



# The Tucson Garden Railway Society

## TIMETABLE

Send Articles, Photos, Announcements to:  
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or email: [nbuchholz@greatscalemodels.com](mailto:nbuchholz@greatscalemodels.com)

November 29, 2013

### Christmas Luncheon December 7<sup>th</sup>

A reminder of our Christmas luncheon and gift exchange on December 7th at 12:00 N at the Golden Corral on North Thorneydale. The cost this year is unchanged at \$11/person, including drinks and tip.

You can send a check to Ruth. Ruth will also be collecting the day of the event, but it really helps if you have paid in advance. Regardless, you need to let Ruth know if you plan to attend, so we can let the Golden Corral know our headcount in advance.

Ruth can be reached at

e-mail: [taylor1985@comcast.net](mailto:taylor1985@comcast.net);

ph (520) 668-4318,

mailing address: 4081 S. Tarantula Hawk Place  
Tucson AZ 85735

For those who have not attended before, we conduct a gift exchange. The exchange rules are as follows:

- 1) One gift per family in order to participate
- 2) Railroad themed gifts (wrapped of course) should be limited to a maximum of \$20
- 3) Participating members will select a gift in an order determined by drawn numbers
- 4) Gift selection is made from the "pool" of available gifts or stolen from a previous gift selection
- 5) Any individual gift is limited to being stolen a maximum of two times and then is declared "frozen"
- 6) Any single member may have gifts stolen a maximum of two times at which time that member is declared exempt

***Hope to see you all there.***

### ABTO Christmas Open House

If you have a chance, do not miss the 2013 Christmas Open Houses put on by the ABTO Garden Railroad club. For information and maps go to

[www.azbigtrains.org](http://www.azbigtrains.org) . The layouts are fantastic and are light up for the holidays. If you have not seen them, it is a real treat.  
Gary Martin

### Luminaria nights TBG are Dec. 6, 7, 8

Luminaria nights at the Tucson Botanical Gardens is Dec. 6, 7, 8 from 5:30 to 8:00PM. As in the past, we will be supporting the event by decorating prior to the evenings, and running trains during the Luminaria nights. We need a small number of volunteers for the above projects.

Please let me know if you are interested in participating by contacting me by phone 299-7428 or email [pgmartin5@hotmail.com](mailto:pgmartin5@hotmail.com)

December 5th, Thursday 10:00AM - Cleaning, decorating and lighting

December 6th, Friday 4:30 -8:30PM - Run trains and pass out Rails in the Garden information.

December 7th, Saturday 4:30 -8:30PM - Run trains and pass out Rails in the Garden information.

December 8th, Sunday 4:30 - 8:30PM - Run trains and pass out Rails in the Garden information.

We always have a great time supporting the Botanical Gardens and this event.

If you want more information on Luminaria Nights go to [www.tucsonbotanical.org/events/luminaria-nights](http://www.tucsonbotanical.org/events/luminaria-nights)

### Big Boy on the move

The big boy 4014 at the Pomona fair grounds is on the move for a total rebuild and future active service. The link below is a video of a TV news report. You'll have to paste the two lines into your browser to see it

<http://www.latimes.com/vidogallery/78206441/News/Big-Boy-is-making-tracks-for-Wyoming>

## VA display December 26, 27 and 30

Our regular VA setup and display is a little irregular this year. We will setup on the 26<sup>th</sup> run on the 27<sup>th</sup> and then take off for the weekend and run and tear down on Monday the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Willis still needs a couple more volunteers for the set-up on December 26, several more volunteers to run trains/meet visitors on Friday December 27 (particularly the afternoon shift), and a few more volunteers to help with teardown on Monday December 30.

If we can fill out the staffing we need, Willis won't bring up the subject at our Luncheon.

Please note the start time for set-up on the 26th is 9:00 AM. I think my original sign-up sheet indicated 10:00 AM, but we have historically started at 9 and we need all the time we can get since we have only the one day to set up.

## Gadsden-Pacific TTOM swap meet January 10-11.

Willis is also looking for volunteers to help out with the children's layout at the swap meet. This takes place on Friday 12:00-7:00PM and Saturday 9:00AM till 2:00PM. If you haven't attended it's a good swap meet with lots of vendors and often some good G-gauge deals.

## Minutes of the Board Meeting - November 14<sup>th</sup>

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Martin at the home of the Martin's. Peggy and Gary were thanked for opening their home.

Minutes from the October 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report:

checking equals	\$8,741
Savings	17,225
Total	\$25,970
Revenues less expenses since 9/13/13	\$48
Revenues less expenses year to date	(\$ 1,175)
2013/2014 dues paid	\$2,222
Membership is 92 with 73 paid	
Report submitted by Ruth Taylor	

Willis Fagg reported on Diamond Children's Hospital The Summer Christmas party went fine. It seemed to be worthwhile. He needs support for December 20<sup>th</sup> and will be contacting those who did it before.

The VA Hospital layout is December 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> with the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> off. Still need workers and drivers.

Swap Meet needs sign ups for January. Willis will asking for them at the next meeting.

The Pinal County Historical Museum day conflicts with our February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Willis is working on trying to get ABTO to go and do it. February meeting will be on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm as the Rincon can't get the room on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Board meeting is February 6<sup>th</sup>. In April there will be a board meeting, but no general meeting because of the fair.

Christmas Dinner is December 7<sup>th</sup>. Cost per person is \$11.

Nick Buchholz reported the newsletter is late this month because he was out of town and now Jerry Tulino is away. We should have it by the end of the month. E-mails will be sent with instructions on the gift exchange at the party.

Under clinics Gary is considering speakers at the meetings, although January we may have a clinic.

Chuck Cook reported there will be no social luncheon in November or December. They will start again in January.

Under old business it was decided to table the TMC project as nothing is happening.

The Rodeo Parade Museum could use a workday.

Tucson Botanical Garden train is running fine. Gary discussed the luminaries which are lighted December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>. We will need to decorate the layout on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Gary could use volunteers (at least four) to help each night.

UMC does not have any problems at this time. Did have a derailment, but it was taken care of.

Nothing to report on project maintenance.

New Town Modules - all plans ready to go. Will start in January and February. Nick discussed how we might get the legs all the same height. They are folding. Nick thinks we can work on that problem at the fair.

McCormick-Stillman still needs thank you cards sent to those that showed us around and took us to the back shop. Pat Somerhalder said she would take care of that. Willis Fagg will get her Dallas Dixon's phone number.

ABTO's train displays and lunch were very nice. Debbie Cook has sent thank you cards to all those with layouts.

VA Hospital still needs help for setup and teardown and also needs volunteers and drivers.

Rails in the Garden has 8 venues, possibly 9. Botanical Garden will be on tour. They will receive \$1 for each ticket they sell.

Under new business, there should be a date set for the Ronald McDonald house in March.

TGRS will not be working at the Arizona Network for Down Syndrome as we don't have enough time. Right now we plan to work it next year as we will have more time to prepare.

The Arizona Public Media is doing a PBS special program "Do It On A Steam Engine" and want two people from TGRS to answer phones on Monday between 8pm-11pm on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Ken Karrels seems to be the one

in charge. Volunteers will arrive at 7pm. They will be trained on how to accept pledges.

Museum in Apache Junction has an outdoor railroad. We may be interested in participating.

Under transportation, Glenn Mitchell has a Mogul he would like to sell for \$350. It was moved and seconded the club buy it. Motion passed.

Chuck Cook thought Train World may be selling off the "G" scale stock and eliminating it from their inventory.

Next board meeting is January 9<sup>th</sup>. Norm Ulmer will be bringing cookies.

General meeting will be January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Somerhalder

Secretary

## Minutes of the TGRS General Meeting November 16<sup>th</sup>

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Willis Fagg

President Gary Martin thanked everyone who came to the open house along with all of the helpers who were there early, including his son.

A new member, Rick Woods, has joined the club.

Minutes from the September meeting were approved as posted.

Treasurer Ruth Taylor reported revenues for September/October were \$1060, expenses were \$1012 with a revenue gain of \$48. Year to date revenues are \$1599, expenses \$2774 showing a draw on cash of \$1175.

Vice President Willis Fagg reported

McCormick - Stillman trip was good

Swap Meet was good

PBS pledge drive for the Arizona Public Media needs 2 volunteers to answer phones. The theme is steam engines. Anyone interested can contact Ken Karrels for more information.

Diamond Children's Hospital Christmas Party is Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Those interested in helping meet at 10:00AM, trains run 12-2 then tear down.

VA Hospital set up is December 26<sup>th</sup>. Trains run the 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> they don't run. Teardown is on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Need sign ups for swap meet on January 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

Ronald McDonald House is March 29<sup>th</sup>. Club chose to prepare a dinner for that day.

Pima County Fair is April 17<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>. Set up hopefully will be around the 10<sup>th</sup>.

January meeting will be at the Koehler's. He is planning on having a hands on short class on steam engines prior to the meeting.

February meeting at Rincon has been moved to February 8<sup>th</sup>. Blackwell's will host March and the meeting will be at the Botanical Garden in May. Forgues will host June.

Nick Buchholz announced the newsletter will be on the website this weekend.

Chuck Cook announced no social luncheons for November/December. They will start back up in January.

Nick will start cutting new town models.

Chuck Cook reported that they had nine layouts for the Rails in the Garden tour. He needs a description of the railroads in 100 words or less and also some pictures.

National Railway Convention will be represented by a few TGRS members.

Under new business Janet Mitchell informed the club that a representative from Stoneworks will be coming to the March meeting to speak.

ABTO's Christmas displays will be on view December 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30.

Meeting was adjourned.\

After the meeting Richard Hall talked about two trips he is planning. One is to California and another to China. Anyone interested can call him or Gary Martin for more info.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Somerhalder

Secretary

## ABTO Open House for TGRS

On November 2, the Arizona Big Train Operators hosted a six layout open house for the Tucson Garden Railway Society. About 40 of us traveled up to Phoenix where we were met and escorted by about a dozen ABTO members. For those members who didn't make the trip, I have briefly described the day along with some pictures from the layouts we visited.

The first layout was Dennis and Dana Busby's Colorado & Southern. It is basically an "L" shaped layout across the back of his yard and down one side.



C&S freight rounds stone embankment.



A passenger train passing across from the main station and town.

The layout featured lots of bridges and embankments held by stone and cribbing and had quite a bit of track in a fairly small space.



Mine tucked into "L".

The next layout belonged to Mike Temenski and Lynn McClure and featured long runs using stainless steel rail. The pike is brand new and only the main line was operational. Sidings, many bridges and buildings are all in the plans for later installation. The layout is basically a long (790 feet) "U" shaped loop with some areas using a helix to gain or lose elevation.



Five coach diesel powered Amtrak passenger train crosses of many bridges.

All trains are planned to be 1990 or later so there will be no steam on this layout. The diesels are sound equipped and battery powered using power tool batteries. When we visited there were about 640 feet of stainless steel main line and another 150 feet of borrowed brass track to complete the main line.



A modern freight on the helix used to gain elevation.

The layout features broad curves and 2% or less grades allowing hefty trains. In addition to the unusual rail and power source they are attempting to use a plastic roadbed but have already had problems with warping.



The Amtrak train gains elevation. Note the roadbed laid out for sidings and the bridge ready for installation just behind the track.

After seeing two layouts we all went to Dennis Serrine's Tia Rosa restaurant where we were treated to an excellent Mexican lunch.

The next stop was Dennis & Lizabeth Serrine's huge layout. I don't know how to describe this huge layout. The photos will give you some idea of the scope of the railroad but it has to be seen to really comprehend its size.



Southern Pacific engine in 'Daylight' passenger colors hauls long freight near front of layout. Note the extensive yard and roundhouse facilities. Dennis likes long trains and runs trains that are difficult to encompass in a still photo.



Note the mix of molded concrete and painted mountains and the extensive plantings as the Daylight pull its' freight around a curve.



An A-B-A set of Southern Pacific F units pulls another long freight train towards the front of the layout while steam freight from prior picture passes going uphill towards the rear.



Here is the Big Boy at the head of its' 72 car train. The cars in the background behind the TGRS club members are part of this long freight train.



Powered by a Union Pacific Big Boy, 72 car freight rounds the newly painted backdrop industries.



The railroad is so large and complex that steel viewing platforms were erected to help the visitor grasp its' scope.



This overall view of the yards with the viewing platform and the painted backdrop area gives some idea of the vast scope of the layout.

That layout is a hard act to follow but our next stop was at Jim and Joanne Gardner's pike. They have quite a bit of track on multiple levels in a fairly small area filled with buildings, people and scenery. The basic layout has two complete loops and a back and forth streetcar line at ground level and another loop on the elevated level. This allowed three trains plus the streetcar to run at the same time.



A passenger train rounds the curve on the upper level. The painted backdrop expands the 'real estate' in the relatively small yard.



This view shows the streetcar and town while freight on one of the lower loops passes through the left corner of the photo.



Diesel powered freight on one of the lower level loops.

Next was Wesley and Alison Schriver's pike. Two loops of track run around the edge of the backyard and provide access to a side yard storage area which has a third loop. A raised bed supports a separate loop in front of a painted backdrop.



The layout includes this impressive refinery.

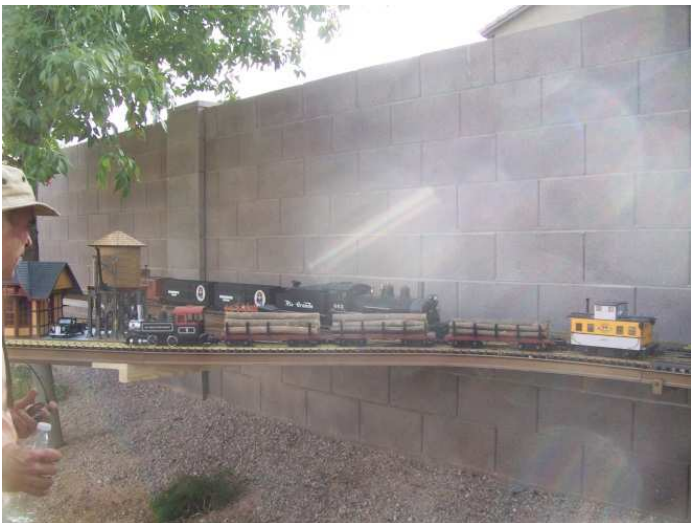


A passenger train on the upper loop passes behind the refinery.



Here is a view of the side yard storage area and its' loop.

The sixth and final layout belonged to Steve and Judy Lewis. It was an "L" shaped loop elevated on a metal structure.



A freight train runs along the back wall behind the station and water tank and a log train parked on a siding.



The same train hauling two empty 2008 convention stock cars runs down the side wall.

The six layouts varied tremendously in size and complexity as well as what stage of construction they had reached. All of them offered ideas for how things might be done.

I think I speak for all of us who went when I say we had a great time and offer our thanks to ABTO for all their hard work in organizing the open house and in building and operating the layouts.

## President's Clatter

Another year is almost over. The TGRS has accomplished, supported and participated in many civic events. To list a few: VA hospital (holiday set up of modules), Luminaria nights at the Tucson Botanical Gardens, Christmas in August at the Diamond Children's Hospital, new layout at the Tucson Rodeo Museum, Rails in the Garden and the Pima County Fair. We also continue to support the permanent layouts at the Children's Museum, Diamond Hospital, and Tucson Botanical Gardens. Special thanks to all those members who took part in the late 2012 and the 2013 projects. 2014 looks like another busy year and as usual we are looking for all the help we can get from members.

Thanks to all who continue to support garden railroading. Looking forward to seeing you at the TGRS holiday luncheon. Wishing you the best of holidays with family and friends, and have a Healthy Happy New Year.

## Ronald McDonald House Dinner

Mar. 29,2014 we will be hosting a dinner for the guests at the Ronald McDonald House. We will need volunteers to support our dinner event. Jerry Tulino will be coordinating the dinner plans

## New Members

Rick Woods has joined the TGRS, say Hi and make him feel at home.

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.

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

### **Saturday December 7, 2013**

TGRS Holiday Party

### **Saturday December 6-7-8, 2013**

TBG Luminaria Nights

### **Thursday December 26 2013**

setup for VA Hospital Layout

### **Friday December 26, Monday December 30, 2013**

Run Trains and teardown for VA Hospital Layout

### **Friday January 10, Saturday January 11, 2014**

setup for TTOM swap meet

### **Thursday, January 9, 2014**

Board Meeting-Martins

### **Saturday, January 18, 2014**

General Meeting – Unknown

### **Thursday, February 6, 2014 -**

Board meeting Matrin's

### **Saturday, February 8, 2014**

TGRS General Meeting- Rincon Country West

### **TGRS Officers and Board of Directors**

President: .Gary Martin - [president@tucsongrs.org](mailto:president@tucsongrs.org)  
V-President: Willis Fagg - [vicepresident@tucsongrs.org](mailto:vicepresident@tucsongrs.org)  
Secretary: Pat Sommerhalder- [secretary@tucsongrs.org](mailto:secretary@tucsongrs.org)  
Treasurer: Ruth Taylor - [treasurer@tucsongrs.org](mailto:treasurer@tucsongrs.org)  
Editor: Nick Buchholz - [editor@tucsongrs.org](mailto:editor@tucsongrs.org)

#### At Large Board Members:

Bob Conrad - [memberatlarge1@tucsongrs.org](mailto:memberatlarge1@tucsongrs.org)  
Larry Erb - [memberatlarge2@tucsongrs.org](mailto:memberatlarge2@tucsongrs.org)  
Jack Forgues - [memberatlarge3@tucsongrs.org](mailto:memberatlarge3@tucsongrs.org)  
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TGRS WebSite: [TucsonGRS.org](http://TucsonGRS.org)

Contact: [webmaster@tucsongrs.org](mailto:webmaster@tucsongrs.org)

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