

# PGRS TRACKIN'

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Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society- September 2017

Editor: Scott Williams

Hello PGRS club members!

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Les Knoll's open house in Denver NC on the occasion of his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Happy Birthday Les!!



Les pulling his live steam Shay out on the turntable from his beautiful brand new Engine House. As his shirt proudly states he; "Still Plays With Trains".



Les, with his wife relaxing nearby, while he's busy repairing the switch control your newsletter editor, **[ME]**, snagged with my foot while I was busy taking photos. This is what can happen when you invite uncivilized savages over to view your garden train layout. Sorry Les.



The marquee clearly states that Les's alter ego will be providing the organ accompaniment to Rudolph Valentino's latest film role at the Rivendell Cinema.





Larry Williams raced to prepare his outside frame Heisler to run on battery power and with Phoenix sound just in time to run at Les's open house. It performed flawlessly.



Les's live steam Shay pulling his log loader and work train across the trestle.





If you walk down the path below the Rivendell & Midland RR you can view the shallows where Les can run his Waverunner out on to the lake. When we visited last year the lake was quite a bit lower due to the drought. A serene cove was in view this season. A very tranquil spot indeed.



**The PGRS reefer rolls on!**

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**PGRS BOARD MEETING JULY 19, 2017:**

Attendees: Bill Huntman, Don Watson, Pete Gendron, Randy Theis, Fran Monahan, Jon Bole  
The main topic of the meeting was the **2017 Fall Train Fest**. Here are the details of that discussion;

**Fall Train Fest.** This year's event will be held on **November 4<sup>th</sup>**. We have decided to hold the event at the Grace Lutheran Church in Hendersonville, NC. There were many reasons for choosing this venue including available space, central location to our club members, kitchen facilities and price.

The meeting time will be from 10 am until 3pm. This will allow time for set up and clean up.

We have requested enough tables for seating, selling, buying, trading, hobby demonstrations and Show and Tell.

As in past events, the club will provide coffee and doughnuts in the morning **and lunch with drinks.**

As far as entertainment is concerned, we will have several educational talks and poster presentations. These topics will be passed on to you as we finalize them.

**Some of the proposed topics include:**

Batteries for train operation

Use of LED's for structures, cars and locomotives

Sound systems for engines

Weathering structures and rolling stock

How to make foam buildings

Remotely controlling your engines

These are a few of the suggestions.

**We would like to have your input to these and other topics. What would you like to see?**

The address for the Fall Train Fest is:

Grace Lutheran Church  
1245 6th Ave. West (route 64)  
Hendersonville, NC 288739

More details will follow. We encourage all of you to make every effort to attend. There will be lots to learn and fellow large scale train lovers to meet and exchange ideas.

**Don Watson**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**  
**PGRS**

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Terry Ketcham writes:

The Apple Valley has installed a 10'x20' tarp over the operator's area for protection from the sun. The tarp stays up all the time. The umbrellas we have provide limited shade and many times we found that visitors would jump into "our chairs" located under the umbrellas. So the tarp provides a greater area of coverage. It will also provide shelter to park trains under should we get a brief shower. We will probably take the tarp down when cooler weather starts to set in. So far it has provided a welcome relief to our operators as well as our guests.



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Jim Redmond writes:

While running Vanderbilt Travels Railway at Biltmore, I was approached by **Richard Canipe**, Town Manager of Spruce Pine, NC. He seeks guidance/assistance in setting up/displaying/running some donated Bachman G-Gauge equipment.

**The Town Manager of Spruce Pine, NC, is seeking guidance/assistance in setting up/displaying/running some Bachman G-Gauge equipment that was donated to the Town of Spruce Pine.** If you are willing to assist, please contact Richard Canipe, Town Manager at [manager@sprucepine-nc.gov](mailto:manager@sprucepine-nc.gov). (Refer to this PGRS Trackin' article, and CC [JimRedmond@bellsouth.net](mailto:JimRedmond@bellsouth.net).)

Jim  
864-944-9880

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Here's a website and publications of regional interest and LOTS of rail history: [Tarheel Press](#).

Their Mandate:

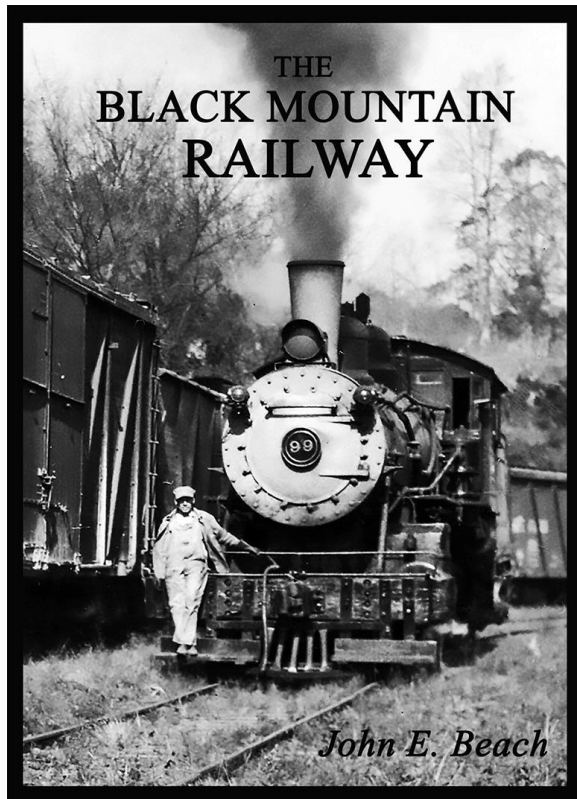
Tarheel Press is a regional publisher dedicated to the preservation of southeastern historical niches. We are interested in corporate histories, human interest stories, genealogies, and how



these events affected the life in local communities and the state. We are passionate about history and the ability to make it available to every man, woman, and child possible. We believe that the more hands it is in, the longer that history will remain alive. We invite all potential authors, librarians, historians, or readers to call with any questions or comments whatsoever, and we invite manuscript submissions.

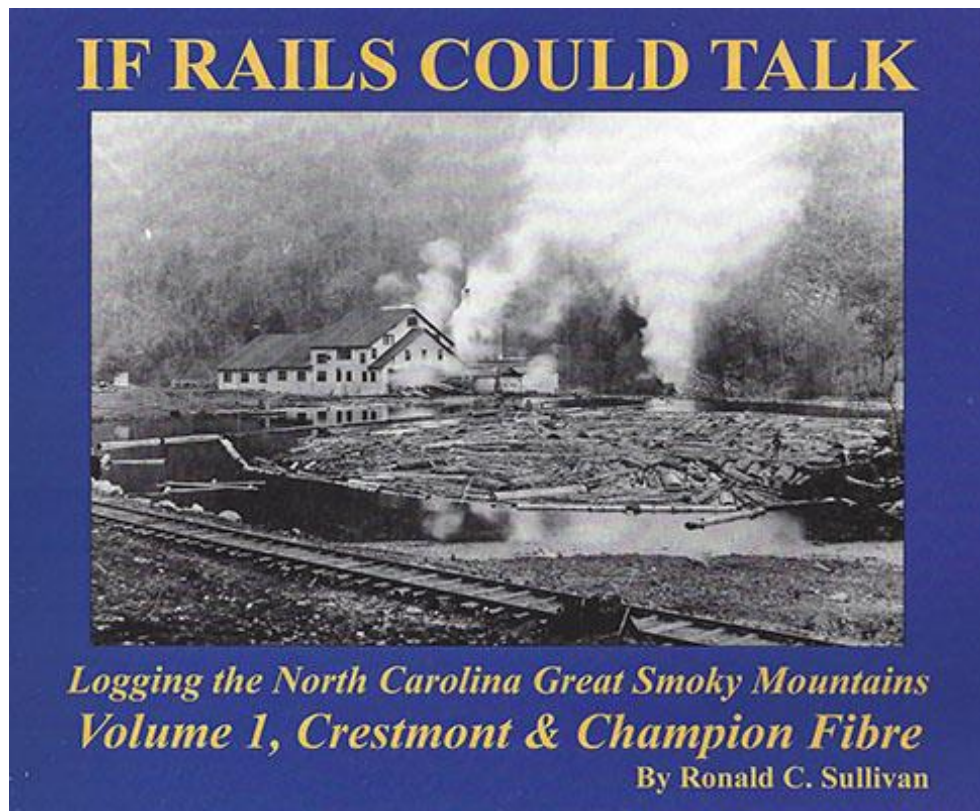
<http://www.tarheelpress.com/index.html>

This is one of their new titles:



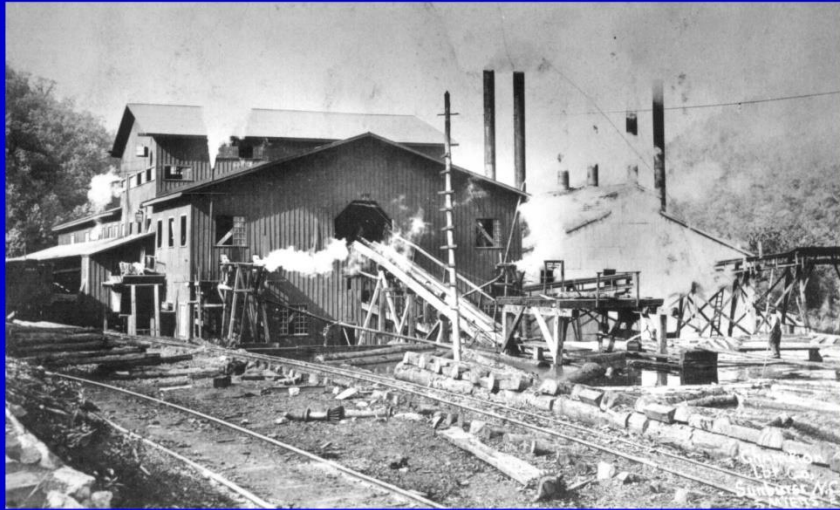
Recently Jerry Bartle and I were hanging out at a local brewery and he recognized a gentleman named Jerry Ledford which he introduced me to. He and author Ronald Sullivan have hiked all

over the mountains looking for old railroad grades and Sullivan is writing a very interesting series of books which are also available from Tarheel Press. "If Rails Could Talk".





# IF RAILS COULD TALK ....



## *Logging in the North Carolina Great Balsams Volume 2, Sunburst & Champion Fibre*

Ronald C. Sullivan

So far 3 of the 8 planned volumes are available in print.



## IF RAILS COULD TALK ....



*Logging in the North Carolina Balsams*

**Volume 3, Quinlaintown & Champion Fibre**

by Ronald C. Sullivan

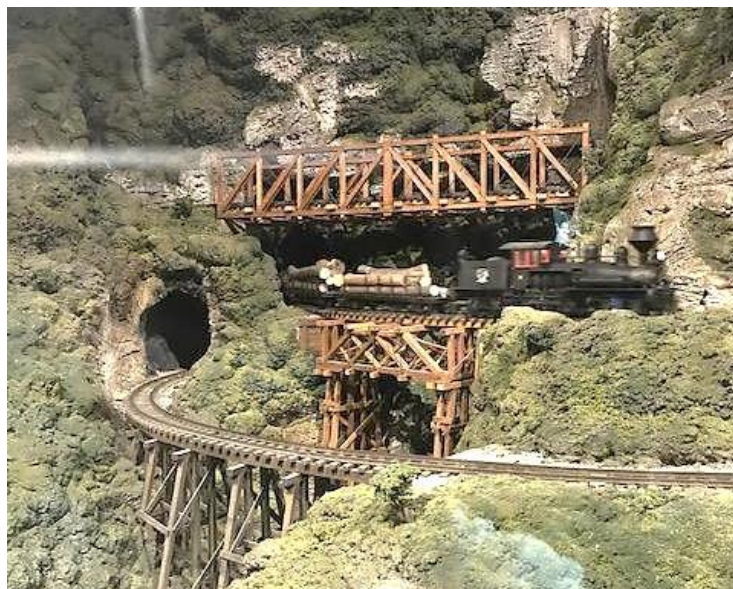
There is also a new book out on **Saluda Grade** and I have most of the very good ET&WNC books by Ron Graybeal that are also listed on the website. There's more than just books as the website has links to numerous webpages of regional and railroad interest.

<http://www.tarheelpress.com/index.html>

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### **Member Photos:**

Terry Ketcham visited EnterTRAINment Junction recently and sends these photos:







"We recently took a trip to EnterTRAINment Junction in West Chester Ohio, exit 22 on route 75 just north of Cincinnati .

It is a HUGE indoor large scale (G Gauge) display of 60 trains traveling thru various dioramas displaying early railroading, middle age railroading and modern railroading. Of course I spent most of the time admiring the early railroading displays and took pictures of Bachmann geared locomotives and Annie's traveling back and forth.

I was blown away by the excellent modeling and the attention paid to the details.

The website gives you the impression that the attraction is geared towards kids as they do have a kiddie Thomas the Tank playground indoors for the kids to climb on but as a model railroad enthusiast I found it to be a most enjoyable experience.

If you are ever up that way, I encourage you to visit EnterTRAINment Junction."

Terry

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Tim Wagner sends these photos from an interesting train recently parked at the Asheville Yards.



Norfolk Southern's First Responder Training Equipment.

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Wayne Hamilton says: "Rode the Grand Canyon Railroad and Durango and Silverton. We're still on the road." Thanks, Wayne.

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Jim Redmond sends these photos.







Jim's a fan of the Southern Crescent which he used to ride from Greenville to New Orleans to visit family.

The Bridge and 16' long Trestle seen in the photos Jim built from Cypress donated from a friend in Atlanta. The Cypress used to be large 10'- 6"x10" timbers from a water tower. After ripping them down to  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide strips Jim says he ended up with as much sawdust as useable lumber. Beautiful work there Jim!







Jim at home running his trains.

**\*Wow!** Ask and you shall receive. This month I went from zero photos for the newsletter to receiving so many that I will save Randy Theis's great photos from his vacation trip for the October newsletter. THANKS EVERYBODY! it makes the newsletter so much more interesting seeing what you're working on or where you've travelled. Please keep those photos coming!!!

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#### Trivia Question:

In the early years of locomotive development Nay Sayers said that piston driven steel driving wheels riding on steel rails would never be able to have enough traction to pull a load of railcars. When you think about it, it does seem that the tiny contact surface area, smaller than that of a credit card of the driving wheel resting on a rail and trying to pull a loaded train, even with the weight of the locomotive::.....shouldn't that just cause the drivers to spin wildly in response?

What surprisingly 'low tech' solution to that problem proved the Nay Sayers wrong?

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**\*\*** **The Apple Valley Model RR Club** in Hendersonville openly invites all PGRS members to bring their large scale trains to run on their Outdoor Large Scale train layout the Last Saturday of every month from 10-2 pm. **TAKE ADVANTAGE** of this generous offer to come run your

locos on a beautiful garden layout. Track power, battery power, and PGRS members have even brought their Live Steam locos to run on this attractive layout on the passenger platform of the historic Hendersonville Railroad station

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Videos of interest:

Top Ten Fastest Trains in the World.

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

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Trivia Answer:

Sand.....Grains of sand. This video show how:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDIB7L5QAHs>

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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

[docwatson@morrisbb.net](mailto:docwatson@morrisbb.net)

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### **Train Lover Luncheons:**





**\*July's Columbus luncheon. There were the same number of folks at the Asheville luncheon this month too. Get together, have lunch, talk trains, have fun!! Come hang out with us.**

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](mailto: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.



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  
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**Peggy Keyes**  
Owner / Chief Conductor  
[RightTrackTrainMuseum@gmail.com](mailto: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!