

PGRS TRACKIN'



Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society – March 2017

Editor: Scott Williams

March, the meteorological beginning of spring begins the first day of this month, the astronomical beginning of spring in the northern hemisphere takes place about the 20th of the month. Any way you look at it, by the end of the month it's, **Springtime**. One of the four seasons, Spring signifies; rebirth, rejuvenation and regrowth. The cold, dry, sleep of Winter is passing and the bulbs and buds of the coming growing season are making themselves known. It's time to start looking forward to getting outdoors and enjoying the warming conditions. This means it's time to plan the transition from our indoor Large Scale projects in our warm, cozy, well-lit, workshops where we've been hibernating and start preparing and making plans for what we all truly **love** which is the combination of our outdoor living spaces and the joy of model railroading. March is the month to start inspecting our gardens and equipment and get things ready to take outside when warm weather finally arrives.

What does this mean to the Garden Train Aficionado? Well, basically, it means; where did all my ballast go, what's with all these weeds between the ties, why won't my switches work right anymore, and why doesn't my weedeater start when I pull the cord. [Sigh]. Sooo, Spring means we have some chores to attend to before our railroads are once again open for business.

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Annual PGRS Meeting/Trainfest. March 18th, 2017:

The 2017 Annual Meeting/Spring Trainfest:

The meeting will be held on March 18, 2017 at the Brushy Creek facility in Greer, NC

The times for the event will be from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Access to the facility will be from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm.

The agenda will be:

9:30 am – 10:00: Collection of outstanding dues. Pass out tickets for door prizes.

10:00 – 11:00 Annual Business Meeting including Treasurer's Report, nominations for offices, elections, new business.

11:00 – 12:00 pm Presentations:
11:00-11:30 Methods of powering your Locomotives
11:30–12:00 Operation Lifesaver
12:00 – 3:00: Spring Trainfest:

Swap and Sell

Raffle/Drawing

Additional instructive poster presentations on things like paint and power supplies, etc.

Coffee and Doughnuts

Lunch sandwiches provided

Door Prizes

PGRS Club shirts for sale

*Also, if you have completed a project other club members might find useful this past year but maybe not long enough for a presentation or you don't care for public speaking, we encourage you to get a sheet of posterboard, glue on copy that explains the project along with several good photos of what/how you did it and bring it along to Trainfest. Any project you found interesting, helpful and enjoyable enough to do then several other members will quite likely find it interesting as well.

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PGRS Website:

Ian Pugliese and Larry Williams have been working diligently for several weeks designing a good looking, secure, user friendly website and it has reached the testing phase. Look for its launch this spring. Once it's up and running with most of the bugs figured out the club can start to submit photos and articles for gallery and how-to sections. The old and latest newsletters will be kept on the webpage with a calendar of events and open houses to be accessed by paid up club members via password. More details will be announced at the March Trainfest meeting.

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2017 Train Show Schedule from Pete Gendron:

Asheville Model Train Show. WNC Ag Center Fletcher, NC. March 3rd & 4th;

Friday 12 AM to 7 PM and Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM

Hickory Train Show....April 8, 2017 @ Hickory NC Metro Center. 9AM to 4PM

North Carolina Model Train Show....Should be in Charlotte Contact in January

Autumn Rails Train Show....10/06/17 10/07/17 WNC Ag Center Fletcher Contact in January

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Member Photos:

Dave Smith: LIRR boxcab

“I just finished building and weathering this 1:20.3 boxcab. It has Airwire r/c control, Phoenix sound downloaded and burned into the ROM set, Lithium Ion battery power and LED lighting. The detail parts are from Ozark Miniatures. I drilled and installed over 400 brass brads to simulate rivets.

One side is lettered for the Long Island (I haven't forgotten!). The other side is lettered for LIONEL because my earliest memory of an electric train is my older brother's Lionel boxcab. I number my locomotives based on the month and year I finish them.

It pulls like a champ due to the size and weight. I'll do a short video run by if anyone is interested.”





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Pete Gendron and Fran Monahan recently took their wives on a date to the Mission Children's Hospital where they all got to clean engines and track.

Mission Children's Hospital is the only children's hospital in western North Carolina. Located in Asheville, North Carolina, its services include pediatric and adolescent specialty care, neonatal and pediatric intensive care, and pediatric and adolescent psychiatric care. The train display runs over head in the waiting and lounge areas. These trains were previously maintained by **Tim Wagner and Bob VanWagner** for many years and the torch has now been passed to Pete and Fran. Model trains, as we all know, are good therapy, a warm tonic for the soul, these model trains help lift the spirits of all the families who travel through Mission Children's Hospital on their way to recovery. Their presence at the Hospital is truly a comfort to all who get to view them. Awesome work Ladies and Gentleman!



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Apple Valley Model RR, G scale turntable now has it's 'cribbing' installed.



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Sky Mayo sent me the photos of the turntable and also included his progress on his wood cab kit 'mod' for the Bachmann Spectrum Forney loco he owns. It gives the engine a classic and custom appearance.

Sky told me he's quite happy with the look of the new cab and doing further weathering but his review of the Banta cab kit thus far should 'honestly' include the sentence; "**Some engineering required**". He said the kit was moderately challenging to assemble as you saw in last issue's newsletter but not too difficult. The tricky part is there is no way to mount it to the loco in the kit and he had to create supports to screw it on to the engine from scratch and he also had to fashion a template to help him line up and drill all the holes through the front of the cab for plumbing, cables and control rods that run from the front of the engine through the front wall of the cab to get them to 'mate' up with the new cab. Looks awesome Sky!! Can't wait to see the final product in person.



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Randy Theis sends these ponderous photos found on the Internet for...review:



Apparently a 'half price' sale on a Fairbanks Morse locomotive...an FM Critter maybe?



Apparently, they "parked" this loco in a bad neighborhood. Randy thought I would find this photo personally profound since it resembles most of the model locomotives I buy on ebay when they arrive at my doorstep. You know, the ones listed as 'in excellent condition'.

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Rose City Garden Railway Society 2016, Lone Pine & Western Railroad.

A beautiful garden railroad layout for you to view. I wish the background music was a little softer so we could enjoy the sound of their locos more but...very pretty garden railroading just the same.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vS5mK_u2ly0

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Pete Gendron sends this link regarding the Reader Railroad.

"The last all steam powered mixed train in America"

"Reader Railroad was all steam 'til the end in 1974"

Story and all photos © Glen Brewer

<http://railroadglorydays.com/Reader/>

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What and when was the last Shay locomotive Lima Locomotive Works ever built?

It was this massive beauty built and shipped to the Western Maryland Railroad in 1945.



Lima built railway locomotives from 1870 until 1950. Lima notably rebuilt and expanded upon the side piston and gear driven locomotive design of Ephraim Shay which gave great power and flexibility for difficult, steep and tight curves especially needed on the rough rail lines used to harvest timber from the mountains. Initially small engines they developed 'Super Power' in the 1920s and proved their superior strength on conventional rod driven locomotives used on many major railroads and some of that technology appeared on the Shay as well. Their last loco was a 2-8-4 produced for the Nickel Plate in 1949. Their last Shay was built for the Western Maryland Railroad in 1945 for coal service and shipped to Elkins WV for use on the 9% grades of the Chaffee branch. It was used for only 4 years then stored and later resided at the B&O train museum for 26 years. It was traded in 1981 to Cass Scenic Railroad where it received minimal restoration for service. The engine weighs 162 tons, has three trucks with 48" drivers.

Here's a video of this massive Shay billowing smoke at Cass...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_Kx9zez0k0

Trivia Question:

What is the world's oldest multiple arched stone railroad bridge?

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** A reminder from Terry Ketcham that PGRS club members are invited to come by the Apple Valley Model Railroad Club in Hendersonville the last Saturday of each month to run their large scale trains on the club layout from 10 – 2 pm.

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*** Think you might have an idea for a topic to share at Trainfest?

We are hoping to display Posters of projects if you think your project is something others would like to learn about but maybe not large enough for a 'Clinic' that you could display photos and documents on poster boards.

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Trivia Answer:

The **Thomas Viaduct** spans the Patapsco River and Patapsco Valley between Relay and Elkridge, Maryland.



Commissioned by the B&O Railroad and built between July 4, 1833, and July 4, 1835; and named for Philip E. Thomas, the company's first president.

At its completion, the Thomas Viaduct was the largest bridge in the United States and the country's first multi-span masonry railroad bridge to be built on a curve. It remains the world's oldest multiple arched stone railroad bridge. In 1964, it was designated as a National Historic Landmark.



The viaduct is now owned and operated by CSX Transportation and still in use today, making it one of the oldest railroad bridges still in service. 192 years old in July of 2017.



The Royal Blue on the Viaduct in 1937.

For more history of the bridge visit this Wikipedia page:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Viaduct

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Membership:

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

Don Watson
125 Mistletoe Trail
Hendersonville, NC 28791

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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 Pete Gendron: 954-812-6270

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 meeting at Bubba's BBQ 4400 Sunset Rd. (exit 16, rte. I-77). at 11:30am on the third Tuesday of each month.

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Thanks, and please help make our newsletters interesting!!!

Send any idea, project, photo, something you found surfing on the Internet, etc., no matter how great or small you may think them to be to your newsletter editor. I will use them right away or log them away on my hard drive for future use. Our newsletters will be as interesting as you can help make them. We all love trains so...if it's about trains, and you've got it on your computer, chances are you won't be the only person who might enjoy reading about it.

Send your input to: srwavl@outlook.com

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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.

 <p>Peggy Keyes Owner / Chief Conductor RightTrackTrainMuseum@gmail.com 828/625-5551</p>		<p>Jim's Train Sales O & G Gauge New & Used Trains Jim Hendley Etowah, North Carolina 28729 <i>Lionel, MTH, USA Trains, PIKO, LGB Bridgwerks Power Supplies, Bachmann Split-Jaw Rail Clamps, O & G Gauge Track</i></p> <p>Email: jhh1218@att.net Phone: (828) 891-7570 Fax: (828) 890-3346</p>
<p>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!</p>	<p><i>Garden Railroad Design Old Trains Wanted</i></p>	

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