



# Tucson Garden Railway Society's Time Table

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

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

April, 2008

## The April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting is a round-a-bout.

Here's a wonderful opportunity to see three very different garden railroads in less than a day!

The April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting will start at Joe & Ellen Stoesser's home at 4739 N. Mayfair Circle, Tucson, 8570 at 8:30 AM. Then we go to Jim & Madelyn Cook's Caliche & Saguaro RR at 10420 E. Ft. Lowell Rd for our meeting at 10:30 AM and then off to Ken & Mary Karrel's The Double K Ranch Railroad at 3930 N. Smoky Topaz, Tucson at noon to see their layout and have lunch,

Directions as follows:

Stoesser's take E. River Rd.  
Turn L onto N. Sabino Canyon Rd,  
Turn Left onto N. Kolb Rd.,  
Turn R onto E. Snyder Rd  
Turn Right onto N Mayfair Circle

From Stoesser's to Cook's:

Turn L on E. Snyder Rd.  
Turn L on N. Kolb Rd.  
Kolb turns into N. Sabino Canyon Rd  
Turn L onto Tanque Verde Rd.  
Turn L onto N. Houghton Rd  
Turn R onto Ft. Lowell Rd. It's the second house on the South Side.

From Cook's to Karrels':

Turn right exiting Cooks' onto Ft. Lowell Rd  
Continue 1.9 miles E to Soldier Trail.  
Turn left onto Soldier Trail (North) for 1 mile.  
Turn Right onto Roger Rd.  
After 0.3 miles turn right onto Smoky Topaz.  
House is on the left.

For those of you getting a late start, if you want to go to Cook's directly take any major east-west road (Tanque Verde, Broadway, Speedway) to Houghton, go north to Ft. Lowell and turn east.. It's the second house on the right.

If you want to go directly to Karrels', follow the directions to the Cooks' but keeping going until you get to Soldier Trail and follow the directions above.

There will be \$5.00 per person fee for lunch to cover expenses. Bring chairs for the meeting at Cook's as well as for Karrels'.

Hope to see you at one of these great layouts.

## National Garden Railways Convention

Norm will be passing out Volunteer assignment schedules at the meeting on the 12th of April. Folks who signed up to serve at the National Garden Railway Convention should make a special effort to be at that meeting to get their assignment schedules.

Thanks,  
Norm

## Featured Railroads



**The Mayfair Valley, Joe & Ellen Stoesser, 4739 N. Mayfair Circle.** Features two loops and trains that are both battery and track powered. The locomotives, both steam and diesel, run in a landscape that feature a rodeo and the Maxwell Gravel Works.



**The Caliche and Saguaro Railroad” Jim and Madelyn Cook, 10420 Ft. Lowell - Tucson.** Begun in 2002, the railroad covers about 35’ by 100’, runs 4 tracks and a trolley, and contains over 60 buildings and nearly 200 figures. The town of Headstone is a movie studio, Lowell Bluffs is the shopping center, and Pinnacle Peak is the dairy. Three waterfalls and four bridges complete the scenery.



**The Double K Ranch Railroad, Ken and Mary Karrels, 3930 N. Smokey Topaz – Tucson.** The Double K Ranch is a B&B that features a caboose guest house, a ride-on 7 and 1/2 inch railway and a garden railway. It has numerous visual and audio features, including scenes from Ken’s youth and a wedding chapel with organ music. A recent addition is a scale model of the downtown Tucson depot. A large water feature is also part of the background.

**The 2008 Rails in the Garden Tour** was the most successful one we've had so far. Attendance at the sites ran from 700 to 1500 for both days with most of them compiling attendances of + or - 1000. The weather was beautiful and generally everything went well.

Let me first of all thank those who put their gardens on display:

- Barry and Gina Blackwell
- Gary and Peggy Martin
- Mike and Jane Dorgan
- Joe and Ellen Stoesser

- Jay and Sallie Sanders ( The Mitchells as surrogate hosts)
- Rick and Sue Gast
- Jim and Madelyn Cook
- Ken and Mary Karrels

Secondly, I would like to thank Glenn and Janet Mitchell for their continual aid and support with various parts of the operation. Janet designed and had many ads printed and delivered. Glenn helped in the distribution of various materials to the railroad sites.

Nick Buchholz and Marvin Clark helped with the stapling and folding.

I would like to thank Barbeques Galore and 22nd Street Ace hardware for helping to sell tickets. Many tickets were sold through these outlets. R&R Pizza also helped by distributing advertising for us.

Lastly, a great big thank you to club members and friends, family and neighbors who helped on the days of the tour. Nothing can be successful without the help of those who work “in the trenches.”

The winner of the door prize was Ellen Garber of Tucson.

## History of the TGRS



**Gary Martin**

This month our highlighted member is our fifth President, Gary Martin, but it seems as if there is not much more to say about Gary that wasn't said in the latest issue of Garden Railways Magazine. So, I will urge you to check out that article which was written by our own Dick Izen. Gary's layout is featured and even appears on the cover. Of course we know about his skills in garden railroading and always tout his Eagle Mountain Railroad as THE must see layout in Tucson. In addition, Gary has helped innumerable club members with their railroads over the years.

## John L. "Lee" Willetts

Born September 10, 1943

Died February 19, 2008



We regret the recent passing of one of our members, Lee Willetts. He was a long time member of TGRS and was the cochairman for registration for the 2008 National Garden Railway Convention. We knew him to be a hard worker and good friend, always positive and pleasant to be around. He was active in many other areas of the community and his memorial service was attended by a large number of people whose lives he touched over the years. There were many memories shared and tributes made, including a ceremony by his adopted Pascua Yaqui Family. We will miss Lee's warm and friendly smile and his hard work and dedication to our organization.

### Minutes of the March 15, 2008 Meeting Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser

The meeting was held at the home of Bob and Jean Hoffman

Pres. Norm thanked the Hoffman's for hosting

There were 46 attendees, and 2 guests  
Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

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

1. Current checking account balance of \$8,608.74.
2. Reserve account balance is \$3,920.75 for a total of all accounts of \$12,529.49
3. Revenues to date are \$9,238.10 and expenses of \$5,131.31 for a net decrease of \$4,106.79.

4. RITG –Revenue \$6469.00---expenses to date are \$760.23 for a net of \$5,708.77.
5. We received a refund of \$30.00 overpayment from our liability insurance.
6. Membership total is 91.
7. The treasurer's report was approved.

**Editor's Report:** Jim Miller reported things were going well. He will add the NGRC dates to the **Time Table** calendar. The print on the directions was a little light in the **Time Table**.

**Vice Presidents Report:** Lew reported:

1. TTOM Swap Meet: 6/7/08
2. Home Show—June 6-8—Lew will be gone
3. He still has informational forms for members to fill out. These forms have a space you can fill out for things you would like to learn.
4. The "Railroads for Kids" brochure is ready to mailed in April to 87 elementary school principals. They can contact Norm if they would like us to make a presentation. There was a presentation at Hudlow by Phyllis Dirksen and was a huge success.
5. The dates of the Festival of Light downtown display are –December 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> also 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. Lew will be recruiting volunteers in the fall.

**Mentors Report:** Nick Buchholz reported he has connected 3 members with their mentors. He has the 3 counselors that are needed for the Boy Scouts in order for the scouts to get their railroad badge.

**Social Event:** This will be at Home Town Buffet on the east side on Wednesday, 3/19/2008 at 11:15. Chuck will give directions.

**Garden Railways:** Norm would like all members to read the April issue and see Gary's layout and the article wrote by Dick Izen. It is beautiful article about the layout.

**Old Business:**

**A. Convention Report:** Norm needs volunteers to be bus guides. He would also like the hosts to get neighbors, friends and relations to free up the members to be able to volunteer for other things. We have not quite 1100 people registered with the convention being financially sound. 140 convention cars have been sold. If you are going just to work and not to any of the workshops or functions, you do not need to pay the registration fee.

**Jay Sanders** had tee shirts at the meeting to be taken home. These shirts are a trimmer fit then the white ones we have. He will have the polos at the April meeting, you can still order polos, if you would like to.

**B. Rails in the Garden:** Bob has been doing this for 4 years and now we need a new volunteer to be in charge of event. Phyllis and Janet have a lot of information on their computers. Glenn Mitchell has been putting the cross bucks at the hosts sites and delivering flyers to the RV parks. Ibbly Ulmer was on the radio. R&R Pizza put flyers on the pizza boxes. BBQ sold \$2450.00 in tickets. Alan Oelschlager sold

tickets at Ace Hardware. An excited Ellen Garber won the raffle train.

**C. UMC Children's Hospital:** Norm has a meeting with Kent Rollins on 3/26/08 about a permanent layout there. This would be a whimsical layout. He will take a DVD which has the Children's Hospital in Phoenix and another hospital on it with him plus two articles. The Children's Hospital is under construction and is located at Campbell and Speedway. For the time being we will support **The Children's Hospital** as our charity.

**New Business:**

- A. Nick Buchholz will host the May meeting.
- B. Tucson Gardener: This is a new committee headed by Janet Mitchell and Peggy Martin. This is about our layouts on the website; it is on hold right now.

**Q&A Session:**

Bob Hoffman needs help on Thursday for the bus tours. Bob found that E600 Glue works well Marine Goop is good glue. These can be found at Lowe's, Michael's, and Ace. Herb Hoffman would like tips like these to be put in the newsletter. Email Jim with any tips like this and he will put them in.

The next regular meeting will be a Round-a-Bout---  
April 12, 2008

Joe & Ellen Stoesser---8:30

Jim & Madelyn Cook---10:00---meeting

Ken & Mary Karrels---after the meeting

May meeting-- Nick Buchholz & Mary Ken---5/24---  
trains will run at 9:00 A.M.

with the meeting at 10:00.

June---Jack & Rosalie Forgue

July---no meeting

August --- Chuck & Ruth Taylor

September---Bob & Eileen Schwab

**Minutes of the March BOD Meeting  
Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser**

March 11, 2008-7:00 P.M. at the home of Jim and Madelyn Cook

All Board members were present except 1 Pres. Norm thanked Jim & Madelyn for hosting Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

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

1. Current checking account balance is \$3,475.23.
2. Reserve account balance is \$3,920.75 for a total of all accounts of \$7,395.98.
3. Revenues to date are \$4,102.10 and expenses of \$5,128.82 for a net decrease of \$1,026.72.
4. We received an insurance refund of \$30.00 for overpayment on our new liability policy.
5. RITG revenues to date are \$1,333.00 plus \$2,396.49 reported by Bob Dirksen. Expenses to date are \$878.86 plus \$536.71 reported by Bob.
6. Membership renewal total is 91.
7. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Vice President Events:** Lew Sleeper reported he has revised the flyer for the elementary schools. These flyers will be sent to the principal of the schools in April for their consideration. The packet will have a cover sheet and contain all the information about us and there will be a phone number for them to contact us if they so desire. The Home Show (6&7&8) will be in June. Chuck will be working on this and also the TTOM.

**Membership Chairman's Report:** Ibby Ulmer reported she will write an article about Lee Willets for the **Time Table**. There will also be a photo of him.

**Mentor Committee:** Nick Buchholz reported he has 3 members who will help him with the Scout Merit Badge program.

**Social Committee:** Chuck Cook reported that the monthly social luncheon will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> at Home Town Buffet on the east side at 11:15.

Details on location, etc to follow. Chuck would like to get a debate going about the advantages and disadvantages of different control systems, (AirWire, Digitrax, Aristocraft and Locolinc). Battery versus track. He would like 4 people to talk for about 3 minutes; this would happen after the April meeting.

**Old Business:**

- A. **Convention report:** Norm reported the hotel is full. He is looking for bus guides for the 7 tour buses we have reserved. He would like the host to get people other than the club members to help them and let the members help in other ways. Maybe Rincon West would help us. We need to sell more of the convention cars.
- B. **Downtown Christmas display:** The dates are 12/12-13---11-3:00 P.M. 12/14---3-7:00 P.M.---12/28-29---11-3:00 P.M... There will be reserve parking for unloading the trailer and volunteers parking.
- C. **Children's Hospital:** Norm has set up a meeting with Kent Rollins to present a presentation. Jim Cook and Willis will go with him. This meeting will be held on 3/26/08 at 11:00 A.M. If needed Gary Martin will be asked to do an artist rendering of the layout.

**New Business:**

- A. **Tucson Gardner:** Norm explained this program to us. There was discussion about how beautiful Gary's layout was in the Garden Railways and the article Dick Izen wrote to go with the photos.
- B. **Other New Business.** Willis had an electronics book and he was wondering if we could look at getting a projector for the club, in keeping with our educational goals. He will talk to Janet Mitchell and Nick will contact his people for specs, estimates.

**Bob Dirksen** would like to get on the Sunday program "Tracks Ahead".

**Willis** would like to look into getting a charity to support. There was discussion about partnering up with UMC Children's Hospital. This would need to be educational as well as a good cause.

**Jim** wanted to know if there were enough trucks to pull the trailers at all times. We have 4 trucks that can pull the big trailer and several to pull the small trailers. In an emergency we could maybe contact Rincon West for help.

**TBG:** Chuck asked about the permanent layout at TBG. After the convention Gary will head a work crew to do repairs

No date was set for the next board meeting.

## Comments, Questions and Helpful Hints

[For those of us that don't know it all!]

By Herb Hoffman [thhdp@aol.com]

The purpose of this column is to try to share information about products, problems or experiences. There is a lot of good information and knowledge in our club, this is just an effort to get it out there to all the members. Some of you may remember the *I Think I Knew That* series by Roy Eberback.

At our last meeting, Bob Hoffman brought up a good experience that he had with a glue called **E6000**. He thought it did a good job, was multi purpose and cleaned up easily. It is available at ACE and Home Depot. If you know of other such glues [or other products] please use this column to share them with us.

On the subject of glues etc, I did some looking and found the report done by Wayne and Mary Cay Wesolowski on *Adhesives and Solvents* in the November and December 2005 issues of the Time Table.

In looking back through the Time Table archives, I found many articles about plants, cars, installing control systems etc. Some are still current and others may need "modernization", but they are a good place to start.

For those of us who are not experts, I would say to start by using the KISS principal, [Keep It Simple Stupid]. After all, you can always do more later but it is important to get your feet wet early and see which way you want to go!

A small track loop in your yard first will give you an idea of how easy [or hard] it is to lay track and have a train run on it in your environment. You can try out curve radius, elevations and control and wiring techniques. Remember, what works for me may not be the best for you! You can try out new methods and techniques, which may not have been available in the past.

This way you get the gratification of seeing what you did work [or not] in a short period of time. It will also

expose you to working in the real world of the Tucson area [heat, costs and other demands on your time].



## Southern Arizona Transportation Museum

**EVENT:** HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS – Final tours of the season!  
**DATE:** Warehouse Tours; April 12th, 2008  
Armory Park Tours; April 12th, 2008  
**TIME:** 8:45AM – 11AM  
**PLACE:** Meet in the Hotel Congress Lobby, 311 E. Congress St. (Congress St. & 5th Ave.)  
**SPONSORED BY:** The Southern Arizona Transportation Museum  
**PRICE:** \$5 a person, at the beginning of the tour. No RSVP needed.  
**CONTACT:** Laura Caywood Barker, 520-623-2223, [www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org](http://www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org)

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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

Armory Park Tour  
Explore the beautiful architecture of Armory Park while learning of this historic downtown neighborhood's exciting relationship to the railroad - Conducted by Dave Devine

- All tours meet in the Hotel Congress lobby at **8:45am** and run until approximately 11am
- Limited to the first 25 participants, no RSVP needed
- Construction: See website for construction detours or call
- Parking: More parking than before! See website!
- NOTE: Bring water, a hat and wear walking shoes - 2 mile walk total
- Armory Park Tours ARE wheelchair accessible, please call for more information.
- Warehouse Tours are NOT wheelchair accessible.

# New Members

Dana & Peter Booth and their three sons, Anthony, Owen and Albert. They have seen our displays and came to the tour this year. They are from Wickenburg, but have lived here off and on for some years. He is an education consultant and is involved with many projects around town. She is not currently working, but concentrating on her boys as of now. They do not have a layout as yet, but have a spot in their yard where they plan to put the "MacGail 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:

lby Ulmer  
4935 N. Craycroft Road  
Tucson, AZ 85718

## Calendar of Events

- Apr 12**      **Jim and Madelyn Cook round-a-bout**
- Apr 29**      **National Garden Railways Convention in Chandler**
- May 17**      **Nick Buchholz & Mary Ker**
- Jun 6-8**      **Home Show**
- Jun 6&7**      **TTOM Swap Meet**
- Jun 21**      **Jack and Rosalie Forgues**

### 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**