

GGRS Gazette

January, 2026

Official Newsletter
of the Georgia Garden Railway Society

Ted's Tickets



WOW! This has been a very fast year. Seems like we just celebrated the 4th of July, and now it is already Christmas. Time sure flies. I have enjoyed serving as president of the GGRS for 2025. I do wish to thank all the executive board for making the year very easy. The members have all been very supportive as well.

The major undertaking for 2025 was helping to host the Big Train Operator's Club Convention in Helen this past July. Many of you joined the BTO club and I hope you will continue

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Annual After-Christmas Meeting & Party

GGRS members will want to get on the train and be on time to attend the Annual After-Christmas Meeting/Party on January 10, 2026. We will again be hosted by the Kennesaw Provino's, located at 440 Ernest W. Barrett Pkwy NW #1, Kennesaw, GA 30144. Our Party will begin at 12:00 noon.

Cost for your meal with tax and tip will be \$28 per person. The menu will be from a group of select dishes, one of which I am sure will please. Checks or cash presented at the door in the proper amount will be accepted, but you can also send advance payment to the Treasurer, Terry Manning,.....but only if you are sure the payment will arrive before the event.

Annual election, club business, Railroaders of the Year, and yes, we will continue with the famous gift swap, but with a little twist. (You know you can always expect Cinder-Claus to throw a monkey wrench into the works whenever he gets an opportunity.)



This year's gift exchange will be a little different. Same fun, different method of distribution. Yes, the Grinch will be involved. Suggestions for our gift exchange: Train related items, white elephants, or perhaps **GREEN** elephant gifts for this year.

See page 2 for more details on the Gift Exchange, Meeting and luncheon.

From the Secretary

Pam Williamson

Save the date of January 10, 2026, for our Annual Georgia Garden Railway Society Meeting. This is our joint Holiday Party and Annual Business Meeting. We will elect Executive Board members, announce Garden Railroader of the Year, and hold an optional gift exchange.

GGRS will be returning to Provino's Italian Restaurant, at noon (12:00pm), at 440 Ernest W. Barrett Parkway NW, Kennesaw, Georgia 30144. They have done a great job for us the last 4 years, as well as keeping menu and prices the same as last year. The meal will be \$28.00 per person including tax & tip. Menu choices will include Lasagna Napoletana, Chicken Francese, Linguine with Baby Clams, Veal Parmigiana, or Chicken Parmigiana which will be ordered at the party. NOTE: Provino's does have a gluten free and vegan option. We must notify Provino's of all special requests in advance. Please text or call Carolyn Lank at **770-653-8109** for any special dietary requests.

Please make your reservation by responding to the Evite with the number of attendees in your party. Payment for the meal can be made at the door. We will also be accepting GGRS Annual Dues.

Business Luncheon: \$28.00 per person

Annual Family GGRS Dues: \$30.00

DIRTY SANTA - We will have our usual wild and crazy "Dirty Santa" gift exchange. This is optional, but **each attending family member** may participate if they wish, or you can exchange a single family gift. Each gift supplied receives a ticket in exchange. If you want to participate, bring a **wrapped** railroad related item with an estimated value of \$35 or more.

Have a wonderful Holiday and we'll see you in January.



Ted's Tickets (Cont.)

your affiliation with that group as well. I think those that attended the convention will agree, like us, they are just a bunch of normal folks who love trains. We also had a number of families open their garden railroads for the convention attendees to tour. I was amazed how that list kept growing and growing right up until the convention. I think everyone involved with the convention deserves another pat on the back for a job well done. I heard nothing but complements from everyone.

THANKS TO ALL!

As Christmas is fast approaching, I hope all of you put in your request to Santa for that special train you wanted. I did. I sure hope he has lots of G Scale trains already loaded on his sleigh.

The January Annual Business Meeting/Christmas Party will be here soon. It may sound strange having a Christmas Party in January, but a few years ago, the December event got snowed out and postponed until January. Once the party time arrived, everyone was excited and many commented it was nice not to have the event during the very busy time before Christmas and so it was then decided to keep the January date (and it was even a March date last year because of the January cold). I look forward to seeing everyone next month.

Please share your Christmas train experiences, stories, and photos with us (send them to our editor, Emil Decker). I do want to wish all of you, from all the Georgia Garden Railway Society Executive Board, a Very Merry Christmas!

Ted Harborough,

President



Membership Report

Membership News – December 2025

Since the November newsletter, I have received the following members dues. Thank you to Michael and Janene Clapp, Emil and Linda Decker, Elliot and Katherine Stotler, and Jay and Alex Stuckey for your 2026 dues.

Remember as GGRS members you will –
continue to receive the monthly newsletter,
be included in the on-line membership directory
you will be able to vote for new officers at the annual January Christmas luncheon.

Please don't let the holiday activities delay your membership.
Checks of \$30 should be made out to GGRS and mailed to –

Ginny Manning
1201 Timber Glen Court
Lilburn, GA 30047

Thank you!

Ginny Manning, Membership Coordinator

vlmanning@aol.com

68th Atlanta Model Train Show - Saturday, January 17, 2025

If you're planning on setting up and selling at the 68th Atlanta Model Train Show, it's time to make your reservation. We attempt to keep all the GGRS G Scale vendors in the same area. This way we can help each other, covering your booth while you do a little shopping, get something to eat ...

Tables are \$65.00 for a 30-inch X 8-foot table. Please note: there is no electricity.

Please let Roy Williamson 770-891-9462 know if you are planning to set up.

If a whole table is too much but you still wanted to set up, contact Roy and we'll see if we can pair you up with others who don't need a full table. You will need to be there at the end of the day to remove all of your unsold items.

Setup is from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 17th and 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 18th .



68th Atlanta Model Train Show



GAS SOUTH CONVENTION CENTER

6400 Sugarloaf Parkway • Duluth, Georgia 30097
Saturday, January 17, 2026
 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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Next Show Date: August 22, 2026





The Dining Car

At the request of several members, a new section has been added to the consist: a dining car, where you can share your favorite dishes with club members. Many are just dying to try them out, after sampling your signature dish at a recent club meeting. Send entries to the editor. A simple recipe, instructions, and if possible, a photo to entice your fellow members to give it a try!

Corn Chowder.

Pam Williamson

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Bacon
 1 Onion Chopped
 3 Stalks of Celery Chopped
 4 Cups cubed Potatoes
 2 Cups Chicken Stock
 2 Cans Creamed Corn
 2 Cans whole Kernel Corn
 4 Cups Milk
 8 Tablespoons Butter
 Salt & Pepper
 Paprika
 Celery Salt
 Garlic Powder
 Onion Powder
 Cayenne
 Cayenne pepper or Chipotle Chile Pepper
 Cavender's Greek Seasoning

Cook bacon in a large pot until crisp. Remove bacon from the pan and drain.

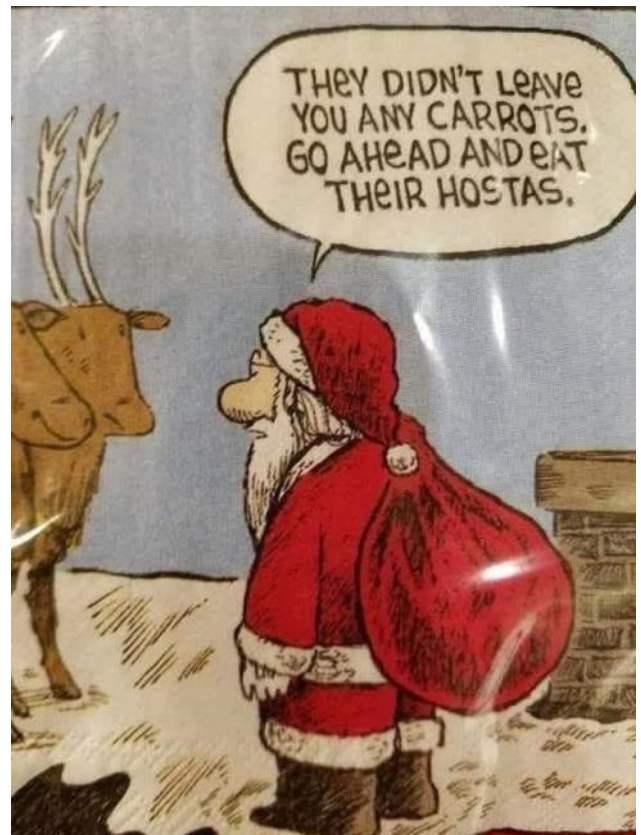
Add enough bacon fat back to pan to sauté onion and celery for about 5 minutes.

Add potatoes, cover with chicken stock. Cook until potatoes are just tender (about 15 minutes).

Add the corn and milk. Season to taste (sorry I'm not a measurer, I'm a shaker and taster).

To thicken remove about 1/3 cup of potatoes, add to a food processor with some chicken stock and add back to the soup.

Enjoy! We like it with Corn Bread.



What's your favorite dish to share over the holidays, or year round? Send it in to the editor. Otherwise, you might get his "Goloshes Goulash", "Catbox Cookies", or even worse!

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 Business Meeting	Provino's Kennesaw	Jan 10, 2026	Join us. Cheap fun!
68th Atlanta Model Train Show	Duluth, GA	Jan 17, 2026	
Trains, Trains, Trains	Kennesaw, GA	Jan 24, 2026	Planning - Terry Manning
Tate Depot	Tate Depot, Tate GA	May, 2026	Planning - Emil Decker
GGRS Club Mtg	Ted & Deborah Yarborough Chatsworth, GA	Jun, 2026	In Planning Stage
GGRS Club Mtg	Dan & Carol Steidle	Aug, 2026	Includes Annual Swap Meet
GGRS Club Mtg	Bill & Liana Hewitt	Sep 12, 2026	In Planning Stage
GGRS Club Mtg	Becky & Rich Chitwood	Oct, 2026	In Planning Stage

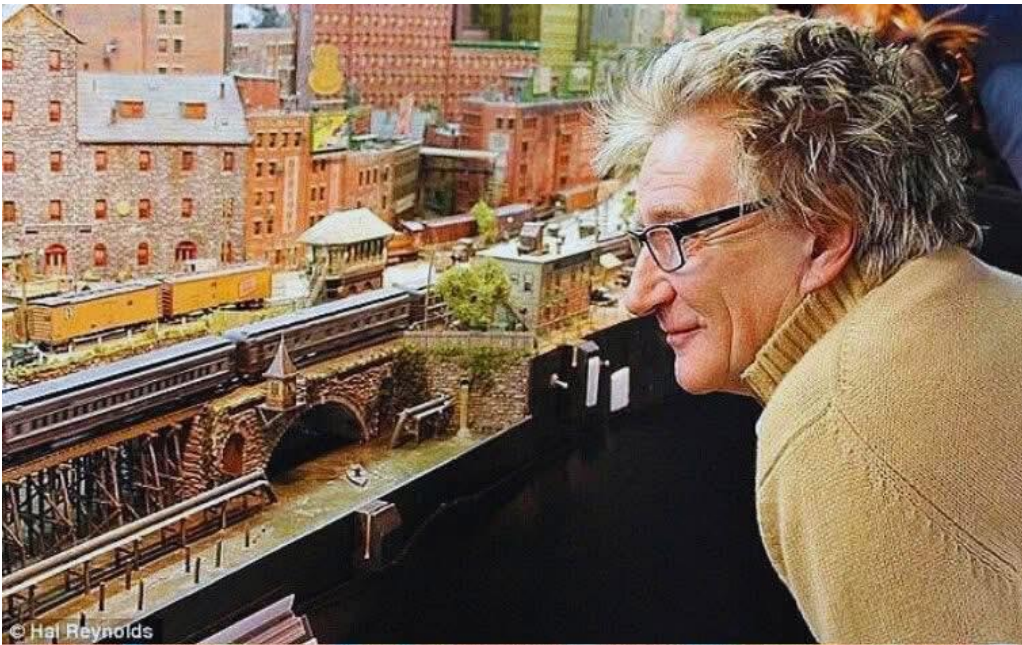
Who likes Rock & Roll and Trains???



Rod Stewart may spend 11 straight hours tinkering with his model trains instead of writing new music, but when pressed on the one song he wants to be remembered for, his answer stunned even longtime fans. It's a track from the '70s that tackled a taboo subject head-on — and Stewart still calls it his proudest work to this day...

Rock legend Rod Stewart spends sleepless nights perfecting his model railways — and it turns out Britain is right there with him. From Lego towers to treasure hunting, a surprising 22% of adults even travel the country for their hobbies. What late-night obsession do millions share with Rod?

Rod Stewart's £10 million model railway obsession has done more than fill his mansion — it's ignited a national craze. A new survey shows 1 in 10 Brits are now towering over miniature train sets just like their rock idol, while others confess to Lego marathons, Warhammer battles, and even spreadsheets tracking their hobbies.



Sir Of Highgate · Follow

5d · 🌐

At 80, Sir Rod Stewart proves that age is no barrier to passion, as he proudly embraces his lifelong love for railway modelling. Once a private indulgence, his hobby has blossomed into what he calls his "second" career, second only to music. Stewart's Essex workshop houses the Grand Street & Three Rivers Railroad, an expansive diorama featuring over 900 feet of track, intricate scratch-built buildings, and finely detailed landscapes. Spending up to five hours a day perfecting his miniature world, Stewart finds solace and joy in his craft, describing his workshop as "the gates of heaven." With plans to enhance his creation with uplighting and special effects, and collaborative exchanges with fellow enthusiast Jools Holland, Stewart's railway modelling is more than just a hobby—it's a testament to his boundless creativity and commitment. His journey reminds us all that personal passions, no matter how unconventional, can bring immense fulfillment at any stage of life.

Besides Rod Stewart, many celebrities love model trains, including Neil Young, Tom Hanks, Frank Sinatra (*RIP*), Elton John, and Roger Daltrey, with some even building elaborate layouts, with Neil Young owning the Lionel Train Company for a time and Sinatra having a massive collection in his Palm Springs home (Yes, *Frank Sinatra's impressive model train collection, housed in a custom-built "Train Building" or "Caboose" at his Rancho Mirage, California estate, remains intact and is still set up as he left it, preserved by the subsequent owner, Jim Pattison, who kept the estate largely as Sinatra had it. The elaborate Lionel layout, complete with multiple running trains, shelves of vintage models, and a museum-quality setting, is a key feature of the compound.*)

Here's a list of other famous model train enthusiasts:

Neil Young: Built a huge layout in a barn and even bought the Lionel Train Company.

Tom Hanks: Has a well-known passion, inspiring his role in *The Polar Express*.

Frank Sinatra: called his layout "All Aboard".

Elton John: Reportedly has a garden railway and is a dedicated hobbyist.

Roger Daltrey: A well-known fan, alongside fellow **The Who** member John Entwistle.

Michael Jordan: The basketball legend is rumored to have a profound love for model railways.

Bruce Springsteen: May have developed an interest due to his 1940s upbringing.

Ringo Starr: Another musician known to enjoy the hobby.

Walt Disney: Was a fan, particularly of live steam models.

Johnny Cash: Also listed among famous model railroaders.

GGRS 2026 Board/Officers

It is the time of year to elect the Georgia Garden Railway Society's leadership for 2026.

The members have had an opportunity to nominate and your selections are listed below. Each has agreed to serve for the 2026 Calander year. All members will have an opportunity to vote to approve the leadership for the Georgia Garden Railway Society at our upcoming Annual Business meeting next month.

The current board would like to thank Pete Hartes for overseeing our nominations for the upcoming year's officers. 2025 has been wonderful and we are all looking forward to seeing what 2026 will hold!

Ballot of Officers for 2026 Board

President, Roy Williamson

Secretary, Pam Williamson

Treasurer, Terry Manning

Members at Large, Dan Steidle, John Lank, Emil Decker, and Ginny Manning (Membership)

New Laser Cut Wooden G-Scale Building Kits Now Available**by Ted Yarborough**

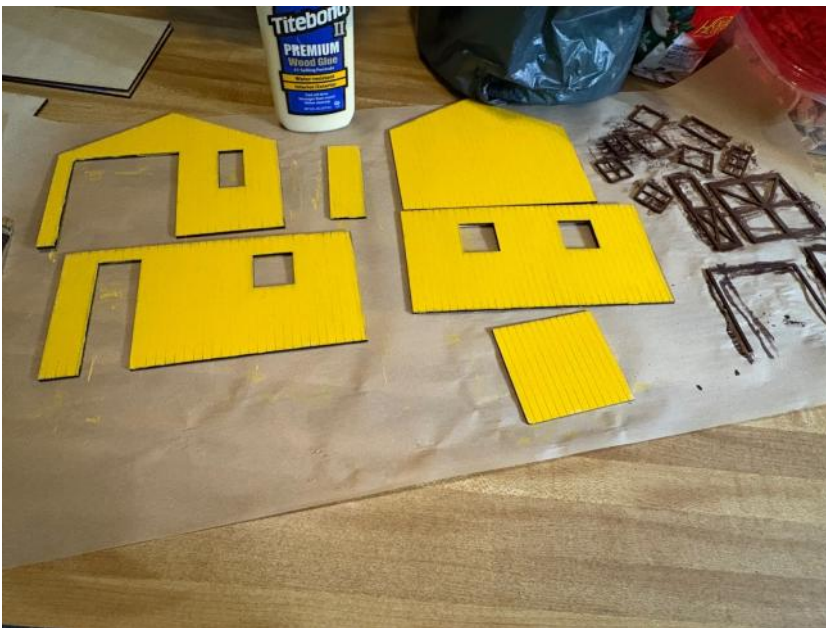
I have been building wooden structures for my garden railroad since the early 2000's. I started back in 1992 with Pola kits to serve as houses, businesses, and stations. These lasted about 10-12 years when left outside 24/7 for the entire year. Another drawback was that each time I visited someone else's garden railroad, I was seeing the same structures. So, as I replace them, I went with wooden kits. This gave me variety. I also wanted them to last longer, so they came inside after each operating session.

My first kits were from Garden Textures and were precut individual stick-built structures. I have also built kits from Michael's Custom Woodworking. These are thick sided models with router cut siding on sides and roof. I have built kits from Ozark Miniatures that are laser cut with thinner building pieces. They have slots and tongues to guide the pieces into place. I have used Ted Brewer's Railway Structure plans to laser cut my own kits. I have built Banta kits as well. These have a thicker sub structure, also with tongue and slots to guide construction, with thin overlays to give the siding effect. All of these make excellent additions to the railroad.

There is a new option to the wooden laser building scene structures from Daniel Peck. He has been making laser steel structures for awhile, so some may know him. The new kit has walls made from thin plywood with laser cut wood windows and doors. Shingle strips are laser cut cardstock. His current offerings are a gas station, track speeder shed, yard office, and a rural depot. More offerings are expected in the future. Any, or all, of these would make great additions to any G scale railroad. Each kit contains printed instructions complete with photos.



The kits go together very well. Each wall, roof halves, and floor are single piece, mostly rectangular shaped, plywood cut and etched with wood siding pattern. These kits do not have the tongue and slot construction, you just glue the corners together. Wood bracing strips for adding strength to the joints are supplied. Customers will need to cut to appropriate length. Windows and doors are generally two-piece laser cuts; 3-D printed windows and doors are also available. Window glazing is supplied. Shingles are nicely done on medium brown cardstock and are made into strips for easy application.

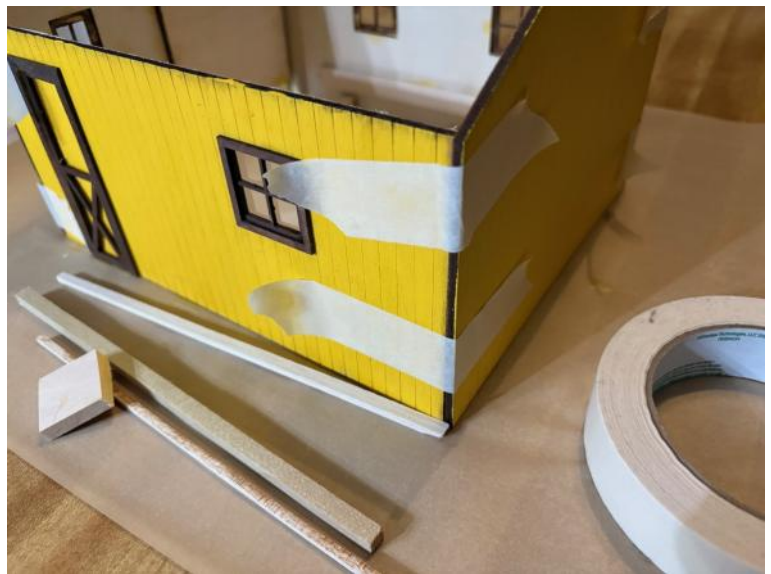
New Laser Cut Wooden G-Scale Building Kits Now Available by Ted Yarborough (Cont.)

[Painting walls and trim.]

I used the tools found in most modeler's tool boxes, including wood glue, some clear Gorilla Glue (mostly for window glazing), masking tape to hold assembly while glue is drying, scissors, razor saw, and hobby knife to assemble these kits. They are rather easy and anyone with average model building skills can put these together in a few evenings. The kits are rather plain, but that allows the modeler to add details to his or her liking.

[I used masking tape to hold walls while glue dried.]

The kit I assembled is the speeder shed. You can follow the assembly in the accompanying photos. I will be completing the office and depot over the winter, as that is when I usually do most of my building since it's often too cold to go outside into the garden.



You can order Daniel Peck's buildings from Mike's Trains in Thomasville, NC from the web at <http://mikestrains611.com>. The handcar in the photo is also available online at:

<https://www.amazon.com/Railroad-Metal-Collectible-Pencil-Sharpener/dp/B06W5266FR>.

I highly recommend these laser cut wooden buildings by Daniel Peck. I found the assembly enjoyable and the buildings will make great additions to the railroad. Happy Railroading!

New Laser Cut Wooden G-Scale Building Kits Now Available

by Ted Yarborough (Cont.)

[I did add a pencil sharpener, disguised as a railroad hand car to my building. I also added the LGB track section.]

**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.)



**Contact Becky Chitwood at
937-469-5329 for Hand
Painted Gourds.**





Need to do any last minute

Christmas Shopping for your G-scale
Train Enthusiast ?



(Also have a couple
more Christmas starter
sets....)





If Stanta needs a little help, call or text

Roy Williamson @
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Yard Hostler

New Year already????? Well, almost. Let's see how great we can make this year an experience to remember! New Year's Resolutions?? How about I resolve to:

Spend more time with family and friends touring layouts.

Host an upcoming layout date

Join the Big Train Operators in Scranton, PA. Steamtown and more!

Enjoy my own layout more, by getting that repair from last year done!

Share a dish with the Dining Car Recipe page

Share some interesting story, accessory build, or train repair in the newsletter

So many other opportunities.....

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