



Tucson Garden Railway Society's Time Table

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

Editor e-mail: jmiller66@cox.net

June, 2009

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

Saturday June 20th at 10:00 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. 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 Rd.

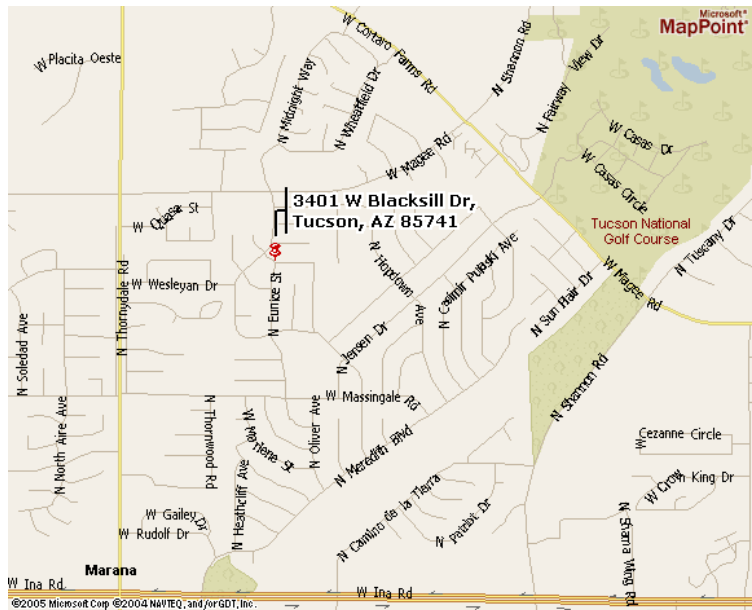
Turn Left (south) onto Rasmussen.

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.

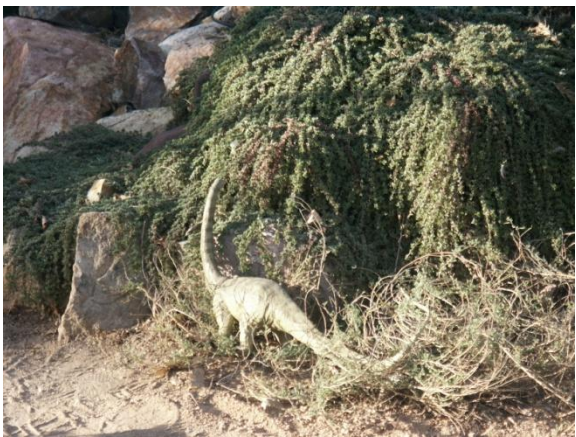


The railroads timetable lists many scenic wonders that will help you enjoy your trip. Two water courses the Rainbow Rock River and Stetson Falls provide rafting and fishing for the inhabitants and an active tourist passenger service.

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.



Dinosaurs roam the right of way and are common in the towns on the TP&SW. Lizard Cars transport dinosaurs to market as no cows are harmed on the TP&SD. Photos courtesy Nick Buchholz.

Pima County Fair Winner

Congratulation to the winners of the drawing for the train starter set at this years Pima county fair. The winners were four year old Orion Lasater and his mother Brandi and father Robert. They live in Sahuarita, Arizona.

TGRS Silent Auction

The TGRS Silent Auction at the meeting on May 26 was quite a busy place. We sold just about half of the donated material we received and made about \$317.00. Members picked up some very nice bargains. So we're going to auction off the remainder of the items plus some items from the Annual GR Convention like unclaimed door prizes etc. This will all take place at the June 20 meeting at the Buchholz-Ker home -see page one of the newsletter for directions.

Items will be available for inspection about 9:30 AM. Sign the bidder sheet to get your number and start looking over the bargains. We'll close the bidding when the meeting starts at 10AM and then reopen it for 15 minutes after the meeting ends.

All items are cash or check and are sold as-is-where-is with no warranty. We're improving the tabulation process so it won't take so much time. Remember, lunch will be at noon.

SOCIAL LUNCHEON

It's hard to argue with the repeatedly good food and central location of the Red Garter Saloon; so we will meet there for lunch again in June. The date is June 18 and the usual time is 11:30. They have good AC and we usually have the place to ourselves, so please come join us for some lively conversation and as my old salesman buddy used to say "swap some lies". The restaurant is at 3143 E. Speedway; that's the north side of Speedway just east of Country Club. Call Chuck Cook @ 977-7673 with any questions.

Minutes of the May 16, 2009 Meeting Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser

The meeting was held at the home of Rick and Sue Gast with a Round-a-Bout following at Garb & Dorothy Mechigian, and Tom & Gretchen Schafer

Norm thanked the Gast's for hosting

There were 51 attendees. There was also one new member.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Vice President's Report: Willis Fagg reported about :

The Pima County Fair: Willis thanked all the 57 volunteers who worked the 165 shifts for the 11 days of the fair. If anyone has leftover tickets and parking passes would they please return them to him? He also had a sign up sheet for the TTOM swap meet on 6/6/2009. 7:00 A.M. is setup with a shift change at 11:00 A.M. or 11:30 A.M. with tear down

at 3:00 P.M. It was decided we would not need a table to sell equipment this time.

American Home Show: This is being held at the fairgrounds on the same weekend as TTOM. The Big Train Show is also that weekend. It was decided we would not do it this year. It would require 4 people to staff each shift, 2 shifts a day for 3 days. We would have used our 20x60 layout. There was discussion about there is not a lot of G Gauge equipment on sale there at the swap meet. It is usually the same crowd. We should do the swap meet to keep close contact between the clubs. People who would attend the AHS lived further out.

Treasurer's Report: Ruth Taylor reported:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Checking account balance 5/12/09 | |
| \$ 1,573.43 | |
| 2. Saving account balance 5/12/09 | |
| \$17,167.30 | |
| 3. CD maturing 1/11/10 (13 months @3.25%) | |
| \$5,000.00 | |
| 4. CD maturing 2/11/10 (11 months @2.25%) | |
| <u>\$5,000.00</u> | |
| Total on deposit | \$28,740.73 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 5. Revenues from 3/22/09 | \$ 1,370.45 |
| 6 Expenses from 3/22/09 | <u>1,008.04</u> |
| 7. Net revenues from 2/15/09 | \$362.41 |

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 8. YEAR TO DATE RECAP: | |
| Revenues to date | \$23,810.30 * |
| Expenses to date | \$12,901.62** |
| Net revenue | \$10,908.68 |

9. (*) Includes \$12,619.97 revenue from Convention
(**)Includes \$5,454.71 for TCM project

10. **Tucson Children's Museum Recap:**

Rails in the Garden Recap:

Pima County Recap:

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Budget | \$4,000.00 |
| Income | \$5,668.00 |
| Income | \$692.35 |
| UP Donation | <u>\$1,500.00</u> |
| Expense | <u>\$1,658.32</u> |
| Expense | <u>\$224.62</u> |
| | \$5,500.00 |
| Net | \$4,009.68 |
| Net | \$467.73 |
| Expensed | <u>\$5,454.71</u> |
| Unused | \$45.29 |

11. Total dues received \$1,566.50. Total dues paid for (2008-2009) \$2,723.50

Editors Report: Jim Miller would like us to keep the articles and pictures coming.

Mentor Committee: Robert Campbell now has 2 mentors to help him.

GPD has its monthly meeting on the first Friday of the month at 7:00 P.M. Bud Stewart Invited members to come. They are going to put a small outdoor G scale on the south side.

Social Committee: Norm reported for Chuck Cook that the monthly social luncheon would be at Red Garter Saloon on E Speedway, May 28th at 11:15 A.M. Chuck resigned as a Board Member but will stay on as our Social Director.

Education Committee: Contact Norm if you would like to get involved with Educational Committee.

Maintenance Committee: The Sumpter Valley was dropped, it is now repaired, if you break something please let Gary know, do not put it in the trailer broken. Thomas is also damaged, Willis suggested it might be better to replace Thomas then repair it.

Old Business: Norm thanked Jerry Tulino for inviting us to do the RMH Chef –For –a-Day and Jerry thanked all the volunteers. There was discussion about putting an automated layout on the NE side of the patio at an estimated cost of \$500.00.

UMC: There will be revised plans with our part maybe beginning in June.

Election results: President: Norm Ulmer

Vice President: Willis Fagg

Secretary: Sallie Sanders

Treasurer: Ruth Taylor

Editor: Jim Miller

Board Members: Barry Blackwell Nick Buchholz Jack Forgues Jay Sanders

New Business:

Rail fan tour to Durango. This would cost \$500.00 per person plus meals on Sept.16-20. 30 people are needed, if you are interested call Rich Hull.

Pennsy & NYC diesels: We will be upgrading these with new sound systems and painting them. They will have the clubs railroad name on them.

ABTO round-a-bout: We would like to restart this up again. Maybe in the fall instead of a meeting in November. We would have 6-8 layouts open. Jim Miller would be open.

Meetings: There will not be a meeting in July or August. Bob & Jean Hoffman will host the September Meeting on 9/12/2009. Trains run at 9:00 A.M. with the meeting following. Chuck & Ruth Taylor will host the October Meeting.

Education Committee: Contact Norm if you would like to get involved with Educational Committee. Gary Martin has 250 feet of arist-o-craft track for sale. Gary had a sanding and water facility texture project for show & tell. If you like to use the plans, please contact him.

There was wood and fiberboard free for the taking.

There were flyers about the NMRA meet in Sedona on June 20th, see Nick for more details

Donations: Buildings were donated and Jim Cook will inventory them for a silent auction.

The next regular meeting will be at on June 20th at 10:00 a.m. at the Buchholz-Kerr home. Trains will run at 9:00 a.m.

**Minutes of May BOD Meeting
Respectfully submitted by Ellen Stoesser**

May 12, 2009-7:00 P.M. at the home of Norm and Ibbey Ulmer

All Board members were present except 1 Pres. Norm thanked Ibbey for hosting Minutes of the March meeting were approved

Treasurer's Report: Ruth Taylor reported:

1. Checking account balance 5/12/09
\$1,573.43
2. Reserve account balance 5/12/09
\$17,167.30
3. CD maturing 1/11/10
\$5,000.00
4. CD maturing 2/11/10
\$5,000.00
- Total on deposit**
\$28,740.73

3. Revenues from 3/22/09
\$1,370.45
4. Expenses from 3/22/09
\$1008.04
- 5. Net revenues from 2/15/09**
\$362.41

6. YEAR TO DATE RECAP:
Revenues to date \$23,810.30 *
Expenses to date \$12,901.62
Net revenue
\$10,908.68

7. (*) includes \$12,619.97 revenue from Convention
(**) includes \$5,454.71 for Tucson Children's Museum project.

| | | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 8. Tucson Children's Museum Recap | | Rails in the Garden Recap: | |
| Budget | \$4,000.00 | Income | \$692.35 |
| Income | \$5,668.00 | UP Donation | <u>\$1,500.00</u> |
| Expense | <u>\$224.62</u> | Expense | |
| | \$5,500.00 | | Net |
| | \$4,009.68 | Net | \$467.73 |
| Expensed | <u>\$5,454.71</u> | | |
| Unused | \$45.29 | | |

8. Total dues received \$1566.00 Total dues paid for (2008-2009) \$2,723.50
9. The treasurer's report was approved.

Vice Presidents Events: Willis Fagg reported on the Pima County Fair: 57 volunteers filled 165 slots for 11 days.

TTOM: He will have a signup sheet for this at the meeting. This will be held on 6/6/09. He will check with the members to see if an extra table is needed to sell equipment..

AHS: Harvey Bernstein would like us to do this on 6/6/09; it would be in Old Pueblo Hall. The board moved to pass on doing this year because of the short notice and if there would be enough volunteers to man the layout.

GPD: Bud Stewart would like the members to know they can come to 2 meetings without joining the club. This is held on the first Friday of the month at 7 P.M. Maybe they would change the bylaws to let us come more often.

Social Luncheon: Chuck Cook sent an email this would be on the 28th of May at The Red Garter Saloon, which is located at 3143 E Speedway at 11:15 a.m. Chuck has resigned from the board but will remain as Social Director.

Education Committee: Janet Mitchell returned the new projector. The club is still looking for a replacement for Janet.

Membership Committee: Ibbey reported that we have 94 paid members. Our newest member; Bob Campbell has a set up in his garage.

Mentor Committee: Norm will be Bob's mentor.

New Business:

- A. Marshall Publications would like to** shoot some of our member's layouts for their second volume of *Lots & Lots of Trains*. They have sent us a contract; we will ask Jay Sanders to look it over.
- B. TGRS PATCHES:** Norm will be ordering these.
- C. New model train store:** Marvin Voorhees has plans to open a model train store. He hopes to have space for club meetings and an outdoor layout.
- D. Fabric for train layout:** We will be getting cloth material for around the inside of the layouts and also around the raffle table and the TV box. Our club banners are missing, we will be checking at the TCC and the VA to see if they were left there.
- E. Sound systems:** A motion was made and passed to spend up to \$500.00 for 2 sound systems and an 8 wheel caboose kit. We will ask Ken Karrels to purchase the sound systems and Nick will get and make the caboose kit. Nick will paint it to match the Pennsy diesel.
- F. Reinstate bus tour to ABTO:** Chuck will check on this in October.
- G. Pima County Fair:** Ibbey has a list of suggestions for this.
 1. List so people can sign up for next years RITG. Nick will do.
 2. We need a copy of Toy Train Museum's schedule, also a permanent map for giving directions.

- 3. More scavenger hunt lists plus a small prize.
- Operation Lifesavers and crayons seems like a good choice.
- 4. A sign that says line up here to run the trains, also something letting the people know there is no charge.
- 5. Could we sell tickets for the next years RITG? Could we also have an events Manager? These were tabled until the new board is installed.
- H. Rich Hull has information on ABTO/ rail fan trip to Durango-Chama.
This would be on September 16 ---20, 2009 with an estimated cost per person of \$500.00 plus meals. Information was emailed to TGRS members.
- I. **TTOM Swap Meet:** Willis will have a sign up sheet at the May regular meeting.
This will be held on 6/6/2009. We will use the children's layout.
- J. Outdoor layout for the **Ronald McDonald House:** It was discussed if we should install a 50 ft. outdoor track? This would be automated. We would maintain the train; they would operate and maintain the layout. There will be more discussion on this later. Last week Thorne Pierce ask Glenn Mitchell to automate the TBG layout.
- K. Bachman now has the license for Thomas. Should we get replacements for Thomas and James? It would cost around \$190.00.
- L. LGB has had their first shipment already from Germany.

There will be a joint board meeting in June.

Origin of the term Gandy Dancer Submitted by Ibby Ulmer

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Gandy dancer is a [slang](#) term for workers who maintained [railroads](#) in North America.

The term originates from the late nineteenth century. It is often said to derive from the Gandy Manufacturing Company, a [Chicago](#)-based tool manufacturing company, but several sources cite an absence of any record of this company's existence. Hand crews used specialized hand tools known as *gandies* (of unknown [etymology](#)) to [lever rail tracks](#) into position.

Oral history from some railroad towns has it that the term originated from the gandydancer's original job of positioning rails to be nailed to ties. These were carried by the crew straddling the rail at intervals and reaching between their feet to lift and carry it into place, in the process looking like a line of waddling geese. They became known as ganders and the process as gander dancing, ultimately corrupted to gandydancing.

Though rail tracks were held in place by [wooden ties](#) (*sleepers* outside the U.S.) and the mass of the stones (*ballast*) beneath them, each pass of a train around a corner would, through [centrifugal force](#) and

vibration, produce a tiny shift in the tracks. If allowed to accumulate, such shifts could eventually cause a [derailment](#); work crews had to pry them back into place routinely.

For each stroke, a worker would lift his gandy and force it into the ballast to create a [fulcrum](#), then throw himself sideways using the gandy to check his full weight (making the "huh" sound recorded in the lyrics below) so the gandy would push the rail toward the inside of the curve. Even with all impacts from the work crew timed correctly, any progress made in shifting the track would not become visible until after a large number of repetitions.

Rhythm was necessary for this process, both to synchronize the manual labor, and to maintain the morale of workers whose exertions produced only a minuscule effect; hence "gandy dancers". The songs sung in this occupation have been recognized as a major influence on later [blues](#) music; one such song is reproduced below.

The same ground crews also performed the other aspects of track maintenance, such as removing weeds, tamping down ballast, and replacing rotten ties. The British equivalent is "Navy" from "Navigator", originally builders of canals or "inland navigations". In the U.S. Southwest and Mexico, Mexican and Mexican-American track workers were colloquially "[traqueros](#)".

Typical song lyrics

Pick an' shovel...huh,
am so heavy...huh,
Heavy as lead...huh,
heavy as lead...huh
Pickin', shov'lin'...huh
pickin', shov'lin'...huh
Till I'm dead...huh
till I'm dead...



Photo from Bob Conrad Running trains at the County Fair is Hard Work

A Big Welcome to New Members

We didn't have any new members join our club in May.

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

Jun 20 **Nick Buchholz and Mary Ker**
Jul 5-11 **National Garden Railway Convention, Denver**
Sep **Chuck and Ruth Taylor**
Feb 2010 **RCW Rec Hall**

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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Tucson, AZ 85710