



Arizona Big Train Operators

Newsletter

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

February, 2008

Volume 16. No. 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Tony Vacek

January has been a sad month. Several members have lost loved ones plus the loss of our first president John Slinkard. It was gratifying to see so many members attend the service. The board has donated a check in accordance with the wishes of John's widow Shirley to the Phoenix Children's Hospital Fund. Ennis Thompson has had a memorial plaque made for display on the ABTO module standard.

- Special points of interest:

The highlight of January was the meeting at the home of Dennis and Lizabeth Serrine where 98 people attended.
- New Board

The February meeting should prove as exciting. Jerry and Joanne McKenzie are hosting and we are going to have a chili cook off. So, get your crock pots out. Once again, you will need to RSVP Mike Temenski and fill him in on what dish you will bring for the table. Chili or potluck.
- Committee Heads

Don't forget the convention is just around the corner and we do need your help.
- Calendar of Events

We are on the right track.
- Convention Update
- Modules
- Trips
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Picnic

Dues are due

ABTO dues actually were due last December, and this is already February, 2008. To keep your name on the March roster along with continuing the newsletter, February is your last chance!!!!

Remember Dues are still only \$35.00 if you pay in February.

Jim Kangas, Treasurer

Mail to:

9518 E. Greenway Street

Mesa, AZ. 85207

General Meeting

February 16th 11am-3pm

Jerry and Joanne McKenzie will be hosting the next meeting, a chili cook-off.

Address: 8598 Canterbury Lane, Arizona City, Az.

Telephone number—520-466-5938

RSVP Mike Temenski with what your bringing and how many people will come.

Telephone number—480-659-8410

e-mail-mtemenski@earthlink.net

DON'T FORGET
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO
VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME AT THE
CONVENTION--

Please contact
Gerry Pfeiffer
480-924-8844
E-mail
gerry_pfeiffer@msn.com

FOR SALE

San-Val Nickel Plated

Double Ball Bearing Wheels

\$.10.25per pair –Two Pair per Car

Jim Snyder

480-893-8456

jim22@qwest.net

Money was found at Dennis Sirriner's Regular
Membership Meeting in January.
To claim the money, please call Jim Kangas
At 480-659-1756

ABTO BOARD MEETING—SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2008

The February Board meeting was held at the Scottsdale Hometown Buffet.

President Tony Vacek opened the meeting at 8:43am. All Board Members were present. Guests were Ennis Thompson, Ginny Morris, Roy Towne, Rich Hull, Carol Kangas, Gerry Pfeiffer, Roy and Gen Majaski.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Report-Jim gave his report and it was approved.

Old Business:

Convention-Rich Hull said the convention is progressing quite well: everything seems to be going good.

There will be a pre-convention Phoenix meeting on February 15th.

Picnic-motion was passed to raise cost of picnic to \$7.00 due to cost of train ride tickets. Cost is for all those 12 and over. April 6th is the date from 11am and dinner at noon. There may be entertainment.

Tehachapi Trip-Rich Hull said plans are underway, maybe the first or second weekend of September during the L.A. Fair.

Modules-Ennis Thompson reported the first outing is the Ostrich Festival in Chandler, March 7-8-9. Gerry Pfeiffer donated 2 wide switches for the modules.

The large module is not going to Ontario, only the smaller 2.

New Business:

Glenn S made a motion that any expenditure of the club funds over \$100 needs pre-approved and a purchase order. It was approved..

Ennis T volunteered a round-robin for the fall in Sun Lakes area.

Glenn S is putting together a questionnaire for members about their interests.

Work party discussion was tabled to next meeting

The Board approved Shirley Slinkard to become an honorary lifetime member.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15am

A.B.T.O ELECTED OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Tony Vacek

623-566-9274

avacek@cox.net**VICE PRESIDENT**

Mike Temenski

480-659-8410

mtemski@earthlink.net**SECRETARY**

Denis Conte

623-972-4477

dconte2@cox.net**TREASURER**

Jim Kangas

480-659-1756

jkangasat@cox.net**MEMBER AT LARGE**

Glenn Sampson

602-938-9752

gksamaz@juno.com**2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Feb	2	8am	Board Meeting
			Home Town Buffet
			Scottsdale
	16	11am	General Meeting
		To	Jerry & Joanne
		3pm	McKenzie
Mar	1	8am	Board Meeting
			TBA
	6		Ostrich Festival Setup
	7-8-9		Ostrich Festival
	15	11am	General Meeting
		To	John & Pat
		3pm	Meyers
	29	10am	National Convention Mtg
		To	San Marcos Hotel
		2pm	
Apr	5	8am	Board Meeting
			TBA
	6	11am	ABTO Picnic
			McCormick/Stillman RR Park
	28-29-30		National Convention
May	1-2-3-4		National Convention

ANNUAL ABTO PICNIC

At McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park

Plans are underway for one of the most popular family events each year for ABTO. It's the annual Family Picnic at McCormick-Stillman Park in Scottsdale. Sunday, April 6 is the date this year. Take a day off from working on your layout for the convention and bring your family (kids, grandkids, friends) out for a day of fun.

The cost is \$7.00 for each individual 12 years of age and older. The club will provide all the hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments and soft drinks. Each member of your family will also receive a ticket to ride the parks, famous steam train. Members are asked to bring a side dish, salad, vegetable or dessert to accompany the meal. Start time is 11:00am and you can stay in the park until it closes.

This is the third year for the event in Scottsdale and attendance has grown each time. Don't miss out on the fun! Sign-up sheets will be available starting at the February meeting at the McKenzie home.

Remember relatives and friends are welcome to enjoy the fellowship of this great hobby.
Rich Hull

2008 MODULE INFORMATION

After a recent Module's Group Meeting, we decided to attend the THE BIG TRAIN SHOW with the small Modules of Glenn Sampson, "The Helix," and Jerry McKenzie's "Jerry's Train's" in Ontario, CA. We will leave on June 6th in the morning and return on Sunday, June 8th after the show. People who want to stay in California until Monday are welcome. Since we don't have the large modules at this show, it was decided upon to come back on Sunday night after the show.

Anyone wanting reservations at the hotel of choice from last year should contact Rich Hull for them. We will have two large get together's for attendees at some eating places, as we did last year. Everyone is welcome to join in on the fun.

The first module event of the year will be the Chandler Ostrich Festival on the 7th, 8th and 9th of March. We will set up on Thursday, March 6th in the morning. More information on this will be coming in a gang e-mail. They have yet to give Jim Kangas a schedule for setting up and the times of operation. If everyone can give at least one day of help, it would be appreciated. A module's meeting will also take place on Friday morning for the 2008 and future planning of the modules.

This event is about six (6) weeks before the National Convention. About 100,00 people attend this function for the city of Chandler.

Jim Kangas and Ennis Thompson

RUNNING SESSIONS

So You Have Always Dreamed of Running a 17 Car Passenger Train or a 50 Car "Hot Freight" Train Across the Flowing Hills and Flat Lands of Mesa?

Starting March 11th, Dennis Serrine will open his layout to ABTO members for a monthly running session on his PALO VERDE AND SOUTHWESTERN RAILROAD. The sessions will begin at 4:30 on the second (2nd) Tuesday of every month.

You may bring your own engines or use his equipment. During the 1st session, instructions will be given out to all attendees, as to the operating rules, use of air switches, battery and track power operations and general philosophy of the PALO VERDE AND SOUTHWESTERN RAILROAD.

Bring your engineer caps, drink, and skills to join in the fun each month.

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR ANNUAL TRIP TO CALIFORNIA AND TEHACHAPI

For the fifth year ABTO members will have the opportunity to see the famous Tehachapi Curve in California and much more. The dates for this year's trip are September 11 to 14. Thursday to Sunday. As in the past, we will rent vans and split the cost among those participating. Each participant will be responsible for his/her room costs, meals and share of fuel for the van. An exciting itinerary has been put together this year. Of course, we will spend as much time as you wish at the most famous curve in American railroads, Tehachapi. You also will visit Horseshoe Bend at Caliente and the famous Cajon Pass.

Extra time will be set aside to explore the warehouse for Gold Coast Trains in Tehachapi. Hans has one of the largest inventories of LGB engines, cars and accessories in the country. We also will be staying close to the Upland Train Store, so there will be a shopping opportunity there. The group will visit the famous Fairplex Layout at the L.A. County Fairgrounds in Pomona. If you haven't seen this layout, it is a must see. If you have seen it in the past there are a lot of changes to enjoy.

The group has been invited to the back lot of Disneyland to see the Disney Trains up close. You will be able to touch, ride and photograph plus hear the story of probably the most famous steam trains in America. The group will also visit a couple of layouts in the Los Angeles Basin and end our trip at the huge Roger Clarkson layout in Riverside. Roger has made major changes in his layout since we saw it last year. The group will return to the valley by Sunday noon. This annual trip has many repeat participants and there is lots of fun, laughs and fellowship over the three days. All hotel reservations and meal arrangements will be made for you. All you do is show up with your suitcase, a camera and be prepared for a great time. Sign up sheets will be available starting at the February meeting. Cut-off will be the end of June.

RIDE THE RAILS IN EUROPE

ABTO members and friends have the opportunity to ride the great passenger trains in Europe and sightsee, shop, enjoy the culture and food of several countries. This is the fifth year a trip of this kind has been planned. The first trip involved just 14 people. The last trip included 38 and spaces are filling fast for this year. The dates this year are September 24 to October 9. The group will leave from Phoenix and return to Phoenix. Although other departure cities are possible and if you are a single traveller, arrangements can be made. This year's tour includes Amsterdam, Netherlands, Switzerland Northern and Central Italy. Some highlights: the canals of Amsterdam, the famed windmills of the Netherlands, the Golden Pass rail trip in Switzerland, Zermat, a tour inside a glacier, the Tuscany area of Italy, the leaning Tower of Pisa, and a special arranged trip to the Vatican.

All travel arrangements; hotels, rail tickets, guides, attraction tickets and many meals are arranged for you. Time has been set-aside for you to explore on your own and of course there are the beautiful passenger trains of Europe to enjoy.

The trip is not limited to just ABTO members, If you have friends or relatives that would enjoy travelling to Europe and enjoy some unique experiences they are welcome. Reservations for this trip will close April 1. For a detailed itinerary, pricing and details, please contact Rich Hull. Phone: 602-684-1203; Home: 480-802-5308; E-mail: rhull10@wbhsi.net.

A.B.T.O COMMITTEES

Meeting Coordination

John Meyers—602-841-7564
jtpmeyers@cox.net

Modules

Ennis Thompson—602-527-0402
egtrailroading@aol.com

Phoenix Children's Hospital

Jerry McKenzie—520-466-5938
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Web Site

Mike Lewandowski—
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Membership

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Newsletter

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Raffles

Karen Lenzen—623-581-2452
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Social Activities

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Apparel

Jim Snyder—480-893-8456
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Public Relations

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rhull10@wbhsi.net

Arizona Big Train Operators

ABTO OBJECTIVES

Membership in Arizona Big Train Operators is open to anyone with an interest in gardening and creating, construction, and operating large scale model railways. At our meetings, items of mutual interest associated with the hobby are discussed and demonstrated. 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 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 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 newsletter and one name badge. Additional badges may be purchased for \$7.00 each.

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—more if there is space:

name, item, phone # and E Mail.

Submissions must be in to the editor by the 1st Saturday of the month by USPO or EMail