



## Tucson Garden Railway Society's

# Time Table

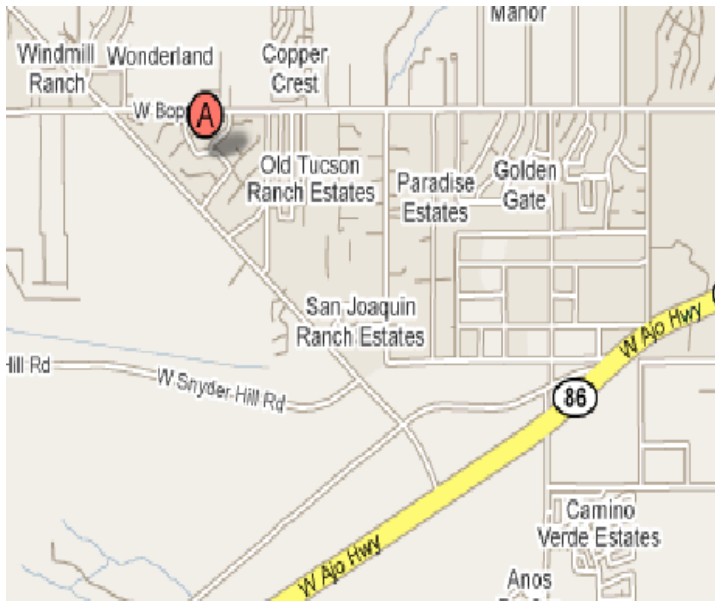
Society web site: <http://tucsongrs.org>

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

October, 2009

**The October meeting is at the home of Chuck and Ruth Taylor at 10:00 am on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October.**

4081 S. Tarantula Hawk Place  
Tucson, AZ 85735  
(520) 908-1312



Directions: Ajo Way is Exit 99 on I-19 but because of the construction people must watch carefully to get on I-19 if they are traveling east on I-10.

From I-19 it is 10 miles west to our house. Take Ajo Way west about 9 miles to San Joaquin (this is past Kinney Road). Turn right on San Joaquin and travel 1.5 miles to Tree Frog Trail. Turn right on Tree Frog Trail and take the 2nd left which is Tarantula Hawk Place. We are at the end of the cul-de-sac between two houses painted yellow.

Chuck and I relocated from the Chicago area in January 2006 and moved into our new house in March 2006. We have spent most of our time since then furnishing our home and building Chuck's car

repair facility/ Ruth's storage area which we call "C" Rip. In railroad terms this is where "bad order" cars are brought for repair before they can travel on in a train consist.

The area we live in is called "Crittlerland" on the Pima County records. All of the streets in our subdivision carry names of the various critters found in this area i.e. "Tarantula Hawk" Place (which is a wasp with a very nasty sting), "Bark Beetle" Place, "Tree Frog" Trail, "Velvet Ant" Place and "Chuckwalla" Place to name a few. We have decided to name our railroad "Crittlerland Junction - The Desert Route".

Nick Buckholtz has made a visit to our property to give us an idea for a layout. It was important to wait for the monsoons to end in order to gauge how the washes on and around our property would carry the water. In the meantime, Chuck has been very busy putting together building kits and creating a few of this own from scratch. Chuck had quite a few pieces of rolling stock and several engines before we moved from Illinois and since has added additional equipment from the purchase of two private collections from TGRS club members who were moving.



Engines and rolling stock for the CJRR

## MONTHLY SOCIAL LUNCHEON

You missed Augie and Gertrude last month so we are going back to R&R Pizza, owned by one of our very own TGRS members. If you haven't been there before; this is a great railroad themed restaurant with a G gauge model circling the perimeter. They have a pizza buffet that includes salad, pasta, etc. and of course a senior discount. R&R is located at 1970 W. River Rd. which is the far east end of the Bashas shopping center on the NE corner of River and LaCholla. It is directly behind the Burger King that faces River Rd. Let's meet at 11:30 on Tuesday October 13th. Hopefully some members will have stories to tell of summer railroad adventures. If you have any questions call Chuck Cook at 977-7673.

### Membership Renewal Time is Here

Current membership expired on June 30. Membership renewal for the 2009/10 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



ALL ABOARD

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 6th ANNUAL  
OPEN HOUSE

**Gary and Peggy Martin**

EAGLE MOUNTAIN GARDEN

**RAILROAD**

DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2009

**11:00AM - 3:00PM**

**Club meeting 3:00 to 4:00PM**

**Food served at 4:00PM**

**Please RSVP by 11/14 /09 if you plan to  
stay for the food and beverages**

QUESTIONS OR DIRECTIONS, CALL  
GARY OR PEGGY MARTIN AT (520)299-7428

[pgmartin5@hotmail.com](mailto:pgmartin5@hotmail.com)

## ABTO Chama/Silverton Rail fans Trip by Ruth Taylor

Wednesday, September 16th, 2009 found eight TGRS members (some very sleepy, that would be me!) boarding a chartered bus in Mesa, Arizona at **6:30 am** along with twenty members of the Arizona Big Train Operators (Phoenix) and a bus driver. Jackie and Bob Conrad drove up to Phoenix a couple of days earlier to spend some time with friends and leave their dog with them. However, Gina and Barry Blackwell, Peggy and Gary Martin and Chuck and I drove up from Tucson that morning for the two hour ride to Mesa. (read: arising at 3 am!!).

Chuck and I were very excited as this was our first train trip with club members.

Our host and trip planner was Richard Hull who did an excellent job of organizing and planning this trip. The only thing we were responsible for was being ready when the bus was leaving.

On the way to Chama, NM we stopped in Farmington, NM at Pop's Toy Store. He makes metal figures in G-scale. He has a nice outdoor layout and many figures to purchase. It looked like everyone came away with a purchase.

Thursday morning (6:30 am again!) for breakfast and boarding at the Cumbres Toltec Depot for the ride from Chama to Antonito, CO (elevation 7,871 feet). This is the nation's highest and longest narrow gauge steam train built in 1880 as part of the Rio Grande's San Juan Extension which served the silver mining district of the San Juan mountains in southwestern Colorado. Narrow gauge track is built to gauge of 3 feet between the rails instead of the more common 4 feet, 8-1/2 inches that became standard in the United States. In 1996 this trackage was abandoned but through the combined efforts of railway preservationists and local civic interests, the most scenic portions of the line was saved. In 1970, the states of Colorado and New Mexico jointly purchased the track and line-side structures from Antonito to Chama, nine steam locomotives, over 130 freight and work cars, the Chama Yard and maintenance facilities. The C&TS began hauling tourists the next year.

We took a self-guided tour of the railroad yards before boarding for our approximately 64 mile ride through some of the most magnificent scenery I have ever seen. Fall colors were just coming in and the views were breathtaking. Lunch was included in Osier (elevation 9,637 feet) where we changed trains to complete our trip to Antonito. This line crosses Cumbres Pass (10,015 foot elevation) and goes through the spectacular Toltec Gorge. It crosses several high bridges and passes through several tunnels.



Lunch was included at the halfway point in Osier where we changed locomotives to complete our trip to Antonito. Our chartered bus drove to Durango that evening.

Friday morning (6:30 am again!!!) we arrived at the Durango Depot for breakfast and boarding the train to Silverton, CO. This is a 90 mile round trip. The railway is a federally designated National Historic Landmark. The trackage was originally built between 1881 and 1882, by the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad to carry silver and gold ore mined in the San Juan Mountains. The line was originally an extension of the D&RG narrow gauge from Antonito, CO to Durango. The line from Chama to Durango has been abandoned and removed. The line from Durango to Silverton has run continuously since 1881. It is now a tourist and heritage line hauling passengers. It is one of the few places in the United States that has seen continuous use of steam locomotives. This railway is privately owned by Allen and Carol Harper and employs about 160/180 full and part-time people during the high tourist season.



Again, we were treated to awesome scenery and views with fall foliage just turning colors. We had a short stopover in Silverton for lunch and shopping. The trip up to Silverton gives you the view of the side of the track you are sitting in the car and on the

way back you get the view on the other side of the train. On this train we were assigned in the open gondola car and while a bit chilly (about 53 degrees) at the start it warmed up by midmorning. Durango is at 6,600 feet elevation and Silverton is at 9,300 feet.

On both trips the trains were powered by K-36 steam locomotives which are kept in excellent running condition. K-36's were built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1924. Only 10 were built weighing in at 187,250 pounds each.

Saturday was a busy day. We had a tour of the Durango Yards and roundhouse. The roundhouse (save for two brick walls) and six locomotives were destroyed in a fire in 1989. The new roundhouse opened one year to the date of the fire. The depot also has a fine museum and a gift shop.

We then toured three layouts in the Durango area.

Duane Danielson has a **HUGE** "O" gauge layout in his 2,000 square foot walk-in basement. Our jaws just dropped to the floor to see the amazing work he is doing here. His layout will be featured in an upcoming issue of HO Model Trains magazine.



Jim Grandflaten's "G" scale "Puckerville Railroad" features hand laid track, a gigantic circular trestle and a scale model of his log home. He lost 1/3 of this spectacular trestle to a fire a few years ago. The entire trestle would probably have been consumed by fire if some terrific firemen had not watered it down because they evidently did not want such a magnificent structure to be lost. They are only supposed to save "structures" and to them this was a "structure". Jim now has a "fire station" included in his layout ready for the next fire!

The last stop was Ray Mayor's "White Water and Lemon Pass" outdoor layout. Ray Mayor was our host for the day starting with the guided tour of the Durango roundhouse and yards. His original layout was totally covered by approximately 3 feet of dirt from a mudslide back in 2002. His layout features

mostly hand made buildings milled from old barn wood.



Friday morning at 7:20 back on the bus for the return trip to Mesa. We stopped for lunch at the famous Cameron Trading Post on the edge of the Navajo nation. Some of us kept the economy going with our purchases in the biggest souvenir shop I have ever seen. Probably about a 2 to 3 hour browse for me and 3 to 4 hour partaking of his favorite libation for Chuck at the nearest watering hole.

To sum it all up, for us, a most enjoyable trip and we look forward to the next one. Richard Hull was an excellent host and we enjoyed meeting and spending time with the ABTO members and, of course, our very own club members. Can't wait to go back with our camper and enjoy both areas a little more leisurely.

### **UMC Children's Wing**

September 18, 2009: This morning, Nick Buchholz and I met with folks from the Construction Coordinator, the Interior design team and UMC to get answers to our questions concerning type of construction, ceiling heights & materials, electrical power, etc. During our meeting, we visited the location where we will be building the overhead layout, just to get a better idea of what we will be dealing with when we begin our installation. At this time, workmen are just beginning to erect steel studs in the Gift Shop area where we will be working, and there is still a lot of demolition work to be done in that area. So, realistically, completion will not be until late Spring or early Summer next year. Nick feels that we got most if not all of our questions answered, and we have a pretty good idea as to what the layout will be. We will incorporate many of the ideas we used in building the layout in the Children's Museum downtown. All this means, at this time, is that there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and it's fairly bright. I'll keep you updated as things progress further.

Norm Ulmer

## **SPECTACULAR NEW MUSEUM OPENS IN TUCSON**

'The Mini-Time Machine Museum of Miniatures' opened its doors in early September to a welcoming crowd of miniaturists, architects, artists and modelers of all kinds. No one left disappointed!

While showcasing the extensive miniature collection on Pat and Walter Arnell there is much for modelers to see and appreciate. There are high tech displays- don't miss the lecturer who suddenly shrinks to scale size in display and then jumps from room to room. . The collection covers from pre-historic times to the present, including fantasy and exact scale reproductions.

The displays are unique, well designed and show of the collection. This is no cookie-cutter series of displays-they are all different and enthralling. One section does a great job explaining scale and proportion. There are three large display areas done in different architecture and color to enhance that particular collection.

Even though no trains are included it's still a great experience and we can always learn how to improve how we present our hobby masterpieces.

The museum is located at 4455 E. Camp Lowell Rd., just off N. Swan. The entrance is about 200 feet east of Swan on the north. Phone is 881-0606. Admission is adults \$7, Senior & Military \$6, children 4-17 \$5, under 3 free.

Hours are Tuesday thru Saturday 9am to 4pm. Web site is "theminitimemachine.org".

Happy Viewing!!  
from Jim and Madelyn Cook

### **MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2009 MEETING**

Respectfully submitted by Sallie Sanders

The meeting was held at the home of Bob and Jean Hoffman. Norm thanked them for hosting.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

**Vice Presidents report:** Willis Fagg reported that we will run our trains at the VA again in December. Set up will be on Dec. 28 in the morning and operation will be on Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> with tear down to follow late that afternoon. We will be at St Mark's on December 6-8. There is a swap meet scheduled for January, date to be announced later.

**Treasurer's report:** See BOD minutes.

**Membership report:** Three new members were announced, Greg Reid, Amy Thorson and their son Benjamin. Ibbey also reminded all that dues are delinquent after October 1.

**Education Committee:** Peggy Martin and Jim Miller are putting together two Power Point presentations to be used for schools and other groups on request. A note pad computer will be purchased for this purpose in the future.

**Maintenance Committee:** Gary Martin has everything up and running. It was suggested that we look into buying a new Thomas the Tank engine for the children's layout.

**Old Business:** Nick Buchholz has finished installing the sound systems in the Club's Pennsy & NYC diesels.

Norm and Nick will be meeting with Vicki Began & Studio Productions at UMC September 18 to discuss plans for the layout to be installed at the Children's Hospital.

TGRS logo patches are available for \$2.00.

**New Business:** The BOD has voted to invite active duty servicemen and their families to attend RITG free of charge, with their ID cards.

Flyers are available for the Southwest Garden Railroad Show in Pomona on October 31st and November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The new LGB catalogue is available at Ace Hardware on 22<sup>nd</sup> St.

Smith Pond Junction has offered to sell buildings to members at a discount. (Possibly 10% off?)

Jerry Tulino has gotten us usage of a meeting room at Udall Park for seminars if we need it.

### **Minutes of September BOD Meeting Respectfully submitted by Sallie Sanders**

September 8, 2009. 7:00 P.M. at the home of Norm and Ibbey Ulmer.

Present were Norm Ulmer, Ibbey Ulmer, Gary Martin, Ruth Taylor, Jack Forgues, Sallie Sanders and Nick Buchholz.

Treasurers Report: Ruth Taylor submitted the budget for the year 2009-2010. The budget was approved as amended. Ruth also reported:

1. Total on deposit \$29,887.48
2. Revenues from 7/1/09 \$935.66

3. Expenses from 7/1/09 242.83
4. Net revenue \$710.83
5. Total dues paid \$1,690.

Vice Presidents report: Willis Fagg has written a letter to Jonathon Gardner of the VA to offer to run our trains in December. Tentatively, the schedule will be, set up, on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> and operation on Tuesday and Wednesday, with tear down late afternoon of the 30<sup>th</sup>. We are also scheduled for St Mark's Church.

Membership Report: Ibbey announced two new members Jerry and Carol Lewis.

Education: Peggy Martin and Jim Miller are working on a presentation to be used for schools and other groups.

Old Business:

Nick Buchholz and Norm Ulmer will meet in September with UMC to discuss layout design. Jerry Tulino has spoken with Ronald McDonald House about putting in a simple layout for them. There will be further discussion before this is done. Patches are available for \$2.00.

New Business:

Jerry Tulino has gotten us usage of a room at Udall Park for the purpose of conducting seminars. Smith Pond Junction has offered a discount to members if we give them a membership list. It was decided that a list could be given as long as it only had names, no addresses, etc. It was proposed that Active duty Armed Services members and their families be admitted at no charge for Rails in the Garden. This was voted on and passed unanimously.

A list will be circulated at the meeting to sign up if you want your cell phone number included on the Roster.

Gary and Peggy Martin will hold their annual open house on November 21, 11:00-3:00. TGRS meeting will follow 3:00-4:00. If you plan to stay for food please RSVP by November 14.

### **Adobe Mountain Model Railroading Adventures And Everything Railroad Swap Meet**

Adobe Mountain Railroad Park  
23280 N 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
North of Pinnacle Peak Rd.  
Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

For information call  
Larry Hatch (602) 206-6444

## A Big Welcome to New Members

Greg Reid, Amy Thorson and their son Benjamin Reid. Benjamin is the train buff. They have an HO layout, but have yet to start a garden railroad. They apparently got interested when attending Rails in the Garden tours.

## 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:

lby Ulmer  
4935 N. Craycroft Road  
Tucson, AZ 85718

### Calendar of Events

<b>Oct 10</b>	<b>Chuck and Ruth Taylor</b>
<b>Nov 21</b>	<b>Gary &amp; Peggy Martin</b>
<b>Dec 5</b>	<b>Christmas party at the Hometown Café</b>
<b>Dec 6-8</b>	<b>Layout at St Mark's</b>
<b>Feb 2010</b>	<b>RCW Rec Hall</b>
<b>Mar 2010</b>	<b>Tucson Botanical Garden</b>

### TGRS Officers and Board of Directors

<b>President:.....Norm Ulmer.....520-299-9401</b>	<b>At Large Board Members</b>
<b>V-President:.....Willis Fagg.....520-760-0147</b>	<b>Barry Blackwell.....520-322-5033</b>
<b>Secretary:.....Sallie Sanders.....520-731-1999</b>	<b>Nick Buchholz.....520-744-4932</b>
<b>Treasurer:.....Ruth Taylor.....520-908-1312</b>	<b>Jack Forgues.....520-818-9598</b>
<b>Editor:.....Jim Miller.....520-886-7611</b>	<b>Jay Sanders.....520-731-1999</b>

**Tucson Garden Railway Society**  
**8132 E. Baker Dr.**  
**Tucson, AZ 85710**