



## Tucson Garden Railway Society's

# Time Table

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

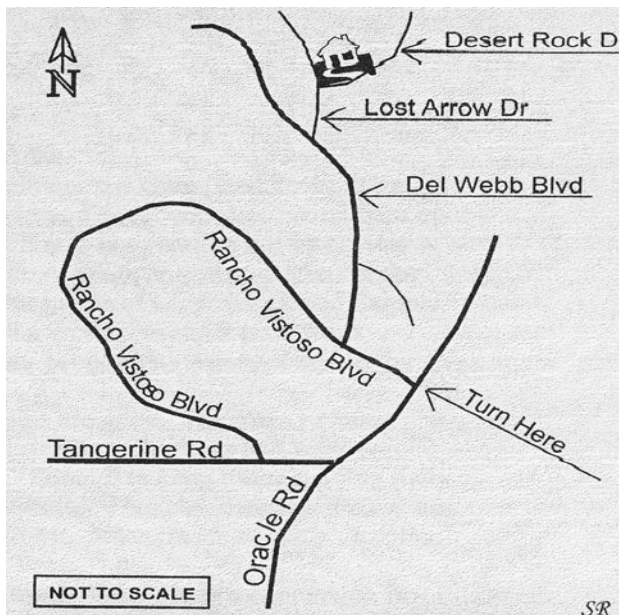
Editor e-mail: [jmiller66@cox.net](mailto:jmiller66@cox.net)

September, 2008

The September meeting is on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September at the home of Bob and Eileen Schwab. Trains run at 9:00 am and the meeting is at 10:00 am. Remember to bring chairs.

14605 N. Desert Rock Dr., Oro Valley, 520-825-3481.

1. Turn left (north) at Oracle Rd.
2. Turn left at Rancho Vistoso Blvd. 1.2 mi.
3. Turn right (northeast) at Del Webb Blvd 1.2 mi.
4. Turn right (north) at Lost Arrow Dr. 0.3 mi.
5. Turn right at Desert Rock Dr; home is on the corner of Lost Arrow and Desert Rock.



The Grand River Southern Railroad is a Colorado mountain narrow gauge system built to service the towns and mines high in the Rockies. Gold and silver was discovered here in the late 1880's. Some thirty years later, the railroad is still in operation but its heyday is over. Regular passenger service is a thing of the past. A streetcar line now handles the major portion of that business between the two largest towns of Clear Creek and Cripple Creek. The Denver and Rio Grande RR runs a twice a week passenger train from Colorado City to all points and provides our mountain people with a connection to the outside world.

Freight trains are still running but the long 50 car trains are gone. The main revenue source is still gold and silver ore. The veins are still rich in such mines as Camp Katherine and the Sylvester Mining and Milling Co. Enough to keep trains running daily. Additional traffic will be needed for the newly constructed Carrie Ann Stamp Mill at one of the highest and most remote locations on San Juan Mt. Movements of cattle, lumber, coal and oil help keep the GRS in the black.

The railroad stretches between Clear Creek and Colorado City where a connection is made with the Denver and Rio Grande. Along the way the line passes over 12 bridges and through 3 tunnels as it travels through such places as Phantom Canyon, Waters and Alpine Tunnels, over Butterfly, Burro and School bridges, down Stewart and Ten Mile C Canyons and passes places like the Curecanti Needle and Hurricane and Needleton Peaks to name a few.

Bob and Eileen Schwab began construction of the GRS in the summer of 1994 with about 4-5 months of planning. Sketches, rejections, more sketches and finally a scale drawing. We settled on Concept B, Revision No. 4. With our water level gauge and about 100 stakes in hand the GRS began to take shape. Under the watchful eyes of our curious neighbors, roadbed was prepared and elevations established. This was accomplished by hauling in with our trusty wheelbarrow, more than 105 cubic yards of dirt. Added to this were thirty tons of boulders, handpicked from a nearby mine. We jokingly say each rock has been handled at least seven times. With the exception if a water feature, no cement or adhesive was used in the construction. All rocks are fitted and held together by friction. We also hauled in about 25 cubic yards of crushed stone.

Few changes to the plan have been made. The original track still lies in its place but much has been added to it – yards, sidings and a streetcar line. Initially the length of the mainline was 420 ft. GRS now has a total of about 650 ft. Eileen and I will be “completed” before the railroad. Adding and refining is an activity very much in progress. The number of

plants put in and taken out over the past thirteen years is uncountable. You will see only a fraction of them now due to age – ours!

Motive power on the GRS is handled by power units from LGB, Bachmann with Barry's Big Train drives and Hartland. Both RC battery power and track power is used. Locolink and Aristo products are used. Much of the rolling stock is composed of tank, gondola, stock, log buggies and boxcars manufactured by LGB, Bachmann, Delton and USA Trains.

Most of the 50 or so structures are scratch built or kit bashed. All of the bridges and trestles are made from scratch using sawed redwood and are bolted together. Figures and vehicles are from just about everyone who makes them, Prieser in the majority. Eileen and I are responsible for the entire construction of the GRS. We still work at it together and very much enjoy watching our trains as they traverse our little Colorado mountain world.

### **Membership Renewal Time is Here**

Current membership expires on June 30. Membership renewal for the 2008/9 fiscal year is \$30.

I am now accepting renewal payments for the upcoming year. Payments can be made at the monthly meetings or by mail (please do not send cash through the mail) to:

Ruth Taylor  
4081 S. Tarantula Hawk Place  
Tucson, AZ 85735

### **MONTHLY LUNCHEON**

Come join your TGRS friends for a social luncheon on Thursday September 18<sup>th</sup> at the eastside Hometown Buffet. I will be out of town, so Bob Conrad will be your host. This Hometown Buffet is at 330 S. Wilmot. That's the west side of Wilmot about 3 blocks south of Broadway. These have consistently been fun gatherings with lots of conversation about trains and other varied topics. The last one was our largest turnout ever, so don't miss out. Plan to arrive about 11:30 to beat the lunch crowd. Any questions, call Chuck Cook @ 797-1066 or 977-7673

### **The Ronald McDonald House display and "Chef for a Day"**

On Saturday, August 16, several TGRS families setup and operated the children's layout at the Ronald McDonald House. Around 4pm the conductors and wives became "Chefs for a Day" and prepared a wonderful dinner. At 6pm many of the RMH guests and staff, as well as, the "Chefs" enjoyed the buffet meal of salad, meatloaf, side

dishes, vegetables, rolls and, of course, dessert. We all had a great time sharing our trains and cooking skills and know that we brightened their day. A couple of days later I received a call from RMH thanking us for participating in this program.

As the organizer of this event I wish to thank everyone who made it a success: Gina Blackwell, Bob and Jackie Conrad, Jack and Rosalie Forgues, Gary and Peggy Martin, Ryan McCabe, Jim Miller, Glenn and Janet Mitchell, Chuck and Ruth Taylor, Rita Tulino and Norm and Ibbby Ulmer.

Jack Forgues, Ryan McCabe, Jim Miller and Rita Tulino were unavailable for the picture.



Photos by Jerry Tulino



### **I received the following information from Marty Hart**

Pima Community College Lecture Series  
Thursday October 23, 2008 6:30pm  
Echoes of the Desert Rails: Railroads in Southern Arizona  
Bill Kalt, lifelong educator and author of "TUCSON WAS A RAILROAD TOWN"  
Richard Dick, railroad historian and committee member of the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum.  
Hotel Congress, 311 Congress St  
Come early and tour the museum

## Minutes of the TGRS Board of Directors Meeting, 19 August, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the home of President Norm Ulmer. Members present: Jim Miller, Willis Fagg., Jim Cook, Nick Buchholz, and Norm Ulmer. Also present were Committee Chairmen, Dick Izen, Gary Martin, Glenn and Janet Mitchell and Ibbey Ulmer

The minutes of the last BOD meeting were approved as published.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Ruth Taylor, the President read her report.

Checking Account Balance as of 8/15/08  
\$12,773.68  
Reserve Account Balance as of 8/15/08  
\$17,128.89  
For a TOTAL of  
\$29,902.57

The Treasurer's report was approved for audit.

The Vice President's report: Willis Fagg reported that he was going to get in touch with SAHBA in regards to their home show. If they could give us good space, we might consider showing our layout. It was suggested that Willis get in touch with the American Home Show to see if they have considered the Tucson Expo Center as a venue for their show since they no longer can get the Convention Center and the Fair Grounds is too far out.

Editor's report: Jim Miller said that he is always looking for content. The deadline is the last week of the month.

Membership Report: Ibbey Ulmer reported 64 members have paid their fiscal 2009 dues. A call will go out via email for members who may have forgotten. The next newsletter will contain a notice to those who have not paid.

Mentor Committee: Nick Buchholz had no report.

Social Committee: In Chuck Cook's absence the President read his report. The next social luncheon is Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. The details are in the newsletter. The September social luncheon will be hosted by Bob Conrad in Chuck's absence. A Pool Tournament is planned for the October get together.

Chuck has three projects tentatively planned for the future: 1. A possible Christmas holiday train display round-a-bout trip to Phoenix. 2. A spring trip to San Diego for train viewing and riding. 3. Also, the October or November meeting will feature a "Debate of the train control systems."

Education Committee: Janet Mitchell is going to work on the Children's Museum. She wants to see the wall that will contain the info. (see report below)

Maintenance Committee: Gary Martin says as far as he knows everything is in working condition. He reported that LGB is now totally out of business so parts for repair of their equipment will be hard to get. We may want to look into purchasing whole engines on EBAY for their parts.

Old Business:

- A. Convention report: Norm Ulmer reported that things are still not completely settled, however TGRS has received \$11,500.00 so far from the Convention proceeds. As part of the split of everything between TGRS and ABTO we now have three megaphones from those that were used by the bus guides. We will retain one and look into selling the other two on EBAY.
- B. There was nothing new to report on the UMC Children's Hospital.
- C. Nick has not heard anything from the Boy Scouts about our assistance in their merit badge program. He will try to get in touch with them again.
- D. Nick presented an accounting for the purchase of a projector for the Education Committee. The sub total is \$777.84 and since \$800.00 has already been authorized for such a purchase he was given permission to go ahead with it.
- E. "Chef For a Day" at the Ronald MacDonald House on August 16 was a success. Ronald, himself, showed up and interacted with the kids. The meal went well and it has been suggested that it be repeated on a regular basis, perhaps twice a year.

New Business:

- A. Dick Izen reported on the progress of the plans for the Tucson Children's Museum. He presented a revised budget. It was agreed that it was probably overstated by about \$1,000.00. Ruth Taylor is working with some people she knows at Union Pacific to possibly contribute to the project.
- B. Glenn Mitchell reported that he has lined up six layouts for sure and is working on two others for the RITG tour. It has been suggested that this year instead of having two classes of tickets – individual and Family – that we just sell tickets for \$5.00 per adult and children under 18 would be free. Another suggestion was that we indicate on the tickets or the maps and/or the flyers and letters where the proceeds go.

Other Business:

There was a discussion on how to get more people to volunteer for the County Fair. It was suggested that mileage incentives be offered to include car pooling and reimbursement for those who haul the trailers. Members can deduct mileage on their income tax as a charitable contribution.

Gary Martin announced that they are running trains at the Tucson Botanical Garden every Thursday evening. There is a water feature being installed.

Anyone who would like to loan the Garden a building it would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ibby Ulmer  
Acting Secretary

## New Members

We welcome Ron Thomas back as a previous member.

## 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

Sep 20      **Bob and Eileen Schwab**  
Oct 18      **Chuck & Ruth Taylor**  
Nov 15      **Gary and Peggy Martin**  
Dec          **Christmas Party**  
Jan          **Jay & Sallie Sanders**  
Feb          **Rincon Country RV Park**

### TGRS Officers and Board of Directors

**President:**.....Norm Ulmer.....520-299-9401  
**V-President:**..... Willis Fagg.....520-760-0147  
**Secretary:**.....Ellen Stoesser...520-577-1210  
**Treasurer:**.....Ruth Taylor....520-908-1312  
**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**