

PGRS TRACKIN'



Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society – February 2015

Editor: Scott Williams

Happy 2015 PGRS Members!

We had a very positive, productive meeting on Jan. 24th in the conference room at the Cottages at Brushy Creek in Greer and all in attendance agreed the facility was most excellent and the consensus seems to be that we should use it again in the future whenever possible. We later adjourned after our discussions and election of new board members and had good barbecue and sides at “Mutt’s Barbeque” with their 1:29 scale CSX diesel pulling freight cars around the restaurant overhead while we dined.

Ideas suggested about ways to improve the PGRS experience included a mid-year, summer meeting which would be centered around some modeling clinics and a swap meet, a drag n’ brag, comradery and refreshments. The board of directors will discuss where and when to schedule this meeting in the next few weeks. We also discussed the topic of open houses and ways to have more of them this year. Even if a member only has a simple loop of track at their home it is the basis to have a get together to talk trains with other large scale enthusiasts in the area, and bring models you’ve been working on to show n’ tell and possibly sell some of those ‘goodies’ that are collecting dust on your shelves. Plus, as always, the club will contribute 100 U.S. dollars towards expenses such as refreshments incurred by the host[s].

Terry Ketcham is going to inquire with his club members at Apple Valley Model RR club in scenic Hendersonville who are constructing an excellent outdoor large scale layout if it would be okay to host an open house there for the PGRS. Bill Huntman is also going to inquire with the NC Arboretum if it would be acceptable for the PGRS to have a get together at their new Rocky Cove Railroad at the gardens in Asheville sometime this year. And while on the subject of the Rocky Cove RR the Arboretum is lining up volunteers to run trains on Saturdays from noon to 4pm so ask Bill Huntman for volunteer information; whunteman@gmail.com or 828-400-9982 (cell). If you are not sure you can volunteer then when you have a free Saturday, hop in the car and come visit the gardens on a Saturday this spring and check out the 25’ x 75’ layout there. You could also stop by the awesome Apple Valley Model RR in Hendersonville on the way to the Arboretum and visit their new layout too as they are open Saturdays from 10 – 2pm.

We discussed increasing communications both internally to members and externally to show other folks what the PGRS is all about. That means continued presence at train shows and festivals, new PGRS brochures, possibly launching at least a web page this year on the way to a more interactive website, and also internally for members an increased newsletter activity, and

we are going to be distributing a comprehensive list of members and where they are located which is designed to facilitate members getting acquainted with other members who live close to them.

We are also continuing to promote the “train lovers luncheons”, which while not actually, or exclusively, a PGRS event goes hand in hand getting people who enjoy all kinds of trains together to chat and network and have been pretty successful in the areas where someone has put forth the little effort to simply connect with members to invite them, and their train interested friends to meet somewhere casual for lunch with a place to discuss trains.

The newly elected board of the PGRS are as follows;

Bill Huntman – President

Don Watson – Secretary/Treasurer

Jon Bole – Director @ Large

Craig Riley – Director @ Large

Web Site Administrator is currently vacant until the proper person can be identified for the task.

Tim Wagner – V. President

Fran Monahan – Director @ Large

Pete Gendron – Director @ Large

Scott Williams – Newsletter Editor

A view of Rocky Cove Railroad at night during the Winter Lights Festival:



The Rocky Cove Railroad is a 25' x 75' twin loop layout located at the back of the amphitheater, beside the gardens of the NC Arboretum in Asheville NC. Volunteers, many of which who belong to the PGRS, assisted the Arboretum this summer and fall in design and construction to achieve their dream of a battery powered layout depicting loosely, turn of the 20th century

railroading in western North Carolina. It was successfully run every evening during the 2 month Winter Lights festival and will be run on Saturdays this coming year.

Train Lover Luncheons:

Informal, Train Lover Luncheons have been started. These lunches are not directly connected with, but are encouraged by, the PGRS. **These lunch meetings are for anyone with an interest in railroading. Not just "G" scale, but any scale from "Z" on up and even real life 1:1 size. These meetings are intended to be fun** and to provide an opportunity for an exchange of ideas, knowledge and experiences and make new friends with a common interest in trains.

There are currently three monthly meetings taking place; Asheville and Columbus N.C. along with Simpsonville S.C. They meet at a centrally located restaurant on a set date and time each month. Everyone pays for his own meal and the conversation is open and easy with no agenda other than the common interests of the group. **TRAINS!** To date the attendance has ranged from two to about sixteen and by all reports has been enjoyable networking and conversation.

The current luncheons are:

□ Columbus Area: Meets every Third Thursday of every month at Larkins Carolina Grill, 155 West Mills Street in Columbus, NC 28722. @ 1:00 PM. Contact Gary L. Poague 828-712-3429 gpoague@windstream.net

□ Simpsonville Area: Meets first Tuesday of every month at Epic Buffet 3940 Grandview Drive , Simpsonville, SC, NOTE: Location may be changed. Contact: Gary L. Poague 828-712-3429 gpoague@windstream.net

Directions take I 385 to the Fairview exit27, from Greenville, make a right turn from South and Fountain Inn left turn on to Fairview Road, make a left turn at Grandview Dr., you will see a Taco Bell on the corner, Epic is about a quarter mile down on the right They serve a variety of both Asian and American cuisine and also have hibachi style cooking hope to see PGRS members.

□ Asheville Area: Meets the 4th Thursday each month. We meet at 11:30 AM at Gondolier Italian Restaurant and Pizza located at 1360 Tunnel Road, Asheville 28805. Contact Tim Wagner timwagner2012@gmail.com

The location is on the east end near the VA, so it is recommended that you access Tunnel Road from I-40, exit 55. Take a left at the first light after you exit and a left at the next light. The venue will be on the right a few hundred yards from the intersection.

If you are interested in starting a "Train Lover's Luncheon" in your area, call a couple of friends and agree to meet. The next month everybody invites another friend, etc. Should you need more information, call Bill Huntman; whuntman@gmail.com or 828-400-9982 (cell).

Annual Dues [Yes. It's that time of year again.]:

PGRS annual dues for 2015 were due January 24, 2015. The dues will remain at \$20.00 per year. If you wish to join **or remain** a member then please send your check, payable to "PGRS", or cash to:

Don Watson, 125 Mistletoe Trail, Hendersonville, NC 28791

Upcoming Events: [*hijacked from Locomotionworks.com website*];
http://www.locomotionworks.com/upcoming_model_train_events.php

March 6th and 7th, 2015 on Friday and Saturday from 9AM to 5PM - Asheville Model Train Show

Fletcher, NC
<http://www.asheville-trainshow.com>

March 27th and 28th, 2015 - East Coast Large Scale Train Show

York Expo Center, York, PA
<http://www.eclsts.com>

April 11, 2015, Saturday from 9AM to 3PM - NC Railroad Expo

Hickory NC Metro & Convention Center, Hickory, NC
<http://www.tarheelpress.com/Trainshow/>

June 20th on Saturday in Charlotte, NC

More info to follow when available

July 5th through July 11th, 2015 - National Garden Railway Convention in Denver, Colorado

LOCOmotions Works will have a booth there!
[Visit Website](#)

August 22rd and 23th, 2015 Spencer, NC Train Show

Spencer Train Show at SPENCER, NC
www.nctrans.org

October 10th and 11th, Saturday and Sunday - Autumn Rails Train Show in Fletcher, NC

Fletcher, NC

Your PGRS Newsletter!!! :

The **Piedmont Garden Railway Society** will strive to publish a newsletter each month of the year. **BUT!** to do so requires each member's participation.

AND THIS MEANS YOU!



...to send ANY and ALL digital photos of any '**cool!**' new engines or rolling stock you have built/acquired. ANY '**cool!**' new rail side structures you have built/acquired. ANY photos of your GARDEN TRAIN LAYOUT you think that looks '**really cool!**', or any totally awesome, really '**cool!**' RAILFAN photos you have captured recently or in the past that you think other Piedmont Garden Railway Society members might find interesting [the operating term here is '**anything really cool!**'], to the following email address:

Scott Williams: 'flatrat@charter.net'

It will remain **totally** at my discretion to include any of them in future newsletters but.....I will probably print most of them.

Jus' Sayin', thanks in advance,

Scott Williams

Member photos;

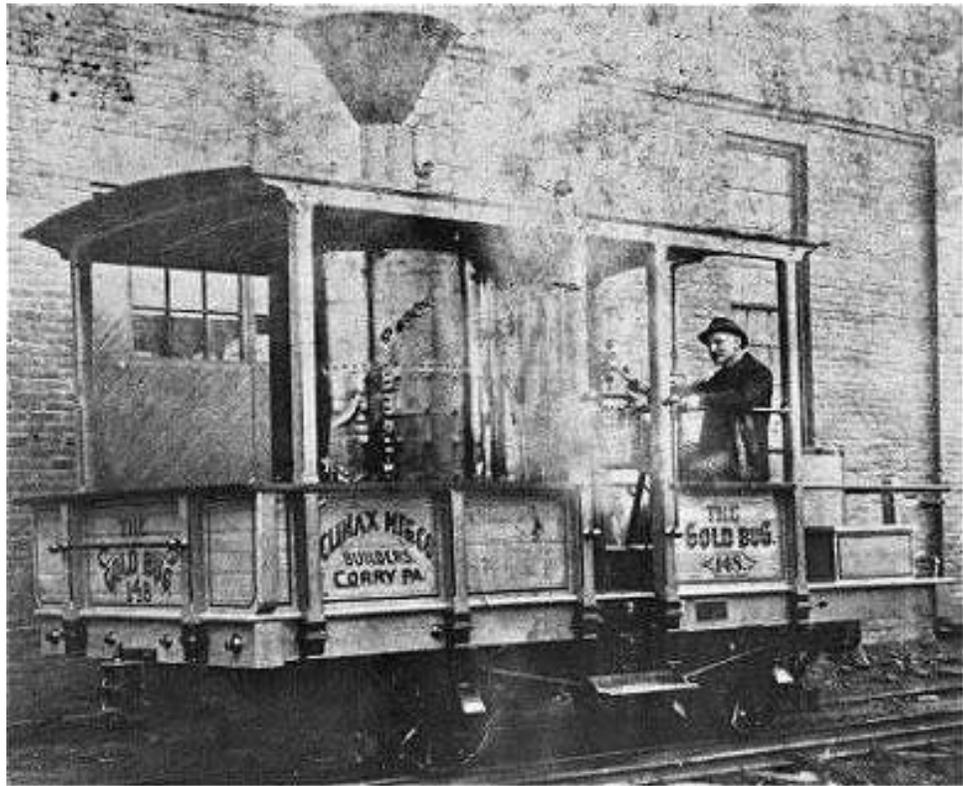
Just to get the ball rolling and let people know what we're looking for, here are examples from my photo collection.

The records are missing but from a few existing photos it appears Climax made about 3 of these diminutive Class A Climax engines. They were 4 wheel locos and weighed about 8-10 tons and apparently didn't have much tractive force due to their light weight. I thought it would be cool to kitbash a HLW railcar, or "Woody" they call it, and worked from the 3 or 4 photos that exist of these engines. I built the two cylinder steam powered boat engine Climax used on their Class A engines from wood and styrene and the boiler started life on my toilet paper holder, the valves on the boiler and plumbing are beads and clothing snaps from Michael's and the top of the boiler is an inverted Bachmann smoke stack ground down to fit the contour of the roof. The firewood up front was cut and split with a chisel from a bush near my front door and the siphon hose on the water tank on the back is a boot lace. I converted two of the HLW mini ore cars to link & pin couplers to make a train for it to pull.



8 ton Climax Loco

Before:



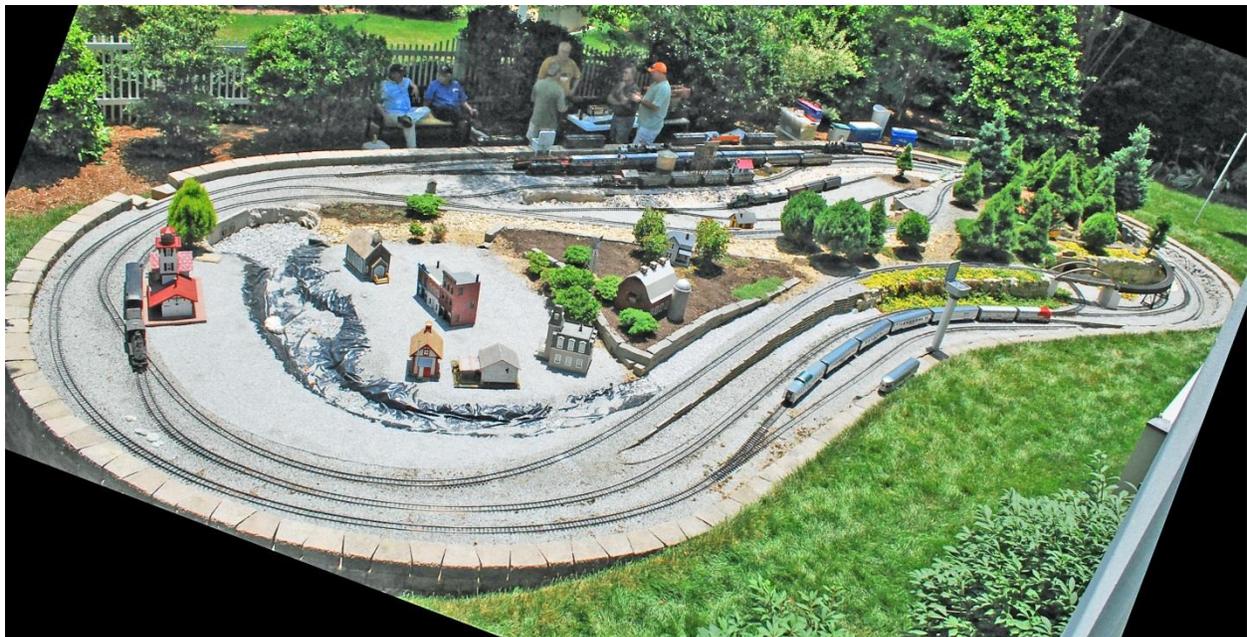
Climax Manufacturing Company



The toilet paper tube boiler covers the electric motor on the HLW railtruck and the two cylinder engine is made from wood and styrene pieces and assorted 'found' items.

Passenger Train track day at Doc Watson's:

Photos from a summertime get together at Don Watson's home where the theme was bring your passenger trains to run.





Loading ice blocks in to the reefers. Gotta' keep the beer cold!



A fine collection of passenger trains...

Bachmann LumberJack starter set:

Another project I completed last fall was taking a 180 dollar Bachmann Davenport diesel starter set and painting and weathering it. The engine originally was green but I wanted it to be Caterpillar gold and I took the bobber caboose body and mounted it on a Bachmann flatcar I was given and built a gondola section on the flat car to make a MOW caboose for the train. I printed decals on my printer to make the engine Yellow Pine Lumber Co. #7.



Okay, I posted some of my photos this time. **Now it's YOUR turn.** Please send some of your photos so I can post them in future newsletters to flatrat@charter.net

Thanks!!

Membership:

Please feel free to share this newsletter with friends who might be interested and if they wish to become members ask them to contact the PGRS Secretary/Treasurer for a membership form.

Don Watson
125 Mistletoe Trail
Hendersonville, NC 28791

docwatson@morrisbb.net

Business Related to Our Hobby

Any Member who has a business related to our hobby is welcome to submit an entry for inclusion in PGRS Trackin' each month.

DANIEL PECK

Custom Bridges
Custom metal buildings
Airwine battery Installations
Phoenix Sound Installations

Phone: 704-638-9081
E-mail:
Peckdaniel73@yahoo.com



Peggy Keyes
Owner / Chief Conductor
RightTrackTrainMuseum@gmail.com
828/625-5551

The Right Track Toy Train Museum
A non-profit museum to benefit Pancreatic Cancer
research
2414 Memorial Hwy (Rte 64/74)
Lake Lure, NC 28746
Find us on Facebook!



Garden Railroad Design
Old Trains Wanted

Jim's Train Sales

O & G Gauge New & Used Trains

Jim Hendley

Etowah, North Carolina 28729

Lionel, MTH, USA Trains, PIKO, LGB
Bridgwerks Power Supplies, Bachmann
Split-Jaw Rail Clamps, O & G Gauge Track

Email: jhh1218@att.net
Phone: (828) 891-7570
Fax: (828) 890-3346

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The logo features the word "LOCOMOTION" in a large, stylized font with a train horn and wheels integrated into the letters. Below it is the word "WORKS" and "G-SCALE" in a yellow box.

**205 Mountainside Drive
Columbus, NC 28722-6798**

**Gary L. Poague 828-712-3429
www.locomotionworks.com**