



## Tucson Garden Railway Society's

# Time Table

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

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

May 2012

### The May 2012 meeting is at the home of Bruce and Pat Somerhalder.

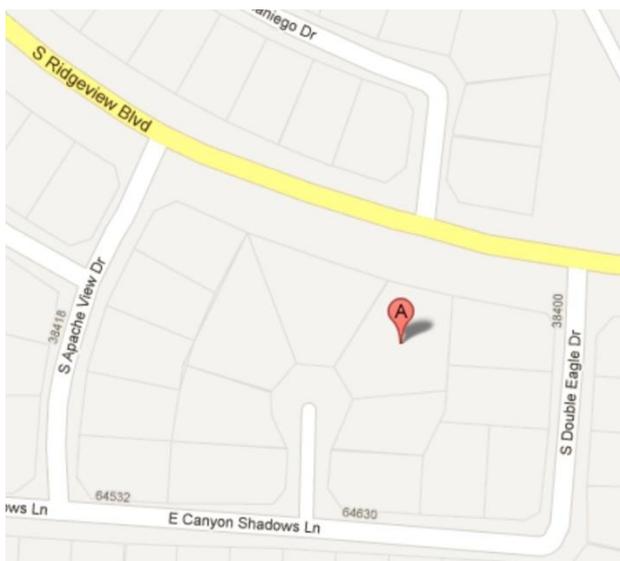
The meeting starts at 10:00 am and the trains will be running at 9.

There will be a Cold Cut Sandwich Lunch available after the meeting for \$3.00 per person.

The Viewpoint Railroad began operation in the fall of 2008. By 2011 it was ready for viewing on the RITG tour with five trains and a trolley. One small train runs on it's own track through a turn of the century western town. The other four are mid-century trains operating on two tracks simultaneously.

**Address;** 38443 S. Viewpoint Ct. in Saddlebrooke.

**Directions;** Take Oracle North to Saddlebrooke. Right on Saddlebrooke Blvd. Right on S Apache View Dr. Left on E Canyon Shadows Ln. Left onto Viewpoint Ct.



Detail Map

### We have a winning Family for the County Fair



"James and Destiny Green backed up by Dad Green. Three family members not in the photo are Evan, Valerie and (the holder of the winning ticket) Sonia (Mom) Green." Photo by Willis Fagg

For the second year, I have been given the privilege of dealing with the drawing for our raffle. The winning ticket was drawn by Peggy, a staff member of the fair. This to avoid any appearance of inpropriety. Peggy also called the phone number on the ticket and learned the winner was still on the property. Mrs. Green and her family have been there a lot as they are involved in 4-H activities including swine and rockets.

Mom Sonia expressed some interest in joining TGRS as a means of furthering the education of her children.

Thank you to all our visitors for your participation in our raffle. Also, "Thank You" to all the members who have made this raffle and this fair a great success.  
S & R Bob

## MONTHLY SOCIAL LUNCHEON

The Ladies of Model Railroading (sounds like something from the front cover of a magazine) have invited us to try one of their favorite lunch spots for our next outing. Given that it will be on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, it makes sense that we go to Mays Counter at 2945 E. Speedway Blvd. It is easy to find, as it is only 2 blocks west of the Red Garter and on the same side of the street. They say it is a fun lunch menu and that you can get adult beverages, so what more can we ask for? Meet for lunch at 11:30.

Come Join Us! Call Chuck Cook at 977-7673 with any questions.

### President's Clatter

Over the past several months I have used this column to salute the good things we do, honor some of our members who go above and beyond and stress the needs of the organization. This month I would like to focus on an effort that is accomplished year after year without much fanfare and probably goes unnoticed by a large segment of our membership.

Our modular layout, the one that sits in the two large trailers for about 11 ½ months of the year, is seldom subject to maintenance except during set-up for one of our three exhibits during the year. While we have had some work parties in the past, the problem remains that we really don't have a good location to assemble and repair the equipment other than exhibit time. That subject is an on-going discussion at the board level and someday we may find a better solution. But for now the question is; how does the layout get to look so good for our exhibits?

Certainly we have our designated set-up day ahead of each exhibit and, for those who have participated, the set-up is really a combination of (somewhat) organized chaos and on-the-fly repairs. For the VA and Home Show venues, we pretty much have one day to unload, assemble and polish the layout before it opens to the public. In those cases, most of the set-up crew will see the final product on set-up day with very little touch-up required on opening morning.

But then we have the Pima County Fair. Set-up is the usual chaotic event. But because it's a much larger layout set-up day consists of getting the track up and running, getting all the scenery modules in

place and, as time permits, locating buildings. This usually makes for a long day when you add in the drive time. Then the designated set-up crew goes home and awaits opening day.

For as long as I have been participating, we have always done the set-up at the fair some number of days in advance of opening. In more recent years, basic set-up has occurred a full week before primarily due to constraints related to allowing our trailers to drive into the building to unload. This schedule allows for touch up, additional buildings and scenes to be finished at the leisure of those who have items to bring in and those do it best.

So, what happens between set-up day (when all the resources are available) and opening day when the layout is a source of pride for our organization? Certainly there is still work to be done after set-up day. Most of us accept (myself included) the fact that the magic touch of Gary, Janet, Phyllis and Dirk is necessary for that transformation. Because the set-up day consumes most of the day, it is unreasonable for this unique team to spend more hours that day working their magic.

So what's my point? This year, the magic that was necessary took another two days to accomplish and was supported only by Gary, Janet, Phyllis, Dirk and Glenn. So my point is, in the future we need to better plan the set-up so that all the extra work doesn't fall on a very few individuals (larger support crew) and more members need to learn to do what it takes to transform 180 feet of track into the layout we can all be proud of.

Willis

### **The Board of Directors has adopted the following policy concerning recognition of member's volunteer services:**

Prerequisites  
for awarding  
Volunteer Vests  
And Recognition Pins

5 April, 2012

Criteria -

Vests and pins will be awarded to those members, as approved by the Board of Directors, for consistent service at Society functions, since 1995, including Swap Meets, Home Shows, County Fairs, Convention service, Civic Functions, Clinic conductor, or as a Society officer, director or committee chairperson.. No person shall be awarded more than one vest, regardless

of total work shifts served.

For those members who have opened their layouts for Rails in the Garden, a special patch will be awarded in addition to a vest. Past Presidents will be awarded with gold "Conductor" pins. All other pin awards will be silver. Past Vice Presidents will be awarded "Engineer" pins. Past Secretaries, Treasurers, Newsletter Editors and Committee Chairmen will be awarded "Fireman" pins.

Officers, members of the Board and committee chairs will earn shift credits as follows: President and Vice President will earn three shift credits per meeting attended, up to ten meetings per year; Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Committee Chairmen, two shift credits per meeting attended up to ten meetings per year; At-Large members of the Board, one shift credit per meeting attended, up to ten meetings per year.

For Future Performance -

Effective 1 January, 2012 -

Any member who volunteers and serves 50 shifts of work, either at a function set-up, running trains or manning the Society Table, or as specified in the "Criteria" section above, shall qualify for the award of a vest with Society patch. Further, in recognition of additional service, any member who volunteers and serves additional shifts of work shall be eligible for the award of a pin denoting this service - "Switchman" for 10 shifts, "Brakeman" for 20 shifts, (i.e., 10 shifts more than "Switchman") "Fireman" for 30 shifts, "Engineer" for 40 shifts and "Conductor" for 50 shifts.

For Past Performance -

The following persons would qualify for awards under this criteria: Jon Anderson, Steve Anderson, Barry and Gina Blackwell, Nick Buchholz & Mary Ker, Chuck Cook, Madelyn Cook, Bob Conrad, Bob & Phyllis Dirksen, Mike and Jane Dorgan, Roy & Mary Ann Eberbach, Willis and Dottie Fagg, George Fitzner, Jack & Rosalie Forgues, Rick & Sue Gast, Marty Hart, Dick Izen, Ken & Mary Karrels, Ron & Helen Koehler, Bruce & Carolyn Lynn, Ryan MacCabe, Peggy and Gary Martin, Garb & Dorothy Mechigian, Jim Miller, Glenn and Janet Mitchell, Thorne Pierce, Bob & Eileen Schwab, Lew Sleeper, Bruce & Pat Somerhalder, Joe & Ellen Stoesser, Ruth Taylor, Jerry Tulino, Ibbey and Norm Ulmer and Ken and Pat Zacharias. Further, in recognition of his service to TGRS, by virtue of having the Gadsden Pacific Toy Train Museum participate in our "Rails in the

Garden" event, Bud Stewart, President of GPTTOM, will be given a RITG HOST patch..

Performance Accounting and Control -

The Awards Chairman, serving at the discretion of the Vice President and the Board of Directors, will maintain a record of service for every member of the Society, according to the services the member has performed during the fiscal year. Based on this record, awards will be given out at the annual Christmas Party following the end of each fiscal year

Norman Ulmer  
Awards Chairman.

### **TUCSON GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

April 5, 2012 at the Home of Norm and Ibbey Ulmer

Present were: Pat and Bruce Somerhalder, Ruth Taylor, Jim Miller, Norm Ulmer, Glenn Mitchell, Gary Martin, and Barry and Gina Blackwell. The Ulmers were thanked for hosting the meeting.

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

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

1. Total on deposit: \$33,024.
2. Revenues from 03/18/12: \$751.
3. Expenses from 03/18/12: \$1,754.
4. Net revenues from 03/18/12: -\$885.
5. Total dues paid for 2011/12: \$2,548
6. Total dues paid for 2012/13: \$90.

Vice-President's Report:

The County Fair shifts are almost filled. More staffing is needed for April 29, teardown and loadout.

The Editor's Report:

Jim reported that there have been a gratifying number of pictures submitted for the Newsletter. He would like more articles as well.

Committee Reports

Clinics: Gary Martin reported that the mountain-building clinic for June 16 signup is ongoing. The Ozark Miniatures signup is complete. He is hoping someone will be willing/able to videotape the event.

Education: Nothing new to report.

Maintenance: Nothing new to repair.

**MAY 12, 2012 SATURDAY**

**NATIONAL TRAIN DAY**

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA  
TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM**

**STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN**

Look at operating model trains  
Climb into the cab of steam engine #1673  
Check out Union Pacific's diesel simulator for  
Operation Lifesaver  
Listen for the U P diesels pulling mile long freight  
trains  
Check out the "goodies" from Amtrak.  
Stop in the Museum and view the  
bilingual railroad exhibits  
Shop at the gift store

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**TIME:** 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**PLACE:** Down at the Historic Tucson Train Depot  
414 N Toole, Tucson AZ

**FREE ADMISSION**

( 520) 623-2223

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

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of April Ken Karrels arranged for a few of us to ride on the SP/UP special train in a 1940-50 era Passenger Car and Dome Car, these are private coaches owned by Southern Pacific/Union Pacific. On the train we learned more about Operation Lifesaver.



Photo by Steve Anderson

Membership/Website: The chairman was absent; no report. According to Ruth Taylor, there are 92 member families and the roster is up to date.

Mentor: The chairman was absent; no report. Contact with the Montessori school has been made for the solar power project.

Social: The chairman was absent; no report. The luncheon event at Maynard's Market on 03/24 was apparently a great success.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Norm reported that he met with the head of maintenance at TMC regarding security, upkeep and operations for the layout. He noted that some items have been stolen. Will security cameras be added? Dawn to dusk power has been set up via an electric eye. Everything is running well. Jane Dorgan has promised to contribute circus animals and people. It is understood that Marty Hart may have some circus items to contribute as well.

The Transportation Museum project equipment has been ordered and a deposit paid to Eaglewings Iron Craft.

A couple of derailments at the Diamond Children's Center were reported. Glenn is following up.

Apparently there was a call for help from Thorne at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. Glenn agreed to stop by and check.

Rails in the Garden – Glenn suggested that we look into changing the weekend for the event next year.

We need to remove items from Madeline Cook's property as soon as possible. We also still need to find work space in order to refurbish the town portion of the modular layout and the two trailers.

The volunteer recognition and incentive program was discussed at length and the Board approved the initial cost outlay and to move forward with it. It was decided that the award ceremony would coincide with the annual Christmas luncheon.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A new photograph-size TGRS information card submitted by Marty Hart was proposed as a possible replacement for our trifold brochure. The Board voted to purchase the cards Marty had on hand and disperse them on a trial basis.

There is no General Meeting scheduled in April due to the staffing requirements at the Pima County Fair. The next General Meeting will be at the Somerhalder's on May 19. The next Board Meeting will be May 17, 7 PM at the Ulmers.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Gina Blackwell

Pima County Fair



Photo by Steve Anderson



Three Passenger Cars between two Locomotives. We could only ride in the first two cars as the third car is the mechanics house. Photos by Jim Miller



Madelyn asked if it is safe to have a welding shop behind her Mansion

## A Big Welcome to New Members

There were no new members that joined during April.

## 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".

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.

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

Apr 12-30	Pima County Fair with Set Up and Take Down
May 19	Monthly Meeting: Pat and Bruce Somerhalder's
Jun 2	Gadsden Pacific Swap Meet
Jun 9	Clinic: Gary Martin Building Artificial Mountains
Jun 16	Monthly Meeting: to be determined
Jul 14	Clinic: Cladding Metal Buildings
Aug 14-19	National Garden Railway Convention
Sep 8	Clinic: Ozark Minatures G-Scale Kit

### 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

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