



NEWS ARTICLES FROM THE RR WIRE

by Mike Lewandowski

The other night I was checking the various forums and chat rooms regarding DCC and the likes. I found an interesting article about the various LGB MTS decoders. After reading this, I thought what a great summary of the decoders and contacted Bob Brashear for his approval to place this material into our newsletter. As the very successful MTS Seminar series, taught by LGB Partners Bob Brashear and Calvin Lane, winds its way across North America, this information becomes extremely valuable.

MTS55020

This was the original basic decoder built by LGB to start their MTS product line. It was very limited in both features and power capability. It had internal memory for more reliable operation on dirty track but it is no longer available.

MTS 55021

This is the bread-and-butter LGB decoder. It is designed for installation in 'Direct Decoder Interface' and 'Decoder Interface' locos. One 55021 decoder is required for each motor block of an LGB loco. In addition to front and rear headlight outputs, there is a single (F1) output. This decoder can also be fitted into early LGB locos. For small locos, like the field railway and handcar locos, the 55022 is preferred.

All 55021 decoders have 16 kHz PWM motor drive and back EMF. Later revisions of these decoders accept 14/28/128 speed steps and 4-digital addressing. Remember your central station must support these features.

MTS 55022

This is basically a small, single motor decoder. It has limited current handling (motor and lighting output) capabilities. It is recommended for small single motor locos (field railway, handcar, Mars Flyer, Fortuna Flyer, etc.) that feature few lights. The decoder is basically an HO scale decoder with a higher maximum allowable drive voltage. (HO scale DCC is 12-16V. MTS is 24V.)

MTS 55027

The 55027 is designed for quick and easy installation into LGB's current 'DCC Interface' locos, like the LGB #28420 (RhB Ge4/4III Coop), #20490 (Amtrak Genesis), #26251 (SF Forney), etc. A single 55027 is capable of powering LGB's dual motor locos.

In addition to front and rear headlight outputs, the 55027 has six outputs. (F3-F6) is available through solder pads.) The decoder understands MTS serial and NMRA parallel command functions. This decoder can also be fitted into early LGB locos.

All 55027 decoders have 16 kHz PWM motor drive and back EMF. These decoders accept 14/28/128 speed steps and 4-digital addressing. (Remember your central station must support these features.)

MTS Onboard decoder (Supplied in all factory purchased MTS locos)

The onboard decoder most closely resembles the software and architecture of the 55021. There are actually two main onboard decoder designs - small and large. The small onboard decoder is found in single motor locos and the large onboard decoder is found in dual motor locos. All onboard decoders understand MTS serial and NMRA parallel function commands. LGB uses a proprietary high speed communication protocol to tether onboard decoders to their sound systems.

Massoth eMOTION XL

This decoder is very similar in specification to the LGB 55027. The decoder features various cables to simplify installation into 'Decoder Interface' and 'DCC Interface' locos. A neat feature of the eMotion decoder is the screw terminals.

In addition to front and rear headlight outputs, the eMotion XL has six outputs. The decoder understands MTS serial and NMRA parallel command functions. This decoder can also be fitted into early LGB locos.

All eMotion XL decoders have 16 kHz PWM motor drive and back EMF. These decoders accept 14/28/128 speed steps and 4-digital addressing. Remember, your central station must support these features.

**ABTO
 Committee Heads**

Activities

Glenn Sampson

Jim Kangas

Modules

Ennis Thompson

Jim Kangas

Phoenix Children's Hospital

Jerry McKenzie - 520-466-5938

Banner Desert Hospital

Bob Clark

Web Site

Mike Lewandowski
 fun2rr@msn.com

Other Positions

2008 Convention/Club

Correspondence

Mike Lewandowski
 conv_secretary@msn.com

Raffles and prizes and Librarian

Glenn Sampson

Photo Archivist

Jack Slinkard

Club Interaction Facilitator

Bob Rauperstrauch

Publicity

looking for a volunteer for this position

Meeting Host Coordinator

Jim Kangas - East Side

John Meyers - West Side

Shirt, Badge, & Vest Coordinator

Jim Snyder



This Train Quilt could be Yours!

At the February Meeting, we got a chance to see the quilt that has been made to be raffled off at the 2008 National Garden Railway Convention in Chandler. The quilt top was a joint project by members of TGRS and Arizona Big Train Operators.

Members of the two clubs made the squares which were put together by a committee representing both groups. Each square is unique and is a reflection of the different aspects of garden railroads. It was hand quilted by a group of ladies in Corning, Iowa, who are remarkable in their skill. The youngest of them is a child of 62 and several are in their 80's and 90's.

Tickets for the raffle went on sale at the the ABTO Spring Picnic and will be sold at all ABTO events.

***Buy tickets for the Raffle
 \$2.00 each or
 6 for \$10.00***

***The drawing will take place at the close of the
 National Garden Railway Convention in May 2008.***

New ABTO Members

We'd like to present ABTO's newest members.
 Please make them feel welcome next time you meet them.
 Please add these names to your roster.

Vernon and Kath Paige

They are already in the roster, but don't forget to say "hi" and welcome them to our club!

Corrections:

Dennis Serrine Phone #: 480-602-9459
 E-mail: toomuchstuff@cox.net

March ABTO Auction

If you bought items on credit at the March, ABTO auction, please send your payment to Don Halver
 559 E. Eagle Ct

SUMMARY OF UNOFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

March 31, 2007

- Board members present were: Bob, Glenn, Gerry, & Roy
 Guests were: Tony Vacek, Jim Kangas, Sandy Rauperstrauch
 Jim, Rich Hull and Lu Towne
 Treasurer's report read by Don Halver & approved. ABTO has
 66 paid members and 12 new members and 4 honorary.
- Old Business:
- Activities: Jim - Update on auction - who's buying what for the picnic- ok to use tents if needed.
 - Modules: Ennis - Big trailer has new stabilizers. Adobe Mt was cancelled. Need new dioramas for Ontario. Will meet may 31 at Cracker Barrel. Meeting to be announced. Tents ok at Dan's open house.
 - Phx. Children's Hospital - Glenn: platform being built
 - Banner Desert Hospital - Bob Clark: Meeting set for Monday April 2. Need a budget.
 - Convention - Rich Hull: Las Vegas to push 08 registration. 08 Conv. Both will be at Dan's open house.
 - Newsletter - Sandy: Working on finalizing the roster. Newsletter will be dependent on membership input as Sandy's schedule is filling up.
 - Raffles - Glenn Sampson: No raffles at Spring Picnic
- New Business:
1. Glenn/Tony and Rich/ Ennis to man ABTO/ Convention Booth at Dan's open house.
 2. Ennis looking into Phase III for June meeting.
 3. June 2nd Bd meeting to be held in Ontario.
 4. Vote to increase 6 mo liability insurance for 08 passed.
 5. Modules will have small setup in hotel courtyard in 08

BULLETIN BOARD

When you clean out your train stuff, remember, you can sell it here!

Banner Desert Hospital Meeting

On April 2 a meeting was held a Banner Desert Hospital to discuss care and maintenance of the train atrium. Baby steps to decide in the next few months if any changes need to be made to the RR. In attendance were Bob R, Bob Clark, Glenn Sampson, Ennis Thompson, Susan Freestone and Cheryl Bagley.

What's Cooking !

SCOTCH OVEN SCONES

From the Kitchen of Pat Meyers

2 c. flour	1 t. baking soda	¾ c. milk
2 t. sugar	½ t. salt	½ c. butter
1 t. cream of tartar		

Sift first five ingredients together.
 Cut in butter until coarse meal.
 Stir in milk to make a soft dough.

Divide into 2 portions. Pat out on a lightly floured surface into a round ¾" thick. Cut into quarters or create shapes with cookie cutters.

Bake at 400° for 15-20 minutes.

Cool slightly on a wire rack. Slice horizontally, spread each half with lemon curd*, mock clotted cream*, and raspberry jam.

Yields approximately 8 scones.

*Recipes to appear in next month's newsletter

About The Newsletter

Send pictures, comments, articles of train related material to me. New members, send me your comments! The newsletter is as good as what YOU help to make it. New members have experience and knowledge—don't be shy about sharing. We'd like to hear from you too. Remember to switch over to email only to get the newsletter in color.

Sandy - Newsletter Editor



2008 National Garden Railway Convention Committees



CONVENTION HEADS Rich Hull, Norm Ulmer	
Advertising	Gary Martin, Ken Karrels, Rich Hull
Adobe mountain BBQ	Larry Hatch, Gene Frank
DVD Production	Gerry Pfeiffer
Entertainment	Glenn Sampson
Event Coordinator	Dick Izen, Gerry Pfeiffer
General Store	Dennis & Dana Busby , Jay Sanders, Dave and Nancy Stone
Layout Tours	John & Pat Meyers, Glenn and Janet Mitchell
Live Steam	Stan Cornforth
Model Contest	Dennis Conte
Publication	Sandy Rauperstrauch
Publicity	Janet Mitchell
Registration	Sharon Hull, Lee Willets ,
Secretary	Mike Lewandowski
Security	Ennis Thompson, Gary Martin
Seminars/Clinics	Bob Rauperstrauch
Signage	Sandy Rauperstrauch
Staffing Coordinator	Gerry Pfeiffer
Transportation	Al and Linda Wendler
Treasurer	Don Halver, Willis Fagg
Vendors	Ennis Thompson, Gary Martin
Webmaster	Linda Wendler
Welcoming	Lou & Roy Towne, Terry & Adrienne Haas

All Members

See the March newsletter for details about the 2008 National Garden Railway Convention.

Our committees are well established and on their way to making this event a success. Call Gerry Pfeiffer if you wish to volunteer.

We need about 200 people and we are running about 200 short!

Get out there and help make it happen! A couple hours or a day, or a few days.

You can help at the hotel events, or at the open house tours.

It doesn't take much and it's going to be a fun time.

Gerry's # is 480-924-1188

Are you going to the 2007 National Garden Railway convention in Las Vegas?

Here is a chance for you to get a great deal on a place to stay.

Dorothy and Jack Johnson of ABTO have a time share they had planned on using in Las Vegas but family events will prevent them from going. You can get a great deal on their time share for one week,



Check-in Friday, June 22, 2007, 4:00PM
Check-out Friday, June 29, 2007, 10:AM

Price: \$500.00

**Where? Summer Bay Resort
 100 Winnick Ave. Las Vegas, NV**

Located 1/2 block from the strip. Exercise room, gift shop, 12 outdoor pools, and 5 Jacuzzis and more. Shuttle services available from the airport directly to the resort, 24 hrs a day for a fee.

Call Jack or Dorothy Johnson for more information if you are interested.

480-732-9619

Arizona Big Train

ABTO OBJECTIVES

Membership in Arizona Big Train Operators is open to anyone with an interest in gardening and creating, constructing, and operating large scale model railways. At our meetings, items of mutual interest associated with the hobby are discussed and demonstrated.

Our members represent a wide variety of interests ranging from gardening, collecting trains, and model building, to operating trains in the garden railroad environment.

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 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 newsletters and one name badge. Additional badges may be purchased for \$7.00 each.

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 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 an advertisement for publication at no charge using four lines;

Name, Item, Phone # and Email.

Submissions must be in to the editor by the 1st Saturday of the month by US Mail or Email using WORD.



ABTO Newsletter Editor
Sandy Rauperstrauch

To:

No meeting in April