



Upcoming Meets:

Saturday January 16

11:00 AM

**Gary and Jane
Olmstead**

**Ventura
(805) 648-1770**

Rain Date: January 23

Please bring:

A-G Appetizers

H-O Salads

P-Z Desserts

February 26 – Rex Davis

March 13 – Asher

March 27 -- Siegel

April 3 –Abraham

April 24 -- Morgan

May 8 – Eldridge

May 27 -- Raymond

June 12 – Fraser

June 26 -- Beaver

July 24 – Hahn

August – Albin

September – Kuebler

October – Seigel

October – Arseneault

November 13 – Walker

December – C. Richard

January 2010

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.... am I going to be ready? Guess I'll have to finish this newsletter, and get out there and get to work. But in the meantime...

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

I have, finally, finished building all those mountains, so that part hasn't changed. I have added a bunch more trees. Santa has promised a very special addition to the layout, but you'll have to come to see what it is.

Other than that, not much has changed. The layout still has steep grades, sharp curves, and low bridges, which means your K-27s and heavyweight passenger cars will have to gather dust for another

day. But your geared locos and anything small with more than one motor will feel right at home. Also, bring lots of cars, as all of mine have Kaddee couplers.

Since this is our post-Christmas meet, bring whatever locos, cars, buildings, etc that Santa brought you for Christmas. Even if it is too big to run, we'd all like to drool over it.

Rain date will be the following Saturday.

AHEM!! Ready or Not, 2010 Is Coming

The list in the left column shows the meets for 2010. I printed a similar list last month, and only got one correction, although there were several errors. I'm not going to tell you how many errors I left in, or added. If you think there is a mismatch between the list and your expectations for next year, please call Beaver right away..

Directions and map deleted from on line edition. Please call host for directions.

Jackie Chaudier says:

"Thank you all for taking the time out to make our Christmas Holiday run truly a success. You were very brave to come so far in such awful weather. Thank you all for bring such great food that was enjoyed by all. We had a great time and John and I hope all of you had a great time as well. Merry Christmas."

Time to Renew

I'm going to purge the membership list after the February issue, so if you want to continue as a real, full up member, Bruce Kuebler needs to hear from you soon. The details are on the back page, including Bruce's address. It isn't too late to switch over to taking the newsletter via email.

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 to call the host for directions. Easier to let me send you everything you need every month.

Oops, My Mistake

Recently I realized that GCGRS' 25th anniversary was last May. Hans Kahl of Gold Coast Station fame and Bob Cage invited anyone who was interested to spend the afternoon of May 4, 1985 in Hans' yard talking big trains. Enough people showed up to make them think that continuing would be a good idea, and the rest is history.

And Speaking of Polishing Off the Leftovers...

Jean Waterman brought some delicious veggie bars to the Paulazzo's meet in October. Several people wanted the recipe, so she gave it to me to publish. I didn't have space until now, but that will only make them taste better. Here it is.

Jean Waterman's Veggie Bars

Crust: Place 2 packages of Pillsbury Crescent Rolls on a 10"X15" pan and pat to fit.

Bake 10 minutes @ 400 degrees. Let cool.

Mix: 2 – 8 oz packages cream cheese
1 cup mayonnaise
1 envelope Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing Mix

Cream together until smooth. Spread over crust. Top with fresh veggies such as: onion, celery, cauliflower, tomato, carrots, green peppers and broccoli.

Sprinkle grated cheese on top. Put under the broiler until the cheese melts. Watch carefully. Enjoy!!

And tune in next month for a recipe that Sylvia Eldridge brought to the Christmas party.

Go Ahead, Make My Day

Some of our previous editors would have cut their right hand off before running a recipe. When someone figures out how to re-animate the dead, I am sure I will be hearing from one or more of them.

In the meantime, if anybody has a problem with my running recipes, go right ahead and complain. But think carefully before you do, as you will be editing this newsletter before you can hang up the phone.

My Sincere Thanks

I got a real surprise at the Chaudier's Christmas party. It seems that a group of our members got together and had Beaver make a carrying case for me to carry trains to meets. Apparently it was to get even for the newsletter I have been inflicting on all of you lately. He did a great job, and it's very nice. The brass plaque on the end has my name on it, and then reads: "From the members of the Gold Coast Garden RR Association *For a Job Well Done*". It's very, very nice, and you will be seeing a lot of it at future meets. Thank you very much, I really appreciate it.



Have You Talked to Beaver Lately?

Beaver says that some of you have been a bit less supportive that you promised to be, and you owe him \$3. I don't know who you are, so I can't be any more specific. Nevertheless, if you don't want to be "volunteered" to host every meet next year, you'd be well advised to call Beaver and do the right thing to stay on his good side.

John and Jackie Chaudier's Meet

For the second year in a row, the Christmas party was stormy, although last year was cold and windy but dry. This year, it was raining when we got there, so I thought we were going to set a record by having no trains running. But I underestimated the tenacity of our members.

Beaver brought his Christmas train, and ran it until the track got so wet that the wheels just spun. This train had a bit of trouble when it got tangled in some low hanging Christmas lights, which isn't a very common problem at our meets.

Crazy Charlie ran his home built James (as in Thomas the Tank

Engine's James). It has a USA Trains power block, so it runs very well. It also has a LEGO tender, and two LEGO men. He ran it with a track cleaner car to keep his track reasonably dry. It ran until the rain got hard enough to drive everyone inside. He brought some other Thomas related cars, but the insignia were only glued-on paper, which would never have lasted. They looked good, though.

John Power had the right idea. He brought his battery powered, radio-controlled Goose, and ran it back and forth on the dining room table. No track needed.

No, I haven't forgotten about the party. We had a good turnout, considering

the weather. **Rochelle Hahn** had a drawing for gifts. If you drew a slip of paper with a train on it, you got a present. I drew a train, and got a reindeer feed bag that was the perfect size to hold some tortilla chips and a cup of dip. The "hands" that have been making the rounds in recent years did not come back. The white elephant gift exchange was a lot of fun, as was the ornament exchange game that Rochelle ran.

Thanks to Crazy Charlie for contributing some of this month's pictures. Thanks to everyone who braved the weather and didn't complain once. And thanks to Jackie and John for another memorable Christmas party.





More party pictures.



Wrap Up From the South West Garden RR Show

Gary Raymond took his modular layout to the SWGRS over Halloween weekend. He was very happy with the response from the attendees, and plans to go next year. **John Ryan** was there and sent some pictures of Gary's layout. From the look of it, Gary has spent a lot of time on it since his last meet. It looks a lot like a real railroad now instead of like track nailed to plywood.



Walter Andersen Nursery

You may recall last spring when **Paul and Jill Salverson** dropped in on the **Walter Andersen Nursery** in Poway in San Diego County. I heard glowing reports from Paul and Jill and from some other people who went but didn't send me pictures, so I've forgotten who you were.

The reason there is so much interest in this nursery is that it has a very nice garden railroad. I needed some plants for my layout, and after hearing all the positive reports, I knew I would never be satisfied until I had seen it for myself. In July I took a field trip down there. The verdict is: If you're anywhere near Poway, drop it and admire it. But don't make a special trip, and don't plan on landscaping your whole layout there.

The layout has some interesting features. One that I hadn't seen before was an Indian pueblo tucked up into some mountains. Another was a burned out hulk of a locomotive sitting on a siding. There is also a large water

feature. The problem is that they don't have much in the way of miniature plants for sale. This was particularly frustrating because they have some ideal plants on the layout, but they didn't have them for sale. I was particularly taken with a dwarf bamboo that looked like a little fuzz ball, and some dwarf crape myrtle. They didn't have either one for sale.

I took some pictures of some very attractive plants. Here is a list of some interesting candidates.

Red Star Pine *Chamaecyparis thyoides* 'Red Star'
Variegated English Boxwood *Buxus sempervirens*
Pink Mountain Serissa
Dwarf Crape Myrtle *Lagerstroemia* x 'Chickasaw'
Scotch Heather
Chusquea Coronalis (bamboo)

The boxwood, serissa, and Scotch heather are widely available. *Chusquea Coronalis* is that bamboo that I mentioned above. I haven't found it locally, but I found a grower that claims it is available. It grows to eight feet, but has very small leaves and stems, and can be kept small.



More pictures from the Walter Andersen Nursery.



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 if you need a printed copy of the newsletter mailed to you; or \$10 if you can take the newsletter via email. 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 for GCGRS**".

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

Bruce Kuebler
10908 Encino Dr
Oak View CA 93022-9238

First Name _____ Last Name: _____

Spouse/Partner/Other(SPO) First Name: _____

SPO Last Name, if different: _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____

email: _____

I enclose \$20 because I love to receive a printed newsletter in the mail _____

I enclose \$10 because I want to get the newsletter two days earlier by email _____

I also need ___ name tags, so I have added \$6 each _____

For new members:

Would you like some help designing and/or building your layout? (Yes/No) _____

If yes, what would you like help with? _____

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NOTE NEW web site:

<http://www.gcgrs.com>

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