



THE ABTO GAZETTE

April, 2022

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Visit at: www.azbigtrains.org



Don Sorenson's Ogden Lawrence Dispatch Railroad

Photo taken by Don Sorenson

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President's Message April Gazette

I feel that an early summer is here whether we like it or not. Our Spring Open House weekend was warm but people didn't seem to mind the heat too much. The turn out was smaller than we had hoped. The East Valley newspaper went to great lengths to interview people and take pictures of layouts weeks before the event. However, it never made it into print or online. The reporter seemed very interested in our hobby but it was a big let down when nothing appeared in print.

The March meeting at John and Boots Gordon's house has once again showed us that you can find space in any size yard. The Gordon's always have a special layout that changes each time we see it. After the meeting, Boots asked members to stay and visit. It was a very nice time to relax and talk trains.



Apache Junction Music Festival that we were asked to setup at falls on the same day as our April 23rd Auction and BBQ. We will be at Adobe Mountain Train Park in the Caboose and Box Car Ramadas. Auction starts at 9 am and please bring a chair and maybe a hat. Lunch will be at 12 noon. In regard to food prices and availability varying everyday, please RSVP to Darrell Woolfolk at [480-818-1715](tel:480-818-1715) by April 15th.

The auction is an open consignment sale. You must contact Steve Lewis for a form and instructions. We have a limit of 90 items, so contact Steve ASAP. A list of sale items will be emailed out to members approximately 1 week before the sale. I am trying to get us back into our pre-COVID schedule.

Outdoor events hopefully will open back up soon. Railfair is six months away and planning has already started. My Mesa contact says that Falcon Field Day has a very good chance of happening in February of 2023. These seem like distant events but our cities are slowly coming around. If anyone know of events that we can participate in, please let us know.

We send our condolences to James Ingram who has lost, Rita, his partner of 20 years. James has been a long time member of ABTO for many years.

Darrell Woolfolk
ABTO President
480-818-1715

TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday,	April	10	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting at Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	April	23	9am	Annual Auction Begins at Adobe Mtn., Phoenix
Saturday,	April	23	Noon	BBQ begins
Sunday,	May	15	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting at Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	May	21	10am	ABTO Membership Mtg. @ Brian & Jeanne Soncrant's Home
Sunday,	June	12	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting at Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	June	18	TBA	ABTO Membership Meeting/Cleanup Railroad at Ryan House

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Vince Simpson Lecture

Vince will speaking about Early Railroading in Arizona on April 7th, 2:00pm at Superstition Mountain Museum, 4087 E. Apache Trail, Apache Junction, AZ 85119. The lecture is free.

Local railroad enthusiast and historian Vince Simpson will be talking about the role the railroads played in the building of Arizona. The coming of the railroad was one of the major factors in accomplishing the settlement of the West. Railroads in the state of Arizona got their start in 1877 when the Southern Pacific arrived in Yuma on its way to completing its line to Tucson in 1880. After retiring from IBM as senior manager with 30 years of domestic and international assignments, Vince has experienced significant difficulties in staying retired... this problem has led to a number of adventures including duties as President/CEO of an electronics technology company, an adjunct professorship at a state university, and even a couple of years managing larger operations for the US Department of Commerce. Somewhere in the far distant past, Vince also served in the US Army and accumulated degrees in engineering, math and business.

The Railroad Hours are Thursday-Sunday 10-2pm until April 7th. After April 7th, trains will run Fridays-Sundays from 10am-2pm until Mother's Day.

Don & Gail Halver Selling Their Railroad on April 9th

Preview at 9:00am Sale starts at 10:00am

Aristocraft Track-all with good ties.

20+ 5ft straights

2 full circles of 8" radius curves plus 14 other pieces

Lots of 1' straights

2 LGB Steam Locos

3 Eggliner set

Over 20 freight cars-all with steel wheels and Kaydee couplers

3 Eaglewings buildings, steel bridges and raised support steel

1/4 scale cars, trucks and lots of animals

Wire Welder

Lots of other misc. G scale.



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ABTO Membership Meeting Minutes, March 19, 2022 held at John & Boots Gordon Residence

1/ Welcome-Darrell W. opened the meeting at 10:30am and welcomed everyone.

2/ Any New Members or Guests-No new members or guests present.

3/ John & Boots Gordon's Layout-John spoke about the layout and he added a point to point, the ice skating rink was removed due to being warped and replaced with a baseball field and farm and playground. Lots of detail done on the layout. Some buildings were purchased at past auctions. The popcorn machine a very popular item on the layout.

4/ Membership Minutes-All in favor as the minutes published in the Gazette. **Steve Lewis** mentioned that the Treasurer's Report has not been published in the Gazette for the past two months and will not be published in the near future. If you would like a copy of the treasurer's report, you may contact Steve L., Darrell W., & Ginny M.

5/ Tucson Open Houses-Darrell W. mentioned that at least 6 members and past members, Darryl & Mary Smith attended the open houses.

6/ Spring Open Houses-SOH fliers are available to hand out to the public. Please no drinks or snacks available.

7/ Tucson/ABTO turn around-Some Tucson members will be coming up to ABTO open houses. Gary Martin closed his railroad on March 6th and he is selling buildings, rolling stock, people, animals, track and any more items. Thomas Preisner spoke about visiting John Carmichael's railroad layout and they spoke about a future G scale article in a G Scale Magazine and a future article in the GRNews Magazine written by John Carmichael. Thomas also mentioned that Terry & Carolyn Fields will have an article published in a German magazine.

7/ Auction/BBQ-April 23, 2022 8:30am-setup auction, 9am-noon-auction, Noon-BBQ

A/ Auction-Consignment-Steve L. mentioned at this time there are no items and will supplement Russ Rose's items plus ABTO items in storage.

B/ BBQ-Ron Schroeder suggested starting to have member's bring food items. Darrell W. mentioned hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad and water.

C/ Music Festival-same day and time.

9/ Website

A/ Updating the History-Darrell W. mentioned if anyone has past history facts, please contact Darrell. Gary Garafola was ABTO's first Secretary in 1995 and left the club after a couple of years and came back after 20 years.

B/ Updating the Pictures-Don Sorenson will go back to archived photos and will name and date them. Also go thru the photos that he has taken from events, meetings, etc. and add them to a photo gallery on the website.

C/ Members Only-Will work on adding this to the website.

10/ Raffle Winner-Ernie Broughton.

11/ Door Prize Winners-1/ Joanne Gardner, 2/ Thomas Preisner, 3/ Terry Fields.

FROM THE FLOOR

John Vogt showed a Re-Railer purchased from EBay and passed around so members could view it.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20am-1 Steve L. 2/ Darrell W. All Approved

Meeting Minutes submitted by Ginny Morris, Secretary

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ABTO Auction & BBQ

April 23, 2022

Adobe Mountain Railroad Park

23280 N. 43rd Avenue

Glendale, AZ 85310

8:30am—Setup Auction

9:00am—Auction Begins

12:00pm—BBQ Begins

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs with fixings, potato salad,
Potato chips and water.

COMPLIMENTS OF ABTO

*You may bring your own beverages but no Alcoholic
Beverages Permitted*

PLEASE BRING CHAIRS

RSVP to Darrell Woolfolk at [480-818-1715](tel:480-818-1715)

by April 15th

**ABTO Merchandise, Metal Wheels and USA Ties
will be available for purchase.**

2022 Membership Meetings

April 23-Auction & BBQ @ Adobe Mtn.

May 21-Brian & Jeanne Soncrant

June 18-Ryan House Meeting &
Cleaning Track, etc.

July 16-Val Vista Lakes Pro Shop

August 20-Host Needed

September 17-Host Needed

October 15-Ken & Kris Hawkins

November 19-Steve & Judy Lewis

December 4-Christnas Dinner



James Ingram's Sad News

Jim's Significant Other of 20 years, Rita Stine, whom some of you may have met—unexpectedly passed away on Wednesday, 3/16/22. The official cause of death was “cardiac arrest”. For the past several years, Rita had been struggling with cardio pulmonary disease, plus some small cancer spots, and numerous other afflictions.

DOGS: I now have two, 10-year-old “orphaned” dogs—that I have been trying—so far unsuccessfully—to find a new caring home. Jasper is a small about 20# Chihuahua/Pug Mix and Sassy is a 70# terrior mix, both very friendly. And since I have no legal claim on the property where we live in Apache Junction, so I am now essentially a “homeless” person. The kids have requested me to be out of this house in about a month—so I’m attempting to move myself, the dogs, and a few things back to Pennsylvania.

2022 SWAP MEETS & SHOWS

April 23, 2022 9:00AM-11:00AM

Grand Canyon Mini-Swap Meet
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1212 E. Glendale Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85020

May 14, 2022-- 9:00AM-\$5.00 Adults

ARHS Model Train Swap Meet
Glendale Christian Church
9661 N. 59th Avenue
Glendale, AZ

Please check ArizonaModelTrains.com for any updates

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Meeting Photos taken by Don Sorenson



John & Boots Gordon



Door Prize Winners



Joanne Gardner



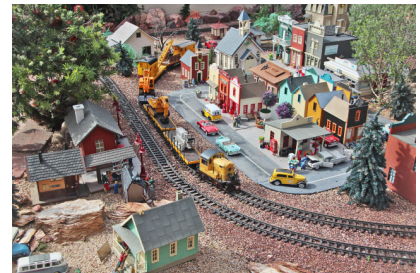
Thomas Preisner



Terry Fields



Ernie Broughton



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2008 National Convention Reunion Photos by Don Sorenson



Jim & Joanne Gardner, Hosts



Convention Memorabilia



Don & Dennis



**Helen Lewandowski
& Dana Busby**



Door Prize Winners

Carolyn & Walt Pries



Dan Hoag



Ginny Morris



Don Halver



Dana & Dennis Busby



Mike & Helen Lewandowski



**Dennis Busby &
Dan & Patience Hoag**

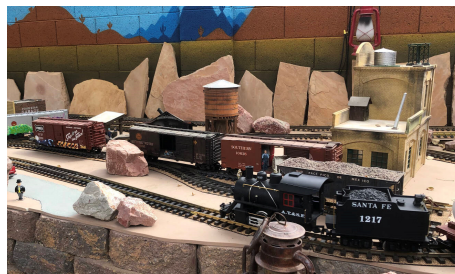


Dan & Mike Temenski

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John Vogt's Railroad

Spring Open Houses Photos by James Ingram



Brian Soncrant's Railroad



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Don Sorenson's Spring Open House Photos



Photos taken by Don Sorenson



METAL WHEELS, REPLACEMENT TIES and ABTO Merchandise FOR SALE

Bachmann #92421 31mm metal wheels

Price—\$85.00 case includes 6 cards

American & Euro ties-Ties

American Ties-\$42.00/4 Bundles

Euro (LGB) Ties-\$48.00 box of 48 ties

**ABTO Merchandise includes hats, t-shirts,
golf shirts, vests and patches**

Cash, check and credit cards will be accept-
ed with no extra charges using credit cards
Contact Steve Lewis at srlewis47@cox.net
Ginny Morris at putterm@cox.net for
information





Arizona Big Train Operators
1633 E. Lakeside Drive
Unit 1
Gilbert, AZ 85234

ARIZONA BIG TRAIN OPERATORS



OBJECTIVES

Membership in Arizona Big Train Operators (ABTO) is open to anyone with an interest in gardening and the creation & operation of large scale 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. General meetings are usually held on the third Saturday of the month.

ABTO BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings will be held on Sunday prior to the general meeting of each 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

The renewal fee is \$30.00 per year. This entitles you to attend all meetings and events and to receive the monthly newsletter. Each name badge will be an additional \$9.

Members are encouraged to contribute articles, letters, illustrations and/or photographs related to garden railroad-ing for inclusion in the newsletter and/or posting on the club website

Members who have hobby-related items for sale of trade may submit an advertisement for publication and/or posting at no charge. Please limit each ad to a maximum of four lines. Accompanying photos will be considered for publication as space allows.