



Arizona Big Train Operators

Newsletter

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

November 2006

Volume 14, No 11

President's Message

Hello Garden Railroaders!

Last month we met at Tim and Karen Schlax's home where we saw another new layout! One of the highlights of their track plan was a pond split by a walkway, with the walkway itself split by the track. This allows you to walk between the ponds, and over the track connecting the two loops that go around each pond. It is a clever solution to a design issue. I would especially like to thank Karen for the mountain of chicken that she provided for all of us at lunch. It explains the Channel 12 news article about the chicken shortage impacting Arizona...Seriously though, the railroad was a perfect example of what can be done with help from our club members. While the area isn't terribly large between the two ponds and the walkway and track, it presents all the elements of an excellent railroad. There is room to expand and I am sure that Tim, with our help, will be adding more in the future.

For your convenience, the ABTO Christmas Open House Tour maps are included on page 7 and 8. We hope that you spread the word and get a chance to get out to view the festive holiday layouts.

As you see, it is that time of year when the bi-annual ABTO roster is included in the newsletter. It will come out again in March.

Our next meeting should be a fun and interesting event. It is at Adobe Mountain in north Phoenix where we will meet some members from the Arizona Garden Railroad Society. They have the second largest 1 1/2" to the foot railroad in the US, but there are railroads of all sizes at this location, including one of the larger G-scale railroads in the valley. This breakfast potluck will give everyone a chance to see what's going on with other clubs, meet some of the people involved there, and share ideas with some new faces. They are excited about getting together, and it should be very interesting to see what others in G-scale are doing in the valley. There will be two demos after a short meeting, so bring paper and pencil if you want to take notes.

Take the second right turn entrance to the park on 43rd Ave. Map is on page 9. The club house is the building on the south side of the entrance, next to the covered ramada. Bring a breakfast pot-luck dish to go with pancakes and we'll see you there.

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

Bob Rauperstrauch



Thanks for the assistance getting Tim's railroad ready for the meeting. Jim Kangas and team did a great job.

ABTO Board MembersPresident

Bob Rauperstrauch

Vice President

Glenn Sampson

Secretary

Roy Towne

Treasurer

Don Halver

Member at Large

Gerry Pfeiffer

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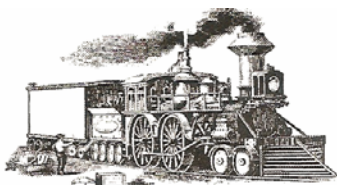
Newsletter Editor

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!

**Calendar of Events****2007**

Jan	6	8am	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> Home Town Buffet 2730 W. Bell Rd. - Phoenix
	20	11am - 2pm	<u>ABTO General Meeting</u> Dennis and Lizabeth Serrine
Feb	3	8am	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> Home Town Buffet 1312 N. Scottsdale Rd. - Scottsdale
	17	5 pm - 8pm	<u>ABTO General Meeting</u> Glenn and Katy Sampson
Mar	3	11am - 2pm	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> Home Town Buffet 1312 N. Scottsdale Rd. - Scottsdale
	17	11am - 2 pm	<u>ABTO General Meeting</u> Pat & John Meyers

Module events

By Ennis Thompson



Another year has gone by for the ABTO Modules, as we closed out the last official shows at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Train Fair and the Phoenix Botanical Garden Pumpkin Patch. Both of these were great shows, but Botanical Gardens at the end is becoming a favorite.

Jerry's Trains for Children will be showing at the Turkey Meet at Centennial Hall in Mesa on Saturday, November 25. See the calendar for those events.



Gerry Pfeiffer at the ABTO information booth at Botanical Gardens helps promote the hobby by passing out module information and applications to potential new members

It has been a rainy and wet year for most of our set-ups. If the Ostrich Festival had been much worse, we would have been starting over. The steel frames of the modules didn't move in the gale and rain, as we watched other displays drown in the deep water.

Route "66" was the new theme this year and the module committee is pouring over some new materials for the up and coming year. We have a full slate of shows for '07 with the Southwest Rotary Transportation gala event the first of the year, but they have not decided on the location yet.



Glad to see some new faces getting involved. Since Denis Conte has gone back to work, we've asked Jim Kangas to be the new co-chairman. Let's give Jim lots of good assistance in the future. Denis started working again with the recent passing of his father. He had previously given up his occupation to be a caregiver to his parents here in Arizona. Thanks Denis, for your help.

Thank you everyone for all of the effort and help this past year and let's get rested up for more module events in 2007.



NEWS ARTICLES FROM THE RR WIRE

by Mike Lewandowski

THINKING OF DCC????

READY OR NOT, HERE IT COMES!!! PART VII

Last month, we reviewed the major DCC manufacturers with their products specific to the Large Scale industry. This month we will focus on FAQ's and user forums for DCC application in LS.

Q - Just getting into DCC and am trying to figure out if I need separate decoders for motor & light control and another for sound control. If they are separate, are they controlled with the same address or different ones?

A - In large scale you can mix your favorite motor decoder with your favorite sound decoder. The only restriction to mixing decoders is that normally they both have to support either 14 steps (older) or 28/128 steps. Some combinations seem to work a little nicer together, like the Digitrax DG583s and the Phoenix sound decoder, or the LGB sound decoder with LGB decoders. But, in truth, one can usually, with a few adjustments to the configuration settings, get very nice control with the Phoenix and the LGB or the Digitrax and the LGB sound.

Q - What are the best motor decoders for the various LS Loco manufacturers?

- A -
1. LGB Locos: Use any LGB decoder. Their new 50027 decoder is rated at 3 amps. The LGB decoders work the best of any on very dirty track. Great choice!!!
 2. USA Trains & Aristo-Craft Locos use only very high current carrying decoders, motors are power hogs. Use the Digitrax DG583S decoders. I run several of the two motor locos using just one decoder. I think they are rated for 8 amps. They go for about \$65 US. One is a USA NW-2.
 3. Another is the Aristocraft Dash-9. NCE decoder D808 is also a very good choice.
 4. Accucraft Locos: If using battery power, AirWire decoder is the best. Otherwise DCC should use Digitrax or NCE D808 decoder.
 5. Bachmann Locos: All locos should use Digitrax or NCE decoders.

User Forums:

Airwire 9000: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AirWire/>

Aristo-Craft RC and Battery Forum:

[http://www.aristocraft.com/DCC for Dummies](http://www.aristocraft.com/DCC%20for%20Dummies)

(General <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DCC4EVERYONE/>

DCC WIKI: http://www.dccwiki.com/Category:Top_Level

Digitrax: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Digitrax/>

Lenz Digital Plus: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DigitalPlusbyLenz/>

North Coast Engineering (NCE): <http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe.cgi/nce-dcc>

NCE/System One Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe.cgi/nce-sys1>

Phoenix Sound Knowledge Base: <http://www.phoenixsound.com/kb/>

ZIMO DCC Systems: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Zimo-DCC/>

January: General News and a 2006 LS Wrap-up

Until January, Happy Railroading!!!!

fun2rr@msn.com

**ABTO
Committee Heads**

Activities

Glenn Sampson -

Jim Kangas -

Modules

Ennis Thompson -

Jim Kangas -

Phoenix Children's Hospital

Jerry McKenzie -

Banner Desert Hospital

Bob Clark -

Web Site

Mike Lewandowski -

Other Positions

2008 Convention/Club

Correspondence

Mike Lewandowski -
conv_secretaryaz@msn.com

Raffles and prizes and Librarian

Glenn Sampson -

Photo Archivist

Jack Slinkard -

Club Interaction Facilitator

Bob Rauperstrauch -

Publicity

Dave Stone -

Meeting Host Coordinator

Jim Kangas - East Side

John Meyers - West Side

Shirt, Badge, & Vest Coordinator

Jim Snyder -



ALL ABOARD



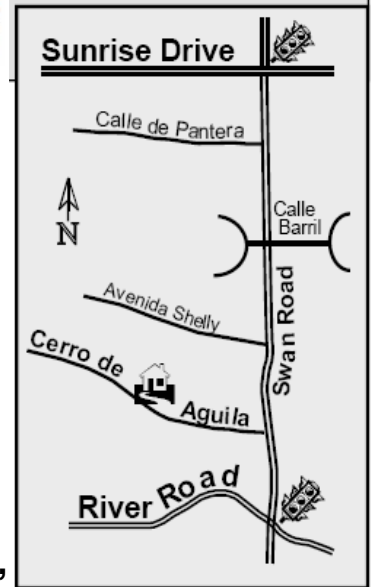
You are invited to the 4th annual
Open House

Of
**Gary and Peggy Martin's
EAGLE MOUNTAIN GARDEN
RAILROAD**

**4625 E. Cerro de Aguila
Tucson, Arizona**

**Sunday, November 19, 2006
12 PM—5 PM**

Come and see the mixture of gardens,



As promised, the Starter Train set will be raffled at the beginning of the November meeting. Make sure to be there early if you want to buy more tickets.



ABTO Christmas Party
If you didn't make it to the party last year, be sure to come this year for a great time, great food, live entertainment, and time to socialize.

Iron Works Restaurant

At the Bellair Golf club

**17233 N. 45th Ave. - Glendale
Sunday, December 3
5:00pm - 9:00pm**

Choice of:

- Filet Mignon, (baked potato, & vegetable)
- Lemon Chicken, (rice pilaf, vegetable)
- Filet of Salmon, (rice pilaf, & vegetable)
- Or Vegetarian Plate

SEND \$\$ TO GLENN BY NOV 15

\$25.00 each - Send check and dinner selection

for each person attending to:
Glenn or Katy Sampson,

