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Official Newsletter of the Georgia Garden Railway Society

January, 2023

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 held at Provino’s Italian Restaurant again this year. Last year’s event was a success, and we hope to repeat this 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.

Zelle payments now accepted by GGRS

In order to streamline the process of making payments to GGRS we have enabled use of the Zelle banking app. If you do not already use it you can get information regarding the basics here,

(<https://www.zellepay.com/how-it-works>).

Our GGRS account can be reached directly by sending funds via Zelle to, gagardenrailroad@outlook.com .

When using this method of payment, make sure to include your name in the comments section so it is clear to us whom the payment is coming from. Payments from business accounts using Zelle may only reference the business name and not tell us clearly that it is from you. As always, cash and personal checks are still gladly accepted.

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...) for each individual interested in joining the game.

Please register on the Sign-up Genius by December 30th, if you will be attending. We hope to see you at the Annual Business Meeting & Christmas Luncheon for a great meal and a fun game of stealing!

Your GGRS Board

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.*

President’s Message



Happy New Year to all!

What a spectacular finish to 2022 dinner, holiday lights and Trains Trains Trains with great friends! I am glad so many were able to head south. Thank you to everyone that made this gathering happen!

Please plan to join us for the annual business/Holiday gathering in January. It promises to be a great start for 2023.

Juliet Foster



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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.

- Chinese Christmas Exchange** Too politically charged for some, but that is/was it's name in the past.
- White Elephant Gift Exchange** Got something you don't want? Wrap it and laugh when someone else gets your trash, er.. I mean quality unwanted item. (In Siam, white elephants were highly prized).
- Gag Gift Exchange** This version usually calls for funny, gag gifts. Taste vary by from whom the gift comes.
- Yankee Swap** Originally a reference to the swapping of prisoners-of-war during the American Civil War. Some claim generals made a game out of these swaps, and they even assigned different values to each prisoner, kind of like a brute barter system.
- Lets mess with John** During a previous game, a new name was earned when everyone started stealing John's freshly opened gift. It was amusing to see when he would end his mass opening of presents (John kept going back to the pile of unopened gifts), by stealing one of his own. He never did.
- Dirty Santa** While Yankee Swap is the name from the New England area, down South it is called Dirty Santa, because the game involves "stealing" more desirable gifts while scheming to avoid ending up with a gag gift that nobody wants.

Whatever you want to call it, we are going to play. Here are the rules:

- ⊗ **Bring a wrapped gift.** Since it is a Railroad Society 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.
- ⊗ You can bring one for each member of your family who wishes to play, or one for the whole family. (Your second decision.)
- ⊗ **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 location of 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 and 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.
- ⊗ **Stealing rule:** Depending on which version you want, a gift may be stolen a set number or unlimited times. This could make for a very long night. **WE LIMIT STEALING OF A GIFT TO TWO TIMES.** Once a gift is opened, then stolen twice, it goes out of play..
- ⊗ A player may have their gift stolen, open a new one, then have it stolen, and on and on.
- ⊗ As the game progresses, a gift might be opened, NOT stolen for a couple of turns, then get 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.
- ⊗ 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, the victim can opt to steal or open the last gift.
- ⊗ Once the last gift is opened, one would think the stealing is done. But Noooooooo!
- ⊗ Now, the 1st ticket pulled finally gets to steal any un-stolen gift to end the game.

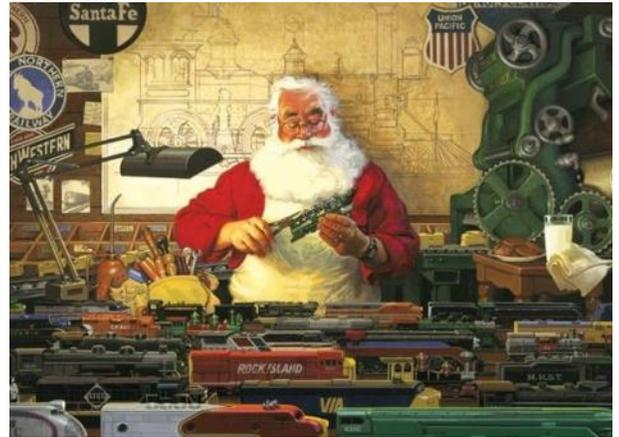
Simple rules; easy to play; and you go home with a new gift for Christmas. Join us, won't you?

Holiday Greetings to you and your family. I hope this will be a joyous season of celebration.

It is a privilege to announced on behalf of the GGRS Nominating Committee the below proposed slate of officers and four At Large Board members for 2023. We are fortunate that six current members are willing to serve another year's term.

The nominees for 2023 Board Members are as follows:

- President – Juliet Foster
- Secretary – Pam Williamson
- Treasurer – Dennis Bass
- At Large – Emil Decker
- At Large – John Lank
- At Large – Ginny Manning
- At Large – Dan Stiedle



The election of the proposed slate of 2023 GGRS Officers and At Large Board Members will be held at the Annual Holiday Party and Annual Board Meeting on Saturday, January 14th, 12 noon until 2:30 PM at Provino's Italian Restaurant located at 440 Ernest W. Barrett Parkway NW, Kennesaw, Georgia.

As a member of the GGRS, you are given the opportunity to make additional nominations, if you so wish.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual get together.

Sincerely,

Phil Jones

Nominating Committee Chair

The staff at GRNews want to wish all our Garden Railroad Societies, Groups, Clubs, and Individuals a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! 2022 has been good. People are reading our magazine, model manufacturers are releasing new products, and clubs are having meetings as well as attending shows and conventions. Just a note to convey our thanks to you and other groups that have helped share GRNews, we currently have over 141 clubs with 9,000 members that are part of our community! We are looking forward to 2023.

As we move toward the new year, we know some clubs will change leadership positions. Please take a few minutes or look over the listing below and make sure your club's info is correct and up to date*. As we publish future magazines, we want people to be able to easily find clubs/groups in their area and keeping the listings up to date will make it easier for garden railroaders searching for local affiliations. let me know if there are any changes, corrections, or additions.

Please keep sharing our links with your membership, especially when new issues are released.

Happy Rails To You,

Ted Yarbrough

East Coast Representative for GRNews



Track Warrants

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

Event	Location	Date	Status
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	Unfortunately, the same day as our Annual Business Mtg. Drop by after!
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 15, 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	John and Marge Lees Dahlonega, GA	Oct, 2023	
1:1 Train Ride	???	???	Looking into options

At The Depots

Those who partook of the offer to meet and tour three layouts in Savannah during the Christmas season will tell you that it was worth the trip. Depending on where you started, or finally ended up, each layout had it's impact upon the visitors, and perhaps you can see why when you view these photos of them.

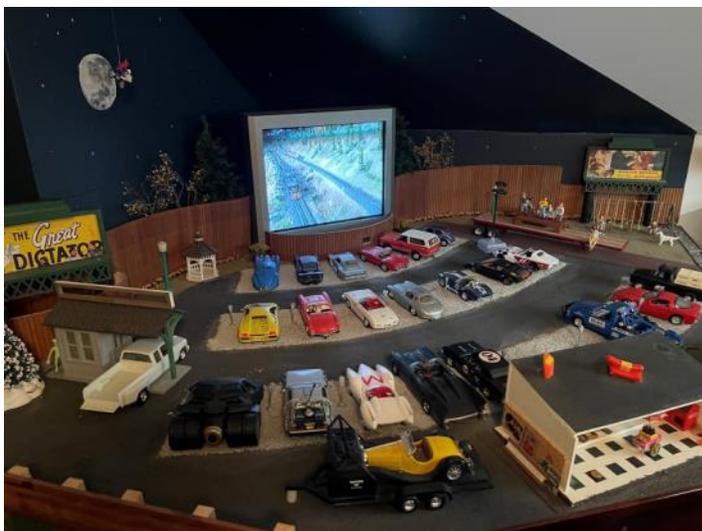
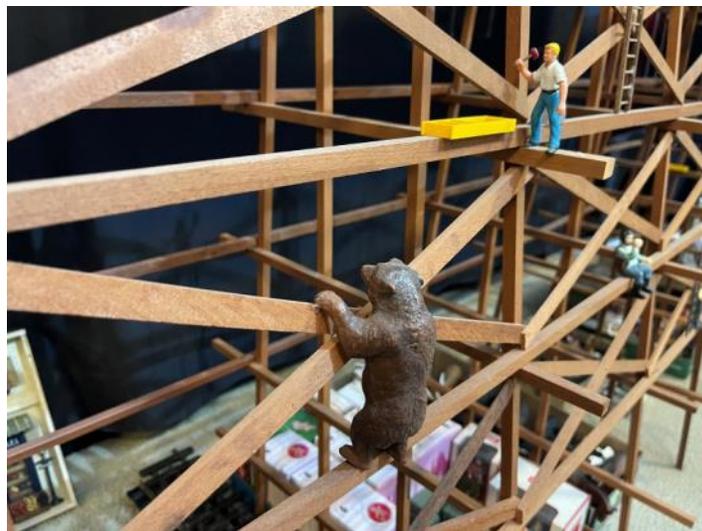
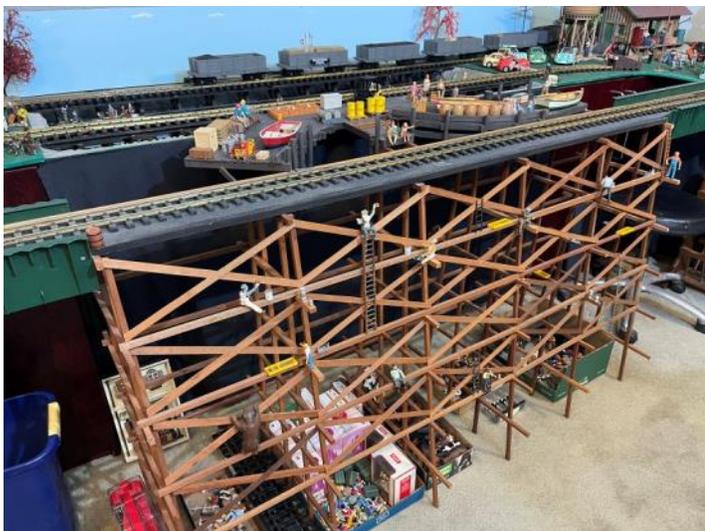
We start with the "after dark" Christmas layout of G Scaler, Ted Gray, who runs a Christmas light show featuring his G-scale trains nightly from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (unless it's raining or very windy). Ted is not a GGRS member..... Yet. We may get him to join.





Richard and Beverly Hyde have two indoor G scale layouts. Upstairs, there are 8 track powered locos running simultaneously among 100 scratch built and / or kit bashed buildings. There are several themed areas and tons of figures, including recognizable cartoon characters, planes, automobiles, and countless other accessories. Richard uses the "Museum" theme to group large quantities of items in a general location. It works well.





Beverly's backdrop painting is quality work, and Richard's humor using recognizable characters is quite a nice touch as well.



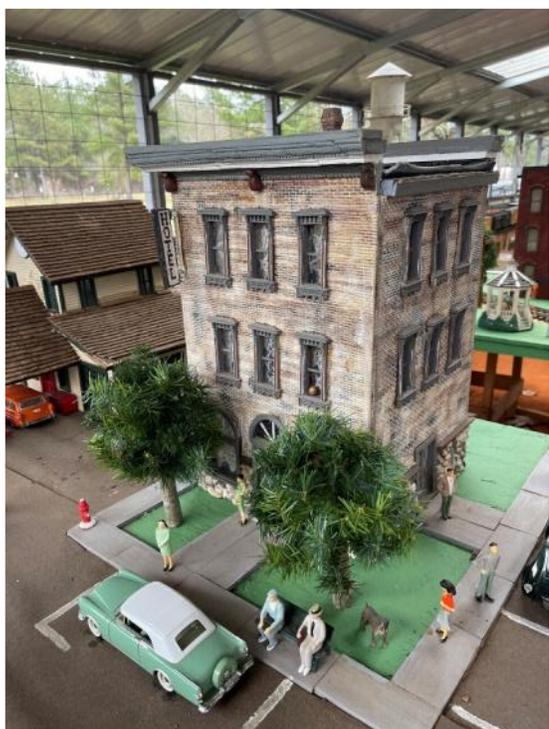


From a KISS concert, to the riverfront with steamboat, you can all agree Richard's head is properly placed upon Mt. Rushmore.



Either your first stop heading toward Savannah, or last leaving from there, is a town called Dublin. Therein you will find the dual layouts of Joe and Mary Schrock. 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. Whether you look at the old west section with 3 trains running, or the other side where 3 more modern versions ply their way through numerous quality scratch built edifices, you can appreciate this outdoor layout. Not to mention the growing "back yard behind the pavilion Fairy Garden" additions to the mix.







Three way meets on both railways makes for awesome railfanning and photos. The quality of the scratch - building work is noticeable. The large wooden trestle / bridge hints at going up another level for even more outdoor fun.



Yep. That's a Pig. The Fairy garden portion is growing, and really is a nice touch and a salute to the whimsical possibilities in railroading.



Having visited Savannah in December, did you get to the GA State Railroad Museum?

Can you answer these questions about the Museum and the Central of Georgia Railway?

When was the Central of Georgia Railway organized?
 How many steam locomotives did it have at the time?
 When did dieselization begin at the CoG and what was purchased?
 Who took over the Cog in 1963?



Answer on page 16.



Trains Trains Trains

Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History
2829 Cherokee St NW
Kennesaw, GA 30144

All Aboard – GGRS volunteers are needed January 28, 29 & 30 to set up and break down our freelance layout, run trains, point out exhibit highlights and manage an information table. Therefore, all family members are welcome and can participate in helping with the event.

- ◆ January 27th set up day, enter through rear entrance at 9:45am
- ◆ January 28th Volunteers arrive 7:30 am, Hours of museum 9:30 am to 5:00 pm
- ◆ January 29th Volunteers arrive 8:30 am, Hours of museum 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Who gets Shirts? Any volunteer who completes 4 hours of help at the museum with the GGRS.

Who gets Lunch? Only volunteers who stay 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. (all day)

WE WILL NEED SOME BUILDINGS FROM VOLUNTEERS TO COMPLETE THE SETUP.

WE WILL NEED SOMEONE TO MAN THE INFORMATION TABLE DURING THE ENTIRE DAY. There is one table and 6 chairs for us to use.

If you are a volunteer of 4 hours or more, you get a shirt. If you are staying all day you get a meal.

If you are volunteering for any amount of time you need to furnish your information for the insurance at the Museum.

Name _____

Email _____

Shirt Size _____

Lunch Ticket _____

The Museum needs this information by **November 25th** (the day after Thanksgiving). Please come out to support GGRS to make this event a success.

Please respond to Russ Bundy by **November 23rd** rsbundy@hotmail.com. If you have a question please call Russ at 770 928-4050 and leave a message if no answer.

Highballing down the Track

Go West Young Man...

...to the **National Garden Railroad Convention**, that is. The 2023 NGRC will be in the San Francisco Bay area from July 1 until

July 8. The Bay Area Garden Railroad Society has hosted the event several times and do a great job.

One major draw is the guided trip PRIOR to the convention. This was available last time the group hosted the convention and we even had GGRS members on the trip. The trip is called The Great Western Rail Adventure and features 11 train rides and several museums in a seven-day period. More info can be found at www.TRAINTRIPS.BIZ on this June 24-30 convention add on.

NAPA Valley Wine Train will have a special event for the convention on June 30. The real convention starts July 1 and runs until July 8 with garden railroad tours every morning. The vendor hall opens July 6 through the 8 with the famous BBQ at Roaring Fork and Big Trees RR on Tuesday night, July 5, Ice Cream social on July 6, and the Accucraft sponsored Banquet on Friday, July 7. July 10-11 will have post-convention layout tours in central California. Finally, the National Summer Steam Up for live steamers will be in Lodi, California July 12 through the 14. The 2023 convention car will be a USA Trains wood sided reefer painted especially for the convention. The hotel will be the Hyatt Regency in Santa Clara. More info and registration forms can be found at www.NGRC2023.ORG. This looks like it could be a fabulous three-week trip out west!



**38TH NATIONAL
GARDEN RAILWAY
CONVENTION
JULY 1 - 8, 2023**

**HYATT REGENCY, SANTA CLARA, CA
SANTA CLARA CONVENTION CENTER**

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

WWW.NGRC2023.ORG

"The place to be in '23!"



Since the NGRC is basically on the west coast and is during a peak holiday travel time, an alternative or addition might be the **2023 Big Train Operator's Convention** June 19 through 24 held in Bird-In-Hand, Pennsylvania.

This is a long day's drive from north Georgia. This group originated from the old LGB Conventions, of which the 2001 event was held in Atlanta and hosted by the GGRS. There will be a Welcome Aboard Party with buffet on Monday evening, June 19. Off site steam train rides are offered on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and include Strasburg RR, Northern Central Railroad with a visit to Howard Tunnel (second oldest continually used tunnel in US), and Harrisburg, Lincoln, & Lancaster RR. Wednesday will be a day of trains at the hotel featuring seven operating layouts, a build your own layout contest, model train or structure building contest, an operating track all the way around the hotel fish pond, clinics, and vendor room.

The convention car will be a special lettered PIKO 25-ton diesel locomotive. A wine and cheese party for the women, an ice cream social, and a banquet will be held at the hotel. You must be a member of the BTO Club to attend. Registration, membership, and more info can be found at www.bigtrainoperator.com. **Annual dues are \$50 per year.**



No matter if you choose the west coast trip, the Pennsylvania trip, or both, you can have fun at a large-scale garden railroad convention this coming summer. They are both packed with train rides, opportunities to socialize, chances to see model trains operating, clinics, and vendor halls to shop. I do hope you will attend one and give a report back to the GGRS membership.

Shop Foreman



Log Truckin'

By Ted Yarborough

Atlantis has recently released a remake of an old Monogram plastic model truck kit. The newest version is a 1926 MAC Bulldog truck. Monogram made these in several body styles, but currently the only version available from Atlantis is the log hauler. You could buy two and make one a flatbed by leaving the logs off, or place some other load on the bed. The kit is molded in black for motor, frame, and other parts. Most of the body is molded in red with lights and windshield molded in clear plastic. The logs are molded in dark brown plastic. Tires are soft rubber and are black. There is a section of metal chain included to hold the logs on the truck.

The instructions are fairly easy to follow and the kit goes together well. You could buy an older kit from Monogram on eBay, but depending on where it has been stored, some parts may be warped. The parts in the Atlantis are fresh and in good shape. They all fit together well with little to no cleanup. There are lots of small details included and it is best to go slow and allow glued or painted parts to dry before proceeding to the next step. I painted the logs per an article in the 2021 Garden Trains Annual by White River Publications.

I used Testers' model glue in the glass bottle that is brush applied. A mixture of rattle can and hobby acrylic paint. There is a YouTube video that shows the step-by-step assembly of this model (you can find it on the GGRS Facebook page, google it or search YouTube).

I found this to be an enjoyable build. I elected a 'John Deere' color scheme. I left the decals off as I wanted my model to be in Colorado and not Pennsylvania or the Pacific Northwest as the decals might indicate. The box states it is 1:24 scale, but I find it to fit well with my 1:22 or 1:20 narrow gauge trains. Give it a try if you need this type vehicle on your garden railroad.



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.)

Your shirt is dirty! Get a new one !

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



Contact Sally for other designs

Men's	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	Price
Grey Pocket t-shirt							\$10.00
Carbon or Burgundy Polo							\$20.00
Carbon or Burgundy Pocket Polo							\$20.00
Long Sleeve Denim							\$22.00
Short Sleeve Denim							\$22.00
Name on Men's Shirt							(Specify Name) \$5.00
Ladies	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	Price
Grey T-shirt							\$10.00
Carbon or Burgundy Polo							\$20.00
Long Sleeve Denim							\$22.00
Name on Ladies shirt							(Specify Name) \$5.00





Train Installations, LLC

Woodstock, GA 30188

770-597-0038

dave@traininstallations.com

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

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

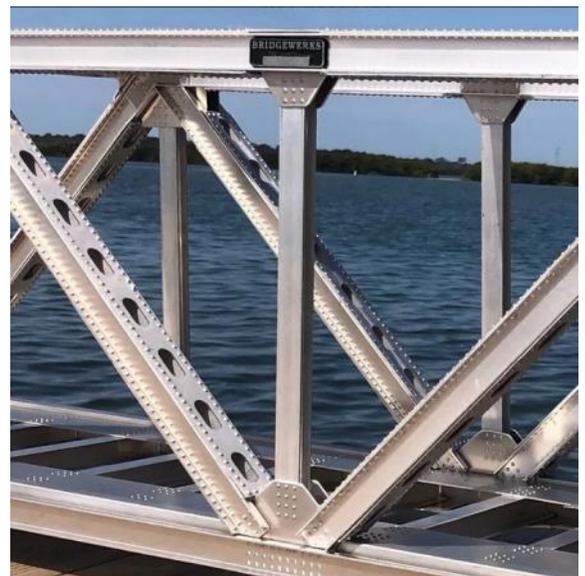
Now is a better time than ever to distract yourself with the hobby of model railroading! Let us know how we can help.

Thanks - Dave 770-597-0038



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Central of Georgia

It all began during the 1830s when a worried Savannah wanted its own railroad in competition against one recently opened to Charleston, South Carolina. The city's location along the Atlantic coast with the Savannah River flowing inland meant a great deal of trade moved through its borders. This status was placed in doubt when the South Carolina Canal And Rail Road Company (SCC&RR) opened its first six miles west of Charleston, South Carolina in 1830. A few years later, in October of 1833 it completed a 136-mile route to Hamburg located directly across the Savannah River from Augusta, Georgia. At that time it was the longest railroad in the country and began shifting trade away from Savannah. Understanding this new form of technology was the future in transportation, their own Central Rail Road & Canal Company was chartered on December 20, 1833.

After survey work was carried out in 1834, actual construction commenced in December of 1835. During the spring of 1839, 76 miles of track was finished and during October of 1843, tracks finally reached the eastern bank of the Ocmulgee River about a mile from downtown Macon.

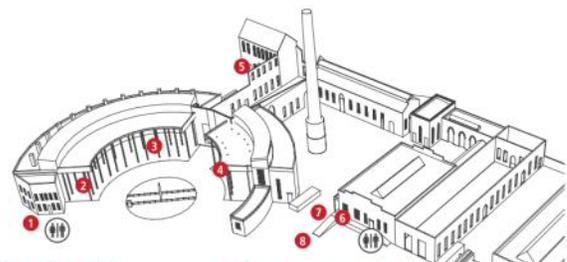
Since the CRR&BC was located so deeply within the South it had largely avoided damage by Union forces during the first three years of the Civil War. However, that all changed during the summer of 1864 when General Sherman laid siege to the city of Atlanta and began his infamous "March To The Sea."

In March of 1892 a court dispute was undertaken by a shareholder of the CRR&BC due to shady business dealings by the railroad's parent companies. The corporation was ultimately placed in receivership and eventually sold on October 7, 1895. On October 17th the Central of Georgia Railway was incorporated to acquire the remaining assets of the CRR&BC and formally began service on October 31st. When the Central of Georgia Railway was organized, it had 214 steam locomotives of the 4-4-0, 4-6-0, and 2-6-0 types.

Dieselization began in 1939 with the arrival of SW1 No. 1, which was joined by about 40 more switchers from EMD, Alco, Baldwin, and Fairbanks-Morse. Diesels for mainline use began arriving in 1946 when eight E7As replaced steam on through passenger trains. In 1947, two intra-line streamliners were added, Nancy Hanks II between Savannah and Atlanta, and the Man O' War between Columbus and Atlanta.

Into the 20th century the Central was a profitable road, connecting with many of the South's largest markets. It maintained a steady flow of traffic, particularly interchange movements, with other railroads like the Southern, Illinois Central, Seaboard Air Line, Louisville & Nashville, and Atlantic Coast Line.

Even today, it remains a subsidiary of successor Norfolk Southern and is still on the books as an operating railroad (NS still even sub letters some locomotives with CoG markings).



Exhibits and Tours

- 1 Gift Shop**
Visit the gift shop to take home your museum experience.
- 2 Orientation Film & Locomotives Exhibit**
The short film *Steam, Steel & Sweat: The Story of Savannah's Railroad Shops* gives an overview of the site's long history. Next to the video cat get an up-close look at some of the historically significant locomotives.
- 3 Executive Railcar Tours**
A tour of two restored private railcars, that were formerly used by the presidents of the Central of Georgia Railway.
- 4 Roundhouse Tour**
A behind-the-scenes tour of the back shops restoration area to take a closer look at locomotives and other rolling stock housed there. Guided tours only.
- 5 Steam Power Demonstration & Locomotion Lab**
An exploration of the use of steam power in industry, includes demonstrations of the Smith & Porter Portable Steam Engine, the Line Shaft and Belt Driven Machinery, Locomotion Lab, a family-friendly play area, is also housed within this building.
- 6 Model Train Room**
Created and maintained by the Coastal Rail Buffs, a local model train organization, the model train room has both HO and N scale layouts with a partial model of the city of Savannah.
- 7 Handcar Activity**
A hands-on demonstration of the handcar, visitors of all ages are encouraged to participate in pumping their way down a short line of track.
- 8 Freight Railcar Tour**
A tour of the Coach & Paint Shops where guests may explore the interior of several freight cars from different periods of history. Guided tours only.



Yard Hostler

If you love trains, how can you not also love old cars, bi - planes, and zeppelin trailers. Richard Hyde has them all. Jealously is so hard to avoid sometimes.

Hard to believe, but the new year is beginning. Good train shows that produce new members, some great get-togethers, and exciting times ahead.

Keep those submissions coming.

Emil Decker, Editor, GGRS Gazette
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eldecker@windstream.net

