

PGRS TRACKIN'



Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society

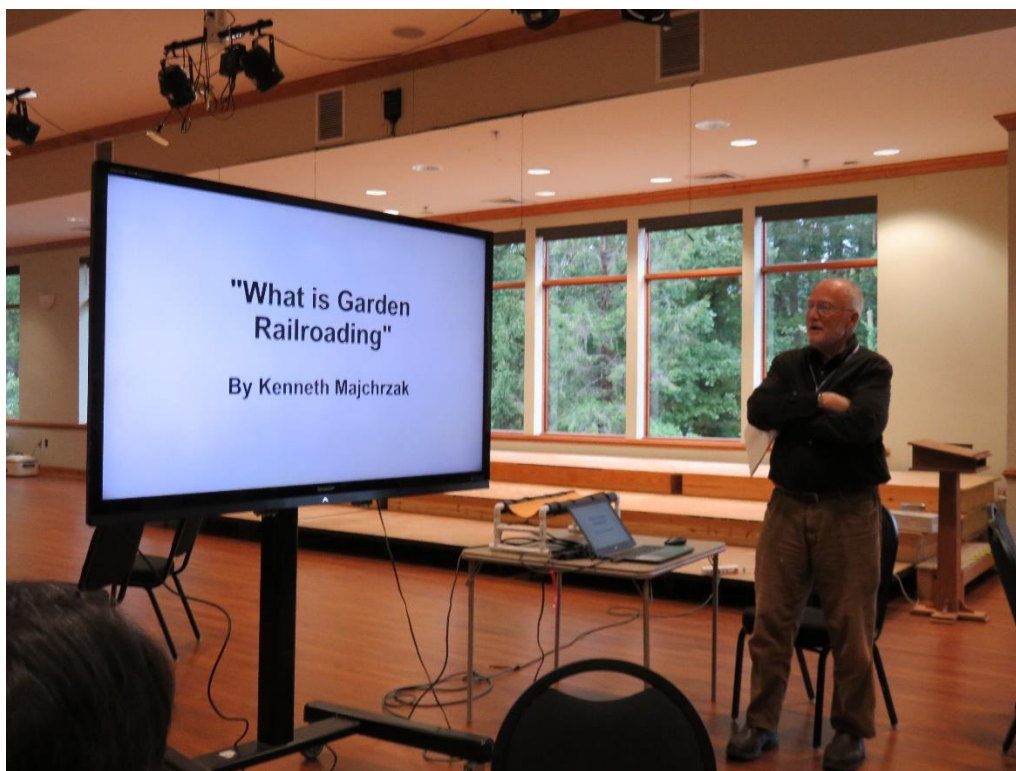
November 2018

Editor: Scott Williams

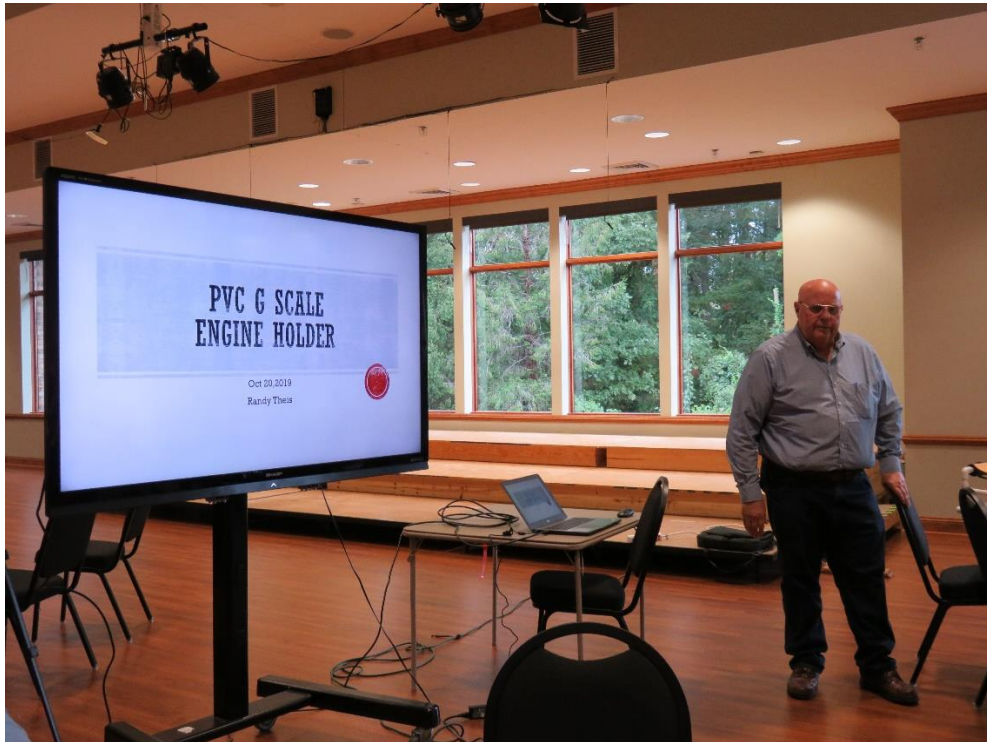
TRAINFEST!!

October 20th, Grace Lutheran Church, Hendersonville NC. Another wonderful **Trainfest** of useful workshop/seminars, swap meet, show and tell, and an awesome hot lunch this time, [thanks again to Randy Theis for smoking pork and getting yummy sides to go with it.] great door prizes and as always, everyone walked away with a useful gift just for attending. This year it was really handy X-acto style knife set which are always useful to have around.

Seminars included Garden Railroad History by Ken Majchrzak, kemajchrzak@gmail.com



How to build a versatile holding rack for maintenance on locos and rolling stock by Randy Theis, RandyTheis@aol.com [Plans are on the PGRS website. Check it out]



After the Pulled Pork Luncheon and break Larry Williams ldweng@att.net did a thorough seminar taking the mystery out of how and why to lubricate all of our locomotive models.



and then Scott Williams srwavl@outlook.com lead a group discussion on how to clean our tracks with all members adding their personal experience on how to keep our tracks clean.



Highlighting abrasive cleaning with Scotch Brite and sanding blocks, chemical cleaning with Naptha and 90% isopropyl alcohol, and track cleaning cars and the LGB track cleaning loco and Reindeer Pass cleaning machine. Scott shared this link to a page on the Family Garden Trains website on track cleaning tips:

https://familygardentrains.com/primer/maintenance/track_cleaning/track_cleaning.htm

The Trainfest again illustrates one of the greatest benefits of belonging to a model train club. It puts you in contact with fellow modelers and allows you to tap in to years and years of experience that help you learn how to model trains and avoid pitfalls that you might inadvertently fall in to and find friends who can help you solve those puzzles that you just can't quite figure out. Attendance this time was 32

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Model Railroad Lubricating Oil and Grease from Larry Williams:

Below is where you can find some general information on plastic compatible lubes for Model Railroad Use. I was in Hobbytown yesterday and they have a selection of Labelle and Hob-E-Lube in their model railroad section. They may have others in the RC car section. All brands are available from multiple vendors through Amazon and Ebay. A medium gear oil and a teflon grease should meet your needs.

Labelle: <https://labelle-lubricants.com>

Hob-E-Lube: <https://woodlandscenics.woodlandscenics.com/show/category/StandardHob-E-Lube>

Excelle: <http://www.bottlesbyphoenix.com/excelle-lubricants.html>

LDW 10/29/18

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Local Passenger Excursion Now Unlikely

For about a year now, Larry Morton, president of the Apple Valley Model Railroad Club, and a small group have been working to develop a rail excursion service from Hendersonville to Biltmore. They have gotten a great reception from area tourist groups and government representatives. Blue Ridge Southern RR has been open to work with them, but does not have any interest in running a tourist railway operation. Norfolk Southern was assumed to have little or no interest in the operation, and it has been difficult to even find the proper person to speak with.

The group knew there would be many hurdles to cross to make this a reality, but recent feedback from a North Carolina DOT rep and the general manager of Blue Ridge Southern indicates some of these may be insurmountable. First, Norfolk Southern still owns and controls the line from the bridge over I-40 into Biltmore. On that section there is a wye that the group hoped to use to turn their equipment. They were told that Norfolk Southern had no interest in tourist operation and would not consider anything to do with their right of way that would interfere with their operation in any way. It is unlikely that NS would even talk to them. Second, under Federal Railway Administration Safety Rules, the line to Hendersonville is "dark territory", meaning no signals or traffic control. These rules require that only one train can be operated on the road at a time. This could turn into a restriction that could hamper both BRS and the tourist operation. Imagine BRS not making a delivery to a customer or the tourist railway having to cancel a run with little notice. The NCDOT rep said that he would confirm that, but he was quite sure that was the rule.

These problems are added to all the usual uncertainties of how many people could be expected to ride, facilities at each end, and the level of general expenses, including insurance. The GM of BRS mentioned that there is about a 3 mile 1.7% northbound grade into Fletcher that would require a minimum of two engines. There are probably plenty more surprises like that out there, so the group has decided stop their effort on this project at present.

LDW 10/29/18

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Dick Nealon's Garden Layout.

The Columbus Train Lover's Luncheon group met in Lake Lure two weeks back to view the progress of Dick Nealon's garden layout and Pete Gendron sent along some photos for the newsletter.





It's looking good Dick. Send us some more photos and a little background of the layout for a future newsletter please.

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Member Photos:

Guys

Drove along the RGS route from Dolores to Ridgeway. Stopped in Telluride, what a zoo. Too commercialized. In Ouray now and will then drive over to Silverton then on to Durango. Hopefully head home after that which will take another 4 days. Stopping at Albuquerque, Tucumcari, NM Shawnee OK, Memphis then home.

Terry Ketcham





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Trivia Question: Ever ponder how much freight can fit in a single railcar?

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"My father swore to us kids that his mysterious weekend trips were part of a sordid affair with his secretary. Later we found out he was actually going to model train conventions. The breach of trust still hurts me to this day."

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Trivia Answer: This was on the Association of American Railroads site. [I'm a little puzzled about the graphics on the illustration depicting railcars with a truck in the middle. If anyone has seen a real life 1:1 car with a truck in the middle please send the photo to me.]

EVER WONDER WHAT FITS IN JUST ONE FREIGHT RAIL CAR?



ENOUGH COAL TO POWER **21 HOMES** FOR A YEAR



ENOUGH AMMONIA TO FERTILIZE **770 ACRES OF CORN**



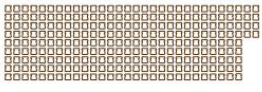
ENOUGH FRAMING LUMBER FOR **5 AND A HALF HOMES**



ENOUGH CORN TO FEED **37,000 CHICKENS FOR LIFE**



ENOUGH GRAIN TO MAKE **258,000 LOAVES OF BREAD**



ENOUGH CRUDE OIL TO MAKE **13,500 GALLONS OF GASOLINE**



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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

The Right Track Toy Train Museum

A non-profit museum to benefit Pancreatic Cancer
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2414 Memorial Hwy (Rte 64/74)

Lake Lure, NC 28746

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