



Arizona Big Train Operators

Newsletter

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

May 2007

Volume 15, No 5

President's Message

Hello Garden Railroaders,
I would like to thank Dennis Serrine for hosting Dan Hoag's annual open house tour banquet. The delicious Mexican dinner was catered by the Rancho de Tia Rosa Restaurant, and was excellent, as always!



Over 200 Railroad enthusiasts enjoyed the evening following Saturday's open house tours.



Did you recognize our ABTO member Rob Trygg and his band of hold-up men? They were part of the fun as Rob helped Dan pass out the many raffle prizes.



Thanks again Dennis, for sharing your RR.

We have an interesting summer schedule arranged for ABTO members. This month we meet at Gerry Pfeiffer's home to see his unusual elevated railroad. You don't have to bend down to the ground to work on it as it is on a raised steel structure set on posts in his yard. It is well worth seeing!

In June we meet at the Sun Lakes Country Club I for a breakfast meeting and a demo by John Meyers on building a stone bridge. A round robin tour (quick viewing) of Ennis Thompson's and Rich Hull's railroads will follow these events. Rich's layout is a brand new one designed and recently completed by Dennis Busby with help of Jack Johnson.

In July, we will meet at the San Marcos Golf Resort in Chandler, home of the 2008 NGRC. We will have a tour of the resort and a buffet lunch with time to socialize. ABTO will help offset some of the lunch cost for ABTO members.

Bob Rauperstrauch

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

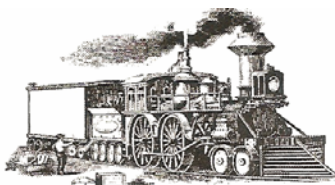
Newsletter Editor

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



May	5	8:00am - 10:30am	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> Home Town Buffet 2730 W. Bell Rd. - Phoenix
	19	5:00 - 8:00pm	<u>ABTO General Meeting</u> Gerry Pfeiffer
June	1	6:00am	<u>Leave for Ontario-Big Train Show</u> Modules showing 2nd and 3rd
	2-3		<u>Modules on Display</u> Ontario, CA
	2	8:00am	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> Ontario - Place TBA
	16	8:00am - 11:00 am	<u>ABTO general Meeting</u> Sun Lakes Country Club
	27-30		<u>NGRC Las Vegas Convention</u>
July	7	8:00am - 10:30am	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> Home Town Buffet—Scottsdale
	21	11:00am - 2:00pm	<u>ABTO General Meeting</u> San Marcos Resort—Chandler
Aug	4	8am - 10:30am	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> Home Town Buffet—Bell Rd
	18		<u>ABTO General Meeting</u> <u>TBA</u>
Sept	1	8am - 10:30am	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> Home Town Buffet—Bell Rd
	15	TBA	<u>ABTO General Meeting</u> Brian & Rebecca Casull
	27 - 30		<u>Tehachapi Rail Fan Trip</u>

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

Pictures from the Spring Open House Tours. April 14th and 15th

These are samples of non ABTO members who will be showing at the 2008 NGRC. There is a lot of talent in the valley and we'll see more on the Convention Tours.



Steve Vendt's RR comes complete with scratch built buildings, a round house facility and lots of room for mountains that have many tunnels and bridges.



Bob Batt is another RR in Sun City that will be showing on convention tours.

Right: bringing lots of fun to retired folks is the shared RR at the Sun City Grand Club House.



Pius Job shows off his Swiss engines.

Right is Terry Leise-gang's RR with a large expanse of desert terrain to run live steam.



Thanks from Dan Hoag

Our 8th annual open house was once again, a big success! Over 800 people came to join us for the weekend's events, and over \$1700 in donations were accepted to benefit Make-A-Wish of Arizona. On top of the 26 layouts open for tour during the event, we also had vendors showing their products, hands-on demonstrations, and a wonderful banquet on Saturday evening, held at Dennis Sirrini's layout. The banquet was extremely well attended with over 200 people. The catered event featured fine Mexican food from Rancho de Tia Rosa restaurant, as well as music, comedy skits, and raffle drawings.

Once again, the open houses on the tour will be featured in a DVD, soon to be available through Movie Mix productions. Added features on this year's DVD will be interviews with the vendors, bonus features, as well as some clips from the banquet festivities.

Congratulations to ALL of the raffle winners, and a special thanks to all of the vendors and advertisers who support us in our yearly efforts to promote the hobby of garden railroading!

New ABTO Members

We'd like to present ABTO's newest members.
Please make them feel welcome next time you meet them.
Please add these names to your roster.

Virginia (Ginny) Morris Home: 480-248-9130
1633 E. Lakeside Dr. Unit 1 E-mail: putterm@cox.net
Gilbert, AZ 85234

Wesley & Allison Schriver Home: 480-518-1282
1149 E. Saddleback Pl. E-mail: wschriver@cox.net
Queen Creek, AZ 85243

Corrections:

James Whatley Suite:1026
Roger Borque E-mail: rmbaz@cox.net

Gary Dennis
361 E. Saddle Butte St.
Apache Junction, AZ 85220

BULLETIN BOARD

What's Cooking !

Lemon Curd & Mock Clotted Cream

From the Kitchen of Pat Meyers

Directions: Slice the scone horizontally, spread a generous amount of lemon curd, add a dollop of the cream, and end with a bit of raspberry jam.

Scone recipe was in the April Newsletter.

LEMON CURD (keeps well; this recipe is enough for about three or four batches of scones)

4 beaten eggs
½ lb. butter
1 lb. sugar (2 2/3 c.)
½ c. lemon juice
Rind of two lemons

In a glass bowl, beat the eggs and then add the remaining ingredients. Stir and heat in the microwave on high for 3 minutes, uncovered. Stir and return to microwave for 2 minute periods, stirring between, until it begins to rise. **Do not boil.** Let stand a few minutes, then spoon into jars and store in refrigerator. Serve chilled.

MOCK CLOTTED CREAM (Since this does not keep well, make only half this recipe for each batch of scones.)

1 c. whipping cream
1 c. sour cream (regular, light or fat free)
4 T. powdered sugar

Beat all ingredients with an electric mixer until thick. Use a deep bowl. Chill before serving and store in the refrigerator.

Since Pat Meyers is a connoisseur of teas that she has collected from her travels, she has provided the Scone, Lemon Curd, and Mock Cream recipe that are good with tea or morning coffee.

Thanks Pat.

SUMMARY OF UNOFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

March 31, 2007

Board members present were: Bob, Glenn, Gerry, & Roy
Guests were: Tony Vacek, Sandy Rauperstrauch,
Ennis Thompson, and Mike Lewandowski.

Treasurer's report read by Don Halver & approved.

Old Business:

Activities: Glenn: no activities.

Modules: Ennis - Meeting for modules May 10 at Glenn Sampson's. Meet June 1st at Cracker Barrel. Turkey Meet to have smaller setup of modules.

Phx. Children's Hospital - Glenn: Still waiting for completion of steel frame for west end.

Banner Desert Hospital - Meeting with Cheryl - ABTO maintains existing level of support.

Convention - Rich Hull- not present. Modules to set up end -to-end and other small module setups with dioramas from ABTO and TGRS.

Newsletter - Sandy: No issues

Raffles - Glenn Sampson: no issues

New Business:

1. Board meeting location in Ontario to be announced.
2. Final plans discussed for June meeting at the Sun Lakes Country Club.
3. July meeting at the San Marcos for ABTO members. ABTO will pay \$5.00 for each member and member to pay for balance of his/her lunch buffet cost.
4. August meeting location discussed.
5. 8 RRs to be selected for convention publicity in GR magazine.
6. ABTO board members have chosen not to show RRs at the Spring Open House Tours in 08.

About The Newsletter

Send pictures, comments, articles of train related material to me. New members, send me your comments! New members have experience and knowledge—don't be shy about sharing. We'd like to hear from you too.





Don't forget to Register!

The 2008 Convention Registration form is located on the convention web site. If you Google, just type in 2008ngrc. Just fill it out, include your check and send it all in to register for the convention.

ABTO and TGRS have agreed to sign up early in support for funding and you can help by "signing up".

Just think, G-scale vendors right at your own back door! Also there will be lots of fun going to different layouts (as seen on page 3) and visiting with other RR hobbyists from all over. That means more fun at the Mexican Fiesta, BBQ at Adobe Mt and Convention Banquet at the San Marcos Golf Resort in Chandler, AZ with plenty of time to socialize. You can only attend if you wear your convention name tag. Hats, shirts and other convention memorabilia will be sold in the Convention General Store.

The only way to participate and get your souvenir program is to register.

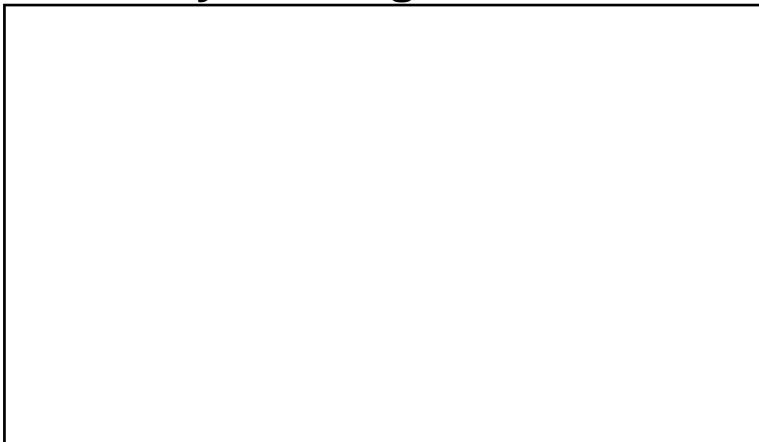
So, Don't miss out!

Attention Scratch Builders !

For those of you who are beginning to do some scratch building of buildings and other items, I have a new source of supplies for you. I ran across them 5 years ago and filed the catalog away, promptly forgetting about it. Well, I ran across it and was so impressed that I had them send me the current catalog. The name of the company is: Precision Scale Model Engineering. Their web site is: www.psmescale.com and their phone number is: 508.478.3148. They have an enormous catalog of everything you will need, from gear motors and drive components (animation projects) to Plastruct beams, ladders and piping details, not to mention hand tools. The Proxxon line of electric tools and all types of plastic siding and roofing materials are some examples of their product line. The catalog is well worth procuring and I strongly suggest that you all get a copy. If you enjoy scratch building, you won't be disappointed to have it in your library.

Bob Rauperstrauch

May Meeting information



**General ABTO Meeting
 Saturday, May 19
 5:00pm - 8:00pm**

Gerry Pfeiffer

R.S.V.P. to Gerry @ 480-924-8844
 for a count on food.

**Hoagies, pizza and water will be provided.
 Please bring a condiment, or salad, or
 dessert.**

**Don't forget your chairs and
 soft drinks if you want!
 Sale table will be provided
 Bring engines to run too!**



Arizona Big Train

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; 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.



ABTO Newsletter Editor
Sandy Rauperstrauch

To:

Next ABTO meeting, Saturday May 19
Gerry Pfeiffer - Mesa Arizona