Georgia Garden Railway Society

Mar 2023

Official Newsletter of the Georgia Garden Railway Society





62nd Atlanta Model Train Show

The 62nd Atlanta Model Train Show was held on January 21st at Gas South Arena (formerly known as Infinite Energy Center/Gwinnett Civic Center) Duluth, GA . The Train Show was attended by many GGRS members as exhibitors, vendors, colleagues, and attendees.

Exhibitors

Joe & Debbie Fotschky set up a large G scale layout complete with an L&N, Thomas the Train and a reversing Egg Linger that was enjoyed by hundreds of train enthusiasts, both young and old.

Vendors

Bob Avery was there to thin out his personal G scale collection.

<u>Sally Bando</u> had her "Embroidery Designs and Gifts" on hand. If you need a GGRS shirt, Sally is your go to.

<u>*Dave Bennett*</u> was there to help with your layout plans and the installation of all scale trains.

Nick & Patty Neos were trimming their G scale inventory.

Josh Sagarin had multiple train scales available for sale.

Lou Sommer had an inventory of G scale trains as well as die cast models. *Roy Williamson* had an array of used G Scale Trains.

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Joe Fotschky, Debbie Fotschky & Phil Jones working the trains.

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President's Message



Winter greetings! I am getting anxious to get our trains up and running - guess an indoor show is the way to go until it warms up a bit! I hope you can sign up to run trains at the next show.

The holidays are past and the Train Show survey results are in. Thanks to everyone for your feedback.

We learned Trains Trains Trains and the NMRA show are most favored by our members. Several folks attend these shows every year. Golden Spike is a distant third.

Last year about 67% of our new members found out about GGRS from these shows. Yet, only 42% of the respondents thought the shows are an important part of GGRS. Because we

want to keep the club expanding we will continue to support the shows, we just need to make it a better experience for our membership.



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Recommendations for improving our participation in shows include:

- 2 hour blocks for volunteers using simplified layout(s)
- specific tasks for volunteersA lead show coordinator
- improved marketing at show with a designated 'Greeter'
- Starting with the NMRA show in Cartersville these are your suggestions we plan to implement:
- 1. Sign ups for 2 hour blocks with specific roles. If you wish to sign up for multiple slots great!
- 2. Dan Steidle agreed to be the event coordinator. Thanks Dan!
- 3. We will be using simplified layouts that are of interest to all ages (And scheduling group work days to repair and maintain club assets)
- 4. Review our information table offering to encourage folks to join our group.

I hope you can join us in making the shows a more pleasant experience for all.

Juliet Foster



Above: James Bando

Colleagues

<u>Dennis Bass</u> was very helpful with setup to several GGRS vendors. Thank you, Dennis!

Joe Schrock was the Right-Hand Man for "melovetrainz"

<u>Charlie Miller</u>, the 62nd Atlanta Model Train Show event coordinator, donated a free table to the club which turned out to be a successful event for GGRS.

The GGRS Information Table manned by <u>Ginny & Terry Manning</u> and <u>Carol and Dan Steidle</u> signed up 5 new families. Way to go team!



Right: Dennis Bass, Roy Williamson & Josh Sagarin





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Left: Joe Schrock & Terry Manning



Above: Dave Bennett





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Left: Terry Manning, Carol Steidle & Debbie Fotschky

Below: Carol Steidle & Ginny Manning Eliot Stotler, Dan Steidle & Terry Manning





Left: Bob Avery

Below: Sally Bando



Track Warrants

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

Event	Location	Date	Status	
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 11:00 - 5:00pm	Apr 15, 2023	Setup on the cement pad approx. 12 X 8 @ 8:30 a.m. Lunch served	
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	North GA Steamer – Conyers, GA	Oct 7, 2023	Cook out & Ride on Trains	
1:1 Train Ride	???	???	Looking into options	

1:1 (4?) Train Ride??

The train in Blue Ridge goes north and these bikes go South. 7 four-seat bikes available. Any takers????







Ted Yarborough

Well, we are marching on into the

year of 2023. There have been whispers of 'are we going to have a 1:1 scale train ride this year?' I am going to answer those whispers with a big shouting **'YES!'** We will have a ride this year. I am going to give a hint in this article and also next month as well. Full info will follow. Save the dates of August 26 & 27. Think Bachmann (hint).



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Trains, Trains, Trains!

GGRS set up a whimsical layout at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw, GA on January 27, 28 and 29. Set up was on Friday and trains were run from 9:30 to 5:00 on Saturday and Sunday. A big thanks to all those who came out to set up and breakdown layouts, run trains, manned the information table, supplied trains, track, buildings and scenery to make the event a success.

Dennis Bass James & Sally Bando Russ & Leslie Ann Bundy Richard Garlinghouse John Harrison Cullen Reid Dan & Carol Steidle Peter & Lori Thomas Ted & Debra Yarborough Roy & Pam Williamson

Sally & James Bando set up a Circus Train complete with Woody and a giraffe whose head DID fit through the tunnel (many of the children were concerned).

Leslie Ann & Russ Bundy's Midwest Mining Company layout included a very clever succulent ore car. What a great combination of garden and railroading. They also brough the tunnel that accommodated the giraffe.





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Lori & Peter Thomas borrowed Paw Patrol from the grandchildren to the thrill of some of the youngest spectators.

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Roy and Pam Williamson had neighbors riffling through their children's toy boxes to give some super hero's and Rapunzel a ride on the rails.



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Lori Thomas sharing her "Touch Train" with some museum visitors.

James Bando sharing his train knowledge.



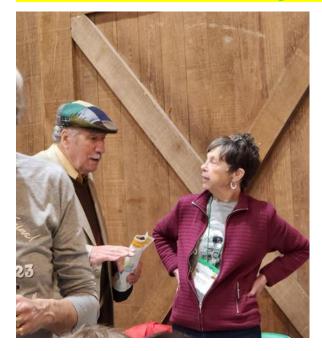
Roy Williamson, Sally Bando and Dan Steidle at the information table sharing information regarding GGRS.





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Sign at a Railroad Station:	
Beware!	
THE MUT ST	**************************************

To touch these wires is instant death. Anyone found doing so will be prosecuted!

(Humm, perhaps the sign above should have said Electrocuted instead?)

Phil Brand and Leslie Ann Bundy.



Ted Yarborough has their attention!

Deborah Yarborough visiting with family and spectators



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New Member Tidbits

Welcome to several of our new members from the beginning of the year! We have a few tidbits about some of their garden railroading interests.

David Barnes of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, has a 150-foot indoor layout. (no photo)

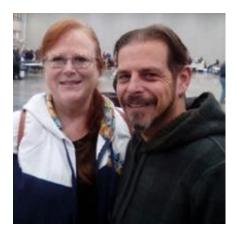


Joe, Ashley, and Grayson Liberto of Sharpsburg have a layout that is under construction.



Louis and Cynthia Sommers of Adrian have an 800-foot layout under construction with a 1950s theme. They have a particular interest in Pennsy and Southern rolling stock.

Bill Eidenire (no photo) of Canton is planning a layout featuring the Baltimore &Ohio.



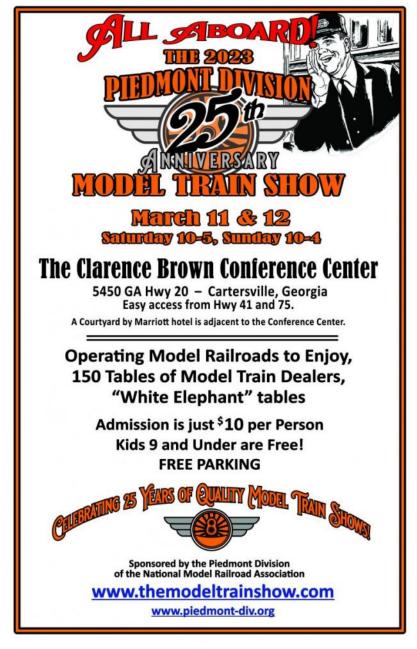
Paul Newman (no photo) is from Johns Creek and looks forward to touring member layouts.

Mark and Shannan Rosemeyer join us from LaGrange.

Robert and Lynne Roy are from Stone Mountain and they discovered us at the train show in Duluth.



Georgia Garden Railway Society



At the Depot

Please come out to support GGRS at our Club layout at the Piedmont 25th Anniversary model Train Show in Cartersville. GGRS will be setting up on Friday and running trains and manning our information booth on Saturday and Sunday.

We have a prime 20' x 20' location, just to the left of the entry doors, so we'll have plenty of exposure. We're planning on having 3 loops: one 8 foot and two 4 foot loops. There will also be extra track to expand into ovals or a rectangle.

We will not be bringing the club trailer so assistance will be needed to transport club buildings from Woodstock to Carterville. We also encourage members to bring their own:

- ⊗ Trains (keeping in mind they will be running on R1 or 1100 track) [i.e. tight curves]
- \otimes Buildings
- \otimes Scenery
- \otimes People and animals

Our theme is "Entertain the Children" and we all know it's the small details that make a layout great.

If you are new to the Club or have never volunteered at a train show, not to worry, you will not be left alone:

Run Trains – keep the trains running on the rails. Assist with switching out trains if someone wants to test a train or brings one from their personnel collection to run. Share model train knowledge when spectators ask questions.

GGRS Information Booth – promote GGRS and encourage Club membership.

Free entrance to the Train Show for those who sign up to volunteer.

⊗ If you have any questions, please contact:

Dan Steidle dsteidle0721@gmail.com 404-580-2450

Carol Steidle C26ste@aol.com

404-375-9584

See you at the Piedmont 25th Anniversary Model Train Show!



Check the Website for the latest update of the GGRS Member Photo Directory

What is the Longest Train Journey in the World?

What with Covid, soaring costs, and war in Ukraine, who would take such a trip? But if you wanted to, where would you start and end?

Answer on page 17.



Highballing down the Track



Conventions, Conventions, Conventions...

by Ted Yarborough

I love model train conventions. Model train layouts, socializing, vendors, train rides, ice cream socials, banquets, and so much more. This year's National Garden Railroad Convention will be July 1 - 8 in the Bay Area of California. But wait, there are preconvention activities including the Great Western Rail Adventure June 24-30 with a fully escorted tour including 11 train rides and museums in 7 days! June 30 has a special NAPA Valley Wine Train trip scheduled by the convention. Then there are the post-convention events such as July 10-11 Central California Coastal Garden Railroad Layouts open for touring and July 12-15 is the National Summer Steam Up live steam event in Lodi, California. So, convention opportunities in June and July out west are many. More info can be found at www.NGRC2023.ORG or in the latest issue of GR News.

Welcome To The 38th National Garden Railroad Convention In The San Francisco Bay Area

Featuring

More Than 60 Open Railroads A Pool-Side Fireworks Reception The Napa Valley Wine Train And Roaring Camp Railroad Experience More Than 30 Clinics On A Wide Variety Of Topics Vendors From Across North America Great Hotel Rates

OK, the Nation Garden Railroad Convention is during the July 4th holiday and is all the way across our nation out on the west coast. So, perhaps you are looking for something else instead (or even in addition?). The Big Train Operator's Club will be having their convention June 19-24 at Bird-In-Hand, Pennsylvania. This is right in the middle of Amish Country, so you could make a wonderful vacation out of this trip just a few states to the north. This group will have 7 G-Scale layouts set up and running at the convention hotel. The hotel has a fish pond and the group will construct a circle of track all the way around the pond. You can run your battery powered trains on the track. There are three train rides and a few museums to visit as part of the convention tours. There is a welcome party, a wine and cheese party for the ladies, a model contest, and ice cream social. This convention is generally not as large as the other one, but it can be just as much fun. Info is available at **www.bigtrainoperator.com**.

I know many of you are like me and enjoy the conventions. Deborah and I are attending the BTO Convention in Pennsy this year. I know and have talked with several members that are planning to attend one or the other, or maybe even both. Please consider joining us!



"I've Been Working On The Railroad."



Those who travel to the National Conventions each year have great things to say about them. Fun, sites, adventures, bargains, etc. Everyone who goes usually enjoys the event and remembers great times for years. Some folks, however, have reluctance set in when the convention is held way over yonder on the other coast. Many look for alternatives, or simply say, "Not this year."

One alternative looks very attractive to us on the East Coast this year, as the Big Train Operators (BTO), formerly the LGB club is holding its Convention June 19-24, 2023 in Bird-in-Hand, Pennsylvania. Yep, that's a place!

There is a \$50 membership into the club, which gets you quarterly slick page magazines, calendar, and the opportunity to attend the convention. You can't attend without being a member. HOWEVER, these folks do things a little different, and being a member for one year and attending the convention might cause you to become a repeat member year after year.

Several differences between the National Conventions and the BTO Conventions may be obvious, while others might be less so. The similarities also may be an, "in the eyes of the beholder" moment. One difference is less personal layouts-on-tour, and more emphasis on 1:1 opportunities. The convention social get togethers may be similar, but there are opportunities listed as: Trivia Contest, an Al Lentz Model or Special Interest Contest, Drag Races - featuring a new format this year, and a Build-Your-Own-Layout Contest at the hotel site. Sounds a little similar and a lot different to me. Maybe you want to join a crew of GGRS members already planning to attend the Big Bird Express in PA this year. Details on membership at this link:

https://bigtrainoperator.com/Info/join_us.shtml

Activities this year include:

Strasburg RR & PA Train Museum with or without shop tour Boxed Lunch included (Shop Tour has steep stairs)

Northern Central RR Charter Steam Ride Boxed Lunch included

Harrisburg, Lincoln, Lancaster Railroad at the Stone Gables, Elizabethtown, PA and also on same day.

Train Collectors Assoc. (TCA) museum. Italian Lunch at the Olive Garden included





Current Schedule Sunday June 18, 2023

4:30 pm Board of Director's Meeting Monday June 19, 2023 9 am-3pm Runnin' Trains Everywhere 3 pm Registration 3:30 pm-9pm Convention Rooms Open Raffles & Silent Auction 5pm-7pm Ralph's All Aboard Party Free Raffle & Silent Auction Joe Hylva Trivia Contest Tuesday June 20, 2023 8:15 am Depart Hotel for -Train Museum of PA & Strasburg RR 7-10 pm Convention Rooms Open Clinic #1 Raffles & Silent Auction Joe Hylva Trivia Contest Wednesday June 21, 2023

Train Day at Bird in Hand 9am Annual Members Meeting 10am-noon Convention Rooms Open



Garden Railroading News

Edition 1 of 2023 has been released at <u>www.GRNews.org</u> It includes articles about:

Richard & Melinda Murray's lovely Green Hills steaming railroad A new train barn for the fabulous Emerald Heights RR Track laying at ground level Unique Displays for Train Shows

And more !

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10 am-3 pm Runnin' Trains Everywhere 2:30 pm Tim's Almost Famous Drag Races 3:30 pm-5 pm Convention Rooms Open 4 pm Ladies Wine & Cheese Get Together 7 pm-9 pm Convention Rooms Open Clinic #2 Raffles & Silent Auction Joe Hylva Trivia Contest Thursday June 22, 2023 9 am Depart hotel for Northern Central RR Charter Steam Ride w lunch 7 pm-8:30 pm Ice Cream Party 7 pm-8:30 pm Build Your Own Layout Contest 8:30 pm-10 pm Convention Rooms Open Raffles & Silent Auction Joe Hylva Trivia Contest Friday June 23, 2023 8 am Depart hotel for Harrisburg, Lincoln & Lancaster RR, TCA Museum with Olive Garden Meal 7 pm-10 pm Convention Rooms Open Clinic #3 Raffles & Silent Auction Joe Hylva Trivia Contest Saturday June 24, 2023 All Day Runnin Trains or check out Things to Do in Stachnik's best seller Travel Guide 6 pm-9 pm 45th Anniversary Banquet







Celebrating 45 years of Havin' Fun Runnin' Trains! shipping late February 2023

Longest Train Journey

The longest single uninterrupted train journey, including transfers, does indeed stretch beyond London and Beijing. Starting from the Portuguese coast, one can travel by train not just into China but all the way to southern Vietnam, a distance of 17,000 km (10,566 miles).

Starting in Portugal at Porto, the first two days of this trip is (relatively) simple, as all of the countries one would travel through are members of the European Union, and all but Poland are covered by Eurail, a consortium of rail carriers which collaborate in selling tickets. While this ensures some level in coordination in travel, and a Eurail pass can grant free access to much of the route, supplemental travel and reservation fees still apply to most high-speed and sleeping trains.



Using the shortest timetable, the distance from the coastal centre of Porto to the Polish capital of Warsaw can be covered in 40 hours and 33 minutes (including time zone changes) with just four transfers. From Porto, travelers would head one hour south along the Atlantic coast on a high speed train to Coimbra. After a one hour layover at Coimbra, a regular train heads east across the width of Portugal (very slowly, it must be said) before crossing northwestern Spain via Salamanca, Valladolid, and Vitoria-Gasteiz into France at Hendaye (reservations are compulsory on this trip which is seated second-class travel only). Once in France, it's a transfer onto the TGV for a six-hour trip to Paris. An hour-long transfer on the Paris Metro takes you to the north end of the city, where a high-speed train carries you all the way to Cologne in just three hours, stopping only at Brussels, Liege, and Aachen. It's a three hour wait in Cologne before you can transfer onto the train heading eastbound from Amsterdam to Warsaw. The travel time from Cologne across Germany and Poland to Warsaw via Dortmund, Hannover, Berlin, Rzepin, and Poznan is ten hours, but at least it's in comfort on a sleeping car.

From Poland, travelers have two options: travel through Belarus, which requires a transit visa one must apply for in person that takes days to process; or take the slightly longer but more sensible option, which is to continue north through the Baltic states and then continue east to Russia, which would add a day and some euro to your bill but would remove some of the hassle. For the purposes of this entry, however, we're only interested in the longest direct route possible by train, and the train through Belarus is the direct route. That trip will leave Warsaw at 22:45 and take over a day to complete. Incorporating two time zone changes, the long 1,311 km ride to Moscow takes 26 hours and 25 minutes.

Make plans ahead of time for a day in Moscow, because it's an 18 hour and 25 minute layover before you board the train that will take you almost to the Pacific Ocean. From Moscow, it's a transfer onto the legendary Trans-Siberian Railway. But sticking with the premise of the longest possible direct route, this won't incorporate a trip along the length of the mainline all the way to Vladivostok. Instead, after making an epic journey across the bulk of Russia via Perm, Yekaterinburg, Omsk, Novosibirsk, Krasnoyarsk, and Omsk, this train turns south at Ulan-Ude into Mongolia before arriving in Beijing six nights and 7,622 km after leaving Moscow. The Moscow-Ulan Bator-Beijing train is a comfortable ride, and rather inexpensive considering the huge distance involved at \$804 for a berth in a 4-sleeper and \$1,131 for a berth in a 2-sleeper. You will have to stop at the Mongolian - Chinese border for a four-hour wheel switchover as China's railways operate on a narrower gauge than Russia and Mongolia.



From Beijing, the final leg of your cross-Eurasia journey begins. It will be somewhat of a rush to make it from Beijing Central Station to Beijing West to catch the train to Hanoi, but the opening of the Beijing Subway's new Line 9 will allow you not to have to cheat by taking a bus. Travelling south via Zhengzhou, Guilin, and Nanning, there is a change of train at the Vietnamese border as Vietnam uses a one-metre gauge for it rail tracks. Hanoi is just over four hours from the border. Once in the Vietnamese capital, it's an elevenhour layover before the 33-hour, 1,726 km (1,072 mi) trip to Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City, where you reach the end of your long ride. The ride across Vietnam is the cheapest, ranging between US\$50 and \$78 dollars for the entire length of the country, and because of the need to rebuild the entire rail system from scratch after the Vietnam War, the trains are rather new and pleasant.

All told, the 17,000 km (10,566 mi) journey takes 327 hours, including time zone changes. That's over 13 -and

-a-half days. Going the express route, you might be able to pull it off for just over US \$2,000, and you may still be able to book first-class for US \$3,400 (but take those figures with a grain of salt since everyone from travel agents to local authorities to amenity providers will be sure to add to the final total). Plus these figures were from 2017. Below is a sample itinerary compiled from timetables of the various local rail authorities. Who's up for a trip?

- ⊗ Porto-Coimbra 1:05, US \$17.33-\$28.66
- \otimes Coimbra layover 0:56
- ⊗ Coimbra-Hendaye 12:33, US \$94.50-\$308.97
- \otimes Hendaye layover 0:51
- ⊗ Hendaye-Paris Montparnasse 5:54, US\$117-\$285
- ⊗ Paris Montparnasse-Paris Nord 0:55, US \$2.27
- ⊗ Paris Nord layover 1:11
- Paris Nord-Koln 3:14, US \$46-\$254
- ⊗ Koln layover 3:13
- ⊗ Koln-Warsaw 11:57, US \$388-\$568
- ⊗ Warsaw layover 2:40
- ⊗ Warsaw-Moscow 26:25 \$216-\$328
- ⊗ Moscow layover 18:25
- ⊗ Moscow-Beijing 136:29, \$804-\$1 131
- ⊗ Beijing subway transfer window 1:41, US \$0.31
- ⊗ Beijing-Hanoi 55:25, US \$320-\$406
- ⊗ Hanoi layover 10:50
- ⊗ Hanoi-Ho Chi Minh City Saigon 33:10, US \$50-\$78



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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.)





I have two large scale locos for sale. One Accucraft small Whitcomb and one Berlyn loco works Casey Jones (Silverton Northern) Goose.

Both are new and never run or displayed in original boxes.

Whitcomb \$330

Casey jones Goose is \$430

I live in Roswell, GA.

Tom Yorke

Ebonydog17 @gmail.com



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	Price						
Grey Po	\$10.00						
Carbon	\$20.00						
Carbon	\$20.00						
Long SI	\$22.00						
Short S	\$22.00						
Name on	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		

Great Place To Work. Certified DEC 2020-DEC 2021



Georgia Garden Railway Society

Mar 2023



Train Installations,LLC

Woodstock, GA 30188 770-597-0038

dave@traininstallations.com

Check out our online store and updated website at <u>www.traininstallations.com</u>



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



Split Jaw to produce Stainless Steel Track!

Split Jaw Products is happy to announce that we have acquired the former HR Trains line of stainless steel track.

From this start, we hope to expand into a robust line of corrosion-resistant track for the most challenging layout environments.

Our first products will be flex track kits featuring quality code 332 stainless rail, in 5 or 10 ft lengths. Each flex track kit features durable UV-resistant ties and a pair of reliable Split Jaw stainless rail clamps. Our code 332 track mates with all major track brands, and of course, all Split Jaw code 332 products.

To help our first customers get a quick start on your dream layouts, we have also procured a large collection of gently used Aristocraft stainless turnouts and sectional track.

We launch soon! Stay informed by subscribing at: www.railclamp.com

Thank you!

Yard Hostler

2023 is green lighted for full steam.

We still have a few open slots for this year, and two, yes two options for Convention travel across the U.S., one West, and one North East for some G Scale travel time.

Also, we are looking forward to see what 1:1 options Ted might find for us this year. Hope I don't have to peddle all the way. Gonna be fun, I am sure.

Keep those submissions coming.

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

eldecker@windstream.net

