

GGRS Gazette

April, 2026

Official Newsletter
of the Georgia Garden Railway Society
Semiquincentennial of the U.S.A. 1776 - 2026

Roy's Rails



The Cartersville train show is in the books. I would like to thank those that came out to promote our hobby and GGRS: Pam Williamson for designing and setting up the GGRS Membership Table. Grant Sweer, who was a big help with the Membership Table on Saturday. Also Ted Yarbrough and Cullen Reid, who manned the Membership Table on Saturday afternoon, Trish

and Pete Hartes for handling Sunday morning, and Carol and Dan Steidle, who finished up the event taking Sunday afternoon shift and pack up. Lori and Peter Thomas were right next to the GGRS Membership Table with the ever - popular Paw Patrol layout and promoted GGRS both days while also entertaining the children.

Our first GGRS Club Meeting will be held at Charlotte and Kris Dixons on April 18th. You will be able to view the Dixon's layout, caboose and melovetrains warehouse. Mary and Joe Schrok will open their pavilioned layout the same day around 2:00 P.M.

The May GGRS Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 16th at the Tate L&N Depot. In addition to our Club Meeting, the Tate Club is hosting an open house; they are hoping for 100 visitors. GGRS will be creating a layout on the lawn. Volunteers will be needed to set up Saturday morning.

After the Tate Club Meeting, the GGRS track will be headed home with Ted Yarbrough.

GGRS has been invited to the NMRA 2026 National Convention Train Show, sometimes called The National Train Show, being held in Chattanooga August 1-2, 2026. The event will be held in downtown Chattanooga at the Trade and Convention Center.

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Atlanta Model Train Show



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Roy's Rails (Cont.)

GGRS has been assigned a 20 X 40-foot space for our layout. Volunteers will be needed for setup, Friday July 31st, running trains and sharing G-scale model railroading as well as packing up on Saturday August 1st and Sunday August 2nd.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the April Club Meeting on April 18th.

Roy Williamson, President



Atlanta Model Train Show (Cont.)





13 of us, 8 from GGRS and 5 from the [Nashville Area Garden Railroaders](#), went to Dinner after setup on Friday.



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
GGRS Club Mtg	Kris & Charlotte Dixon - Cochran, GA and Joe & Mary Schrock, East Dublin, GA	April 18, 2026 10:30 - 5:00	In Planning Stage
Tate Depot	Tate Depot, Tate GA Hwy 53	May 16, 2026 10:00 - 2:00	Setup Crew needed
GGRS Club Mtg	Ted & Deborah Yarborough Chatsworth, GA	Jun 6, 2026	In Planning Stage
GGRS Club Mtg	David Lorraine and David Buchla	Jul 11, 2026	In Planning Stage
GGRS Open House / preconvention tour:	Ted Yarborough's Layout	Jul 26, 2026 1:00 - 5:00pm	
NMRA 2026 National Convention	Chattanooga, TN Trade and Convention Center	August 1-2, 2026	
GGRS Club Mtg	Dan & Carol Steidle	Aug, 2026	Includes Annual Swap Meet
GGRS Club Mtg	Bill & Liana Hewitt	Sep 12, 2026	In Planning Stage
GGRS Club Mtg	Becky & Rich Chitwood	Oct, 2026	In Planning Stage

SPECIAL NOTE: GGRS will hold its first Club Meeting on April 18th in Cochran, GA, and a second layout the same day in East Dublin. A separate Evite will be sent for the Club Meeting in a couple weeks.

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED?

If enough people are interested, Beverly and Richard Hyde will open their Pooler layout on Sunday, April 19th, while we're in South Georgia. Please let us know by March 27th if you're interested in traveling to Pooler on April 19th.

Interested in Pooler? Maybe you want to make two trips..... Once now, again on April 19.

POOLER, Ga. (WTOC) - Cirque de Paris opened Thursday night, March 19, 2026 under the big top at Tanger Outlets in Pooler.

The show blends traditional French circus charm and high-energy thrills, according to event organizers.

Audiences can expect jaw-dropping acts including juggling, bicycle acrobatics, high-flying aerial performances and more.

The family-friendly extravaganza will have 16 shows through March 29.

Tate Depot

When the Tate Depot was moved, the land in front was leveled and now provides a large yard space for our layout. Long Oval, with several opportunities for smaller circles, with good opportunities to set up several villages along the way.

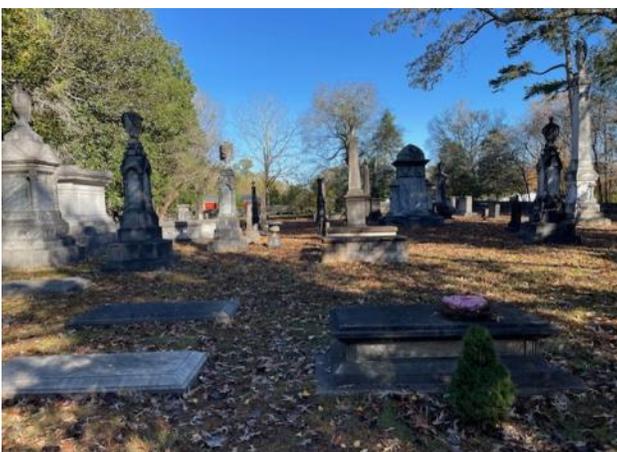
Do you have a building, or several that you would like to put on this layout? I know, I know, but I really want to see you bring some of your stuff to show off what the club can do. Want to sell something? Bring that building and put a "FOR SALE" sign on it....You never know. We are not responsible for any damage or for items you leave behind.

We will be serving the Host Club at Tate, as well as our usual members with picnic fare. Please bring lots of tasty sides and desserts. Look for Sign-Up Sheet soon.





The club has a great HO and N scale layout as well.



Patriot Rail Shop is across hwy 53, and there is usually a few of their engines parked outside. **(NOTE:** While you may go over to visit, we **DO NOT** have permission to enter their property. The adjoining property is a historic old cemetery, with some interesting grave sites, like the Tate Family's, including Revolutionary, Civil War, and other patriot's graves. You can get right next to the Patriot shop via the road between the two however.

Membership Report

Membership News – March 2026

Since my last report, we have no new membership.

The Treasurer and I have worked together and double checked our records and have come to the conclusion that we have a total of 77 family memberships for the beginning of 2026. We are also happy to report that the new/updated member's directory for 2026 is now available on the GGRS members only web site.

Looking forward to seeing everyone many times this year.

Ginny Manning, Membership Coordinator vlmanning@aol.com

2027 National Garden Railway Convention

We don't know a lot but we do know three things:

1. It's coming, with more info as it gets to us.
2. It's closer than California
3. Fun will be top priority. We know. We've been there before.

GGRS Club Meeting
April 18th 10:30 - 2:00 P.M.
Hosted by Charlotte & Kris Dixon
214 Old Eastman Rd
Cochran, GA 31014



But wait there's more...

GGRS Club Meeting Continued
April 18th 2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Hosted by Mary & Joe Schrock
546 Cauley Road
East Dublin, GA 31027





The Dining Car

At the request of several members, a new section has been added to the consist: a dining car, where you can share your favorite dishes with club members. Many are just dying to try them out, after sampling your signature dish at a recent club meeting. Send entries to the editor. A simple recipe, instructions, and if possible, a photo to entice your fellow members to give it a try!

Italian Meatballs

The Editor

Serve these delicious Italian Meatballs as an appetizer or a main course! The best part? They are freezer friendly—perfect

for your GGRS meal prep.

1 bag of frozen Italian Meatballs. You can substitute Swedish, homestyle, or even Impossible (who knows what plant based really means.....ugh!). Costco, Sams, Kroger, or if you are super industrious, make your own.

(Too much work for a last minute, "Oh crap, the meeting is when? ...Tomorrow?")

Your choice of Bar-B-Que Sauce.

Crockpot.

Dump meatballs into crockpot. Add sauce. Heat till thawed, hot, and done...burnt is also an option. Ask me how I know!

Bring utensil to scoop, jab, or fork out the juicy round balls...(unless you did the burnt option. No juicy there!)

Sprinkle grass, herbs, or other green stuff to garnish...(Especially the burnt ones!)

Enjoy!

What's your favorite dish to share over the holidays, or year round? Send it in to the editor. Otherwise, you might get "Goloshes Goulash", "Catbox Cookies", or even worse!



Cartersville Train Show





Chattanooga Track Plan? By Ted Yarbrough

Could be something like this. Flowers and buildings between tracks. Not the little scale in the center!



NMRA National Convention in Chattanooga

Greeting Fellow Garden Railroaders,
I have just received confirmation that the Georgia Garden Railway Society has 'officially' been invited to participate in the NMRA 2026 National Convention train show, sometimes called The National Train Show, to be held in Chattanooga August 1-2, 2026. The event will be downtown Chattanooga at the Trade and Convention Center. We have a space assigned that is 20 X 40!!!! Naturally, we will put our sign up/info table in this space. We may also want to recruit Lori to set up her children's layout in that same space. Be thinking and discussing possibilities. More info will come by end of March as to set up times, etc. I am looking forward to this show.

Ted





Chattanooga Dinner Train

Ideal for Date Nights, Anniversaries, and Special Celebrations.

Select Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays • March–October • Limited seating each departure



Chattanooga Dinner Train

A Three-Course Dinner Aboard Restored Vintage Railcars

Step aboard Chattanooga's most memorable evening out with a three-course dinner served aboard beautifully restored vintage railcars. Enjoy private tables, attentive service, and a relaxed 2-hour journey designed for connection, celebration, and great food. Operating select Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from March through October, this experience blends classic rail travel with fine dining, making it a favorite for anniversaries, celebrations, and memorable date nights.

Departing from **Grand Junction Depot (4119 Cromwell Rd, Chattanooga, TN)**, the train travels at an easy pace through portions of urban East Chattanooga before returning to the station. Evening departures are at **6:00 PM**, giving you plenty of time to savor each course without feeling rushed.

What to Expect

- Dinner is served onboard the moving train in restored vintage dining cars
- Tables are private to your party for the entire experience
- Wine, Bourbon, and Baileys with coffee are available for purchase onboard
- The route focuses on onboard dining and ambiance rather than scenic countryside views
- Duration: approximately **2 hours**
- Best for ages 12 and up

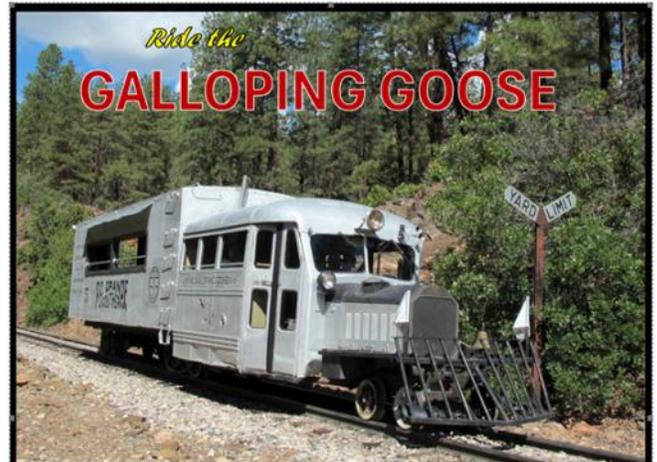
This experience is designed for connection and conversation — a gentle pace, warm service, and timeless railcar atmosphere.

Why Guests Love the Dinner Train

- An intimate evening that feels thoughtfully planned and truly special
- Attentive table service that lets you relax and enjoy the moment
- A popular choice for proposals, anniversaries, birthdays, and date nights
- A unique way to experience rail travel while enjoying a full-service dinner

Note: Parties are always seated separately unless otherwise specified.

April, May and September dates in Durango!
Ride the Galloping Goose!
Mark your calendar!



Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad

BOOK YOUR 2026 RGS GOOSE NO. 5 TRIP NOW!

TIMETABLE AND FARES

April 25th, April 26th Round trips to Cascade Canyon \$120	September 5th, September 12th, September 19th RGS Goose No. 5 to Silverton Steam Train or Goose return \$180
May 1st Round trip to Event Park \$20 departs at 9:25 am, 10:45 am, 12:00 pm	Presented by: Galloping Goose Historical Society of Dolores, Inc The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad
May 2nd, May 9th RGS Goose No. 5 to Silverton Steam Train or Goose return \$180	

TICKETS and INFORMATION
 Call 970.247.2733 or visit www.durangotrain.com/events
 All fares subject to 8% DSNG historical preservation fee.

Durango and Silverton's Website

(Monday, 3/16/2026)

We expect the 2026 dates updated soon.

We wanted you to see the dates as soon as possible.

See 2026 Dates on our website:

Galloping Goose #5 Website

<https://www.gallopinggoose5.org/schedule>

Events on the Cumbres and Toltec Railroad
 September, October!

Train Shows

Rocky Mountain Train Show – Spring 2026 (all scales)

Date: April 11 & 12, 2026

Location: National Western Complex
4655 Humboldt St. Denver, CO 80216

Website: [Rocky Mountain Train Show](#)

RLD Hobbies Spring Open House

Date: April 29 – May 2, 2026

Location: RLD Hobbies
873 Bunkhouser Street, Albion, IL 62806

Website: rldhobbies.com

2026 Spring Train Show (all scales)

Date: May 9, 2026 9am – 3pm

Location: Made in Tennessee Building
945 Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, TN 37087

2026 Midwest Garden Railroad Gathering (G-Scale)

Dates: May 13 – May 17, 2026

Location: MetroPlex Expo Center
1620 Motor Inn Dr., Girard, OH 4448120

Website: [Home - Great Lakes Large Scale Train Expo](#)

2026 Great Lakes Large Scale Train Expo (G-Scale and Larger)

Date: May 15-16, 2026 10 am - 4 pm

Location: MetroPlex Expo Center
1620 Motor Inn Dr., Girard, OH 4448120

Website: [Home - Great Lakes Large Scale Train Expo](#)

2026 Northeast Outdoor Railroad Festival (G-Scale Only) – More details to be announced

Date: June 20-21, 2026 10 am – 4pm

Location: Palmer, MA

35th Tallahassee Model Railroad Show and Sale

Dates: June 27 – 28, 2026

Location: North Florida Fairgrounds
441 Paul Russell Rd – Bldgs 2 and 4, Tallahassee, FL 32301

2025 Big Train Operators Club Convention (requires membership in club)

Dates: July 19-24, 2026

Location: Scranton, PA

Website: [Home Page of the Big Train Operator Club](#)

43rd Annual Temple Model Train Show (all scales)

Dates: September 19 & 20, 2026

Location: Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center
3303 N. 3rd St., Temple, TX 76501

Website: [Temple Model Train & RPM Show | Centra-MOD](#)

Fall Plano Train Show (all scales)

Dates: September 25 – 26, 2026

Location: Plano Event Center
2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano, TX 75074

Music City Christmas Train Show (all scales)

Date: December 12, 2026 9am – 3pm

Location: Made in Tennessee Building
945 Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, TN 37087

2027

42nd National Garden Railway Convention

Dates: May 31 – June 5, 2027

Location: Nashville, TN

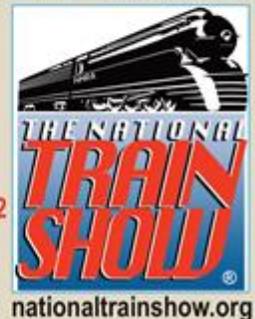
**It's the
Train Show
you've been
waiting for!**

- Several hundred vendor booths
- New product announcements
- Meet the manufacturers
- Hands-on demos
- Dozens of train layouts (including the National TTrak Guinness Book of World Records attempt!)



August 1 & 2, 2026
Chattanooga
Convention Center
One Carter Plaza
Chattanooga, TN 37402

NMRA
Sponsored by the National Model Railroad Association





Hello clubs:

GR News will soon host an "Events" page on the GR News website.

We would like to know whether your club:

1. Hosts open days when members of public are invited to visit several (3+) of your garden railroads.
2. Hosts gatherings with/without other clubs which garden railroaders from beyond your area are invited to attend.

If you do either or both of these, please let us know by sending an email to marketing@GRNews.org

We will get back to you with more details about how your events may be featured on the GR News website. Cheers

Mick Spilsbury GR News Marketing



The B. Tee O.



2026/Scranton, PA Convention T-shirts



**SPECIAL PRICE
IF PICKED UP
AT CONVENTION:
\$18 each**

MADE IN THE USA!

Introducing... the first ever

BTOC GRAFFITI CAR!

This is a pre-production rendering and is subject to final production changes.



The 2026 Graffiti Club Car is based on an Erie Lackawanna 40" Box Car. This model is designed to replicate the appearance and function of the real-life counterpart used in freight railroading. Produced exclusively for the BTOC by USA Trains in Malden, MA, part of their American Series rolling stock.

1. White version	\$85	\$
2. Grey version	\$90	\$
3. Yellow version	\$95	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT		\$

Expected availability: Mid to late spring 2026.

All with free shipping or available for Convention pickup.

PLEASE NOTE: For the Graffiti Car, we are doing it in three colors: White, light gray and yellow. There will be 40 white, 10 gray and 5 yellow. Any member is able to buy the cars they like but there are some prerequisites. **You must purchase the white version first; that would allow you the opportunity to purchase the gray version. After you purchase the white and gray versions, you would then be able to purchase the yellow version.**



Join the **BIG TRAIN OPERATORS CLUB** on July 22nd for a Historic Adventure to

THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE AMERICAN RAILROAD HONESDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

Bus departs Scranton @ 9:30am

Arrive in Honesdale @ approx. 10:30am

Enjoy a guided tour of Wayne County Historical Society 11:00am



12:30pm Board the Stourbridge Line for a 1pm departure

Lunch on The Stourbridge Line

Step back in time for a delicious bag lunch on board a dining car while enjoying a 1.5 hour historical narrated tour along the scenic Lackawaxen River.

Lunch includes a Souvenir Backpack with

A Sandwich (Ham & Cheese, Turkey, or Italian) (Vegetarian or Gluten Free available on request) *

Fruit, Potato Chips, Cookies, and a Bottle of Water

*All sandwiches come with lettuce and tomato w/ mayo and Italian dressing on the side

Train returns to the station at 2:30pm



Board your bus and depart for Cranker's Collection of Mechanical Marvels 2:45pm



Cranker's Collection of Mechanical Marvels - A hidden gem in the Northern Poconos featuring antique automobiles, carousel horses, music boxes, player pianos, Mortier organs produced in Antwerp Belgium starting at the turn of the Twentieth century. Open to the general public just one day a year, so be sure to schedule this stop for a Private tour on your special day for an opportunity to see and hear these amazing treasures from over 100 years ago! Scan the qr code to hear the organ play!



Annual GGRS 1:1 Scale Train Ride September 26

The Annual GGRS 1:1 Scale Train Ride will be very special this year as we step aboard a vintage train powered by steam and discover the charm of North Georgia's countryside like never before. The Summerville Steam Special offers a full-day train ride filled with small-town charm and the unforgettable rhythm of classic rail travel. Experience the sights, sounds, and nostalgia of authentic rail travel aboard beautifully restored vintage railcars and pulled by a working steam locomotive. Perfect for families, train enthusiasts, and anyone who loves a classic rail experience.

We will be pulled by not just any steam locomotive, but the famous excursion locomotive 4501. Tennessee Valley Railroad will paint 4501 in the traditional passenger green Southern Railway scheme she wore when participating in the Southern Steam Program hauling excursions all around the southeast. Locomotive 4501 will ONLY be in the green paint for scheduled trips in 2026. So, you will want to ride this trip!

The steam train will depart the museum (4119 Cromwell Road, Chattanooga, TN) at 9:00am Eastern Time for an all-day trip to Summerville, Georgia with return expected to be around 6:00pm on Saturday, September 26, 2026. The ride will carry us through the towns of Rossville, Rock Springs, LaFayette, and Trion before reaching Summerville in Georgia. There is a 90 minute layover providing time to watch the locomotive turn on the turntable and visit the historic Summerville Depot. We will cross into Georgia in Rossville, and later skirt around the edge of Chickamauga National Military Park. The train will pass over Chickamauga Creek and go through Missionary Ridge Tunnel before passing by the National Cemetery with a monument to Andrew's Raiders, all before leaving Tennessee.

Tickets will be in a standard coach car and will include lunch in the dining car and are \$128.00 per person. The trip will sell out, so this is the only offering of tickets the GGRS will make. To reserve your seat, send a check made payable to Ted Yarbrough, 212 Love Drive, Chatsworth, Georgia 30705. Include a note stating if you prefer turkey, ham, chicken salad, or vegetarian croissant for lunch. These tickets are non-refundable, but can be transferred to another club member or other person if the need arises. All tickets orders must be received by April 6. Again, this trip will sell out, so that is why the urgency of the ticket orders!

We have taken this trip before and it is always popular with GGRS members. We all look forward to riding on a real train! If you have any questions you may contact Ted at yarbrough@charter.net. Order tickets today so you will be there when the conductor shouts 'All Aboard!'

Steam All the Way on the Summerville Steam Special 2026 Excursions Now Booking



RRPictureArchives.NET Image Contributed by Chuck Zeiler

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.)



Emil Decker's
STICKS
+
STONES

Check out our online store and updated website at

www.traininstallations.com

Custom model RRs in any scale indoors or out. We are flexible and can help you with any part of your project

- Layout planning and CAD drawings
- Custom bridges
- Overhead RR systems
- Model kit assembly
- Train storage shelving - Dave 770-597-



Yard Hostler

Is Ted the only one who has done this house? I am still looking for examples of turning this hobby birdhouse into a layout spectacular. Send them in. Looking forward to some meatballs at TATE in May!

Emil Decker, Editor, GGRS Gazette
480 Grizzle Rd., Dawsonville, GA 30534
eldecker@windstream.net

