



THE ABTO GAZETTE

November, 2025

Volume 30

Number 11

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

Visit at: www.azbigtrains.org



John & Diane Snider's Sniderville Railroad

Photo by Don Sorenson

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Calendar of Events

November Membership Meeting Information

October Membership Meeting Minutes

Arizona Railway Museum Module Event Information

ABTO Christmas Open House Information

THE ABTO GAZETTE

President's Message November Gazette



Halloween has had a lot of young people running around dressed up looking for handouts (candy). I enjoy this time of the year because it reminds me of years long gone by when we were young. We were free and safe to run around to collect candy, pencils, pennies and much more. It just seemed like a much simpler time of life. I still live in the neighborhood that I grew up in. Actually 61 years on the same street. Now, it's all rentals for ASU students and Air B&Bs. My grand-kids can't enjoy the same freedoms that I did as a youth like play outside until the street lights came on, drink water from the garden hose and feel safe around people I didn't know.

I guess this is why I play with trains and enjoy a great group of people called ABTO. We have a busy time of year ahead of us with quite a few events. The November 15th meeting, a module event at the Arizona Railway Museum on November 22nd and Thanksgiving weekend to be with family and friends.

December has our club end of the Dinner on the 6th. Christmas Open House on the 13th, 14th, 20th and 21st. If that's not enough, then you have to survive Christmas weekend. As I said before, "What happened to the simpler Life?"

We had a great evening meeting at John and Diane Snider's house at the October meeting. It is always fun trying to figure out which loop, buildings or bypass the head engineer has changed and built into his layout. We met a new club member, Cherryl Jackson, who is ready to rebuild her current layout. The evening atmosphere definitely put a different view on the layout.

Please contact Darrell Woolfolk for information about set up or running trains at the Arizona Railway Museum. We need people to participate and have fun talking with other train groups.

Our Club Dinner will be held at the Mi Amigo's restaurant on December 6th. A gift exchange is optional for the participants. A \$20 train related item is asked for as a gift. Please make it something that you would like to receive. The dinner cost is \$25 per person.

Dues and Dinner payments are being collected at any of our events and meetings by Darrell Woolfolk. Make checks out to ABTO if using this method.

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

Welcome New Member

Cherryl Jackson
7440 S. 20th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85042
Cell 480-516-8119

THE ABTO GAZETTE

CONTENTS

President's Message.....	2
2026 Dues are Due.....	2
Welcome New Member.....	2
November Membership Meeting Info.....	3
Calendar of Events.....	3
ABTO "End of Year Dinner & Party Info.....	4
Christmas Open House Information.....	4
November Membership Mtg. Minutes.....	5
Fall Rail Festival Module Event Info.....	6
Swap Meets.....	6
Wheels, Ties & ABTO Merchandise For Sale,,	6
Door Prize & Raffle Winners.....	6
November Meeting Photos.....	6 & 7 & 8
Railfair Photos.....	9

ABTO Membership Meeting
Saturday, November 15, 2025
Steve & Judy Lewis
925 E. Saddleback Place
San Tan Valley, AZ 85143

**10:00AM—Welcome and
View Railroad**

10:30AM—-Meeting

11:00AM—-Election

Pastries will be provided

Water will be available

PLEASE BRING CHAIRS

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

ABTO 2026 Dues-\$35.00

Dinner-\$25.00 per person

***In case of rain, the meeting will be held
in the garage***

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday,	Nov.	9	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting @ Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	Nov.	15	10am	ABTO Membership Meeting @ Steve & Judy Lewis's home And Elections
Friday,	Nov.	21	8am	Setup at Arizona Train Museum Module Event-Chandler
Saturday,	Nov.	22	9am	Arizona Train Museum Module Event
Saturday,	Nov.	22	4pm	Teardown Module
Saturday,	Dec.	6	6pm-9pm	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
Saturday,	Jan.	11	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting @ Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	Jan.	17	TBA	ABTO Membership Meeting @ Terry & Carolyn Fields

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 November Membership Meeting. Cash, Check or Credit Cards accepted. If you plan to attend the dinner and not able to attend the November meeting, please contact Darrell Woolfolk at:

dpwoolfolk@yahoo.com or

Cell-480-818-1715

Also there will be a gift exchange with a train related gift costing no more than \$20.00,

SEE ABTO TRAINS 2025 IN THE GARDEN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSES

Saturday & Sunday

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

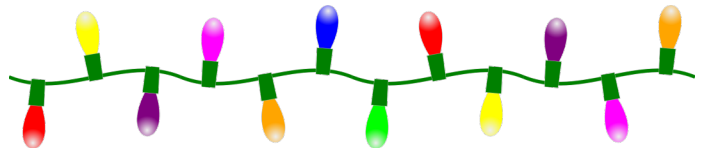
December 20 & 21 4:00pm-8:00pm

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 |
| 6/ Pam & Craig Morris | 7214 E. Avesta Circle | Mesa 85208 Open only 12/20 & 21 |

East Valley-Chandler

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 7/ Danny & Amy Farrow | 767 E. Ivanhoe Street | Chandler 85225 |
| 8/ John & Janet Vogt | 1341 E. Folley Place | Chandler 85225 |

East Valley-San Tan Valley

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 9/ Wesley & Allison Schriver | 1149 E. Saddleback Place | San Tan Valley 85143 |
| 10/ Steve & Judy Lewis | 925 E. Saddleback Place | San Tan Valley 85143 |

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

THE ABTO GAZETTE

ABTO Membership Meeting, October 18, 2025 held at John & Diane Snider's Home

1/ Darrell Woolfolk opened the meeting at 6:05pm

2/ Attendance-Darrell welcomed everyone.

3/ Railfair-Darrell mentioned that he felt that the event went pretty well. Saturday evening was 50th celebration of the Park and Pete, James, Chris and Darrell stayed until the end of the Celebration and Pete ran his trains. Darrell thinks that 2000 people+ passed our layout and James passed out COH flyers constantly. There was also a nice Drone show in the evening. Three days prior to the event, the park bumped the location of our layout further back. Darrell mentioned that the new building is complete and has a large climbing engine with different levels inside to climb.

4/ John Snider spoke about his Sniderville Railroad-John spoke about his 2 circles getting larger, took over the house areas and had to check with Diane before the extra turnout was built. John has to do some replacements and spoke about his kitbashing his old engines into new engines like the picture of his latest work in photos a blue rail bus that John explained what items he used. Cheryl asked John about his track with curves. John mentioned that his tunnel was started after a meeting discussing portals and then he built one with help from his brother. Diane, his wife, is ok with some of his work. It was mentioned for members to take a look into his workshop.

From the Floor

Don Halver, Charter Member-gave an update on past members-**Ennis Thompson** is 90 years old and back in Indiana living with his son and Marsha is in Hospice. **Gary Bang** passed away recently and he had an elevated layout and always participated in the COH's., **Rich Hull** is back working, not on the radio and members spoke about Rich's Circus Room and large, tall Ferris Wheel, Darrell spoke about his experience running Rich's engines for the first time, **Jack Johnson** has had 3-4 different layouts and participated in Open Houses and now will be putting his house up for sale, **Roy Towne** has good and bad days, **Bob Rauperstrauch** is staying active and has rebuilt two 7 ½ steamers and now working on a 15" live steamer but had some damage done after the MicroBurst, Bob does fantastic work.

John Snider visited The Fairplex with his brother when younger and revisited the Fairplex with his brother this year.

Vince Simpson spoke about lubrication and keeping the track clean and at the August meeting Vince had given John Snider a track cleaner to try. Vince said that 4 wheel bobber cars work better and putting underneath like ScotchBrite but Vince has come with sanding sponges that he purchased at Harbor Freight and using weights and nails. Darrell had made ¼" steel plates for weights and made 3"x2 3/8" plates and Vince made up a few sample kits to give to members (pieces steel, sponge and couple nails

John did extensive run with both ways (one from August and today's sample).

New Member-Cherryl Jackson, we met Cherryl at Railfair. Cherryl lives in S. Phoenix and had a horse but had to put him down recently. Her father and late brother got her into trains and now has a layout inside her house but will move into her barn shortly. She has trains and eggliners. She now has something new to work on. Cherryl had brought an engine to see if anyone could help her and Pete offered to help her get the engine running.

Arizona Train Museum will be holding a Fall Rail Festival, Saturday, November 22nd from 9am-4pm. Darrell has put together a plan that would take 4-5 members to set up. Members may run tankers and box cars but not long trains. Will run Saturday and then teardown module Saturday after 4pm.

"End of Year Dinner" will be held on Saturday, December 6th from 6pm-9pm. It was voted by members to have a gift exchange with a train related item purchased for no more than \$20.00.

Darrell is collecting 2026 Dues and for the Dinner.

January Membership Meeting will be at the Fields residence and the topic will be Plants and Trees.

Door Prizes--1/ Don Sorenson 2/ Pete Lassen 3/ John Snider

Adjourned at 7:30pm

Minutes submitted: by Ginny Morris, Secretary



2025/26 Membership Meetings

**November 15-Steve & Judy Lewis Home
and ABTO Election.**

December 6-ABTO Dinner

January 17, 2026-Terry & Carolyn Fields home

THE ABTO GAZETTE

WE ARE BACK ON TRACK!

Arizona Railway Museum Presents Our 3rd Annual

FALL RAIL FESTIVAL

**Saturday
November 22, 2025
9am - 4pm**

Come See Our Historic
Rail Cars & Locomotives
Open and On Display!

Admission & Parking are FREE!

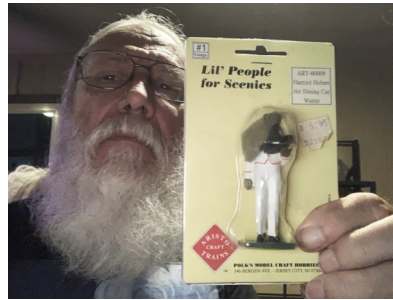
Parking Available in
Tumbleweed Park

330 E Ryan Road
Chandler, AZ 85286
(480) 821-1108
www.AZRYMUSEUM.org

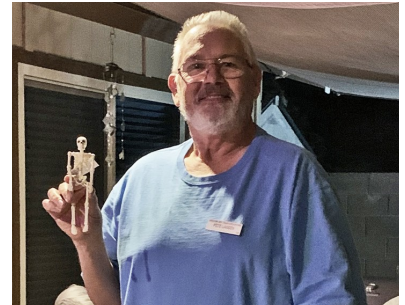
WE ARE BACK ON TRACK!

Door Prize Winners

Don Sorenson



Pete Lassen



John Snider



Raffle Winner Mark McKillip



**ABTO will be participating
in the Fall Rail Festival**

**Friday-8AM-Setup Module
Saturday-9AM-4PM-**

**Run trains
4PM- Teardown
module**



**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

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

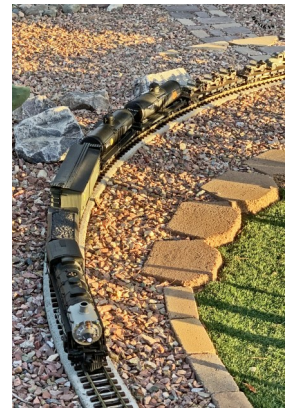
3975 N. Miller Avenue

Tucson, AZ

Check ArizonaModelTrains.com for updates

THE ABTO GAZETTE

Meeting Photos by Don Sorenson



THE ABTO GAZETTE

Meeting Photos by James Riddle



Meeting Photos by Don Sorenson



THE ABTO GAZETTE

Railfair Photos 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.