

# Santa Clarita Valley Garden Railroad Club



## NEWSLETTER

Santa Clarita, California

January, 2017

# January Meeting Grand Panda

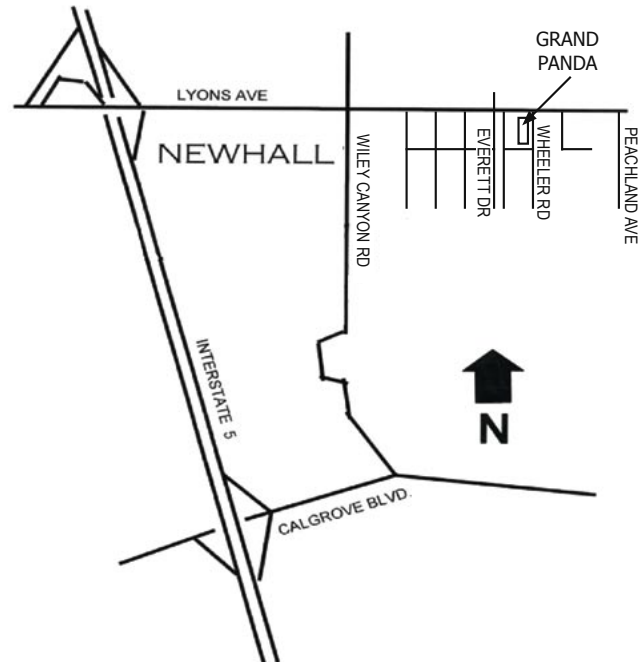
23802 LYONS AVE, NEWHALL, CA 91321  
661-253-1898

Monday, January 30, 2017  
Dinner at 6:30 PM — Meeting at 7:00 PM

### DIRECTIONS

Traveling north or south on 5 Freeway, exit at Lyons Ave/Pico Canyon Rd. Turn east on Lyons Ave and continue 0.8 miles to 23802 Lyons Ave, Grand Panda restaurant on right just before Wheeler Road.

From east end of Santa Clarita, Grand Panda can be reached by going west on Soledad Canyon (or your road of choice) to left at Bouquet Canyon. Continue south as Bouquet Canyon becomes Railroad Ave. Turn left onto Oak Ridge Dr, then right on Via Princesa as it becomes Wiley Canyon Rd. Take Wiley Canyon Road to Lyons Ave. Left on Lyons. Continue 0.4 miles to 23802 Lyons Ave, Grand Panda restaurant on right just before Wheeler Road.



Starting a new winter tradition, this month will be our first meeting at the Grand Panda, a Chinese restaurant recommended by multiple club members. Bring your show-and-tell and holiday/New Year stories to share. See you there.

Look on page 11 for information on The World's Greatest Hobby on Tour Show at Fairplex on Saturday and Sunday, February 11 and 12. This all-scale train show is coming to Fairplex for the first time, so let's support them to encourage them to come back. The Fairplex Garden Railroad will also be running during the show, so stop by and say hello.

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# The Presidents Corner

By Grant Sweer

Hello All,

Well I hope you all had a great holiday season with family, friends and trains. I also want to thank again Jim and Sandi Owens and Allen and Faye Fuqua for their holiday celebrations with trains as a great opportunity to get everyone together to share the season.

A small expeditionary force consisting of Jim Owens, Gene Rizzardi, Bob Frein, and I went to the Great Train Show in Costa Mesa. It was a great day with a lot of vendors and layouts of all scales. Bob got a great deal on some new track, and Jim found a couple of Thomas train cars for his grandchildren. Gene was able to grab a couple of refrigerator cars at a great price as well, and Jenny told me no more trains before I went to the show. It was still fun to talk with all the vendors and see all the great layouts.

On a sad note Walter, one of the vendors, had passed on from a form of mad cow disease. We talked to one of his friends and he had talked about the events. Walter was a hearty soul, friendly and jovial and one of the funniest I have had the pleasure to do business with. We will miss him.

I have been called to go to Puget Sound Washington for a week-long business meeting at Boeing, so like a good president I contacted Norm

Baullinger, the president of the Puget Sound Garden RR Club, and asked if we could get together. It turns out that they are running a layout at the Great Train Show in Seattle. So I arranged to take the first flight in on Sunday so I could visit them at the show. Good thing for Jenny that my luggage will be so stuffed with engineering data that I have no room to bring home trains. I plan to be a good president and document the trip properly to share with everyone in next month's newsletter.

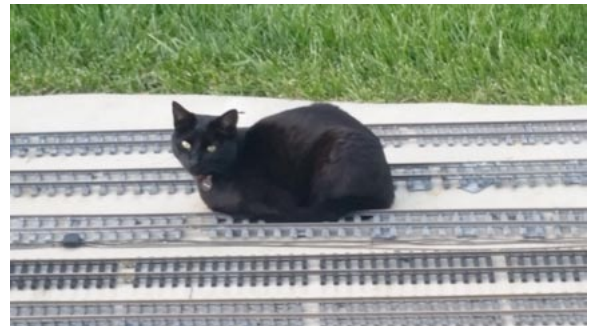
The next meeting will be at the Grand Panda in Newhall. I hope to see you all there!

Remember for 2017, I hope everyone has made a resolution to keep up your training. (pun intended)

Best regards

Grant Sweer

And now for Cats on Tracks!



*"Am I in the way?"*

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**SANTA CLARITA VALLEY GARDEN RAILROAD CLUB**  
Serving the Santa Clarita and San Fernando Valleys in California

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## CLUB NEWS

**January & February Meetings at *new location Grand Panda, Newhall* on Monday, January 30, 2017, and February 27 at 6:30 PM Dinner, 7:00 PM Meeting :** Club members are invited to share tips, show and tell train/model works-in-progress, or do a short workshop. Gene Rizzardi is working on a presentation about modeling for the February meeting. His 30 years of studio work should make for an interesting evening.

**March/April Field Trip to Fullerton Train Museum morning of Saturday, April 1, 2017:** The Southern California Railway Plaza Association (scrpa.net) in Fullerton has set up the Fullerton Train Museum at the east end of the Fullerton Train Station. Three cabooses (1929, 1942 & 1961) and two differently configured lounge cars (1949) show the variety of train equipment styles. We'll meet with a docent for our tour in the morning and then plan on lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory in the old Union Pacific Station (1923).

**Time to Sign Up your Layout for a 2017 Club Meeting:** Let me know when to schedule your layout for a club meeting on the fourth Monday evening of the month... or have an open house/train play day any weekend. Also suggest what rail-related places in the greater LA area you would like to see, workshop topics you would like information about or if you would like to host the club or lead a workshop in the coming months. Let's continue enjoying our railroad hobby!  
 – Carla (carlabb@earthlink.net or 818-992-6377) [www.facebook.com/scvgrc](http://www.facebook.com/scvgrc)

### 2017 Santa Clarita Valley Garden Railroad Club Meetings & Events

SCVGRC Meeting	30-Jan-17	6:30 PM	Grand Panda, Lyons Ave	Newhall CA
SCVGRC Meeting	27-Feb-17	6:30 PM	Grand Panda, Lyons Ave	Newhall CA
SCVGRC Field Trip	1-April-17	11:00 am	Fullerton Train Museum	Fullerton CA
SCVGRC Meeting	24-April-17	7:00 PM	Member Layout TBD	
SCVGRC Meeting	22-May-17	7:00 PM	Member Layout TBD	
SCVGRC Meeting	26-June-17	7:00 PM	Member Layout TBD	
SCVGRC Meeting	24-July-17	7:00 PM	Member Layout TBD	
SCVGRC Meeting	28-Aug-17	7:00 PM	Member Layout TBD	

### 2017 Railroad Related Events of interest to SCVGRC Members

<b>World's Greatest Hobby on Tour &amp; Fairplex Garden RR Public Run (both days)</b>	11-Feb-17	12-Feb-17	10 AM - 4 PM	Fairplex, Pomona	wghshow.com fgrr.org
<b>Fairplex Garden RR Public Run</b>	12-March-17		11 AM - 4 PM	Fairplex Gate #1, Pomona	fgrr.org
<b>Fullerton Railroad Days</b>	6-May-17	7-May-17	10 AM - 4 PM	Fullerton, CA	scrpa.net/ scrrdays.htm
<b>33rd National Garden Railroad Convention</b>	10-Jul-17	15-Jul-17		Tulsa, Oklahoma	thinktulsa17.com
<b>National Summer Steamup 2017</b>	19-Jul-17	23-Jul-17		Sacramento, CA	summer-steamup.com

## Christmas Open House #1 hosted by Jim & Sandi Owens



Jim & Sandi Owens' open house featured a Christmas Eggliner doing the circuit around their Christmas village. Dancers, skaters, carolers, skiers and other characters animated the layout.

A Christmas consist circled the tree and trains could be found on the mantels, in cabinets and on top of bookcases all around the house.

Thank you, Jim & Sandi, for hosting the club for both Halloween tricks and Christmas treats.



*continued on page 5*

# Christmas Open House #1 at Jim & Sandi Owens continued



## Christmas Open Houses in Canyon Country

### Santa's Village and a Winter Wonderland

by Carla Brand Breitner

Waves of club members visited Jim & Sandi Owens and Allen & Faye Fuqua during an afternoon and evening of trains, holiday displays, conversation and sweet & savory eats. Our surprise guest was Pat Miller, who was back in LA for the holidays. Pat entertained us with stories of Texas small town life and filled us in on the active, but spread out, garden railroad scene in Texas and Oklahoma. New members Warren & Cindee Vivian met a number of club members. Look for them at future meetings.



*Jim Owens explains a railroad feature to George McLeary.*



Center Front: *Jim & Sandi Owens*. Back Row: *Gene Rizzardi, Allen Fuqua, Pat Miller, Gary Woolard, new members Warren & Cindee Vivian*



*Grant & Jenny Sweer, Sheri & Dennis Buckley*



*Carla Breitner, Jenny Sweer and Faye Fuqua*. Photo by Allen Fuqua



*The evening ended with conversation and storytelling.*

## Christmas Open House #2 hosted by Allen & Faye Fuqua



Allen & Faye Fuqua's Holiday Lights display begins at the curb and draws viewers from all around Santa Clarita. Inside club members found a Christmas village (in mirror below) across from the fireplace, sparkling garlands hung everywhere, and Allen's overhead UP freight running smoothly. Club members settled in to chat and snack on Faye's delicious desserts. Again thank you, Allen & Faye, for your warm hospitality.



## 32nd National Garden Railroad Convention Snapshots

### LARGE TOWNS & SMALL DETAILS AT THE 32nd NGRC

by Gary Woolard

photos by Carla Brand Breitner

So far in this series, we've been asking what makes "townness." We've looked at Western main streets, hotels, and flats. This time we'll look at some really BIG towns with some interesting details.

If I haven't said it about eleventy-seven times before, I'll say it again -- Jack Verducci's Crystal Springs is a layout that you need to put on your bucket list.

There are four distinct towns that serve as waypoints during the layout's frequent operations sessions — Fairmont, Pacific Mills, Fog Harbor and San Mateo. Each town has its own character, and the buildings illustrate Jack's "Master Modeler" talents, from the Knob Hill style "Painted Ladies" of Pacific Mills...

But Verducci's version of San Mateo is the star of the layout, the Disney Main Street, the River City of "The Music Man."



...to the thriving industrial blue-collar town of Fog Harbor.



*continued on page 9*



## 32nd National Garden Railroad Convention Snapshots continued

Every time I've visited Crystal Springs has been during a convention, and therefore close to the Fourth of July. So there's always been a fireworks stand and a wonderful Independence Day parade.



Terry Paullin & Sharon Pine's "Great Lodestone Railroad Empire" is another NGRC layout that claims four towns. You'll see "Terry Town" as you enter the back yard.



And tucked into the opposite corner is "Sharonville," where you are whimsically reminded that two large pink flamingos are not to scale.

Sharonville even has a drive-in movie theatre, where "Rebel Without a Cause" is playing perpetually between ads for the popcorn stand. (Thanks to the modern technology of LCD screens.)



"Kingsley Corner" is mostly a lumber town — we've seen part of it back when we were discussing lumber mills.



But along the back fence of the GLRE, the mainline runs through Johnson Valley and connects several switch-yards.



*continued on page 10*

## 32nd National Garden Railroad Convention Snapshots continued

Elmer's Used Cars is prominently featured, as well as several restaurants, a theatre, drug store, ice cream shop and more.



All of these are extensive, nicely detailed towns. But of the layouts we visited during the NGRC, perhaps Bob and Mary Dean's "Deadwood, Eureka & Northern" is the most surprising. Here, a high Colorado Mountain line actually crosses a bridge over your head and runs down the side yard. But as you turn the corner, you discover an honest-to-golly "downtown." You know, the part of town your grandmother would drag you to to buy a new pair of 'good' pants, and she wouldn't let you loiter to stare in the toy shop window.

Next time a few scenes that are difficult to categorize.



# World's Greatest Hobby — A Train Show at Fairplex

Order your tickets online using Coupon Code P44 and save. Cash sales only at the door.

**World's Greatest Hobby on Tour Show is Coming to Pomona For The First Time**

<p><b>BEST TRAIN SHOW in the Country for Model Railroaders &amp; Collectors!</b></p> <p>Over 250 Booths of Manufacturers and Retailers Plus over 20 Operating Model Railroads</p> <p>The Best Prices on Trains - 100,000 sqft. of Trains - See All the New Products</p> <p>The Bachmann Theater - Free Model Railroad Seminars</p> <p><i>Just a Few of the Manufacturers You Will Meet:</i></p> 	<p><b>A Train Show Like No Other!</b> <i>The ONLY National Touring Show to Feature the Major Model Train Manufacturers</i></p>  <p><b>FIRST TIME IN POMONA</b> We Visit Only Once Every 4 to 10 Years so Don't Miss this Show!!!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>February 11-12, 2017</b> <b>Pomona, CA</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fairplex - Building 4</b> 1101 W McKinley Ave Pomona, CA 91768 <b>Saturday 10am to 6pm</b> <b>Sunday 10am to 5pm</b> <b>Kids Under 16: FREE</b></p> <p>Adult Admission Available as Low as \$8.95 Get Your Special Early Tickets before 02/04/2017 at WGHshow.com <b>Use Coupon Code P44</b> <b>&amp; Save at Least \$4 (up to 40%)</b> Adult Tickets at the Door are \$15 On-Site</p>	<p><b>BEST TRAIN SHOW in the Country for the Family!</b></p> <p>20 Fantastic Operating Model Railroads &amp; Over 100 Trains for Kids To Play With</p> <p>FREE Admission for Kids and They Can Meet Lenny the Lion at the Lionel Booth</p> <p>Attend the Walt Disney Railroad Story, Plus Kids Can Ride Everyone's Favorite Train for FREE!</p> <p><b>Kids Ride Me FREE!</b></p> 
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## Exhibitors

Aline/Proto Power West  
 Athearn Trains  
 Atlas Model Railroad Co.  
 Azatrax  
 Bachmann Theater  
 Bachmann Trains  
 Boston and Albany Hobbies  
 Bragdon Enterprises  
 Bridgemasters  
 Bridgewater  
 Broadway Limited Imports  
 Caboose Industries  
 Creative Zest LLC  
 Custom Traxx  
 David's Toys  
 Daylight Sales  
 Donald E. Marty Trains  
 Galloping Goose Historical Society  
 Gold Coast Station  
 Holland Station  
 Hunterline  
 I Rhino Enterprise  
 Imagination Depot  
 Iron Horse Trains

Jane's Tools  
 JR Railroad  
 K & R Lines  
 Kansas Depot  
 Kato USA, Inc.  
 LARail.com  
 Lionel Collectors Club of America (LCCA)  
 Lionel LLC  
 Lionel Operating Train Society (LOTS)  
 Lloyd's Layouts  
 Lowell Smith Signature Series  
 MTH Electric Trains  
 National Association of S Gaugers  
 NCE Corporation  
 Neal's N-Gauging Trains  
 Niles Gift Depot  
 Orange Empire Railway Museum  
 Pea Paw's Model Trains  
 PIKO America, LLC  
 Poggies Trains  
 RC Fly Buy  
 Rick's Grande Narrow Gauge Car Shop  
 R-M Discount Model Trains  
 Ross Custom Switches



ScaleTrains.com  
 Somethin' Different  
 Spring Creek Model Trains, LLC  
 Star Hobby  
 Sundance Marketing, Inc  
 TAM Industries  
 The House of Trains  
 The Peanut Butter of Trains  
 The Western Depot  
 Train Station Hobbies  
 Train Video Depot  
 Trains Etc  
 Tucsonrail Trains  
 Walt Disney's Railroad Story  
 Wm. K. Walthers, Inc.  
 Wonderful World of Trains  
 World's Greatest Hobby  
 Plus Many More!

The Fairplex Garden Railroad will be running throughout the weekend of the World's Greatest Hobby Show.