



NEWSLETTER

Santa Clarita, California

January, 2011

January Meeting

Monday, January 31, 2011

6:00 pm dinner, meeting follows dinner

MARIE CALLENDER'S RESTAURANT

27630 The Old Road, Valencia, CA 91355

661-259-4675

DINING

Check with hostess as to what part of the restaurant we will be meeting.

You may order anything from the menu or salad bar, but are encouraged to participate. (They have a 25 person minimum, but it is not ironclad.) Families will be given separate checks which will include an 18% gratuity. If you cannot get there by 6:00 we want to encourage you to come and attend the meeting.

DIRECTIONS

From the south, take Interstate 5 north and exit at **Magic Mountain Parkway**. At the bottom, turn left and continue to **The Old Road**. Turn right and look for the access road on the right. From there you will see the parking areas at Marie Callender's Restaurant.

From the north, take the off ramp at **Rye Canyon Road** which takes you to **The Old Road**. Turn left and proceed south to the access road into the restaurant.



HIGHLIGHTS

Some of the things we will be talking about at the meeting include our schedule of meetings and activities for 2011, current and future workshops, and refurbishing your locomotives. As always, we encourage anyone to bring and share a current project or a problem you would like discussed. There will be a drawing for a box car.

It is that time of the year to renew your membership. There is a renewal notice at the end of this newsletter. Our dues have stayed the same low \$15.00 since the club began over 10 years ago. This has been possible since we distribute our communications by email to all but a couple of members.

2011 DRAFT CALENDAR

Our Events Chairman, Dodie Pilling, has been working on a schedule of meetings and activities for this year and I have made a few suggestions as have Ray & Martie Smith. The following summarizes these ideas and we would like the input of other members before we finalize it. Even if you do not want to suggest another event or subject it is important to know whether you would plan to attend them or couldn't because of schedule or travel involved.

January 31, Monday	Meeting at Marie Callender's Restaurant
February	No Meeting
March 27, Sunday	Railfest in Fillmore, CA for those interested, dinner at Mexican Restaurant.
April	No Meeting
May 21-22, Sat, Sun.	Big Train Show, Ontario, CA
May 23, Monday	Meeting at member layout
June 21-26	2011 National Garden Railroad Convention, Overland Park, KS
June 27, Monday	Meeting at member layout
July 10-14	West Coast Regional Meet, Bay Area—San Francisco, CA
July 25, Monday	Meeting at member layout
August 29, Monday	Meeting at member layout
September	No Meeting
October	Fillmore #14 steam train with wine tasting and lunch entrée—adults \$24, Sr \$22
November 28, Monday	Meeting at restaurant
December	No Meeting

COMMENTS: To the extent that there is interest, we will put workshops together of specific subjects and times to accommodate those members.

The Southwest Garden Railroad Show at the Fairplex will repeat in November I think.

Want to consider some other train trips? AMTAK, Metrolink, all are fairly local and can have interesting destinations.

GARDEN RAILWAYS MAGAZINE SURVEY

Those who subscribe to or pick up copies of Garden Railways Magazine found a green insert survey form attached inside. I suspect we have many members who are either too busy or adverse to surveys judging from the responses I get for similar requests, however I hope you will take the time, as I will, to fill it out and mail it back into the magazine.

Since the answers in a summarized statistical form would be interesting I hope the magazine will ultimately give us that information. HOW ABOUT THAT, MARC?

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY GARDEN RAILROAD CLUB

24403 Zermatt Lane, Valencia, CA 91355
661/287-0026 email: adwright@ca.rr.com

Web Site: www.scvgardenrr.com

President & Editor	Alan Wright
Events & Social Chair:	Dodie Pilling
Photographer	Carla Breitner Tina Krystof
Internet Contact	Gary Woolard
Webmaster	Ben Curtis

SCOTT'S CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE



Walter & Kenda Scott hosted another Christmas Open House as they have done in the past. This was the first since moving to Glendale. All of the club members were invited and the following took advantage of a nice affair and a chance to see Scott's new indoor layout. Ray & Martie Smith, Grant Sweer, Don & Dodie Pilling, Ron & Pam Pilling and Alan & Donna Wright.

When they lived in Valencia, Scott built an outdoor layout which never quite got finished. The Glendale house had a nice loft area on the second floor which accommodated his new indoor layout.

In years past Scott was involved in the business and acquired an extensive amount of trains, track and accessories although much of it has been sold and given away. He saved some of the best to put into this layout. He also is a collector of railroad collectibles which can be seen in every room of the house and around his layout as seen in these photos.



Left: Scott shows Donna Wright the features on his layout.

Right: Ron & Pam Pilling and Don & Dodie Pilling.



ENGINE MAINTENANCE

By Grant Sweer

Here is something I would like to share with the club. I found an LGB manual internet site that might be helpful to those who have them. This site is in German and has the latest part numbers and equipment.

After buying some engines from Walter Scott, I started refurbishing them. I cleaned the contacts, and coated them with USA conductive lubricant, cleaned up the wheels and verified continuity throughout the engine. When I was done I had changed a jerky, hesitating engine into a smooth operating machine that it was at birth.

I am thinking about performing this as a service for the club members. Let me know if there is a need.

I am also thinking of offering to repair engines for only the cost of the parts, assuming I can get the parts. I will only do this if the owner has written the engine off as garbage. Because I am still learning I do not want to take responsibility for a valued possession. As I get better at this I will be able to stake my reputation on a repair and therefore will be able to charge for the service. This would help support my railroad hobby.

The key to my determining if I have succeeded in the repair is to have the owner run them a lot and share the results of the performance with me. If there are problems they would be investigated and solutions found to correct.

Web address to the LGB site mentioned:

http://www.champex-linden.de/lgb_produktdatenbank/index.html

Editors note:

Grant Sweer and his wife Jenny joined the club in 2010 and have been very enthusiastic members. Grant is an engineer with an aerospace manufacturing company located in the Valencia Industrial Center. He has been acquiring his mostly used engines and other equipment from various sources including Scott as he mentions above.

SOME THOUGHTS ON MAINTENANCE

By Alan Wright

When Grant sent me the article about his engine maintenance and refurbishing experience I thought it was a good idea which might be expanded into a workshop as well. I have two LGB engines, one, a Mogul was purchased in 1999 and the other, a Forney, in 2005. The Mogul was converted to battery power about 4 years ago, but is difficult to start due to some hidden loose connection. Refurbishment is needed, but it is hardly junk.

Several members have installed sound systems in their engines and others are probably better than I about periodic maintenance. Older engines seem to make things like converting to battery power very difficult since most of us know little about what goes on "under the hood".

I suggested to Grant that I saw an opportunity for a workshop on these subjects if there is enough interest from members. I hope to discuss this at the next meeting and get some feedback.

Although maintenance is not limited to LGB products, I wanted to check to see what is in our club library from LGB. Wm. K. Walther, Inc represents and sells LGB in the U.S. This is not the same LGB that made my engines, so there may be a difference in the new products and the older versions. In September, 2010 I received the LGB Catalog for 2009-2010, along with the new items flyer and an LGB Retailer List. There is little technical information in the catalog, but new part numbers are shown.



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We also have product catalogs for 2001-2002 and for 1998. All of these are in English and German.



The LGB Track Planning and Technical Guide 1987 has a wealth of great planning and installation information using LGB products. This

very useful book was donated by Don Pilling.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is that time of the year again and I hope all of you will choose to renew your membership in the club. While it is certainly less expensive to communicate using the internet there are expenses . We have kept the dues at \$15.00 per year since we established the club in 2000 and I see no reason to change for the future as we can see it.

The following members have provided a password which is required to gain access to the MEMBERS ONLY section on the Club website: Woolard, Miller, Caracappa, Miiglin, D. Pilling, Krystof and Wright. Others may add a password on the Renewal Form below.

It has been our goal to find ways to accommodate the interests and needs of each member and for that we hope you will express your desires to make that happen for you. You are welcome to comment and make suggestions to our annual calendar shown on page 2.

I hope you will all choose to continue your membership in the club. Your participation is important to us.

SCVGRC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Use the following to make any changes to your personal information and to make comments.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Date: _____

Password (for access to Club website) _____

I am interested in workshops on following subjects: _____

Comments: _____

2011 Dues One year renewal: \$15.00

[] I'm paying by cash at the meeting

[] I'm paying by check - **Make checks payable to: Alan Wright**

**Send to: Alan Wright
 24403 Zermatt Lane
 Valencia, CA 91355**