



Tucson Garden Railway Society's

Time Table

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

Editor e-mail: jmiller66@cox.net

February 2011

FEBRUARY MEETING

This month's meeting will be on the 19th of February at 1:00 PM at Rincon Country West RV Resort. Although there might be a Craft Fair in the Auditorium, the meeting will be held in the Recreation Hall adjoining the Auditorium. This building is next to the club train layout. Trains will be running at noon. All TGRS members are welcome to bring their trains to run.

Rincon Country West RV Resort
4555 S. Mission Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85746

Contact person: Ken Zacharias



Telephone: 294-4980

Directions to RCW RV Resort

Take I-19 S, go 1.3 mi to Ajo Way, exit 99. Turn Right (W) at Ajo Way, go 0.9 mi. Turn Left (S) at Mission Rd., go 0.6 mi. Turn Left at Via Ingresso-entrance to Rincon Country West. Take immediate first Right at Gate House entrance. Once through gate proceed down main boulevard to club layout

located on left at end of Boulevard. There is plenty of parking on the Left in parking spaces located all around the RCW auditorium next to the train layout.

Rincon Country West Railroad

The RCW Railroad layout is the ongoing project of the RCW Garden Railroad Club located at the Rincon Country West RV Resort. The club has been developing its layout over the past five winters as most of our members are "snowbirds". We have over 900 ft. of track with four independent loops and a trolley line running from the town of Rincon to the circus. Each loop has track power. Our village of Rincon is composed of lighted, scratch built and kit built structures named for existing clubs in the RCW Park (Shuffles Boarding House, Tennis Court House, etc.). Our extensive vegetation is maintained by club members and has its own irrigation system. Our storage Train Depot contains a work bench, shelf and track storage for trains and all our electronics.

This winter club members added a waterfall and pond. A new 1940's era rural village is also being developed in the upper area of the layout.

Pictures of the RCW Railroad



Very Handsome Locomotives on and under trestles



RCW RR industrial area



RCW RR Circus

This clinic will be presented at the February meeting.

**Clinic Title: The Lincoln Train is Coming!
Abraham Lincoln's 1865 Funeral Train
An Adventure in 1/12 Scale Urethane Casting**

Subject: Historical research and model making techniques in making the Lincoln Train

Brief Description:

In 1864 the US Military Railroad System constructed an opulent 16-wheel private car, "The United States," for President Lincoln. Strangely it was used officially only for the fourteen-day funeral trip from Washington DC to Springfield, IL with eleven elaborate open coffin funeral stops. This clinic describes the ten years of historical research and special urethane casting techniques used to build a museum quality exhibit. The trucks alone for the car have 725 scratchbuilt parts in 1" scale. A locomotive built in 1" scale, the "Nashville," complete with bunting and pictures of Lincoln was used for only a small part of the trip. Finally the elaborate hearse from Springfield, IL including a full six-horse hitch completes the model.

Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois was the project sponsor. Come and join the fun.

Brief Biography:

Wayne has been a National Model Railroad Association member and avid model builder since 1959. More than 160 articles, five books and two Kalmbach videotapes including a segment shown on "Good Morning America" are to his credit with wife, Mary Cay. Since moving to Tucson Wayne is planning a Civil War theme garden railroad. Wayne retired as a Professor of Chemistry at Benedictine University, Lisle, IL but continues to teach chemistry at the University of Arizona

Rails in the Garden Update

As we come up on only six weeks until our Rails in the Garden event, a brief update is probably in order.

First, an important item: help for the tour hosts. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered to help a host. For those that have not yet committed to help someone, the last we knew the following host families need additional assistance: Nick Buchholz & Mary Ker, the Eberbach's (Sunday), the Forgues, the Koehlers and the Somerholders. Please consider helping for a day of the tour at one of these layouts. Remember, its FUN to show people our trains and to talk with them about our hobby. A RITG section has been added to the TGRS website that includes a description of the tour, ticket ordering information, an overview map and photos of this year's layouts. About a week ago, we mailed out over 1100 announcements (w/ ticket order forms) to our mailing list, and we have already received several ticket orders. In the next couple of weeks we will be emailing announcements to the over 200 contacts on our email list. After this year's tour, we will be purging our mail list – only people that order tickets or sign up at one of this year's venues will be on next year's mail list. While you are working at the layouts this March, please remind our visitors to sign up for the mail list if they want to be contacted next year.

Speaking of tickets, the TGRS board of directors considered and approved providing RITG passes to active military families and to the Big Brother & Sisters organization. Willis Fagg is coordinating the distribution to the military and Jerry Tulino is helping to coordinate with the Big Brother & Sisters. We hope that these groups will be able to utilize these passes.

Also, we will be collecting food and donations for the Community Food Bank at each layout again this year. Last year we successfully collected over 300 pounds of food and over \$400 in donations! Thanks to our visitors and neighbors! Hopefully we will do as well again this year.

MONTHLY SOCIAL LUNCHEON

Didn't treat your sweetie right for Valentines Day? Take her/him to The RED GARTER Saloon for lunch. The date is Wednesday February 16th. The Red Garter is located at 3143 E Speedway. Pool players arrive at 11 a.m. and lunch only folks at 11:45. Come Join Us! Call Chuck Cook at 977-7673 with any questions. PS: Glenn Ellis was the grand winner of the bowling outing. As a prize he was presented with a bottle of 24 tablets of Motrin.

Bob Blodgett had the following items stolen out of his truck

1. Rio Grande Engine
2. Harley Davidson Box Car
3. Flat Hauler with Semi Truck
4. Lakeside Cheese Box Car
5. Rio Grand Caboose (yellow)
6. Oil Tanker (black)
Union Tank Line Dome Car
7. Oil Tanker, Army (olive)
8. Flat Car (Bachmann yellow)
9. Flat Car (LGB brown)
10. Swift Semi Trailer (Aristo)
11. Box Car (orange)
12. Box Car (BM) – (Blue/White)
13. Engine (Cloudstone Valley) Blue with carrying case, Boy Car (Blue)
14. Caboose, (Blue & Red) with Sierra Sound
Two batteries and remote
15. Box Car (D&SCG) Bachmann # 93322
16. Gondola (LGB – Denver & Rio Grand)
17. Gondola (Dark Green)
18. Tool Box and Contents
Screwdriver Set, Liquid Smoke (2), Pliers (2), Files (2), Three sets of Metal Wheels Hitches (3 Sets), Total Wheels
19. Plastic Container for Trains (3)

If anyone sees or hears about any of these items please contact Bob Blodgett

TGRS Clinics for 2011

At the Martin residence, Saturday February 12, 2011.

Location: 4625 E. Cerro de Aguila.
Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
Subject: Weathering TGRS club cars with the opportunity to purchase them.
Presented by: **Gary Martin**

Fairfield Recreation Center, Saturday May 14, 2011.

Location: 5500 N. Paseo Otono
Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
Subject: Scratch building/ kitbashing rolling stock.
Presented by: **Norm Ulmer**
**Location to be announced, Saturday
June 18, 2011.**

Location:

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Subject: Body mounting Kadee couplers on locomotives and rolling stock.

Presented by: **Dick Izen**

Location to be announced, Saturday July 9, 2011.

Location:

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Subject: Locomotive and rolling stock maintenance.

Presented by:

Location to be announced, Saturday August 13, 2011.

Location:

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Subject: Building a battery car.

Presented by: **Nick Buchholz**

At the Forgues residence, Saturday September 10, 2011.

Location: 61786 E. Sandlewood Road.

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Subject: Building mountains for your layout.

Presented by: **Jack Forgues**

Location to be announced, Saturday October 8, 2011.

Location:

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Subject: Railroad Electronics.

Presented by: **Glenn Mitchell**

**Contact Jack Forgues/ Clinic Coordinator
at 818-9598 or jr4gus@wbhsi.net.**

**If you have any questions or if you would like
sign-up for a particular clinic.**

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER TGRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

January 20, 2011 at the home of Norm & Ibbey Ulmer

Present were: Norm Ulmer, Ibbey Ulmer, Ruth Taylor, Nick Buchholz, Gary Martin, Glenn Mitchell, Barry Blackwell, and Gina Blackwell

The minutes of the December Board of Directors meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

1. Total on deposit: \$33,077.01
2. Revenues from 11/14/10: \$1,221.87
3. Expenses from 11/13/10: \$2,258.33
4. Net revenues from 11/14/10: -\$1,736.56
5. Total dues paid for 2010-11: \$2,455.00

Vice-President's Report presented by Norm Ulmer:
Home Show, Swap Meet and VA displays all went well. The new controllers for the children's layout worked very well at the Swap Meet. "Snap Plugs" will be added to the controller wiring for ease in assembly and take-down. Rails in the Garden

(RITG) tickets and the old controllers were sold at the Swap Meet. It was noted that the RITG will now include the Gadsden Pacific Toy Train Museum. There is also a contact (Barbara Gavre) with the Tucson National Guard for RITG tickets.

Bob Conrad has agreed to coordinate the signup for the Pima County Fair volunteers.

No Editor's Report.

Committee Reports:

There were no reports from the *Clinics* or *Social Committees*.

Education: Nothing new to report.

Maintenance: Need to repair the Sumpter Valley engine (trucks & horn).

Membership Committee: There now 89 members.

Mentoring Committee – One new person is working with Dick Izen.

Old Business:

- A. There is no booster antenna for the Diamond Children's Medical Center installation as yet. A 900 MHz system is needed. Gary Martin to contact Larry Hatch in Phoenix who may have information.

We need to re-do controls at the Tucson Botanical Gardens.

We need to retrofit the Children's Museum with a battery charger – needs a new power system. Postponed until after RITG.

- B. New Project Suggestions still under consideration include:

A layout in a 45' X 55' patio of the new Tucson Medical Center children's wing is a go. We can elevate the layout. The budget would be between \$7,000 and \$10,000. The layout can include tunnels and loops but we need to be aware of drainage issues.

The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) is definitely interested in pursuing a permanent layout. The issue has been added to the February agenda of the Community Living Center (the extended care/rehabilitation wing of the hospital). Gina is to follow-up with her contact there.

- C. The two signal bridges from Eaglewings Iron Craft are not yet ready.
- D. Glenn Mitchell reported that the RITG arrangements are going very well. Tickets are being sold at ACE Hardware, Rillito Nursery, and the Arizona Transportation Museum. We are looking into providing passes for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and active military. Information about the tour has been provided to Garden Railway Magazine. The website information has been updated.

- E. Due to a work/travel conflict for Gina Blackwell, the next Board Meeting has been rescheduled to February 10th.

- F. Nick Buchholz as accepted the position of Chief Engineer.

New Business:

- A. The Children's Museum system will be retrofitted to mimic the battery-charging system at the Diamond Children's Center.
- B. Wayne Wesolowski has been approved to present his Lincoln Funeral Train reproduction project at the next general meeting. We were encouraged to invite other model railroaders from other clubs (SASME, Gadsden Pacific Toy Train) to the event.
- C. There was some discussion on membership dues and how to get more volunteers for events. Various Board members were tasked with researching certain aspects of incentives.

It was noted by Ruth Taylor that we will need to order new shirts. She will begin taking orders at the next general meeting.

There was mention of interest in a layout of the Mini-Time Museum of Miniatures – this is being explored. Discussion of a layout at the Transportation Museum has been tabled once again.

The TGRS cattlecar at the Diamond Children's Center is squeaking. This will be investigated and, if necessary, replace the trucks or the entire car.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Blackwell

.....

**TUCSON GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
January 22, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Norm Ulmer, at 1:00 PM. Bruce and Pat Somerhalder were thanked for hosting the meeting.

Guests present included Bob Murphy, Burt Light, Jim Walsh and Darrell McGee.

The minutes of the previous meeting (November, 2010) were approved as published in the newsletter.

There were pleas from Norm Ulmer and Willis Fagg for volunteers for the Vice President's spot on the ballot.

The Vice-President's report:

The VA and Home Show layouts had good volunteer coverage. The children's layout at the swap meet went well – there was a very large turnout for the event. We were reminded that volunteers will be needed again for June and November swap meets. The Gadsden Pacific Toy Train Museum has been added to the Rails in the Garden (RITG) tour this year. It is hoped this will produce more interaction between our two clubs.

Bob Conrad is coordinating 2 shifts per day at the Pima County Fair – we were encouraged to sign up as soon as possible. There will be parking passes and badges.

Pepe Mendoza at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) sent us pictures and write-ups from the Christmas layout.

The Treasurer's Report:

1. Total on deposit: \$33,077.01
2. Revenues from 11/14/10: \$1,221.87
3. Expenses from 11/13/10: \$2,258.33
4. Net revenues from 11/14/10: -\$1,736.56
5. Total dues paid for 2010-11: \$2,455.00

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Jack Forgues reported that the next clinic will be on Feb. 12th, "Weathering" given by Gary Martin from 9:00 AM to Noon. Please sign up.

The Editor (Jim Miller) asked for newsletter articles. He also encouraged the membership to use email or the website for the newsletter. Printing costs have increased due to a new printer.

There was nothing new to report from the Education Committee.

The Maintenance Committee (Gary Martin) reported that he is working on sound problems with an engine.

There have been no new requests for assistance from the Mentoring Committee.

Ibby Ulmer reported no new members.

There was no Social Committee report.

Old Business:

A. The Tucson Medical Center layout is on track. A number of buildings will be needed for the outdoor patio layout. This is in the near final planning stages. The Veterans Hospital layout is still under consideration. We may be invited to attend a planning meeting in February.

B. TGRS logo cars are still available for sale at \$40 each. Some will be used in the weathering clinic to be given next month and then offered for sale.

C. The now-grounded power supplies for the children's layout are in place and work great. The old transformers were sold at the swap meet. We will now be able to set up at outdoor venues without worry of electrocution.

D. Nick Buchholz has accepted the new, non-Board position of Chief Engineer, effective July 1, 2011.

E. Glenn Mitchell reported that the Rails in the Garden 2011 tour will include nine (9) layouts, including the Gadsden Pacific Toy Train Operators Museum. ACE Hardware, Rillito Nursery, and the Arizona Transportation Museum are selling tickets. Local mailers will be going out soon – the out-of-state mailers are gone. He issued a call for volunteers to help hosts – to be finalized at the February meeting. He asked that the hosts send Willis Fagg a list of the volunteers they know have signed up to help them. Active military and Big Brothers/Big Sisters passes are in the works. There will be collection boxes and monetary donation banks for the Community Food Bank at each layout. He also issued thanks to all of the volunteers for their help with the mailing work session.

New Business:

A. Wayne Wesolowski will present his Abraham Lincoln Funeral Train reproduction project at the February meeting. He will need a projector. It was also noted that a Vendors' Fair will be taking place in the next hall at Rincon Country West.

B. The membership was reminded of the sales going on at Tiefenbach's and Schwab's until 4 PM.

C. One club member reported the theft of trains from his truck. He will send an email with descriptions of the items lost.

Gary Martin mentioned that the weathering clinic will be with spray cans, not air brush, and he will have the necessary tools on hand. He also presented his "Boot Shop" as a Show & Tell item of something you can do in a day with scrap wood for under \$10. He is willing to help new members with projects such as this.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Blackwell

A Big Welcome to New Members

Dave and Judi Peterson in Marana they don't have a layout yet but are working on it. Dave and Judy are snow birds from Illinois.

Cap Pearson, who doesn't have a layout yet.

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

Feb 19	Rincon Country West	1:00 p.m.
Mar 12-13	Rails in the Garden tour	
Mar 19	Tucson Botanical Gardens	
Apr 14-24	Pima County Fair	Proposed set-up on Apr 6 th
May 21	Glen and Janet Mitchell	

TGRS Officers and Board of Directors

President:.....Norm Ulmer.....520-299-9401
V-President:.....Willis Fagg.....520-760-0147
Secretary:.....Gina Blackwell..520-322-5033
Treasurer:.....Ruth Taylor.....520-908-1312
Editor:.....Jim Miller.....520-886-7611

At Large Board Members
Barry Blackwell.....520-322-5033
Nick Buchholz.....520-744-4932
Jack Forgues.....520-818-9598
Jay Sanders.....520-731-1999

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