



### Upcoming Meets:

November 10 11AM  
 Don Asher  
 1560 Sequan Ct.  
 Camarillo  
 (805) 482-2510

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

1:32 Scale Group:  
 November 17 11AM  
 Gary Siegel  
 Bring your own lunch  
 Register by Nov. 1

Christmas Party:  
 Dec 1 – Uniack

Jan -- Lowenburg  
 Feb – Eldridge  
 March – McClain  
 April -- Morgan

## November 2007

### Gary Siegel Hosts the 1:32 Group:

The 1:32 Scale Group will be attending an Operating Session at Gary and Marilyn Siegel's Nov 17, beginning at 11am. Since Gary just hosted a meet, I am not printing a map or directions this time.

The group will be running trains under Dispatcher orders simulating full size train operations. You will need reservations to run trains. Anyone is welcome to observe.

If you would like to participate with your equipment, you'll need to contact Gary Raymond at [ggraymond@earthlink.net](mailto:ggraymond@earthlink.net) or (805) 492-5858 with your Equipment Roster by November 1. Please include Engine and Car Type (GP9, Box, Flat, etc), Road Name, and Number for each engine and car. These are required to create the train orders in advance. Models should be 1:32 and have on board batteries with radio control (there is no track power).

There are two meets this month, one on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the other on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Don Asher's Meet:

First up will be at Don Asher's Western Sierra RR on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM.

Don has one of the few Zen layouts in our group. No wasted motion; nothing that isn't absolutely necessary.

The layout has about 350 feet of main line made up of two separately powered loops.

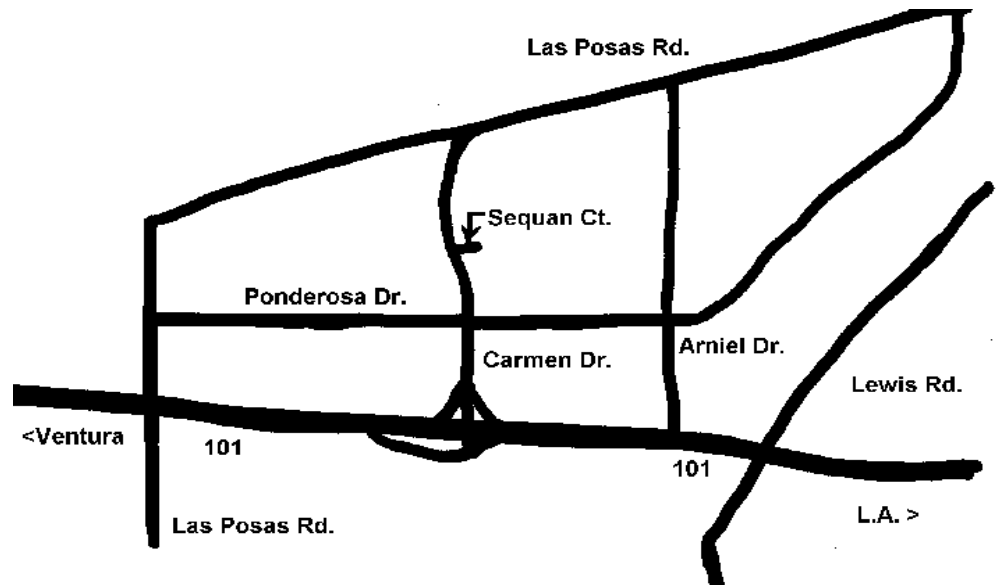
Don figures the worst grade is 2% or so and the vertical clearance is about 9 ¼ inches. The curves are ten foot radius. His couplers are mostly hook and loop, but a few cars have knuckles.

Don says that he has fixed the paths, added some rocks, and a tunnel. He is also working on some buildings, and hopes to have some finished, and some more that are presentable enough to use by the meet.

### Directions to the Asher's Meet

From the West  
 South 101  
 Off at Carmen Dr (exit 54)  
 Left at Ventura Blvd  
 Left at Carmen Dr  
 Right at East Modesto Ave  
 Left at Augusta Ave  
 Right at Sequan Ct to 1560

From the East:  
 North 101  
 Off and Right at Carmen Dr  
 Right at Modesto Ave  
 Left at Augusta Ave  
 Right at Sequan Ct to 1560



## Did You Pass the Test?

I thought I would find out who actually reads these bulletins by intentionally putting in some mistakes, and seeing who noticed.

Last month I identified the white GP38 as belonging to John Albin, when in fact it belongs to John Ryan. Kudos to all the sharp eyed readers who reported it. None of whom were John Ryan.

I also awarded Bill Fraser's yellow LGB Mogul to Beaver. They both get extra points for 1) noticing, and 2) being gracious about it.

And if you really believe that these were intentional, then I have \$20 million in a bank in Nigeria that I would like to discuss with you.

## All Aboard!!!

Please welcome Jimmy and Louise Hill of Santa Barbara. Jimmy lists their layout as "someday", and would like some help in getting started. You can reach Jimmy at (805) 969-0677.

Also new are Kenneth and VernaLynn Petrowsky who live in the Santa Rosa Valley. Kenneth also lists their layout as "someday" but isn't even far enough along to ask for help. You can reach Kenneth at (805) 714-4944.

## The 2008 National Garden Railway Convention

will be held in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona from April 30 to May 3, 2008. The Arizona Big Train Operators and Tucson Garden Railway Society have joined forces to bring you a positively insane amount of trains in gardens.

There will be layout tours by bus in both Phoenix and Tucson, plus dinners, barbecues, Mariachi bands, and clinics. They might even let you buy something, but only if you promise them that you don't have enough stuff already.

If you are interested, there is more info and forms at:

[www.ngcr2008.org](http://www.ngcr2008.org) or call (520) 514-5541.

## Advertising Update:

So far, I have not heard any opposition to running garden railroad related ads. Several people pointed out that the only previous opposition was from Old Charlie, who would not even consider the concept. What was most intriguing to me is that Charlie died in 2002, and yet everyone who knew him spoke very carefully about running advertising, as though they half expected Charlie to make his displeasure known even at this late date.

Just to be on the safe side, I have attached lightening rods to my house, and I have also carefully grounded my computer and myself, just in case Old Charlie has the keys to the locker where the lightening bolts are stored. I'm afraid you are on your own. You may want to skip the next paragraph. You never can tell what might happen.

I will accept and print ads that are the size of one business card (2"x3") only. You choose the text, and/or pictures. Pictures can be color. Charges: \$15 per month, or 12 months for \$150, payable in advance. I can use .PDF .JPG or .DOC files, or I can scan a paper document. It doesn't have to be an actual business card, just 2"x3".

## Stuff that Needs a New Home:

Byron McCracken is selling his Acela streamliner. Two complete sets for \$300 total. Call Byron at (805) 642-2792.

Chris Walas has some free building materials that need a new home. He has bricks, about 100 whole ones and a bunch of halves. He has cement blocks that would be good for tunnels. There are also some slate and marble tiles. Call Chris at (805) 898-1250.

There will be pictures and more details on our web site. Speaking of which, if you have a few extra things you would like to get rid of, you can put a free ad on the Classified Ads page on our web site. Contact Mike McClain for more information.

### 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](http://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.

This space for rent.

Contact the newsletter editor for more information.

This is 2"x3".

## Power's October Meet

John and Wendy had almost every problem short of locusts, but nothing was going to stop them from putting on a terrific meet.

The new bridges give the whole layout a new look and a lot more character than before. John has a dry riverbed underneath. It will probably remain a dry river bed (unless it ever rains again) because John says that he already has more water than he knows what to do with.

Beaver brought his one of a kind Atascadero Creek 0-6-6-0T Mallet complete with side tanks and tender,

some skeleton log cars with logs, and a caboose.

Bill Fraser brought his Heisler and skeleton log cars without logs. These cars don't have a good way to attach log chains. He is working on ways to make and attach logs.

Damon DeCrow brought the only train with a Halloween theme. He brought the train that included the gondola with the spooky passengers.

Joe Heumphreus brought the sharp looking Connie with the box cars.

Richard Abraham brought a pair of his diesels and a string of very nice cars.

Not to be outdone, John Power ran his Rio Grande GP40 with a string of box cars. I think it's a GP40; but I don't pretend to be an expert. He also ran his K28 by itself, as well as with a string of passenger cars.

Thanks to John Albin and Mike McClain for contributing pictures. Mike has posted more pictures on our web site on the Members List page.

And a very special thanks to John and Wendy for overcoming every adversity to host another memorable train meet.





### Cement Mountains Part 3

If you have been following along at home, you now have something that looks more or less like this:



Next we will add the finish coat. For this step, you will need a spray bottle full of plain water, a small bucket half full of clean water, a cheap paint brush, and some shaping tools. I prefer a regular 16d nail, a wood dowel shaped to a point, and a wire brush that I modified rather heavily for this purpose. By the way, you shouldn't be wearing any clothes that you care about.

The best kind of paint brush is a "chip brush", and is available for less than a dollar at Lowe's. They are really stiff, and leave brush marks in everything they touch. That is just what you want here.

I got the wire brush at HD Supply (formerly Contractors Warehouse) in Ventura. They came in a set of three for under \$5, and are really lousy brushes! They shed bristles, and crack if you put any pressure on them. So, I took some pliers and yanked out all but the center row of bristles, then cut the handle down. Now, it has found its true purpose in life: modeling sedimentary rock. If you don't have an HD Supply nearby, the Harbor Freight web site has something similar, but I have not tried them.

I should say here that this technique results in mountains that are very sturdy, but are not quite strong enough to be stepped on. If you need to step on the finished rock, it should be at least 1/2 inch thick and with a solid support directly under the step. It is best to do all of those areas as a separate process now, and let them dry before continuing.

The top layer of cement will be carved into the final shape, so it must be mixed very thick, as close to modeling clay as you can manage. It is very hard to mix properly at this stage, so make sure there aren't any dry bits down underneath. One technique is to deliberately add too much water, mix it all up thoroughly, and then mix in enough dry cement to fix the texture.

Soak the cemented burlap layer thoroughly with the spray bottle. Pick up handfuls of the wet cement with your gloved hands, and slop it on the work site. Smush it around as evenly as possible with your hands. When you get all the cement out of the mixing bucket, fill it with water

and set it aside until you have time to clean it out. Wet the chip brush and brush the surface to get the cement spread around more evenly, and remove your finger marks.

How thick should it be? It depends to some extent on how closely you modeled the final appearance back at the wire stage. After you have the finish layer of cement on, all further dimension is done by removing cement, so if you want a very rough profile, it needs to be thicker, while if you are modeling a smooth shear wall, it can be thinner. Bear in mind that if you make this layer more than a couple inches thick, it will sag no matter how thick you mix it. Also bear in mind that it dries from the thin parts to the thick parts, so a fairly even thickness is less frustrating until you get the hang of it.

Depending on whether your area is in sun or shade, and also depending on the temperature and humidity, you have anywhere from a half hour to all afternoon to work with it. Cement dries by forming calcite crystals that get larger and join together as it dries. This means that a stroke that removes a tiny bit of cement when it is first applied will take off much more later on. That said, most of the real character appears when you are working with cement that is very nearly set up. You can slow the drying a little bit by wetting the surface with your spray bottle. The extra bucket of clean water is to soak your other tools to remove excess cement.

Let it sit until the surface water evaporates before starting the texturing. The cement is still very soft, so cuts made now will sag a bit and have very soft edges. The same cut made later on will retain its sharp edges. I can't really say too much else here; just start!! Here is a sample to encourage you:



Let it dry for at least a week before painting. Lots more pictures on our web site.

## 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