

# GGRS Gazette

## July, 2026

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



### Roy's Rails



The June GGRS Club Meeting was held at Ted & Deborah Yarborough's home in Chatsworth, GA. The meeting was well attended, the layout was wonderful, and the food was tasty and plentiful. Thank you Ted & Deborah for hosting a great day for GGRS.

Chasing the Big Boy is underway. I know of 3 GGRS families who have already seen 4014, with 4 others in hopes of seeing this massive steam engine. Please send photos and write-ups of your trip to the Gazette, so we can all enjoy the Big Boy.

The July GGRS Club Meeting is set for July 11th, our hosts will be David, Lorainne and Todd Buchla. The G&O Railroad is located indoors in Acworth, GA. Don't miss seeing the G&O Railroad as this is a GGRS debut.

The BTO is July 20 – July 25th in Scranton, PA. We have several GGRS families planning to attend. Again, please share your photos, write-ups and winnings with the Gazette.

GGRS is setting up at the MNRA in Chattanooga, TN. Ted Yarborough is the layout coordinator. We have a 20-foot by 40-foot space. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Ted. Set up is Friday July 31st. Running trains and sharing the G-scale hobby will be August 1st and 2nd. Tear down will be on August 2nd at the end of the show.

The August GGRS Club Meeting & Annual Swap Meeting is scheduled for August 8th at Dan & Carol Steidle's in Cumming, GA.

August 22nd is the Golden Spikes Train Show at Gas South, Duluth, GA

July & August are shaping up to be very busy months for GGRS. I'm looking forward to it.

*Roy Williamson, President*

### Mountain Railroading in GA

June is a great time to head to the mountains. Chatsworth has a depot, but Ted and Deborah have a Railroad.... or two. It's not their first time hosting, and we hope it won't be their last. You won't find a more gracious set of hosts. Make sure you head to Chattanooga and help Ted setup and run the GGRS display.



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The struggle is real 🤔🚂🔥













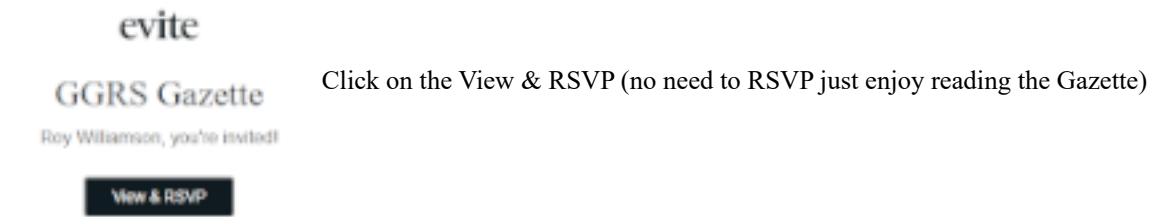




## Newsletter Distribution Issues Solved !

We have put our heads together and come up with a way to get the GGRS Gazette to you via e-mail. The Gazette will now come as an Evite.

This is how the email will appear when you open it:



Once the Evite opens scroll down until you see:



Click on the link and voila; you have the Gazette.

Thank you, Emil Decker and Peter Thomas, for coming up with a work around for our Gazette distribution situation.



## 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**

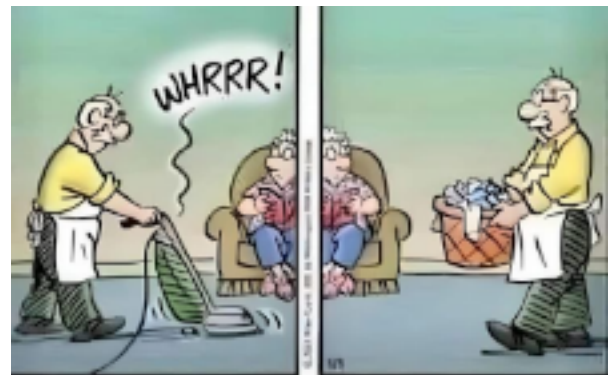
\*\*\* NOTE: The Calendar contains some Rail related events that are NOT GGRS events! Due to timing of events and newsletter deadlines,, some updates may not have been posted. Contact host for additional info.

Event	Location	Date	Comments
July GGRS Club Mtg	David Lorraine and David Buchla - Acworth	Jul 11, 2026	Please answer the Evite and attend
GGRS Open House / preconvention tour:	Ted Yarborough's Layout	Jul 26, 2026 1:00 - 5:00pm	On the Way to Chattanooga
GGRS Open House / preconvention tour:	Train Installations workshop 103 Bell parkway, Suite 200, Woodstock, GA 30188	Jul 26, 2026 1:00 - 5:00pm	On the Way to Chattanooga
NMRA 2026 National Convention	Chattanooga, TN Trade and Convention Center	Aug 1-2, 2026	Chattanooga Choo Choo
August GGRS Club Mtg	Dan & Carol Steidle - Cumming	Aug 8, 2026	Includes Annual Swap Meet
September GGRS Club Mtg	Bill & Liana Hewitt - Kernersville, NC	Sep 12, 2026	In Planning Stage
October GGRS Club Mtg	Becky & Rich Chitwood	Oct 10, 2026	In Planning Stage
May GGRS Club Mtg	Ron & Kristie Humphrey - Cumming, GA	May 8, 2027	In Planning Stage
October GGRS Club Mtg	Pete & Trish Hartes - Rome, GA	Jun 12, 2027	In Planning Stage
September GGRS Club Mtg	Elliot & Katherine Stotler	Sep 11, 2027	In Planning Stage

**GGRS Club Meeting Evites**

I have found a new option on Evite, where we can take a Poll. In our June Club Meeting, some found it, I added a Poll asking if you were bringing a Side Dish or a Dessert. Please look at the July Club Meeting Evite, find the Poll, and let your Host know what you're bringing. You can still add a specific food item in the Comment Section as many do.

Pam



## Welcome to the G&O model railroad. July GGRS Meeting



The G in the name represents G scale, which is most of the railroad. To build in perspective some of the buildings and fencing in the back is in O scale. The scenery blends into background photos from Railroad Backdrops and paintings by David that match the photos. The photos and paintings are mainly of Appalachians. The main railroad is built onto a 300 square ft irregularly shaped table that is 40 ft long. The track is two loops shaped like dog bones plus sidings. Locomotives are powered through track power. In addition to the main layout, there are two shelf railroads both with two tracks and in G scale. One of the shelf railroads is designed to blend with the main G and O. The other shelf railroad, in a separate room, depicts the Rio Grande Southern route around Silverton Colorado in the early 1930s. The main focus is the Galloping Goose #2, which was a gasoline powered rail vehicle constructed by the Rio Grande Southern to reduce costs and deliver mail. The shelf railroads include 3 Auto reversing lines.



In addition to the G scale there are some smaller pre-war models and a rather small circle with a 1951 American flyer and small town.

The luncheon will be a variety of wraps as well as potato salad and beverage choices.

There is a fair amount of seating available, so it is not necessary to bring chairs.

Waterfall Lane is narrow and parking should be all on one side of the street to allow passage of other vehicles. Try not to block neighbor's mailboxes. My driveway can handle four or five cars. Because of the limited parking, it would be helpful to carpool if possible. There are two small shopping centers on the corner of Mars Hill Road and Stilesboro Road that are about 3 miles from the house so could be a meeting place for a carpool.



## From our May Host Tate Depot GGRS Meeting

Gentlemen,

At our regular 3rd. Saturday public open house on May 16th, with great fanfare, good luck with the weather, and a bumper public crowd of 120, Tate Depot hosted 17 members of the Georgia Garden Railway Society running their trains on 3 loops of "G" Gauge outdoor track in the front yard of the depot. The festivities started at 7:30 with coffee and donuts, moved through the morning with 5 different train sets operating at different times and closed shop at 2:00. We were very appreciative that your landscaping crew had mowed the lawn the day before.

Lunch for the GGRS folks and the 21 Tate Depot members helping out, featured great BBQ and beans along with two tables of other great "pot luck" goodies all provided by the GGRS folks. I know it is an overworked cliché, but a good time really was had by all.

We are starting to add more authentic circa 1920 artifacts to the depot to whit an 1890's era eight-day wind up station clock which came from the old Southern Railway depot in Flowery Branch GA. After about two years with a master clock fixer, it now keeps time to within about 1 minute a week between its Thursday windings. It also just fits the light induced shadow left by its predecessor on the wall by the station agent's desk.

Our upcoming project is to reproduce and install the outdoor semaphore as shown in both a photo of the depot in about 1916 and later in 1936; and it will be lighted and operable from inside the depot, just as it was then. If Randy Pinyan happens to have a spare 6" x 6" x 28-foot pressure treated wood mast for this semaphore, we would be delighted to take it off his hands.

It was a good month all around with 155 + visitors and north of 200 hours of member volunteer time. We also want to thank both Angela Reinhardt of Pickens Progress and Melissa Lowrie of Smoke Signals for their excellent articles and photos covering our GGRS outing.

Yours

Ben Read

Executive Director

Georgia Archives:

<https://vault.georgiaarchives.org/digital/collection/vg2/id/10956/>



**Big Boy News****By Ted Yarborough**

As many of you may have heard, the largest operating steam locomotive in the world is traveling east of the Mississippi for the first time since it was built in 1941. This locomotive is a 4-8-8-4 and is appropriately named 'Big Boy'. The locomotive weighs in at only 1,200,00 pounds, is 133 feet long, and is rated at 7,000 horsepower.

Recently Dan & Carol Steidle and Ted & Deborah Yarbrough went to Pennsylvania to meet up with this huge locomotive. Their first excursion was from Nesquehoning to Pittston behind Reading & Northern 4-8-4 number 2102 pulling beautiful maroon passenger cars. They first encountered Big Boy just before arriving at Pittston. The two trains traveled together for the layover at Pittston. Everyone got off the train to take many photos of both steam engines. Then, on the way back the two trains appeared to be racing as they ran side by side for many miles, switching sides giving everyone equal opportunity for viewing the operating train up close.

The second day, was a diesel trip to Jim Thorpe. On the way, we once again passed both steam trains as they progressed up the Reading & Northern main line. Jim Thorpe has a beautiful Victorian style train depot. Several passenger trains go in and out of Jim Thorpe each day. Our train was diesel powered with only a single coach.

Day three we moved on to Steamtown National Historic Site for the Reunion of the Big Boys. Two Big Boys were parked side by side for photos. It is estimated that 30,000 visitors entered the park on the first day of the Reunion. We only had a little less than 2 hour wait to get in. It was worth it as the two giants were parked side by side. I am sure you can see lots of phone photos if you just ask any of these GGRS Big Boy participants.

**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!

**Peanut Brittle** by Denise Pugh**You will need a candy thermometer**

2 cups Sugar  
1 cup light Karo syrup  
1/3 cup water  
Bring to boil

Add two sticks Parkay  
Cook to soft crack stage (280)

Add 1 ½ cups peanuts (I use Salted Dry Roasted)  
Stir continuously to hard crack stage (300)

Remove from heat and add 2 tsps baking soda. Beat it till fluffy.

### Sad News for GGRS

Dear Georgia Garden Railway Society Members,

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to let you know that our long-time member, Mary Schrock, passed away unexpectedly on May 27th, 2026.

Mary will be fondly remembered and missed for her beautiful gardens, and the whimsy brought to Garden Railroading with her Fairy Garden Railroad and creative yard art. The Georgia Garden Railway Society will also miss Mary's delicious additions to our Club Meeting luncheons.

Our prayers are with Mary, Joe and their family who have asked for privacy at this time.

Rest in peace, Pam & Roy Williamson



Clubs: Please share this with your members.

Hi,

As I mentioned in my email last month, I have assumed responsibility for the East Region of GR News. According to my records, your club publishes a newsletter, and we are always looking for content to feature in our quarterly GR News publication.

Would you please forward a copy of your most recent newsletter? If we identify any articles or photos that we would like to republish, we will contact you for approval before using any of your content.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Chip Danneker

East Region Director GR News

Florida Garden Railway Society  
President



**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**



# UPDATED

## VENDOR LIST

A & S Trains  
 ABR Model Works  
 ACL & SAL HS  
 Armor Modeling & Preservation Society  
 Artisan Rail  
 Theatren Trains  
 Aya Enterprises  
 Azatrab  
 B&B Hobby Supplies  
 Bachmann Industries, Inc.  
 Berkshire Valley  
 Brad's Trains  
 Broadway Limited Imports  
 Caboose Industries  
 Cardinal River Models  
 Center Point Line  
 Chattanooga Scale Modelers  
 Class One Model Works  
 Conowing Models  
 Crowe Railroad Art  
 Dragon's Den Woodworking & Photography  
 East Coast Cires  
 Empire Trackworks  
 ESI, LLC - Loksound Firecrown  
 Fibtrain  
 Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec  
 Scenic RR  
 Giraffe Lsb  
 Golden Spike Artisans  
 Gooddealsdec  
 Grex Airbrush  
 Hobbytime Distributors, Inc.  
 Iconic Replicas  
 IGMakes  
 Iron Planet Hobbies

J & R Creations  
 J & T Limited Railroad  
 Jeff Cooper  
 Jelsma Graphics  
 Jimmy's Trains  
 Jordan's Artwork  
 K & A Rail Products  
 Kadeye Quality Products  
 Kato USA  
 Kershaw Craftmans Kits  
 Key Rail Industries  
 Kemicik Enterprises  
 Lineside Details  
 Locomotive Logos  
 Logic Rail Technologies 2  
 Lunar Books  
 Makin Tracks LLC  
 Marklin  
 Masterbuild Models  
 Micro Engineering  
 Microlumina/Railroad Kits  
 MikeWeb  
 Mike's Modules  
 Mine Mount Models  
 MJM Hobbies  
 MNP Inc.  
 Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine  
 Model Rectifier Corporation  
 Motrat Models  
 MrBenchwork.com  
 Mudd Creek Models  
 National Association of S Gaugers, Inc.  
 Neals N Gauging  
 New England Railroad Uniforms

Pacific Southern Railroad Club  
 Perpetual Light Graphics  
 Phoenix Model Buildings  
 Pioneer Trains LLC  
 R&P Railroad Trains/Dennis Allen  
 Rails Scale Models  
 Railway by Rebel Rails  
 Ralphstruths LLC  
 Scale Trains  
 Sound Traxx/Blackstone Models  
 Southern Hobbies  
 Southern Railway HS Louisville & Nashville HS  
 Spring Creek Model Trains  
 Steve Anderson  
 Steve Gard  
 Steve's Z Layouts  
 Sundance Marketing, Inc  
 Sunset Models 3rd Rail  
 Superior Scenics LLC  
 Tangent Scale Models  
 Texas Model Train Collections  
 The Coach Yard  
 The Railroad Yard  
 Tommy Tec  
 Train Installations LLC  
 Train  
 Tully Models  
 Tunnel Hill LLC  
 Virtual Railfan  
 Wathers, Inc.  
 Whistle Stop Models  
 White River Productions  
 Woodland  
 Ztrack Distribution



# 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	\$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>		<b>\$</b>

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](http://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





Hope to see you at Chattanooga!

October 2026 (tentative) York Fall TCA Eastern Div Show

January 2027 - Amherst RR Hobby Show

Summer 2027 - Nashville NGRC

Check out our new all-aluminum towers & trestles, starting at only \$98.69

All-Aluminum tower pairs: 12", 24" 36" and 48" high



### Yard Hostler

Happy to find a solution to our Email Distribution. I am still learning on a very tight curve around this new program designing the Newsletter. Hope it doesn't derail! So far so good. I will be out of state much of July, so don't be suprised if the newsletter is early, or very late, depending.....

At least you know you will get it, once the EVITE is sent!

Emil Decker, Editor, GGRS Gazette  
480 Grizzle Rd., Dawsonville, GA 30534  
[eldecker123@gmail.com](mailto:eldecker123@gmail.com) *[If you have not changed it, I might not get it]*

