



November 2023

Calendar of Meets

November 18 - Siegel
 December 16 - Newlon
 March 16th - Siegel
 April 6 - Stolley
 May 11 - Morgan
 May 18 - Raymond
 July 20 - Siegel
 Aug. 1 - 11 Ventura Fair
 Sept. 21 - Siegel
 Oct. 26 - Arseneault
 Nov. 16 - Siegel

For our next meet we will be returning to Gary and Marilyn's home in Santa Barbara. Gary's 1:32 scale railroad accommodates long trains through mountains, tunnels and pine forests. Those new to the GCGRS shouldn't miss this one. 1:29 scale trains also work. If you bring 1:20.3 equipment make sure it is on the small side of that scale if you don't want it to get stuck in a tunnel. There is a loop of track that is sometimes called "Marilyn's railroad." It does have track power but that has not been operating at the last couple of meets. The meet starts at the usual time, 11:00 am. Feel free to bring a desert or some finger food to share if you would like. Be alert for crew calls from Nick Conti, John Ryan or Bruce Morden as sometimes the railroad might need some work ahead of a meet.



Newsletter: John Lyans
lyans@pacbell.net

Accounts/Badges:
 Bruce Kuebler
pbkuebler@sbcglobal.net

Web Page: Gary Olmstead
<https://www.gcgrs.com/>

Meet Scheduling/Facebook: John & Kim
 Whitaker
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/145996342219253/>

Sal and Deborah Mele Meet

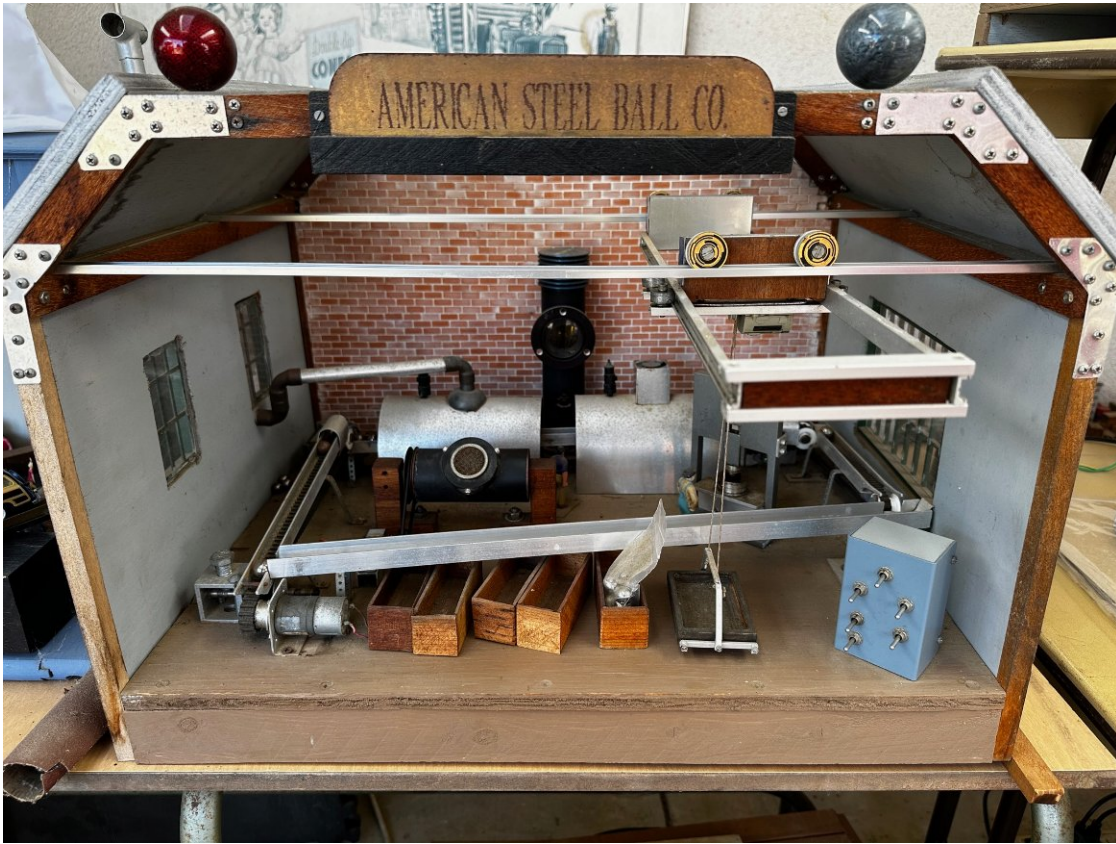
Sal and Deborah hosted a meet in October in the Northern part of the GCGRS area. As usual, Sal had a new animated attraction. It was hard to believe but it was Ol' Blue Eyes himself singing "Young At Heart" in the Blue Room. This is just another addition to all of his other large scale offerings. I loved the complete machine shop, (all of the lathes, mills, saws, drill presses actually work), Nikola Tesla's lab, the saw mill and many others! Amazing. Then Gary Olmstead distributed all of the County Fair awards to the Fair Crew. Congratulations guys! Well deserved. Thank you Sal and Deborah for a great meet.





These machines all work!







Part of the crew enjoying the official GCGRS food.







Nick running his new engine before he converts it to battery power.
Byron showing off his new Ventura County Fair shirt.





Congratulations to the County Fair crew.





Thanks Sal and Deborah. I loved Ol' Blue Eyes!

And then.....

As if that wasn't enough.....the GCGRS had another great meet, this time in the south. **Georges and Marie hosted their annual Halloween meet.** Georges spent many hours clearing the right of way of weeds and other debris. We had great attendance with folks having lots of fun, running long trains, riding trains, admiring nice models, meeting new friends and getting acquainted with old friends.



Luke and Naomi making friends with Isabella Raymond



I don't know what to say?













Andy's 1:20.3 D&RGW Pile Driver OD. Beautiful model but sadly it wouldn't fit under the bridges.



On the left and on the following two pages are pictures of Victor's N de M refrigerator cars. Victor designed and applied the graphics. Unique and very cool!







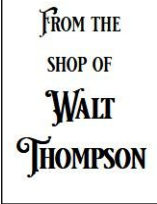


Good times and Hot Dogs! GCGRS tradition.
Thanks Georges and Marie, love your railroad!



GRITFY's (+2)0-4-0 LOCOMOTIVE

If anyone ever had the need for an attractive good running 0-4-0 switch engine on their layout, it would be one from Hartland locomotive Works. Their little locomotives along with its sister company Kalamazoo Toy Trains, were all manufactured here in the USofA. Together they produced several configuration of this little work horse' but sadly both companies have now closed their doors. During his administration, President Ronald Reagan was presented with one of these 0-4-0 train sets that he proudly ran in the White house in Washington DC and from time to time it has been on display at the Reagan Library in Simi Valley, CA.

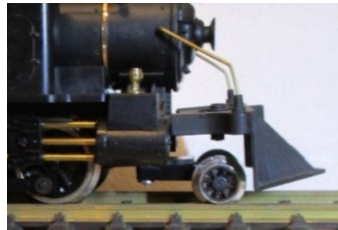


As it turns out, my little Hartland 0-4-0 switch engine was not being used much around the rail yard and was needed more out on the main line for those short hauls to and from the mill. Using it for this we thought the configuration of the pilot area should have a cow guard and be more like the other main line locomotives. Being a member of the GRITFY's locomotive roster and close to a shop with numerous available parts, it was most likely this modification was going to happen.

Here we have the original pilot setup with the step plate and loop coupler assembly.



Removing the step plate & loop coupler assembly on the front then adding a cow guard was step number one in the right direction. The only problem now was this created a space between the cow guard and the front of the pistons. To fill that gap I adapted a leading truck from a Mogul with metal wheels transforming my little engine into a 2-4-0. Adapting the pilot truck was a simple undertaking and was all accomplished while maintaining the locomotives structural integrity. Future plans are to possibly incorporate some track pickup brushes.



All in all, with a little paint touch up on the wheels our little engine was back on track and ready for service. Eddie, our Brakeman today appears delighted with our 2-4-0 locomotive being available for work on the GRITFY to use on some of those short runs. These little engines perform well and are quite capable of pulling a respectable load.

Pictured below we see our modified locomotive pulling a few loaded LGB log bunkers in route through a section of the Bakersfield rose gardens heading to the GRITFY's lumber mill in Burbank.





Walt also obtained and sent me a progress report of the new \$35 billion California High Speed Rail project from Merced to Bakersfield..

Building a 7 1/2 inch Gauge Locomotive

Part 12

Nose Job

(3)

Installing the nose lights

By John Ryan

This is where we left off in Part 11. The main headlight mount is positioned and secured. The rear mount for the emergency light is also in place but now, we have to create and install a mounting plate to finish off the assembly.



As you might remember, I salvaged an empty spice canister for a purpose not clear to me at the time. As it turned out, it was the perfect solution for the mounting bracket. I started by splitting the can vertically.



As I had hoped, the E-light nestles in the can perfectly.



Next, I cut the can horizontally a little larger than needed. Now I have something I can work with. You might notice in the picture I've already started moving the sides out and I've drilled the mounting and wire routing holes.



Here you can see the bracket in its eventual location but it still needs shaping.

Shaping begins with a sharpie pen, obviously to draw the basic shape that the bracket needed to be.



Though I did use my Dremel to give the bracket its basic shape, it still took a good ole' fashioned file to give it its proper contours. As you can see, it's beginning to take shape.



Now that the bracket has been shaped, it needed to be glued to the nose, but not quite yet. The top and rear mounting area the bracket mounts too had lots of area for gluing. The bottom portion for the wings or sides did not have much area for gluing. I made these two little wedges which allowed me to more securely attach the bottom portion of the bracket.



I didn't really know what the best adhesive would be for attaching the bracket. I chose this glue just because it seemed to meet the general criteria and, I knew the Loctite name.



After slathering the surfaces to be glued, I screwed on the e-light to pull the bracket tightly to the bracket's mount and taped the sides firmly against the attachment surfaces.



After the glue set, I went back to the file to make the metal flush with the wood and fine tune the shape.



And this is the final product.



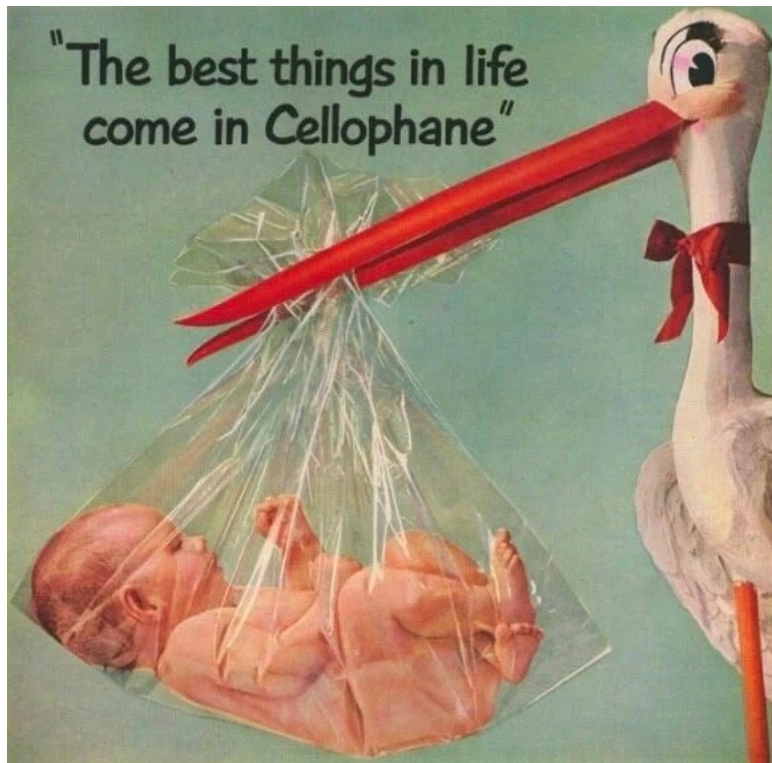
What do you think, does it have that ESPEE look?

At this point, I'm not sure if there is going to be an edition for next month. I've reached a bit of an impasse on how to proceed to the next task. We'll just have to wait for that moment of inspiration.

Hope you've all enjoyed the build to this point. Hopefully I'll have something for you in the next newsletter.



Here's a cool sign for one of your buildings.



Uhh....maybe not.