

PGRS TRACKIN'



Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society

January 2020

Editor: Scott Williams

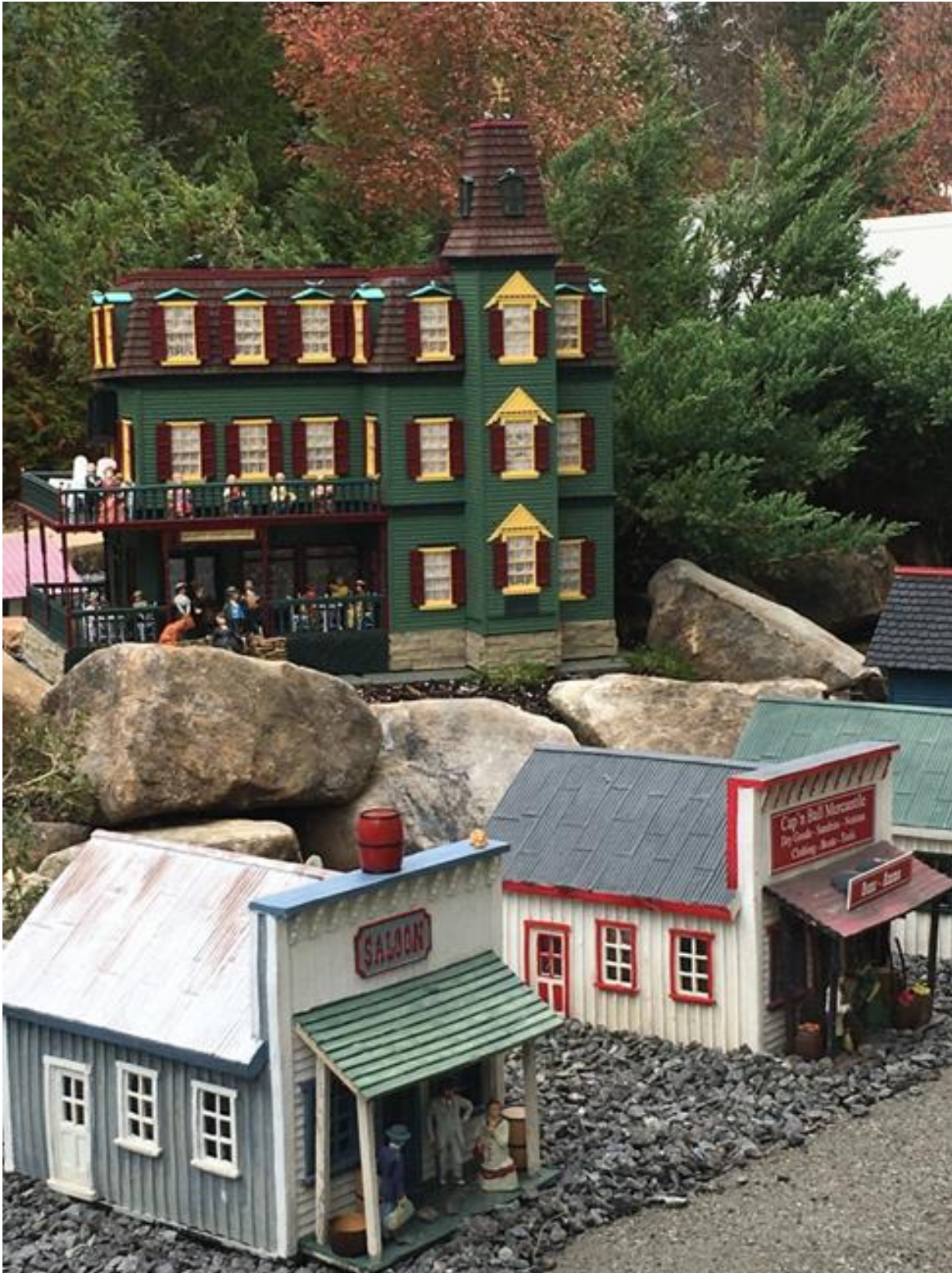


Happy New Year to 'Youns' and 'Y'all' down here in the Carolinas.

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Wowers! The first thing I have to say in this newsletter is that in the last month I have received **SO** many great photos from our club members that I don't know where to start. So.... I'll just start...with those photos.

Dave Smith sent me these photos from his layout, the **Atlantic & White Mountains RR**:

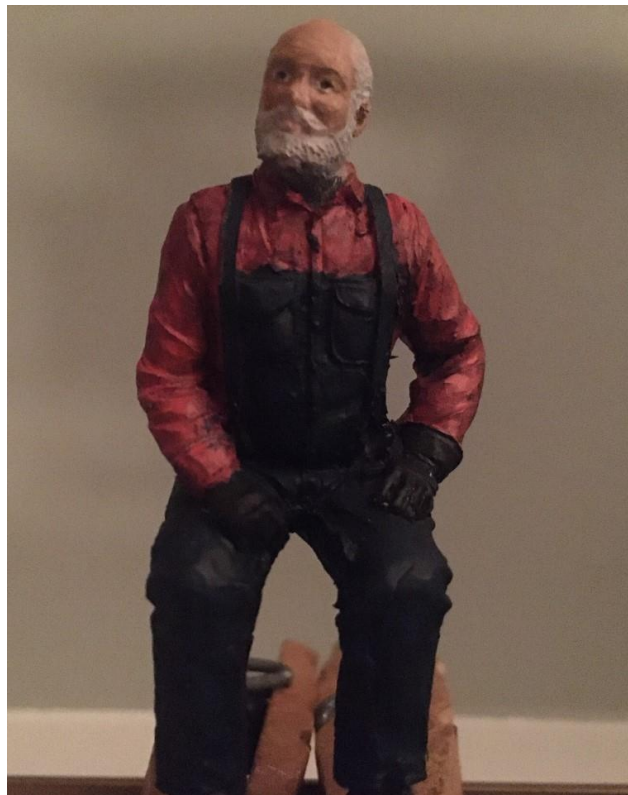




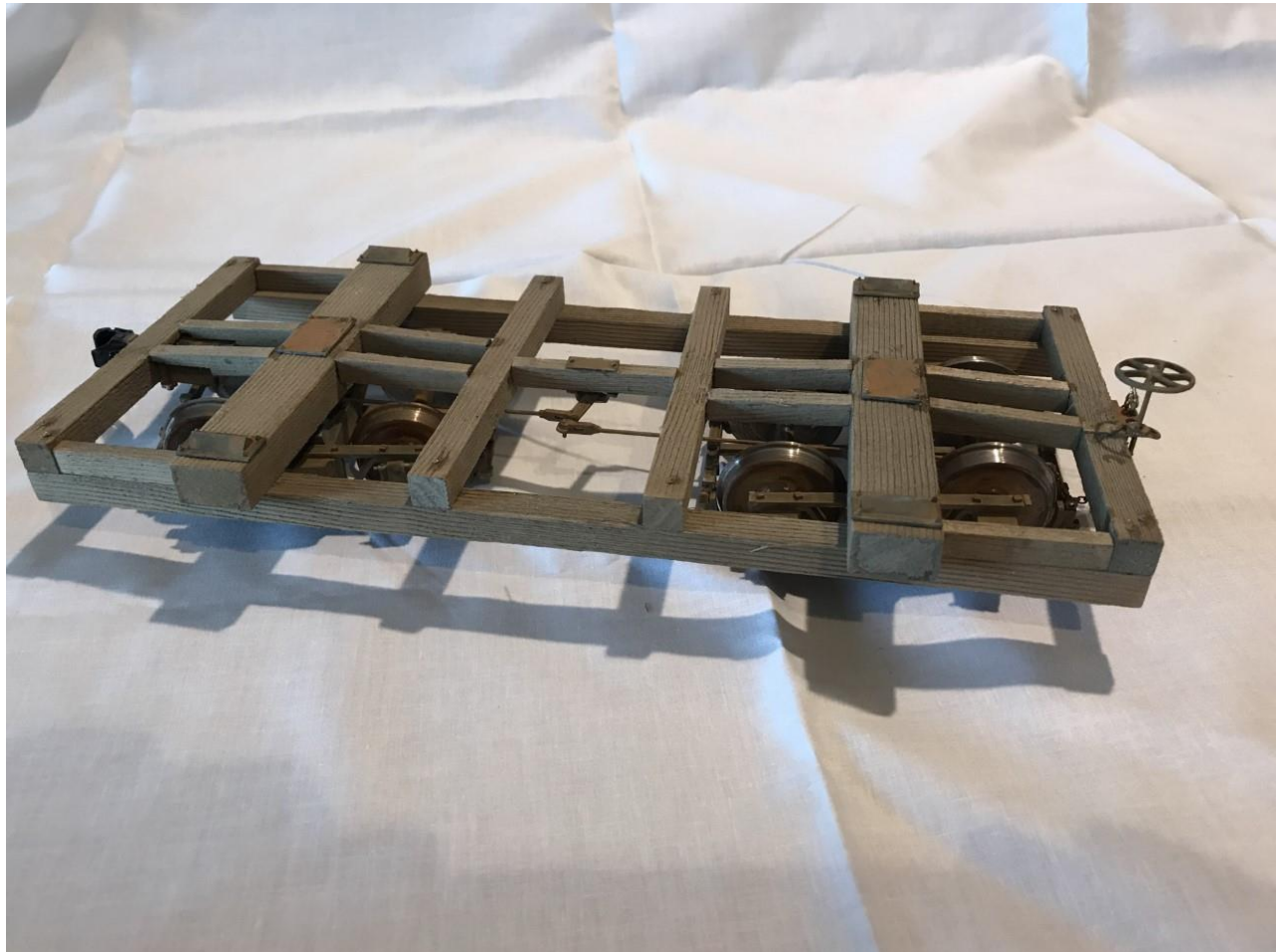




I told Dave I was amazed with his use of figures that bring his layout to life and he sent me this detailed photo of a new Engineer figure he has made to show me what he's done lately:



Bill Huntzman sends these photos along. "These are New Mexico Lumber company log cars, assembled from a Hartford kit. The New Mexico Lumber company logged the high desert and mountains of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado."





Carl Brummer 'Wowed' us with his 7/8ths models at last Fall's Trainfest and I asked if he had more photos of his work to share with us...Boy Howdy! He sure does...



7/8's Scale next to a standard G Scale Loco for comparison.















I am so tickled with all these photos. This is **exactly** what I would love to see **each** month in our newsletters. Club members sharing their modeling projects with all of the rest of us. **We want to see what you have been building at your house.**

WOW!! Thanks for the photos everyone!

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 viewing it.

Send your photos and articles to: srwavl@outlook.com

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CSX Santa Train makes its 77th journey

<http://trn.trains.com/news/news-wire/2019/11/25-csx-santa-train-makes-its-77th-journey>

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Durbin & Greenbrier Valley

Elkins, West Virginia April 24, 2005

Durbin & Greenbrier Valley's FA, lettered as Western Maryland 303, crosses Roaring Creek over a bridge that proclaims its WM heritage. — in Elkins, West Virginia.

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Ram Track Sound. Ram Models Inc. makes sounds cards for everything from cattle sounds, sawmill sounds, city sounds, dock side sounds...you name it to help add realism to your layout.

I put a RAM 75 Diesel Engine card in my GE 45 Ton diesel a few years ago. It sounds like a diesel engine running about mid rpms, that plays in a loop slowly accelerating and decelerating over about a 60 second loop and it sounds convincing enough in the diesel I installed it in so I decided to try them again. I bought another RAM 75 Diesel Sound card and his **new** RAM 180 Rail Car sound card. Each card was 39 dollars. They're very compact, they come wired with a 9v battery connector, an on/off switch, and come with a cheap, 2" pancake speaker.

Not happy at all with this new version of the RAM 75 Diesel Engine sound card so I'll throw it in my junk drawer and probably forget about it. Something's changed, and not for the better.

The RAM 180 Rail Car sound seems more promising. It's a **new** card and it is powered by a 9v battery like RAMs other cards but it also gets wired in to the motor leads. It will make a sound like an 'idle' and when the voltage increases the motor noise 'rpms' also increase. It comes with

two potentiometer adjustments for idle to your preferred 'MAX' rpm. Ralph said **"It sounds like a Mack truck"**. Well...not quite. **In fact...not at all** like a Mack Truck.

With the supplied, cheap, 2" pancake speaker it sounds like a cross between a digital Metronome and a Model T Ford with a bad valve tap. I tried all the different mini speakers in my collection that I have and with a 2" Visaton speaker available from Parts Express, installed in a speaker enclosure filled with cotton wool and then placing an old pill bottle or a cardboard tube over top of the front of the speaker, also filled with cotton balls to muffle the high frequencies it now sounds like a badly muffled outboard motor boat engine. BUT, that should work okay in my Doodlebug Railcar that I built last year.

I guess what I'm saying is that for convincing locomotive sound the 79 dollar **MyLoco** sound card is still the cheapest thing you can install in your models, in my opinion, that doesn't sound like total crap. **MyLoco** cards are synthesized sound and **very** dependent on the type of speaker and enclosure you put them in as to how realistic they sound. Their sound seems to favor the European locomotives more than US locos. The steam chuff and diesel noise sounds are convincing enough for US locos but the whistles and horns will take a lot of tweaking to make them sound like US locos. You have to spend a lot of time fiddling with all the adjustments to get the whistle/horn sounds to sound like US locos but it is possible. **Phoenix** is still the 'King' of believable sound cards in my opinion but at twice the price.

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Trivia Question: Piggyback transportation. What does that mean and when did railways start to use it?



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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
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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, 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

Meeting the 4th Thursday each month at 11:30 AM at [POST 25 restaurant on Rte. 25 in Skyland](#), south of Asheville along the Hendersonville Highway. [Postponed until January](#). 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. Track power, battery and live steam are all welcomed to run on their beautiful layout.**

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Trivia Answer: 'Piggy Back' transport was first used almost right from the start of railway transportation. In rail transport, the practice of carrying wagons or semi-trailers in a train atop a flatcar is referred to as "piggybacking". Early drawings of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway as far back as c1830 show road coaches being piggybacked on railway flat wagons.







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Businesses associated with our club:



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 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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