



TIMETABLE



**General Meeting October 19
Ron & Helen Koehler
39794 S. Riverwood Dr. 85739
5033 N. Camino Esplandora, Tucson**

**This is in Saddlebrook about a half hour North of Ina and Oracle Road
Bring chairs, trains run at 10am meeting at 11am**

Don't forget

Announcement for October Meeting

The October TGRS general meeting will be held at the Koehler's on October 19. The address is 39794 South Riverwood Drive. Trains will run at 10 am with the meeting at 11 am. Following the meeting there will be a hands on workshop demonstrating how to operate trains with the new Blunami system. You will be using your own cell phone as the controller. Prior to the meeting you will need to download the Blunami app to your phone from your App Store. The app is free, safe, and works with all cell phones including iPhones. Be prepared to be amazed at the versatility, intuitiveness, and the fun it is to use.

Garden Railways 2026 Convention

Registration forms for the 2026 convention are attached as a link, please pass onto your group members or anyone you think that will be interested in attending.

Return completed registration forms to nzgrc2026@gmail.com

[2026 Convention Registration Form.doc](#)

[2026 Convention Registration Form.pdf](#)



Links of Interest

Garden Railway Whistle New Zealand

<http://www.tucsongrs.org/Uploads/Garden%20Whistle%20-%20July%202024.pdf>

Florida Garden Railway Society

<https://www.fgrs.org/>

Garden Railway News

<http://www.grnews.org/>

<https://tucsongrs.org/newsletters/non-2024-08-Garden-Whistle.pdf>

<https://tucsongrs.org/newsletters/non-2024-08-The-Short-Line.pdf>

<https://tucsongrs.org/newsletters/non-2024-09-Garden-Whistle.pdf>

The **Big Train Operator Club** is a group of enthusiasts, hobbyists, and collectors who devote much of their time and energy to Large-Scale trains.

From Thomas Preisner

**On October 5-6 the 2024 Railfair will take place at the
McCormick Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale.**

10-5 both days.

See also:

Railroad Park (therailroadpark.com)

This is always good fun.

FREE.

ABTO will be there with their module.

**Front page photo
Mahalie Long a former club member in front of 119
Promontory Point
10 June 2010
Jim and Elaine's Granddaughter**

Charlie Weesner

Podcasts about Model Railroads

I confess that I listen to podcasts. I get news, opinion pieces, self-improvement, and model railroad information from this audio medium while I'm driving, walking the dog, and even while I'm working on my railroad in the west yard or in my workshop. Getting a podcast app for your phone and how to find podcasts are outside my scope here. You can find that information in other places. What I'm adding is a list of podcasts for model railroads and rail enthusiasts.

-Around the Layout - Ray Arnott - Ray interviews model railroaders about their train interests and their journey through the hobby. His first question is always "How did you get interested in model railroading?" I am fascinated to hear this well-structured interview every couple weeks for about 1 hour. He fills in with a "What's Happening in Model Railroading" once a month, and "rewind" episodes that re-play earlier interviews. Highly recommended

-The Crossing Gate - "the official podcast of the Twin Cities Division of the NMRA" - Another well-structured discussion among the 3-5 "hosts" about topics within model railroading. About one 35-45 minute episode every two weeks.

-A Modeler's Life - Lionel Strang & company - This is a more-casual, informal audio presentation. The banter between the hosts and the guests is claimed to reflect "talking around the layout" with the main topic being railroads, but lots of digressions along the way. I no longer listen to this one, but you might enjoy it. Lots of modelers do.

-The Roundhouse - Nick Ozorak - This one is aimed at the tourist railroad scene, restoration of equipment, and museums. About once a month, an hour-long episode about the preservation and operation of tourist lines. Second Section Podcast - Andy Dorsch and Mike Ostertag - This is the longest of the group, ranging 2 to 3 hours every two weeks. It's very informal and un-structured discussing model railroad topics in a zoom meeting format. While I started listening to a few of the episodes, I now watch their live stream captured on YouTube and I highly recommend it, played at about 2x speed. With video to support the discussion and a crew that regularly exceeds 100 people watching it live and posing questions, this inspires me to try building more of my models for my trains.

I know many in TGRS will dismiss these modelers because they are too tied to representing the real railroads, or because they're not garden trains, they are indoor scale layouts. On the other hand, I've heard several times that we're a dying hobby. These people are the "young" rail enthusiasts (20's, 30's, and 40's) who are pushing model railroads forward in new directions and new interests.

**TUCSON GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Sept 18, 2024

Nelson Residence

Board Members Present:

Willis Fagg John Fennema

Wally Gadzick Ron Koehler

Claudia Nelson Jerry Tulino

Charlie Weesner Margaret Torres Nelson

Jim Miller

Willis called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM with 9 board members. We approved minutes from the May board meeting.

Treasurer's Report Summary - Margaret Torres Nelson

□ We have just over \$9000 in checking and savings.

□ Opened a CD for \$8000 which is earning interest.

□ Unusual expenses for Community Food Bank donation (from RITG) and trailer flat tire repair over the summer.

□ 43 of 57 paying member families have already paid dues for 2024-2025.

VP Report - Claudia Nelson

□ Claudia plans to run a shuttle from Martin's place to Pearson's to alleviate the parking at Pearson's place.

Newsletter Report - Jim Miller

□ Paper copy of newsletter to Scott Hill as we don't have an email address for him.

Committee reports

□ Membership - Jerry Tulino - Stable, no change. Two "members" asked to be removed from email list in May. These were "free memberships" from RITG or Pima County Fair.

□ Website - Jerry Tulino - Service will shut down for a "large upgrade" this Friday. Will sent out an email notice.

□ Maintenance/Displays - Charlie Weesner - Children's Museum locos lubed and running. Charlie has not looked up "fair market prices" for the locomotives we area trying to get out of our inventory.

□ Social activities

◦ Luncheon this month @ Red Garter.

◦ Discussion about Christmas party. Claudia will call Stan @ Rodeo Museum about reserving that.

Old Business

□ Willis brought memorabilia including a DVD of 2012 video from KOLD coverage of RITG that Jerry will put on our website.

New Business

**□ St Paul's preschool October 24
th**

- Claudia is planning to run trains on the "children's layout" with a Halloween theme provided by John Fennema . Still looking for more volunteers for 0830-1030 to setup and run trains. John plans to get the tables "the week before" from our trailer at the fairgrounds.

□ Ocotillo Learning Center - Our contact, Jody, has gone to another job. We plan to offer them Dec 19 with the same "running trains on the children's layout" but a Christmas theme.

□ VA hospital - Claudia has not heard back but general plan would be setup Saturday, Dec 21 and tear-down Saturday, Dec 28. We'd run trains 2 days before Christmas and 2 day after Christmas. Only have space for a 40x20 layout. John Fennema assigned to coordinate trailers and module placement.

□ Ron Koehler suggests a “using Blunami” workshop associated with meeting as his place in October. Generally agreed with a suggestion he write an article for the newsletter that goes out October 1 about the workshop and suggestion to download the app.

□ Ron also suggests having a “club barbeque” meeting – maybe as a monthly luncheon?

□ Claudia asks if we have a use for the “old projector” that we haven’t used in 5 years. We suggested she turn it on to see if it still works. Given that we have the large-screen TV, the projector may not be so important.

□ John Fennema has dates for the county fair next year: Setup March 29. Fair runs April 17- April 27 (which includes Easter). This is a week earlier than “usual.”

□ RITG selected for March 1 & 2 – first weekend. The book fair is listed for 15th

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TUCSON GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY
General Meeting Minutes
Sept 21, 2024
Pearson Layout

**14 club members signed the attendance sheet, John Fitzner was a guest at the meeting
May minutes were approved, including election of new officers.**

Club treasurer report – delivered by Claudia Nelson

☐ All account balance \$17,358

☐ CD for \$8000

☐ \$895 income – mostly dues

☐ \$1010 expenses – mostly donation to Community Food Bank from last spring RITG and flat tire repair for the trailer

Vice President report – Claudia Nelson

☐ St Paul's preschool Oct 24

☐ Ocotillo Learning Center Dec 19 – setup ~0830, done by 1 or 2 PM

☐ VA Hospital – waiting to hear back

◦ Setup Dec 21st

, tear-down Dec 28th

◦ Run every day except Christmas – probably two shifts a day

**☐ 2025 Rails in the Garden – current plan is Mar 7 & 8 to avoid “toy train show” and book fair
☐ Request, last year, for a presentation at an RV park in Benson – Someone else has filled that slot. Claudia wants to have posters at their meeting for RITG.**

Newsletter report – Jim Miller

☐ Still looking for articles

Membership – Jerry Tulino absent

☐ 71 families total but may change on who pays for 24-25 year

Website – Jerry Tulino

Public displays report – Charlie Weesner

☐ Still have 4 locomotives suitable for Tucson Children's Museum layout to run 1

☐ Thomas suggests we could use Faller e-train models at lower cost for displays

☐ Once Tucson Wagon & History Museum opens (November), Charlie will lube their engines and assess whether we need a clean-up project day

Social Activities – Willis Fagg for Ann Winter

☐ Luncheon Sept 25 at Red Garter

New business

☐ Ron Koehler wants to hold a seminar next month on using Blunami to control a locomotive.

☐ County fair will run April 17-27 this year – which includes Easter. Scouts have a new cohort doing the merit badge, so we expect help setting up from them.

Meetings

☐ October 19 – general meeting Koehler's house – trains at 10, meeting at 11

☐ October 16 – board meeting, Nelson house 1 PM

☐ September 25 – luncheon at Red Garter 11:15



I drove to Florence today, which was an excellent choice. It was an action packed day.

- 1) I saw a CBR - Copper Basin Railway - consist heading for ,Magma, the consist had just crossed over Arizona Farms Road.**
- 2) I saw a UP Hi-Rail Pick-Up truck heading north towards Phoenix, it crossed over Arizona Farms Road.**
- 3) Next was a UP consist heading south towards Tucson.**
- 4) A long CBR consist heading towards Winkelman. The consist had 61 cars, which is very long for the CBR. Parked next to me was a CBR truck who was also waiting for the consist. The only drawback was that this consist did not cross Arizona Farms Road until 13.45 hrs - I was pretty hungry by then... I chased the consist into the desert. As I was chasing the CBR consist, I noticed that at Florence Junction there was another CBR consist with 2 locos and a number of the old ore cars the CBR only uses anymore for specialty tasks like picking up old wooden sleepers. After I had chased the 1st consist into the desert, I came back to Florence Junction to take a few pix of the other consist.**

WOW ! What a day ! Hot, tired and hungry but happy I drove home.

Take it easy, Thomas



**Special CBR consist made in Florence Junction.
This CBR consist is using the old ,Ore Cars, which are no longer in regular use, the CBR uses
them for special duties such as to transport old wooden sleepers.
T Preisner**

OFFICERS

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The next scheduled
BOD meeting will be
on October 16
@ Nelsons'

2024-2025 Fall Meetings

Train Ticket

Oct 19 - Koehler

Nov 16 - Fennema

⇌ Train Ticket

Trains 10:00
Meeting 11:00

Trains 10:00
Meeting 11:00



JThomas Preisner for the information

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

Editor: Jim Miller, 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](#)