



# GGRS Gazette

## December, 2022

Official Newsletter  
of the Georgia Garden Railway Society

### CHRISTMAS TRAINS IN & AROUND GEORGIA



The Blue Ridge is a favorite mountain scenic railway, as you ride through the mountains on this nostalgic vintage train in spring and fall... but winter brings an entirely different experience.

Whether you celebrate the arrival of St. Nick or simply are looking for some cold-weather excitement, you need to hop aboard one of their four winter rides, repeatedly counted among the best in the country.

Take a Christmas-themed ride aboard the 1-hour Holiday Express Ride. You'll listen to holiday music, hear the story "The Night Before Christmas," and enjoy delicious hot chocolate or other snacks. Every child will get a traditional bell, a candy cane, and an activity packet on this fun ride.

The Holiday Pavilion Ride takes you on a magical train ride to the sister towns of McCaysville, GA and

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#### President's Message

A huge thank you to everyone that filled out our Show survey. The board is reviewing all the great feedback and will incorporate suggestions beginning with Trains, Trains, Trains.

I am excited 2023 planning is well underway and many volunteering opportunities for you. If you wish to share your expertise, host a gathering or work a show let me know.

I hope to see you at our last 2022 gathering and look forward to exploring the ever festive Savannah.

*Juliet Foster*

Copperhill, TN to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Santa Pavilion!

The Holiday Pavilion Ride is 4 hours round-trip, which includes the 2-hour layover in McCaysville and Copperhill.

The 4-hour Winter Excursion offers you the chance to skip Santa, but still bundle up and sip on a cup of hot chocolate as the train calmly rolls along the Toccoa River and through the scenic Appalachian foothills.

Finally, the 2-hour Winter Express ride takes you on the same roundtrip journey through the countryside, but without the layover.



Young kids will love taking a short ride around the Atlanta Botanical Gardens on the Holiday Ride-on Train! The Botanical Express takes your kids for a trip around the Great Lawn. \$5 per passenger, \$3 for members. It's offered on select Saturdays & Sundays, November – January. General admission to the gardens is required.

Of course, kids of all ages will dig the G Scale Holiday Model Trains, running day and night on the Alston Overlook from Nov. 12, 2022-Jan. 13, 2023.

The train at Stone Mountain Park is fun during every season — but during their Stone Mountain Christmas festivities, it becomes a fun, sing-along experience at night.

Riding the Stone Mountain Train at night during the holiday season is one of my son's favorite things to do during Stone Mountain Park Christmas. Sit on the left side of the train, so you have the best view of the lights along the way. FYI: the open-air train can get chilly, so make sure you've got your jacket and hat ready.

New this year, watch in amazement as hundreds of drones light up the sky as they fly above the reflection pond in the Christmas Drone Show. See larger than life festive aerial formations professionally choreographed with color changing lights and synced to favorite holiday music in this twelve - minute, must see show!

With three great holiday-themed train rides to choose from, a ride on the SAM Shortline Train in central Georgia is a fun, must-do.

Enjoy the popular Candy Cane Express excursion, where you'll travel from Georgia Veterans State Park over Lake Blackshear and through the rolling farm lands of southern Georgia to President Jimmy Carter's hometown of Plains, Georgia. You can explore the town of Plains before riding back. And you better watch out — Santa will also be riding along checking his list!



#### Take A Ride On The Scenic Railroad

This lively journey around the mountain by day becomes a special sing-along experience by night!

December 3 and 7, 2022.

Or, hop on the train and enjoy a relaxing ride to Plains for the annual Christmas Lighting ceremony. You will have time to explore the shops and sample the peanut butter ice cream. A special guest will also be on board this train ride checking his list. November 26, 2022

Finally, the Cordele Holiday Train is guaranteed to be a grand time for all! Hop on this 1-hour holiday train for kids of all ages. Santa will be onboard giving out a gift for each passenger. Enjoy holiday music with you hot chocolate and cookies. December 9, 10, and 17, 2022

*Continued on page 3*

## 30 November to 30 December - Winter Wonderland 2022



See thousands of Christmas lights on the Winter Wonderland Train at Pine Mountain Gold Museum in historic Villa Rica, and meet characters, see lights, and enjoy music along the way.

The Winter Wonderland Train will leave the station Wednesday-Saturday nights, December 1 - 30, 2022. Children ages 2 and under ride FREE.

***DUE TO STAFFING, AND SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS - PLEASE CALL MUSEUM DIRECTLY TO VERIFY TRAIN SCHEDULE.***

It is a little-known fact that Santa's reindeer get to take the month of November off to prepare for hard work in December. This means that Santa Claus travels by train and he will be at the Southeastern Railway Museum **Saturday, November 19th, 2022**

Museum doors open at 9:00am and the holiday festivities will last from 11:00am to 4:00pm. Santa arrives promptly at 1:00 pm. There will be plenty

of opportunities for photos with friends and family with Santa and around the museum so do not forget to bring your camera!

We strongly suggest that you purchase advanced tickets to avoid the line at the gatehouse – Santa always brings a crowd and you do not want to miss his arrival!! Advance tickets are at the museum's Thundertix site.

Ticket purchase includes: museum admission, a train ride (based on weather and volunteer staffing), photos with Santa between 1:45 - 3:30pm (bring your own camera), and the writing of letters for Santa! *Gwinnett/Dekalb Library Passes may not be used to enter this event.* The Festival of Trees also opens at the museum the same day so there are many photo opportunities for the family!



Did you know the coastal town of St. Mary's, GA has a fun Santa Train?! The Georgia Coastal Railway offers two holiday-themed train rides during the season — the Santa Special and Operation: Save Christmas Express.

On the Santa Special, you'll take a magical 70-minute journey by rail with Santa and his friends. Celebrate Christmas with a train ride full of fun, laughter and Christmas spirit. There will be Christmas characters visiting your passenger coach throughout the train ride including; Santa & Ms. Claus, Santa's Elves, Frosty the Snowman and many more.

All passenger coaches on the Santa Special 2022 are climate controlled for maximum comfort. Restrooms are available on the train.

On the Operation: Save Christmas Express, you have been recruited to save Christmas! Santa has crash landed with his sled in the remote southern Georgia woods. The only way the site may be reached is by train. Will you arrive in time to save Christmas? Join them on this 70-minute adventure.

This excursion takes place on their open-air rail cars. Seating is bench-style and is first come first serve. There will be plenty of space for everyone. Toddlers age 2 and under ride free in the lap of an adult.



Located at the old Central of Georgia Railway Savannah Shops and Terminal Facilities, the Georgia State Railroad Museum is a stunning National Historic Landmark that is part of a National Historic Landmark District. The Savannah Santa Train, an annual favorite holiday family event, returns on Saturday, December 10, 2022 from 9 am to 5 pm at Georgia State Railroad Museum. If you are going to the December 10 Layout Tour, add this to your itinerary. Festive activities and entertainment include a holiday-themed diesel locomotive train ride experience, live demonstrations by Lowcountry Turners artfully hand-crafting spinning tops available for purchase, Christmas tree activities with Savannah Tree Foundation, merry dancing with Minick Family Music, and decorate a holiday card to send to families at the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Lowcountry. Enjoy complimentary donuts and coffee provided by The Salvation Army's Mobile Canteen. Santa will visit with all the children and hear their Christmas wishes.



The Southern Museum in Kennesaw doesn't offer an actual train ride, but they do offer plenty of holiday train fun.

Join The Southern Museum on Dec. 10 for an all-day extravaganza of exciting activities, including model train displays, screenings of Polar Express, bell choir performances by The Golden Bells of Atlanta, artisan demonstrations, ornament making craft, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus!



Nov. 10-Dec. 31, 2022 you can ride the Polar Express on the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad in genuinely one of the best Christmas train rides in the Southeast! The 1+ hour round-trip excursion comes to life as the train departs the Bryson City Depot for a journey through the quiet wilderness for a special visit at the North Pole.

Set to the sounds of the motion picture soundtrack, guests on board will enjoy hot chocolate and a treat while listening and reading along with the magical story. Children's faces show the magic of the season when the train take a journey to the North Pole to find Santa Claus waiting. Santa will board the train cars, greeting each kiddo and presenting them with a special gift as in the story, their own silver sleigh bell. Christmas carols are sung as you return back to the Bryson City Depot.

Riding trains is a great way to enjoy the holiday season! Well, to be truthful, any season, but check out one of these this year. You won't be disappointed.



*Continued on page 5*



meal on a vintage dining car.

A fun way to keep the holiday spirit going after Christmas ends is a ride with TVR on the Holiday Lights Train Ride. The Holiday Lights Train Ride is a festive way to enjoy the holiday season starting after Christmas Day. The train ride takes you through a variety of light displays, from twinkling snowflakes to towering Christmas trees. You can also enjoy holiday music and hot cocoa during the ride. The Holiday Lights Train Ride is a great activity for families or groups of friends. It's a fun and unique way to see the holiday lights and get into the spirit of the season.



Christmas at the Station at the Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum, Calera, AL. Celebrate the holiday with a 30-minute daytime ride on the narrow-gauge steam train for a quick trip down Candy Cane Lane on the Shelby & Southern Railroad; and enjoy all the activities on the museum grounds. It's all included with your Christmas Experience tickets!

Or, take a ride on the North Pole Express! enjoy your family's magical journey to the beautiful North Pole through the dark night, the North Pole Express makes its way by starlight to the top of the world. On the way, you'll listen to a whimsical Christmas story, sing your favorite holiday carols, and watch out the windows for the bright lights of the North Pole to appear.

Another of our favorites is the North Pole Limited Christmas Train with the Tennessee Valley Railroad in Chattanooga!

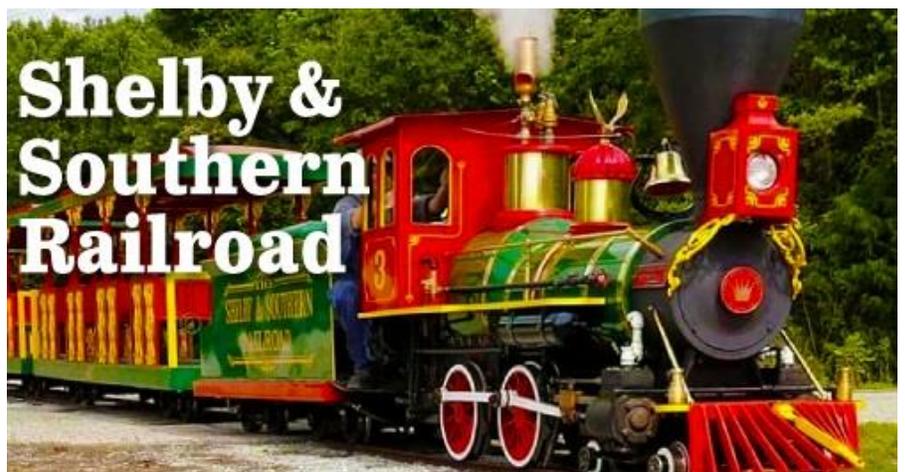
During the magical holiday season, trains take riders on an imaginary journey to the North Pole. Along the way, you'll be treated to refreshments and storytelling while you write your own personal letter to Santa. As the North Pole Limited train gently rolls down the rails, a number of lighted displays can be seen outside. When you arrive at the North Pole, Santa will come on board for a special visit with all the passengers.

Looking for a more romantic Christmas train experience? Try the Christmas Dinner Train. The trip includes a four-course dining experience on board a restored 1924 dining car. The excursion trains will depart from Chattanooga's Grand Junction Station, traveling at a leisurely pace through portions of urban East Chattanooga before reversing direction and returning to Grand Junction. The travel time is just right for the complete



The Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum is also hosting a Hiwassee Holiday Train ride in 2022, that departs from Delano, TN. Santa's Hiwassee Holiday Train is a round-trip one-hour and 15 minute ride along the beautiful Hiwassee River Gorge. Features of this ride include: writing a letter to Santa, a gingerbread cookie, chocolate milk, and a special visit from Santa!

A keepsake boarding pass and holiday bell will be given to every passenger.



**Track Warrants**

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

Event	Location	Date	Status
Christmas at the Tellus Science Museum	Tellus Science Museum Cartersville, GA	Dec 10 - 11, 2022	Santa and a large scale layout
GGRS Dec 2022	Savannah Christmas Tour (Dinner Fri. @ Loves Restaurant)	Dec 9 - 11, 2022 Loves @ 6:00	Layouts, GA State RR Museum & Lights / More
Annual Business Meeting & Christmas Luncheon	Provino's, 440 Ernest W Barrett Pkwy NW #1 Kennesaw, GA	Jan 14, 2023	\$30-50 value RR "Steal My Gift" Exchange Game
60th Atlanta Model Train Show	Gas South Duluth, GA	Jan 21, 2022	
Trains, Trains, Trains	Southern Museum , Kennesaw, GA	Jan 27-29, 2023	Trains Galore!
Piedmont Train Show	Clarence Brown Conference Center Cartersville, GA	Mar 10 - 12, 2023	Sign up to help with our layout
Chatsworth Train Expo / Club Meeting	Depot - Chatsworth, GA	Apr 8, 2023	Setup on the lawn
North GA Steamers	1632 Centennial Olympic Parkway NE, Conyers, GA	Apr 29, 2023 1 - 4:30	Ride the 7" Gauge trains
GGRS Club Mtg	John & Marge Lees Dahlonega, GA	May 13, 2023	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	?	Jul, 2023	Open - Invite us to visit
GGRS Club Mtg	?	Aug, 2023	Open - Invite us to visit
GGRS Club Mtg	Deborah & Ted Yarborough	Sep, 2023	
GGRS Club Mtg	North GA Steamers 7" Gauge Ride On Trains	Oct, 2023	Probably do a Chili Cooking

**December 26, 1917 .... The day after Christmas. Who is William McAdoo and what happened on that day that affected all railroads in the US?**

(Answer on page 21)



## Savannah Christmas Tour



GGRS will start with a dinner at Loves Seafood Restaurant. Great food!! On Friday, 9th @ 6:00 p.m.

### LOVE'S SEAFOOD & STEAKS

6817 Chief Of Love Rd

Savannah, GA 31419

Love's Seafood & Steak is located on the banks of the beautiful Ogeechee River, only 20 minutes from downtown Savannah, via I-16 and I-95, offering fine family-oriented dining in a rustic atmosphere.

If you are planning to join us for dinner in Savannah, please sign up on Signup Genius or call Pam Williamson 770-851-9462.



## Savannah Christmas Tour

GGRS will start with a dinner at Loves Seafood Restaurant. Great food!! On Friday, 9th @ 6:00 p.m. Then we will be traveling to Southeast Georgia to visit two of our east coast member layouts on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Hyde's and Schrock's layouts will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. giving you plenty of time for layout visits whether you are traveling east or west.

**SCHROCK** - The Schrock's Bulldog Junction is an elevated layout under a 30' x 50' pavilion complete with a turn table, scratch-built buildings and 650 feet of track. Joe runs both track and battery powered trains. New additions to the layout include a Farm, Park, Zoo and Rodeo. Their gardens feature many annuals, roses, banana trees and whimsical yard art.

**Joe & Mary Schrock**  
546 Cauley Road East  
Dublin, GA 31027  
775-772-3367



**Savannah Christmas Tour (Cont.)**

**HYDE** — The Hyde's have not one but two indoor G scale layouts. Upstairs, in a space approximately 25' X 40', the layout has 800 feet of track. There are 8 track powered locos running simultaneously among 100 scratch built and/or kit bashed buildings. There are several themed areas including Mt Rushmore, boy scout camp, Halloween block party, Christmas, river front, drive in theater, baseball park, museum, Thomas tank and more. The animation will bring a smile to your face. The second layout is 12'x 24' located in Richard's ground level work shop.

**Richard & Beverly Hyde****810 Robin Drive****Pooler, GA 31322****912-748-7553**

**Savannah's Waterfront Christmas on the River** - Some GGRS members will be heading to Savannah on Thursday December 8th or Friday December 9th to see "Savannah's Waterfront Christmas on the River". This three-day festival takes place from Friday, December 9 through Sunday, December 11, 2022 and will feature merry music, handcrafted art, live performances and holiday cheer. Dance and music fill the weekend with Christmas performances.

If you're going to be in Savannah on Friday night and would like to get together for a GGRS group dinner, please go to Sign-up Genius and leave your name and number in your party.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0949a8af2aa6fa7-savannah>



**G Scaler, Ted Gray**, runs a Christmas light show featuring his G-scale trains nightly from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (unless it's raining or very windy).

**Ted Gray**  
782 Greenwich Drive  
Richmond Hill, GA 31324



## HOTELS:

Book a hotel early, as Savannah is a very popular weekend destination. While staying in Savannah puts you where the action is, it is also the most expensive choice. Less expensive options can be found near the airport and in the nearby towns of Pooler and Richmond Hill. Use your loyalty points to get the best option for your Savannah experience. Lori Thomas has found the following hotel options:

Microtel Inn & Suites, Pooler (\$125 incl tax for Friday only, \$250 incl tax for 2 nights Fri/Sat)

Best Western Savannah Historic District (\$257 incl tax and parking for Friday only, \$451 incl tax and parking for 2-night Fri/Sat)



## OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST WHILE IN SAVANNAH

### Georgia State Railroad Museum -

Located in Tricentennial Park, Georgia State Railroad Museum is a beautiful National Historic Landmark located at the old Central of Georgia Railway Savannah Shops and Terminal Facilities. With a fully operational turntable, you have the chance to explore historic railcars, experience the handcar, and go on guided tours. Open seven days a week from 9:00am to 4:00pm.  
 - 655 Louisville Rd., Savannah, GA 31401  
 - Ticket Price: \$15 per adult, \$8 per child (age 2 to 12)

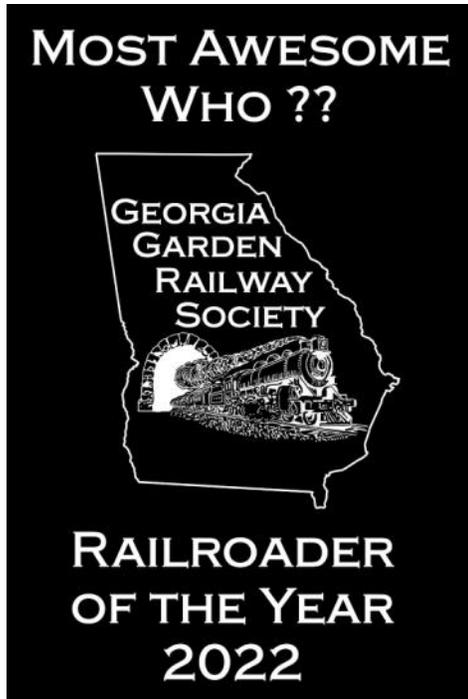


Right across from the Savannah History Museum, located in the Central of Georgia Railway Station. Between the two is Tricentennial Park, where Patriot forces failed to take Savannah during the American Revolution. Reconstructed redoubt is free to tour. As stated on page 4, The Savannah Santa Train returns on December 10, from 9 am to 5 pm. Festive activities and entertainment include a holiday-themed diesel locomotive train ride experience, live demonstrations by Lowcountry Turners artfully hand-crafting spinning tops, Christmas tree activities with Savannah Tree Foundation, merry dancing with Minick Family Music, and decorate a holiday card to send to families at the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Lowcountry.

**Savannah Belles Ferry** - Get a unique perspective of Savannah's downtown by going offshore. The Savannah Belles Ferry system provides free passage across the Savannah River between downtown's riverwalk and Hutchinson Island, home of the **Savannah Convention Center** and **Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa**. Operating hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.



**Tybee Island**  
**Fort Jackson and Fort Pulaski**  
**Riverwalk**  
**Pirates House**  
**Old Savannah Trolley Tours**  
**Bonaventure Cemetery**  
**All the historic squares of Savannah**  
**SO MUCH TO DO !!!!!!!**



## Railroader of the Year

Did you send in a nomination? Who do you think would be the best candidate for 2022?

Send your nominations to President Juliet at [Juliet\\_esp@outlook.com](mailto:Juliet_esp@outlook.com) or 602-695-2042

The Award will be made at the Annual Meeting / Party held at Provino's in January.

## Annual 2023 Meeting

Annual Business Meeting & Christmas Luncheon

January 14, 2023

12 Noon – 2:30 P.M.

Provino's Italian Restaurant

440 Ernest W. Barrett Parkway Northwest

Kennesaw, GA 30144

Our Annual Business Meeting & Christmas Luncheon will be at Provino's, same as last year.

Lastly, the cost per person is \$28 which includes choice of five Italian entrees, house salad, garlic rolls, soft drinks 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/Dirty Santa" a good old -fashioned game of scheming and stealing! All those 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 interested in 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 special requests.*

## Christmas 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 know, and we want everyone who is interested in joining in on the fun. When I volunteered to play "Cinder Claus", it seemed those in the conversation didn't really know how it was run, or even what to call it. It goes by several names, but Dirty Santa will do.

### Here are the rules:

- ⊗ **Bring a gift.** Since it is a Railroad Society that we belong to, one would expect the gift to be RR related.....In our case, RR equipment, building, accessory, Garden, yard, tool, resources, you can think of million 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 the 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 exchange your gift for a ticket, which will be used to determine the order of precedence for play later. See Cinder Claus for the gift pile.
- ⊗ Once the game begins, Cinder Claus, that's me, will randomly draw a ticket. The matching holder of the ticket will be the first to play.
- ⊗ You will look at all the nice lovely wrapped gifts, and pick one. Then unwrap it for all to behold & ooh and ah over.
- ⊗ Now the fun begins. The second ticket drawn has an option. Pick a new, beautifully wrapped gift,..... Or steal the unwrapped gift from the first person.
- ⊗ If you unwrap a new gift we move to the third ticket. If you steal, then the person from whom you stole gets to unwrap a new one. Or steal if there is an available un-stolen gift out there. And the fun begins .....
- ⊗ **Stealing rule:** Depending on who you play with, a gift may be stolen a set number or unlimited times. This could make for a very long night. **WE WILL LIMIT STEALING OF A GIFT TO TWO TIMES.** Once a gift is opened, then stolen, then stolen again, it goes out of play. Cinder Claus 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**.
- ⊗ As the game progresses, a gift might be opened, NOT stolen for a couple of turns, then gets stolen later in the game, so even if you select early, your gift may get stolen later in the game. Fear not. You then get to start all over again to steal, or unwrap anew.
- ⊗ The last ticket signals nearing the end of the game.
- ⊗ Once all tickets have been pulled, there should be no gifts left to open past the last one. If the last ticket holder opens the last gift, ok. If they decide to steal from the available opened gifts, any of the victims can opt to steal or open the last gift.
- ⊗ Once the last gift is opened, one would think the stealing is done. But Nooooooooo!
- ⊗ Now, the 1st ticket pulled finally gets to steal any un-stolen gift to end the game.

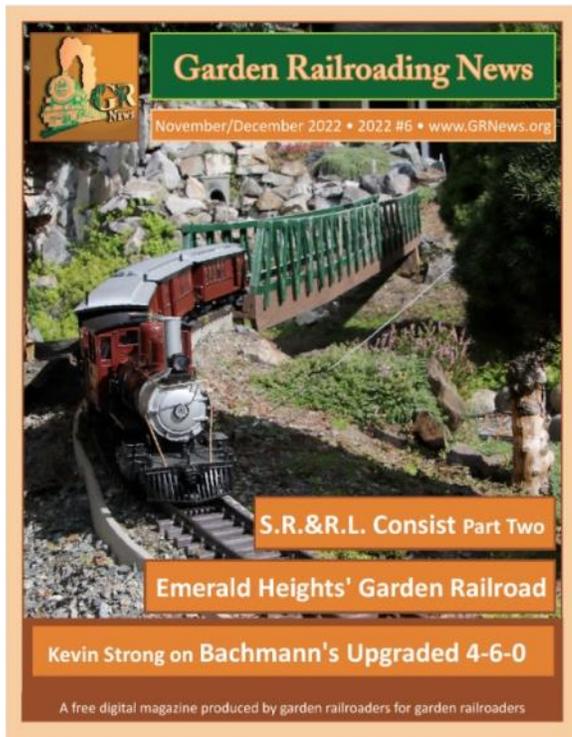
**Simple rules; easy to play; and you go home with a new gift for After - Christmas. Join us, won't you?**



## Train Slang: How much Railroad Slang do you know? (Cont....)

**Gonna go through the A.B.C.'s of Railroad Slang over the last few issues, and we finally come to the end of the line.**

- Whiskers: Seniority
- Whiskers on the Rail: Frost on the rail
- Windcutter: Streamliner
- Wipe the Clock: Emergency Application of Brakes
- Yard Bull: Railroad Detective
- Yard Geese: Switchman
- Yard Goat: Yard switch engine



The November/December issue of **GR News** has just been released at [www.GRNews.org](http://www.GRNews.org) .

#### Other News:

- ⊗ On social media (Facebook/Instagram/YouTube) GR News now has over 4,000 followers
- ⊗ We are delighted to welcome our first club from Germany - Club der LGB Freunde Rhein Sieg e.V.  
<https://lgb-rheinsieg.de/de/>
- ⊗ We welcome a new advertiser, Model Train Technology
- ⊗ We are excited that full details of the National Convention next year have been released at [www.NGRC2023.org](http://www.NGRC2023.org)

**May peace and love glow in our homes this Holiday Season.**

Cheers  
Mick Spilsbury : President, Bay Area Garden Railway Society  
**GRNews Marketing & Distribution Director**

[GRNews.org](http://GRNews.org)

[GRNews on Facebook](#)

[GR News on Instagram](#)

## Conductor

The annual **Trains, Trains, Trains** event at the Southern Museum (<https://southernmuseum.org/>) is scheduled for January 28-29, 2023. The Museum hours are 9:30 am - 5:00 pm each day.

GGRS will be supporting the event again this year, with set up of the free form layout in our usual spot. If you'd like to volunteer to help, please respond to Russ @ **770 928-4050** or [rsbundy@hotmail.com](mailto:rsbundy@hotmail.com) not later than November 25th. The Museum has requested our volunteer headcount by EOB that day.

Volunteers will receive an 2023 Trains, trains, trans t-shirt. Along with your paid admission, if you sign up to support the GGRS display for the full day, either Saturday or Sunday, you'll also be given a lunch ticket. To receive these perks you must respond prior to the 25th so I can submit the list of volunteers to the Museum. In addition to shirt orders and meal ticket counts, they need the information for insurance purposes.

If you would like to bring a train consist and/or other items to run or display, please let me know. We'd like to make the display special and the visitors really enjoy seeing your buildings and decorations. The Club hasn't decided on a theme for this event, but we can always work in what you bring.

Set up will be Friday morning (January 27th) starting around 9:45. You won't need anything special to help. Operations are Saturday and Sunday per the hours above. I'll have admission passes for those who sign up before the 25th. If you can't sign up early, you're still more than welcome to stop by, I think admission will be \$10. (This event is the major fundraiser for the Museum).

Thank you for your support.

## RUSS B.



# Gandy Dancers

Highlighting Members and their work



## Figures and Accessories on the Cheap by Russ Bundy

Looking to add some interest to your layout without spending a lot. Now is the time to look for the after Christmas bargains, Many stores sell holiday themed figures and accessories. They also usually have large discounts for the items left over after the holidays. I you find yourself "out shopping for sales" after Christmas, keep an eye out for some of these figures that might add to your layout.

Granted, many of these items are made for indoor use and may not be true to scale. And many have "themes" molded in, such as snow. But with a little paint, and some minor touchups, you can add a lot of interest to your layout without spending true scale dollars.



The two food trucks are made for an outdoor winter scene. But with a little paint, that matches the truck color and landscape, presto, they're now suitable for any climate. Okay, so the people are dressed in winter clothing and we



run mostly in warm weather. With proper placement only the people who read this article will think to look that close.



Before: notice the snow.



After: A little paint does the trick.

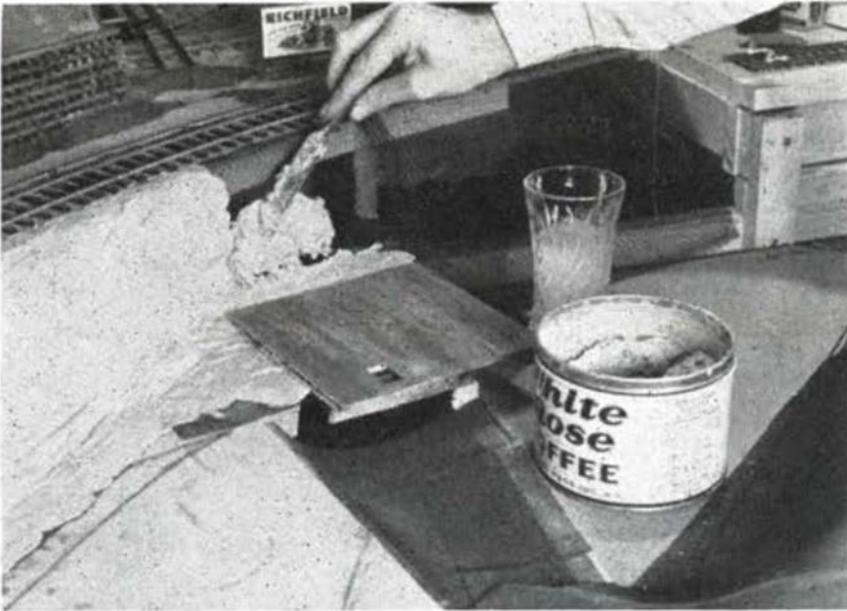


There are all kinds of possibilities, from birdhouses, to people, and then just general "things" that will add interest and cost almost nothing. Some items look good even without touchup. And looking to these things can take the drudgery out of that after Christmas shopping experience. Good luck and we hope you have a Happy New Year.



## Safety Tips: What **NOT** to use <https://www.trains.com/mrr/how-to/build-model-railroad/toxic-chemicals-on-model-railroads-throughout-history/>

Model Railroader posted an article about some of the crazy modeling materials in history that we probably don't want to use today. Check these out. Hard to believe hobbyists used toxic chemicals on model railroads, in the days before hobby shops sold premade scenery and wiring products. Hobbyists made their own, and what they used was, well.... You decide.

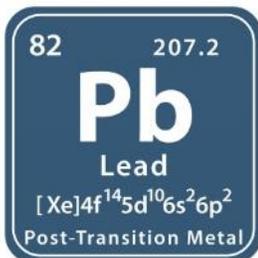


Asbestos plaster is applied in gobs with a putty knife. When finished, wet fingers and run them over plaster to smooth and model the surface.

This GarGraves track remained outdoors, resting in concrete grooves. The ties were soaked in creosote every two years. Photo by Charles Dollins



## Mercury



Lead was one of the earliest metals discovered by humans, and was in use by 3,000 B.C. The Romans used lead for lining water pipes and baths. It was also popular in winemaking.

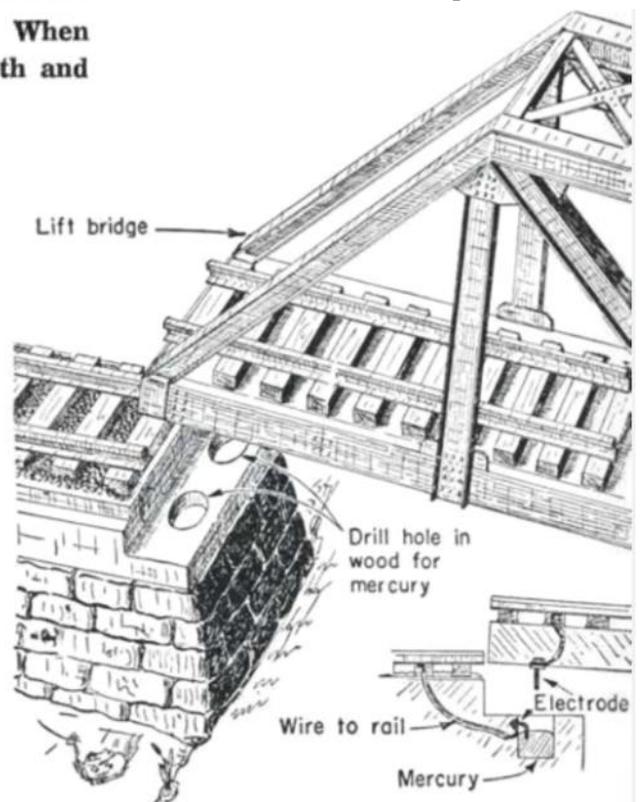
Because it is soft and malleable, lead was used in a plethora of products, including bullets, plumbing products, paint, and children's toys. Lead is a highly poisonous

metal, affecting nearly every organ in the body.

Regulations in the U.S. reduced or eliminated lead from non-battery products (paint, gasoline, solders, and water systems). Lead is still commonly used in construction products and lead-acid batteries.

Dr. Richard C. Mast, in the September 1944 MR, Scratch-built a 200-ton crane. He cast detail parts from lead blocks!

Do you have lead somewhere on your layout? Mercury? Creosote? What other toxic components might be found on your railway?



POOLS of mercury deposited in holes in the shelf of this lift bridge eliminate conventional metallic track circuit contacts that get out of adjustment. A simple, excellent system.

## 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.)



# TRAINZ

### Christmas Trains:

The holidays are a special time for everyone - but especially model train collectors! It's the time when you get to pull out your holiday train sets and watch them circle your Christmas tree!

Psst - if you're looking for complete sets, save yourself some time and check

out our Christmas train set collection! We also have a special collection devoted to the Polar Express!

Featured: 6727 Christmas products as of this posting



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.

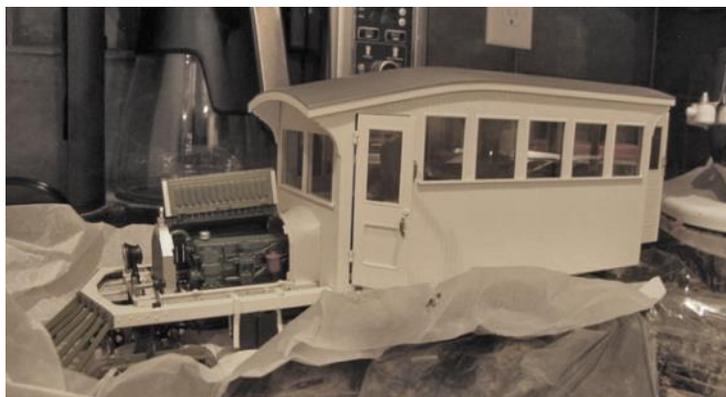
Whitcomb \$330

Casey jones  
Goose is \$430

I live in Roswell,  
GA.

Tom Yorke

[Ebonydog17@gmail.com](mailto:Ebonydog17@gmail.com)



Emil Decker's  
STICKS  
+  
STONES

**“The truth is not  
in the touch of a  
stone, but in what  
the stone tells  
you.”**

*Rene Denfeld*

[sticks](#)

[Nstones](#)

[@weegrr.com](mailto:@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)

We can help you with any part of your model RR project no matter what scale it is.

- Layout planning and CAD drawings
- Custom bridges
- Overhead RR systems
- Model kit assembly
- Train storage shelving

Thanks - Dave 770-597-0038

Now is a better time than ever to distract yourself with the hobby of model railroading! Let us know how we can help.

**Engineer's Wish List**  
Embroidery Design & Gifts  
by One-Line Concepts, Inc.  
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



## Large Scale Live:

Split Jaw is proud to sponsor Large Scale Live, now beginning their 3rd season Saturday Sept 24 at 7:00 PM eastern.

<https://largescaletrains.com/>

**Your place for all things Large Scale Trains related and more!**

Men's	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	Price
							\$10.00
							\$20.00
							\$20.00
							\$22.00
							\$22.00
							\$5.00
Ladies	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	Price
							\$10.00
							\$20.00
							\$22.00
							\$5.00



## December 26, 1917



One of the broadest acts of presidential power happened December 26, 1917, when President Woodrow Wilson issued the order to nationalize the entire United States railroad system during World War I.



*President Woodrow Wilson*

Following the ICC recommendation, President Wilson issued the nationalization

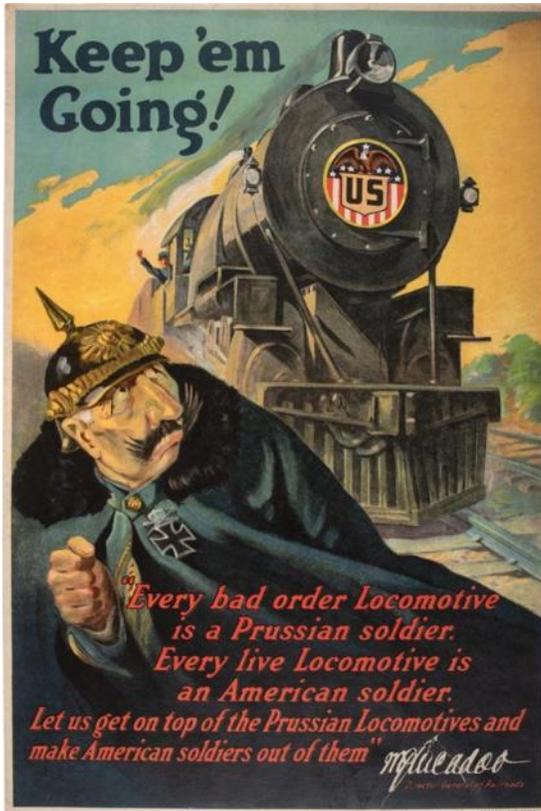
order for Secretary of War Newton Baker to take possession of the railroads on the 28th. President Wilson appointed William McAdoo, Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Department, to be Director General of Railroads, because McAdoo had previous railroad experience.

Federal control would extend over all steam- and electric-powered railroads, as well as their “owned or controlled systems of coastal and inland water transportation, terminals, terminal companies, terminal associations, sleeping and parlor cars, private cars, private car lines, elevators, warehouses, and telephone and telegraph lines.”

For years Congress and the Wilson administration had tried to intervene in the railroad industry’s economic struggles. The Hepburn Rate Act of 1906 empowered of the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) to control shipping rates by regulating “*fair, just and reasonable*” passenger and shipping rates charged by the railroads. The rate caps later came back to make some railroad systems unprofitable through the next decade, forcing them into receivership.

*Men transported to training camps in preparation to entering the War To End All Wars.*

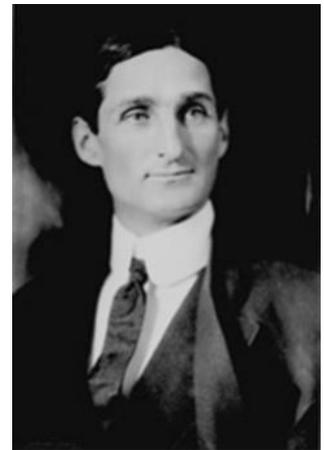




Chief Justice Edward White wrote that Congress had “a power which inevitably resulted from its authority to protect interstate commerce.” Congress passed the Army Appropriations Act of 1916, which granted the president the power to take over the nation’s transportation systems, if needed during wartime conditions. The railroads faltered under the heavy demands of a wartime economy in 1917, resulting in materials being unable to be loaded and shipped on trains.

During 1918, Congress passed an act that guaranteed that the railroad system would return to private control within 21 months of a peace treaty signed by the United States. The railways remained under federal control until 1920. The federal government made considerable efforts to consolidate and streamline services under its legal monopoly.

More than 100,000 railroad cars were built using standardized designs and an estimated \$1 billion was invested in transportation systems. The Transportation Act of 1920 (also known as the Esch - Cummins Act) returned the railroad system to its private owners, but it expanded the powers of the ICC and established collective bargaining systems.



*William McAdoo*

## Yard Hostler

Looking forward to the New Year. You got some RR Christmas plans? Submit photos for the Jan. Edition. Have a Happy, Merry Christmahannakwanzicah !!

Looking forward to seeing you at the Annual After Christmas gift swap and business meeting.

Emil Decker, Editor, GGRS Gazette  
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