



THE ABTO GAZETTE

August, 2025

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Visit at: www.azbigtrains.org



Railfair , 2024

Photo by Don Sorenson

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THE ABTO GAZETTE

President's Message August Gazette

August is upon us and the year has gone by fast. I hope you have started buying your Christmas presents. All joking aside, 2026 will be here before we know it. ABTO's calendar for the next 5 months is posted on page 3. If you are able to participate in any of our activities, please do.



Railfair this year is supposed to be a special celebration event. We have already been approved for our spot at the entrance. In 2026, the Railfair event is moving to the Spring.

For this month's membership meeting, we are going to our scrap and junk piles that most of us have around the house. With an open mind, it is surprising what you can repurpose or create. I have seen several of our members build steam engines, buildings, spaceships and many more layout features. Thrift stores, junk piles and broken toys are several inexpensive ways to find these items. I personally love to fabricate and weld with steel work. Building bridges or scrap loads for train cars are something that I find enjoyable. John Snider has kit bashed and created complete new steam engines from miscellaneous parts and pieces left over from our hobby. These new engine builds are truly works of art.

Gardening and planting of trees and shrubbery will also be presented later this year. We are trying to bring you different types of clinics that pertain to our hobby. If you have a topic idea or wish to present a topic, please step forward and help us make our layouts the best that they can be.

Darrell Woolfolk
ABTO President
480-818-1715



THE ABTO GAZETTE

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**ABTO Membership Meeting
August 16, 2025**

**Val Vista Lakes Pro Shop
1600 E. Lakeside Drive
Gilbert, AZ 85234**

9:30am-Meeting begins

10:00am-Topics

**Using Junk Collection and how to
use on your Layout**

Sorry no food served this month

Water will be available

CALENDAR OF EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday,	August	10	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting @ Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	August	16	9:30am	ABTO Membership Meeting @ Val Vista Lakes Pro Shop
Sunday,	Sept.	14	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting @ Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	Sept.	20	TBA	ABTO Membership Meeting at Ryan House, Phoenix, AZ
Friday,	Oct.	3	8am	SETUP at McCormick-Stillman RR Park, Scottsdale, AZ
Sat & Sun	Oct.	4 & 5	10am-5pm	RUNNING trains at McCormick-Stillman RR Park Railfair
Sunday,	Oct.	5	5pm	TEARDOWN Module
Sunday,	Oct.	12	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting @ Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	Oct.	18	TBA	ABTO Membership Meeting @ John & Diane Snider's home
Sunday,	Nov.	9	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting @ Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	Nov.	15	TBA	ABTO Membership Meeting @ Steve & Judy Lewis's home
<u>AND ELECTIONS</u>				
Saturday,	Dec.	6	TBA	ABTO Christmas Party
Sat. & Sun.	Dec.	13 & 14	4pm-8pm	ABTO Christmas Open Houses
Sat. & Sun.	Dec.	20 & 21	4pm-8pm	ABTO Christmas Open Houses



2025 Membership Meetings-Tentative

September 20-Ryan House, Phoenix,AZ

October 18-John & Diane Snider's Home

November 15-Steve & Judy Lewis Home

And ABTO Election.

December 6-ABTO Dinner

THE ABTO GAZETTE



October 5th & 6th
10:00am-5:00pm

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park
7301 E. Indian Bend Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85250

This is an ABTO Module Event

Setup Module-Friday, October 3rd-8am

Running Rains-Saturday & Sunday-10am-5pm

Teardown Module-Sunday-5pm—???

Come out and join in the fun and run your trains, metal wheels are required.

Helping with setup of modules, run trains and teardown is appreciated.

Contact Darrell Woolfolk if interested in helping, etc.
dpwoolfolk@yahoo.com

SPECIAL NOTE: 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARK

This year's Railfair is extra special—its being held in conjunction with their Golden Jubilee celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the park's grand opening. One highlight will be the creation of the iconic steam engine photo.



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSES

December 13, 14, 20 & 21, 2025
4:00pm-8:00pm

If interested in participating in the Open Houses, please contact:

Darrell Woolfolk

dpwoolfolk@yahoo.com

Cell-480-818-1715

ABTO 2025 DUES

Dues: \$35.00

Name Tag: \$12.00

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

2025 SWAP MEETS & SHOWS

Fall Cactus Swap Meet

Saturday, September 27, 2025—9am-12pm
North Phoenix Baptist Church-Fellowship Center
5757 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Swap Meet

Saturday, October 25, 2025-9am-noon-1pm
Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Park
22822 N. 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

Check ArizonaModelTrains.com for updates

WHEELS, REPLACEMENT TIES and ABTO Merchandise For Sale

Bachman Wheels-31mm metal wheels-

6 cards-\$98.00 case

American Ties-Case of 48--\$48.00

Euro Ties-Bundles of 20--\$23.00

**ABTO Merchandise includes hats, t-shirts,
golf shirts, vests and patches**

VESTS ON SALE—\$30.00—ALL SIZES

Cash, check and credit cards accepted



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 \$12.00.

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.