



**June 2017**

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



Hello fellow G-scaler's and as quickly as I said, "welcome to the end of Spring 2017", we have seen the heat of summer! Welcome to another newsletter filled with Florida Garden Railway Society content you will find informative, fun and helpful.

Our event at Charlie's was fun and several raffle winners walked away happy with the prizes they were hoping to get. We reorganized our raffle so you put your tickets only on the prizes you want to win. Included you'll find pictures of Charlie's 70 feet by 90 feet layout. We also had a board meeting and discussed some pressing club issues including working on completion of our club revised by-laws. We have once again registered with the state and protected our club branding/marks.

I want to reinforce several topics from last month:

Please send in your newsletter articles to Tom so they can be included in our upcoming issues. There is an encyclopedia of "G Scale knowledge" out there from ideas/experience on layouts to scenery, electrical to equipment. Your experience and knowledge/ideas will help all of us.

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# **FGRS 2017 BOARD MEMBERS**



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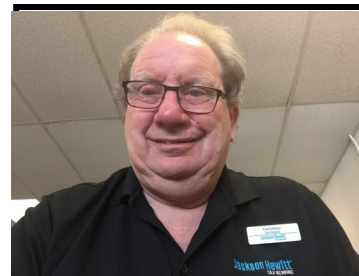


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## **FGRS UPCOMMING EVENTS AT MEMBERS HOUSES**

**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.

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.

I will then put it on the schedule and notify you that the date is set and put it into the next newsletter.

## **UPCOMMING TRAIN SHOWS**

**17th Tampa Model Show, Florida State Fairgrounds, 2017 Saturday June 3rd, 9-4, and Sunday June 4th, 10-4 .**

**Contact Charles Miller, EM**  
= [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com) Website  
= [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com) .

**60 th Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Deland , FL.32734 Saturday, July 8th, 2017**

**Contact Charles Miller 703-536-2954. Website = [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com). EM = [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com)**

**2017 The Orange Blossom Special NMRA National Convention, Orlando, July 30th - August 6th.**

**More Info @ [www.NMRAStores.com](http://www.NMRAStores.com)**

**The Villages Model Train Show & Sale, Saturday Aug 19th, 9-4 and Sunday Aug 20th 10-3.**

**More info @ [www.thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com](http://www.thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com)**

**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.**



# Past meets

Article written by  
Ross Marvin

## A Fun Day Running Trains at CHARLIE BEALL 's

Charlie Beall was once again a great host and from all who attended, a Big "Thank You" Charlie for opening up your home and sharing a spectacular Garden Railway layout with us for a Club meeting. Charlie said the layout is roughly 70 feet x 90 feet and has four train track lines. It was built in 2006. There is a waterfall, water feature, stocked with fish, long truss bridges, and as the pictures show a varied, beautifully landscaped terrain throughout the layout. If you missed this opportunity, Charlie has reserved January 21, 2018 for another event. Also...we have two videos of his layout on our closed to members only [Group Florida Garden Railway Facebook](#) [page](#) from May 10<sup>th</sup> last year. If you haven't joined yet.....sign up, it's free as part of your membership, and you'll see great Garden Railway pictures and videos from members.













# What's going on in the garden



In last month's article we left off with completed motor blocks. Now we will proceed with the Kadee coupler install (**Photo 1**). The process was easy enough. I just drilled out the Kadee coupler shank to fit over the stud and screwed it in place. The next step was to put in LED lights. Each end cap has four lights, two head and two running lights (**Photo 2**). The headlights are on and the running lights, which are red are off in the direction of travel. The opposite is true at the other end of the car.

I screwed in the motor blocks and bolted in the end caps. The result is shown in **Photo 3**. Installing the end caps actually begins the process of beefing up the frame.

The frame was originally fastened by small machine screws.



1. The coupler is installed.



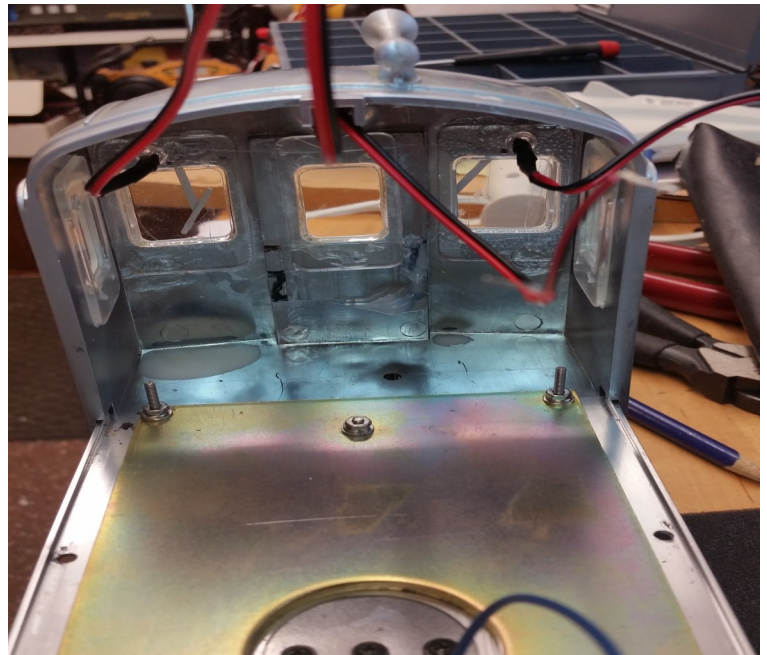
2. LED's are hot glued in.



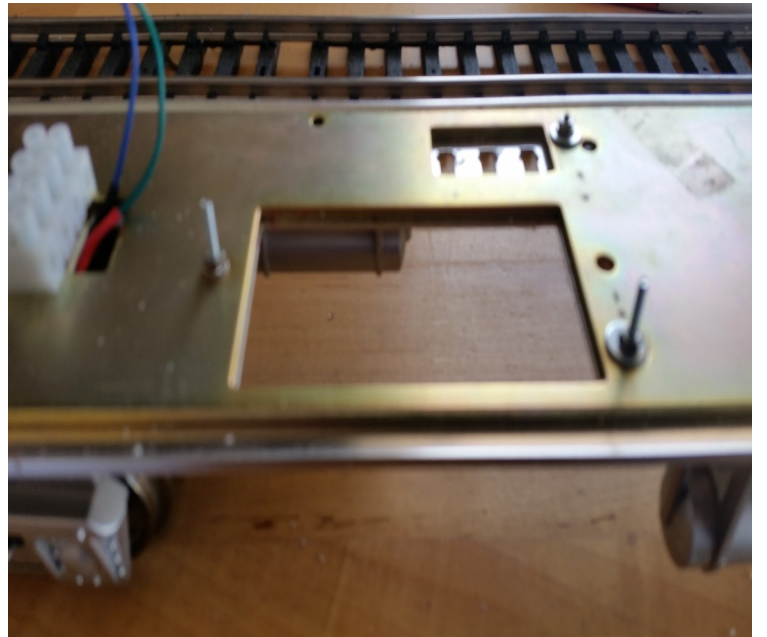
Half of the screws were missing. I decided not to hunt around for the screws that were supposed to be used because the openings were striped, and therefore, I would have to find larger size screws and retap the holes, which would be a lot of work. So I decided to drill out the holes, where necessary, and use 2-56 nuts and bolts. Although this doesn't give you a clean surface on the inside, it will become apparent why I chose this method as the project progresses.

The frame of the RDC has a cadmium plated steel reinforcing plate as you saw in **Photo 3**. In **Photo 4** it's more apparent. This is a two battery installation. It has two 4.5ah batteries one over each motor block and, therefore, it will need two separate charging and running circuits.

**Photo 5** shows most of the components laid out. Missing from the photo are the speaker, smoke unit, relays and voltage regulator. These will be added to the car as the conversion unfolds.



3. Installed end cap. Notice the bolts.

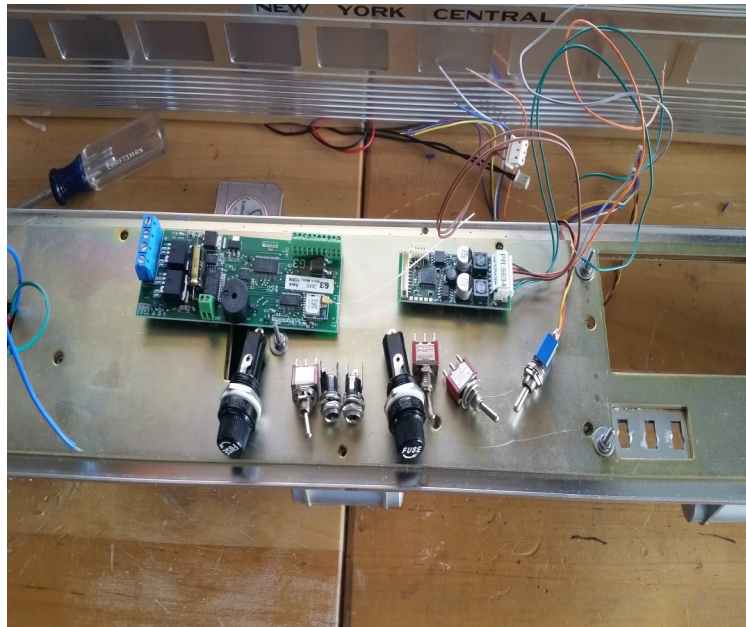


4. Plate bolted down in three places. On the left is a terminal block which the truck leads and battery leads tie into.

As you can see in **Photo 5** there is a large rectangular hole in the frame and three small ones where the slide switches were. These openings worked out perfectly for installing switches, charging jacks and fuses (**Photo 6**).

The switch on the left controls the current flow from the left battery along with the charging jack and fuse. The right switch does the same thing but for the right battery. I can run the RDC with either battery switched on or both switched on. With both switched on, they will discharge equally. This gives me about four hours of run time but only requires two hours of charge time because the charging circuits are separate and I can use two chargers. If you used one charger it would take four hours to charge.

The center switch shuts off the sound system. This is important because the Phoenix P8 has common configuration variables (CV's) with Airwire. After the P8 is programmed I shut it off and programmed the Airwire. This way the shared CV's can contain different values. In **Photo 7** is the top view of the P8 control switch and programming jack installed.



5. Just getting an idea in my head how I will lay all this out.



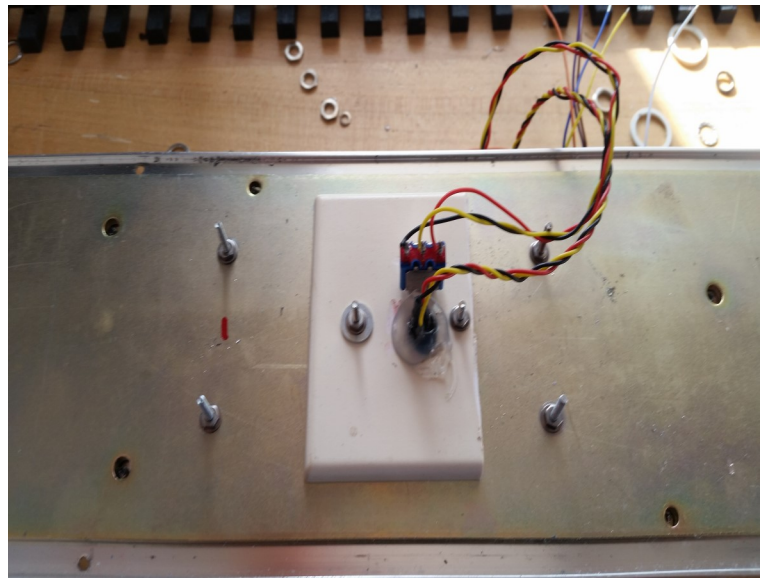
6. Underside of RDC showing switches, fuses and the charging jacks.



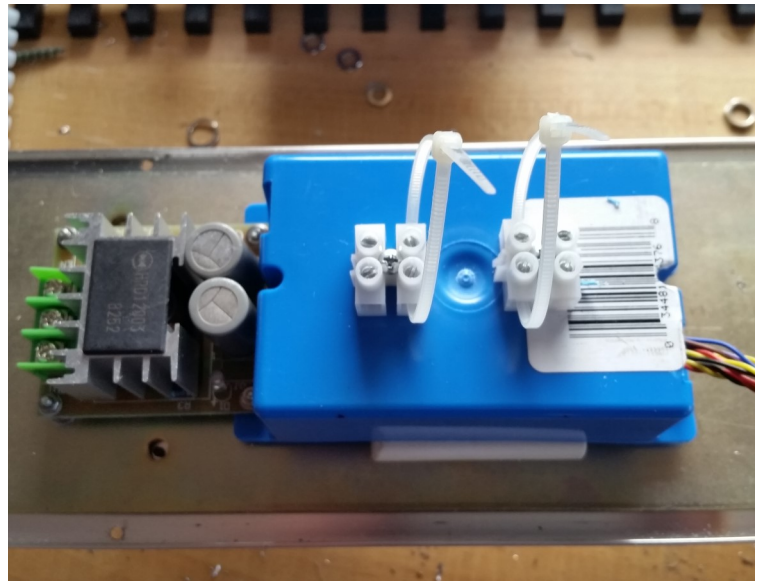
**Photo 8** shows where I placed an electrical box over the P8 programming jack and switch. The two terminal strips hold the wire ties in place which in turn will hold down the P8 sound board. The circuit board to the left is a 3A 12V voltage regulator. The only thing that uses the 24V from the batteries is the Airwire board for controlling the motor blocks.

The LED lights and the smoke generator run on a 12V system just like your car. There are two reasons for this. First, the smoke generator has to have 12V and it draws 1.5A. Secondly with the 12V regulator, I only have to reduce the voltage from 12V down to 3V and can use 1/4 watt resistors to run the lights. If I ran the lights from the 24V batteries, too much heat would be generated and I would have to use 1/2 watt resistors.

In **Photo 9** the P8 is enclosed in the electrical box and the Airwire board will sit on top of that..



7. Notice more studs are appearing.



8. Here is where the studs come in. The box and voltage regulator are bolted down to the frame.



We're going to move ahead now to getting this thing wired up. In

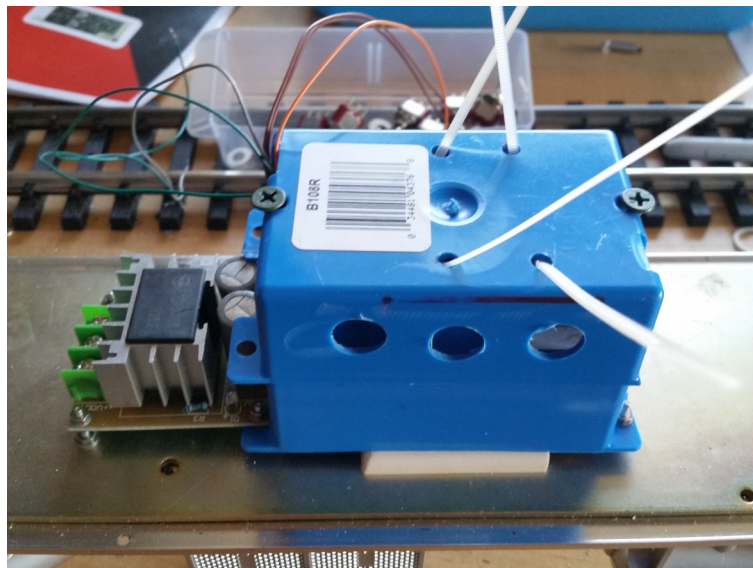
**Photo 10** I placed the smoke unit relay. I then placed the batteries at both ends above the motor blocks (**Photo 11**). This aids in traction even though an RDC does not need much pulling force.



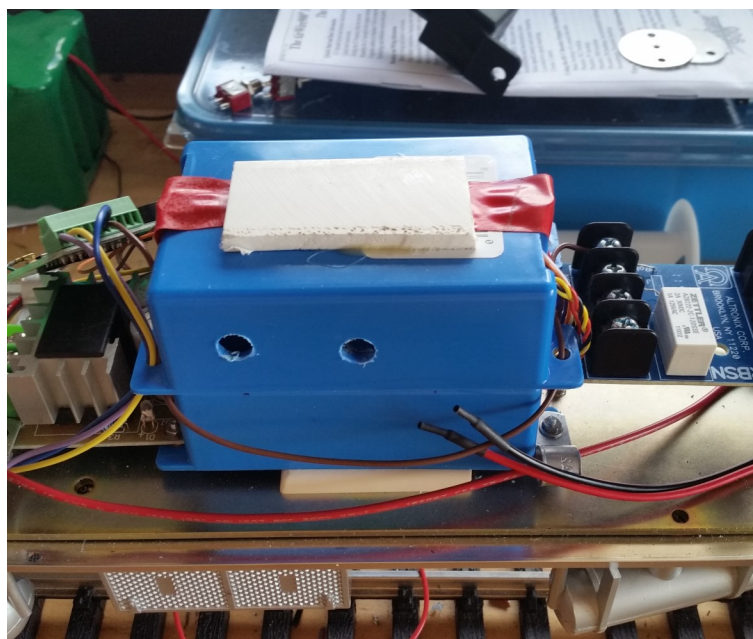
11. Battery in position.

Also in **Photo 11**, notice the coax cable holder under the relay. This helps keep all the wires under control. One stud is doing three jobs. It holds down two coax cable holders and supports one side of the relay.

In **Photo 12** I'm getting ready to twist together two wires which are used for power to the motor blocks. Most motor blocks are very noisy and twisting the wires together reduces motor noise.

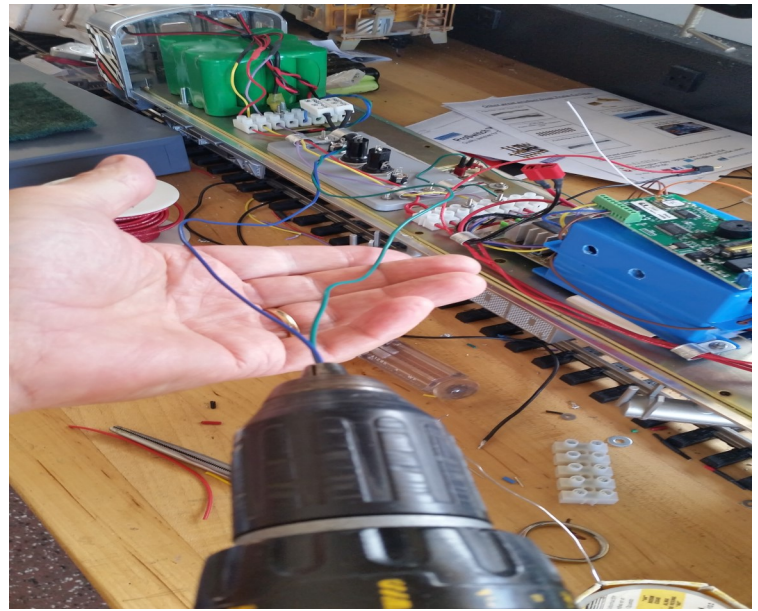


9. The P8 is enclosed you can see the wires in the upper left.

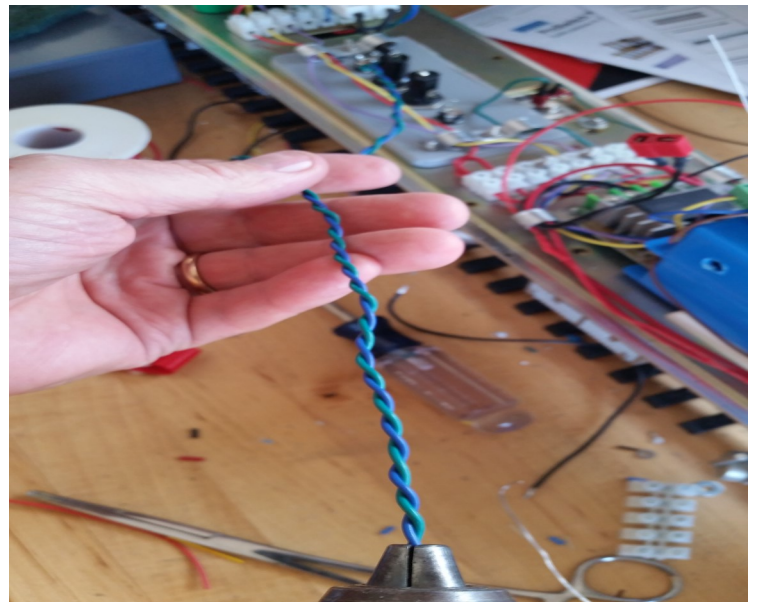


10. The relay is suspended by more studs.

Using a power drill results in a nice tight twist (**Photo 13**). Just remember that twisting the wires together makes them shorter so you need to keep that in mind when cutting the length of wire needed. I will explain in brief the high points shown in **Photo 14**. At the center of the picture is the smoke relay. It is a double pole relay but I am only using one pole because I just need to switch the positive on or off. In the top left of the relay is the negative wire which is activated from the airwire board. The other three terminals on the left are not being used. On the right hand side, you see two wires attached to the top terminal. This is the hot wire for the relay and it is also connected to the common terminal of the switch. In the lower right, are two wires that go to the smoke unit. The smaller wire is for the fan and the larger wire is for the heating element. These are attached to the normally open (NO) terminal. Upon activation the relay solenoid closes the contacts. As we look to the left, we see two wires attached to the Airwire. This is the motor driver circuit. If you follow the wires to the terminal block you will see the twisted wires that were done in **Photo 13** . Here it connects to two one ohm wire wound resistors. This also helps with noise reduction. Also there is another capacitor which further reduces the noise.

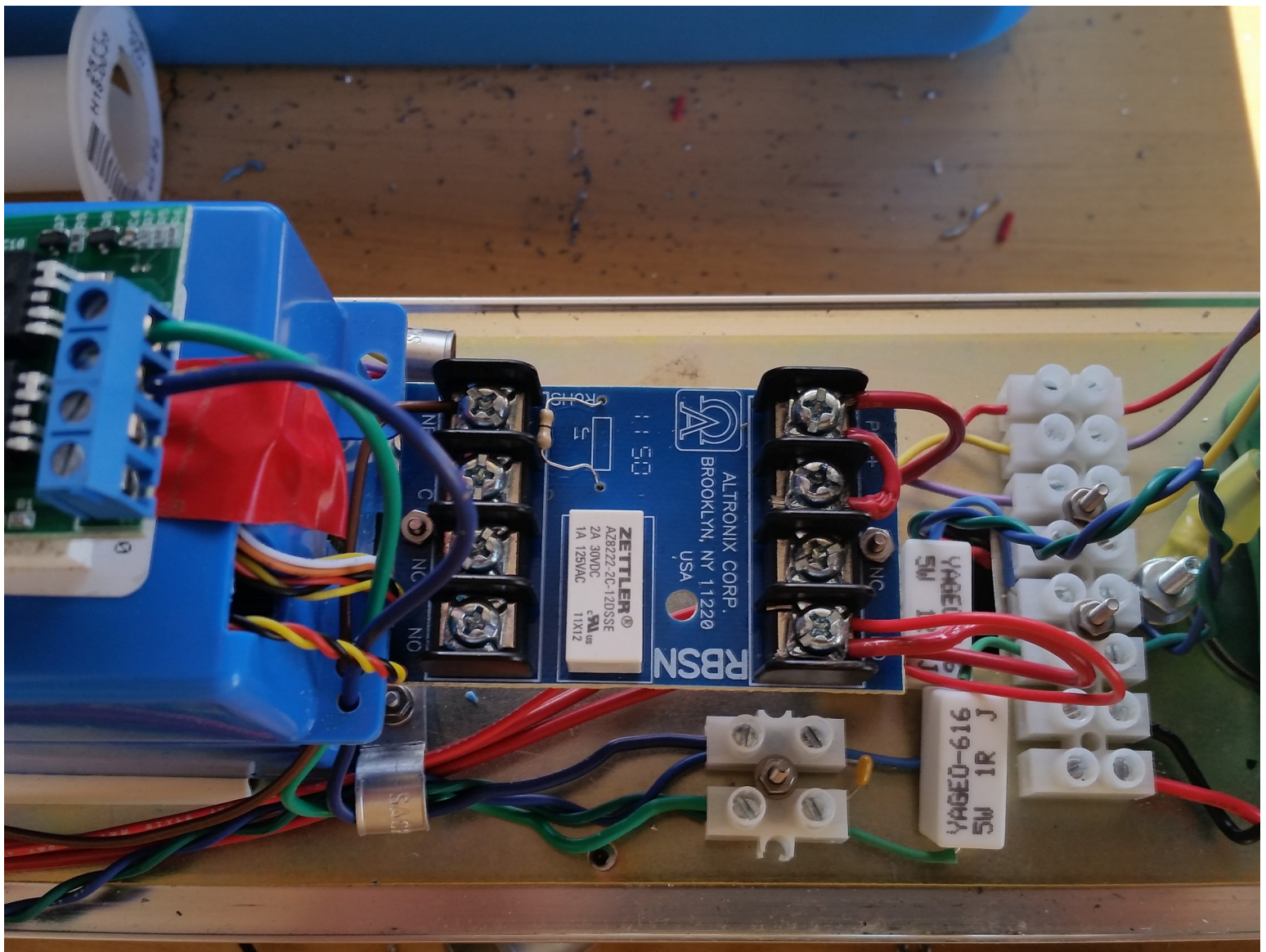


12. The wires are in the chuck and I am ready to twist.



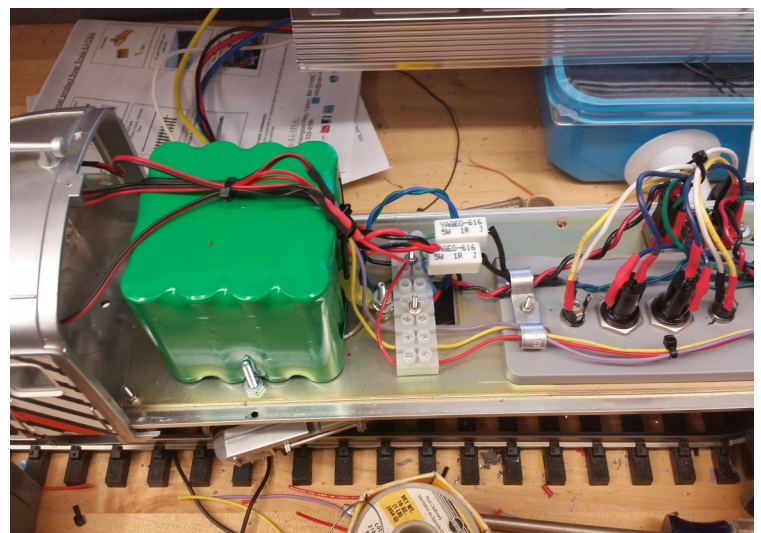
13. A nice tight twist.





14. Relay wired up. Missing is the diode that goes across the positive and negative terminals which suppresses any back EMF that could occur when the relay opens.

Now all the switches and charging circuits are connected up to the battery (**Photo 15**). The only connection left is to hook up the Airwire to the power switch (**Photo 16**).



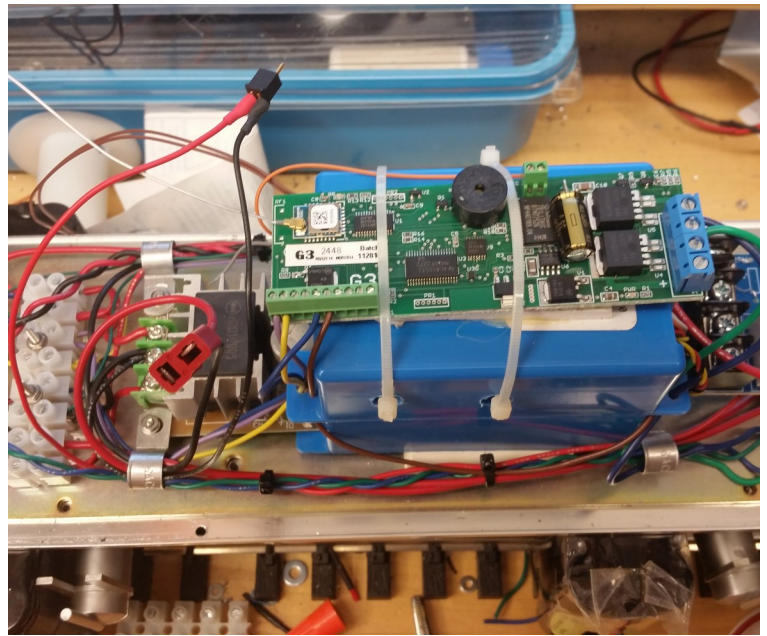
15. Switches and circuits hooked up.



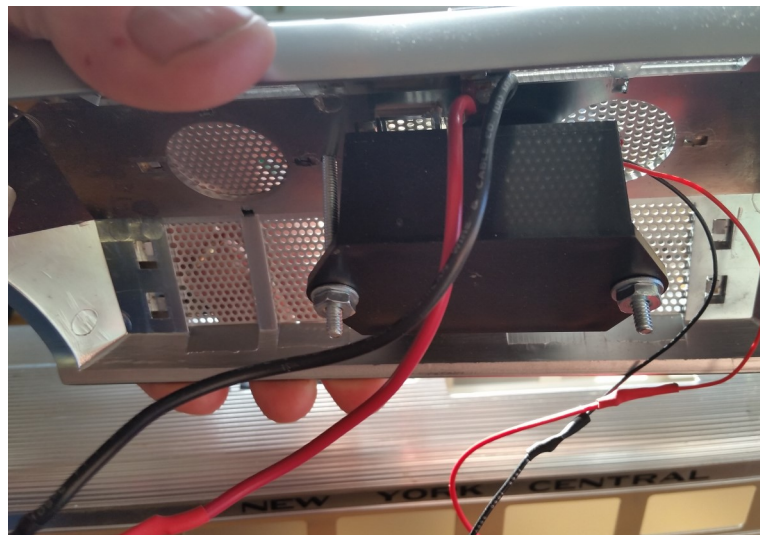
After the Airwire is hooked up, it is ready for a test spin (**Photo 17**). The last thing to do is to install the smoker (**Photo 18**) and give her the final test (**Photo 19**).



17. A quick spin around to smoke out any problems.



16. All wired except the switch leg to the Aiwire board.



18. Smoker installed in ventilation compartment.





16. Here is the final assembly with smoker running.

This project took about 80 hours to complete over a three month period and I thoroughly enjoyed doing it.

I encourage anyone else who has done a project to write an article about it and share it with the group so we can learn from each other.

# LINKS TO TRAINS PAST & PRESENT

## **Submitted by Ross:**

This month's "Links to Past & Present" is about the last Ringling Train. As you may know the "Greatest Show on Earth", the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus had their final curtain call this week. Along with that went 146 years of history. (The first show was in 1871) Whether or not you liked the circus, it is a sad time for many and so passes on another tradition of American Railroading with the circus coming to town by rail. See the included website pictures and videos and enjoy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-R8QbGz27Y>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzwkAcO2KyQ>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2017/05/the-finale-of-the-greatest-show-on-earth/527631/>

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## **Submitted by Victor:**

Apparently there has been a question about the car between the diesels on the Florida East Coast RR (FEC). Spoke with a guy who works on those cars. They are LPG tanks. FEC is planning to drop diesel and go to gas. Don't know if the decision was made before they were sold to the Mexican rail conglomerate or as a result of the acquisition.

Here is a youtube video:

<https://youtu.be/a5QzmgbCGiE>



# 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.**

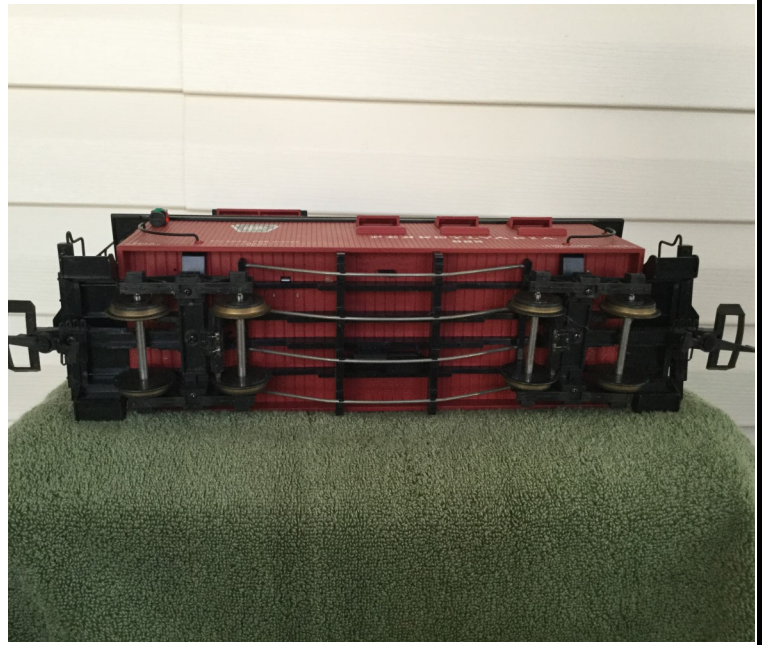
**Rules are simple. Submit up to four pictures, a description of the item, contact information, and the price.**

**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.**

The following items are from Bob Anttila. If interested in any item please contact him by Phone 941-468-8183 or e-mail [banttila@comcast.net](mailto:banttila@comcast.net)

All items do not include shipping.



Caboose with steel wheels with hook and loop couplers. Asking \$40.00.

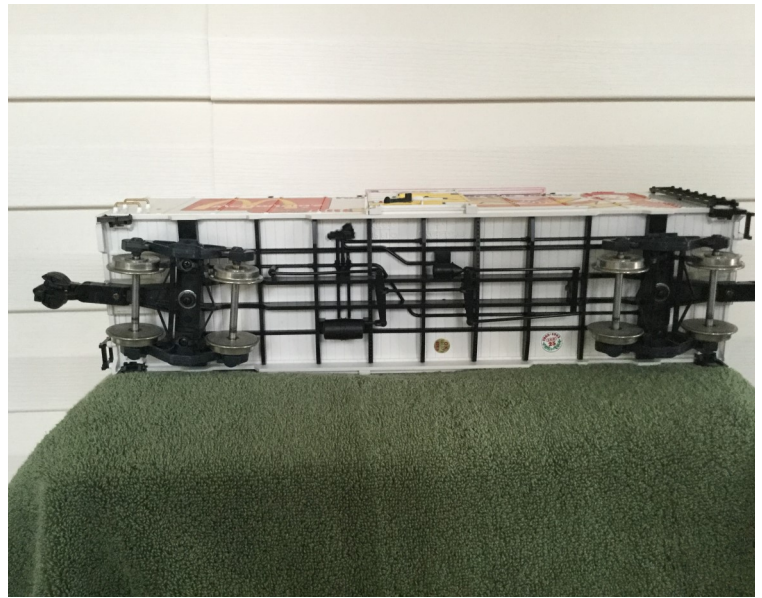


RAIL BOX car with plastic wheels and USA knuckle couplers.  
Asking price is \$30.00



Bachmann car and trailer with steel wheels and Bachmann knuckle couplers.  
Asking price is \$40.00





LGB McDonalds boxcar with steel wheels and Aristo knuckle couplers. Asking price is \$40.00.



Railroad Express Agency B&O boxcar with Plastic wheels plus hook & loop couplers. Asking price is \$30.00



Aristo flat car with 2 B&O trailer load. Car has steel wheels and Aristo couplers.  
Asking price is \$40.00





### **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.**

Remember to join our “PRIVATE” Group Facebook Page. It is closed to the public and allows us to share pictures, videos and share our building accomplishments or experiences with each other. Pictures and video can be seen on our club Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=florida%20garden%20railway> “Thank You to all of you that have joined and shared.

At the present time, we will be taking time off for Summer. We do not have any group plans to walk the NMRA show in Orlando:

Orange County Convention Center

August 4 - 6, 2017

9800 International Drive Orlando, FL 32819

Friday, August 4, 2017      12:00 Noon – 6:00 PM

Saturday, August 5, 2017    10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Sunday, August 6, 2017    10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**NTS Website: [www.nationaltrainshow.org](http://www.nationaltrainshow.org)**

But that could change if members show interest in going together.

Have a great summer, be sure to check out my latest “Links to Past & Present”..... and...As always, Keep on G-Scaling. Ross