



NEWSLETTER

Santa Clarita, California

February, 2008

February Meeting

Monday, February 25, 2008

6:00 pm Dinner— 7:00 pm Meeting

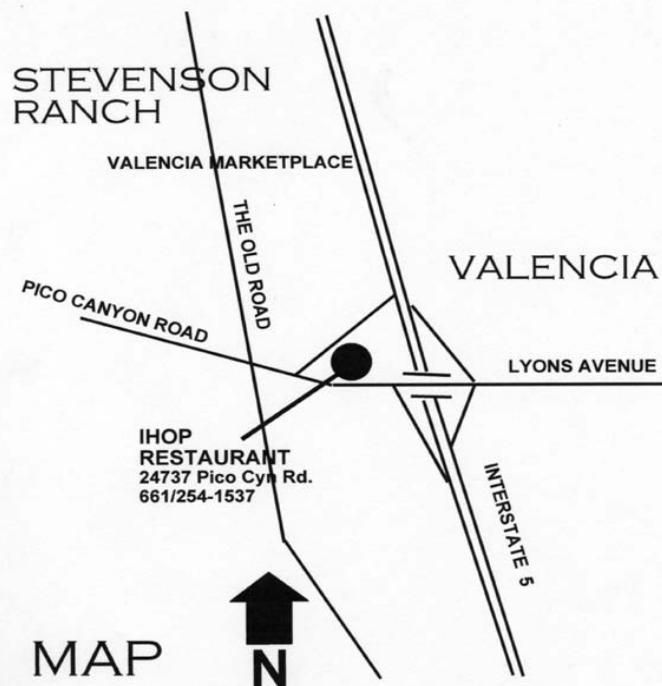
IHOP Restaurant in Stevenson Ranch

DINING

The restaurant has an excellent meeting room and we pay no rent if at least 15 order dinner. The cost is \$9.50 per person includes the tip and drink. For those who wish to order from the regular menu, you may do so, but you will be responsible for your tab & tip separately.

DIRECTIONS

IHOP Restaurant is located on Pico Canyon Road on the north side where the south-bound Interstate 5 off-ramp joins Pico Canyon Road. From this direction turn left on Pico Canyon and immediately turn left into the IHOP parking lot. Coming from the south on the I-5 freeway take the Lyons Avenue off-ramp and turn left. Go across the bridge and IHOP will be on your right past Carls Jr..



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Until we find someone who is willing to present a program at our meetings we will continue to involve all of you members. Our discussion topic this month will be **“What I Enjoy Most About Garden Rail-roading”**. There are also some aspects of the hobby which are downright unpleasant. For you, **what is it that isn't fun.?**

While I am not assigning home work, please give some thought to the two questions. This is what really makes it fun to be in this hobby and being able to share this with others probably is part of it for all of us. Is operating the trains the biggest thrill, or is it just putting it all together. How about the plants and the scenery? If you can illustrate your story with photos or things that you bring into the meeting, that would really be great.

CLUB NOTES

At the last meeting we discussed the advantages of using the internet for communications from the club to members. Our newsletter is distributed this way now and we have had only one member that requires the newsletter to be mailed. A club website has been a dream of mine for some time, but cost and someone who could develop and maintain such a site was not available. Ben Curtis volunteered to change that. Ben currently hosts two web sites, (as a volunteer) including the Placerita Canyon Property Owners Association and the alumni of the Air Force Band. We really appreciate what Ben is doing for us and to help him with content and provide some feedback I have formed a Web Site Committee consisting of Ben, Gary Woolard, Carla Breitner, Rick Quevado and myself.

The name of the website has been selected and secured. The home page is nearly done (still under construction), but this is the thing that makes everything else function. Many photos have been set up in a gallery and member layouts will be added soon. There will be a "members only" section which is where information will be available out of public access. We will then use the website to distribute the newsletters. As soon as the site is ready, members will be notified and you will be given a password to enter the "members only" section.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

AS OF THIS WRITING, THERE ARE ABOUT 8 MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT YET RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP. I HOPE THAT "THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL" FOR MOST OF THEM SO WE CAN GET ONTO MORE INTERESTING SUBJECTS. PAUL PLAMONDON, WHO HAS MOVED UP TO PLACERVILLE, EMAILED ME TO SAY HE IS STILL DOING A LOT OF CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE AREA AND WANTS TO STAY CONNECTED WITH THE CLUB. HE PROMISES TO ATTEND SOME MEETINGS TOO.

OUR DUES ARE QUITE REASONABLE AT \$15.00 ANNUAL, SO I DON'T THINK WE WILL LOSE ANYONE OVER THAT. THE NEW WEBSITE, MENTIONED ABOVE SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR ALL MEMBERS TO STAY CONNECTED, WHETHER YOU CAN ATTEND THE MEETINGS OR NOT.

IF WE ARE NOT DOING THE KINDS OF THINGS YOU LIKE, NOW IS THE TIME TO LET US KNOW ABOUT IT. SEE THE NEXT PAGE TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE AND MAKE YOUR DESIRES KNOWN.

Alan Wright

Lots and lots of layouts!



3 Clubs worth of layouts to tour!

Take a tour of the Arizona Big Train Operators and the Arizona Garden Railway Society layouts in the Phoenix area. And see what the Tucson Garden Railway Society has to show a little further south.

**"Springtime in Arizona"
April 29, 2008 thru May 4, 2008
Chandler, Arizona**

Arizona National Garden Railway Convention
www.ngrc2008.org

NGRC2008 - 5714 E. Holmes St. Tucson, AZ 85711
Lee: 520-514-5541

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY GARDEN RAILROAD CLUB

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LETS GET GOING FOR A NEW YEAR

We need to get going to plan for a year of meetings, events and other activities which will make the Club experience rewarding and enjoyable for all. Mindful that the Club was formed to encourage exchange of ideas and experience between members, it is important that you take the time to give us feedback on what you would like to see and how you might be able to help make this all happen. We will be discussing some of this at the February meeting, so come prepared. The following is a draft calendar with dates and suggestions. It is not cast in stone, so let us know what you think.

March 31, 2008 6:00 pm dinner, 7:00 pm meet	Regular meeting of the Club. IHOP Restaurant, Stevenson Ranch Possible program: Walter Scott's fabulous photo shoot during special trains run for that purpose in Ely, Nevada. (very cold)
April 21, 2008 7:00 pm	Meeting at member layout. Location to be determined
April 29—May 4, 2008 (notice)	National Garden Railway Convention (see preceding page for notice)
May 18, 2008	Outing and picnic. Destination and details to be determined. (some Ideas: Santa Barbara Train Museum in Goleta, Tahachipi Loop, etc.)
June 7 & 8, 2008	The Big Train Show , Ontario Convention Center, Ontario, CA
June 30, 2008 7:00 pm	Meeting at member layout. Location to be determined. Workshop or presentation.
July 28, 2008, 7:00 pm	Meeting at member layout. Location to be determined. Workshop or presentation.
August 25, 2008, 7:00 pm	Meeting at member layout: Location to be determined. Workshop or presentation.
September 28, 2008	Club Open Houses. Various locations in Santa Clarita Valley and San Fernando Valley. (This is tentative, providing there is enough interest by several members at this time. We have not given ourselves enough time in the past to properly prepare and publicize the event) This will also be the September meeting.
October 26, 2008	Outing with picnic or dinner.
November 24, 2008	Meeting at restaurant
December, 2008	Typically dark unless a member wishes to have a Christmas Open House.

Because we are a small club, it is difficult to assign committees for everything. **Dodie Pilling** heads up the Events and Social programs with help from **Carla Breitner & Gary Woolard**. **Cheryle Ehrlich & Debbie Goetz** have done some really great workshops on buildings & people. We had a really good lesson in bonsai style pruning from **Richard Gunnison** and technical programs by **Don Pilling, Ray Krystof** and **Mike Sailor** to name a few. I hope we can marshall all our resources this year to have more great workshops and programs. Would like to have more volunteers as well.

AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE SCHEDULE ABOVE WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEER'S FOR OUR LAYOUT MEETINGS IN **APRIL, JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST**.

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A PRELIMINARY IDEA OF HOW MANY WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN AN **OPEN HOUSE** THIS YEAR. If we have to change the date or something that could be done. If you want to try to have it on a summer week day with a night time run—anything is possible if there is enough interest.