

Santa Clarita Valley Garden Railroad Club



NEWSLETTER

Santa Clarita, California

May, 2016

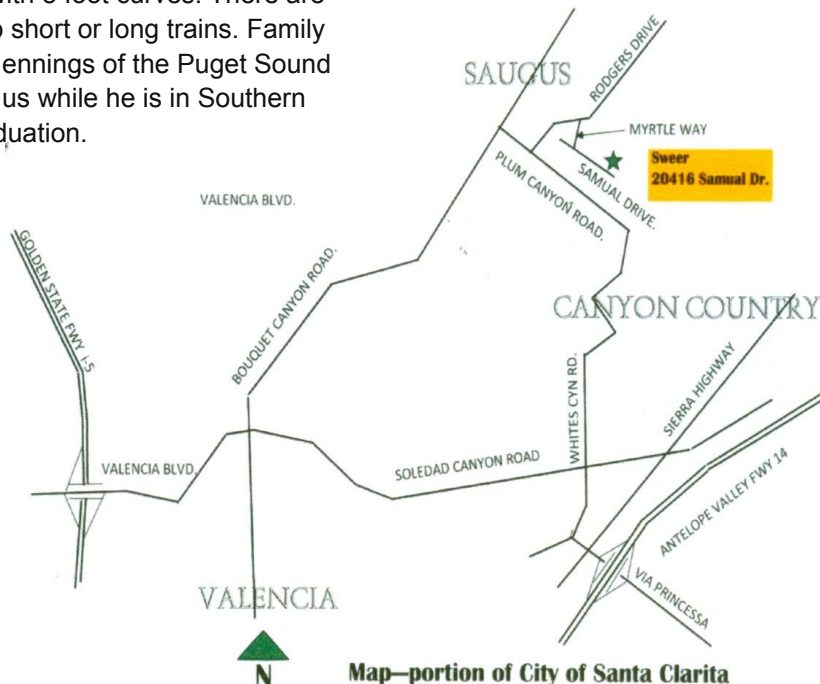
May Train Play Day

Saturday, May 28, 2016 • 2 PM to ?

Grant & Jenny Sweer
20415 Samuel Drive
Saugus, CA 91350
661-220-9831

(RSVP by Friday 6 PM requested)

Grant and Jenny invite club members to come talk trains and bring your trains to run on Grant's freshly-leveled track. DC track power runs two loops, an outside track with 10 foot diameter curves and an inside track with 8 foot curves. There are generous sidings to easily set up short or long trains. Family and friends are welcome. Mark Jennings of the Puget Sound Garden Railway Society will join us while he is in Southern California for his grandson's graduation.



Map—portion of City of Santa Clarita

June Train Play Day on the Fairplex Garden Railroad

Sunday, June 5, 2016

10 am to 4 PM

Fairplex Garden Railroad
Pomona CA

A day of playing with your trains (metal wheels required) on the Fairplex tracks and socializing with members of garden railroad clubs from all over SoCal. See page 4.

DIRECTIONS

From northbound I-5 turn off at Valencia Blvd. & turn right. Continue on Valencia Blvd. for about 2.5 mi. & turn left onto Bouquet Cyn. Rd. Go about 3 mi. to Plum Cyn. Rd. & turn right. Go about 0.3 mi to Rodgers Rd., turn left to Myrtle & left onto Samuel Dr.

From the Antelope Valley Fwy 14 turn off at Via Princessa & turn left. Go past Sierra Hwy to Whites Cyn Rd. & turn right. Proceed on Whites Cyn Rd. for several miles where it goes up the hill and becomes Plum Cyn. Rd. Go to Rodgers Rd., turn right, another right on Myrtle and left onto Samuel Dr. . 20415 will be on your left near the end of the cul-de-sac..



The Presidents Corner

By Grant Sweer

Hello All!

Well so far we have had a great Railroad month! Our pot luck at Vic and Sue's Too Much Fun was wonderful. Gary and Carla brought a great chinese chicken salad and Eugene brought an apple pie with a train crust. The layout is outstanding with something happening on every inch and, as the night time came, it transformed to the next level with LED lights illuminating the entire layout. We are all grateful for Vic and Sue's hospitality and the opportunity to see their *fabulous* layout.

Last weekend was the Big Train Show including the two days of Bus Tours. As always Rick and Nancy, the show coordinators, did a great job setting up the tours and show. As always I go to the layouts and enjoy them with the same group of people that go every year. It gives us a great chance to talk about our railroad activities over the year and share enjoying the layouts. I would love to share the pictures but my camera broke the day before the tours, so I only had my cell phone with limited memory.

The show itself was great with good deals and new products from Piko and coal hoppers from USA Trains. Next year USA Trains plans to release a die-cast Union Pacific FEF-3 4-8-4 that will run on 8 foot diameter track. Then the following year, they will release a pre-war Pullman heavy weight passenger seven car set. Also at the show were vendors with good deals and modular layouts from Z to G Scale.

June 5th the Fairplex Garden Railroad Volunteers at the Pomona Fair Grounds are having all the local clubs meet to run trains and meet one another. It will start at 10:00 am and run until 4 PM. Please contact Carla at carlabb@earthlink.net if you want to run a train on the fair grounds tracks or just come by to visit.

This Saturday we will have be hosting a Train Play Day at 20415 Samuel Drive, Saugus. We will start at 2:00 PM and go until the last train leaves. You can bring your trains to run on our track. I have been working to level the track so hopefully the 1:20th scale trains will run without uncoupling. Our special guest is Mark from the Puget Sound Garden Railway Society visiting to share the day with us. Please call to let us know if you can make it by this Friday, so we can plan refreshments. You can call me at 661-220-9831.

Hope to see you this weekend — and Keep on Training!!

Grant Sweer
661-220-9831
grantsweer@yahoo.com

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

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CLUB NEWS



Bring your trains to run on Grant Sweer's track on May 28th and/or to the Fairplex Garden RR on June 5th. Family and friends are invited to both events; just RSVP how many will be coming. (See page 1 and 4.)

Alan and Donna Wright are working to have their revamped railroad running in a re-done garden for the June 27 meeting. Plan now to come and see what they've done.



2016 Santa Clarita Valley Garden Railroad Club Meetings & Events

SCVGRC Pop-Up Train Play Day	28-May-16	1 PM - 4:30 PM	Grant & Jenny Sweer	Bring your train to run or just to show & tell
SCVGRC @ Fairplex Train Play Day for GRCs	5-June-16	10 AM - 4 PM	Fairplex, Pomona CA	Sign up by 28-May carlabb@earthlink.net
SCVGRC Meeting	27-Jun-16	7:00 PM	Alan & Donna Wright	
SCVGRC Meeting	25-Jul-16	7:00 PM	Member Layout TBD	
SCVGRC Meeting	29-Aug-16	7:00 PM	Member Layout TBD	
SCVGRC Meeting	26-Sep-16	7:00 PM	Member Layout TBD	
SCVGRC @ DEAFestival LA	1-Oct-16	11 AM - 4 PM	Downtown LA	
SCVGRC Meeting	24-Oct-16	7:00 PM	Jim & Sandi Owens	
SCVGRC Meeting	28-Nov-16	6:30 PM	Marie Callendar's	

July, August & September Meeting Hosts Still Needed; New May and June Activities Added

by Carla Brand Breitner

To all members with or without train layouts: Please step up to host the club in July, August or September. We are also looking for ideas for workshop topics that club members would like information about. If you would like to host the club or lead a workshop during those months, let me know at 818-992-6377 or by email at carlabb@earthlink.net. Meetings can be as shown above on the last Monday of the month... or choose a weekend day and host the club for an afternoon of layout building or running trains.

May Train Play Day at Grant & Jenny Sweer's RR on Saturday, May 28: Afternoon of train fun running on two long loops of track on what's shaping up to be a lovely weekend day.

Los Angeles Live Steamers Spring Meet at Griffith Park from Friday, May 27 10 am to Monday, May 30 3 pm: Model railroaders are welcome to join in. Just show up (at the east gate) and say you're a garden railroad club member.

June Play Day at the Fairplex Garden Railroad on Sunday, June 5: Club members are invited to visit with the Fairplex RR Volunteers and members of garden railroad clubs from around Southern California. A great opportunity to get up close to the oldest garden railroad in the US.

Please let me know if there are rail-related places in the greater LA area you would like to see and I'll try to arrange a tour for the club. Let's spend 2016 enjoying our railroad hobby!

Fairplex Garden Railroad Open Run



The Fairplex Garden Railroad Volunteers invite you to **GARDEN RAILROAD CLUB DAY** JUNE 5, 2016 10 AM TO 4 PM

Located on the grounds of the Los Angeles County Fair, this exhibit is the oldest and perhaps largest such public miniature railroad in the Americas and possibly the world.

Fairplex Garden Railroad, LA County Fairgrounds, Pomona CA

The Santa Clarita Valley Garden Railroad Club has been invited to join other SoCal garden railroad clubs for a day of playing with your trains (metal wheels required) on the Fairplex tracks. There are three mainline tracks and one mountain track for narrow gauge consists. Hour time slots are available at 10 am, 11 am, 12 noon, 1 PM, 2 PM and 3 PM. **Contact Carla Breitner at carlabb@earthlink.net or 818-992-6377 to request a timeslot.** Please provide a description of your engine(s) and consist; you can run several consists on one track during your hour. Track assignment is on a first-come, first-assigned basis so get your request in soon.

All members and spouses are welcome to come enjoy the Fairplex Garden Railroad without running trains. There will be Fairplex volunteers there to answer questions you might have about the layout and its history and operation. We'll also get to talk "trains" with members of other SoCal garden railroad clubs. Our club has enjoyed visits twice in the past. If you want to attend and do not plan to run trains, let Carla know by May 28 so she can RSVP as requested and get you on the gate list.

Hope to see you there.



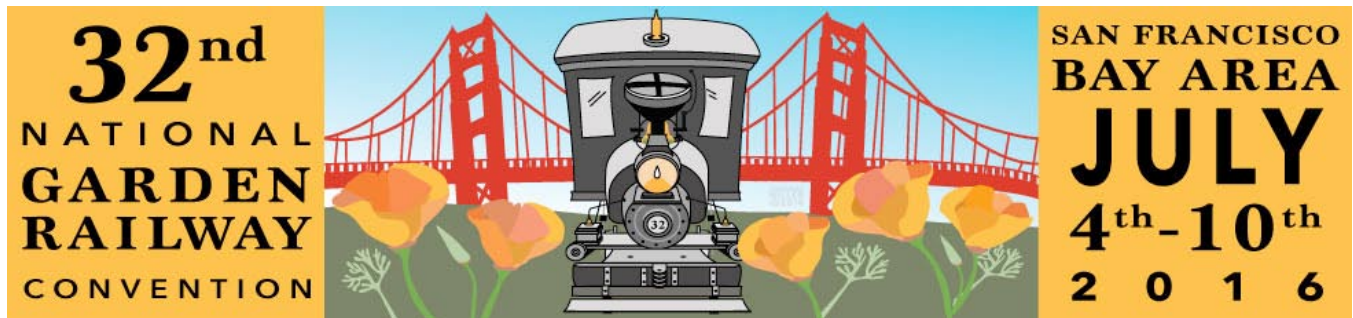
DIRECTIONS

If you are coming via the 210 Freeway—turn onto the 57 Fwy and look for the Arrow Hwy exit. Turn left onto Arrow Hwy and proceed east to Fairplex Drive and turn right. Fairplex Drive turns to the left and then joins W. McKinley Av on the south side of the Fairplex complex (including the raceway). Look for the Gate 1 entrance. The security personnel know we are coming and should direct us to parking.

If you are coming out Interstate 10 after passing the 57 Fwy, look for the Fairplex Drive off ramp and go north (left). Turn right onto W. McKinley Ave and then to Gate 1.

2016 Railroad Related Events of interest to SCVGRC Members

LA Live Steamers Spring Meet	27-May-16	30-May-16	Memorial Day Weekend	Griffith Park (tell them you are a RR club member)		lals.org
Fairplex Garden RR GRC Open House	5-June-16		10 AM - 4 PM	Fairplex Gate #1, Pomona		fgr.org
Fairplex Garden RR Public Run	12-Jun-16		11 AM - 4 PM	Fairplex Gate #1, Pomona		fgr.org
Orange Empire Pacific Electric Weekend	18-Jun-16	19-Jun-16	10 AM - 5 PM	Perris		oerm.org
32nd NGRC - Bay Area	4-Jul-16	11-Jul-16		Santa Clara		ngrc2016.com
Fairplex Garden RR Public Run	10-Jul-16		11 AM - 4 PM	Fairplex Gate #1, Pomona		fgr.org
National Summer Steamup	13-Jul-16	17-Jul-16		Sacramento		summersteamup.com
Fairplex Garden RR at the LA County Fair	2-Sep-16	25-Sep-16	Noon - 8 PM	Fairplex Gate #1, Pomona Fair Admission required		fgr.org
Staver Fall Steam Up	15-Sep-16	18-Sep-16		Portland		staverlocomotive.com
NMRA Regional Convention	22-Sep-16 24-Sep-16			Culver City		psrconvention.org/lajunction
So Cal Model RR List	25-Sep-16			Open Houses		
Fairplex Garden RR Public Run	9-Oct-16		11 AM - 4 PM	Fairplex Gate #1, Pomona		fgr.org
Ghost Train LA Live Steamers	13-Oct-16	29-Oct-16	Weekends	Griffith Park		lals.org
Fairplex Garden RR Public Run	13-Nov-16		11 AM - 4 PM	Fairplex Gate #1, Pomona		fgr.org
Fairplex Garden RR Public Run	11-Dec-16		11 AM - 4 PM	Fairplex Gate #1, Pomona		fgr.org





Railfest 2016 at the Fillmore & Western RR, May 1 in Fillmore CA

by Carla Brand Breitner

The 2016 Fillmore & Western Railfest brought out railfans and history buffs from all around Southern California. There were carnival game booths (goldfish anyone?), speeder rides, stationary steam engines, Wild West re-enactors (both good guys and bad), delicious BBQ, batter-fried everything, and, of course, train rides. All the historical buildings in the Fillmore historical park were open to view. There was Dr. Hinckley's house with office, the cowhand barracks from one of the valley ranches, and the Fillmore station (with HO train layout in the freight storage room). Even the Railroad Visitor Center in the old firehouse was open. SCVGRC members Grant & Jenny Sweer, Joe & Delia Caracappa, Gene Rizzardi, Gary Woolard and Carla Breitner met for lunch and a ride in the observation car behind Baldwin 2-8-0 Consolidation No. 14. The steam train pulled us almost to Santa Paula, stopped to let any photographers off on a curve and then backed up, built up steam and made a photo run past our line of cameras. A good time was had by all.



Fillmore & Western Railfest 2016 continued



Potluck at the Too Much Fun RR



Potluck at the TMFRR

by Carla Brand Breitner

SCVGRC club members Alan & Donna Wright, Grant & Jenny Sweer, Gene Rizzardi, Dale Newman with grandson Andrew, Gary Woolard and Carla Breitner made the journey to Mission Viejo to visit Vic & Sue Thies' Too Much Fun Railroad. This small group peppered our hosts with questions about the development, mechanics and operation of their delightfully dense railroad. We learned the optical illusion of the moon, the lucky accident of picking the perfect three photos of Bryce Canyon that were then "recreated" by the concrete building crew, the transformation of a Koi pond into Route 66, and a bunch of other bits.

Our group enjoyed a pleasant dinner on the patio under the overhead rail line. The potluck of appetizers (Thies), pulled pork sandwiches (Sweer), chinese chicken salad (Breitner/Woolard), potato salad and chips (Wright), apple pie (Gene Rizzardi), and chocolate chip cookies (DeeAnn Rizzardi) went down well with the Aqua Dulce cabernet (Wright) and choice of beverages (Thies) available. As the sun went down the LED lights on the railroad came on, setting a magical mood. Our thanks to Vic and Sue for inviting the club to enjoy their railroad without open house crowds.



Potluck at the Too Much Fun RR continued



The 2016 Big Train Show



The Big Train Show 2016

by Gary Woolard

Photos by Carla Brand Breitner

The Big Train Show at the Ontario Convention center was, as usual, a convocation of the garden railroading faithful, as well as some of our brethren in the smaller scales. Perhaps because of the move from June to May, traffic in the hall was a bit lighter than in previous years, and it was occasionally confusing trying to understand which booths represented which vendors. USA Trains, for instance, had their usual large display, but they were also showing Bachmann “Thomas the Tank Engine” train sets and passing out Lionel (!?) catalogs.

Nevertheless, the discerning shopper could find some excellent bargains in engines and rolling stock -- even track appears to have come down in price a bit.

Rainbow Ridge, SG models, JS Woodcraft and Canyon Creations (tumbled stone buildings) were among those representing the ‘scale buildings’ side of the hobby. SG has a beautiful new depot kit, and Rainbow Ridge’s Precision-Board offerings are becoming larger and more detailed every year. Sue Piper of Rainbow Ridge told us that they were *not* going to make it to the National Convention this year; they’re so backed up on orders that they’d hate to show off their wares to new prospective customers, yet have to tell them to wait four months plus!



The 2016 Big Train Show continued

Jonathan Meador of Piko told us that their 'ready-built' versions of their kit buildings were flying off the shelves. It seems that hobbyists now-a-days want more and more of their layouts 'ready-made' and waiting to plop down on a foundation.

The usual modular groups and club displays of all scales were there, with the sad exception of "The Door Hollow Shortline." In lieu of his well-known stacked "pizza box" layout, Vic Smith brought two "smaller" (personal pizza) micro-layouts, which he said were a lot easier to transport and set up. "Del Oro," on the other hand, brought just about every module they had, including their central switch-yard. They also had a few new modules this year, such as Ted Greeno's full-up circus.

But the most fun of all, of course, was re-meeting old friends and swapping stories and advice -- as well as making new ones.



**32nd NATIONAL
GARDEN
RAILWAY
CONVENTION**



JULY 4th - 10th, 2016
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
SANTA CLARA CONVENTION CENTER

www.ngrc2016.org