



THE ABTO GAZETTE

March, 2025

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Mailing address: P.O. Box 50428, Mesa, AZ. 85208

Visit at: www.azbigtrains.org



Ernie & Anita Broughton's Railroad

Photos by Don Sorenson

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THE ABTO GAZETTE

President's Message March Gazette

I hope that everyone had a good Valentine's Day. We followed up with a meeting at Anita and Ernie Broughton's house. The layout is ever changing and has over a quarter mile of track. It is a prime example of what an elevated track can accomplish.

Last weekend we held our Annual Spring Open House event. It started out slow and remained slow but the weather was perfect. We are definitely going to need more and better advertising to keep it going in the future. Most of the people said they only saw the signs as they drove by and stopped out of curiosity. One guy even stopped to buy trains for his brother. This was not the end result that we were hoping for.

March 15th will be our Auction and BBQ at John Vogt's house. Approximately 90 items will be up for sale including engines, cars, building parts, track, switches and other miscellaneous stuff. Two thirds will be consignment items changing hands from member to member. One complete donation to ABTO will be auctioned off. Most of the cars are Aristocraft and are new or like new.

A set of Napa Valley heavy weight cars and engine will be sold as a set of seven. These are like new with no noticeable wear from light use. Remember that we will be accepting cash, check or credit cards for payment. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served for lunch including chips and water. Members are requested to bring a side, salad or dessert to share. The auction list and rules will be sent out on the 7th and 8th of March which gives you a week to decide which items you wish to take home. Schedule for Saturday is as follows:

8:45 to 9:00am	View items for auction
9:00 to 12 noon	Auction
12:00 to 1:00pm	Lunch
1pm	Payments will be accepted

ABTO has been asked by the Mesa City Red Mountain Library to once again host a July indoor, air conditioned event. We will need people to run trains, talk to visitors and, of course, set up and tear down. Please contact me if you can help out.

Darrell Woolfolk
480-818-1715
ABTO President

TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday,	March	9	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting @ Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday	March	15	9:00am	ABTO Auction & BBQ at John & Janet Vogt's Residence
Sunday,	April	6	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting @ Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	April	19	TBA	ABTO Membership Meeting @ John & Boots Gordon's
Sunday,	May	11	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting @ Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	May	17	TBA	ABTO Membership Meeting @ John & Pat Meyers' Home



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Updated Information

NEW Phone Number

Chris Armstrong

602-781-8887



ABTO 2025 DUES

Dues: \$35.00

Name Tag: \$10.00

The 2025 Dues may be paid at Membership Meetings or if you prefer to pay by mail (No Cash), mail your payment to:

Arizona Big Train Operators

P.O. Box 50428

Mesa, AZ 85208

Or contact Darrell Woolfolk 480.818.1715

ABTO Auction & BBQ

March 15, 2025

John & Janet Vogt

1341 E. Folley Place

Chandler, AZ 85225

8:00am Setup Items

Please give chance to Setup & Don't Touch

Viewing ASAP or 8:45am

9am-12pm-Auction

Noon-1pm-Lunch & Side Event

Rolling Distance Challenge during lunch and bring a single best rolling stock

1:00pm-Payments accepted

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, fixings, chips, plates & utensils

Members bring a favorite side, salad or dessert to share

Water will be furnished

Cash, checks & Credit Cards accepted and no Credit Card Charges will be incurred

PLEASE RSVP Darrell Woolfolk by

March 7th. Call or text at 480-818-1715 or email at dpwoolfolk@yahoo.com



2025 Membership Meetings

March 15-Auction & BBQ-John & Janet Vogt's

April 19-John & Boots Gordon

May 17-John & Pat Meyers

June 21-Needs Hosts

July 19-TBA

THE ABTO GAZETTE

ABTO Membership Meeting, Saturday, February 15, 2025 held at Ernie & Anita Broughton's Home

1/ Welcome to 2025-Darrel welcomed everyone. The meeting began at 10:40am.

2/ New Members or Guests: No new members or guests.

3/ Anita & Ernie's Layout-Ernie mentioned that there is a For Sale table at the entrance to the house with rolling stock with good prices or give an offer. Also, there is 500' track left over and selling at \$2.00 foot. mentioned that there is over 1300 feet of track. New items are a farm in Wyaconda, Missouri with a Sante Fe Station and there will be a continuation of adding to the layout with a tunnel at the back wall to cover the track on a steel frame in case the tunnel needs to be moved in the future. Also has custom lights hanging along the wall. They are letting the grass die inside the layout and will replace with artificial turf and Ernie mentioned that there is some free astro turf on the way out that members are welcome to take. For the Christmas Open Houses, they added an oval track next to the house at the entrance. Ernie mentioned at the back table there are 2 layouts all made with Legos including a Castle, Harry Potter and a Lego electric train. Ernie is looking for a swing set for the layout and the Santa Fe has no sound but needs cheap sound. Anita mentioned that the platforms are cement board and painted the aluminum stands. Also at the Christmas Open Houses there is a scavenger hunt looking for Santa Clause's, 4 bears and kisses for the kids to find.

4/ Spring Open Houses-February 22-23, 2025

A/ Noon to 4PM

B/ Down to 5 layouts-Pete Lassen and Pam Morris had to close due to family.

C/ Trains in the Garden with Dave-Darrell mentioned that ABTO has never sponsored Trains in the Garden with Dave and Darrell had mentioned that Dave Stone contacted him around 2-3 years ago and declined anything to Dave. It is the members decision to have their layouts video taped and put on YouTube without their name, location or name of their railroad and not sure if tapes are copyrighted. Kelly Snow had let Dave video tape his layout and he never received a video copy of his layout

5/ March Auction &BBQ

A/ John Vogt's home.

B/ Setup at 8AM and please give chance to setup and don't touch

C/ Viewing of items at 8:45 or ASAP

D/ Auction from 9 am to 12 noon

E/ Lunch and side event from 12 to 1pm

F/ Payments at 1 pm

G/ Members to bring a side dish

H/ Cash, check or credit card

Darrell mentioned that the consignment spaces are full.

Steve Lewis will have a test track to test engines prior to auction.

6/ Railfair on October 3rd, 4th and 5th-Setup will be Friday, October 3rd.

7/ Mesa Library—August-September or October 6 through the 10th-Darrell had contacted Melissa at the library and she told Darrell the Summer is booked up and would like ABTO October 6th-10th. The library is open for ABTO August and September while the schools are open . A motion was made by Steve Lewis for June or July schedule only. 1/ Steve L. 2/ Ernie B. All Approved.

From the Floor

Steve Lewis asked how the treasurer's report was and Darrell said that stocks are down and ABTO still has money.

Mike Temenski comes into town on Sunday and he has 3 more containers to fill.

Alex Castellanos is looking to get a transformer.

Adam Downer is looking for track and it was mentioned that Ernie has track for sale.

Darrell W. mentioned he had driven by the Arizona Train Museum and they still have limited parking.

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Minutes Continued

Pete L. mentioned the ABTO website and needs updating. Darrell mentioned that Gale maintains the website and he is going to contact Gale and see who the signer is. Pete L. suggested contacting Garden News about possible names updating the website and Darrell mentioned how much does ABTO want to pay someone. Marvin Malkowski volunteered to help with the website.

Ernie B. uses Split Jaws and Crest clamps #CRE11930 from RLD Hobbies.

John Snider showed how to use old unusable cars and contact John for further information. John S. does a lot of military cars. If a member has an old, unusable car, send a photo to John to see what he suggests.

Steve L. mentioned that 25-50 Bachman ties for \$60.00 in Las Vegas.

Side Event-use rolling stock possibly a passenger car and put on the straight away track and see how far it goes and could end up on a curve. If a crash, there is a chance that member could receive our Snuffy Award at the end of year

Pete Lassen mentioned that the Ryan House is down to 1 Locomotive. And nothing has been purchased since 2017. Darrell W. mentioned that there is an agreement that the Ryan House purchases anything needed for the layout, same as the agreement with Banner Children's Hospital and they have a \$5000.00 yearly budget. Pete L. thinks ABTO should purchase an engine, why not? Darrell W. responded with donations have dropped off, kept registration at \$35.00, paid post office \$300 for a year, insurance going thru the roof and storage costs are up and ABTO is surviving due to stocks doing well in 2024 and trying to maintain an even keel

8/ Raffle-Michael Henry

9/ Door Prizes-1/ Steve Lewis 2/ Richard Webster 3/ Don Sorenson

Meeting adjourned at 12Noon 1. Darrell W. 2. Don S.

Minutes submitted: by Ginny Morris, Secretary

DESCRIPTION	EACH
30 R1 Curved sections	\$4.00 ea
3 RH long (18.5) turnouts	\$45.00 ea
3 LH long (18.5) turnouts	\$45.00 ea
100 Aluminium Split jaws	\$1.00 ea
3 Box cars	\$ 45.00 ea
5 Gondolas	\$ 40.00 ea
4 Caboose	\$35.00 ea
Email rsimmel@Yahoo.com or call 480-646-1064	



2025 SWAP MEETS & SHOWS

Adobe Mountain Model Train Show

Saturday, March 15, 2025-9am-1pm
 Adobe Mountain Railroad Park
 22822 N. 43rd Avenue
 Phoenix, AZ

Grand Canyon Mini-Swap Meet

Saturday, April 26, 2025-9am-Noon
 Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
 1212 E. Glendale Avenue
 Phoenix, AZ 85020
 Check ArizonaModelTrains.com for updates

The Trains Will Be Running Again

Tucson Annual Rails in the Garden will be on Saturday, March 8th and Sunday, March 9th. 10am-4pm

There will be 9 layouts on the tour this year and many "enhanced" visitor-favorites. Check their website: tucsongrs.org for locations, etc.

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Meeting Photos by Don Sorenson



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Meeting Photos by Don Sorenson

Steve Lewis



Richard Webster



Don Sorenson



Raffle Winner Michael Henry



Meeting Photos by James Riddle





Arizona Big Train Operators
1633 E. Lakeside Drive
Unit 1
Gilbert, AZ 85234

ARIZONA BIG TRAIN OPERATORS



OBJECTIVES

Membership in Arizona Big Train Operators (ABTO) is open to anyone with an interest in gardening and the creation & operation of large scale railways. At our meetings, items of mutual interest associated with the hobby are discussed and demonstrated.

Meetings are typically held at member's homes, where they have the opportunity to showcase their railway creations. General meetings are usually held on the third Saturday of the month.

ABTO BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings will be held on Sunday prior to the general meeting of each month. Board meetings are open to members who are current on their dues and have an item for the agenda. If you plan to attend, call a Board Member to confirm location, time and date.

ABTO MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The renewal fee is \$35.00 per year. This entitles you to attend all meetings and events and to receive the monthly newsletter. Each name badge will be an additional \$10.00.

Members are encouraged to contribute articles, letters, illustrations and/or photographs related to garden railroading for inclusion in the newsletter and/or posting on the club website

Members who have hobby-related items for sale or trade may submit an advertisement for publication and/or posting at no charge. Please limit each ad to a maximum of four lines. Accompanying photos will be considered for publication as space allows.