

# PGRS TRACKIN'



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## Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society – June 2015

Editor: Scott Williams

### Greetings, and Happy June, PGRS club members.

We're Highballing in to those glorious June days when the roses are blooming, the fresh mown grass smells delicious, the veggies are leaping up in the garden, we've dusted off the barbeque grill, the beer and sarsaparilla tastes so refreshing, and *everything* seems so vibrant and vigorous, [including the weeds...sigh].

Absolutely perfect weather for being outdoors and playing with garden trains. Just what we dream of all winter long.

Doc Watson requested I hold off a week on the June newsletter so we could include some news and photos from the open house he and Bill Huntemann put on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

In other club related news, Pete Gendron and myself have been contacting lots of folks regarding the design of the PGRS website. After initial poor traction the wheels are finally starting to grip the rails a bit and we feel we are starting to make some headway.

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### Fire Up 611 May 9, 2015: N&W J 611's Historic First Move of this Century

What a beautiful machine!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZaNa9rlclU>

611's first run will be on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from Spencer to Roanoke.

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## TB Speaker Modules

TB Speaker Company is a Chinese company that specializes in small and smaller speakers. They have a new line of speaker modules which instead of just a bare speaker they are a speaker mounted in a properly sized sealed cabinet with a passive radiator. A 'passive radiator' is like a second, unpowered driver that reinforces the lower bass frequencies. The cabinet is cast polypropylene. They are 4 ohms and can be powered with a 2-6 watt sound card. The passive radiator design gives a wide acoustic range of 75-20Khz, which is similar to what you would expect from a good quality 'in home' bookshelf speaker. Since they already come with a cabinet they can be mounted anywhere the sound can get out, like under a floor, or even in a boiler. You don't have to be tied to the original flange in your model. They have large mounting ears, but those can be cut off to save space. I have used foam mounting tape to attach it. Now the downside; they are not particularly cheap. They are between \$15 - \$25 dollars each and are only sold in pairs. From our testing with different speakers on a MyLocoSound card they should make a good sound card like a Phoenix, sound great and we've already found that they do make an affordable sound card, like a MyLoco, sound amazingly better. They will also let you put sound where you didn't think you had the room. I have a few different sizes and would be glad to split a pair if you would like. The picture below shows them on a 1" grid. Send me an email if you would like more information.

Larry Williams  
[ldweng@att.net](mailto:ldweng@att.net)



4 available sizes (shown on a 1" grid)



Largest size mounted in a Bachmann 2-8-0 Tender (ears cut off)

## ProjectCalc

There is a little yellow calculator that saves me a lot of time and mental effort called ProjectCalc or ProjectCalc plus. Instead of having to enter all decimal measurements, you can enter feet, inches, and fractions. You can get the results in feet and inches or decimal measurements. For example, you can divide 36', 6 1/2" by 20.3. It will also convert from English measurements to metric and back.

It's a lot better than making a conversion mistake or giving up all together. They are less than \$20 at home improvement stores, in the tool section.

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**Doc Watson and Bill Huntman's, Co-hosted Open House in Hendersonville NC.:**



**The Corolla and South Shores RR. May 30<sup>th</sup> 2015**



The Doctor is 'in' the house.



Bill discussing his last fishing trip and the one that got away.

[actually, he's explaining how his engine caddy works]



Randy Theis' 55 Ton Shay pulling a string of Larry Williams' log cars on the inner loop.



Doc Watson's Pennsy K-4 easing a line of Heavyweights in to the siding.



A beautiful sunny morning at Corolla station and business as usual in the town.

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Doc's comments regarding the Open House Saturday:

“The PGRS held its first open house for 2015 on May 30, 2015. It was co-hosted by Don Watson and Bill Huntman at the Watson residence. It was a successful event with beautiful weather. Eighteen members attended with a total attendance of 30 including guests and spouses. Many members brought their own equipment to run and there wasn't a time when there weren't trains running. A great lunch was served that included homemade pulled pork BBQ with sides of baked beans, coleslaw, chips, deviled eggs, and cookies. Much of the food prep credit goes to my wife Mary.

It is hoped that this is the first of many open houses to be held this year. If you haven't volunteered to host one yet, please do so. These are the things that make belonging to a club a great deal.

Many of you might shy away from hosting an open house for any number of reasons, but some of the reasons can be overcome by considering the following:

Co-hosting at one member's home. This can solve a number of deterrents including insufficient parking, lack of a layout, and preparation and cleanup.

Having 2 open houses where the members' homes are a short distance apart. This can help with the food issue by having guests get lunch at a convenient place between locations.

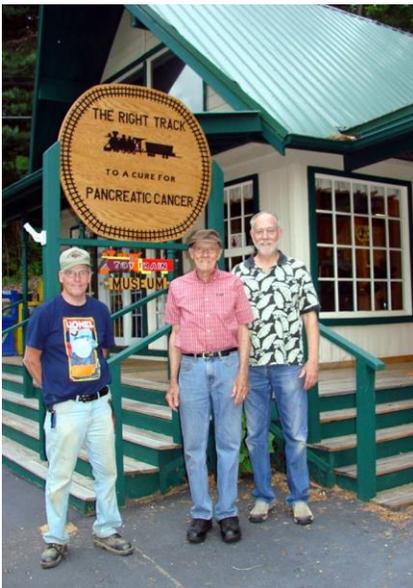
As far as food is concerned, there is no requirement to provide food. You can take a lunch break and go to a local restaurant nearby. You can have a potluck lunch and ask guests to contribute.

Remember, if you provide a lunch, the club will reimburse you up to \$100.”

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### **The Right Track Toy Train Museum in Lake Lure:**

When you're near the beautiful Lake Lure area, head over and visit PGRS club member Peggy Keyes at the Right Track Toy Train Museum.



100 percent of the proceeds from entrance sales and the gift shop go to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

Read more: <http://www.mnn.com/health/fitness-well-being/stories/how-a-model-railway-fights-pancreatic-cancer#ixzz3blfgLpFq>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Right-Track-Toy-Train-Museum/141291999274246>

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### **Grand Central Station:**

Interesting WWII secret piece of railroad history sent to me this month...

<http://www.chonday.com/Videos/newyobasemese2>

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### **Applied Imagination, headquartered in Alexandria KY.**

**Garden train layouts, made with organic materials:**

There are plenty of fun garden train galleries and videos of Paul Busse's creations here:

<http://www.appliedimagination.biz/#welcome>

"Paul Busse, founder of Applied Imagination, has always been a big fan of trains and gardens. After graduating from Ohio State University in 1972, with a degree in landscape architecture he formed his own company specializing in creative outdoor living spaces.

In 1975, Paul discovered LGB's new g-scale model trains, which ran both indoors and out. His first train layout was installed in a friend's hobby store, garnering local press for the store and for Paul's landscape company. At the request of Ohio Governor, Jim Rhodes, Paul created his first public garden railroad for the Ohio State Fair in 1982.

By 1984, he had officially added garden railroads to his company's repertoire, and in 1991, he formed Applied Imagination. This new company was a great artistic convergence of his work with landscaping, garden railroads and his unique use of plant material to create "botanical architecture".

Applied Imagination has created countless award-winning garden railway displays across the country including installations at New York Botanical Garden, United States Botanic Garden in Washington D.C., Chicago Botanic Garden, Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, Atlanta Botanic Garden, New Orleans Botanical Garden, Bellagio Conservatory in Las Vegas, and The State Fair of Texas. Attendance records have repeatedly been broken where Applied Imagination creations have appeared. Most notably, at The New York Botanical Garden, who will celebrate their 23rd anniversary of its Holiday Train Show this year. New York City's Mayor Bloomberg declared this show one of the 5 best things for a family to see in New York City during the holidays.

Paul is now retired, but still remains creatively involved, and the driving force of Applied Imagination lives on through it's enthusiastic artistic crew."

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I thought members might enjoy seeing the World's Fair 50th anniversary layout created by the Long Island GRS. All structures were hand built and will be donated to the World's Fair historic society as a fund raiser to help restore some of the WF buildings.

When my wife saw the photo she thought it was from the actual World's Fair, which says a lot about the quality of the work seen here.

Additional photos can be seen on the LIGRS web site (LIGRS.Org) by selecting Smoke n' Cinders newsletters and looking at the June 2015 issue.

Dave Smith  
Fort Mill SC



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Trivia Question;

"Tweetsie". Most everyone has heard that nickname for the narrow gauge East Tennessee & Western North Carolina RR that ran from Johnson City, TN up to the iron mine at Cranberry NC and further out later on, via the purchase of the Linville River RR. to Boone, NC. At the auspicious opening ceremony for the extension on in to Boone a local dignitary stated that prior to the railroad's arrival...

*"I remember when the only way a person could get to Boone was to be born there."*

In the 1880s it was also called the "Stemwinder", and the Tweetsie name is attributed by varying sources to the locals and also to children being hauled to summer camps along the line referring to the sound of the whistle echoing through the 'hollers' along the rail line.

What was the other, lesser known nickname for the ET&WNC?

[answer at end of newsletter]

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**Upcoming Events:**

**JUNE 5-6, 2015**

SOUTHEASTERN REGION CONVENTION IN GREENVILLE SC.  
PALMETTO DIVISION OF NMRA

<http://palmetto-excursion.org/>

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**JUNE 20-21**

Rail Days, NC Transportation Museum. Spencer NC

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**Saturday, JULY 25<sup>th</sup>**

**The PGRS Large Scale Train Fest at Brushy Creek in Greer SC.**

**The Cottages at Brushy Creek, 101 Cottage Creek Circle in Greer, SC.**

Tutorials, Comradery, Light Lunch, & Swap Meet.

*Remember to 'ink it' in to your social calendar.*

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**MEMBER PHOTOS**

Found on Facebook by Jerry Bartle:



A Tank Engine...shrubbery.

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One of Bruce Bates' whimsical creations, both coming and going.



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Please send some of your photos so I can post them in future newsletters to [flatrat@charter.net](mailto: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](mailto:docwatson@morrisbb.net)

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### **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](mailto: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 Question/Answer:

The other nickname for the ET&WNC railroad was the; "Eat Taters & Wear No Clothes".

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## 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  
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Email: [jhh1218@att.net](mailto:jhh1218@att.net)  
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