

PGRS TRACKIN'

Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society

November 2017

Editor: Scott Williams

Autumnal Greetings Club Members.

'tis the season for all those Fall harvest things...



PGRS FALL TRAINFEST!!!

The PGRS will be hosting the 2017 Fall Trainfest on **Saturday, November 4, 2017**. The show hours will be from **10:00 AM until 3:00 PM**.

The event will be held at:

Grace Lutheran Church
1255 6th Ave. West (Route 64)

Hendersonville, NC 288739

We hope all of you can attend. It be a great opportunity to meet fellow members and exchange RR experiences. There will be food, prizes and presentations. Also, there will be tables for all of you to show off your favorite projects and sell or trade your RR items.

Below, is the planned schedule of events:

10:00 AM: Registration, Meet and Greet. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided and door prize tickets distributed.

11:00 AM – 11:45 AM: Presentation by Les Knoll on using foam to construct structures. (Les will describe how he takes sheets of construction foam and turns them into fantastic brick patterned wall panels for RR structures.)

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM: Free time to browse tables and any poster displays and have lunch. Lunch will include sandwiches, salads, chips and sodas.

1:00 – 1:45 PM: Presentation by Terry Ketcham on how to create RR scenery using spray foam. (The clinic will describe using an expandable foam sealant product called "Great Stuff" to create scenic rocks and terrain for outdoor and indoor large scale railroads. Showing the different steps involved from start to finish using this unique product to provide for a satisfying result.)

1:45 – 2:00 PM: Door Prize Drawing.

2:00 – 3:00 PM: Buying, Selling, Trading, and/or Showing off RR items.

Please let me (docwatson@morrisbb.net) know **no later than October 29** if you plan to attend. Please make every effort to come and enjoy what the PGRS has to offer its members.

Don Watson
Secretary/Treasurer
PGRS

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Tim Wagner's Open House

Tim is planning an open house get together at his lovely home in north Asheville Saturday, November 18, probably from 10 to 2 or 3 in the afternoon. Details will follow soon. Come hang out, run your trains, bring items to sell or buy some.

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George Vanderbilt's most well known possession was Biltmore House in Asheville. He had several additional homes besides Biltmore; Bar Harbor, his Staten Island farm, a life estate at

his Father's home and art collection on 5th Avenue, a home in Washington DC...etc. How did George travel back and forth from his residences? Well, fittingly for a man whose family's vast wealth came from shipping and railroads...he often used private rail cars. He often leased them, they were the Gulfstream jets of their day. However, in 1891 he contracted with the Wagner Palace Car Co. of Buffalo NY to build him a private coach. It was Plan A14 and had four state rooms, a parlor, an observation room, a kitchen, pantry, porter's room and toilet with bath. The car was approximately 70' x 9'-8". He named his private car *Swannanoa* after the small river that runs along the entrance road to Biltmore Estate.



This photo is the only known photo of *Swannanoa* and it appears to show George, second from right and Edith by his side with guests on the rear of the car.

George often sent this car to Washington and New York to collect family and friends and transport them in lavish comfort to Biltmore. The cook on board prepared elaborate meals and the porter attended to the passenger's needs. The mahogany paneled parlor had plush chairs, the staterooms accommodated up to 12 with comfortable beds and bureaus. The plate glass windows in the observation room afforded scenic views and one could enjoy countless books and some of George's etchings. A 1904 fire damaged *Swannanoa* and George decided to sell it as he started scaling back his spending about that time. [Apparently, even Vanderbilt money had its limits.] After that time the family traveled by passenger train or leased private car and his new favorite method...the automobile.

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Best Cordless Blower Shootout...

I was on the roof today using the 'corded' Craftsman electric leaf blower I bought in 1987 to blow the leaves from my rain gutters. It worked fine as usual. As I was getting ready to come down the ladder the weight of the extension cord carried my leaf blower over the edge of the roof to crash to its final doom on my patio. 30 years out of a 45 dollar leaf blower...**no complaints**. However, it's the 21st Century now and Lithium-Ion technology has become available and several times on the roof I thought that the 'Cord' might just bring **ME** crashing down to my final doom. SO, time to check out modern technology and in my research, I found this review link below.

Ultimately, I purchased their top 7th pick, the Greenworks Pro 60-Volt Max Lithium Ion 540-CFM 140-MPH Heavy-Duty Brushless Cordless Electric Leaf Blower. I chose it for the 540 CFM and 140 MPH specs and for the fact it was pretty lightweight and balanced and the 2.5 amp hour should be more than enough for my needs and they are currently on sale for 179.00 @ Lowe's. After charging it up this evening and playing with it...it's **PLENTY** powerful enough, stronger than the cord powered one I had previously. Please enjoy this product review if you're in the market for such a tool for maintaining your yard and garden railroad:

<https://www.protocolreviews.com/buying-guides/best-cordless-blower-shootout/32078/>

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PGRS Clubmember Tony Potter passed away in October. Many of you will remember his layout and trains from the open house he and J.R. Snider had a year or two back. He had an extensive collection of large scale trains and had an elaborate layout built for he and his wife's enjoyment in his backyard.

WINSTON-SALEM Jan. 6, 1942 - Oct. 10, 2017 Mr. Anthony Nicholas "Tony" Potter, 75, Former Director of Public Safety at Forsyth Medical Center In Tampa, Florida in 1970 a former Marine MP was selected to organize a police force for the new Tampa International Airport before it opened in 1971. At 28, Tony Potter became the youngest police chief in Florida, then went on to lead five other departments during nearly fifty years in law enforcement and security. Anthony Nicholas "Tony" Potter, of Winston-Salem, died on October 18, 2017. Chief Potter was appointed Director of Security for Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in July 2003. After re-engineering the department, he was named Director of Public Safety the following year, and eventually assumed responsibilities for all Novant Health Triad Region facilities. A career law enforcement officer, Chief Potter enlisted in United States Marine Corps in 1959 and was assigned to the military police. He later served as an interrogator-translator with naval intelligence in the Middle East and as a criminal investigator in the Marine Corps Reserve. After leaving the Marine Corps he organized a security force to protect what was then the world's largest enclosed shopping center, Willowbrook Mall in Wayne, New Jersey. In 1970 he became the youngest police chief in Florida when, at age 28, he was hired to organize a police force for Tampa International Airport, which opened in 1971. While at Tampa, he chaired the Airport Operators Council International Security Committee and served on the President's Commission on Civil Aviation

Security. He later taught at the University of Cincinnati, then served as police chief of Danville, Illinois and police commissioner of the City of York, Pennsylvania. He moved to Atlanta in 1981 as vice president of the security division of Cousins Properties, then headed his own security consulting firm, Potter and Associates, Inc., before joining the Emory University System of Healthcare as Director of Public Safety. He retired from Emory in 1997 and served as chairman of the Metropolitan Atlanta Crime Commission for two years before being recruited by Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Washington, one of the world's leading Level One trauma centers. Chief Potter was active in a wide range of civic and professional organizations. He held various offices in the American Society for Industrial Security, the International Associations of Chiefs of Police, and the International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety. He served on the faculty of the International Council of Shopping Centers Management Institute and the University of Shopping Centers for 15 years, and regularly lectured at colleges and police academies throughout the United States. He authored texts on shopping center security and the arming of healthcare security officer and over 150 articles in professional and trade journals, and was frequently interviewed on police and security matters in the local and national media. He testified as an expert witness in over 300 civil and criminal cases in state and federal courts, and his opinions were cited favorably in several landmark appellate court decisions. In 1994 he was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and in 2003 became the only security executive named a Diplomat of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Chief Potter held the professional designations of Certified Healthcare Executive (CHE), Certified Healthcare Protection Administrator-Fellow (CHPA-F), Certified Protection Professional (CPP) and Certified Security Trainer (CST). His numerous awards included the Elwood "Woody" Near President's Award and two Lindberg Bell Awards from the International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety, the Distinguished Service Award from the International Security Conference, and the Security World Award of Merit. He was a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International, commissioned as a lieutenant colonel and governor's aide de camp in the Georgia State Militia. Chief Potter was a lifelong member of the Boy Scouts of America. An Eagle Scout, he held many local, regional and national positions including chairman of the first state, regional and national Law Enforcement Explorer Competitions in 1971, 1975 and 1979. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Executive Board of the Old Hickory Council. Chief Potter's late wife, Cheryl Kay Dittman-Potter, died of breast cancer in 1996. He married Joyce Elaine Case of Bent Tree, Georgia in 1998. Survivors other than his wife include two daughters, Merika Elizabeth Gambaro of Portland, Oregon and Victoria Masters of Dunedin, Florida; one step-daughter, Angie Skelly, of Ovid, Florida; and six grandchildren. [A funeral service will be held at 1:00 PM, Friday, October 27, 2017 at Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church with Dr. Mark J. Key officiating. Interment will follow at Forsyth Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6-8 PM, Thursday, October 26, 2017 at Hayworth-Miller Silas Creek Chapel. Online condolences may be made at \[www.hayworth-miller.com\]\(http://www.hayworth-miller.com\).](#)

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Member Photos:



PGRS is 'in the house'. Autumn Rails display.

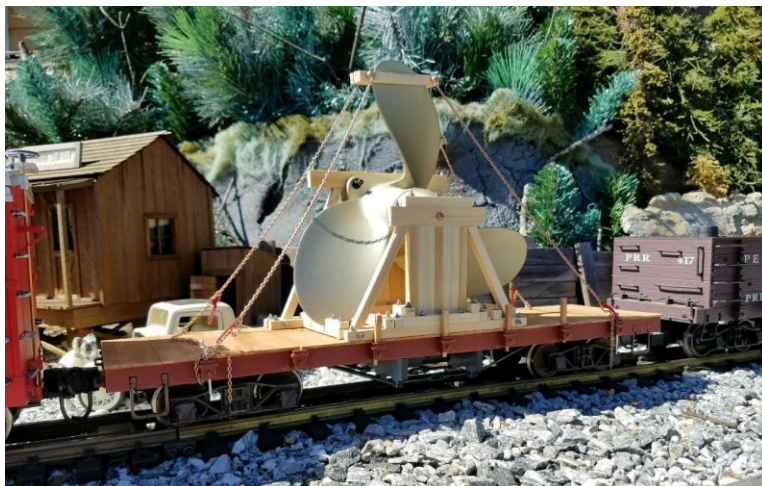
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Pete and Fran also maintain the Reuter's Children's Hospital trains and decorated it for Halloween!!





Sky Mayo sends this photo of the new car at the Apple Valley RR. Ship's propeller load.



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Trivia Question: Steam vs. Diesel. Are diesel locomotives a more efficient way to pull trains than steam locomotives?

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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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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

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Trivia Answer:

Click this link for an explanation about the physics and real world economics of Steam versus Diesel locomotives;

<http://www.railway-technical.com/trains/steam-vs-diesel.html>

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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 11:30. **Meeting at the A&P Restaurant on Rte 14 in Greer.** 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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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
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