

Calendar

June 5, 11:00 am
John Power and Angela
Wharton

June 19, 11:00 am
Richard and Jo Ann
Abraham

July 17
Gary and Marilyn Siegel - Battery power.

August 28
Sal and Deborah Mele - Track and battery
power.

September 18
Gary and Marilyn Siegel - Battery power.

October 9
Jim and Sylvia Eldridge - Track and battery
power.

October 30
Georges and Marie Arsenault - Battery
power.

November 20
Gary and Marilyn Siegel - Battery power.

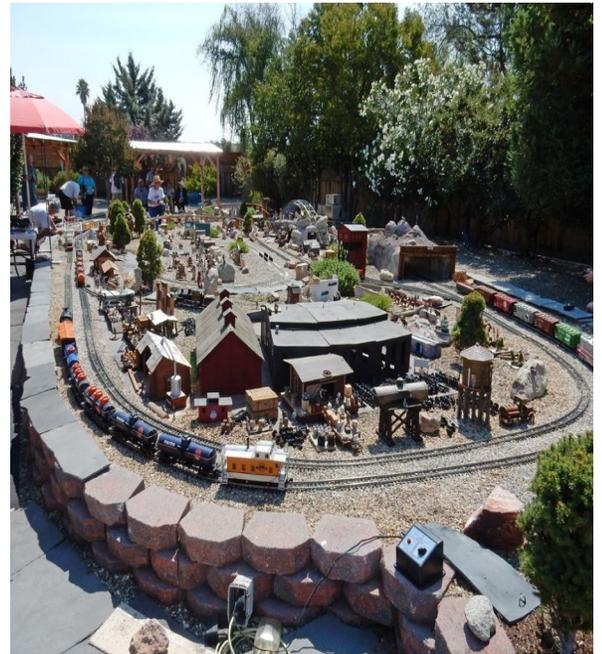
December
Open



JUNE 2021

This month there are two meets to choose from, both of which offer a chance to run your big equipment. John Power and Rich Abraham have taken the challenge to build railroads that can handle everything from large, mainline 1:29 engines to 1:20.3 K-37s. It is rare that we get to see a big K-37 pulling a whole string of brass UTLX “Gramps” tank cars. Most of us do not have the type of clearance to run the larger 1:20.3 engines because they won’t fit around the curves and through the tunnels and bridges that most of us have to settle for. I like to model in 1:20.3 but the largest engines I can run on my railroad are the Accucraft and Bachmann K-2-7s. Both John’s and Richard’s layouts have large yards, lots of track and wide curves and will handle the K-36s and K-37s. As I remember, Richard had one tight spot down at the lower end of his oval. Maybe he has changed that section? You’ll have to come and see for yourself. Hey, the challenge is always the fun part.

The June 5 meet is at the home of John Power and Angela Wharton, and the June 19 meet is at Richard and Joann Abraham’s home. Both layouts are not DC electrified so you will need to bring your own battery power or live steam. Please feel free to bring your own lunch if you would like something to eat.



June is “run the big iron month” at the Powers and Abrahams.

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

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

Report on the May 1 meet at the Morgans

We had a nice crowd of folks show up at Don and Linda Morgans home in Santa Ynez last month. The weather was great, (no wind), and the trains ran well with the exception of one derailment inside of a tunnel on the lower layout next to the pond. That provided a bit of excitement and a little bit of scrambling but it all worked out in the end. It was fun to see Don's collection of signals, crossing warning lights, railroad lanterns and marker lights. His collection continues to grow in size and variety constantly. He has snagged some really rare lamps from some pretty obscure railroads. Don and I had a brief conversation about collecting things and what will happen to our collections once we are no longer around. It would be great if our kids had an interest in keeping the collections going but sadly, they usually don't have the same interests that we do. Besides that, most of the fun is in the hunt. Once we have acquired something we usually don't spend a lot of time sitting there staring at it.

It's always fun to go to the Morgans and we thank them for hosting our meet.



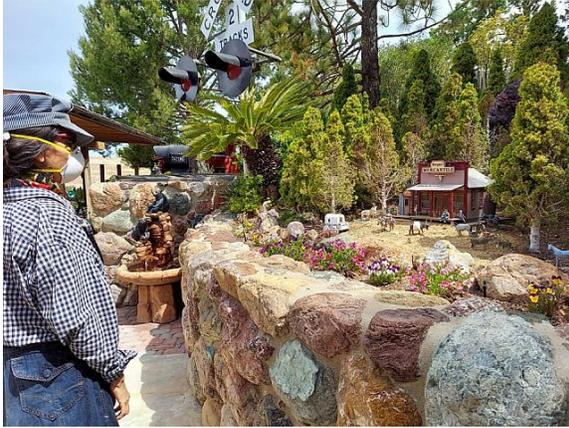


















Another Project for the Grifty RR

by Walt Thompson

0-4-0 KALAMAZOO RAILCAR



I saw a picture of a motorized railcar similar to this and that got me to thinking, I have most of what it might take to make something like that in my junk parts box so hey, why not do a little “bashing” and see what we can create?

This project started with a Kalamazoo Passenger car I had picked up that had been trashed. One complete truck assembly and a door were missing. The body had come loose from the chassis and on one end the step to the landing was broke. Oh yeah, I did get it cheap and after the final analysis made of what I had, the fun began!

Getting underway, cuts were made to the main body with a razor saw removing about 4 inches from the sides to achieve the desired look. To create the new front panel I used one of the pieces I removed from the side, trimmed and fit it into place using some styrene channel. The underside of the entire chassis was milled flush where a USA Trains diesel motor block was attached along with other necessary miscellaneous decorative items like the axle journals that were created using the side frames of an Echo Toys tank car. These were cut down so the journals would align to the USA Trains axles and attached using styrene angle. Since this car is going to be battery powered, out the back next to the KaDee #830 body mounted coupler, there is a plug to connect to the battery and R/C controller car which provides power to the motor, lights and sound card.

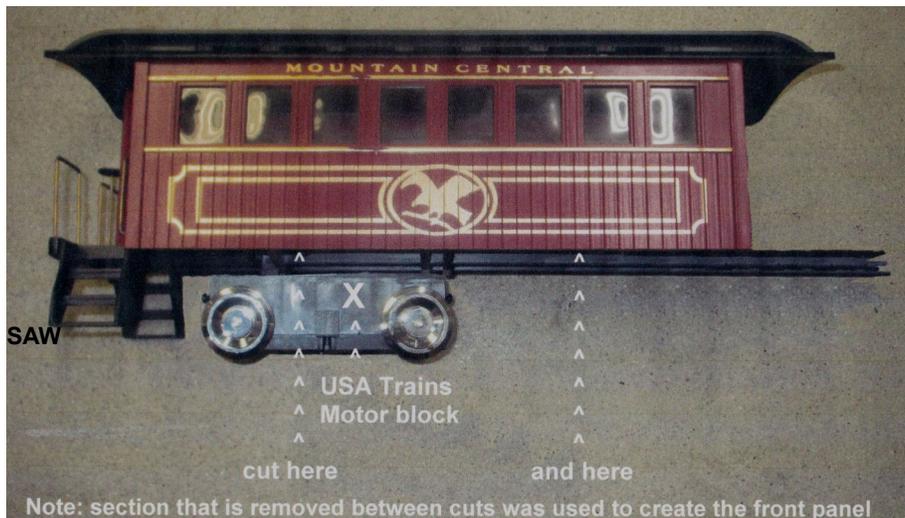
To create the look of a motor car, on the front we have a cowl, hood and radiator from a 1:24 scale Monogram model. This also established where to cut the chassis where i attached a modified Bachmann Big Hauler cow guard. To complete the front pilot area I added a bell, headlights and brass hand rails. The headlights were created from some tubular things which I installed grain of wheat bulbs. The bell was from I'm not sure where but the size looked right so on it went? Also, on the rear panel there is a working caboose lantern for safety.

The roof assembly had to be reduced in length to correspond with the new body configuration and on top there is a set of brass horns from Trackage Details. Inside, our passengers are comfortably seated on benches converted over from an LGB 3000 series passenger car. At the controls, the standing driver guy I think was from Bachmann? The old motor car sounds come from an ITT Products sound board and speaker that is mounted above the passengers. I think that is 'Skippy' who jumped on the rear deck?

Paint – Like most everything that goes through the GRITFY's shop, this one received one of those infamous “rattle can” paint jobs. The head lights and the entire car body is antique white. The landing and full chassis assembly along with the roof and some window trim is purple. The cow guard remained its original red. The window glass is what came with the car and the car is identified as #4 but on the SHOP ROSTER it is #44.

Note: On its daily runs, it appears to be fully occupied so I think justification for building it has been met.

KALAMAZOO PASSENGER RAILCAR PROJECT

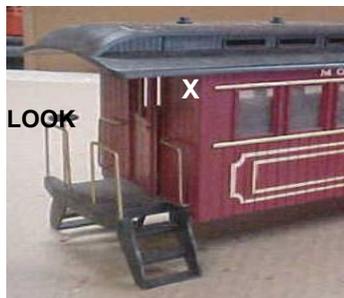


CUTS MADE WITH THE RAZOR



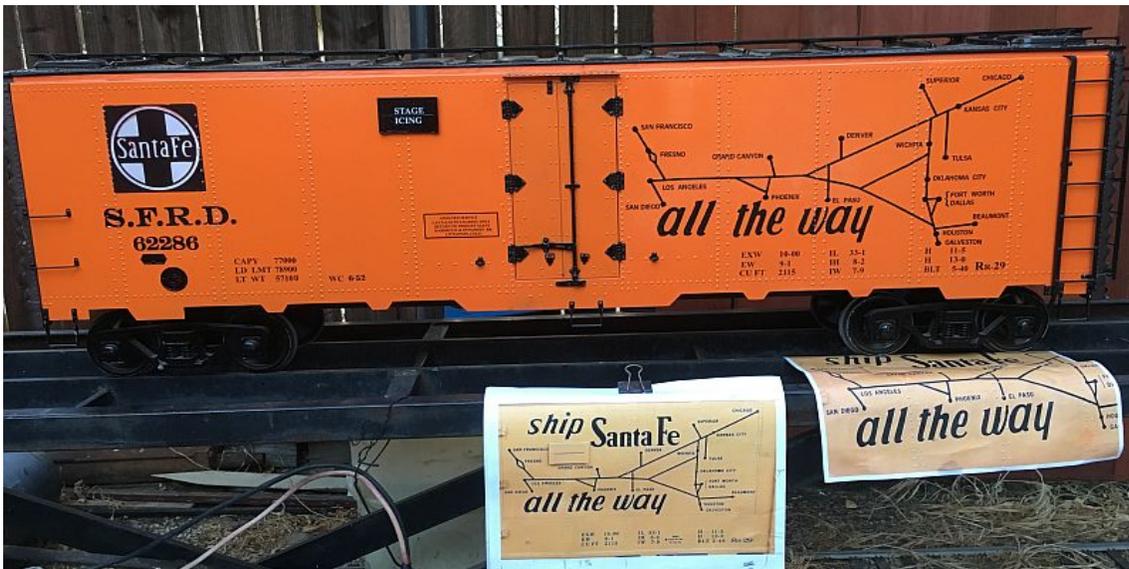
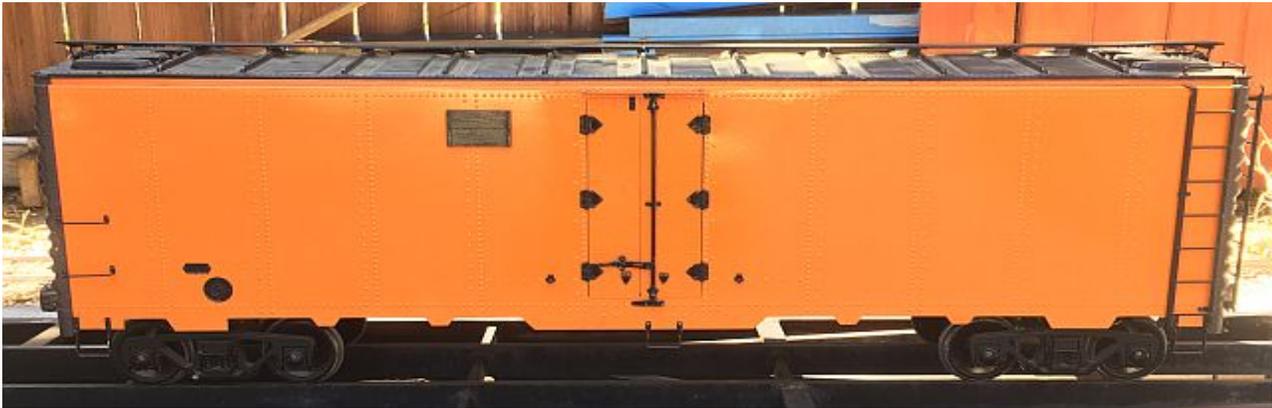
NEW FRONT PANEL

NEW FRONT

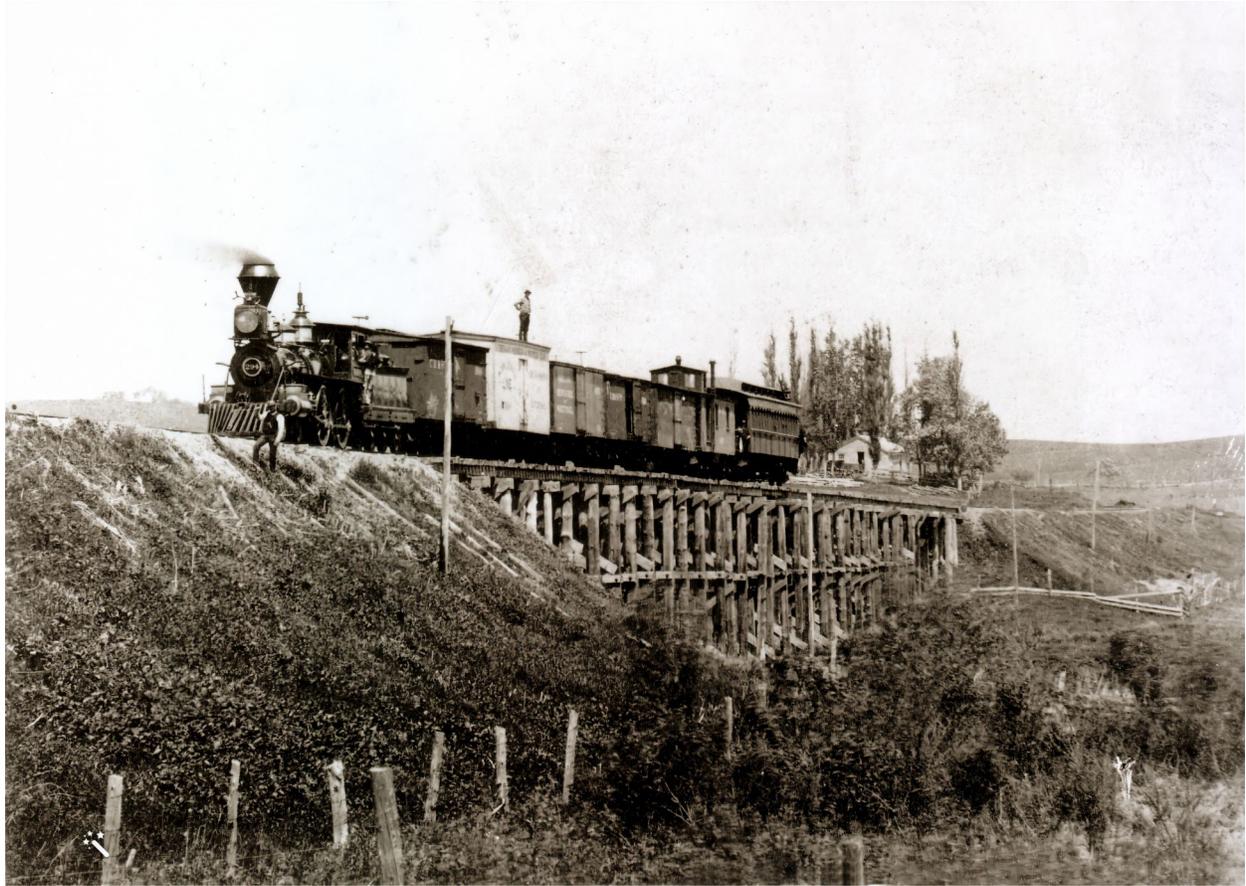


Refrigerator Car Decal Project

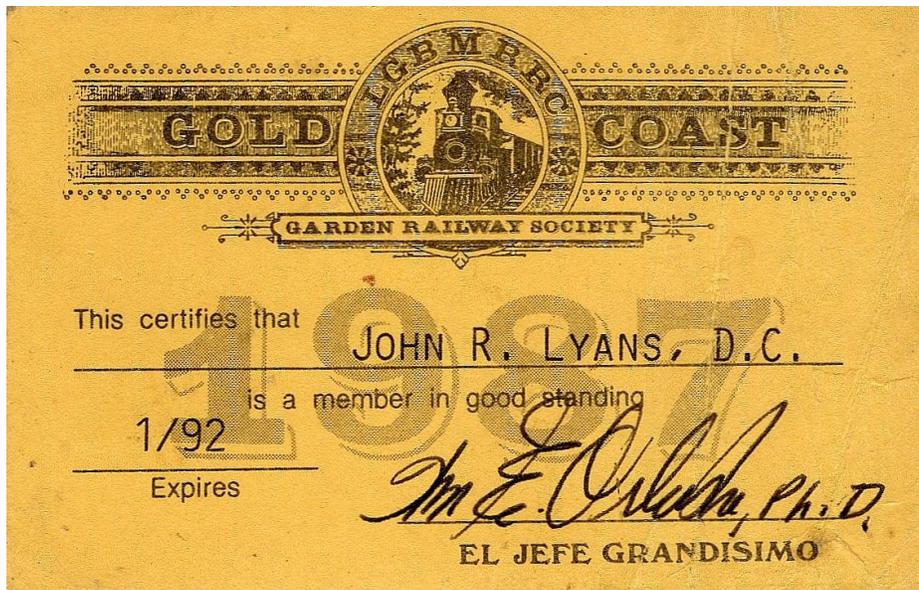
by Georges Arsenault



Editor's Note:
Georges is getting pretty good with his new printer.



While going through some of my great grandfathers photos I found this picture of a CM&StP train just outside of Center Junction, Iowa. Once a thriving town, Center Junction only has a population of about 100 today.



Long time members of the GCGRS might still have one of these cards. This was signed by Bill Orluske. However, I see that my membership has expired. Is there any interest in reviving this tradition?.