



Tucson Garden Railway Society's

Time Table

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

Editor e-mail: jmiller66@cox.net

September 2011

The September 17th meeting to be held at the home of Jack and Rosalie Forgues.

We will start running trains at 9:00am, with the general meeting to follow at 10:00 am.

Directions to Jack and Rosalie Forgues home in SaddleBrooke

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

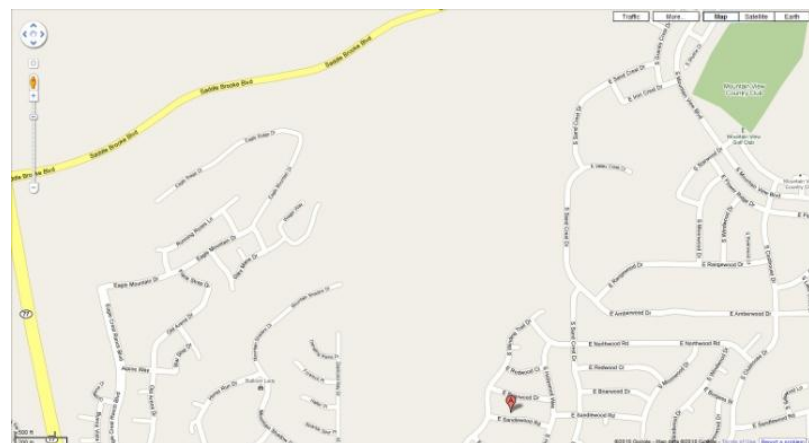
Turn **right** onto SaddleBrooke Blvd. at the signal. As you come over the hill, turn **right** onto Mountainview Blvd.

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 Sandewood Road.

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



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.



QUAIL RIDGE RAILROAD

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.

Membership Renewal Time is Here

Current membership expired on June 30th. Membership renewal for the 2011/12 fiscal year is \$30.

I am now accepting renewal payments for the 2011/12 fiscal 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

President's Clatter

Now that I've officially taken the office of president and officiated my first general meeting, I thought I would bring the general membership up to date on what's happening. It is my goal to provide general club status in every newsletter.

In the last newsletter, I told you my plan to recruit some assistants for the vice-president as I work toward securing a volunteer for that position as well. In addition to Bob Conrad (county fair), I have secured Chuck Cook for the VA display and Larry Erb to work the swap meets. I would still need a

volunteer to assist with the annual home show in January. I'm planning to announce a vice-president in October, if not before. So I'm still looking for volunteers.

On another positive note, Jerry Tulino has given Ibbey Ulmer her well-earned retirement by taking over the position of membership chairperson. He is doing that in addition to his current task of maintaining the website.

In addition to Jack's planning of the clinic schedule, we are also planning some other special events for our members. The Arizona Big Train Operators (ABTO) in Phoenix will host TGRS members on a tour of eight of their member layouts on November 12th. Chuck Cook is organizing this effort.

Finally, we are working on a plan to bring Michael Broggie to Tucson to present his program on Walt Disney. It's a great program and we plan to use a venue that will be open to the public.

I look forward to seeing you at the September general meeting.

Willis

Clinic on Building a Battery Car **By Jack Forgues**

On Saturday, August 13, 2011, fifteen members of the TGRS met at the Tucson Botanical Gardens in the SAHBA Pavilion to attend a clinic on installing battery power in various locomotives and rolling stock, presented by Nick Buchholz.

Each person at the clinic was given a packet that outlined from start to finish how to design, locate and build a battery power source for your engine or trailing car. The first thing we talked about was type of decisions one had to make before starting this project. What battery type would you use, Nickel Cadmium, Nickel Metal Hydride or Lithium Ion. Next the length of run time, type of engine control either R/C control or Rheostat control. If you decided to go with R/C control, what manufacture would you use. What type of sound system would you be using and it's voltage requirements. After you have answered all these questions, it's time to compile a list of supplies and tools required to do this project. Nick also included in the packet, various suppliers, circuit diagrams for different types of battery configurations for locomotive and trailing cars and every type of tool you might need to accomplish this task. I'm sure everyone enjoyed the clinic as much as I did. I want to thank Nick Buchholz for putting on such a great clinic on Building a Battery Car.

The final clinic for this year will be held at the Tucson Botanical Gardens on Saturday, October 15, 2011 in

the SAHBA Pavilion. The subject will be on Building with Precision Board Products.

Presented by: Ross and Sue Piper of Rainbow Ridge

Tucson Botanical Gardens
2150 N. Alvernon Way
Tucson, AZ.

Building with Precision Board Products
Saturday, October 15, 2011 in the SAHBA Pavilion

Sue and Ross Piper of Rainbow Ridge will present a Tucson Garden Railway Society hands-on workshop to acquaint members with Precision Board and its advantages for use in the Arizona garden railway. Sample material, tools, paints, etc. will be provided for experimenting with this versatile product. You are requested to bring a Dremel if you have one. Several Dremel tools will be provided for participants to share. Ross will do a demonstration of his method for building assembly. Sue will guide us in actual texturing and finishing of the various pattern materials available. Each session will allow only 13 members, so be sure to sign up early.

First Clinic starts at 8:00 am and ends at 11:00 am.

Second Clinic starts at 11:30 am and ends at 2:30 pm.

Remaining TGRS Clinics for 2011

The clinic scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 2011 at the Forgues residence has been cancelled.

Tucson Botanical Gardens, Saturday, October 15, 2011.

Location: 2150 N. Alvernon Way

Time: First clinic, 8:00am to 11:00 am and the

Second clinic, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Subject: Building with Precision Board products.

Presented by: **Rainbow Ridge, to be held in the SAHBA Pavilion.**

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

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

MONTHLY SOCIAL LUNCHEON

We had another fun outing at the Red Garter with a lot of catching up on what people did so far this summer. By next month there should be even more travel stories to hear. We will return to the same location on Wednesday September 14th. Please come join us for the early pool session. We don't play the traditional rules-actually we don't play any rules; and rarely keep score. So pick up a cue stick

and have some fun. 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.

A.B.T.O. TOUR
Mark Your Calendar

We have been invited to tour 8 home layouts of the Arizona Big Train Operators club in the Phoenix area. The date for the tour is November 12th. For now, just mark your calendars and save that date. Also, be thinking about whether you would prefer to set up car pools and pay your driver (probably \$10-15 per person) or rent some 15-passenger vans at about \$25 per person. I will get your ideas and pass on more details next month. Call Chuck Cook, 977-7673 with questions.



ALL ABOARD

**You are invited to the 8th annual
Open House AT**

GARY and PEGGY MARTIN'S

Eagle Mountain Garden Railroad

Date: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2010

Place: 4625 E. CERRO DE AGUILA, Tucson AZ.

**1. TGRS November Meeting WILL
begin at 3:00PM**

**2. General Open House 10:00AM to
3:00PM**

Open to GENERAL PUBLIC

**3. Food and beverages will be
served after 4:00PM for club
members, their families, and
other special guests.**

**If you plan to stay for the food
and beverages, please RSYP by
November 7th with number who
plan to attend.**

520 299-7428 OR

pgmartin5@hotmail.com

Adopt-A-Layout

Over the last few years our club has provided equipment for, and installed, three display layouts at the Tucson Children's Museum, the Tucson Botanical Gardens and UMC's Diamond Children's Center. These layouts and trains are popular with children and adults alike and operate many hours each day – probably more hours than anticipated. Because of the usage, the trains need to be maintained on a regular basis and that is where you can help. We need to have a small – two to four members – task force for each display layout that will help with the routine train maintenance. The Tucson Botanical Gardens have existing volunteers and TGRS members that take care of their layout. So, the need is for the children's museum, the Diamond Children's Center and the upcoming layout at TMC. The maintenance schedule for each layout needs to be established but we don't expect that it will be more frequent than once every month or two. The maintenance items are simple as well so it should be an easy task. If you are willing to help maintain our display layouts, please email or call Dick Izen at djizen@msn.com or 498-4634. Thank you for your support!
Glenn Mitchell

Tucson Botanical Gardens



The Tucson Botanical Gardens' layout has developed into a very nice, attractive garden railroad. This spring the layout was expanded to add a second, outer loop of track that permits two trains to operate which adds to the visual interest of the railroad. The expansion was primarily carried out by TBG members/volunteers with a little help from TGRS members. Thorne Pierce scratch-built the through-truss bridge for the "stream" crossing on the new loop (see photo). Also, TGRS donated an enclosure for the power supplies and train control system. This enclosure will better protect the electronics from weather as well as provide a little storage place for items needed near the layout. If you haven't seen the TBG railroad in a while, you should make it a point to see it soon.



Enclosure for Power Supplies and Train Control Systems

Update on Tucson Children's Museum

A. Background

On July 27, Kevin Mills, the TCM facilities manager called and asked for help. According to Kevin both engines were stalling on the corners though they restarted again with a gentle push. He also suggested that the power pack was making some noise. I told him we would take a look at the problem.

I discussed this with Nick Buchholz who was familiar with the layout and we agreed that if both engines were involved it was probably an electrical problem. Nick also mentioned that UMC had a problem and that Glenn Mitchell had diagnosed wheel problems.

Accordingly, I contacted Glenn and asked him to take a look. He obligingly stopped by TCM and reported that he thought the problem was wear on the pickups that was exacerbated on the curves. This sounded reasonable as the locomotives have had heavy usage and have been in service for about three years.

I checked the Aristocraft web site and found the cost of repair parts and asked Kevin to see if the museum still had funds from the Union Pacific grant. I suspected, but didn't tell Kevin, that TGRS would probably pay to repair the locomotives if the funds were exhausted. In that case I would have had to come to the club to request authorization.

Further discussions with Nick suggested that Gary might have replacement Aristocraft trucks that had been purchased for our FA/FB locomotives. In fact Gary had 4 power trucks, enough to repair two locomotives. Confirming timing with Gary, I made arrangements to pick up the worst of the locomotives for repair.

On the 28th I picked up the RS-3 to take to Gary's for repair. While there, I checked out the other

locomotive. It seemed to run fine, if very slowly. The television feed seemed to be a bit high and perhaps not as well focused. Kevin confirmed that they had been running the RS-3 most of the time because they liked the TV camera view better.

Gary and I repaired the RS-3 and returned it to the museum. It ran, but very slowly. The first circuits were marred by derailments but I suspect that this was due to Kevin not getting the trucks properly on the rails. After correction the derailments were cured but the slow speed still left it vulnerable to stalls when the load increased as the train cornered.

I checked the power supply and found it set to 11 volts. Remembering that Glenn had told me that there was some voltage drop through the motion circuit I increased the output to 14 volts. The train now operated at reasonable speed smoothly all around the loop. Whistle (horn) and bell as well as motor sounds and cab, marker and head lights were all fine. A number of the railings have disappeared but this isn't very visible to the museum patrons.

After some discussion with Willis Fagg I have invoiced the museum \$170 being the current price for the two replacement trucks. I noted that because we had them on hand there was no shipping charge and that the labor was donated by TGRS. A copy of the invoice was sent to Ruth so she will know what the check is for when it is (eventually) received.

B. Recommendations

As a result of the above three suggestions have arisen, two relatively short term and one with longer term implications.

First, I think Nick should stop in and try to adjust the camera in the U-25. At the same time lens cleaner and focus should be adjusted.

Secondly, I think Nick should change the pin switches so that both cameras broadcast on the same receiver frequency. (We had initially gone with different channels to prevent interference from one locomotive camera with the other but in our current arrangement only one camera can be powered from the battery and there is no possibility of interference.) This change would eliminate having to adjust the receiver channel each time a locomotive is changed and along with the adjustment above might help to promote more even usage and wear on the two locomotives.

Finally, Gary suggested (and Glenn and I agreed) that TGRS should form one or more small maintenance groups responsible for visiting each public layout (currently TCM and UMC but to include TCM, VA, and Southern Arizona Transportation Museum layouts if TGRS builds them) once a month. At that time the maintenance group would

perform routine maintenance such as lubricating the freight car trucks and the locomotive trucks. This group could also inspect for wear and, if necessary, reverse power trucks to ensure even wear.



This is a photo of Parker Pearson, Ibby & Norm Ulmer's great grandson, playing in the engine that TGRS built and put in the Children's Museum.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE Tucson Garden Railway Society (TGRS) BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

June 9, 2011 at the home of Norm & Ibby Ulmer

This was an informal get-together for the old and new Board members. The only official action taken at this meeting was the acceptance of the resignation of the newly-elected vice-president, Ted Golembiewski.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST Tucson Garden Railway Society (TGRS) BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

August 4, 2011 at the home of Norm & Ibby Ulmer

Present were: Willis Fagg, Norm Ulmer, Nick Buchholz, Jack Forgues, Glenn Mitchell, Gary Martin, Bob Conrad, Jerry Tulino, Barry Blackwell, and Gina Blackwell

The minutes of the May Board of Directors meeting were approved as published in the newsletter, with the minor heading correction (May instead of March).

The Treasurer was absent; no report.

There is currently no Vice-President; no report

The Editor was absent; no report.

Committee Reports:

Clinics: The next clinic is scheduled for 08/13/11 at the Tucson Botanical Gardens, Nick Buchholz presenting; 16 have signed up so far. The Rainbow Ridge clinic signup for October at the Tucson Botanical Gardens has been divided into two sessions, 13 in each. Jack is working with Gary Martin to set up "hands on" clinics for working on the modules sometime next year; maybe an Ozark-sponsored clinic. The September clinic (Forgues) has been cancelled.

Education: Willis is proposing to stage an event that would include other model railroading clubs in town, the Transportation Museum and possibly the general public by inviting Michael Broggie to give a talk about his book and the Disney train. Ken Karrels is to take the lead on this.

Maintenance: Nothing new to report; still looking for a place large enough to do repairs on the modules.

Membership: Jerry Tulino has agreed to take over the Membership Committee.

Mentoring: Everyone that has requested help has been given a mentor.

In the absence of the *Social Committee* chairman, Willis noted that the ABTO tour would be in November and there would need to be discussion with the general membership about transportation (cars, vans, or buses). The Red Garter Saloon social events will continue monthly, as this seems to be a popular venue.

Old Business:

- A. There is currently no Vice-President to coordinate events. Bob Conrad has agreed to take the lead on the Pima County Fair for next April. Chuck Cook has volunteered to be responsible for the VA layout (Dec. 27-30). We need others to volunteer for upcoming projects and this will be brought up at the General Meeting.
- B. The booster antenna for the Diamond Children's Medical Center installation is still under investigation. The camera may need to be changed out; the battery is not re-charging.
- C. It was suggested that small maintenance crews (2-3 members) for each offsite project (i.e., Tucson Botanical Gardens, The Children's Museum, Diamond Children's Center). These groups would be responsible for maintenance, repairs and lubrication on either a scheduled or as-needed basis. The Diamond Children's Center at UMC staff now schedule track cleaning, but replacement wheels and trucks are needed (\$65-\$100/car). Glenn has agreed to write an article for the

- newsletter about the duties of the small maintenance crews and call for volunteers. Gary agreed to check on the LGB wheel sets.
- D. Nick has a revised design for the new Tucson Medical Center layout. TMC will need to remove plants and provide fill dirt. Bridges have been ordered from Eaglewings Iron Craft. The track has been bought. There may be a covered bridge for train storage at night. We will need an outdoor GFI switch. This project will require complicated control switches, etc. We will need morning workday volunteers. A circus village has been planned and a train for this layout has already been purchased.
 - E. There has been no update from the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) regarding a permanent layout.
 - F. Rails in the Garden 2012: The email and mailing lists are being whittled down. The Tucson Botanical Gardens may be a focal point for the tour. There was discussion about possibly setting up the children's layout at the Gardens for the event. There was also discussion about sharing revenue from ticket sales.

New Business:

A club member may be willing to rent her garage for a nominal fee for working on modules, etc. Another possibility may be the Expo Center, although it has limited availability.

Dick Izen has agreed to write up the club goals and a strategic plan.

Invitation cards for the Martins' Open House in November are available.

The children's layout is to be used next at a swap meet in November. Glenn needs to repair a short in the controls before then.

A new or used enclosed trailer at least 18'L x 8'W x 8'H is needed to replace the smaller one.

The next General Meeting will be 08/20 at Jim White's Cairndhu. The next Board meeting will be 09/15.

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
August 20, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Willis Fagg, at 10:00 AM. Jim White was thanked for

hosting the meeting. There were approximately 28 attendees.

There was one guest: Jim White's friend Ginger.

The minutes of the May 2011 meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read and amended.

1. Total on deposit: \$34,751.
2. Revenues from 07/01/11: \$928.
3. Expenses from 07/01/11: \$2,454.
4. Net revenues from 07/01/11: -\$1,527.
5. Total dues paid for 2011-12: \$1,665.

The Vice-President's Report: In the absence of an elected V-P, Willis reported that the next club event will be the November swap meet.

The Editor's Report:

Jim Miller reported that newsletter articles are always welcome.

Committee Reports:

Clinics: The recent past clinics were well-received and well-attended. It was proposed that the clinic information be added to the website. The September clinic has been cancelled. As reported by Norm Ulmer in Jack Forgues' absence, the next one will be the two Rainbow Ridge clinics on October 15. This event will take place at the Tucson Botanical Gardens in the pavilion.

Education: No report.

Maintenance: No report.

Membership: Jerry Tulino is now the new Chairman. We now have at least 55 member families that have paid their 2011-12 dues. Jerry is also continuing as our webmaster and is in the process of updating the website: He would also like any copies of articles, photos, etc. of past projects and events in the news. More specifically, he would like photos of the major projects outlining project progress from beginning to end, if possible.

Mentoring: No new requests for assistance have been received.

Social: In Chuck Cook's absence, Willis reported that the ABTO event would take place on 11/12. ABTO will provide lunch. TGRS members are asked to consider whether they would like to caravan in cars or commission a bus or two (as a per/person expense). We are asked to email Chuck Cook with our preference.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board vacancy for Vice-President still needs to be filled. In the meantime, we do have volunteers

for coordinating some upcoming events: Bob Conrad for the 2012 Pima County Fair, Chuck Cook for the VA layout (12/27-12/30), and Larry Erb for swap meets. We need a volunteer to coordinate the next Home Show staffing.

Nick is working on the UMC Diamond Children's Center battery circuit and camera problem.

Norm reported that the main rail and trolley line routes are staked out and marked. TMC needs to remove some plants. Construction will begin as soon as the area is cleared. The bridges are ready at Eaglewings Iron Craft and he will pick them up on Monday. He also reported that the clamp on the railbender is missing and a replacement has been ordered.

There is nothing new to report on a possible VA hospital layout.

The Transportation Museum is also a possibility for a future layout.

We are looking for volunteers to be part of small maintenance committees (possibly on a bi-monthly basis) for the projects at UMC, Children's Museum, etc. Properly maintained equipment would save on repair costs to the club. Dick Izen will collect names for scheduling. There will be an article with more details about this in the next newsletter.

Rails in the Garden 2012: looking for new layouts to add to the tour. The dates are March 10 and 11. Norm is working on the mailing list and Glenn and Janet Mitchell are updating the email list.

Glenn Mitchell and Rick Gast reported on the 2011 National Convention in Kansas City. As with any big convention, it had some glitches and flaws, but they managed to have a good time and see some nice layouts.

NEW BUSINESS:

Willis spoke about the possibility of an event featuring a talk by Michael Broggie of Disney train fame. We would advertise to other clubs and the public so a large hall would be needed. Ken Karrels is helping to coordinate the event.

We need hosts for the January, May and June 2012 general meetings.

Madelyn Cook announced that Wayne Wesolowski would be giving a talk at 1PM today at the Mini Time Museum on the Barnum & Bailey #60 Circus Wagon as well as hosting a clinic on resins. She also proposed the Museum as a possible venue for the Broggie event.

The next general meeting will be September 17 at Jack and Rosalie Forgues' home.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Blackwell

A Big Welcome to New Members

We have no new members for 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 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:

Jerry Tulino
6911 E. Baker St.
Tucson, AZ 85710

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

Sep 17 Meeting: Jack & Rosalie Forgues
Oct 8 Meeting: Bob & Winnie Coburn
Oct 15 Clinic: Rainbow Ridge
Nov 5 Gadsden Pacific Swap Meet
Nov 12 Tour of ABTO Layouts
Nov 19 Open House & Meeting: Gary & Peggy Martin
Dec 3 Christmas Luncheon/Meeting 12:00 pm, Hometown Buffet, Oracle & River
Dec 27-30 Layout at the VA Hospital

TGRS Officers and Board of Directors

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

At Large Board Members
Norm Ulmer.....520-299-9401
Barry Blackwell.....520-322-5033
Bob Conrad.....520-744-4932
Glen Mitchel.....520-818-9598

Tucson Garden Railway Society

8132 E. Baker Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85710