

Calendar

- Nov 5 Gary & Jane Olmstead
Canceled
- Nov 19 Gary & Marilyn Siegel
- Dec Christmas Party
Georges & Marie Arsenault



November 2022



Our next meet will be on Saturday, November 19 at the Siegel's in Santa Barbara. I do not know the condition of the track but it should be passable. Bring your own lunch and an appetizer of desert to share. See you there!

Newsletter: John Lyans
lyans@pacbell.net

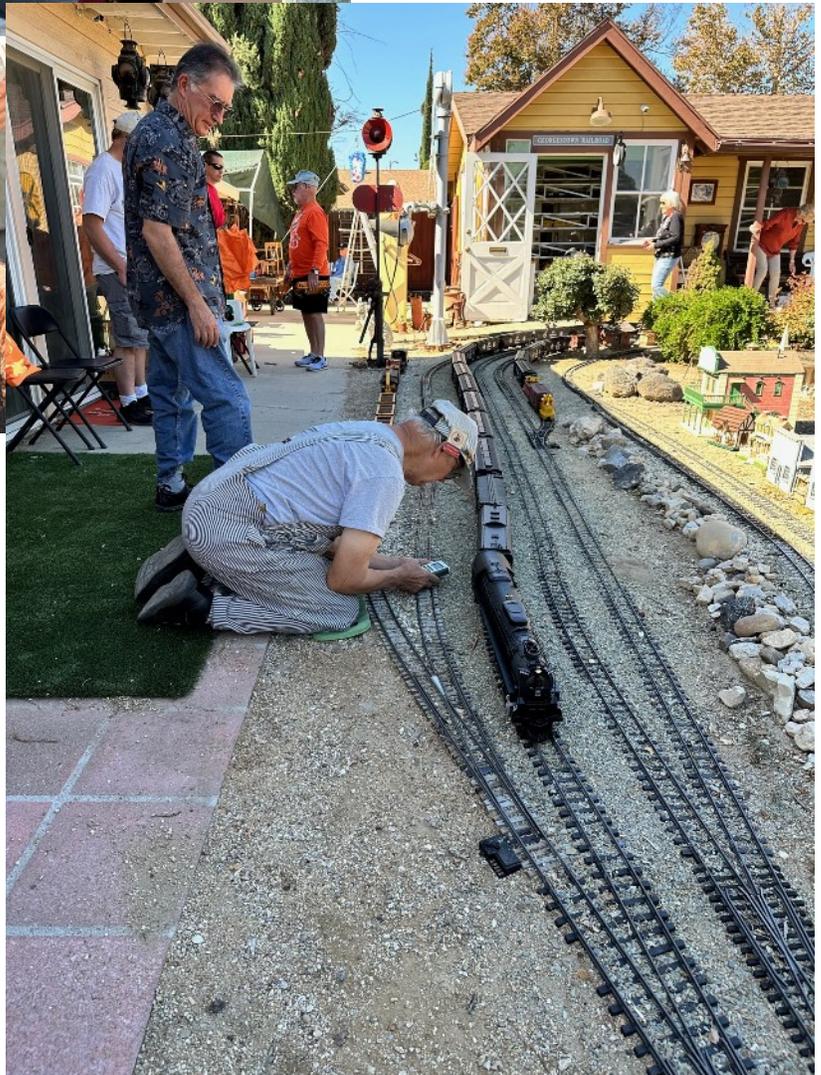
Accounts/Badges:
Bruce Kuebler
pbkuebler@sbcglobal.net

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

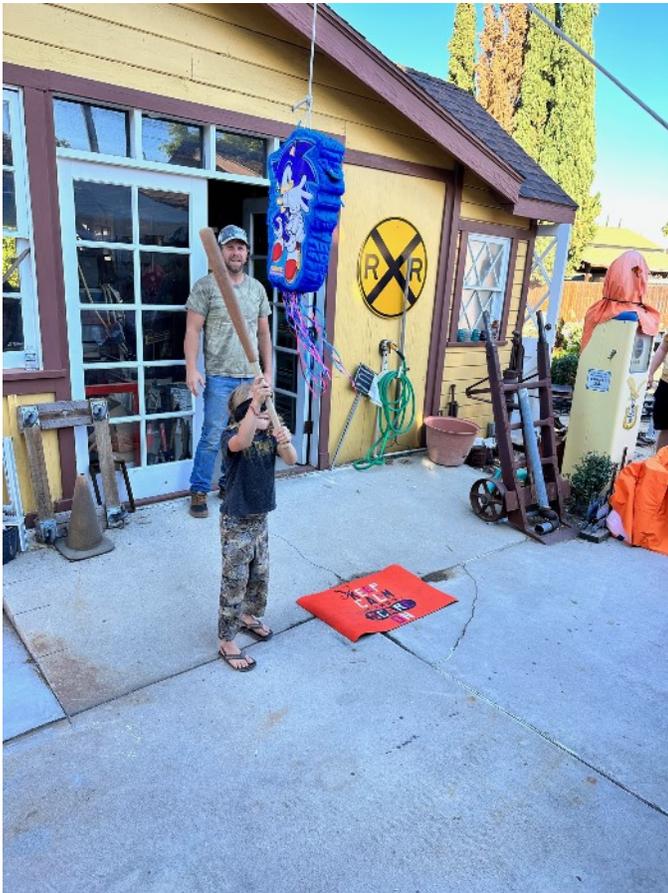
Meet Scheduling/Facebook: John & Kim Whitaker
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/145996342219253/>

GCGRS members had a lot of fun on Saturday, October 29, at Georges and Marie Arsenault's home. Marie had lots of fun activities to celebrate Halloween including a raffle, bobbing for apples and a pinata. My 6 year-old grandson was first up and he proceeded to destroy the pinata on his first swing, so that activity was somewhat short lived! We will meet again in December at the Arsenault's and it will surely be a fun party.

Thanks Georges and Marie!



Georges kept busy troubleshooting problems that cropped up while running trains. Here he is helping Victor figure out why the UP Northern is having problems.



Luke Lyans right before he breaks the pinata



Naomi Lyans is helping Gary Raymond bob for apples.



Victor's 8-4-4 UP Northern pulling a long string of cars.



A C-19 exits a great looking tunnel portal



Marie is explaining all of this train mania to two guests that heard about our group at the Ventura County Fair



Gary Raymond's little girl Isabella was wishing that she could ride the train on Georges' 1:12 train. Many GCGRS members need to learn to be more "inclusive" because Isabella was not welcomed by most folks. She kept telling GCGRS members, "I just want to be your friend?" Very sad.





Byron is the engineer on the 1:12 Santa Fe "Chief"



Chris Lyans driving the train pulling Naomi and Luke



Gary and Byron
in their RR
Halloween
costumes





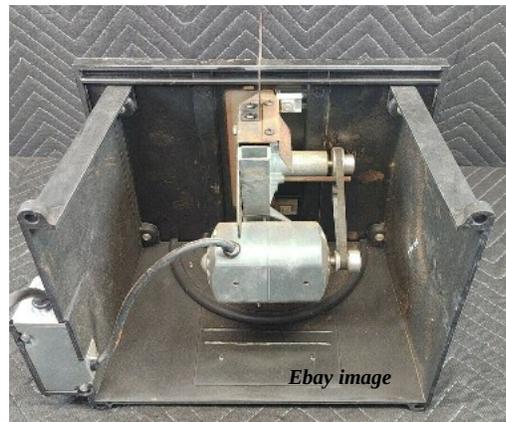
Lamont looks like he knows what he doing as he runs his train out of the yard onto the mainline.

Hobby Sized Table Saws

John Lyans

I recently spoke with Mark Edwards from the Central California Coast Garden Railway Society and the Southwest Regional Advisor of Garden Railway News about newsletters and various garden railway topics. The subject of small table saws came up as Mark is considering either a Micro-Mark or Byrnes table saw for garden railway projects. Since I have experience with both of these table saws as well as a couple of others I thought I would share a few insights about these tools. A full size table saw is often great for large scale, outdoor projects but sometimes a small saw with finer control works better and safer.

Dremel 4" Table Saw The first miniature table saw that I used was a Dremel 4" table saw. This saw is no longer in production but is still available on Ebay for \$200 - \$250. I actually got some good use from this saw as it had a tilting arbor, a usable fence and miter gauge. But it was all plastic, not too precision and under powered. It felt flimsy and light and it needed to be bolted down to a stable surface to make it safe. I sold that saw on Ebay.



Harbor Freight 4" (Mighty-Mite) Hobby Saw. When I was in a Harbor Freight store I must have experienced an episode of brain fog and I purchased this saw for about \$40. The blade height is set by raising or lowering the table via a screw on the side. It will cut about 1/2" deep with the table fully lowered. There is but a rudimentary miter gauge so I built a small sliding table to enable the saw to make decent cross cuts. There is no way to fasten a rip fence without some serious modification. The saw is unstable and will easily fall over unless it is bolted down which could be done if you remove the rubber feet. The table is only 7" x 5" This is not a serious hobby saw.



Harbor Freight table saw with a sliding table that I built. It's only good for cross cutting.

MicroLux/Proxxon Tilt Arbor Table Saw This is a really nice saw. The Proxxon and the MicroLux have some type of common ancestry as the body styles and dimensions are similar and the accessories are interchangeable. The Proxxon version is currently not available but the MicroLux is available at Micro-Mark for \$350. My older Proxxon is identical to the current MicoLux model and both have variable speed 3600 – 7000 rpm DC motors. The newer Proxxon, (unavailable), saw has a single speed 7000 rpm motor. Both have a sturdy plastic body, a 12”x12” cast aluminum table, a plastic miter gauge and an aluminum fence. The MicroLux looks to have an upgraded rip fence over my older Proxxon saw. Both saws greatly benefit from the addition of the Accuriser II, vernier fence, (\$70), that give quick, easy adjustments to your rips to within .005” Micro-Mark has lots of accessories such as a sliding table, taper jigs, feather boards and a variety of blades. This saw is lightweight and it’s stability is improved if it is bolted to a flat surface so that it can’t slide around while cutting



My stock Proxxon saw



Proxxon saw with the Accuriser II vernier fence



Proxxon saw with a sliding table

The current MicroLux saw from Micro-Mark with an improved rip fence over my older Proxxon. The Accuriser II vernier fence also fits.



Micro-Mark image

Byrnes 4" Table Saw (\$475) This is an amazing saw. The precision and accuracy are unbelievable. It is sturdy, rock-solid and weighs 30 lbs. It is constructed of CNC machined aluminum and steel. The rip fence rides smoothly on two stainless steel rails. The included steel miter gauge has preset pins for different angles or it can be set at any angle in between. There is an optional micrometer, (\$55), that will adjust the fence to within .001" The 3/8" arbor runs in sealed bearings mounted in solid blocks of aluminum that hold the blade perfectly to 90 degrees to the table. The saw is quiet and smooth. The whole thing just feels like a well tuned sport/luxury car. The saw will cut up to 15/16' and the blade runs at 3450 rpm. The table is 12" wide by 10" deep

With the non-tilting arbor you give up some of the quick adjusting features found on the Micro-Mark saw. Because the arbor doesn't tilt you must remove the fence with an Allen key and mount the auxiliary tilting table, (\$125), to get angled rip cuts. You must also remove the fence with the Allen key to use the sliding table, (\$135). These adjustments to the machine can take up to a minute or so where it only takes a few seconds to adjust the blade with a tilt arbor. The only other nit-picking detail is that I wish the on/off switch was more to left side of the machine. When I am holding the work in my right hand I have to reach and cross under with my left hand to turn off the motor which feels a little awkward. If you can live with the extra steps needed to change the saw set-up you are rewarded with accurate, clean cuts and the satisfaction of operating a beautiful tool.



Removing the rip fence so that you can use the sliding table (pictured), or the auxiliary tilting table which I do not have.

Conclusions I think anyone would be happy with the MicroLux or the Byrnes saws. The MicroLux/Proxxon saws work well and are very versatile and easy to use but do not have the ultra-fine precision of the Byrnes saw. Using the Byrnes saw is very satisfying, stable and safe. Its hard to put it into words but using the Byrnes saw makes me feel "satisfied." However, when I want to use the saw for one quick or an angled rip cut I'll pull out my old Proxxon. If I am going to be doing a lot of repetitive ripping or precision miter cuts I'll use the Byrnes. Similarly equipped the MicroLux would be about \$450 and the Byrnes would be about \$765. (with tilt table)

GRITFY's Ultimate Combine

FROM THE
SHOP OF
WALT
THOMPSON

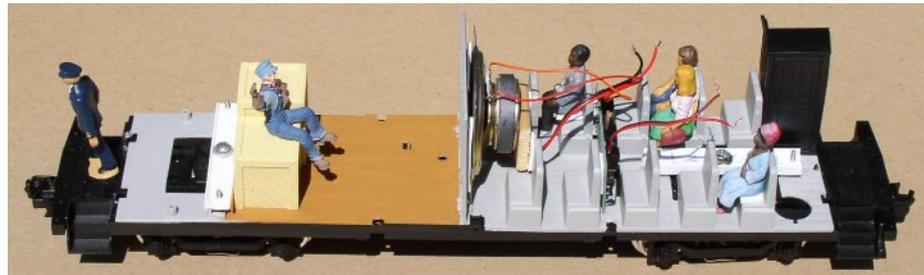
This model was created because the GRITFY RR being a small independent railroad needed a way to transport its townsfolk from one place to the other without the expense of a locomotive and engineer. For me personally, this car took the classification of 'Combine' to a higher level as it combined my three hobby interests of 1. Model railroading, 2. Model 'A' Fords and 3. Bicycle riding. The Model 'A' Ford element is the sound system for the engine sounds of a Model 'A' Ford motor plus the Ahooga horn that honks every 30 seconds or so.

Items used were:

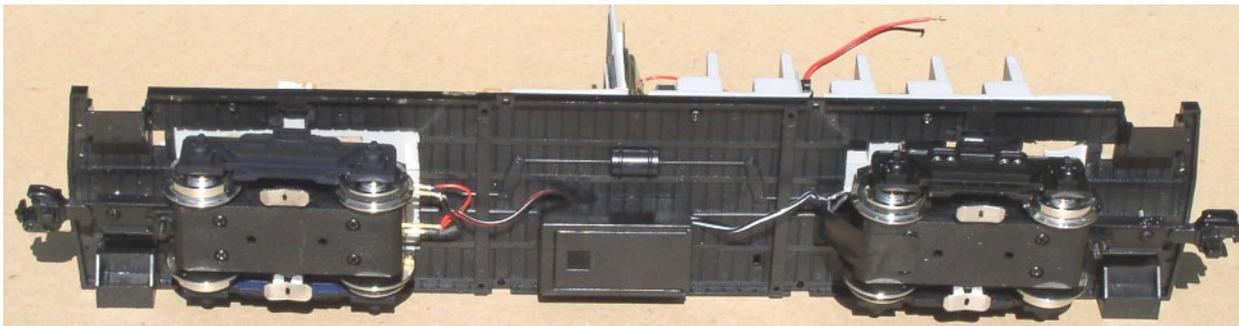
- One Bachmann Combine kit, siding material from a scraped USA Trains Refer, plus some misc. bits & pieces from the shop to create the Engineers cab area up front.
- One pair of motorized trucks from a USA Trains 44 Tonner.
- The roof mounted air tank was from the USA Trains 44 Tonner.
- Most of the interior lighting is from the Bachmann kit with added interior cab and rear porch lights.
- The head light and modified horn on the roof were from a USA Trains 20 Tonner project and on the rear there is a pair of USA Trains Caboose marker lights. All of the lights on this coach DO work.
- The Model 'A' Ford motor and Ahooga horn plus the bell sounds are all from ITTC Products Train Sounds.
- The Engineer in the cab area and brakeman on the rear platform are from AristoCraft. Wesley, the freight box he sits on, and his bicycle were all from the shop and the passengers all came aboard at the Burbank depot.



BUILDING THE CAB



A VIEW OF THE INSIDE



MOTORS AND TRUCK SETUP

As most do, this model took a bit of thought, engineering and time. Plus a little more time..... All in all, I feel my model was a great success depicting what a back woods railway like 'The GRITFY' would have created when the need presented itself. Along with these passenger coaches it can easily pull additional coaches or freight cars.



CONDUCTORS IN THE FRONT



WESLEY AND HIS BICYCLE

Seen here going through Ventura, CA pulling 3 South Pacific Coast coaches



Used to create this article:

This is all located in the folder "GRITFY'S ULTIMATE COMBINE"

Item
This write up
Building the Cab
What's inside
Motors & trucks setup
Conductor in the front
Wally and his bicycle
Ending picture

Title
The combine project story-2
Cab right side roughed
chassis full top shot-1
couplers, motors & wires
Finished Loco-FL
inside left side door
Full train pulling 3 cars

John, I probably have 80 plus NOS trains planes and automobile items in there and in my attic. The trains are mostly G scale locomotives and cars. Different manufacturers with a variety of road names..... I was wondering if you might know of someone interested in this trestle? Like anything else, I'm flexible on price and this is already a savings for someone that needed it? It's been in my shop for so long it has almost become a piece of memorabilia.



48" Redwood Trestle built by the N C Bridge Co. of Akron OH.

This beautiful trestle was purchased in 1995 and never used. Single track, made of redwood with brass stress rods for support and has a stained finish. It also has a painted red water barrel at each end - asking \$250.00

If you love Colorado Narrow Gauge you will love seeing the Slim Gauge Guild. Colorado narrow gauge in two separate layouts in one building. Model railroading in HOn3 and Sn3.

Slim Gauge Guild

Model Railroad Club

Open House



Sunday, Nov 6, 2022
10:00AM to 6:00PM

Tuesday, Nov 8, 2022
6:00PM to 10:00PM

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