

Official Newsletter of the Georgia Garden Railway Society

October, 2023

Terry's Train Tidbits



I have agreed and the Executive Board has appointed me to serve out the vacancy for this year as President of GGRS. I look forward to serving the Society again as we wrap up our Fall schedule and make plans for the Annual Business Meeting on January 13 and for a very active 2024. As such, the Executive Board met and we held a membership meeting during the layout tour hosted by Ted and Deborah Yarbrough in Chatsworth on September 9. Ted is now up to six layouts running at a time!

The meetings resulted in continuing the family membership dues for 2024 at \$25, raising the stipend for hosting a layout tour to \$150, and approving a 2024 budget similar to that in 2023. Two layout

tours not previously seen were scheduled for next Fall.

Ted Yarbrough and Roy Williamson were assigned as Co - Chairmen on a feasibility committee to consider hosting a regional garden railway convention in August 2024 and to report their findings and recommendations to the Executive Board in November.

Ted was also assigned as Chairman of a feasibility committee to assess GGRS serving as a host site for the Big Train Operators Club national convention in 2025 with findings to be made at the annual meeting in January.

We hope to schedule at least two large "Swap, Sell, & Buy" events for train items in the next 12 months. Be sure to read your monthly newsletter for details.

October 22 is the date for touring the Bundy and Bando G - scale layouts on the northwest side of Atlanta as part of the Piedmont Pilgrimage – both fascinating expressions of garden railroading.

So, all aboard, guys and gals!!! To our new members I say, "Let's rock 2024!"

GGRS Inks Deal on Important Contract !

The GGRS board is happy to announce the "Once and Future King" of G Scale Railroading, world renown Terry Manning, will take the throttle to finish out the current year as President of the GGRS.

This is only a temporary position while the Board looks for nominations for all positions for the coming 2024 year, so this does not stand in the way of your ambitions.



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## Membership Report

Since my last report, our membership has had four new families that have joined the Georgia Garden Railway Society. With these new families, our membership is up to 74!

In May, Andy and Susan Porter joined while attending our meeting at the Lee's. They are from Ringgold.

At the end of July, I received dues in the mail from Jim and Janet Morris and they live in Savannah.

At the train show at the Gwinnett Gas Light Center in August, I manned the GGRS membership table and received two new members – Sterling and (soon to be wife) Katelyn Peet from Atlanta. Earl (don't have the wife's name) Sault also joined GGRS and are currently living in Cleveland but are looking for a home in north Georgia to settle after they recently moved to Georgia.

I have also received four family renewals and I'm looking forward to hearing from the other 66 families to renew their 2024 dues before the end of December.

Please send your checks (made out to GGRS) for \$25 to maintain your membership:

**Ginny Manning**  
1201 Timber Glen Court  
Lilburn, GA 30047

**Thank you,**  
**Ginny, Membership Chair**

## Highballing down the Track



The Sacramento Garden Railway Society's 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. Simply go to: <https://ngrc2025.org/>

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



The Sacramento Garden Railway Society's Wandering Railroad.



**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
GGRS Club Mtg	North GA Steamer – Conyers, GA	Oct 7, 2023	Come out & Ride on Trains <b>ONLY IF NO RAIN</b>
Piedmont Pilgrimage	Bundy and Bando are participating	October 22, 2023 1 - 5 P.M.	Volunteer help needed. Contact Russ or Sally
Swap, Sell, and Buy	Roy & Pam Williamson	Nov 11, 2023	Bring your swaps and cash!
Annual Meeting	Provino's in Kennesaw	Jan 13, 2024	Lunch & Games ! Oh yeah, a meeting too.
GGRS Club Mtg	Lou Sommers, Adrian, GA Savannah Area	Feb ??, 2024	Several members in the area
GGRS Club Mtg	Ron & Kristy Humphrey, Cumming, GA	May ??, 2024	
GGRS Club Mtg	Dan and Carol Steidle, Cumming, GA	Sep ??, 2024	Planning in Progress
GGRS Club Mtg	Elliot & Katherine Stotler, Highlands, NC	Oct ??, 2024	Planning in Progress

**Departure and Return Times**

Departure: 9:00 A.M. (Eastern Time)

Return: Approximately 6:00 P.M. (Eastern Time)

**Journey Highlights**

Crossing the state line in Rossville.

Meandering through the outskirts of the Chickamauga & Chattanooga Military Park.

Passing through quaint Georgia towns like Chickamauga, Rock Spring, LaFayette, Trion, and finally Summerville.

Fall color displays during the autumn trips.

Optional dining service on board.

A relaxing layover in Summerville to explore the town or enjoy lunch.

And for many, the captivating sound of our steam locomotives pulling a train through the Georgia foothills.

CHATTANOOGA TO SUMMERVILLE

**SUMMERVILLE**  
Steam Special

Sept. 16, 30, Oct. 7, 14,  
15, 21, 22, 28, Nov. 4 & 5

**Steam Engine #4501**  
will lead the way on the  
**Summerville Steam  
Specials - round-trip  
from Chattanooga to  
Summerville, GA  
and back.**

**Steam Engine #630 will  
join #4501 on Sept. 16 for  
special double steam  
engine trips!**

4501

TENNESSEE  
RAIL ROAD  
VALLEY

## The October GGRS Club Meeting

The October GGRS Club Meeting, October 7, will be a great family event at the North Georgia Live Steamer. Riding trains scaled to one-eighth the size of a full-size railroad, running trains on the Gauge 1 track and grilling hot dogs. So, bring yourselves, your children and your grandchildren for a fun filled day.

The North Georgia Live Steamers trains are scaled to one-eighth the size of the full-size railroads. This means the track is gauged at 7-1/2" between the two rails. Most of the equipment is built to a 1.5" or 1.6" per foot scale. The engines can weight anywhere from 100 to 2500 pounds depending on the model and type and can pull from one to fifty plus people. The rolling stock cars range from 4' to 11' in length and weight 85 to 400 pounds each.

### Schedule of Events:



**10:30 – 11:15** - Set up and run your G-scale steam or battery powered trains on the elevated Gauge 1 (45 mm track) track

**11:15 – 11:30** GGRS Business Meeting

**11:30 – 12:00** Lunch – grilled hot dogs and chili

**12:00 – 1:00** **GGRS only, Ride the Rails (a waiver must be signed due to the Steamer's insurance requirements)**

**1:00 – 4:30** – Open to the public – during this time frame, the cost to ride is \$2.00 per person – **CASH ONLY**

We will provide grilled hot dogs & buns, Chili(s), Chicken Bar-B-Que, and rolls for our luncheon. We are also feeding the North Georgia Live Steamers Club members, so we will be serving about 60 people for lunch. To round out our luncheon **we need people to make or bring:** Chili, corn bread, cheese, corn chips, slaw, mustard, relish, ketchup, chopped onion and desserts.



**We hope to see you at the North Georgia Live Steamers for a day of fun, fun, fun!**

**North Georgia Live Steamers  
1632 Centennial Olympic Parkway NE  
Conyers, GA 30013**

## Gandy Dancers

### Highlighting Members and their work

GGRS Layout Salvage on July 15, 2023:

The people that helped should know what was salvaged of the old GGRS layout that was dismantled on July 15, 2023.

Tracks that could be salvaged from the old “cabinet layout” that we, as a group, dismantled, have been cleaned and inventoried.

There are still some stones glued on the ties and paint here-and-there, but most of the track is in good shape. A few pieces were beyond salvaging, so they are in a land-fill somewhere.

Rail connectors that could be salvaged have been polished and put in the GGRS tool box.

Track salvaged (all track salvaged is brass unless otherwise noted):

- 2 right-hand turnouts
- 3 left hand turnouts
- 10' diameter full circle stainless steel & brass (includes rail connectors)
- 10' diameter full circle (includes some rail connectors)
- 8' diameter full circle stainless steel & brass (includes some rail connectors)
- 4' diameter full circle (includes rail connectors)
- 5' diameter full circle (includes rail connectors)
- 10' diameter extra tracks: 5 pieces
- 8' diameter extra tracks: 9 pieces
- 3" to 42-3/8" straight tracks of various lengths (only 1 piece of any length): 21
- 11-3/4" straight tracks: 7
- 16-1/2" straight tracks: 2
- 16-3/4" straight tracks (stainless steel): 2
- 23-5/8" straight tracks: 10
- 35-3/8" straight tracks: 2
- 43" straight tracks: 2
- 47-1/4" straight tracks: 2
- 48" straight tracks: 6
- 53-1/8" straight tracks: 2
- 59" straight tracks: 5

Regards,  
James Bando



GIBBLEGUTS.COM

By Dan Gibson



Hah...beat the train to the crossing again!  
How did it look from the back seat ma?  
... ma?

## 2023 Piedmont Pilgrimage

**Sunday, October 22nd**




There will be 2 layouts (Bundy and Bando) open from 1-5. Each of us are looking for volunteers to meet visitors and answer questions. We usually have between 100-150 visitors for this event. Interested parties may contact either Sally or Russ for more info.

**DON'T MISS THE 2023 PIEDMONT PILGRIMAGE**

See great Model Railroad Layouts, open to the public at No Charge.

**Weekends, October 21 through November 19, 2023**

See our website for a list of Model Railroads, when they are open, and where they are:  
[www.piedmontpilgrimage.com](http://www.piedmontpilgrimage.com)

 NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION INC.  
 PIEDMONT DIVISION  
 SER

*"We're all about Model Trains!"*



## GEORGIA GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY CLUB MEETING

**NOVEMBER 11, 2023**

10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

**Swap . . . Sell . . . Buy**

Mark your calendars, Pam & Roy Williamson will be hosting a November Club Meeting which will be a “Swap, Sell & Buy Meeting” for train related items as well as any plants you may want to share.

## Board Meeting Highlights

1. Terry Manning - The Board had requested to consider serving out the vacancy in the remaining term of President. Terry agreed to the request and the Board voted for him to serve as the President, having previously served in the position prior to out-going President Juliet Foster.
2. The Board voted to recommend to the membership to continue a rate of \$25 for a family membership in 2024.
3. Provino's Italian Restaurant has been reserved for the Annual Meeting and Luncheon, on of January 13th, 2024 Traditional gift exchange with gifts to be approx. \$35 minimum value.
4. The stipend for hosting a monthly meetings will go from \$125 this year to \$150 in 2024.
5. All of the Board members noted that they would agree to be nominated to serve in their same positions in 2024.
6. Ted Yarbrough briefly attended the meeting to outline how GGRS might be involved in hosting a Southeast Regional Large Scale Train Convention (or by some similar name) in August 2024 and a Big Train Operators (BTO) Convention in June 2025.

*He noted that there was no scheduled National Garden Railway Society annual convention for 2024 for lack of a sponsor. As an alternative, there were suggestions from around the country that some regional conventions might want to take place. Ted and Roy Williamson had been in discussions with others in the Southeast about planning such an event. We are considering planning an event around the annual train show held in Gwinnett County each August. GGRS could schedule yard tours on the Friday before and the Sunday after the Saturday train show. At the train show, a concentration of G-scale vendors would be planned. Other events might be planned as part of the convention like a dinner outing. This approach will prevent GGRS from having to commit financial resources to a vendor venue.*

*The second convention up for discussion by Ted was a BTO (Big Train Operators) Annual Convention in 2025. He noted that BTO has a set of national officers and finances to host annual conventions. Thus, if GGRS would host a site for the convention, we would effectively serve as volunteers for the convention and BTO would handle the planning, contracting, and finances for the events planned. One problem was that BTO was planning their convention dates during the same period in June 2025 as the National GGRS Convention in California. So BTO was considering moving their date. Updates will follow.*

7. The President noted that nominations for Garden Railroader of the Year could now be made to any of the Board members. He also outlined that guidelines for nominations were not well defined in the past and he would ask the Board to improve the guidelines for the future.
8. The President noted that if there is an interest he would like to schedule a specific month for a large swap meet among members (not necessarily in conjunction with a yard tour) for train related items. In particular, he asked if Roy Williamson would like to host a swap meeting at his home where Roy maintains a large collection of items for sale. November might be a good choice since we don't usually schedule yard tours then. A member suggested at least two such events a year.
9. Manning noted that the Board had approved a suggestion that the gift exchange at the annual meeting use a minimum gift value of \$35. Russ Bundy noted that his family would be willing to host a swap meeting right after the annual meeting since he is only 10 minutes from the meeting site at Provino's Restaurant.
10. Dennis Bass reported that Vines Botanical Garden in Loganville will end its season of garden railroading on September 17th (10:00 to 2:00) and that volunteers are needed to help over the winter, next operating season, and even next weekend to help the current volunteers with maintenance, repair, and running trains. Even an occasional visit would be greatly appreciated.
11. Russ Bundy reported that the annual Piedmont Pilgrimage for all scales of trains would feature his and James Bando's homes which include G-scale garden railways on October 22. Volunteers are welcome to assist them.

## TRAIN SHOW and SALE

Sponsored by the **Crossville Model Railroad Club**

**October 6th and 7th, 2023 9am-4pm**  
Friday Saturday

## Oaklawn Baptist Church

**3977 US 70, Crossville, TN 38555**

Featuring **The Miami Valley Modular Railway**  
and their **50' x 85' Layout with Multiple Main Lines**

**Sale Tables \$20** Limited space available.  
To reserve your tables contact show coordinator at  
**crossvilletrains@gmail.com**



## Did You Know that Garden Railways Magazine still exists ???

Technically, no, the magazine is no longer published..... however, the good folks at Trains.com have continued to send out emails with links to articles from the past, as well as current info about garden railroading. How to's, plants, tools, etc. are all regularly shared to at least keep some info flowing. This is a great resource you need to check out. Subscriptions to some access, and or download fees may apply. And don't forget the free "GN" Garden Newsletter also is available via email and online.

[https://www.trains.com/grw/how-to/projects/kitbash-a-saddle-tank-engine/?utm\\_source=acs&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_email=eldecker%40windstream.net&utm\\_campaign=News0\\_GRW\\_230906\\_000000\\_SLV1AUD000&eid=eldecker%40windstream.net](https://www.trains.com/grw/how-to/projects/kitbash-a-saddle-tank-engine/?utm_source=acs&utm_medium=email&utm_email=eldecker%40windstream.net&utm_campaign=News0_GRW_230906_000000_SLV1AUD000&eid=eldecker%40windstream.net)



### Kitbash a saddle tank engine

The author upgraded a Lionel 0-6-0 into a unique model



Yes! The July/August Edition of GR News is now available. You and your members can access it by clicking this link

<https://www.grnews.org/>

PS: Yes, a tad later than usual. NGRC 2023 may have had something to do with that!

# 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.)

**Engineer's Wish List**

Embroidery Design & Gifts  
by On-Line Consign, Inc.

Sally Bando | 404.550.4816 | sbando@comcast.net

Machine embroidery designs & themes on shirts and gifts. Prices upon request. Company and group projects welcome.

Embroidery Design and Gifts  
Georgia Garden Railway Society  
Club Shirts  
Each Shirt will have the club logo on included in the price.



Contact Sally for other designs

Men's	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	Price
							\$10.00
							\$20.00
							\$20.00
							\$22.00
							\$22.00
Name on Men's Shirt						(Specify Name)	\$5.00

Ladies	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	Price
							\$10.00
							\$20.00
							\$22.00
Name on Ladies shirt						(Specify Name)	\$5.00

## CLEARANCE on SPLIT JAW TURNTABLES.

**20% OFF**

Prices start at \$1519.20 plus shipping for the 32" version. NEW deck track power kit now offered for only \$100.



### All-aluminum motorized turntable

#### CLEARANCE PRICING

6-7 weeks delivery. All TT models are motorized (with two motors) and come with a PIKO fob remote control, plus a 14.8v battery, built-in. ...

**\$1,519.20 \$1,899.00**



We are happy to pass along lower bridge shipping costs to our customers. **Was \$75, now \$45\*.**

*\*Fixed shipping for all Drawbridges and 48" Fixed bridges, by UPS Ground. Multiple Bridges, Curved, or longer than 48" length may be more. Valid only for USA destinations.*



Check out our online store and updated website at [www.traininstallations.com](http://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](mailto:dave@traininstallations.com)



**Every era, every scale!**  
**Trainz.com**

**Leaving the hobby? Sellmytrains.com**

A customer of mine is trying to sell an LGB Track Cleaning Engine \$450.00 and a Colorado & Southern Mogul #2019S (sound) \$450.00 or both for \$750.00. If interested, please call Roy Williamson - 770-891-9462



## Yard Hostler

I can't believe how many slots for the coming year are already taken. If you want to share your layout with the club next year, better select an open time and claim it soon!

We have lots of opportunities in the future to host and attend some great conventions, so think about how you can contribute your time and volunteer for positions as they come available.

Most of our opportunities are listed and sent out to membership via EVITE, so when you see them, sign up !!

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