

PGRS TRACKIN'

Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society

May 2021

Editor: Scott Williams



Spring Greetings PGRS members!

The PGRS ~~Bored~~ Board of Directors...

...met at Donald 'Doc' Watson's about Noon on April 7th now that they've all received their vaccines and enjoyed some perfect weather outside to discuss future plans for the PGRS.



Clockwise from left: Half of Bill Huntman, Pete Gendron, Randy Theis, Jim Redmond, Jon Bole with his head down sleeping, and Larry Williams in the front right.

Photographer: Don Watson. [Don't quit your day job Doc.]

[Meanwhile, about that same time in SC... a bit of local train news]

Mobile home splits in half after getting hit by train in Upstate.

© WYFF train hits mobile home on tracks. April 7, 2021



Score: Train 1, Mobile Home 0.

It happened about 11:30 a.m.

Authorities said the mobile home was on Highway 178 in downtown Liberty and was stopped on the tracks. A freight train hauling containers could not stop and split the mobile home in half. Pickens County firefighters say no one was injured and the train did not derail. Liberty police said the person driving the truck that was hauling the mobile home was cited at the scene. Officials on the scene said the \$80,000 mobile home was coming from Greer.

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National Garden Railway Convention May 30th- June 5th, 2021. Nashville TN

<https://ngrc2021.com>



The Nashville Garden Railway Society has a selection of detailed layouts you will be able to tour. On your tours you will see layouts running diesel, steam, and live-steam. The area has layouts with amazing hand-carved rock tunnels and retaining walls, numerous creative elevated track layouts, ground level garden environments, detailed indoor layouts, a botanical garden layout, and even a layout with over 2,000 feet of track – and still growing larger.

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Fran plans to set the PGRS display layout up at the Easley Show, May 14-15.

Model Train Expo 2021

Hosted by the Central Railway Model and Historical Society
Rock Springs Baptist Church - Impact Center
207 Rock Springs Road
Easley, SC 29642

Adults \$8, children under 10 free with adult admission. For additional information, visit the CRMHA [website](#).

Event Date:

Fri, 05/14/2021 - 1:00pm - Sat, 05/15/2021 - 4:00pm

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Historic Spencer Shops Train Show

N.C. Transportation Museum

Sat, May 22, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sun, May 23, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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Announcement from Don Niday:



So, I've put this off long enough. My intentions here are to keep anyone interested, up to date with what I'm up to here at Iron Creek Shops. The most recent newsworthy item is, back in August of last year, I purchased all of Bob Hartford's remaining modeling and business estate. This includes all of his personal railroad items, bridges, rollingstock kits built and unbuilt, track, turnouts, and then everything that Bob continued to do with his following crowd of model railroaders who stayed with him after He sold his business to Ozark Miniatures back in 2014.

This also includes all masters, molds, spin casting work, tools, equipment, Cad files, Solid Works files, and anything that did not go to both the Ferrel's or Ozark.

So, what does this all mean? My most immediate plan here is and has been since then, is to get it all organized, which is a huge undertaking, First with my website store, for castings and small kits, then if I can still handle that amount of work, I will consider which kits I may choose to offer. They won't be exactly like Hartford's but close. I'm intending to keep this in-house and on my retired lifestyle.

My desire is to make sure it all is here along with the Saxton products and my growing products so they are intact, not lost, and if you know me very well, organized.

Watch my website store. Things really are changing. I'm first adding many more categories to search for parts. Moving existing parts from one location to only one new location. No more double listing of parts. It will take as long as it takes. Remember, I'm already busy and my current customers always come first.

Don Niday

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Starter Sets

For club members or their friends and family wanting to jump in to Large Scale trains but not too comfortable buying used locos and stock on ebay just yet, they might want to consider shopping for a starter set which comes with some indoor type track, a small power supply and, of course, a tiny train. This is a not too expensive way to dip your toe in to large scale model trains to see if you enjoy them. I found these at Trainworld which is a big on-line seller with pretty reasonable prices.

For 209 dollars you can be running this LGB train right out of the box:



Starting at 339.00, Piko offers sets like this:



And, I was surprised to find that Trainworld had a Bachmann 'Backwoods' starter set too. I had not seen one from Bachmann in a while and for 349.00 at TrainWorld it's the only way I can find to even buy this nicely detailed Industrial Mogul 2-6-0 if you're already in to Large Scale but looking to add a new steam locomotive to your line for under 500 dollars.



*Editor's note: I wrote to Bachmann and told them how pleased I was to see this starter set with [a 2-6-0 Mogul that you can't buy anywhere else](#) and it should appeal to new modelers as well as established modelers looking for another steam loco model. I thought they might want to advertise it more now that we're moving in to summer. They responded that they only advertise "new" items and they discontinued this set in 2021. It's being replaced with yet another Big Hauler set.

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Guinness World Record:

Miniatur Wunderland. Model train plays record-breaking melody with 2,840 water glasses.

This is a really fun video if you click on the link below or copy and paste the URL:

<https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/news/commercial/2021/4/model-train-plays-record-breaking-melody-with-2-840-water-glasses-654290>

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March 4th, 1907.

VANDERBILT SELLS THE SWANNANOA

Special to The News.

Asheville, N. C., March 4.—There has been much speculation in this vicinity for some time past in regard to the whereabouts of George W. Vanderbilts magnificent private car, "Swannanoa", and it was learned yesterday from an authentic source that Mr. Vanderbilt had sold the car but by whom the purchase was made, is not as yet known.

The fact that Mr. Vanderbilt has disposed of this superb car is not at all surprising to those acquainted with the millionaire's ideas in regard to possible danger while traveling. Mr. Vanderbilt is known to have entertained the belief that the only safe place on a railroad train is in the rear car, in the event of a collision, holding this view Mr. Vanderbilt had his elegant car built and always insisted when traveling that it be coupled on to the rear end of the train. After the several rear-end collisions on the Southern Railway and other roads, last winter, particularly the collision in which President Spencer's private car was wrecked and the great railroad man lost his life, Mr. Vanderbilt is stated to have changed his mind in regard to there being safety in the rear, and shortly afterwards disposed of his car.

Mr. Vanderbilt's private car "Swannanoa" was built at Mr. Vanderbilt's order some years ago, at a cost of about \$60,000. It was looked upon as one of the most modern and elegantly fitted cars in the United States. It was constructed with an especial view to safety in the event of a wreck. Was of unusual length and equipped with steel frame and solid steel floor. The furnishings were exceedingly handsome. The "Swannanoa" though never in a wreck, had a somewhat checkered career while the property of Mr. Vanderbilt, having been twice burned, and refitted anew at great expense.

Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt and their little daughter Cornelia, are expected at Biltmore this evening, where it is announced they will remain for several months, during which several large house parties will be entertained.

The Swannanoa had in fact suffered a fire in 1904 and as the Vanderbilts became more enamored by automobile travel they sold their car and just leased one if they had future need. According to Darren Poupore, chief curator at Biltmore Estate, it was built by the Wagner Palace Car Co. of Buffalo, New York, in 1891. It was a multiroom car that accommodated 12 people to sleep overnight, with four full state rooms and additional bunks that could be set up in the parlor, at the center of the car, and the observation room — a space at the back with large plate glass windows. The Swannanoa was paneled in mahogany, with plushly upholstered chairs and sofas, Poupore said. "Mr. Vanderbilt furnished his private rail car as he did his home. It was filled with books and had etchings from his personal collection on the walls. The car also had a pantry and kitchen, and the Vanderbilts would hire a cook and a porter to attend to the guests. A china cabinet housed the necessary china, crystal and linens. To inaugurate the car, Mr. Vanderbilt's mother, Maria Louisa Vanderbilt, bought him a tea service engraved, "GWV from MLV, November 14, 1891, Swannanoa." No photos of the interior of the Swannanoa have yet been found, but an image of passengers gathered on the back platform of the car is in Biltmore's collection.

So why own a railway car? "What he would do was send it to bring family and friends from Washington and New York to Biltmore and back," Poupore said. "He would arrange with the railroad company to attach the personal rail car to the back of whatever train was running that route" — thus ensuring its passengers the best view throughout the trip.

The Swannanoa was damaged by fire in 1904, shortly after Mr. Vanderbilt fell in love with motorcars, and after he had the rail car repaired, he sold it. Within the next several years, the Vanderbilts got more and more comfortable traveling between their homes in Asheville and Washington by automobile. They also got faster and faster at the trip. An Asheville Citizen article from 1918, Poupore said, noted that Biltmore chauffeur Raymond Plemmons had just set a new record for the shortest driving time between D.C. and Asheville. His time was 23 hours, 30 minutes.



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MEMBER PHOTOS:

Bill Huntman sends in these photos. Doc Watson's son has an excellent 3D printer and is very skilled with it. He printed out this tank for Bill who is mounting it on a frame. Bill says:

"This is the 3-D printed version of the WSL tank car #3. Jon Watson printed the tank. Did a great job. Will need to add a number of handrails and grab irons. Also will need to fabricate the hold-downs that run from the ends of the car to the center on each side. Progress on one more project."



Looks incredible Bill!

Randy sent this photo from the Brevard Depot shows a model train that several of us painted and lettered to be put on display. The depot is not open to the public yet I believe.



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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 photos to: srwavl@outlook.com

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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

docwatson@morrisbb.net

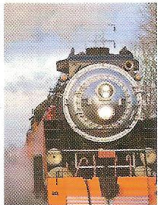
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Train Lovers Luncheons:

...have been postponed until things get safer with the Coronavirus.

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Businesses associated with our club:

	<p>Jim's Train Sales O & G Gauge New & Used Trains Jim Hendley Etowah, North Carolina 28729 <i>Lionel, MTH, USA Trains, PIKO, LGB Bridgwerks Power Supplies, Bachmann Split-Jaw Rail Clamps, O & G Gauge Track</i></p> <p>Email: jhh1218@att.net Phone: (828) 891-7570 Fax: (828) 890-3346</p>
<p><i>Garden Railroad Design Old Trains Wanted</i></p>	

**** Jim Hendley has moved.** To reach him use the following number:

828-333-2523 and if the email above does not work try hendleyjim4@gmail.com

	<p>Peggy Keyes Owner / Chief Conductor RightTrackTrainMuseum@gmail.com 828/625-5551</p>
<p>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!</p>	

**** Peggy Keyes announced on Facebook that due to Covid the museum would be closed. Check **The Right Track** Facebook page for further developments.**

Peggy Says: I plan to open the museum after Easter.

no Wednesdays in 2021, so:

Thur. - Sat 1PM -5PM
Sun. 2PM-5PM

2021 - EVERYTHING that is for sale in the museum will be 10% off.

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.

My plan is to close the museum at the end of the 2024 season and sell the building