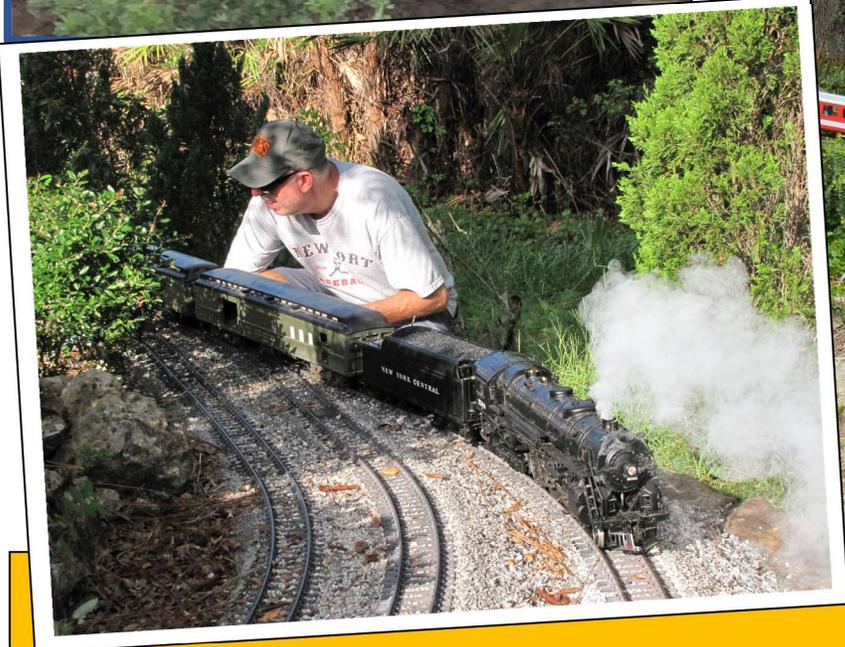




March 2021

NEWSLETTER

Celebrating 30 Years of Garden Railroading!



GO TO WWW.FGRS.ORG, "EVENTS" PAGE

TO SEE PHOTOS FOR OUR UPCOMING OPERATING SESSIONS. GO TO THE

"MEMBERS SIGN-IN" TO SEE THE CURRENT MEMBER ROSTER, NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES,
AND MORE!



February 2021 Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES FROM FRED WEBER

March 2021

Since many seniors are receiving the Covid Vaccines, we want to start up our fun runs again. We will still maintain all CDC guidelines such as social distancing and mask wearing. Millie and I want to start off the first fun run of the year at our home at the Dew Drop Railroad on April 17th. We also have a fun run scheduled at Charlie Beall's in May, in Mount Dora.

The club website and Facebook page is a great place to ask questions and watch informative videos about railroading and building your own layout as well as "how to's" like making buildings from scratch. Keep watching for new videos and instructions on both.

The Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival was held on February 27th in Jacksonville and was a huge success. Many interested people came to see our set up and enjoyed watching trains run. I want to thank members Ray Lambert and Ross Marvin for stepping in and helping out when Phil Barcelona and Paul Morello were unable to attend due to emergency health problems. Phil is currently back home and feeling better, and Paul's granddaughter is also better and back at school. We had enough room at this festival that we were able to set up the entire layout and I must say it was pretty impressive.

I look forward to seeing you all at the fun run in April, and please feel free to bring any of your trains that you may wish to run. We are discussing the possibility of incorporating this meet into a "Tour" of several area layouts. Further details to follow in the April newsletter.

Happy Choo Choo! - *Fred Weber*, **FGRS President 2021**

ALL ABOARD: FGRS Kid Zone Interacts with Over 500 Kids



Stuart Florida: FGRS Space & Treasure Coast District

Submitted by Phil Barcelona, FGRS Vice President, Eastern Region,
and Committee on Membership Engagement
Chairman

If you happened to have visited the Martin County Fairgrounds on any of the 9 days that it operated in February, you would have seen a bunch of kids operating the FGRS “Kids Zone” G scale table top train layout, many for their very first time. And this is in an age where video and online games have taken the place of many of the traditional hobbies we (of the older generation) participated in. No longer is there the corner hobby store or the big department Christmas displays that so many of us got to enjoy. Getting the opportunity to actually “play” with trains can be very novel for children today.

In the last couple of years, the FGRS has taken a very aggressive approach to putting our hobby out in front of people by sponsoring the “Kids Zone” at many train shows throughout the state. Back in 2018, I met George Sheldon (Altamonte Springs) and Victor Carey (Titusville) operating the Kid’s Zone at the Deland Train Show, as they had been doing for several years, laying the foundation for what we do now. Last year, we rebuilt the power platform that we use today which makes it even easier for the youngsters to operate this layout.

So the Kid’s Zone went to the Fair, and over 500 Kids got exposed to model railroading, and just maybe, for a moment, got the thrill that all of us felt years ago.

A special Thank You to FGRS members Dennis Ciaglu (Palm City), and Gary Hawken, for their herculean effort of manning the Kid’s Zone for 9 straight days at this Fair, and to all the FGRS members who made it possible with their continued support. - *Phil Barcelona*



Dennis Ciaglo, president of the Martin County Model Railroaders and new FGRS member, manning the Kid's Layout at the fair. The table was set up across from the club's large G Scale layout, and was in operation for nine days.

FGRS 2021 BOARD MEMBERS



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Fred Weber
410-310-6001
Fgrs.president@gmail.com



FGRS Vice President – Eastern Region
Phil Barcelona
386-562-4859
fgrs.vicepresident@gmail.com

YOUR PICTURE
COULD BE HERE!

FGRS Vice President – Western Region
Position Open – This can be you!



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2021 TRAIN SHOWS AND EVENTS

March 26th and 27th - East Coast Large Scale Train Show - SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

The proposed dates for the 2021 show are March 26th and 27th in Timonium, MD. At the present time, the Cow Palace (The previous location) is being used for Covid testing and vaccine administration. Firm dates and location should be "cast in concrete" by the end of February. Hotel information will be available at that time as well.

April 10th, 11th, 2021 - Florida Rail Fair (Deland Train Show) Volusia County Fairgrounds

CANCELLED!

April 3rd, 2021 – Easter Train Show, Pinellas Park, FL

Lopez Inc. Hall 7177 58th Street North

<https://regalrailways.com/regal-railways-upcoming-toy-and-collectible-shows-sale/>

May 30th, 2021 to June 5th, 2021- National Garden Railway Convention

Nashville, TN – Go to <https://ngrc2021.com/> for information

June 5, 2021 - Melbourne Train & Toy Show

9am - 2pm

Azan Shrine Center, Melbourne, Florida

Go to <http://schultzspacecoasttrains.com/> for information

For a Complete list of Train Shows go to

http://www.railserve.com/events/train_shows.html

NGRC 2021 - Nashville News

NGRC Updates Arriving!



Open registration, scheduling and clinic updates, and many more things are covered in this issue of the NGRC 2021 news. (Don't forget to share the info with friends or fellow club members.) To get all the news, [click on this link](#) to download updates on what is new and what to expect.

As always, Stay safe... we can't wait to see you in Nashville!

Find Out More On NGRC2021.com

UPCOMING FGRS FUN RUNS/OPERATING SESSIONS

April 17, 2021 – Fun Run at Fred and Millie Weber’s

7686 E Oak Forrest St.
Floral City, FL 34436
Email lgbfred2002@yahoo.com
Phone 410-310-6001
Details in April Newsletter



Sunday, May 9, 2021 – Fun Run at Charlie Beall’s

7839 Sloewood Dr
Mount Dora, FL
Phone 352-383-3976



CALENDAR PLANNING FOR FUTURE FUN RUNS

We're looking for members to host Train Operating Sessions and Fun Runs for the rest of 2021.

We are hearing that many of you have your Covid vaccination now, so we are cautiously planning meets and events, but still are recommending precautions. Your safety is our primary concern, and of course, any plans you make will be subject to your final go or no-go judgement as your date approaches.

If you are interested in hosting, please contact Paul Wagner, the FGRS Newsletter Chairman at [**FGRS.Newsletter@gmail.com**](mailto:FGRS.Newsletter@gmail.com)



Scottish Festival 2021 – Jacksonville

February 27, 2021

By Fred Weber

For the third year in a row we have been invited to run our trains at the Northeast Florida Scottish Festival and Games. This year the festival was attended by over 5000 people. Not only did we have people who were returning to the festival but lots of new folks stopped by and enjoyed the layout. We had visitors from several Pipe and Drum Corps and Stormtroopers in kilts. The children always enjoy watching the trains but unfortunately we were not able to have the “Kid’s Zone” layout on display this year. We had, on average, 20 to 30 people at a time around our layout from about 10am until 3pm. We all enjoyed talking about our hobby and promoting it, as most people are not that familiar with G Scale trains. The reception was so positive that we have received several invitations to other Scottish Festivals. - *Fred Weber*, **FGRS President 2021**

Reflections from the Festival!



Railroad in a Box

By Fred Weber



Do you have an in-the-box Railroad? Most of us have had one at one time or another. How can we use your trains from inside the boxes? The answer: Fun runs! Most

hosts will allow you to run trains on their layout. This is a great way to see your trains running. Most hosts enjoy seeing different trains run on their layout, but be sure to ask first, (It's not a good idea to start taking their trains off the track – Ha Ha). And find out if they have track power, if your engines are not battery powered.



The second place to run your trains is a club event. Places like the trains show where we set up, or the festivals where the club layout is on display. Don't forget train day at the Tampa Train station as well.

The third idea is maybe a parking lot near your home, church, shopping center, or your driveway. You could host a run and we will bring the club layout. Let's see those trains running, and put some miles on the wheels!

- Fred Weber



Paul Marella brings his monster train out to a FGRS event to open her up! We expect to have at least one such event per month now that events are being scheduled.

Member's Layouts A'Building!

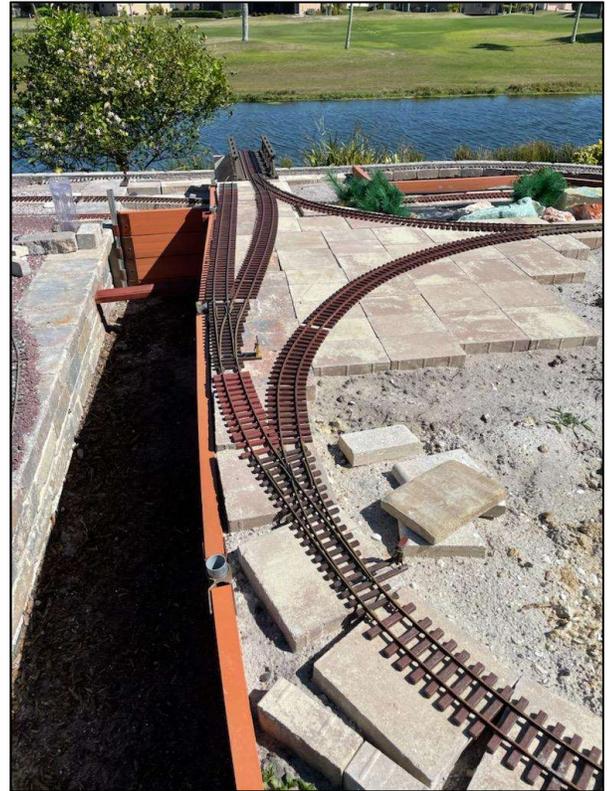
Update from Bill and Diane Severns – Cape Coral, Florida:



I re-laid the mainline coming into "Summit", as it was too tight on radius. I had derailling problems here

before the realignment. With the approach corrected, I can run a C-19 class engine through with no issues.

Then I laid a spur to a new location. Two stock pens will provide sheep and cattle loading. Note the mock-up of the pens in the upper-center of this photo, below.



This photo on right, shows the new spur laid in place.

All of my railroads before have been named "The Silverton", but I'm thinking of getting away from that for a more local name. How about "Cape Coral and Western"? CC&W has a good ring to it. Actually, I've been thinking of using that name since day one!



What Went Into Building the Florida East Coast Railway Key West Extension

Part Two

By Jay Archer, FGRS Membership Chairman



Hello again, picking up where I left off with the building material I use for all my OUTDOOR , structures, piers and even rolling stock I've built from plans. The material I have been turned on to and sent to find is exactly what I'm going to give you help you locate now. I work in either 3mm (1/8") or 1/16" expanded white PVC 4X8 sheets. The big difference in where you get it is the \$\$ price. When you go to a Hobby store, you'll pay exorbitant prices for a off the rack piece of Evergreen or Plastruct plastic sheeting or tubing. The company I'm about to give you sells the stock wholesale to the hobby distributor, so nearly the same material at incredibly reasonable prices. The average price for a 4'x8' sheet of plastic is around \$30.00, but when you run the sheets through a table saw and then trace plan drawings onto the plastic using carbon paper taped down to the plastic, you'll be amazed just how many projects you can build with just one sheet. The company I use is Farco Plastics Supply. They have four locations here in Florida.



Website:
FARCOPLASTICS.COM

Drawing Published in:	ENLARGEMENT REQUIRED		
	No. 1	1/2"	G
N 1:160	500%	667%	711%
HO 1:87	272%	363%	387%
S 1:64	200%	267%	284%
O 1:48	150%	200%	213%

You'll be looking for 1/8" or 3mm expanded PVC sheeting. 4'x 8' cost for each sheet \$31.50. One sheet makes about 3 structures, depending on size. The Farco Company I use is found at 11701 U.S Hwy 19 North Clearwater , FL 33764 phone (727) 572-7722.

Next I'll share how I find projects in different scales, and convert them to the scale I'm using for my railroad. For this you'll need the chart to the right, and take your plan or drawing to nearest STAPLES or OFFICE MAX and or copy shop with printer for large blueprint sized copies. Have them use the chart to enlarge your plans and copy to your scale. 1:20.3 is not on this chart, and HO plans would need to be enlarged by 429% for that scale. HO scale plans are plentiful with a google search of what your looking for.

The Florida East Coast Flagler Railway is no more, often referred to as a "fallen flag". I began by buying every history book I could purchase to educate myself on day-to-day operations of the early FEC Key West Extension which we were about to take on.

I then (here it comes) found decals for my railroad available in HO scale. I copied those to 1:20.3 and had reproduced by a professional who specializes in decals. The result is pictured below, right.

E: ACTUAL DECALS ARE WHITE

FLORIDA EAST COAST FLORIDA EAST COAST	SAFETY PISTON	1234567890 1234567890	FECRS CUSTOM I HO SCALE FEC STEAM LOCI
7 135 39 80 96 153 127 135			4-4-0 NUMBERS: 4
266 146 203 210 254 266			4-4-2 NUMBERS: 4
405 701 715 301 312 405			4-6-0 NUMBERS: 4
4 823 416 428 433 804 823			0-8-0 NUMBERS: 4
5 1234567890 1234567890			4-8-2 SERIES: 4
1234567890 1234567890			4
3			4
9 80 96 153 127 135 39 80 96 153 127 135 39 80 96 153 127 135		1234567890 1	2-8-2 NUMBERS: 4
46 203 210 254 266 146 203 210 254 266 146 203 210 254 266 146 203 210 254 266		1234567890 1	
701 715 301 312 405 701 715 301 312 405 701 715 301 312 405 701 715 301 312 405		1234567890 1	
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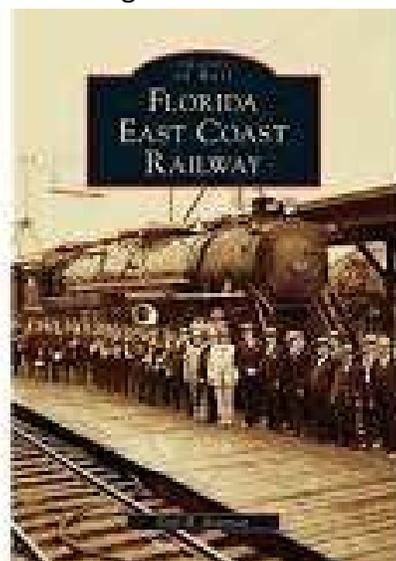
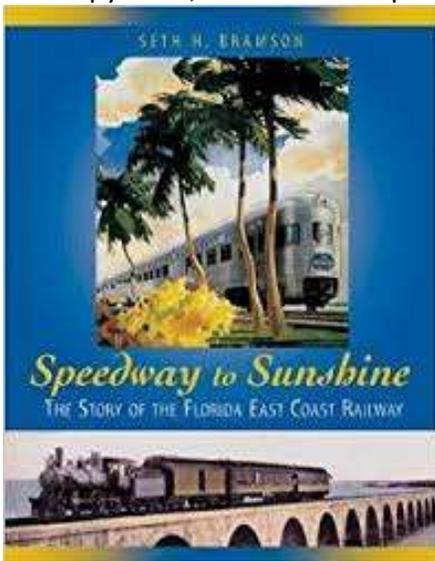


All this was thanks to working with Stan Cedarleaf, of CEDARLEAFCUSTOMDECALS.COM , of Prescott Az.

I found I kept going back to the 10'x42' space in our back yard, and trying to think (?) "How can I capture the theme, story, and relative history with the small space provided?" Here, below, shows a small section of the Florida East Coast viaduct bridge system connecting the main land of Florida, 158 miles to the City of Key West. I got a little over ambitious and poured all 10 feet of the bridge in one plywood box form to be opened up when the concrete set, to reveal a beautiful concrete project, never considering just how much it would weigh. Ooops!! We had to use a concrete saw to cut the bridge into 3 pieces at the top of three section viaducts to make it into pieces that could actually be moved! Then, with the help of brother in law and four others, we picked up and set down bridge sections till we managed to get them placed on the railway. Still not completed, the concrete needed to be smoothed out and painted sand color. It then made a interesting front focal point which Garden Railways photographed and put the Bridge article of the October, 2018 magazine. When in place, this is how it looked. The completed railway is pictured on the right.



If anyone is interested, I have saved 25 years-worth of Ted Stinson's pull-out plans, once found folded in the pages of Garden Railways magazine. These were working project plans for small structures and many rolling stock plans. If enough people are interested, I can print a catalog list of what plans I have saved for selection and I can send you a copy. Also, here are a couple of History Books that were a great wealth of information.



Both books provided a great historical reference regarding the start up of “Flagler’s Folley”, a Developer turned railway tycoon owner and states east coast Original developer of tourism industry.

The light house is a scaled mortar tin and brass exact copy of Key West Light and has stood strong for 19 years through storm and even hurricaine’s. Every thing you see in the right picture is made with Farco expanded PVC and assembled with PVC sprinkler glue and super glue.



Finally, “Morrows Motors” was a “stolen” plan from a dollhouse miniatures show. We model the same era, so the exhibitor let me study and measure the double walls and tin roof resulting in her families garage.



Theirs

Ours



In the future, I was thinking I would be willing to give a 30 minute easy how to build a structure by tracing a plan, cutting it out, building it, and placing a tin roof on it, and including a method for removing the roof to install lighting inside.

I hope this was eye candy as well as inspiration to save money and build a few of your own structures that will stand up to Florida’s harsh Climate. For questions, feel free to email me or call me. I would love be of assistance. Jay Archer & Melinda Archer, Florida East Coast/ Over Sea’s Railway Flagler System Garden Railway , Dunedin Florida.

Email at:

conchouse@tampabay.rr.com

Phone: 727-667-5482

Resurrecting an Aristocraft FA Diesel Engine, Part 2

By Tom Hite



As promised, here is the whole story of resurrecting an Aristocraft FA & FB unit and installing a Rail Pro control and sound system (RP). This baby needed a tremendous amount of work, but after the entire procedure and process was done, I felt like I had given the old diesel a new life!

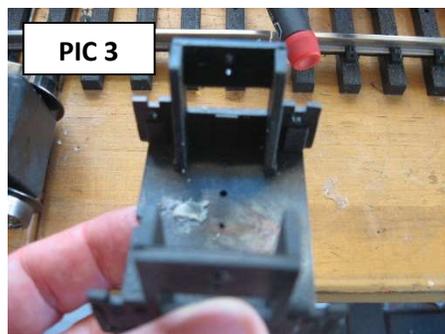
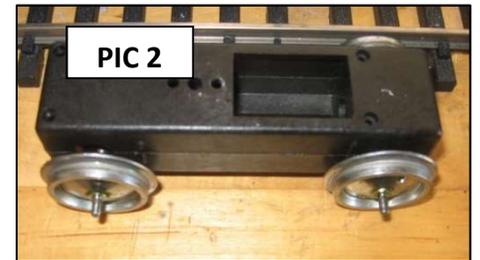
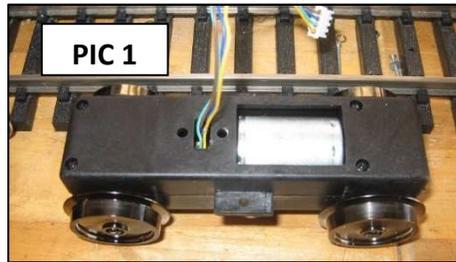
Well, the description and pictures that were on eBay were pretty much spot on.

With any restoration there is going to be hidden problems, but it was advertised as non-running, both the A & B units. I suspect it was part of a dummy set up in a consist. I don't like dummy anything. If it's an engine, then it has to move by itself and contribute to pulling the consist. As a child I had an HO train that had a dummy locomotive, and I didn't like it one bit.

After the unboxing, just lifting them out of the box, they felt quite heavy - heavier than a normal locomotive should be. Also, I noticed that there were no motors in the blocks. These were freewheeling units for sure. So, it was time to do what I call the parts inspection. Find out exactly what this is going to need to get her in running and cosmetic condition. So off came the shells. Only thing inside were GP38 lead weights, (three per locomotive) no circuit boards, and just the headlight, cab light, and marker lights. Ok, can't say I was surprised, it saved me the time to strip it out anyway. I now took out the motor blocks to examine them and see what I needed to rebuild them. The only thing salvageable was the housings. Wheel sets were stripped and wobbly and there were no gears in the gear box.

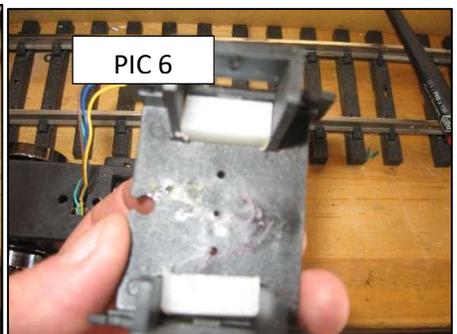
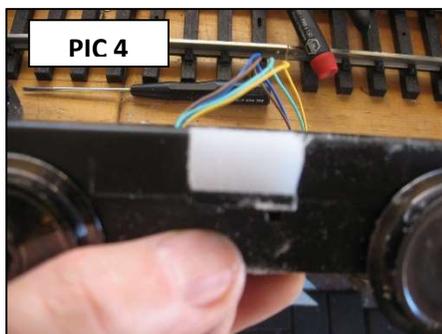
Okay, with all that, I still got in cheap. Big issue was parts. I had some motor block parts, but not enough to do four motor blocks. So back to eBay.

PIC 2 shows the motor block that came with the engine. **PIC 1** shows the replacement motor block.

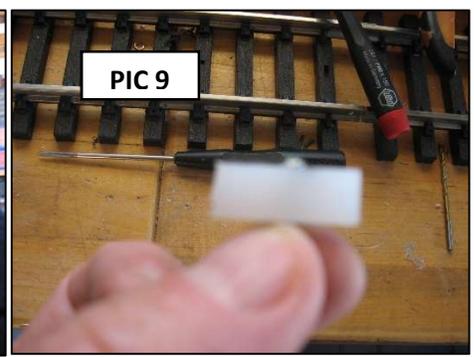
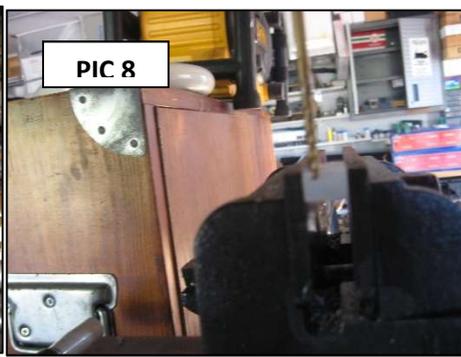
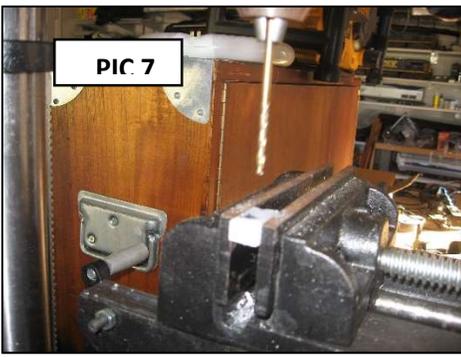


They are made by Bachmann, the same as used in the egg liners that they produced. Now notice the difference in the two the older ones has axel shafts that protrude past the wheel and have no ears. The new one has no protrusion but has ears. The old style motor block was attached using the axle protrusion that's not going to fly now, so a mod is going to have to happen.

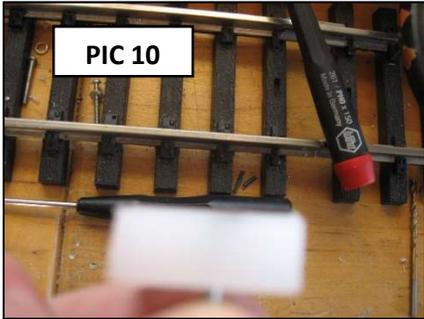
PIC 3 is the housing that hold the block to the frame. The motor block fits in but needed to be shimmed to make the correct height. **PIC 4** shows the shim size being level with the top of the block. This was achieved with several steps first **PIC 5** is the sanding of the shim to make it exactly the right size.



Once the size was correct, **PIC 6** shows the placement in the housing.



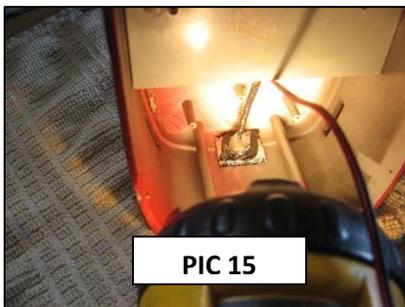
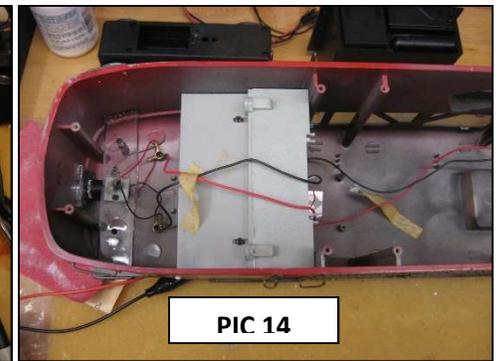
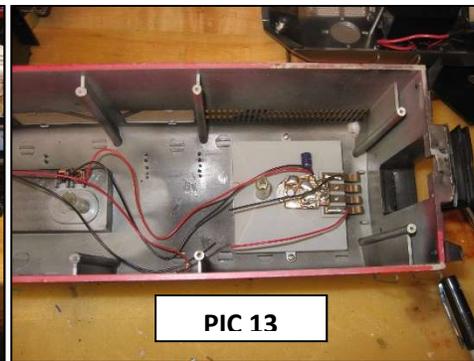
PIC 7,8,9, and 10 shows the sequence of the process.



A hole is drilled through the shim then a bigger drill bit is used to make a countersink hole, so the head of the screw is even with the top of the shim. **PIC 11** is the finished motor block installed. Now this motor block is screwed into the housing where the old design was held in by the axle shafts. This procedure had to be done four times.

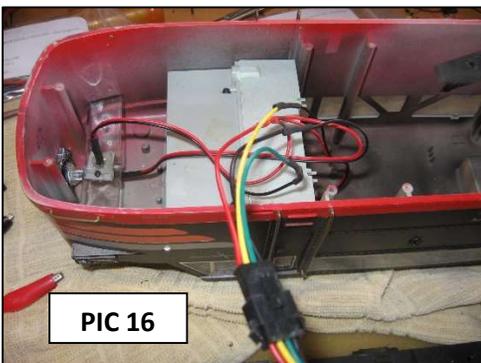
Now I installed the motor blocks to the frame of the FA & FB **PIC 12**. B unit is not shown.

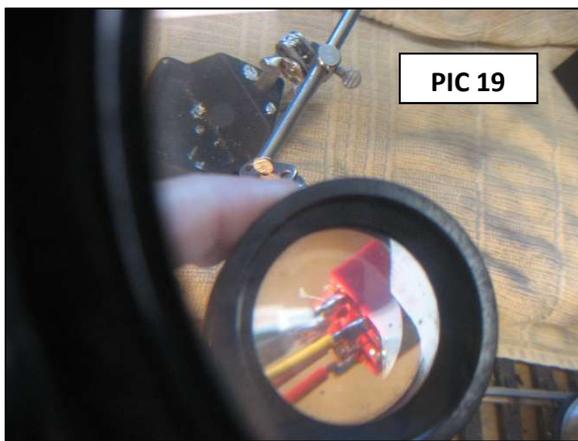
At this point I decided to address the shell and rip out all the old wires and lights **PIC 13 & PIC 14**.



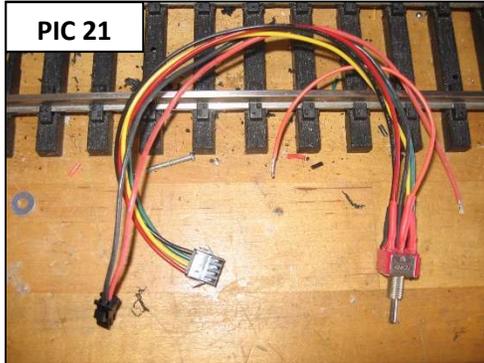
PIC 15 shows the install of an LED light. I also used LEDs for the cab and marker lights. The wire harness is completed in **PIC 16** for all the lights.

Now the switch harness needs to be made. **PIC 17 & PIC 18** shows how I set up the process to ready the terminals for soldering. After I solder any connection I magnify it to check for any cold joints. **PIC 19** shows the last joint I did. The picture is looking through the big magnifying glass and then through the smaller magnifying glass. I call it my X-ray for solder joints.

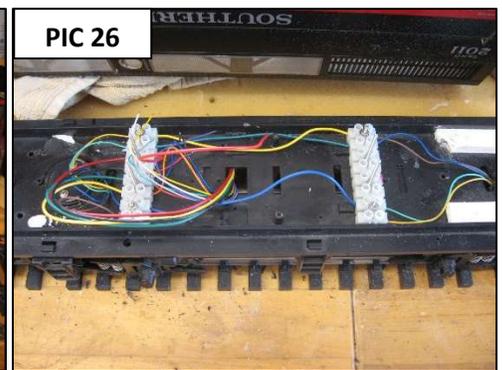
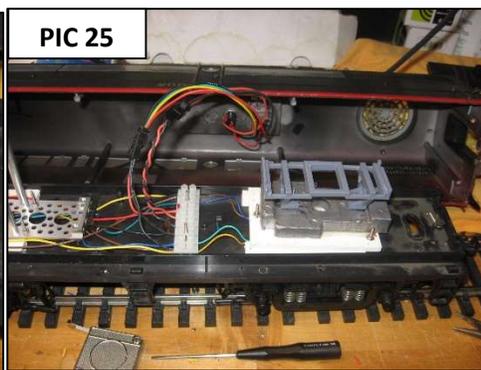
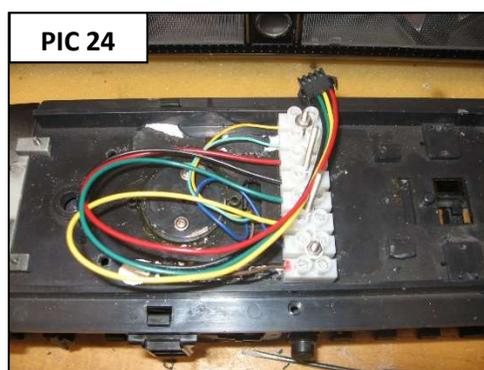




When finished, I do one more view with the big glass to check the shrink tubing to make sure it adhered to the wire and that there are no extraneous wire strands hanging out. In **PIC 21** you can see the harness that has two wires that are tinned on the ends. Those two will be soldered to the fuse housing. The harness with fuse housing installed into the shell of the locomotive **PIC 22 & 23**. They will be covered with the exhaust pipe housing when she rolls out to the test track.



Now it's time to wire up the chassis. **PIC 24** is the front wire harness with the motor block connections connected to the terminal block. The switch harness is wired up to the rear terminal block. (**PIC 25**) It also shows the standoff for the RP module installed. The B unit is shown here. **PIC 26** shows the start of wiring the front and rear blocks together. If you look at right terminal block, the motor block is wired into it with the brown wire at the top and the yellow wire at the bottom. These are track pickups. The wire is on the side of the rail in which power is picked up. They are connected to the opposite color on the other motor block because they are installed back-to-back. The blue and green wires are for the motors, again they are connected to the opposite color of the other motor block, so they run in the same direction.



Now it's time to think about battery install. Next month, we'll do that, wire up the Rail Pro sound and motion decoder, and give her a test run! Here are the links to the finished engine in action!

- <https://youtu.be/6gAs4IIYHtg>
- <https://youtu.be/5bu58RIRUac>
- <https://youtu.be/zS852uAb99o>
- <https://youtu.be/tgPLVXQfnX4>



Garden Trains and the Internet

By Pete Thornton - Ft Myers Beach, Florida



I'm sure you've noticed the internet; maybe you are already an avid user. This article will hopefully give you some ideas of what is out there that you might not have found, yet. I'm assuming you already have a phone, tablet, or computer with an internet connection. You get to the internet using a "browser", which is a window on your computer that displays information sent to your device from an internet website, and where you can interact with the website to post information, order a part, or even express your opinion. Your phone probably has an 'app' icon that looks like a world/globe; that's the browser. On a desktop or laptop computer, the browser may be Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, or another program. I personally prefer Firefox as I don't like Google and Microsoft keeping track of my every move.

The Internet is full of information, images and videos, and it can be searched very easily, thanks to Google and its competitors. If you have a question, like "how do I connect an Aristocraft Train Engineer to my railroad", the first thing to do is to google that whole question. (The same applies to non-railroad questions: e.g., "how do I replace a sink drain?") You will probably find a video giving you step-by-step instructions, or the manufacturers support department "frequently asked questions".

Forums

For train-related questions there are a plethora of websites offering historical details, photographs, or current specifications. There are also many "Forums" where like-minded folk gather to display their models, ask questions (or tell jokes,) Here are some of the more popular ones:



<https://www.largescalecentral.com/forums>

This website is run by Bob McCown from Massachusetts, who is known as the Benevolent Dictator, or "BD". You are invited in to discuss trains as if in his living room – and that means if you offend him you may get thrown out. Fortunately, most of the offenders have been thrown out, so the members are now a congenial bunch. They have a number of modelers who display the photos of their work and explain how they did it, or answer questions about tricky problems. The busiest forum these days is on 3D modelling.

There is a group of users on this site who are avid 'operations' fans. They discuss how to schedule trains, document where the cars should be dropped at various industries, and plan to spend a day working a big RR puzzle. They even have software to make up their waybills. Another unusual group is the annual "Mik" Challenge, which takes place in the early months of the year (and is named after a member who is no longer with us.) Mik had a penchant for creative models made from scrap pieces in a short period, so the 2021 challenge is to build something using a tin can in 30 days with a budget of \$30. You can plan (napkin drawing is encouraged,) before the challenge, but building starts Jan 1st.

On the downside, this forum software is old-style and is no longer supported so there are one or two known 'issues' (e.g. the site will 'remember' you logged in when you visit, except sometimes it won't!) Bob is testing/planning a switch to a more modern system, but he also has a fulltime job. The website has a 'freightsheds' capability to store files or photos, but it is cumbersome to use. It is also not mobile-friendly.



<https://www.mylargescale.com/> ("MLS") was established many years ago by an enthusiast, but was sold to a company that makes money by advertising. ("Reach our audiences through unique advertising solutions" is on their home page.) They have made several mis-steps which has made the audience of original users dwindle. For example, they lost all the stored files that users had posted to illustrate the threads, so if you happen to find an old thread it may not have photos – or even worse, it may have the wrong photos! At the current time they

seem to care very little about moderating the site, allowing new members to post a link in their first post: can you say “spam”?

That being said, they do a great job of attracting new users, who add a little vitality (and confusion when they comment on a 2013 thread that is long gone dormant.) They recently upgraded their software and posting pictures is now a simple drag-and-drop. There is a mobile version which is easy to use from a phone. It used to be that there was a 2-tier membership, where you could pay an annual fee to get rid of adverts, but no-one seems to know how that works these days. For the past few years, one forum on MLS has been quite busy – Live Steam. The old-timers and new users have hung in through the ‘issues’ and there is a lively conversation about the topic.



<https://www.gscalecentral.net/> This is the UK equivalent of the two sites above, and as such it is somewhat euro-centric. A few USA members pop up, but the majority are from Britain and Germany; fortunately, they all speak English.

Being European, they have a lot of emphasis on LGB: this is the place to find out how to fix an old LGB locomotive. The website software is very similar to MLS but has a much more aggressive advertising policy, with banner ads across every page – unless you pay them an annual fee to not show you most of the ads.

Searching the Internet

You should be aware of how the “bookmarks’ work. When you bookmark a web page, the browser saves the site’s location so that you can go directly there again, any time. Google can be used to find specific information, and will often point you to Wikipedia, which is an enormous repository of user-generated content. A list of some of my bookmarks is included here.

Many of the forum websites claim to have ‘search’ on their home page, but few of them seem to work well. A much better way to find specific information is to use a “site-specific” search with google, such as googling

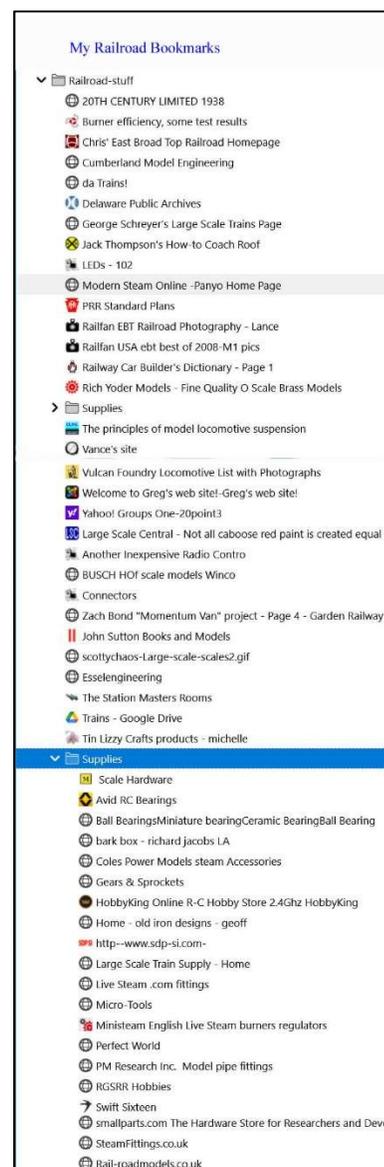
“site:mylargescale.com USA Trains coaches” or some similar topic. Google will restrict itself to finding threads with those keywords so you can keep slightly more focused on your research. It is especially useful for finding a thread that you know you saw a few years ago but can’t recall where you read it!

Manufacturers’ and Other Websites

As in most industries, the hobby product manufacturers have discovered it is cheaper and easier to post information on their websites than to answer the phone all day, and not just new product information, but wiring diagrams and parts lists. Bachmann has a comprehensive site covering many scales, with a Parts section allowing you to order, e.g., a 10630 bolt for the whatchamacallit.

Bachmann also has a forum moderated by the “Bach-man” who will (occasionally) respond to questions; but don’t bother asking when they will produce a certain model, as you’ll get no response. (<https://www.bachmanntrains.com/home-usa/>) Foreign websites (e.g for LGB support,) can be translated by Google or Babelfish if they don’t offer an English translation. Most manufacturers maintain a website, whether they produce sound cards, wheels, building kits, or whatever. It can be used to find a contact email so you can ask that burning question they forgot to answer in the product description, or to compare their gadget with the competitors.

You will have noticed the trend away from real hobby stores to virtual stores on the internet. Even a virtual store needs inventory, so some also maintain a physical presence. It can be helpful to search for a product, and it can be bought at the click of a mouse. Even Amazon sells trains.



Facebook

While Facebook (FB) is home for millions of people to chat and discuss everything under the sun, it is also home to many model railroad groups, most of them private (in other words, you have to apply for membership, which is usually just a formality to keep advertisers and spammers away.) 'Gscale.net', with 6.6K users, is a general "G scale" group for discussing various topics. I find the 'Gscale Swap & Shop' group much more interesting. There are 10,000+ users viewing your offerings (or requests to find something: ISO = In Search Of,) and things sell rapidly if well priced – and there are no fees. A Paypal account makes things simpler, but do read the rules and be careful!

You can get lots of instant answers to your questions, or post beautiful pictures of your trains, but be aware that FB is designed for instant gratification, so your posts will roll off fairly quickly and it may be very difficult to find them again. FB has its own chat/message system and wants you to use it for everything (not recommended, unless you want to be tracked in whatever you do on the Internet.) Many people use the Facebook app on their mobile to post pictures, live video of interesting events, tell their friends where they are, or even to buy and sell trains. The mobile app has the advantage of giving you a notification when a post comes in on one of your groups (I think – I don't use mobile apps like FB.) It's a great way to buy something before anyone else sees the posting. Facebook has some peculiarities that it is good to understand. When you go to the site, it shows you what it thinks you want to see. This may be posts from your "friends" or adverts, or "suggested posts". In other words, if you happen to spot and watch a video of a cute kitten, then next time you visit there will be more kitten videos to watch. There is also an option to watch the "latest posts" – you thought they show you the items in the order they arrive? No way. Much more creepy is that if you happen to have been looking around the internet for a shirt, you'll find ads on Facebook for similar shirts – they try to track which websites you visit. There are add-ins that will block adverts and similar activity, but they are beyond the scope of this article.

If you are concerned that Facebook lacks privacy and is intrusive, you are right. It is also extremely difficult to have something removed, as there are no 'moderators' checking that posts meet the guidelines or responding to user queries. Be aware that if you "Like" something (even if not on FB,) or 'share' it, then Facebook provides all your personal information to that other party. [The answer is: DON'T. Do not 'like' or 'share' anything, ever. Use a browser like Firefox that keeps FB in a 'container', and prevents it tracking which websites you visit.]

All that being said, most websites try to save the info about what you did last time you visited so that they can be 'more relevant'. Facebook is just the most aggressive at this kind of online behavior. It comes with the territory, and hasn't caused me any trouble in 20+ years of web browsing. I don't think Facebook is particularly scary if you avoid the "Like" and "Share" buttons - both copy all your personal information to the target. I hardly ever use "Share" and I only "Like" things posted by my friends. [And their friends promptly re-post so your info gets disseminated anyway. . .)

And, as mentioned before, I find Facebook is a great way to buy and sell. With the "G scale Swap & Shop" group, you can often sell something in 5 minutes, with no fees.

Special Interests

There are many websites devoted to special interests, from 2' gauge railroads to radio controlled models. There are websites devoted to organizing and providing guidance on a particular topic, like the 16mm Association (<https://www.16mm.org.uk/>) which has a USA chapter, and standards-oriented sites like the NMRA (<https://www.nmra.org/>). I should point out that on the few occasions that NMRA tried to help us garden railroaders with national standards, they were ignored or sent off to mind their own business.)

And of course, there are websites for every conceivable specialty: modelling in 7/8th-inch:1ft (<http://www.7-8ths.info/>), to modelling standard gauge prototypes (<https://www.g1mra.com/>.) One set of resources are the general "getting started" websites, like the Family Garden Trains website (<https://familygardentrains.com/>) which is a rich source of detailed and useful information on every topic related to garden railroads; they even have their own discussion forum. Some modelers go so far as to start their own 'blog' (web-log) detailing their railroad and the work they have done on it and their equipment.

There are lots of other useful websites that I have bookmarked over the years, from George Schreyer's Technical Tips (<http://www.girr.org/girr/index.html>) [very useful for older trains, but has not been updated since 2013,] to Rich Blanchard's "DaTrains" (<https://www.urbaneagle.com/datrains/>) [with lots of pages of useful data and tips,] to 4Largescale (<http://4largescale.com/>) [a website showcasing some amazingly talented modelers.]



Member Train Items For Sale
Looking to buy or swap something? Send in
your request- FGRS.Newsletter@gmail.com

*This page has been created solely as a convenience to our members who want to buy and sell from other club members. FGRS takes no responsibility for the condition of the items or sale of items. Any transaction is completely between the buyer and seller. Please submit items you would like to buy or sell to Paul Wagner, FGRS.Newsletter@gmail.com
Ads will be run for 2 months if they are not renewed. Please notify me when an item is sold, so it can be removed from the following newsletter. – Paul Wagner*

Used, like new LGB items for sale: to FGRS members at \$35 each. I will be happy to meet buyers part way for delivery.
Box Cars: 4067 A01 (3) (one without box); 4067 F01 Pacemaker; 4167 White Pass; 4067 D&RG: State of Maine (no box)
Reefers: 4074 B02 Tiffany; 42720 C&S
Stock: 4168 White Pass
Tanker: 4080Y Transcontinental; 4080W01 San Diego Arizona
(No pictures available)

Gary Hawkins, Stuart, FL
772-692-9017

Member Train Items For Sale

Don Carter has for sale: Email - doncarter521@embarqmail.com
 Ocala, FL. Pick up at my residence or will work out halfway somewhere.

Aristo craft Stainless Steel curved track.
 Some used (used very little) and some new in the box.

- 3) 4' # 20125 \$60.00
- 18) 3' #20130 \$270.00
- 12) 2.5' #20120 \$150.00
- 2) 2' #20060 \$20.00
- Total @ \$5.00 a foot \$500.00 for all or part.



USA brass curves track
 4' diameter
 Full circle (12)
 piece's # R81100 New
 in box \$35.00



Bachmann one foot sections of aluminum track. (49) curved and (14) straight track. Used very little but in good shape
 Indoor use only. \$50.00 or best offer*



Bachmann #94351 and 94352 right and left switches \$15.00 each or both for \$25.00*



*Bachmann track and switches should be used together and separate from Aristo and USA track. This is hollow rail and could be used with New Bright trains. 10 sections makes full 4' circle.

Member Train Items For Sale

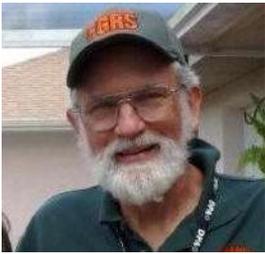
Glenn Copper, Inverness, Florida, has two items for sale. He can be reached at 352-765-4119
Items must be picked up at his house.

This is the Orange Blossom Special show car from NCRC 2014. He is selling the one that has never been open. \$65.00



This building is in great shape, except for the rain gutter and downspout. It's made by Pola. \$65.00





From the Newsletter Desk

Paul Wagner

I also serve as your Webmaster, and it's off to a pretty good start, but much more is needed. This month, I will update the picture slide shows of our layouts on the "Events" page, as well as give the entire site a generally improved look. I will be adding useful garden railway links, and a compilation of how-to articles. You may not have noticed that all of our past issues of e-Newsletters are posted on the "Members Sign In" page, as well as the roster, so you can see which other garden railroaders live near you. The by-laws and other documents are also available there. Some sections are "Under Construction", and I hope to bring those to a useful stage of completion. Like the club, it is a growing, evolving, living thing, and I hope you all will send me suggestions, and any problems you have with accessing what you want to see. I'm looking forward to a great year as things are opening up, and to seeing you all face-to-face again!

- *Paul Wagner*

Email – FGRS.Newsletter@gmail.com

Phone 941-445-0409

FGRS Membership Application for 2021

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 and outdoors, or modules. We are a group of individuals, couples, and families who enjoy socializing with others and participating in train related activities.

Dues for 2021: \$20/YR for single or family memberships.

Annual dues includes a subscription to FGRS Newsletter, via web and email. If you cannot receive the newsletter via internet, a printed copy will be mailed to you. All renewals are due in January. If you are 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: Jay Archer, Florida Garden Railway Society,

P.O. BOX 2695

Dunedin, FL 34697-2695

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone#: _____

E-Mail: _____

Would you like your information shared with the club members (only)? Yes ___ No ___

Name badges are \$12 each. If mailed add \$1.00. The badge has 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: Name: _____ Town or RR Name: _____	Second Badge: Name: _____ Town or RR Name: _____
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