GOLD COAST GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY

March 2023

Calendar of Meets

March 18 - Siegel
April 1 - Stolley
May 6 - Morgan
May 20 - Raymond
June 24 - Bussing
July 15 - Siegel
August 3-15 - Ventura Fair
September 16 - Siegel
October 28 - Arsenault
November 18 - Siegel
December - Newlon

Our next scheduled meet is on Saturday, March 18 at the Siegels. However, the railroad is in pretty rough shape due to the rain. Nick Conti has is going to have a work session this Saturday, March 11 to try to make the railroad runable. Let Nick know if you can help 805-570-5967. I'm not sure how many people Nick needs but if the repairs cannot be accomplished, the March 18th meet will have to be canceled. Another thing, significant rain is expected Friday March 10 and more next week. We'll see.

SB weather 3/8 -3/17

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/1459963422192 53/

Photo: John Lyans

Palm trees in the Rockies? Uhh, no this is Ventura, California. Maybe we should start a ski club.

Photo: Denver Public Library Collection

Colorado gets some snow as well

Building a 7 ½ inch Gauge Locomotive
By John Ryan
Part 4
Cab Construction

Part 4 of John's 7 ½" gauge, GP-35 build. I have had a chance to preview a little further into John's build. Stay tuned for more! This is very cool. John Lyans

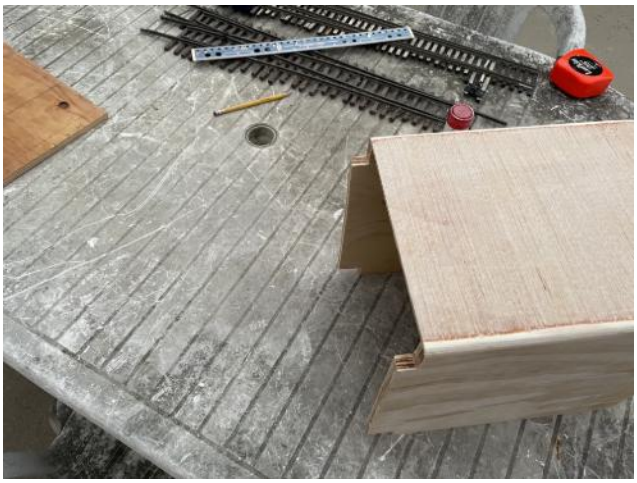
In Part 3 we finished up the foundation of the locomotive then the real fun started. We built the nose of the locomotive.

Now it's time to work on the cab portion of the build.

I started off by cutting four identical panels 15"x15". As you can see, I'm not using the nicest wood. Actually, it's reused ½ inch ply from projects past. I made several passes on the saw to remove the rough edges and square them up. These will be the bones of the cab.

Next, I picked a piece to be the front of the cab. As you can see, I cut some of the middle out for the nose. I also trimmed an 1/8” from the top. I’ll explain this later.

I had to make a decision, Do I cut the cab panel to fit around the nose? Or, do I cut the nose in order to have the front panel stop against the nose. I chose the latter, cut a notch in the nose, the cab stops at the nose.



The nose and the front panel fitted together

I made some paper cut outs to attach to the cab panel to get a feel for the placement of the windows and door. I also used the number board panel from the earlier cab mock up and attached it. Gives a pretty good idea of what it will eventually look like, don't you think?

As mentioned previously, I used ½ inch ply for the earlier panels. The ½ inch will make the cab stronger or as I said, will make up the bones of the cab. I'm using 1/8 inch ply as an outer skin. Besides having a better finish, it will also be a thinner look for items such as windows and other openings. Here you can see that I've already made the cut for the angled roof and mapped out the sections that I plan to cut for widows, the door and opening for the nose.

Now for the cuts. The windows

The door

The nose slot. This was a scary cut. Notice how thin the wood is between the door frame and nose slot.

Time for the fit check. Without door.

With door.

Next, I cut the window openings in the ½ ply. You might notice, I didn’t make exact cuts for the openings. I actually removed extra wood so that the thicker ply wouldn’t be as noticeable when the two pieces are bonded together.

These are the 2 side panels. I’ve already cut the window openings.

Now for a fit check of all the pieces.

Thats it for Part 4.
There’s still quite a bit left to do. Have you spotted the little mistake I made? Easily fixed I’ll point it out in the next segment.
Well continue cab construction in Part 5.

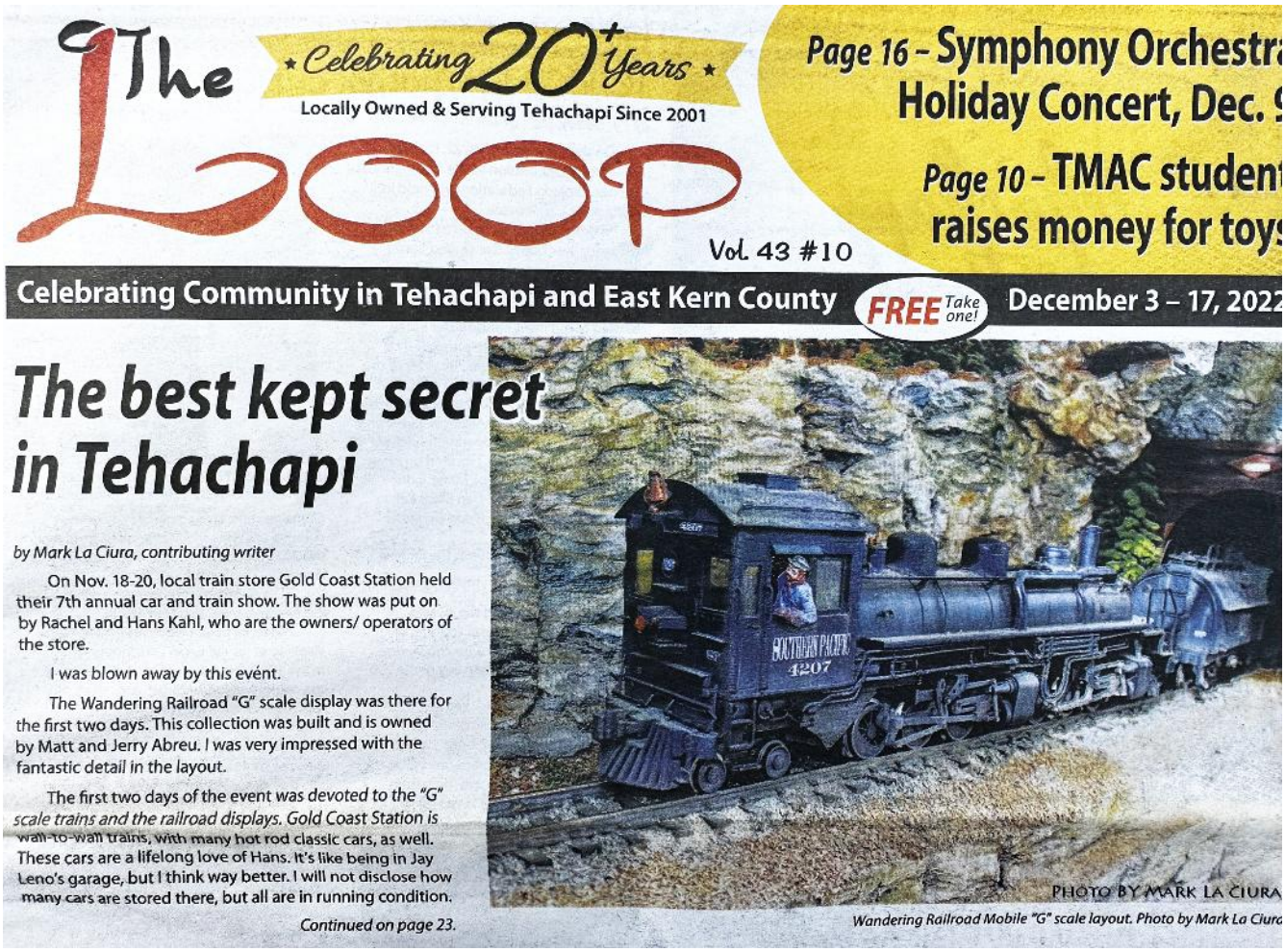
VENTURA COUNTY FAIR UPDATE

Plans continue to evolve for the GCGRS exhibit at the Ventura County Fair that will be held this summer at Seaside Park in Ventura. This last month has been a time to work out some logistical issues about such things as the size of the layout, the location within the Garden area, and some budgetary issues. One important detail that was decided on by the fair committee was that all expenditures first have to be cleared by our volunteer build chairman, Gary Olmstead. Gary will also handle all communication with Barbara Schneider, the Floriculture chief.

We will need volunteers to man the layout and run the trains. If you are able to help with construction or with running the trains keep the last part of July and the first two weeks of
August available in your schedule. Not only will you have a great time showing off your trains you will also get into the fair for free! But you will have to pay for the cinnamon rolls and curly fries.

VENTURA COUNTY FAIR

Some 36 years ago, the first meeting of the Gold Coast Garden Railway Society was held at Hans Kahl's home in Ventura. Hans is still active in the hobby today, not in running trains at different layouts every month but by keeping his store running, now located in Tehachapi. Many of us acquired our first large scale trains, (usually LGB or Delton), from Hans. Here's the latest on Hans and Rachel in Tehachapi!



The Loop

Celebrating 20+ Years

Locally Owned & Serving Tehachapi Since 2001

Page 16 – Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert, Dec. 9

Page 10 – TMAC student raises money for toys

Vol. 43 #10

Celebrating Community in Tehachapi and East Kern County

FREE Take one!

December 3 – 17, 2022

The best kept secret in Tehachapi

by Mark La Ciura, contributing writer

On Nov. 18-20, local train store Gold Coast Station held their 7th annual car and train show. The show was put on by Rachel and Hans Kahl, who are the owners/ operators of the store.

I was blown away by this event.

The Wandering Railroad "G" scale display was there for the first two days. This collection was built and is owned by Matt and Jerry Abreu. I was very impressed with the fantastic detail in the layout.

The first two days of the event was devoted to the "G" scale trains and the railroad displays. Gold Coast Station is wall-to-wall trains, with many hot rod classic cars, as well. These cars are a lifelong love of Hans. It's like being in Jay Leno's garage, but I think way better. I will not disclose how many cars are stored there, but all are in running condition.

Continued on page 23.

PHOTO BY MARK LA CIURA

Wandering Railroad Mobile "G" scale layout. Photo by Mark La Ciura

The best kept secret in Tehachapi

by Mark La Ciura, contributing writer

Continued from page 1.

I didn't know about this massive train and car collection and I have been in the area for almost 40 years.

The last day of the event was devoted to cars. More than 40 cars were on display, and I feel if Hans advertised it could be a much larger car show. Due to the limited space for parking it was invitation only to keep the number of cars down.

This traveling collection was built inside a trailer and is owned by Matt and Jerry Abreu. Photo by Alysia Bailey.

"I want to keep this low key and keep this fun for all," Hans said.

Hans and Rachel. Photo by Mark La Ciura.

It was a great mix of Mopar and Chevy to Ford and AMC, along with many more. Hans is mostly a Chrysler-Plymouth car collector. I was blown away with his collection.

I have to give a big thank you to Hans and Rachel Kahl for the invitation to see all the cars and "G" scale trains.

Get to know Gold Coast Station

Hans started the train store in 1988 and they have been in the Tehachapi area for over 15 years. Gold Coast Station's specialty in the train world is in the larger "G" scale trains. I really love this scale. It's great for kids and adults to handle. You do need a bit more room for a layout with "G" scale, though.

"G" scale can be operated indoors or outdoors, and there are many outdoor permanent layouts with worldwide interest.

Gold Coast Station has a large selection of current, discontinued and collectable "G" Scale at their Tehachapi location. Over 10,000 square feet of "G" Scale. It's really something to see.

If you are into "G" scale train modeling this is the place to get started. Hans and Rachel have everything you need. Just make an appointment and I bet you can get a fantastic tour of all the hot rod classic cars, too.

Gold Coast Station is located at 426 N Curry St., Tehachapi. For more information visit them online at www.Goldcoaststation.net.

The Superbird and Chevy owned by Hans. Photo by Mark La Ciura.

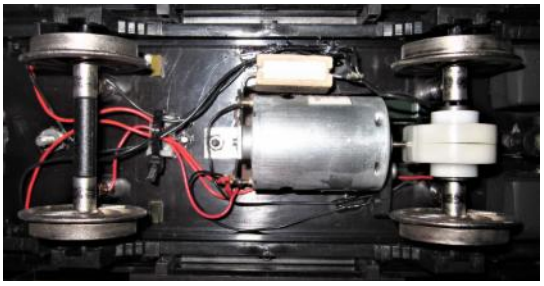
Latest Project from Walt Thompson

The GRITFY's Model A 'JENNY' & GONDOLA

(The name 'Jenny' is from the Yosemite Mountain Lumber Co.'s people transporter)

I'm sure there are many of us who have paid a visit to the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad in Fish Camp, CA. We've done it several times ourselves and usually with a group of friends. We found that when you go it's best to book the MOONLIGHT SPECIAL. That not only gives you a ride up through the spectacular redwood trees being pulled by a majestic SHAY locomotive but it also comes with a great BBQ dinner with live entertainment. It's a full evening to experience that takes you up through the trees where they have a camp fire going with more of that rousing live entertainment.

These cars are still used today giving excursion rides up and back on the railroad line. In looking these car over, we noticed that the basic chassis was of a model A Ford. Being a long time Model A Ford owner and active member of the Model A Ford Club of America, I was inspired by these motor cars they've been using since the 1930's to transport workers into the woods to do repairs. That got my attention to where I thought why couldn't i create something like that? As it turns out, Hartland Locomotive Works had released something similar that certainly looked like it would do the job nicely.



Starting with the Hartland Motor car, several alterations had to be made. First was the motor assembly had to be repositioned 90º to make room for the passenger bench seats. On the front, I removed the Mack truck hood shell and its place I adapted the cowl, hood and radiator shell from a 1:24 scale HUBLEY model of a 1930 Model 'A' Ford.

The model 'A' instrument panel was added and a bell from the shop. On my lathe I fabricated an "AHOOGA" horn that looks like what is on a Model 'A' Ford. All lights on the front and the Ozark Miniatures lantern on the rear do work. The park bench seats were an eBay purchase some time ago. Also, on the rear there is some added steps from a Bachmann Bobber Caboose

chassis and a Knuckle coupler. The driver is from Bachmann and the passengers were in the station just in from AristoCraft and around town?

The Maintenance of Way companion gondola was scratch built using mostly Bass Wood with axle bolsters, brake wheel assembly and NBW's from Ozark Miniatures. It has metal wheels from Gary Raymond with track pickups brushes from USA Trains. On the rear there is a Hartford Link/Pin coupler and a Bachmann knuckle coupler on the front.

This gondola was primarily created to house the sound system. Iinside there is a speaker and sound board for the sounds of a Model 'A' Ford motor and "AHOOGA" horn that sound off whenever it wants to. The board was custom made by ITTC Products Inc. and is covered with a tarp and miscellaneous stuff from the shop. The Brakeman I believe was from Bachmann.

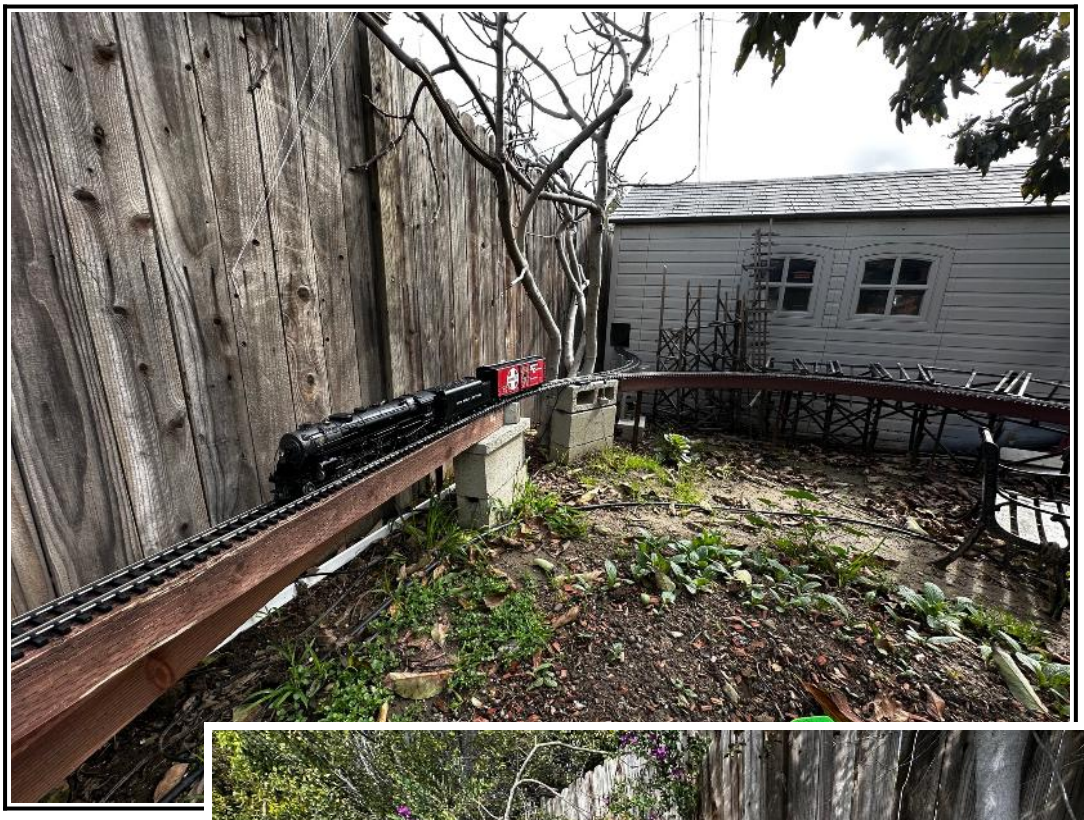
All in all this was a relatively simple project and truly a joy for the old car guys to hear and watch as it makes its rounds on the layout.

FROM THE SHOP OF WALT THOMPSON

I would like to thank Walt for his constant, regular and fun contributions to The GCGRS Newsletter. Many people in our club and other clubs have told me how much they enjoy Walt's projects *Many thanks Walt!*

Layout Preview – Knapton

I had a chance to stop by Tim and Monica Knapton's home and Tim showed me the progress he has made on his railroad. He has a long dog bone loop down one side, along the back and into a shed in the far corner. He has done the railroad in code 332 stainless steel and has the entire line elevated for great viewing and access. His 1:32 MTH trains, turnouts, and signals are controlled via DCC with an app on his phone. Really nice!



BNSF

NEW YORK CENTRAL
5408

Tim upgraded the MTH Hudson from Proto Sound 2 to Proto Sound 3 and this enabled him to control the train with DCC. It features smooth control, great sound effects and very realistic smoke.

Layout Preview – Hahn

This one is an oldie but a goody. Rochelle and Bobby Hahn are in the process of completely re-building the south end of their railroad. They are adding a third line and they are widening the curves on the two inner lines to a minimum 8 foot diameter. They have removed track irregularities such as humps and kinks. This is a beautiful layout with water features, lots of track and beautiful weathered buildings that Rochelle has built. This looks to be really nice!

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