



Upcoming Meets:

January 5 11AM
Larry and Bonnie
Lowenberg
28742 Pisces St
Agoura Hills
(818) 991-4536

Please bring:

A-G Salads
H-O Desserts
P-Z Appetizers

Upcoming Meets:

Feb 16 – Eldridge
March – McClain
April – Morgan
May – Raymond
June – Waterman
July – Sal Mele
August - Sylvester
September - Beaver
October – Arseneault
and Lyans
November - Ford
December - Chaudier

Directions to the Lowenberg's Meet

Deleted from on line edition

January 2008

Merry Christmas!!

Regular Meet:

This month we are meeting at the home of Larry and Bonnie Lowenberg. Larry and Bonnie are going in for the LGB Christmas train look and figured that, as their house will still be decorated for the holidays, this would be the most appropriate time for them to have a meet.

They will have three loops of track inside the house, mostly near the tree, and **four** more outside. The outside loops are a mining loop on the top layer, a logging loop a bit lower down, and two flat loops on the bottom. Larry has a video set up so that trains running outside can be shown on the TV inside. He has also offered to make a video of your train running. Please bring a blank VHS cassette if that sounds interesting.

In addition to the trains, Larry also has a large number of mechanical toys around the house.

We assume that you were good boys and girls, and Santa brought you some really

cool train stuff. If so, why not bring it along and show the rest of us just how good you were this year? Or at least how well you were able to fool Santa into thinking that you were good all year.

If the weather is iffy, the meet will move inside.

The 1:32 Group Meet:

The 1:32 Group will have another meet on January 19 at Gary and Marilyn Siegel's. Gary and Marilyn will be hosting the meets on the third Saturday of each month for the time being.

You need to RSVP to Gary a couple weeks ahead of time if you want to bring something to run. You don't need to RSVP if you just want to watch. In either case, you will have to provide for your own lunch.

Christmas in January?

It seems kind of odd to be celebrating the holidays in the January issue, but when I was doing the December issue in early November, I was barely finished with Halloween, and hadn't given Christmas a thought. I've heard that Christmas catalogs are shot in July; I guess I wouldn't make it in that business.

You know what December needs? More things to celebrate. Here are a few additional ideas: National Chocolate Covered Anything Day on the 16th, National Maple Syrup Day on the 17th, and National Oatmeal Muffin Day on the 19th. I plan to save time by putting maple syrup on my chocolate covered oatmeal muffin.



Thanks to Chris Walas for this picture. And the train, too, of course.

All Aboard!!

Please join me in welcoming Don and Lynne Maddy to our group. Don and Lynne live in Los Osos, which is up by Morro Bay. They don't have a layout yet. Lynne says that Don has a little bit of every scale, with steam and diesel, old and modern.



Thanks to Dana Walas for building this caboose, and to Chris for sending it in.

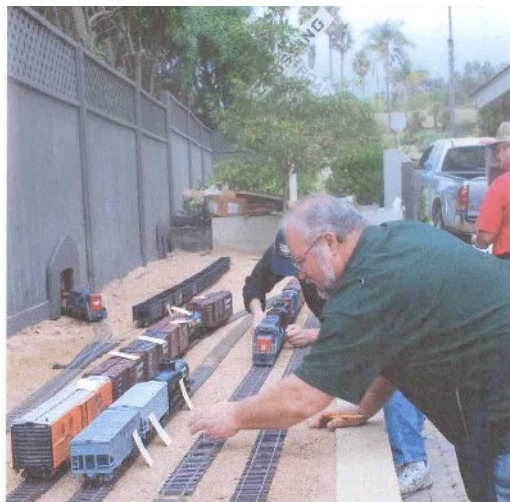
Time to Renew?

It isn't too early to renew your membership in the best garden railroad club between the Conejo Grade and Rincon Point. Check the address label on the back page. If it says December 2007, it's time to renew. For the newest members, I set it to December 2008, so you are good for another year.

1:32 Inaugural Meet:

I got an enthusiastic note from Gary Raymond talking about what a great time everyone had. Gary says:

"It's not about going from A to B. It took me 2 1/2 hours to get from one end to the other because of the operating instructions. This is like a big 400' by 400' board game. The engines are the tokens. The cars the assignments. The waybills (leaning against the cars in the one photo) the directions. The Dispatcher is like the "Dungeon Master" in D&D."



Thanks to Santa for dropping by early and posing. And for bringing the snow.

Newsletter:

Gary Olmstead
(805) 648-1770
2444 Lexington Dr.
Ventura CA 93003
garyolmstead AT
earthlink DOT net

1:32 Newsletter:

Bruce Kuebler

Membership:

Bruce Kuebler
pbkuebler AT
sbcglobal DOT net

Ads:

Gary Olmstead

Web site:

www.gcgrs.com

Webmaster:

Mike McClain
mtmii AT roadrunner
DOT com

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.

The February issue should go out around the beginning of February. If you don't renew, that will be your last issue.

Bob and Cathy Uniack's Meet

This month will be short and sweet. Well, short anyway. I've been to Bob and Cathy's before, but only after dark, so I was pleasantly surprised by all the additional details that are visible in daylight. Although we had a good crowd, there were only three trains, and two of those were Bob's.

The only guest train was brought by Beaver, who brought a train with Christmas lights and music and a gondola full of Christmas cheer in the form of Disney characters.

Bob's locos were a beautifully weathered West Side Shay with a drag of skeleton log cars, and the Connie with the yellow reefers.

Bob and Crazy Charlie Richard were poking around the layout, and guess who they dug up? Old Charlie! Rochelle Hahn made the memorial after Old Charlie passed away. The idea was that it would taken to each meet so that Charlie would always be there to keep everyone in line. A good idea until he turned up lost. Turns out he wasn't able to tear himself away from Bob's layout. Charlie always did appreciate a great layout.

Ed Davis brought his work in progress, a scratch built D&RGW RPO. Ed said he saw the one that John Lyans made, and just had to have one himself. Ed is putting his own stamp on it by finishing the

interior. He intends to have sorters, and mail bags. Guess he'll have to, now that I've mentioned it. So far, it looks really fabulous, and I have to apologize to Ed for the picture that doesn't begin to do justice to it.

John Lyans brought his finished RPO, but I didn't get a good picture of it.

I don't usually spend a lot of time on the food, but it was truly outstanding. Cathy really outdid herself. And I can't forget Byron's wonderful barbecued beef.

Thanks to John Lyans for sending some pictures along. And thanks to Bob and Cathy for another truly memorable holiday party.





The Mini-Ferroequinologist's Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through my pike,
Not a steamer was stirring, not even a Mike.
My yard tracks invitingly empty and bare,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The diesels were nestled all snug in their sheds,
While visions of DCC danced in their heads.
While I, in my blue-and-white engineer's cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out in the yard, there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the layout I flew like an ace,
Tripped over the cat and fell flat on my face.

I stifled a curse meant for Chessie, the cat,
And I muttered to no one, "I meant to do that,"
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a G-Scale sleigh and eight Preiser reindeer,

With a little engineer, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than mag-levs his coursers they came,
And he blew a steam whistle and called them by name:

"Now Hartford! Now Ozark! Now Llagas and Bachmann!
On, Aster! On, Kadee! On Preiser and Hillmann!
To the top of the hill! To the top of the wall!
Now dash away, dash away, dash away all!"

As dry leaves that behind a new Genesis fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the roundhouse the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of trains, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, on my roundhouse, I saw on the roof
The prints in the dust of each G-Scale hoof.
As I drew a deep breath, and was turning around,
From the tunnel St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed like an engineer from head to foot,
And his clothes had that fine smell of ashes and soot;
A bundle of trains he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes - just like marker lights! Dimples, how merry!
His cheeks like a warbonnet, nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And his beard was so white, it would please Phoebe Snow.

He puffed on a pipe as he refilled its bowl,
And the smoke, it smelled just like bituminous coal.
He had a broad face and a belly (I found)
That shook like a tank car with wheels out-of-round.

He was chubby and plump, and I wanted to shout,
"Yes! The man's got a route the UP can't buy out!"
A wink of his eye as he passed near the door
Soon gave me to know I'd have freight cars galore.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work.
He filled all my yard tracks; then turned with a jerk,
And leaving an airbrush he'd found on eBay,
And giving a nod, he returned to his sleigh.

He pumped up the brakes, blew two blasts on his whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all! Keep 'em rolling! Good-Night!"

Happy Holidays!



Cheryl and Steve Vendt would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.



Santa leaving early. He took the snow with him, too. Or at least, it was gone soon after he was.

Jane and I would like to wish every one of you, and your families, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

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