



## January 2007

### Upcoming

#### Meets:

Gary & Jane  
Olmstead  
2444 Lexington Dr  
Ventura

January 27  
11 AM to 4 PM or  
thereabouts

Please bring:  
A-G Salads  
H-O Desserts  
P-Z Appetizers

February – Walker  
March – two  
meets  
Miroballi/McClain  
April – Morgan  
May – Hahn  
June -- DeBievre  
July – Paulazzo  
August -  
Heumphreus

This month we are going to meet at... ummm... let's see.... where was it? Some new guy, wasn't it? Oh, wait. It's our meet. Humm... What am I going to have ready to show? I can't show you how to write a bulletin, that would be boring. And, trainwise, that's all I've been doing lately... Let's see here... (ahem)

This month we are going to see what Jane and Gary Olmstead have been up to since their last meet. (These are hard to write in first person.)

You may recall that orogeny that was going on in mid-town Ventura last year. (Here's another chance to look that word up. No, I'm not going to tell you what it means.) Well, it's still going on this year. Come on over and see how it turned out. With any luck, it will be all done this year. Hauling bags of cement is getting old.

I have also added a few trees. It doesn't look like it, but I now have nearly 100 trees on the layout. About half of them are Michael's (artificial) Christmas trees. The ones I bought last year have lasted pretty well, but they will need repainting soon. For between \$1.50 and \$4, they worked out quite well.

In the sunny part of the layout, I have some of those dwarf Alberta spruce that Dennis Paulazzo and Don Morgan ordered a couple months ago. Those look perfect, especially after Rochelle Hahn showed me how to clip them to look less like Christmas trees and more like something that would be growing in the woods.

Other than that, not much has changed. The layout still has steep grades and sharp curves, which means that your K27s and heavyweights will have to gather dust for another day. But your geared locos and anything with more than one motor will be right at home. Also bring lots of cars since all my stuff has Kadee couplers.

Since this is the post Christmas meet, please feel free to bring whatever locomotives, cars, buildings, etc that Santa brought you for Christmas. Even if it won't run, we'd all like to see it.

Curves: 4 feet (radius)  
Ruling grades: 2 ½ % westbound,  
5% eastbound  
Clearances: 6 inches horizontally  
9 ¼ inches vertically

Directions and map omitted  
from on line edition

## Time to Renew

We've had a lot of renewals; but a fair number of you are still procrastinating. I'm considering purging the mailing list for the February issue, so if you want to continue getting the newsletter in actual hold-in-your-hands paper, Bruce Kuebler needs to hear from you soon. Details on the back page.

Of course, since we are a "society" and not a "club", not paying doesn't mean you can't keep coming to the meets. But you will have to remember to visit our web site regularly to find out what is going on and where the next meet is.

## Please Welcome Our New Members Richard and Joann Abraham

Richard and Joann live in Goleta. Richard has been modeling in smaller scales for 40+ years. He still has an extensive collection of antique Lionel, O gauge, and trolley stuff. He got hooked on G scale when he started helping Gary Siegel on his layout.

He currently has a 53 X 40 foot, L shaped space set aside for a layout, but doesn't have a lot of track down yet. He has plans for a double track dogbone. He has a large supply of locomotive, cars, buildings, etc. He has also graduated from antiques to 1/29 scale dismals.

I was unable to contact our other new members, Robert and Gail Woodward, in time to get into this bulletin.

## Transitions Ron & Dee Szabo

Ron and Dee Szabo have retired and moved from Oxnard to Nevada. Their new address is  
985 Lasso Way  
Fernley, NV 89408

They are transferring their attention to a club in Reno, but would like to continue corresponding with our members. They are making plans to start building their new layout in the spring. They have a half acre, with the house set forward so they have a large backyard.

## A Late Christmas Present for Jean Waterman

If you've been to a meet at the Waterman's, you may recall George's Z gauge Chessie train. You may also recall it turned up missing after her meet a year or so ago. Imagine her surprise ... wait, I'll let Jean tell the story. She tells it so much better than I ever could anyway:

"... I was running trains for company. And of course, we were running Christmas trains. I climbed up on a chair in the train building to get a Christmas car and it was loaded with Z gauge track.... looking a little further... I found the box for the Chessie... empty. Looking further, I found the Chessie in the Christmas car along with the track WHOOPEEEEEEEE!! I YELLED ... I FOUND THE CHESSIE!! YAHOO!!!!!!..." (emphasis hers).

She didn't say when this happened, but she sent me a note on New Year's Day, so I assume it was about then.

## GCGRS History

I was planning to have a special issue devoted entirely to recounting the exciting history of our brave garden railroading fore fathers and fore mothers, boldly setting off to tame the wilderness, and make the world a better place, one layout at a time.

Come to think of it, I could still do that. But it would be entirely fictitious. Aside from the club built layouts at the Ventura County Fair, not much happened that was truly memorable, and when it did, nobody took notes.

If you feel creative, and would like to make up a history of the club, please go ahead. In the meantime, I have inherited Bob Cage's entire collection of artifacts from the Fair layouts. That consists of exactly two pictures, one of which is reprinted on page 5. The original was in color, but it is fading fast, so I printed it in black and white here.



## Newsletter:

Gary Olmstead  
(805) 648-1770

2444 Lexington Dr.  
Ventura CA 93003

garyolmstead AT  
earthlink DOT net

## Membership:

Bruce Kuebler  
pbkuebler AT  
sbcglobal DOT net

## Web site:

<http://www.gcgrs.com>

## Webmaster:

Mike McClain  
mtmii AT adelphia  
DOT net

Please put "GCGRS"  
in the subject line of  
any correspondence.

## Meets: Beaver (805) 967-2552

The Gold Coast  
Garden Railroad  
Newsletter is published  
monthly. Membership  
in our society is open to  
anyone at the pleasure  
or whim of the  
members at large.

## Bill Amongst the Fairies

This picture of Bill Fraser was taken at Beaver's meet in November. I didn't receive it until the December issue was already done. It is way too good not to run, so here it is anyway. Thanks to Sylvia Eldridge for sending it along.

**December Meet:  
Cold Outside, Warm Inside**

It was **cold** and **dark** outside, and we even had some rain. And then the sun went down, and it really got cold. Fortunately, it was bright, warm, and extra Christmasy inside. Mike and Sharon really outdid themselves in decorating the house. Every flat surface had some sort of Christmas ornament on it. Even the pool table had a small layout on it. We had a good crowd, and everyone had a wonderful time.

We had way more food than any sensible group would have eaten, but that didn't stop us.

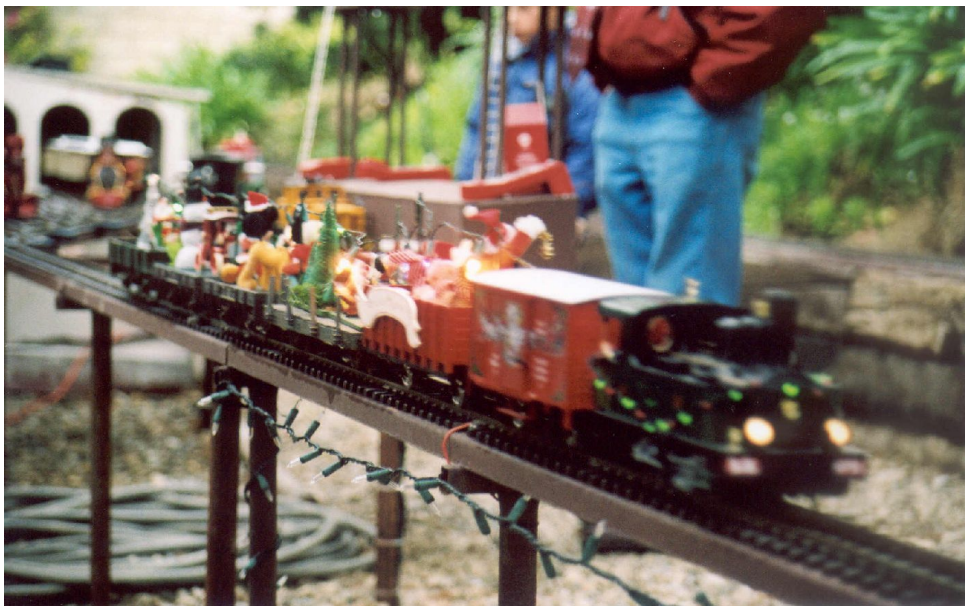
We had a gift exchange that featured a lot of carefully chosen gifts. And then there were The Hands. Just a pair of plastic hands on a stand. They have been putting in annual appearances for a couple of years now. This time the hands were a very Christmasy red and green with sparkles instead of the previous plain white.

Back outside, Beaver's Christmas train really looked festive. In addition to the Christmas Disney characters riding the gondolas, he rigged some strings of lights around the cars. You can just see them in the picture on the top of the next page. They added just the right touch..

Crazy Charlie brought his transparent, lighted dismals, which are sorta Christmasy, kinda. They sure would have made Old Charlie light up. Not with the Christmas spirit, though. Unless your Christmas wish was to learn more bad words.

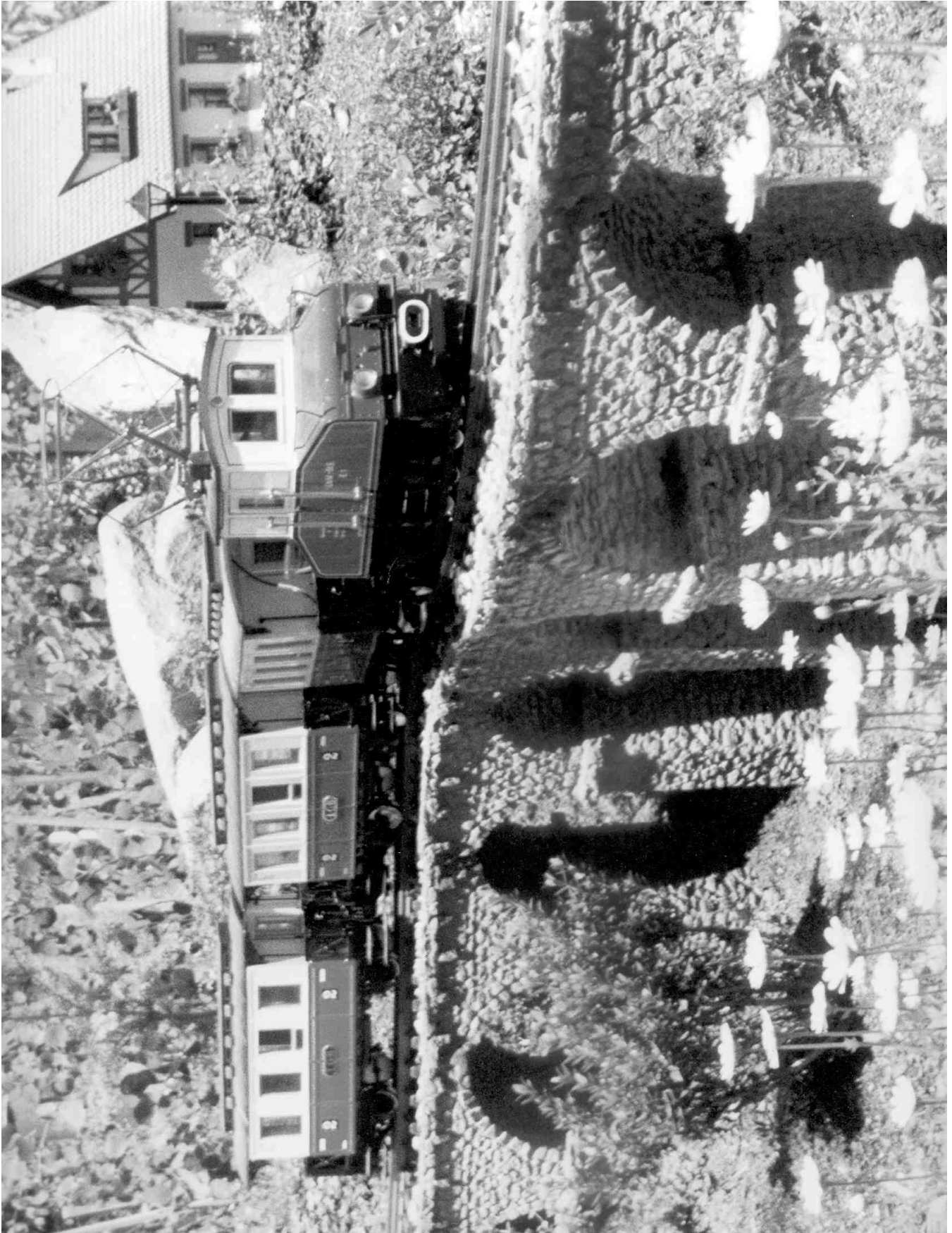
I can't imagine what possessed Mike and Sharon to do the Christmas party as their first meet, but they did a great job. Thanks, Mike and Sharon, for putting on a wonderful Christmas party and train meet. Thanks also to all the helpers I saw at the party, especially in the kitchen. Unfortunately, I was too busy eating to get everyone's names.





This is one of two pictures I received from Bob Cage. That is a Peter Dwan cast cement viaduct. I don't know anything else about the picture; I will report back after someone fills me in.

For those who don't know Peter Dwan, I have heard that he had a layout that was almost entirely this type of cast viaduct. He wrote a number of magazine articles about casting and mold making in the early '90s.



## GCGRS Membership Application Form

Membership in the Gold Coast Garden Railway Society is open to anyone who is interested in outdoor model railroading. Dues are \$20 per year. New members, please add \$6 for each name tag that you want to have. Membership runs from January to December. Make checks payable to "Bruce Kuebler". You can put GCGRS on the memo line.

Bring this application to any meet, or mail it to:

Bruce Kuebler  
10908 Encino Dr  
Oak View CA 93022-9238

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner/Other(SPO): \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SPO Last Name, if different: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Status of your layout (check one): \_\_\_ Someday, \_\_\_ Serious planning stage, \_\_\_ Construction, \_\_\_ Barely operational, \_\_\_ Marginally OK \_\_\_ Not good enough for a meet, \_\_\_ Pretty good, if you don't look too closely

Would you like some advice/help from someone in the club? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If Yes, what would you like help with first?

\_\_\_\_\_

If you have an operating layout, tell us a bit about it.

The name of your railroad: \_\_\_\_\_

The sharpest curve is \_\_\_\_\_ feet radius. The steepest grade is \_\_\_\_\_%

Gold Coast Garden Railway Society  
2444 Lexington Dr  
Ventura CA 93003-1515