

Official Newsletter of the Georgia Garden Railway Society

April, 2023

??

It seems the "APRIL FOOLS"

Virus has infected the Gazettttttttttte.

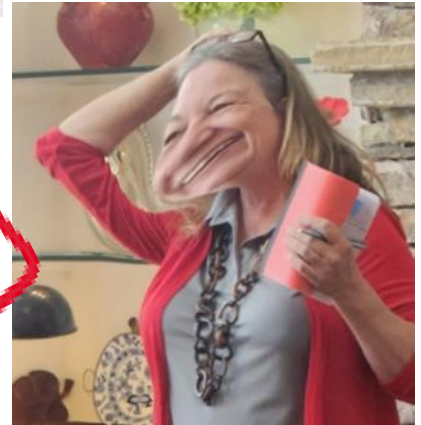
Please disregard any errors or confusion it is causing..... I believe that I will get it corrrrrrrrrrrrrrected by the Tim he next isssssssue comes oooooot. Until thin, I kan ashure U that All informatization in

This Isssssssue is textually correct.



"As a steam enthusiast, a stairlift wasn't enough for Martin, he installed his own funicular railway."

President's Message



Welcome to GGRS 2023!

Our members are the best. If you are new to the club we are glad you joined our group of crazy garden train enthusiasts! If you renewing glad to have you back.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone that participated in the shows this winter, as many hands make lite work (or so they say). Dan and Carol, we appreciate all the coordinating and time making our participation a success.

For our April gathering we look forward to a visit up north to Chatsworth. Hopefully all the chilly days will be past. Bring ideas for the club layout and/or a train to run and introduce yourself to a new member.

If you wish to host or share your passions with the group please let me know!

If you wish to host or



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- April Fools Booster Shot.....2000



President's Message *Cont.*

If you wish to host or Oops.....share your passions with the group please let me know! We still have a few opportunities, I am told. Happy spring,

Juliet Foster

****NOTE: The Calendar contains some Rail related events that are NOT GGRS events!*

Track Warrants

Event	Location	Date	Status
Chatsworth Train Expo / Club Meeting	Depot - Chatsworth, GA 11:00 - 5:00pm	Apr 15, 2023	Setup on the cement pad approx. 12 X 8 @ 8:30 a.m. Lunch served
North GA Steamers	1632 Centennial Olympic Parkway NE, Conyers, GA	Apr 29, 2023 1 - 4:30	Ride the 7" Gauge trains
Train Installations Open House	103 Bell Parkway, Suite 200 Woodstock, GA	May 13, 2023	Support Dave at his new location
GGRS Club Mtg	John & Marge Lees Dahlonga, GA	May 20, 2023 NOTE: date change	Come see the 1:1 Caboose
North GA Steamers	1632 Centennial Olympic Parkway NE, Conyers, GA	May 20, 2023 1 - 4:30	Ride the 7" Gauge trains
GGRS Club Mtg	Tom & Eileen Conrad Southwest "Tour of Depots"	June, 2023	3 layouts
GGRS Club Mtg & Southern Museum of Civil War History	Kennesaw, GA	Jul 22, 2023	Small outside layout & work day???
GGRS Club Mtg	?	Aug, 2023	Open - Invite us to visit
GGRS Club Mtg	Deborah & Ted Yarborough	Sep, 2023	
GGRS Club Mtg	North GA Steamer – Conyers, GA	Oct 7, 2023	Cook out & Ride on Trains
1:1 Train Ride	???	???	Looking into options

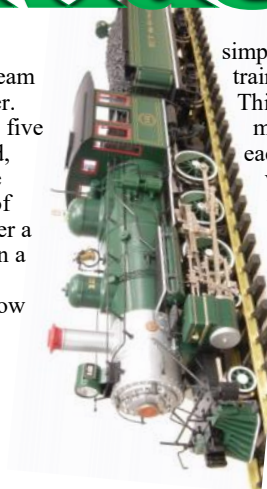
1:1 Train Ride ??

Last month a hint was given for the Annual GGRS 1:1 Scale Train Ride. That hint was expanded this month. Bachmann's most popular and likely the most sold large scale steam Bachmann 4-6-0. Bachmann first introduced the locomotive under the name Big Hauler. popular an anniversary edition was produced and given the nickname 'Annie'. In total, five



versions of the locomotive have been released, road names and styles exist among those five probably owned one or two, or three or four of Hauler, introduced in 1988, was patterned after a southern United States. It currently operates in a 2023 GGRS 1:1 Scale Train Ride will likely will be on the dates of August 26 & 27. So, now where are we going? Can you guess?

Ted Yarborough



simply 'Bachmann'. The hint will be train locomotive in the world is the This steam engine has been so mechanical and detail changing each receiving upgrades. Various versions. Many of you have these 4-6-0's. The original Big locomotive still running in the state bordering Georgia. The involve an overnight stay and that you have more hints,

At the Piedmont Depot Thank you to all that came out to make the 2023 Piedmont Division 25th Anniversary Model Train Show a huge success. The followings GGRS members were at the train show working as vendors, GGRS exhibitors or NMRA volunteers:

Sally & James Bando
Dave Bennett
Leslie Ann & Russ Bundy
Pam Kinnaman
John Lank
Terry & Ginny Manning
Dave Lester
Luke Peters
Jim Redmond
Cullen Reid

Joe Schrock
Gary Warren

Carol & Dan Steidle
Pam & Roy Williamson

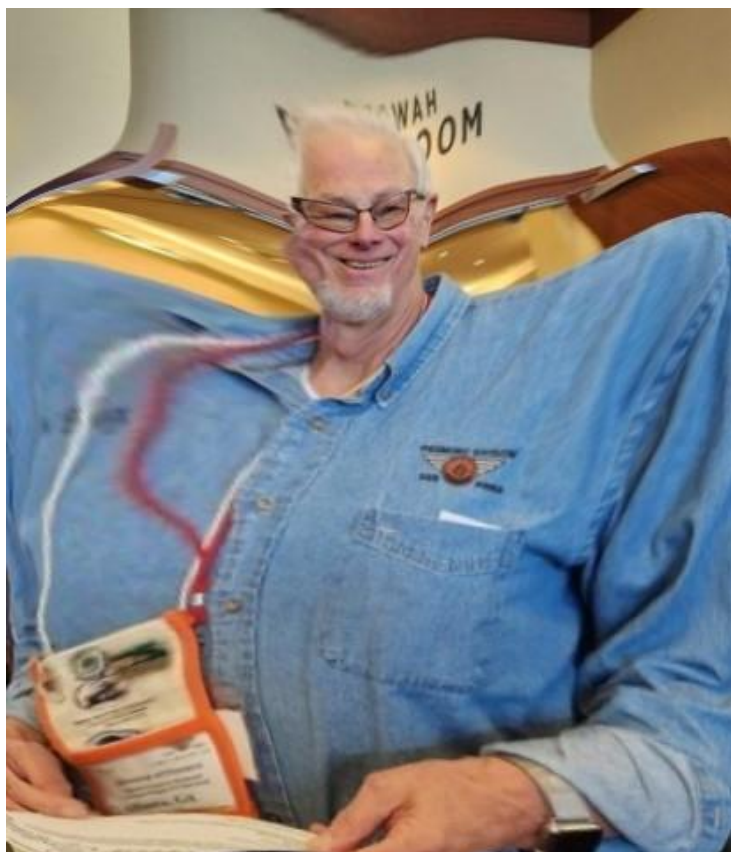
Elliot Stotler
Deborah & Ted Yarborough



Luke Peters









The Crossville Model Railroad Club display is closed. Important Public Notice

Effective immediately, the Crossville Model Railroad Club has ceased operations at the Crossville Outlet Center, now known as Landers Crossroads. Please watch this site for updates as we work on our new course and direction. Thank you for your continued support over the past 21 years. Sincerely, the Officers and Members of the Crossville Model Railroad Club.

Sadly, it is true. The Crossville Model railroad club 5 layouts from Z to G display is closed down and being dismantled after 20+ years of building and enhancing to bring joy to trains fans of all ages. The largest free model train attraction in the Southeast U.S. has been pushed aside, along with other businesses.

The club will continue in exile with the pretty parts all stored away until such time as a new facility can be found. Sending this blast notice out so that people don't make vacation plans and arrive to find that like in the Vacation movie Wally World is Closed.

Our website crossvilletrains.org and our facebook page will remain active to report developments.

Trains, trains, trains.....Again, again, again???

We've been approached by the Southern Museum of Civil War History to host a one day large scale setup at the museum on Saturday July 22nd. The setup is planned to be outdoor on the grass in front of the building near the caboose.

We (Sally Bando) have contacted the GGRS BoD asking whether the Club is interested in supporting the museum's request. Any decision was tabled for the time being. Because the Museum needed a more rapid response to begin producing the promotional literature, Sally responded in the affirmative that there would be a large scale display at this event. Currently we (Sally, James, Leslie Ann, and myself) plan to support this event using the Bando/ Bundy equipment usually seen at Trains, Trains, Trains. Ideally we would like to see this become a GGRS supported event. Possibly the July meeting?

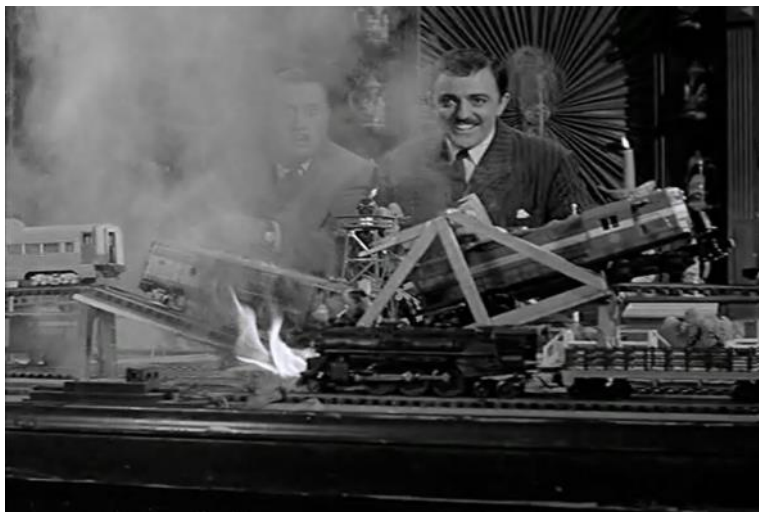
Anyway, would you please add this to the Gazette calendar of event schedule? Date (July 22) and time (10-4) won't change. Just maybe the club involvement's.

Thanks. Russ B

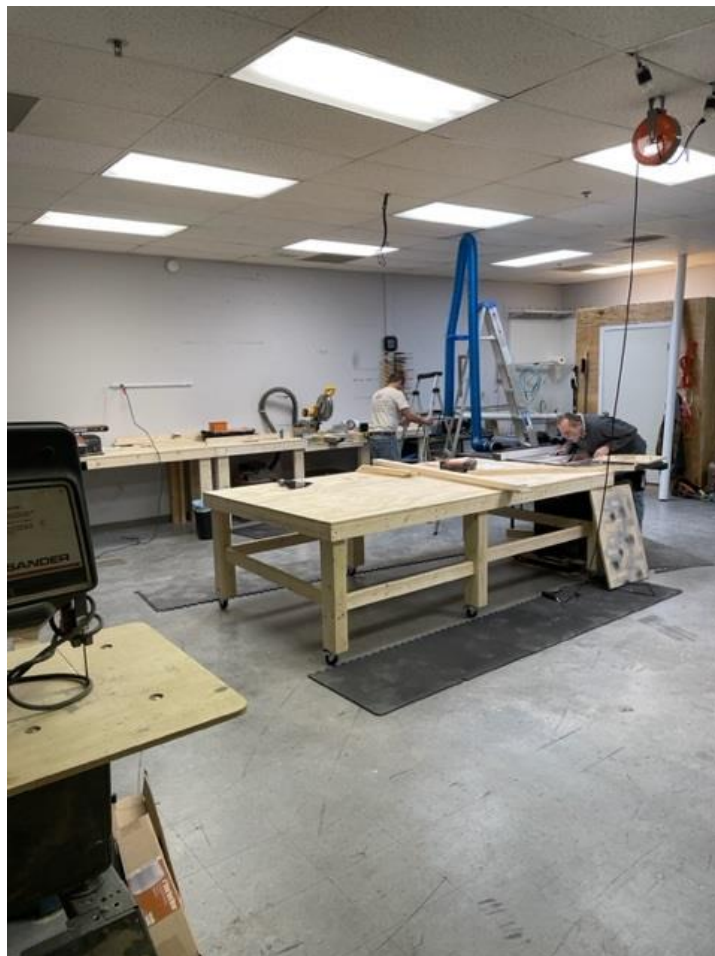
[This sounds great Russ..... I hope the Board officially recognizes the event. If not, well, everyone can still have un-official fun. that's like having a family get-together during COVID.... Right???] Editor]

Membership Photo Directory

The **Members Only** Section of the GGRS website includes a "Membership Photo Directory" which is updated 3 or 4 times a year. The directory has just been updated and includes contact information for our 70 family memberships paid to date for 2023. If your photo is not included, please contact one of the Board members at an upcoming event for your "Kodak Moment" or send a head-and-shoulders photo of yourself and spouse to the editor, Terry Manning, at temanning@aol.com. A jpeg file format works well. The photo directory format was initiated a couple years ago to aid new members and spouses in identifying officers and other members more readily when attending upcoming events. To update, correct, or add your contact information, please email Membership Coordinator, Ginny Manning, at vlmanning@aol.com. This will result in updating such data with the newsletter editor and on the Secretary's meeting notices. Note that we encourage contact information and photos be included for spouses also since they are an important part of our family membership and meeting and event activities.



Dave Bennett's Open House May 20, 2023



MODEL TRAIN EXPO AT THE CHATSWORTH DEPOT



The Depot's very own Big Blue Train will be giving rides. The Depot is the place to be on April 15!

***Operating model trains.** Model trains groups from Chattanooga to Atlanta will display operating N, HO, Lionel, and G Scale trains. There will be trains to ride as well. Many trains will be operating inside and outside the depot (weather permitting)! Kids from 1 to 100 will love the moving trains!

*** Vendors** include railroad art, train themed embroidery clothing for kids and adults, and model trains and accessories of all scales.

***Tours** Caboose tours available 12-5 and Hotel 1-4. The Section House in the City Park will be open for first time in two years for tours 1-4pm.

***Raffle @ 4:00pm** for Model train and \$100.00

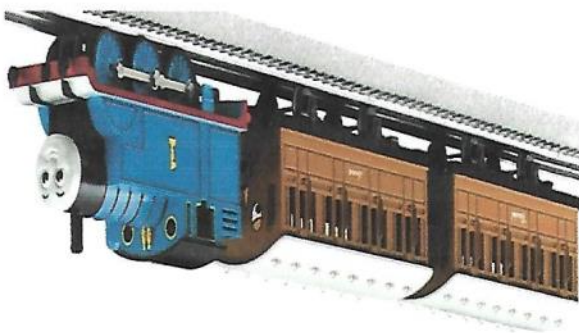
***Free admission** to trains and rides (donations appreciated)

April 15, 2023 12 Noon-5pm
219 North First Ave.

Chatsworth, Georgia

Made possible by Peeples Funeral Home, Murray County Elected Officials, Captain D's, Bojangles, Krystal, Dr. John Robison, First National Community Bank, and Bradley's Ace Hardware.

RAFFLE TO BENEFIT THE CHATSWORTH DEPOT



One lucky raffle ticket will be drawn for a Lionel Thomas the Tank Engine O Gauge electric train set complete with train, track, & power. All funds raised go to help the historic preservation of the Depot.



One lucky raffle ticket will be drawn for a \$100 Dollar Bill.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00.

You do not have to be present to win.

Tickets on sale here.

Chatsworth, Georgia

April 15, 2023 @ 4 PM
219 North First Ave.

All ticket price donations will be matched by the Modern Woodmen. Your \$5.00 ticket becomes a \$10.00 donation to the Depot!

Survey Says !!!

Winter greetings! I am getting anxious to get our trains up and running - guess an indoor show is the way to go until it warms up a bit! I hope you can sign up to run trains at the next show.

The holidays are past and the Train Show survey results are in. Thanks to everyone for your feedback.

We learned Trains Trains Trains and the NMRA show are favored by our members. Several folks attend these shows every year. Golden Spike is a distant third.

Last year about 67% of our new members found out about GGRS from these shows. Yet, only 42% of the respondents thought the shows are an important part of GGRS. Because we want to keep the club expanding we will continue to support the shows we just need to make it a better experience for our membership.

Recommendations for improving our participation in shows include:

- 2 hour blocks for volunteers
- specific tasks for volunteers
- A lead show coordinator
- using simplified layout(s)
- improved marketing at show with a designated 'Greeter'

Starting with the NMRA show in Cartersville these are your suggestions we plan to implement:

1. Sign ups for 2 hour blocks with specific roles. If you wish to sign up for multiple slots great!
2. Dan Steidle agreed to be the event coordinator. Thanks Dan!
3. We will be using simplified layouts that are of interest to all ages (And scheduling group work days to repair and maintain club assets)
4. Review our information table offering to encourage folks to join our group.

I hope you can join us in making the shows a more pleasant experience for all.

Juliet

Check the Website for the latest update of the GGRS Member Photo Directory

Where is the Longest Straight Track in the World?

What railroad wouldn't want endless miles of level straight track?

Answer on page 17.



Highballing down the Track

NGRC2023 Early Bird discounted registration ends on March 31st... register now before the price goes up!

WWW.NGRC2023.ORG

NGRC 2023

38TH NATIONAL GARDEN RAILWAY CONVENTION

JULY 1 - 8, 2023

HYATT REGENCY, SANTA CLARA, CA
SANTA CLARA CONVENTION CENTER

RECEPTION & FIREWORKS
BBQ & TRAIN RIDE AT ROARING CAMP RR
ICE CREAM SOCIAL & VENDOR HALL
ACCURAFT BANQUET

"The place to be in '23!"

National Convention in California by Ted Yarborough

The convention website is up, packed with information and receiving registrations, more than 150 folk already.

The Napa Valley Wine Train experience is already a third sold. More info can be found at www.NGRC2023.ORG or in the latest issue of GR News.

Welcome To The 38th National Garden Railroad Convention In The San Francisco Bay Area

Featuring

- More Than 60 Open Railroads
- A Pool-Side Fireworks Reception
- The Napa Valley Wine Train And Roaring Camp Railroad Experience
- More Than 30 Clinics On A Wide Variety Of Topics
- Vendors From Across North America
- Great Hotel Rates



Info is available at www.bigtrainoperator.com.

EVERYONE that attends banquet gets a convention car!

No, not the loco.....and it is almost sold out. But you do get the USA Boxcar. That's worth the price of the meal itself !



The BTO Club needs you!!



Elections will be in the fall of this year.

There is room for a new generation to take the reins.

We have lost Lou and Ralph and there have been a few close calls, with some Board Members retiring this year as well. If we are to survive to keep

Havin' Fun, Runnin' Trains for 50 years

we are going to need an active Board and staff people in many capacities.

send an e-mail to [Bill Harryman](#), [Marshall Adams](#), [Charles Bartel](#) or me, [JohnGroot](#) and tell us what experience you have and what you can do to help.

Thanks JRG



Those who travel to the National Conventions each year have great things to say about them. Fun, sites, adventures, bargains, etc. Everyone who goes usually enjoys the event and remembers great times for years. Some folks, however, have reluctance set in when the convention is held way over yonder on the other coast. Many look for alternatives, or simply say, "Not this year."

One alternative looks very attractive to us on the East Coast this year, as the Big Train Operators (BTO), formerly the LGB club is holding its Convention June 19-24, 2023 in Bird-in-Hand, Pennsylvania. Yep, that's a place!

There is a \$50 membership into the club, which gets you quarterly slick page magazines, calendar, and the opportunity to attend the convention. You can't attend without being a member. HOWEVER, these folks do things a little different, and being a member for one year and attending the convention might cause you to become a repeat member year after year.

Several differences between the National Conventions and the BTO Conventions may be obvious, while others might be less so. The similarities also may be an, "in the eyes of the beholder" moment. One difference is less personal layouts-on-tour, and more emphasis on 1:1 opportunities. The convention social get togethers may be similar, but there are opportunities listed as: Trivia Contest, an Al Lentz Model or Special Interest Contest, Drag Races - featuring a new format this year, and a Build-Your-Own-Layout Contest at the hotel site. Sounds a little similar and a lot different to me. Maybe you want to join a crew of GGRS members already planning to attend the Big Bird Express in PA this year. Details on membership at this link:

https://bigtrainoperator.com/Info/join_us.shtml

Activities this year include:

Strasburg RR & PA Train Museum with or without shop tour Boxed Lunch included (Shop Tour has steep stairs)

Northern Central RR Charter Steam Ride Boxed Lunch included

Harrisburg, Lincoln, Lancaster Railroad at the Stone Gables, Elizabethtown, PA and also on same day.

Train Collectors Assoc. (TCA) museum. Italian Lunch at the Olive Garden included

Current Schedule

Sunday June 18, 2023

4:30 pm Board of Director's Meeting

Monday June 19, 2023

9 am-3pm Runnin' Trains Everywhere

3 pm Registration

3:30 pm-9pm Convention Rooms Open

Raffles & Silent Auction

5pm-7pm

Ralph's All Aboard Party

Free Raffle & Silent Auction

Joe Hylva Trivia Contest

Tuesday June 20, 2023

8:15 am Depart Hotel for -

Train Museum of PA & Strasburg RR

7-10 pm Convention Rooms Open

Clinic #1

Raffles & Silent Auction

Joe Hylva Trivia Contest

Wednesday June 21, 2023

Train Day at Bird in Hand

9am Annual Members Meeting

10am-noon Convention Rooms Open

10 am-3 pm Runnin' Trains Everywhere

2:30 pm Tim's Almost Famous Drag Races

3:30 pm-5 pm Convention Rooms Open

4 pm Ladies Wine & Cheese Get Together

7 pm-9 pm Convention Rooms Open

Clinic #2



Garden Railroading News

Edition 1 of 2023 has been released at www.GRNews.org It includes articles about:

Richard & Melinda Murray's lovely Green Hills steaming railroad

A new train barn for the fabulous Emerald Heights RR

Track laying at ground level
Unique Displays for Train Shows

And more !

Raffles & Silent Auction

Joe Hylva Trivia Contest

Thursday June 22, 2023

9 am Depart hotel for Northern Central RR Charter Steam Ride w lunch

7 pm-8:30 pm Ice Cream Party

7 pm-8:30 pm Build Your Own Layout Contest

8:30 pm-10 pm

Convention Rooms Open

Raffles & Silent Auction

Joe Hylva Trivia Contest

Friday June 23, 2023

8 am Depart hotel for Harrisburg, Lincoln & Lancaster RR, TCA Museum with Olive Garden Meal

7 pm-10 pm

Convention Rooms Open

Clinic #3

Raffles & Silent Auction

Joe Hylva Trivia Contest

Saturday June 24, 2023

All Day Runnin Trains or check out Things to Do in Stachnik's best

seller Travel Guide

6 pm-9 pm

45th Anniversary Banquet

Straightest Track in the World. "Down Under" is appropriate this issue?

The longest stretch of completely straight track is part of the Trans-Australian Railway, and crosses the Nullarbor Plain for 478 km (297 miles), not deviating even slightly. It can even be seen from space, according to former astronaut Andy Thomas: "It's a very fine line, it's like someone has drawn a very fine pencil line across the desert."

Originally built as part of an incentive program to encourage citizens of far-flung Perth (and Western Australia as a whole) to join the newly formed Commonwealth of Australia, the Trans-Australian Railway is part of the Indian-Pacific line, a service that runs between Sydney and Perth. A one-way trip takes between 65 and 70 hours, depending on scheduling, and it's widely accepted as one of the great railway journeys of the world.

Travel packages come with all meals included, fine wines and cocktails, luxurious sleeping arrangements, and stops at strategic points to see some of Australia's most stunning scenery. The price for all this? Well, packages have gone up.....not to mention you have to get "Down Under" first! So get saving!



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.)



I have two large scale locos for sale. One Accucraft small Whitcomb and one Berlyn loco works Casey Jones (Silverton Northern) Goose.

Both are new and never run or displayed in original boxes.

Whitcomb \$330

Casey jones Goose is \$430

I live in Roswell, GA.

Tom Yorke

Ebonydog17@gmail.com

Your shirt is dirty! Get a new one !

Engineer's Wish List

Sally Bando | 404.550.4816 | sbandogeorgia@comcast.net

Machine embroidery designs & themes on shirts and gifts. Prices upon request. Company and group projects welcome.

Embroidery Design and Gifts
Georgia Garden Railway Society
Club Shirts
Each Shirt will have the club logo on included in the price.

Contact Sally for other designs



Men's	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	Price
Grey Pocket t-shirt							\$10.00
Carbon or Burgundy Polo							\$20.00
Carbon or Burgundy Pocket Polo							\$20.00
Long Sleeve Denim							\$22.00
Short Sleeve Denim							\$22.00

Name on Men's Shirt (Specify Name) \$5.00

Ladies	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	Price
Grey T-shirt							\$10.00
Carbon or Burgundy Polo							\$20.00
Long Sleeve Denim							\$22.00

Name on Ladies shirt (Specify Name) \$5.00





Train Installations, LLC

Woodstock, GA 30188

770-597-0038

dave@traininstallations.com

Check out our online store and updated website at
www.traininstallations.com

BIG NEWS!!!

Train Installations, LLC has expanded into a large climate controlled workshop in Woodstock to better serve our customers. We are NOT opening a retail model train store and will continue to focus on building all types and scales of model RRs. Our new workshop is located two miles north of downtown Woodstock in Bell Industrial Park.

103 Bell Parkway, Suite 200
 Woodstock, GA 30188

Stay tuned for an open house grand opening soon!
 We are open by appointment only so give us a call if you would like to come by. **Thanks - Dave 770-597-0038**



Split Jaw Products is happy to announce that we sponsor Large Scale Live.

“Large Scale Live” is a live stream show on YouTube focusing on Large Scale Trains (G scale/Gauge Trains) started by the MrPictovid and Dakman Productions YouTube channels. The show focuses on train shows/events, news etc. The best part is we have live chat during the show so you can ask

questions and interact live with us. We have guests on the show ranging from garden railroad owners, people making a difference in the hobby by offering new products/advice and even manufacturers. Shawn Conahey from Dakman Productions stepped down for the third season and we now have Nico Corbo of 4TRACKRR as the new co-host.

Stay informed by subscribing at: www.railclamp.com

Thank you!

LARGE SCALE LIVE

www.LargeScaleTrains.com



LGB 2-6-0 Mogul with snow plow, bear trap spark arrestor, custom tender, factory digital sound, custom lettered Rio Grande. Needs traction tire. Original box. \$300.

FOR SALE
LGB Porter. Broken, but glued smokestack, missing cylinder cover. Weathered. Lights and smoke work. Original box. \$100.00



LGB D&RGW #50 diesel. Needs traction tire. Original box. Engineer replaced with 1:20 figure. \$200.00

Contact Ted Yarbrough 706-581-5482 or

yarbrough@charter.net

Yard Hostler

I hope we get this virus under control. May your Spring Layout workload be light, and your work gang cheerful!

Lots of fun in store for the coming months, so snap some photos and send them in.

Hope no one was "Bent out of Shape" over this issue....

See you at the next Depot stop!

Emil Decker, Editor, GGRS Gazette
480 Grizzle Rd., Dawsonville, GA 30534 eldecker@windstream.net



**WAIT! I think I was able to fix the Virus Photos....
Well.... All but Roy's ... Tried and tried, but I can't
seem to fix it ! Sorry Roy!**



Josh Sagarin, Lori Thomas, Dan Steidle



Cullen Reid, James Bando and Cullen's Grandson

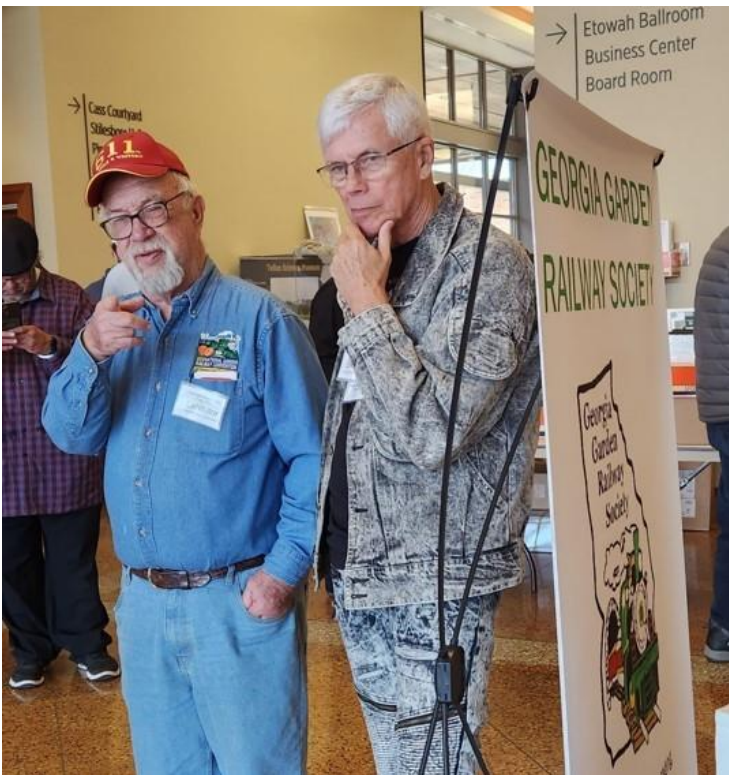
Dave Bennett

Leslie Ann Bundy



Lori Thomas and Gary Warren (Gary's Grandson)





John Lank & Terry Manning

Roy Williamson

Joe Schrock



Cullen Reid & Terry Manning





Jim Redmond



Dan & Carol Steidle

Dave Lester



Elliot and Katherline Stotler and their Grandson



Sally Bando