



## Tucson Garden Railway Society's

# Time Table

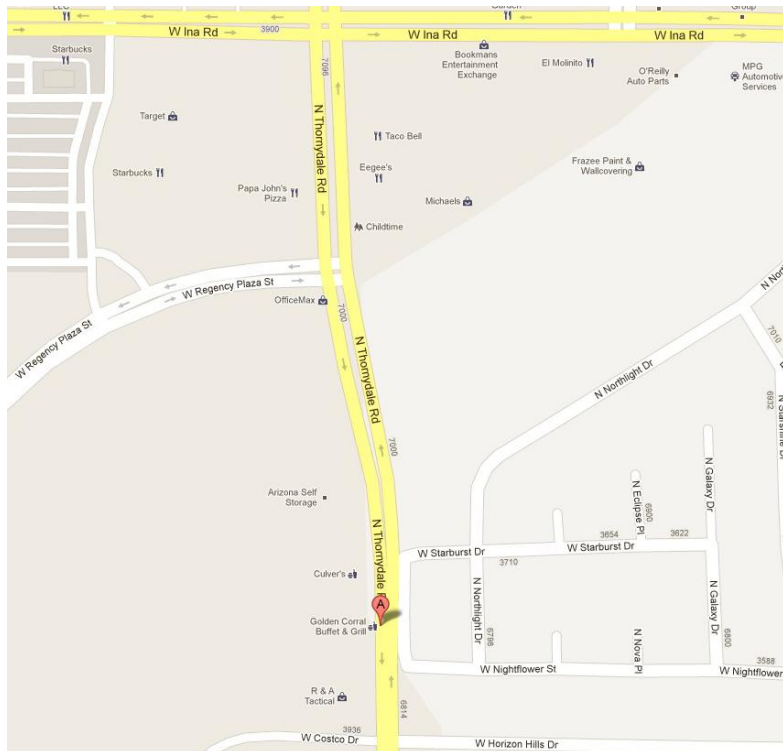
Society web site: <http://tucsongrs.org>

Editor e-mail: [editor@tucsongrs.org](mailto:editor@tucsongrs.org)

December 2011

### Our meeting for December is our annual Christmas/Holiday Party

It will be at the Golden Corral Buffet at 6865 N. Thornydale Road on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at noon.



#### Getting to The Golden Corral

Southbound on Thornydale: Cross Ina, cross the CDO wash, turn right into the parking lot.

Northbound on Thornydale: Cross Orange Grove, cross Costco Dr., turn left at the next light, which is Horizon Hills Dr. Then turn IMMEDIATELY right in to the parking lot in front of 2 businesses and a bank and you are then at Golden Corral.

The cost is \$12 per person. Ruth will take payments at the door but requests that you **call her in advance** to make your reservation. Her number is: (520) 908-1312

There will be a gift exchange. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange please bring a gift.

#### The rules of the gift exchange:

One gift per family with a limit of \$20.

Steals are limited to two and no person can have more than two gifts taken from them.

### President's Clatter

"Tis the Season...". With the first swap meet of the season and a great tour of the ABTO layouts behind us, it's time to really get ready for our big events.

It has been reported to me that the ABTO layout tour was a great success. Many thanks to Chuck Cook for coordinating the 28 members who attended the event. Hopefully, Chuck will continue to be available to extend the tradition of alternating year layout tours with our sister club. So, be thinking about showing your layout next fall.

Looking forward, we have two big events in close succession. By the time the December issue of the Time Table is published, we will be ready to put on our annual show at the VA. This is always a wonderful event and we get lots of community visitors in addition to VA patients, staff and administration. Our VA coordinator, Pepe Mendoza, is a master of media so we always get lots of media coverage. If you haven't participated in this event before, please make time to at least stop by. There are lots of visitors with questions about railroading, modeling and our organization; so every one of our members serves as an ambassadors for us.

Then there's the home show in January. This show, coming on the heels of the VA display, gives us another opportunity to connect with the community. Visitors at the home show are generally a different group from those attending the VA display. Every year we get comments from visitors that we are the best display of the show. Both shows give us a chance to promote our annual Rails-in-the Garden Tour.

Many thanks to the Martins for hosting our November meeting. I think the majority of our club members enjoyed the layout, either running trains or touring the layout; and then there was the food....

But, before all the work, we will have a little play. Please sign up and join in the fun at our annual holiday luncheon. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there.

Willis

## HOLIDAY EXPRESS DOWN AT THE DEPOT

From Ken Carrels



The Southern Arizona Transportation Museum presents its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Express Down at the Train Depot with Santa.

Join in Holiday singing

Write letters to the North Pole: Tucson Postal History Museum Elves.

Listen to a reading of the Polar Express

Take a photo with Santa in front of Locomotive 1673.

Watch the Polar Express movie

Announcement: AMTRAK **Tickets for Two to San Diego Winner**

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE

FREE FAMILY FUN

DATE; December 17, 2011

DAY Saturday

TIME 2- 4 PM,

ADDR 414 N Toole Plenty of Parking on Sat around and across the Train Depot

TELE 623-2223

[www.TucsonHistoricDepot.org](http://www.TucsonHistoricDepot.org)

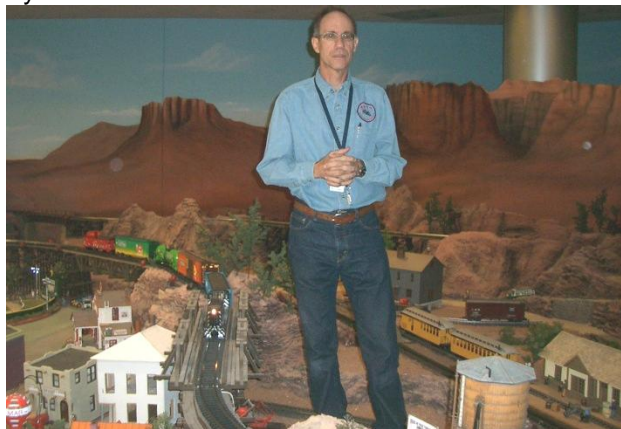
PS Folks can bring a can of food for the Community Food Bank

## MONTHLY SOCIAL LUNCHEON

With all the holiday activities, there will be no social luncheon in December. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you. See you in January 2012.

## TGRS Tour of ABTO Train Layouts

Some 28 TGRS members traveled in caravan to metro Phoenix to see 7 layouts crafted by ABTO members. Our first stop was Cardon Children's Hospital. There we saw an awesome indoor layout crafted by the group. It was nice to see what could be done when the space is allotted to you from the very planning stages of the hospital. Interestingly, ABTO is working in conjunction with an umbrella group of non-railroad folks that just want to present the best entertainment for the kids. Also, the hospital paid for the majority of the expense for the layout.



**Bob Rauperstrauch answering questions on their layout at Cadron Childrens Medical Center**

photo by Chuck Cook



**TGRS Members on the Tour** photo by Bob Conrad

Next up was a 2-story home where a most understanding wife had given her husband the whole 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for his layout. It was grand and beautiful and a great showcase of full size LGB equipment. Patience and planning were the bywords for the next home. Working from real life



photos of a monster trestle bridge and the Tehachapi loop, the owner was crafting a grand layout one nail at a time. No, really, all the track was hand laid on home made ties and individually spiked down, one nail at a time.



photo by Bob Conrad

Then it was lunch at another members home that featured his hand built workshop modeled after a railroad station model. OK, you had to be there to appreciate it!



photo by Phyllis Dirksen

Concrete was the main topic at our next stop, and lots of it. We witnessed train action on 3 levels thanks to the 5-foot high mountains that dominate the layout. These were made by crafting a sand pit, lining it with aluminum foil (to create texture), and then filling with concrete. Each pouring yielded a 4x4 panel of mountain. Our next stop was a preview of what is called the most over the top Christmas tour layout. They were already getting in the spirit with the Christmas train running in the front yard. The back yard featured 3 distinct loops modeling either steam or diesel action.



photo by Bob Conrad

Our last stop was in Gilbert, which fittingly modeled the old town of Gilbert as seen in pictures posted nearby. There was also plenty of great rockwork here, wonderful murals, and the kid favorite Thomas the Train. We all enjoyed the variety of showcases put on for us by ABTO and we thank them. It looks like we are back to doing yearly events like this as they already have volunteers lined up for 2013 (hint, that means we will host them in 2012).

### **Clinic on Building with Precision Board Products** By Jack Forgues

On Saturday, October 15, 2011, twenty four members met at the Tucson Botanical Garden, SAHBA Pavilion and attend clinic on building with Precision Board products. The first clinic started at 8:15 am and continued till 11:15 am. The second clinic started at 11:45 am and continued till 2:45 pm. We had twelve members who attended each clinic. . Before starting the clinic, we were given outlines covering the demonstrations by the Piper's. The clinics were divided into two parts. The first part of the clinic demonstration was done by Ross Piper, in which he went through all the various steps required to assemble a complete building with made from Precision Board products. The second part of the clinic demonstration was done by Sue Piper, in which she guided us through texturing and finishing of the various material patterns available in Precision Board. Each person was given sample material, tools, paints and brushes to experiment with this versatile product. All the samples that the members worked on, they were able to keep.



Photo by Jack Forgues

I'm sure everyone enjoyed the clinic as much as I did. I want to thank both Ross and Sue Piper for traveling to Arizona and putting on such a great clinic for our members. **The outlines for this clinic can be found in our website under Information/ "How To" Clinics.**

## UP 844

By Bob Dirksen

On Thursday, November 10, Glenn Mitchell and I took, for me, a trip into the past. I watched the UP 844 do its stuff east of Tucson. I had seen the 844 twice before—north of Greeley, CO, in the late 1970's and at Julesburg, CO, in the 1960's.

The 844 was the last steam locomotive to be purchased by the Union Pacific Railroad. It was built by ALCO and delivered in 1944 and is a 4-8-4 "Northern" type.



Photo by Chuck Cook

A passenger locomotive with an announced speed of 100 MPH, it was sufficiently muscular to pull freights during its latter working days. It was built to burn coal but was converted to oil late in its working life, which ended in 1959. In 1960 the UP decided to keep the 844 on its active roster for special trains and it has pulled many a trainload of railroad enthusiasts over the years.

The 4-8-4 is arguably the most aesthetically pleasing of all the steam locomotives. (The Southern Pacific Daylight is also a 4-8-4.) Its proportions of height to length and the balance of its wheel configuration lend to giving it a look of harmony. One fairly unique aspect of its appearance are the smoke wings mounted up front next to the smoke box. These wings, although they give the locomotive a distinctive appearance, are strictly utilitarian: they keep smoke from blowing into the cab. The 844 is also the last example and the culmination of 19<sup>th</sup> Century technology. Although it has about every bell and whistle that can be found on a steam locomotive, basically it is the same locomotive that moved America for over 100 years. It is the direct descendent of Stephenson's Rocket, the Best Friend of Charleston and others. It shares its chores with the Challenger, its 4-6-6-4 articulated larger "sister" in its home in Cheyenne, WY.

## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER TUCSON GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY (TGRS)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

November 17, 2011 at the home of Norm & Ibbly Ulmer

Present were: Willis Fagg, Pat Somerhalder, Ruth Taylor, Norm Ulmer, Gary Martin, Glenn Mitchell, Jerry Tulino, Nick Buchholz, Barry Blackwell, and Gina Blackwell. Bruce Somerhalder and Ibbly Ulmer were present as well.

The Ulmers were thanked for hosting the meeting.

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

The Treasurer's report was approved as read and amended. The corrected report will be published in the General Meeting minutes.

The Vice-President's Report:

- 1) The VA hospital display (12/27-12/30): Bob Dirksen will be one of the drivers with Chuck Cook assisting him. We will need another driver and are still looking for volunteers. A sign-up sheet will be made available at the General Meeting.
- 2) The recent Swap Meet event went very well. Eighteen members volunteered to help.
- 3) The children's layout is slated to be at St. Mark's again on December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 4) The January Home Show is scheduled for setup on 1/4 and 1/5, with the show open from 1/6 through 1/8. Final details and a volunteer sign-up sheet are pending.
- 5) The Children's Festival will again take place outside of Centennial Hall on the U of A

campus Sunday, January 29. Only a couple of members will be needed to staff the display and to hand out Rails in the Garden (RITG) information and perhaps sell tickets.

The Editor was absent; no report.

**Committee Reports:**

There were no reports from the *Clinics* or *Social Committees*. Those of us present who had attended the ABTO tour on 11/12 reported on how well organized and fun the trip was. Also, the layout at the Cardon Children's Hospital was spectacular.

Willis reported that Jack Forgues would like to be replaced as the Chair of the *Clinics Committee*. This will be announced at the General Meeting. The Rainbow Ridge clinics went very well and it is hoped that more of the same may happen in the future.

*Education:* Gary reported that the slide presentation at the Mini Time Machine Museum on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> went very well. About 25 to 30 people were present, most of them club members.

*Maintenance:* There is nothing new to report. Gary will be going back to the Children's Museum to check on things there. Luminaria nights at the Tucson Botanical Gardens are coming up and a maintenance check needs to be performed there beforehand. Volunteers to staff the layout there may be needed. This would be another opportunity to RITG information to be disseminated.

*Membership/Website:* 84 member families have signed up/paid dues. The website updates are going well. Of note, there was no problem with the website calendar when the time changed elsewhere in the country.

*Mentor:* No new requests for help. Willis is planning to start home visits to new members.

**Old Business:**

- A. The train shed is in place at TMC; the trolley shed is in the works. The plan is to ask for volunteers to build structures 1:22.5 scale. Norm will stake out "properties" for those willing to construct something for the layout. Glenn has the wiring in the ground and the trolley controller is ready for installation. Norm stated that there has been some difficulty in getting TMC help. He has proposed we get a Rainbow Ridge hanger for "Bailey Field" and "Barnum City." The cost thus far equals \$5,939.
- B. UMC: We are looking into WiFi signal for the camera – would require a computer. Jerky images could be a problem. Jeff Tyler has volunteered to help research the problem.

Rails in the Garden, 2012: Glenn stated that he is concerned that we won't have enough volunteers to help hosts at the eight layouts. Ryan MacCabe may need to borrow some buildings. The Tucson Botanical Gardens is on the tour and they have agreed to sell tickets. We are to split the proceeds with them and the RITG ticket will admit ticket holders to the Gardens for the day. We are hoping to advertise our event during Luminaria Nights. There will be four ticket outlets this year. Club members will be encouraged to place flyers wherever feasible. We are not approaching the military with an offer of free tickets this year because it has not been successful in the past. Nick Buchholz is making the ticket maser for copy.

The ABTO tour was again discussed and it was agreed to have been fun and successful.

The static display at the Mini Time Machine Museum is scheduled for construction in January.

It was noted that the trailer storage space may not be available for much longer. We are still actively seeking space for repairing the modules. The Expo Center was mentioned as a possibility; Rich Creamer has volunteered to check it out.

**New Business:**

There are 25 members signed up for the December meeting/holiday lunch.

The February meeting at Rincon West will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> (not the 18<sup>th</sup>) due to scheduling problems at the facility. The Board of Directors will meet on 02/09. The May General Meeting will take place at the Somerholders. We are looking for a volunteer for the June meeting.

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  
November 19, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Willis Fagg, at 3:00 PM. Gary and Peggy Martin were thanked for hosting. There were approximately 78 members present.

A guest and a new member were welcomed.

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



The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

1. Total on deposit: \$32,443.
2. Revenues from 10/9/11: \$814.
3. Expenses from 10/9/11: \$2,209.
4. Net revenues from 10/9/11: -\$2,209.
5. Total dues paid for 2011-12: \$2,398.

The members present were reminded to remit their 2011-12 dues and December holiday lunch fees to Ruth Taylor.

Vice-President's Report:

Pat Somerhalder reported that the November Swap Meet went very well and there was an abundance of volunteers. Chuck Cook was present with a signup sheet for the December VA display. Pat is looking for someone to coordinate the Home Show in January. The U of A Children's Festival will be held January 29<sup>th</sup> from 1-3:30 PM. Luminaria Nights at the Gardens will be December 2-4; volunteers are needed. We also need a host for the June General Meeting. Larry Erb is again willing to coordinate the Swap Meet scheduled for January 21.

The Editor's Report:

Jim Miller reported that newsletter articles and pictures are always welcome. He reminded us that the deadline for newsletter pictures and articles is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month and notes that this timeline is working well.

Committee Reports:

Clinics: Jack is lining up events for the coming year. He would also like to step down as Chair.

Education: The PowerPoint presentation on garden railroading at the Mini Time Machine Museum on November 3<sup>rd</sup> went well. There were about 25 present (mostly club members).

Maintenance: There is nothing in for repair right now. .

Membership/Website: We now have 85 member families that have paid their 2011-12 dues. Jerry is adding more Rails in the Garden (RITG) info to the site. He has many pictures and club history information (thanks to Phyllis Dirksen) to sort through and add to the website as well.

Mentoring: No new requests for assistance have been received.

Social: Directions to the Golden Corral for the December meeting will be forthcoming from Chuck. Also, for the VA layout staffing, Chuck is proposing to assign a person each day via cell phone number to be responsible for problems and staffing issues. He also reported on how well the ABTO tour went. There will be no "social" event in December other than the General Meeting/Holiday Party at Noon on

12/03. We were asked to please consult the Newsletter for details on the January social event.

OLD BUSINESS:

TMC Project: Norm reported that the train shed is in place; the car barn is to go in on Tuesday. We need volunteers to construct buildings, etc.

At UMC we are still dealing with problem trucks (ball-bearing wheels to be installed) and there are still interruptions in the video image.

Rails in the Garden March 10 and 11, 2012: We need volunteers to assist the host families with a variety of jobs.

Tucson will host a tour of layouts for ABTO in 2012 (most likely in the Fall). ABTO's holiday layout tour to benefit the Cardon Children's Hospital is scheduled for December 10, 11, 17 and 18 – check their website for details.

The Mini Time Machine Museum static display project spearheaded by Madelyn Cook is on target for a mid to late April opening date.

The club needs work space for repairing modules and storage space for the trailers. A plea to the membership for leads on these items was made.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business proposed.

The next general meeting will be at the Christmas holiday party at the Golden Corral on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> (Noon) on Thornydale south of Ina. The cost is \$12/person (includes drink, tax and gratuity). The December Board of Directors' Meeting has been cancelled. There has been a change to the February meeting date – it will take place on 02/11 at Rincon Country West.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Gina Blackwell

## Review of our Web Site for Security

Jerry Tulino requested Symantec to review our Web Site as part of their "Safe Webb" project. The following pictures are their report.

Norton Rating

**OK**  
SAFE  
Site Owner? Click here

**tucsongrs.org**

Summary  
Norton Safe Web found no issues with this site.


- Computer Threats: 0
- Identity Threats: 0
- Annoyance factors: 0
- Community Reviews: 0

**Total threats on this site: 0**

The Norton rating is a result of Symantec's automated analysis system. [Learn more.](#)  
The opinions of our users are reflected separately in the community rating on the right.

General Info  
Web Site Location United States of America

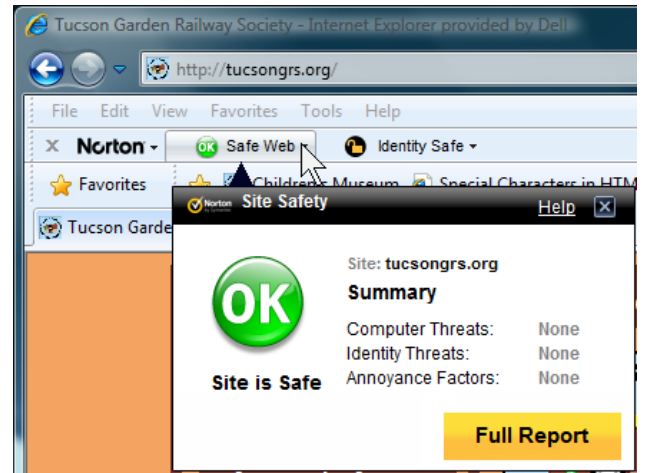
Norton Safe Web has analyzed tucsongrs.org for safety and security problems.



### Threat Report

Total threats found: 0

<b>Viruses</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Drive-By Downloads</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Malicious Downloads</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Worms</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Suspicious Applications</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Suspicious Browser Changes</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Security Risks</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Heuristic Viruses</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Adware</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Trojans</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Phishing Attacks</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Spyware</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Backdoors</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Remote Access Software</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Information Stealers</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Dialers</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Downloaders</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0
<b>Embedded Link To Malicious Site</b> <a href="#">(what's this?)</a>	Threats found: 0



Symantec's report shows that our Web Site is safe.

A big thanks to Jerry Tulino.

## For Sale

I have 3 types of G-gauge track available for \$1 per foot or OBO.

- BRASS 68 ft 16 str @12" 34 curved 12" 13 curved 12" 4 Cur 6"
  - ALUMINUM 20 ft 8 str 12" 12 cur 12"
  - Plastic 16 ft 4 str 12" 12 cur 12"
  - All curved are 2 ft radius
- Plastic is likely good for displays?  
Larry Erb 434 6022

## A Big Welcome to New Members

There were no new members in November.

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>, the first year. Additional name badges cost \$1.00 for each badge after the first.

## 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".

If you are interested in the TGRS please contact one of the officers at the e-mails 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

### Calendar of Events

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, Golden Corral, Thornydale by Ina
Dec 27-30	Layout at the VA Hospital
Jan 14	Monthly meeting
Jan 21	TTOM Swap Meet
Feb 11	Monthly Meeting Rincon West RV Park

### TGRS Officers and Board of Directors

President: Willis Fagg..president@tucsongrs.org

V-President: Pat Sommerhalder..vicepresident@tucsongrs.org

Secretary: Gina Blackwell. secretary@tucsongrs.org

Treasurer: Ruth Taylor.treasurer@tucsongrs.org

Editor: Jim Miller.editor@tucsongrs.org

At Large Board Members

NormUlmer.memberatlarge4@tucsongrs.org

BarryBlackwell.memberatlarge1@tucsongrs.org

BobConrad..memberatlarge2@tucsongrs.org

Glen Mitchel memberatlarge3@tucsongrs.org

### Tucson Garden Railway Society

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Tucson, AZ 85710