



# Arizona Big Train Operators

Newsletter

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

April, 2008

Volume 16. No. 4

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The March meeting held at the home of John and Pat Meyers was a huge success. Almost all items for the convention open house tours were distributed.

Following a great lunch and a short meeting, we held an auction. Thanks to Rob Trygg, who did an excellent job as auctioneer and to the many members who donated the items, the club raised over \$500.

Now its picnic time. Our gourmet chefs will be grilling up our entrees—and with the delightful side dishes brought by our members. (Don't forget to contact Mike Temenski with the dish you will be bringing by e-mail [mtemenski@earthlink.net](mailto:mtemenski@earthlink.net) or telephone (480) 659-8410. Don't forget it starts at 11am and the food will be served at noon. Then an afternoon in the railroad park. See you there.

The convention starts soon, many members have already spent untold hours, days and weeks laying the ground work for this affair. It promises to be an experience we'll never forget. Don't miss out on being part of this event. If you haven't signed up yet, do it now.

Tony Vacek

## **Breaking News**

The 2008 National Convention has met the financial goals. Thanks go to many of the ABTO Members. In many cases, they are the volunteers who contributed their time and efforts to make this Convention a huge success. In view of this, it is being proposed all ABTO members who invested in the Convention by supporting it through their registration fees will be refunded their investment (\$75 individual -- \$95 family) at the conclusion of the Convention by ABTO.

# ANNUAL ABTO PICNIC

## At McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park



It's the annual Family Picnic at McCormick-Stillman Park in Scottsdale on Sunday, April 6th. Take a day off from working on your layout for the convention and bring your family (kids, grandkids, friends) out for the day of fun.

The cost is \$7.00 for each individual 12 years of age and older. The club will provide all the hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments and soft drinks. Each member of your family will also receive tickets to ride the parks, famous steam train. *MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING A POT LUCK DISH, VEGETABLE, SALAD, or DESSERT TO ACCOMPANY THE MEAL. DON'T FORGET TO CONTACT MIKE TEMENSKI @mtemenski@earthlink.net or telephone (480) 659-8410 WITH THE POT LUCK YOU WILL BE BRINGING.* Start time is 11:00am and you can stay in the park until it closes. *Don't forget your chairs.*

You can sign up until March 31st and join in the fun. Please contact Jim Kangas ——— kangasat@cox.net or telephone (480) 659-1756.

This is the fourth year for the event in Scottsdale and attendance has grown each time. Don't miss out on the fun! Remember, relatives and friends are welcome to enjoy the fellowship of this great hobby.

Maps on page 4

### 2008 MODULE INFORMATION

After a recent Module's Group Meeting, it was decided to attend the THE BIG TRAIN SHOW with the small modules of Glenn Sampson, "The Helix," and Jerry McKenzie's "Jerry's Train's" in Ontario, CA. We will leave on June 6th in the morning and return on Sunday, June 8th after the show. People who want to stay in California until Monday are welcome. Since we don't have the large modules at this show, it was decided to come back on Sunday night after the show.

Anyone wanting reservations at the hotel of choice from last year, should contact Rich Hull for them. We will have two large get togethers for attendees at some eating places, as we did last year. Everyone is welcome to join in on the fun.

### **THIS IS JUST A REMINDER ABOUT THE RUNNING SESSION AT DENNIS SIRRINE'S "PALO VERDE AND SOUTHWESTERN RAILROAD" ON APRIL 8th AT 4:30PM**

So You Have Always Dreamed of Running a 17 Car Passenger or a 50 car "Hot Freight" Train  
Across the Flowing Hills and Flat Lands of Mesa.

Dennis Sirrine opened his layout to ABTO members on March 11th for a monthly running session on his PALO VERDE AND SOUTHWESTERN RAILROAD. Each monthly sessions will begin at 4:30 on the second Tuesday of each month. You may bring your own engines or use his equipment. During the 1st session, instructions were given out to all of the attendees, as to the operating rules, use of air switches, battery and track power operations, and general philosophy of the PALO VERDE AND SOUTHWESTERN RAILROAD. It was a very enjoyable and knowledgeable session.

Bring your engineer caps, drink, and skills to join in the fun each month.



## 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr	6		Board meeting to be held before picnic
	6	11am-??	ABTO Picnic Mc-Cormick/Stillman Railroad Park
	<b>28-29-30</b>		<b><u>National Convention</u></b>
<b>May</b>	<b>1-2-3-4</b>		<b><u>National Convention</u></b>
	17	TBA	Regular Meeting Glenn & Katy Sampson
June	6-7-8		Big Train Show Ontario, Ca.

### ABTO BOARD MEMBERS

#### President

Tony Vacek  
623-566-9274  
avacek@cox.net

#### Vice President

Mike Temenski  
480-659-8410  
mtemenski@earthlink.net

#### Secretary

Denis Conte  
623-972-4477  
dconte2@cox.net

#### Treasurer

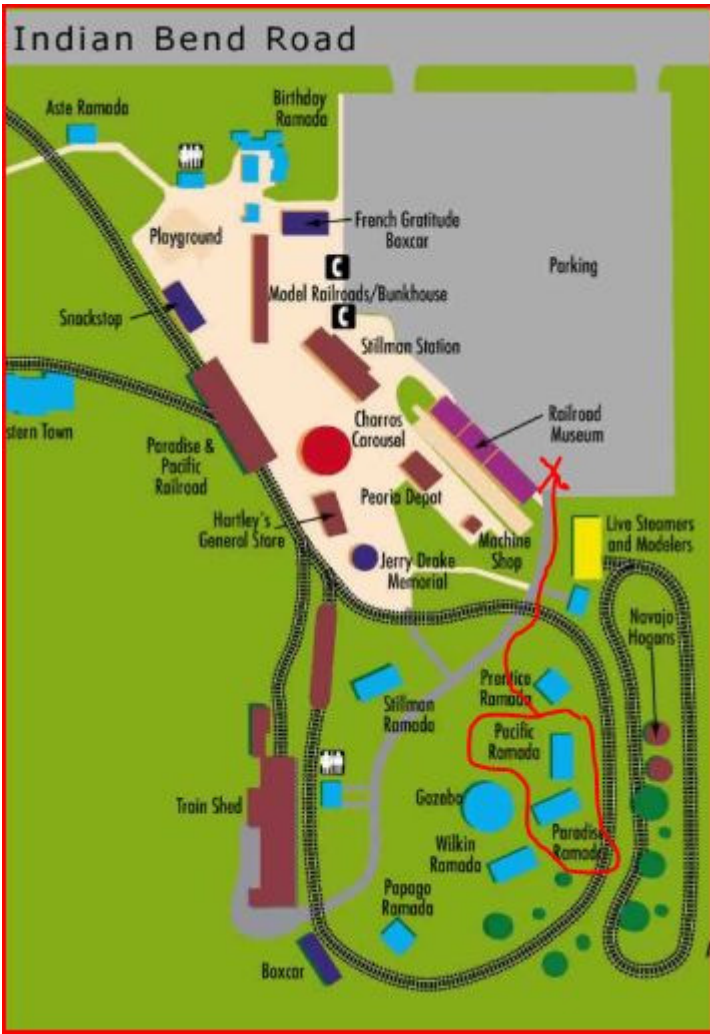
Jim Kangas  
480-659-1756  
jkangasat@cox.net

#### Member at Large

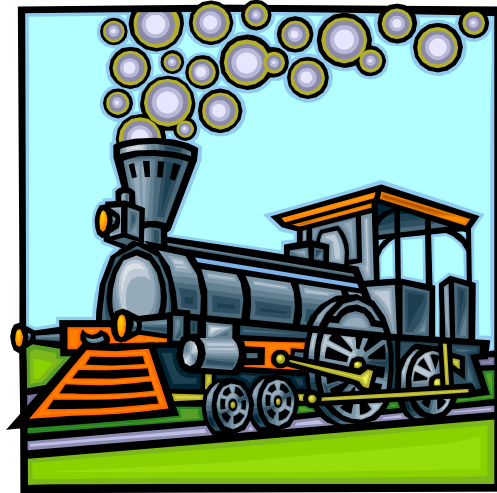
Glenn Sampson  
602-938-9752  
gksamaz@juno.com

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

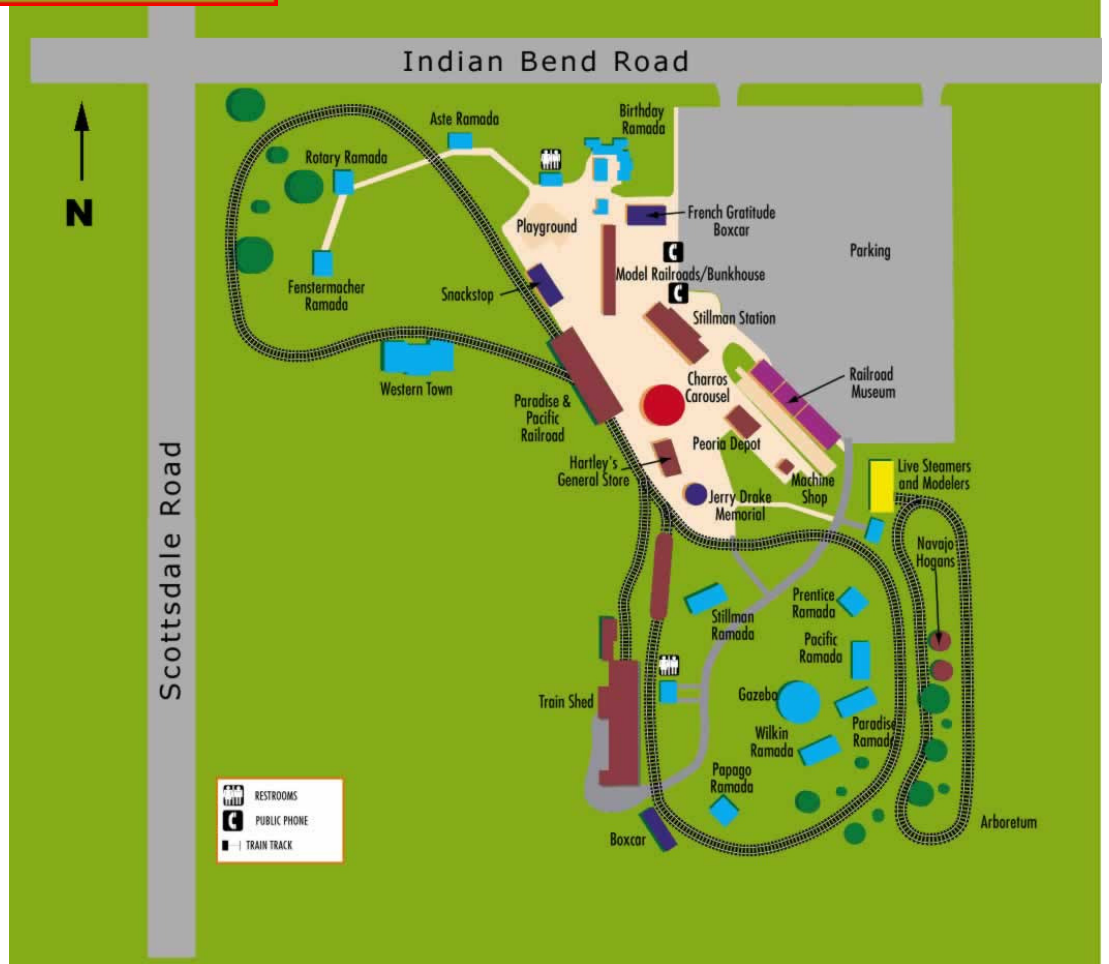
**Volunteers are still needed to work at the Convention Site on Tuesday, April 29th (12noon-7:00pm), Wednesday, April 30th (6:00 am-7:00pm), Thursday, May 1st (6:30 am-9:00pm), Friday, May 2nd (7:30 am-9:00pm), Saturday, May 3rd (7:30 am-9:00pm), Sunday, May 4th (7:30 am-8:00pm). If you have not done so, please join other ABTO Members in volunteering a few hours of your time at the Convention Site. If you, your relatives or your friends can help us, call Gerry Pfeiffer at 480.924.8844 or email him at gerry\_pfeiffer@msn.com.**



# PICNIC MAPS of McCORMICK STILLMAN RR



101 loop → 1.7 miles





## **PLANS UNDERWAY FOR ANNUAL TRIP TO CALIFORNIA AND TEHACHAPI**

For the fifth year, ABTO members will have the opportunity to see the famous Tehachapi Curve in California and much more. The dates for this year's trip are September 11 to 14, Thursday to Sunday. As in the past, we will rent vans and split the cost among those participating. Each participant will be responsible for his/her room costs, meals and share of fuel for the van. An exciting itinerary has been put together this year. Of course, we will spend as much time as you wish at the most famous curve in American railroads, Tehachapi. You also will visit Horseshoe Bend at Caliente and the famous Cajon Pass.

Extra time will be set aside to explore the warehouse for Gold Coast Trains in Tehachapi. Hans has one of the largest inventories of LGB engines, cars and accessories in the country. We also will be staying close to the Upland Train Store, so there will be a shopping opportunity there. The group will visit the famous Fairplex Layout at the L.A. County Fairgrounds in Pomona. If you haven't seen this layout, it is a must see. If you have seen it in the past there are a lot of changes to enjoy.

The group has been invited to the back lot of Disneyland to see the Disney Trains up close. You will be able to touch, ride and photograph plus hear the story of probably the most famous steam trains in America. The group will also visit a couple of layouts in the Los Angeles Basin and end our trip at the huge Roger Clarkson layout in Riverside. Roger has made major changes in his layout since we saw it last year. The group will return to the valley by Sunday noon. This annual trip has many repeat participants and there is lots of fun, laughs and fellowship over the three days. All hotel reservations and meal arrangements will be made for you. All you do is show up with your suitcase, a camera and be prepared for a great time. Sign up sheets will be available at the picnic in April. Cut-off will be the end of June.

Many ABTO members came out and enjoyed running their trains for large crowds at the Ostrich Festival, also enjoying the varieties of food and talking to many of the visitors.

Below, you will see kids running "Jerry's Train's" on the left side and others on the right side, enjoying ABTO members running their trains. It was a very enjoyable time.



## A.B.T.O COMMITTEES

### Meeting Coordination

John Meyers—602-841-7564  
[jtprmeyers@cox.net](mailto:jtprmeyers@cox.net)

### Modules

Wesley Schriver  
[wschriver@cox.net](mailto:wschriver@cox.net)

### Phoenix Children's Hospital

Jerry McKenzie—520-466-5938  
[sparetimeaz@msn.com](mailto:sparetimeaz@msn.com)

### Web Site

Mike Lewandowski—623-536-1954  
[fun2rr@msn.com](mailto:fun2rr@msn.com)

### Membership

Gerry Pfeiffer—480-924-8844  
[gerry\\_pfeiffer@msn.com](mailto:gerry_pfeiffer@msn.com)

### Newsletter

Ginny Morris—480-248-9130  
[putterm@cox.net](mailto:putterm@cox.net)

### Raffles

Karen Lenzen—623-581-2452  
[karenlenzen@yahoo.com](mailto:karenlenzen@yahoo.com)

### Social Activities

Rich Hull—480-802-5308  
[rhull10@wbhsi.net](mailto:rhull10@wbhsi.net)

### Apparel

Jim Snyder—480-893-8456  
[jim22@qwest.net](mailto:jim22@qwest.net)

### Public Relations

Ennis Thompson—602-527-0402  
[egtrailroading@aol.com](mailto:egtrailroading@aol.com)

Rich Hull—480-802-5308  
[rhull10@wbhsi.net](mailto:rhull10@wbhsi.net)

# ARIZONA BIG TRAIN OPERATORS

## ABTO OBJECTIVES

Membership in Arizona Big Train Operators is open to anyone with an interest in gardening and creating, construction, and operating large scale model 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..

**Meetings are usually held on the 3rd Saturday of the month.**

## ABTO BOARD MEETING INFORMATION

Board meetings are usually held on the first Saturday of the 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

Membership fee is \$35 per family, per year and entitles you to one vote per family membership.

Membership entitles you to attend all meetings and events and receive the monthly ABTO newsletter and one name badge. Additional badges may be purchased for \$7.00 each.

## ABTO NEWS CONTRIBUTIONS

Members are encouraged to contribute articles, letters, illustrations or photographs related to garden railroading to include in the newsletter. Items may be used at a later date

ABTO members who have hobby related items for sale or trade may submit a advertisement for publication at no charge using four lines—more if there is space: name, item, phone number and e-mail. Submissions must be in to the editor by 1st Saturday of the month by USPO or e-mail

# ABTO Questionnaire

Please fill out and return to the Gerry Pfeiffer. This will help us build a better club. Also, Please check your info on the November Membership roster.

## Personal Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Electronically? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Birthday: Day \_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_

## Your Railroad:

Do you have a layout? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Type of power? Track \_\_\_\_\_ Battery \_\_\_\_\_ Live Steam \_\_\_\_\_

Era \_\_\_\_\_

Other Club Involvement? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in participating in an ATBO sub-groups?

Modules Set, run and take down? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Hospital RR Maintenance? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Picnic/Outings? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Member assistance work parties? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Live Steam? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Can you put on a seminar? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

1 or 2 day outings? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Interest in becoming ABTO committee person? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Please return ASAP to:

Gerry Pfeiffer  
833 North Thunderbird Ave.  
Gilbert, AZ 85234