



The Tucson Garden Railway Society

TIMETABLE

Send Articles, Photos, Announcements to:
Nick C Buchholz, 3401 West Blacksill Dr., Tucson AZ 85741-1419
or email: nbuchholz@greatscalemodels.com

December 29, 2013

Tools will be provided but if you have them a small file, exacto knife, a pair of sharp scissors, several small clamps and water resistant wood glue would be useful.

If you are interested in making tents for your own railroad Nick will take orders for additional tent kits at the clinic.

TGRS General Meeting January 18, 2014.

The January 2014 TGRS general meeting will be held At Joe Duda's home at 753 S. Smokey Mountains Rd. Tucson, AZ 85748. The meeting will start at 1:00 PM with viewing of Joe's H0 layout starting at 12:00. Our Thanks to Joe for volunteering at the last minute to host the meeting

Joe's home is between Broadway and 22nd about a block East of Harrison Rd.

Directions to Joe's house: Go To South Harrison Rd.

From Broadway head south on South Harrison Rd turn left on East Kenyan Dr., then take the first right onto South Sierra Nevada Dr., The take the first left onto Ozark St. and follow it around to 723 about .1 miles on Left.

From 22nd Street head North on South Harrison Rd then turn right on to Magdalena Rd., take the second left onto Smokey Mountains Rd. to 723 about .1 miles on right

Tent making workshop and clinic Saturday, January 4th – 12:30-2:30

On Saturday, January 4th 2014, there will be a workshop on the construction of late 1800's tents used by railroad workers and others. The tents will be placed on the Tucson Rodeo Museum layout. The tents will be kits provided by and the class will be headed by Nick Buchholz.

The workshop will be in my garage beginning at 12:30PM. (Due to the cold weather we are scheduling this workshop in the middle of the day.) The class will last approximately two hours.

There is a limited amount of kits and work space, so, if you are interested it will be on a first come first serve basis. If we have more people sign up than we have kits, we can arrange it so two people can work on one kit. Please call or email Gary or Nick if you have any questions or if you are interested in taking the class.

Social Luncheon Wed. January 22, 2014

It's time to get together again and play some pool or cards and talk about what you got for Christmas. The luncheon will again be at The Red Garter Saloon located at 3143 E. Speedway just east of Country Club. The food and service there is always excellent, that is why we keep going back. The date is Wednesday January 22nd. Cards/pool at 11:00 a.m., or be there at 11:45 for lunch. Call Chuck Cook at 977-7673 with any questions.

UMC Christmas Party Setup

Several TGRS volunteers attended the Christmas Party Event at the Diamond Children's Hospital on December 20. Our participation once again provided the children's layout decorated in a winter holiday theme.



We had Christmas and winter themed buildings and two Christmas trains running for the two Hour event.

Liquidating the Hanging Mountain Railway

Norm Ulmer is dismantling his garden railway. There are several hundred feet of brass track, many LGB R3 switches, and a few scratch-built #5 switches. Also, there are lots of scratch-built and kit built buildings. All of the above is reasonably priced. Anyone interested should call 299-9401 for details.

Eighth annual VA Display a great success.

The VA display this year was once again a great success. We got coverage on several TV stations and the newspaper.



Setup went well with only a few of the usual problems. The need to remove one of the siding switch modules to check out the wiring could have been avoided if we hadn't had a dead battery in the new battery package.



Trains were run on Friday and Monday with large crowds both days.



We had lots of people attend on both days.



And While I wasn't there for tear down I'm sure it went as well as it normally does.



GENERAL MEETING December 7, 2013

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Martin at the Golden Corral.

Gary thanked the Golden Corral and their staff for providing the room and the fine services.

November minutes were approved, however it was noted that the January meeting has since been changed to Joe Duda's home.

Treasurer Ruth Taylor reported that total deposit on hand is \$26,101. Revenues = \$740, Expenses - \$53, Net as of 11/15 = \$687. Year to date revenues = \$2339, Expenses = \$3384, total draw on cash = \$1044.

Gary thanked those who attended his open house and stayed for the dinner.

Vice President Willis Fagg gave a quick rundown of upcoming events.

- UMC Children's Hospital Christmas party s December 20th. A Coordinating meeting for all those wanting to help is December 11th at 11:00 AM.

- VA Hospital train set up is December 26th. Trains run 27th and 30th. Teardown is 200 PM on the 30th.

- Swap Meet is January 10th and 11th.

- Fair is in April. Willis sent around a sign up schedule. He would like everyone signed up by the March meeting in order to have the tickets available at that time.

Nick Buchholz noted the newsletter went out November 29th.

Gary Martin reported that he hopes to have a clinic on logs at the January meeting at the Duda's.

January 4th Gary will hold a clinic at his house to build the tents for the tent city for the Rodeo Museum. Extra tents can be ordered at that time from members who wish to purchase them for their layouts.

Chuck Cook announced the next social will be January 15th. He is working on an outing to the Franklin Old Car Museum.

Gary reported that we are working on a sound system as well as the tents for the Rodeo Museum.

Chuck Cook is handing out Rails in the Garden Packets. They consist of 10 tickets and 5 maps. Tickets can be purchased at the 22nd Ace Hardware Hobby Place, The Southern AZ Transportation Museum, the Rillito Nursery on N. La Cholla and the Tucson Botanical Gardens on Alvernon. Chuck announced he has nine layouts for Rails in the Garden

Under New Business, Gary announced ABTO's Christmas layouts are open. He has maps, times and directions to each of them.

Ronald McDonald House will be on March 29th.

Next meeting is January 18th at Joe Duda's home. Board meeting is January 9th at the Martins.

Meeting was adjourned in favor of the Christmas Party.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Somerhalder - Secretary

TCM Five Years Later

We rarely hear about our various projects unless there is a problem, often one that needs volunteers to solve. I guess the general proposition is that "no news is good news". It seems to me that perhaps we should revisit some of the things that are working well, if only to see if there are lessons to be learned.

With this in mind I would like to review the current status of the 'train room' we built for the Tucson Children's Museum (TCM). This was the first permanent public display the

club built. The room was opened to visitors to the TCM in December 2008, although with the snow birds and holiday grandchildren the museum was too busy to host an 'official' grand opening party until April of 2009.

The exhibit has changed a bit over time but is essentially as we built and donated it. The greatest changes have been the addition of a hand cranked 'section car' along one wall, some plastic train shaped activity toys along another wall and some modifications to the crawl through steam locomotive.



Hand cranked section car with magnetic train blocks we built just above.

A long case with a hand crank was, at one time, part of TEP's electricity exhibit. At that time the case contained a streetcar and by cranking fast enough the exhibit generated enough electricity to move the streetcar. Unfortunately it required so much electricity the kids didn't have the strength to move the car. TCM substituted the hand car which moves at lower voltage and moved the entire exhibit to the train room.

Just above the section car case are the magnetic train blocks which we built and donated. In the photo they look as though they are sitting on the top of the section car but are actually held above, by magnets, to the metal wall.



Train shaped activity toys.

I don't remember if we came up with the kid's activity train or if TCM found these games which are now mounted on the opposite wall.

The crawl through locomotive is still very popular with the kids and has been modified by the TCM staff. Though our locomotive bell was authentic, the sound was too loud for the museum. After several trial and error 'fixes' the TCM staff removed the clapper and fixed the bell in place. A rope with plastic hose runs under the bell and now extends from the smokestack through into the cab. When pulled the rope lifts the hose enough to softly strike the bell delighting the kids without driving the staff batty.

A more serious problem was that the kids kept stepping on the locomotive wheels to climb on the 'boiler'. After several falls, with no injuries, TCM removed our wood wheels and replaced them with soft rubber ones which bend if the kids try to step on them.



The soft rubber wheels that replaced the wooden ones.

The staff has also fixed plastic at points where the carpet on the pilot tended to pull loose or show wear.



Plastic where carpet tended to pull loose at corners and center of 'pilot'.

In addition the staff added a hand hold, some push button 'controls' and a throttle lever inside the cab for the kids to play with.

Of course the main attraction is the elevated G scale train which operates on a push button. When the button is pushed the train slowly accelerates, dives through a wall faced with mountains, completes a circuit of the entire room and gradually slows to a halt.



Cab interior with hand hold, bell pull, push button 'controls' and 'throttle' lever.



Our elevated train in front of the building flats and above the section car and magnetic blocks.

The engineer's eye view is captured by a miniature TV camera in the locomotive and transmitted to a large flat screen television mounted in the corner of the train room.

I am pleased to report that Gary Martin's mountains, the momentum circuit designed and built by Glenn Mitchell, the commercial scenic backdrop we applied and the many building flats built by various club members are all functioning and as impressive as they were when first installed five years ago.

That doesn't mean that we haven't had our share of problems. The trucks on the Aristocraft RS-3 diesel road switcher had to be rebuilt which Gary Martin and Nick Buchholz handled. We have purchased a second locomotive which is at TCM for emergency backup purposes. This may be an especially good move with Aristocraft going out of business.

The inexpensive power supply we had been using lost half of its output but Glenn Mitchell found a replacement which is still functioning after several years of almost constant usage.

We had problems with the television reception as the train ran through the wall with the mountains (which contains

steel beams) but Nick Buchholz found that elevating the receiving module to track level solved the problem.

The biggest issue over the five years has been getting the TCM staff to learn how to clean the track so the train has good contact. Over the years there has been staff turnover and institutional memory rarely passes when this happens.

So after five years our train room looks good and is running fine. The staff tell us it is one of the most popular exhibits and that the train is pretty much in constant use. If you have grandchildren coming to visit, take them down and let them see what our club built. It's pretty certain that they will enjoy it.

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

Thursday January 9, 2014

Board Meeting-Martin's - 7:00 PM

Friday & Saturday January 10-11, 2014

Gadsden/Pacific swap meet

Friday Setup 12:00-2:00 , Run Trains 2:00-7:00

Sat. Run Trains 10:00-3:00, Teardown 3:00

Saturday January 18, 2014

General meeting Joe Duda's Home 1:00-2:30

Thursday February 6, 2014

Board Meeting-Martins 7:00PM

Saturday February 8, 2014

General meeting – Rincon Country West 12:00-3:00

Saturday-Sunday March 8-9, 2014

Rails in the Garden 10:00-4:00 Each Day

Thursday March 13, 2014

Board Meeting-Martin's 7:00PM

Saturday March 15, 2014

General Meeting Blackwell's 12:00?-3:00??

TGRS Officers and Board of Directors

President: .Gary Martin - president@tucsongrs.org

V-President: Willis Fagg - vicepresident@tucsongrs.org

Secretary: Pat Sommerhalder- secretary@tucsongrs.org

Treasurer: Ruth Taylor - treasurer@tucsongrs.org

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