

PGRS TRACKIN'



The Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society

June 2022

Editor: Wayne Hamilton

Greetings

After 8 years of dedicated service, Scott Williams will be stepping aside as editor of our Club Newsletter. Scott did a fantastic job, and I am excited to assume my role as the new Editor for the PGRS newsletter. In the coming months, it is our intent to change to a quarterly newsletter, but also have a monthly club bulletin that contains more time sensitive information. I hope this mixture will stimulate more club members to submit items for the newsletter without the pressure of a monthly deadline. This means is my role is as an editor, not the author, so the newsletter will be what we make of it. If anyone is interested in being a regular contributor, please contact me. I am sure we could all use modeling, gardening, or layout construction tips. Please send any idea, project, photo, something you found surfing on the Internet, etc., no matter how great or small they may 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 materials to: railman1959@aol.com Thanks.

oo-OO

Secretary/Treasurer Message

Our current slate of officers was re-elected during the meeting held on May 7th. Annual dues were collected at this meeting. This is the last newsletter that you will receive if you haven't paid your annual \$20 dues. Also 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. Dues can be mailed to PGRS Secretary/Treasurer at:

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

oo-000

Railfanning

Scott Williams shares these photos taken at the depot in Newton, NC. The Newton Depot is the home of the Southeastern Narrow Gauge & Shortline Museum. The museum is jointly operated by the Newton (NC) Depot Authority and the Alexander Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. They are located at 1123 North Main Avenue in Newton, NC 28658. (980.858.4266) They are open Friday 12pm - 5pm and Saturday 10am - 4pm.

Their newsletter, *Link & Pen*, is published quarterly and available on their website. <http://www.tarheelpress.com/newtondepot/index.html> or <http://www.newtondepot.com/>

You can follow them on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/southeasternngsm/>





oo-0000

Club Business
Spring 2022 TRAINFEST Report
by Don Watson

Here are few photos of the members in attendance at the 2022 Trainfest, 30 members in all. The meeting began with a brief business meeting with our President Bill Huntman presiding. There was a plea for new blood to step up to replace the current officers who, by the way, have been serving for 6 years. Sorry to say no one took the bait so the current board was elected once again. The only bright spot in the business meeting was that Wayne Hamilton volunteered to take over Scott William's job as editor of the PGRS Newsletter. We thanked Scott for his years of service to the club and really appreciated the great job he has done. Everyone thought the facility and location was great. It was very picturesque.



As you can see by the pictures, there was a fair amount of food provided as usual. No one left hungry.



Here is a shot of all the items for sale by our members. There were some great deals had by all. The club was able to sell many of the items that were part of our club's portable layout. The layout itself is still for sale for \$500.



The table with all the door prizes. They keep getting better, mainly thanks to the generous donations of our club members. This year there was even an engine. I think everyone went home with something.

Another nice feature of the Lutheridge Facility was the huge veranda located just off the meeting room. Larry Morton volunteered to bring his large-scale switching layout and set it up on the veranda. It worked out great and several members took advantage of the opportunity to run trains. Something quite unique for Trainfest.





Here's Larry giving a presentation on why and how he constructed this fabulous layout. The track work, scenery and structures were superb.



The formal part of the meeting ended with Larry Williams giving a very thorough presentation on Southern Railway, mostly, bayside cabooses.

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.

o-0000-o

The Backshop – Modeling Tips and Projects

Improving USA Trains ALCO PA

By: Wayne Hamilton

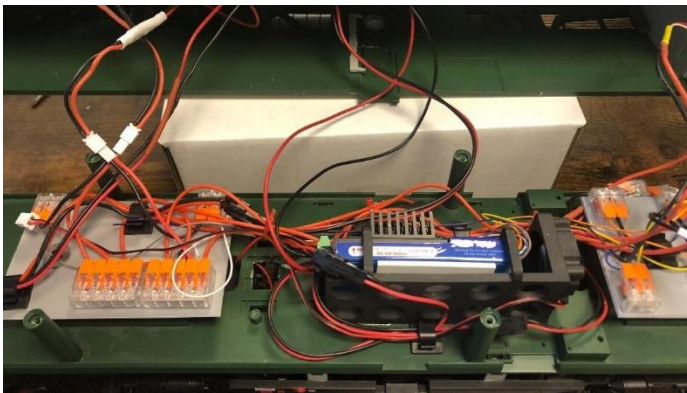
Several years ago, I acquired a USA Trains Southern Railway PA-2. A few cosmetic and electrical changes can improve the appearance to be more prototypical. My primary goal was to install a dead rail system programmed with the distinctive ALCO 4 stroke sound, but it was obvious the engine's lighting was substandard. These changes involved changing all the incandescent bulbs to LEDs. I also installed the proper number of lights in each location. On the prototype, both housings have twin sealed beams, and the upper housing has a Mars light and red light. The red light is wired to use when the locomotive is stopped. The lower headlight is dimmable as well. Also, a new LED back-up light was installed at the locomotive's rear. The rear light housing is a white metal casting, and a new LED was installed in the cab. While I started out with an Airwire control system, I changed over to a Railpro decoder as it supports six light outputs in addition to an integral sound board. The cab horns were replaced with a new 3D printed Nathan K3L horn purchased from Shapeways.com. I eliminated the smoke unit, as it's a power hog, and mounted a three-position toggle switch (run-off-charge) in its location for ease of operation.



Original Model



Prototype



My wiring set-up. The Railpro decoder is in the middle and each end has a wiring buss for the lights. The wiring connectors are from Amazon, WAGO 221 Lever-Nuts, and work for 24-12 AWG wire. These are quicker and easier to revise than soldered connections.



The new head lights and Mars light



Head lights off and Red Light on

Primary parts List:

Ring Engineering; Railpro LM-4S-G decoder

Phoenix 3" round speaker

14.8V Battery; 3500mah Lithium-ion

Cab light 5mm warm white LED

Ozark Miniatures Small Headlight Bucket w/ two 3mm Warm White LED's (Lower)

Ozark Miniatures Large Headlight Bucket w/ 3mm Warm White LED and a 3mm Red LED (Upper)

Ozark Miniatures Ditch light housing with 5mm warm white LED for the rear light

oo-0000-oo

Railroad Trivia Question

Many railroads, in addition to their logos, used a slogan or motto to promote and make people remember their line. Here are a few. See if they jog your memory as to their railroad. Answers are later in this newsletter.

1. Quick Service-Short Route
2. Route of the Eagles
3. Serving the Heart of America
4. The Tobacco Belt Line
5. The Big Little Railroad
6. George Washington's Railroad
7. Mainline Through the Rockies
8. Route of the Nancy Hanks
9. Rides like a Feather
10. Quality in Motion

o-00000

MEMBER PHOTOS



Conway Scenic Railroad in New Hampshire

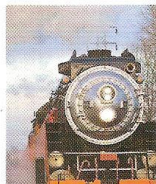
oo-000-oo

Railroad Trivia Answers

1. Clinchfield
2. Missouri Pacific
3. Wabash
4. Atlantic and East Carolina
5. Central of New Jersey
6. Chesapeake and Ohio
7. Denver and Rio Grande Western
8. Central of Georgia
9. Western Pacific
10. CSX

oo-000-oo

Businesses 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



<https://www.facebook.com/The-Right-Track-Toy-Train-Museum-141291999274246/>

FUTURE PLAN:

2022 - everything that is for sale in the museum - 20% off. Closed Thurs.

2023 - everything that is for sale in the - 30% off. Closed Fri.

2024 - EVERYTHING in the museum 40% off. Closed Sat.

Peggy plans to close the museum at the end of the 2024 season and sell the building.

o-000-000-0

Web Bits

Here are a few web sites which may be of interest to our members:

<https://modeltraintechology.com/>

<https://scotlawrence.github.io/Stonehedge/index.html>

<https://www.ovrailcar.com/g-scale>

<https://ncgrs.webs.com/>

oo-00000-00000-oo