.ngrc2008.org

There will 9 layouts open in the evening on the 29th. There will be 24 clinics.

E. NMRA Regional Convention is Sept. 6, 7, 8. They will be at Gary & Peggy's on Sept. 7 & 8th, all are invited to come to Gary's, please wear your TGRS shirt.

Also Ken & Mary Karrels and Bob & Eileen Schwab will be open on the 7 & 8th.

F. Gary gave a brief description of all the new things he had done to his layout. A delegation from Desert Palms came to see how his mountains were made. It is basically rebar's, 1/4 "hardware wire, with 5" burlap strips any length you want. Then this is covered with stucco. He will have a class on this, if we would like.

G. Co-hosts: Should we have of co-hosts that would help at the host sites the day before the regular meeting?

H. Ore car: Norm is looking for an old ore car.

Meetings: The next meeting will be at George and Kathy Fitzners on September 8, 2007. Trains will run at 8:00 A.M. with the meeting at 9:00 A.M.

There will be a Round-a-Bout in October. It will be held on the 27th. No time was set.

Bruce & Carolyn Lynn---Bob & Phyllis Dirksen, with the meeting being held at Glenn & Janet Mitchell's.

EVENT: TRAIN STATION AUCTION - Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Depot!

DATE: Saturday, October 6, 2007

TIME: 7:00pm - 9:30pm

Celebrate the Depot's 100th Anniversary with refreshments and the entertainment of a silent and

live auction! Professional auctioneer, Dave Martin will auction gift certificates for trips, restaurants and services, fine art, gift baskets and much more!

Mayor Bob Walkup has been invited to kick-off a special portion of the auction. 7pm - 8:30pm silent auction, 8:30 - 9:30pm live auction. The auction benefits Old Pueblo Trolley, Inc and its three divisions; the street railway division, motor coach division and the museum division, the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum at the Depot.

New TGRS members



Rick Riley and Pat Reynolds



Ron and Helen Koehler

New Members

We welcome two families this Month. They are Rick Riley and Pat Reynolds. They live in Star Pass and he works at Raytheon. They have a layout and they attended the convention in Las Vegas. Our other new family is Ron and Helen Koehler. They moved to Saddlebrook not long ago from Missouri and have already met some of our members who live there. He is in the process of

building a raised garden to put his railroad on. He is a member of Maricopa Live Steamers and has his own 7 1/2" engine up at Adobe Mountain Park.

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; 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 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

Sep 8	Meeting at the home of George and Kathy Fitzner
Oct 27	Round-A-Bout; Dirksen, Lynn, Mitchells
Nov 10	Buzz & June Weaver's
Dec 1	Christmas/Holiday Party
Apr	Jim and Madelyn Cook

TGRS Officers and Board of Directors

President:.....Norm Ulmer.....520-299-9401
V-President:.....Lew Sleeper.....520-751-9628
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
 Chuck Cook.....520-797-1066
 Nick Buchholz.....520-744-4932
 Bob Dirksen.....520-742-9503

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