

PGRS TRACKIN'

Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society – September 2015

Editor: Scott Williams

Greetings Friends:

We're about through the Dog Days of Summer and the heavenly days of Fall are soon upon us. Time to savor and maybe preserve some of the garden's bounty of squash, peas, beans, tomatoes and corn before they are all too soon gone again and to take advantage of the cooler afternoons to run those trains, finish some projects, and maybe even start to get things in order for the winter and.... just savor it all.



Remember to mark Saturday, September 19th on your calendars for Fran & Marge Monahan's open house 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, soft drinks and a light lunch will be on hand.** Rain date will be Sunday the 20th at 1 pm.

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

MargeMonahan2@gmail.com

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Fran is looking for someone to man the PGRS table @ the Ag Center on Oct 10 & 11.

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August 8th Open House at the Snider and Potter homes in Winston Salem area:

Wow! Where do I begin? Awesome garden scale layouts belonging to two of our PGRS members near Winston Salem NC.

J.R. Snider and Tony Potter opened their homes and beautiful backyards to PGRS members and friends and what we discovered is there are some very polished, well thought out, garden railroad layouts in the Winston Salem area.

Tony told me they had about 29 PGRS members visit as well as neighbors and passersby who saw the signs and wanted to see the trains making about 36 guests or more total. Unfortunately, a broken downspout flooded the basement so the indoor trains were not available to view at this time at Tony's but they collected lots of canned goods for Second Harvest and he said there are three more open houses planned there this year for a few other groups and that anytime a PGRS member would like to visit just phone him up first. Tony would appreciate having copies of photos taken by visitors sent to him as well. Use this email address please:

apotterandassoc@gmail.com

Both owner/designers have different themes, different rail lines, etc... but they share an appreciation for the aesthetic of the backyard garden railroad '**Oasis**'. Which in my opinion both of these gentlemen have totally nailed that objective. You can escape the cares of the world running trains at the Snider or Potter backyards as they have both created spaces that block out the day to day static of the world and takes you to another place and time. Good job Gentleman and thanks again to J.R. and Tony and their families for inviting us all to visit.

J.R.'s layout:



Mikado pulling a coal drag.





A Mogul pulling the Dixie Beer passenger tour past the “Don’t Tell Mama” social club.



J.R. Snider's double inverted loop allows locomotives to steam alongside each other on the same track.

Meanwhile, over at Tony's...



Randy and Cathy Theis and Fran Monahan taking it all in.





And here's links to YouTube videos shot by Erhard Baltrusch of Tony's layout:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRwqpARzXI0&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6oVuG6t0fZA&feature=youtu.be>

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G Scale Graphics vinyl lettering: Terry Ketcham shares a recent project done with 3 mil thick vinyl lettering. I noticed the lettering, vinyl transfers and lettering paint masks months ago while on their site reading about the RCS Railboss electronics that they sell but had kind of forgotten

about it. Thanks for the reminder Terry, they look good and my 3 truck Shay needs to be lettered for the Yellow Pine Lumber Co. and these letters look like they might be the ticket.

<https://www.gscalegraphics.net/custom-lettering.html>



Vinyl lettering with backing.



Tape in place and remove backing paper. Press down on letters and peel off clear top layer leaving letters in place. Gently apply pressure with soft rubber eraser to press letters over woodgrain and rivets.



Apply a clear matte spray can finish over letters and weather if you wish and...Voila'

Thanks again Terry it looks good!

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Trivia Question:

Early adaptations of combustion engines to propel rail cars and locomotives had problems with mechanical power transmission. The drivelines and clutches quickly wore out. If you drive a generator with the primary gas/diesel engine and then use the electricity to drive electric traction motors you eliminate the mechanical driveline. Gasoline engines were further along than diesel technology so were adapted first. Smokeless engines were desirable during WWI to hide their movements and the Crochat railway equipment company in France built over 400 petrol electric locos for the Ministry of War starting in 1908.

What is considered the first "successful" petrol-electric car placed in service in the US?

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Member Photos:

Found on Facebook by Jerry Bartle:



Who needs a Shay to get those logs out??



P & N TRAIN LOAD OF AUTOMOBILES OCTOBER 1921, CHARLOTTE, NC

Piedmont and Northern electric locomotive delivering new automobiles to the dealerships.

Video clips of a modern diesel truck running the rails:

Brandt Rail Truck Heading West on The Altoona Sub:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcNxQI8Jcpw>

Rocky Cove Railroad video:

I am starting to experiment more with my GoPro camera and garden train videography. Here's my first attempt to stitch 6 different video clips of the Rocky Cove Railroad together. I think it came out kind of okay in spite of myself. Make sure the video is not on "Mute" when you open it up as it has live audio with the recording.

<https://youtu.be/TtMTPTJuNeY>

Please send your photos so I can post them in future newsletters or on the upcoming website 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

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Train Lover Luncheons:

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.

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Trivia Answer:

[from Wikipedia]

"The term "doodlebug" was given to the first successful motor car, the Union Pacific #1 McKeen Motor Car, built in late 1904 to March 1905. When the motor car first arrived for service in Kearney, Nebraska, the switchman looked at the Maroon colored, knife edge nose, gasoline motor car, and proclaimed, "Look at the potato bug." Although this is not when the doodlebug term was coined, it was probably around the same time that railroaders created this nickname."

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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.

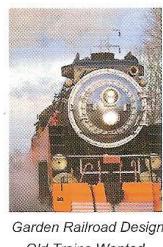
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Email: jhh1218@att.net

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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
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