



October Meeting at Ron and Helen Koehler

TIMETABLE



General Meeting November 16
Trains run at 10am Meeting 11am
John and Audrie Fennama
7594 W Talavera Way, 85743
Please Bring Chairs

Don't forget

□ November 13 Board Meeting 1 PM at Nelson's house

□ November 16 General Meeting at Fennema's house

December 7th Christmas/Holiday Social at The Hungry Fox

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](#)

TUCSON GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY

General Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2024

Koehler Layout

20 club members signed the attendance sheet, no visitors

September minutes were approved.

Club treasurer report – delivered by Claudia Nelson

☐ **All accounts balance \$17,245.95 with \$8139 in a CD**

☐ **Net for the year \$(263)**

☐ **47 members renewed for 2024-25 out of 57 regular, 13 honorary members**

Vice President report – Claudia Nelson

☐ **St Paul's preschool "Halloween trains" display of children's layout planned for Oct 24.**

We have 4 volunteers to set it up and man it.

☐ **Ocotillo Learning Center Christmas display of children's layout planned for Dec 19.**

Looking for at least two more volunteers.

☐ **VA Hospital – Got queries during the fair, and thought we'd arranged to meet a coordinator from the VA last Thursday. He wasn't there to meet us and review the facilities. If we do this display, we'd set up Saturday, Dec 21 and tear down Saturday, Dec 28. We'd need to staff it each day except Christmas, but mostly we'd need people for set-up and tear-down.**

☐ **If VA falls through, Southern Arizona Transportation Museum has asked us to participate in their Santa Claus event on December 21 and we could put up the children's layout for that event.**

☐ **Not mentioned during the meeting: The Gadsden Pacific is adjusting their train swap meet format to "sell from your trunk." The board does not see a reason to participate in the event, this year.**

☐ **Rails in the Garden has been set for March 8 & 9 to avoid both the book fair and a toy fair on the first weekend. Business cards are available to hand out to invite people to the tour.**

Newsletter report – Jim Miller

☐ **Continues to ask for articles across the membership**

Membership – Jerry Tulino absent, reports that membership is constant.

Website - Jerry Tulino absent, website has "reserve the date" for RITG on March 8 & 9.

Public displays report – Charlie Weesner

☐ **Children's Museum layout has worn track on the curves that needs to be replaced. Charlie will arrange with Rob Norwood and John Fennema for a Monday work-day to replace the turns.**

Social Activities – Willis Fagg for Ann Winter

☐ **Luncheon at The Depot, 11:15 on October 23rd**

☐ **Christmas Party planning for The Hungry Fox – lunchtime. Fewer people (of those present) have a conflict with Dec 7th, so that's the planned Christmas meeting.**

From the floor:

☐ **Jim Miller has "a lot of track" from taking out a layout in Green Valley.**

☐ **Glenn Mitchell reports that he and Janet still have buildings and "a few odds and ends" from taking out their layout. He also still has an LGB mogul with factory sound.**

Meetings

☐ **November 13 board meeting 1 PM at Nelson's house**

☐ **November 16 general meeting at Fennema's house**

☐ **luncheon @ The Depot October 23rd 11:15 AM**

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

Sept 18, 2024

Nelson Residence

Board Members Present:

Willis Fagg, John Fennema

Jim Miller ,Ron Koehler

Claudia Nelson , Jerry Tulino

Charlie Weesner, Margaret Torres Nelson

Willis called the meeting to order at 12:57 PM with 8 board members. We approved minutes from the September board meeting.

Treasurer's Report Summary – Margaret Torres Nelson

- ☐ Spending entry for storage unit went up as we are now being taxed on the rental.
- ☐ Generally, the storage unit should be in the treasurer's name, not Willis.
- ☐ Will send reminders for late dues this week and cull names that have moved away.

VP Report – Claudia Nelson

- ☐ St Paul's Oct 24 – Halloween display: Preschool kids will do a walk-thru look at the layout.

Ask Ken Karrels if SATM has more train safety coloring books to hand out.

- ☐ Ocotillo Learning Center Christmas display is slated for Dec 19. Currently have 3 volunteers, could use one or two more.

- ☐ VA Hospital – Call to Orlando Ford got bumped to Jason Bloom (his boss). Arrange a visit for Claudia, John, and Willis Oct 17, 2PM to review the auditorium in which we set up.

Setup is planned for Dec 21, tear-down Dec 28. Run every day except Christmas. There's some concern about adequate staff to set up the layout.

- ☐ Ken Karrels has invited us to host a table for "Santa Claus Days" at Southern Arizona Transportation Museum on Dec 21. That's set-up for VA, so we will decline.

- ☐ 2025 RITG planned for 2nd weekend in March: 8th and 9th

. Expected layouts to show:

- Ron Kohler ◦ Rodeo Museum
- John Charmichael and Phil Pappas ◦ Rincon West
- Willis Fagg ◦ Charlie Weesner
- John Fennema

- ☐ Gadsden Pacific is changing the swap meet format to "open your trunk and sell" instead of tables. TGRS display table and tent format doesn't appear to fit well. We are passing on participating in "sell from your trunk."

Newsletter Report – Jim Miller

- ☐ Will return to MS Word as he's been struggling with Canva.

Committee reports

- ☐ Membership – Jerry Tulino – How to communicate with free members about renewing?

Treasurer will send a separate email to encourage them to pay at normal renewal date in June, 2025.

- ☐ Website – Jerry Tulino – Will put up a "save the date" for RITG.

- ☐ Maintenance/Displays – Charlie Weesner

- Children's Museum rail worn to the webbing. We need to replace the turns. At most 2-3 volunteers can help on a Monday when TCM is closed to the public. Extra track sections from Charlie Weesner available for most of the 360 degree turns at 8 ft diameter, AristoCraft track.

- Charlie will contact Stan Martin at about when Tucson Wagon and History Museum opens for the season so we can check lubricant in the engine and see whether the layout needs cleaning, again.

☐ **Social activities**

- Luncheon this month @ The Depot, October 23 .
- Discussion about Christmas party. Jerry is reserving The Hungry Fox for 7th or 14th of December. Ask at meeting Saturday to choose.

Old Business

- ☐ nothing covered

New Business

- ☐ **Access to storage unit**

- Looking to get a list of who has which key to the lock on the storage unit.
- A Family Storage is moving towards an app on the phone instead of the keypad for access thru the gate. Margaret has started distributing access thru the "noke smart entry" app.

Upcoming meetings

**Oct 19 Club meeting at Ron Kohler's layout:
trains @ 10, meeting @ 11**

Blunami clinic after the meeting

Oct 30 Luncheon at The Depot 11:15

Nov 13 Board meeting @ Nelson's 1PM

Nov 16 Club meeting at John Fennema's layout



Links of Interest

ABTO - Arizona Big Train Operators (azbigtrains.org)

GARDEN RAILROADING NEWS (grnews.org)

A Garden Railway supply company in England

Garden Railway Specialists – The Comprehensive Garden Railway Service for G Scale
(G45 & 64), Gauge 1, 16mm, 5 inch and 7.25 inch ride on locomotive' Enthusiasts.
(grsuk.com)

Not Sponsored

From Charlie weesner

I ran across this guy, SWC3DBackshop, selling on Etsy.
[s://www.etsy.com/shop/SWC3DBackshop?ref=shop-header-name&listing_id=1624040066&from_page=listing](https://www.etsy.com/shop/SWC3DBackshop?ref=shop-header-name&listing_id=1624040066&from_page=listing)

His 3D printed figures in 1:20.3 are stunning and I highly recommend you consider these as a modest-cost, very high quality foreground figure for your models. He's also got a couple of models of winches and tools that you could try.

Charlie



What's on your workbench

This period freight wagon is in-process for my layout. I'm setting the layout in the era before motorized vehicles, and the laser-cut wood for this model looks really nice. I still need a donkey team standing in a harness that I need to make on the tongue of the wagon.

Charlie



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-common, 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 posting 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.

Charlie Weesner

520-990-0927

Hello good People,

This Is the last picture I took of my train excursions on the Bel-Del in New Jersey.

As chance would have it, I saw this

NS (Norfolk Southern) High-Rail Pick-Up truck on the
Bel-Del north of Philipsburg and followed it for a while.

It moved quickly, it was not easy taking a decent picture of it.

Take it easy
Thomas



The Southern Arizona Transportation Museum
PRESENTS

19th Annual Holiday Express

Free Family Fun At The Historic Depot
Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024 · 10am - 2pm

- **STOP** to talk with Santa and Photo with Santa in front of Locomotive 1673 (the star of the movie "Oklahoma")
- **LOOK** at the museum's bilingual exhibits, new live-action displays with operating model trains
- **LISTEN** to a reading of *The Polar Express*
- Write a letter to Santa at the North Pole with the help of the Tucson Postal History Museum elves
- Join in singing holiday music
- Climb into the cab of steam Locomotive 1673
- Shop in the museum gift shop
- Plenty of free parking
- Fun Farm Choo Choo



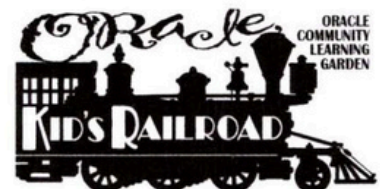
Historic AMTRAK Tucson Train Depot
414 N. Toole · Tucson, AZ 85701
520.623.2223 · www.tucsonhistoricdepot.com



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**Kid's Run Trains Free
Donations Appreciated**

**Sunday afternoon
1:00-4:00**

November - March

**Oracle Community
Learning Garden**

North of Mt. Lemmon Hwy
& John Adams

Kid's 5-105 yrs

**Parent or guardian must
accompany all children.**

Volunteer Conductor:

Craig Anderson
602-657-4535
candersonm2018@gmail.com

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**The next scheduled
BOD meeting will be
on Nov 13th
@ Nelsons'**

2024-2025 Fall Meetings

Train Ticket

Nov 16 - Fennema

**Dec 7 - Christmas/Holiday Party
at The Hungry Fox**

⇒ Train Ticket

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



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](#)