



Tucson Garden Railway Society's

Time Table

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

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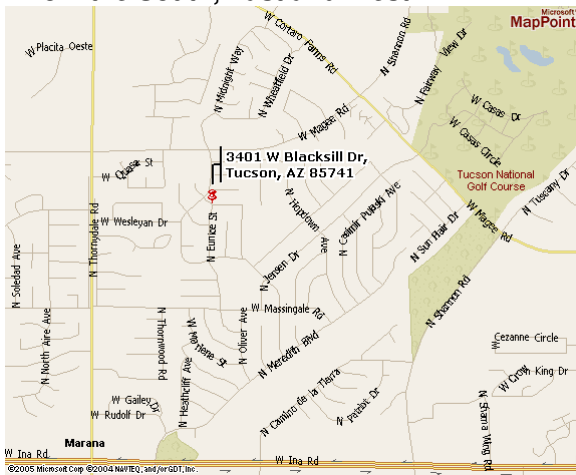
May, 2008

The May Meeting is at the home of Nick
Buchholz and Mary Ker

Saturday May 24th at 9:00 am.

Directions to the Buchholz/Ker Home

From the South, East and West:



Go to the intersection of Ina and Thornydale Rds. Turn North on Thornydale Drive about .7 miles to Wesleyan Road. (Wesleyan is at the end of the decorative "Sound wall", one block north of the Fire Station on the east side of Thornydale)

Turn right (east) onto Wesleyan. Drive until Wesleyan T's into Rasmussen

Turn left onto Rasmussen Ave. Go to the second right. This is Blacksill Dr. Turn right onto Blacksill Dr

From the North:

Go to the Intersection of W. Magee, W. Cortaro Farms and N. Shannon Rds. near Tucson National.

Turn West onto W. Magee Rd go about .4 Miles until you reach Rasmussen Ave.

Turn Left (south) onto Rasmussen.

Go 4 blocks to Blacksill Dr. Turn left (east onto Blacksill Dr

Our house is straight ahead of you as you finish the turn onto Blacksill, on the southeast corner of Blacksill and Eunice. Its the orange slump block house with a 30 foot pine tree in front. The number is 3401 W Blacksill Dr. Our phone is 744-4932

THE TUCSON, PIEDMONT AND SONORAN DESERT RR

The TP&SD is a narrow gauge railroad set in 1926 in southeastern Arizona. The railroad goes from Douglas on the border to Klondike in the White Mtns., traveling up the Sulfur Springs valley through Paul Spur, Gleeson, Courtland, and Pearce to arrive at Cochise Courthouse, the track continue north and east through Cascabel, Cactus Flats, Wilcox and Bonita to finally arrive in Klondike.

The railroads timetable lists many scenic wonders that will help you enjoy your trip. Two water courses the Rainbow Rock River and Stetson Falls provide rafting and fishing for the inhabitants and an active tourist passenger service.

Locomotives are Bachmann and Accucraft 1:20 scale units and a couple of scratch-built locomotives are under construction. The buildings and rolling stock are mostly kits or scratch-built also in 1:20.32 scale in keeping with a three foot gauge railroad. Inspiration for structures comes from buildings in So AZ. and from the right of way of several three foot gauge Railroads, (EBT, NPC, C&C and PCR).

The railroad is designed with operations in mind. Industries include copper and cala rock mines; pepper jelly, lemon balm and sausage factories; quarries, a lumber camp and saw mill and pepper orchards.

Annual Membership Renewal Time is Near

Just a reminder that your TGRS membership renewal is due July 1, 2008. Annual dues are still only \$30/year. Checks should be made payable to TGRS and mailed to:

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

Please do not send cash through the mail.

Thank You

To all the folks who volunteered, who came to our National Garden Railway Convention in Chandler and who gave of their time to help and serve others, and who made the Convention, by the comments from the attendees, one of the best if not the very best conventions ever - Steve Anderson, the Blackwells, Nick Buchholz, the Clarks, the Conrads, Chuck & Debbie Cook, Jim & Madelyn Cook, Bob & Phylis Dirksen, The Dorgans, the Dudas, Steve Dunlap, the Eberbachs, the Faggs, the Fitzners, the Forgues's, the Gasts, Marty Hart, Bob & Jean Hoffman, the Izens, the Joplins, the Karrells, the Koehlers, John Lemon, the Lynns, the Martins, the Martinez, the Mechigians, the Mitchells, Alan Oelschlager, Gerry Pfeiffer, the Sanders, the Shivaks, Byron Skinner, the Sleepers, the Stoessers, the Taylors, the Tiefenbachs, the Tobins, the Tulinos, and the Weavers, I would like to extend the most sincere thanks and appreciation from myself and our Convention Planning Committee for a job very well done. Without your help, we could not have done it.

Norm Ulmer

UMC Children's Hospital Project

On March 26th, Willis Fagg, Jim Cook and I met with Kent Rollins, President of the UMC Foundation, and Vicky Began, V.P. of Women's & Children's Services. The meeting was held at UMC, and we gave Kent & Vicky a DVD on the Children's Hospital in Phoenix and several magazine articles on Children's Hospitals in San Diego and Nashville, showing G gauge layouts.

We were pleased to learn that UMC has already given some thought about having a layout incorporated in the new Children's addition at the hospital, and they are very receptive to our desire to work with them on this project. They are working with a consultant from Tempe, and promised to get him together with us in early April.

The timing for the opening of the new addition is currently set for mid 2010, so there should be ample

time for this project to come to fruition, to the benefit of all concerned.

Norm Ulmer

Bill Dillon

TGRS lost a generous and friendly member at 7:30 this morning (April 6th) when Bill Dillon passed away. Many of you will remember the meetings held on Bill's back patio in Saddlebrook. As recently as our last Christmas party Bill had thought that the doctors had managed to remove all of the cancerous cells and that he was on the road to recovery.

Sadly, that wasn't the case and the cancer of the esophagus flared up again early this year. The doctors offered invasive operations that would have left Bill requiring both breathing and feeding tubes. He decided against that and returned home. His wife Barbara tells me that he had been in a coma for the past several days but that his daughters were with him when he died.

Bill was never a guy to feel sorry for himself or to make a big fuss and it is at his specific wish that there will be no memorial services. Still, I will miss him.

Dick Izen

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Our monthly luncheon will move to a weekend this month to accommodate our members that work Mon-Fri. The monthly luncheon will be held on Saturday May 17th at R&R Pizza Express. This is a railroad themed restaurant with an operating G gauge line running the perimeter near the ceiling and some neat photos and railroad souvenirs. It is located at the northeast corner of River Rd and La Cholla Blvd. This is a Basha's shopping center and the restaurant is the farthest east shop in the center behind the Burger King. They have a great lunch buffet, as well as smaller entrees, and a senior discount. We will arrive at 11:15 a.m. to beat the lunch crowd. Come out and enjoy some good conversation with your railroad friends. Any questions, call Chuck Cook @ 797-1066 or 977-7673

The Historic Tucson SP Depot

by Wayne Wesolowski (copyright W and MC Wesolowski 2008)

Photos from Wayne Wesolowski

Tucson, Arizona has been a railroad town for well over a century. Most of the old historic structures



including the shops and a mammoth concrete coaling tower have disappeared into history. A notable exception is the historic Southern Pacific passenger station.

In 2007 Ken and Mary Karrels asked Wayne Wesolowski to build a model of

the Historic Depot for their garden RR.

Working with original drawings and numerous trips to the prototype, Wayne developed his construction plan. The model was built to 1/32 proportion since the real structure is enormous. Over 100 scale feet of repeating windows and some doors were removed to further meet space requirements. Even with these “selective compressions” the final model is almost five feet long and three feet wide. With people and autos in place, there seems to be no observable conflict with the G scale trains.



Trimming one of the sides

The key structural components are the nearly foot thick walls, unique style windows, the huge tile roof and the symmetry around the center section. Construction used one-half inch 15 pound “precision board” made by Coastal Enterprises (www.precisionboard.com). Small stock pieces and small building kits in Precision Board are available from www.rainbowridgekits.com. This very expensive sign-making material (over \$150 for a 4x8 sheet) is extremely light, easily cut with simple tools

and gives the “foot thick” wall with no problem saving many hours of construction time. Pressing too hard with a pencil will leave a mark, but that also means it can easily be carved with just a simple chisel or knife. Cutting or filing produces large amounts of fine dust that the manufacturer rates as non-toxic. A dust mask is a must, but with normal vacuuming it easily cleans up.



Pouring a window

The body of the model is five box-like structures – the two towers, the center and two wings. Each was assembled separately and then glued together with Titebond III. Urethane glues like Gorilla Glue might be better but even a little oozing posed a real problem to clean up as the material was so soft and wears with even simple sanding. Precision Board comes in many higher densities, but that also makes them much harder to cut. Each section was painted inside and out with two coats of undiluted white elastomeric roof coating providing UV protection from Tucson’s harsh summer sun. Uncoated Precision Board will be attacked by the sun.



The Tucson Depot under construction

Eight different window, door and ventilator styles were cast using original styrene patterns made to prototype dimensions. All were cast using Castolite Co. casting rubber and urethane resins that have

been tested in our summer heat. (they are in Woodstock, IL – no website—888-227-8654 ask for John get the rubber and resin Wayne in Tucson uses—it's not a big place)

The Ohio Central Railroad

For those of you who have satellite television, there is a program on RFDTV (channel 231 on DishTV) solely dedicated to railroading. It is sponsored by organizations that produce railroading tapes and it features both archival footage and contemporary coverage of modern short lines. Its time slot on Dish is 3 P.M. on Monday during daylight saving time and 4 P.M. during standard time. It is rebroadcast at 7 A.M. or 8 A.M. on Tuesday during the respective time periods.

The program is presently featuring the Ohio Central, a successor road to Penn Central and others in eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania. It is both a working and an excursion railroad, featuring both diesel and steam. In fact, it appears that they sometimes use steam in the regular operation. The railroad, based at Coshocton, OH, buys, rebuilds and sells both motive power and rolling stock. The railroad's name is a reincarnation of the Ohio Central, which had a checkered and convoluted history of affiliations and name changes, eventually ending as part of the New York Central System.

For more information about the present day Ohio Central, go to www.ohiocentral.com. For historical information, go to www.members.kconline.com/plank/tochome.htm

Bob Dirksen

Gadsden Pacific Division Toy Train Operating Museum

Toy Train Show & Meet

Saturday, June 7, 2008

Open to the Public 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Quality (Rodeway) Inn Events Center
(Grant & I-10)**

**Exit I-10 from Prince Road from the North or 29th
Street from the South**

**Use the Frontage Road to Grant Road
Events Center is located on Grant immediately West
of I-10 & behind the Quality Inn**



Ken Karrels applies the lettering for the name



The finished Depot

The roof is a 0.040 inch styrene sheet base covered with more than 12 sheets of Plastruct # 91632"styrene jumbo (double size) G-scale Spanish tile"). For sun protection it was painted with Delta Ceramacoat "terra cotta" from Michaels Craft store. The lettering is plastic letters from an old stationery story sign board set.

Special thanks to Ken and Mary for making this project happen as I really enjoyed building it.



Minutes of the April 12, 2008 Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser

The meeting was held at the home of Jim and Madelyn Cook.

Pres. Norm thanked them for hosting

There were 89 attendees, which included 2 guests and 2 new families

Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Willis Fagg reported a;

1. Current checking account balance of \$6,492.39.
2. Reserve account balance is \$5,620.75 for a total of all accounts of \$12,113.14.
3. Revenues to date are \$9,525.10 and expenses of \$5,834.66 for a net decrease of \$3,675.44.
4. Transferred \$1700.00 from checking to savings. We will be looking into putting money into CD's.
5. RITG revenues to date are \$6,699.00 and expense to date are \$1,379.34 for a net gain of \$5,319.66: the best in our five year history. Willis collected \$220 today.
6. Membership total is 92.
7. Lunch was available at \$5.00 a person.
8. The treasurer's report was approved.

Editor's Report: Jim Miller reported things were going fine. He would like to remind members to get their articles to him in a timely manner. Herb Hoffman had suggested a "how to do things" column and he wrote an interesting article about glues and other tidbits to get it started.

Vice Presidents Report: Lew reported:

1. He still has background forms for the members to fill out.
2. Home Show—June 6-8—Chuck Cook will chair this event while Lew is gone. He will also be doing TTOM. There were sign up sheets for these 2 events. Wed. and Thursday is for set up. Run on Friday, Sat, Sunday. Sunday also is tearing down loading the trailers on Monday.
3. Our **Railroading for Kids** program has had two responses. We will start this program in the fall. Information was mailed to 87 schools.

Membership Committee: Ibbey Ulmer reported we have 92 members and she also had tickets for the quilt raffle.

Maintenance Committee: Gary Martin reported he was working on an engine and it would be ready to go.

Mentors Report: Nick Buchholz would like anyone who needs a mentor to contact him. Norm informed the new members about the program.

Education Committee: Janet Mitchell report that Phyllis Dirksen and her have written up guidelines

for the **Railroading for Kids** letter that went out. They would like to do 2 a month. To use the layout with the presentation, they would like 3 classrooms which usually are 100 kids. If less they would just do a presentation. They are looking for members to help give presentations.

Social Committee: Chuck reminded us about the lunch at Karrel's. There is also a social luncheon at Fuddruckers on E. Speedway at 11:15. The luncheon on May 17th, this is a Saturday. Time and place to be announced. Chuck had sign up for the June events.

Old Business;

A. **Convention Report:**

- a. Norm will hold training for the tour bus guides at his house on April 15, 2008 at 1:30 P.M. The tour guides purchased vests to wear.
 - b. **Registration Desk:** Gina Blackwell would like those that have volunteered to contact her. There will be a meeting at her house on next Sunday. She also has some tickets for the banquet and BBQ because of cancellations. If you would like to register contact Gina or go [www. Ngrc.org](http://www.Ngrc.org). Maps are also available on the site. Get off at Exit 175 go to the center of Chandler. You will find the San Marcos Hotel. We have around 1200 registered.
 - c. **General Store:** Jay Sander reported that the polo shirt orders were mixed up, and if you have a wrong size see Jay not Norm.
 - d. **Exhibit Hall:** Gary Martin reported that
 - i. There will be 50 vendors, 37 will be sellers.
 - ii. He still needs volunteers.
 - e. **Parking:** parking space is limited. There are 2 parking garages where we can park for free. We also have 2 golf carts rented for shuttling people.
 - f. **Volunteers vests** will be at the hospitality booth which is next to the registration desk.
- B. **Rails in the Garden:** Bob Dirksen has resigned and Glenn Mitchell will do the Event in 2009.
- C. **Storefront:** Phyllis and Bob would like the storefront to be open on 12/20-21 and they would run the layout that weekend. Norm will check on this.
- D. **UMC Children's Hospital**—Norm reported the meeting with Kent Rollins (Head of UMC Foundation) and the VP of Women's Children's Services when very well. The layout will be a very simple, small oval and will be ready in 2010.
- E. **New Business:** Jerry Tulino would like the club to do a "**Chef for a Day**" at the Ronald McDonald house on a Saturday in July. The

club will pay for the food and Jerry will organize if this is approved. There are usually about 15-20 families. The time would be around 6 in the evening. The menu would be a salad, entrée, and desert. We would also set up a layout. They are located at Campbell & Allen. We will vote on this in May.

Donations: Norm reported a donation of G scale railroad equipment from Dennis Foy. He will receive a receipt and acknowledgement from the club. Jim Cook will organize a silent auction for June. Ron Kuykendall will donate G scale railroad equipment to the club.

Gary invited Becky and Tom to the club meeting to show their pioneer type buildings for members to purchase if they wanted to. They were G scale, log type, with a shake or metal roof. There was also a sawmill.

We are looking for someone with a ¾ ton PU to pull the trailers to the Home Show. We will rent one if necessary. There will volunteers to pull the small trailer.

Q&A Session:

1. Dave Tiefenbach is selling all his railroad equipment but will remain a member of the club.
2. Wayne Wesolowski had a show and tell about cement resurfacing. Marine goop is still winning the 3 year glue experiment.
3. Dick Izen would like the club members to know Bill Dillon died.

The next regular meeting will be at the Buchholz – Ker residence on May 24, trains will run at 9:00 A.M., and the meeting at 10:00 A.M.

Minutes of the April BOD Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser

April 8, 2008-7:00 P.M. at the home of Norm and Ibby Ulmer

All Board members were present
Pres. Norm thanked Ibby for hosting
Minutes of the March meeting were approved

Treasurer's Report: Willis Fagg reported:

1. Current Checking account balance is \$6,477.39.
2. Reserve account balance is \$5,620.75 for a total of all accounts of \$12,098.14.
3. Revenues to date are \$9,510.10 and expenses of \$5,834.66 for a net increase \$3,675.44.
4. Approved by the board was a transfer of \$1700.00 from checking to savings.
5. RITG revenues to date are \$6,684.00 and expenses to date are \$1,379.34 for a net gain of \$5,304.66, the best in our 5 year history.

6. Membership is at 92.

7. The Treasurer's report was approved
Nick Buchholz wanted to know if more money could be put in the reserve account to get a higher rate of interest on the money. Chuck Cook suggested staggered Cd's as to have some money available, if we need it. Willis will prepare a monthly expense report for the board to review.

Vice Presidents Events: Lew Sleeper reported that we had 2 responses to our educational program,

Railroading for Kid's. We will start this program in September.

Chuck Cook is going to chair the Patio Show and TTOM in June. They are both on the weekend of June 6-8. We will be using the kid's layout for TTOM. There will be a sign up sheet in September for December events. We will be adding more questions on the membership applicant form.

Editors Report: Jim Miller would like articles and photos to keep coming in.

Membership Committee: Ibby reported "we have a new member". They were at the RITG.

Social Committee: Chuck Cook reported that lunch will be at Fuddruckers on Speedway on 4/16 at 11:15A.M. This also is Bob Dirksen's birthday and Lew's is the next day. May 17th will be the next lunch, place and time to be announced. There will be a short Board meeting after the lunch.

Educational Committee: Norm gave Janet Mitchell an article from the Tucson Weekly. There was more discussion about getting a projector for the committee. The trailer will be organized after the convention. Janet will be checking with Oasis about a presentation.

Old Business:

- A. Convention Report:** Norm reported Gary needs more volunteers for the Vendors Hall. There are 50 vendors, 38 of these are sellers. There will be a meeting on April 15th at 1:30 P.M. at Norm's house for the 5 people who volunteered to be bus guides at Norm's house. So far we are using 4 buses. There are almost 1200 people registered. Comp rooms are going to speakers. There is also a hospitably room by the casitas for members.
- B. UMC Children's Hospital:** The meeting on the 26th when very well with Kent Rollins. They are working out a design using a consultant from Tempe. They hoped to have it open in 2010 using a whimsical set up which they will build.
- C.** We will do both the Patio Show and TTOM using 3-4 volunteers to do the kid's layout. Chuck will have a signup for the 2 events. The Big Train Show is also this weekend.

New Business:

- A. RITG Volunteer:** Glenn Mitchell will think about chairing this event.
- B.** We accepted a donation of railroad materials from Dennis Foy. We are thinking of having a silent auction for these items. The list should be on the website. Letters will go to him thanking him for the donation.
- C.** Gifts for RITG hosts (billboards) and BBG and Ace Hardware (convention car).
- D.** Joe Findysz is back at Ace Hardware.
- E.** Bill Dillon passed away on Sunday April 6th. We had meetings on his back patio in Saddlebrook last May 17th.
- F.** After lunch there will be a short board meeting.

Comments, Questions and Helpful Hints [For those of us that don't know it all!]

By
Herb Hoffman
[thhdp@aol.com]

I want to open this article with the recognition of Bill Dillon who died in April. He was a great friend, mentor and an outstanding member of our club.

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.

The Hint of the Month is: The Wood Screw!

For most of us the use of wood in our layout is something that we do. We make trestles, bridges, ramps and underpinnings for our tracks and buildings. In most cases this "wood work" is the basis of our layout.

If you never make a mistake or have a "do-over" then a nail will do fine. But, if you are like me the wood screw is a life-saver.

Wood screws come in many sizes, shapes and forms. I have found that the fine thread types seem to do the best overall job for the types and sizes of wood that I have used on my railroad. The fine threads do a good job in holding the wood [at least in the load ranges that we usually work with in model railroads] and they tend to allow you to fasten wood pieces without cracking.

The most economical way to purchase screws is in pound [or larger] boxes. Not only, are the boxes a way to keep your nails sorted by type, but the rectangle boxes that they come are easy to both store and find. [Perhaps it's only me that has gone

out to the store to purchase something I need, only to find that item when I got home. With the price of gas these days, one less trip is a cost saver.]

An investment in a cordless screwdriver/drill is some thing that you will not regret. It will speed up your work, make it much easier and in the end make you a better modeler. I noticed that Consumer Reports had an article on this subject in Jan. 2008.

If you are fastening in a series of screws, you can line up the wood to be fastened, hold it with a couple of clamps, drill the pilot holes, check to see that all is where you want it and then use your drill to put the screws in place. The beauty is that if you make a mistake, you can back out the screws and make adjustment without major damage.

A tip that I have found to make life easier is to drill a small pilot hole to set the screw before starting to turn in the screw.

If you want to make an extra strong joint then first glue [or otherwise bond] the pieces and then apply some wood screws to provide both a chemical bond and a mechanical one. A warning, do this only after you are sure this is the configuration that you want.

If you have a suggestion or comment, please let me know.

New Members

We didn't have any new members join in April.

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.

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".

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

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