



Tucson Garden Railway Society's

Time Table

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

Editor e-mail: jmiller66@cox.net

November, 2007

November Meeting

This month's meeting will be on the 10th of November at 10:00 AM at the home of:

June & Buzz Weaver
1913 Placito de Agosto
Green Valley, AZ 85614
Telephone: 399-0761

Driving Directions

From I-19. Take Exit 63 (Continental Road). Turn right on Continental and proceed 0.7 of a mile to Camino Del Sol. Turn left on Camino Del Sol and proceed 3.6 miles to Nuevo Leon. You will see the entrance to San Ignacio Ridge Estates.

Alternate Driving Directions

From the traffic light at Continental and the I-19 exit it go left for 1.7 miles on the frontage road to Camino Encanto. Go right on Encanto to the traffic signal and go left 1.3 miles to the entrance to San Ignacio Ridge Estates. Take a right on Nuevo Leon and go up to the 2nd street and take a left on Agosto. Ours is the 2nd house. No houses are on the right side of the street.



Green Valley area map

Turn right and go up the hill to the 2nd street. Placita de Agosto. Turn left and 1913 is the 2nd house on the left. No houses on the right side of the street. There are a few parking spaces to the right as you reach Agosto.

There is parking at the end of our street but that is a bit of a hike back up hill to our house. Carpooling would be good.



Detail of streets near the Weaver's home

Cactus Flats and Las Cruces RR

The CF&LC serves the mythical towns of Cactus Flats and Las Cruces, old Mexico. So it is possible that we cross the border both for passengers (only legal ones) and goods. Cactus Flats while an older town, has passed a sales tax and a hotel tax so there are some new buildings in town. The fire station is a result of the taxes however, more funds are needed to purchase a new engine. More people are moving West these days so the town is expected to grow in the coming years.

There are two independent loops and trains are run with trackside Train Engineer. Only steam power is used since diesels are not yet available.



Cactus Flats and Las Cruces RR

TGRS HOLIDAY PARTY

We will hold our annual holiday party and gift exchange (look for rules from Norm elsewhere in this issue) on Dec 1, 2007. The location will be the same as last year; the Hometown Buffet on the west side of Oracle Rd. just north of River Rd. The buffet will begin at 12:30 and we have the room until 4 p.m. If you weren't there last year, you missed a really fun time. We have our own large room and of course plenty of food and lots of time to eat it. The cost is \$10 per person and your money must be in on or before the next club meeting November 10th. If you won't be at that meeting; you may mail a check made out to TGRS to Willis Fagg, 12440 E Ave. de la Vista Verde, Tucson, AZ 85749. Come have fun and see your fellow TGRSer's in their holiday finery.

HOLIDAY GIFT EXCHANGE RULES

By Norm Ulmer

I think the gift exchange "rules" are close to last years. Please bring a new, wrapped present valued at about \$10; preferably train related. When you arrive you will draw a number that will be the order in which you may come up and select a present. The next person(s) may pick a wrapped present or steal yours. When a present is stolen for the second time,

it is "dead" and cannot be stolen again. Come join the holiday fun.

Events Callendar from Lew Sleeper

1. November 23--- Casa de los Ninos
2. November 26---Hudlow Show
3. November 27---Gary Martin begins a TBG layout for December 1
4. December 1---Christmas Party
5. December 8---Swap Meet Show
6. December 11 & 12---St Marks
7. December 26-28---VA Show
8. January- Swap Meet Show
9. January-American Home Show

2008 Rails in the Garden Tour from Robert Dirksen

Work has begun on the 2008 Rails in the Garden Tour, which will be held on March 8-9, 2008. Tickets will be available for members at the Christmas Party in December. The railroads for this tour will be the Blackwells, Dorgans, J. Sanders, J. Cooks, Gasts, Martins, Stoessers, and the Karrells. We will be needing volunteers to help that weekend, so keep your calendars open, if you can.

Alamosa to La Veta in Colorado by Buzz Weaver

Here are some shots I took on the Alamosa to La Veta,CO train trip.





Photos courtesy of Buzz Weaver

Nice scenery for part of the trip over La Veta Pass. Departure is at 9:00am and it returns about 4:30. Tickets are \$39.00 for seniors and \$48 (?) for adults. It is affiliated with the D&RG historical society. We saw two bears, deer and many elk. We felt it was worth doing if you are in the area.

California Railfan Trip

By Dick Izen

At 6 am on Thursday, September 27, 27 railfans left Phoenix for a quick (four day) tour of major California railroad sights, both full sized and G gauge. Among the group of mainly Phoenix based ABTO members were six of us from the TGRS. These were Nick Buchholz, Ken Karrels, Gary Martin, Glenn Mitchell, Norm Ulmer and myself.

Our first stop was Cajon Pass on the BNSF. This was the main route of the Santa Fe's Chicago-Los Angeles storied mainline. We were a bit disappointed as we got there during a construction period (the BNSF is adding a third line through the pass) and trains were being held for the workers safety. We waited a bit, however and our persistence was rewarded with the resumption of activity.



BNSF double stack train enters Cajon Pass. Those wavy lines to the left are rail for the third track that is being added.

From Cajon we drove to the storied Tehachapi loop where long trains climb through a 360 degree loop. Our (bad) luck was holding and though we saw the loop, there wasn't any activity that afternoon.

From the loop we drove to John Bell's home to view the layout he and his friend Larry Morris are building, as well as John's collection of G gauge trains. He had more cars and engines than most hobby shops including an absolutely beautiful USA Trains Big Boy that was displayed on a shelf.

John's place overlooks the tracks above Tehachapi and has a spectacular view. While his railroad is under construction, the main loop is complete and we were impressed with his layout.



An LGB Sumpter Valley is pulling a log train on John's layout. The temporary supports will be replaced with a curved trestle.

The next morning (Friday) we returned to Tehachapi Loop and found a more normal busy traffic pattern. Part of the reason there is so much traffic on the loop is that it is used by both the BNSF (which acquired track rights when it consolidated with the Santa Fe) and the Union Pacific (which gained ownership when it consolidated with the Southern Pacific).



Four different paint schemes on the four BNSF locomotives pulling this double stack train up 'the hill'.

This is one of the places where you can get up close with big time railroading and many of us took advantage of this by standing inside the loop while the same train passed both in front and behind us. Even those of us who don't love diesels and double stack trains couldn't help being impressed by the length of the trains. You could stand with the train to your rear and watch still more cars coming out of the cut under the loop while the front part of the train was out of sight to your right. We had both BNSF and UP trains roar past up the hill. Big time railroading indeed!

From Tehachapi we headed to the horse shoe bend at the town of Caliente. Here the BNSF comes down the mountain, turns 180 degrees and heads back down the next mountain. As with Tehachapi, you can get right up next to big railroading, though the scenery is a bit less dramatic.



That's the same train coming down the hill at the left and going past us at the right. That's Gary Martin at the far left, Ken Karrels in the blue shirt and cap is on the left of the group of three and Glenn Mitchell is on the right, near the rail, filming the train.

After sharpening our enthusiasm we visited the Gold Coast Station store in the town of Tehachapi (and their warehouse).



Train crossing one of Bob Treat's many bridges. That's Gary at the top of the steps and Glenn filming from beyond the far trestle.

The next stop was Bob Treat's spectacular layout which has been featured in GR several times. Bob is best known for his cast mountains but his water features and many bridges and trestles and attention to details are also noteworthy.

On Saturday morning we drove to Ross and Sue Pipers' layout near Alpine. The Pipers have a very nice layout with great details and very careful placement of scale (more or less) trees. They have also developed the use of high density foam board and sell a series of kits under the Rainbow Ridge name.



Freight train on the Piper's layout passes in front of a freight station (made from one of their kits). Note the realistic placement and pruning of trees.

The Pipers use quite a bit of automation including station stops and a lift bridge that raises from its normally closed position to permit a train to pass.

Sue Pipers was kind enough to give hands on lessons in the use of their foam board so that we could see how useful this new material could be.



The Churchill's railroad as it has been rebuilt after the fire. It doesn't look as though it is less than four years old.

From that layout we drove to Terry and Alice Churchill's Hummingbird Canyon Railroad. This is a very lovely railroad in a small space, but the real

story is that both the house and the railroad were completely destroyed by the Scripps fire four years ago.

Our final stop of the day was Roger and Faith Clarkson's R & F Railroad in Riverside. This is an extensive railroad (on over 1/3 of an acre) that really can't be captured with a single photo and has been featured recently in GR.



A 60 car freight pulled by a Big Boy is in the middle of the picture and the refinery is in the foreground. That's Glenn Mitchell filming at the right of the photo.

While they have a narrow gauge section featuring Shays, most of the railroad features long main line trains including (while we were there) a 60 car freight pulled by a Big Boy, double headed Hudsons pulling a long heavyweight passenger train and a 105 foot long double stack train pulled by five modern diesels.

Roger ran both during the day and then, after dinner, in the evening. His passenger trains (and the headlights and lit cabooses on his freight trains) as well as the many lit buildings made a magical scene. Particularly impressive is the refinery pictured above. It has over 100 small lights, three welders with arc lights and a 'waste gas' pipe which (connected under ground to a propane tank) flares off spectacularly at night.

Sunday morning 27 tired but very happy railroaders headed east for home.

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
TUCSON GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY
OCTOBER 27, 2007
At the home of Glenn and Janet Mitchell**

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by the President, Norm Ulmer. New members and guests were introduced. It was announced that Bob Schwab is in the hospital having suffered a heart attack.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

The Treasurer, Willis Fagg, reported a balance in all accounts of \$7,057.46.

The Newsletter Chairman thanked members for their contributions to the newsletter. He said that he tried to limit each issue to 8 pages, so some articles that are submitted may appear in a later issue.

In the absence of the Vice President, the President announced the following events:

1. Toy Train Operator's swap meet December 8th - Children's Layout
2. Children's layout at St. Mark's Methodist Church Dec. 10 and 11.
3. Veteran's Administration Layout to be set up Dec. 26 and run through Dec.28.
4. There will be another TTO swap meet in January
5. The American Home Show in January
6. Gary Martin announced that he has made arrangements for a layout at the Tucson Botanical Gardens for three weeks in December. They are going to purchase the track and transformer. TGRS will set it up, but TBG will provide people to run the trains. Gary requested volunteers to set the layout up November 27 and 28.

Membership Chairman, Ibbey Ulmer, reported a total of 83 members and announced that the latest version of the roster is available on the web site. Members will need a sign in and password to access it and print it out. The president said he would be glad to give any member that information over the phone.

Maintenance Chairman, Gary Martin, said that he is in the process of repairing two engines

Mentoring Chairman, Nick Buchholz, passed around some sign up sheets for those who wish mentors, for those who are willing to be mentors and for members to tell what areas they might have expertise in.

Social Chairman, Chuck Cook, announced that the Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 1 at the Hometown Café on the Northwest corner of Oracle and River Rd. from 12:30 to 4:00. The cost will be \$10.00 per person payable to the Treasurer in advance. The proposed monthly lunches have not been set up yet.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. It was announced that our request for 501 (C)(3) status has been approved as of 14 August, 2007 for 5 years. This means that contributions to the club of money, equipment or time outside of

- regular meetings, such as running trains at an event, may be deducted from your income tax.
2. There is a very nice article and layout in the latest issue of Garden Railways about the Convention in Chandler. Dick Izen was the author and did an excellent job. There is still a need for volunteers for the convention and a sign up sheet was made available.
 3. George Fitzner is re-doing the railing of the crossover bridge for the modular layout
 4. Nick Buchholz has designed and Norm Ulmer is building two 2 ft modules to mate with the lift bridge. Norm asked if anyone would like to help to let him know.
 5. Jim Cook is going to draw up a list of duties for day chairmen at shows. He has asked that those who have served as day chairmen contact him.
 6. The call went out for a volunteer to be Volunteer Chairman.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bob Dirksen, Chairman for the Rails in the Garden Tour announced that it will take place March 8th and 9th this year. All eight railroads have been chosen. They will be mostly on the eastside this year. Bob and Jackie Conrad have agreed to assist the Dirksens and possibly be chairmen for next year. Tickets will be available at the Christmas Party. He requested a volunteer to take care of publicity.
2. The next meeting will be November 10 at the home of Buzz and June Weaver in Green Valley. The trains will be running at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting will start at 10:00.

Minutes of the October BOD Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser

October 23, 2007-7:00 P.M. at the home of Norm and Ibbby Ulmer

All Board members were present except 3
 Pres. Norm thanked Ibbby for hosting
 Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Willis Fagg reported:

1. Current checking account balance is \$3,141.61
2. Reserve account balance is \$3,915.85 for a total of all accounts of \$7,057.46
3. Revenues to date are \$937.00 and expenses of \$2,297.34 for a net decrease of \$1,360.34
4. Membership renewal total is 82.
5. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Vice President Events:

10. October 28---Halloween Carnival at St. Thomas
11. November 6--- 100 kids at Gary's was cancelled
12. November 23--- Casa de los Ninos
13. November 26---Hudlow Show

14. November 27---Gary Martin begins a TBG layout for December 1
15. December 1---Christmas Party
16. December 8---Swap Meet Show
17. December 11 & 12---St Marks
18. December 26-28---VA Show

Membership Chairman's Report: Ibbby Ulmer let us know the new membership roster is on the website. Alan Oelschlager is co-manager of the Hobby Store at Ace Hardware on 22nd. Joe Findysz is working at Copper State Fasteners. Sharon is starting a genealogy business. Pete and Shaun are still there.

Social Committee: Willis Fagg will bring a sign up sheet to the meeting for the Christmas Party. The price of the meal will be around \$9.00
 A layout at the **Cancer Center** is probably not going to happen, maybe at the Children's Center. We have a DVD we would like Andy to show the hospital personnel.

Old Business:

A. Non-Profit filing report: Nick reported that we have been approved to be tax exempt from Federal income tax under section 501© (3) and we will be able to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055. Being an organization exempt under section 501 © (3), during our advance ruling date we will be treated as a public charity .We will be in an advance ruling date from August 14, 2007 till June 30, 2012. Then we must file another application Form 8734 within 90 days after we receive the form, then they will notify about our public charity status. Nick will memo this information to all the board. We will have to revise our agreement with ABTO concerning the 2008 Convention. We will have to know if our checkbook is enough records along with the Treasurers records. We will need to let contributors know that if they donate money (it will go in the General Fund) or if material goods that we will use them in the best way for the club. On our new members application it should state we are a 501 © (3).

B. Convention report:

Norm said "thing were going a little slow and that volunteers do not have to buy a shirt for volunteering at the convention." All the host and hostess showing their layouts will be given a t-shirt."

C. Nick and Norm are working on the 2, 2 foot connection modules. A connector will be put on each side of the bridge. The ends on the modules will be protected. Folding legs are being looked into.

New Business:

A. Gary is working with Michelle at the TBG about installing a layout there that TBG will pay for and staff. They will be purchasing track, controllers, engines, transformer and cars. Gary will be using 180 ft. of LGB track. LGB track is going to be cheaper than Aristo-Craft.

B. We will be looking into a banner for the Children's Layout. Approximate size will be 16" high x 12 ft. long. The logo will be 12" high. The banner will say **Tucson Garden Railway Society.**

C. Literacy Volunteers layout--we will be unable to do this.

D. TTOM Swap meet--we are committed.

E. Train Collectors swap meet, 11---4/5---@Mesa Convention Center.

F. NMRA meet, ---11/10/2007---2009 E. River Road

G. Gerry Pfeiffer is still selling his rolling stock.

Other new business:

RITG: Dirk will do, with Bob Conrad's help. Tickets and directions, members will need to help. Ticket prices will stay the same. Dates are March 8&9, 2008. The phone will be turned on 11/9/2007. All 8 sites have been selected. Gast---Dorgan---Blackwell---Stoesser---Karrel---Martin---Jim Cook---Sander.

Membership: Different levels of membership were discussed such as passenger-this would be a family, brakeman-this would be one person.

No date was set for the next board meeting.



Southern Arizona Transportation Museum

EVENT: Holiday Express at the Depot!
DATE: Saturday, December 8th, 2007
TIME: Various, see schedule
PLACE: Southern Arizona Transportation Museum at the Historic Depot, 414 N. Toole Ave. Tucson, Arizona
PRICE: Free admission, open to public
CONTACT: Laura Caywood Barker, 520-623-2223

Short description:

Holiday Express at the Depot on Saturday, December 8th, 2007 **10am – 1pm:** Enjoy photos with Santa & the locomotive complete with sounds and "steam", "Polar Express" at story time, stamp activities and more! Bring a new & unwrapped gift for local children's charity, The Shayann Kindness Project or diapers for children or adults for the 94.9 MIXFM Diaper Drive. **ON SUNDAY:** the Fox Tucson Theatre Foundation presents the movie "Polar Express"! Call 624-1515 or www.foxtucsontheatre.org

Schedule: 10:30am - 1pm: At 10:30am Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at the Locomotive on a big shiny

Harley. Let us capture your child's holiday photo with Santa & the locomotive (cost \$).

10am - 1pm: Be awed by the sounds and "steam" of Locomotive #1673 "coming alive" once again! Stamp activities are presented by the Postal History Foundation. Write a letter to Santa, presented by the Romance Writers of Tucson.

***Bring a new & unwrapped gift for local children's charity, The Shayann Kindness Project or diapers for children or adults for the 94.9 MIXFM Diaper Drive.**

11:30am-1pm: Story time will be provided at the Depot by the Tucson-Pima Public Library's Main Library. Join us for a reading of the Polar Express and more great stories.

10am - 5pm, Saturday and Sunday: Complete holiday shopping at local artisan show hosted by Autumn Moon Promotions.

SUNDAY: The Fox Tucson Theatre Foundation presents "Polar Express" with Tom Hanks! \$10 per person, \$8 for students, seniors and military (% proceeds benefit the Museum at the Depot). Call 520.624.1515 or visit www.foxtucsontheatre.org

Free parking surrounding the Depot, metered street parking is always free on Saturday or park in the Pennington Garage (Just north of Congress on Scott Ave.).

EVENT: HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS – 11th Season!
DATE: Warehouse Tours; November 10th, December 8th, 2007 & January 12th, February 9th, March 8th, 2008
TIME: 8:45AM – 11AM
PLACE: Meet in the Hotel Congress Lobby, 311 E. Congress St. (Congress St. & 4th Ave.)
SPONSORED BY: The Southern Arizona Transportation Museum
PRICE: \$5 a person, at the beginning of the tour.

The Cup Cafe at Hotel Congress is hosting "Railroad Breakfasts" before the tour (Breakfast is not included in tour.)

Hotel Congress Pre-tour
Hotel congress employee shares little-known secrets of this 1919 railroad hotel.

Warehouse District Tour
Enjoy downtown art galleries while learning about the historic use of these interesting Warehouse District buildings - Conducted by Ruth Wenberg

New Members

TGRS extends a warm welcome to our newest members; Bruce & Pat Somerhalder have spent part of the year in California and part here in Saddlebrook since 1992. He is a retired Electronic Technician who worked for the Federal government. They will soon start their Garden Railroad and will welcome help from experienced railroaders.

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:

lby Ulmer
4935 N. Craycroft Road
Tucson, AZ 85718

Calendar of Events

Nov 10	Buzz & June Weaver's
Dec 1	Christmas/Holiday Party
Jan	No meeting in January
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
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