

# GGRS Gazette

## February, 2025

Official Newsletter of the Georgia Garden Railway

### Ted's Ticket



Welcome to a new year, 2025, and a new leader, Ted Yarbrough. We have had a great year in the GGRS with hosting the 2024 Southeast Regional G-Scale Get - Together in August, lots of regular meetings April-October, Trains, Trains, Trains event, a train show or two, and a couple of 1:1 Scale Train Rides thrown in. I can't go any farther without expressing thanks and appreciation to Terry Manning and Dennis Bass. These two have been instrumental in leading the GGRS for the past

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## Annual Meeting of the Snowplow Assoc. Called for Bad Weather!

Annual Business Meeting & ~~Christmas~~ St. Paddie's Day Luncheon

March 22, 2025

12 Noon - 2:30 P.M.

Location: **Tir Na NÓg** [access to the mythical world through] Provino's Italian Restaurant, 440 Ernest W. Barrett Parkway Northwest Kennesaw, GA 30144

Our Annual Business Meeting & ~~Christmas~~, St. Paddie's Day Luncheon will be at Provino's, same location as last year.

Lastly, the cost per person remains \$28 which includes choice of five Italian entrees, house salad, garlic trolls, soft drink 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/Bodb Derg Gift - away." a good old-fashioned game of scheming and stealing! [Sneaky little leprechauns.] 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.

## Irish 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 and we want everyone interested in having fun, joining in. When I volunteered to play "Cinder-Claus", "Bodb Derg" [pronounced: bodb 'derg] 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 is what it was called during Christmas. **BUT CHRISTMAS IS PAST, So we turn Irish for St. Patrick's Day. Why not?**

Here are the rules we use:

- ⊗ **Bring a gift.** Since we belong to a Railroad Society, 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 place your gift into the pile in exchange for a **Pot -O- Gold** ticket, which will be used to determine order of precedence for the game. See Bodb Derg for the gift pile.
- ⊗ Once the game begins, Bodb Derg, that's me, will randomly draw a ticket. The holder of the ticket will be the first to play.
- ⊗ You will look at all the nice lovely wrapped gifts from out of the **Pot -O- Gold**, and choose 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, like the **Sidhe** stealing a child from it's crib!



- ⊗ If you unwrap a new gift, it's like accepting a changeling. We move to the next ticket. If you steal another baby, the person from whom you stole gets to unwrap a new one. Or steal if there is an available un-stolen child,....er,...gift out there. And the fun continues .....

- ⊗ **Stealing rule:** Depending on who you play with, a gift may be stolen a set number or an unlimited number of 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. Bodb Derg 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.... **Luck of the Irish. Ask John Lees.**

- ⊗ As the game progresses, a gift might be opened, NOT stolen for some turns, then get stolen later in the game, so even if you select early, your gift may get stolen later. Fear not. You then get to start all over again by stealing, or unwrapping anew.

- ⊗ The last ticket pulled signals final stages of the game.
- ⊗ There should be one gift remaining in the pile. If the last ticket holder opens the last gift, ok. If they decide to steal from the available opened gifts, their victim can opt to steal or open the last gift.
- ⊗ Once the last gift is opened, one would think the stealing is done. But Noooooooo
- ⊗ Now, the 1st ticket pulled, like a **Banshee wailing in the graveyard**, finally gets to get back into the game, and steal any still available un-stolen gift to finally end the game.



**Simple rules; easy to play; and you go home with a new gift for,**

**Definitely After - Christmas. Join us, won't you?**

**Ted's Ticket Cont.**

Terry has been President for the recent past and has helped grow our group. Dennis took over the financial management a few years back and did a magnificent job straightening out the financial records that were in complete disarray. Much thanks to Terry, Dennis, and the rest of the Executive Board. I am looking forward to 2025. This year looks to be great for large scale trains with the Big Train Operators Club bringing their National Convention to Helen, Georgia in July. We already have a layout host or two stepping forward for our regular membership meetings. I am excited to be your President for this year. However, remember, it is not my club, it is YOURS! Step forward to host a meeting, attend meetings, participate in the BTO Convention, attend a train show or two, and run some trains!

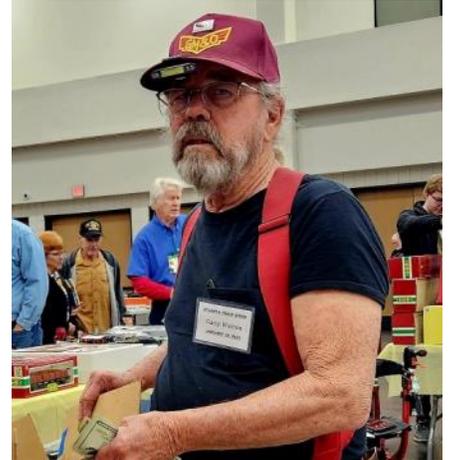
**Track Warrants**

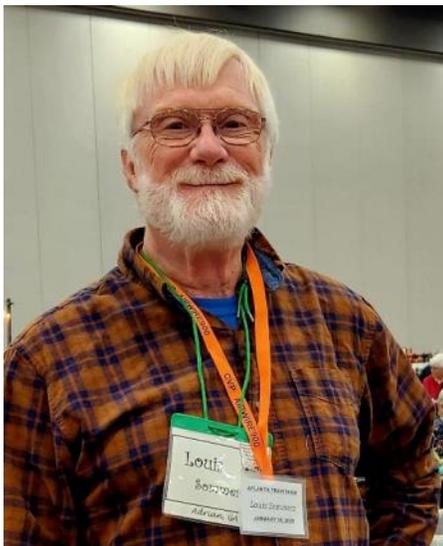
**\*\*\* NOTE:** The Calendar contains some Rail related events that are NOT GGRS events! Due to timing of events and newsletter deadlines,, some updates may not have been posted. Contact host for additional info.

Event	Location	Date	Status
GGRS Annual Mtg	Provino's in Kennesaw, GA	Mar 22, 2025 12:00 - 2:30 ?	Italiano !
Chatsworth Depot Model Train Expo	Chatsworth, GA	Apr 12, 2025	Always a good time.
GGRS Club Mtg	Grant & Jenny Sweer Huntsville, AL	May 10, 2025	Out of state opportunity
GGRS Club Mtg	YOU? WHO? Sign up now	Future Openings Available	Start Planning Now
"Tour of the new Trainz Facility"	The new building is now in operation	Stay tuned for more details	Exciting!
National Garden Railway Convention	Sacramento, CA	Jun 18 - 22, 2025	Long distance flight or drive, but worth the trip
GGRS Club Mtg	Richard and Rebecca Chitwood & Doug and Mathew Fields of Cumming, GA	Jun 21, 2025 10:00-2:00	New members have stepped forward. How about you?
Big Train Operators Convention	Holiday Inn, Helen, GA	Jul 13 - 18, 2025	National Event, Local Destination
GGRS Club Mtg	Terry & Ginny Manning Lilburn, GA	Jul, 2025	In Planning Stage
GGRS Club Mtg	Sloan & Sara MacKarvich Buford, GA	Aug, 2025	In Planning Stage
GGRS Club Mtg	Elliot & Katherine Stotler Highland, NC	Sep, 2025	In Planning Stage
GGRS Club Mtg	Josh & Margaret Sagarin Atlanta, GA	Oct, 2025	In Planning Stage

GGRS at the 66<sup>th</sup> Atlanta Train Show







**67<sup>th</sup> Atlanta Model Train Show**

**GAS SOUTH CONVENTION CENTER**

6400 Sugarloaf Parkway • Duluth, Georgia 30097

**Saturday, August 23, 2025**

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Over 300 Tables of Model Trains and Railroad Collectibles For Sale  
Atlanta's Oldest and Largest Model Train and Railroadiana Show

For Dealer Contracts and Show Information  
Contact: [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com)

Large Operating Layouts

Charlie Miller  
3106 N. Rochester Street  
Arlington, VA 22213  
Phone: 703-536-2954  
Fax: 703-241-7027  
e-mail: rrsshows@aol.com

Tickets available at: [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com)

Follow us on **facebook.**

Next Show Date: January 17, 2026

Present This Card For \$1.00 Off One Admission



## How Paddie Built the Rails

When President Abraham Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Act into law on July 1, 1862, the act gave two companies, the Union Pacific Railroad and the Central Pacific Railroad, responsibility for completing the transcontinental railroad. They were authorized extensive land grants and issued 30-year government bonds to finance the undertaking. Irish immigrants were among the primary builders of the Central Pacific Railroad.

By 1852 Ireland had lost nearly half its population due to the potato blight (a disease that killed the country's staple food crop). This caused a famine. While approximately 1 million Irish people perished from starvation, another 2 million abandoned the land in the largest single population movement of the 19th century. Nearly a quarter of the Irish nation, hundreds of thousands of Irish peasants, landed on the shores of the United States.

Herded like livestock in dark, cramped quarters, the Irish passengers lacked sufficient food and clean water. Nearly a quarter of the passengers who sailed to North America died at sea. Upon arrival, many exiles could progress no farther than within walking distance of the docks where they disembarked. In the opinion of many

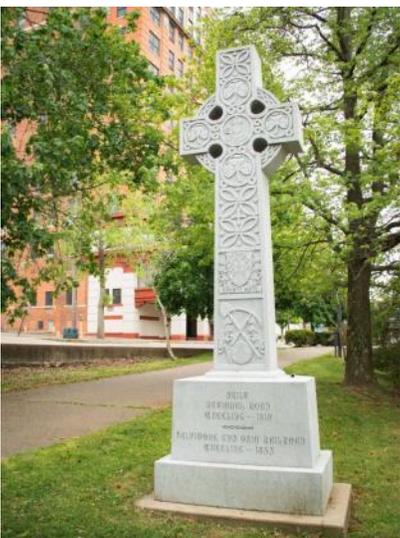


Americans, the British were not sending their best people. These people were not like the industrious, Protestant Scotch-Irish immigrants who came to America in large numbers during the colonial era. They fought in the Continental Army and tamed the frontier. These people were not only poor, unskilled refugees huddled in rickety tenements, they were Catholic. The Irish were particularly vilified by the country's Anglo-Saxon Protestants who felt they were being invaded by the very Papist they left the continent of Europe to escape.

Anti-Irish mobs in Philadelphia destroyed houses and torched churches in the deadly Bible Riots of 1844. While the number of German immigrants entering the United States nearly matched that of the Irish during the 1850s, the Irish filled the most menial and dangerous jobs, often at low pay. They cut canals. They dug trenches for water and sewer pipes. They laid rail lines. They cleaned houses. They slaved in textile mills. They worked as stevedores, stable workers and blacksmiths.

The Irish immigrants became the primary early builders of the Central Pacific Railroad. Unfortunately however, management was not very

inspirational, and pay was not exactly high. This resulted in many Irish workers walking off the job. The Central Pacific Railroad then turned to Chinese laborers. By 1868, they numbered about 12,000, or 80 percent of the entire workforce. Central Pacific crews built 15 tunnels along the route. The longest tunnel, called the Summit, ran 1,659 feet. Despite the initial segregation and distrust, Irish and Chinese laborers worked together more and more as the miles of track piled up.



Seventeen years before the Golden Spike completed the Transcontinental Railroad in Utah, another connection was made in Marshall County, (now West) Virginia on Christmas Eve 1852. A crew of predominantly Irish laborers completed the final link of the B & O, connecting the Ohio River Valley with the East Coast. The construction of railroads was hard, back-breaking work, and was carried out by the lowest members of society. For roughly \$25 a month, those laborers built some of the largest bridges and longest tunnels in the world at that time across steep and winding terrain.

The Logo of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad is featured toward the bottom of this monument in Wheeling, WV.

## Membership Report

### Membership News – January 2025

### FINAL NOTICE FOR 2025 DUES BARGAIN

On Saturday, January 18, 2025, the *Georgia Garden Railway Society* had a table at the Gaslight Civic Center for the annual train show. We saw many members that passed by the table and we were able to make a schedule for the 2025 year that will be published soon. It is going to be an exciting year with many new layouts to visit. Thank you to those that volunteered to host and show their layouts.

When you see the following new members at our meetings, please welcome them –

- Doug Alexander** from Vinings, GA
- Keith Davis** from Buford, GA
- Ed and Sallie Lawrence** from Tallassee, FL
- Scott and Chris Cavan** from Jax, FL

With these four new members and the 86 that paid their dues in 2024,  
**we have a membership total of 90!**

**Thank you** to Avery, Bennett, Dixon, Lewis, MacKarvich, Sagarin, Schrock, and Sommers who paid their dues at the show. Since the December newsletter we also received dues from Allen, Bass, Bergmann, Carney, Delmar, Dibling, Foster, Harris, Hyde, Lester, Levan, Stanley, Stotler, and Stuckey.

Those of you who have not paid will be getting a personal email from me this month as a final reminder/notice. Please don't let your membership drop. You will lose out on our newsletter and notice of upcoming meetings and events. Lastly, we will miss you!

So please don't be late and make your \$30 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)

Recent Past President of the GGRS relaxing at home over the holidays.



The recently released Big Train Operator magazine has a nice two page article with several photos of the August Southeast Regional G-Scale Get Together hosted by GGRS. This is a high quality quarterly magazine mailed to BTO Club members all over the country. Thank you BTO for supporting our event and hobby!

## 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 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/>



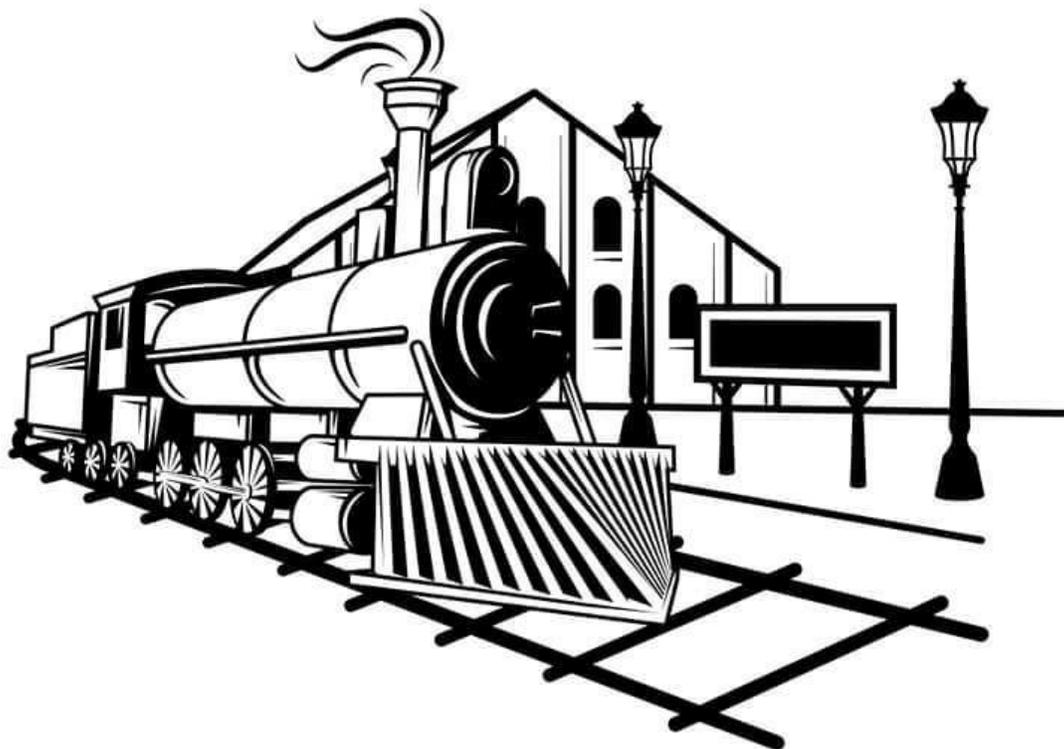
*40th Anniversary*

# National Garden Railway Convention

**June 18 - 22, 2025**

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





**2025 Midwest Garden Railroad Gathering  
June 4 thru June 7, 2025  
Sponsored by the Tulsa Garden Railroad Club**

## 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!*





# GEORGIA

*on my mind!*

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

*Celebrating 47 years!*

#### Sunday July 13, 2025

- BOD Meeting
- Convention Setup
- *Registration Opens*
- Runnin trains
- *All Aboard Party*
- Convention Rooms Open
- Trivia contest #1

#### Monday July 14, 2025

- *Blue Ridge Scenic Railway*
- Convention Rooms Open
- Clinic #1

#### Tuesday July 15, 2025

- *General Membership Meeting*
- *Free Day to Explore the Helen, GA Area*
- Convention Rooms Open
- Ice Cream Social
- Trivia contest #2

#### Wednesday July 16, 2025

- *Georgia Garden Railway Society Layout Tours*
- Convention Rooms Open
- Ladies Wine & Cheese Get Together

#### Thursday July 17, 2025

- *Great Smokey Mountain Railway*
- Convention Rooms Open
- Clinic #2
- Trivia Contest #3

#### Friday July 21, 2025

- *Drag Races*
- Teardown Convention Rooms/  
Banquet Setup
- *Farewell Banquet*
- Trivia Finals

*Register Today!*

*(Schedule subject to change.)*

**Two important bits of news from the BTO Club  
The Convention Schedule and Registration forms are out.**

**The Menu Choices for the box lunch were not specified on the Reg Form due to time constraints.** Here they are for the 7/17/25 Great Smoky Mountain Trip. Sandwiches - **Turkey, Ham, Chicken Salad, Veggie** Wrap with cookie, chips and water. If you are choosing that trip, please send me your choice of sandwich for each person in your party.

We now have several Registrations (about 9 or 10)  
Any thoughts? Share them with me or Tim  
Thanks for your help in notifying members.

**Using Credit Cards for Registration.** I would like to have those wishing CCs to complete the paper form and write "Use PayPal", just under "**Registration Total**". I will create an e-mail Invoice from PayPal and have it sent to you. It will include a 5% adder for PayPal processing charge. When paid, the Registration will be confirmed through e-mail to the member. The BTO Club never sees or has access to your Credit Card Info.

*John Groot, Registration  
4 Saslow Ct.  
Quarryville, PA 17566*

<https://www.bigtrainoperator.com/2025/pdfs/2025%20conv%20registration%20form%20wMenu.pdf>

## Big Train Operator Club Membership Application



The Big Train Operator Club will not sell, share or otherwise provide any personal information to any entity or organization for any reason.

Membership Chairperson: David Snow

## Welcome Aboard

1-year BTO Club membership, USA

Annual dues of \$50 includes \$40 for a 1-yr subscription  
to the Big Train Operator Magazine.



# 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** **METROPLEX EXPO CENTER**  
 10 AM - 4 PM 1620 MOTOR INN DR  
 GIRARD, OH 44420



Free Parking & Onsite ATM!

## 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.

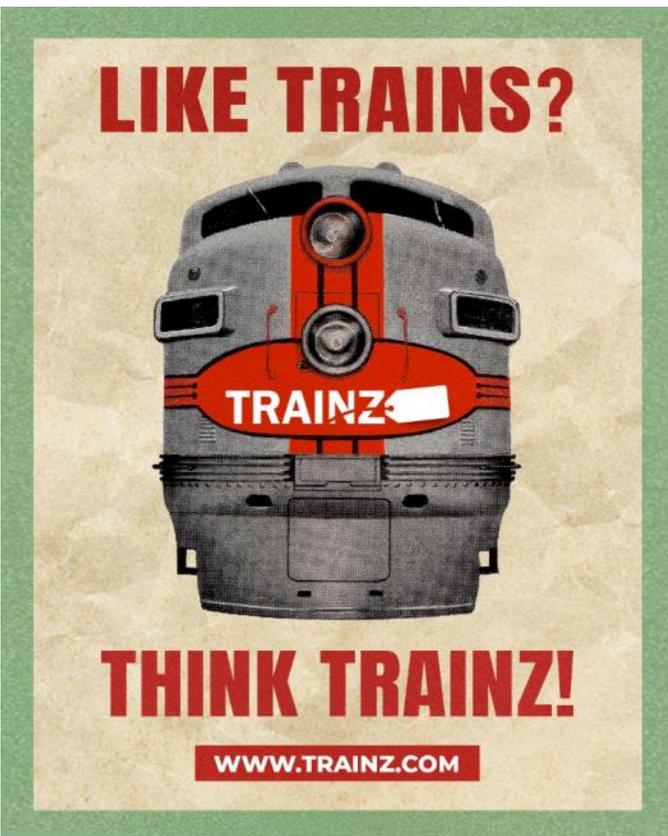
## 2027 National Convention in Nashville

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)

### The Rip Track

**Need Repairs? Supplies?  
Buy Good Stuff from  
our Members**



<https://www.grnews.org/>

**We are proud to introduce the first of our 2025 new products:**

**The "Fish Belly" Arched Deck Truss bridge. Available in two lengths, 40" and 48"**

48" Fish Belly Deck Truss



**Split/Jaw**  
Rail Clamps And More

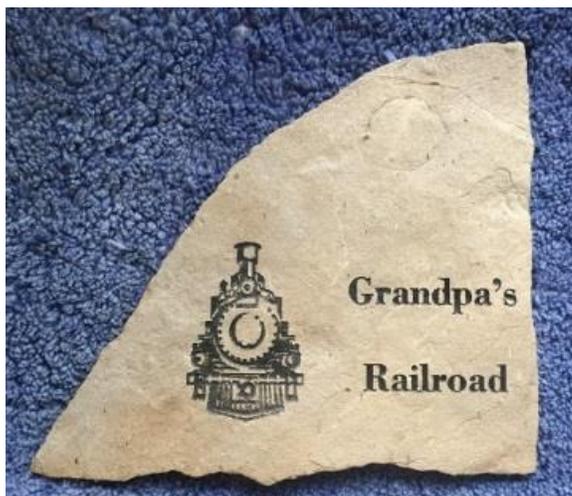
### New Rocks for the New Year ??

# 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)





### 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**



### Yard Hostler

Coooooold Start, but we're regrouping and gonna try for a new Annual Mtg. in March. You need to be there.

Many good opportunities to visit layouts and conventions this year.

Cold weather inside project??? Write about what you did in an upcoming Gazette.

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

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

