



# Arizona Big Train Operators

## Newsletter

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

July 2007

Volume 15, No 7

### President's Message

Hello Garden Railroaders!

For those of you who were at the last meeting, these photos will be familiar. For those of you who could not make it, I hope they convey some sense of the meeting's flavor. We had a good turnout and pretty much filled the meeting room. As you can see, there was room for all of us and still space for John Meyer's rather large bridge demonstration.

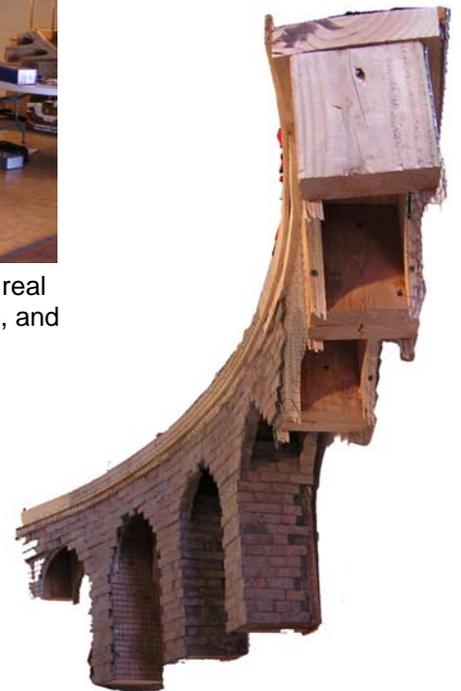
As you know, we met at the Sun Lakes Club House and had our usual great breakfast potluck with pancakes, sausage, potatoes, bacon etc. Even the doughnuts arrived on time! We all ate pretty well that morning... John Meyers had a demonstration of applying a stone face to a wood viaduct substrate. As you can see from the photo, the results are spectacular! For those of you who missed the demonstration, if you need details on how John did this, call him. He'll be happy to share the information.

For next month, I need your immediate RSVP's for an 11:00 AM lunch buffet at the San Marcos Golf Resort in Chandler. Please call me directly as we need to provide the resort with a head count. We will be eating and meeting there with part of the cost subsidized by the club. We will have a tour of the resort which hosts the 2008 National Garden Railway Convention in May of next year. Our hope is to familiarize you all with the physical layout of the grounds and building interior spaces. We will have a short meeting and a demo from Roy Towne on a new siding product that he has used on his new diner. I hope to hear from all of you confirming your attendance at next month's meeting.

Bob Rauperstrauch



There were about 7 tables of 10—a real good turn out for a summer meeting, and time to socialize.



This is a cut away photo of John Meyers' viaduct. You can tell that it is quite a nice structure, and shows how it is made. He can tell you more.

Photos by Sandy R

**ABTO Board Members**

President

Bob Rauperstrauch

Vice President

Glenn Sampson

Secretary

Roy Towne

Treasurer

Don Halver

Member at Large

Gerry Pfeiffer

gerry\_pfeiffer@msn.com

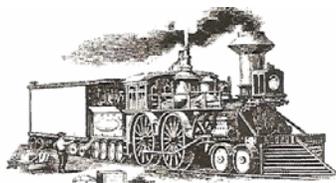
Newsletter Editor

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!



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



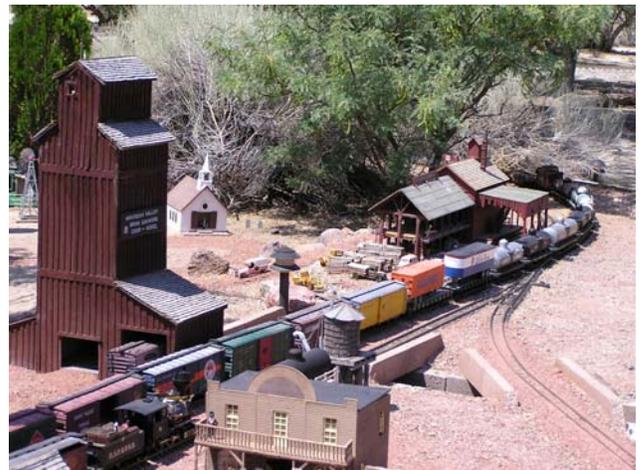
July	21	11:00am-2:00pm	<b><u>ABTO General Meeting</u></b> San Marcos Golf Resort 1 San Marcos Place - Chandler, AZ RSVP Bob Rauperstrauch 480-753-9690
Aug	4	8:00am	<b><u>ABTO Board Meeting</u></b> Home Town Buffet 2730 W Bell Rd. - Phoenix
	18		<b><u>ABTO General Meeting</u></b> Home Town Buffet— no Pot luck! 2730 W. Bell Rd. Phoenix
Sept	1	8:00am	<b><u>ABTO Board Meeting</u></b> Home Town Buffet 1312 N. Scottsdale Rd.
	15	TBA	<b><u>ABTO General Meeting</u></b> Brian & Rebecca Casull
	27-30		<b><u>Tehachapi Rail Fan Trip</u></b>
Oct	6	8:00am	<b><u>ABTO Board Meeting</u></b> Home Town Buffet 1312 N. Scottsdale Rd. - Scottsdale
	13-14		<b><u>McCormick Stillman Railfair</u></b> Module event
	20-21		<b><u>Botanical Garden</u></b> Module event
	28	12:00-4:00pm	<b><u>ABTO General Meeting</u></b> Mike & Nancy Lewandowski
Nov	3	8:00am	<b><u>ABTO Board Meeting</u></b> 2730 W Bell Rd. - Phoenix
	17	8:30am	<b><u>ABTO General Meeting</u></b> Adobe Mt ABTO/AGRS joint breakfast meeting
	24	9:00am - 3:00pm	<b><u>Turkey Meet—Mesa</u></b> Jerry's Trains for kids
Dec			<b><u>NO ABTO Board Meeting</u></b>

### Photos from the tours in Las Vegas

Starting on Wed on the west side of Las Vegas was a nice layout stretching all the way across the back yard in a narrow space at Roy & Mariko Luehsenhop's RR. →



Joe and Marva Raine's layout in Mt. Charleston, NV was at an elevation of 8,000 ft. Trestle made of metal tubing replaced the wooden trestle that didn't hold up in the 23' annual snow fall.



There was lots of acreage at Lou and Joan Banning's layout in Pahrump, NV and shade trees for visitors to enjoy their boxed lunch. They even had a 1-1/2" = 1' train to ride. ←



Another beautiful layout at Rod and Kathy Morgan's home where Kathy's specialty is miniature trees and shrubs of all kinds, adding to a very realistic look.



## ***Christmas in July!!***

### **Let's talk about the December Open House tours!**

Plans are being made for the ABTO Christmas Open House Tours.

Once again, Ennis Thompson will be organizing this event. He is soliciting members who want to be on the tours and included in the advertising and ABTO maps. Please call him so you won't be left out, if you want to show off your railroad. The ABTO Board has determined that donations collected at homes participating in the open house tours will be given to the ABTO treasurer for the sole use of operating and maintaining trains at the Phoenix Children's Hospital. Please call Ennis if you want to be part of the tour. He will coordinate all advertising.

## ***Have you Registered for the 2008 Convention In Chandler, Arizona?***

The 2007 NGRC in Las Vegas is over and all who attended came home with all kinds of new train stuff. The 2008 convention booth which was manned by both ABTO and TGRS, was also very successful by promoting interest and registering people for the event. Everyone is excited about coming to Arizona. Our festivities are unique, in that we have the Mexican Fiesta instead of the Ice Cream Social, and the BBQ at Adobe Mountain offers people a great experience viewing trains in all scales. We offer 49 train layout tours that cover the Phoenix and Tucson metro areas. Participants will get a special treat staying at the San Marcos Resort which is unlike any other convention facility - it offers all the resort amenities. Dining in the Downtown area offers 18 restaurants in walking distance.

There were some difficulties originally with the on-line registration, but changing to a new service has eliminated any problems and it is now working smoothly. So you can go online, find the registration form, and register. If you request an early mailing of the program, for \$15, you will receive all the maps and locations for the pre-convention tours.

We are well underway to a successful convention in '2008. See you there!



This is the 2008 Convention Car that was unveiled and on display in the booth at the 2007 convention in Las Vegas. As incentive to register for the '08 convention, registrants were entered in a raffle to win the car when the '07 convention was over. This car can be purchased when you register, and will also be on sale in the general Store.

**Editors notes on the '07 tours. These are just my personal observations, things to think about for those of you with layouts open for the '08 convention and ideas for some of you just starting out.**

It is always interesting to see what others have done with their garden railroads, and as you see from a few of the photos here in the newsletter, there were some terrific layouts. All of them had a theme that was conveyed, nice towns, water features, the usual bridges, tunnels, and trestles, and all but one had trains running. That is an important element, but we understand, sometimes those darn little engines have a mind of their own.

Since the climate in Las Vegas is so similar to ours, (it was hot!) it was interesting to see how they handled the vegetation. Not very many had any artificial plants—in fact most went out of their way to show off nice specimens of unusual dwarf plantings which really enhanced the railroads. That tells me it can be achieved here as well.

The usual kit buildings were seen, but more than that, were some very large unique original structures that added a nice variety to the layouts both in scale and interest.

Like most of us, it seems like the railroad was an addition to the yard and therefore, track was laid on the existing 1/2" rock ground cover. We have been down that road, and changed it all out for a look in scale to the railroad itself. Now I prefer to see very small decomposed granite for the railroad base. There were many with rock not in scale to the layouts.

The excitement of the hunt, getting trough traffic, finding

the addresses, having the correct gate code, is the ultimate train scavenger hunt! You look around, take lots of pictures, thank the hosts, and you're off to the next. Then when you get home, you put all the pictures on the computer to see what you want to print.

Here is the disappointment; an awesome stamp mill with an oversized rock left in the way. Nothing I could do about that! Sure Photoshop works, but why bother. A terrific shot of a train on a trestle, with big garbage cans in the background. I couldn't move the cans either. And at times, that is how photography of the railroad goes.

But it is also a reminder for those of us showing in '08, to tidy up the yard, the patio, pick up the garbage cans, and make sure the trains are all running good. The photos of your railroad are permanent and may end up published in someone's newsletter on the other side of the country, so let's hope the comments are all positive. I know we'll be stuffing a lot of outdoor, non-RR stuff in the garage.

Most of all, everyone was proud of their railroad, and happy to share the hobby with visitors from all over. And yes, it was fun to see what goes on, on someone else's garden railroad. And I love looking at the photos and getting more ideas, even though some aren't the perfect shot.

**BULLETIN BOARD**

***Club Members Special!***

Call Roger Crooks if you are interested in these items: 480-964-6058

16	Pair New Aristocraft Couplers.....	\$3.00 ea
4	Pair New Kadee #831 in Package.....	\$5.75 ea
2	Trains Couplers in Package.....	\$3.00ea
1	Pair New LGB Trucks w/plastic wheels & Hook & Loop Couplers... ..	\$5.00
2	Pair USA Trains Trucks w/plastic wheels & Hook & Loop Couplers.....	\$5.00
3	Pair New Aristocraft Roller Bearing Trucks w/plastic wheels & Aristocraft Couplers ...	\$9.00
1	Set New Aristocraft #29111B Metal Replacement Wheels.....	\$13.00
4	Pair New Aristocraft Trucks w/plastic wheels & Aristocraft Couplers.....	\$5.00ea
3	Pair Used Aristocraft Trucks w/plastic wheels & Aristocraft Couplers.....	\$4.00
1	Pair Used Aristocraft Trucks w/plastic wheels & Aristocraft Couplers (Weathered Heavily & Poorly).....	\$3.00
1	Pair Used Aristocraft Trucks w/plastic wheels & Hook & Loop Couplers .....	\$5.00

Call Ennis Thompson if you are interested in the following items: 602-527-0402

Call for prices if interested

J-3C MTH Hudson w/ hand held controller w/ DCS TIU  
Bridgeworks 10 amp transformer

