



# Arizona Big Train Operators

## Newsletter

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

March 2007

Volume 15, No 3

### President's Message

Hello Garden Railroaders!

It was a great turnout at Glenn and Katie Sampson's February general meeting. The reason for the evening meeting was to show off the rebuilt layout and all the work Glenn has completed in order to light his entire layout for night viewing. He has installed grain of wheat bulbs, screw base bulbs and some unique street lights to illuminate the town and surrounding countryside. See page 5 for more details on how Glenn builds his lighting. As always, his buildings and right of way are well done and worth examining closely. He has rebuilt the whole railroad by expanding his towns and widening the streets so that it more closely resembles real life. With the building and street lighting, the whole layout comes to life after the sun goes down. I noticed that he had expanded the cog railway and added lighting to the route, thus providing general landscaping lighting as an additional benefit.



The evening dining and social time was also enjoyed by all with Katie, once again, setting up the basic meal with members contributing delicious side dishes and deserts.

Overall the whole meeting went very well with Dan Hoag providing the high point with his new plasma cut steel buildings. They are going to be a hit - you will have to see them to appreciate their durability. These are buildings you can leave out in the sun and rain for a lifetime!

I would like to thank those of you attending, for your patience with me during the business portion of the meeting. As it got dark, the lone flood light that Glenn had in the corner of the grass dining area was pointing right at me and so watching

me reading the agenda was no doubt entertaining to you all! My misidentifying members was a direct result of that back lit environment.

The March meeting will once again be held at John and Pat Meyers' home for a daytime general meeting and our 2nd annual ABTO auction. As you recall John has the 7/8ths scale railroad depot in his back yard that acts as a control station and storage building. John has been working on his pond which was not complete at last year's meeting. We'll see how far he has gotten when we all show up March 17th. Once again, the special treat is the 2nd annual ABTO auction, made possible by your generous donations of G-scale "memorabilia". We'll have a broad assortment of strange and useful items for your bidding delight. We have an LGB locomotive, misc. track, pond liner, train videos, Kadee couplers, stationary sound systems, collectors plates and a kids train quilt to name just a few of the offerings. So bring your petty cash or checks, no credit cards please, and prepare to be entertained with the spirited bidding which our auctioneer Jim Kangas is known for, far and wide. Jim has recently had to turn down a reality show opportunity just to be with us, auctioning off our "treasures". So, hope to see you there.

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

Bob Rauperstrauch

**ABTO Board Members**

President  
 Bob Rauperstrauch

Vice President  
 Glenn Sampson

Secretary  
 Roy Towne

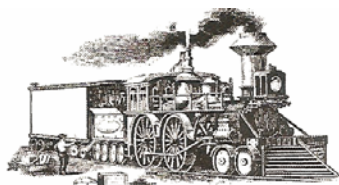
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LAST MINUTE CHANGES  
 PLEASE NOTIFY the  
 PRESIDENT or a  
 BOARD MEMBER, or the  
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR with  
 information concerning a time,  
 date, location change or can-  
 cellation, in order that all mem-  
 bers can be notified by Email  
 and the Calling Tree can be  
 activated in a timely manner.

Constructive comments are  
 always welcome!



**Calendar of Events**

2007



*Date Change* →

<b>March</b>	<b>9-11</b>	<b><u>Modules</u></b> Ostrich Festival See page 3 for Module schedule
	<b>17 11am - 2 pm</b>	<b><u>ABTO General Meeting</u></b> John & Pat Meyers'
	<b>21 1:30pm</b>	<b><u>Pre-Convention Meeting</u></b> Rich & Sharon Hull's home
	<b>24</b>	<b><u>Adobe Mountain</u></b> Modules event
	<b>31 8:30am - 9:30am</b>	<b><u>ABTO Board Meeting (for April)</u></b> <b>San Marcos Hotel - Chandler</b>
	<b>31 10:00am</b>	<b><u>2008 NGRC Meeting</u></b> <b>San Marcos Hotel—Chandler</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>1 11:30</b>	<b><u>Spring Picnic</u></b> McCormick-Stillman RR Park
	<b>14-15</b>	<b><u>Spring Open House Tours</u></b>
	<b>21</b>	<b><u>NO ABTO General Meeting</u></b> Spring picnic is event for April
<b>May</b>	<b>5 8am - 11am</b>	<b><u>ABTO Board Meeting</u></b> Home Town Buffet Bell Rd. - Phoenix
	<b>19 5:00 - 8:00pm</b>	<b><u>ABTO General Meeting</u></b> Gerry Pfeiffer
<b>June</b>	<b>1 6am</b>	<b><u>Leave for Ontario</u></b> Modules showing 2nd and 3rd
<b>June</b>	<b>2 8:00am</b>	<b><u>ABTO Board Meeting</u></b> Ontario

June is still open for a meeting. If you are interested or have any suggestions,  
 please call  
 Glenn Sampson,

Schedule for the Ostrich Festival in Chandler

- March 8 8:00am Breakfast at Chandler Airport Café for those interested.
- March 8 10:00am Module set up at Tumbleweed Park (follow directions below)
- March 9 2:00 pm Final tune up for show from 4:00pm - 7:00pm
- March 10 9:00am Show from 10:00 - 7:00pm
- March 11 11:00am Show from 12:00 - 7:00 pm (Breakdown after, if not before 7:00pm)



Parking passes, tickets, etc. will be addressed the first of the week via e-mail and phone, due to the lack of communication before this newsletter printing. Jim Kangas and Ennis Thompson will get the word out to everyone about the passes and tickets when we get that information.

Location of Tumbleweed Park:

1. Go east or west (depending on which way you are coming) on #202 (South)
2. Go right or south off the freeway at McQueen to Germann Rd. (the park is on the south west corner).
3. Continue to East Ryan Rd. and turn right (west) to the vendor parking lot.

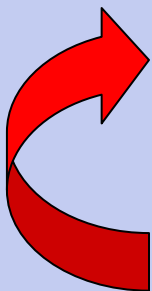
If you can talk real nice to the guards, turn into the first street south of Germann Rd. and ask to unload your wares at the EXHIBIT AREA WHERE THE TRAINS ARE. After you unload, we have to park in the east Ryan Rd. parking lot.

We'll see all of you who can set up on the 8th.

Call Ennis or Jim Kangas  
 if you are new to the modules and want to help.



**ABTO Dues are due!**



**ABTO will accept late dues at the March General meeting  
 Checks for \$35 can be made out to ABTO  
 mailed to:**

**Don Halver,**

**The Roster will be mailed after the March meeting  
 Your name will be removed if you are no  
 longer a member**

**Thanks for taking care of this detail. (The Roster is the place  
 to find all those phone #'s and addresses.)**

**Let's have fun running trains!**





2008 NATIONAL GARDEN RAILWAY CONVENTION  
 Wednesday, April 29 - Saturday, May 4  
 The Convention web site is up at <http://NGRC2008.org>  
 Location: Crowne Plaza San Marcos Golf Resort in Candler, AZ

**We are encouraging all ABTO members who are thinking about going to the convention to register now.**

You can do that by getting the registration form on line.  
 Here is some additional convention information. Handouts will be available at the March meeting.

**2008 Convention Schedule**

**Must be Registered to Participate**

**Monday: Self driving tours** - pre-convention open house train tours in the Tucson areas

**Tuesday April 29: Convention Begins**

**Tuesday:** Walk in registration begins from 12 pm - 8 pm

Registration for vendors vbegin from 8am - 8pm. Set up from 12pm - 8pm

**am and pm self driving only tours** - convention open house tours in the Phoenix areas

	<b>Wed April 30</b>	<b>Thurs May 1</b>	<b>Fri May 2</b>	<b>Sat May 3</b>	<b>Sun May 4</b>
<b>Registration</b>	6am - 1:00pm	6 am - 12pm	6 am - 12pm	6 am - 12pm	Walk-in Reg 6am - 3pm
<b>Buses leave</b>	Phoenix Tours 7am ↓	Thursday Tours 7am ↓	Phoenix Tours 7am ↓	Phoenix Tours 7am ↓	No bus tours
<b>Layouts open</b>	8am - 1pm Phx area	9am - 5pm Tucson Area	8am - 1pm Adobe Mt 11am-5pm	8am - 1pm Phx Area	Self driving car only 9am - 1pm
<b>Buses return to To San Marcos</b>	1:30pm - 2pm	6:30pm-7pm	1:30pm - 2pm	1:30 - 2pm	None
<b>Vendor hall open</b>	2pm - 6pm	4pm - 9pm	11:30am - 2:30pm	8am - 4pm	8am - 3pm
<b>General Store</b>	7am - 10pm	7am - 10pm	7am - 10pm	7am - 4pm	7am - 3pm
<b>Clinics &amp; Seminars</b>	3pm - 6pm	6pm - 9pm	none	3pm - 4pm	None
<b>Evening Events:</b>	Mexican Fiesta San Marcos 7pm - 10pm	none	Adobe Mt. BBQ 5pm - 8pm	Banquet no host bar 6pm - 7pm Dinner 7pm - 9pm	None

Cost for registration and each event will be on the web site Registration Form.  
 Times on this schedule are subject to change, ie: the General Store hours.

If you see the schedule, it will be easier for you to block out times for  
 events you want to attend AND block out time that you can volunteer to help out.

*Don't miss the fun!!!!*





**Skunk Creek & Deer Valley Layout Lighting  
(Glenn & Katy Sampson's RR)**

First off Katy and I would like to thank everyone that attended the meeting at our house. We were overwhelmed to say the least, but hope you all had as great a time as we did. I'm afraid my description of the lighting and elements used fell far short of satisfactory, and I'm sure left a number of unanswered questions. With this in mind I'm going to try to clarify what type of lamps were used and where I got them.

There are four categories of lighting, each used for different applications:

1. Mini or grain of wheat lamps: used for street lights, clearance lights, and to illuminate the front of a flat wall hugger building that generally has no interior space.
2. Midget lamps: used for street lights, small buildings, and supplemental lighting in larger buildings. I am replacing most of my grain of wheat applications with this type, as it's easier to just screw in a new bulb than to unsolder and replace the lamp and wiring in entirety.
3. Standard lamps: Used in all large buildings either alone or in multiple, depending on areas to be illuminated. Most of these, I glue the base to a small block of wood and simply set the building down over it.  
Malibu Garden lights: These units are large area accent lights to cover scenes that have no building or individual lighted element.

All of the lamps I use are rated at 14 to 18 volts depending on the vendor. At present I'm using the cheap Malibu transformers and the 12 volt AC terminals on my Bridgeworks transformer. Please realize my reference to Malibu is not to that specific manufacture, rather to a common garden low voltage lighting type of which the Malibu is best known.

Vendors:

[towncountryhobbies.com](http://towncountryhobbies.com)

[micromark.com](http://micromark.com)

Radio Shack

Ace, Home Depot, Lowes, etc

Type	Bulb	Base Type	Brightness	Vendor	Number
Mini	T-1 ¾	Wire Terminal	0.30	A	GW-14
	Midget	T-1 ¾	0.50	B	82590-C
				A	8010-24 or LGB
Standard	T-3 ¾		E-5	A	8010-32 or E5-12
			1.40	C	272-1134
			E-10		272-360
Malibu	T-3 ¾ Wedge		4watt-20watt	D	?



***More about the Convention!***

**Some people wanted to know more about Convention Events, so here is a little description.  
*First of all, you have to register, (pay your dues) to participate.***

**Bus tours:** You can drive your car or pay to ride a bus and see train layouts all over the Phoenix area and the Tucson area in the morning and early afternoon.

**Clinics and Seminars:** Sign up to learn more about the railroad hobby on everything from building street lamps and figures, to building walls for structures. About 22 clinics are scheduled. FREE to registered participants.

**The Vendor Hall:** Big name vendors in the G-scale train hobby set up their wares in three areas at the hotel for easy shopping of train related items. *It's great fun!*

**The General Store:** Located near the registration is where you can purchase the souvenir train car, T-shirts, golf shirts, caps and other memorabilia of the convention.

**Mexican Fiesta:** A social time to meet other hobbyists, enjoy Mexican food, and Hispanic entertainment.

**Adobe Mt. BBQ:** This will be a fun event at Adobe Mt. with a BBQ dinner and train layouts of all scales to see and even some to ride. Bus to take you there and back to the hotel.

**The Banquet:** The grand finale dinner that ends all the fun days of meeting other train hobbyists and having a fun time seeing trains in the southwest.

**There is also an area to run live steam, and a model contest. Look for details on the web.**

***We have a lot to offer with our 1st Convention—Don't miss the fun!***