



Arizona Big Train Operators

Newsletter

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

November 2007

Volume 15, No 11

President's Message

By Bob Rauperstrauch

Hello Garden Railroaders!

It was good to see so many members at Mike and Nancy Lewandowski's spectacular layout at the Oktoberfest meeting. He has come such a long distance from what we saw when we were there in Oct. 2005. Take a look at the photos to the right to see the extent of the cast concrete panels comprising the bulk of his railroad. As always his Oktoberfest was a great hit, with the food as important as the trains. Thank you Mike and Nancy for your great hosting!

This month's meeting will be another breakfast event starting at 8:30 at the Adobe Desert Mountain Park, just off I-17 at Pinnacle Peak Road. See page 9 for the map and time. It will be a joint meeting with the Arizona Garden Railroad Society. We had a similar joint meeting last year and maybe we will meet more members from that club at this meeting.

My term as your President is winding down and will come to a close as of December 31st. I truly hope that I have fulfilled your expectations of what a club should do and the events it should support. A short recap of my accomplishments might be in order as this will be the last newsletter for this year. We don't publish a December edition.

Accomplishments, looking over the past 2 years as your president.

- Membership has increased.
- Steps were taken to support the 2008 National Garden Railway Convention .
- Increased attendance at all general meetings (It has been pointed out that the potlucks are bountiful and delicious!)
- Continued growth and support for the modules within the club.
- Better working relations with the Phoenix Children's Hospital

The real credit for the modules goes to Ennis Thompson and the module committee members. It has been their time and effort that has made the modules a center point of club activity. I'd like to point out that Ennis' unwavering devotion to this club and his tireless efforts on behalf of the modules should be noted, as well as Dan Hoag's originating generosity, that made the initial steel construction of the modules a possibility. In addition, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all the module committee members who have given so freely of their time and money to make the modules a success.

I would also like to thank the Activities Committee for their enormous efforts preparing for all the ABTO events, as well as the bus trip to Colorado. While the trip was ultimately cancelled due to too many events happening this year, I would like to recognize Jim Kangas, and Glenn Sampson for their diligence lining up all the necessary rooms, events and transportation needed for that trip to have taken place. I would encourage them to consider possibly doing it for 2008 or 2009. By that time things should be a little quieter in the garden railroad scene in ABTO. No doubt, we'll be looking for a little something to do after the convention.

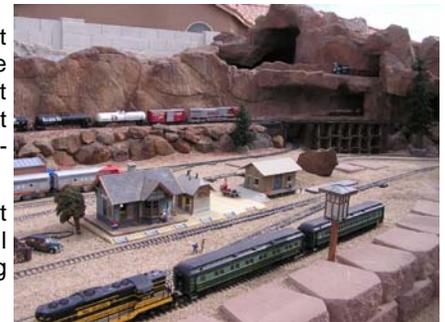
A word of appreciation for my Board of Directors is in order, as they have grappled with some challenging issues during my tenure and their support and direction have been instrumental in the direction that the club has taken. Thanks Glenn for backing me, Don for holding the purse strings, Roy for his rivet counting minutes and Gerry for his new member enthusiasm.

I would like to thank Jerry McKenzie and his crew of volunteers for their unflagging efforts at the Phoenix Children's Hospital. His managing of the volunteer staff and layout expansion has been a significant reason for our excellent relationship with the hospital. So much so, that they have asked us to build a second layout as part of their proposed \$100 million capital expansion program.

I can't say enough good things about those who have supported me during my 2 years as President of ABTO. Your support, comments, opinions AND complaints were all heard, and contributed to my programs and the club direction.

And finally, don't forget to vote for your new Board of Directors in this issue. The nominees have been solicited by the nominating committee and they are motivated to do their best for ABTO. These are the people who will lead us into the 2008 NGRC and we need to support them in every way we can.

Well that's about it. Remember, when the trains run, we all have fun...



ABTO Board Members

President

Bob Rauperstrauch

Vice President

Glenn Sampson

Secretary

Roy Towne

Treasurer

Don Halver

Member at Large

Gerry Pfeiffer
480-924-8844
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



Nov 10	8:00am	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> 2730 W. Bell Rd. - Phoenix
17	8:30am	<u>ABTO General Meeting</u> Adobe Mt ABTO/AGRS joint breakfast meeting
24-25	9:00am - 3:00pm	<u>Turkey Meet—Mesa</u> Jerry's Trains for kids
Dec		<u>NO ABTO Board Meeting</u>
		<u>No General meeting</u>
1	5:00pm - 8:00pm	<u>Christmas Banquet</u> Landmark Restaurant, Mesa See page 3
Sat 8th & Sun 9th		<u>ABTO Christmas Open House Tours</u>
Sat 15 & Sun 16th		

2008

Jan 5	8:00am	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> 1312 N Scottsdale Rd. -Scottsdale
19	TBA	<u>ABTO General Meeting</u> Dennis & Lizabeth Sirrine
Feb 2	8:00am	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> TBA
16	TBA	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> TBA
Mar 1	TBA	<u>ABTO Board Meeting</u> BA
15	11am-3am	<u>ABTO General Meeting</u> John & Pat Meyers

2008 brings a new calendar and a new set of ABTO layouts to see. If you would like to host a meeting, please call Bob Rauperstrauch at 480-753-9690 or Glenn Sampson at 602-938-9752



Phoenix Children's Hospital

Here's what's new!

By Sandy for Ennis Thompson



It was a different approach for the ABTO module group, who were requested to show trains at the Phoenix Children's Hospital Christmas Card Creation event. Ennis Thompson, Glenn Sampson, Tony Vacek, and Jerry McKenzie attended.

Tables were set up outdoors and local artists were present to assist children (patients) in creating Christmas cards for the hospital. A snow machine with a 6 foot mountain of snow was also provided for the fun. Kids who were able, were busy throwing snow balls. Even in their hospital gowns pushing their IV units, they were happy, enthusiastic, and loved watching the trains run on Glenn Sampson's helix and the small end to end. Gerry McKenzie facilitated the ABTO trains running in the atrium of the Pediatric IC Unit, gathering attention of the patients and staff alike. The new "L" is now complete on the west end with 2 stations at each end, but more work is planned.

The hospital facilitators are very supportive of ABTO's efforts running trains at the hospital and also showing at these special events, and have been very helpful with the publicity of the Christmas Open House Tours. ABTO looks forward to assisting the Hospital with the trains in the future, with plans for more trains running in the proposed new wings.



To attend, follow instructions, then CUT OUT & MAIL

ABTO Christmas Dinner Party

DATE: *Saturday, December 1, 2007*

PLACE: *Landmark Restaurant—Victoria Room (480)-962-4652
809 W. Main St - Mesa, AZ 85201*

TIME: *Cash Bar, 5:00 - 5:45 PM
Dinner, 5:45 PM*

COST: *\$28.50 each*



The following selections must be made and returned as your **RSVP**. Include **check (payable to ABTO)** to:

Gerry Pfeiffer, 833 N. Thunderbird Ave., Gilbert, AZ 85234 No later than NOV. 17.

Menu: *Water, Garden Salad, Rolls & Butter,
choice of beverage (coffee, iced or hot tea, soft drink)*

- Your Choice:** (A) Prime Rib / Au Jus, seasonal vegetables & cheddar, bacon & chive mashed potato.
 (B) Champagne Chicken / cream sauce, seasonal vegetables, cheddar, bacon & chive mashed potato.
 (C) Atlantic Salmon / citrus butter sauce, seasonal vegetables, and rice pilaf.
 (D) Over Stuffed Pork Chop with corn bread / apple dressing, tangy cider glaze, seasonal vegetables & cheddar, bacon & chive mashed potato.

Dessert, your choice: (A) *Chocolate Cake*
 (B) *N.Y. Cheese Cake*

Your Name: _____ **Spouse Name:** _____

Choice of Entree: (A) (B) (C) (D) **Choice of Entree:** (A) (B) (C) (D)

Choice of Dessert: (A) (B) **Choice of Dessert:** (A) (B)

Circle your choices and return with check to the address above by Nov. 17

For Map and Directions, go to www.landmarkrestaurant.com

A Note from the Candidates who are Running for Office

I have asked all the candidates to share a few words about why they are running for office. Here is their response.

Tony Vacek is a Presidential Candidate

It will be my privilege to help lead ABTO forward to the next level.

Jerry McKenzie is also a Presidential Candidate I have been very active in the club showing my Trains for Children Module that shows when the ABTO modules are on display. I have been in charge of keeping the trains running at the Phoenix Children's Hospital, managing both the maintenance schedule, repair work and volunteer staffing. I like to be involved with the trains and promoting the hobby.

Mike Temenski for Vice President

As I said at the last meeting, being a ABTO member has been a very rewarding experience for me and I would appreciate the chance to give something back to the club. I think that I'd make a capable VP. I am fairly well organized—I have a job that is flexible enough that I can make the time commitment that is necessary. I have a good appreciation for most aspects of the hobby, but I am not really an expert in any of them—a combination that makes me well suited to grasp the needs of members all the way from beginners to the long-timers.

The most important qualification, however, is the fact that I like everyone I've come to know through the club, and I want to do whatever it takes to keep the club as enjoyable an experience for them as it has been for me.

Jim Snyder also for Vice President

I have been a member since 2002 and have enjoyed helping out with trains at the hospital and the modules whenever possible. I also keep active by selling the ABTO T-shirts, and hats as well as taking care of the membership nametags. I would like to participate more by being a member of the ABTO Board.

Karen Lenzen is running for Secretary on the ABTO Board

Although I was born in Chicago, I grew up in Lawrence, Kansas, home of the Univ. of Kansas and the Jayhawks. Amtrak still stops in Lawrence! The Santa Fe station is sad, but the UP station has been beautifully restored.

My dad was Assoc. Dean of Engineering at K.U. When they drove around the country, he pointed out the railroad bridges he'd designed. My mom got dad through school by working for various railroads including the Chicago Northwestern and the Denver & Rio Grande. Her step-grandfather was an engineer for Santa Fe.

I have my M.B.A. in Finance and I am a Certified Purchasing Manager. Currently, I work in Contracts at the Maricopa Medical Center. I do not have a G-scale lay-out, however, I like to kibitz with Don Sorenson on his project. As I stated at the last meeting, I believe this office will give me a way to contribute back to ABTO and I look forward to holding an office..

Denis Conte is running for Secretary

I have really enjoyed my time with ABTO, especially working with the module group. I hope to bring my knowledge and experience to the group as your secretary

Patience Hoag is running for Treasurer on the ABTO Board

I have been involved with Garden Railroading ever since my husband forced me into it in 1997! I enjoy the gardening part, but as most wives, I leave the railroading part to Dan. I have served as president and Secretary of my state professional association and serve on several committees and expert panels for my professional association in the medical field.

I like productive meetings and would advocate the use of consent agenda prior to board meetings as we do now, to make the best use of everyone's time. I would also like to see more women involved at the leadership level in the club.

I would like to give Janet Benner credit for her assistance in helping me learn the fine art of gardening in the railroad environment. Thanks Janet.

Jim Kangas is a Candidate for Treasurer

I joined ABTO in January 2004. I feel that I was instrumental in creating a positive cash flow for ABTO. I believe money is the root of all evil, only if you don't have any.

Glenn Sampson is running for Member at Large I am running for the Member at Large position because I wish to continue to be involved in the operation of our club. I have served as Vice President this past term and Treasurer, and hope to continue my service to all the members, new and old in this capacity.

Al Wendler is also running for Member at Large

I have been active in ABTO for ten years. It has been six years since I was on the board and I think it is time I took my turn again. In the past, many of my ideas have proven to be good ones, and I have some more ideas for the future.

**ABTO
Committee Heads**

Activities

Glenn Sampson - 602-938-9752

Jim Kangas - 480-659-1756

Modules

Ennis Thompson - 480-813-0114

Jim Kangas - 480-659-1756

Phoenix Children's Hospital

Jerry McKenzie - 520-466-5938

Banner Desert Hospital

Don Halver - 480-786-4138

Web Site

Mike Lewandowski - 623-536-1954

Other Positions

2008 Convention/Club

Correspondence

Mike Lewandowski - 623-536-1954

Raffles and prizes and Librarian

Glenn Sampson - 623-566-9274

Photo Archivist

Jack Slinkard - 623-979-3075

Club Interaction Facilitator

Bob Rauperstrauch - 480-753-9690

Publicity

Ennis Thompson - 602-527-0402

Meeting Host Coordinator

Jim Kangas - East Side

John Meyers - West Side

Shirt, Badge, & Vest Coordinator

Jim Snyder - 480-893-8456

The ABTO Modules at The Desert Botanical Gardens October 19 -21

The ABTO modules displayed at the Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix was one of the hits of the Pumpkin Festival. We received many compliments on the setup and expect to be invited back again next year. You can see by the steady crowds that it was a busy and fun time both watching and running trains!



Jerry McKenzie is ever present with his Trains for Children modules—kids love it!

We had an excellent turnout for both set-up and tear-down. Thanks to all of you who participated in the event. It was tough to show two weeks in a row with the modules at two different locations. Your support is what makes this club shine!

Ennis was there as usual, bringing water and soda for everyone, and this time, as requested, *bagels!* This picture says it all! That's Ennis heating up bagels with Mapp gas on the truss bridge!



Photos by Bob Rauperstrauch

Eaglewings Iron Craft would like to invite you to a Special Event



Special Introductory Discount Prices
Free Raffle (Must be present to win)

Saturday Only
November 10
1:00 - 4:00pm



- Product Preview of our**
- **New Industrial Building Line**
 - **Town Building line and**
 - **Custom Designed Metal Art**

www.eaglewingsironcraft.com