



Arizona Big Train Operators

Newsletter

Club web site: <http://azbigtrains.org>

April 2007

Volume 15, No 4

President's Message

Hello Garden Railroaders,

Well as you can see by the photos, this last meeting was our annual picnic which was deemed a dining success by all who attended. Rich Hull, Jim Kangas, Glenn Sampson, to name but a few, were instrumental in arranging the event.

While the main entrees were only hamburgers and hot dogs, the attendees voiced no complaints! The weather was perfect and we had "large scale" trains on all sides of us. The park steamer was running as well as the 1-1/2" to 1' live steam club. The club had a nice looking 4-6-0 running with every available car seat on the trailing cars filled.

There was no business portion of the meeting, as this was a purely social event. I would like to point out one thing, the dessert table was pretty well cleared off by the end of the event, which suggests that I am not the only person attending with a sweet tooth...



Next month's meeting will be an unusual garden railroad for you to visit. Gerry Pfeiffer will be hosting the May meeting in the early evening and for those of you who haven't visited his railroad, you're in for a surprise. Gerry is one of those who believe that kneeling on the ground, is a little too close to nature for a railroader. His tracks are positioned above the ground on a steel framework that runs around the perimeter of his somewhat sizeable and beautiful back yard. The steel framework and posts are once again the work of Dan Hoag at Eagle Wings Ironworks. Gerry has used unique diorama frameworks to display his buildings and other related elements. If you are contemplating raising your layout due to physical constraints, don't overlook Gerry's solution to bending over to work on the railroad.

Remember, when the trains run, we all have fun!

Bob Rauperstrauch

Photos by Sandy R

Calendar of Events

2007



ABTO Board Members

President

Bob Rauperstrauch

Vice President

Glenn Sampson

Secretary

Roy Towne

Treasurer

Don Halver

Member at Large

Gerry Pfeiffer
480-924-8844
gerry_pfeiffer@msn.com

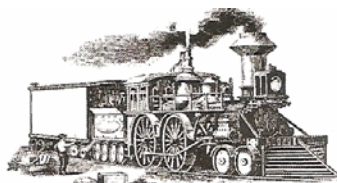
Newsletter Editor

Sandy Rauperstrauch

LAST MINUTE CHANGES

PLEASE NOTIFY the PRESIDENT or a BOARD MEMBER, or the NEWSLETTER EDITOR with information concerning a time, date, location change or cancellation, in order that all members can be notified by Email and the Calling Tree can be activated in a timely manner.

Constructive comments are always welcome!



April 14-15

Spring Open House Tours

See March newsletter for schedule

21

NO ABTO General Meeting

Spring picnic is event for April

May 5 8am - 10:30am

ABTO Board Meeting

Home Town Buffet
2730 W. Bell Rd. - Phoenix

19 5:00 - 8:00pm

ABTO General Meeting

Gerry Pfeiffer

June 1 6am

Leave for Ontario

Modules showing 2nd and 3rd

2-3

Modules on Display

Ontario, CA

8:00am

ABTO Board Meeting

Ontario - Place TBA

16 TBA

ABTO general Meeting

Sun Lakes ?

27-30

NGRC Las Vegas Convention

July 7

ABTO Board Meeting

TBA

21

ABTO General Meeting

Aug 4

ABTO Board Meeting

TBA

18

ABTO General Meeting

TBA



It's time to Register!

Are you thinking about attending any events at the 2008 National Garden Railway Convention?

On the following page is a registration form. ABTO voted unanimously at the March meeting to support the convention and sign up early. By registering and paying early, you are helping generate monies for all the prep work that needs to be done to make this a successful event. ABTO and TGRS of Tucson are proud to sponsor this convention, and as a train enthusiast, it will be a lot of fun for you to attend a train convention close to home! See 49 train layouts, and attend 22 seminars to get ideas for your own garden railroad. More than that, it's fun to meet people from all over the country who share the same hobby. Sign up for a learning experience and lot of fun. See you there!



THE MODULES ARE COMING

By Ennis Thompson

The past month we experienced two elements of weather: a beautiful sunny week end at the Chandler Ostrich Festival and a gloomy, dreary Saturday at the Adobe Mt. Swap Meet. The estimated crowd for the Ostrich show was 125,000. Of course, some of those people attended at night, so they only saw a sleeping train yard, waiting for the next day's show. After having enjoyed the past full week end of trains, people and warmth in the air at Chandler, we decided not to set up for the rough weather at Adobe, which, in the end turned out to be good day.

The modules are moving into position for the up coming "Big Train Show" in Ontario, CA. Members are preparing for the show, building new dioramas, straightening up old ones, and are setting their schedules for the May 31-June 2 trip west on I#10 for another week end of fun. Rich Hull is handling the lodging and group eating experiences, while Carol Kangas is arranging some activities for the ladies, while their husbands are playing with trains. Of course, both groups will shop, but I'm sure in different shops.

Next month's NEWSLETTER will have the schedule and site for a MODULE'S MEETING before going.

Jim Kangas had his first real test as a Module's Co-Chair at the Ostrich Festival. He did an excellent job working together with everyone and communicating with the City of Chandler Chamber of Commerce. Ask Carole Dunshie how hard it is to work and follow through with these people? Good job Jim. He was so good that we've already been invited back next year.

We'll have a modules meeting in May with the date and place being announced over the wire.

Thanks to everyone for all your help and contributions of time and labor in our set ups and tear downs.

The Yardmaster

National Garden Railway Convention 2008 Registration Form



PLEASE PRINT

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State/Province _____ Zip _____
 Country _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____
 RR Club Affiliation _____
 Badge Name #1 _____
 Badge Name #2 _____
 Badge Name #3 _____
 Badge Name #4 _____

(First & Last Name please)

Mail-in Registration Deadline

February 15, 2008 to allow time for processing.

Confirmation will be forwarded for each registrant upon confirmation of payment.

An ID badge will be provided for general admission for all days of the convention upon check-in.

The BBQ, Banquet, Fiesta and Bus Tours are optional at an additional charge.

Hotel Reservations

Must be made directly with the
 CROWNE PLAZA
 San Marcos Golf Resort., One San Marcos Place
 Chandler, AZ 85225
 480-812-0900 or 800-528-8071

When making reservations refer to the National Garden Railway Convention

Mail Registration and Payment to:

NGRC 2008 Registration
 5714 E. Holmes Street
 Tucson, AZ 85711

Any payments coming from outside the USA must be in bank drafts in US funds on USA bank

For questions concerning registration, call:
 Lee Willetts 520-514-5541

REGISTRATION

Individual Registration:	
\$75.00 per person X _____ person(s) =	\$ _____
(\$95.00 after February 15, 2008)	
Family Registration:	
\$95.00 (2 children under 18) per family =	\$ _____
(\$115 after February 15, 2008)	

EVENTS

Wednesday, April 30	
Phoenix Garden Railway Bus Tour	
7AM – 2PM	\$25 per person X _____ person(s) = \$ _____
Southwest Fiesta Hospitality	
7PM – 10PM, cash bar	\$35 per person X _____ person(s) = \$ _____
Thursday, May 1	
Tucson Garden Railway Bus Tour	
7AM – 6:00PM,	\$45 per person X _____ person(s) = \$ _____
Friday, May 2	
Phoenix Garden Railway Bus Tour	
7AM – 2 PM	\$25 per person X _____ person(s) = \$ _____
BBQ at Adobe Mountain Park	
4PM – 10PM	Dinner :Beef X__ Pork X__ Chicken X__
\$35 per person X _____ person(s) =	\$ _____
Dinner plus bus transportation:	
\$53 per person X _____ person(s) =	\$ _____
Saturday, May 3	
Phoenix Garden Railway Bus Tour	
7AM – 2PM,	\$25 per person X _____ person(s) = \$ _____
Convention Banquet	
7PM – 9PM, cash bar	\$60 per person X _____ person(s) =
Number of each selection for dinner entree	
_____ Steak _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian	\$ _____
Space limited to 380 people	

EXTRA FARE COLLECTIBLES

Convention Cattle Car (limited to 400)	\$100.00 per car X _____ car(s) =	\$ _____
DVD of Garden Railway Tours & clinics	\$30.00 Multi-DVD set X _____ set(s) =	\$ _____
Early Convention/tour book @ \$15.00 ea. X _____		\$ _____
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED:		\$ _____

[] Check# _____ payable to: **NGRC 2008**
 [] Visa [] MasterCard
 Card # _____ 3- digit code _____
 (from back of card)

Expiration Date: _____
 Signature: _____

*Is this a park?
No, it's the March meeting
at John and Pat Meyers'*



The Auction at the March meeting at Meyers was a huge success, raising \$628 for ABTO. Thanks to Jim Kangas for all the coordinating and taking over as auctioneer once again. And thank you John and Pat for the meatball sandwiches and a great time!



Donations were made by:

Pete Winchester, John Isles, David Stone, Bill Nagel, Roy Towne, Bill Davis, Bob Clark, John Johnson, Bob Rauperstrauch, Roger Crooks, Jim Snyder, Gerry McKenzie, Ed Fishencord, Carol and Jim Kangas. We apologize ahead of time if we left out anyone. ABTO thanks them for their generosity.

It was a lot of fun thanks to everyone who joined in the bidding frenzy. New stuff, old stuff, some very nice trains, track, train plates, even a child's train coverlet just to name a few of the items up for auction.



*The Annual Spring Picnic at McCormick Stillman RR Park
As favorites, which comes first, trains or food?*



By the looks of these happy ABTO members, food is at the top of the list next to trains for favorites. A good time was had by all on this beautiful spring day.



Above, activity organizer Jim Kangas helps get the food lines ready for this hungry bunch. Below, everyone who wanted to, got to ride the trains. This one is a 3"-1' Consolidation, 2-8-0.



Glenn Sampson keeps chef Gerry Pfeiffer company while he and chef Rich Hull (rt) grill hot dogs and hamburgers. Although the grills were a little slower than last year, everyone agreed this was a better location for a relaxing time in the shade of the trees.

