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Annual Meeting!

Provino's once again hosted the annual GGRS meeting, the food was spectacular, the clientele were, of course, their finest, and the festivities were exciting.

Cinder Claus was back, but he had a new twist on our traditional gift swap. NO STEALING! Raffle tickets were drawn, and a "Naughty or Nice" review was performed before allowing the person whose ticket was selected to open their gift. With quite a few members, oddly enough mostly men had naughty balances on the sheet,[one notable exception....Terry got a "Stay off the Naughty List FREE exemption for returning as the Club President for next year] Cinder Claus relented and allowed all who participated to receive their gift.



Terry's Train Tidbits

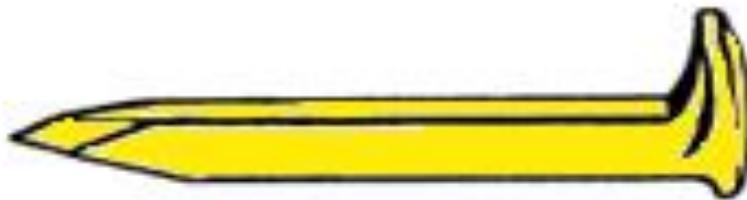


If I had something to say, I would. I don't, so I won't. Hope to see many of you at the train shows this month.

*Terry Manning,
President*

A generous benefactor donated a set of cars, engine, and track to the club, with the expressed wish that it not be sold, but used on members' layouts. An extended raffle was held for all attendees, and many folks walked away with goodies for their layout. The grand ticket was drawn for an LGB engine. Our new members even walked away with some prizes. Great time for all!

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Annual Meeting!

Cont.

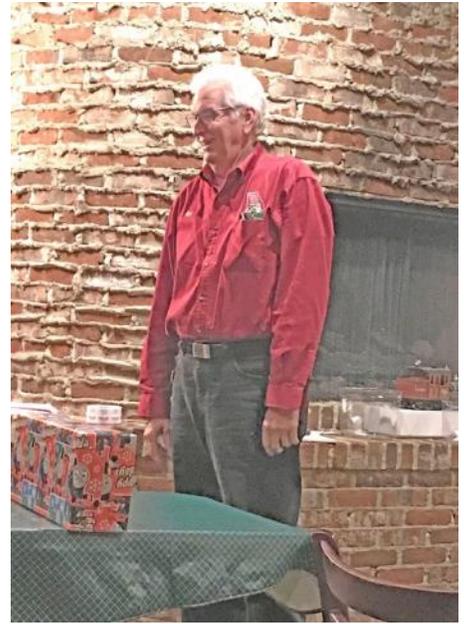
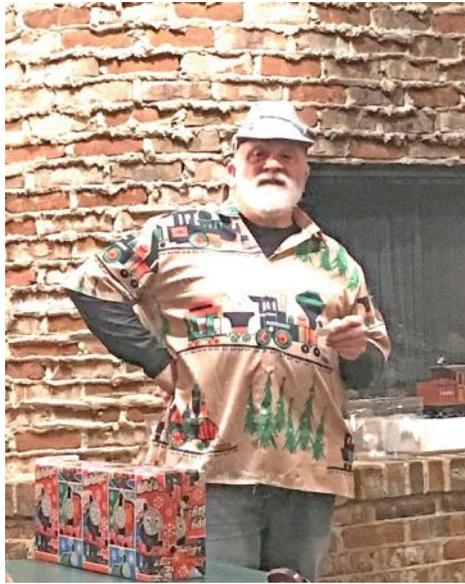
Before the meal, and while everyone was getting settled, the standard meeting was held, with the new officers voted in for the next year.

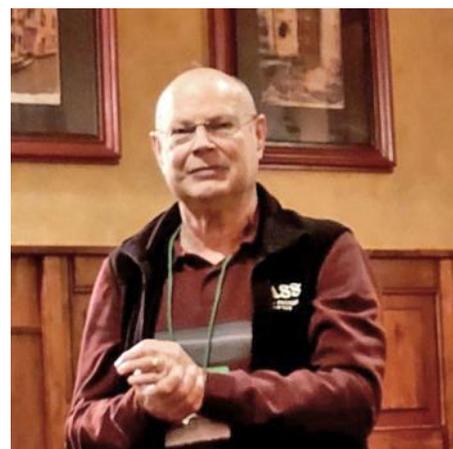
Serving in 2024:

Terry Manning, President;
Dennis Bass, Treasurer;
Pam Williamson, Secretary;
Members at Large: Emil Decker,
John Lank, Ginny Manning,
Dan Steidle.











Track Warrants

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

Event	Location	Date	Status
Piedmont Div. Train Show	Cartersville Convention Center	Mar 8-10, 2024	Club Layout
GGRS Club Mtg	Lou Sommers, Adrian, GA Savannah Area	Mar 23-24, 2024	Several members in the area
Chatsworth Depot & Club Meeting	Chatsworth Depot, Chatsworth, GA	Apr 13, 2024	Club Layout
GGRS Club Mtg	Ron & Kristy Humphrey, Cumming, GA	May 11, 2024	
South East Regional NMRA Convention	Decatur, AL	Jun 20 - 23, 2024	
GGRS Club Mtg	Open for your application to host	June & July	
G-Scale Southern Regional Get Together	Gas South Convention Center, Duluth, GA + GGRS Territory	Aug 23 - 25, 2024	Planning in Progress
GGRS Club Mtg	Dan and Carol Steidle, Cumming, GA	Sep 14, 2024	Planning in Progress
GGRS Club Mtg	Elliot & Katherine Stotler, Highlands, NC	Oct 12, 2024	Planning in Progress

At the Depots

March Club Meeting - Our first Hosted Club meeting of 2024 will be in the Savannah area when Joe & Mary Schrock, Dublin; Lou & Cynthia Sommers, Adrian and Richard & Beverly Hyde, Pooler will be opening their layouts. Jim Morris will be smoking a lunch entre to be served at the Hydes. For those traveling to Savannah on Friday, we will schedule a Friday night group dinner at Loves Seafood and Steak in Pooler. Stay tuned for further information.

Membership Report

January 2024

As the membership chair for the past year, I have enjoyed getting to know the Georgia Garden Railway Society members better. I still may miss your name, but I usually will remember faces. I'm so happy to report that at the end of 2023, we had grown to over 75 family members!

PLEASE WELCOME some of our newest members:

- ⊗ Jeff & Cindy Levin from Monroe
- ⊗ Wendell & Ann Hanks from Roswell
- ⊗ Kris & Charlotte Dixon from Cochran (former members – rejoined)
- ⊗ Sloan & Sara MacKarvick from Smyrna (they joined at our January luncheon)

Thank you to all the members that have paid their 2024 dues and have continued to show their support by doing so for GGRS.

We would like to update our 2024 directory by the end of the January. So, if you want to be included in the directory and to continue to receive your emails and newsletters with all of the upcoming events, please send your \$25 check made out to "GGRS" to:

Ginny Manning
1201 Timber Glen Court
Lilburn, GA 30047

Thank you,
Ginny, Membership Chair

GGRS Plans Two Kennesaw Layouts



For several years, the **Georgia Garden Railway Society** has participated in the annual model train extravaganza at the **Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History** at 2829 Cherokee Street NW, Kennesaw, Georgia 30144 (parking also available nearby at 2937 Shirley Drive). Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and close at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday January 27 and Sunday January 28.

The museum is always well maintained and hosts a variety of educational and entertaining displays as well as a well-stocked railroad themed gift store. Everything is state-of-the-art. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for children ages 3-17, and free under age 3.

On this special weekend, the museum assigns large areas of space to many model train groups to highlight their organizations. Thus, a large variety of model train scales are represented. Model train vendors do not participate in this event.

GGRS does a layout that differs each year. This year we will highlight two themes. Members Lori and Peter (GGRS Webmaster) Thomas of Dawsonville will provide a small layout featuring "Paw Patrol" characters with hands-on activity to thrill the youngsters.



Member James Bando will construct the larger track layout for a GGRS circus theme. A large circus community and collection of circus rolling stock will be provided by GGRS President Terry Manning. Members wishing to add to the circus theme with unusual pieces from their own collections are welcome and encouraged to add to the display both days or on either date.

GGRS will also host a membership table within our assigned space. Volunteers are certainly needed to help manage the layouts and the membership table. Members can help keep trains running, manage "crowd" control, recruit new members, provide break periods for other members, and meet with Executive Board members to discuss future events.

The museum's cut-off date for a list of volunteers getting a free T-shirt or free lunch was last fall on short notice, so only a few GGRS members got included. Perhaps we can create that list in July next year for January 2025.

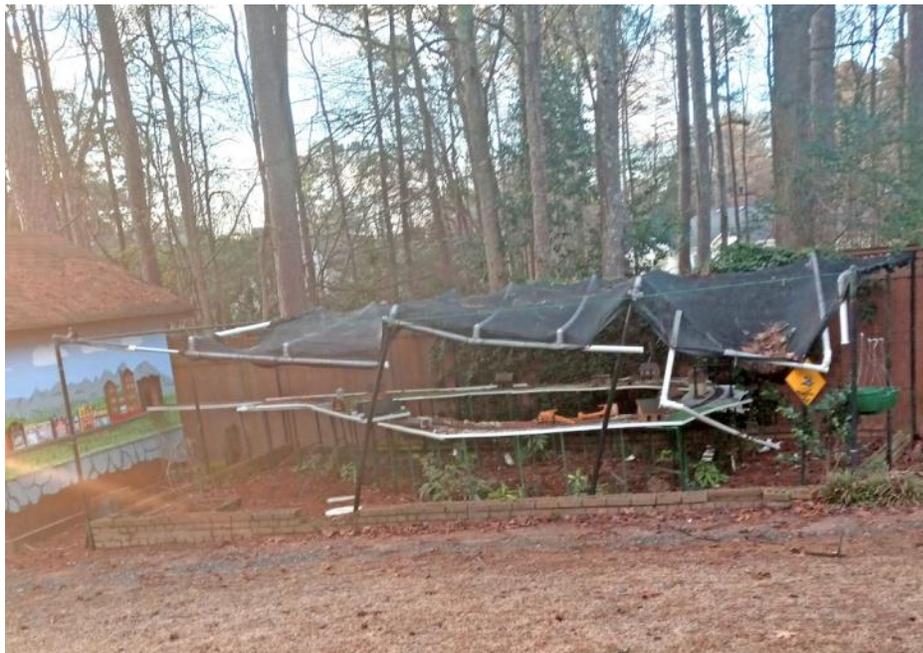


Florida Garden Railway Society

The Florida Garden Railway Society will be traveling to Cincinnati and Columbus Ohio at the beginning of September to visit Entertainment Junction and G-scale layouts in Columbus. On their way to Ohio, the Florida G-scalers would like to share a dinner with GGRS members on September 5th and visit a few GGRS layouts the morning of September 6th. If you want to join the group for dinner or join with the group to head to Ohio, please contact Roy Williamson 770-891-9462 or pspaan@msn.com.

'Twas the night before Christmas By Thomas Conrad

'Twas the night before Christmas,
 when all through the house;
 Not a creature was stirring, not even a
 mouse;
 The stockings were hung by the chimney
 with care;
 In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be
 there;
 When out on the lawn there arose such a
 clatter;
 I sprang from the bed to see what was the
 matter.
 The moon on the crest of the windy night
 below;
 Must of made St. Nicholas fly way too
 low.
 When, what to my wondering eyes should
 appear;
**A large fallen limb on my train layout
 out there!**



“That Grinch!”, I grumbled, “had come to be mean”;
Yet I am inspired to create a new scene.....

*[The Editor was informed the cover was destroyed, but
 only the lower right corner of the layout suffered any damage.]*

Trains as Trash

If you recall last month’s question about dumping cars into the ocean for the habitat, then this follow up is just the thing.

The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) shipped off the first of two railcars bound for the Georgia coast and eventually the Atlantic Ocean.

MARTA is partnering with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Reef Project to contribute railcars from MARTA’s original fleet as they are replaced by the new CQ400 railcars in coming years. The Reef Project deploys large objects to the bottom of the ocean that over time develop into reef habitats for marine wildlife.

Two older model railcars have been stripped of hazardous materials and contaminants. The dismantled railcars were then inspected and approved by the U.S. Coast Guard for deployment as artificial reef material.

Once on the coast, and when conditions are optimal, the railcars will be deployed by barge to Artificial Reef L, an established reef about two square miles in size, located approximately 23 nautical miles east of Ossabaw Island in about 55 to 65 feet of water.

Over time, the railcars will provide essential marine habitat for sea creatures, including popular sport fish and endangered sea turtles. While the substrate for the reef is manmade, the organisms that will grow on it are entirely natural and beneficial for the environment. Fish and other marine life such as sea turtles are likely to investigate the new habitat almost immediately. Corals, sponges, and other encrusting organisms will begin to take hold on the railcars in about one year and will continue to grow and improve the longer they are in the ocean. SCUBA divers and anglers can begin using the reef immediately.

The railcars will join previously deployed materials, including U.S. Army M-60 battle tanks, barges, tugboats, New York City subway cars, and other manmade structures. Artificial Reef L was first created in 1976 as part of a network of 32 offshore reefs that the Coastal Resources Division has been building for about 60 years with an estimated 3 million square feet of reef created as of 2022.



2024 G-Scale Southern Regional Get Together by Ted Yarborough

The Georgia Garden Railway Society (GGRS) is proud to announce they will host the **2024 G-Scale Southern Regional Get Together** August 23-25, 2024. The event will be centered around the 65th Atlanta Model Train Show held at the Gas South Convention Center, formerly the Infinite Energy Center, Duluth, GA on Saturday, August 24. Layout tours of GGRS garden railroads will be held on Friday, August 23 and Sunday, August 25. A special gathering for a meal will be held Saturday night August 24th at the Southeastern Railway Museum, Duluth, GA.

The Embassy Suites, Duluth, GA will be headquarters for the event. You will be able to pick up your registration packet there Thursday evening, August 22 or Friday morning, August 23. The lobby will be available to socialize Thursday and Friday evenings as well. **The special rate of \$189 for a King Studio or \$199 for a Queen Suite**, both are a short 10-minute walk to train show hall and include breakfast will be available, just follow the link on the GGRS web page to get rooms at the **2024 G-Scale Regional Get Together rates**. Limited rooms available.

Garden railroad layout tours will be held on Friday and Sunday. GGRS members east and north of Atlanta will generally open on Friday and those south and west of Atlanta will open on Sunday. A few exceptions will be noted in the tour booklet. The tour booklet will be in your registration bag, along with a special commemorative pin. The booklet will have a brief description, physical GPS address, phone number, and photo of the garden railroads open. There are currently 12 GGRS layout plus a Train Installations shop and TRAINZ new warehouse to tour ([we're still recruiting](#)). All tours will be self-guided.

The Saturday train show, Atlanta's Oldest and Largest Model Train and Railroadiana Show, is an all-scale train show which will serve as the Vendor Hall. There will be operating layouts as well as some well-known Atlanta vendors including TRAINZ, Split Jaw, Train Installations and MELOVESTRAINS plus many other G-scale vendors. If you would like to become a vendor or exhibitor, contact Charlie Miller at RRSHOWS@AOL.COM or 703-536-2954. There is a \$9.00 additional admission to the show (with discount coupon provided in registration bag).

Optional activities in Atlanta for Saturday include Stone Mountain Park with a 5-mile diesel train ride around the mountain, The Southern Museum featuring the 4-4-0 Civil War locomotive 'General', and the Southeastern Railway Museum with lots of locomotives and rolling stock on display. Take time after enjoying the train show to enjoy these train themed activities.

If there is enough interest, there will also be a separate purchase collectible G Scale train car. It will be a unique L & N freight car from USA Trains. Advance orders will be taken at the registration page and cars can be picked up at registration or the show.

To have the registration bags with name tags, pins, and tour booklets ready for August, we are asking for advance registration for the event. **The registration will be \$25.00 per individual registration and \$35.00 per family (up to two adults and two children)** registration prior to JUNE 1, 2024. **Late registration, after JUNE 1, will increase to \$40.00 per individual and \$50.00 per family registration.** A registration form, for online registration payable with Zelle can be found at www.ggrs.info and follow the link to 2024 Southern Regional G-Scale Get Together, or you may print the registration form you find there and mail it along with your check to the address on the form. Registration includes name badge(s), tour booklet, self-guided layout tours, collector's pin, discount ticket for Saturday's show admission, and opportunity to purchase special USA Trains event car and Gathering Meal tickets.

Register now and save the dates of August 23-25, 2024!

See you in Atlanta!



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM GR NEWS



May our trains run smoothly, our switches switch, our steam rise majestically, our plants thrive and our lights burn brightly in 2024.

Thank you for being part of the Garden Railroad News Global Community of more than 140 clubs in 8 countries.

We look forward to sharing more **GR News** with you in 2024.

Bill, Carla, Mick & Steve

Highballing down the Track

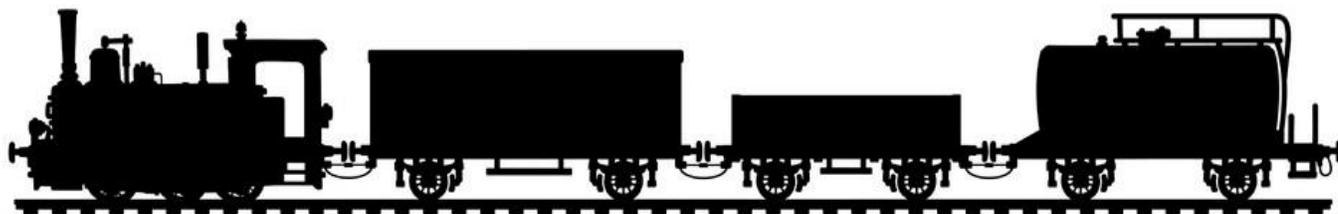
The Sacramento Garden Railway Society will be hosting the 2025 Convention.

If California hasn't slid off into the Pacific by then, maybe you will join them. It will be the 40th Anniversary, (with a few years missing).

While there is not much online at this time, you can put your email into the mix and receive updates as the time draws closer. Go to:

<https://ngrc2025.org/>

and provide your email address, then check back often as info gets added.



Moving forward The Family Inn has reopened

On December 18 our Family Inn experienced a fire that destroyed the hotel office and took the life of our night auditor, Michele Miller.

We're grateful to be able to announce that the Family Inn has recently reopened. Rooms are currently available in our Pool Building, which was undamaged by the fire and has passed appropriate mechanical inspections. Check-in will be in the building's "D" lobby.

You can be confident that your comfort and safety are our top priorities. The [Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant & Smorgasbord](#), [Bird-in-Hand Bakery & Cafe](#) and [Artisan Village](#) all are operating on their normal schedules.





Back On Track to
Bird-in-Hand
 PENNSYLVANIA
Celebrating 46 Years!
BIG TRAIN OPERATOR CLUB
CONVENTION • JUNE 15-20, 2024

- Thursday June 13, 2024 (or before)
- Committee Arrival
- Friday June 14, 2024
- Convention setup
- Cardinal, Robin and Eagle room setups
- Registration setup (Goody Bags)
- Track setup: Pond, Pavilion, Flower bed, Lobby Track
- BOD Meeting
- Saturday June 15, 2024
- Registration
- Runnin' Trains
- Ralph Wilcox All Aboard Party
- Sunday June 16, 2024

East Broad Top Excursion -
<https://eastbroadtop.com/>

- Convention Rooms Open at night
- Clinic #1
- Runnin' Trains, Raffles, Trivia???
- Monday June 17, 2024
 - Hotel Day/Free Day
 - Runnin' Trains in the Daytime (need to set minimum run times for pond)
 - Convention Rooms Open at night
 - Runnin' Trains, Raffles, Trivia???
- Tuesday June 18, 2024
 Colebrookdale Railroad Excursion -
<https://www.colebrookdalerailroad.com/>
 - Olive Garden (or other Restaurant for lunch after train ride)
 - Convention Rooms Open at night
 - Clinic #2
 - Runnin' Trains, Raffles, Trivia???



- Wednesday June 19, 2024
 - General Membership meeting in the morning
 - Morning Runnin' Trains
 - Convention Rooms open
 - Show @ BIH Stage "The Confession" (Starts around 1pm)
 - Ladies Wine/Cheese
 - Convention Rooms Open at night
 - Clinic #3
 - Runnin' Trains, Raffles, Trivia???
- Thursday June 20,2024
 - Drag Races (sometime in the morning)
 - Take everything down, except for pond track, and vacate convention rooms
 - Trivia Finale during banquet
 - Farewell Banquet
- Friday June 21, 2024
 - Pond Runnin' Trains
 - Pond tear down



The Confession... An Amish Love Story



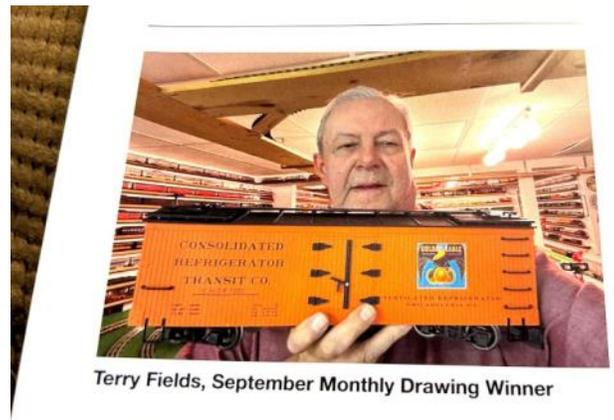
REGISTRATION FORM		BAND SPECIAL	
Convention Registration: Includes FREE BTDC Golf Umbrella to the first 50 registered members only (one per member per registered member) Early Bird: Prior to April 15, 2024 Regular: After April 15, 2024		Registration includes: BTDC Member & all family members \$100 \$ \$125 \$	
Events		Number of Attendees	Total
615 Ralph Wisco's All Aboard Party <small>Please refer to flyer for all registered attendees</small>	ADM \$ 35 CNSP \$ 25	3	3
616 East Broad Top Railroad <small>Inclusive lunch (bring a chair with your lunch) Please advise me separately for railroad attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Train <input type="checkbox"/> Regular</small>	ADM \$100 CNSP \$ 85	3	3
617 John Groff's Ice Cream Party (Inclusive number attending)			FREE
618 Confederate Railroad/Engertown Museum of Historic Vehicles/Lunch at Grand Restaurant <small>Inclusive lunch (bring a chair and lunch) Lunchtime selection information will be available as part of your group bag</small>	ADM \$150 CNSP \$115	3	3
619 Bird-in-Hand Stage Musical "The Confession" Ladies Wine & Cheese Get Together (Inclusive number attending)	ADM \$ 44 CNSP \$ 18	3	3
600 Farewell Banquet	ADM \$ 88 CNSP \$ 28	3	3
*Check 12 and under: Registration Total \$			

HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED...
 Make reservations directly with the Bird in Hand Family Inn. Call (866) 527-2553 and request BTDC rate.
 The room rate is \$143/night + tax for single or double occupancy. \$244.99/night + tax for triple occupancy and
 \$347.99/night + tax for quad occupancy. The choice of Standard (2 people) or Deluxe (4 people) King are available.
 All nights require 2 breakfast complimentary tickets. Children of 4-17 years of age add \$12.00 for occupancy.
 Please make your reservation now... rooms are limited!
 See reverse for additional information. PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH SIDES.

BTO - Big Train Operators registration form now available:

<https://bigtrainoperator.com/WhatsNew/pdfs/2024%20conv%20registration%20form.pdf>

BTO members are entered into a monthly drawing for prizes, with winners posted in their newsletter: Terry Fields, from Roswell, Georgia was a winner.



Terry Fields, September Monthly Drawing Winner



2024 Valentine Dinner Train - Announcement



Southern Railway 3158/"Travelers Fare"

Join the Tennessee Valley Railroad for special Valentine Dinner Trains on February 9, 10, 11, & 13. Patrons enjoy four-course dining experience while riding the rails.

Entrée Selections

Patrons may select their entrée of

- Carved English roast of beef topped in a Madeira sauce
- Herb roasted stuffed breast of chicken with a Cumberland sauce
- Crusted filet of salmon with a Roasted Sweet Red Bell Pepper Sauce
- Vegetarian Lasagna

Other savory items

Other savory items include tomato bisque with creme fraiche and chives, homemade mashed potatoes, a medley of vegetables, and assorted bread and butter. Beverages include water, coffee, or iced tea.

One dessert per person:

Apple Pie with Ice Cream



Cheesecake with Strawberries



A Triple Chocolate Cake with Ice Cream and Fudge Sauce



Tickets and Dates

Feb 9

- 6:30 PM (Tickets)

Feb 10

- 6:30 PM (Tickets)

Tickets and Dates(con't)

Feb 11

- 6:30 PM (Tickets)

Feb 13

- 6:30 PM (Tickets)

All times are Eastern Standard Time.

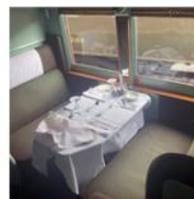
[Book Now](#)

Seating Type

Southern Railway 3158/"Travelers Fare" Dinner Ticket



Southern Pacific Railroad 977/"Clover Colony" Pullman Ticket



Grand Trunk Western Railroad 899/"Silver Lake" Dinner Ticket





Join Us In Beautiful Decatur, Alabama for River Rails 2024

The Mid-South division invites you to join us in Decatur to enjoy clinic, model, prototype, and non-rail activities at the Southeastern Regional Convention, Thursday June 20th - Saturday, June 23rd 2024. The convention hotel is the DoubleTree by Hilton.

DoubleTree
by Hilton Hotel
Decatur Riverfront
1101 6th Ave NE
Decatur, AL 35601
(256) 355-3150

What to do when your Carolina Jasmine doesn't cooperate with your plan?



By Pam Williamson

We have a raised layout railroad that is supported by PVC pipes, I find the pipes to be supportive but rather unattractive. I planted a Jasmine with plans for the vines to grow between the poles creating a natural screen that would hide the PVC poles and bloom yellow in the spring.

Great plan, but the Jasmine did not want to grow sideways. Despite trying to keep the vines up the poles with geo grid, the vines wound up on the ground along with the geo grid.

So, we decided rather than moving the Jasmine, let the Jasmine grow upward to create a Vine Tunnel.

There has been construction in the neighborhood, so we had 4 pieces of rebar and some concrete wire laying around. The rebar made the upright supports and with the aid of the bolt cutter

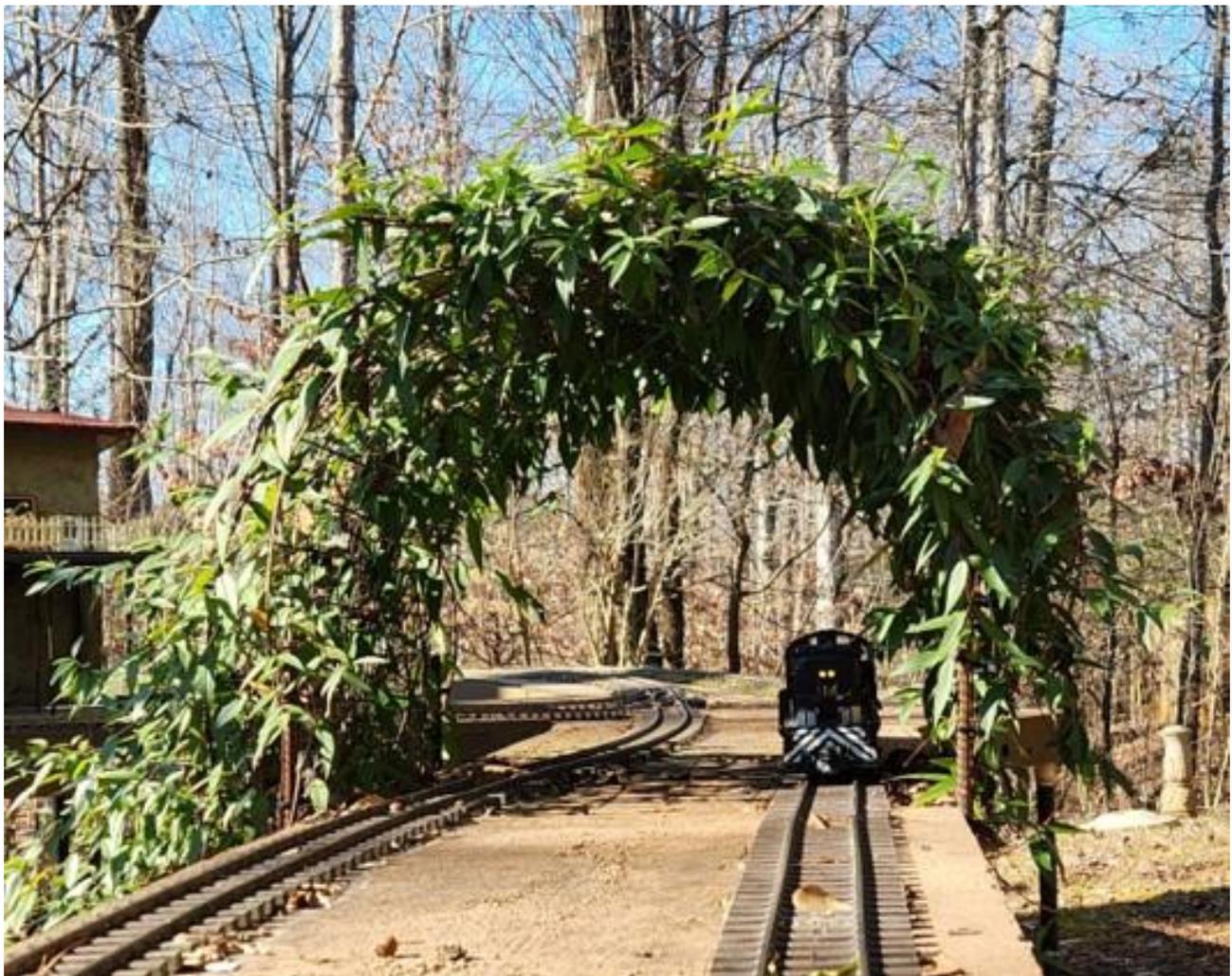
the concrete wire was cut and bent to form a tunnel. We secured the concrete wire to the rebar with zip ties and wound the Jasmine through the concrete wire. Viola, we had the beginning of a Vine Tunnel.



October 2022



January 2024



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.)



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



Split Jaw has introduced 3 new bridges; Deluxe Pratt Truss, and massive 6ft Double Arch trusses in Single and Double track. Info is on our website. Here is a link:

<https://www.railclamp.com/shop-bridge-collection>

We decided to make a minor upgrade to the Auto-reversing shuttle, adding an easier way to adjust the stop pause time, and an optional intermediate stop for customers with longer (min 20ft) runs.

We have a new run of Stainless rail in time for construction season. Over 2 miles of rail.

Split Jaw plans to participate in the August regional show and also be part of the Sunday layout showing, at my backyard G/O layout.

Check out our Curved Bridge Planning Guide – Single Track Bridges

https://www.railclamp.com/files/ugd/638c34_4b1d4be0596e4285b3a8d627814948a8.pdf





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

“Since 2001 we have been building the finest quality overhead, garden and tabletop railroads. From children’s train tables to museum quality train rooms. Models may be created in your home or business environment in any scale. Making your dreams a reality is our goal.”

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

Thanks - Dave

770-597-0038



We just completed this G scale display for The Turtle Bay Discovery Center in Redding, CA. The RR is part of the holiday light show and depicts Redding, Lake Shasta and Mt. Shasta. We hope to make this an annual event and add to it every year!



Train Installations, LLC

Woodstock, GA 30188

770-597-0038

dave@traininstallations.com

USED TRAIN SALE

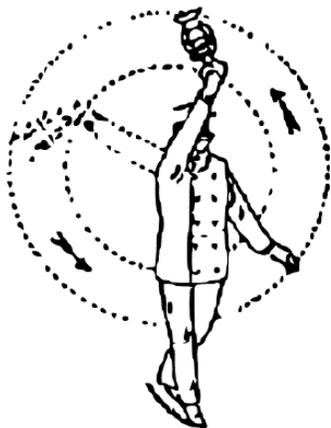
Need some after Christmas cars for your train collection? Didn't get what you hoped for? Bring home some of a large collection, 95% LGB.

30 engines and 100 cars.

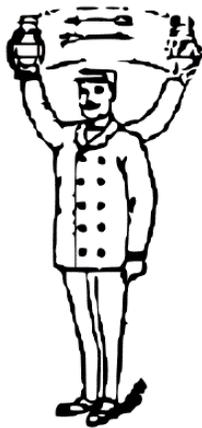
Steif Teddy bear engines and cars, Coke, Auto carriers, Bridgeport 4 track controller, 1 track covered bridge...

Give me a call or send me a text Roy Williamson 770-891-9462





1 TRAIN HAS PARTED



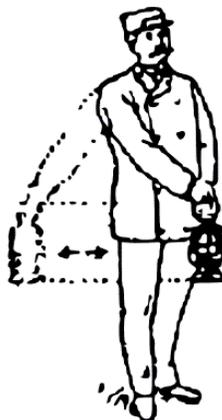
2 APPLY AIR BRAKES



3 BACK UP



4 RELEASE AIR BRAKES



5 STOP



6 PROCEED

TRAIN SIGNALS

Yard Hostler

It's cold..... very cold.... Maybe you should stay inside at this time, and begin a work-bench project. I have one. It has been sitting around for a couple of years....I guess it is time to finally get something done with it. I think I will do an article on it. Sure wish I received a lot of articles from you guys and gals on projects you are working on. Would sure make my editing job a lot more satisfying. Send in your winter project with photos and description or a full length write up. I pay by the sentence.....(maybe I should save that like for the April 1st edition.) In any case, send in your contributions. This is NOT MY NEWSLETTER.....it's OURS.

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

eldecker@windstream.net

