

PGRS TRACKIN'

Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society

June 2019

Editor: Scott Williams

AVMRR OPEN HOUSE on May 26th

The Apple Valley Model Railroad club invited the PGRS to come to the Hendersonville Station for an Open House on Sunday the 26th. Club members were encouraged to bring trains and the club had their own rolling stock you could pull with your locomotives and they had coupler adapter cars to connect all model brands to their rolling stock with Kadee couplers.



About 15 club members attended so there was more than enough food, snacks and beverages to go around. There were lots of trains running the entire time, often two trains on the lower Mainline and one of several logging engines bringing logs to the mill from the woods from the upper level. It was warm and sunny but the awesome awning the club installed and large drum fans kept us all cool.









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Biltmore Garden Railways



Applied Imagination Ltd. Has again returned to Biltmore for the summer months. This time in a much bigger way! In addition to the return of the layout in the Antler Hill Village area of Biltmore they have invaded and converted the garden Conservatory building with 6 loops both low and elevated, over 800 feet of track, and lots of well-known buildings built by George Vanderbilt on the estate and in Biltmore Village. All of the trestles and structures are built from natural organic materials such as tree bark, acorns, tree fungus, twigs, etc. and this year the majority of the materials were actually collected on the grounds of the estate as an added touch. The exhibit runs until October of this year.

Applied Imagination's website: <http://appliedimagination.co/#welcome>

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The Right Track Toy Train Museum

For the summer months: June, July and Aug. Wed - Sat 1-5 and Sun 2-5

Thanks,
Peggy

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Sir Rod Stewart donates to Market Deeping Model Railway Club



Sir Rod Stewart says he is donating £10,000 to a model railway club whose exhibition was destroyed by vandals.

Market Deeping Model Railway Club lost years of work in the raid in Stamford, Lincolnshire, on Saturday. The 74-year-old singer - and model railway enthusiast - said he was "absolutely devastated" by the attack.

A fundraising page which was originally set up to raise £500 for the club has now raised more than £70,000 in just over a day.

Four youths were arrested on suspicion of burglary and criminal damage and have been released on police bail.

Sir Rod, who had a hit with Downtown Train in 1990, said in a statement: "I was absolutely devastated to hear that vandals had destroyed what was to be a lovely show."

The singer said: "It took me 23 years to build my model railway so I feel their pain.

"The collection was priceless and I am donating £10,000 to help compensate those affected and asking fellow enthusiasts Jools Holland, Roger Daltrey and others to do the same."

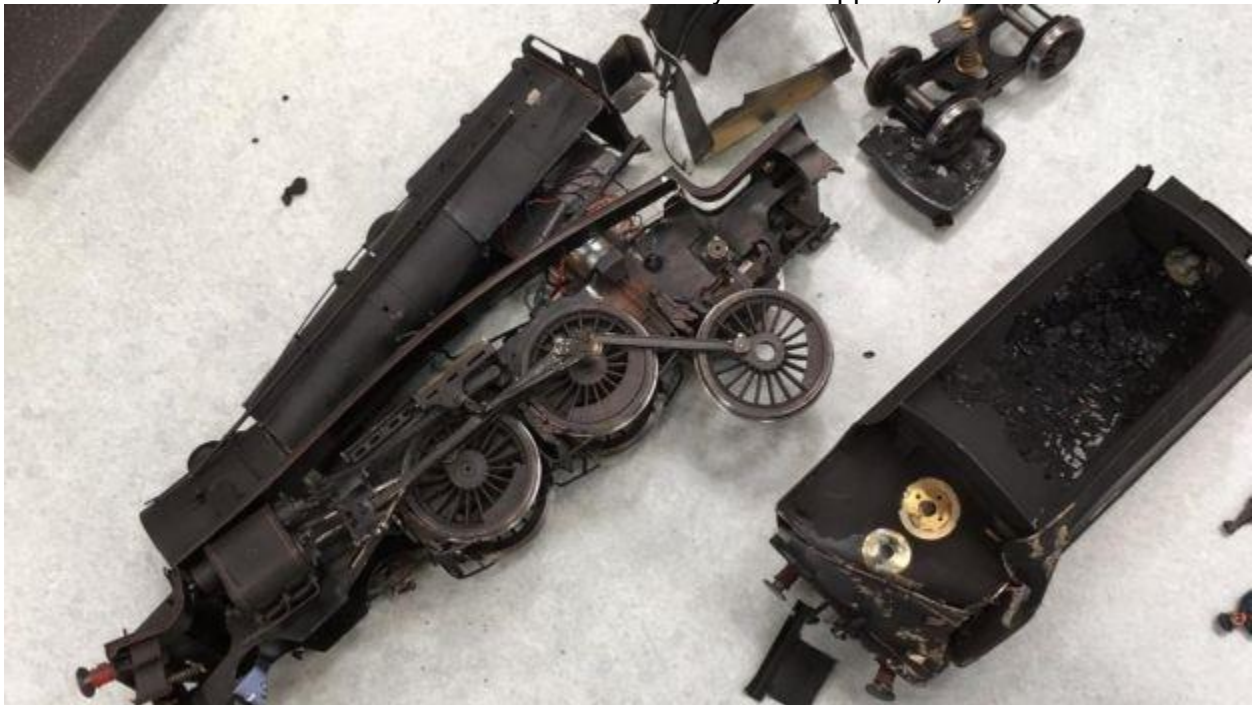
[Latest news from Lincolnshire](#)

The club had set up the exhibition at Welland Academy for viewing on Sunday when the display was ransacked.

Peter Davies, 70, the club's chairman, said: "We are just bowled over by people's generosity, we are yet to come to terms with what it all means.

"We have no idea what we are going to do, we've had offers of layouts, stock, it's just been unbelievable, it's totally overwhelming."

Grown men and women had been "reduced to tears" by what happened, he said.



A meeting of the club, that has 43 members, is to be held on Monday evening.

"Until then we have no idea what we are going to do," Mr Davies said, adding the club had also received about 600 emails from people around the world offering help.

"Those involved know how long it takes to build, there's a lot of love out there for the skill and dedication," he said.

"I'm sure things will be possible that have not been. Thanks to everybody, nothing will be wasted," he added.



Michael H, from America, who left a £95 donation, said: "As a fellow model railroader here in Washington State, I can only express my horror and sympathies for your losses.

"But do not let this deter you. Your passion for the hobby must prevail. Good luck."

Amy, from New Zealand, said: "Just so incredibly sorry you've had to endure this. Please know that your dedication and talent and painstaking efforts are enormously admired."

A layout by St Neots Model Railway Club was also destroyed in the attack and some of the donated money will also go to that club.

The arrested youths were released on Saturday evening on conditional bail pending further inquiries, Lincolnshire Police said.



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MEMBER PHOTOS

Randy Theis gets his buildings out and dusts them off for the season.





Yikes! Don't feed the bears please.



I have connected my inner loop of track and starting to lay down the road bed under that section. Hope to be putting power to the rails soon and start tuning things.

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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Trivia Question: What 19th century railroad magnate was know as "The Empire Builder"?

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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:

****CHANGE OF VENUE 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: Still meeting the 4th Thursday each month at 11:30 AM but are now meeting at **POST 25 Restaurant** 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.

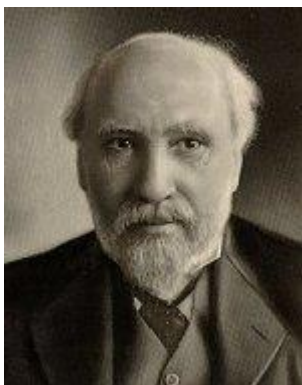
Charlotte luncheons are meeting at [Bubba's BBQ](#) 4400 Sunset Rd. (exit 16, rte. I-77). at 11:30am on the third Tuesday of each month.

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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 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:



James J. Hill, CEO of a family of lines headed up by the Great Northern railroad. The railroads in question served a vast area of the Upper Midwest, Great Plains and the Pacific Northwest.

When there was not enough industry in the areas Hill was building, Hill brought the industry in, often by buying out a company and placing plants along his railroad lines. By 1889, Hill decided that his future lay in expanding into a transcontinental railroad.

"What we want," Hill is quoted as saying, "is the best possible line, shortest distance, lowest grades, and least curvature we can build. We do not care enough for Rocky Mountains scenery to spend a large sum of money developing it." Hill got what he wanted, and in January 1893 his Great Northern Railway, running from St. Paul, Minnesota to Seattle, Washington — a distance of more than 1,700 miles (2,700 km) — was completed. The Great Northern was the first transcontinental built without public money and just a few land grants, and was one of the few transcontinental railroads never to go bankrupt.

Hill chose to build his railroad north of the competing Northern Pacific line, which had reached the Pacific Northwest over much more difficult terrain with more bridges, steeper grades, and tunneling. Hill did much of the route planning himself, travelling over proposed routes on horseback. The key to the Great Northern line was Hill's use of the previously unmapped Marias Pass. The pass had initially been described by Lewis and Clark in 1805, but no one since had been able to find it so Hill hired Santiago Jameson to search it out. Jameson discovered the pass 1889 and it shortened the Great Northern's route by almost one hundred miles. The pass had been discovered by John Frank Stevens, principal engineer of the Great Northern Railway, in December 1889, and offered an easier route across the Rockies than that taken by the Northern Pacific. The Great Northern reached Seattle in 1893.

In 1898 Hill purchased control of large parts of the Mesabi Range iron mining district in Minnesota, along with its rail lines. The Great Northern began large-scale shipment of ore to the steel mills of the Midwest.

Settlements:

The Great Northern energetically promoted settlement along its lines in North Dakota and Montana, especially by Germans and Scandinavians from Europe. The Great Northern bought its lands from the federal government—it received no land grants—and resold them to farmers at cheap prices. It operated agencies in Germany and Scandinavia that promoted its lands, and brought families over at low cost. Hill also invested in founding schools and churches for these communities and promoted a variety of progressive techniques to ensure they prospered. This "Dakota Boom" peaked in 1882 as 42,000 immigrants, largely from northern Europe, poured into the Red River Valley running through the region. The rapidly increasing settlement in North Dakota's Red River Valley along the Minnesota border between 1871 and 1890 was a major example of large-scale "bonanza" farming.

[Information lifted from Wikipedia.]

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Businesses associated with our club:



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RightTrackTrainMuseum@gmail.com
828.625-5551

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
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