



# Arizona Big Train Operators

## Newsletter

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

August 2007

Volume 15, No 8

### President's Message

Hello Garden Railroaders!

It was great to see so many ABTO members at last month's meeting at the Crowne Plaza San Marcos Golf Resort. From all that I can tell, you enjoyed the lunch buffet more than our general meeting! I must say that I'm not surprised - the food was the highlight.

For those of you who had not seen the site of the **2008 National Garden Railway Convention**, it was an eye opener. I received a lot of great suggestions regarding the clinic / seminar event from those of you who toured the second floor clinic rooms with me after the buffet. I will incorporate some of those suggestions in my plans. The lobby is quite a show piece and I expect that much social interaction between convention attendees will occur there. We will be putting a special module display in the fountain area outside the lobby patio, just to add frosting to the cake. I hope that the unique nature of the San Marcos as a resort was evident and that the convention attendees next year will be equally pleased by what they see.

This month's meeting will be held at the Home Town Buffet on 2730 West Bell Road in Phoenix. This will be a breakfast meeting starting at 8:30 AM. Breakfast is under \$8.00 per person. The club will not be offsetting the price for the members this month, as we had done at the San Marcos. There will however, be a demonstration from John Meyers to round out our normal meeting activities. We have chosen a breakfast meeting in recognition of members requests to have more early meetings, so I hope to see many of you there.

The September meeting will be at Brian Casull's home where we will be viewing his newly rebuilt railroad. Even if you have seen it in the past, you are in for a pleasant surprise. He has kept his sense of whimsy, but has expanded the operational aspects and the overall size of the railroad. He has done some major tunneling and excavation to enable the railroad to operate with longer trains and more switching action. He has done a beautiful job of fitting the newly expanded track plan into the hillside of his backyard. For those of you with steep terrain elements in your backyard, you should see Brian's railroad to see how he has managed the transformation from his previous track layout. I hope to see you at the Home Town Buffet and the following month at Brian Casull's.

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

Bob Rauperstrauch



# Calendar of Events 2007



**ABTO Board Members**

President  
Bob Rauperstrauch

Vice President  
Glenn Sampson

Secretary  
Roy Towne

Treasurer  
Don Halver

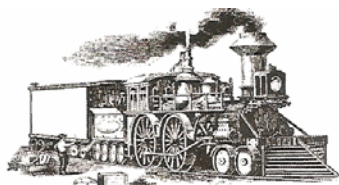
Member at Large  
Gerry Pfeiffer  
480-924-8844  
gerry\_pfeiffer@msn.com

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 can-  
cellation, in order that all mem-  
bers can be notified by Email  
and the Calling Tree can be  
activated in a timely manner.

Constructive comments are  
always welcome!

*This is a change* →



Aug	18		<u><b>ABTO General Meeting</b></u> Home Town Buffet 2730 W. Bell Rd. Phoenix
Sept	1	8:00am	<u><b>ABTO Board Meeting</b></u> Home Town Buffet 1312 N. Scottsdale Rd.
	15	TBA	<u><b>ABTO General Meeting</b></u> Brian & Rebecca Casull
	27-30		<u><b>Tehachapi Rail Fan Trip</b></u>
Oct	6	8:00am	<u><b>ABTO Board Meeting</b></u> Home Town Buffet 1312 N. Scottsdale Rd. - Scottsdale
	13-14		<u><b>McCormick Stillman Railfair</b></u> Module event
	20-21		<u><b>Botanical Garden</b></u> Module event
	27	11:00- 3:00 PM	<u><b>ABTO General Meeting</b></u> Mike & Nancy Lewandowski
Nov	3	8:00am	<u><b>ABTO Board Meeting</b></u> 2730 W Bell Rd. - Phoenix
	17	8:30am	<u><b>ABTO General Meeting</b></u> Adobe Mt ABTO/AGRS joint breakfast meeting
	24	9:00am - 3:00pm	<u><b>Turkey Meet—Mesa</b></u> Jerry's Trains for kids
Dec	<u><b>NO ABTO Board Meeting</b></u>		
	<u><b>No General meeting</b></u>		
	1	<u><b>Christmas Banquet</b></u> Landmark Restaurant, Mesa	
	Sat 8th & Sun 9th Sat 15 & Sun 16th		<u><b>ABTO Christmas Open House Tours</b></u>



### Christmas Open House Tours

In the last Newsletter Sandy put a "bleep" in there about Christmas Open Houses for ABTO. Ten people have already expressed interest with five of them being new members in the club. Again we will schedule the ABTO/Phoenix Children's Hospital Program for the second and third weekends in December on Saturday, Dec. 8 & 9 and Sunday, Dec. 15 & 16. The Open Times will be from 6 - 9 on those days. You can be open any day you so desire, but these days will be advertised by the club in all of ABTO's promotions. Sandy Rauper is the map co-ordinator and maker for this project. She has a fine nucleus and repertoire of maps to draw from after many hours of work with Pat and John Meyers for the '08 Open Houses and maps. Since we have so much going on this year, I'm trying to organize it much earlier and hope to co-ordinate the program and advertising with donations going to the Phoenix Children's Hospital Fund for the train layout at the hospital. Christmas Open Houses are the last time for all of us to get experience with Open House Running for the '08 National Convention. Experience really helps - just ask first timers. Call Ennis if you want to participate: 602-527-0402

### Phoenix Children's Hospital

The club has finished building the water fall/pond at the east end of Phoenix Children's Hospital and plans for remodeling the west end with an "Elevated Train" above the tracks have been going on for a couple of months now. Due to many health problems, one might say we're been dragging our feet a little. Ed Dunshie and his crew gave us a fine foundation with the original layout to build from. Nothing is being changed from the original ovals, just an overhead "End To End EI" above the west end with the town and the country side rearranged differently.

Many club members have been involved with the layout at PCH over the past few years, but Jerry McKenzie (520-466-5938) always can use more assistance and help for this fine ABTO project.

### Work Party

A group of members have been working at Sun Lakes on the construction of the "Cross Bucks" for the convention open houses. It is very crowded in the Thompson's garage!

If you're interested, call Ennis at (602-527-0402). We might need one or two more people. Oh yes, we usually meet on Thursday mornings.

**There are a lot of activities going on in ABTO and Ennis Thompson always seems to do a fine job at the helm. Thanks Ennis, for all your efforts. By the way, he is doing well after knee surgery and will take on ankle surgery the first of October. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers.**

**I'll continue on some of these ABTO events that Ennis did not mention: Check the calendar, there are two modular events coming up. We will have volunteer sign up sheets at the next meetings. As those of us who have worked these events know, we need people to set up, work, and be there to tear down. So let's set aside time and let's encourage some of the new members to get involved. They can learn the drill with a little assistance from our more experienced members, and have a little fun running trains too! E-mail Ennis or Jim Kangas to receive more information on meeting times and dates.**

Ennis: egtrailroading@aol.com

Jim Kangas: Jkangasat@cox.net

Don't forget to buy raffle tickets for the Convention Quilt!

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



### Have you seen the 2008 Convention Car?

**Quantities will be limited so put your order in when you register. Check the registration form for prices.**



## New ABTO Members

The following are new ABTO members.  
 Please make them feel welcome  
 the next time you see them.

### Tony & Nancy Knapp

He has an indoor G-scale layout

**Hope to see you both at the next meeting!  
 Welcome!**

**Bring your finished project  
 (from June meeting)  
 to the Aug meeting for show & tell!**

## SUMMARY OF UNOFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

Aug 4, 2007

Board members present were: Bob, Gerry, Glenn, Don & Roy

Guests were: Tony Vacek, Sandy Rauperstrauch

Minutes: Read and Approved

Treasurer's report: Read and Approved

Old Business:

Activities: Tehachapi trip per Rich Hull - full with 24 members going, 2 on stand-by. Van and hotel reservation have been made.

Modules: 2 events coming up—nothing to report. Need to plan who will pull the module trailers.

Phx. Children's Hospital: Arrangements still need to be made to meet with Kelly - Surgeries and vacations make it difficult to get together.

Banner Desert Hospital: Don Halver: nothing to report  
Convention: Bob R for Rich Hull: Meeting of committee heads to be held on Sept 22

Newsletter: Sandy: no issues

Raffles: No raffles at Aug meeting

New Business: Landmark Restaurant for Christmas dinner. More info in September.

Christmas gift exchange not approved.

## Tehachapi Trip

Trip coordinator: **Rich Hull**

Phone #: **480-802-5308 or 602-684-1203**

E-mail: **rhull@wbhsi.net**

24 people are going, (that's the limit) 2 on the waiting list. If you need to cancel, do so now. Vans and hotel rooms have been reserved. This should be another good trip with lots of railroads of all sizes to see.

## What's Cooking !

### Casserole in the Cooker

- 16 oz. pkg. frozen broccoli, thawed and drained.
- 3 cups cubed fully cooked ham
- 10 3/4oz can cream of mushroom soup
- 8-oz. jar processed cheese sauce
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup rice
- 1 cup instant rice
- 1 celery rib, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped

Combine broccoli and ham in slow cooker  
 Combine remaining ingredients.  
 Stir into broccoli/ham mixture.  
 Cover. Cook on low, 4-5 hours

A tried and true recipe from Fix it and Forget it

A Nominating Committee has been formed to elect a new ABTO board for 2008-2009. If you are interested in a board position, please call Jerry McKenzie: 1-520-466-5938

### Layout tour PHOTOGRAPHS

As most of you know, I (your newsletter editor) am photographing the layouts for the 2008 Convention Program. TIME IS RUNNING OUT! The book is 95% DONE. Are your photos in it? Don't miss out—contact me when you are ready with an area to photograph—cut-off is mid September.

## About The Newsletter

Send pictures of trains, your vacation, your RR or anything else to the newsletter editor. RR stories and constructive comments welcome.

If you're one of the lucky ones who can escape the heat, we're all jealous! Have a good summer!

Sandy - Newsletter Editor, braup@cox.net

## For all New Members

For some of the newcomers to ABTO, we, along with the Tucson Garden Railroad Society are sponsoring the

### 2008 National Garden Railway Convention

At the San Marcos Resort in Chandler, AZ. This is a very exciting time for railroading in the southwest. We need your help, there is a lot to do! Read the newsletter for information on the convention, and numbers to call. Share the fun!







**2008 NGRC Calendar**  
*Committee chairs, mark your calendar!*

Sept 22 10:00am Convention Quarterly Meeting San Marcos Resort, Chandler, AZ

**October 28th - For all convention tour hosts.**

Do not forget that Tim from Movie Mix will be coming to your layout to film the DVD of all convention layouts and hosts starting Sunday, October 28 - November 3 for the convention. Have your layout as ready as you can for a nice showing and be prepared to talk about your layout - you can use the descriptions that you sent in for the convention program. Tim is also sending a questionnaire out through the DVD coordinator, Gerry Pfeiffer on some basics. They will be staggered so that everyone is not talking about their RR in the same sequence.

Waste no time - have your RR running at the scheduled time. Tim is fast at filming so be ready to talk about your layout also. He will not be staying long.

As of this notice, you should have time to get your RR ready to go. We have a lot of nice railroads to show on this DVD for the convention. Don't be left out!

***Convention Volunteers***

***Have you put your name in to volunteer at the 08 convention?***

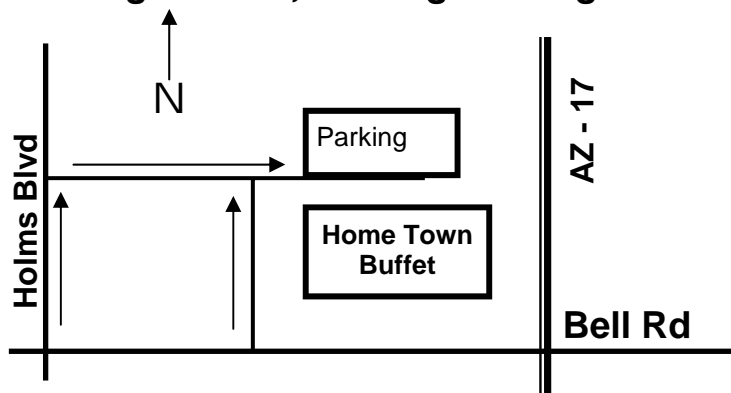
Any and all ABTO members, new and "long timers," get on board!

Every one of us will be needed: helping vendors unload in pre-convention, helping run trains at the open house tours, to guiding people in the right direction, or making sure each seminar room is ready to go. **Spouses too—and friends, and relatives!** Please help out!

There are committee heads to guide you, you won't be alone!

Call Gerry Pfeiffer to sign up: 480-924-8844 or e-mail, gerry\_pfeiffer@ msn.com

***Mark your calendar for the August 18 meeting at the Home Town Buffet on Bell Rd. No Cooking, no pot luck, just a nice breakfast out and a short meeting and a short Demo. Plus, a display of buildings from Jim Kangas' building kits. Nothing to cook, nothing to bring and we all get to socialize and stay cool!***



**ABTO General Meeting**

**Home Town Buffet**  
 2730 W. Bell Rd.  
 Phoenix, AZ

**Saturday, August 18**  
**8:30am - 11:00 pm**

**\*\*Bring your finished building project for show and tell,**  
 (if you had been selected to  
 receive a kit at the June meeting)

**Breakfast buffet runs about \$8.00**

# Arizona Big Train Operators

## 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—more if there is space;

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.**



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Tempe, AZ 85284

To:

ABTO General Meeting Aug18  
Home Town Buffet - Phoenix, AZ