



## Tucson Garden Railway Society's

# Time Table

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

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September 2010

**The September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting is at the home of Jack and Rosalie Forgues with a round-about to Ron and Helen Koehler's home for live steam.**

We will start running trains at 9:00am, with the general meeting to follow at 10:00 am. After the meeting we will go to Ron and Helen's home for a live steam demonstration.

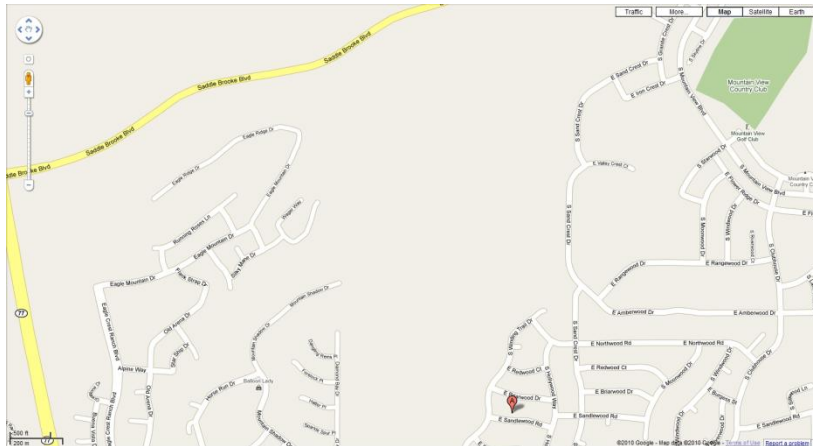
### Directions to Jack and Rosalie Forgues home in SaddleBrooke

Drive north on Oracle Road (RT. 77) through the town of Catalina.

Turn **right** onto SaddleBrooke Blvd. at the signal. As you come over the hill, turn **right** onto Mountainview Blvd.

Just passed the tennis courts turn **right** onto Clubhouse Drive. Follow Clubhouse Drive to Northwood Road, turn **right** and continue to Winding Trail Drive. Turn **left** onto Winding Trail Drive, continue to Sandlewood Road.

Turn **left** onto Sandlewood Road and continue down the street to **61786 E. Sandlewood Road**. Our home is on the left side of the street.



### The QUAIL RIDGE RAILROAD

The QRRR came into existence in April of 2006, when we moved into our new home in SaddleBrooke. Rosalie and I decided that it would be easier to have elevated railroad that would work with our landscaping plan.

After two attempts at building the elevated railroad, we decided to add elevated pads and a new rock canyon to our existing landscaping. Our new track plan will consist of two independent loops with a switch yard for each loop. The new layout is coming together nicely, but we still have a lot of work to do.

The layout time period will be the early 1950's to the late 1980's.

When completed we will have approximately 600 feet of track and 16 switches.

Eaglewings Iron Works has agreed to build the first building for the **QRRR**. They will build a three story high mine that will be 3'-0" high x 6'-0" long at the entrance to the railroad. More buildings will be added to the railroad at a later date. We plan to run both steam and diesel locomotives on the **QRRR**. I have Steam Locomotives and Rosalie has Diesel Locomotives. The members of TGRS have been most helpful in providing technical information and advice in the construction of this railroad.



### Directions to Ron and Helen Koehler home in SaddleBrooke

After the meeting drive east on Sandlewood Road to Hollywood Way. Turn **right** at the "T" intersection onto Hollywood Way and proceed to Oakwood Drive. Turn **left** onto Oakwood Drive proceed to the "T" intersection at Sand Crest Drive. Turn **right** onto Sand Crest Drive and continue to the "T" intersection at Clubhouse Drive.

Turn **left** onto Clubhouse Drive continue to Windwood Drive then turn **left** onto Windwood Drive. Turn immediately **right** onto Riverwood Drive and then turn **left** immediately onto Riverwood Drive cul-de-sac. Ron's address is **39794 S.Riverwood Drive**. His phone is 903-8100. We will have maps at the meeting for members who may need one. Ron is about 5 minutes from my house.

### SOUTH PARK AND WESTERN RAILROAD

The S.P. & W Railroad came into existence when we moved to Tucson in April of 2007. It is fashioned after the narrow gauge railroads of Colorado and runs mostly 1/20.3 scale equipment. The railroad is built with very wide curves and raised 2 1/2 feet to accommodate live steam. We welcome all to stop by for a visit after the meeting to see our live steam mogul in operation. P.S. don't forget to take in the early Lionel trains running on the upper level.



### **MONTHLY SOCIAL LUNCHEON**

OK, time to try to lure in some of those Eastsiders to our social luncheon. On Thursday Sept 16<sup>th</sup> we will meet for lunch at Fuddruckers at 6118 E Speedway Blvd (on the south side of the street) at 11:30. We always have a fun time at our luncheons and interesting conversation. Hope to see you then. If you have any questions call Chuck Cook at 977-7673.

### **PICNIC ON MOUNT LEMMON**

You all know the month of October; you think it should be cooler in Tucson, but it still gets to 100 degrees too many days. Thorn and Lucy Pierce have generously allowed the use of their cabin so the club can have a picnic to escape the heat. The date is Saturday Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. As we did last year the club will furnish burgers and hot dogs and drinks (and charge a minimal fee) and ask members to bring side dishes and desserts. If you plan to attend, please either e-mail me at [chuckcooktucson@gmail.com](mailto:chuckcooktucson@gmail.com) or call me at: 797-1066 by Sept 24<sup>th</sup>. If you want to let me know what dish you will bring, that would be great or you can tell me later. I will keep track of side dishes/desserts and may ask you to change if we

get too many Aunt Esters 3 Bean Salads. I will work on good directions and either a hike or some other activity before eating lunch about 1 PM. Hope you can escape the heat with us.

### **Clinic on Planning, Installing and Maintaining your Watering System. By Jack Forgues**

On Saturday, July 31, 2010, eleven members of the TGRS met at the Rillito Nursery to attend a class on planning, installing and maintaining a drip system. After helping ourselves to some delicious treats and water we proceeded to a shaded tent area for the start of our lecture.

Our host David Hargrove, who is head of the Rillito Nursery irrigation department, began with an introduction of the various components required to put in a drip system. David talked about how to modify our existing watering system and how to prepare for installing a new drip system. I thought of my irrigation system and wondered if it was installed correctly. We discussed timers, emitters, and what type of connectors to use for various situations you may run into as you do your installation. The more David talked about the drip system the more questions we came up with. By the time the clinic ended we had so much good information on how to put in a drip system, I couldn't wait to get home and compare what I had to what was discussed at the clinic.

We all want to thank David Hargrove for presenting this very informative clinic.

The next clinic will be held on Saturday, September 18, 2010 at the Fairfield Recreation Center. The subject will be: Making People with Sculpey by Jane Dorgan. If you would like to join us, please contact Jack Forgues/ Clinic Coordinator at 818-9598 or [jr4gus@wbhsi.net](mailto:jr4gus@wbhsi.net). See you at the next clinic.

### **MAKING PEOPLE WITH SCULPEY – CLINIC**

September 18,2010  
5500 N Paseo Otono  
9:00 am to 12 noon

The fun part of making figures is using your imagination, and having the ability to show motion and add variety to your layout.

We have many examples of people in action, walking, jumping, riding etc. We will include how to make animals, saddles, street lights, wheels, and other objects that will make your layout distinctive.

Bring your imagination, your ideas, and questions so we can have an active session.

Our layout will be open for an hour before the clinic and for an hour after. Come and see what creativity has done for The Red Rock Railroad.

### **DIRECTIONS**

Our recreation center is at the corner of N. Via Sempreverde and Paseo Otono. The layout is at 5416 N Via Sempreverde and the Clinic is at the rec. center. Paseo Otono is south off of Sunrise [ big Fairfield sign at the entrance ] Take Sunrise 1.5 miles east from Craycraft, or .4 miles west of Kolb road. There is construction on Sunrise but it is not a problem

### **BUILDING THE “TUCSON NORTE” RAILROAD by TGRS member Bob Campbell**

As a novice to the world of G Gauge, I report the following: Life can be more interesting at 1/29<sup>th</sup> than it ever was at full scale!

Not that I am a scientist mind you, but I've noticed my skills at 1/29<sup>th</sup> scale come up wanting, ideas are easily derailed, fingers normally nimble, now malfunction and “good enough” eyesight somehow isn't good enough anymore when applied to small detail. Most telling, money is consumed at a *much* faster rate when at 1/29<sup>th</sup> scale!

Ill-fitting track, with their sharp edged plastic ties can bring pain to hands already just a bit arthritic. The properties of electricity, when applied to garden railroading, would baffle Thomas Edison! And what does one make of a hobby who's god, the almighty LGB, either died or is in a kind of reincarnation?

Choosing which garden railroad scale to use is like choosing a church when moving into a new town. Let's see: Yes; 1/29<sup>th</sup> is heavenly, but 1/22 is divine—and don't forget 1/32, even if their sermon is spoken in AC verses the DC the congregation is used to and prefers.

You *can* mix and match scales, provided you know that 1/32 flatcars and tankers go well will 1/29 boxcars, but any 1/22 piece dwarfs 1/32 boxcars, and never put a 1/22 passenger car with anything else but their own kind. Oh, and each manufacture has its own quirks with coupler compatibility—effectively make them incompatible, a problem somehow ignored.

I have learned with G Gauge, there is no right or wrong way, but many paths to the elephant. Here is the path I took, much of it with the sage advice of club mentor Dick Izen.

After months of study and deliberation, I choose MTH RailKing for power and control because of its

reputation. Downside: Incompatibility with most other manufactures because they use AC compared to the industry standard DC. A further limitation is the smallish 1/32 scale *and* the company's "take forever" business approach.

Next, I decided to put the layout in our hobby garage instead of out in the open air of the backyard. The space is a stand alone 15'x 22' garage finished as a recreation room and containing an assortment of collectables and memorabilia; also known as junk. Track sits 8' above the floor on a wall-hugging 55' oval roadbed. There are two switch tracks that allow this configuration to run two trains, one at rest while the other is in operation on the mainline.

As to the trains themselves, my 1950's childhood dictated that one be a F-3 Santa Fe War bonnet diesel streamliner that I *never* had but lusted for, running counter clockwise, and a Baldwin VO-1000 switch engine of the same era or earlier, set up as a freight train and running clockwise. The MTH sound on board both engines is quite nice.

Noted local metal fabricator and all around good guy Ray Strum (404-5090) made and installed the roadbed. He did the set up at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Ace Hardware. EagleWings Iron Craft out of Phoenix made the 4 foot, 70-pound bridge. Guillermo Escudero of Greg's Camera Shop took the bird's eye photo of Tucson from atop "A" mountain and turned it into a 9' mural. Thanks goes out to Alan at Ace Hardware for his good help.

The Tucson Norte Railroad was finished in early fall of 2009...did I say finished? I'm coming to find out that word doesn't exist in G Gauge! There is *always* something to be done or another piece of equipment that you've just got to have. In my case, I've yet to figure out how to work the direct current LGB switch tracks using the alternating current MTH power and remote. I still need to add backdrop and maybe a scale replica of the Tucson train station

Lessons learned? Expectations that it was going to be like setting up my old Lionel at Christmas time tuned out to be a myth. This hobby is more akin to radio controlled model airplanes, or needlework, where you really need to have someone show you the ropes. In my case, it was Dick Izen. Belonging to a club is almost required because you need that base of knowledge to draw from. I also found that the industry leaves a lot of holes that need to be filled by you, the hobbyist.

Can't say that I'm a full-fledged garden railroad enthusiast—cars are my passion. But I enjoy toy trains and have found the Tucson Garden Railroad Society folks to be very friendly and helpful. I intend to have an open house for club members sometime in the near future. Hope to see you then!



Trying to figure out the switch track's angle on the dangle



F-3 War Bonnet in action



All aboard! At 8' high



Home of the Tucson Norte Railroad

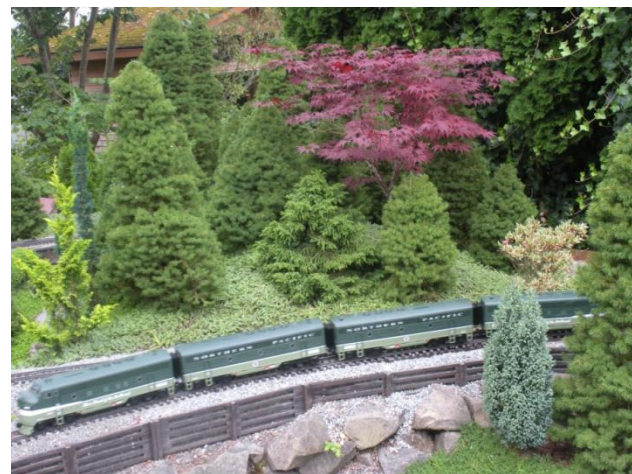
**26<sup>th</sup> National Garden Railway  
Convention  
Tacoma, Washington  
August 1-8, 2010  
By Peggy Martin**

The 26<sup>th</sup> National Garden Convention in Tacoma, Washington was well represented by members from the Tucson Garden Railway Society. Listed below are those who attended (hope I didn't miss anyone):

Barry and Gina Blackwell  
Bob "Tex" and Norma Crosby  
Willis and Dotty Fagg  
Jack and Rosalie Forgues  
Ken and Mary Karrell  
Alan and Jan Lathrum  
Gary and Peggy Martin  
Glen and Janet Mitchell  
Ian and Ina Shivack  
Bruce and Pat Somerhalder

The weather was great and the gardens around the trains were wonderful. Nice to see these layouts and visit with the owners who spent so much time preparing for this event. Vendors were well represented by 40 plus. Unfortunately, for some unknown reason, ARISTOCRAFT and USA trains were not present. However all other major suppliers were there. The convention center and the Hotel Murano were outstanding. Here are the conventions for the next few years.

2011 Kansas City, Kansas  
2012 Chicago, Illinois  
2013 Cincinnati, Ohio  
2014 Tampa, Florida  
2015 Denver, Colorado



**Legacy of Steel & Thunder  
Southern Arizona Transportation  
Museum Benefit  
Saturday October 23, 2010 6pm - 10 pm**

Dinner dancing live music  
Live & silent auctions including railroad memorabilia  
An evening of railroad nostalgia

Trains, tracks and railroaders. The reality of the romance will be on full display. Railroaders of Arizona will be gathering to share their tales of life on the rails. Railroaders, Rail Enthusiasts, Model Railroaders and the Public are invited to come eat, dance and enjoy a night filled with real and amazing stories of a vanishing era.

This event, for the benefit of the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, will include live and silent auctions with authentic railroad memorabilia, travel by train and many other exciting items.

Double Tree Hotel 445 South Alvernon, Tucson,  
Arizona

For ticket information call (520) 202-6953 or visit  
[www.SteelAndThunder.com](http://www.SteelAndThunder.com)

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum is a 501  
(c)(3)non-profit organization

Construction at Diamond Children's Hospital





## A Big Welcome to New Members

There were no new members during August

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

## 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".

### Calendar of Events

Sep 11	Jack and Rosalie Forgues	meeting at 10 am	Live Steam follows
Oct 9	Nick Bucholz and Mary Ker	meeting at 1 pm	
Nov 6	ABTO visits	To Be Announced	
Nov 13	Gary and Peggy Martin	meeting at 3 pm	
Dec 4	Christmas Party	2 pm	
Jan 15	Bruce and Pat Somerhalder		
Feb 12	Rincon Country West		
Mar 19	Tucson Botanical Gardens		

### TGRS Officers and Board of Directors

President:.....Norm Ulmer.....520-299-9401	At Large Board Members
V-President:.....Willis Fagg.....520-760-0147	Barry Blackwell.....520-322-5033
Secretary:.....Gina Blackwell..520-322-5033	Nick Buchholz.....520-744-4932
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Editor:.....Jim Miller.....520-886-7611	Jay Sanders.....520-731-1999

### Tucson Garden Railway Society

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