



TIMETABLE

DECEMBER 2023



**December meeting and Christmas party will be at the
Rodeo Parade Museum**

4823 S. 6th Avenue, Tucson, AZ

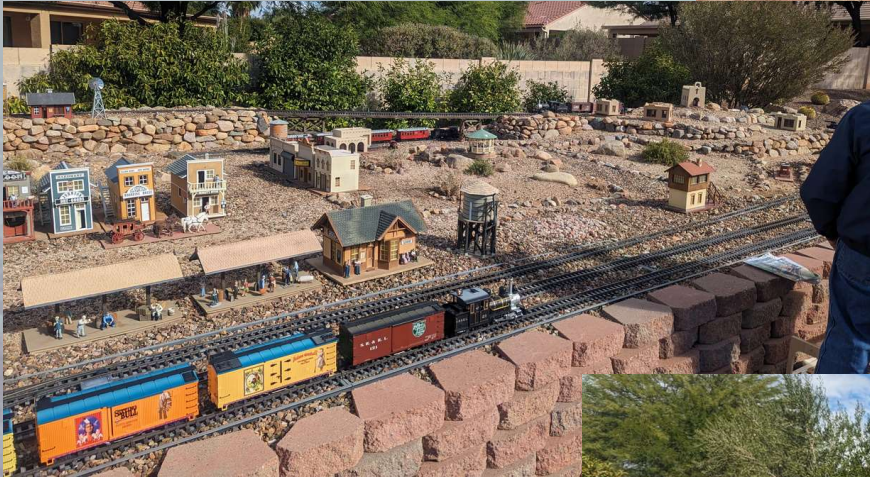
Saturday, December 9th @ 11:30 am

**Cost \$5/person collected at the door and donated to the
museum.**

**Call or email John Fennema or Claudia Nelson if you
plan to attend and have not yet responded.**

Optional gift exchange ~\$15

Photos from last month's meeting @ the Koehlers'





EVENT REMINDER

- Dec 9 - General Meeting & Xmas Party - RPM
- Dec 9 - Xmas run - Fennema
- Dec 16 - Holiday Express (SATM)
- Dec 21 - Ocotillo Learning Center
- Jan 17 - BOD Meeting - Nelson
- Jan 20 - General Meeting (Averill)
- Feb 14 - BOD Meeting - Nelson
- Feb 17 - General Meeting (RCW)



OFFICERS

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president@tucsongrs.org

Vice-President: John Fennema
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secretary@tucsongrs.org

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The next scheduled
**BOD meeting will be on
January 17th @ 1:00pm
- Nelson's.**

Anyone wishing to join
us remotely can
request the Google
Meet code.

2023-2024 Winter Meetings

Train Ticket

⇒ Train Ticket

**Dec 9th - Xmas Party (Rodeo Parade
Museum)**

**Meeting 11:30
Lunch 12:00**

Jan 20th - Averill

**Trains 10:00
Meeting 11:00**

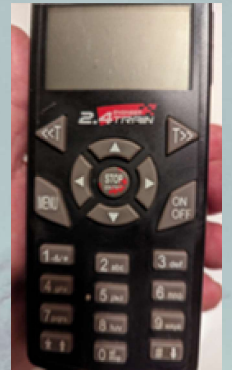
Feb 17 - RCW

**Trains 10:00
Meeting 11:00**

Proud Moments for GPD's Outside G Layout & Team!

At GDP's Open House on Sunday, November 26, 2023, the Outside G Team experienced some very proud moments while striving to fulfill the museum's mission of ... "providing the public with an interactive museum of operating toy train layouts, displays and exhibits.

On that day, the Outside G Team featured for the first time on its layout, a "battery powered" train. It was in the form of "Thomas The Train." The train was operated by a hand held throttle that interacted with a receiver in the "Annie battery car."



This unique combination, allows for a person to independently operate the train. Kid's of ALL ages enjoy this form of highly interacting with the layout and its trains. Yegor Chernov, one of the Museum's Jr. Engineers for the Ho & Outside G layouts, was the first youth member to operate Thomas. His evaluation: "Cool." Yegor is really into technology and computers.

Five year old Isaac, was our first visitor to operate Thomas with instructions from our Committee Chairman, Craig Anderson. During the Open House, approximately thirteen (13) kids took turns operating the "battery powered" train. The Outside G Team wants to increase visitor satisfaction by converting another of its trains to battery power.



At the Outside G Layout ... kids run trains!

SEE Trains

*In the Phoenix
Metro Area*



IN THE GARDEN

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS

Open House Tours!

2023



***Sat & Sun, December 9 & 10
Sat & Sun, December 16 & 17
4:00pm - 8:00pm***

Celebrating the holidays with thirteen homes and one museum with G-scale garden railroads, will be on display in the Phoenix areas and the East valley for public viewing.

Bring the family and don't miss out on the fun!



Your tax deductible donation will be accepted and used to support ABTO Activities throughout the valley. ABTO members volunteer to maintain the train layouts at The Ryan House and Cardon Children's Medical Center

Check the Arizona Big Train Operators website for Locations, Hours and Updates

www.azbigtrains.org

HELLO

my name is...

CONVENTIONS,
TRAIN SHOWS, &
SWAP MEETS



Great Train Show - Pleasanton, CA

December 9th & 10th 10am-4pm

Alameda County Fairgrounds



Society for the Preservation of Carter Railroad Resources

The Rail Fair at Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont, California, moves to Memorial Day Weekend, May 25, 26 & 27, 2024, next year. In cooler weather, the steam engines can run again. The Bay Area GRS modular tracks will be there with other model railroaders.



San Diego Garden Railway Society is making plans to host the West Coast Regional Meet in 2024. The dates will be Saturday through Thursday, August 10 to 15, 2024. Look for details early next year.



Links of Interest

Little Trains and Big Names

British YouTube show with Pete Waterman that focuses on well-known individuals who are into model railroading.

The December issue of The Garden Whistle from the Christchurch Garden Railway Group and features news from various G scale Groups in New Zealand.

The September/October Issue of Garden Railroading News is posted on the TGRS website.

The year-end issue of The Whistle Blast from New Jersey Live Steamers.

VOLLDAMPF is a German railroading magazine featuring Jim and Joanne Gardner's layout in the current issue, with great photos of their spectacular layout. They live in Mesa and are good friends of Thomas. According to him, if someone from Tucson GRS wants to make the trip to visit them, they would be happy to host. They enjoy visitors.

San Diego Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park

Trip report by Tom Fagan

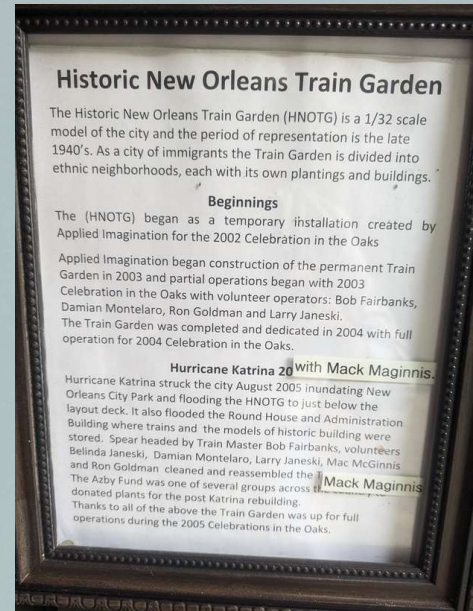
My wife and I visited the San Diego Model Railroad museum in Balboa Park. I think they have every model train gauge represented in that museum. We were able to see their outdoor G-Scale train set up as well. John Phillips, Chief Docent, gave us a great tour. They had two LGB Stainz 0-4-0 Steam Locomotives that were run on battery power. They use the Soundtraxx Blunami BLU-4408 digital sound decoder using an iPhone/iPad Bluetooth app for control. The sound was fantastic. The buildings were donated, I think he said from Chicago. They are completely organic made out of thin strips of wood and twigs. They remind me of that presentation we saw from the Chicago Botanic Garden last year.

I think they said they were part of the dead rail society that you mentioned in the meeting and also in the newsletter. Since I have the same LGB train they have running, I'm thinking of converting mine to this system. (Blunami)



New Orleans Historical Train Garden

Photos by John Fennema



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**



Ocotillo Learning Center

5702 S. Campbell Ave

21 Dec 2023

8:30am - 3:00pm



Holiday Express @ SATM

414 N. Toole Ave

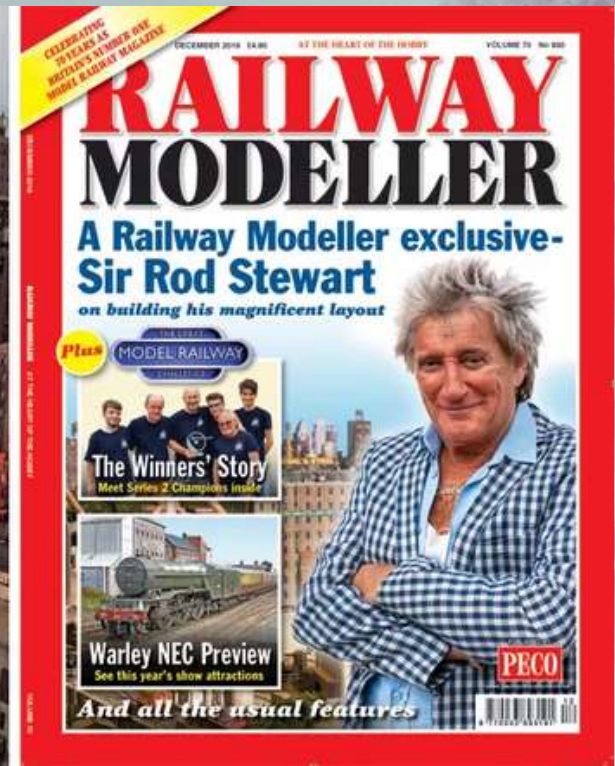
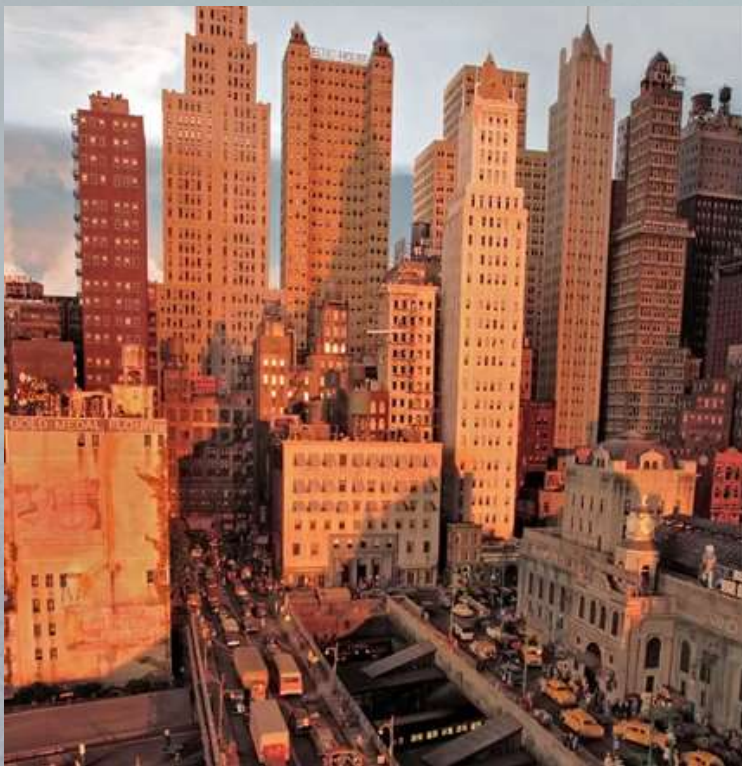
16 Dec 2023

8:00am - 3:00pm

SIDE TRACKED

Suggested by Jerry Tulino

I am railing: Sir Rod Stewart reveals his epic model railway city.



TUCSON GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY

General Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2023

Ron & Helen Kohler's

24 club members signed the attendance sheet, no guests

Oct minutes were approved.

Club treasurer report – Margaret Torres Nelson

☐ All Acct Balance \$ 19,174.61

☐ Net for the fiscal year is \$(663.21) mostly due to tires for the trailers

Newsletter report – Claudia Nelson

☐ Larger than usual November issue. Claudia continues to ask for members to submit articles.

Vice President report – John Fennema,

☐ Southern Arizona Transportation Museum open house Dec 16 – setup at 9 AM, runs 10 AM to 3 PM with the children's layout. Opportunity to publicize RITG at a railroad-themed Santa Claus visit.

☐ Ocotillo Learning Center Dec 21 – 8:30 AM in the library handing out pencils and candy to ~320 kids who walk past to see the train decorated in a Christmas theme.

☐ Rails in the Garden schedules for March 2-3. 11 layouts expected. Will hang signs at TBG next week. We have business cards to hand out. Expect to publish the info on our website in December. Margaret will have 11x17 posters to use on bulletin boards. We are working to get a Thomas train set from Upland Trains to give away at RITG.

Membership

☐ Not changed since last month – 56 members.

Public displays report

☐ Had ten members at Rodeo Parade Museum to dust the layout.

☐ Getting 200 button-presses per week at TBG.

Social Activities – Ann Winter

☐ No club lunches for November or December due to conflicts with holidays.

☐ Planning an outing to tour the maker-space, Xerocraft, in January. (<https://xerocraft.org/>)

☐ Consider a possible spring outing to the Gold Canyon Railway.

Old business

☐ Amendment to the bylaws published in the November newsletter was approved unanimously.

☐ Christmas luncheon planned for Rodeo Parade Museum Dec 9, 11:30-1:30. Guests are welcome and we'll have a gift exchange for ~\$15 limit on gifts. Sign-ups required so we can determine how much food.

☐ TTO Swap Meet: Last Saturday, we sold all the extras from our storage for \$240.

☐ Trailer tires – John had them replaced. Covers are a “good idea,” but the last set blew off and got lost in the fierce winds at the fairgrounds.

☐ Donated TV from the Clarks. Awaiting a case, then we can have a video display during our shows.

New business

☐ Advertising for RITG in Desert Leaf and Marana Style – Approved by the members to spend ~\$1000 “one month, one year only” to assess the impact. Goal of RITG is club exposure and new members.

☐ We will approach Michael Levin whether Port of Tucson would be willing to “sponsor” the module on the Pima Fair layout that we intend to make this year as a “modern intermodal freight” operation.

Meetings

☐ Dec 9 – Christmas luncheon @ Rodeo Parade Museum

☐ BOD Jan 17 @ Nelson's

☐ General meeting Jan 20 @ Averill's



Thanks to John Fennema, Thomas Preisner, Craig Anderson, Tom Fagan, Wally and Julie Gazdzik, Charlie Weesner, and Jerry Tulino for their contributions.

The Timetable is published monthly by the Tucson Garden Railway Society and features news, photos, and articles from club members in Southern Arizona.

Editor: Claudia Nelson, Email: editor@tucsongrs.org

The Tucson Garden Railway Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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. Membership dues are \$30.00 per year and include up to two name badges. New members joining July thru December will be charged \$30.00. Members joining January thru June will be charged \$15.00. Additional name badges cost \$1.00 per badge. If you are interested in TGRS please contact one of the officers at the e-mails listed above. 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. Membership application link is below:

[TGRS Membership Application](#)