



Art Sylvester



July 2023

Calendar of Meets

July 15 Gary & Marilyn Siegel
1143 Camino Viejo
Santa Barbara, 93108
11:00 - 3:00

August 3-15 - Ventura Fair

September 16 - Siegel

October 28 - Arsenault

November 18 - Siegel

December - Newlon

This month's newsletter is early as I will be out of town when I would normally send this out.

I have a report from Gary Olmstead about the meet yesterday at the Bussings. Those that attended early had a chance to operate the railroad on a schedule, taking freight cars to destinations, picking up other cars and taking them to other locations, all while arranging meets with other trains and following various rules about train size, etc. If get a chance to do one of these "operating" sessions you will have a lot of fun and you will learn how a real railroad operates. Gary reported to me that there was a good crowd and the only mishap was that Joe's battery died in the most inaccessible spot on the layout. He had to send a rescue engine to retrieve the dead engine.

Gary also included the results of the meeting about the upcoming Ventura County fair plans. Can you volunteer to help in some way? Looks like a great exhibit this year!

The next regular meet will be at the Siegels on July 15. Bring your lunch, 11:00 am.

John Lyans



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/>







Gary Olmstead

Ventura County Fair Update

This update is early to accommodate the early newsletter. I want to switch to a weekly email update, but that means I need to have something interesting to say every week. Stay tuned.

Georges Arseneault made some cast cement stonework pieces that need to be painted. If you're artistic and would like a go, let me know and we'll set you up.

Randy Bryie wants to have a dry run at his house before the build starts. This is provisionally scheduled for this coming Saturday, July 1. RSVP to Randy at the contact listed in your roster, or me. We're going to be digging, and moving heavy things, so bring gloves and a shovel.

Lamont is just about done building a beautiful trestle, and a three span truss bridge. We have also sourced another trestle, and two more truss bridges, so we have a lot of bridges.

The new circus train is nearly complete. Even if you can't make the build sessions, Mr Crocodile's Mystery Circus train should not be missed.

In the track plan, the center section has a waterfall in the back, but is a dry river bed in front. The boxy structure in the right rear will be a mountain with a logging or mining scene on top.

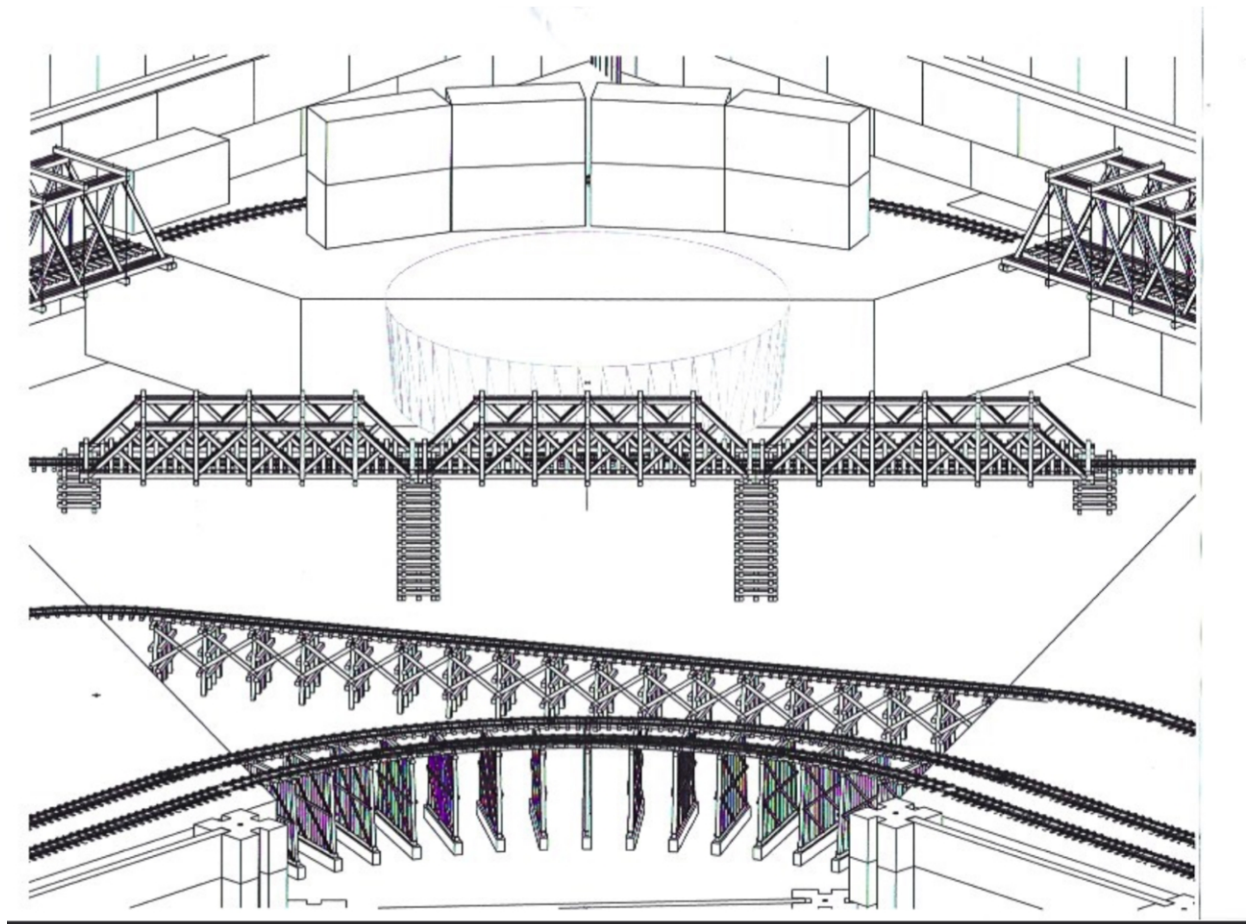
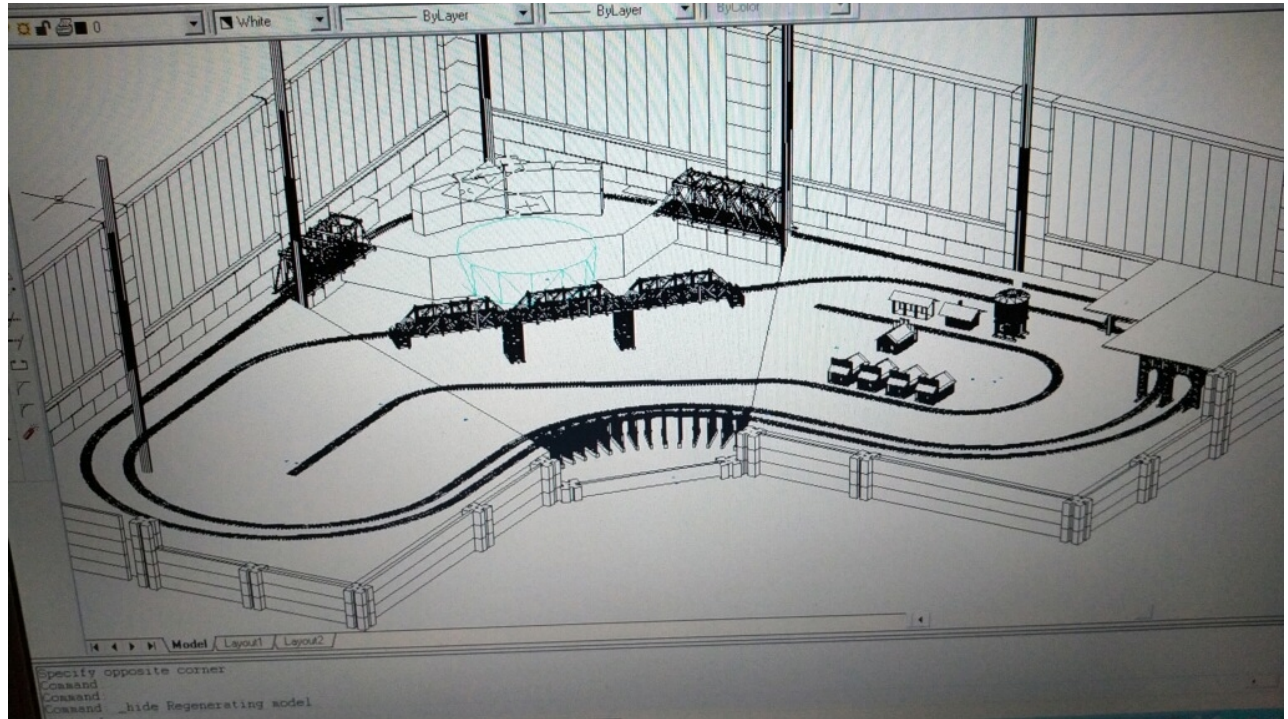
News from Floriculture: Barbara and Sue's office flooded over the winter, and by the time anyone noticed, there was mold everywhere. They had to discard all the chairs and a lot of other stuff. Barbara and Sue were supposed to move in June first, but as of the 19th they were not in. That doesn't affect us, yet. They know we are coming, where we want to be, and what we want them to do before we get there.

A new-for-this-year wrinkle is that the Summer X-Games will be at the Fairgrounds on Friday July 21 to Sunday July 23. I don't know how many people will be there, but it has drawn over 100,000 at other venues in the past. If you can't imagine where they are going to put that many people at the Fairgrounds, well, join the club. I asked Sue about the plans for that weekend. The main gates for the X-Games will open at 10 AM Friday, and 9 AM Saturday and Sunday. We will be able to get in every day starting a 8 AM at the Garden Street entrance, although that entrance won't be open. We will cross the train tracks, then make a right turn just before the Garden Street gate. There is a one-lane road that leads to a secret entrance near the horse barns. Tell security you're working in Floriculture. I plan to be there at 8 AM, and stay on the premises until I'm done for the day. It would be best to carpool, as parking is likely to be very limited.

All for now!! Replies invited!!

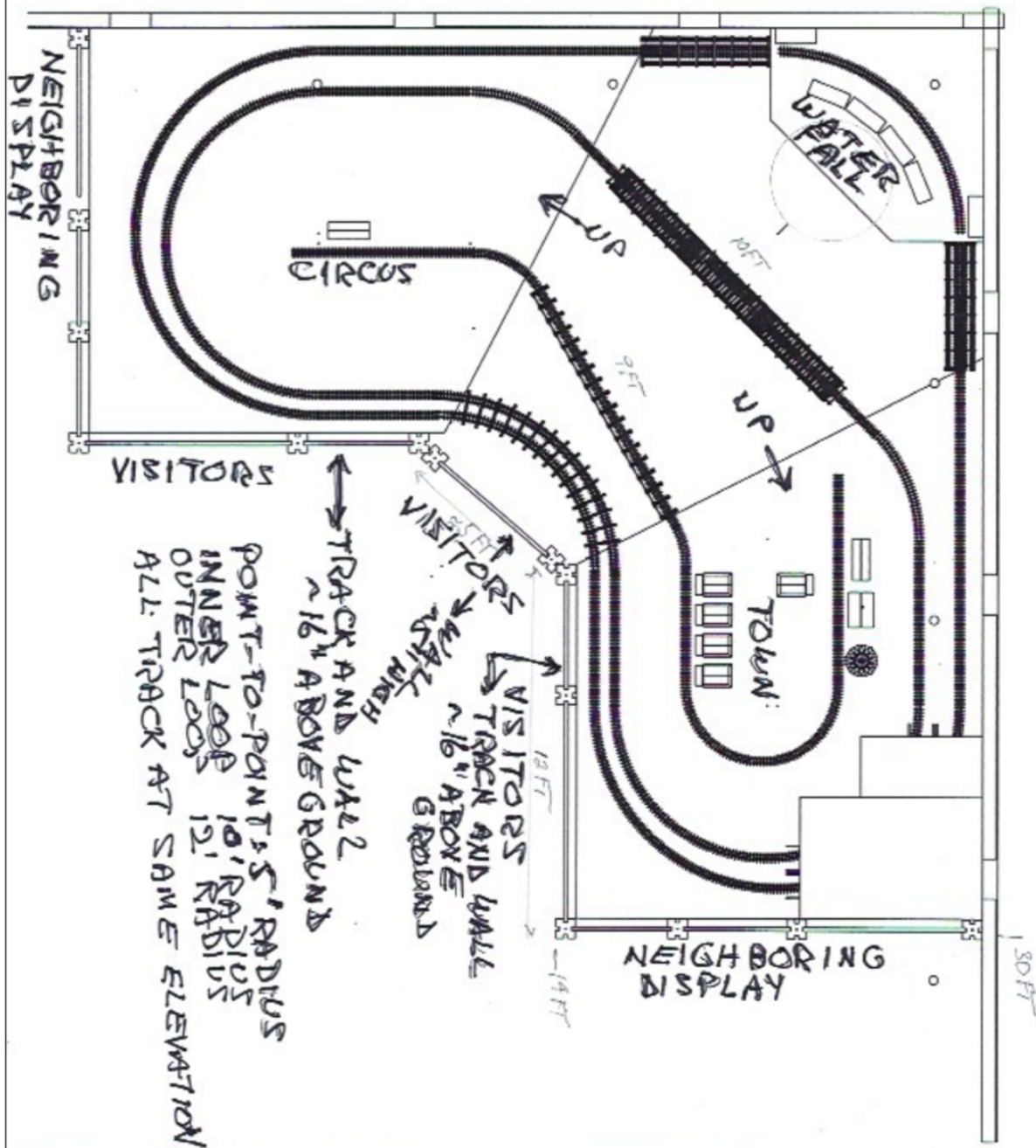
Gary

John Whitaker is distributing a form so that everyone can sign-up for a time slot to man the fair exhibit. Sign up early so that you can get the times you would like and most likely free tickets to the fair.



ANIMAL DISPLAYS (BARNY)

V.C. FAIR "MAIN ST"



Lamont Stolley and Owen Miller have built this beautiful trestle for the upcoming fair layout. Nice work guys!



Art Sylvester Memorial

So many Gold Coasters went to Art Sylester's memorial that it seemed like another train meet. Besides trains, Art was interested in geology, travel in general but a particular interest in Norway, foreign languages, genealogy, stamp and coin collecting, and sports in general, but especially UCLA soccer, tennis and whatever sport his granddaughters were playing at the moment. He also wrote five books, including three on the geology of California aimed at the general public.

I suppose his real genius was in cultivating deep and long lasting friendships with people in each of these fields. Over a dozen people got up to tell tales about meeting him or working with him or their most memorable moment or some piece of advice they still recalled years or decades later. Speakers included family members, former students, and our own Art Aldritt, John Ryan and Gary Raymond.

Gary Olmstead



What John Ryan Remembers about Art (turns out quite a bit)!

I really only got to a small portion of the notes. I made the mistake, I guess, of telling everyone that if I saw people yawning, I would know it was time to stop. Of course, people started to yawn. LOL! I Could've talked for quite awhile and there were others that were scheduled to speak, so I cut it short. I did talk about Art's railroad and the makeshift layouts at the Goleta Depot and Santa Barbara Train Station. I was going to stop there but Georges requested I talk about chasing 4014 so I obliged. What could I do, it was a request! LOL!

Art was a good man. I learned a lot about him during that memorial. We only saw one side of him but he was multifaceted. What a life he led. He'll be missed.

John Ryan

Looking to repair old Lionel locomotive
Inspired to go large scale by Gary
 Surveyed Gary's railroad
Art's railroad
 La Patera & Pacific-Virginia and Truckee inspired.
 Hand built curved trestle, built to V&T specs., cut pallets.
 Viaduct along fence, removable section for gate. PVC Supports
 Routed slots in patio to accommodate tracks.
 Built to show off his rock collection.
Conspired to build temporary layouts.
 Goleta Depot
 SB train station
Trips:
 Bittercreek and Western RR
 Donner Pass Cal state RR museum
 Bloomer Cut
 Cape Horn
 Crystal Trestle/Butte Canyon-Piers 1866, steel trestle 1904
 Stayed Norden
 Norden Snowshed
 Stanford Tunnel
 Donnor Summit
 China wall
 Truckee
 Carson Colorado-Laws
 Keeler – End of the line
 Lone Pine - Alabama hills
 Independence – SP 18, 10 wheeler
 Fish hatchery
 Manzanar
 Laws railroad museum
 Fossil falls
 Fillmore Western RR
 Campo - Pacific Southwest RR Museum
 La Mesa
 Campo-Miller Creek
 Campo Diner for lunch with 350 bikers
 Walter Andersen Nursery Poway-Large Scale trains
 SDMRR Museum-Balboa Park
 Nevada Northern-drive locomotive
 Chasing 4014-Big Boy
 2 days Colton, Cajon Pass, Yermo, Afton canyon
 Drone Afton canyon. Too windy first day
 Ate at Peggy Sue's upon return
 LA train trip
 Gold line
 Metrolink through Soledad Canyon to Lancaster
 LA train show in LA train station
 Phillipes
 Train show Anaheim Convention Center - We got lost



Building a 7 1/2 inch Gauge Locomotive

Part 8

Brow Construction

Part 2

By John Ryan

As you remember from Part 7, we started work on the Brow. We built the 2 frames for the number boards then married them together.

For this edition, we'll finish it up by building the light section of the Brow.

I started by cutting these 4 little pieces. The longer piece is 1/8" ply. It will go on the front of the Brow and holds the headlight bezel. The 3 smaller pieces are 1/4" ply. I'll bond them together then turn a flat rectangle into a semicircle. Once attached to the Brow, it will extend below the Brow. Sound fun? Let's get started.



So this is where the longer piece will eventually go. As you can see, I've temporarily placed a light bezel on it. This will not be the bezel I use. I'll make a more appropriate bezel later.



Here are the 3 pieces glued together. I've already started the rounding process. I found the rim of a common drinking glass to be perfect for tracing the arc I needed.



I used my Dremel with a sanding drum to rough sand the basic circular shape. I then smoothed it out with my electric sander until it came out looking like this. More sanding by hand finished it up.



And this will be its eventual location.



Another bit of woodworking I needed to perform was to make a different kind of light housing for the Brow. The ESPEE put a Pyle Gyrolite up on the Brow. Because the Gyrolight uses motors, gears and levers to move the lights in a circular and side to side fashion, it is a fairly large unit. That's the reason for the bulbous portion on the bottom. I think I mentioned in an earlier article that the bezel I had bought (left) was more suited for older Geeps such as a GP9, certainly not for the Gyrolite.

I made 2 versions. The one in the middle was my first attempt. I used a $\frac{3}{4}$ " and $\frac{7}{8}$ " wood boring bits to make the light openings. The reason for the 2 sizes is that the smaller hole is the actual light opening. The second allows space to hold the reflector and lens. The backside of the smaller opening provides a lip for them to rest against. I glued 2 pieces of $\frac{1}{8}$ " ply for this one. Using 2 pieces made boring the holes easy as I just bored a different size hole in each piece.



I wasn't real happy with the first version. It just looked a little wide, long and thick. So, I made a second out of a single piece of $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Boring the holes was a little trickier, actually a little frustrating.

Here's the trick. Drill the smaller hole first but only part way through, then come back with the larger bit from the backside. Go slow! The smaller hole will just disappear instead of breaking apart. Being plywood, I used the plys to gauge my depth. You can see the difference in the size of the 2 versions.

Funny, you'd think the 2 would be the same thickness, 2-1/8" pieces and a single 1/4". Turns out, the 1/8" ply is slightly larger than an 1/8". The 1/2" is slightly less. Guess that's dimensional lumber for you.

Shaping them was pretty much the same procedure as the half round piece. Dremel, electric sander but a lot more hand sanding.



sanding.



Let's start putting it all together.



The piece in the middle is .060 styrene that I had laying around. This piece simulates the attachment frame for the light housing. I'd like to add hinges, and a latch to this piece like the prototype. They wouldn't actually work, just would give the look. I haven't found anything appropriate yet. I am thinking a cheap pair of eyeglasses might yield an acceptable looking hinge. The latch I still haven't figured out.



At this point, I'll stop talking and just show pictures. I think they tell the best story. "A picture is worth a 1000 words".



There is still some smoothing out to be done but for the most part, that's it for the Brow. Looking at the light bezel, I still may use the first bezel I made. It's nice to have options. I may also resin cast the bezels along with other detail parts that I may have to create. That's down the road though.

That's it for Part 8.
We'll work on the roof for the next edition. █

Westside Lumber Co. Critter and Gondola

FROM THE
SHOP OF
WALT
THOMPSON

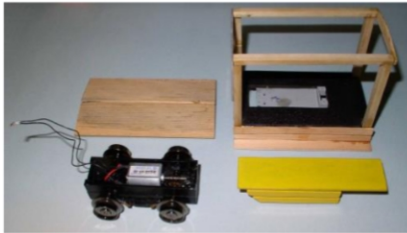


Westside Lumber Co. Proto type

The inspiration for this model came when perusing through the Westside Lumber Company's website. They would use these motor cars to transport their people into town or out to make repairs wherever they were needed. Our little car here comes somewhat close to the prototype.

Mounted on a USA Trains speeder chassis, the main body was all scratch built from styrene sheet and basswood with brass stripes used for the running board supports. The windshield panel, head light (that does work) and the 2 workers are from the USA Trains Speeder. The grill was part of a child's sand bucket strainer and the car has Hartford products link/pin coupler on the front and a simple wire link hook up on the rear that links to the gondola.

The driver is a Bachmann Engineer and the third passenger is a fireman in from Canada? Not seen under the center bench area is a Model A Ford motor assembly from a Hubley 1:24 scale die cast model. The bell, siren, fire extinguisher and ladders were removed from a 1:24 scale fire truck.



Break down of basic parts



Our Critter takes a run through the roses in Bakersfield

The gondola was scratch built from basswood and is powered by a K-LINE speeder chassis. This car was mainly built to house the speaker and ITTC Products digital sound card for the sounds of the Model A Ford motor and Ahooga horn. Covering the speaker and sound board is a hodgepodge of extraneous Model A Ford parts from the Hubley kit. The gondola has a brake wheel assembly from Ozark Miniatures and uses a simple wire link coupler that hooks up with the Critter.

K-LINE motor block



inside with speaker & sound board

