

# PGRS TRACKIN'



## Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society

**August 2018**

**Editor: Scott Williams**

### **PGRS Open House at Apple Valley Model Railroad Club**

Hendersonville, NC

July 29, 2018 10am to 3pm

The forecast improved during the week and we ended up with beautiful 80 degree sunny weather. About 40 people attended throughout the day. There was a barbeque lunch with a selection of Wendy Mayo's cookies and cakes.

Plenty of folks brought their own to run. Larry Williams had an all Western Maryland train led by a circus scheme GP40, newly converted to battery and sound. Burt Emmett had his Tweetsie passenger train powered by a passenger green Bachmann Annie, converted to battery and sound by Doc Watson. Bill Larson and Les Knoll had a large collection of live steamers running. Sky Mayo and Doc Watson pooled their billboard reefers to make a long string, with Ken Majchrzak's Pacific leading and Sky Mayo's Forney pushing. Jon Bole ran his 2 truck Shay pulling log cars with homemade real log loads and his new bobber caboose. JR Snider brought a bumble bee yellow D&RGW railcar and trailer. Terry Ketcham had his German Meyer articulated switching on the upper level.

The Apple Valley club was showing off their new retractable awning, a new waterwheel, 3D printed by Doug Miller and a new logging camp car scene scratch-built by Terry Ketcham. Doug Miller, Dan Lang, and Jack Robertson from the AVMRC came in to keep the big HO layout running for the visitors. It was an enjoyable day and we had a pretty major downpour promptly at 3:15pm.













Sky Mayo says "...here is Casey (on the left) and Boomer. These are handmade bears by our PGRS pastry chef Wendy. They are 15 inches tall with movable heads, arms and legs. She is taking orders for Christmas. \$60.00 for either one."

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Bill Cumming and his wife visit club member Peggy Keyes in Lake Lure at The Right Track Toy Train museum:



77F and sunny and best day ever for a ride to Lake Lure! So many convertibles and motorcycles out today. If you have not been lately, the Flower Bridge is in full bloom, the elevator is now working again at Chimney Rock and the beach was packed at the lake. Stopped by to see Peggy Keyes, the lady who owns the Right Track Toy Train Museum at Lake Lure. We had volunteered to run her store for a day back in May while she was visiting family in NY and had not met her in person. She opened this shop with the model trains her late husband collected. Volunteers from the Piedmont Garden Railway Society built a fabulous model railroad layout using his trains and she sells the trains and memorabilia that her husband collected over his lifetime. She has a playroom for kids and they can also operate the movable parts on the track layout. The admission and all proceeds from her shop are donated to Pancreatic cancer research, in memory of her husband. She is one of the largest donors to Pancreatic cancer research in the nation from this small, but interesting train museum and shop. It is a great place to take kids and continue on to a boat tour of Lake Lure, a trip to the top of Chimney Rock, a walk through the Flower Bridge and pizza on the deck at LaStrada overlooking the lake.

Take a look at Peggy's Facebook photos and stop and see her when you are in Lake Lure.

<https://www.facebook.com/141291999274246/photos/a.704825306254243.1073741825.141291999274246/2050524971684263/?type=3&theater>

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We're gonna' try and get the club reefer project rolling again after a brief hiatus. Sign the car and pass it along to another PGRS member. Don't forget to take a photo of it at your home or on your layout and send it to me for the newsletter. [srwavl@outlook.com](mailto:srwavl@outlook.com)



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Member Photos:

Fran's been busy again....





It's a bridge running through his deck or actually he ran another deck further out around his bridge...or something like that. Whatever, either way he's been quite busy.



Bob Thompson is hard at work at his place adding more benchwork for his garden layout:



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Trivia Question:

“Pardon me Roy, is that the cat that chewed your new shoes?” [okay, not quite the right lyrics]

Chattanooga Choo Choo. Who wrote that classic, who made it famous, and when?

Videos of Interest:

Pacing video of Union Pacific 844 at 70 to 80 mph. Amazing watching those massive drive rods push that Loco down the line:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjWBw4tZUO4>

Steam Trains 2. An awesome video. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBf-d6JjASk>

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Trivia Answer:



"**Chattanooga Choo Choo**" is a 1941 song written by Mack Gordon and composed by Harry Warren. It was originally recorded as a big-band/swing tune by Glenn Miller and His Orchestra and featured in the 1941 movie *Sun Valley Serenade*.

**It is the first ever song to receive a GOLD RECORD**, presented by RCA Victor in 1942 for sales of 1.2 million copies.

The singer describes the train's route, originating from Pennsylvania Station in New York and running through Baltimore to North Carolina and South Carolina before reaching Chattanooga. He mentions a woman he knew from an earlier time in his life, who will be waiting for him at the station and with whom he plans to settle down for good. After the entire song is sung, the band plays two parts of the main melody as an instrumental, with the instruments imitating the "WHOO WHOO" of the train as the song ends.

The 78-rpm was recorded on May 7, 1941, for RCA Victor's Bluebird label and became the first to be certified a **gold disc** on February 10, 1942, for 1,200,000 sales. The inspiration for the song, however, was a small, wood-burning steam locomotive of the 2-6-0 type which belonged to the Cincinnati Southern Railway, which is now part of the Norfolk Southern Railway system. That train is now a museum artifact. From 1880, most trains bound for America's South passed through the southeastern Tennessee city of Chattanooga, often on to the super-hub of Atlanta.

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