

PGRS TRACKIN'



Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society – August 2015

Editor: Scott Williams

Hola Amigos. Feliz Agosto!

That's, Hello Friends. Happy August!,...in Spanish,... I think.

The big news headlines this edition is we just had our first ever Summer Train Fest meeting in Greer and it went great. I mean, really great, so I believe we are already planning for next summer and thinking of what seminars we all will want to have at that meet-up. We convened at 10 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts and setting up about 10 - 8' tables for all the swap meet goodies everyone brought for the swap meet and sale at lunch time.

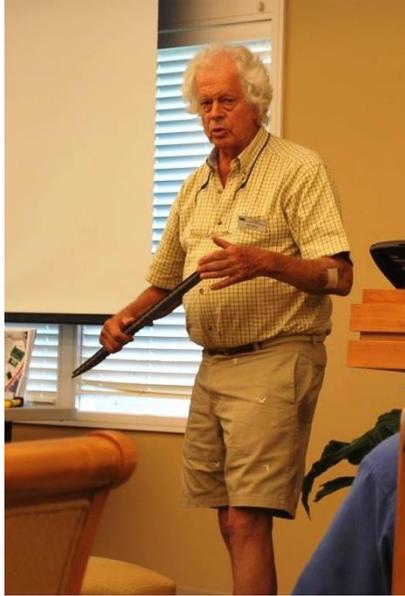
We had 31 rsvps and the attendance turned out to be 31 so there were very little leftovers from the sandwiches and refreshments...which is good.

I also recognized a carload of our new buddies from the Apple Valley Model RR Club who joined us today.

The three seminars were great, super informative, and well-paced and by the end of the afternoon after listening to Gary explain about all things 'battery conversion and r/c', Jon and Fran talking about the basics of good track building, and Doc sharing about a hundred or maybe two hundred outdoor model building techniques and tips and the intelligent questions and thoughtful comments from those in attendance I was simply flabbergasted about the amount of model railroading knowledge that was assembled there today. You could have easily charged, and happily received 20 bucks for admission to this program alone without the sandwiches and refreshments and it is just one of the events going on this year for PGRS members.

Thanks again guys!!! Great Work!!!





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But wait! There's more!! We have 3 open houses coming up soon.

Upcoming Open Houses:

[August the 8th], from 10 to 4, Tony Potter and J.R. Snider have graciously invited us all to descend upon their homes in the Winston-Salem area to visit their most excellent garden railroad layouts and Fran Monahan up in scenic Horseshoe NC, in between Hendersonville and Brevard handed me the announcement for his **September 19th** Open House. [We may also get an Open House this fall out of Tim Wagner too.]

J.R. Snider describes his layout as a "mature" garden layout and Tony Potter has by all accounts made a MAJOR addition to his large scale train operations. These open houses should not be missed and Tony and J.R. have put 110% in to getting their homes and gardens ready for us to visit.

Tony describes the new Northern Division of the IVY as thus; "The IVY is very much a work in progress, but should be substantially complete (but no railroad is ever finished) by August 8th. The Northern Division is U-shaped, 30x36 feet, with picnic tables located inside the U and on the deck above. It is based on two of the narrow gauge railroads owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad, all of which were either abandoned or standard-gauged by World War II. The 440 feet of track (more or less) is a mixture of LGB, Aristo-Craft and Pico. Main line switches are controlled by Airwire and sidings are equipped with the new Bachmann switch stands, which work great! The ballast is from the same Mt. Airy quarry that supplies both the Norfolk Southern and CSX. I bought more than I need, so if you need some free #1 or #2 granite bring a bucket."

Lunch will be served at Tony's home starting at 11:30. J.R. will not be serving lunch at his house. The homes are approximately 15 minutes apart.

Please RSVP by the 3rd to: apotterandassoc@gmail.com

A photo from J. R. Snider's garden layout:



I have posted directions and RSVP info for the August 8th open houses near Winston Salem in this newsletter but if you need further info please email me at;

flatrat@charter.net

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Fran and Marge Monahan invite one and all to come visit the F&M Railroad Open house on Saturday Sept, the 19th at;

34 Meadow Drive
Horseshoe, NC 28742

Fran has a dual track, elevated, track powered layout that encircles his entire level backyard and he invites all club members and friends to bring whatever they wish to run along with their lawn chairs and come and 'hang out'. Coffee and soft drinks will be on hand. Rain date will be Sunday the 20th.

Please RSVP at 828-890-0891 or email Marge at;

MargeMonahan2@gmail.com

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In other news, I am working on the construction of the PGRS webpage. It will have, among other sections, a club “**photo gallery**”. If we really do it right, it will be one of the finest parts of the webpage and one section you will want your family, friends, and co-workers to visit, to show off just what high caliber model railroad guys you associate yourself with.

To make this happen I will need one or two or three really awesome photos of your layout and/or your favorite models to include in the photo gallery. There is no time limit and the webpage will be able to be added or subtracted to but I would really appreciate it if all club members could try and send me a good quality photo [cell phone photo files are kind of limited in size and focus and don't always enlarge well so try and take them with someone's digital camera or a cell phone that takes larger size file photos if you can. It does not have to be professional grade but if you send me a photo from your one MegaPixel flip phone...I might not be able to use it.]

Send photos to; flatrat@charter.net

Scott

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*Pete Gendron, one of our Directors at Large, notified us that he needs some rather emergency surgery for a collapsed disc in his back and will unfortunately be parked on the siding out of service for the rest of the summer and likely in to the fall. We wish him well and hope his recuperation won't be too much of an uphill struggle. Good Luck Pete!

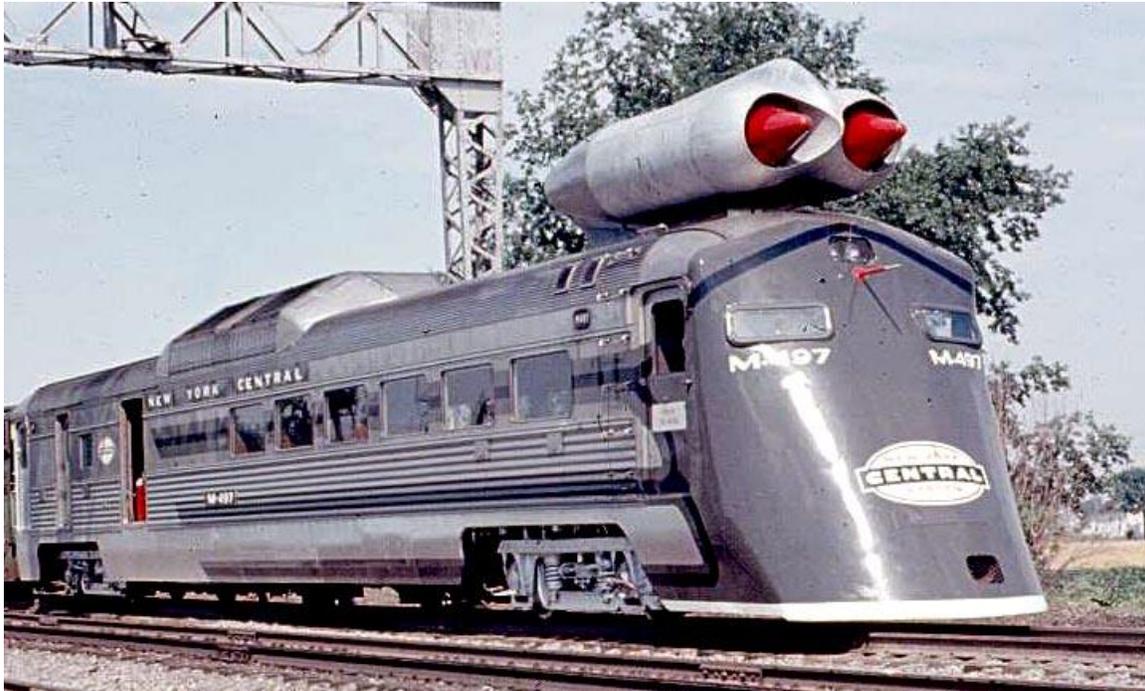


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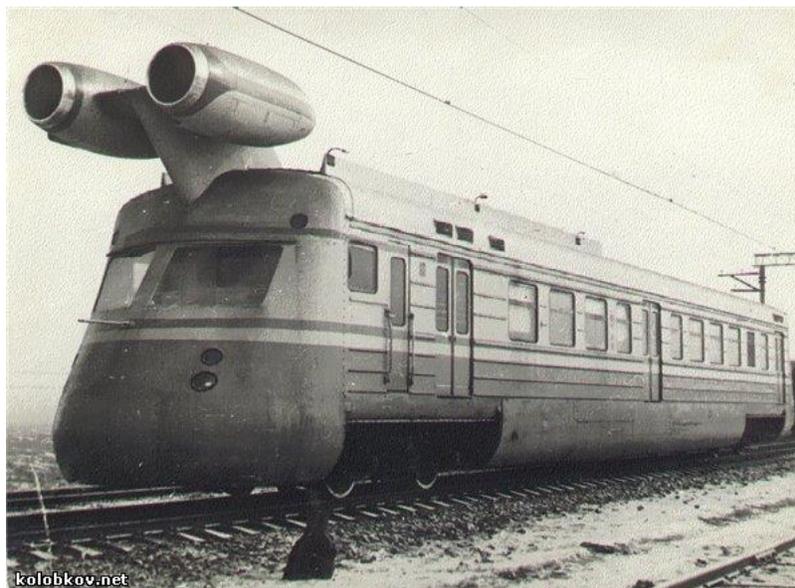
Now this would be a VERY unique kitbash of a Budd RDC:

Don Wetzel & Jet Powered Train Make History, 1966

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBBQL5x3-34>



This being the Cold War years and all, the Russians worked on their own jet powered train in the early 70's.



Trivia Question;

To folks outside of the railroad industry or hobby the word "Highball" has little meaning other than possibly a cocktail in a tall glass of ice made with some liquor, a soda mixer and maybe a garnish. What does the term "Highball" mean as it applies to railroading?

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Upcoming Event Directions:

August 8th Tony Potter and J.R. Snider's open house double header.

**PLEASE RSVP BY MONDAY, AUGUST 3RD, BY E-MAIL TO apotterandassoc@gmail.com
OR CALLING 336-922-1652.**

DIRECTIONS to J.R. Snider's home:

From I-40 eastbound, take exit 201 (Union Cross Rd),
Turn left; on Sedge Garden Rd.
At 3rd street on right (County Meadow Lane), Turn Right.
At first street on right (Country Hill Ct.), turn right;
886 is at end of cul-de-sac. Follow the sound of trains around back.

DIRECTIONS TO THE IVY RR. @ Tony Potter's home:

From the West: Be on I-40 eastbound. When entering Winston-Salem, take take Business I-40 and Exit 2B onto Silas Creek Parkway North.
Take Silas Creek Parkway north for 2.3 miles and exit at Robinhood Road. Turn right at the top of the exit ramp onto Robinhood Road westbound.
Go 1.8 miles and pass six traffic lights until you come to Shattalon Drive, which is the seventh traffic light.
Turn right on Shattalon and drive 1.8 miles to a large stone sign on the left reading SHATTALON LAKE ESTATES.
This will be Tonbridge Lane. Turn left into Tonbridge, passing Shattalon Lake on your right. When Tunbridge Lane ends, make a right onto Suwanee Drive and then a quick left onto Stillwell Drive, which is one block long.
We are the next-to-last house on the block, and the only one with a white mailbox. Park on the street, but please don't block the neighbors' driveways. More parking is available on Linecrest Drive, which goes both ways at the end of Stillwell Drive.

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Member photos;



Terry Ketcham sends us this photo of the Carr Lumber Co. #3 backing a load of logs down to the mill at the Apple Valley RR club's layout.

Please send your photos so I can post them in future newsletters to flatrat@charter.net

Thanks!!

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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



Got nobody to play with?

Then attend one of the Train Lover's Luncheons, get to know the PGRS members near you, and consider having a "mini open house" by contacting the TLL coordinator in charge of the luncheons in your area and inviting the folks on their mailing list to stop by a few days in advance to get together.

Train Lover Luncheons:

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.

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 Poague 828-712-3429 gpoague@windstream.net

Greater Greenville Area: Meeting the first Tuesday of every month - at 12 noon. It has been moved to Mutts in Greer as it is more centrally located for the greater Greenville area. Contact Ken Majchrzak at: kemajchrzak@gmail.com or call Ken at: 864-385-4951

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 hospital, 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.

Winston Salem luncheons are currently being planned by Tony Potter and J.R. Snider.

Charlotte luncheons are currently being planned by Hank Paulson and Dave Smith.

We encourage members to use the local network created by the TLL coordinators to casually invite folks by to share your layout and train projects, what we call a "Mini Open House", either on the day of a TLL or just any day in the month that you would like to have some company to talk or run trains

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).

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Trivia Answer:

Highball. The most agreed upon answer is that when the right-of-way was clear in the early days of railroading before radios the stationmaster or yardmaster would hoist a signal up high, so as to be seen from a distance to indicate to the engineer that he could proceed safely at high speed. Often that signal was an actual wooden or metal ball painted in red or white or other color to make it visible from a distance.



Highball Signal is a historic railroad signal located at [Delmar, Sussex County, Delaware](#). It is a white sphere mounted on a pole and located next to the railroad tracks to signal permission for a train to proceed at full speed, if the ball was at the top of the pole. The term "highball" came to be synonymous with a clear right-of-way and for trains to proceed at full speed. It was originally in service at [New Castle, Delaware](#), and then at [Hurlock, Maryland](#). The highball signal was moved to Delmar, Delaware for display during the town's centennial in 1959, and is no longer used to direct railroad traffic, but is maintained as a public exhibition in a park near the railroad.^[2]

It was placed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) in 1973.^[1]

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.



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
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