



Arizona Big Train Operators

Newsletter

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

June 2007

Volume 15, No 6

President's Message

Hello Garden Railroaders!

Last month's meeting at Gerry Pfeiffer's was another "full house" with a large member turnout including some new members. The photograph below shows how many of us were there half an hour before the meeting was scheduled to start! You'd think we had nothing to do all day but play with trains. At any rate, the railroad was well filled with dioramas on the raised framework. The dioramas showed off Gerry's fine scratch building skills with the ghost town being the most striking of all the scratch built elements. He has mastered the art of weathered wood. Long trains were the order of the day with the passenger consists shown off to full advantage on the long straights and large radius curves. For those of you who managed to make it into his house, the UP Challenger on the trestle, on the counter, was quite striking to view. It's clear he doesn't have a wife to determine what interior decorating elements are a priority.

The module folks all went to the "Big Train Convention" in Ontario, CA., over the first weekend in June and put on a real show for the convention attendees. We had a large number of members go, along with many new dioramas for the modules. We showed quite well and it was a good thing, as Saturday set a new record for attendance at the show. Rich Hull was told that Saturday's overall show attendance exceeded the combined total of any previous Saturday AND Sunday at the Queen Mary site! The aisles were twice as wide as at the Queen, and they were every bit as crowded for most all of Saturday. It was pretty neat. Our people did an outstanding job in manning the modules, talking to the attendees, promoting the 2008 Convention, selling quilt tickets, and still managing to get a few people to San Val, some 60 miles away.



This next month's meeting will be at the Sun Lakes Phase 1 Club House. The details are in this newsletter. We will be having a breakfast meeting, a demo by John Meyers and a "round robin" where we will view two new layouts. Ennis Thompson's and Rich Hull's railroads have recently been completed and many of you have not had the opportunity to view them. This will be your chance. Both are quite different from each other but do share a common element, namely being built up in a free standing planter allowing access on all sides of the layout. Rich Hull's railroad was designed by Dennis Busby who built it with the help of Jack Johnson. Both of whom labored through the rains we had in the spring, making the job outside a real "pleasure". Hope to see you all there!

Bob Rauperstrauch

Photos by Sandy R

ABTO Board Members

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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



June	16	TBA	<u>ABTO general Meeting</u> Sun Lakes ?
	27-30		<u>NGRC Las Vegas Convention</u>
July	7	8:00am	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> 1312 N. Scottsdale Rd. - Scottsdale
	21	11:00am-2:00pm	<u>ABTO General Meeting</u> San Marcos Golf Resort RSVP Bob Rauperstrauch 480-753-9690
Aug	4	8:00am	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> 2730 W Bell Rd. - Phoenix
	18		<u>ABTO General Meeting</u> <u>TBA</u>
Sept	1	8:00am	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> 1312 N. Scottsdale Rd.
	15	TBA	<u>ABTO General Meeting</u> Brian & Rebecca Casull
	27-30		<u>Tehachapi Rail Fan Trip</u>
Oct	6	8:00am	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> 1312 N. Scottsdale Rd. - Scottsdale
	13-14		<u>McCormick Stillman Railfair</u> Modules event
	20-21		<u>Botanical Garden</u> Module event
	28	12:00-4:00pm	<u>ABTO General Meeting</u> Mike & Nancy Lewandowski
Nov	3	8:00am	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> 2730 W Bell Rd. - Phoenix
	17	8:30am	<u>ABTO General Meeting</u>

Aug is still open for a meeting. We're looking for a "cool" location. If you are interested or have any suggestions, please call Bob Rauperstrauch, 480-753-9690

Pictures from the May meeting at Gerry Pfeiffer's home.



Here we see Al Wendler talking about a technique from Stoneworks to build a tunnel portal out of real stone and cement. The process is actually performed “backwards” with the cut stone going face down in a mold to allow the backfilling of the mold with concrete to lock the stones into place and make a solid portal. The other beauty of using real stone, is that it doesn't have to be colored.

On the right is part of Gerry's ghost town. You can almost hear the wind blowing through the buildings and the swinging of the signs, squeaking on their mounts... Note the coloring of the wood. The photo doesn't show all the nuances that Gerry has incorporated into the coloring of the buildings. I wonder if the roofing contractor offers warranty coverage...?



On the left side of the yard is Gerry's town site, showing a bit more lively scene than in the ghost town. He has effectively combined various building sizes and styles to produce a “busy” looking community without overpowering the space. While it looks busy, there is road access to all store fronts and the roads are wide enough for automobiles. It might seem a little thin on natural foliage, but it is standing 24” above the ground. You can just see the track and diorama framework in the lower right hand side of the photo. What isn't shown clearly is the post system in the ground that holds up the entire framework and dioramas. It's a nice approach to a raised layout.



Modules go to Ontario, California

Another show has come and gone and one we probably will always remember. It was one of the best experiences I've had with the ABTO modules. Just seeing all of our group renewing old friendships, gaining new ones, buying new equipment, running trains, and sleeping in the great hotel in walking distance with an occasional train whistle during the night.

Rich Hull orchestrated our group evening dinners to perfection with two of the finest eating establishments we could ask for. Those fine dinners did nothing for the belt line though, but the camaraderie of the group just



Not singling out anyone, I would like to thank everyone involved for the fine help in setting up, working trains, And tearing down of the layouts (3 total) as if you'd done it all your life.

Glenn's new "Helix" and Jerry's Self Operating Layout" were enjoyed by many children and adults alike. There were many visitors to these two layouts. The down side was Glenn Sampson's medical problem the day before the excursion was to begin. Glenn was missed very much by all the module members. Get well soon Glenn.

There were a total of about 36 passes given out for the show, as we all saw new ideas and gained some new enthusiasm before going home to our own layouts.

We would like to thank everyone for the help at the show. Like we said, there were too many single out.

Yours in Railroading,
Ennis Thompson and Jim Kangas



Just a few ABTO members at the show pose next to the 2008 Convention banner. Many registration forms were passed out and we did a good job promoting the modules and the 2008 convention.

More photos from Ontario!

Jerry McKenzie shows off Dan's display. He shows a few interested people how this switching setup works!



New member Ginny Morris (not pictured) helped out by showing Glenn Sampson's helix. Gerry Pfeiffer and Tony Vacek took over the display for a little while. It generated a lot of interest.



Jerry's Trains for Children was also on display showing off the kids display that enchanted everyone. His scratch built engine is all decked out and ready to tour his golf course.



Here's Ennis doing what he likes to do - promoting the hobby, the modules, the 2008 convention, and Elkhart, Indiana!

Thanks Ricky Sherman for the photos of

Glenn Sampson was greatly missed at the Ontario show. We know he is on the mend and hope that by the time you get this newsletter, he will be home from the hospital. It's hard to keep a good man down and he should know we've all said many prayers for his recovery.

On another note, Jerry is proud to say that his wife, Joanne McKenzie is doing terrific after knee replacement surgery. Keep up the good work Joanne- it's a lot of work doing all that therapy.

Ennis is next up for knee replacement on June 11, if all goes according to plan. We know he will not be kept out of action for long, and we'll be wishing him the best.