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Annual Meeting! Reserve Today!

Save the date of January 13, 2024 for our annual GGRS meeting. This is our holiday party and annual business meeting. We will elect officers and directors and conduct any other business that is necessary. We will be returning to Provino's [440 Ernest W Barrett Pkwy NW #1, Kennesaw, GA 30144] as they did a superb job the last 2 years. They have keep the same prices and menu as we had last year. The meal will be \$ 26 including tax & tip. If you could send your payment to Dennis prior to the meeting it would be helpful. Menu choices include Lasagna Napoletana, Chicken Francese, Liguine with Baby Clams, Veal Parmigiana, or Chicken Parmigiana.

Terry's Train Tidbits



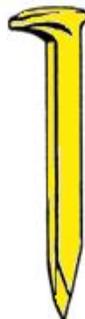
December is the month for repairing and upgrading existing model train accessories and looking forward to a visit from Santa Claus.

I have at least three train things I bought in 2023 that I don't have a clue how to operate yet.

The New Year brings us January -- the month for regional train shows. We look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming GGRS Annual Meeting on January 13, the train show in Gwinnett County on January 20, and the "Trains, Trains, Trains" layout in Kennesaw on January 27-28.

On behalf of the Executive Board, I extend to each of our garden railroading families best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Terry Manning, President



Please confirm your reservation by sending your payment to Treasurer Dennis Bass at 1972 Lansbury Court, Snellville, GA 30078 - 3050 with check made to "GGRS" prior to December 31st. Please include your payment of family dues of \$25 for 2024 if you have not previously paid them.

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PJ's & Trains at the Tellus Museum

By Russ Bundy



It has become a yearly tradition for us to participate in the Christmas festivities at the Tellus Museum in Cartersville.

<https://tellusmuseum.org/>. Each year the museum hosts a weekend of family fun featuring Santa, model train layouts, and children's activities. There are several activity's for children to make crafts, a chance to visit Santa, and to view model train layouts presented in N Scale, Lego format, and Large Scale. Both days featured a "Pajama Party" and many families got in the spirit and came dressed in matching outfits. The weekend saw just over 3400 in attendance, which was another record for the event.



This year Sally, James, Leslie Ann, & Russ were invited to participate by operating a Large Scale layout in the "Cupcake" room. Our layout this year consisted of a large oval which enclosed four designs. This design configuration allowed for five trains to operate at the same time.



If you couldn't make it this year, plans are already underway to host the show in 2024. So, mark your calendar now. The next PJ's & Trains Festival is scheduled for December 14 & 15, 2024. We've been invited back to display and hope you can come.

And, yes. There are free cupcakes and cookies each day.



Annual Meeting!

Cont.

We will have our crazy gift exchange, but with a little difference. This is voluntary and if you want to participate, bring a wrapped R.R. - that's a "railroad related" item. Cost should be a minimum of \$ 35 value.

This year, ole Cinder Claus has a little different plan up his sleeve. He really was taken with the raffle tickets used by the "BTO" **Big-Train-Operators** when he dropped by [*incognito*] at Bird-In-Hand this year. Everyone will receive a ticket when they put their gift into the pile, and then Claus will randomly select a gift and draw a ticket. Winning number takes the gift. This is optional but each attending family member may participate if they wish or you can exchange a single gift from your family. Each gift supplied receives a ticket in exchange. If you want to participate, bring a wrapped railroad related item with an estimated value of \$35 or more.

But wait {*as the old sales pitch goes*} **THERE'S MORE !!!** Cinder Claus has a special drawing for additional gifts, donated by an anonymous benefactor. **EVERYONE** who attends, whether they play the above gift exchange or not, gets a ticket to this one.

AND YES, even more.....

There is a **super drawing** for an **LGB LOCOMOTIVE**, in which everyone attending also receives a ticket. You don't want to miss a chance to walk away, (or steam away) with this Grand Prize!

Model Trains in The White House

For the first time in many years, model trains are in The White House this Christmas. In a press release from The White House, First Lady Jill Biden announces the 2023 holiday theme,

"The Magic, Wonder, and Joy of the Holidays."

"In this season of reflection and goodwill, we hope you will embrace your inner child and delight in simply being present with those you love," said the First Lady and the President.

The **Blue Room** showcases the official White House Christmas tree, this year an 18 1/2 foot tall Fraser Fir. Under the train runs an LGB train set. The set is on loan from the [Train Collector's Association](#).

A smaller (Märklin Inc.) steam locomotive similar to the one below circles The White House Christmas tree this year.



More than 300 volunteers helped with the holiday decorations in The White House this year. Read more in the full press release:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/11/27/first-lady-jill-biden-announces-2023-white-house-holiday-themethe-magic-wonder-and-joy-of-the-holidays/>

January 27 & 28

JOIN THE
SOUTHERN MUSEUM
FOR OUR BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR

Trains, Trains, Trains!

JANUARY 27 & 28
2828 CHEROKEE ST NW KENNESAW, GA 30144

Join the Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History for our biggest event of the year, **Trains, Trains, Trains!** The two-day event will take place on **January 27 & 28, 2024, 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM.**

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
Annual Meeting	Provino's 440 Ernest W Barrett Parkway NW, Kennesaw, GA	Jan 13, 2024	Lunch & Games ! Oh yeah, a meeting too.
Atlanta Train Show	Gas South Convention Center, Duluth, GA	Jan 20, 2024	
Trains, Trains, Trains	The Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History	Jan 26 - 28, 2024	Club Layout
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

Trains as Trash..... Or New Homes?

Between 2001 and 2010, how did the New York City Municipal Transportation Authority dispose of old trains ?

Answer on page 15.



Membership Report

2023 is coming to an end and it is time to renew your Georgia Garden Railway Society dues

Please send your checks (*made out to GGRS*) for \$25 to maintain your membership to the address below - we do not want to lose you and you don't want to miss touring several new layouts scheduled in 2024 and other activities like our swap meets, train excursions, and convention activities!

Ginny Manning
1201 Timber Glen Court
Lilburn, GA 30047

Thank you,
Ginny, Membership Chair

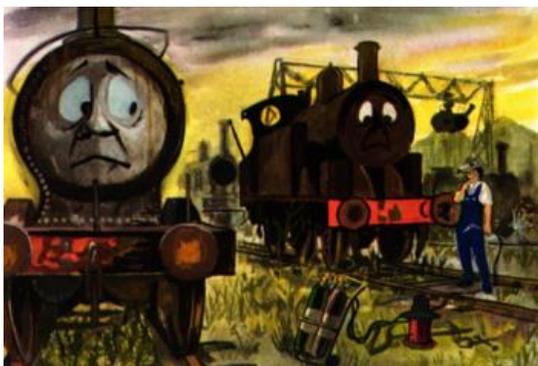
Highballing down the Track

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.



I am sorry to say, the CCGRS (Coastal Carolina Garden Railroad Society) has been closed. We were down to 4 members, A 90 year old, two 80 year olds and a crippled 75 year old.... Continued luck on your great news letter....

Sincerely

Mary Louise Allen

ccgrs.mla@gmail.com



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.colebrookdalerrailroad.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)
 - Tear 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



News FLASH !!! Bird - In - Hand Office Leveled by Explosion. One Dead.

Site of the 2024 Big Train Operators was rocked by an explosion just before publication. We don't know how or if this might affect the coming Convention.

<https://dailyvoice.com/pennsylvania/lancaster/explosion-blows-roof-off-lancaster-county-inn-developing/>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/explosion-blows-roof-off-bird-in-hand-family-inn-developing/ar-AA1IG9PT>

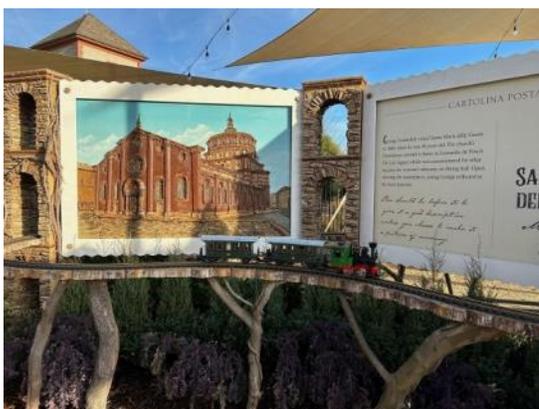




Join Us In Beautiful Decatur, Alabama for River Rails 2024

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



Biltmore Gardens R.R.



There is a new garden railroad display at the Biltmore Estates. The layout represents travels through Italy. 2 - D Photos and rock arches.... Simple but effective.



2024 G-Scale Southern Regional Get Together by Ted Yarborough

A National Garden Railroad Convention will not be held in 2024. There will be regional meetings, shows, layout tours and other gatherings all around the country. Those currently scheduled are Northeast Large Scale Train Show April 27 & 28 in Springfield Massachusetts, Rail Fair at Ardenwood May 25 through 27 in Fremont, California, Midwest Garden Railroad Gathering May 30 to June 2 in Kansas City, West Coast Regional Meet August 10 to 15 in San Diego, California, and the Southern Regional Garden Railroad Get Together August 23 through 25 in Duluth, Georgia. Just a note to avoid any confusion, the Big Train Operator's Club **WILL HAVE** their national convention in June at Bird - In - Hand, Pennsylvania.

Hopefully you noticed the 2024 G-Scale Southern Regional Get Together in the listing. Hopefully, this was not the first you have heard of the event. The last issue of the GGRS newsletter printed an article about it. The last issue of Garden Railroading News mentioned the event and had a banner promoting the get together. The **2024 G-Scale Southern Regional Get Together** is most convenient because it is in Georgia and **our garden railroad society group will be HOSTING IT !!!!**

Plans are well under way, but are still fluid and being shaped currently into a great event for all. The known part, as of this writing, is that garden railroad layout tours will be held on Friday, August 23 and Sunday, August 25. A vendor hall will be provided courtesy of Charlie Miller and his 65 Annual Model Train Show in Duluth on Saturday, August 24. Many of you know and attend this show, but additional vendors and manufacturers of G Scale trains have been contacted and have shown interest in attending.

We are now at the point where GGRS members will be needed to open their garden railroads. Tours will be Friday, August 23 and Sunday, August 25. All tours will be self-guided (no buses) and will run from approximately 10:00am until 4:00pm both days. A tour booklet will be published (digital and hard copy) and made available with event registration. A description of the layout (usually including size and age of garden railroad, track or battery power, analog or DCC, type of trains running, with brief description of structures, plants, water garden included, or other distinguishing features) will be published with directions to layouts. This will help attendees decide which layouts they want to visit. We would like to have approximately 10 different layouts open each day (some may open both days). If you would like to offer your layout for tours, please send a description with photo to Ted Yarbrough at yarbrough@charter.net indicating which day(s) you would like to participate. Layouts are our greatest need currently, so please consider volunteering!

The 2024 Southern Regional Get Together committee is busy working on items or events including a host hotel, tote bag with logo, special collectable event pin, limited production show car from USA Trains (likely L&N), some type of meal gathering Saturday evening, and an open house event at the soon to be constructed TRAINZ warehouse.

Save the dates of August 23-25, 2024 and watch your future GGRS newsletters for updates on all the spectacular possibilities. Volunteer your layout today!

A brand-new round-the-world luxury train route is launching next year

<https://www.timeout.com/news/a-brand-new-round-the-world-luxury-train-route-is-launching-next-year-110823>

Dreaming of travelling the world? Railbookers have just announced an epic, round-the-world luxury train itinerary, and it's set to launch in August next year.

The 80-day trip visits 13 countries across four continents. You'll travel on seven of the world's most luxurious trains, enjoying world-class dining and private cabins, staying in some amazing hotels, and see stunning natural landscapes, Unesco World Heritage Sites and 20 fabulous cities. Beginning in Vancouver, you'll board the Rocky Mountaineer to journey through the Canadian Rockies, Lake Louise, and Banff National Park (3 days). Next, it's Edinburgh, (1 week). Tour the lochs and peaks of the Highlands on the Belmond Royal Scotsman. A journey from Paris to Venice on the Belmond Venice-Simplon Orient Express is next. Then you're off to see the Taj Mahal, (6 nights) on The Maharajas Express from Delhi to Mumbai.

The Golden Eagle Danube Express, Istanbul, takes passengers through Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary (4 nights), past the castles and hamlets of south - eastern Europe.



Finally, a (3 day) trip from Pretoria to Cape Town, South Africa on Rovos Rail, then jet to Singapore, where passengers will board the newly resumed Eastern and Oriental Express to Malaysia.

Planners at Railbookers said they designed the trip to meet growing demands for luxury rail journeys, and they're keen to emphasize the joy of slow travel. Sounds pretty wonderful, doesn't it? Well, a pretty hefty price tag (\$113,599) will keep a few of us home. Though it does include some hotel stays, car transfers, a few flights, meals and tours, a stay in a safari lodge and a climb to the top of the Eiffel Tower. Start saving and planning now.



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





GR News

<https://www.grnews.org/>

Garden Railroading News 2023 # 6 released

Editor Carla has recovered from Covid and has released our September/October Edition. Just in time for weekend reading and stirring up some seasonal gift ideas.

Mick Spilsbury
GR News Marketing & Distribution Conductor

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.)

Engineer's Wish List
Embroidery Design & Gifts
by On-Line Consign, 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

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 finally gotten around to releasing a new generation Reversing Unit (RU). Many customers had asked me, but we first needed help with the electronics. Help finally came along from Curtis at Railroad Concepts, who collaborated with us to make an easy - to-use, yet feature - packed RU.

Split Jaw's Reversing Units let you have an automated, enjoyable layout with just a single track. The amazing thing is: it teaches itself where the stops are.

Our initial release will be for indoor use only, but by Spring 2024 we will add a weather-resistant enclosure.

Stay tuned for more news to come soon - Split Jaw has an ambitious product development pipeline for 2024/2025.

Every era, every scale!
Trainz.com
Leaving the hobby? **Sellmytrains.com**



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](tel: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 last-minute Christmas gifts for your train enthusiasts?
Heading home with 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



The perfect place for a train!



We were approached by a non profit organization called Lekotek about the possibility of installing an overhead train around the circular soffit in the lobby as an interactive learning tool for the children who come there. Lekotek works with special needs children to improve their lives through interactive play. See lekotekga.org for more info. What a perfect place for a train that is started by the push of a big red button! We are looking for a corporate or private sponsor to help us make this happen. Contact me if you can help. Thanks, Dave

Other news:

Save the date

12/22/23-12/31/23 TCA train show at the VFW in Acworth

(We will not have a table at this show)

1/20/24 Golden Spike Train show at the Gas South

Arena. (We will have a table at this show)

8/23/24-8/25/24 Garden RR regional convention in

conjunction with the Golden Spike train show.

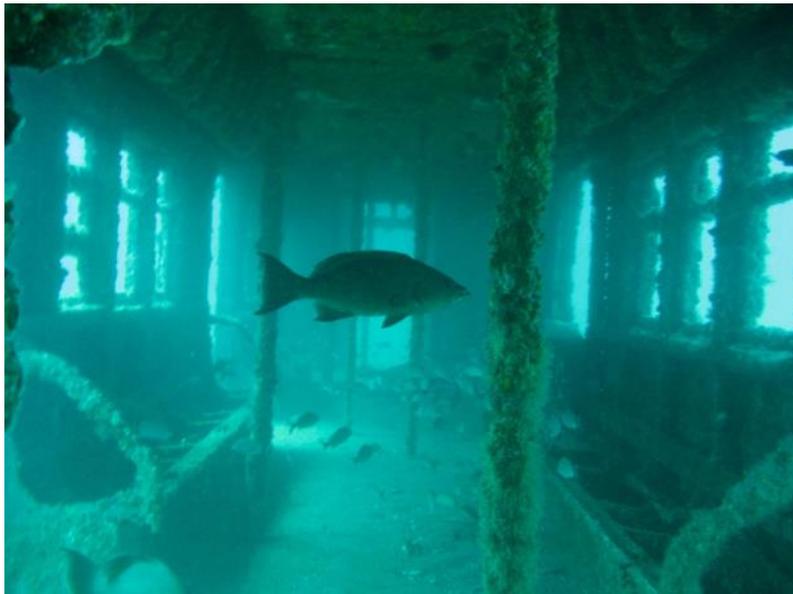
Check out our newly updated website! www.traininstallations.com

Thanks! , Dave

Trains as Homes ?

The New York City Municipal Transportation Authority, instead of disposing of old trains, saved \$30 million by turning them into new homes for... fish?

That's right. In that time, 2,580 subway cars were taken to the MTA's workshops in Manhattan, stripped, cleaned, loaded onto ships and taken off the coast of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and South Carolina where they became artificial reefs, providing new habitats for marine life.



The reefs now provide homes for, among others, sea bass, tuna, mackerel, flounder, blue mussels, sponges, barnacle and coral. "I've had pods of dolphins come swim around, and seen sea turtles swimming through them" says photographer Bob Martore, one of the people who documented the project. A pleasingly unusual end for these classic vehicles.

Yard Hostler

It's getting cooler, and most Railroads are going into hibernation. The owners, operators, presidents, and gandy dancers of these fine establishments are probably working inside their shops preparing some new buildings, fixing up old ones; maybe putting a fresh set of wheels or piping on a tired engine, or even making plans to take on a new fleet....

We would love to publish your back shop stories during this slower period of time for your railway..... well, maybe slower isn't the word with the Holidays rapidly approaching.... Maybe you have some exciting Holiday news to share? Don't forget, I can't do this job alone. Send in your submissions, with pictures, today.

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

eldecker@windstream.net

