

PGRS TRACKIN'



Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society.

July 2018

Editor: Scott Williams

Happy Birthday USA!

July is the summer month when, amongst other fun summer events, we like to celebrate our country's birthday on July 4th. This year America will be 242 years old. Wow! This bold and reckless experiment of our Founding Fathers just keeps rolling along and I kind of like to think [warts and all] that it's still one of the best forms of government on the planet today.

So...fire up the grill, ice down the beer, fly the flag, and light the fireworks on the 4th and celebrate all that is good about our nation and let's do our best to keep it rolling for generations to come. Happy Fourth of July friends!

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The first railroad charter was granted to John Stevens in North America in 1815, 203 years ago and just 39 years after this country claimed its independence. The railroads grew like a wildfire and helped bring all the bounty of this nation to the world and connected the cities of this country to each other. The first transcontinental railroad was a 1,912 mile contiguous railroad line. It was constructed between 1863 and 1869 in spite of difficulties during the American Civil War and finally connected the east coast to the west coast on May 10th at Promotory Point when they nailed down the last spike.



Hooray!!!

As this photo shows, 'You bring the Champagne, we've got the glasses.'

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Apple Valley Model Railroad Club Open House for the Piedmont Garden Railway Society

Sunday, July 29th, 2018

Please RSVP to ldweng@att.net by Wednesday, July 25th for a lunch count!!

The Apple Valley Model Railroad Club is housed in the former Southern Railway Hendersonville, NC Depot. In addition to a large indoor HO layout, that has been featured in Model Railroader Magazine, we have a Large Scale Layout on the former passenger train Arrival – Departure platform. The Depot was built in 1902 and has a long history of welcoming summer tourists to and from the area.

Hendersonville, NC is a great place for a Sunday drive. The downtown is walker friendly and has a great variety of restaurants and shops. October is a nice time to stop by. There will still be apples available and maybe a little color. You may want to bring a jacket.

Layout:

The layout is called the Pisgah Valley Central; the PVC Railway (you'll see why). Despite being at least 2.5 feet above ground we have a variety of garden plants and buildings.

It is a basic 75' by 10' loop. There are three yards: One 3 track hidden yard for storage; One 3 track yard front and center; and a new 4 track operating yard with carbarn and turntable. There is also an upper section, with multiple switchbacks, connecting our log loadout with the Carr Lumber Company Sawmill and our Rock Quarry with the transfer yard. This is our geared loco territory.

We have track power in three blocks; the upper switching section; the main loop; and the yard.

Bring your track power, battery power or live steam equipment on over. We run Kadee couplers, but we have converter cars for USA and Bachmann for your convenience.

There are multiple staging areas for display, if you have a model to show off. Our minimum curve diameter is 10 feet, so you might want to leave your 85 foot heavyweights at home. Otherwise we routinely run mainline diesels and K-27's.

Facility:

We are on Maple Street and 7th Avenue in Hendersonville. We have plenty of parking, handicap parking, and a level easy access for bringing in Large Scale equipment. We have a wagon and hand truck for your use. We will have tables for Bring and Brag, and Sell or Swap.

We have a large 30' wide motorized awning that covers the middle portion of the railroad and protects the operators and visitors from the sun.

Inside we have a heated / air conditioned meeting room with restrooms. We will be playing videos – Train Videos of course.

Hours:

We will be open for you from 10 am to 3 pm. [We plan to do a barbecue lunch at 12 noon.](#) Drinks and snacks will be there too.

Directions:

We are in Hendersonville, NC, off I-26 exits 49A and 49B. Drive west on 4 Seasons Boulevard. Bear right at Binion's steakhouse onto 7th avenue. Continue on 7th until you cross the tracks and turn left onto Maple. Parking is on the street and past the depot on the left at the caboose. You'll see us in the back.

Anyway, we just want to welcome you to our layout. The PGRS has been a great help to us and we want to return the favor. Plus, we want to show off a little.

If you can't make the open house, please remember we are open to the public every Wednesday from 1pm until 3pm and Saturday from 10am until 2pm. PGRS members are always welcome to bring their own equipment to run on the 4th Saturday of the month.

Les Knoll's open house:

Les wanted me to give everyone plenty of time to ink the date in to their calendars so...

Date: **Saturday September 15.**

Place: [7656 Cottonwood Drive, Denver, NC 28037](#) land (704) 966-0349 cell (704) 682-5473

Time: 11:00-6:00 or so. (Layout looks good in the dark-everything's lighted)

Food and drink served

104' mainline, additional 100' + of sidings, yards, etc. 5' min radius, 14 turnouts, 2 turntables

Yard with 4 stall roundhouse

All motive power is live steam. 2-8-0, 2-4-4-2, Shay, Climax.

Newly constructed (2018) sawmill with full interior

Many scratchbuilt and commercial structures-all lighted

Water features: falls 2 ponds, 15' trestle bridge

No track power but all visiting motive power welcome. Battery, live steam, solar, nuclear, windup, hamster, etc.

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Photos for our website:

We need more photos for our website. It looks like there are only 2 members in the PGRS if you go to our webpage gallery. Let's **strut our stuff** and put up some more interesting photos on our website gallery.

Also, **WHERE'S WALDO? As they say. **Who has the PGRS Reefer?** It's MIA and needs to be sent on to other club members to be signed and have its photo taken at YOUR house. Keep the chain going please.

Let's all endeavor to keep our shiny new website interesting for our family and friends and strangers to enjoy perusing on the Internet. **It's a fabulous website** and we can all be proud of it but we **need** to post interesting photos in the Gallery section. Send us any photos you're proud of to share.

Send photos to Larry Williams for the website:

ldweng@att.net

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Last month's 2 week period of rain dealt the local Norfolk Southern lines a blow:

Jun 01, 2018

- **Mainline Washout East of Asheville, NC**

Norfolk Southern is experiencing service interruptions due to a mainline washout approximately 20 miles east of Asheville, NC. NS is working to restore the line for service as quickly as possible. Repairs are currently projected to be complete within two weeks. Shipments that typically travel between Asheville,

NC and Linwood, NC are being re-routed and customers should expect delays up to 72 hours.



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Member Photos:



Sky Mayo built a chain fence along the mainline of the PVC railroad in Hendersonville and then installed a fishing pier next to it. Looks like a nice spot to throw a line in the water and watch the trains go by.

The Blue Ghost Brewing Reefer project:

I live in Fletcher NC, just south of Asheville and right up the street from my house is a micro-brewery called Blue Ghost Brewing Co. Their name references the unique type of firefly found only in the moist hollows of this part of the country. [Very interesting if you like bugs, so you may want to Google; "Blue Ghost Fireflies" to learn more about them.]



Blue Ghost Fireflies

Their beer is quite good, and they're great guys, so...I built them a beer reefer.

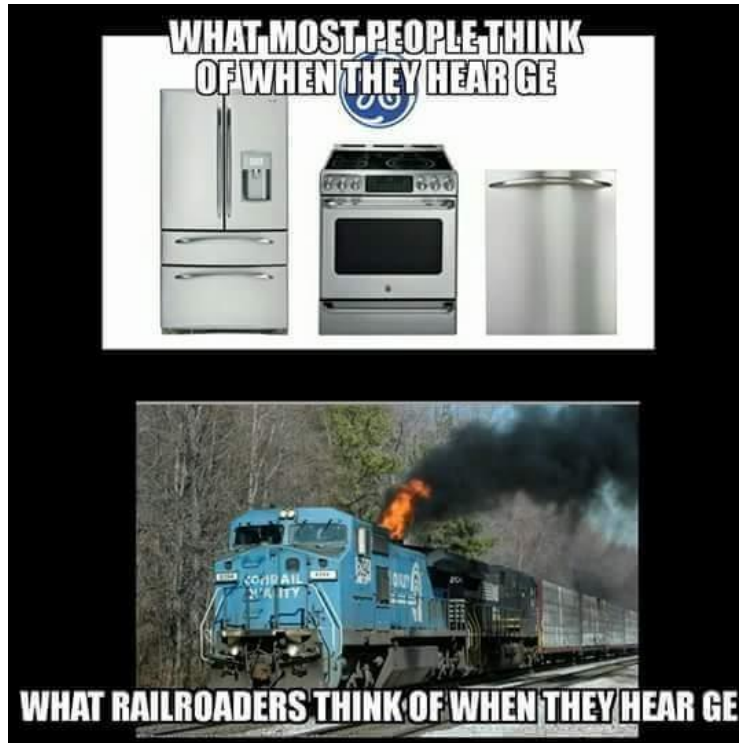


I copied a JPEG logo from their website and printed it out on my inkjet printer on decal paper. This type of decal paper allows you to print images on an inkjet printer and make your own water transfer decals. You print them out and spray them with several coats of Acrylic Clear spray paint [I used Krylon as directed] I made the 'slogan' by stealing/modifying the Schlitz slogan in a WORD document and printing it out on 'clear' decal paper. Decal paper comes in white background and clear background.

You need a whole train to make a proper display of it I think so I also gave them an ET&WNC loco I don't use that I made from a B&O Royal Blue Big Hauler that my Uncle gave me years ago and a display track I made a while back which I think gives it all a WNC theme.



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Clearly made by an EMD fan.

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Video of interest.

2018 NGRC Northwest Metro Tour Wednesday

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TeA-2djOFg8>

2018 ECLSTS show York

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6Cd-cmBJTY>

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Trivia Question: Steam. It's liquid water that gets too hot right? And this expanding steam goes through tubes from the boiler which push the cylinders, which move the rods, which drive the wheels in a locomotive and if you want more power you just need more steam which means a bigger boiler and bigger firebox and more coal stoked to the boiler right? Simple. But is it?

Early locomotives were powered by what's called Saturated Steam which we all know from our tea kettle and is where the steam produced is the same temperature as the boiling water inside the kettle. And it works fine, to a certain point. But bigger is better right? All we need is a bigger

tea kettle. Well, to a point. Boilers can only get so big and still run in a locomotive down a railline through tunnels and bridges and so on and then...there you are. But what else could there be?

Superheated Steam. And what the Heck is that?

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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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Trivia Answer: **Superheated Steam**. In simplified terms this is where the saturated steam is taken from the boiler through a pipe and then heated further turning the remaining water droplets in that steam to a hotter/dryer steam than the boiling water that was in the boiler. 'Steam' has expansive power and water does not so hotter/dryer steam has more expansive power than saturated steam alone. Or in other words, steam can be compressed and that is the power that drives the cylinders but liquid water cannot so any water left in the steam reduces the expansive power of that steam to drive the cylinders.

That's about as well as I can explain it but if you want to really fill your brain up about superheated steam click this wiki link:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:Steam_locomotive/Superheating

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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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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.

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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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. 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.



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
Phone: (828) 891-7570
Fax: (828) 890-3346



Peggy Keyes
Owner / Chief Conductor
RightTrackTrainMuseum@gmail.com
828/625-5551

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