### **Georgia Garden Railway Society**

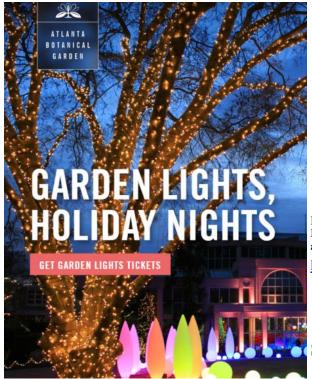
**Dec 2023** 



Official Newsletter of the Georgia Garden Railway Society - Find information about the Society at: <u>www.ggrs.info</u>

**Dec 2023** 

NOVEMBER 18, 2023 - JANUARY 14, 2024 Holiday Model Trains. Join kids and kids-at-heart for this beloved display of G scale model trains. This annual exhibition is included in Garden Admission, both during the day and during Garden Lights, Holiday Nights. Daytime hours: Tuesday – Sunday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (last entry at 3 p.m.) Garden Lights: Every night, 5 p.m. – 11 p.m. (last entry at 10 p.m.) Please note: model trains cannot run in the rain.





Ride on Train Schedule: Saturdays – Sundays, Nov. 18 – Jan. 7; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Fee: \$5 per passenger (\$3 Members) All guests must have timed tickets for admission.

https://atlantabg.org/

# Stone Mountain Park Sing-along Train

Stone Mountain Christmas is an event for all your senses. Visit Santa in his office, journey through the Musical Frosted

Forest, and see Polar Express in 4D. Ride on the Sing-along Train. Carol with the other passengers along this five-mile route around the mountain. There is no extra charge; it's included with admission! Select days Nov. 11, 2023 - Jan. 2, 2024.

### <u>https://stonemountainpark.com/activity/events/</u> stone-mountain-christmas/



### **Christmas Drone Show**

Watch in amazement as a fleet of color changing drones light up the sky as they fly above the reflection pond in the Christmas Drone Show\*. See larger-than-life festive aerial formations professionally choreographed with color-changing lights and synced to favorite holiday music in this twelve-minute, must-see show!

\*Some effects including drones may be canceled due to winds and unfavorable weather



### Southeastern Railway Museum

When Santa's reindeer are taking a breather, you'll find him at the Southeastern Railway Museum, where he can pick from more than 90 pieces of railway equipment, all perfect for delivering presents. Enjoy refreshments and entertainment as you mingle with

# - REMINDER -SANTA'S COMING! NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>



Santa and his elves, and take a ride with Santa at the museum. Kids can also write letters to Santa and have pictures taken in a historic setting for family keepsakes. Follow the museum on Facebook for updates. Elves continue working around our museum, racing to be ready for Santa's arrival by train Saturday at 1p.m. Our place is stunning. The Duluth Fine Arts League presents the 9th Annual Festival of Trees, Nov. 18 - Jan. 2 within our halls at 3595 Buford Hwy. in Duluth, GA. Photos with Santa, train rides, a lot of things to see in our 3 buildings, the historic depot, write Santa a letter, a little gift shopping, and more. The festival runs regular hours, Thurs - Sat., 10a-5p, Sundays 1-5p. Regular admission greatly benefits the work at the Southeastern Railway Museum. It's pretty amazing.

https://www.facebook.com/SoutheasternRailwayMuseum

#### **SAM Shortline Excursion Train**

https://www.samshortline.com/



Saturday, December 9, 2023 Friday, December 15, 2023 Saturday, December 16, 2023

Come ride our one (1) hour holiday train for kids. Santa will be onboard giving out a gift for each passenger. Enjoy holiday music while having hot chocolate and cookies.

Departs from downtown Cordele Depot!

# Candy Gane Express December 1, 2 & 7, 2023 Depart from Georgia Veterans State Park and enjoy

a beautiful ride to Plains. Santa will be onboard the train! After arrival into Plains, enjoy a two hour layover to explore the historic town.

**Departs from Georgia Veterans State Park!** 

#### Linger Longer Express

Just in time for the holiday season, straight from the North Pole to the Ritz-Carlton Reynolds,

Lake Oconee, the **Linger Longer Express** is all decked out and ready for resort guests of all ages to hop aboard and sing along to a few Christmas classics. Rides depart from the front drive daily at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Make sure to bring your camera to capture some great images of the property along the way.

https://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/ahnrz-the-ritz-carltonreynolds-lake-oconee/overview/



**Dec 2023** 

### Page 4

### Georgia Coastal Railway

On the Georgia Coastal Railway, celebrate Christmas with a train ride full of fun, laughter and Christmas spirit. The Santa Special Christmas Train is a 70-minute journey with Santa and his friends. Enjoy a short preshow of holiday dancers at Kingsland Station before you hop on board. Sing carols with some elves and then get ready with your camera! Santa will pay a special visit to your train car. No ADA accessibility is available. Select dates Nov. 24 - Dec. 23, 2023



### Pine Mountain Gold Museum Winter Wonderland Train

Join Santa, Mrs. Claus, Rudolph, The Grinch and more holiday characters at the Pine Mountain Gold Museum for Winter Wonderland Train rides. Meet the Winter Queen, who can make it snow on command, and hear stories and sing songs while you wait for the train. Families will enjoy riding the festively decorated train for almost a mile to see the twinkling lights. (Note, the rides might be canceled in inclement weather. Check the museum's Facebook page for the latest information.)

https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=pine%20mountain% 20gold%20museum



https://thegeorgiatrain.com/santa-train-ride/





**Dec 2023** 

### Terry's Train Tidbits (Cont.)

Coordinators for upcoming train shows, conventions, audits, elections, meetings, and field trips will be reporting their activity to you separately, so I will not steal their thunder in my message to you. Please be sure to read this and each of the upcoming

monthly newsletters for details. The December newsletter will highlight activity for the January train shows. We try to concentrate our messaging to you in this one document to avoid sending out a volume of separate emails.

Please share your upcoming photos of Christmas railroading displays with our editor. We hope to see many of you at our Annual Business, Optional Gift Exchange, and Election of Officers Meeting on January 13. Remember that advance reservations will be needed for that meeting.

# **Track Warrants**

\*\*\* **NOTE:** The Calendar contains some Rail related events that are NOT GGRS events! Due to timing of events and newsletter deadlines,, some updates may not have been posted. Contact host for additional info.

Event	Location	Date	Status
Annual Meeting	Provino's 440 Ernest W Barrett Parkway NW, Kennesaw, GA	Jan 13, 2024	Lunch & Games ! Oh yeah, a meeting too.
Atlanta Train Show	Gas South Convention Center, Duluth, GA	Jan 20, 2024	
Trains, Trains, Trains	The Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History	Jan 26 - 28, 2024	Club Layout
Piedmont Div. Train Show	Cartersville Convention Center	Mar 8-10, 2024	Club Layout
GGRS Club Mtg	Lou Sommers, Adrian, GA Savannah Area	Mar 23-24, 2024	Several members in the area
Chatsworth Depot & Club Meeting	Chatsworth Depot, Chatsworth, GA	Apr 13, 2024	Club Layout
GGRS Club Mtg	Ron & Kristy Humphrey, Cumming, GA	May 11, 2024	
South East Regional NMRA Convention	Decatur, AL	Jun 20 - 23, 2024	
GGRS Club Mtg	Open for your application to host	June & July	
G-Scale Southern Regional Get Together	Gas South Convention Center, Duluth, GA + GGRS Territory	Aug 23 - 25, 2024	Planning in Progress
GGRS Club Mtg	Dan and Carol Steidle, Cumming, GA	Sep 14, 2024	Planning in Progress
GGRS Club Mtg	Elliot & Katherine Stotler, Highlands, NC	Oct 12, 2024	Planning in Progress

# **Trains have Cruise Control.** True or False?

We put our trains on a set throttle and let them loop continuously, basically setting a "Cruise Control" for the system. But do 1:1 trains have cruise control?

Answer on page ??.



## GGRS Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> Club Business Meeting

At 12:20 p.m. GGRS Club President, Terry Manning, called the membership to a meeting at the Williamson's, Buy Sell and Trade Club Meeting.

Treasurer, Dennis Bass, advised there is a total of \$4,596.50 in the club account. An Audit of the clubs' books will be conducted the first week of December.

Executive Board Member and Membership Chair, Ginny Manning, advised we currently have our largest membership approximately 76 families. Ginny also reminded **DUES for 2024 are currently being accepted**. The \$25.00 annual family dues can be made via cash, check or Zelle.

Election of Officers – all Executive Board Members have agreed to serve in 2024: Terry Manning, President; Dennis Bass, Treasurer; Pam Williamson, Secretary; Members at Large Emil Decker, John Lank, Ginny Manning, Dan Steidle. If you would like to run for any of these positions, please contact Russ Bundy **rsbundy@hotmail.com**.

Today is Veterans Day, thank you to all that served. A big thank you goes out to Eileen Conrad who presented retired stars from American flags to our Veterans and First Responders with the this message (see image to right):

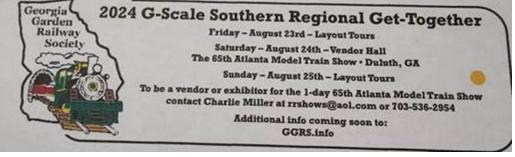
#### GGRS Regional Southeast Get-Together August 23 - 25, 2024

As there is no Garden Railway Society National Convention in 2024, clubs have been encouraged to host Regional Get - Togethers. The GGRS Exploratory Committee gave an update on the August 23-25, 2024, Southern Regional Get - Together.

To entice G-scalers to the GGRS Regional, the Committee chose the Regional dates to coincide with the all-scale Atlanta Model Train Show in Duluth, GA. This way there is no charge to GGRS for a vendor hall. There are usually 15-20 G-scale tables at the Train Show, but by spreading the word about the Regional, the Committee is in hopes of 60 G-scale tables.

The banner below has been placed in several G-scale Newsletters around the country.





Our GGRS club members who live south west of Atlanta, Peachtree City area, are planning on opening their layout on Sunday, August 25th

GGRS Club member Scott Griggs, owner of **Trainz**, is scheduled to have his new warehouse in Oakwood open in time for the Regional and will host an Open House on Friday August 23rd.

A notice will be placed in upcoming Gazette asking for names and dates of members who would like to open their layouts for the Regional.

A hotel near the Gas South Convention Center is being explored with the Gwinnett Convention & Visitors Bureau.

#### **Big Train Operators 2025**

The Exploratory Committee is looking to see if GGRS can host the 2025 Big Train Operators Convention. The BTO has given a nod to Atlanta. The first hurdle is the hotel, as the BTO expects free conference rooms and several other no no-cost items. The committee is working with the Cartersville Convention Bureau and looking at the Hilton Garden Inn & Suites.

#### 2024 Club Meeting in Savannah

Dates were discussed to visit our Savannah Club Members layouts. Beverly & Richard Hyde in Pooler, Cynthia & Lou Sommers in Adrian, and Joe & Mary Schrock in Dublin. Tentative date is March 23 and 24. Roy Williamson will confirm dates with our Savannah hosts.

Savannah Club Member, Jim Morris, discussed smoking a Boston Butt for a Saturday luncheon and possible behind the scenes look at the **Georgia State Railroad Museum**.

A repeat GGRS Get together dinner at Loves Seafood & Steak House has been requested for Friday night March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### by Pam Williamson

Annual Business Meeting and Christmas Party – to be held at Provino's Italian Restaurant in Kennesaw on January 13th.

**GGRS Discount Card** – some of our Train vendors offer a 10% discount if presented with a GGRS Club card. If anyone is interest in a 10% off discount card from GGRS please contact Terry Manning. Phone: 770-564-8822 or E-mail: <u>temanning@aol.com</u>.

**Insurance** – Liability insurance has been explored. A policy for the entire club for all activities has been tabled as the policy would make GGRS primary. An Officer & Director policy is still being explored.

**The Vines** - if you don't have a layout but want to run your trains, the Vines has 1,000 feet of track. They are always looking for volunteer to run trains, service the layout, setup in the Spring and store buildings in the Fall. The Vines is open the  $1^{st}$  and  $3^{rd}$  Saturday of the month May – September. If you have any questions or want to volunteer, please contact Dennis Bass phone: 404-312-7942 or E-mail: <u>email4bassde@gmail.com</u>.

# 38 members in attendance today !!!

### **Candidates for the 2024 GGRS Board of Directors**

The following Club members are being nominated to serve as our Board of Directors in the positions indicated.

President Terry Manning Secretary Pam Williamson Treasurer Dennis Bass Members-at-Large (alphabetical order) Emil Decker, John Lank, Ginny Manning, and Dan Steidle

The formal election and certification will be conducted at our annual Club Luncheon Meeting in January. We hope everyone is planning to attend. Voting is limited to members in good standing (that means your dues have been paid) prior to the luncheon. Please remember: 2024 dues are currently due and can be paid by making arraignments with either Ginny Manning or Dennis Bass.

Thanks to everyone who have helped put together this slate of officers. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting in January.

Russ Bundy

# At the Depot

The November GGRS Club Meeting at the Williamson's was a great success. The tradeshow aspect was enjoyed by many, and quite a few trades and sales took place.





# Georgia Garden Railway Society

Dec 2023











# Georgia Garden Railway Society

Dec 2023







**Dec 2023** 

# **Membership Report**

Hurry - - 2023 is coming to an end and your 2024 dues are due by the end of the year!

At our November 11th regular meeting at Roy and Pam Williamson's, we collected 9 renewals from our members. This brings the 76 family memberships up to about a third of you paying your dues before the end of the year.

We're updating nametags. So, if you've misplaced yours, your dog ate it, or you need updated information (like your location) to the one you have, please contact me.

Please send your checks (made out to GGRS) for \$25 to maintain your membership to the address below - we do not want to lose you and you don't want to miss touring several new layouts scheduled in 2024 and other activities like our swap meets, train excursions, and convention activities!

Ginny Manning 1201 Timber Glen Court Lilburn, GA 30047 Thank you, Ginny, Membership Chair

# Highballing down the Track

The Sacramento Garden Railway Society will be hosting the 2025 Convention. If California hasn't slid off into the Pacific by then, maybe you will join them. It will be the 40th Anniversary, (with a few years missing).

While there is not much online at this time, you can put your email into the mix and receive updates as the time draws closer. Go to: <u>https://ngrc2025.org/</u>

and provide your email address, then check back often as info gets added.





# **GGRS** Annual Meeting

Save the date of January 13, 2024 for our annual GGRS meeting. This is our joint holiday party and annual business meeting. We will elect Executive Board members, name the Garden Railroader of the Year, and hold an optional gift exchange.

We will be returning to Provino's Italian Restaurant starting at noon at <u>440 Ernest W. Barrett Parkway NW, Kennesaw, Georgia 30144</u>. They have done a great job for us for the last 2 years. They have kept the same prices and menu as we had last year. The meal will be \$26 per person including tax & tip. Menu choices will include Lasagna Napoletana, Chicken Francize, Linguine with Baby Clams, Veal Parmigiana, or Chicken Parmigiana which can be ordered at the party.

Please make your reservation by sending your payment to Treasurer Dennis Bass at 1972 Lansbury Court, Snellville, GA 30078-3050 with check made to "GGRS" prior to December 31st. Please include your payment of family dues of \$25 for 2024 if you have not previously paid them.

We will have our usual wild and crazy "Dirty Santa" gift exchange. This year, ole Cinder Claus has a little different plan up his sleeve. He really was taken with the raffle tickets used by the "**BTO**" **Big-Train-Operators** when he dropped by [*incognito*] at Bird-In-Hand this year.

Everyone will receive a ticket when they put their gift into the pile, and then Claus will randomly select a gift and draw a ticket. Winning number takes the gift. This is optional but each attending family member may participate if they wish or you can exchange a single gift from your family. Each gift supplied receives a ticket in exchange. If you want to participate, bring a wrapped <u>railroad related item</u> with an estimated value of \$35 or more.

But wait {as the old sales pitch goes} **THERE'S MORE !!!!** Cinder Claus has a special drawing for additional gifts, donated by an anonymous benefactor. **EVERYONE** who attends, whether they play the above gift exchange or not, gets a ticket to this one. **AND YES**, even more......

There is a **super drawing** for an **LGB LOCOMOTIVE**, in which <u>everyone attending also receives a ticket</u>. You don't want to miss a change to walk away, (or steam away) with this Grand Prize!

### **Georgia Garden Railway Society**

#### 2024 G-Scale Southern Regional Get Together by Ted Yarborough

National Garden Railroad Conventions are the highlight of the year for most large-scale model railroaders. Unfortunately, next year, 2024, will not have a national garden railroad convention. The publishers of *Garden Railroading News* (GR News) got together with other garden railroaders at the last convention and suggested regional gatherings. Well, GGRS members Roy and Pam Williamson were in on the conversation and came home from the convention and immediately went to work planning something for our area. After a couple of Zoom meetings, many phone calls and emails, as well as an in-person meeting with John and Marge Lees, Ted Yarbrough, and Peter Thomas, a plan was developed.

The **2024 G-Scale Southern Region Get Together** was born. Plans are well under way, but are still fluid and being shaped into a great event for all. The known part, as of this writing, is that garden railroad layout tours will be held on Friday, August 23 and Sunday, August 25 with a tour booklet. A vendor hall will be provided courtesy of Charlie Miller and his 65 Annual Model Train Show in Duluth on Saturday, August 24. Many of you know and attend this show, but additional vendors and manufacturers of G Scale trains have been contacted and have shown interest in attending.

Registration cost is still being worked out. Considerations are to make it very affordable, yet cover all cost. Peter Thomas is working out links on the GGRS Facebook and web pages so attendees can register online. A link will also be created to sign up to get information. Promotion has already started in GR News and published in several club newsletters.

GGRS members will be needed to open their garden railroads, help prepare bags for attendees, work registration tables, help with directions at the show, help with the banquet, and other jobs associated with hosting a major event. There has already been interest from several garden railroaders in other states in attending. GGRS will need your help!

The still to be determined items or events include, but are not limited to, a tote bag with logo, a special commemorative event pin, a show car produced by USA Trains, a banquet or meal gathering of some type Saturday evening, and an open house event at the soon to be constructed TRAINZ warehouse. Save the dates of August 23-25, 2024 and watch your future newsletters for updates on all these spectacular possibilities!



# Join Us In Beautiful Decatur, Alabama for River Rails 2024

The Mid-South division invites you to join us in Decatur to enjoy the clinic, model, prototype, and non-rail activities at the Southeastern Regional Convention, Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024. The convention hotel is the DoubleTree by Hilton.

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Decatur Riverfront 1101 6th Ave NE Decatur, AL 35601 (256) 355-3150

# **Gandy Dancers**

Highlighting Members and their work

### Ted is in the News Again!

GGRS member Ted Yarborough is once again published online. The Garden Railways, while ending their paper magazine presence, have continued to publish through Trains.Com online. An article about garden railroading was

# Meet Ted Yarbrough

By Ted Yarbrough | October 23, 2023

Visiting a garden railroad in person just can't be beat

published recently, in which Ted encouraged folks to get into garden railroading. The article included photos of Ted's layout and Ted in his conductor uniform.

https://www.trains.com/grw/news-reviews/news/meet-ted-yarbrough/? utm\_source=acs&utm\_medium=email&utm\_email=yarbrought% <u>40char-</u> ter.net&utm\_campaign=News0\_GRW\_231107\_000000\_00000000&eid= yarbrought%40charter.net





The author volunteers at Tennessee Valley Railroad. Steve Freer photo



# Polar Express at the Chatsworth Depot

# December 2nd, 12:00-4:00 pm

The Whitfield-Murray Historical Society is proud to announce The Polar Express is coming to the Chatsworth Depot on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Depot's Big Blue Train will take riders to visit Santa at the Wright Hotel. Dramatic readings of the book, THE POLAR EXPRESS, by local retired educator C. L. Dunn, will take place inside the depot on each half hour. The Chatsworth Train Depot will be decorated for the Christmas Holidays.

Highlighting the afternoon will be model trains set up and running in the former freight room of the depot. Local train enthusiasts Ted Yarbrough will provide operating trains while other Depot Committee members will be on hand to answer questions about the depot.

Refreshments will be served by Friends of the Chatsworth-Murray County Library. The event is free for children 10 and under (must be accompanied by a paid adult), but a \$3 donation for those ages 11 ar up is requested for Depot admission. Big Blue Train rides to see Santa are free, but donations are always appreciated. The event is co-sponsored by Friends of the Chatsworth-Murray County Library and The Chatsworth Depot Committee.



### **Georgia Garden Railway Society**

**Dec 2023** 



# **GR** News

https://www.grnews.org/

Garden Railroading News 2023 # 5 released

Editor Carla has recovered from Covid and has released our September/October Edition. The edition, the first of our 4th year of sharing the joy garden railroading across 8 countries, features a railroad that is aging gracefully under a massive redwood tree, how to upgrade the chuff on a Shay, a look at all the scales that run on G-gauge track and a two-page centerfold of Bill Allen's Baldwin Quadruplex #4444, a design patented but never put into production.

Mick Spilsbury GR News Marketing & Distribution Conductor

# The Rip Track

Need Repairs? Supplies? Buy Good Stuff from our Members Members with Garden, Train, or other related items to sell (new or used) can submit their items for inclusion in "The Rip Track". Send information to the editor for the next issue. Items will run for a single issue, unless the editor is notified to repeat the item. (Quality photos appreciated) Members with related business advertising may also submit ads. These will run continuously until policies change or notice is given. Non-member publishing by arrangement. (Contact Editor for details.)





# Check out our online store and updated website at **www.traininstallations.com**

Think about other ways or things we can help you with while we are stuck at home over the next few weeks including.

-Layout planning and CAD drawings -Custom bridges -Overhead RR systems

- Model kit assembly
- -Train storage shelving

Now is a better time than ever to distract yourself with the hobby of model railroading! Let us know how we can help.

Thanks - Dave 770-597-0038

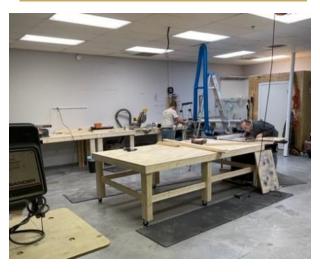
# Train Installations,LLC

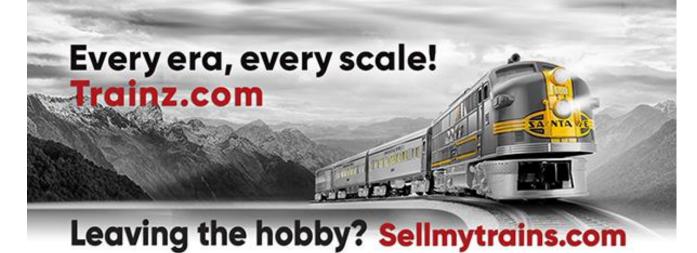
Woodstock, GA 30188

770-597-0038

dave@traininstallations.com







# **Cruise Control ?**

Sort of, kinda, maybe? The Rail Industry Is Saving Millions of Gallons of Fuel a Year — And They're Using

"Cruise Control" to Do It.

Railroads are running greener and more efficiently thanks to energy management technology. Locomotives have a difficult job: they pull tons upon tons of freight over long distances and across all types of geography ...and they can't do it without fuel. A lot of fuel. How much? Each year the number of gallons of fuel Class I railroads (the largest railroads in North America) consume in total is well into the billions.

For railroads, fuel is a major expense. But fuel consumption is also directly related to emissions. So when railroads can consume less fuel, it's a win-win: lowered operating expenses for the railroad and fewer emissions for the environment. That's why railroads are leveraging technology to improve the fuel efficiency of their locomotives.

How are Class I railroads working to make locomotives more fuel efficient? They're actually using a sort of "cruise control" for locomotives. The two main products railroads leverage are GE's Trip Optimizer and New York Air Brake's LEADER (Locomotive Engineer Assist / Display & Event Recorder). When installed on locomotives, these products take into account the topography of the land, the length of the train, and the weight of the train and its cars (tonnage) to optimally apply power and speed to the train. In other words, these energy management systems are a lot like cruise control, as they use throttle (like applying the gas pedal in your car), coasting and braking to save fuel.

How does the system know the topography of the land and the curvature of tracks for optimal speed? Put simply, energy management systems use files from Positive Train Control (PTC), an advanced system railroads have already been implementing that is designed to automatically stop a train before certain accidents occur. Leveraging the data already being collected by PTC, energy management systems can begin to "understand" train movements. Added to this data is real-time feedback from locomotive engineers and software developers who test the systems repeatedly for accuracy. Once energy management systems are tested and approved for specific territories, they are rolled out and feedback is once again collected to ensure the system is doing what it is designed to do and enhancements are continually made.

Energy management systems typically yield a fuel savings of between 3-5%. That may sound small, but when you consider that larger railroads consume more than a billion gallons of fuel every year, it makes a big impact...with the potential to save millions of gallons of fuel annually.

Thanks in part to these technologies, U.S. freight railroads can, on average, move one ton of freight more than 480 miles per gallon of fuel, making rail the most environmentally friendly way to move freight over land.

### https://www.up.com/customers/track-record/tr030320-fuel-efficient-locomotives.htm

# **Yard Hostler**

It's getting cooler, and most Railroads are going into hibernation. The owners, operators, presidents, and gandy dancers of these fine establishments are probably working inside their shops preparing some new buildings, fixing up old ones; maybe putting a fresh set of wheels or piping on a tired engine, or even making plans to take on a new fleet....

We would love to publish your back shop stories during this slower period of time for your railway..... well, maybe slower isn't the word with the Holidays rapidly approaching.... Maybe you have some exciting Holiday news to share? Don't forget, I can't do this job alone. Send in your submissions, with pictures, today.

Emil Decker, Editor, GGRS Gazette 480 Grizzle Rd., Dawsonville, GA 30534

eldecker@windstream.net

