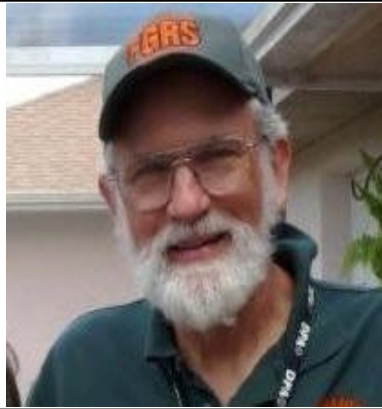




MAY 2019



PRESIDENT'S NOTES FROM PAUL WAGNER

Dear Fellow Members,

I regret having to write that one of our members, Ron Kessler, passed away on Friday, April 26. A long-time garden railroader and member of FGRS, he was always cheerful and friendly. Only 3 months ago he assisted with our modular railroad at the Deland Train Show, but his wife, Paula, says that shortly thereafter, he suddenly developed some cognitive difficulties, and subsequently was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of brain cancer. She said that, mercifully, he experienced very little pain. Ron served as President of the Tampa Division of FGRS in past years, and was just now beginning to join into our revitalized organization again. He was an Air Force Veteran, and, until recently, he and his wife, Paula, lived in Land O'Lakes, Florida, during the winter months. They had recently moved to a smaller house in Sumterville Florida, and were in the process of building a new garden railroad there. They also had a large garden railroad in Michigan, but Paula now plans to spend summers with her daughter in Ohio, continuing to come to their new home in Sumterville during the winters. Condolences can be sent to Paula at 178 US 301, Lot 4, Sumterville, FL, 33585.

There will be a graveside funeral for him at the Bushnell Veterans Cemetery, on May 17th at 11 AM, at 6502 S.W. 102nd Avenue, Bushnell, FL 33513. Ron was 77.

It was another beautiful day when twenty of us got together at my layout in North Port, what a great time, thanks to all of you who came out! We only had a small train wreck this time, as yours truly threw a switch under Tom's train, and we quickly got things going again. I had been warned to watch out for Murphy, and next, after a short run of double headed Mikados pulling a long coal drag, a driver slipped out of quarter and bound up the motor block on one of the steamers, bringing that impressive train to a halt. Those engines were unceremoniously carried back to the shop, and the train was rescued by an old U-25 diesel. Tom's RDC, pulling a long freight train, and my Crescent Limited passenger train, pulled by a big, green Pacific, ran flawlessly all day, however.

A big raffle ensued, and new members Mike and Tracy Walls, who recently moved down from Columbus, Ohio, home of the legendary garden Railway Society there, won a great little tree to start their new layout in Clermont. Other pleased members took home a nifty speeder shed, outhouse, and relay box donated by Fred and Millie from their G scale structure company; a box car donated by Tom Hite; and many other nifty prize.

As promised, there were clinics, one by Bob Conant, on repowering a Bachman Trolley with a USA diesel motor block. He and member Rich Oldenburg have both had success with this upgrade to their trolleys. I then dusted off a clinic I gave at the NGRC in Tampa on using "hypertufa" hardscape scenery, bonding roadbed ballast, and added a brief show and tell of the PVC "ladder" roadbed base, now in use on this layout. A text of the clinics will be coming in a special emailing, as well as being posted on the Member's Sign In page of the website. There will be a number of other articles and links submitted by members posted there, also. If you have built something for your railroad that worked out well, please send it in to Tom for inclusion in the newsletter, and to

me to be added to the website. A clinic on building mountains written by member Bob Pero is included this newsletter issue.

Our Event Chair, Fred Weber, announced that we will be setting up the club layout and the “Kid’s” layout at the National Train Day celebration in the Tampa Railroad Station on May 11, and called for volunteers to set up and man the exhibit. This kind of showing may not only get new members to sign up, but also helps to make the hobby grow, and is just plain fun! We will also do a set-up at the Tampa Train Show on June 1 and 2. Please sign up with Fred to set up and operate these, and help make these displays a success.

So far, it’s slim pickings for the rest of the summer for fun run meets. I know some of you have layouts, let’s hear from you, and get something going. An early morning coffee and doughnut run works well during this summer heat. Call a few friends and get one together. We’ll post it in the newsletter, and you might be surprised how many people will come. Meanwhile, we’ll look for shows and events we can do in air conditioned places.

Charlie Bealle’s meet is coming up this **Sunday**, May 5, see the announcement in this newsletter. I hope to see you out there. On the Saturday before his meet, (May 4th) we will all have a chance to watch for the Big Boy roll-out video from Cheyenne on the internet. It should be on national news, as well. If any of you are fortunate enough to make it out there, send us pictures and a story. See the update in this issue.

Good Health and Railroading to All!

Paul Wagner

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Neighborhood get-together for Bill Severns' Golden Spike

When Bill and Diane Severns invited a few neighborhood friends for a lunch out and a look at their new railroad, they had no idea how the word would spread. Everyone called a friend, who called a friend, and before they knew it, there were fourteen people at the little waterside bar and grill, all anxious to descend on their recently completed layout. That's Bill, fourth from left, with his wife, Diane, third from right.



The layout was designed for easy maintenance, but is a great representation of high plains terrain, with nicely weathered and ballasted code 250 track, including 10 switches, which provide some very interesting railroading. Just look at that old Colorado water tower!





Note the siding behind the plantings, waiting for the produce train to haul off a load of those tomatoes.

TIPS & TECHNIQUES

From the website of member Bob Pero:

<http://www.liveoakrr.com/>

Used by permission

The Mountains of Lutz

While waiting for our wide-radius turnouts to arrive, Marcia and I decided to lay out the topography for the Live Oak & Northern-L.A. Division (Lutz Area). Our main mountain occupies space on the layout where the main line tracks narrow due to space limitations between the "Live Oak" and our well. This area is about 4 feet wide, and marks the division between farmland and the city/industrial part of our layout. We had planned a crossover inside the mountain, but the difference in elevation between the two sets of tracks is too great. The framework for the mountain has 2x2 pressure treated wood as center supports, and a pressure treated 1x3 backbone or ridge. Light rebar has been bent to form the contours of the mountain, and these have been tied together and to the wood frame with wire. The support posts have been cemented into the ground for extra strength. The mountain measures 5 feet tall from the ground and 15 feet in length. A train can be easily hidden in the tunnel with a timer circuit to give the impression of a longer run. I built tunnel portal supports out of pressure treated 1x3's and spiked them down to their final locations. These portals were checked for clearance using an Aristo streamline dome car, since this is the longest and tallest piece of rolling stock that I have. I will have to scratch build tunnel portals, since I have double tracks coming out of the mountain, and there is no commercial source for these. I may wind up building them out of pressure treated wood, or making a mold and pouring them from mortar mix or stucco. The framework of the mountain is covered with chicken wire which Marcia and I twisted and bent to shape before we wired it to the rebar and wood frame. We then cut up old bed sheets and dipped them in some real soupy mortar mix and placed them over the chicken wire like paper mache. (Note: we covered the track in the tunnels with visqueen to keep the cement from dripping on it during our construction and also ran the water lines for our water falls before putting on this covering.) This technique is like the hard-shell

scenery used on indoor layouts, but cement is used in place of plaster. Once the sheets had dried we added a thicker coat of mortar mix using trowels, and by hand while wearing chemical- proof gloves. A final coat of mortar mix will be added, and Marcia will carve her rock texture into this along with adding pieces of real rock. The entire mountain will be painted with washes of color using heavily thinned latex paint. Since we are trying to duplicate specific western mountains, our colors will be more gray to simulate granite, but we will add washes of brown, green, and purple. The entire mountain will then receive a black wash to highlight the detail Remember it is important to study the mountains for the area you are modeling so that you can get the textures and colors correct. The mountain has an access door in the back that allows me to climb in to do any track maintenance. It is made out of pressure treated plywood, and will be painted to match the rest of the mountain. The track inside the tunnels will be ballasted to promote proper drainage. We are going to use the same technique to build smaller hills and ridges so that our topography blends in with the rest of the layout. This technique is not new or unique. It has been used by many of our members to build some spectacular mountain ranges on their home layouts.



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FUN RUNS AT MEMBERS HOUSES

2019

May 5th— Fun Run at Charlie Bealls. 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 . Also...we have two videos of his layout on our closed to members only [Group Florida Garden Railway Facebook page](#) . 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.

The meet starts at noon, bring a dish to share, and chairs.

His address is 7839 Sloewood Drive, Mount Dora, 32757.

cbeall7839@gmail.com

Phone 352-383-3976

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.

MEET AT PAUL & PATTY'S FUN DAY HAD BY ALL

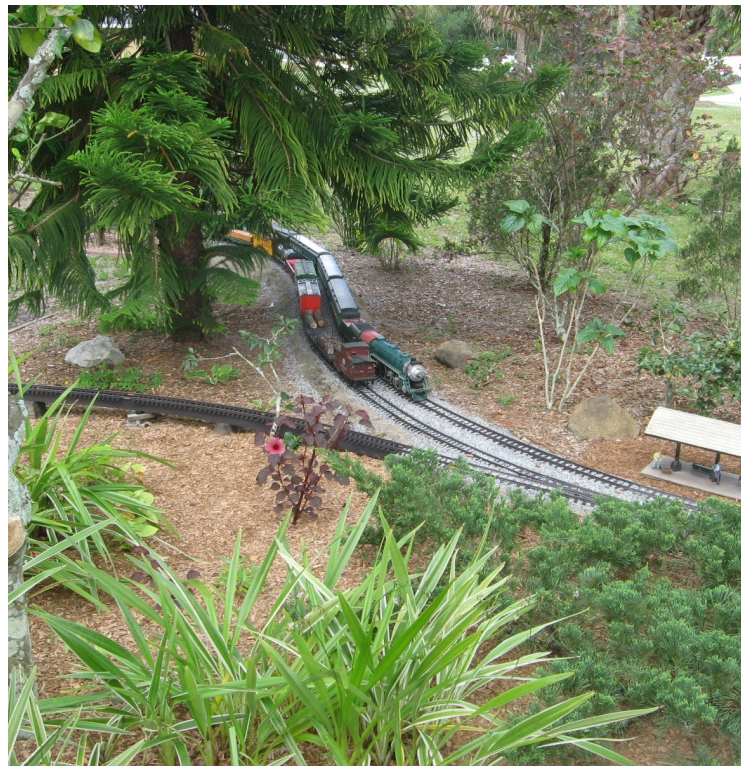
It was an absolute spectacular day to run trains. Paul had the lay out in tip top shape. As I recall we did not have one derailment which goes to show you how meticulous Paul is about the track work. Attendance was good as the pictures will show.



Upon entering Paul's back yard you are greeted by the beautiful layout.



Here is Paul's work shop. This place is neat as a pin. Paul knows exactly where everything is.



Interesting seeing an RDC pulling freight. One train leaving the layout as another one heads out for run.



Two trains pass on the bridge while others watch and relax.



Lovely couple enjoying the day. Wait half of the lovely couple won a raffle prize. Paul is making sure the ticket is valid.



Another winner in the raffle. On the right is a pair that beats a full house.

As you can see it was a fun day. Thanks to Paul and Patty for hosting the meet.

Video's of the day.

<https://youtu.be/KvVzst4ogjA>

<https://youtu.be/DTluQHSYYB4>

https://youtu.be/8m_OeYRoksM

<https://youtu.be/YWEPP5o34V8>

UPCOMING TRAIN SHOWS

2019 Upcoming Florida Train Meets/Shows

Submitted by Bruce Benardo

JUNE

Jun 1/2 ,21st Tampa Model Train Show & Sale, More Info at www.gserr.com

For a Complete list of Model Train Shows and other information about the Hobby go to railserve.com

AUGUST

Aug 27– 31, GR National Convention

For a Complete list of Train Shows go to 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. .

NGRC 2019 Updates

Submitted by Bruce Benardo:

The following are links to the convention.

Check these links periodically because content will no doubt change over time.

[NGRC Newsletter - 17 August 2018.pdf](#)

[www.ngrc2019.org](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willamette_Shore_Trolley](#)

LINKS TO TRAINS PAST & PRESENT

Big Boy No. 4014 fired up for the first time; May 12 excursion announced April 10, 2019

RELATED TOPICS: UNION PACIFIC BIG BOY

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Big Boy No. 4014, shown at Pomona, Calif., in November 2013, is hot once more.

Trains: Jim Wrinn

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Union Pacific said Wednesday steam shop crews lit a fire in Big Boy 4-8-8-4 No. 4014 for the first time in 60 years on April 9. It was the first time the engine was fired up as an oil burner.

The locomotive, which has been under rebuild since 2016, will undergo further testing before its debut on a trip on Ogden, Utah, on May 4 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first transcontinental railroad.

The railroad also said tickets will go on sale April 15 for a one-way May 12 trip from Ogden to Evanston, Wyo., with No. 4014 doubleheading with 4-8-4 No. 844. This would be the first opportunity for any of the public to ride behind No. 4014.

The trip, which includes a two-hour behind-the-scenes tour at Ogden Union Station, is a fundraiser for the Union Pacific Railroad Museum and Spike 150, a Utah initiative to commemorate the 150th anniversary. Go to www.spike150.org on April 12 for more details. Presumably, the trip would include a bus return, as the two locomotives are continuing east the next day.

Finally, UP also announced that at its May 9 ceremony in Ogden, where Nos. 4014 and 844 will touch noses Union Pacific Chairman, President and CEO Lance Fritz and Utah Gov. Gary Herbert will be joined by Margaret Yee and Sandy Dodge to tap a ceremonial spike. Yee's ancestors were among thousands of Chinese immigrants who forged the transcontinental railroad for Central Pacific. Dodge is a descendent of Gen. Grenville Dodge, Civil War veteran and Union Pacific's chief engineer during construction.

Find out more about the Big Boy's return to steam on Trains' UNION PACIFIC BIG BOY page.

Trains News Wire

Big Boy excursion ticket details: \$3,000 for coach, \$5,000 for dome
39

Big Boy excursion ticket details: \$3,000 for coach, \$5,000 for dome
April 12, 2019

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Restored Big Boy No. 4014 will pull the first public excursion powered by a UP 4000-class ever on May 12.

Trains: Jim Wrinn

OGDEN, Utah — If you want to ride behind Union Pacific Big Boy 4-8-8-4 No. 4014 next month, a ticket for a 65-mile one way trip across the Wasatch Grade that was the reason for the engine's creation and the primary operating territory for the 25 locomotives will cost you what may be a record amount for a U.S. steam-powered excursion, \$3,000 for a coach seat, \$5,000 for a dome seat. That is according to information posted to the Spike 150 Website Friday. Tickets for the May 12 ride go on sale at 10 a.m. Mountain Time on Monday. Only 82 spaces will be available for the doubleheader with 4-8-4 No. 844 through Weber and Echo canyons to the top of Wasatch grade. The trip will be the first ever Big Boy excursion. The last 4000-class UP locomotive ran in July 1959.

The pop up excursion benefits the Golden Spike Foundation that is coordinating Utah's celebration of the 150th anniversary of the first transcontinental railroad and the UP Museum in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The event is more than a train ride. It comes with a May 11 tour of the UP passenger train; interaction with Scott Moore, UP's senior vice president of corporate relations and chief administrative officer and Ed Dickens, senior manager of the UP steam operations; and a photo op for participants who want to stand on the rear car's back platform. The next day, riders get breakfast on board, a boxed lunch, and a chartered bus ride back to Ogden.

For details or to purchase, go to www.spike150.org

Watch this. BIG BOY wakes up from 60 years of hibernation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-hGabZ3pPY>

SPECIAL EVENTS

All Aboard Tampa Train Day !!!!!!!

This is being held at the **Historic Tampa Union Station** 601 N. Nebraska Ave. Tampa, FL.

This is an opportunity to help set up the layout on Friday, run trains on Saturday and talk about our club and the hobby.

We will be setting up the layout on Friday May 10th. We plan on starting at 11 AM. The layout will be inside the old baggage building.

The main event starts at 10 AM and ends at 4 PM on Saturday May 11. We plan on getting there early so we can park near the building. There is plenty of free parking nearby.

You can bring your trains to run or anything that looks good next to the tracks.

www.tampaunionstation.com

The Golden Spike Model Train Show & Sale

This event will be June 1 & 2 with set up on May 31.

At this time we don't know how big our space will be. If it's only one table, we don't need to set up on Friday. If There's only enough space for the kids layout this could be done on Friday or Saturday morning. If it's big enough for the big layout this would be done on Friday.

More on this as I get the information.

If you're interested in helping the club let me know. Looking forward to great fun with trains !

Fred Weber

Event Chairman FGRS

FGRS.eventchair@gmail.com

Cell 410-310-6001

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 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 FGRS 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: 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. 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: _____

Please take note

When submitting pictures and articles to the NL I need the articles written in Word and the pictures as .JPG attachments.

Imbedded pictures in an e-mail sometimes gets stripped off by my virus software.

A few sentences to be put in the NL is okay.

Copying word documents into the NL works great. Problems exist when I have to copy and paste. Imbedded pictures do not work well and sometimes come out weird and I have to do a lot of editing.