



# The Tucson Garden Railway Society

## TIMETABLE

Send Articles, Photos, Announcements to:  
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454 E. Cedarvale Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704

January 1, 2016

### TGRS General Meeting at the Averill's

**Date:** Saturday, January 16, 2016

**Time:** Trains run at Noon  
Meeting at 1:00 PM

**Where:** [62066 E. Amberwood Dr. 85739](#)

**Directions:** Easiest way to get there is travel north on Oracle and turn east on Eagle Crest Drive on the north end of Catalina. Take your first right on to Edwin and head east about a half mile and you will see an open gate into the Saddlebrook area on your left. You will be on Clubhouse. Take your first left on Sandcrest and follow it up the hill to where it intersects with Amberwood. We'll have the cross buck sign out. Find a spot to park in on the street and wonder toward the back yard.

Bring your folding chair as our chairs are limited in number.

### The Bobcat and Quail RR

The backyard contains our railroad, The Bobcat and Quail RR has nearly 300 feet of track which meanders around the backyard. An old clear cut and sawmill greets the visitor to the backyard. A few Norwegian loggers still hang out in the area. An old west town and a Mexican town are located on the layout. The time frame for our railroad is the early 1930's situated somewhere in the four corners area.

We run battery power and you are more than welcome to bring your battery or steam powered train to run.

### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES UPDATE

*By Chuck Cook*

We had a really fun time at the annual holiday party - see my article below in the newsletter. Now it is time to resume our monthly social luncheon. The next outing is Thursday January 21st. Come early to shoot some pool, no rules, just fun on the felt. The place is [The Red Garter Saloon](#), located at 3143 E. Speedway just east of Country Club. Pool at 11:00 a.m., or be there at noon for lunch. Call Chuck Cook at 977-7673 with any questions.

### TGRS Layout at St. Mark's

On December 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, the TGRS layout was running at St. Mark's for the enjoyment of all who stopped by.



*TGRS members setting up the layout*



*Layout being enjoyed by youngsters*

## **THE HOLIDAY PARTY SOME STRANGE HAPPENINGS**

*BY CHUCK COOK*

We all had the usual feast of “small” portions of the food we would never eat at home, but it was a buffet, so what the heck!



*Folks enjoying the buffet lunch and good company*

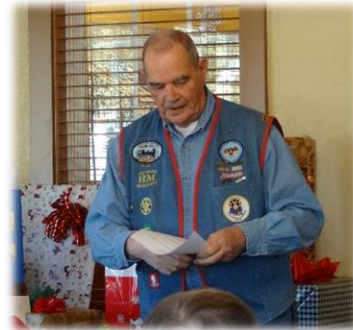


*Some serious eating going on here*

Then came the short meeting with the usual need for volunteers for our busy end of December to middle of January.



Norm Ulmer presented the awards to our very deserving members who did an above and beyond duty with their volunteer work in 2015.



Now it was time for the famous gift exchange; complete with steals.



Things started out strangely enough when vice president Willis Fagg was elected to pick the first number from moderator/president Glenn Mitchell.

**Willis proceeded to draw his own number.** Against the odds, but no reason for a conspiracy theory yet (although a change was made where each person that had their number drawn drew the next number).



**Happy gift recipients (Chuck Cook and Sue Averill)... will they be allowed to keep their loot...or will it be stolen?**

Meanwhile, erstwhile newsletter editor/photographer Claudia Nelson took pictures of most of the gifts as they were selected and a few were stolen.



**Sometimes, you just don't get to keep what you chose!**

As Claudia snapped away; what were the chances – her number was the last one drawn. Pretty weird now isn't it. But as they say on late night TV, "wait there's more".

Claudia of course had to select whether to take the last present left, or steal one from somebody else. But here is the weird part...the last present left on the table was the one that Claudia and David had brought to the party.



**The 'stolen' loot...**

So of course she stole a nice set of train Christmas tree ornaments. Folks, you can't make this stuff up. A great time was had by all.

**Tucson Garden Railway Society  
Annual Service Awards  
2015 Statistics**

This past year, the members of this club served a total of 1027 volunteer shifts on a variety of activities. That amounts to a little over 2 man years of time.

The bulk of this time, about 20%, was spent at the Pima County Fair.

The next largest amount of time was spent on various civic functions, such as at the Tucson Botanical Gardens, Challenger Little League, etc.

Next was the time spent by members acting as Committee Chairs on projects like the Tucson Rodeo layout, Website, Social Activities, Public Relations, etc.

And then there was the time spent by a lot of our members as volunteers at the Rails in the Garden event, assisting the layout Hosts.

Thanks to all of you for making this past year a successful one for our Society.

Norm Ulmer  
Awards Chairman

## TGRS General Meeting Minutes

**December 5, 2015**

A very short abbreviated meeting was called to order by President Glenn Mitchell at the Holiday Luncheon at the Golden Corral. It was noted that no board meeting had been held this month.

Willis Fagg announced he still needed people for the Home Show, especially with tear down. Trailers may be able to be kept at the facility. He still had no arrangements for badges or parking. He passed out sign-up sheets for the Home Show and the Swap Meet.

Janet Mitchell announced she had cards and posters for the RITG.

Norm presented participation awards to members of the club who earned them.

Meeting was adjourned in favor of handing out the Holiday Gifts.

Respectfully submitted

*Pat Somerhalder, Secretary*



## Luminaria Nights at Tucson Botanic Gardens

December 4-6 and 11-23



The train layout was a big hit with not only the little ones, but with older train aficionados, too.



Unfortunately, the area around the layout was so poorly lit that I couldn't get decent photos when we had visitors, but between 6:00pm and 7:30pm we had many people stopping by. We handed out close to a full box of RITG 'business cards' and invited lots of Luminaria Night visitors to come to our March event.

**RAILS IN THE GARDEN**  
MARCH 5 & 6, 2016



Visit our website for more information.  
[www.tucsongrs.org](http://www.tucsongrs.org)

TGRS is a registered 501(c)3 organization 

Hopefully, many will take us up on our offer. Quite a bit of excitement was generated when we talked about our RITG event.



Department of  
Veterans Affairs

## Running Trains at the VA Hospital

December 28-30, 2015

By Claudia Nelson



*Unloading the trailer*

On Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, a group of TGRS volunteers showed up at the VA auditorium to set up the train layout. The weather was brisk, to say the least, and the doors didn't open until 8:30am sharp. We got the trailers unloaded as quickly as we could and began the setup. By noon, most of the 'heavy lifting' had been done.



*Progress on the layout*

On Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, the trains were rolling and by all accounts were a great hit. Word is there were about 50 folks enjoying the layout during the lunch hour alone.



*Circus train rolling down the track*

While we were there, one thing that stood out for me was how many children enjoyed walking alongside the trains as they circled the layout. We saw some near collisions when two groups would follow trains running in opposite directions...



*Waiting for the train to come 'round the bend*



*Elephants entering the big top*

Another observation was how many adults came in to see the trains without children in tow and seemed almost as excited as the children. It was really nice talking to the visitors and letting them know about the upcoming events in which the club is involved. We handed out many RITG cards and hope to see lots of new faces this spring.



*Adobe town with cattle stampede*



*Layout being enjoyed by some of our older visitors*



*Santa's Workshop*

And a comment about the VA from our vice president, Willis Fagg, "We had a very good run at the VA. Set-up was accomplished in about 5 hours and the display looked great as usual. Many thanks to all who participated (29 members in all). Tear down was accomplished in about 90 minutes."

The most commented areas overheard from the visitors were the circus midway (both the games and the rides), prairie dog town (a special hit with the little ones), Mexican town, and of course the winter/Christmas scene.

# SIDETRACKED

By Claudia Nelson



Gingerbread Casino Train Layout in lobby of [Harrah's New Orleans](#) (submitted by Jerry Tulino)

## TGRS Officers and Board of Directors

President: Glenn Mitchell- [president@tucsongrs.org](mailto:president@tucsongrs.org)

V-President: Willis Fagg - [vicepresident@tucsongrs.org](mailto:vicepresident@tucsongrs.org)

Secretary: Pat Somerhalder- [secretary@tucsongrs.org](mailto:secretary@tucsongrs.org)

Treasurer: Ruth Taylor - [treasurer@tucsongrs.org](mailto:treasurer@tucsongrs.org)

Editor: Claudia Nelson - [editor@tucsongrs.org](mailto:editor@tucsongrs.org)

### At Large Board Members:

Dennis Mahar - [memberatlarge1@tucsongrs.org](mailto:memberatlarge1@tucsongrs.org)

Billy Joplin - [memberatlarge2@tucsongrs.org](mailto:memberatlarge2@tucsongrs.org)

Bob Averill - [memberatlarge3@tucsongrs.org](mailto:memberatlarge3@tucsongrs.org)

Norm Ulmer - [memberatlarge4@tucsongrs.org](mailto:memberatlarge4@tucsongrs.org)

TGRS Website: [TucsonGRS.org](http://TucsonGRS.org)

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

## Calendar

**January 8-10, 2016**

Home Show

**January 8-9, 2016**

Gadsden Swap Meet

**January 14, 2016**

Board Meeting – Volk

**January 16, 2016**

General Meeting – Averill

**January 21, 2016**

Social Luncheon – Red Garter Saloon

**February 11, 2016**

Board Meeting – Averill

**February 20, 2016**

General Meeting – RCW

**March 5-6, 2016**

Rails in the Garden

**March 10, 2016**

Board Meeting – Mitchell

**March 19, 2016**

General Meeting – Coburn (date TBD)

**April 14-24, 2016**

Pima County Fair

**May 5, 2016**

Board Meeting – Mitchell

**May 14, 2016**

General Meeting – Mitchell

**June 3-4, 2016**

Gadsden Swap Meet

**June 9, 2016**

Board Meeting – Mitchell

**June 11, 2016**

General Meeting - Fagg

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, Tucson, AZ 85710