



THE ABTO GAZETTE

October, 2025

Volume 30

Number 10

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

Visit at: www.azbigtrains.org



John & Diane Snider's Sniderville Railroad

Photo by Don Sorenson

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President's Message October Gazette

Great news, summer is almost over. We will probably still see several 100-degree days, but cooler weather and outdoor train time is here.

We have a great opportunity this weekend at McCormick-Stillman's Railfair. Our set-up will be Friday at 8 am. It usually takes about 5 hours to setup our full module layout. Saturday the 4th will be from 9 am to 5 pm run time. You can come and run trains for any part of that day. Sunday is from 9 am to 5 pm run time. At about 2:30 pm, we will start to tear down the dioramas and extra items. We will continue to run trains until usually 3:30 pm or so, depending on the crowd. If you can help with tear down, we would appreciate the help.

Food trucks will be available on Saturday but only the snack bar will be open on Sunday. So come join ABTO and many other train clubs for the biggest train weekend of the year.

On October 18th, we will be meeting at John and Diane Snyder's house for an evening show. Details are in the Gazette. We don't normally have after dark meetings, but this way we can see John's layout with its many highlights. Members can bring salads and desserts.

Arizona Railroad Museum is trying to continue with their fall festival on November 22nd. That is the weekend before Thanksgiving. If we have enough volunteers to setup, run and tear down, then we will participate. Due to location constraints, our layout will be smaller than in years past. A two-track setup will still be utilized with our dioramas.

Start thinking about attending our December 6th at the end of the year dinner at Mi Amigos restaurant. A \$25 per person fee can be paid at any meeting or event.

Dues are also starting to be collected for 2026.

Regards,
Darrell Woolfolk
ABTO President
480-818-1715

ABTO 2025 DUES

Dues: \$35.00

Name Tag: \$12.00

The 2026 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

2026 Dues are Due by December 31, 2025



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ABTO Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 18, 2025

John & Diane Snider

2713 E. Villa Maria Drive

Phoenix, AZ 85032

5:30PM— Welcome and View Railroad

6:00PM— Meeting/Pizza

Members may bring salads or desserts.

Water will be available

**Payment of 2026 Dues and the Dinner
may be paid at the meeting.**

ABTO 2026 Dues-\$35.00

Dinner-\$25.00 per person

Cash, Credit Cards and Cash Accepted.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday,	Oct.	3	8:00am	SETUP at McCormick-Stillman RR Park, Scottsdale, AZ
Saturday	Oct.	4	9am-5pm	RUNNING trains at McCormick-Stillman RR Park-Railfair
Sunday,	Oct.	5	9am-3:30pm	RUNNING trains at McCormick-Stillman RR Park-Railfair
Sunday,	Oct.	5	2:30pm	START TEARDOWN Module but run 2 trains until 3:30pm
Sunday,	Oct.	12	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting @ Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	Oct.	18	5:30pm	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>				
Friday,	Nov.	21	8am	Setup at Arizona Train Museum Module Event-Chandler
Saturday	Nov.	22	9am	Arizona Train Museum Module Event
Saturday,	Dec.	6	6pm	ABTO "End of Year" Christmas Dinner
Sat. & Sun.	Dec.	13 & 14	4pm-8pm	ABTO Christmas Open Houses
Sat. & Sun.	Dec.	20 & 21	4pm-8pm	ABTO Christmas Open Houses

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ABTO Membership Meeting Minutes, September 20, 2025 held at Ryan House

1/ Welcome-Darrell welcomed everyone and began meeting at 10:30am after maintaining the railroad.

2/ New Members or Guests-No new members or guests

3/ Board Short Meeting prior to Membership Meeting-Darrell mentioned that the Board had a short meeting about the website. Go Daddy has the website. Darrell also mentioned 2 weeks ago, a few board members made 6 attempts to get on GoDaddy with no success, still working on the Website. Our GoDaddy contact person no longer works there

4/ Railfair-Darrell mentioned everything is good to go. Friday setup is 8am-???, Saturday run trains from 9am-5pm and Sunday run trains from 9am-5pm with the Dioramas starting to be torn down on Sunday around 2:30pm. McCormick-Stillman RR Park will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary (Golden Jubilee), Saturday from 3pm-8:30PM.

We need more members for setup, run trains and teardown, please contact Darrell.

5/ Arizona Train Museum-Fall Festival will be held Saturday, November 22, 2025. Darrell mentioned that the event is not beneficial to ABTO other than passing out the COH Flyers. Parking is limited and Darrell will be calling the new President about the Festival.

6/ Christmas Open Houses-will be held December 13, 14, 20 & 21st from 4PM-8PM.

There are 8 members that will be open. If interested in participating, please contact Darrell.

7/ Banner Children's Hospital is still in limbo.

8/ Adjournment at 10:45AM

Welcome New Members

Barton & Pam Peck
1456 W. 1st Place
Mesa. AZ 85201
Cell 480-22-8016

2025 Membership Meetings

October 18-John & Diane Snider's Home
November 15-Steve & Judy Lewis Home
And **ABTO Election**.
December 6-ABTO Dinner



THE ABTO GAZETTE

ABTO "End of Year " CHRISTMAS DINNER

6:00pm-9:00pm

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Mi Amigo's Restaurant

1264 S, Gilbert Road Mesa, AZ 85204

This will be a Mexican buffet held in a private Banquet Room and it will include main course, vegetable and beverage, salsa and chips. Desserts and Alcoholic Beverages will be members responsibility to pay.

Cost per person will be \$25.00 which includes the meal, gratuity and sales tax and payment will be accepted at the October Membership Meeting. Cash, Check or Credit Cards will be accepted. If you plan to attend the dinner and not able to attend the October meeting, please contact Darrell Woolfolk at:

dpwoolfolk@yahoo.com or

Cell-480-818-1715

Think about wanting to do a Gift Exchange with a train related gift and the maximum amount and will be discussed at the membership meeting.

SEE ABTO TRAINS 2025 IN THE GARDEN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSES

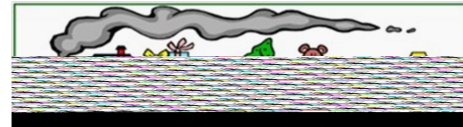
Saturday & Sunday

December 13 & 14 4:00pm-8:00pm

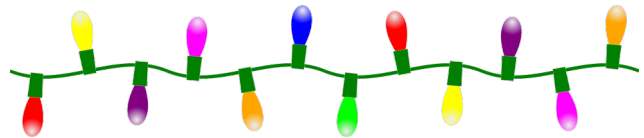
December 20 & 21 4:00pm-8:00pm

Celebrating the holidays with home layouts with G-scale garden layouts on display at multiple locations throughout the Phoenix area for public viewing.

Bring the family and don't miss out on the fun!



Your tax-deductible donations will be accepted and used to support ABTO Activity throughout the Valley. ABTO members volunteer to maintain the train layouts at Banner Children's Hospital and the Ryan House



ABTO Christmas Open House Participants-December 13, 14, 20 & 21, 2025—4:00pm-8:00pm

West Side

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 1/ Pete & Debbie Lassen | 9252 W. Lockland Court | Peoria 85382 |
| 2/ Terry & Carolyn Fields | 19020 N. 12th Place | Phoenix 85024 |

East Valley-Mesa

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| 3/ Terry & Adrienne Haas | 1861 E. Fountain Street | Mesa 85203 |
| 4/ Ernie & Anita Broughton | 1649 E. Garnet Avenue | Mesa 85204 |
| 5/ Don Sorenson | 6130 E. Colby Street | Mesa 85205 |

East Valley-Chandler

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 6/ Danny & Amy Farrow | 767 E. Ivanhoe Street | Chandler 85225 |
| 7/ John & Janet Vogt | 1341 E. Folley Place | Chandler 85225 |

East Valley-San Tan Valley

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 8/ Wesley & Allison Schriver | 1149 E. Saddleback Place | San Tan Valley 85143 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|

ABTO CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSES-December 13, 14, 20 & 21, 2025

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**October 4th & 5th
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 Trains-Saturday-9am-5pm

Sunday-9am-3:30pm

**Teardown Module-Sunday-2pm but will
maintain running 2 trains until 3:30pm**

**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.*

Check Website: therailroadpark.com

**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

2025 SWAP MEETS & SHOWS

Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Swap Meet

Saturday, October 25, 2025-9am-1pm

Adobe Mountain Desert Railroad Park

22822 N. 43rd Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

ARHS Model Train Swap Meet

Saturday, November 8, 2025 –9am

Glendale Christian Church

9661 N. 59th Avenue, Glendale, AZ

Gadsden-Pacific Model Train Show

Sunday, November 9, 2025-9am-2pm

Gadsden-Pacific Division Toy Train Op. Museum

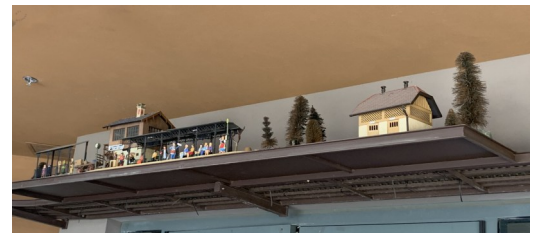
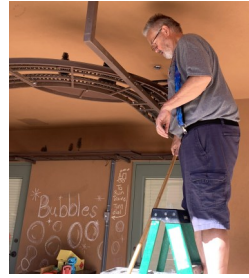
3975 N. Miller Avenue

Tucson, AZ

Check ArizonaModelTrains.com for updates

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Meeting Photos at Ryan House by Don Sorenson





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.