



GGRS Gazette

February, 2022

Official Newsletter of the Georgia Garden Railway Society

President's Message



Happy 2022

Our adventures begin. Hats off to Carolyn Lank and all who helped make the annual luncheon and Santa swap a resounding success!

My personal gratitude to the "Railroader of the Year!" He is a treasure to have on board. Without his wit, dedication and persistent reminders we would be lost. Congratulations and thank you Emil! GGRS 2022 planning has begun and we would love your input. If you want to host a gathering, share how-to ideas, volunteer at an event or offer suggestions please call 602-695-2042. Or reach out to a board member: Pam Williamson, Dennis Bass, James Bando, Emil Decker, John Lank or Ginny Manning.

Cheers,

Juliet Foster

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Successful Annual Meeting

To the tune of "On Top of Spaghetti", or "Old Smokie" or some other ridiculous song we sang as kids.....I wonder if kids still sing the good ones?

On top of Spaghetti, all covered with cheese; We met at Provino's, as nice as you please.

The G.G.R.S., ...was there in force; Nobody brought COVID, we were happy of course.

The waitresses brought in, the salad and bread; The next thing you know, Everybody was fed.

We made all announcements, so tidy, not slow; Cause everyone wanted, Dirty Santa to show.

Before he could get there, We listened to hear; Bass talked about winning, "Railroader da' Year."

He asked me to draw names, out of a green hat; The thing was so tiny, it might fit a gnat.

The first name was smudged, with la-sag-na sauce; I couldn't even read it, so that name was lost.

The next was a mystery, couldn't e'vn place the guy; Somebody named "Draw", "Again", that's no lie.

I reached in the hat then, to my elbow so deep; T'was then that I noticed, John Lees was asleep.

The last sheet was blank... Now how could that be; To save us all time, I said it was me.

Phil said Colorado is fun - have no fear; Look to some 4 - wheel'n, of course in low gear.

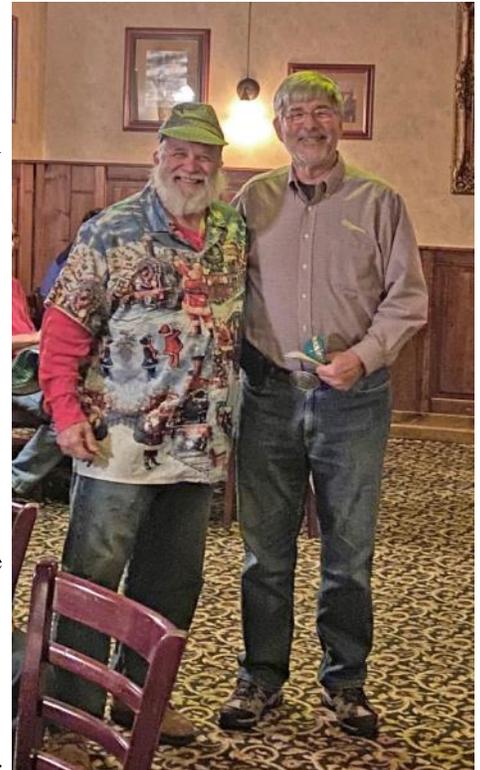
Then Dirty arrived, He was spot on the scene; And toys were opened, with stealing so mean.

My wife stole some buildings, bird feeders you see; They won't see my layout, 'cept hung from a tree.

With automobiles, trucks, boxes and oats; Not sure if I saw right, maybe even a goat.

When the party was ended, we ran for the door; Leaving Dennis to pay, for that spot on the floor.

It was a great party, look for it next year; Unless a new variant, keeps us back home in fear.

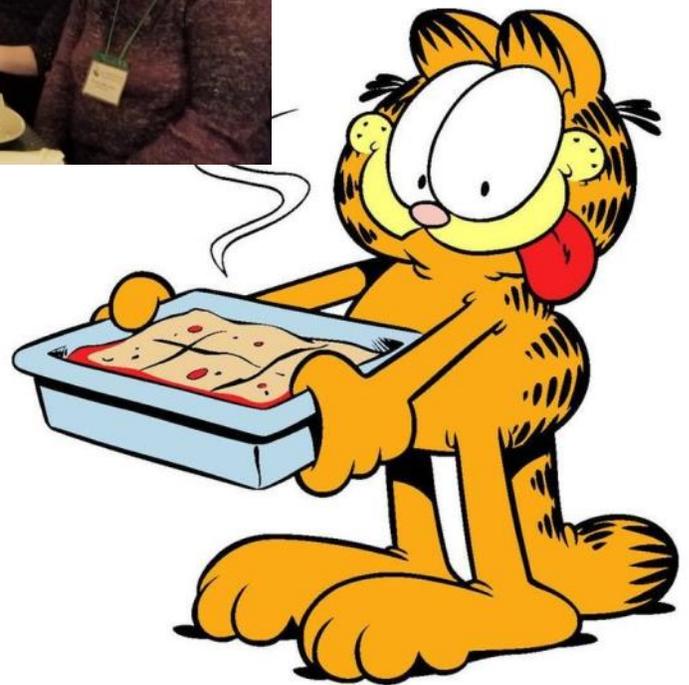


I'm pretty sure that's how it went. Great food, good fun, and lots of laughter.

Annual Party Picture Posting



Happy hungry group. Those plates will be full in no time.



Get your membership and meal all at one low price.



Seated next to John Lank, Garry Warren. Garry is a new member as of the Luncheon .

John Lees holds up his wooden plaque with various date nails.



Annual Party Picture Posting



More happy folks just waiting to be served.



Seated with Terry & Ginny Manning are new members, as of our Luncheon, Bruce & Cindy Schohy.





Seat with Dave Bennett are prospective members Bie Sutterland and his son Travis

Roy came away with some Lionel ornaments and salt & pepper shakers.



Thank you to everyone for making the holiday celebration a great success!



Track Warrants

Event	Location	Date	Status
Trains, Trains, Trains	Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History Kennesaw, GA	Jan 29 - 30, 2022	In Planning Stage
2022 Model Train Expo	Chatsworth Depot	Apr 09, 2022	In Planning Stage
GGRS Apr 2022 Meeting	Dennis and Ellen Bass 1972 Lansbury Court, Snellville, GA	Apr ? 2022	In Planning Stage
GGRS May Meeting Southside Atlanta Consortium 2022	Multiple: At least 4 ! Peachtree City and outlying area.	May 2022	In Planning Stage



2021 GGRS Railroader of the Year

by Pam Williamson

The well-deserved 2021 Railroader of the Year is our own Editor, Emil Decker.

According to the membership:

“Emil has been unfailing in his tremendous ability, creativity, and willingness to promote GGRS through the GGRS Gazette. It keeps everyone informed and, most importantly, “connected” - even through times when we are not meeting on a regular basis. He also does many other things as well that keeps GGRS going such as setting up at train shows, etc.”

“We are so fortunate to have so many talented people involved with our GGRS membership. Because of that, GGRS is not only fun to get together, but it also enriches our lives through its friendships.

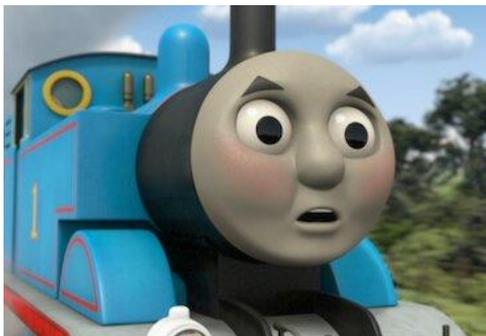
“Emil is always there with a helping hand and I really appreciate the humor he brings to the

Gazette.”

“Really enjoy the newsletters, keep them coming!”

Congratulation Emil for a job well done!

It amazes me how someone like myself can be in such a great organization devoted to Garden Railroading,..... And still not have a functional garden railway!



I have mastered every excuse for not completing a layout, from job, to \$\$, to cutting trees down, to weather, sickness, retirement (shouldn't that be a positive instead of a negative?), to quarantine.....twice.... And still, I don't have a layout. Various parts and pieces, sections of track abound, but not connected.

To be selected as the “Railroader of the Year” is truly humbling. I have only volunteered what I could to add to our mutual interest, and nothing more. I am humbled that you consider my contributions worthy, and pleased that you all have enjoyed the publication. One day I hope I will have a layout worthy of inclusion in its pages, and look forward to inviting you all here. I truly admire and respect all of you who have working layouts, and greatly enjoy visiting them.

Here's to a new year, and let's find someone who deserves this honor for the coming season. Thank you.

Emil

Highballing down the Track

2022

NATIONAL GARDEN

JUNE 20-25 2022 ▶ DENVER CO

COME'ON ABOARD! ◀



RAILWAY CONVENTION

DENVER GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY

▶ REGISTERING SOON!

REGISTRATION IS ONLY WEEKS AWAY!

REGISTER ONLINE OR PRINT FOR REGISTRATION BY MAIL

SAVE THE DATE

<i>Individual Registration</i>	\$75 by March 31, 2022	\$100 thereafter
<i>Family Registration</i>	\$125 by March 31, 2022	\$150 thereafter

VISIT [NGRC2022.ORG](https://www.ngrc2022.org)

REGISTRATION INCLUDES ▶

- ♦ Visit 40 + Layouts Scheduled for the Convention
- ♦ Access to Vendor Hall, Welcome Reception, Clinics and Convention Store
- ♦ Participation in the Convention Model Contest and Youth Model Contest
- ♦ Convention Bag, Program Book, and Commemorative Convention Pin

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS ▶

- ♦ Four Pre-Convention Bus Tours – Transportation, Admission, and Lunch
- ♦ Post-Convention Bus Tour – Includes Transportation and Admission
- ♦ Banquet, Ice cream Social and BBQ at the Colorado Railroad Museum
- ♦ Bus Transportation to Layout Tours and BBQ

PLUS ▶ Limited-edition Conventian Car – Logo-branded Rio Grande Caboose available for \$98

A new issue of **Garden Railroading News** (GR News) digital magazine (#5, Sept/Oct 2021) went online.

You can access it via this link <https://dl.orangedox.com/GRNews2021-5-Sept-Oct2021>

Or you can access it via the GR News website at

<https://www.grnews.org> where you can also: Access prior editions

Check out bonus content

Click a link to a readership survey

Please do help the small team of garden railroad volunteers who produce GR News by completing the brief 6 question readership survey.

What honks and is silver all over?

The galloping geese! Visit them at the Colorado Railroad Museum, FREE with your convention badge!



The 2022 National Garden Railway

Convention Registration is now open. Registration form available at the site or via this link:

https://dfa523be-bf1d-4941-a215-a05aca394771.filesusr.com/ugd/006123_d64cc1da04054cb297e36fcfddb07b00.pdf

Freight Yard Woes

Still waiting on an order from last year? Is it in a cargo container off shore? Perhaps stuck in a distribution channel? Maybe it has been trashed along a rail siding.

An official with Union Pacific (UP) revealed last week that they believe that approximately 90 shipping containers are compromised by thieves **every day** as twitter photos have gone viral. Posts showing the aftermath of the thieves stealing thousands of packages, with the packaging littering the rail lines of LA County. Adrian Guerrero, director of public affairs for UP, revealed the following in a letter to far-left L.A. District Attorney George Gascon:

“Since December 2020, UP has experienced an over 160% increase in criminal rail theft in Los Angeles County. In several months during that period, the increase from the previous year surpassed 200%. In October 2021 alone, the increase was 356% over compared to October 2020. Not only do these dramatic increases represent retail product thefts – they include increased assaults and armed robberies of UP employees performing their duties moving trains. Over the last three months, over 90 containers [are] compromised per day.”



“This increased criminal activity over the past twelve months accounts for approximately \$5 million in claims, losses and damages to UP. And that value does not include respective losses to our impacted customers.”

Guerrero then slammed the city’s far-left politics, saying that they are enabling the criminals who he says brag about being let off easy for their crimes.

“Criminals are caught and arrested, turned over to local authorities for booking, arraigned before the local courts, charges are reduced to a misdemeanor or petty offense, and the criminal is released after paying a nominal fine,” Guerrero said. “These individuals are generally caught and released back onto the streets in less than twenty-four hours. Even with all the arrests

made, the no-cash bail policy and extended timeframe for suspects to appear in court is causing re-victimization to UP by these same criminals. In fact, criminals boast to our officers that charges will be pared down to simple trespassing – which bears no serious consequence. Without any judicial deterrence or consequence, it is no surprise that over the past year UP has witnessed the significant increase in criminal rail theft described above.”

“While we understand the well-intended social justice goals of the policy, we need our justice system to support our partnership efforts with local law enforcement, hold these criminals accountable, and most important, help protect our employees and the critical local and national rail network,” Guerrero added. The problem is so bad that Union Pacific is now evaluating “serious changes to operating plans to avoid Los Angeles County.”

One individual interviewed by The Los Angeles Times, apparently steals things off the trains, said that he has found everything from a Louis Vuitton purse to a robotic arm worth tens of thousands of dollars. “We find things here and there, make some money off of it,” the man said.

CBS Los Angeles photojournalist John Schreiber published a series of tweets that contained images of the mayhem on the tracks. “Keep hearing of train burglaries in LA on the scanner so went to #LincolnHeights to see it all. And... there’s looted packages as far as the eye can see. Amazon packages, @UPS boxes, unused Covid tests, fishing lures, epi pens. Cargo containers left busted open on trains,” Schreiber tweeted. “I’m told by law enforcement these @UPS bags are especially sought after by thieves opening cargo containers... they are often full of boxes with merchandise bound for residential addresses. Trains frequently slow or stop in this area as they get worked into the @UnionPacific Intermodal facility near Downtown LA. The thieves use this opportunity to break open containers and take what’s inside. I’d say every 4th or 5th rail car had opened containers,” This is but one area thieves have targeted trains. We were told this area was just cleaned up 30 days ago so what you see is all within the last month.”

“Responsibility for policing the railroad right of way falls on Union Pacific Police... not local agencies like LAPD,”. “We did see Union Pacific police chasing two people today off the tracks and keeping an eye on things.”



[I guess you could just throw your trash out on your layout an be prototypical huh?editor]

https://www.dailywire.com/news/union-pacific-official-blames-l-a-s-far-left-policies-for-massive-train-thefts-considers-leaving-l-a?itm_source=parsev-api?utm_source=cemail&utm_medium=email&utm_content=011722-news&utm_campaign=position1



Funeral Car

Posted on Facebook:

My husband, Stan (Cedarleaf) passed away on December 30th. It was unexpected and quick. As a family, we grieve our loss, but we rejoice that he is home with His Lord and Savior.



Lincoln Funeral Car - Original and recent railcar reproduction.

He loved his family. He loved people. He never knew a stranger. He was a friend to many. His friends and clients within the world of toy trains will miss his passion and his love of customizing their decals and promoting the hobby.

A service to celebrate Stan's life will be held Saturday, January 22, at 10:30 am at Quad Cities Christian Church, 501 South Senator Highway in Prescott, Arizona. If you wish to honor Stan's life, the family asks that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made to Cornerstone Church, 700 W. Rosser, Prescott, AZ 86301.

[Stan was well known in the model railroad community for custom made, top quality decals for your layout. For years Stan was the "Go-Tp" Guru for help in the decal department. I ordered and have some he made for my freight line cars. If you had not taken the opportunity to possess some of his fine work, then it is your loss. Stan's passing is all our loss. Thank you Ted Yarbrough for forwarding this information. ...Editor]



It is with a heavy heart that I let the Society know that one of our members, our friend and our neighbor Rob Aldred, passed away in his sleep on January 18th.

When Rob first moved to our neighborhood, he was an O & HO train guy. But, after spending a little time in the basement with Roy, he fell in love with G scale. Provided, it was B&M or a New England line. During his retirement, Rob did some wheeling and dealing selling trains. He also became quite proficient in G scale custom painting. Rob's big heart and enthusiasm for life will be missed by all.

Rest in peace friend. Love, Pam & Roy Williamson

I first saw Rob as he walked into a friend's house and was somewhat taken back by his brisk manner, loud and self-confident. I had no idea who he was, but I was about to find out.

We talked about trivial things up until he was told that I collected fire department badges. He quickly informed me that he was an ambulance crew member. He gave me several quick questions about my motivation for the collection and then went on to other folks. His suspicion of me was something common among first responders because I was not connected to the profession.

The next time I saw him he took me to his house to show me his collection of fire memorabilia. After some time we went outside and I presented him with items I had that did not fit my collection. We had found common ground that manifested by exchanges of collectables just about every time we got together. Rob was looking out for my collection all the time and I began to realize I was doing the same for him.

As my knees began to weaken Rob was bringing me a chair; arranging transportation to get me off a bus during a convention; bringing me lunch; driving me places and I am positive other helps I will never know.

At times like this, we pause to understand how little time we have on this earth. One thing I have always thought, considered, and strived for was this: Is the world a better place because I have been here? Have I made a difference because I was present? For me, Rob's chosen profession remains an example of helping others and his personal concern for me magnifies who he was. I have no doubt there are many others like me who will miss him very much. I am only just beginning to realize how much he meant to me.

Rest in peace my friend.

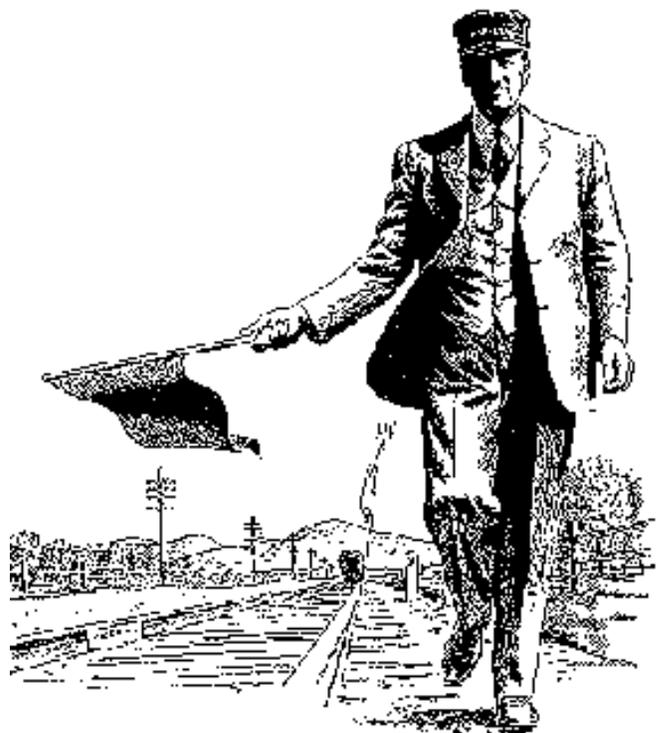
John Lees

[I met Rob only recently when he helped at Cartersville and provided venison chili for our November outing at the Georgia Live Steamers location in Conyers. I was looking forward to knowing Rob better. Regrets are bitter. ... Editor]

**Celebration of Life Service for
Rob Aldrid
10:00 A.M. - Thursday January 27th
The Venue at Friendship Springs
7340 Friendship Springs Boulevard
Flowery Branch, GA 30542**

I would love if you have pictures of Rob if you can send to me either via messenger or my email at nh4nepats@gmail.com

– Nicole Aldrid.



GR News is celebrating the New Year with the introduction of a GR News Logo to help our readers recognize GR News content across the Web, Facebook, Instagram and other channels.

We have seen a lot of club logos and crafted a logo that would not be confused with any club logo. Over time, you may see alternate versions with different backgrounds.

Let's hope that 2022 brings more events and open railroads. The first 2022 edition of GR News will be published on January 25 and we will send you a link to it then.

Very best wishes for a safe and fun-filled New Year.

Mick Spilsbury
GRNews Marketing & Distribution

GRNews.org

[GRNews on Facebook](#)

[GR News on Instagram](#)



1:1 Train Ride ?

By Ted Yarbrough

Well, looks like we have made it through 2021. It is time to THINK about the 2022 GGRS 1:1 scale train ride. I know that Denver, Colorado hosted the first National Garden Railroad Convention and will be hosting the 2022 convention. They hosted several conventions between these two. They KNOW how to put on a convention. Denver is a hotbed for garden

railroads and the lovable 3 ft. narrow gauge trains. The GGRS always has great attendance at these events, so why not do the 1:1 scale train ride AT THE CONVENTION!

The convention is offering several excellent 1:1 scale trips as pre- and post-convention tours. All look interesting. I will suggest the one listed as 'Pre-Convention Tour 4' as our 'Official GGRS Trip'. The trip leaves the hotel at 7:00 AM on Monday, June 20 and includes rides on two railroads, Pike's Peak Cog RR and Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge RR. The cog railroad takes you to the top of a 14,000 ft mountain in the heart of the Rockies. The line was rebuilt over the last two years with new track and cars. The narrow gauge ride out of Cripple Creek is 2 ft trackage re-laid on historic roadbed and is powered by a small steam locomotive. Cost is \$115 per person and includes both trains and charter bus transportation, with lunch on your own. The convention officially starts the next day.

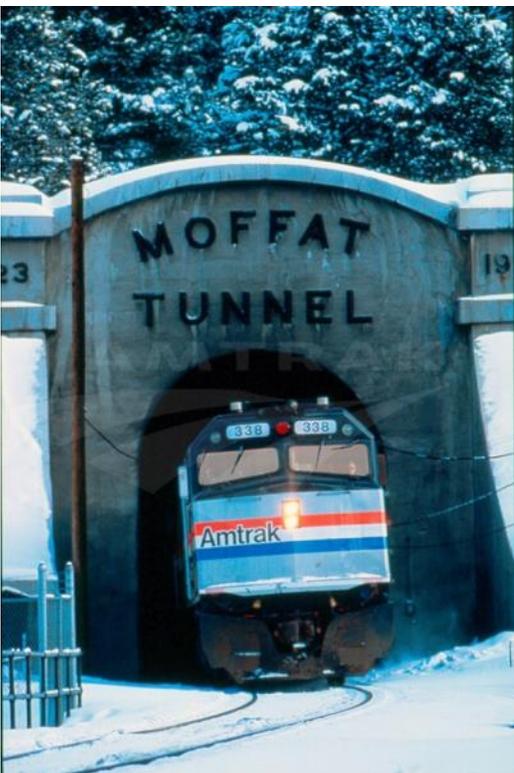


1: 1 Cont.

By Ted Yarbrough

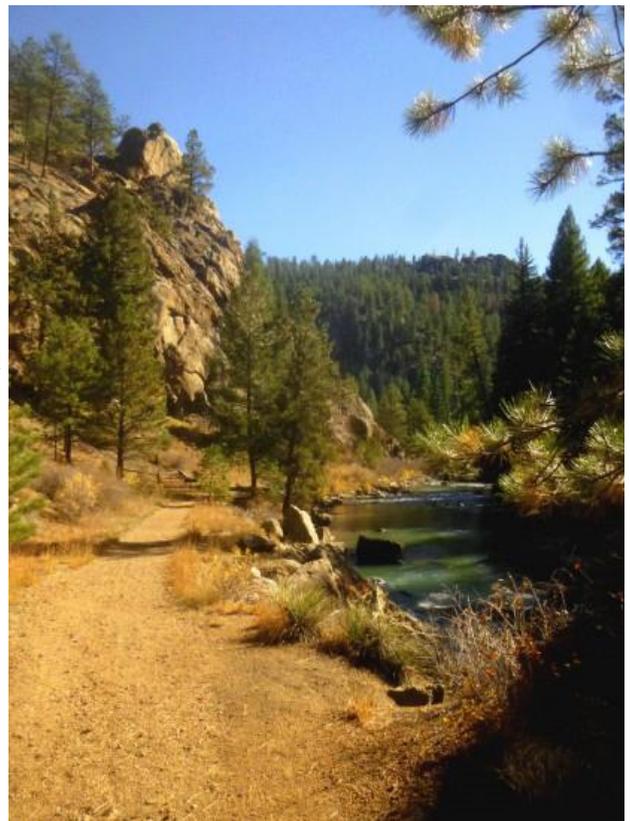
Several members have requested an AMTRAK trip as our 1:1 scale ride at some point, so we will make this our SECOND 'Official' GGRS 1:1 scale train ride for 2022. AMTRAK runs the California Zephyr through the Rockies, from Denver to Glenwood Springs. That would make a fantastic trip, riding to Glenwood Springs one day, spend the night and return to Denver the next day. The ride includes passage through the world-famous Moffat Tunnel and over some of the most spectacular scenery of any AMTRAK route. The train leaves Denver's Union Station shortly after 8:00am and arrives Glenwood Springs around 1:45pm. The return trip leaves at 12:00 and arrives Denver at approximately 6:30pm.

Round trip tickets in coach are \$74.00 each as of December 29, 2021 when I purchased mine (AMTRAK does raise the ticket price as the train starts to fill). There are several hotel options in Glenwood Springs from the more expensive and historic Hotel Denver, located just across the street from the AMTRAK Station and the Hotel Colorado which is another historic property and is about a two-block walk from the station (they also have a shuttle that may be available) to the traditional chains like Holiday Inn Express, Hampton Inn, Best Western, and even local mom and pop hotels. Deborah and I will be staying at the Holiday Inn Express where the cost is about \$275.00 per night.



The trip I booked is leaving Denver's Union Station on Saturday, June 25, returning on Sunday, June 26. What a way to end the 2022 National Garden Railroad Convention! You will need to make your own AMTRAK and hotel reservations for this trip. Be aware that this is a summer tourist town and train tickets and hotels will book up quickly.

There has been a suggestion from Phil Jones regarding a 4-wheel drive vehicle tour of some old abandoned narrow gauge railroads. The convention ending AMTRAK trip would give time for the 4-wheel drive trip before the start of the convention as well. Watch the newsletter, Facebook, and emails for additional info. I have already made my Convention, AMTRAK, and hotel reservations, so please feel free to contact me with your questions about the rides or the convention. I do hope you are considering joining the GGRS contingent for the 2022 convention and take our GGRS 1:1 scale train rides!



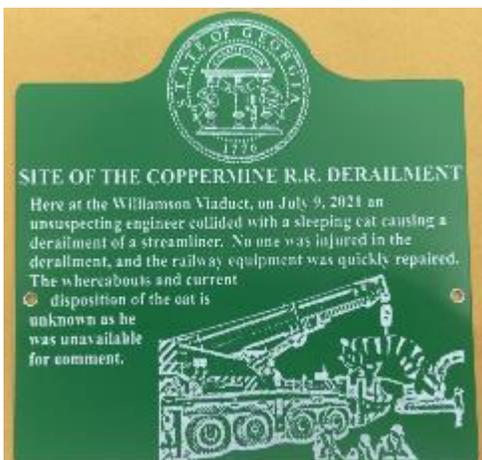
The Rip Track

**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.)



If you need signage for your railroad ... something like a store sign or billboard, consider wood or plastic engraving. I do custom work at a reasonable price.



Lettering, images, You imagine it, and I can probably laser carve it.



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

The Bando's recently purchased a stone marker for their Grand Western Mining Co. Mountain railroading calls for a mountain shaped stone.

Custom carved stonework for your RR., Garden stones, Pet Memorials, etc. Deep etching ensures years of enjoyment. Let everyone who visits your railway know you are a proud Georgia Garden Railway Society Member.

sticksnstones@weegr.com



Dennis Lynch has some equipment he would like to offer for sale. If you are interested, contact Dennis at: [770-760-8419](tel:770-760-8419) or lynch.dm@icloud.com

Here's some photos of the LGB track cleaning locomotive and Thomas the Tank Engine. I'm asking \$250 each. The LGB one has issues. It goes forward and backwards but won't move when track cleaning motor is running.

More information on Thomas. It is just the train and box, no power pack or track. Thomas runs fine on level track. My track is too rough for it. Dennis Lynch.

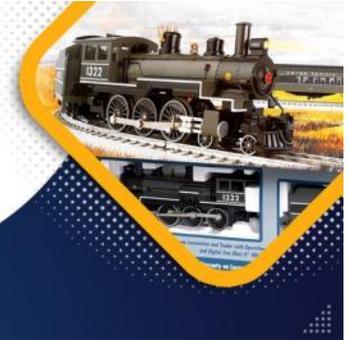
Maybe it's a good Christmas gift just waiting to happen. Contact Dennis. [Editor]



TRAINZ

— GET SET! —
10% OFF
FEATURED TRAIN SETS
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SHOP NOW



Who won the first horse vs. horseless carriage race?

Answer on page 16.



ALL ABOUT! THE 2022
PIEDMONT DIVISION



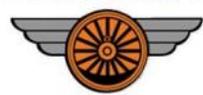
MODEL TRAIN SHOW
March 12 & 13
Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-4

The Clarence Brown Conference Center
5450 GA Hwy 20 – Cartersville, Georgia
Easy access from Hwy 41 and 75.
A Courtyard by Marriott hotel is adjacent to the Conference Center.

Operating Model Railroads to Enjoy,
150 Tables of Model Train Dealers,
“White Elephant” tables

Admission is just \$10 per Person
Kids 9 and Under are Free!
FREE PARKING

Masks & Social Distancing are Encouraged



Sponsored by the Piedmont Division
of the National Model Railroad Association
www.themodeltrainshow.com
www.piedmont-div.org



Train Installations, LLC

Woodstock, GA 30188

770-597-0038

dave@traininstallations.com

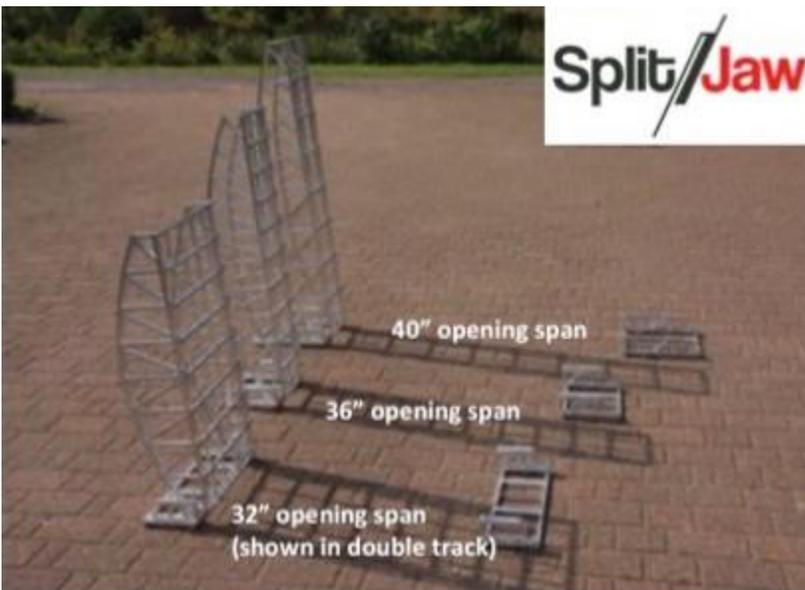
Check out our online store and updated website at
www.traininstallations.com

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



We are pleased to announce our DESIGN LINE DRAWBRIDGES now have 3 options for opening sections. Need space for lawnmowers, lawn tractors or mobility aids? We now open up to 40". Single Track or Double Track versions.

<https://www.railclamp.com/>

What's this I hear about "coming soon Motorized Turntables???"

America's first steam locomotive lost a race to a horse.

In 1827, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad became the first U.S. company granted a charter for transporting both passengers and freight. However, the company struggled to produce a steam engine capable of traveling over rough and uneven terrain, instead relying on horse-drawn trains. Enter industrialist Peter Cooper: Cooper, who not coincidentally owned extensive land holdings over the proposed route of the railroad (the value of which would grow dramatically if the railroad succeeded), offered to design and build just such an engine. On August 28, 1830, Cooper's engine, which he called the "Tom Thumb," was undergoing testing on B&O tracks near Baltimore when a horse-drawn train pulled up alongside it and challenged Cooper (and "Tom Thumb") to a race. Cooper accepted, and the race was on. The steam engine quickly roared into the lead, but when a belt broke loose it was forced to retire, and the horse crossed the finish line first. However, B&O executives, impressed with the massive power and speed Cooper's engine had proven capable of, made the decision to convert their fledgling railroad to steam. The B&O became one of the most successful railways in the United States, and Cooper (with his newly minted fortune) went on to a career as an investor and philanthropist, donating the money for New York's Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art.

Yard Hostler

Railroader of the year. Wow. What an honor. I hope your first month was great. Mine started great, got awfully wonderful at our meeting, then I got my SECOND dose of COVID..... Bah..... Humbug. But it was mostly just tiringly annoying, so I am already better.

We have several early train show opportunities in the very near future. Take advantage of the opportunity to volunteer.

For the March Gandy Dancers Section, submit your "*Gee, it's dull and boring and cold, so I worked on this shop-bench project*" Send photos, for without them, there is **NO GANDY DANCER SECTION** [ref. this issue].

Remember our lost compadres and check on each other regularly. God Bless.

Keep those submissions coming.

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

eldecker@windstream.net

