



**Upcoming Meets:**

**Saturday March 13**

**Rex and Diane Davis**

**Sylmar 11 AM**

**(818) 362-2291**

Please bring:

A-G Salads

H-O Desserts

P-Z Appetizers

**Saturday March 27**

**Gary and Marilyn**

**Siegel 11 AM**

**Santa Barbara (805)**

**969-7687**

Please bring:

A-G Desserts

H-O Appetizers

P-Z Salads

April 10 -- Abraham

April 24 -- Morgan

May 8 -- Eldridge

May 22 -- Raymond

June 12 -- Fraser

June 26 -- Beaver

July 24 -- Hahn

First up we have **Rex and Diane Davis'** meet that was rained out last month. It is this coming Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup>. I don't have space to reprint the details, but I doubt that the important bits have changed since two weeks ago, so if the February newsletter has already been used to wrap fish, you can download it from our web site or call Rex or Diane.

Then we are going to **Gary and Marilyn Siegel's** in Santa Barbara. Gary's railroad is modeled after the Southern Pacific's line from San Jose to Santa Cruz. Gary has set the era to the late 1950's. The layout is a point-to-point design with a main line that is 750 feet long. Its half dozen passing sidings are designed to encourage operating trains in addition to just watching them run.

## March 2010

I'm not sure what Gary has done since last time. I am sure that there will be more new things to admire, and maybe even some ideas that you could borrow and adapt to your layout.

The minimum radius is 8 feet 6 inches, and the grades are no worse than 1.5%. The layout favors first and second generation diesels. 1:20 cars and locos will get around OK, although there are some very tight fits in the tunnels. The layout is best suited for battery power and radio control.

And be sure to wear comfortable shoes, so that you can follow your train around. You'll need to move around to keep an eye on them. You'll want to follow them around so that you can get the full benefit of running past the steep cliffs and dense forests of dwarf Alberta spruce.

**Gary and Marilyn Siegel's Meet  
Directions and map omitted  
from on line edition. Please  
call host for address and  
directions.**

## State of the (GCGR) Society

We have 58 members this year, down from 66 last year. A couple of the rest may yet realize that they can't live without us, but most of the non-renewals haven't been to a meet in ages, if ever. Just about 2/3 opted for email delivery of the newsletter which was better than I had hoped, so I will stop hectoring you about switching over. Although, you still can, at any time. Bruce Kuebler reports that we have \$707.71 on hand.

## All Aboard!!

Please join me in welcoming our newest members, **George and Roni Megla** of Sherman Oaks. George wrote to say that he has been interested in miniatures and toy trains for over 20 years. But since he doesn't have room in the house for a layout, he decided to move up and outdoors. He is interested in steam and logging, and is planning a mountain layout with a water feature.

## A Word of Advice...

If you are ever up to no good, be sure that Rex Davis isn't anywhere near. I said last month that I hadn't seen his railroad. At Don's meet, he said that I had been to one of their previous meets. He reminded me that my Dad had been there with the 1963 Porsche that he had just bought. My Dad bought his Porsche in 1998. Rex was right, of course. I remember it now.

## Now That the Fruitcake is Finally Gone, Here is Absolutely, Positively the Last Christmas Leftover

**Sylvia Eldridge** sent a recipe that was very popular at the Christmas Party. I didn't have room for it last month, or the month before that, or... well you get the idea. But that will make it taste all the better. It will be perfect to help celebrate Easter. Heck, it will be perfect to help celebrate Tuesday.

## Wild Rice & Corn Bread Stuffing

½ stick butter  
1 Cup chopped red onion  
½ Cup chopped celery  
5 Cups chicken stock  
1 ¼ Cups uncooked brown rice – I used Trader Joe's Brown Rice Medley  
1 ¼ Cups uncooked wild rice – I used Trader Joe's Wild Rice (already cooked)  
1 ½ Cups dried cranberries  
1 teaspoon dried thyme & 1 teaspoon dried marjoram  
2 Cups crumbled corn bread or stuffing mix  
¼ Cup chopped fresh parsley  
Salt & Pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Melt ½ of the butter in large skillet. Add onion and celery and saute until soft, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside.

Bring chicken stock to a boil and add wild rice. Once it boils again, reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 30 minutes. (If you use the pre-cooked wild rice, skip this step and just add the brown rice to the stock to cook). Add brown rice to the stock and cook until almost all the liquid is absorbed, about 15 minutes. (Now is where you add the pre-cooked wild rice, if you choose this method).

Stir in cranberries, thyme, marjoram, red onion and celery mixture, and remaining melted butter. Cover and simmer for 3 minutes. Stir in corn bread and parsley. Add salt & pepper to taste.

Butter a 9 by 13 inch baking dish. Transfer the stuffing to the dish and cover with buttered aluminum foil. Bake until heated through, about 15 minutes.

## Answers to Last Month's Quiz About Our Members

Which of our members:

Worked on Cab Forwards at the Southern Pacific's Sacramento Shops?

**John Corradini** who was working in aerospace when he retired. Ask him about his Cab Forward stories. I'd repeat them here, but I don't know if the statute of limitations has run out.

Built, or rather rebuilt, a real railroad?

**Steve Vendt** who moved to Hawaii for several years, and used the time to work on the Hawaiian Railway. I guess he got it out of his system, because he moved to Phoenix, where he does not work at the Arizona Railway Museum or the Paradise & Pacific at the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale.

Works for Amtrak?

**Bob Woodward** works in the heavy repair shop in Los Angeles

Worked at the Fillmore & Western?

**Steven Provonost** was the cook on days when the line was running. He has definitely gotten that out of his system.

Is an engineer on steam locomotives?

**Paul Jennings**, who also owns a steam roller.

Own locomotives big enough to ride on?

**Bob Uniack**, **Georges Arseneault**, and **Bob Woodward** for certain. Georges owns two. There may be others; if you have one, or know someone who does, I would like to hear about it.

## Don Asher's Meet

We had very big, very ominous clouds all morning that kept the massive crowds at home. That didn't stop the really *crazy* dedicated members, who came anyway. There was only the barest spatter of rain just before 11, and we had a great time.

Don has fixed a spot where two tracks were too close together, so unlike last time, there was no drama at all today.

**Beaver** ran his Atascadero Creek Americanized Mallet with a nice long string of Don's box cars.

**Crazy Charlie** brought his heavy weight passenger cars for Don's Hudson to pull. These cars put the heavy in heavyweight. Unlike their

prototypes, they do not have a layer of concrete under the floor, but they are still the heaviest cars you are likely to see at our meets.

He also ran his home built James the Red Engine. James is built on a USA power block, and it runs much better than you might think just by its appearance.

Charlie decided to see just how well James could pull, so he added more and more cars until the wheels spun. Of course, that boxcar is a sound car, so it weighs more than the whole rest of the train put together, including James. I don't know what conclusions you can really draw about James' pulling power from that test.

One of our newest members, **Jim Bunning** ran his Bachmann Connie. He also got a lot of good advice about layout design.

**Ed Davis** brought his D&RGW K-27 in green.

**Don Asher** didn't want to be left out, so he ran his USA Hudson on the point with Charlie's heavyweight cars. That is his Shay pulling the ore cars, and his D&RGW GP30 again pulling all those box cars.

You can blame Crazy Charlie for the picture of me. Thanks to Don for another memorable meet. I managed to forget to take a picture of him; but that is Don on the left in the red shirt and blue hat.





## Need Some Sunshine? Arizona, Trains, Lots of Sun. What More Could You Ask For?

**Steve Vendt**, our member in Phoenix, wrote to tell us about the 11<sup>th</sup> annual **Eaglewing Iron Craft's** open house and layout tour. It is April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, so you don't have any conflicts with our meets. Their flyer says that there will be tours of over 20 layouts all around Phoenix. More details here:

[http://www.eaglewingsironcraft.com/upcoming\\_events.php](http://www.eaglewingsironcraft.com/upcoming_events.php)

One of the open layouts will be Steve and Cheryl's. I haven't seen any recent pictures of their railroad, but Steve says that the trees are larger, and they had some ground cover burn off last summer. Here is a picture from 2007:



Following the success of the speckled hen tank car, I have gone on to produce others, such as Budwieser, Old Rosie and others.

We have had a successful year at Nene Valley Railway and the Santa specials went well. Just before Christmas a film crew were there filming a remake of Murder on the Orient Express with David Suchet playing Poirot. The film company spent an awful lot of money making artificial snow. If they had been down there a couple of weeks later they could have had it for free. Hoping for a lot better year this year, and more time for garden railways.

Thanks for the update, Paul. To paraphrase W.C. Fields, "Steam rollers are like elephants to me. I like to look at 'em, but I sure would hate to own one."



## Paul Jennings Update

**Paul and Christine Jennings** are our members in England. Paul wrote to bring us up to date on his steam roller and his volunteer work with the local tourist railroad. Paul says:

Sorry it's taken so long, but last year wasn't a very good year for us. We only did two shows and while traveling to the next show the engine broke down half way there and we found the engine had broken its crankshaft. This was on a Sunday afternoon. We managed to limp into the local village hall car park. Thanks to a good friend on the Wednesday he transported the living van and trailer back to the yard at Crowland and the engine went to March where our friend lives for repairs. We have been working on it ever since. As you can imagine finding parts for something over 100 years old isn't easy and we are having parts made by a specialist firm in Oxford. These hopefully will be ready in the next few weeks. We thought at first we wouldn't be able to straighten the bent crankshaft, but through friends in steam preservation we managed to locate a spare crankshaft.

I attended the Great Dorset Steam Fair this year... while there I spoke to an engineering firm. They told me they would prefer to straighten the old crankshaft. They have now done this, and are now making new bearings.





## 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? \_\_\_\_\_

Gold Coast Garden Railway Society  
10908 Encino Dr  
Oak View, CA 93022-9238

**Newsletter:**

**Gary Olmstead**  
**(805) 648-1770**  
**garyolmstead AT**  
**earthlink DOT net**

**Membership:**

**Bruce Kuebler**  
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**pbkuebler AT**  
**sbcglobal DOT net**

**Meets: Beaver**

**(805) 967-2552**  
**ybeaver AT verizon**  
**DOT net**

**NOTE NEW web site:**

<http://www.gcgrs.com>

**Webmaster:**

**John Albin**  
**jtalbin AT aol DOT**  
**com**

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