



Goldfield, AZ small tourist train
Photo by Thomas Preisner

TIMETABLE



The next scheduled BOD meeting
will be on Feb 12th at 1pm
@ Nelsons'

General Meeting
Feb 15th, trains run at 11am
Meeting at noon
Rincon Country RV West
4555 S Mission Rd, Tucson, AZ

Don't forget

Garden Railways 2025 Convention
www.ngrc2025.org

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](#)

Hello good People,

Has anyone ever been there ?

Abandoned Railroads In Arizona: Train Car Graveyard

<https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/experiences/arizona/abandoned-train-graveyard-az>

**Take it easy
Thomas**

Rails in the Garden Layouts

March 8th & 9th

At the moment, I've got Jennfier on-board for another year of displaying our layout.

My understanding is

Koehler

Charmichael/Pappas

Fagg

Weesner

Fennema

Rincon West

Tucson Wagon and History Museum (Rodeo Parade Museum)

Transportation Museum

Gadsden Pacific

Craig Anderson

From Charlie

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

January 15, 2025

Nelson Residence

Board Members Present:

Willis Fagg John Fennema

Ron Koehler Charlie Weesner

Claudia Nelson Jerry Tulino

Ann Winter Margaret Torres Nelson

Willis called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM with 8 board members. We approved minutes from the November board meeting. There was no board meeting in December.

Treasurer's Report Summary - Margaret Torres Nelson

- ☐ **November expenses for the storage unit rental and printing cards for RITG.**
- ☐ **December expenses for the holiday party, as well as insurance for trailers and storage unit**
- ☐ **Motion that all money donated at RITG this year goes to our designated charity. This was passed by the board.**

VP Report - Claudia Nelson

- ☐ **Ocotillo Learning Center Christmas display was less organized but we had a good time.**
- ☐ **Holiday Express at Southern Arizona Transport Museum - lots of kids and a good location next to the line waiting to see Santa**
- ☐ **Upcoming display at Tucson Wagon and History Museum January 25**
 - **Need someone at the layout inside - last year it was Glenn**
 - **Plans to display Ron's LGB "wild west" set of cars and locomotive on the children's layout at our tent.**
- ☐ **2025 Rails in the Garden**
 - **Haven't heard from Sally Jazinski who was lined up to be organizing the event.**
 - **Discussion about advertising - conclusion that we didn't get a big bump in attendance from paid advertising last year.**
 - **John to retrieve signs, packets from the storage shed.**
 - **Claudia to contact Tina from KGUN about getting a local interest slot on a TV news show**
 - **Ron has not found a contact for the toy swap meet to see about a table to hand out RITG cards the week before. (<https://azcollectorsmarket.wixsite.com/website>, tucsontoyshow@gmail.com) and we are not sure we would have anyone to staff a table if we arranged it.**
 - **Claudia is worried about enough volunteers.**
 - **Email reminder to RITG list last week of January**
 - **There was a motion, which passed, to allocate \$300 for a beginner set to be raffled. This was first mentioned as "at RITG" and then talk about the county fair. Willis suggested we table it to decide which in February.**

Committee reports

☐ **Membership - Jerry Tulino -**

- **Free members from last year's RITG and Pima County Fair (PCF): From 18 who signed up, two people have attended meetings and interacted. A decision to drop from email list comes with dues for 25/26 year (due in June, cut from membership in September).**

- Proposed that we hand out business cards with a sticker “come to a meeting for a free year’s membership.” At the meeting, the candidate member could fill out the on-line form for email address, etc. Members seemed favorable, though no specific motion to adopt this was brought forward.
- Ann promotes “a marketing plan” and volunteers to bring a draft marketing plan to the February board meeting.
- ▣ Website – Jerry Tulino – Margaret switched our payment from credit card to ACH as our host planned to tack a 4% credit card fee to our bill.
- ▣ Maintenance/Displays – Charlie Weesner
 - No activity at rodeo or Children’s Museum
 - Club still owns two locomotives that are not in use
 - Bachmann Connie with a stripped gear (We have the parts to repair it.)
 - Bachmann Shay – the value of which we don’t know because Charlie has not investigated metal vs plastic trucks on it.
- ▣ Social activities – Ann Winter
 - Luncheons are poorly attended. Ann suggests clinics and discussion notes that we have no one assigned to mentorship and helping new members.

Old Business

- ▣ nothing covered

New Business

- ▣ Thomas is bringing us equipment from ABTO – mostly Christmas-theme. Decided to store it in the upper part of the “children’s layout” trailer.
- ▣ Claudia notes that we have two bins of TGRS merchandise: shirts, pins, embroider decals. Maybe make these free to members at a meeting? Margaret was asked to update our inventory of sizes and what we’ve got.

Upcoming meetings

**Jan 18 Club meeting at Willis Fagg’s layout –
trains at 1PM, meeting at 2 PM**

Jan 22 Lunch @ Red Garter

Feb 12 Board meeting @ Nelson’s 1PM

TUCSON GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY

General Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2025

Willis Fagg's Layout

20 club members signed the attendance sheet

Called to order at 2:01 PM with thanks to Dottie for hosting.

November minutes were approved by the meeting.

Club treasurer report – delivered by Claudia Nelson for Margaret Torres Nelson

☐ **Balance of \$17,644 across checking, savings, and a CD**

☐ **Expenses in December to supplement the holiday party, printing cards for RITG, storage unit rental, and insurance on the trailer.**

Vice President report: Claudia Nelson

☐ **Ocotillo Learning Center – had a good time, but it was less organized since our contact has been laid off.**

☐ **Southern Arizona Transportation Museum – Show went well. We had a location beside the line waiting to see Santa.**

☐ **Planned display at Tucson Wagon and History Museum on January 25. Setup from 0830, open show from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Surprising range of local groups will be there including SATM, the auto museum, the trolley museum, and Ft Lowell museum.**

☐ **Rails in the Garden has been set for March 8 & 9. Jerry has website ready to go live on January 21. Trying to get two club members to support each open house.**

Newsletter report:

☐ **Jim Miller is recovering from an operation. No newsletter in January.**

Membership: Jerry Tulino

☐ **Free memberships from last spring – two on-going after signing up 17 or 18.**

☐ **Planning to revise the “free membership” to a sticker on the back of a business card stating that you get a free year’s membership if you show up to a meeting. At the meeting, we will ask the prospect to fill out the on-line application web page.**

Website: Status quo, preparing to put in RITG information in the home page.

Public displays report: Charlie Weesner

☐ **No activity to report.**

☐ **The club still has two locomotives to dispose. A Bachmann two-truck shay that is new in-box and a Bachmann “Connie” 2-8-0 outside frame that needs the idler gear replaced.**

Social Activities: Ann Winter

☐ **Social luncheon Jan 22 at Red Garter.**

☐ **Ann Winter notes that few people participate in these luncheons. She proposes clinics on garden RR topics and asks for members to suggest either clinics they’d be willing to give or that they’d like to see. She’s compiling a list.**

Old business: none

New business:

☐ **Claudia has two crates of TGRS merch – T-shirts, polo shirts, some hats and decals. We need to distribute this to members.**

Meetings

☐ **Feb 12, 1PM TGRS board meeting @ Nelson’s house**

☐ **Feb 15, time TBD @ Rincon West – monthly meeting where we will distribute packets for RITG displays**



Links of Interest

ABTO - Arizona Big Train Operators (azbigtrains.org)

Clubs in Sun City and Surprise

As promised, below is the pertinent club information for both clubs.

Both layouts are located on city land, namely on one of their recreation centers (Sun City West has 2 of them), and the cities own the land and the track.

One can only become a member if one lives in the respective city, visitors are welcome.

Surprise

The contact is Wayne Herivel.

His email is: whereivel@cox.net

Their president is a lady called Margaret, I do not know her last name.

The railroad is called:

Grand Central Railroad

GRAND CENTRAL RAILROAD. | SURPRISE ARIZONA | WELCOME

Sun City West

Their G-Scale layout is located in one of the 2 recreation centers Sun City West owns.

The Model Railroad Club in Sun City West is actually several "divisions" each with specific focus on one scale. Included are N, HO and G.

The N+HO chapter are not located in the same rec center as the G-Scale chapter.

President overall Howie Mann

Tel (602) 545-8570

However, I spoke to and emailed a gent called Rich, who is listed on the club website as the contact for the G-Scale chapter.

His phone number is: 480-518-3402

email: rpaulsenFSSP@yahoo.com

Their website can be accessed at: <https://railroad.scwclubs.com/>

I strongly recommend a visit to both layouts, they are both very large and beautiful.

Both of them are open 3 times per week, there may also be some evening sessions available in the cooler weather. I hope this helps.

Both layouts are only about a 10 minute drive apart from each other.

Neither club has any connections whatsoever to TGRS or ABTO.

Best Regards

Thomas

The Short Line
January 2025
Happy New Year !

The pictures didn't come through

Maybe Santa brought you something nice for your trains and while this week was frigid, at least I felt that way, the groundhog will tell us on February 2, that spring is right around the corner.

Live trains

Nancy Haun of L'Anse, Michigan shoots a lot of CN freight trains coming into L'Anse down a very steep grade. L'Anse is in upper Michigan above Wisconsin. The grade down into town is quite steep as the video shows.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZ5GKxSu7rE>

Last summer she got to ride in a SOO LINE extended caboose behind Great Northern SD45 Hustle Muscle # 400. The train went from Duluth to Two Harbors, Minnesota and back to Duluth.

She writes of her adventure :

Part one of our visit to the Lake Superior Railroad Museum. We actually did not get to revisit the museum as we were invited to ride the 1966 steel Soo Line Caboose to Two Harbors. It was very enjoyable and I was invited to start up the engine the next day and ride in the cab again but as luck would have it my husband became ill and we had to go home. Part two has switching and train talk among the crew !

Here are videos and you might want to subscribe to her You Tube channel:

Part 1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HWFz_TBXi0

and part 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3GnV00-JBg>

I have been waiting for calendar pictures, but only John, Lou, and a few folks from out of state have supplied me with some great photos. I will have the calendar ready in a few days, so if you want to add

a picture, send a picture to me as a jpeg. Otherwise I will take pictures from my collection of club member's layouts. I am going to print the calendars on Tuesday and mail them out on Wednesday or Thursday.

1

The weather has been very cold to get out and do things, but it doesn't help when you have a bad cold. I am glad the cold snap is almost out of here as it hurts to even get the mail. Otherwise I feel fine sitting up. I have not done much, but answer e-mail, read railroad books and sleep in the recliner.

I did start to paint a NW2 cow and calf unit into Southern, The units are masked and awaiting the white for the lower stripe. But the basement is like an icebox and hopefully with warmer weather on the way, I can paint the white next week as the units are already in black and the decals are printed. In the beginning of January, I did make a chapel car for a pastor friend with a complete interior using a Bachmann combine. The text on the car lists the places he has pastored in the last 62 years. His son is our Pastor.

I have not done anything else on the On30 as I am awaiting another Number 1 kit to get the windows for my structure that was a shoe factory. In the 1970's, the folks who worked in the structure made furniture.

4

The Short Line continued

Bar Mills in 2005 decided to build a recreated station of a Maine narrow gauge railroad and moved the business inside the station. Bar Mills has on their website has a very interesting tour of their business which you can watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o87G10BE9-k>

I know many of the members of the club are into other scales such as N, HO, and O. Bar Mills makes nice kits for those scale. Their kits do take time, but the result is very nice. I took the HO Babcock Boiler Kit and built the kit during the Christmas break as a Christmas present for Larry Brown. I changed the name of the business from Babcock Boiler to Babcock Lumber which was a business in St Marys. The main thing with their kits is reading their instruction sheets carefully and following their suggestions as the kits are laser cut wood. They tell you in every kit to prime the wood with light cheap gray spray paint so the wood does not warp before painting it with cheap craft paints that you can get in Walmart or craft stores. I use all the parts in the kit, but I made my own roofing.

2

I found HO people at Hobby Lobby. Hobby Lobby also sells O scale folks which I have bought for the On30 layout. If you don't like the clothes colors, take a brush and in a few moments, you can change their appearance so they don't look like every one Hobby Lobby sells. I glued the structure to some foam board.

3

USA Trains Tank Car Are Coming Back

In a few weeks USA will get in another run of the 42 foot and 55 foot tank cars which are lettered in most of the original company names.

Road names are for the 42 foot cars: UTLX, Hooker, Englehard, Airco, Safety Kleen, ADM, Procor, BNSF, UP, and Sunoco.

Road names for the 55 foot cars are almost the same except no Safety Kleen, but with addition of Dupont and US Rail Leasing.

The cars, as before, will be made of aluminum with metal trucks and couplers. I like the looks of the

cars especially the 42 foot tank cars, but they are not happy running through my switches. I only have

one 42 ft car, but I do have 4 of the 29 foot cars. The 29 ft car can carry very heavy liquids. The 42 and 55 foot cars can carry all kinds of chemicals.

The Short Line Continued

Check out USA's new website to see the cars. usatrains.com

If you like a varied collection of freight cars for your garden railroad, get a copy of American Car & Foundry Company 1869-1999 by Edward Kaminski published by Signature Press, 1999

I bought my copy when it came out. It is a comprehensive book of the history of freight cars in 362 pages built by the American Car & Foundry. One of their main plants is located in Milton, PA where they build tank cars. They have other plants where they build covered hoppers and other kinds of freight cars.

The book starts the history of the company. The first major car produced by ACF was the tank car and the book shows early tanks cars made from 1865 up to the modern funnel flow cars. ACF was and is one of the main producer of tank cars.

The chapters in the book include:

39 pages on the history of the company including showing how tank cars are built

115 pages on tank cars

51 pages on house cars (box, reefer & stock),

10 pages on flat cars,

22 pages on open top hoppers and gondolas,

58 pages on covered hoppers

23 pages on passenger cars

17 on cabooses, snow plows, etc

The last few pages have drawings and specifications about tank cars

The book has 1260 b & w and color photos.

If you are buying any of USA tank cars, you can check them against the photos in the book

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**The next scheduled
BOD meeting will be
on Jan 15th
@ Nelsons'**

2024-2025 Fall Meetings

Train Ticket

⇒ Train Ticket

February 12 BOD meeting at Claudia's

**February 15 general meeting at Rincon
West's layout**





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](#)