



**SEPTEMBER 2017**

## **PRESIDENT'S NOTES FROM ROSS MARVIN**



### **Everyone's Focused on Irma**

President's Notes by Ross Marvin

I think just about all of us are aware that hurricane Irma packing a punch between a cat. 4 or 5 is meandering towards Florida and that means some of our members will be impacted by the storm. Remember to pull out your hurricane list and complete all the preparation as soon as you can. While we can all think positively and hope the storm goes a different way....please be sure you keep in touch with the local news and are ready to react accordingly.

#### **WEBSITE**

I have been working with Paul Wagner, who was done a great job creating a new look/design for our club website. While we may still be as much as 4-6 weeks away from a soft launch, I Have seen plenty of progress and the new site will be a real positive improvement and asset to the membership and to promote the club. It will have a section "for members only" as well as a variety of member layouts and events pictures for all to see. If you have some pictures you want to share, please send them directly to Paul Wagner at his club email address of [fgrs.vicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:fgrs.vicepresident@gmail.com).

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# **FGRS 2017 BOARD MEMBERS**



**FGRS President**

**Ross Marvin**

**407-909-9823**

**fgrs.president@gmail.com**



**FGRS Vice President**

**Paul Wagner**

**941-445-0409**

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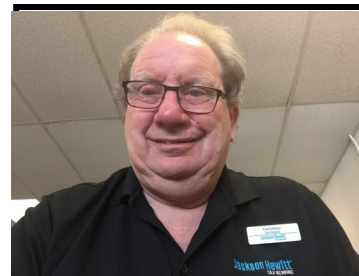


**FGRS Treasurer**

**Joyce Chapman**

**352-536-9499**

**fgrs.treasurer@mail.com**



**FGRS Membership**

**Fred Weber**

**410-310-6001**

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**FGRS Newsletter**

**Tom Hite**

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**FGRS Event Manager**

**Frank Kimmel**

**352-223-7201**

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## **FGRS UPCOMING EVENTS AT MEMBERS HOUSES**

**October 21st - Meeting** at Dave & Ruth's house. Located at 11605 Lake Park RD in Tavares.

The Lane Park & Wherever RR will start running trains at 11:00, with plans for lunch at 12:00. The LP&W has a thousand feet of track divided into four loops, with another ninety feet of storage track in the shed. We run NCE DCC track power. Twenty two wooden bridges cross two rivers connecting three ponds and two dry river beds. I replaced the last temporary aluminum bridge with a covered bridge this year. Two mountains with fifty feet of trestle complete the layout.

**November 11th - Fun Run** at Corkey's  
611 Via Gala  
Englewood, FL  
Corkey has over 800' of track and more switches than I can count.  
Corkey has track power so battery people can feel free to bring a train to run. The curves can support a Big Boy.

## **UPCOMING TRAIN SHOWS**

**Regal Railways Shows:** for info, contact Joe Schramm or visit [www.regalrailways.com](http://www.regalrailways.com); 727-244-1341. All shows 9 am - 2 pm; Early Bird 8 am - 9 am.

**For a Complete list of Train Shows go to** [http://www.railserve.com/events/train\\_shows.html](http://www.railserve.com/events/train_shows.html)

**Save the above web address as it has a complete updated list of Train Shows Nationwide , along with a lot of other good information about the Hobby. You will be very surprised at how many train shows there are just in Florida year round and will find them listed here.**

### **Suncoast Model RR Club**

#### **Minaret Hall**

**6340 126 th Ave, Largo, FL 33773**

**Sat, Sept 16, 2017. 10AM to 4 PM**

[www.suncoastmrrc.com](http://www.suncoastmrrc.com)

### **H.B. Plant Railroad Historical Society**

#### **John Yrinkle Building**

#### **Plant City Campus HCC**

**1206 N. Park Road**

**Sept 23, 2017**

**9 AM to 3 PM**

### **Martin County Model Railroaders**

#### **Martin County Fair Grounds**

**2616 SE Dixie Highway**

**Stuart, FL 34996**

**Sat & Sun Jan 20 & 21, 2018**

**9 AM to 3 PM both days**

**April 28th** - **Fun Run** at Tom & Gloria's House. Located at 23379 Superior Ave Port Charlotte. The Tropical RR hours will be 12:00 to 4:00. Bring your own lunch. Soda and water will be provided. The TRR has 400' of main line track with 20' diameter curves so bring on the Big Boys. The switching yard has 7 tracks for plenty of storage. All switches are #6.

**if anyone else is interested in hosting a fun run at their house please send me an e-mail with all the details, date, time, address, length of main line, minimum diameter curves, what you will supply, and anything else you feel is pertinent to the event.**

If you have requested to host an event with someone else you need to contact me to get onto the official schedule. Please do not contact any other board member. Things can get forgotten or lost in transition.

# Past meets

There were no meets in August.

# LINKS TO TRAINS PAST & PRESENT

Here is the link to the new Florida Train that is taking the place of the Cannon-Ball Express Trips in Mount Dora.

<https://www.thefloridatrain.com/home>

Submitted by: Bruce Benardo

## Circus Car to Become New Community Center for Circus Performers

August 23, 2017 SEFFNER, Fla. — The Showpeople's Winter Quarters of Seffner Aug. 16 announced the donation of retired circus train car RBX No. 57 by Feld Entertainment, Inc., parent company of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey. The donated train car will be used as the organization's new community center. "The donation of an actual car from the legendary Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus train is a wonderful gift from Feld Entertainment, Inc. to former showpeople," said the Rev. Jerry Hogan, circus priest and chairman of the Circus and Traveling Shows Retirement Project, overseer of the winter quarters. "We will give RBX Car No. 57 a 'forever home' at our retirement village." RBX No. 57 was built in 1953 by American Car and Foundry Company of St. Charles, Mo., as Union Pacific passenger car 5453. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey bought the car in 1972 and refurbished it as the trainmaster's car. Once installed at the winter quarters, RBX No. 57 will be remodeled to house an activity space, kitchen, bathroom, and laundry facilities. The 51 railroad bed has already been laid to receive No. 57, thanks to support by the Florida Railroad Museum in Parrish, Fla. The car is slated to move from its Palmetto, Fla., location to the winter quarters by the end of August. "The Ringling Bros. Circus train was one-of-a-kind, something people came out to see and celebrated every time it rolled through cities across the U.S. The circus train was home to performers and their families for over 146 years," said Kenneth Feld, chairman and CEO of Feld Entertainment. "With the closing of the circus, it was important to our family that the donated Ringling Bros. train cars served a special purpose in local communities and functioned as a place to gather and make memories." Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus car No. 57 is on its way to a new home in Seffner, Fla., to be the community center for a small residential village of retired circus performers. Joe DeMike Harrison Remains Confident CSX Service Will Improve After Labor Day.

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# TRAINS FOR SALE

**This area will be used to list trains for sale. List them here before going to e-bay. If a club member wants it, you can save the hassle of listing and fees.**

**Rules are simple. Submit two pictures per item, a description of the item, contact information, and the price.**

**Send your info to the [fgrs.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:fgrs.newsletter@gmail.com) e-mail by the cutoff date and that's it.**

**Items will appear for two issues unless I am notified of sale before hand.**





### **FGRS Membership Application**

**The Florida Garden Railway Society (FGRS) invites you to join a group of people who share a common interest in large scale trains, both indoors, outdoors, or modules. We are a group of individuals, Couples, and families who enjoy socializing with others and participating in train related activities. Dues**

**\$30/YR for single or family memberships. Annual dues include subscriptions to FRS Newsletter. All renewals are due in January. If interested in joining FGRS or to renew your membership, please**

**Complete this application and send a check payable to Florida Garden Railway Society (FGRS),**

**Attn: Fred Weber, 7686 E. Oak Forest St. Floral City, FL 34436.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone#:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like your information shared with the club members only? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name badges are \$18 each. If mailed add \$3.00. They have two lines: One for your name and the other line can have the town**

**where you live or the name of your railroad.**

**First Badge**

**Second Badge**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Town or RR name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The FGRS Newsletter will be  
Published by the 7th of each  
month. The deadline to submit  
information for the newsletter will  
always be the last day of the  
month.**





**The New Season Begins!**

**September Open House**

**Saturday 9/16**

**10am-3pm**

**Note new hours**

**If you haven't seen the Center recently you need to come back.**

Check out the new thunderstorm clouds and lightening strikes on the Sundance Central, German prisoner boxcar in 1/6 scale, and scores of other new and updated exhibits.

**Adults \$9.00**  
**(Note New Price)**  
**Kids Under 12 - Free**

# **\$2.00 Off Admission for Mailing List Customers**

Suncoast Center for Finescale Modeling



Suncoast Center for Finescale Modeling

2645 Succes Dr.

Odessa, FL 33556

(813) 230-6620

[www.finescalemodeling.org](http://www.finescalemodeling.org)



[finescale Modeling](https://www.facebook.com/finescalemodeling)



[Sundance Central](https://www.facebook.com/sundancecentral)

[Click here to view map and get directions](#)

# ATTENTION!!!!!!

The November cut off date has changed. Our son is getting married on November 3rd. We have a ton of stuff to do before hand so I am putting a hard date of October 25 for all newsletter articles. Whatever I have then will be published the next day.

# 'The Polar Express' Train Rides Start Nov. 17

By Jason Ruiter

August 4, 2017 TAVARES — Warner Bros.' The Polar Express Train Ride will launch Nov. 17, soon after regularly scheduled vintage train rides begin, officials from Orlando & Northwestern Railway said this week. Tickets for the holiday ride start at \$38 for regular seats and go as high as \$79.50 for the glass-enclosed dome coach on the hour-long excursion, during which riders will travel to the "North Pole" and meet Santa in the interactive experience. "This is going to be Central Florida's newest premier holiday event — there's no question about that," said Michael Brown, special events manager for Orlando & Northwestern Railway. Meanwhile, railway officials are hurrying to start running year-round train rides, part of The Royal Palm Railway Experience, out of Tavares by next month. "It's no small deal to try ... and bring all of this together when you have seven to 10 passenger cars coming towards you and they're in different parts of the United States," said Neil Bagauss, spokesman for the Orlando & Northwestern Railway, which is operating the rides. "It takes a lot of coordination with the railroads to bring them here." This week, he was busy remodeling the interior of the city's old-timey train station, built several years ago for \$540,000. The station previously was leased to the operator of the Orange Blossom Cannonball, which closed in January this year after the train track's owner didn't renew its contract. The 110-year-old steam-powered tourist train — and its backup, a 1941 diesel engine called the Lake Dora Limited — operated for more than five years. The Cannonball was a prop on the big screen for years and was dubbed "The Movie Train." It was featured in, among others, "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" with George Clooney and "3:10 to Yuma" with Russell Crowe and Christian Bale. After the Cannonball's last run, City Administrator John Drury vowed to find another train. It didn't take long: By April, he had an offer from the Orlando & Northwestern Railway and City Council members authorized staff to negotiate a contract for use of the train station. The parties sealed the deal last month, paving the way for the return of the familiar train whistle to Tavares. The new operator is gearing up for the resumption of trains. "We are building new ticket windows ... [and] a replica of

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the old desk where the depot agent would have sat,” said Bagauss, adding that an old-fashioned telephone and telegraph also will be installed. The Polar Express ride, meanwhile will feature LED lighting synced with activities onboard, such as the singing of Christmas carols, while en route. Tickets are free for children under 2, and kids are encouraged to wear pajamas, like in the children’s book and 2004 Warner Bros. movie, while on the train. According to the train’s website, [OrlandoThePolarExpressRide.com](http://OrlandoThePolarExpressRide.com), “You should feel like you’ve just stepped off the pages.” Bagauss aims to offer special-event trains with more adult appeal, including one that will include performances at the historic State Theatre in Eustis, in addition to kid-friendly trains, such as the Great Pumpkin Limited. “You’re going to get off on the pumpkin patch ... there will be a little petting zoo there, and some farm animals, a balloon artist,” he said. Tavares, which is off Lake Dora, has invested money over the years to boost tourism, rebranding itself as “America’s Seaplane City” and adding a seaplane base to attract amphibious airplanes. Trains have been an important attraction for years. Before the Cannonball, the city was home to the Mount Dora Meteor and Dora Doodlebug tourist trains and hosted visits by Thomas the Tank Engine, popular with children. City officials believes the new train attraction — featuring air-conditioned and dome cars pulled by diesel engines — will attract families and locomotive enthusiasts from Central Florida and beyond. “It’s always fun to be part of a new business,” Bagauss said. “Especially when the new business is also your hobby.”

### NEXT CLUB RUN/MEETING

Our next meeting/run is in October at Dave & Ruth's. Comradery and sharing of ideas aside....If you have not seen their layout that alone is worth the trip. Thank you both for opening up your home to the club and sharing your hospitality and toys! Details are in the newsletter.

### NEWSLETTER AND FACEBOOK

Remember your contributions are important. Please share experiences, trips, layout pictures, etc., with us either through writing a story for the newsletter or posting on our Facebook page.

Hope the Summer treated you well, and you continue to be out of Irma's path. Keep on G-scaling.  
Ross