



## Rails in the Garden

Will be Held on this March 7 and 8 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the Tucson area. This event offers a unique opportunity to explore the fascinating world of railroad layouts and learn more about the impact of railroads on southwestern Arizona. Interactive activities Hands-on operations Live steam demos Indoor & outdoor layouts

See website for details  
[tucsongrs.org](http://tucsongrs.org)



# TIMETABLE



## Next Meetings

Rails in the Garden March 7th & 8th

Social Luncheon March 11th

Board Meeting March 18 @ 1pm Claudia's

Next meeting April 4<sup>th</sup> at Charlies

**TUCSON GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY General Meeting Minutes February 7, 2026 RCW Layout 18 club members signed the attendance sheet and at least two more were present but failed to sign. Called to order at 12 PM with thanks to RCW for hosting. No guests or new members. January minutes were approved by the meeting.**

**Club treasurer report - Margaret**

- **Balance is just over \$12k: Over the past year, we spent more than we took in, mostly on the battery/Blunami for the county fair layout.**
- **Vice President report: Claudia Nelson**
- **Holiday displays from Mini Time Machine Museum (for NMRA 90th Anniversary), the SATM Christmas event, St Paul's preschool, the Ocotillo Learning Center, and a January "History Re-Lived" show at the Wagon and History Museum.**
- **Now ramping up for Rails in the Garden**
- **Newsletter report: Jim Miller**
- **Take a pictures of "What's on Your Workbench" to let members know what you're modeling. □ Send Jim any links to interesting articles for the newsletter.**
- **Old business:**
- **2026 Rails in the Garden - Ann has posters to put in public spaces for publicity. Generally doing OK on staffing. Ann has "elevator pitch" for the email to our previous attendance.**
- **Social luncheon - We've been getting more response as we vary the venue each month. New option - Ron notes that there's a "dinosaurs" dealer associated with the Tucson Gem Show at a location "just south" of the February luncheon. He proposes we go visit after the lunch this month.**
- **Pima County Fair - We will move trailers into the Old Pueblo Hall and unload them on March 27. The scouts will help with layout setup on March 28 - up to the point of running a train. On April 4th, after the meeting at Charlie's layout (9-11 AM), we will go to the fair grounds to set up buildings and "trim" the layout. We plan to modify the kids layout to a switching puzzle using printed small cars by David Nelson. New business:**
- **Board election - We need people to step up for the board for the coming two year cycle. It's time for new members to get involved directing the club.**
- **Zoo Lights show - We've been invited to have a layout at the zoo during their Zoo Lights show, Dec 1 to Jan 1. The concept is to use the 8x12 ft portable layout. John, Willis, and Claudia are**
- **Pete Firos (member in Sonoita) is taking out his layout and interested in passing along some of the equipment.**
- **Ann is trying to get the Voyager RV park to put in a public G gauge layout.**
- **Upcoming Meetings Feb 11 - social lunch at Redbird Scratch at Oracle and West Orange Grove Feb 25 - board meeting 1 PM at Nelson's house Mar 18 - board meeting 1 PM at Nelson's house Mar 27 - unload trailers at the Pima County Fair Mar 28 - set up modules Pima County Fair (with scouts) April 4 - club meeting @ Weesner trains at 9, meeting at 10 April 4 - after the meeting, county fair setup for buildings, scenery around layout**
- **Adjourned 12:48**
- **Calendar Dec 3 St Paul's Preschool Christmas layout 8:30 AM Dec 5**
- **Setup @ Mini Time Machine 9:00 AM Dec 5,6 Christmas night run Fennema 5:00 PM Dec 6 Mini Time Machine 10:00 AM**
- **Dec 11 Ocotillo Learning Center 8:30 AM Dec 12 December Christmas meeting @ Rodeo Museum 12:00 PM Dec 19 SATM set-up 12:00 PM Dec 20**
- **SATM Holiday Express 10:00 AM Jan 8 Setup @ Mini Time Machine 9:00 AM Jan 9,10 Mini Time Machine 10:00 AM Jan 14 Social lunch for TGRS Jan 21 TGRS**
- **Board meeting @ Nelson 1:00 PM Feb 7 TGRS meeting @ Rincon West 11:00 AM Feb 11 TGS Board meeting @ Nelson 1:00 PM**
- **Mar 7,8 Rails in the Garden tour - 10:00 AM**
- **Mar 11 Social lunch for TGRS Mar 18 TGRS Board meeting @ Nelson 1:00 PM Mar 28 TGRS meeting @ Weesner 10:00 AM**
- **April 16-26 Adjourned 10:47**

Board of Directors Minutes for February are posted on our  
Website

*Don't forget*

## Links of Interest

Center for Railroad  
Photography and Art  
Thanks Jerry

## Railroad books

The calendar for the 2025-26 year has been updated. Board of Directors meetings will continue at the same date and time, while general meetings are now scheduled for the fourth Saturday of each month. For current times and locations, please refer to our website calendar: <https://tucsongrs.org/CalendarOfEvents.shtml>  
Thanks Claudia

# What's on your workbench

My G Scale Project  
John Fenema

In October, I was in Albuquerque to visit grandkids and found a guy who was selling his friends G scale. His friend's home is my dream home, the entire basement, at least 1000 square feet, was filled with O scale and G scale layouts. Anyway, I purchased some rolling stock and saw an undecorated caboose in pieces on the side. I asked about it and he gave it to me.

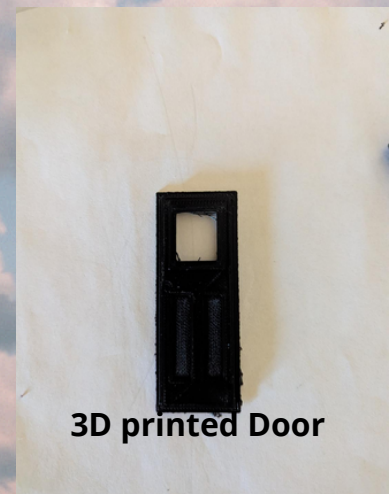
The caboose had Kadee couplers. To modify to Kadee couplers, the truck had the knuckle bracket cut off. So the caboose was missing a few pieces, Aristocraft trucks with knuckle, a smoke stack, battery box, marker light and walk platform. Charlie Weesner had a salvaged caboose and I was able to get those parts in exchange for the Kadee couplers. I was still missing a front door and ladder.

I painted the caboose with Southern Pacific Brown and Daylight Orange. I did not realize that the caboose was not prepped for paint. I had to layer coats of paint until I was satisfied with the look. Yes, I should have stopped and prepped it but I was already committed.

I applied all the decals from a G Scale microscale caboose decal kit. I used a picture on the web for placement. While the actual caboose is painted with Southern Pacific across the top above the windows, I modified to have Southern Pacific between the windows in an open space. Personally, it looks better.

As for the missing ladder and door, I 3D printed those parts with my son's Elegoo Neptune 3 Pro 3D printer. Both the door and ladder files were free from Thingiverse website. The ladder was easy to print. The door another story. While the files were in 1:129 scale, when printed it was 6.5mm short. I called my son for advice and he walked me through the stages to scale up. When I tried to print it, the nozzle was not in correct position and pulled up the filament. After 6 tries of adjusting the printer nozzle to different mm closeness, I finally got it to work. Also, the 3D filament is not prepped for paint. So that has to be done before painting.

I really enjoyed this project.



## What's on your Workbench Continued

Here's my latest "On My Work Bench" project.  
Steve Debord

It's a 1;20.3 scale Straining Beam Bridge. The bridge is prototypical for the late 1800's to the early 1900's.

The design features a diagonal wood and tie rod structure that creates an extremely strong load bearing bridge.

The center rail and tie assembly features both guard rails (the inner brass rails) and guard beams (the outer full length wood beams), these were used to help eliminate on bridge derailments. Initially I planned to build two complete bridges but halfway through the wood part of the build I decided to set aside the second bridge's wood components to finish at a later date.

This completed model has:

149 2-52 threaded brass tie rods, machine threaded both ends.

104 1-72 threaded brass tie rods, machine threaded both ends.

298 miniature 2-52 brass nuts and washers.

208 miniature 1-71 brass nuts and washers.

20 brass .032" thick backing plates

207 individual wood pieces.

Approximant time spent on the entire project:  
Research and development of the project 20hrs.

The 3D modeling 90hrs.

The design of drill and assemble jig's and fixture 30hrs.

Wood cutting took 30hrs.

Wood drilling took 10hrs.

The machining of tie rods 10hrs.

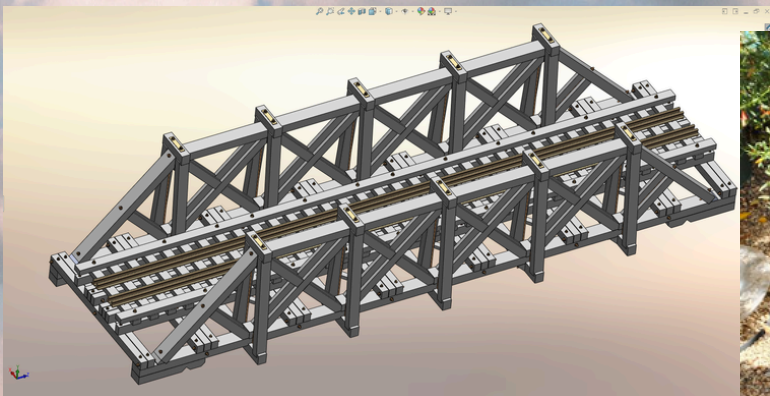
Assembly of all wood sub-assemblies 20hrs.

Final assemble 30hrs.

427hrs. for the entire project.

I don't plan on doing any finishing for a couple of years, this will let the wood weather and the brass to tarnish/oxidize in the Arizona sun.

This project was both fun and challenging.



**What's on your workbench p-3**

**Charlie's Log Dump and Smelter  
Chimney is about five and a half feet high**



## Luncheon at Redbird Scratch Kitchen + Bar

Our largest crowd of the year (17 hungry folks) showed up at the Redbird Scratch Kitchen + Bar for our monthly luncheon. The staff setup the tables for us all along one wall. There were 2 waitresses assigned to our group and they were both friendly and efficient.

The menu includes appetizers, burgers (2 smashed patties burger), chicken sandwiches and wings, salads, tacos, "sidekicks" (fries, chips & salsa, and fruit, etc.). Since there were so many of us, we ordered a wide variety of items, from appetizers to their famous burgers. As far as I was able to discern, everyone was very satisfied with their meal. All of the food is fresh and is made from scratch.

There was conversation galore and, while some of it centered on trains and railroads, much of it was about the desire to be "on the water" for club members. Cruises of the many islands of the Caribbean were discussed in detail. Also, quite a few club members have been on river cruises, both here in the US and in Europe. The consensus seems to be that either way, ocean or river, cruising is a great relaxing and sometimes educational adventure. On many occasions it also includes grandchildren and their parents, a great "family vacation".

If you haven't been to one of the luncheons, I encourage you to consider attending in the future. We've enjoyed various cuisines like, Italian, Mexican, American, Bar-B-Que and travelled around the city, north, south, east and west in search of interesting/unique venues.



## OFFICERS

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The next scheduled  
BOD meeting will be  
on Mar 18, 2026  
@ Nelsons'

## 2025 Fall Meetings

Train Ticket

⇒ Train Ticket

Mar 18 BOD meeting at Claudia's

April 4 TGRS meeting @ Charlie's



**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](mailto: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](#)**