

GGRS Gazette

January, 2025

Official Newsletter of the Georgia Garden Railway

Terry's Train Tidbits

Annual 2025 Meeting



It's once again "...the most wonderful time of the year," when our Christmas layouts fascinate our non-railroading friends and relatives. With a little reorganizing, the Mannings have doubled the size of our indoor display for the holidays. I hope you're having as much fun with your display this year. We'll see you soon at our annual holiday celebration January 11, 2025.

Terry Manning, President



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Annual Business Meeting & Christmas Luncheon
January 11, 2025
12 Noon – 2:30 P.M.
Provino's Italian Restaurant
440 Ernest W. Barrett Parkway Northwest
Kennesaw, GA 30144

Our Annual Business Meeting & Christmas Luncheon will be at Provino's, same as last year.

Lastly, the cost per person remains \$28 which includes choice of five Italian entrees, house salad, garlic rolls, soft drinks or tea, tax and tip. GGRS will collect your payment and then make one payment for the group to Provino's. GGRS will be accepting prepayments via Zelle. Alcoholic beverages will be available and will be the responsibility of the purchaser.



One constant for our luncheon is the "White Elephant/Dirty Santa" a good old -fashioned game of scheming and stealing! Those of you interested in playing should bring a wrapped train related gift (train car, building, yard art...) [value of the gift should range from \$30 - 50] for each individual joining the game. The fun rules are on the following page.

NOTE: *Provino's does have a gluten free entrée option. We will have to include any special requests when we turn in our headcount, so please indicate in the comment section when replying or text or call Carolyn Lank at 770-653-8109 for any special requests.*

Happy New Year! And don't forget to setback your scales by 15 lbs. on Tuesday at midnight.

Christmas Gift Exchange

As we prepare for the Annual Holiday Festivities, one that can be a lot of fun is the gift exchange. Old hands at this will know what I am talking about. Others may not know and we want everyone who is interested, joining in on the fun.

When I volunteered to play "Cinder Claus", it seemed many in the conversation didn't really know how it worked, or even what to call it. It goes by several names, but Dirty Santa will do.

Here are the rules we use:

- ⊗ **Bring a gift.** Since it is a Railroad Society that we belong to, one would expect the gift to be RR related.....In our case, RR equipment, buildings, accessories, Garden items, tools, resources, there are millions of things. Pick something you have and decided you don't want or need. Or buy something if you want to keep everything you currently have stocked away in your basement.
- ⊗ You can bring one gift for each member of the family who wishes to play, or one for your whole family. Each gift should be of a \$30 - 50 value range. Good used stuff works fine, and value is based on your discretion, but don't "cheap out" the final recipient of your prize.
- ⊗ **Wrap it.**
- ⊗ **Bring it.** You will exchange your gift for a ticket, which will be used to determine order of precedence for the game. See Cinder Claus for the gift pile.
- ⊗ Once the game begins, Cinder Claus, that's me, will randomly draw a ticket. The matching holder of the ticket will be the first to play.
- ⊗ You will look at all the nice lovely wrapped gifts, and pick one. Then unwrap it for all to behold & ooh and ah over.
- ⊗ Now the fun begins. The next tickets drawn have two options. Pick a new, beautifully wrapped gift,..... Or steal a previously unwrapped gift.
- ⊗ If you unwrap a new gift we move to the next ticket. If you steal, the person from whom you stole gets to unwrap a new one. Or steal if there is an available un-stolen gift out there. And the fun continues
- ⊗ **Stealing rule:** Depending on who you play with, a gift may be stolen a set number or unlimited times. This could make for a very long night. **WE LIMIT STEALING OF A GIFT TO TWO TIMES.** Once a gift is opened, stolen, then stolen again, it goes out of play. Cinder Claus will monitor.
- ⊗ A player may have their gift stolen, open a new one, then have it stolen, and on and on. Remember. A gift can be stolen only **twice, but the holder of the gift may end up being stolen from time and again.....** Ask John Lees.
- ⊗ As the game progresses, a gift might be opened, NOT stolen for a couple of turns, then gets stolen later in the game, so even if you select early, your gift may get stolen later in the game. Fear not. You then get to start all over again to steal, or unwrap anew.
- ⊗ The last ticket signals nearing the end of the game.
- ⊗ Once all tickets have been pulled, there should be no gifts left to open past the last one. If the last ticket holder opens the last gift, ok. If they decide to steal from the available opened gifts, any of the victims can opt to steal or open the last gift.
- ⊗ Once the last gift is opened, one would think the stealing is done. But Nooooooo!
- ⊗ Now, the 1st ticket pulled finally gets to steal any un-stolen gift to end the game.



sunshineandrainydays.com

Simple rules; easy to play; and you go home with a new gift for After - Christmas. Join us, won't you?



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 Annual Mtg	Provino's in Kennesaw, GA	Jan 11, 2024 12:00 - 2:30 ?	Italiano !
Trains, Trains, Trains!	Southern Locomotive and Civil War Museum, Kennesaw, GA	Jan 25 - 26, 2025	Planning in Progress
GGRS Club Mtg	YOU? WHO? Sign up now	Openings Available	Start Planning Now
GGRS Club Mtg	Richard and Rebecca Chitwood of Cumming	Jun ?, 2025	New members step forward

Tate Depot as a Possible Event Site ? ?

I was in Tate, GA to check out the old cemetery for the Sons of the American Revolution. A patriot is buried there. The depot was moved several years ago to the other side of the road, and they have a club that opens the depot and shows their N and HO scale layouts once a month, usually the 3rd Saturday. There is ample outdoor space for some portable G scale layouts, and while visiting, they expressed a desire to possibly install a permanent one, or have us come picnic, display, and help draw folks out to visit another train depot. They would advertise, and the draw would be good for all. . . . Since it is an old L&N depot, I can think of one person who would probably approve of the possibility. In addition, the Patriot Line has a locomotive shop next to the cemetery (the line still runs to Marietta.) Got a couple of railfan photos of their units while there.



Membership Report

Membership News – December 2024

FINAL NOTICE FOR 2025 DUES BARGAIN

Members that have paid –

Alexander, Avery, Barr, Bundy, Chitwood, Dallas, Deberg, Decker, Fields, Foley, Foster, Hartes, Herzler, Hewitt, Humphrey, Jones, Karpinski, Lank, Lundin, Manning, Redmond, Reh, Reid, Ruff, Scohy, Steidle, Thomas (Peter & Lori), Thomas (Mark), Tidd, Tucker, Wagner, Warren, Weeks, White, Williamson, Yarbrough

If your name is not above, then I have not heard from you.

REMEMBER DUES WILL BE **\$30** IN 2025

Please pay your 2025 dues before the end of the year (December 31st) and save \$5.00!

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So please don't be late and make your \$25 check payable to GGRS and mail it to –  
Ginny Manning,  
1201 Timber Glen Court  
Lilburn, GA 30047

Thank you!  
Ginny Manning, Membership Coordinator [vlmanning@aol.com](mailto:vlmanning@aol.com)

## 1:1 Tennessee Valley Railroad's Christmas Dinner Train By Ted Yarbrough

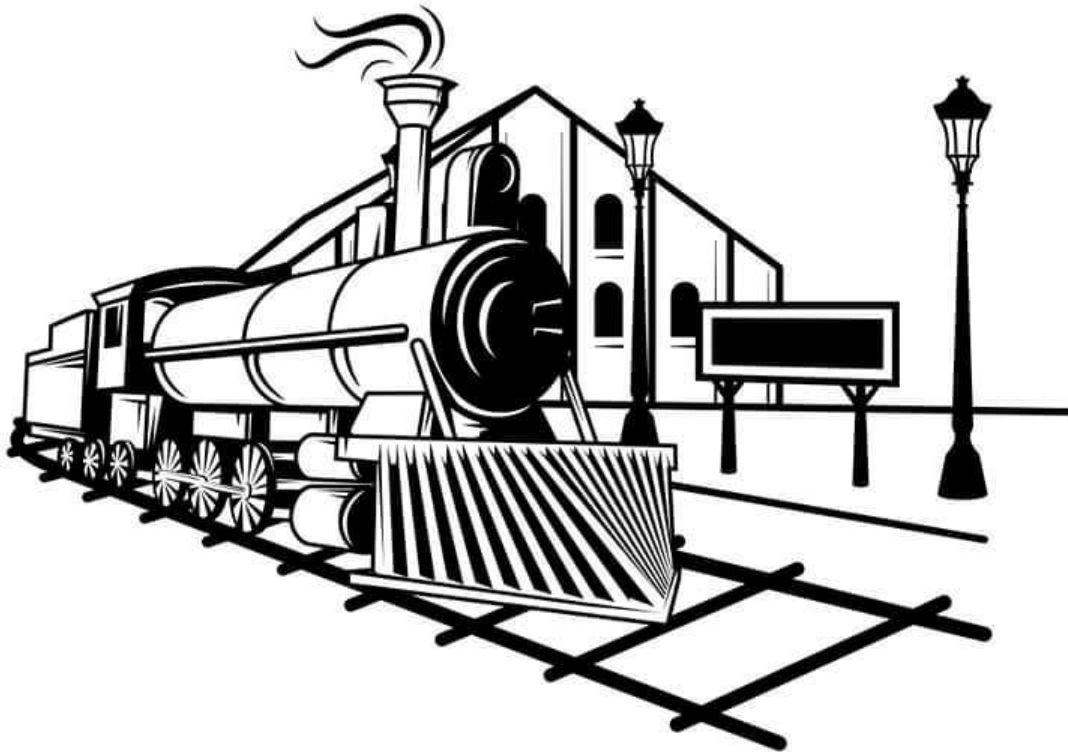
The Williamson's, Reid's, Thomas', Gavin's, and Yarbrough's journeyed to Chattanooga on December 14 for the Tennessee Valley Railroad's Christmas Dinner Train. A great holiday ride with good food, good company, and GREAT trains!





### Volunteers in January

For several years, GGRS has done a layout at the annual "Trains, Trains, Trains" show at the museum in Kennesaw. We believe that event will take place January 25-26 (with set-up on Friday, January 24). Please contact President Manning ([temanning@aol.com](mailto:temanning@aol.com)) if you plan to participate.



**2025 Midwest Garden Railroad Gathering  
June 4 thru June 7, 2025**

**Sponsored by the Tulsa Garden Railroad Club**

## New Year's Train Opportunities

Everybody wants a good Christmas ride with Santa, hot chocolate, and the candy canes aglow..... or something like that. How about a NEW YEARS EVE or DAY train ride to start your year off properly? While many of these will involve a trip to some distant land, its not unfathomable that someone might be headed that way, so check these out.

### Tennessee Valley Railroad New Year's Eve Dinner Train Chattanooga, Tennessee

This event is deemed a classic Chattanooga experience, and one that sells out every year. Dine in a 1924 car.....in 2024. 100 years old! (Not you, the car).

The event caters 136 guests annually and includes the following 2-hour accommodations:

- Four-course dinner
- Ride through urban East Chattanooga

#### Fun TVRM NYE Train fact:

- There have been a number of marriage proposals onboard over the years!

<https://www.tvrail.com/train-rides/new-years-eve-dinner-train/>



### My Old Kentucky Dinner Train New Year's Eve Excursion Bardstown, Kentucky

Enjoy four courses of decadent and festive cuisine prepared onboard by our culinary team amidst live music in our 1940s dining cars during your three-hour ride. My Old Kentucky Dinner Train features four beautifully restored 1940's vintage dining cars, which are pulled by two R. J. Corman commemorative 50th anniversary locomotives.

<https://www.kydinnertrain.com/newyears/>

### Hocking Valley Scenic Railway New Year's Eve Train & Fireworks Nelsonville, Ohio

The NYE ride consists of the Baltimore & Ohio combine No. 1497, B&O day coach No. 3501, a trio of Rock Island commuter cars, two Canadian Pacific day coaches, Southern Pacific/Amtrak dining car No. 8063, and former Chesapeake & Ohio caboose No. 90921. Certain cars are either designated wine and cheese or pop and pizza — this will vary from year to year.

<https://www.hvsrv.org/train-rides/new-years-eve-train-fireworks/>

### Nickel Plate Express New Year's Eve Soul Train Noblesville, Indiana

It's a party aboard a historic 1956 Santa Fe El Capitan train. It doesn't get much more fun than this. Departing from Hobbs Station at 8 p.m., this ride is a 45-minute journey to Atlanta, Ind. There, you'll enjoy an evening of classical music, delectable appetizers, and champagne. After midnight and the toast to new beginnings, you'll return to the station. Two seating options are available: Diamond (Duke dining car) and Platinum (Reporter lounge).

<https://nickelplateexpress.com/train-rides/new-years-eve/>



## Other train rides for the New Year include:

Royal Gorge Route Railroad  
New Year's Eve Dinner Train  
Canyon City, Colorado

<https://www.royalgorgeroute.com/product/new-years-eve-dinner-train/>

Napa Valley Wine Train  
Midnight In Paris: A Legacy NYE Celebration  
Napa, California

<https://www.winetrain.com/our-experiences/midnight-in-paris-a-legacy-nye-celebration/>

Roaring Camp Railroads  
New Year's Holiday Lights Train  
Santa Cruz, California

<https://roaringcamp.com/holiday-lights#nye>

Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad  
Cascade Canyon Winter Train  
Durango, Colorado

<https://www.durangotrain.com/excursions/cascade-canyon-winter-train/>



## International Opportunities

Belmond British Pullman  
New Year's Luxury Train Trip  
London, England

This train offers the ultimate Black-tie event for you and your special someone. You are encouraged to dress to impress. On the British Pullman, you'll be transported back into the 1920s Art Deco era as you enjoy a five-course dinner, champagne, a bottle of wine, and scenic journey through the British countryside. Table magicians will be entertaining guests throughout the evening. This is a round trip which departs London Victoria Station at 6:50 p.m. and returns at 12:30 a.m.

*Note: (You might want to brush up on your table etiquette. This is a night where knowing your dinner fork from your salad fork may come in handy.)*

<https://www.luxurytraintickets.com/british-pullman/new-years-eve-dinner>

## Highballing down the Track

On your way to the 2025 Sacramento National Garden Railway Convention, plan to make a month of large scale train plans.

The 2025 Northeast Large Scale Train Show will be in Springfield, Massachusetts, on May 3 and 4, 2025.

The Great Lakes Large Scale Train Expo sponsored by the Riverside Railroad Crew will be in Girard, Ohio, May 9 and 10, 2025; information at: [www.greatlakestrainexpo.com](http://www.greatlakestrainexpo.com).

The 2025 Midwest Garden Railroad Gathering will be June 4 to 7, 2025, around Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The Sacramento Garden Railway Society is hosting the 2025 Convention. It will be the 40th Anniversary, (with a few years missing).

The Convention website is fully online with complete information about activities and tours. Ticket bundles are available for early birds at reduced prices. The site also lists hotels and camping info for RV's.

For all the latest info, Go to: <https://ngrc2025.org/>



*40th Anniversary*

# National Garden Railway Convention

**June 18 - 22, 2025**

**SAFE Credit Union Convention Center - Sacramento, CA**





## 2027 National Convention in Nashville

The Nashville Garden Railroaders have set dates for the 2027 National Garden Railway Convention. Plans are being made for activities from Memorial Day, May 31 to June 5, 2027. More details to come under Upcoming Events at:

[nashvillegardenrailroaders.com](http://nashvillegardenrailroaders.com)



Emil and Linda Decker were at Dollywood earlier this month. The train there, named Cinderella, is an old White Pass steamer, and has been toting passengers up and down the hills of Dollywood for many years. She is all dressed up for the holiday season. There is still time to go see her in Holiday Dress along with all the shows, sites and rides before the end of season closure and subsequent reopening in the spring of 2025.

## Deadline for Additional Nominations is December 28

The election of members to the Executive Board to serve in 2025 will be held at the annual meeting on January 11. Nominations to the Elections Committee Chairman, John Lees ([coppermine@windstream.net](mailto:coppermine@windstream.net)), are open through December 28. The slate of nominees currently is as follows:

**President** – Ted Yarbrough

**Secretary** – Pam Williamson

**Treasurer** – Terry Manning

**Members-at-Large:**

Emil Decker

John Lank

Ginny Manning

Dan Steidle



## GR News 2024.5 (The Thanksgiving Issue) Released

For all the latest info, Go to: <https://dl.orangedox.com/GRNews.2024.5>

Features an Alaskan Indoor/Outdoor RR

Making our hobby fun for kids

Raising an established garden RR

The 2025 NGRC Loco - Another event themed train

& More



# GREAT LAKES LARGE SCALE TRAIN EXPO

National Train Day 2025!

Sponsored by the Riverside Railroad Club & 4 Track RR!  
\*Formerly the North East Ohio Large Scale Train Show\*

Join us for two spectacular days of large scale train fun!

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Vendors, Vendors, VENDORS!

Find new & used G Gauge and Larger models trains, parts, accessories and MORE!

### Operating Large Scale Layouts

Explore the multiple operating G gauge layouts setup by various clubs!

### Clinics & Workshops

Learn from others in the hobby!

### Kids' Activities

Fun activities for kids including hands on clinics!

### Door Prizes

Multiple door prizes given away on the hour!

### Food & Refreshments

Enjoy a variety of food options available on-site.

### Admission Available At The Door!

\$8 One Day, \$14 Two Day  
Kids 12 & Under Free

For Early Bird Admission, Updates, Hotels & MORE visit our website!  
[www.greatlakestrainexpo.com](http://www.greatlakestrainexpo.com)

### Interested in being a Vendor or Exhibitor?

Preferred method: Visit our website to fill out the request form.  
Alternate Method: Call or email us.



### Contact Us

(330) 779-1982

showinfo@greatlakestrainexpo.com

18,000 SQ FT of Large Scale Model Trains!



G Gauge & Larger up to 7.5" Gauge Ride On!



MAY 9-10  
2025  
10 AM - 4 PM

**METROPLEX EXPO CENTER**  
1620 MOTOR INN DR  
GIRARD, OH 44420



Free Parking & Onsite ATM!

## Announcing the 2025 Convention Hotel:

# Holiday Inn Express Helen, GA.

Enjoy recreational amenities including an indoor pool and a 24-hour fitness center. The hotel also features complimentary wireless Internet access and gift shops/newsstands.

Satisfy your appetite at the hotel's coffee shop/cafe. A complimentary continental breakfast is served daily from 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM.

Featured amenities include a 24-hour business center, complimentary newspapers in the lobby, and a 24-hour front desk. Free self parking is available on-site.

Make yourself at home in one of the 86 guestrooms featuring refrigerators and flat-screen televisions. Cable programming and DVD players are provided for your entertainment, while complimentary wireless Internet access keeps you connected. Conveniences include safes and desks, as well as phones with free local calls.

When you stay at Holiday Inn Express Helen, you'll be in a national park, within a 15-minute walk of Helen Tubing & Helen Water Park and Chattahoochee River. This hotel is 0.2 mi from Alpine Helen/White County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

### Amenities

- Internet Access
- Swimming Pool
- Fitness Center
- Restaurant
- Pets Allowed (conditions apply)
- Handicap Accessible
- Meeting Facilities
- Smoke free facility
- Smoking Areas
- 24 hour Concierge
- Conference Center

The cost per room will be \$169 plus tax. This includes breakfast and free parking. Rooms outside of the convention time are at a discount room rate of \$209 per night. Because there are limited rooms available in the area, we urge club members to reserve rooms as soon as possible.

### RESERVATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED!

To reserve a room, call the hotel directly at  
706-878-1084 extension 3.

Ask for the special BTOC rate for July next year.  
Reservation deadline is June 13, 2025.



**GEORGIA**  
*on my mind!*

**BIG TRAIN OPERATOR CLUB  
CONVENTION/HELEN, GA  
JULY 13-18, 2025**

*Celebrating 47 years!*



## 2025/Helen, GA Convention T-shirts (heather green with orange graphics)

Tee Shirt Order Form:

[https://www.bigtrainoperator.com/2025/pdfs/2025%20t-shirt%20order%20form%20\(2\).pdf](https://www.bigtrainoperator.com/2025/pdfs/2025%20t-shirt%20order%20form%20(2).pdf)



### 2025 AML Club Car - Covered Hopper

Manufactured by American Mainline (Accucraft) Mfg.  
in 4 Road Numbers: 2025 01, 2025 02, 2025 03, 2025 04



#### Car specifications & Details

|               |                              |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Scale / Gauge | 1:29 / 45 mm                 |
| Construction  | Plastic body, Brass castings |
| Mini. Radius  | 4 ft.                        |
| Length        | 24 in. (609 mm)              |
| Width         | 4.3 in. (109 mm)             |
| Height        | 6.3 in. (159 mm)             |

#### Car Features

Die-cast trucks w/ metal wheels  
Longitudinal hatch covers  
See-through roof walks  
Full underbody detail  
Body mounted couplers  
Truck Mounted couplers  
Loop truck mounted couplers

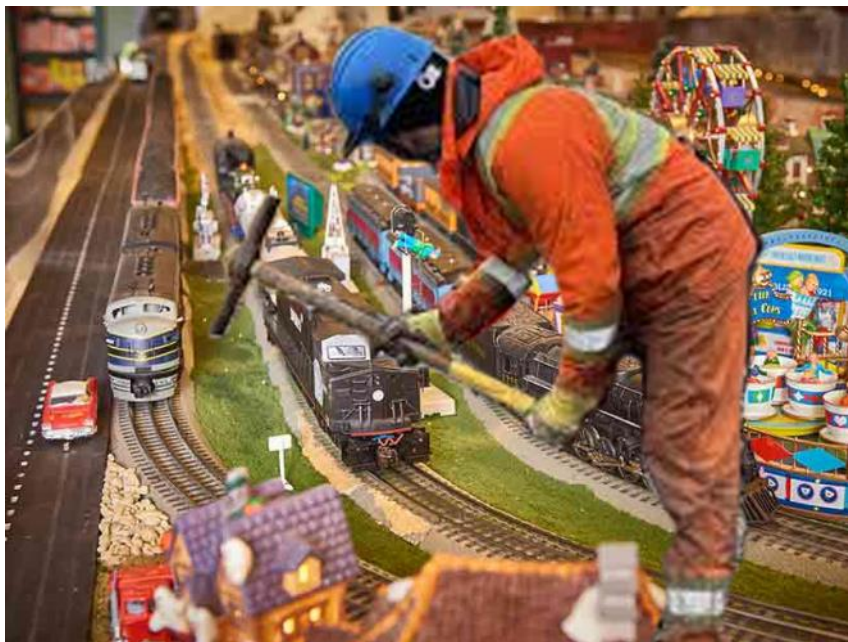
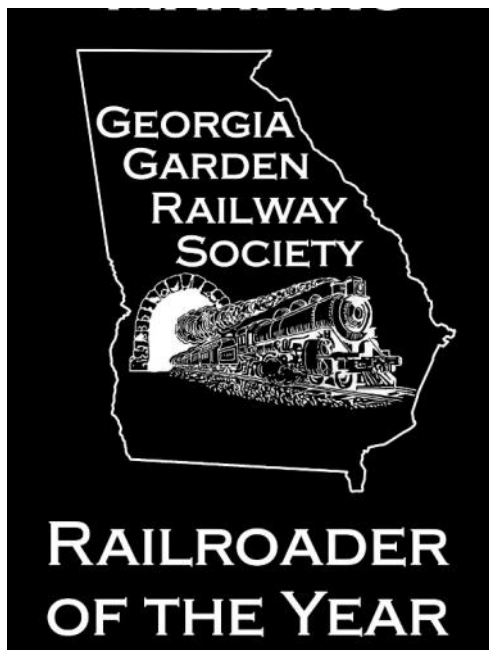
The Hook & Loop will mate with all other brands. The AML knuckle couplers will not reliably mate with the other brands. The cars do have a mounting pad to install Kadee body mount couplers (906 Style)

#### Ordering Details

You can order now with check or PP/CC but please e-mail me first for latest info. [JohnGroot@aol.com](mailto:JohnGroot@aol.com)  
[Download Order form for printing](#)

For pickup at our 2025 Convention there will be no shipping charge by the Club.  
There will only be 60 cars made. 15 of each road number.

Helen, GA., the site of the BTO Convention has been listed by Country Living as a top 25 town in the USA for “Best Christmas Town”. <https://www.countryliving.com/life/travel/g2829/best-christmas-towns-in-usa/>



The selection of Garden Railroader of the Year has been made by the Executive Board and will be awarded at the annual business meeting on January 11, 2025.

## 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.)*

Split Jaw is introducing a new Design Line bridge model, the “Fishbelly” Arch Under Truss. It includes detailed handrails/walkways. We will offer 2 lengths: 40” and 48”, starting at \$315. With the truss-work located beneath the bridge deck, this bridge is a nice option for people who want a detailed bridge, but also want a unobstructed view of their trains.

Split Jaw is proud to be a USA manufacturer employing machinists, engineers, assemblers and support staff. We share these fine people with my other manufacturing company.

**Split/Jaw**  
Rail Clamps And More



As we did for the August 2024 Southeast Regional

Get Together, we hope to offer more factory tours in conjunction with Future Atlanta-based large scale events,

Split Jaw has done our first major product revision, upgrading our popular insulated rail clamps SJ 10706 (Brass version) and SJ 80106 (Stainless version) to a virtually indestructible UV Delrin material.

In 2025, please look for us at the January 25-26 Big Show in Springfield CT, followed by the NGRC in Sacramento, CA, and maybe more shows, as our schedule allows.



### Train Installations,LLC

Woodstock, GA 30188

770-597-0038

dave@traininstallations.com

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**



**Here are a few before and after pictures of a small garden RR we managed to rehabilitate in one day after ten years out of service. What can we do for you ???**



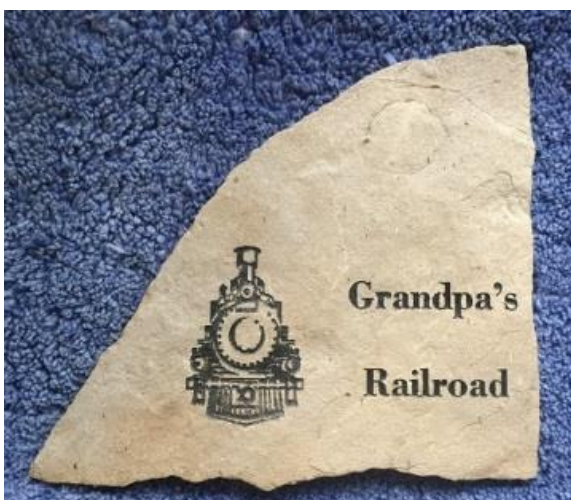
### New Rocks for the New Year ??

# Emil Decker's STICKS + STONES



Custom carved stonework for your RR., Garden stones, Pet Memorials. Deep etching provides years of enjoyment. Let everyone who visits your railway know you are a proud Georgia Garden Railway Society Member.

[sticksnstones@weegrr.com](mailto:sticksnstones@weegrr.com)



# Elf on A Shelf Deals You Can't Pass Up!



**LGB 41220  
Red  
Gondola Two  
Steiff Bears,  
Collection  
item - \$200.00**



**G Scale LGB  
25211 Steiff  
Friends For  
Life 0-4-0  
Steam Loco-  
motive -  
\$350.00 (Bear  
is still in the  
plastic)**



8 LGB EXCURSION CARS - SELLING AS A UNIT TRAIN - \$400.00 (as is) All have metal wheels, people included.





LGB Starter set  
\$250.00 - will  
include track

LGB Grizzly  
Flats set plus 2  
additional  
passenger  
gondolas -  
\$400.00



**AFTER-** Christmas Sale! Contact: Roy Williamson 770-891-9462

## Yard Hostler

Happy New Year !!! May the new one outshine the old one.....

*And that won't take much work.....*

At least we can start well.... Remember, if you paid your 2020 dues last year, you are also covered for 2021. Our little PPP plan to get your railroad "Back-on -Track."

Cold weather inside project??? Write about it in an upcoming Gazette.

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

[eldecker@windstream.net](mailto:eldecker@windstream.net)

