



# GGRS Gazette

## March, 2021

Official Newsletter of the Georgia Garden Railway Society

### President's Message



**President  
Lucky Charm**

Being a great fan of unit grain trains, Lucky runs a lot of covered hoppers on his double figure 8 railway. Named "The Lucky Charms RR", he hopes you will find it magically delicious.....just like the snacks he keeps on hand.



Perhaps **YOU** would like a magical term as president. I understand the position is still open. [Editor]

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## Great Train Robberies



*A series about Great train robberies will appear in the next couple of issues. Which will be your favorite? Will you stage a scene on your railroad this year?*

As a child, nothing was more exciting than a movie with a robber, (or a hero), riding a horse to chase down and climb aboard a steaming, smoking, wheel - spinning locomotive as it flew down the track. Hoofs pounding, horse straining, a quick grab to climb aboard the caboose .....

Oh the thrill! I can hear the heart pounding music even now. When did this "stock scene" in so many western's actually first happen?

Jesse James, the notorious outlaw, and his brother Frank are best remembered as bank robbers, but they were also the first gang to hold up a moving train. The earliest heist came on the evening of July 21, 1873, near Adair, Iowa.

Early in July the gang had learned that \$75,000 in gold from the Cheyenne region was to come through Adair on the recently built Chicago, Rock Island, & Pacific Railroad. Jesse sent his brother, Frank James, and Cole Younger to Omaha to learn when the gold shipment would arrive.

On the afternoon of the robbery, the bandits went to the section house and obtained some pies and other food from Mrs. Robert Grant, wife of the section foreman. Meanwhile, the rest of the gang broke into the handcar house, stole a spike-bar and hammer with which they pried off a fish-plate connecting two rails and pulled out the spikes.

As their target rounded a blind curve, the gang used a rope to dislodge the track, causing the locomotive to derail and topple into a ditch. The crash killed Engineer John Rafferty of Des Moines. The fireman, Dennis Foley, later died of his injuries. Several passengers were injured, but, as planned, the cars derailed and stopped on the tracks.

John Burgess, the express guard, was forced to open the safe. In it they only found \$2,000 in currency. The gold shipment had been delayed. They collected only about \$3,000, including money and loot taken from the passengers.

A train loaded with armed men left Council Bluffs for Adair and dropped small detachments of men along the route where saddled horses were waiting. The trail of the outlaws was traced into Missouri where they split up and were sheltered by friends. Later the governor of Missouri offered a \$10,000 reward for the capture of Jesse James, dead or alive.

The Adair robbery shocked the public for its sheer boldness, and went a long way toward establishing Jesse James' reputation as a celebrity criminal and folk hero.



From 1860 - 1882, the James Gang was the most feared band of outlaws in American history. They were responsible for more than 20 bank and train robberies and the murders of countless individuals who stood in their way. They stole an estimated \$200,000.

On April 3, 1882 Jesse James stepped up on a chair to dust a picture, and Robert Ford, a member of the gang, seized the opportunity to shoot James in the back of the head. The Ford brothers wired Gov. Crittenden to claim their reward and surrendered to authorities. They were charged with 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder, pleaded guilty and were sentenced to hang, but two hours later Crittenden granted a full pardon. Jesse James has been a popular hero and villain ever since; the subject of many books, movies, and even town festivals.

*Next month another exciting Train Robbery*



### Track Warrants

Anyone Interested in revealing what you've been doing on your RR during the pandemic? The Yarbrough's are. Ted and Deborah have graciously volunteered to Host the May GGRS Club Meeting on Saturday May 29th. This Meeting will coincide with their being a Pre-Tour Host for the National Garden Railway Convention on the same day.

You may be contemplating which month you want to host a GGRS Club Meeting. Well, are you planning to be a Post-Tour Host for the National Garden Railway Convention? Then you will have already done the hard work getting your railroad in tip top show condition, making June 12th, 19th or 26th a great time to host a GGRS Club Meeting.

If you want to be a 2021 Club Meeting host and share your outdoor or indoor layout or need club assistance with planning a new railroad, just pick the month you want to reserve and let me know.

Pam Williamson [pspaan@msn.com](mailto:pspaan@msn.com)  
770-851-9462

Event	Location	Date	Status
GGRS May Meeting	Ted Yarbrough 212 Love Dr Chatsworth, GA	May 29, 2021	In Planning Stage
Pre-convention Layout / Yard Sale	Dave Bennett 506 Creekridge Ct. Woodstock, GA	May 29, 2021 10-4	In Planning Stage
36th National Garden Railway Convention	Gaylord Opryland Resort, Nashville, TN	May 30 - Jun. 5, 2021	Ngrc2020 .com
GGRS July Meeting	Terry & Ginny Manning	July ? 2021	In Planning Stage
The Model Train Expo	Chatsworth Depot	Sep. 11, 2021	Outdoor Display
Model Train Show 2021	Clarence Brown Convention Center, Cartersville, GA	Oct 2 - 3, 2021	On a siding but still on schedule
GGRS Member Hosted Meeting ??	Your Layout ??	2021	Plan Now!

# GGRS 1:1 Train Ride



## 2021 Train Ride Votes Are Coming In

GGRS members have spoke (well, kind of). Two members want to take the Western Maryland new restoration ride, one wants Cass, one wants the Great Smoky Mountain's first class with meal, and one wants the Tennessee Valley Railroad's dinner train. I do not want to bare bad news, but we are not going to do all of those!

After contacting the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad, they could not give me a definite date or price for any excursions with the Baldwin Locomotive Works locomotive no.1309. This excursion would be pulled by a very unique locomotive that is just returning to service, but would be the trip farthest from the Metro Atlanta area. Hopefully, some members will venture out on their own and report back about their experiences with supporting photos.

That leaves Cass and the two first class train rides with meals. The GGRS attended the May, 2015 Railfan Weekend at Cass. 8 members made the trip and enjoyed the weekend riding and photographing the trains. There is not a railfan weekend this year. Mountain Rail West Virginia owns Cass Scenic Railroad (steam), Tygart Flyer (diesel), and Durbin Rocket (steam), with all three rides located about an hour from each other. It would be possible to ride all three in three days (plus a day driving up and a day driving back). This trip would involve several nights in hotels as well as a couple days driving and could get rather expensive. While this trip would take as long as the Western Maryland trip, more train rides would be available in the same timeframe.

September 2020 the GGRS embarked on an excursion with the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad in an open-air first-class car. A record number of our members attended this trip. The GGRS has done several trips with this railroad including chartering a caboose (more than once) and riding the entire line on a photo special in coach class. All were enjoyed. Onboard dining is included for first class in luxury passenger cars as we travel out of Bryson City, NC. This trip would be a lunch time train ride pulled by a steam train. Price is approximately \$115.00 per person for meal and 4 ½ hour train ride.

The 2019 GGRS excursion was with Tennessee Valley Railroad with a double header steam train. We have probably taken this railroad on more GGRS excursions than any other line as it appears to be a favorite of many members. We even experienced a derailment on one of the Christmas Dinner Train trips years ago! This trip would be the closest to the metro Atlanta area. Dinner trains operate around the city of Chattanooga on Saturday evenings at various times through the year. Prices start at \$80.00 per person for 2 ¼ hour train ride with meal.

Realistically, we are most likely looking at a dinner train either out of Chattanooga, Tennessee on a Saturday evening or a dinner train out of Bryson City, NC someday at lunch. Tennessee Valley dinner trains are diesel powered and Great Smoky Mountain trains are steam powered (could be diesel depending on date selected). Please look over the trips and let me know your preference by emailing [yarbrought@charter.net](mailto:yarbrought@charter.net).

## Ted Yarbrough

*Dear Ted*

*Don't feel discouraged. You got 5 replies. Double what I usually get from the clientele regarding requests for the Gandy Dancer Section. I am sure you might get a few more responses later as the COVID weather starts to clear up.*

*P.S. Don't forget to count my vote twice....*

*[Editor]*

## Hoptown Station - Staircase Renovation Update

The staircase renovation is well under way, but not quite finished. The paint stirrers turned out to be too much for the mini table saw and the blade on the table saw did not make a wide enough cut to accommodate the steps.

A lunch date and a trip to Miniature Designs (a Doll House store in Lawrenceville) with Ginny & Terry Manning provided Roy with an idea for a different design.

The idea was to cut a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " piece of pine at a 45-degree angle. The wood was then cut into 3" lengths that were first glued and then nailed to a 3" X 15" piece of beadboard. The staircase fascia boards, made from small paint stirrers, were nailed to the sides of the steps.

When we went to install the completed staircase, we noticed the upper-level patio of the station is also in need of repair or a possible redesign, so the renovation is not quite finished.

**Pam**



## NMRA SER News

The SER and Palmetto Division are moving forward with plans for Swamp Rabbit Express, the 2021 Convention to be held in Greenville, SC June 10-13, 2021. Check out the Convention website -

[www.swamprabbitexpress.org](http://www.swamprabbitexpress.org) Dave Winans,  
Convention co-chair



## Santa Clara 2021 NMRA National Convention and National Train Show cancelled !

The NMRA has cancelled the NMRA 2021 Santa Clara "Rails By the Bay"

Convention, scheduled for the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel & Conference Center on July 4-11, 2021.

We did not reach this decision lightly but felt it was the best for anyone who would want to attend given the current status of the pandemic, disbursement of vaccine, and the fact that people were waiting to see what would happen before they registered. Moreover, local prototype facilities were not open and, understandably, home owners were reluctant to allow people in their homes.

However, St. Louis will host the 2022 convention and it is expected that all contracts for that convention will be signed shortly, if not by the time you read this. See you all in St. Louis **August 7 - 14, 2022.**

## Why is 1472 the most important number for Tourist Railroads?

Answer on page 15.



*John Lees believes he may have found some of those missing ballots from the presidential election.*

### From Air Force One to Amtrak One: Joe Biden can accelerate economic recovery by renewing America's rails

President Joe Biden has an answer for all our pressing problems, and it's waiting for him at the station. When Biden and his running mate, Sen. Kamala Harris, won the 2020 election, Summit Foundation member Darryl Young tweeted an image of Amtrak's brand new Acela train, photoshopped to include the presidential seal, and captioned it "There ought to be an Amtrak One."

Biden could send a powerful message by switching from Air Force One to Amtrak One for presidential travel between cities a few hundred miles apart. That's the so-called "sweet spot" where rail travel is more convenient and environmentally sound than driving or flying.

Remember, he rode the same Amtrak train to and from Delaware for 30 years as a senator. "Amtrak Joe" traveled more than two million miles by train between Washington and Wilmington. As president, Biden can make Amtrak One a regular part of his travel, reassuring a pandemic-wary public that transit is safe.



In September, President Biden will travel to New York for the U.N. General Assembly. The current trip involves a flight on Marine One from the White House to Joint Base Andrews, followed by a flight on Air Force One to JFK Airport, another helicopter flight on Marine One to the Wall Street Heliport, and finally a motorcade from downtown to midtown Manhattan.

If President Biden could motorcade a few blocks from the White House to Union Station, take Amtrak One directly to New York Penn Station in midtown Manhattan, and finish the trip with a short motorcade eight blocks east and six blocks north to the U.N. how much money could be saved? Would it be safe? Would presidential trips on busy lines like the Northeast Corridor cause delays for daily rail riders? Possibly, but think how motorcades for dignitaries in Atlanta have impacted our driving. How have flights into Dobbins AFB affected flight patterns? Think about anyone suggesting the federal government save money. Would Amtrak One work, or am I just a train nut? Or maybe both.

<https://twitter.com/DarrylWYoung/status/1324971401632210945?s=20>

<https://fusion.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/biden-trains-rail-transportation-pandemic-economic-recovery-20201214.html>

## Highballing down the Track



Hindsight is...

# 2021!

## 2021 National Garden Railroad Convention Update

May 30 to June 5, 2021 Nashville, TN

Nashville Clinic Schedule (So far, it appears the schedule is the same each day.)

The National Garden Railway Convention will be held in Nashville, TN May 30 through June 5, 2021 hosted by the Nashville Garden Railway Society (NGRS). As we all know, running a convention takes a multitude of hands.

NGRS has contacted Ted Yarborough to see if any GGRS members are interested in opening their layouts for either Pre or Post tours for those traveling through Georgia on their way to and from Nashville. If you're interested in sharing your layout with other model railroading enthusiasts as a Pre or Post Tour Host, please contact Steven Jungst by February 28<sup>th</sup>.

*"Nashville was very supportive with Pre and Post Hosting for our 2018 convention. Please consider Hosting a Pre or Post Tour of your Garden Railroad so we can return the favor." - Ted Yarborough*

Ted will have his layout open on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> for our member meeting and for Pre-convention travelers. Come and visit.

Dave Bennett will also be having a pre-convention open house and train "yard sale" from 10-4 on Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup> (same day as Ted's meeting). Drop by both on your way to TN, or even if you are not attending the Nashville Convention.

Steven Jungst [smjungst@comcast.net](mailto:smjungst@comcast.net) 615-674-8281

OFFICIAL OPRYLAND RESORT LINK for room reservations.

<https://book.passkey.com/gt/217980430?gtid=9033269c7385dfceb1039d25aa68e7f5>

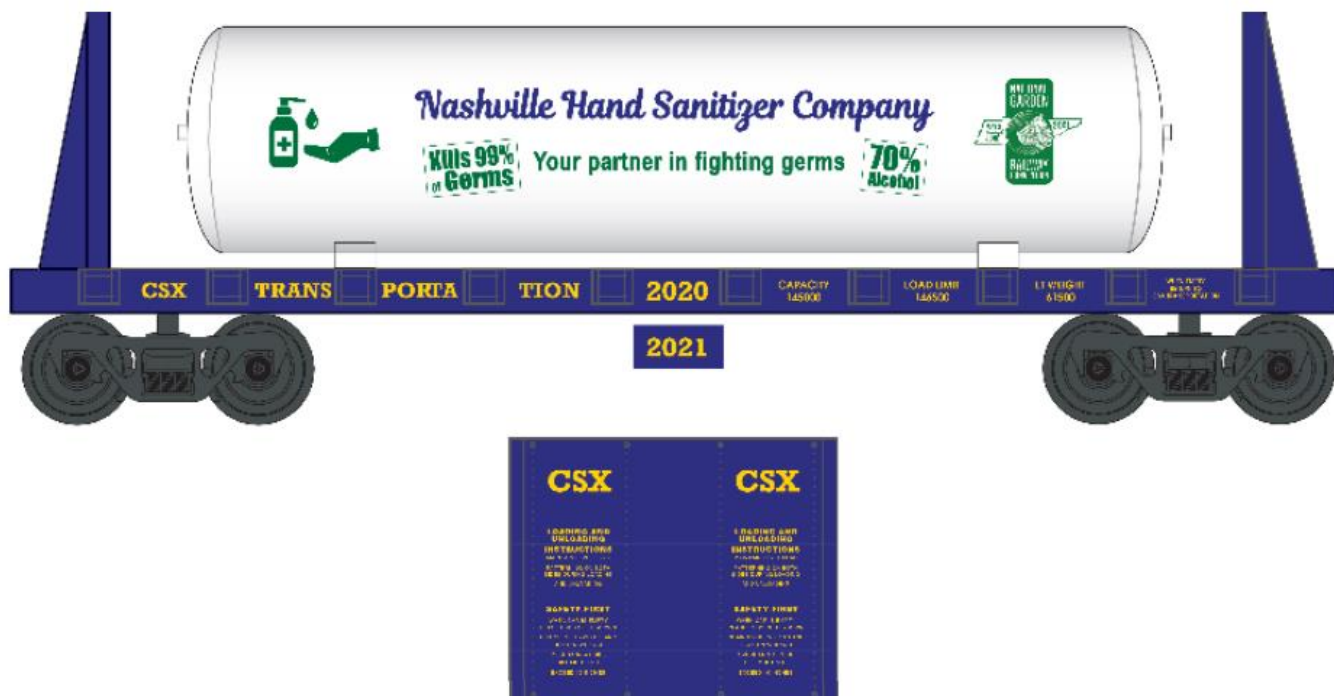
NOTE: There is a highly limited number of rooms available before and after the convention dates due to large events in Nashville. The following dates are on a first come- first served basis... May 30<sup>th</sup>, June 6<sup>th</sup>, and June 7<sup>th</sup>. Once they are gone, they're gone.

In order to stay at the resort before or after the convention you may need to call Opryland and the **convention rate is likely not available**. This is beyond our control and normal rates would be up to the Opryland Resort.



## 2021 Convention Car

They received numerous inquiries whether there will be a new convention car produced for the 2021 National Garden Railroad Convention. The Nashville Garden Railway Society is pleased to announce we have made arrangements with USA Trains to have 150 convention cars produced. As a world, we have endured unprecedented challenges during the past year. During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, two items were in short supply; toilet paper and hand sanitizer. When one went to the stores, the shelves were bare of these two essential items. Shown below is the mockup of the 2021 National Garden Railroad Convention car.



The CSX bulkhead flat car will be available with two road number options; 2020 or 2021. Your choice of the road number or road numbers you want. **We will only have cars produced IF 150 cars are pre-ordered and paid for in full to minimize the financial risks to our club.** If the demand exceeds 150 cars, we will increase the size of our order to match the number of cars ordered. The cars can be ordered using the 2021 National Garden Railroad Convention website: [www.ngrc2021.com](http://www.ngrc2021.com). Each car will sell for \$85. The convention cars will be shipped to Nashville for pick up during the convention. If you want to purchase a convention car but are unable to attend the convention, we have made arrangements with USA Trains to have convention cars drop shipped to your house for a \$12 charge per person whether you purchase 1, 2 or 4 cars. For international orders, we will determine the actual cost to ship your order to your home and notify you. We have to place our order with USA Trains by February 26, 2021. **Our deadline for receiving your convention car order and full payment is February 22.** We hope this car will be a reminder of your attendance at the 36th National Garden Railroad Convention and how this wonderful hobby has helped each one of us find a bright spot during the challenges of this past year.

Contact Information Convention email address: [ngrcnashville@gmail.com](mailto:ngrcnashville@gmail.com)

Convention website: [www.ngrc2021.com](http://www.ngrc2021.com)

Vendor hall: Steve Jungst at (615) 674-8281

Hotel reservations: (877) 351-502

# 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.)



1359 4th Avenue  
Auburn, GA 30011

Hours of Operation

Thursday through Saturday - 11am-6pm  
Sunday through Wednesday - Closed



## Get lucky with a new shirt

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							\$18.00
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](http://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**



**Here are a few before and after pictures of a small garden RR we managed to rehabilitate in one day after ten years out of service. What can we do for you ???**



### Luck of the Irish Rock ??



Emil Decker's  
STICKS  
+  
STONES

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

[sticksnstones@ weegr.com](mailto:sticksnstones@weegr.com)



### Own a piece of Authentic Railroad History

When you think of games and railroads, the first to come to mind is probably Parker Bros.' Monopoly. Created during the Depression, the game's 4 railroads are centered, 1 on each side of the board. B & O, Pennsylvania, Reading, and Short Line. Now you can own a framed set of the real railroad stocks depicted in the game, along with a history of each railroad and the story behind the game itself.

Enclosed in the frame are Authentic stock certificates, corresponding Monopoly Deeds, and a brief history of each. The 31" x 25" framed set is perfect for your game or train room. And you can have all of this for only \$100.

Contact Emil Decker, [eldecker@windstream.net](mailto:eldecker@windstream.net)



Birthday coming up? Drop a hint to your family with our new digital gift cards. Just a click and it's in your inbox!

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## The number 1472

Steam locomotives are complex pieces of machinery. Steam locomotives have boilers. If boilers develop defects, they may explode. Just as an automobile requires certain inspections at certain mileage intervals, so do steam locomotives, except their inspections are based on service days, not mileage. For steam locomotives, those service intervals are daily, 31-day, 92-day, annual, 5th annual, and the “big one” – 1,472 “service days” (the number of days in four years) of operation, or every fifteen years. The inspection includes ultrasonic measurements of boiler shell thicknesses and visual inspection of the boiler and firebox. This inspection requires an almost complete disassembly of the locomotive so every nut and bolt (literally) can be checked. These regulations were rewritten to take effect in 2000.

The other important part of the 1472 day inspection is checking the frame and running gear of the steam locomotive for stress cracks or components that could be damaged by metal fatigue, so it is an extremely important procedure that keeps steam locomotives safe to operate.

Guidelines are found here:

[https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/fra.dot.gov/files/fra\\_net/1884/1999%2011%2017%20-%20Steam%20Locomotives%20Final.pdf](https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/fra.dot.gov/files/fra_net/1884/1999%2011%2017%20-%20Steam%20Locomotives%20Final.pdf)

or <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2017-title49-vol4/xml/CFR-2017-title49-vol4-part230.xml>

## Yard Hostler

So the new year has, so far, looked a lot like the old. Not going to get depressed or political. Spring is just ahead, and that means gardens, railroads, and good times. We are still looking for a president for the GGRS. Sign up for the rotation of railroad visitation (i.e. meeting) each month. I really want to come see your layout. Plan with confidence, but we all understand if an event has to be cancelled or postponed. Go ahead and sign up!

NOBODY Gussed what Dennis Bass' project was, so no prize awarded. Here's a second chance with a second clue. What's it??



**If you want One of the NEW 2021 convention Cars, better act fast. NOW, or its too late !**

OK. **My mistake.** I asked for one theme recommendation, then messed up and announced a different request halfway through the month..... Mostly no one did **either one**.

So..... **Either or:** Either send in your item that is NOT a Garden Railway item, but you think fits: OR something Punny. Think about your railway. Surely you have a building with a funny name, a pun, a joke, or a neat twist of phrase for a car, an industry, or business. An obvious example that comes to mind is the law office of “Dewey Suem & Howe”

## What's Punny on your railroad?

Here's a couple from my collection:

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