

GGRS Gazette

June, 2026

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



Roy's Rails



The May GGRS Club Meeting was held Saturday, May 16th at the L&N Depot in Tate, GA. The meeting was well attended by club members, volunteers and guests.

I would like to thank Emil and Linda Decker for hosting and I would also like to thank the club members who helped to set up the layout. It was held outside on the front lawn of the L&N Depot. I also appreciate those who stayed to break down the layout at the end of the day as well as all those who provided our wonderful luncheon.

Several members were unable to attend, as they were away at the Great Lakes Large Scale Train Expo in Girard, Ohio. This was a week-long train event with layouts, clinics and a vendor hall. I know several of our GGRS members were there selling and buying.

Our upcoming GGRS Club Meeting is on June 6th at the home of Deborah & Ted Yarbrough in Chatworth, GA. This layout was featured on the cover of Garden Railroad Magazine (for those who remember and still miss the publication). The Evite is out, hope to see you in Chatsworth.

The next big event where GGRS volunteers will be needed is the NMRA in Chattanooga, TN. GGRS will be building a 40' x 20' layout. Setup will be on Friday, July 31st. The trains will be running on Saturday, August 1st and Sunday, August 2nd. Teardown will be Sunday afternoon, August 2nd.

Hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day, while we honor and remember our Veterans.

Roy Williamson, President

L&N's Tate Depot



Members can say, "We ate at Tate!" We also ran trains on a beautiful day, on a very long couple of ovals, with very limited derailments or other issues. That is, once we figured out where to power-up the Trolley. The point to point system seemed to want to only go 3 ft, then return....then 4.. .. maybe 5, but never all the way. We tried everything, then just left it. It decided maybe it might be fun to travel the entire line, and finally did so. Mind of its own I guess.

When we turned it off, then back on, it progressed through the same sequence over time. We ended up putting a station stop building where it almost stopped each time.

Ultimately, Roy wanted to try a different trolley. A St. Charles New Orleans trolley. A bit bigger, and the extra weight, we discovered, made better contact and the trolley ran the full route continuously. Live and learn.

Somebody, who shall remain nameless, towards the end of the day, put together a very very long consist of L&N cars behind a dual L&N set of diesels,.....They ran just fine on the outer oval, while the inner oval ran a 2-6-0 steamer most of the day. Scenery was laid out and spread across the large layout.

There was also a small 4 foot circle on which Thomas and his companions ran. There was a great group of members who helped set up and take down the layout, and Ted gathered much of the track to take to Chattanooga for the NMRA National Convention layout we will be setting up and running.

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September 1:1 Train Ride

The 1:1 Scale ride in September train tickets have been purchased. 10 GGRS members will be riding the SOUTHERN GREEN 4501 from Chattanooga to Summerville and return. Our BBQ lunch meal will be served in the dinning car. If anyone wishes to join us, they will need to contact Tennessee Valley Railroad and tell them they would like to be near the Ted Yarbrough group.

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	Comments
June GGRS Club Mtg	Ted and Deborah Yarborough, Chatsworth, GA	Jun 6, 2026	Mountain Railroading
July GGRS Club Mtg	David Lorraine and David Buchla	Jul 11, 2026	In Planning Stage
GGRS Open House / preconvention tour:	Ted Yarborough's Layout	Jul 26, 2026 1:00 - 5:00pm	
NMRA 2026 National Convention	Chattanooga, TN Trade and Convention Center	Aug 1-2, 2026	
August GGRS Club Mtg	Dan & Carol Steidle	Aug 8, 2026	Includes Annual Swap Meet
September GGRS Club Mtg	Bill & Liana Hewitt	Sep 12, 2026	In Planning Stage
October GGRS Club Mtg	Becky & Rich Chitwood	Oct 10, 2026	In Planning Stage



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!

Signs of Severe food poisoning

- Vomiting so much you cannot keep liquids down
- Dehydration
- Diarrhea for more than 3 days
- Bloody diarrhea
- Fever above 102°F

cdc.gov/foodsafety

June Meeting in the Mountains



Join us at Ted and Deborah's house in Chatsworth. Ted models western mountain steam era with some extraordinarily detailed scenery that shows what excellent railroading can be done with a small space.





Clubs: Please share this with your members

As noted in the edition, this is the final edition of GR News in its digital magazine format. Going forward, we will publish a newsletter that will continue to share how-to articles to help us with challenges on our garden railroads. We will share them with you for onward routing to your members.

Currently there are no plans to have advertisements in the newsletter.

Other GR News services are not affected.

We will continue to:

Maintain our website, including a list of clubs organized by location

Operate the 'Find a Club' function for people looking for a club in their location

Maintain a list of vendors that serve our hobby

Create awareness of our hobby via social media to an audience of 30,000+ followers and a reach 10X that number.

Keep past editions of GR News on our website with a new index to help readers find topics of interest.

We have also added an 'EVENTS' function to the website where we can publish club events open to the public. 7 upcoming events are already listed as I write this note to you.

LINK TO THE EDITION

<https://dl.orangedox.com/GRNewsFinalMagazineEdition>

Happy garden railroading

Mick Spilsbury

GR News Marketing & Social Media Director

Hello,

This is Chip Danneker, President of the Florida Garden Railway Society. I have volunteered to serve as the East Coast Regional Director for GR News.

As you may know, GR News consists of a small group of volunteers who have compiled contact information for more than 130 garden railroad clubs worldwide. The goal of the group is to gather and share information and content that is of interest to garden railroad enthusiasts everywhere.

I am happy to assume responsibility for the East Region. I would also like to thank Ted Yarbrough for his many years of service to GR News. Hopefully I can fill his big shoes and continue to provide value to the process.

You are receiving this email because I was given your name and email address as the primary contact for your club. There are currently 29 clubs/organizations in the East Region. I'd like to confirm that you are still the appropriate contact person for your club. If not, please reply and let me know who should be listed instead.

This past week you should have received a link to our latest — and final — magazine issue. Unfortunately, Carla Breitner is unable to continue as editor. However, the group remains committed to sharing information related to garden railroading and will continue producing a quarterly newsletter.

We would like to repurpose articles from club newsletters that may have broader interest to the garden railroad community. Please continue forwarding your club newsletters to Ken Brody (westie@sonic.net). He will review them for content that could be shared with the larger group.

Please respond to this email to confirm that you are the current contact for your club. Also please let me know if your club produces a periodic newsletter and if you are sharing it with Ken.

Finally, I plan to call you sometime next month to discuss the future direction of GR News and gather your feedback and suggestions.

Thanks again,

Chip Danneker

President, Florida Garden Railway Society

East Coast Regional Director – GR News

chipdanneker@gmail.com

Membership Report

Hello everyone,

This is a little late because I have been waiting to hear from the other two families that said they were sending in money for their membership (I have not gotten their money). SO . . . only one.

Bryant & Renee Nunnelly

Bryant - 256-892-3489

nunnelly.bryant@gmail.com

Renee - 205-812-4979

neenunnelly@yahoo.com

625 Loggin Road, Chatchee, AL 36271

Ginny



Possible G Scale House available at Cracker Barrel. Bachmann figure added so you can see the size. \$39.95 seems like a good deal. Should fit in nicely.



Now this is a show layout! At one time, GGRS had fencing like this and set similar layouts up for larger shows such as Perry, Dalton, etc.



CURRENT CONFIRMED LAYOUTS

The National Train Show

Chattanooga, Tennessee

2026



NMRA

AUGUST 1st
AND 2nd

SATURDAY
9AM-4PM

SUNDAY
9AM-4PM



CHATTANOOGA
CONVENTION CENTER
1 CARTER ST,
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37402

ADVANCE SHOW TICKETS



2 DAY PASS \$20

1 DAY PASS \$15

KIDS 12 AND UNDER FREE
ADMISSION PER 1 ADULT

CLEVELAND, SANDUSKY & SOUTHERN
GEORGIA GARDEN RAILROAD SOCIETY
WISCONSIN & MICHIGAN
GULF WESTERN MODULAR RAILROAD SOCIETY
GOLDEN EAGLE & FREEDOM VALLEY
PALMETTA

L GAUGE MODULAR STANDARD
NORTH GEORGIA MODURAIL
T-TRAK NATIONAL RECORD BREAKER
HO MODULAR OF NORTH ALABAMA
PEWAUKEE ROAD LEGO TRAIN LINE



With over **1300** registrations already on the books, the NMRA 2026 Scenic City Express - Chattanooga is shaping up to be a landmark event. **Because of this massive turnout, our General Tours are booking up fast, and several have already completely sold out.** If you're planning to join us in Chattanooga, now is the time to finalize your itinerary before the remaining blocks are gone.

We still have limited availability on some of our most anticipated excursions:

Scale Trains Summerville Steam Special: A unique, full-scale steam experience.

Scenic City Layout Tour: Access to some of the most prominent private layouts in the region.

TVRM Steam Excursions: Including the Hiwassee Loop, Missionary Ridge Local, and the Extended Backshop Tour for a behind-the-scenes look at steam maintenance.

Regional Bus Tours: Including guided historical access to the Chickamauga Battlefield.

Don't miss out on the full convention experience. You can secure your tour tickets directly right here: <https://checkout.eventcreate.com/2026-scenic-city-express-nm/event-tickets/select-buy>

For the full schedule and general registration, visit www.nmra2026.org. Looking forward to seeing you there. #NMRAConvention #Convention2026 #nts26



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!



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.



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 qwcxappreciated) 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

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



Emil Decker's
STICKS
+
STONES



Yard Hostler

You may notice the different look to the newsletter. Shorter. Fewer listings. This has a reason which is not of my making. SORRY. Microsoft Publisher is going away.... No support. Some features, if not the entire program, are scheduled to be eliminated entirely. CRAP!!!

Now I have to learn a new program for publishing. Its going.... not well. This edition is the first newsletter using the new program, and it has been a real female dog! (No offense meant to dogs or their owners.)

Give me time, and it might work out. Maybe I can find help at one of those LEARNING CENTERS?

Remember, this Newsletter is published each month and is available soon after the 20th, and can be accessed via the website within the Members Section. Due to recent file damage incurred and an email change, I can no longer send copies to the membership. The news is available, it just takes a different route to get to you.

Another pain to endure. I am closing my windstream email account and will be moving to Gmail. eldecker123@gmail.com

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