



## January 2009

### Upcoming Meets:

**January 3, 2009**  
**John & Wendy Power**  
**11AM**  
**(805) 389 -1991**  
**Call if the weather is**  
**questionable.**

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

February – Sylvester  
March – Richard  
April – Morgan  
May – Eldridge (early),  
Siegel (late)  
June – Miroballi  
July – Heumphreus  
August – Albin  
September – Walker

### January Meet at John and Wendy Power's Twin Falls RR

Now that **John and Wendy** have achieved a layout that is just short of perfection, they are doing the only reasonable thing: Sell the house, move, and start all over again. At least I hope they will build another layout, it would be a shame to waste everything that they have learned along the way. Even though they haven't actually sold the house yet, it could happen any day now, so they decided to have one last bash at their current address.

John has been doing a lot of work out back, both on the layout, and in the yard generally. He has re-engineered the three loops to handle his K-36, so they should be able to handle just about anything that you have in mind.

The curves are all about five foot radius, and there are no grades to speak of.

There are some bridges, so the vertical clearance is about 10 or 11 inches.

The "outer" loop doesn't have any sidings, but as of this writing it also doesn't have track power. John hopes to fix that before the meet. The inner loop and the back loop both have track power, so you can bring anything.

The "back" loop runs 200+ feet through the train house, over to the gazebo, down toward the street, and then doubles back on itself to the train house.

This has nothing to do with the layout, but John and Wendy have also added a new waterfall, and new, much larger koi pond near the gazebo. At 2,500 gallons it sounds more like a swimming pool than a pond, so those will be some very lucky koi.

Rain cancels, so please call if the weather looks iffy.

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

## Notice anything different?

**Jerry Kutchey** and **Walt Thompson** were discussing names of layouts. In my not so humble opinion, having a name turns a layout into a railroad. Sort of like having a name turns an idea into a business. Of course, the trains still just go around in circles, but that is a topic for some other time and place.

Be that as it may, I will encourage you by prominently featuring the name of the railroad with the meet write up. But I won't embarrass anybody; so don't cancel your meet just because you don't have a name.

I see that only a couple of next year's layouts have names. If you've been trying to think of something you could ask Santa for that would actually be useful and not too expensive, here's your answer.

Here are some actual names from our membership list to get you into the mood.

- 1 Atascadero Creek
- 2 Bijou-Lake Valley
- 3 Coyote Canyon
- 4 No Name Logging & Mining
- 5 Sierra & Rio Grande
- 6 Stumphill

## Here's a bit of fun:

Match the railroads with their owners:

- A **John Albin**
- B **Beaver**
- C **John Corradini**
- D **Bill Fraser**

E **Richard Hanson**  
F **Seth Olitzky**

These are only a few of the named layouts; I am saving most of them for future needs. Sorry, no prizes for top scores. But no public humiliation for not recognizing any of them either, so it evens out.

Two should be easy, at least for anyone who goes to every meet. Two would be easy if you kept every back issue of this newsletter (doesn't everyone?). So that would give you a 50-50 shot at the other two. Answers next month, if I remember, and have space.

## News from Far Away

**Mike McClain** wrote to say that he and **Sharon** wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and to say that they managed to set up some Christmas trains after all. Mike says they have five layouts in their yard, and on the porch. That is Mike and Sharon in the picture below, and a close up of their porch layout on the right.

## Last but not least

I have really enjoyed editing the bulletin this year. Most months were fairly readable, and one or two months even had useful information in them. So, I'll keep at it awhile longer. But I am not going to turn it into a career, as one of my predecessors did.

**Jane** and I would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

**Newsletter:**  
**Gary Olmstead**  
**(805) 648-1770**

**2444 Lexington Dr.**  
**Ventura CA 93003**

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**Membership:**  
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**De Eldridge**  
**de AT ie-formula 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.



**John and Jackie Chaudier's Christmas Party Meet.**

It was cold and windy, perfect weather for getting into the Christmas spirit, as if any of us needed encouragement. We had a near-overflow crowd, and everyone had a great time.

Most people decided to take a break from running trains, but luckily we had a few people who wanted to run something Christmas-y.

**Beaver** brought his Christmas train with the lights and music. I tried to stop the train to get a better picture at

night, but of course when the train stops the lights go out, so you'll have to work from the blurry picture that appears on the next page.

**John Power** brought his open cab diesel, complete with Santa waving from the front, and a special load of Christmas trees for good kids.

John and Jackie ran their Soo Line loco and train, and also a Christmas special with three locos.

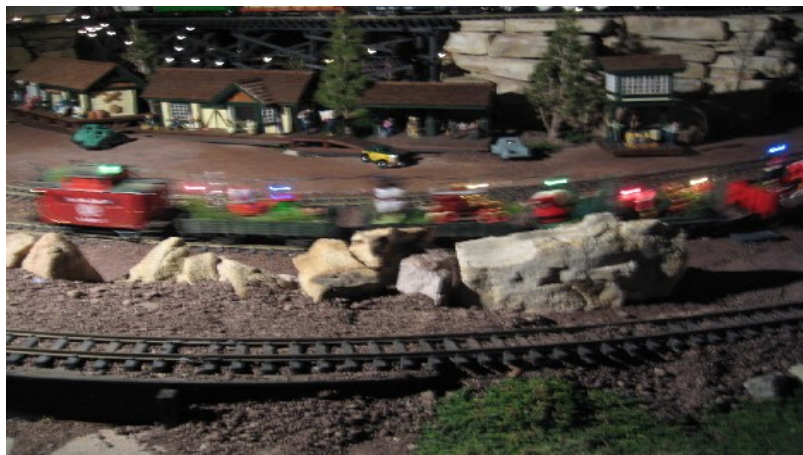
**John Golnik** brought an LGB Stainz and two axle European cars loaded

with Christmas toys. But I didn't get a decent picture of it.

The white elephant gift exchange featured not one but two actual elephants, both white. The famous "hands" put in a return visit, since nobody can stand them longer than a year. They started off as plain white hands for holding cell phones, but have been "improved" over the years until they appear as you see them on the next page.

Thanks to John and Jackie for another unforgettable Christmas meet.





**Christmas Layout in One Day Also Makes a Perfect Christmas Card**

This garden, including the layout, paths, and Christmas ornaments, was constructed in a single day for a TV show.

It's for a TV New Zealand show called Mucking In. The premise is that on Saturday morning a crew swoops in on an unsuspecting family, packs them off for the weekend, and then builds a complete garden before Sunday afternoon. Recipients are people who stand out for their generosity, but haven't been widely recognized. This particular individual makes and fixes toys for underprivileged children

around Palmerston North, near Wellington New Zealand..

This episode was shot in June, to be shown on December 21, so I don't know the winner's name yet..

The layout is kidney shaped, with a station building. The train consists of a loco, gondola, and caboose. The crew also built a path, installed all the plants, ground cover, and Christmas ornaments. As anyone with location shooting experience has probably already guessed, the entire project was done in a steady rain.

I came across this because I am exchanging newsletters with Michael

Hilliar who is one of the editors of The Garden Whistle. GW is the combined newsletter for four garden railroad clubs in New Zealand. They are the Auckland 45mm Gauge Model Railway Group (Michael's group), GROW! The Garden Railway Operators of Waikato!, (exclamation mark is theirs), the Wellington Garden Railway Group, and the Christchurch Garden Railway Society. Waikato is a two hour drive south of Auckland.

The picture was taken by John Robinson, who edits the Wellington portion of the newsletter. Many thanks to John for letting me republish the picture here.



## 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 for GCGRS**".

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  
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