



GGRS Gazette

October, 2022

Official Newsletter of the Georgia Garden Railway Society

President's Message



Hello Fall,

What a great end to member home gatherings for 2022! Rain was not a factor as we explored the Colorado mountain towns of yesteryear! Thank you Phil and Barbara for your wonderful hospitality! Don't despair - we have two more wonderful excursions this year.

In October join us for a picnic potluck in Mineral Bluff and in December as we ring in the holidays in Savannah. We welcome the many new members and look forward to seeing you at a gathering soon.

To everyone who volunteered for the 2022 season Thank you! And if you have not signed up for 2023

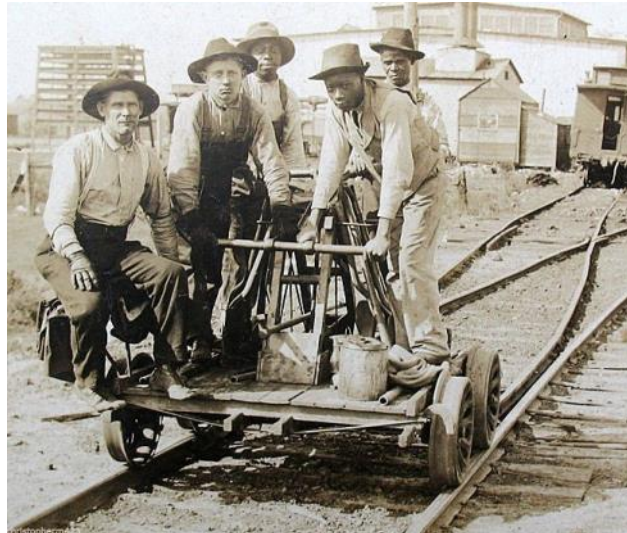
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Riding the rails on a Speeder

A speeder is a small railcar formerly used by track inspectors and work crews to move quickly to and from work sites. Speeders are also known as: section car, railway motor car, putt-putt, popper, track-maintenance car, crew car, jigger, trike, quad, trolley, inspection car, or a draisine. Whew! Although slow compared to a train or car, it is called speeder because it is faster than a human-powered vehicle such as a handcar.



Left: a hand car. The crew have to pump the handles to make the car move down the rails. You would push the car in the direction you wanted it to go and pump, pump, pump.

Motorized inspection cars date back to at least 1893, when the Sheffield Velocipede Company developed a primitive gasoline engine motor car

(the company, founded by George Sheffield, had originally been in the business of building velocipedes). In 1896, the U.S. Daimler Motor Company created a gasoline

- powered rail inspection car capable of 15 mph.



Left: Pedal powered Velocipede. Heavy metal and railway wheels made it possible to stay on the tracks.

Continued on page 2

(President's Message, continued)

there are many opportunities still available. Board member, hosting, workshops, shows, and annual business meeting just to name a few.

Happy Halloween

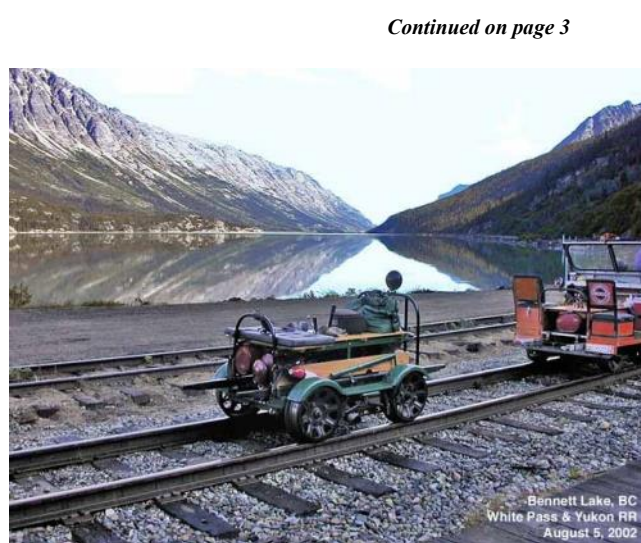
Juliet Foster

Track Warrants

| Event | Location | Date | Status |
|-----------------------|---|--------------|--|
| GGRS Oct 2022 Meeting | L&N Depot, 150 Railroad Avenue Mineral Bluff, GA. | Oct 8, 2022 | Ride the Rails: 1:1 rides, layout, picnic & more |
| GGRS Dec 2022 | Savannah Christmas Tour | Dec 10, 2022 | GA State RR Museum & Lights / More |

Speeders Just a few years after Sheffield developed its early motor car the company was purchased by Fairbanks-Morse (FM), most famous for its line of diesel locomotives years later. Like Sheffield's early speeders, FM's designs featured little in the way of amenities outside of its two-stroke, gasoline powered engine.

Over the years FM would go on to catalog a handful of different speeder models, most of which were no more than 5 to 7 feet in length, held two persons, were open-air designs, and weighed just a few hundred pounds. Only one model, the "No. 16, Type 'C'" actually featured an enclosed cab. Of all the manufacturers which built speeders over the years, without a doubt, the Fairmont Gas Engine and Railway Motor Car Company was the most successful and well-known.



Continued on page 3



For 80 years, between 1911 and 1991, Fairmont built around 73,000 speeders. Their easy maintenance made them favorites among both crews and railroads. Early Fairmont models featured a standard two - stroke gas engine, fixed transmission (although later models corrected this by featuring a belt drive). Interestingly, the design was so basic that to put it in reverse, one simply had to adjust the on-board sparkplug.

Later models featured a four-stroke engine and varied in size to accommodate needed crew space, some of which held anywhere between 4 to 6 individuals.



One of Fairmont's unique models was the FT, which featured an air-cooled (instead of the traditional water-cooled models), opposed - piston engine and featured amenities like heat, cushioned seats and a totally enclosed cab. Fairmont's models did not change much over the years and stayed mostly the same except for increasing crew size and amenities, with most models able to cruise down the tracks between 25 and 40 mph.

Left: Multiple passengers sit facing each other in an open side railcar.

track while rolling along or transport crews to a desired location. In some cases, a speeder crew would spot for a trailing train, especially if a line was prone to rock/mudslides or poorly maintained.

Right: Hiwassee Loop

Fairmont was not the only manufacturer, although was the most prominent. Others included Beavercar, Buda Manufacturing, Casey Jones, Gibson Manufacturing Corp., Kalamazoo, Portec, Sheffield, Sylvester Steel Products, Tamper, D Wickham & Co Ltd, Wickham trolley, Woodings, and Railway Workshops, not to mention some railroads custom built trailers, or modified existing equipment.

As highways, roads, and automobiles themselves became better constructed, railroads turned to the versatility of pickup utility trucks and cars. They could carry more equipment and tools than a speeder, and not only drive to a location but also drop their rail wheels (known as Hyrails) to ride on and inspect the line. In the 1990s, speeders were replaced. The old speeders were scrapped, or sold off.



Railroad fans, specifically those into 1:1, and collectors have made speeders a highly popular hobby. Today one can still find speeders for sale, and if you own a motor car you can join the North American Railcar Operators Association (NARCOA) and take excursions on rail lines across the country.

Some owners restore their speeders with amenities far beyond what original manufacturer's included with them and the hobby is quite addicting, allowing one to basically take their own, private rail excursion trip for almost nothing (save for the cost of NARCOA membership, and transport).

Continued on page 4

NARCOA works with shortlines, and, with permission, take trips all across the country along various branches and secondary tracks using these small railcars. Trips may run for a few miles, or up to 50 or more. Some excursions set out on one set of rails, go so far that the group stops overnight at a hotel, then proceed the next morning upon a new set of tracks, or back to the starting point.

NARCOA is very conscious of safety with rules about how excursions take place, how to run the vehicles, and penalty points for reckless actions. Insurance, training, and lots of maintenance goes into keeping a railcar operating within NARCOA specs.

Speeders can still be found for sale. Anywhere from several hundred dollars for a rust bucket, to ten thousand+ dollars for restored, ready to run vehicles. Depending on location of the sale, most will require a visit to pick up your new play toy. A trailer, equipped with rails and chains is a requisite for transporting the railcar to and from excursions and home. And a tool box filled with lots of tools. And a few replacement parts....and....and.....

Right: Many railcars are gauged to ride standard rails, while others are configured for narrow gauge tracks. Here an excursion prepares to head out on the Fillmore and Western Railway in Fillmore, CA.



Center: D&RG RR Creede Branch Wagon Wheel Gap in Colorado hosted this excursion.

Below: Mt. Dora, FL, (Mount????) on the Florida Central RR.



Above Left: Steamtown USA National Historic Site in Scranton, PA.



Above Left: Tavares, Eustis & Gulf RR in Tavares, FL..... Uhhhh....Did someone tell the Big Steamer we were coming ??????

Above Right: Delaware Coast Line RR hosted the DELVARVA's Annual Toys for Tots Ride.

Below: Strasburg RR Museum hosted this event.



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

https://www.railserve.com/Motorcars_Speeders/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Railroad_speeder

<http://www.railspeeders.com/speeder/default.asp>

<https://www.american-rails.com/speeders.html>

NARCOA

1:1 Train Ride



October 8, 2022 Club Meeting

Ride the Rails

When: October 8

October 8 GGRS Meeting / Display table / Layout

Motor Car trips continuously scheduled from Noon through 4pm

Where: Historic L&N Depot, 150 Railroad Avenue, Mineral Bluff, Georgia 30559

Fun to be had: A 5-mile round-trip ride by Railroad Motor Car traveling through the Iron Bridge over the beautiful Toccoa River to Murphy Junction and returning over the bridge back to Historic Mineral Bluff Depot. Then take a short ride on the genuine Railroad Hand Car. Great fun for all ages.

Special for children: Ride the miniature 7 ½ gauge hand car for free! Also, take a look inside the Depot and see the progress being made on a large "HO Scale" model railroad based on the L&N Railroad's "Old Line" from Atlanta, Ga to Etowah, TN and the branch line through Mineral Bluff to Murphy, North Carolina. Come see everything that's new!

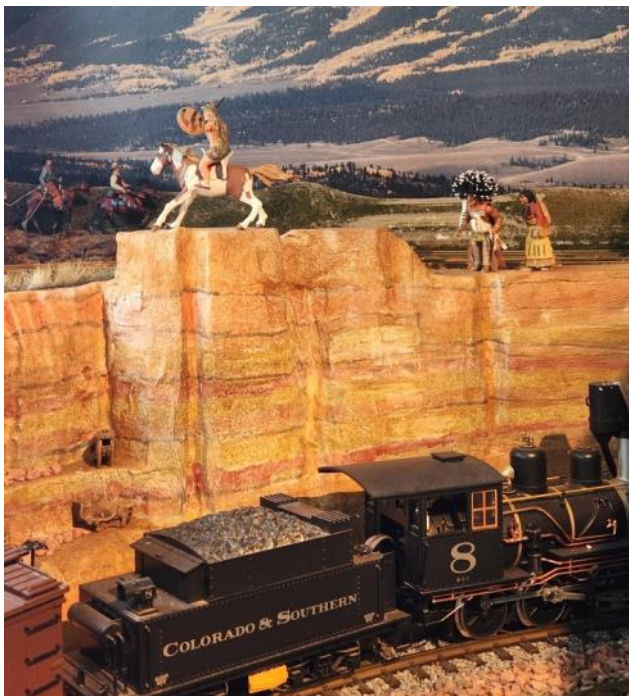
Suggested Donation: MOTOR CAR- \$15.00 - Adults 18+ Free - Youth 0-17 with paid adult
HAND CAR - \$ 2.00 - Per person/per trip Mini Hand Car - Free - to all ages

Come ride the Motor Cars

A Fundraiser to benefit Tri - State Model Railroaders and the Historic Mineral Bluff Depot!

At The Depot

The recent members meeting at Barb and Phil Jones house, with indoor layout was perfectly timed for the slightly wet day in which we gathered. As usual everyone had a great time. Barb would like to let everyone know that if you left one of two items left at her house, namely - a cooler bag with a blue freezer square inside it, and - a red square plastic dish with a metal spoon, she will gladly return them to you.







At the meeting, Lori gave an excellent presentation on preparing for a garden railroad with a step by step guide as to which comes first; the chicken or the tracks....

All in a handy pot to represent an entire Railway territory. Most informative.

Lots of good deals could be found in the garage.



Ticket Counter

61st Atlanta Model Train Show

The 61st Atlanta Model Train Show and Sale held on September 27 was attended by many GGRS members as exhibitors, vendors, and attendees. Event Coordinator, Charlie Miller, donated a free table to GGRS which turned out to be a successful event for GGRS. The GGRS Information Table manned by Ginny & Terry Manning and Carol and Dan Steidle and assisted by Leslie Ann and Russ Bundy signed up 6 new families. WOW !





This young man was blowing the whistle while watching the Fotschky's trains travel around the track. Future GGRS Member?



Savannah Christmas Tour

GGRS will be traveling to Southeast Georgia to visit two of our east coast member layouts on Saturday, December 10th. The Hyde's and Schrock's layouts will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. giving you plenty of time for your layout visits whether you are traveling east or west.

SCHROCK - The Schrock's 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. Joe runs both track and battery powered trains. New additions to the layout include a Farm, Park, Zoo and Rodeo. Their gardens feature many annuals, roses, banana trees and whimsical yard art.

Joe & Mary Schrock

546 Cauley Road East

Dublin, GA 31027

775-772-3367



Savannah Christmas Tour (Cont.)

HYDE — The Hyde's have not one but two indoor G scale layouts. Upstairs, in a space approximately 25' X 40', the layout has 800 feet of track. There are 8 track powered locos running simultaneously among 100 scratch built and/or kit bashed buildings. There are several themed areas including Mt Rushmore, boy scout camp, Halloween block party, Christmas , river front, drive in theater, baseball park, museum, Thomas tank and more. The animation will bring a smile to your face. The second layout is 12'x 24' located in Richard's ground level work shop.

Richard & Beverly Hyde**810 Robin Drive****Pooler, GA 31322****912-748-7553**

Savannah's Waterfront Christmas on the River - Some GGRS members will be heading to Savannah on Thursday December 8th or Friday December 9th to see "Savannah's Waterfront Christmas on the River". This three-day festival takes place from Friday, December 9 through Sunday, December 11, 2022 and will feature merry music, handcrafted art, live performances and holiday cheer. Dance and music fill the weekend with Christmas performances.

If you're going to be in Savannah on Friday night and would like to get together for a GGRS group dinner, please go to Sign-up Genius and leave your name and number in your party. Also, please let us know if you have a restaurant suggestion.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0949a8af2aa6fa7-savannah>



HOTELS:

Book a hotel early, as Savannah is a very popular weekend destination. While staying in Savannah puts you where the action is, it is also the most expensive choice. Less expensive options can be found near the airport and in surrounding towns of Pooler and Richmond Hill. Use your loyalty points to get the best option for your Savannah experience. Lori Thomas has found the following hotel options:

Microtel Inn & Suites, Pooler (\$125 incl tax for Friday only, \$250 incl tax for 2 nights Fri/Sat)

Best Western Savannah Historic District (\$257 incl tax and parking for Friday only, \$451 incl tax and parking for 2-night Fri/Sat)



OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST WHILE IN SAVANNAH

G Scaler, Ted Gray, 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 Gray
782 Greenwich Drive
Richmond Hill, GA 31324

Georgia State Railroad Museum -
 Located in Tricentennial Park, Georgia State Railroad Museum is a beautiful National Historic Landmark located at the old Central of Georgia Railway Savannah Shops and Terminal Facilities. With a fully operational turntable, you have the chance to explore historic railcars, experience the handcar, and go on guided tours. Open seven days a week from 9:00am to 4:00pm.
 - 655 Louisville Rd., Savannah, GA 31401
 - Ticket Price: \$15 per adult, \$8 per child (age 2 to 12)



It is right across from the Savannah History Museum, located in the Central of Georgia Railway Station. Between the two is Tricentennial Park, where Patriot forces failed to take Savannah during the American Revolution. Reconstructed redoubt is free to tour.

Savannah Belles Ferry - Get a unique perspective of Savannah's downtown by going offshore. The Savannah Belles Ferry system provides free passage across the Savannah River between downtown's riverwalk and Hutchinson Island, home of the Savannah Convention Center and Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa. Operating hours - 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.



Tybee Island
 Fort Jackson and Fort Pulaski
 Riverwalk
 Pirates House
 Old Savannah Trolley Tours
 Bonaventure Cemetery
 All the historic squares of Savannah
 SO MUCH TO DO !!!!!!!!



Model Train Swap Meet

NOV. 5th & 6th 10am-4pm

Saturday Sunday Set-up Nov 4th 3-7pm

Located in **the Lander's Crossroads**

Exit 320 off I-40 Behind BUC-EES

Table Rental \$15 per 8'

To Reserve Space Contact

Ralph Watson 931-248-4263 crossvilletrains@gmail.com

FREE Admission

SPONSORED
 BY THE

CROSSVILLE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

SAVE THE DATE
NOVEMBER 12, 2022
 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Children's Activities

Craft Vendors

Model Railroad Club Displays

SAM Shortline Shuttle Train Rides

VISIT
 cordele-crisp

CORDELE MAIN STREET
 105 E 9th Ave
 Cordele, GA 31015
 229-276-2902

Just how big is a freight car compared to a tractor trailer rig?

Rail cars are far bigger than truck trailers. Everyone knows that. But how big is bigger?

(Answer on page 22)

2022 GGRS Membership

As the membership rolls are concluded for 2022 with 56 families and we begin adding new members and collecting dues for 2023 during September through December, we thank the following house - holds for their support and their interest in garden railroading as members of the Georgia Garden Railway Society in 2022:

| | | |
|--------------|----------|------------|
| Abernathy | Gilbert | Redmond |
| Alvero | Hamilton | Reh |
| Avery | Harris | Reid |
| Bando | Harrison | Robinson |
| Barr | Hewitt | Sagarin |
| Bass | Holiday | Schrock |
| Bennett | Horth | Scoby |
| Bergman | Hyde | Sehenuk |
| Birch | Jones | Stanley |
| Brand | Lank | Steidle |
| Brooks | Lees | Stotler |
| Bundy | Lester | Stuckey |
| Carney | Luebs | Thomas |
| Clapp | Lundin | Tidd |
| Conrad | Manning | Warren |
| Cope | McQueen | Williamon |
| Deberg | Mesarosh | Williamson |
| Decker | Morris | Yarbrough |
| Delmar | Murrah | |
| Elliott | Ogilvie | |
| Foley | Panke | |
| Foster | Pearl | |
| Galvin | Peters | |
| Garlinghouse | | |



*Ginny Manning,
 Membership Coordinator*



2023 Dues Notice

It's that time of year again! Frost will soon be on the pumpkins, red and yellow leaves will create breathtaking views on scenic train

excursions, and GGRS starts collecting family membership dues for 2023. Paying your dues in the fourth quarter of the year, October to December, allows us to plan our budget more accurately, plan for our annual business meeting in January, and compile our Membership Photo Directory timely.

Just like fast-food restaurants' signs stating their meal numbers have changed recently, note that the contact for paying dues for 2023 has changed recently. The new Membership Coordinator is Ginny Manning to whom you will make payment. Look for details in an email in late September and in notices of future newsletters.

Do you know of anyone in the Metro who'd be interested in helping run the garden trains during the Atlanta Botanical Garden's "Garden Lights" event that runs from the middle of November through the middle of January? The pay is pretty good, but I imagine one would want to be fairly close in...

Contact . doug_alexander@bellsouth.net

New Family Memberships

by Ginny Manning, Membership Coordinator

The Scohy Family

Beginning this month we plan to go back to the beginning of 2022 and start highlighting new members of GGRS with a brief profile of their garden railroading and other interests.

Bruce and Cindy Scohy joined GGRS in January 2022. They're pictured here with future railroading grandson, Will. You may not see them often, since they live in Central Ohio. But they try to attend a couple of events in Georgia each year on their way to or from their second home in Florida. They are friends of GGRS members Terry and Ginny Manning and it was the Scohy garden railway in Ohio that got the Mannings interested in the hobby.

Bruce is the family engineer and Cindy is the family botanist – a natural combination for garden railroading! Their backyard layout is called the RB & JBS Railroad and is comprised of a couple hundred feet of track and a koi pond with associated bridges, tunnels, and landscaping. The theme of their layout is western. His rail line of choice is the Denver Rio Grande (DRG).

Legacy Station in Lilburn is one of their favorite shopping sites when visiting Georgia where they have added a variety of Christmas and Halloween themed rolling stock to their collection as well as Studio 54 collectibles.

They attended the annual banquet last January and almost made it to our July meeting, but did get to visit the Manning's Mount Jefferson layout on July 4th weekend. Prior to joining GGRS they attended several national conventions with the Mannings.



Entertainment Junction

By Ted Yarbrough

If you love G-Scale trains, then you need to visit Entertainment Junction located off exit #22 on I-75 in Ohio (which means it is just 22 miles into Ohio). Their advertising states they are the largest G-Scale model railroad in the world. Having visited, I would not dispute that claim.

The entire layout is housed in an old warehouse. As you enter, you are back in early logging camp days of the railroad. You walk through railroading history as you go through the exhibit, starting with Civil War era trains, moving to Victorian times (complete with correct scale size riverboat). The display does have running water in some of the stream/rivers. Continue through the display and it brings you to end days of steam and start up of diesel usage. Modern skyscraper buildings and AMTRAK passenger trains bring you right into modern times. An amusement park with push button operation of rides is featured upstairs. There is a viewing platform upstairs as well.

Displays of G-Scale locomotives starting with the 4-4-0, going to a 2-8-0, followed by a Big Boy, then moving on to a couple of diesels. This is a great size comparison. Real artifacts are displayed toward the end of the walking tour. There are fun things for kids, too. A giant Thomas themed play area is in a couple of rooms adjacent to the model railroad. A scavenger hunt is available as well.

Naturally, you exit the display into the gift shop. This store is well stocked and prices are reasonable. In a separate room you will find a hobby shop with all scales of trains for sale, real wooden Thomas trains (these are hard to find as they are now all plastic), and other play sets.

Admission is \$16.95 but they offer children's pricing, senior discounts, and special priced military tickets. This was my 4th visit and there have been updates and changes with each visit. I highly recommend a visit, even if you have to make a special trip!







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.)

For those of you that remember Barry Reade from our club, he has passed away last month and his train collection is for sale. His Daughter has asked me to pass along the items that are for sale. **Please contact only Kelly Reade the daughter for any info. Her number is 770-846-3307.** You can contact me also if you have questions. R J DeBerg 770-853-0109

List of Items for sale

SPECTRUM 55 ton Three-truck Shay item number 8269 West Side Lumber Co. #4

SPECTRUM flat car Pacific Coast item number 88398 1.20/3 Narrow Gauge

SPECTRUM flat car Southern Pacific item number 88396

SPECTRUM box car Florence & Cripple Creek item number 88097

USA TRAINS R122053 (24528) Union Pacific Bay Window Caboose

USA TRAINS EMD SD70 MC 1:29 Scale R22605 (Rd # 9838) BNSF – ORANGE/GREEN NSD 70 MAC LOCO

Aristo C-16 Colorado Road

Aristo 20043009 Lehigh Valley Alco RS3 Diesel Engine - 2-Rail #215

SPECTRUM 1.20 DENVER & RIO GRANDE WESTERN 88397

ARISTO CRAFT TRAINS ART-46008 B&O SENTINEL This is a Aristo Show Engine FA-1

ARISTO CRAFT TRAINS 60" STRAIGHT TRACK 12 PCS 5' SECTIONS STRAIGHT TRACK. ITEM # 30195

ARISTO CRAFT TRAINS ART-20340 BRASS #1 GAUGE LEFT MANUAL There are 3 Left hand No 6 and 3 Right hand No 6 (2 left and 2 right in boxes)

ARISTO CRAFT TRAINS WYE SWITCH TRACK ART-30345 BRASS BRAND NEW

Track out of Boxes and has been used

Track is All brass

4 boxes of 5 ft straight track

12 pieces straight track 5ft length

12 pieces curved track 5ft pre bent

4 pieces short curved 3ft pre bent

Smaller trains track

8 pieces short in box 2 ft length

5 pieces straight track 4 ½ ft length

7 pieces curved track 4 ½ ft pre bent

2 small pieces 1ft

1 small switch LGB

1 small bridge Wooden custom built

1 large bridge Wooden custom built

1 water tower Piko

1 older train engineer orange controller.

1 NCE DCC system wireless plus 2 pro cabs with homemade power supply

All cars and locos in boxes.

Emil Decker's
STICKS
+
STONES

**“The truth is not
in the touch of a
stone, but in what
the stone tells
you.”**

Rene Denfeld

sticksNstones@weegr.com



If you like speeders, Trainworld has a sale right now on speeders and Eggliners. Bachmanns for \$69.99 and \$99.99.

<https://www.trainworld.com/>



Train Installations, LLC

Woodstock, GA 30188

770-597-0038

dave@traininstallations.com



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

We can help you with any part of your model RR project no matter what scale it is.

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

Thanks - Dave 770-597-0038

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



Wheel Stops available in Code 332 / 250 / 215



Simply attach to your track to prevent cars from rolling off the stub track at stations, sidings, etc.

At \$20 a pair, how can you go wrong?

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 |
|-------|---|---|---|----|-----|-----|---------|
| | | | | | | | \$10.00 |
| | | | | | | | \$20.00 |
| | | | | | | | \$20.00 |
| | | | | | | | \$22.00 |
| | | | | | | | \$22.00 |

Name on Men's Shirt (Specify Name) \$5.00

| Ladies | XS | S | M | L | XL | 2XL | Price |
|--------|----|---|---|---|----|-----|---------|
| | | | | | | | \$10.00 |
| | | | | | | | \$20.00 |
| | | | | | | | \$22.00 |

Name on Ladies shirt (Specify Name) \$5.00

Train Slang: How much Railroad Slang do you know? (Cont....)

Gonna go through the A.B.C.'s of Railroad Slang in the next few issues, 20 at a time.

- Rattler: A fast freight train
- Red Ball: Fast Freight train
- Red Board: Stop signal
- Red Eye: Stop signal
- Reefer: Refrigerator car
- Reefer Block: Freight Train Consisting of Refrigerator cars
- Ringmaster: Yardmaster
- Ringtail: A hobo
- Roughneck: A brakeman
- Rubberneck Car: Observation car
- Saw 'er Off: To cut a car off a train
- Shack: A brakeman
- Shanty: Caboose
- Shiner: Trainman's Lantern
- Shiny Pants: A railway clerk
- Shoofly: A temporary track
- Shuffle: To switch cars
- Silk Hat: A railway official
- Sinker: Doughnut
- Skunk: Motor Car with Striped end

How big is a freight car?

The fact is one rail car can hold three to four truckloads worth of freight. That means a single train could carry the same amount of freight as 300 trucks! 300 trucks off the road.

What does that look like in terms of weight? Most rail cars can have a gross weight (the total weight of the load, including the weight of the rail car itself) of up to 286,000 pounds. Heavy axle rail cars can have a gross weight of up to 315,000 pounds. By comparison, the federal gross vehicle weight limit for trucks traveling on the interstate is 80,000 pounds

Think about what happens when you multiply that number by a year's worth of shipments – that's a lot of trucks! The result is reduced congestion on already overcrowded highways, less wear and tear on bridges and roadways, and a lessened burden on the taxpayers who pay to maintain them.

Here's just one example: Every autorack of electric vehicles (EVs) shipped by rail removes an average of 1.2 trucks from the highway. In 2020, Union Pacific's EV shipments alone took nearly 9,600 trucks off the nation's congested highways.

Yard Hostler

Who would have thought we would still be travelling in December? This group is on the move, and growing. It's all because we have dedicated members willing to help at train shows and expos throughout the year. Next year, think about putting in a little time helping at one of these. Savannah at Christmas. North Georgia mountains and fall leaves in October. So much to do this year and next. Now is a good time to sign up for hosting a layout and member's meeting at your place. Talk to Pam Williamson soon.

Our audit came with some minor recommendations, and the new budget will be looked at and voted on soon.

Hope I see you at Mineral Bluff.

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

eldecker@windstream.net

