



Tucson Garden Railway Society's

Time Table

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

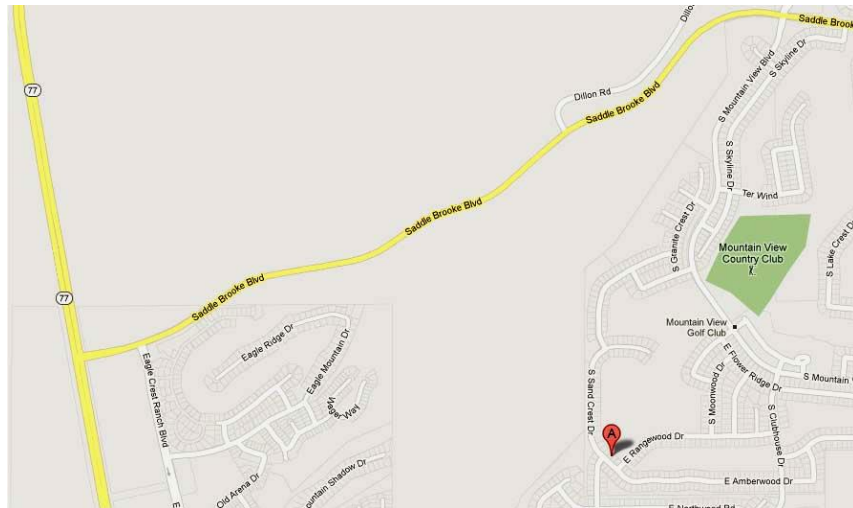
Editor e-mail: editor@tucsongrs.org

January 2012

President's Clatter

The monthly TGRS meeting will be held at the Averill's Jan 14, 2012 at 2 pm.

They are located in Saddlebrook at 62066 E. Amberwood Dr. To get there, head north on Oracle past Catalina. Take Saddlebrook Dr. to the right. Turn right on Mountain View. Turn right on Clubhouse to the stop sign. Turn right on Amberwood and proceed up the hill to 62066 E. Amberwood. Our house is right across the street from where Sand Crest ends on Amberwood. You will know you have arrived at the right spot when you see the Casita construction in the front yard!



Be sure to bring a chair if you want to sit!

The meeting will start at 2PM. Come an hour early to view our new railroad and casita under construction. We run battery and hopefully the full loop will be operating! Come early and provide advice to the newbie!

By the time this newsletter is distributed we have hopefully weathered the brunt of the holiday season and look forward to a great new year.

As you well know, the holiday season starts our busy schedule as well. The VA will be behind us with the usual success (I assume) and the home show is on the horizon. Following the home show we have the Gadsden Pacific swap meet and the Children's Festival in January.

Several club members conducted a site survey of Old Tucson on December 19th, responding to their interest in having a train layout for their centennial celebration in February. There is place for us, although the layout will need to be of the smaller variety, similar to the VA. We have tentatively agreed to a schedule of running trains during the period of February 11-19. Obviously the 11th is a club meeting day, but we already have a couple of members who will forgo the meeting to support the effort. Beyond that, we will be lining up volunteers for the rest of the schedule. Just remember, I saw a lot of support at the last meeting and expect all those members to sign up when the request goes out.

Just remember, the joy that our displays bring to the kids of our community (young and old-sometimes very old) make our efforts well worthwhile. For our members who have not participated, we still look forward to your support in the future.

Willis

Layout at the VA Hospital

Photos by Jim & Elaine Miller



Gary Martin being interviewed by Chanel 13



MONTHLY SOCIAL LUNCHEON

Come join us at the Red Garter Saloon to show off your best Christmas present. Seriously, please either bring your newest toy if possible, or at the least, a picture of it. We are never too old for Show and Tell. Our next outing will be Wednesday January 18th. 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.

WWII Freedom Train Glenn Mitchell

When I opened our gift at the recent club Christmas Party, it contained a model fisherman in a boat and a set of three train Christmas tree ornaments. The pictures on the boxes of the train ornaments were of white vehicles, and in the subdued light of the room, combined with my old eyes, I announced that they were an Amtrak train. Was I mistaken! Upon closer inspection, the ornaments are of the post-World War II Freedom Train: the ALCO PA-1 loco, a Pullman sleeper and the observation car.



The 1947-1949 Freedom Train carried the most important artifacts of US history to towns and cities across the country in an effort to rededicate citizens to the American system following the great depression and WWII. During its journey from September 17, 1947 to January 22, 1949, the train traveled over 37,000 miles accompanied by 29 US Marines serving as guards and visitor guides. Other information about the train:

- The train was painted bright white with a red and a blue strip and consisted of the ALCO-

GE PA-1 loco and seven cars. There was a baggage car (from the ATSF); three heavyweight coaches (from the PRR); two Pullman sleepers and a Pullman sleeper/lounge/observation car. The baggage car was used as a power/tool/storage car. The three coaches were made into display cars for the touring documents. The three sleeper cars were used as living quarters for the Marines. President Harry Truman, an early advocate of the Freedom Train, made a speech from the observation car's rear platform during its visit to Pittsburgh.

- We wouldn't dare repeat this now, but there were 127 documents and six historic flags onboard. Original documents included: the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, one of the 13 original copies of the Constitution, the Emancipation Proclamation, the Gettysburg Address, the Iwo Jima flag and the German and Japanese surrender documents that ended World War II.
- The official visitor count was 3,521,841 visitors with the highest single-day attendance at 14,615.
- It is the only trainset to have operated in every state (48 at that time) and ran over 52 railroads in doing so.

For more information/photos visit the following websites which most of this info comes from: www.freedomtrain.org and www.northeast.railfan.net/1947freedom. Also "google" freedom train for additional links.

Layout at St. Mark's Glen Mitchell

On December 6th and 7th, the TGRS children's layout was decorated for Christmas and on display for the children, staff and parents at St. Mark's Early Childhood Center. All of the children seem to really enjoy our annual visit to their school. A new addition this year was Phyllis Dirksen's holiday parade scene on Main Street. (See accompanying photo).



The setup and operation of the layout this year was accomplished by TGRS members Phyllis & Bob Dirksen, Jane & Mike Dorgan, Bruce Lynn and Janet & Glenn Mitchell. We are expected to return to St. Mark's again next year!

DECEMBER TGRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

CANCELLED

TUCSON GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING December 3, 2011

An informal meeting at the annual Christmas Holiday Luncheon took place at the Golden Corral. Suggestions for an alternate, larger site were requested for next year's event. The items discussed were:

There is a new event proposed for a state centennial celebration at Old Tucson Studios. The dates available are February 11 through 19, from 10 AM to 5 PM. The days and hours are flexible. A site survey needs to be done to determine the size of a layout and Pat Somerhalder will be coordinating volunteers.

Sign up for the January Home Show with Pat Somerhalder.

Parking for the VA display will be marked and cordoned off for the trailers.

The new linear layout will be used at the U of A's Children's Festival for January 29.

The January swap meet volunteers are being coordinated again by Larry Erb.

Rails in the Garden ticket packets were available for pickup at the party. Contact Glenn or Janet Mitchell if more are needed.

Please contact Norm Ulmer to donate buildings for the TMC layout.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Blackwell

A Big Welcome to New Members

There were no new members in December.

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, 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; 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

Jan 6-8 Home Show
Jan 14 Monthly meeting
Jan 21 Gadsden Pacific Swap Meet
Feb 11 Monthly Meeting Rincon West RV Park
Feb 18 Clinic
Feb 11-19 Possible layout at Old Tucson Studios
Mar 10-11 Rails in the Garden
Mar 17 Monthly Meeting
Apr 19-29 Pima County Fair

TGRS Officers and Board of Directors

President: Willis Fagg..president@tucsongrs.org

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Secretary: Gina Blackwell. secretary@tucsongrs.org

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