



THE ABTO GAZETTE

March, 2022

Volume 29

Number 3

Mailing address: P.O. Box 50428, Mesa, AZ. 85208

Visit at: www.azbigtrains.org



Kelly & Cheryl Snow's KC Railroad

Photo taken by James Riddle

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Treasurer's Report

February Membership Meeting Minutes

Calendar of Events

Membership Meeting Photos

March Meeting Information

Spring Open House Information

ABTO Merchandise, Wheels & Ties

THE ABTO GAZETTE

President's Message March Gazette

We ran to Tucson on Saturday to enjoy Gary and Peggy Martins Open House gathering of family and friends. Time was spent viewing the layout, talking to fellow G scale hobbyists and looking at pictures of ABTO's last European Rail Trip. Gary's layout will be shut down, dismantled and sold off after this weekend's LAST Open House. There's only one more opportunity to view this huge and very detailed southwestern railroad at Tucson Open House. Nine layouts will be open for this year's Tucson Rails in The Garden event. Five houses, three museums and one RV resort will take you all over town. The houses and RV resort is a must for any train fan.

ABTO's own Spring Open Houses will happen on March 26th and March 27th from 12 noon to 4 pm. Let's get the word out to everyone so that we can encourage the public to play with trains. Please help your fellow ABTO member with their layout.

The February meeting and auction went very well. Kelly and Chery Snow always have a picture perfect yard, layout and murals. Mike Temenski showed a very detailed Amtrack Sleeper Car that was custom built by a very meticulous model builder. We sold over 60 items of very different items from train paintings to Boots Gordon's 2 hole outhouse. Vehicles, building kits and rolling stock all sold well.

This month we will meet at John and Boots Gordon's house on March 19th from 10 am to 12 noon. Please bring chairs as seating will be limited.

April will put us back on schedule at Adobe Mountain Train Park for our Annual BBQ and Auction.

In 2021, we started having members present topics or small seminars at our monthly meetings. It was a great success, but we are still looking for more people to continue these sessions. Let us know if you have something you wish to show off or to teach the group.

Darrell Woolfolk
ABTO President
480-818-1715



TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday,	March	13	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting at Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday	March	19	10:00am	ABTO Membership Meeting @ John & Boots Residence
Sat. & Sun.	March 26 & 27		Noon-4:00pm	SPRING OPEN HOUSES
Sunday,	April	TBA	TBA	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

THE ABTO GAZETTE

CONTENTS

President's Message.....	2
Calendar of Events.....	2
ABTO Spring Open House Information.....	3
Tucson Open House Information.....	3
Welcome New Members.....	3
Engine Wanted.....	3
Items for Sale by ABTO.....	3
February Membership Mtg Minutes.....	4
March Meeting Information.....	5
Swap Meet.....	5
John & Boots Gordon Article.....	6
Tucson Open House Tour Information.....	7
ABTO Spring Open House Addresses.....	7
February Meeting/Auction Photos.....	8

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

See Trains **in the Garden 2022** **Spring Open House Tour**



Sat. March 26th
Sun. March 27th
12:00PM-4:00PM



*This Spring there will be seven homes open showing their G Scale
Garden Train Layouts in the Phoenix area open to the Public.*

*Your tax deductible donations are accepted and used to support
ABTO train activities and the maintenance of the train layouts
at Cardon Children's Medical Center and Ryan House.*

*Please checkout the ABTO website, azbigtrains.org for
addresses and up-to-date information*

1/ John & Boots Gordon	11105 W. Olive Drive	Avondale 85392
2/ Brian & Jeanne Soncrant	8152 E. Kilaroa Avenue	Mesa 85209
3/ Terry & Adrienne Haas	1861 E. Fountain Street	Mesa 85203
4/ Jim & Joanne Gardner	1355 S. Glenview Circle	Mesa 85204
5/ Don Sorenson	6130 E. Colby Street	Mesa 85205
6/ John & Janet Vogt	1341 E. Folley Place	Chandler 85225
7/ Steve & Judy Lewis	925 E. Saddleback Place	San Tan Valley 85143

Welcome New Members

Lorin & Debra Gardiner
1942 W. Pinkley Avenue
Coolidge, AZ 85128

ENGINE WANTED **2 TRUCK SHAY** **LOCOMOTIVE**

Thomas Preisner
908.337.8215

THE ABTO GAZETTE

ABTO Membership Meeting Minutes, February 19, 2022 held at Kelly & Cheryl Snow's Residence

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

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

3/ Kelly & Cheryl Snow's Layout-Kelly spoke about his layout and mentioned that he finally got the town the way he wanted it but needs some detailing. Got 2 large trains, removed the BBQ, finalized the campground and has a new mural of Monument Valley. Has 3 loops and can be operated by power or battery.

4/ Treasurer's Report-Darrell W. mentioned that the Treasurer's Report will no longer be in the Gazette.

5/ SOH-Darrell W. mentioned that he will pass out the flyers to the 7 participants. The houses will be held March 26 & 27th from 12pm-4pm both days.

6/ Tucson-There will be 9 open houses including 3 museums, RV Park and 5 houses. Maps of the locations were passed out. March 5 & 6 from 10am-4pm.

7/ April's Auction & BBQ-Darrell W. spoke about the upcoming auction and it could include consignment sales with 5 items accepted from each participant, possibly 10 items. Steve Lewis spoke of the consignment rules-ABTO takes 10%, will deduct credit card charges. Each participant will be responsible for their items, bringing their items to the auction and if doesn't sell, take the item/items home. Steve will contact past members that were interested at past auctions that were cancelled due to the pandemic, they will have 1st choice. There can be a reserve on prices. The hours for the auction will be 9am-noon, **April 23rd**. The BBQ will follow.

FROM THE FLOOR

March Meeting-Will be held at John & Boots Gordon on March 19th from 10am-??, water and soda and wrapped snacks will be available and welcome to sit around afterwards.

Jim Gardner-Spoke about returning to ABTO. Jim offered to organize an East/West Open House Tour in April. Jim also spoke about having Show n Tell at meetings and Darrell W. mentioned that he started that last year at meetings.

Mike Temenski-Showed his new Amtrak custom made Sleeper built and bought by a Belgium builder at the approximate cost of \$740.00 USA. The sleeper is lit inside the compartment and the exterior and comes with Katie couplers. The next car built will be the Amtrak Coach.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05am-1 Steve L. 2/ Steve L. All Approved

Meeting Minutes submitted by Ginny Morris, Secretary

THE ABTO GAZETTE

ABTO Membership Meeting

March 19, 2022

John & Boots Gordon

11105 W. Olive Drive

Avondale, AZ 85392

10:00am—Welcome and View Railroad

10:30am—Meeting Begins

**Everyone welcome to sit around and
BS afterwards**

**Water, Soda and bought, wrapped snacks
will be furnished**

PLEASE BRING CHAIRS

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

2022 Membership Meetings

March 19-John & Boots Gordon

**April 23-Auction & BBQ @ Adobe
Mtn.**

May 21-Brian & Jeanne Soncrant

June 18-Ryan House

July 16-Val Vista Lakes Pro Shop

August 20-Hosts Needed

September 17-Hosts Needed

October 15-Ken & Kris Hawkins

November 19-Steve & Judy Lewis

December 4-Christnas Dinner

(tentative)



2020/2021 Officers/Board of Directors

President: Darrell Woolfolk
480-818-1715-cell
dpwoolfolk@yahoo.com

Vice President: Vince Simpson
772-485-7005

Secretary: Ginny Morris
610-256-1121-cell
putterm@cox.net

Treasurer: Steve Lewis
605-660-6911-cell
srlewis47@cox.net

Directors at Large

Mark Lycan 253-279-0295

James Riddle 480-601-9102

Don Sorenson 480-684-4652

2022 SWAP MEETS & SHOWS

Adobe Mountain Model Train Show

Saturday, March 19th 9am-2pm

Adobe Mtn. Desert Railroad Park

22822 N. 43rd Avenue

Phoenix, AZ

***Please check ArizonaModel-
Trains.com for any updates***

THE ABTO GAZETTE

RAILROADS & ROSES

Suzanne Meredith

ALL ABOARD ... the Gordon Valley Railroad, for a rail trip through a time warp, created in the back yard of John and Boots Gordon of Maine, New York.



The Gordons are members of the Southern Tier Garden Railway Society. Everyone in the family is a model railway enthusiast. The unusual factor is that their entire exhibit is outside, and built to be reminiscent of the early Twentieth Century. Dioramas include a jail, church, post office, cabin, and a railway station. A two story farm house is a model of Boots' grandparents' home in South Dakota. Everything is built on a scale of approximately one half inch to a foot. The G gauge locomotive pulls cars along a 150 feet of double loop brass track that is two inches wide. It meanders through a mountain tunnel and over a bridge spanning a gorge of running water. A gazebo, water tower, and windmill are passed as the train cars way to the roll of the land. This intricate wonderland is impress-

sively landscaped with miniature vegetation. Boots has become very adept in the art of Bonsai. She prunes branches, clips roots and then plants her tiny trees and shrubs on rocks to keep growth stunted. Juniper, Cypress and Alberta Spruce trees nestle among stones that have been gathered from along roadsides in several states. Irish Moss, Sedum, and Heather cover the ground and perfectly compliment elfin rose bushes.

An authentic sound track of whistles, and wheelchurning, located in an engine, adds to the unique atmosphere. John has hand crafted many of the buildings, and converted others from their original use - such as the picturesque church that was once a toy school, and the mailbox that is now a general store. In this

tier Perceptions

July 16-29, 1993

Vol. 8, No. 12

MAGAZINE

Railroads And Roses.....12-13

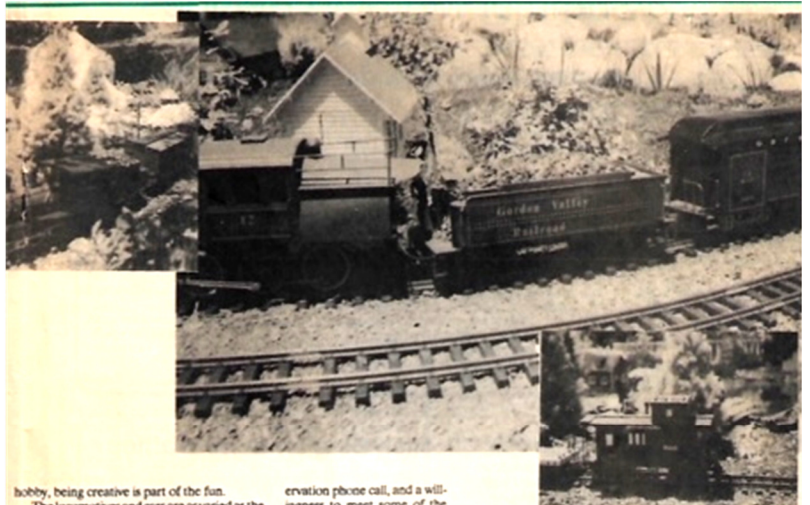
tier Perceptions Magazine

108 East Main Street

Endicott, NY 13760

Article written about present
ABTO members when they
resided in Maine, New York.

John & Boots Gordon



hobby, being creative is part of the fun.

The locomotives and cars are as varied as the garden plants, they can cost \$50 for a set, or many thousands for a single engine. Most layouts are electric or battery powered, but steam engines can also be built, or purchased complete. Although not used for fuel, the Gordon's tender carries real coal and is pulled by an LGB German-made locomotive. Another engine was remodeled by John to resemble the Camelback Train that serviced this area at the turn of the century.

The local club is unusually organized, no officers, and dues of only \$6 a year per family. Thirty six families are currently enrolled, and the Gordons publish a newsletter to keep everyone informed of club events. Meetings consist of a series of picnic "Open Houses" at the homes of members with garden tracks. Most members bring their own trains to try at each layout. Anyone

ervation phone call, and a willingness to meet some of the nicest people in the county.

Worried because you don't have a green thumb? Do plants shrivel at your approach? There is a category for just such people. One member call his railroad line the "Polyester and Plastic Special."

Comradery and nostalgia bloom in these miniature gardens, as thoughts turn to an era when the Iron Horse linked a nation and our lives.



THE ABTO GAZETTE



2022 Spring Open House Addresses to Print Out for your Convenience

1/ John & Boots Gordon	11105 W. Olive Drive	Avondale 85392
2/ Brian & Jeanne Soncrant	8152 E. Kilarea Avenue	Mesa 85209
3/ Terry & Adrienne Haas	1861 E. Fountain Street	Mesa 85203
4/ Jim & Joanne Gardner	1355 S. Glenview Circle	Mesa 85204
5/ Don Sorenson	6130 E. Colby Street	Mesa 85205
6/ John & Janet Vogt	1341 E. Folley Place	Chandler 85225
7/ Steve & Judy Lewis	925 E. Saddleback Place	San Tan Valley 85143



18th Annual Rails in the Garden Tour

Saturday and Sunday, March 5th & 6th--10AM-4PM

Addresses: Tucson

Private Residence 62066 E. Amberwood Dr. 85739

Private Residence 39794 Riverwood Drive 85739

Private Residence 7594 W. Talavera Way 85743

Toy Train Operating Museum (Sunday Only)

3975 N. Miller Avenue 85705

Private Residence 925 E. Foothills Drive 85718

Gary & Peggy Martin 4625 E. Cerro de Aguila 85718

Southern AZ Transportation Museum 414 E. Toole Avenue
85701

Rincon Country West RV Resort 4555 S. Mission Road 85746

Tucson Rodeo Parade Museum 4823 S. 6th Avenue 85714

Please visit website for more information:

www.tucsongrs.org



THE ABTO GAZETTE



Mike Temenski showing his new Amtrak Sleeper



Meeting Photos taken by James Riddle



Arizona Big Train Operators
1633 E. Lakeside Drive
Unit I
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 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. 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 \$8.

Members are encouraged to contribute articles, letters, illustrations and/or photographs related to garden railroading for inclusion in the news-letter and/or posting on the club web site.

Members who have hobby-related items for sale or 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.