

# PGRS TRACKIN'



## The Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society

**January 2024**

### **EDITOR'S GREETING**

Happy New Year! To start us off, you'll notice a new format to the newsletter. Some things remain the same. Please send any idea, project, tips, photos, or something you found surfing on the Internet, etc., no matter how great or small they may be, to your newsletter editor. Send your materials to: [railman1959@aol.com](mailto:railman1959@aol.com) A special thank you to this month's contributors.



### **CLUB NEWS**

As you are taking a break from celebrating the holidays and you have thoughts, ideas, epiphanies, or other inspiration about TrainFest, please share them with us. First, we need to pick a date and location for the next TrainFest and our bylaws require a March business meeting of the PGRS. We need to select the topics we can/should address during the next TrainFest. Our general approach has been 3 general one hour sessions, with several breaks, lunch, and the raffle.

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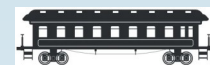
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[WWW.PIEDMONTGARDENRAILWAY.ORG](http://WWW.PIEDMONTGARDENRAILWAY.ORG)



## **CLUB NEWS Continued**

We can change this approach. Ideas for the presentations are needed/useful/critical. How can we get the members more involved in the TrainFest sessions and activities? A number of the recent TrainFest sessions have been presented by the same people so new faces would be a welcome addition. Should we try to get more involvement in a drag-n-brag effort where members bring their favorite, or latest, project(s) and spend a few minutes talking about them?

What other goals/objectives should we try to accomplish at the TrainFests or other club events?

Don't forget that a challenge was issued to all our members to bring a model for the drag-n-brag portion of TrainFest.

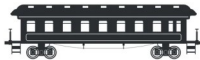
Thanks, President Huntman

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](mailto: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.**



A last look at the Rocky Cove Railroad running during the NC Arboretum Christmas lights show. A great time indeed!

### **RAILROAD TRIVIA QUESTION**

What is the world's largest country without a railroad and what is the smallest country with a railroad? The answer is found later in this newsletter.

### **RAIL-FANNING PROTOTYPES TO INSPIRE A GARDEN RAILWAY PROJECT**



## **RAILFANNING— Continued**

The Mission of American Association of Private Railroad Car Owners is to promote the ownership, safe operation, and enjoyment of the private passenger rail car. We support the continued operation of a national network of corridor and long distance passenger trains that provide access for private railroad cars.

We have always seemed to have a love affair with trains. Not only did the railroads build America, they took travelers through their country rather than above it. The railroad passenger car represents a more relaxed and civilized time and the private car is the epitome of the elegance and grace of a bygone era.

Those days can be recreated through travel on a PV (Private Varnish.) Men and women across the country have salvaged these magnificent pieces of history from the scrap yards and brought them back to life.

AAPRCO was formed as a national trade organization in 1977 as a not-for-profit corporation. By March of 1978 there were 54 active and associate members. Membership now stands at around 550.

Three cars traveled to Chicago for the first convention in 1978. That has increased over the years. 21 cars participated in the 2016 convention special train that operated one way from Denver to Spokane.



## **RAILFANNING— Continued**

The American Autumn Explorer is one of the few trains hosted by AAPRCO each year. Each car is independently operated by their owners but are brought together to operate as one special train. No two cars are alike nor offer the same amenities and experience. Pricing varies on accommodations and time aboard the cars. It is possible to travel on the cars to and from Vermont from their home terminals offering an extended excursion.

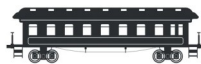
[Home | AAPRCO](#)



[Riding in the Lap of Luxury on a Stellar Day Thru Greenfield; AAPRCO AUTUMN EXPLORER to Vermont 📺 \(youtube.com\)](#)

This leads to an old time custom on model railroads. Model railroading is a social hobby and it was a routine practice to have visiting freight cars or “private varnish” passenger cars run during open houses. This 1:1 prototype could bring back this common model railroading practice.

If you plan an open house, you could consider including an invitation to run visiting cars on your railroad.



## THE BACKSHOP MODELING PROJECTS AND TIPS

This month I am taking another look at using label making tape in lieu of decals to alter a stock model into a different road name. I have a Brother label maker using .47" wide tape. Other size label makers, fonts, and multiple colors for the tape cartridges are available. Since I have a USA Trains baggage car in silver, I used silver tape to "rename" the car. The tape needs to be sealed with a clear coat. The car will still need some painting for a black roof, underframe, and trucks. The plan for this car is a battery car to power my streamline passenger train. While the Southern did not own any streamlined two door baggage cars, it looks like a good match to my other cars.

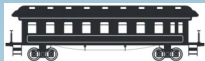


Stock model



Model with the tape applied.

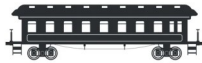
Another advantage is this modification is easily reversed by removing the tape.



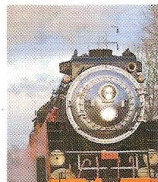
## RAILROAD TRIVIA ANSWER

There have been *no operational railways in Libya since 1965*, but various lines existed in the past. Plans for a new network have been under development for some time, and in *2008 and 2009* various contracts were placed and construction work started on a 1,435 mm (4 ft 8 1/2 in) standard gauge railway parallel to the coast from the Tunisian border at Ras Ajdir to Tripoli, and on to Misrata, Sirte, Benghazi and Bayda. But, construction of a national rail system was suspended because of the *2011 Libyan civil war*.

The world's smallest country also has a railway. The Vatican City has a 300 meter long rail network including freight sidings and one railway station.



## 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

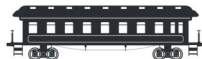
Garden Railroad Design, New and Used Track  
You can now reach Jim at: [hendleyjim4@gmail.com](mailto:hendleyjim4@gmail.com)  
Or...(828) 333-2523

### 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

This month we look at some odds and ends.



Is this the oddest of oddball locomotives? A 1934 photo of Ludlow & Southern No. 2, a former steam locomotive repowered with a tractor engine, photographed at Steadman, Calif. Doug Richter, Joe Strapac collection

[Official Home Page of the ET&WNC RR Historical Society \(etwncrrhs.org\)](http://etwncrrhs.org)

[Convention \(midsouthnmra.org\)](http://midsouthnmra.org)

[Asheville Train Show \(asheville-trainshow.com\)](http://asheville-trainshow.com)

