

PGRS TRACKIN'

Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society – December 2015

Editor: Scott Williams

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all PGRS MEMBERS









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CSX announced in October a reduction in force and operations along the Clinchfield line due to decreased demand for coal....

But, the Santa train is still rolling on....CSX newsletter announced;

Superstar to Bring Holiday Cheer to Appalachia as Celebrity Guest for 73rd Year of Event

KINGSPORT, Tenn. – Rising pop star and “The Voice” Season 8 runner-up Meghan Linsey will be the celebrity guest on the Santa Train when it makes its 73rd journey to bring gifts to Appalachian families on Saturday, Nov. 21....

The Santa Train makes 14 stops in Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee and delivers toys, food and winter clothing to hundreds of children and families along the way.

Now in its 73rd year, the Santa Train runs along a 110-mile route through Appalachia, making 14 stops in Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee to distribute more than 15 tons of toys to Appalachian families. The Santa Train is sponsored by CSX, Dignity U Wear, Food City and the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce.

Please visit <http://www.beyondourrails.org/events/santa-train> for more information. For updates about the #SantaTrain15, follow along on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest and Instagram.

**SATURDAY,
NOV. 21**

The 73rd running of the

SANTA TRAIN



Runner-up on NBC's "The Voice" Meghan Linsey is this year's celebrity guest!



www.beyondourrails.org/events/santa-train
#santatrain15



Sponsored by CSX, Dignity U Wear, Food City and The Kingsport Chamber of Commerce

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Happy Holidays to all PGRS members and your families and whatever your faith or whether you believe in Santa Claus or not I think there is something warm and hopeful about the traditional American version of the winter holiday and I think it is best summed up by the oft-quoted words:

“...on earth peace, good will towards men.”

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Reminder/Suggestion:

When you're stocking up for your family's Holiday Feast, keep an eye out for one of my favorite charities. The Food Bank barrels. I usually spy them right inside of the door at Ingle's, etc.. I like to set aside a section in my cart [or "buggy", if you're from the south], to grab about a dozen or so cans of veggies, peanut butter/jelly, canned meats, salmon, tuna, etc., to have them bagged separately so I can easily drop them in the food barrel on my way out the door. Makes me feel good to know 100% of my donation dollars goes directly to my neighbors who may need it.

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PGRS 2016 Annual Meeting

The PGRS will hold its annual business meeting Saturday, January 23, 2016 at the same location as last year, the Cottages at Brushy Creek in Greer.

The address is 101 Cottage Creek Circle, Greer, SC.

The meeting time will be from **10:00 AM until 12:00 Noon**.

Coffee and doughnuts will be provided during the meeting. For those who wish to stay for lunch after the meeting, we will be going to Mutt's BBQ which is located within a mile of the cottages.

The club will provide a \$5 lunch reimbursement for attending members.

The agenda for the meeting is tentatively set to include:

Presentation by club President Bill Huntman on the status and health of the club and future directions

Treasurer's Report by Sec. / Treas. Don Watson

Seminar on how to weather equipment by Bruce Bates

Election of officers

This year we are going to offer door prizes. It appears like there are going to be quite a few very nice items including an engine.

You are invited to nominate candidates at any time prior to the meeting and nominations will also be taken from the floor at the meeting. If you are interested in becoming an officer or know of someone you think should be a candidate, please send your nomination to Bill Huntman. Candidates will not be announced until the meeting.

Another announcement will be included in the January Newsletter.

Annual dues will be due prior to the meeting to ensure that you can vote for officers.

Club Polo shirts with embroidered PGRS Logo:

The shirts are Carolina Blue with a gold, classic, American type 4-4-0 Steam locomotive logo.

Call Marge Monahan for more info at: 828-890-0891 or e-mail: margemonahan2@gmail.com to order yours. Shirts are \$15.00 each and will be available for pick-up at our annual meeting in January. We can also mail your shirts to you for the cost of shipping or they can be picked up at Fran's home at; 34 Meadow Dr., Horseshoe, NC 28742



The shirts will be a lighter shade of blue than this background photo. [Carolina Blue](#).

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Reuter's Children's Outpatient Center

There is a wonderful facility in Asheville right near the interchange of Route 25, Hendersonville Highway and Route 40 next to Biltmore Forest that provides children with specialized medical care regardless of ability to pay. This modern facility has fun waiting room areas for children to wait to see their Doctors and running around suspended above the two waiting room areas is a large scale train track that a train operates on. Essentially just one big closed loop it runs during operating hours.

These trains have been maintained by Tim Wagner and Bob Van Wagner. It does not require an operator like the Rocky Cove RR does but does occasionally require someone to stop by and check the trains out and take them home and lube or maintain them when they develop a squeaky wheel etc.. I visited there once with Bob and can attest to how much the children and employees love their train.

Bob and Tim are putting the call out to anyone who might be interested in helping them inspect and/or repair the locomotives and rolling stock.

If you live near Asheville and could occasionally stop by when needed they would really appreciate the assistance. If interested in helping out contact Tim Wagner

timwagner2012@gmail.com.

Current plans are for a Saturday morning session in December to prepare for holidays and do an assessment of work to be done. Tim will contact interested individuals separately by email after thanksgiving.

Tim Wagner's Open House on Halloween;

Sadly, while we were all looking forward to getting together at Tim's home on Halloween to hang out, share some good times, and review all of Tim's hard work building his new garden train layout in north Asheville at the last minute Tim had to cancel the open house. A family member had to be moved to Hospice care suddenly and Tim had to travel to Florida to help out.

Tim says that he very much looks forward to having us all over in the future to run trains at his home. We all understand and sympathize with this unexpected event and wish his family strength during this difficult time, and look forward to his good company again in the future.

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Trivia Question:

The highest elevation Railroad in the US would be the Pikes Peak Cog Railroad. A standard gauge, Cog Railroad, it was completed in 1891, and reaches an elevation of 14,110 feet above Sea Level.

The highest elevation 'adhesion' railroad in the world, completed in 2006 is the Qinghai-Tibet railway and reaches 16,640 feet at Tanggula Pass in China, [a side note; FAA regulations require pilots to use supplemental oxygen above 14,000 feet and passengers must be supplied with oxygen above 15,000 feet.]

"The passenger carriages used on Lhasa trains are specially built and have an oxygen supply for each passenger. Every passenger train has a doctor.

A Passenger Health Registration Card is required to take the train between Golmud and Lhasa. The card can be obtained when purchasing the ticket. Passengers must read the health notice for high-elevation travel and sign the agreement on the card to take the train. On August 28, 2006, a 75-year-old Hong Kong man was reported to be the first passenger to die on the train, after he had suffered heart problems in Lhasa but insisted on travelling to Xining. " [acc. Wikipedia]

Question; What is the highest elevation an 'adhesion' railway was ever built in the United States?

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Upcoming Events:

January PGRS meeting:

Saturday, January 23, 2016

101 Cottage Creek Circle, Greer, SC.

10:00 AM until 12:00 Noon.

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Phillips Brothers Mill

Jerry Bartle found this fascinating website some of our members may enjoy;

It is the last fully steam powered saw mill in America and is still operated by the family.

<http://www.phillipsbrothersmill.com/>

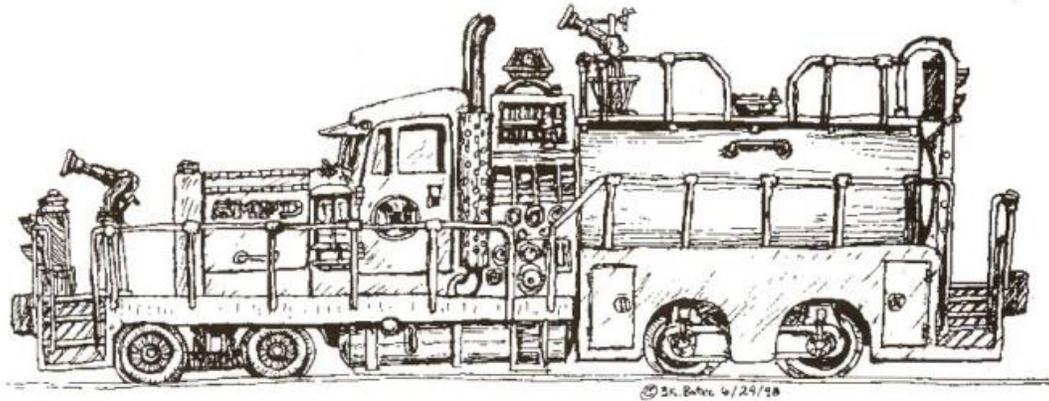
Link to the videos of a 'day at the office' at a steam powered sawmill.

<http://www.phillipsbrothersmill.com/3/miscellaneous9.htm>

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MEMBER PHOTOS;

From Bruce Bates;



Birdwater & Raspberry's *Fire Goose*

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Terry Ketcham builds the Apple Valley Model RR Club a Barnhart Log Loader:





Great work Terry!! Thanks for sharing your project photos. We're looking forward to your next installment photos in the coming newsletter and ultimately viewing the completed log loader at the AVRR in Hendersonville.

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Four, old, Bridge Master bridge 'orphans' were left on the doorstep of the Apple Valley Model RR club in Hendersonville. At first glance they appeared only suited for the woodstove and Terry Ketcham asked me if I might want them. I scraped the lichen and moss off of them and re-glued the loose joints and applied dark walnut stain and they have all come back to life nicely and I plan to someday incorporate them in my future backyard garden layout or sharing them with PGRS club members who might have a use for them.



The smallest bridge was a short Warren Truss bridge, solid, but boring to look at. Recently, I revisited it and decided that ripping some new supports and adding side trusses to make it a Quadrilateral Warren Truss would make it more interesting so...I did. It's a work in progress but thought I would share a photo of one of these born again bridges.

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Saluda Days Festival:



"The Apple Valley club was asked to set up a G scale display for the Saluda Railroad Day. They gave us a busted up concrete pad under a pavilion. Fran lent us some PGRS items which added to the display. We set up a dog bone loop with a passing track on 2" thick blue insulation board. We spread mulched up leaves over the entire display for affect. Trains were all battery/ sound units which worked perfectly. It took about 90 minutes to set up."

[Terry Ketcham]

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Not to be outdone by my super-cool, custom LGB Fortuna Flyer I shared last month Fran Monahan sends in a photo of his customized Fortuna Flyer and says:

"THIS PATRIOTIC FLYER IS EQUIPPED WITH THE X-12 ATOMIC ANNIHILATOR CANNON"

Now I don't have a clue what that means but it sure sounds bad-ass.

Since Fran has now built a double 'mainline' at his home it's just a matter of time before he and I have to get together at his house and race although that "Annihilator Cannon", [whatever the Heck that is], has me a bit intimidated so he may show me his tail lights in the straight sections. But...with that top heavy flag I might be able to 'take him' in the curves.

Please send your photos to;
flatrat@charter.net

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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

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:

The highest 'adhesion' railway ever built in the US was the **Argentine Central Railway**. This narrow gauge mining and tourist railroad was built in 1906 and reached 13,587 feet at Mt. McLellan. The railway had a standard 6% grade and tight curves and a roster of seven two-truck Shays. The railroad was a bust and abandoned in 1918.

Currently, the highest operating 'adhesion' railroad is the Cumbres & Toltec, built in 1882 and reaching 10,015 feet at Cumbres Pass. The Union Pacific reached a height of 10,240 feet at Tennessee Pass and was the highest operating 'mainline' until being taken out of service in 1997.

http://www.railserve.com/stats_records/highest_steepest_railroads.html

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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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Peggy Keyes
Owner / Chief Conductor
RightTrackTrainMuseum@gmail.com
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