



Tucson Garden Railway Society's

Time Table

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

Editor e-mail: jmiller66@cox.net

March, 2009

The March Meeting is on the 21st at the Tucson Botanical Gardens

2150 North Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85712
Phone 326-9686 <http://tucsonbotanical.org/>

The meeting will start at 11 am with trains running at 10 am. There will be lunch at the restaurant next door followed by a tour of the Gardens at 1 pm.

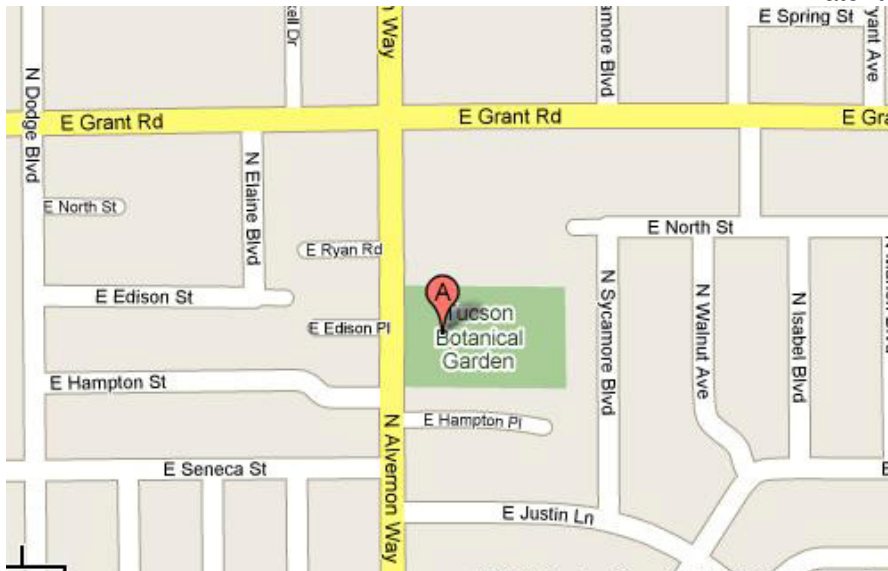
The Tucson Botanical Gardens is on the East side of Alvernon Way a little South of Grant Road

Thursday, April 16th. We will be running two shifts a day through April 26th, including tear down at 5:30 PM on the 26th. Load out of the trailers will take place on Monday April 27th at 10:00 AM.

Volunteer sign-ups started at the January meeting and continued during the February meeting. We need 6-8 volunteers per shift throughout the run of the fair and need to complete the volunteer sign-ups in early March in order to submit our requirements for badges and passes. If you have not already signed up and wish to do so, contact Willis Fagg no later than March 8th at 760-0147 or by e-mail at

km6mv@cox.net.

Willis Fagg



MONTHLY SOCIAL LUNCHEON

For March, our monthly luncheon returns to a weekend. On March 28th we will meet at Maynards Market and Kitchen for lunch. The Market is located in the historic train depot downtown. We will meet at 11:15 and everybody can go to the counter to order their own lunch; and we have a table reserved for 20 people, so we can sit together. Call me, Chuck Cook @ 797-1066 with any questions.

Pima County Fair

Pima County fair will run from April 16th through April 29th. Our participation in the fair is the only venue where we have the opportunity to set up the largest configuration of our modular layout. For our newer members, it offers a chance to learn set up and operation of the modular layout. We will also be running our children's layout, which is very popular with the younger set.

We have scheduled our initial set up of the layout for Friday April 10th at 9:00 AM in Old Pueblo Hall. Population of the scenery modules will take place beginning Monday. The fair opens at 12:00 noon on

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.

Tucson Children's' Museum

The Museum expresses its thanks for TGRS' generous donation and invites all members and their families to attend the official grand opening of the "Whistle Stop Train Gallery". Although the gallery is currently open to museum visitors the grand opening will be around 11:30 on Sunday, April 5.

The museum is open to members and invited guests from 11 to 12 and then opens to the public after noon. To attend the grand opening try to get to the museum between 11 and 11:30 and be certain to wear your club badge so the people at the front desk will admit you before the public hours. You are, of course, welcome to remain and take advantage of the other exhibits in the museum.

At the opening there will be brief remarks by the Museum's director, the TGRS President and, we think, by a representative from the Union Pacific Railroad. Some refreshments will be available.

The real stars will be the elevated train, the kids crawl through locomotive and the bright posters. Please plan to attend and enjoy the gallery we built and the many attractions the museum offers.

The Museum is located at 200 South Sixth Avenue and there is generally plenty of street parking.

TGRS RIDES THE COPPER SPIKE RAILWAY

We will be taking a group outing to Globe, AZ on Saturday April 4th to ride the Copper Spike Railway. The trip is from downtown Globe to the Apache Gold Casino. The rough plan is to take a carpool caravan to Globe leaving Tucson about 7 a.m. to ride the 9:30 train to the casino. While there you can gamble, watch others lose their money and have lunch. We will then ride the 12:30 train back to

Globe. Once back to Globe, we will take a walking tour of downtown; including but not limited to: a historic SP steam engine, a free art gallery, an antiques and curio shop, and many historic buildings. We may also drive the one mile out to their newly excavated Indian cave dwellings park. If we get a group of 20 together, the cost will be \$15 per person AND we get priority seating. To be included on the trip, send your check of \$15 per person made out to TGRS to me; Charles Cook @ 7470 N Thornwood Rd, Tucson, AZ 85741. Please also include a note letting me know if you would prefer to ride with somebody, or if you would prefer to drive, how many riders you could take. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 797-1066. Specific details of what we will do in Globe will not be available until Debbie and I visit there on March 13th. But we do already have the train reservations set for our group. Club members only on the trip until March 13th, then we might open it to non club members. All money must be to my house by March 20th.

February Social Event at Johnny and Fran Ourso's house

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009. About 10 members of the club meet there after having hot chocolate and pastries at LeBuzz. Johnny showed us the ins and outs of the MTH system. He runs both his outside G scale and his extensive indoor O scale layout with this system. Johnny's indoor layout is approximately the size of two 3 car garages attached end to end. I think everyone there was truly amazed and we all had a great time.

Kirk Lander

Photos of the Social Event at the Oruso's.





Photos from Kirk and Leora Lander

Phoenix Light Rail Ted & Valerie Golembiewski

We were in Phoenix for a conference over the weekend and had the opportunity to ride the new light rail system and thought the group might like a report.

The initial line has been open since December 2008 and runs from Bethany Home Road to Dobson Road/Sycamore. It takes about 70 minutes to ride the entire length. The Metro operates M-F from 4:40am to 11:00pm approximately every 10 to 20 minutes. The weekend and holiday schedule is slightly different. A complete map and schedule can be downloaded at <http://donttrustthisguy.com/2008/12/28/the-phoenix-light-rail-is-here/>

The cars are clean, the ride is smooth and quiet. Announcements advise when a station is approaching, as well as which side to exit. There are also periodic announcements regarding food, drinks, and various other public service items.

We boarded at approximately 2:30pm and rode until the cars began to fill with students going home from school. The seats are comfortable but a little tight for large people.

There are kiosks at each station to purchase tickets, which include Senior Citizen discounts. You may use cash or credit/debit cards. The tickets are on an honor system and one never knows when they will be collected. However, if you are without a ticket when the collector asks for one, the fine is steep - \$375.00! So it is better to spend the \$1.25 one way, or \$2.50 round trip ticket. We purchased an all day pass for \$2.50 per person. More information is available at http://www.valleymetro.org/metro_light_rail/

Attached are some pictures we took. Hope you have the opportunity to ride the Metro - wish we had

a similar system in Tucson, and not just the trolley downtown!



ARRIVAL OF THE RAILROAD March 20th Celebration

Tucson's history is steeped in railroad tradition. Listen closely and you can still hear that first steam locomotive thundering into the ancient and honorable pueblo of Tucson on that bright morning 129 years ago. At **11:00 am on March 20, 1880**, that train sparked intense and frolicsome revelry among Tucsonans. Friday March 20, 2009, the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum invites citizens to a recreate that magic in a community celebration of the pomp and party of long ago.

When: 11:00 am, March 20, 2009 (matching the train's initial arrival in 1880)

Where: In front of historic Locomotive #1673, trackside at Tucson's Historic Depot, 414 N. Toole Ave.

What's happening: Citizens are invited to dress in old-time attire or their special outfit and join in celebrating the 129th anniversary of the arrival of Tucson's first Southern Pacific Railroad train. Persons representing historical characters will stroll the depot platform providing informal historic information to the crowd. Activities include:

- 1880s Music by the 4th Cavalry Band on the trackside platform.
- Vintage vehicles displayed along the Toole Avenue side in honor of the 110th anniversary of the arrival of the first automobile in Tucson.
- Display of the actual Silver Spike presented by the citizens of Tucson to Southern Pacific officials 129 years ago.
- Honorable Mayor Bob Walkup Proclaiming March 20, 2009 "Railroad Day" in Tucson.
- Locally renowned poet Richard Tavener presents a poem commemorating the railroad's arrival.
- Honoring of 2009 Southern Arizona Railroader of the Year, Sid Showalter, a retired SP switchman;
- Honoring historian and preservationist Howard Greenseth, the driving force behind restoration of Tucson's historic locomotive #1673 and the creation of the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum.
- Dedication of Southern Pacific's 1921 railroad Semaphore Signal. Watch it come alive with solar power.
- Author and railroader Jim Staggs signs copies of the newly released 2nd edition of his book "Semaphores and Desert Rails."

Participating local restaurants, including Maynards Market and Kitchen, will offer special discounts and railroad styled dishes.

Come one! Come All! to Tucson's Historic Depot at 414 N. Toole!
Let's recreate History for Fun!

Railroad Heritage Week

The entire week preceding the March 20th celebration of the 129th Anniversary of the arrival of the railroad has been designated as **Railroad Heritage Week**. Downtown restaurants will help celebrate the event with special rail dishes and merchants will have special offers all week.

A variety of activities have been planned for Railroad Heritage Week March 14-20, 2009:

14-15 10 am... the Museum will have books, toys, and other rail related items for sale at the Tucson Festival of Books on the University of Arizona campus.

15 8:00 pm... Tucson Fox Theater, 17 West Congress Street, will screen the Movie "Oklahoma," which starred Locomotive #1673 now on display at the Tucson Historic Depot.

17 at noon and 7:00 pm... Signal History and Useage lecture by R Dick & J Staggs at (Maynard' Market) at Tucson's Historic Depot.

18 6:00 pm. to 8:30 pm.
1880s Vintage Fashion Show

Enjoy wine, cheese, and historic 1880s fashions shown by local models. at the Z Mansion, 288 N. Church Ave Tickets \$15

18 Railroad Business Forum: Southern Arizona Logistics Education Organization Luncheon at Tucson's Historic Depot, Bill Kalt speaks on "130 Years of Freightin Fun!"

20 11:00 am... Railroad Heritage Week climaxes with the celebration marking the first train's arrival in 1880 on the Southern Pacific Railroad.

Spring Lecture Series:

LOCATION: Amtrak Depot Lobby for the 7:00P Evening Lecture Maynard's Market 400 N Toole) upstairs (Drawing Room) for the 12 Noon Lecture

DATES : Feb. 24, Development of Southern Arizona Railroads-- Richard Dick
Mar 3 Early Arizona Automobiles-- Bill Kalt
Mar 10 My Time with Arizona Railroads-- Bob Knoll
Mar 17 Signals- History and Useage-- Richard Dick with Commentary by Jim Staaggs

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum (623-2223)—a Division of Old Pueblo Trolley

Minutes of the February 14, 2009 Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser

The meeting was held at Rincon West RV Park Norm thanked them for hosting

There were 65 attendees. There was also one guest. Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Vice President's Report: Willis Fagg reported about our upcoming events:

Rails in the Garden: Willis made sure there were enough volunteers to work at each of the sites.

The Pima County Fair will be held April 16-26th, 2009. Willis had sign up sheets for members to sign up to run trains, man the raffle table, and talk to people and to do set up and tear down. This is our chance to use our big set up and we are an attraction for the fair. All members are urged to help. Willis will have more information about our badges and tickets later. We will not be doing the Sahba Home Show.

Treasurer's Report: Ruth Taylor reported:

1. Checking account balance 2/14/09
\$ 853.26
2. Saving account balance 2/14/09
17,154.75
3. CD maturing 1/11/10 (13 months @3.25%)
\$5,000.00
4. **Total on deposit**
\$23,008.01

5. 4. Revenues from 1/21/09 \$
256.37
6. 5 Expenses from 1/21/09
1,646.56
7. **6. Net revenues from 1/21/09**
(\$1,390.19)

8. YEAR TO DATE RECAP:

9. Revenues to date \$16,451.90 *
10. Expenses to date 16,275.94**
11. **Net revenue \$ 175.96**
12. *Includes \$12,289.97 revenue from Convention
13. **Includes \$5,282.46 for TCM project
14. Total dues received \$1,451.00
15. The treasurer's report was approved.

Mentor Committee: Nick Buchholz still needs volunteers to be counselors for a Boy Scout to get his Railroad Merit Badge. Training sessions are 4/18/09 and 8/29/09.

Social Committee: There was a brunch at Le Buzz coffee Shop (9121 E Tanque Verde) on 2/10/2009 at 10:00 a.m. This was attended by 10 people. Extreme trains will air a series on trains on the 24th of February. This will be on the History channel. Chuck is setting up a train excursion going from Globe to the Apache Gold Casino. In addition to the train ride Chuck is checking out a walking tour and being able to visit Indian ruins. If more than 20 people sign up, we would pay \$15.00 a person and have preferred seating in the Vista Dome. We will rent a bus; friends are welcome on the day trip. In February they started using a 1917 Heisler Geared locomotive. On March 28 there will be a social luncheon. More information on the luncheon will be in the newsletter.

Education Committee: Janet Mitchell thanked Gary Martin for holding the foam board clinic. Jane and Janet will be having another clinic later.

Old Business:

- A. **Tucson Children's Museum:** Dick reported that the Museum received a \$3500.00 grant from UP Foundation. They had asked for \$7000.00. Nick Buchholz made a motion to donate the \$4000.00 to the Museum that TGRS had used for the project. We have used approximately \$3800.00. The balance would be used to get a bench for the north wall. The motion was approved. There was discussion on this, should we get reimbursed and have the money for future projects? There will be a grand opening on April 4, 2009. They will be open to the general public at noon but they will open to TGRS members at 11:00 a.m. More details on this later.
- B. **Rails in the Garden:** Glenn Mitchell reported we are in great shape. He still needs help with publicity. Ken Karrels will help with this. We will be in the March issue of the Tucson Lifestyle.

Because of health problems Bob and Jean Hoffman had to drop out of the event. Mike and Jane Dorgan will fill their slot. Information about the change will be given at the sites at the hospitality tables. A sign will be posted at the Hoffman's so they will not be disturbed.

- C. **UMC Children's Hospital:** Vicky Begen (Vice President of Women's and Children's Services) was at our meeting at RCW RV park with a slide show and posters for the UMC project. The Diamond family donated 15 million dollars for the project; they had a daughter who died of asthma. One Studio Productions donated a tree house to the project. Redondo of One Studio Productions is assisting on this project. The hospital will have a nature theme. In June of 2009 they will build the lobby and in June of 2010 we will start with our part. This will be a realistic southwestern train with a camera that will run through the lobby and the Children's Gift Store. We can have sound in the engine. The track will be a height of 8 feet high.

New Business:

- A. We have a new link on our website: *Battery Connection* for those who use battery power.
- B. Members can now sell items of GR interest on our website.

Announcements:

Ken Karrels informed us on 2/24/09 the museum will have a spring lecture series. Contact Bill Kalt at tucsonrrtown@yahoo.com for information about the lecture series.

Engine 1673 (from the movie Oklahoma) will be on display on March 15th.

On March 20th, the 129th anniversary of the arrival of the railroad, there will be 1880's music by the 4th Cavalry Band, Mayor Bob Walkup will be there along with locally renowned poet Richard Tavenner, and Author Jim Staggs will be there signing copies of "Semaphores and Desert Rails." For more information contact Ken.

The next regular meeting will be at Tucson Botanical Gardens on March 21. at 10:00 a.m.

Wear your badge and enter through the Gift Shop. The meeting will be held in the Pavilion or the house they have acquired.

Correction:

In the February 2009 Newsletter under new business it lists the address for Turf Tec as 3902 N Oracle, 888-6777. The correct address is 3901 N Oracle, on the other side of the road. Thanks to Ted & Valerie Golembiewski for finding this error.

A Big Welcome to New Members

Our Society has no new members for the month of February.

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

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".

Calendar of Events

Mar 7&8 RITG
Mar 21 Tucson Botanical Gardens
Apr 16-29 Pima County Fair
May 16 Rick & Sue Gast
Jul 5-11 National Garden Railway Convention, Denver

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