

The Sierra Nevada & Chardonnay RR at Bob & Suzanne Odell's home stretched around the pool and side yards. Nice ground treatment and ballast with this scene of industry on the RR as only one of many elements to be seen.

More Photos from the Las Vegas tours



This is only a small corner of the Mystic Bay & Hooterville RR at Rich & Carol Launchbaugh's home. Loops ran 6' high up the 12' wall with lush plantings along the track.



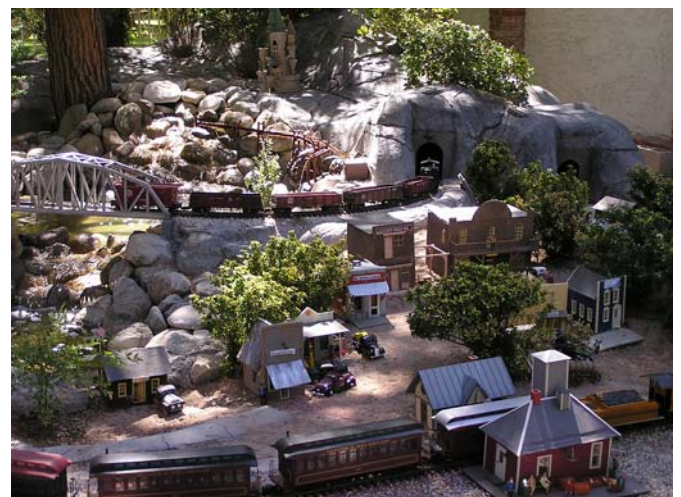
Bobby D Distribution Depot in Bob Dack's garden is 25' x 75' layout with room to walk around all sides. A beautiful water feature and vignettes add to the overall design.



The BYOB Railroad at the home of John & Helen Palewicz had nice examples of scratch built structures like this one.



Sue Jerrems continues to run the railroad in her husband's memory and did a fantastic job. She not only has a 70'x 70' lake, but also a full sized Pullman car, a caboose, a switcher, as well as the G-scale trains that had room to travel the grounds.



Mount Union RR by Spike and Kathleen Fusion was another well done layout in a small area. The shade of large trees helps the small shrubs, and the water feature was a nice addition.

**ABTO
 Committee Heads**

Activities

Glenn Sampson

Jim Kangas

Modules

Ennis Thompson

Jim Kangas

Phoenix Children's Hospital

Jerry McKenzie
 sparetimeaz@msn.com

Banner Desert Hospital

Don Halver

Web Site

Mike Lewandowski

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

Ennis Thompson

Meeting Host Coordinator

Jim Kangas - East Side

John Meyers - West Side

Shirt, Badge, & Vest Coordinator

Jim Snyder



Harold & Elouise Price have the C & J Railroad, named for their Grandson's. Unfortunately, many missed this nice setup because of the gate code.

More from Vegas!

One of the perks of Las Vegas is getting your picture taken with a showgirl. Look who's all smiles!



"ALL ABOARD!!"



Have you ever wanted to shout those words to a bunch of eager passengers?? Well, the 2008 convention may be your opportunity to do just that!! We are looking for a few (about 12) good men and women who want to serve as Bus Guides for the four days of tours---three in Phoenix and one in Tucson. Besides getting to wear a cool conductor's hat and carry a loud megaphone, you will have the responsibility of guiding the bus drivers to each layout quickly and efficiently while entertaining the passengers with stories of local color and highlights of each anticipated layout. In March or early April, you will be asked to attend a two-hour training session led by a professional tour guide to receive pointers on being the most effective bus guide ever. If you are interested, please notify John and Pat Meyers or jtpmeyers@cox.net.

This Train Quilt could be Yours!

Tickets for the Train Quilt will be sold at all ABTO events. Sales were good at the Ontario Big Train Show as the photo and signage were featured along with the Convention Banner. It will 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.



***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

No new members at this time

Don't forget to welcome new members and guests. It is a common complaint that when we all attended our 1st meeting, current members were not very friendly. So step up and introduce yourself. We were all 1st timers at some point so remember how uncertain you were at your 1st meeting.

Banner Desert Hospital

Don Halver will be soliciting help for train maintenance when the trains are running.

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

SUMMARY OF UNOFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

July 7, 2007

Board members present were: Bob, Gerry, Glenn, Don & Roy
 Guests were: Tony Vacek, Sandy Rauperstrauch, Bob Clark & Ennis Thompson

Minutes: Read and Approved

Treasurer's report: Short version - approved.

Old Business:

Activities: Jim - no activities at this time

Modules: Ennis - Nothing to report

Phx. Children's Hospital: Ennis to needs to talk to Kelly - waiting to pay for frame for west end at hospital.

No expenditures over \$100

Banner Desert Hospital - Don Halver: nothing to report

Convention - Bob R for Rich Hull: Registration is going well.

Newsletter - Sandy: no issues

Raffles - No raffles at Aug meeting. Nice raffle cars were purchased in Vegas.

New Business:

1. No problem with status of 501(C)3 for taxes
2. Tehachapi Trip in the planning stages. Signup sheet at next meeting.
3. Hat & Tee shirt order still tabled.
4. Need committee to find summer meeting locations
5. Status of membership—90 members at this time

Tehachapi Plans are Being Made

Plans for the annual trek to Tehachapi Loop in CA are being made. This is one of the most famous scenes in the United States in railroading. Dates are September 27th - 29th 2007. It probably will be the same as last year using 2-3 large vehicles belonging to club members and hotel rooms will be about \$60 plus the cost of fuel and food. More details pending.

See or call **Rich Hull** if you are interested.

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

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

What's Cooking !

"Plenty More in the Kitchen"

- 3 lbs. ground beef
- 1 cup, or 1 chopped onion
- 1 Tbsp oil
- 26 oz jar of tomato sauce or spaghetti sauce
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tsp chili powder
- 1 tsp pepper
- 2 Tbsp dark brown sugar
- 16 oz can whole-kernel corn
- 2 14 oz cans beef broth
- 8 oz pkg. dry elbow macaroni
- 1 cup grated sharp cheese

Brown beef and onion in oil.

Combine all ingredients except cheese - pour into **slow cooker**.

Cover. Cook on high 1 hour. Turn to low and cook 4 more hours.

Sprinkle with cheese and cook 10 more min.

(can use half the beef and 1/2-1 cup more macaroni)
 A tried and true recipe from Fix it and Forget it

About The Newsletter

As the weather got warmer, more folks went in for surgery and physical therapy. Ennis is doing great, but more surgery scheduled. Good to see Glenn Sampson back at the meetings and busy making cross bucks. Our admiration to Marcia and Katy for getting these guys back on track. Bill Nagel goes in for a biopsy—let's share a little prayer for his outcome. Best wishes to Marcia Thompson who lost her father & to Lila Snider, a speedy recovery from your fall.

As time flies by with our busy schedules, slow down and share a kind thought or a kind word for someone in need. It does make a difference.

Sandy - Newsletter Editor, braup@cox.net



2008 NGRC Calendar
Committee chairs, mark your calendar!

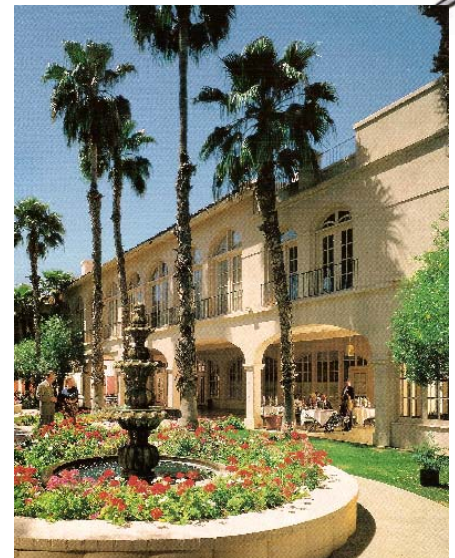
Sept 22 10:00am Convention Quarterly Meeting San Marcos Resort, Chandler, AZ

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. Enjoy the summer!

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

About July's ABTO meeting at the San Marcos Resort
Come enjoy lunch and see where the 2008 convention is being held

Park anywhere in the San Marcos Parking lot. Proceed to the Hotel Lobby. At the end of the lobby, look for Don Halver, our ABTO treasurer. He will be collecting money for the buffet lunch. Proceed to AJ's Café (Named for A.J. Chandler) and have a wonderful buffet lunch at a great price. For the acclimated few, you may enjoy the outdoor patio. After lunch, Bob or a hotel person, will give a quick tour of the hotel grounds, ending in a meeting room where a very brief meeting will be held and a demo by Roy Towne. **Don't forget to RSVP.**



ABTO General


San Marcos Golf Resort
1 San Marcos Place
Chandler, Arizona 85248

Saturday July 16th
11:00am - 2:00 pm

Buffet Lunch, only \$6:00
Pay cash or make check to ABTO

****RSVP****

Call: Bob or Sandy Rauperstrauch

 **480-753-9690 by July 13**