

# **Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society**

**July 2019** Editor: Scott Williams



# Happy July PGRS Members

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# Laser Level APK

Here's a link to a really useful phone app I recently downloaded for my Android phone. You may want to give it a try, it's free. If you're an Apple phone user you may find a similar App for your phone. It's so handy to carry a level tool with you right on your phone and it works with the sophisticated software inside your phone. For instance, I lay my phone flat on my track and it uses bubble level graphics with percentage units and instantly displays and tells me e.g. that my track is a 5% grade and leans 3% to the inside.

"Laser level (leveling instrument) is an excellent measurement app equipped with: laser pointer, regular 3-mode spirit level / bubble level (libella) and clinometer (inclinometer) for measuring vertical angles and determining the exact horizontal plane. It's perfect, handy and precise bubble level tool for every handyman."

https://www.appsapk.com/laser-level/



**Biltmore Wine Co.** released a red blend for the summer with a nod to the Vanderbilt's railroad heritage. It's called <u>The Railcar</u>. It's available at the Gate House gift shop at the entrance to the grounds and of course at the Winery if you're interested. Bryan Koontz did the very nice painting on the label.



# Randy Theis forwarded this article to me:

German troops in Soviet Union destroying the railroad during an organized retreat. The **Schienenwolf** (Rail Wolf), sometimes also referred to as a **Schwellenpflug** (Sleeper Plough) was a German rail vehicle built to destroy rail lines through the use of an immensely strong, hook-shaped armored plough.

The German railroad ploughs were produced by Krupp factory in 1942. The platform on which was mounted a giant hook that spearheaded under the sleepers, hauled by two locomotives at the speed of 7-10 km/h. The hook was lowered into the middle of the track resulting in pulling the rails out of alignment, tearing up the middle of the track, and breaking the sleepers. This destroyer required only 6-8 minutes to bring into position, served by a team of 10 people. Railway tracks were completely destroyed, sleepers by 100%, the rails at 70-93% and bonding of up to 30%.









# A word about Open House RSVPs.

Whenever your newsletter editor [Me] lets you know about an upcoming open house, I always include the email address of the person <u>who is hosting the open house</u>. It's usually a link that most people could simply click on and reply to or at least you could highlight and copy it and paste it in to your email composer or worse-case scenario, manually type it in the address line of your email composer.

\*\* Responding to me [your newsletter editor] does not tell the host who is giving the open house if you are planning to attend which is why I give everyone the Host's email address and phone number. I have tried in the past to forward the ones I receive in error when I receive them but sometimes I don't even get them as I recently found one in my "junk mail" folder after the last open house had already been held.

Please, in the future, I hope everyone will strive to use the email address I provide to let the **host**, <u>not me</u>, know if you are going to attend their open house and how many will possibly be coming with you. This is useful information to the person planning the open house and lets them know, among other things, if they need to buy food and beverages for 15 or 50 which can be quite wasteful otherwise.

Thanks for your assistance!

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# MEMBER PHOTOS

Jim Redmond on duty at Biltmore's Antler Hill model railway.



New and improved operating closet at Antler Hill.



A locomotive engine being swung across a canyon with the Rio Grande River below. New Mexico. c.1915.



Randy Theis has added some vegetation to his layout this year.

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: <u>srwavl@outlook.com</u>

## Trivia Question: Who was Anatole Mallet?

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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

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Train Lovers Luncheons:

The current luncheons are:

Columbus Area: Meets every Third Thursday of every month at Rural Seed Restaurant, 322 E Mills St. In Columbus,NC @ 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: is meeting the 4th Thursday each month at 11:30 AM but the Gondolier Restaurant in east Asheville <u>has closed permanently</u>. We will meet this coming month at <u>POST</u> <u>25 restaurant</u> on Rte. 25 in Skyland, south of Asheville along the Hendersonville Highway. There is a separate room in the rear of the dining area. Contact Tim Wagner at: 828-712-9671 for more info.

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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\*\* A reminder from Terry Ketcham that PGRS club members are invited to come by the Apple Valley Model Railroad Club in Hendersonville <u>the last Saturday of each month</u> to run their large scale trains on the club layout from 10 - 2 pm.

**Trivia Answer**: **Jules T. Anatole Mallet** 1837 – 1919 was a Swiss mechanical engineer, who was the inventor of the first successful compound system for a railway steam locomotive, patented in 1874. He was Swiss but his name was French and pronounced Mal-Lay, the T on the end is dropped, as in Chevrolet and not to be confused with a mallet. Examples of a malle<u>t</u> would be:

- [Productive]: a hammer-like tool with a head commonly of wood, rawhide, plastic, etc., used for driving any tool with a wooden handle, such as a chisel, or the wooden implement used to strike the balls in croquet or in Polo.
- [Therapeutic]: the tool one uses for bashing a train model to flinders and smithereens on your workbench that has gone completely, irrevocably, haywire after spending days or months working on it.

"<u>The essence of his idea combines articulation of the locomotive and compound steam use.</u> The **articulation** was achieved by supporting the front of the locomotive on a <u>bogie</u> frame (called a Bissell truck);

the **compound** steam system fed steam at boiler pressure to high-pressure cylinders for the main driving wheels. As the steam was exhausted from those cylinders, it was passed into a low-pressure receiver and was then sent to low-pressure cylinders to power the driving wheels on the Bissell truck. " [Wikipedia]



Mallet asserted that the advantages of his concept were:

- all the locomotive weight would be **adhesive**, yet there would be great flexibility of the locomotive as a vehicle;
- the difficulties with Meyer, Fairlie and other then-existing articulated systems would be eliminated as the <u>moving pipes</u> would be carrying steam at only 40 to 55 psi (280 to 380 kPa) pressure, and would be easier to keep steam-tight; and the large-diameter pipe conveying the low-pressure steam from the high-pressure to the low-pressure cylinders acted also as a receiver, forming a buffer for the gas flow.











Below is a huge 2-10-10-2 ATSF Mallet Locomotive example:



#### Businesses associated with our club:



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!



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

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