

# PGRS TRACKIN'



## The Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society

**November 2024**

### **EDITOR'S GREETING**

Greetings. As always, a special thank you to this month's contributors. As the hurricane put me out of commission for a several weeks, there was no October Newsletter. As recovery efforts continue, I hope everyone is well and safe.



### **CLUB NEWS**

Recently your PGRS Board met, and by request from some current officers, there were some appointments made to fill vacated positions.

Vice President Bill Massey will be our interim President and Jim Redmond will be our Secretary/Treasurer. These positions are subject to confirmation at our Spring Train Fest meeting when our elections are scheduled to be held.

### **Society Officers**

Bill Massey – President  
[coachbillmassey@aol.com](mailto:coachbillmassey@aol.com)  
Vacant – Vice President

Jim Redmond – Secretary / Treasurer  
[Jim.Redmond@Alumni.Duke.edu](mailto:Jim.Redmond@Alumni.Duke.edu)

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



## **CLUB NEWS Continued**

The position of vice president is vacant at this time. We should all express our gratitude to our Past President William Huntman and Past Secretary/Treasurer Doc Watson for their service to our club.

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](#) or contact:

Jim Redmond  
PGRS Secretary/Treasurer  
112 Woodland Way  
Greenville, SC 29601

### **Train Show Calendar reminders:**

**The Autumn Rails 2024 train show at the WNC Ag Center for Nov. 15-16 has been canceled.**

Columbia, SC Model Train SALE Saturday, November 9th 9am - 2pm  
Jamil Temple 206 Jamil Rd Columbia, SC

Neuse River Valley Model Train Show November 9 · 9am - November 10 · 4pm EST @ Exposition Center, North Carolina State Fairgrounds - Enter at Gate 9 on Trinity Road 4285 Trinity Road Raleigh, NC 27607

11/22-23/2024 Carolina Model Train Show in @ 406 Sigma Drive, Summer-ville, SC 29483

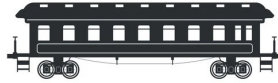
12/21/2024 Carolina Model Train Show in Fort Mill, SC @ Clarion Hotel Fort Mill Near the Amusement Park

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Lastly, Fran Monahan is selling part of their collection. Contact him at 828-674-0707 for the cars available and pricing.

## **CLUB NEWS Continued**

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**

A difficult question this month. What are antimacassars and what is their purpose aboard a passenger train ? The answer is found later in this newsletter.

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

The Lake Superior Railroad Museum and North Shore Scenic Railroad  
*Part Two*

The Lake Superior Railroad Museum is a railroad museum in Duluth, Minnesota, United States. Last newsletter, I gave some details on the tourist line which departs from the museum. This month I'll give an overview of the museum.



## RAILFANNING— Continued

Housed in the Historic Duluth Union Depot, the Lake Superior Railroad Museum houses the finest collection of Railroad Equipment in the country, with interactive exhibits as well as history from the region, the Lake Superior Railroad Museum is a must-visit attraction in Duluth.

Begun as a local project in 1973, the museum has rapidly grown into one of the largest and most respected railway museums in the country. It is housed within Duluth's restored Union Depot complex, with most of its major exhibit space enclosed for all-weather viewing. The museum focuses on railroading in the Lake Superior region, which is reflected in the collection.

The huge collection of equipment is housed inside the former depot passenger car shed and out-of-doors. The indoor collection is impressive but the expansive skylights make photography a little difficult.



A depot within a depot. This reproduction depot houses a large HO train layout for a local model railroading club.

## RAILFANNING— Continued



DM&IR Office car and railroad china displays



## RAILFANNING— Continued



My favorite pattern



Overview of the train shed



## RAILFANNING— Continued



## RAILFANNING— Continued

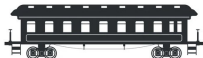




## RAILFANNING— Continued



More next month just for the logging aficionados.



## THE BACKSHOP MODELING PROJECTS AND TIPS

I have picked up several Don Winters kits over the years. These are no longer produced, but can be found at trains shows. They can be described as a box of sticks with white metal and/or brass details. This kit is in 1:22.5 scale and is of a fuel or oil stand. The tanks are cast hydrocal, so it's not suitable for full time outdoor use.



I pre-stained all the wood parts before assembly. Wooden parts will be difficult to stain with glue on them. The parts are also not precise, so you need to cut them to length and cut any needed angles.

I'll show you the completed model next month.

Working on this project got me to thinking about these kits and how it might help folks to give a few tips on completing them.

**THE BACKSHOP**  
**MODELING PROJECTS AND TIPS**  
**Continued**

**CRAFTSMAN KITS TIPS**

The biggest difference between snap-together kits and mostly wood kits is the shock you'll get when you open the box. An LGB or USA Trains reefer, for example, looks virtually complete when you see it through the cellophane window in the box. All you have to do is press or glue on the grab irons, brake wheel, and ice hatch hardware. And, of course, the paint jobs are terrific. When you open the box of a typical craftsman kit you'll see a bundle of sticks and a bag of miniature hardware with no resemblance at all to a freight car. But craftsman kits also have something the "shake the box" kits lack: Plans. And if you unfold them, everything will start to make sense.

Think of the plans as a picture. It shows you how the car will look when you finish it and it's usually full-size. Plans will usually have a side view, an end view, a top or bottom view (sometimes both), often some detail views, and occasionally what draftsmen call an "isometric view". The isometric view is very helpful because it shows all three dimensions so you can really get your bearings. Simple kits, such as flatcars, generally need no isometric drawings. But a more complicated kit, such as an ore car, may have parts a side or end view is unable to show.

Most manufacturers cut the major pieces of wood to exact size; you only have to glue them together. Some pre-cut every piece. And virtually all include a parts list with some kind of identifying code. If you have to trim some sizes to fit, the manufacturer will identify each piece with a special color on the end.

Then it's a good idea to locate most of the pieces over the plans to see how they'll go together. You'll begin to develop a picture of how the finished car will look.

Since many builders find it extremely helpful to assemble a model directly on the plans, cover the plans with a piece of waxed paper. That will protect them from glue.

**THE BACKSHOP**  
**MODELING PROJECTS AND TIPS**  
**Continued**

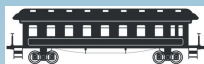
Real freight car builders bolt and nail them together, then brush on the paint at the end of the project. We modelers paint first because we glue our models together. Glue prevents wood from absorbing stains and it creates a hard, smooth surface under paint, refracting light differently than wood. So we can do a much neater and more realistic job if we pre-color our models.

If you actually paint, use a spray can or an airbrush. Brush painting often tends to look blotchy. Spray from ten or twelve inches away in a broad sweeping motion, going beyond the ends of the model on each pass. And paint in a very well ventilated area; many paints, especially lacquer-based model paints and aerosol sprays such as Krylon and Rust-oleum, contain extremely dangerous chemicals.

You may find staining offers more pleasing results than painting. Yes, you can also "stain" most metal parts. Hobby Black and Blacken-It are the two most common chemicals for darkening metal. They etch the surface and deposit a dark oxidation ranging from blue-black to dark gray to brownish-black depending on the formula and the metal. For wood, the least toxic stain consists of nothing more than three or four drops of India ink in an ounce of rubbing alcohol. You could also use denatured alcohol (shellac thinner) instead of rubbing alcohol or a mixture of Grimy Black paint and thinner. Shellac thinner and oil based paints contain harmful chemicals but virtually no water. As a result, they have far less tendency to warp wood. Keep one thing in mind: Add stain gradually. It is always possible to put on more; it's very difficult to remove too much.

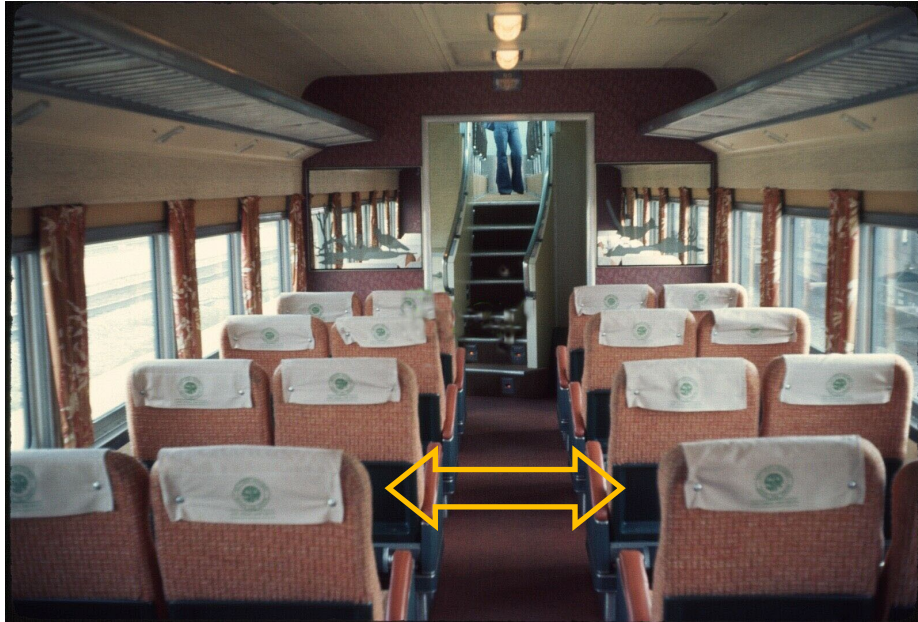
Another trick some modelers use is distressing wood with a razor saw. That simply means dragging the teeth of the saw along the wood to accentuate the grain. Afterwards, when you stain the wood, a small amount of color settles in the grooves giving the appearance of raised grain and greater texture.

Next month, we'll talk about glue and finishing tips.

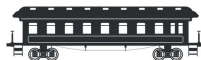


## RAILROAD TRIVIA ANSWER

Railroads wanted to protect their seats and their passengers by having covers on the head rest of seats. The cloth headrest/cover on a train or airline seat is called an **antimacassar**, and is so called as its original purpose was to prevent the macassar oil used by Victorian men as hair gel from damaging the fabric.



Many modelers will consider these as important details for their passenger cars. The earlier style are flat with two button holes. These would button on the back of the seat with the front side being free to move. Some railroads put a design on both sides. Named trains sometimes had a design of their own. There are several ways to model these. Possibly the simplest it to use white decals.



## WEB BITS

Interesting accident in San Antonio, 1967.

Quote from the San Antonio Light, Thursday April 6, 1967:

Possibly the latest in locomotive hood ornaments is a new Pontiac GTO. At the Missouri Pacific yards, Medina and W. Commerce, this mishap occurred when the switch engine came in contact with an open-type freight car carrying autos. The top-level row of autos had been readied for unloading when it rolled onto the switch engine. The unloading device, which can be adjusted to various levels on the freight car, simplified the chore of getting the undamaged auto off its perch.



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Rod Stewart, renowned for his iconic rock voice, has a lesser-known passion: model railways. He has invested years into creating a 124-foot HO Scale city model inspired by New York and Chicago circa 1945, which is both intricate and fully functional. In a BBC Radio 2 interview, Stewart revealed that he built 90% of the model himself, with help only for the electrical aspects. Despite some perceiving his hobby as trivial, Stewart finds it incredibly rewarding and emphasizes his commitment to giving it his all. The project, spanning several years, became an addictive challenge, showcasing his relentless drive for creativity and perfection, whether on stage or in his miniature world.

## WEB BITS— Continued



### 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](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** are held at 12:00 on the Third Thursday of each month. A new meeting location will be announced.

