



## The Tucson Garden Railway Society

# TIMETABLE

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

April 1, 2016

### **No Meeting in April**

There will be no Board or General meeting in April due to the Pima County Fair Activities

### **County Fair Basic Setup April 7<sup>th</sup>**

The county fair is approaching fast. We will be unloading, working on module repairs, and doing basic setup up on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am until 4:30pm, or so. Final setup will be on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Willis has a few tickets if you would like to work a shift (or extra shift). We still have only five members working the second shift on opening day. If you haven't worked the fair before, this would be a great shift to come and learn the system and get to know some of your fellow members. If you're unsure about parking, display location, etc. please contact Willis for details.

### **Challenger Little League**

The Challenger Little League event is scheduled for May 7th. Contact Willis if you can help, he still needs 2-3 more volunteers, including a driver.

[Tucson Challenger Little League](#) was created in 1990 and is designed for children and young adults with various physical and/or mental challenges, ages 5-20. They play all of their games at the Field of Dreams, located at Kino and 36<sup>th</sup> Street in Tucson.

### **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

*By Chuck Cook*

We had a great, near record turnout for our St. Pats Day luncheon. Only one member (BC) showed up not wearing green.



The winner of the contest was Nick B. who said that the 15<sup>th</sup> was the Ides of March, the 14<sup>th</sup> is Pi day (3.14) and he said the 13<sup>th</sup> was the start of daylight savings. That was technically correct; but the answer I was looking for was that it is the day Uranus was discovered. Or as I say it, "the birthday of Uranus".



The next luncheon is April 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 General Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2016

Meeting was called to order by President Glenn Mitchell at the Coburn's home. He thanked Bob and Winnie Coburn for hosting the meeting.



Minutes were approved as posted.

Glenn Mitchell, in the absence of treasurer Ruth Taylor, gave the treasurer's report. Checking is \$7,505. Savings is \$17,238 for a total on deposit of \$24,743. Revenues from 2/31/16 are \$3,309; expenses \$1,399 for a net gain of \$1,353. Year to date recap 2015/2016 revenues: \$5,996; expenses: \$6,332 for a net loss of \$337. Dues paid 2014/2015 were \$2475; 2015/016 are \$2,110. Jerry Tulino requested write up on monies donated to food bank.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Willis Fagg reported that there are no meetings in April.

Pima County Fair April 14<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>

Board Meeting May 5<sup>th</sup> - place TBA

Challenger Little League May 7<sup>th</sup>

General Meeting May 14<sup>th</sup> at Mitchell's

Gadsden Swap Meet June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

June 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

June 11<sup>th</sup> General Meeting at Faggs.

Sept - Meeting at Forigus

October Meeting at Clark's

November - Meeting Martin's (Open House)

December - Christmas Lunch

## NEWSLETTER

Claudia Nelson, Newsletter Editor, stated she would like a brief statement or two from all of the hosts about how the Rails in the Garden went for them and anything interesting that might have happened.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership - Jerry Tulino reported 71 members, 80 with life members.

Website - Jerry reported that hits on the website have been up over 200.

Clinic - Claudia had received a business card from a lady that does miniatures. She is going to see if that person will be interested in doing a clinic for us in May.

Social Activities - Next luncheon at the Red Garter is April 21<sup>st</sup>.

## OLD BUSINESS

2016 Rails in the Garden wrap up - 6300 people attended. Discussion whether there was enough publicity was addressed.

Public Status Layouts -

Tucson children's Museum - Have a few artifacts. Jerry Tulino talked to them about the computer building program. They were interested in getting their own and do their own facades. He has a meeting with them tomorrow. The board has approved a \$1,000 budget to help with setting up a scale display of cars they have asked for.

Tucson Botanical Garden - usual equipment problems

Rodeo Parade Museum - It was brought up that there is a large bare spot and perhaps some cactus could be put in there. Jerry will talk to them about it.



Updating modules - Work on at fair. Trolley needs to be re-worked.

ABTO - We host this year. Traditionally it is in November. Thinking about March after Rails in the Garden. There is a lot of activity in November in both Tucson and Phoenix. ABTO has been contacted to get their opinion.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

*Pat Somerhalder, Secretary*

## **RITG Recap (Random notes from visitors and hosts)**

### **Total Visits 6,300**

#### Email from one of the visitors, Gail Fine:

I attended several layouts this year for the first time. Wow! I have a friend back east who I know would love to come to this. Have the dates been set for the 2017 event?

Many thanks for all you do!

#### Somerhalders:



We personally thought things went exceptionally well. Besides many nice comments on the trains, five in all, Bruce's electronics were a hit.



Also, first time people visiting SaddleBrooke marveled at the view. We had people from Canada, New York, the mid-west and Mexico. It was fun talking to everyone and I am sure we will do this again.

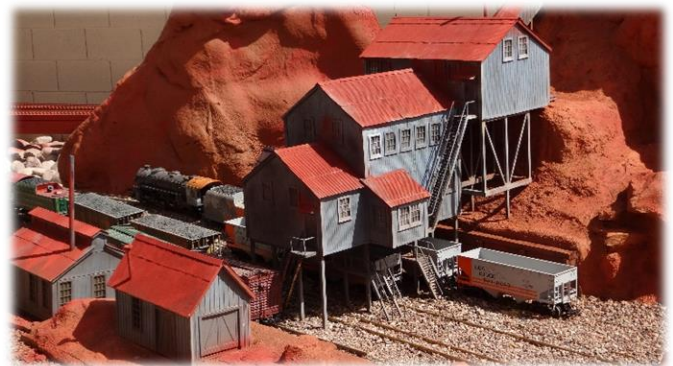
#### Carmichael:

We had about 870 people visit The Cholla Patch Railroad. People commented the most on the hand-made wooden trestles and the Treehouse as being their favorite aspects.

Other favorable comments were made about the other scratch-built structures, the plants and landscaping, and the railroad ballast. People appreciated the sitting/viewing areas and the walk around path.

#### Forgues:

We overheard one of the visitors, a father instructing his young sons, "Now be respectful."



Everyone commented on the size and detail of the mine and loved it.

# LIGHT RAIL OF DENVER – A SUCCESS STORY

By Chuck Cook

Debbie and I spent the last weekend in February visiting friends in Denver. Having experienced the light rail in Phoenix, I had always wanted to ride Denver's. In my opinion, it is a well thought out and well executed system that serves a huge area and a large population that is said to be growing by 100,000 people per year. Also making it a success is that its main hub is located centrally downtown; within walking distance of Coors Field (baseball), The Pepsi Center (basketball / hockey / concert venue), and Mile High Stadium (football) and Elitch's, an old amusement park that was dismantled and rebuilt there. It includes its old, original wooden roller coaster.

Long before light rail, Denver's downtown had the 16<sup>th</sup> street mall on which only their propane buses (no charge) run from Union Station to the Colorado Capital, a distance of about a mile. Now the light rail drops you at Union Station, which is also the home of its Amtrak operation. Union Station has been completely remodeled (finished in 2014) and features many eclectic dining opportunities and a bar. It is a beautiful old train station and it also has underground access to the local bus system.

Downtown Denver is vibrant and there is a huge burst of high-rise housing construction going on all around this hub. Restaurants and bars are everywhere along the mall and Larimer Square, which was the very first street rehabilitated when Denver began this process in about 1980.



1) The light rail map – all routes shown are scheduled for completion in 2016, including the one to the airport, about 10 miles northeast of the far edge of Denver



2) The light rail station where we boarded – a.k.a. the station with a tremendous view



3) Restored Union Station exterior



4) Restored station interior

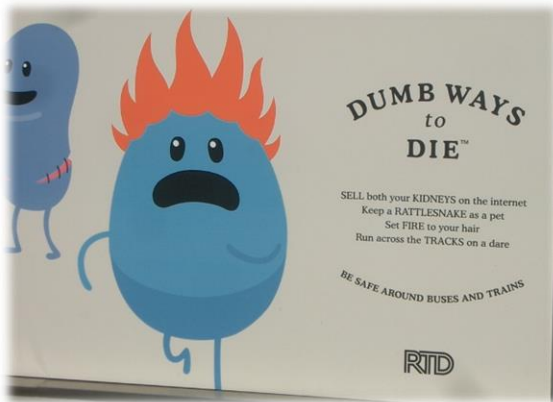


5) The view that greets you as you step off the light rail





6) The Colorado State Capital – one of the front entry steps is exactly 5,280 feet in elevation



7) An interesting safety alert – there are 6 different versions of these scattered around the hub

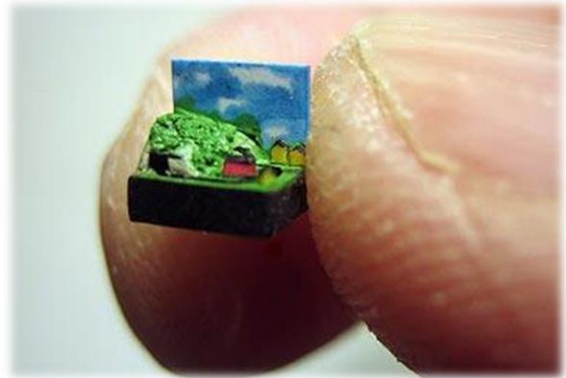


8) The Cooks at Union Station – yes, we do own winter clothing. If you want to travel to Denver, you can fly in to the airport and take the complete transportation system to any destination in the metro area you want.

# SIDETRACKED

By Claudia Nelson

## World's smallest working model train set unveiled



Measuring just 1/8th of an inch by 1/4 of an inch, this is the world's smallest working train model by David Smith (2009 - The Telegraph)

At 1-35200 scale to the real thing, the five-carriage train travels around an oval route including ride through a tunnel.

Created by New Jersey model train enthusiast David Smith, the model was built using nothing more fancy than a craft knife and a steady hand.

Mr. Smith, 55, from Toms River, said: "This model train set is going to be part of the larger train set I have at home.

"I am creating a fictitious village called James River Branch and this model train is going to be placed inside the model shop I am building as part of the re-creation.

"It is going to be a model train village inside a model, so it is very postmodern"

## Calendar

**April 14-24, 2016**

Pima County Fair

**April 21, 2016**

Social Luncheon – Red Garter

**May 5, 2016**

Board Meeting – Mitchell

**May 7, 2016**

Challenger Little League

**May 14, 2016**

General Meeting – Mitchell

**June 3-4, 2016**

Gadsen Swap Meet

**June 9, 2016**

Board Meeting – Mitchell

**June 11, 2016**

General Meeting – Fagg

**Wednesday, June 15, 2016**

Children's Display-Diamond

Children's Hospital

**Saturday, October 15, 2016**

General Meeting-Clark

**Friday, November 11, 2016**

Gadsden Pacific Swap Meet

**Saturday, November 12, 2016**

Gadsden Pacific Swap Meet

**Saturday, December 3, 2016**

General Meeting-Luncheon (Golden Corral)

**Friday, January 13, 2017**

Gadsden Pacific Swap Meet

**Saturday, January 14, 2017**

Gadsden Pacific Swap Meet

## 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)

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