

GGRS Gazette

March, 2026

Official Newsletter
of the Georgia Garden Railway Society
Semiquincentennial of the U.S.A. 1776 - 2026

Roy's Rails



It's been quite a first month as President of GGRS. Pam and I had guests at our home the weekend of the Atlanta Train Show. Those who were setting up Friday were interested in getting together for supper. This resulted in 11 people being at our house on Friday afternoon. I know Pam was already wondering about being the First Lady. The 13 of us, 8 from GGRS and 5 from the Nashville Area Garden Railroaders, went to supper. I seated myself next to Charlotte Dixon. I asked Kris about hosting in April. Charlotte confirmed the third weekend of April would be good. Joe Schrock confirmed he and

Mary would also open their layout later in the day. If there are enough interested members, Richard and Beverly Hyde will open their layout in Savannah on Sunday.

There was also a discussion at the Atlanta Train Show regarding our September 12th Club Meeting in Kernersville, NC hosted by Bill and Liana Hewitt. Seeing we will be in NC, Elliott and Catherine Stotler stated they would open their layout on Sunday, September 13th if members would like to spend the weekend in NC.

The GGRS Membership table was busy at the Atlanta Train Show signing up and renewing memberships.

Trains Trains Trains was cancelled due to a pending ice storm. The event opened on Saturday but was cancelled on Sunday because of the weather.

Ted Yarborough has received an invitation for GGRS to set up a display at the NMRA National Convention in Chattanooga, TN. GGRS has sent an application for GGRS to set up a layout on the weekend of August 1st and 2nd. We are waiting to hear if our application has been accepted.

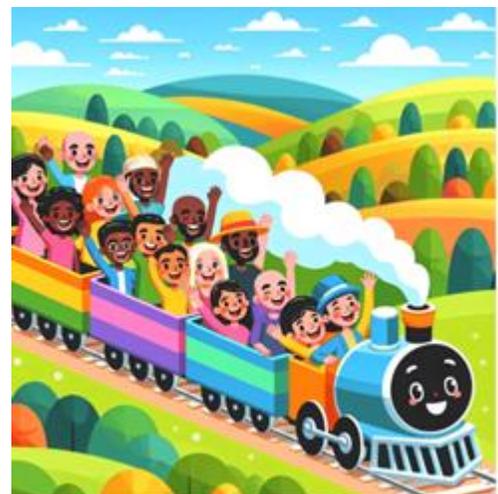
The Piedmont Division Model Train Show in Cartersville, GA will be held March 14-15, 2026. GGRS will be setting up a Membership Table. If you are interested in helping to promote GGRS at the table please let me know.

770-891-9462

Roy Williamson, President

Georgia Got SNOW !! What did you do?





Do you have a new layout and considered hosting a GGRS Club Meeting this year, but the dates filled up too quickly. Well, if you would still like to host and June would be convenient, please let me know. Thanks - Pam Williamson pspaan@msn.com

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	Kris & Charlotte Dixon - Cochran, GA and Joe & Mary Schrock, East Dublin, GA	April	In Planning Stage
Tate Depot	Tate Depot, Tate GA	May, 2026	Planning - Emil Decker
GGRS Club Mtg	Ted & Deborah Yarborough Chatsworth, GA	Jun 6, 2026	In Planning Stage
GGRS Club Mtg	David Lorraine and David Buchla	Jul 11, 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

SPECIAL NOTE: Ted will gladly host June if no one else wants to, but he has also volunteered to open his layout for the NMRA National Convention in Chattanooga and will invite the Club the day he is open, which would be in late July or early August. Just putting this invitation out in case someone else would like to take over as the June host.

NMRA National Convention in Chattanooga

The NMRA is having their national convention in Chattanooga the last week in July. The largest model train show in the US is always with the convention. The NMRA (Chattanooga Division) has invited Georgia Garden Railway Society to set up an operating display.



**GREAT LAKES
LARGE SCALE TRAIN EXPO**

2026

HOSTING THE
**MIDWEST
GARDEN RAILROAD
GATHERING**

2026

Coming in 2026
Wednesday May 13 to
Sunday May 17 to Girard
Ohio! (Public Expo Days
Friday May 15 and
Saturday May 16)

Membership Report

Membership News – Feb 2026

Since last month, I'm happy to report GGRS has two new family memberships and 13 more families have renewed their membership. **New members -**

Kelly & Latonia Nelson from Kingston, GA
Philip & Linda Lashley from Rome, Ga

The Georgia Garden Railway Society 2026 membership is now at 74 families.
Thank you to all that have paid their dues.

Ginny Manning, Membership Coordinator vlmanning@aol.com

2027 National Garden Railway Convention

We don't know a lot but we do know three things:

1. It's coming, with more info as it gets to us.
2. It's closer than California
3. Fun will be top priority. We know. We've been there before.





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

Pamela 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!



Chattanooga Dinner Train

Ideal for Date Nights, Anniversaries, and Special Celebrations.

Select Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays • March–October • Limited seating each departure



Chattanooga Dinner Train

A Three-Course Dinner Aboard Restored Vintage Railcars

Step aboard Chattanooga's most memorable evening out with a three-course dinner served aboard beautifully restored vintage railcars. Enjoy private tables, attentive service, and a relaxed 2-hour journey designed for connection, celebration, and great food. Operating select Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from March through October, this experience blends classic rail travel with fine dining, making it a favorite for anniversaries, celebrations, and memorable date nights.

Departing from **Grand Junction Depot (4119 Cromwell Rd, Chattanooga, TN)**, the train travels at an easy pace through portions of urban East Chattanooga before returning to the station. Evening departures are at **6:00 PM**, giving you plenty of time to savor each course without feeling rushed.

What to Expect

- Dinner is served onboard the moving train in restored vintage dining cars
- Tables are private to your party for the entire experience
- Wine, Bourbon, and Baileys with coffee are available for purchase onboard
- The route focuses on onboard dining and ambiance rather than scenic countryside views
- Duration: approximately **2 hours**
- Best for ages 12 and up

This experience is designed for connection and conversation — a gentle pace, warm service, and timeless railcar atmosphere.

Why Guests Love the Dinner Train

- An intimate evening that feels thoughtfully planned and truly special
- Attentive table service that lets you relax and enjoy the moment
- A popular choice for proposals, anniversaries, birthdays, and date nights
- A unique way to experience rail travel while enjoying a full-service dinner

Note: Parties are always seated separately unless otherwise specified.

Inland Port in Hall County is Almost complete

By Jeff Gill jgill@gainesvilletimes.com

The inland port being built in northeast Hall County is 95% complete, according to the Georgia Ports Authority's latest update on the project.

Cranes have been assembled and tested and will be "fully commissioned in February after electrical service is completed," according to the authority in a press release earlier this week. Power connections were expected by late January.

The exact date the \$134 million port will be operating isn't available. The Georgia Ports Authority said in November it could open in the spring.



When done, the 104-acre facility, which will have about 20 employees, will be served by rail from the Port of Savannah, "creating an improved supply chain into Northeast Georgia's regional population of more than 2 million people."

"We're excited to see the progress at our new Gainesville facility, and what it will mean for the State of Georgia," Ports President and CEO Griff Lynch said earlier this week. "Having a rail connection in the region will enhance Northeast Georgia as an attractive location for businesses that rely on global logistics."

Direct rail service via Norfolk Southern between Northeast Georgia and Savannah will ease what normally would be a long-haul truck move of around 600 miles round-trip.

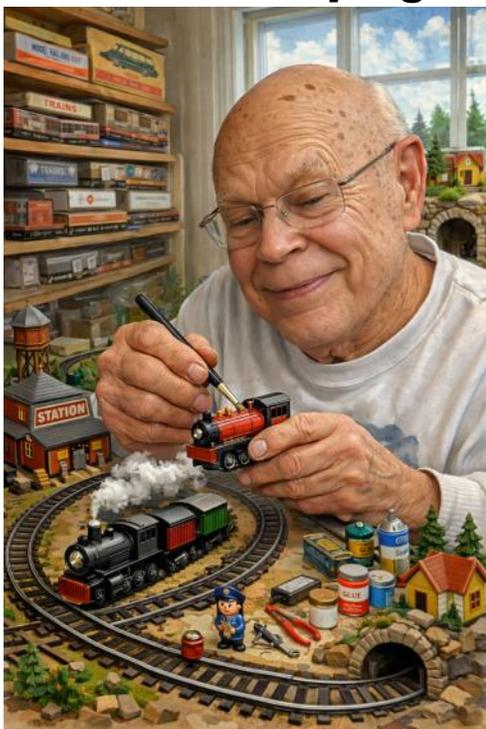
"Companies in Northeast Georgia — from poultry producers to manufacturers of heavy equipment and forest products — will be able to move goods to and from international markets with greater efficiency," according to the authority.

The Ports Authority has contributed \$4.8 million to Hall County road projects to ease congestion at the inland port, which is off Ga. 365.



Playing with AI

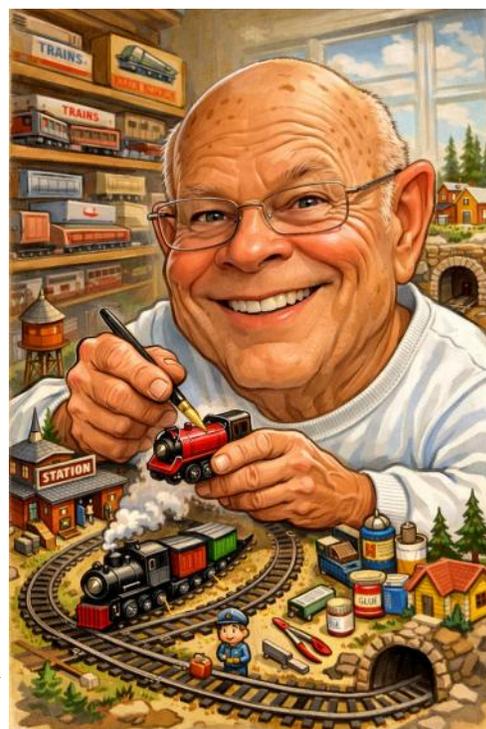
By Ted Yarbrough



We live in a VERY MODERN world! The computer can do amazing things. It can design layouts. It can be used to send messages. Social media is used multiple times a day (or minute) by many people. Computers can be hooked up to 3-D printers to physically MAKE TRAIN PARTS (or even complete trains). We do live in a modern world.

Many have seen on social media where people are using AI to generate all types of images. I, too, have encountered some of these. My friends a posting images of them on beaches, in mountains, dressed as royalty, driving fancy cars, and even riding trains! So, I decided to give AI a try.

There are a few AI programs available on the app store. Some are free and some have a cost attached. The free ones do much of the work of the paid versions, but at much slower speed and not as many bells and whistles. I have used Playground and ChatGPT. Playground images were more cartoonish and almost



unrecognizable (it gave me hair). It is very easy to use. ChatGPT is more realistic, but requires a little more info to be supplied by user (and this is good because you can get very specific). The images attached was produced by ChatGPT.

I found a photos that showed a good view of my face. I then asked AI to create an image of me featuring a few of my favorite things I specified like model trains, western movies, my black kitty, and traveling.



If You Got the Money Honey, I Got the Time !!



#4009 • Union Pacific Big Boy Cab Ride #1 - April 1...
Please note the opening bid for each lot is \$4,000 The Union Pacific Railroad Museum is thrilled to offer rail fans a rare...
Starting at \$4,000

REGISTER TO BID



#4010 • Union Pacific Big Boy Cab Ride #2 - April 1...
Please note the opening bid for each lot is \$4,000 The Union Pacific Railroad Museum is thrilled to offer rail fans a rare...
Starting at \$4,000

REGISTER TO BID

4501 is returning to the classic Southern Railway Passenger Livery for a special anniversary year.



RRPictureArchives.NET Image Contributed by Chuck Zeller

 Support the 4501 Paint Project

For more than a century, Southern Railway No. 4501 has been more than a machine. To generations of railroaders, volunteers, families—and supporters like you—she has been a living ambassador for steam, craftsmanship, and Southern railroading.

At the Annual Banquet for the Railroad Passenger Car Alliance conference in Chattanooga, TN, the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum announced that its iconic steam locomotive No. 4501 will return from her annual inspection wearing the classic Southern Railway passenger livery she entered into excursion service with in 1966—exactly 60 years ago:

Steam locomotive No. 4501 will return from her annual inspection wearing the classic Southern Railway Passenger Livery for the 65th year of TVRM.

This decision comes during a remarkable season for the locomotive and the museum. In 2026, TVRM celebrates its 65th anniversary, while No. 4501 marks her 115th birthday.

“In a year when we’re celebrating our 65th anniversary and the locomotive’s 115th birthday, it feels only right for her to come back in green for a limited celebratory season.”

— Penelope Soule Gault, TVRM spokesperson

For decades, 4501 proudly wore the passenger colors of the Southern Railway, carrying riders across the Southeast and even as far as Milwaukee and Chicago. This special paint project has been made possible by Scale Trains™ along with individual donors who have supported it so far— we invite you to join us in making this possible. Following this limited season, No. 4501 is planned to return to her black livery in 2027.

How your support makes an impact

This special paint project has been made possible by Scale Trains™ along with individual donors who have supported it so far— we invite you to join us in making this possible. Following this limited season, No. 4501 is planned to return to her black livery in 2027, in keeping with long-term preservation standards. In addition, TVRM is launching a broader preservation effort with a lasting impact:

A new finishing facility for the future

TVRM is raising funds to build a dedicated, climate-controlled finishing facility as part of the Soule Shops complex in East Chattanooga, adjacent to our main shop. This new space will allow restoration and paint work to be completed in a controlled environment—dramatically improving quality, efficiency, and long-term preservation outcomes.

This facility will support current ongoing and future restoration projects.

Recently completed projects include:

Frisco No. 200

Southern Railway Dining Car No. 3158

Baggage Car No. 3850

Central of Georgia Combine No. 390

B&O Office Car No. 98

The estimated cost of this project is \$150,000, and will allow us to increase the number of full finishing projects we can complete each year.

Help us bring 4501 back to the classic Southern Railway Passenger Livery—and build for what’s next

We’ve created a dedicated way to support both the 4501 Preservation Project and the critical new facility, with giving levels for every budget and opportunities to make a lasting, visible impact.



HEADLINE

Garden Railroading Magazine is going away but GR News is not!

The next edition of 'Garden Railroading Magazine' will be the last edition. After producing 30 editions since 2020, our Editor, Carla Brand Breitrer, is retiring. Carla devoted thousands of hours producing 30 great editions. We cannot thank her enough. We also thank the many contributors to the magazine and the advertisers who supported the magazine

NOT GOING AWAY

We are excited to continue all other GR News services.

- The GR News website
- The Club Directory
- The 'Help me find a club' service
- Access to past editions of the magazine
- Notice of upcoming events
- Our social media channels
- And also aim to share occasional feature articles

SOON

We will share more about the continuing services.

FOR NOW

We thank you for supporting the magazine over the last 6 years. We look forward to supporting you in the years ahead.



CELEBRATING 5 YEARS IN CARTERSVILLE, GA!

Mark your calendars for this Model Train Show!!

Saturday March 14th, 2026 10-5

Sunday March 15th, 2026 10-4

The Clarence Brown Conference Center, 5450 GA HWY 20, Cartersville, GA

This Model Train Show features 2 days of fun! There will be 8 Operating layouts, 180 Vendor Tables, "White Elephant", Raffle Layout, Train Set Give-a-way, Scavenger Hunt for the kids with prizes, EARLY BIRD Hour too!

EARLY BIRD ADMISSION - \$25 Saturday 9-10, plus the rest of the show.

General Admission - \$10 Both Days , Kids 9 and under are FREE!

ALL TICKETS INCLUDE BOTH DAYS OF THE SHOW!!

Purchase your tickets early at: ThePiedmontDivisionModelTrainShow.com

This show is sponsored by the Piedmont Division



<https://piedmont-div.org>



National Model Railroad Association



The B. Tee O.

2026/Scranton, PA Convention T-shirts



**SPECIAL PRICE
IF PICKED UP
AT CONVENTION:
\$18 each**

MADE IN THE USA!

Introducing... the first ever

BTOC GRAFFITI CAR!

This is a pre-production rendering and is subject to final production changes.



The 2026 Graffiti Club Car is based on an Erie Lackawanna 40" Box Car. This model is designed to replicate the appearance and function of the real-life counterpart used in freight railroading. Produced exclusively for the BTOC by USA Trains in Malden, MA, part of their American Series rolling stock.

1. White version	\$85	\$
2. Grey version	\$90	\$
3. Yellow version	\$95	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT		\$

Expected availability: Mid to late spring 2026.

All with free shipping or available for Convention pickup.

PLEASE NOTE: For the Graffiti Car, we are doing it in three colors: White, light gray and yellow. There will be 40 white, 10 gray and 5 yellow. Any member is able to buy the cars they like but there are some prerequisites. **You must purchase the white version first; that would allow you the opportunity to purchase the gray version. After you purchase the white and gray versions, you would then be able to purchase the yellow version.**



Join the **BIG TRAIN OPERATORS CLUB** on July 22nd for a Historic Adventure to

THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE AMERICAN RAILROAD HONESDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

Bus departs Scranton @ 9:30am

Arrive in Honesdale @ approx. 10:30am

Enjoy a guided tour of Wayne County Historical Society 11:00am



12:30pm Board the Stourbridge Line for a 1pm departure

Lunch on The Stourbridge Line

Step back in time for a delicious bag lunch on board a dining car while enjoying a 1.5 hour historical narrated tour along the scenic Lackawaxen River.

Lunch includes a Souvenir Backpack with

A Sandwich (Ham & Cheese, Turkey, or Italian)
(Vegetarian or Gluten Free available on request) *

Fruit, Potato Chips, Cookies, and a Bottle of Water

*All sandwiches come with lettuce and tomato w/
mayo and Italian dressing on the side

Train returns to the station at 2:30pm



Board your bus and depart for Cranker's Collection of Mechanical Marvels 2:45pm



Cranker's Collection of Mechanical Marvels - A hidden gem in the Northern Poconos featuring antique automobiles, carousel horses, music boxes, player pianos, Mortier organs produced in Antwerp Belgium starting at the turn of the Twentieth century. Open to the general public just one day a year, so be sure to schedule this stop for a Private tour on your special day for an opportunity to see and hear these amazing treasures from over 100 years ago! Scan the qr code to hear the organ play!



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.)



Emil Decker's
STICKS
+
STONES

Check out some of our new products!



Art Deco Steel Support G Scale kit

Each easy-to-assemble kit has 17 pieces, and makes a sturdy support that can be used to make a gorgeous elevated steel support. Modeled from the heyday of ...

\$52.90 \$57.50

[Shop Now](#)



Add-On Panel Unpainted 3" wide

Split Jaw Bridge Panel System - Add-on Panels

Add these to your existing support structure and you will be very happy with the new, realistic look. No more unsightly screws, nails, wood knots, etc. Modeled...

\$4.65

[Shop Now](#)



Center Plate - unpainted

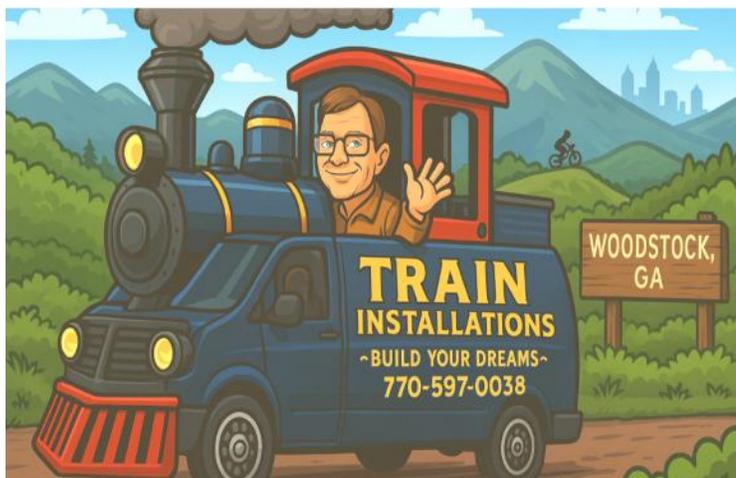
Split Jaw Bridge Panel System - Center Panel

Add these to your existing support structure and you will be very happy with the new, realistic look. No more unsightly screws, nails, wood knots, etc. Modeled...

\$12.95

[Shop Now](#)





Check out our online store and updated website at

www.traininstallations.com

Custom model RRs in any scale indoors or out. We are flexible and can help you with any part of your project

- Layout planning and CAD drawings
- Custom bridges
- Overhead RR systems
- Model kit assembly
- Train storage shelving - **Dave 770-597-0038**

Train Installations will be at three shows this winter!

~~The Golden Spike Train Show~~

~~Saturday Jan. 17th 9:00-4:00~~

~~Gas South Convention Center~~

~~5200 Sugar Loaf Parkway~~

~~Duluth, GA~~

~~<https://www.gserr.com/shows.htm>~~

Missed it??? Then Catch us at the next one!

The Piedmont Division Model Train Show

Saturday & Sunday March 14th & 15th 10:00-5:00

The Clarence Brown Conference Center

5450 GA Hwy. 20

Cartersville, GA

<https://themodeltrainshow.com/>

~~Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show~~

~~Saturday Jan. 24th 9:00-5:00~~

~~Sunday Jan. 25th 10:00-4:00~~

~~Eastern States Exposition Center~~

~~1305 Memorial Ave. West Springfield, MA~~

~~<https://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/index.php>~~

Last chance above!

Yard Hostler

Everyone is busy working the workbench getting some fixes in, or perhaps a new building or other feature for their layout. Not everybody is as ready to brave the Snow as our illustrious president. Why not share your winter project. I am still looking for examples of turning this hobby birdhouse into a layout spectacular. Send them in.

Emil Decker, Editor, GGRS Gazette
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