



The Tucson Garden Railway Society

TIMETABLE

Send Articles, Photos, Announcements to:
Claudia Nelson: ccgnelson@gmail.com
454 E. Cedarvale Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704

April 1, 2017

No General Meeting in April, due to the Pima County Fair

TGRS General Meeting
May 20th at Bob & Lucy Murphy's – **lunch will be provided** – more information in next month's newsletter.

Welcome new TGRS Members:

Edward & Darlene
Butchart

Michael & Mary Jones
and family

Jim Bettes

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

By Chuck Cook

The next luncheon is Wednesday April 12th. Since a fair number of club members have never been there, we are venturing to the iconic [Tiny's Saloon and Steakhouse](#). It is located at 4900 W. Ajo Highway. This place qualifies as a dive bar even more than Red Garter, but the food and service is equal to our regular lunch spot. Directions: Take I-19 south from I-10 and get far right immediately and exit on Ajo Way and head west. Drive 4.9 miles to the restaurant. Be careful, it is just before the McDonalds at Ajo and Kinney. If you go by it; getting back to it will not be fun. Major Note: **THEY TAKE CASH ONLY!** Let's have lunch at 11:30. We will then take the scenic back route home through the Tucson Mountains. Call Chuck Cook at 977-7673 with any questions.



Sleepy Hollow Garden Railroad

Dick Izen, long time Tucson Garden Railway Society member, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, February 21st.

Dick, a member for almost twenty years, was one of our most involved members. He played a major part in the 2008 Phoenix/Tucson National Garden Railway Convention. He was also responsible for the current train exhibit at the Tucson Children's Museum. Over the years, he contributed his time and effort to all our modular activities including the Pima County Fair, Home Shows, and swap meets.

Dick's, Sleepy Hollow Garden Railroad, was a layout he always loved to work on.

Dick was born and raised in Chicago, graduating from Indiana University with a BS in Accounting. Dick met his wife, Jeanne, in Bogota, Colombia where he was working for Arthur Anderson and Company. Dick and Jeanne moved back to the United States after the birth of their first child. He left public accounting and joined Xerox Corporation. In addition to South America they have lived and worked in New York, Connecticut, London, California and Texas. They have three children.

In 1996, Dick retired and he and Jeanne moved to Tucson. They moved into their current home in September of 1997. Jeanne will be moving to Chicago to be near her daughter.

A special thanks to Dick for the help he gave me over the last 14 years during the Rails in the Garden.

Dick will be missed!
Gary Martin

ABTO Tour Report

by Chuck Cook

We had 34 visitors from the Phoenix area on Saturday March 11th and we were blessed with warm temps and sunny skies.



I want to thank the following members for their help: Debbie Cook for navigating and helping with the food serving, and Phil Pappas for serving a tremendous breakfast at stop #1.



Hosts that opened their layout for the tour were: John Carmichael, Barry and Gina Blackwell with help from Gary Martin, Dennis and Carolyn Mahar with help from Norm and Ibbey Ulmer, Bob Blodgett and the other railroaders from Rincon West RV Park, and Bob Stewart and the docents at the Rodeo Parade Museum.



The Parade Museum also let us use a room for feeding the visiting club and allowed us to check out all the other parts of the museum. It is quite a place if you have never been there. Thanks for the help of Janet and Glenn Mitchell for getting the yummy Mexican food we served our guests and decorating the room in a railroad motif. Helping serve food were: Ruth Taylor, Willis and Dottie Fagg, and Gina Blackwell. We had lots of positive feedback from all the ABTO members and a good time was had by all. If I forgot anybody that pitched in, my sincere apologies.

Rails in the Garden Report

by *Claudia Nelson*

From all reports by the participants, this year's Rails in the Garden was a rousing success. We had over 5,700 visitors and made almost \$3,000 in donations. Several of us got emails or phone calls leading up to and during the actual tour with requests about how to find the maps and addresses. We're not sure why the confusion, but our illustrious webmaster will address it for next year. We'll also put a direct link to the maps on our Facebook page.

Some of the comments I personally received were:

"Thanks for reminding me...the layout on Foothill Blvd was truly spectacular!"

"I visited the absolutely incredible, creative, wonderful displays at the home on Cerro de Aguila! I was thoroughly impressed! I really, really enjoyed spending time viewing all the intricate details of the displays!"

"This is the best layout on the whole tour...there's so much to see!"



One of the most dedicated volunteers at Barry's layout was his grandson, Nick Portell (aged 12). I think he worked harder than the rest of us combined...a very nice young man. And (bonus), he wants to add a Lego railroad to the Fairy Garden in front of their house before the next time they're on the tour.

BTW...did you see the writeup in the Arizona Daily Star about Dennis Mahar's layout and the RITG tour? If you didn't, here's a link to the article:

[Garden Railroads](#)

Minutes of General Meeting

Saturday, March 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Glenn Mitchell. He thanked the Blackwells for hosting the meeting and introduced new members: Jim Bettes and Mike Jones.



The minutes of the February meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer Ruth Taylor reported that the checking account balance as of 03/18/2017 was \$8,175 and the savings account balance was \$17,254 for a total of deposit of \$25,428. Receipts from Amazon Smile, club dues and 2017 Rails in the Garden donations totaled \$2,965. Expenses totaled \$2,373 for a net of \$592.

Vice President's Report: Dennis Maher gave an update on the Pima County Fair setup schedules for modules/track (April 6) and populating with buildings, figures, etc. (April 7). Willis arrived immediately following the meeting with badge information, forms and tickets. We still need volunteers for many shifts, so please contact Willis.

Planned Events:

- Taco Bar luncheon for the residents and TGRS volunteers at Ronald McDonald House on **May 10** from 10am to 2pm. Please contact Jerry Tulino, if you have

any questions:

webmaster@tucsongrs.org,

- Swap Meet, June 2-3
- Summer Christmas at the Diamond Children's Center, June 26

Possible Future Events:

- Mini Time Machine Museum display of Bob Murphy's railroad town - ?June

Committee Reports:

Clinics: Gary Martin presented a clinic on replacing gears in engines after this meeting. He welcomes requests for future clinic topics.



Maintenance: After the untimely passing of Dick Izen, we will need a new volunteer for the Children's Museum. A memorial plaque for Dick at the museum has been suggested and is in development. The Board is purchasing a mogul chassis for the Tucson Botanical Gardens and/or the modular layout.

Membership for 2016-17: 66 paid members (as of this meeting) and 7 life members for a total of 73.

Mentor: Norm Ulmer is working with new member, Ed Butchart.

Social: Next luncheon to be at Tiny's Saloon and Steakhouse (cash only!) on Ajo, date and time TBD.

Newsletter: A tribute to Dick Izen is planned and a follow-up article on the ABTO club visit.

Old Business:

ABTO visit went well with 34 people viewing 5 layouts, including the Rodeo Parade Museum. Lunch was a great success and the leftovers were gratefully accepted by the Salvation Army.

The slate of officers for the club will be presented for voting at the May 20 meeting at the Murphys' (with lunch following).

The Tucson Botanical Gardens layout needs some cleanup (the Conrads are out of the country). A gate has been added to the fence making access much easier. The other layouts have no reported problems.

New Business:

Gary Martin has information on engines and rolling stock available for purchase by club members. He also mentioned that Dick Izen's dog, Mia, is up for adoption.

Meeting Schedule:

- BOD May 11, 1pm, Mitchells'
General May 20, 10am, Murphy's (election of officers)
BOD June 8, 1pm, Mitchells'

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45.

Respectfully Submitted
Gina Blackwell

*Do you shop on Amazon?
Would you like to help TGRS?
Then use this link the next time
you place your order, and we'll
receive a percentage of the total:
Amazon TGRS support*

Sidetracked

by Claudia Nelson



"Rapid" train in Tokyo

In Japan, trains are so punctual that any delay over 5 minutes usually incurs an apology and a "delay certificate" for passengers on their way to work. When trains are delayed for an hour or more, it may even make the news.

Trivia Corner

Courtesy of Jerry Wilson

THE WHEEL FLANGE: The wheel flange is the projecting edge or rim on the circumference of a car wheel for keeping it on the rail.

The Old Engineer Sez: "Never try to glue window mullions on after three beers!"

Calendar

Thursday - Saturday, April 6-8, 2017

Pima County Fair - Setup

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

Social Luncheon – Tiny's

Thursday - Sunday, April 20-30, 2017

Pima County Fair

Monday, May 1, 2017

Pima County Fair – Load Out

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Ronald McDonald House - Lunch

Thursday, May 11, 2017

BOD Meeting – Mitchell

Saturday, May 20, 2017

General Meeting – **Murphy (BOD elections and Lunch provided)**

Thursday, June 8, 2017

BOD Meeting – Mitchell

Monday, June 26, 2017

Christmas at Diamond Children's

Saturday, June (TBD), 2017

General Meeting – Mahar

TGRS Officers and Board of Directors

President: Glenn Mitchell- president@tucsongrs.org

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

Secretary: Pat Somerhalder- secretary@tucsongrs.org

Treasurer: Ruth Taylor - treasurer@tucsongrs.org

Editor: Claudia Nelson - editor@tucsongrs.org

At Large Board Members:

Dennis Mahar - memberatlarge1@tucsongrs.org

Billy Joplin - memberatlarge2@tucsongrs.org

Bob Averill - memberatlarge3@tucsongrs.org

Norm Ulmer - memberatlarge4@tucsongrs.org

TGRS Website: TucsonGRS.org

Contact: webmaster@tucsongrs.org

TGRS Membership Application

The Tucson Garden Railway Society is a 501(c)(3) 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