

PGRS TRACKIN'



The Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society

February 2024

EDITOR'S GREETING

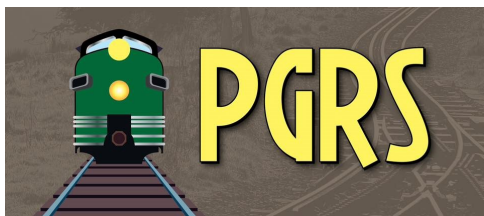
Happy Valentine's Day. Anyone else suffering from work-benchitis? You start a project, then stop to let the glue dry; then start something else until you need a part ordered; then start again on another until stopped to let paint dry. Next thing you know your workspace is cluttered by multiple projects. Your wife needs something done and by the time you can start again, you are baffled on what to start on next???? Oh well, if you have a cure, send me a line. A special thank you to this month's contributors.



CLUB NEWS

The PGRS has a new Facebook page at this link:

[Piedmont Garden Railway Society | Facebook](#)



Contact Dan Bails for info on our Facebook page.

Society Officers

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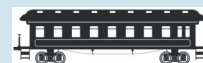
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SOCIETY WEB PAGE

WWW.PIEDMONTGARDENRAILWAY.ORG



CLUB NEWS Continued

Planning for our spring Train-Fest continues. Since that occurs on a Saturday, it was proposed that maybe we could visit a layout on Sunday. If anyone has ideas on this, please contact President Huntman. Don't forget that a challenge was issued to all our members to bring a project for the drag-n-brag portion of Train-Fest.

There are several trans show coming up. Mark your calendars for these:

Feb 16 - 17: Easley SC train show

Feb 23 - 24: Asheville Train Show

Feb 24: RPM Carolinas - High Point, NC

March 22 - 23: Central Georgia RPM - Macon, GA

April 12: Bulls Gap TN train show

June 20 - 22: NMRA SER Convention - Decatur, AL

Save the Date!

Central Railway Museum's Model Train Expo 2024



Model Train Expo 2024

Fri – Feb 16th 12:00 – 6:00 pm
Sat – Feb 17th 9:00 – 3:00 pm

Rock Springs Church – Impact Center
207 Rock Springs Road
Easley, South Carolina 29642

Admission \$8.00 Adults
Under 10 **Free** with adult
Admission good both days

Operating Model Railroads
KidZone
with Thomas & Brio
150+ Dealer Tables



COMPLETE INFO AT: WWW.CRMHA.ORG
Contact Sandy Eustis – (513) 325-8850 seustis13@gmail.com
Or Tom Langdale – (803) 960-1246 tlangdale@lowcountry.com

CLUB NEWS Continued

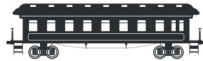
As always, consider sharing this newsletter with friends who might be interested in our club and if they wish to become members ask them to contact our PGRS Secretary/Treasurer for a membership form or download a form from our website:

[Join Us – Piedmont Garden Railway Society](#)

Dues can be mailed to PGRS [Secretary/Treasurer](#) at:

Doc Watson
125 Mistletoe Trail
Hendersonville, NC 28791
docwatson@morrisbb.net

The Club's mission is to promote and to further the enjoyment of large scale model railroading among its members, their families and their guests as well as the public at large.



RAILROAD TRIVIA QUESTION

The New York Central Railroad owned five SHAY locomotives. What was unusual about their locomotives? The answer is found later in this newsletter.

RAIL-FANNING PROTOTYPES TO INSPIRE A GARDEN RAILWAY PROJECT



RAILFANNING— Continued

This month we'll visit another garden railroad club located in Gibsonville, NC.



The Gibsonville Garden Railroad (GRR) was founded in 1996 by Bobby Summers, a retired Freight Conductor on the Southern Railway. Their first trains ran on October 9, 1996, which coincides with the first train arriving at Gibson Station on October 9, 1855. Their buildings are arranged to represent Gibsonville in 1855 and 1922, so the Town Historic Walking Tour map can be used to understand the layout. It covers all of North Carolina from Blowing Rock and Pilot Mountain to the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. They include dioramas for Elon Homes, Elon College, Company Shops (Burlington), a gold mine, and tar making. You can see both Orville and Wilbur Wright flyers and cable cars too.

The GRR has over 2900 feet of G-scale train track with 22 trains running at one time. They are open **EVERY** Saturday between April to November from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Here's a link to their 2023 layout video on YouTube:

[Gibsonville Garden Railroad 2023 Season \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

They also are visible on Facebook.

[Gibsonville Garden Railroad | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GibsonvilleGardenRailroad/)

RAILFANNING— Continued

If you planning a road trip near the Greensboro/Burlington area, consider a visit. The layout is in the center of town near the railroad tracks in Gibsonville, NC.



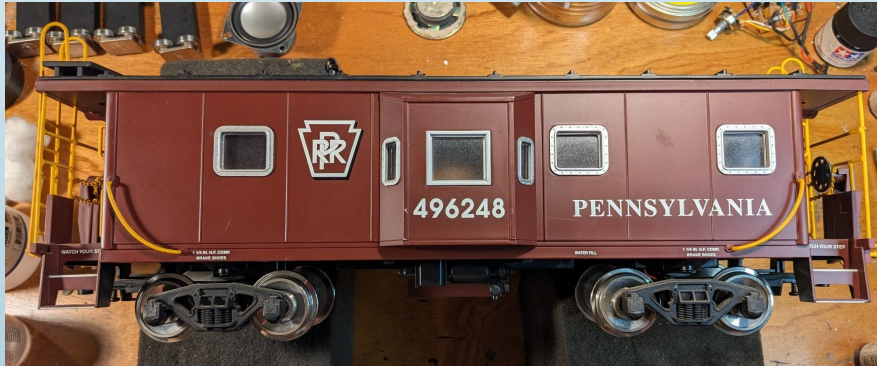
An operating crew with a NS freight passing in the background.



THE BACKSHOP MODELING PROJECTS AND TIPS

A Southern Railway Caboose By: Scott Williams

I could never find a Southern Railway bay window caboose at train shows or on eBay, so I bought a less expensive Pennsylvania RR model on eBay. I stripped the pad printing from the body to repaint it to resemble the caboose at the Hendersonville Depot.



To do that I used Solvaset and an old-fashioned ink pencil style eraser. Apply some Solvaset on the printing and let sit for a few minutes then GENTLY rub the letters. It will be slow at first, but the lettering will eventually come off in time and leave a buffed surface. It may even go to a different base color but that's okay because you're going to repaint anyway. What you DON'T want to do is to rub hard enough to physically chew up the model surface prior to painting.



THE BACKSHOP

Continued

Then, what works best for me is to paint the model with a gray or brown primer spray can and let it cure for a day or two and then use whatever paint you want to spray can or airbrush to paint it. In my case I found the best match to be a can of Rustoleum "Ford Tractor Red". After that dries and sits I spray a clear glosscote of Testor's or Krylon Clear. Water slide decals don't seem to stick well to anything other than gloss painted surfaces. I have been buying my decals from Jeff Damerst at Shawmut Car Shops since Stan Cedarleaf passed away. I believe there are other sources for custom decals though. [Shawmut Car Shops – Painting Trains One Car at a Time](#) is a great source.

After I have applied the decals, I lightly spray one or two coats of gloss clear to seal the decals to the car body and I hand painted the railings 'Sunburst Yellow' Vallejo acrylic paint.

After that has dried, I then spray a clear matte coat like Testor's Dullcote to tone down that fresh from the paint shop look. If I want to go further than that I apply dirty gray/brown weathering washes. Then maybe another matte coat to seal it and protect the finish.



The finished model.

THE BACKSHOP
MODELING PROJECTS AND TIPS
Continued



The Hendersonville Depot Caboose

I didn't try and copy the prototype caboose 100% accurately, but just to repaint a stock USA bay window caboose to resemble the caboose that is parked next to the Apple Valley Model Railroad Club. I am pleased with the results and applied Kadee couplers and hope to test run it soon.

Cheers, Scott

Some thoughts on LED lighting
By: Wayne Hamilton

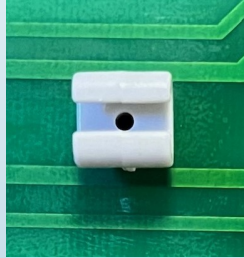
I was inspired by our last Train-Fest regarding LED lighting for passenger cars. I have a set of USA Trains passenger cars which have incandescent lighting. Since I use battery power, these are a huge power draw. I have seen and even bought replacement lighting strips at a significant cost; too costly for all my cars. After a bunch of "Amazon" research, came up with a way to build my own lighting strips.



The original incandescent strip

THE BACKSHOP MODELING PROJECTS AND TIPS Continued

The original strips have a mounting clip which I wanted to reuse.



Here's what I came up with and I am **not** endorsing any particular products. As they say, your mileage may vary.

HAMRVL COB LED Strip Lights Warm White 3000K,DC12V 16.4ft/5M 320leds/M CRI90 Bright Flexible LED Tape 8mm, for Indoor Home Cabinet, Bedroom,Kitchen,Stage,Backlight DIY Lighting(Without Power Supply)

Amazon's Choice in LED Strip Lights by HAMRVL



5-Pack Pre-Drilled Countersunk Hole 3.3FT/1 Meter LED Strip U Channel Diffuser, Hacksaw Easy Cut Tight and Flush Mounted Under Cabinet Tape Light Aluminum Low Profile with Screw and End caps (5)

Amazon's Choice



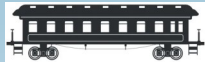
20 PCS 2-Pin 8mm Solderless LED Strip Connectors, Reliable and Easy-to-Install, Solidly Connected LED Light Connectors

Amazon's Choice in Track Lighting Connectors by SIOKUY



The CoB type LED strip is self-adhesive, very bright and the metal channels already have screw holes for reusing the mounting clips. This arrangement means I can replace the stock lighting with LEDs for about \$11.00 per car. A real bargain!

A poor photo of the strip being installed in a baggage car.

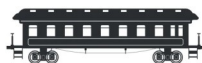


RAILROAD TRIVIA ANSWER

The New York Central was not known to conduct logging operations, but its 1940 roster listed five Shay type locomotives, Nos. 7185-7189. The NYC Shays had three 12x12-inch cylinders that, through the gears, drove 36-inch wheels. They weighed 139,400 pounds, and with 200 pounds per square inch of boiler pressure they developed 27,320 pounds of tractive effort. They were built in 1923 by Lima Locomotive Works for use on the West Side Freight Line in New York City, chiefly on street trackage on 10th and 11th Avenues. **An old city ordinance required them to be covered to avoid frightening horses, and they also had to be preceded by a horse and rider when operating in the street.**



When most of the street trackage was removed and the West Side line electrified, around 1934, the Shays were replaced by box-cab diesels that could also run from third-rail electrification or on battery power. The Shays were transferred to western New York State for use on the Genessee Falls Railway, an industrial line in Rochester, and the Owasco River Railway, with trackage around Auburn — both NYC subsidiaries. The Marcellus & Otisco Lake (M&OL) RR leased #7185 in 1942. It was returned to the New York Central RR in January 1943 with a broken frame and exchanged for #7187. The Shays were scrapped in 1948. Also, this was not an unusual practice as the Union Freight RR of Boston, MA had box cab Climax locomotives.



RBUSINESSES ASSOCIATED WITH OUR CLUB



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*

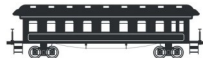
Garden Railroad Design, New and Used Track
You can now reach Jim at: hendleyjim4@gmail.com
Or....(828) 333-2523

A reminder to all our members of the Train Lovers Luncheons:

The Asheville Train Lovers Luncheons are on every 2nd Thursday of the month at the Post 25 restaurant in Arden, NC at 11:30.

The Greater Greenville Train Lovers Luncheons. They are on the first Tuesday of every month at the A&P Restaurant in Greer starting at 11:30 AM.

The Columbus Luncheons at Rural Seed are held at 12:00 on the Third Thursday of each month.



WEB BITS



Relax, the March PGRS Newsletter will be here soon.

