

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

It's time to get together and talk about the fun Christmas gifts you got (or bought yourself) last month. Since the mid town locations seem to be the most attended; on January 12th at 11:30am we will return to the Red Garter Saloon at 3143 E. Speedway. This restaurant has received consistently high marks for the quality of food and service when we have been there. It is located on the north side of the street just east of Country Club. If you are approaching from the east, the sign is a little hard to see. If you come down Country Club from the north, you can actually turn in before Speedway by turning just beyond the credit union. Any questions, call Chuck Cook @ 797-1066 or 977-7673.

TCM offers thanks to TGRS

By Dick Izen

A number of people at the Tucson Children's Museum have expressed their thanks for the work done so far on the new train gallery and have asked me to pass those words of appreciation on to the club. All of the club members deserve thanks for supporting the project but special thanks are due to the many members who pitched in and worked so hard to get the gallery partly finished before the Christmas holidays. Before I get to that, let me give you a quick status report.

Status

On December 15, the last day the museum was closed to the public we completed the track work and installed the overhead train. Glenn Mitchell's momentum system (more on that later) worked perfectly. Press the lit button on the cabinet and the light turns out and the 12 car train works up to speed, makes a complete loop and glides to a halt. Gary Martin completed some back drop painting and installed several parts of the foam tunnel scenery.

In addition, on the same date, Norm Ulmer and his locomotive construction crew brought in the components and assembled the crawl through locomotive. The parts went together very well and we installed rug material in the lower boiler and both the entrance and exit ramps. It is over ten feet long and really looks impressive.

Early on the morning of the 18th, before the museum opened, Nick Buchholz and I swapped the GP-40 for the RS-3 with the TV camera and sound. Both worked well though the camera is having problems. Nick suspects that heat builds up near the power supply and will install a cooling fan in the GP-40 to see if that alleviates the problem. Even without the TV camera we now have sounds of the diesel, horns blowing as it rounds the north curves and bell ringing as it approaches the building fronts in the 'town'.

Work Crews

As I noted above many members have gotten involved in the project reflecting favorably on the club and its spirit. I hate to give a list of names because I am almost certain to leave someone out and offend them. At the same time those members who stepped up with donations and time and effort deserve to be recognized. I apologize in advance if I inadvertently miss anyone.

Elevated Loop

Nick Buchholz, Chuck Taylor, Willis Fagg and Dick Izen were the primary construction crew. Gary Martin painted walls and built foam scenery including the tunnel portals. Glenn Mitchell designed, built and installed the momentum and control circuitry. False front buildings used for scenery came from Roy Eberbach (who built and contributed and astonishing 14 false fronts), Dottie Fagg (2 shops), Jack Forgues, Kirk Lander, Tom and Gretchen Schaefer, Jerry and Rita Tulino and myself. Byron Skinner donated a full box of 5 foot straight track while Jim Miller donated 2 pieces of rolling stock.

Locomotive

This was built largely by Norm Ulmer with the assistance of others at several work days and in assembly at the museum. The crew(s) that helped Norm included Nick Buchholz, Glenn Mitchell, Jim Miller, Bob Conrad, Chuck Taylor and myself.

Posters and Photos

While not yet fully installed this work was headed up by Janet Mitchell with Ruth Taylor, Phyllis Dirksen and Peggy Martin on her crew.

Magnetic Train Cars

I built these and Ruth Taylor researched and wrote the posters explaining the typical lading of each car. These posters are not yet installed as the museum is in the process of having them translated so that they will be bi-lingual.

Remaining Plans

While we installed as much as we could prior to Christmas at the museum's request, there is still work to be done. Chuck and Ruth Taylor are looking for edging to prevent the carpet in the locomotive from unraveling. Gary Martin and Glenn Mitchell have plans for light up 'How does a Steam Engine Work?' and a "How does a Diesel Engine Work?" displays. As mentioned above we still have posters to install and fine tuning for the closed circuit TV system. Our plans are to be hard at it on the first Monday in January. In the interim a hearty "Well Done" and "Thank you for your efforts" to everyone who has pitched in.

Tucson Children's Museum Project

Earlier this year, Dick Izen came to me with an idea - that we (TGRS) should become involved with the Tucson Children's Museum. After kicking it around for a while, I said that it was a laudable thing, and

asked Dick if he would look into just what we could do for the Museum. Well, as you know from the reports in the Newsletter, the idea became a real project, one that is in its final stages of completion. Dick has done a marvelous job of investigating the needs of the Museum in regard to what TGRS can provide. Further, he has gathered a group of our members who were willing to lend their talents to the project, and he has coordinated the development and implementation of the project to its completion. His is an example of what can be done by anyone willing to expend some effort and time on an idea, even though at first it may be very nebulous. Along the way, Dick has had the very capable assistance of Nick Buchholz, Bob Conrad, Phyllis Dirksen, Willis Fagg, Jack Forgeus, Gary Martin, Glenn and Janet Mitchell, Chuck and Ruth Taylor. If I've failed to mention anybody, I apologize. In closing, I feel that TGRS owes Dick, and his "crew" a hearty "Thank you" for a job well done. Norm Ulmer

Upcoming TGRS Elections

By Dick Izen

As I mentioned at our Christmas party, it is time to consider another set of elections. In May, we will elect officers and at large board members to serve from July 1 for the next two years.

President Norm Ulmer has appointed Gary Martin and I to form a nominating committee for the five officer (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer & Newsletter Editor) and four at large Board of Director positions. As per the bylaws we will announce a slate of candidates in April. At the April meeting additional candidates may be nominated from the floor. Elections will be held in May, usually at the May meeting.

While I am certain that we will have a full slate of names, Gary and I are looking for additional members who would be interested in holding either an officer's position or a seat on the Board of Directors. We are particularly interested in new faces who can bring a fresh point of view to running the club.

If you have any interest please contact either Gary or myself.

Tucson Garden Railway Society 2009 Rails In The Garden Tour

This year's tour will be the sixth annual Rails in the Garden Tour and will feature eight garden train layouts primarily on Tucson's west side. Layouts open for viewing include a large, 4000 sq.ft. old Arizona themed pike; a raised, for ease of access, layout featuring bustling city and town scenes and a club layout built and operated primarily by winter visitors. The diversity of the layouts promises to provide another interesting tour. 2009 tour particulars are:

Dates: March 7 & 8, 2009

Times: 10:00 AM 'til 4:00 PM each day

Cost: \$5.00 per person – no charge for children/teens 18 and under

Tickets: available at Barbeque World, at the Hobby Place at Ace Hardware, from TGRS members and by mail

For Info: Visit www.tucsongrs.org for contact info, tour info and tickets by mail form

Email: ritg@tucsongrs.org

Phone: 520-406-8853

The Tucson Garden Railway Society is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Funds raised by tour ticket sales help fund the Society's projects at the Tucson Children's Museum, Tucson Botanical Garden, Ronald McDonald House, Veteran's Hospital and our modular displays at various locations throughout the year.

Minutes of the December 6th

Christmas Party

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser

The luncheon party was held at Hometown Buffet
Norm thanked them for hosting

There were 68 attendees.

The readings of the minutes, Treasurer's, Editor's, Vice President's report were suspended for the party.

Old Business:

- A. **Rails in the Garden:** Glenn Mitchell had packets of tickets and flyers for the members to take. He thanked all those who helped prepare the packets. Pricing is \$5.00 a ticket, all those under 18 free.
- B. **Tucson Children's Museum:** Dick reported that all is going well. Dottie Fagg has donated 2 flat buildings, Jim Miller 2 cars, Jack Forgues and Roy Eberbach each gave a building. Glenn is hooking up the electricity and Gary is working on the tunnel portal. Janet Mitchell has the posters. The address is 200 S 6th Avenue. The intersection is 6th and Stone
- C. **TBG:** Gary had a sign up sheet for Luminary nights on December 12th-13th-14, the hours are 5:00 -8:30 p.m. The layout runs almost every day from 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.
- D. **Festival of Lights:** This was cancelled because the building was sold and another one suitable for the event could not be found.
- E. **TTOM** will be held on 12/13/2008 at Rodeway Inn. We will use the children's layout. We will also have an informational TGRS table. Chuck emailed a sign up sheet to members.

New Business:

Nominating Committee: Dick and Gary are working on the slate for officers for 2009. Dick would like newer members to volunteer for some of the offices.

The next regular meeting will be held at Jay & Sallie Sanders on the 24th at 1:00 p.m.

A Big Welcome to New Members

We have no new members for December.

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

Jan 9-11	Arizona State Home Show
Jan 17	TTOM Swap Meet
Jan 24	Jay & Sallie Sanders
Feb 14	Rincon Country West RV Park
Mar 7&8	RITG
Mar 21	Tucson Botanical Gardens
Apr 16-29	Pima County Fair
May 16	Rick & Sue Gast

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
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