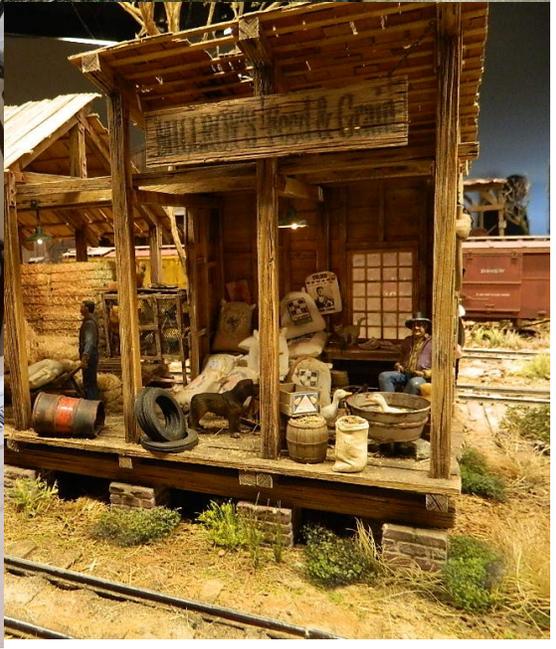
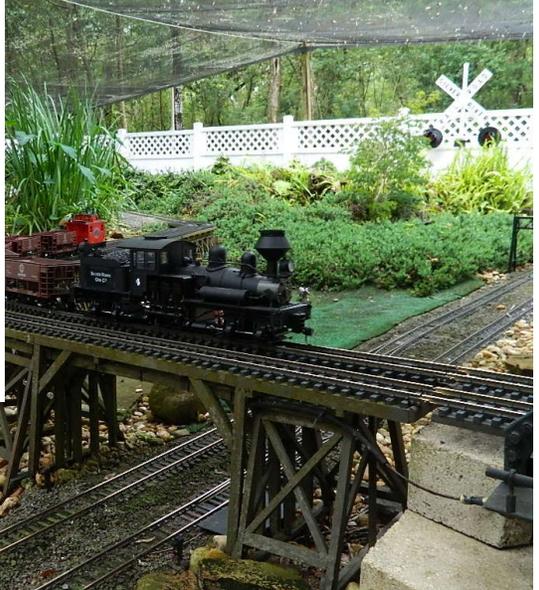




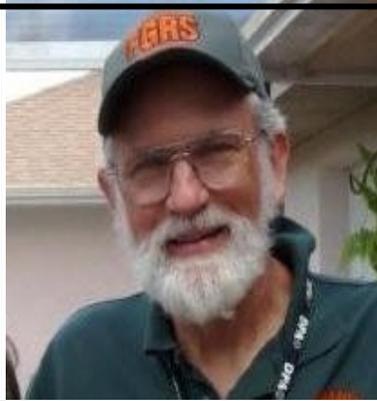
August 2020





August 2020

PRESIDENT'S NOTES FROM PAUL WAGNER



Tim Smith's "Social Distanced" Fun Run went very well. Besides several FGRS members attending, Tim says that 40 of his neighbors showed up! (See his article in this newsletter)

It looks like there is lots of interest in garden railroading in his neighborhood and he is stepping up to get them together and spread the word about FGRS.

Tim is interested in starting a "Chapter" in his area, the third proposal of this kind we have received from a member. In our desire to keep things simple, when we reorganized a few years ago, we refrained from dividing up the state, and we re-wrote the bylaws without the "Divisions" that FGRS had years ago. You may be aware, however, that our present bylaws states that we would consider this after the membership grew to over 100. Well, now we are there, and we believe that by encouraging local chapters to form, it will increase the activity and fun for everyone. This is a large state, and it will make sense for members to do more railroading, and less driving. How all these moving parts will fit together will be worked out by your Board of Directors, by listening to all of you who will come forward and help form these "Chapters".

By now, you've all probably heard the traumatic news - **After 35 years, Garden Railways Magazine is ceasing publication!** We have some ideas as to what that will mean, and what to do about it. Please see the article in this Newsletter.

The Zoom Fun Runs are growing! At the last one, on July 18th, thirteen members signed in, and had a great time! There were two layouts with trains running, and lots of good conversation. I think we surprised each other with how much we had in common to talk about.

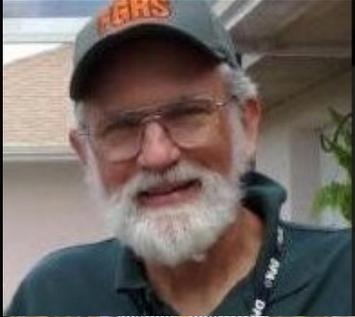
I'll be on it again with another Zoom on **August 15th**, running trains, with some switching operations this time. Ross Marvin says he's ready to join in and show off new his layout (although it is still under construction), and I hope many more of you will, as well. (See the article in this newsletter) I know that this sitting at home is getting old, and I'm *so ready to get out to see you all and run trains all over the state again. But I'm feeling like we need a little more time before we can safely have a full activity meet. If there is interest, we may continue Zoom meetings in addition to regular fun runs, to keep us all in touch with people who live far away from us.*

We still have a meet scheduled at Ridge Live Steamers, in Dundee, on **September 12**. We are scaling it down from our original plan to insure everyone's safety, and will practice strict social distancing, wearing masks when we are not a safe distance from each other. We will postpone the sale we had planned until a later date, but there will still be plenty of opportunity for some great train running on the Ridge Live Steamers G scale track, and train rides around the beautiful groves. See details on the Events Page of this Newsletter, and watch for an update to be mailed out mid-August for any change in plans.

Good Health and Railroading to All!

Paul

FGRS 2020 BOARD MEMBERS



FGRS President

Paul Wagner

941-445-0409

fgrs.president@gmail.com



FGRS Vice President

Phil Barcelona

386-562-4859

fgrs.vicepresident@gmail.com



FGRS Treasurer

Melinda Archer

727-421- 5894

fgrs.treasurer@gmail.com



FGRS Secretary

Millie Weber

941-224-2996

fgrs.secretary@gmail.com



FGRS Newsletter

Ross Marvin

407-435-7012

Fgrs.newsletter

@gmail.com



FGRS Membership

Jay Archer

727-736-1989

Fgrs.membership

@gmail.com



FGRS Event Chairman

Fred Weber

410-310-6001

fgrs.eventchair@gmail.com



August 2020 Newsletter Contents

In this edition of the newsletter you will find the following:

CLUB NEWS

- 1) News from the July Virtual "Zoom" Fun Run (Page 6)
- 2) FGRS Future Fun Runs (Page 7)
- 3) Tentative Schedule of 2020 Train Shows (Page 11)
- 4) Special Club Events (Page 12)

ARTICLES

- 1) "Garden Railway Magazine is Closing It's Doors (Page 15)
- 2) Now that GR is Gone....."What Now"? (Page 16)
- 3) "The Origin of "Brownie Points" and The New York Central (Page 19)
- 4) "The General" a 4-4-0 "American" type steam locomotive" - Part of Civil War History (Page 20)
- 5) U.S. Sugar Steam Locomotive No. 148 (Page 23)
- 5) TIPS & TECHNIQUES "Buildings" By Bob Pero (Page 26)
- 6) Member Train Items For Sale (Page 29)

FORMS & GUIDELINES

- 1) FRONT PAGE & Submission Guidelines for the Newsletter (Page 30)
- 2) FGRS Application Form (Page 31)

FGRS “ZOOM” Fun Runs

July 2020 Zoom Fun Run

Hosted by President, Paul Wagner

What a great time! Thirteen members signed in, this is growing and becoming more fun each time.

Kevin Mars and your President were the only two layouts, but we took time for more wide ranging conversations. Everything from trains, sailboats, little known narrow gauge railroads in Colorado, live steam, another control system called “Blue Rail”, and much more were discussed.



We coaxed Jim Jerele into showing off his new buildings again, since we had lots of folks signed on who hadn't seen them before. Jim still doesn't have internet available at his layout, but he says he will try to get a hotspot working for next month's Zoom so we can see his great scenery and watch his trains run.

Please join us on August 15 for another Zoom Fun Run.

As before, you will get an email from the meeting host on the Monday before the Zoom.

On Saturday, August 15th, click on the link you will see in the email, and follow the instructions. If you have Zoom on your computer, it will open it for you; if you don't, it will help you download it.

It is free to use, and now very secure. If you can take a laptop or tablet out to show us your railroad, great! If not, just join in to talk, and show off an engine, structure, or whatever you have lying around. Call me if you want to arrange a test beforehand. I hope to see you there!

Paul Wagner

FGRS Fun Runs

“Social Distancing” Fun Run

Hosted by FGRS Member, Tim Smith



Neighbors and FGRS members watch the trains run

In an effort to gauge interest in a Garden Railway in our retirement community of Pelican Preserve in Fort Myers, Tim Smith and Jennifer Nisenoff decided to hold an informal Garden Railway demonstration in our driveway on July 25.

We invited everyone in FGRS and members of our immediate neighborhood HOA.

Several of you actually came (Yes!!!!)... and at least 40 of our neighbors! We had a fun time!

The demonstration included two sets of track: the elevated double tracked circle in our driveway, and one at ground level in our nice neighbors' driveway --thank you Cheryl and Jim!



Juan DeCardenas sets his "Disney" train on the track

FGRS Fun Runs

We practiced social distancing and asked all visitors to wear a mask if they planned to get close to the displays. Two visitors (John DeCardenas from FGRS, and Vince from the neighborhood) brought locomotives, and we ended up running three trains most of the morning. We had three types of Radio Controlled locomotives – **infrared; 900mhz; and bluetooth.**



Tim tells guests about the benefits of Garden



Rules were set up and followed for everyone's safety

We displayed a sample building, bridge, and asphalt shingle roadbed. We showed the neighbors how to charge and operate with batteries and RC and what the electronic sound cards look like.

We had a good time showing our friends and neighbors the benefits of Garden Railroading, and everyone really enjoyed meeting the folks from FGRS.

Despite the COVID pandemic, there is a good chance that Pelican Preserve will have a Garden Railway location and club started in the

FGRS Fun Runs

coming year! We plan to conduct another demonstration this Fall or Winter for the entire development at the Town Center (if/when we get approval). Currently, no events can be scheduled at the Town Center due to health concerns. Social distancing went well, although I suggest that future in-person fun runs be staged at an empty parking lot or other location where we can spread out and maybe set up 2 or 3 tracks. I will have more on this topic in a future note.

AGAIN, THANKS FOR WEARING MASKS and staying distanced!
In the meantime, I am going to develop a firm volunteer list here at Pelican Preserve.



The portable layout can be knocked down easily, and stored in any convenient place

Thanks to all for coming!

Tim Smith

FGRS FUTURE Fun Runs

Please join us on August 15 for another Zoom Fun Run. As before, you will get an email from the meeting host on the Monday before the Zoom.

On Saturday, August 15th , click on the link you will see in the email, and follow the instructions.

If you have Zoom on your computer, it will open it for you; if you don't, it will help you download it. It is free to use, and now very secure. FGRS owns a license for up to 100 people to get on a Zoom call, all at the same time. I hope to see you there!

OCTOBER FUN RUN

We're looking for members to host a Fun Run in October, and for the rest of the year. We understand that it is uncertain as to whether it will be safe by then, 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 the FGRS Event Chairman or Newsletter Chairman. Their information is in the beginning of this newsletter.

We are all hoping for the best, but we will remain vigilant.

In any case, please join us in our Zoom Fun Run Meet on August 15th. Watch for the email invitation for it which will have all the details.

2020 TRAIN SHOWS

The listed shows have not yet been officially cancelled, but we are awaiting word from some of them.

August 29, 2020 Pinellas Park
Lopez Hall
7177 58th Street N
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

September 12, 2020 Brooksville
Hernando County Fairgrounds
6436 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34601

November 28, 2020 Pinellas Park
Lopez Hall
7177 58th Street N
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

December 12, 2020 Dover
Hillsborough County Fairgrounds
215 Sydney Washer Road
Dover, FL 33527

December 19-20 2020 Tampa
Florida State Fairgrounds (Primarily Model Trains, some artifacts)
4800 U.S. 301 Tampa FL 33610

Vendors- Running Train layout- Indoors- Food- Free Parking
All Shows 9-2
\$5.00 Adults Children under 12 free
www.regalrailways.com

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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FALL SEASON KICK-OFF

September 12th FGRS Fall Season Kickoff Ridge Live Steamers, Dundee Florida 9AM - 3 PM

The pandemic is not abating as we send this out, and we cannot assume that it will be any better by September 12. This will be a scaled down version of the event we had envisioned for this date when it was first conceived last winter. Watch for a special mailing in mid-August for the possibility of cancellation.

If any of you were at Tim Smith's "Demonstration" meet in Fort Myers on July 25th



(see article in this Newsletter), you will have some idea of the kind of gathering we will run. We will practice social distancing, and when we are closer than

six feet from one-another, we will wear face masks. There is lots of open space out there, and there is no reason we can't be safer out there running trains than we would be in our neighborhood grocery store.

We will postpone the sale of equipment until later in the year; and for our lunch, we will spread out, either in our own chairs, or at picnic tables in the RLS pavilion. There will not be a RLS business meeting, so there will be relatively few people besides us there.

Please bring your own picnic lunch, including your own soft drinks and water. If you are at all uncomfortable about your safety in attending this event, and prefer not to come, we completely understand. We hope to see you soon when things are back to normal.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FALL SEASON KICK-OFF

We can run trains, as we did last year, on their G scale track. Steam, Battery, and Track Power trains can run on their track. Bring anything you have. There will be a G scale live steam demonstration, and of course, train rides around the beautiful orange grove ranch. If anything different develops, we will include it in the special mailing mid-August.

Directions to Ridge Live Steamers:

The correct address for Ridge Live Steamers is 7750 N. Scenic Highway, Lake Wales, 33898. There is a mailbox with 7750 on it. That is about 100 yards north of the actual entrance, but you will see the entrance once you have reached that point. Your GPS will hit it closer if you enter 7740 for the address.

Turn east onto the dirt driveway off of N. Scenic Highway (SR 17). This will be the southern-most entrance to the property. Pull up to pavilion and register with the club.

There is currently nearly three miles of 7½" gauge track, consisting of approximately 7500 feet of main line rail, and an additional 7300 feet of sidings. There are over 100 turnouts.

The live steam G gauge layout is under a roof. There is plenty of shade, and a large pavilion. Bring a train to run, especially if you have a live steamer. To find out more about this club, go to www.ridgelivesteamers.org



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF FGRS

SAVE THE DATE FEBRUARY 19 TO 21, 2021

**THREE DAYS OF RAILWAY FUN IN
BEAUTIFUL FORT MYERS**

Friday:

Layout tours, RR museum, and Murder Mystery Dinner Train.

Saturday:

Layout tours, RR Museum, Train Show, and tentative Social Hour /Dinner.

Sunday:

Edison and Ford Estates tour and luncheon, RR Museum, and Train show.

**For overnight accommodations we have rooms reserved at the
Holiday Inn Downtown Fort Meyers.**

GARDEN RAILWAYS MAGAZINE

Is Closing Its Doors



Kalmbach Publishing recently announced that they will CEASE PUBLICATION of Garden Railway Magazine after the distribution of the Fall edition. All current subscribers will be receiving Model Railroader for the balance of their paid service. While this publication is primarily oriented towards smaller scales, a garden RR section is planned.





WITH GARDEN RAILWAYS MAGAZINE GONE, WHAT NOW?

Submitted by Paul Wagner , FGRS, President

On July 15th, my email in-box had this message from Kalmbach:

Dear Subscriber,

For more than 35 years, Garden Railways has been the leading magazine devoted to the hobby of outdoor model railroading. While we remain committed to serving garden railroaders, we regret to announce that we are discontinuing publication of Garden Railways magazine. Fall 2020 will be the final issue. However, the Garden Railways brand will live on in the pages of Model Railroader and online, where our dedicated audience of garden railroaders will continue to find seasonal news, tips and advice from the world's greatest model railroading experts.

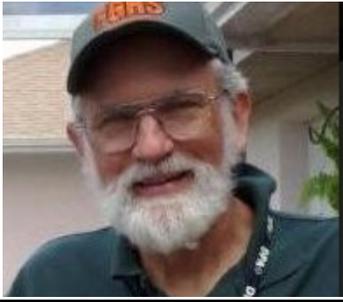
As a subscriber to Garden Railways, you may have one or more issues of your subscription remaining.

You will receive Model Railroader magazine for the remainder of your subscription, starting with the November issue. If you're already a Model Railroader magazine subscriber, your current Model Railroader subscription will be extended for as many issues remaining on your Garden Railways subscription.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact customer support at customerservice@Garden-Railways.info, or by phone at 877-246-4898. Outside the U.S. and Canada, call 903-636-1125.

We thank all our subscribers for their support and loyalty over the years, and we look forward to continuing to serve you through the pages of Model Railroader.

The Garden Railways and Model Railroader Teams I find it ironic that I should have recently said that getting your layout published in that magazine was one of the highest honors in garden railroading. You might be wondering, "Is garden railroading dying?" To paraphrase Mark Twain, when he read an erroneous obituary announcing his death, "The reports of my death (garden railroading) have been greatly exaggerated."



WITH GARDEN RAILWAYS MAGAZINE GONE, WHAT NOW?

Submitted by Paul Wagner , FGRS, President

As reported last month, FGRS has received many new members this year, with new applications still coming in. I have received reports from other garden railway societies around the nation who are experiencing good growth, as well. There may not be the numbers of garden railroaders that there was in the past, but I am very excited about the all the great people I am seeing in our club today. Nothing ever stays the same, and it is no surprise that garden railroading is looking different every day.

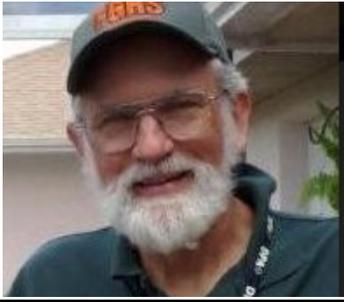
I still run into relatively young people who enjoy the hobby, and I must confess, it's hard to see where their excitement with trains come from. Few people younger than me have had the experience of seeing giant steam trains roaring by their homes - many of them have only seen trains as the crossing gates come down in front of their family automobile. But still they come, and lots of them join in our fun.

But back to the subject of the magazine: What will the Garden Railroading Press look like in the coming years?

In these times, manufacturers have had trouble adjusting to a lower volume of sales. Many manufacturers have gone away, and the remaining ones may have a rough road ahead. And with the dwindling number of manufacturers and dealers, there is less advertising revenue for a magazine.

Notice that Kalmbach is saying: ***“the Garden Railways brand will live on in the pages of Model Railroader ...”*** I take that to mean that after the last issue of Garden Railways has been delivered, there will be a “Garden Railways” section in Model Railroader magazine. If that's the case, at least it might get us back to a monthly magazine, and we might find other benefits to having access to articles from all scales. I know that several of us already subscribe to Model Railroader.

With this change, it seems that Model Railroader magazine has come full circle. Let's take a look at Model Railroader magazine, Issue Number One, printed in January 1934. (A subscription back then was \$1.00 per year!)



WITH GARDEN RAILWAYS MAGAZINE GONE, WHAT NOW?

Submitted by Paul Wagner , FGRS, President

The first layout featured in that issue was about a GARDEN RAILWAY! And later in the issue, was another garden railway, a large scale 2-1/8 inch “standard” gauge outdoor layout.

(That issue is available for free download from Kalmbach at:

https://mrr.trains.com/how-to/2018/11/the-model-railroader-january-1934-issue?utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=SA000_MRR_181120_P00000_FirstIssueBonusNotification_Final&utm_content=&recipientID=Mjc0NDUwOTQ4MDYzS0

if you would care to read all *twelve pages!*)

So it seems that Model Railroader Magazine will come back to gracing its pages with garden railroads again. It raises a challenge for us, in the garden railway hobby, to jump on them, sending in lots of quality photos and article submissions, and demanding that they give us the coverage we deserve.

But I don't think that we should be content with that. I have opened a conversation with our board members, and with people in other garden railway societies around the country about starting a new magazine. The time is ripe for a new one. There are still eight other model railroad magazines and several general railroad magazines being published – it's not like no one wants to read railroad magazines. A new one probably won't be like the old Garden Railways magazine - there will still be a shortage of advertising funds, so it will, by necessity, be more grass-roots oriented. It will have to address a garden railway community with fewer supporting manufacturers, and publish more about “how to do more with what's available.” It wouldn't be easy. But with desktop publishing and internet information exchange, it can be done. A collation of Garden Railway Societies from around the country would have a lot a pull with potential publishing companies. Perhaps there is another Marc Horowitz out there who would start up a new publication in the style of the old “Sidestreet Banner” and grow it into the new “go-to” garden railway monthly read. Other clubs newsletters and forums could contribute articles and advertisements.

Let's start at this level and try to write more articles that garden railroaders everywhere would like to read! Let's talk it up with our friends and fellow garden railroaders all over the country.

What do you think? I'd like to hear from you.

Paul Wagner



WIKIPEDIA

According to Wikipedia

Trains - Then and Now

Shortened and paraphrased from an article by Jerry Dzedzic in the June 2020 Model Railroading magazine by Gary Nichols.

Brownie points? Who is this person Brownie anyway and why do his points matter?

Turns out, Mr. G.R. Brown was the superintendent for the New York Central RR, and in the mid-1880s he developed a more friendly system of “punishments” for infractions made by railway workers. The older systems in use was just about infractions.

So, instead of punishments alone, his system also gave positive points for good deeds, too, and multiple good deeds would add up to cancel out previous errors. Today, a system like that is known as progressive discipline and as everyone knows, you could earn “Brownie” points for being good!



The streamlined 20th Century Limited departs Chicago's LaSalle Street Station behind a New York Central Hudson locomotive, 1938



WIKIPEDIA

According to Wikipedia

The General

Western & Atlantic Railroad #3 General is a 4-4-0 "American" type steam locomotive built in 1855 by the Rogers, Ketchum & Grosvenor in Paterson, New Jersey for the Western & Atlantic Railroad, best known as the engine stolen by Union spies in the Great Locomotive Chase, an attempt to cripple the Confederate rail network during the American Civil War.

Today, the locomotive is preserved at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw, Georgia, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Before the Civil War[

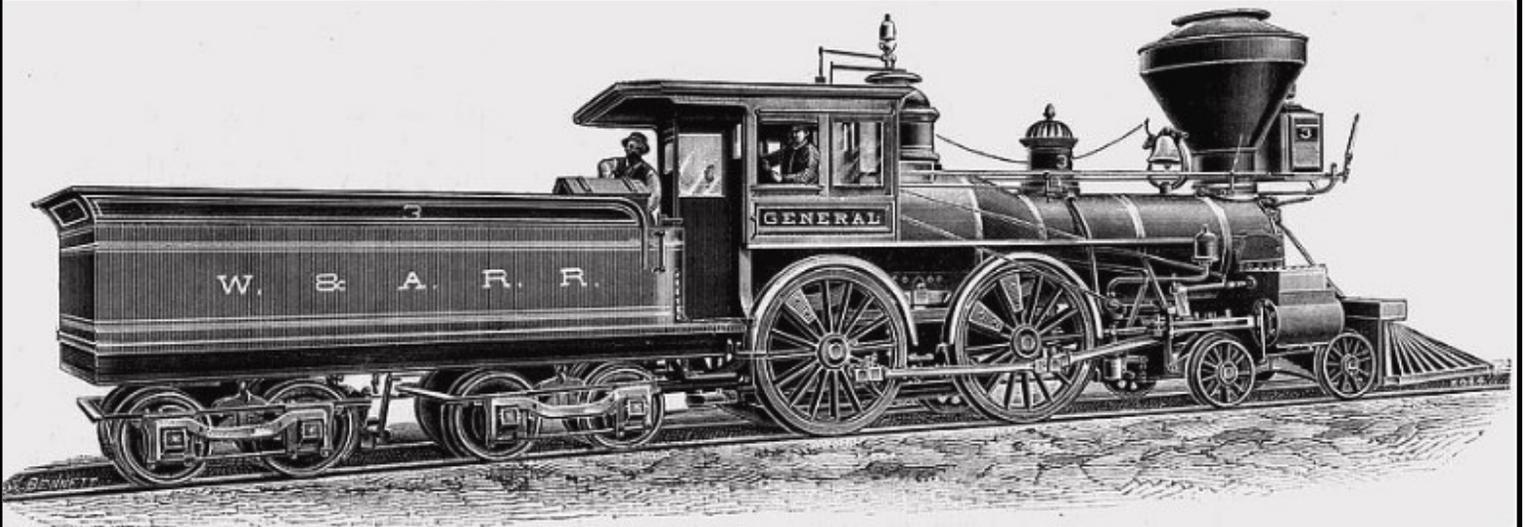
Built in 1855 by Rogers, Ketchum & Grosvenor in Paterson, New Jersey, The General provided freight and passenger service between Atlanta, Georgia, and Chattanooga, Tennessee, before the Civil War on the Western and Atlantic Railroad of the State of Georgia and later, the Western and Atlantic Railroad Company.



WIKIPEDIA

According to Wikipedia

The General



The 'general' Which Won Fame is a drawing by Mary Evans Picture Library which was uploaded on January 18th, 2018.

Civil War

During the Civil War on April 12, 1862, The General was commandeered by Northerners led by James J. Andrews at Big Shanty (now Kennesaw, Georgia), and abandoned north of Ringgold, after being pursued by William Allen Fuller and the Texas. Low on water and wood, the General eventually lost steam pressure and speed, and slowed to a halt two miles north of Ringgold, where Andrews and his raiders abandoned the locomotive and tried to flee.

In 1864, the Battle of Atlanta had forced the withdrawal of General John Bell Hood's forces from the city. Hood ordered the ordnance depot destroyed as he left Atlanta on September 1, 1864. To this end, the General was severely damaged by being run into boxcars of ammunition and the Missouri locomotive. This was done deliberately so as to render the engine unusable for the approaching Union forces.

Post-war service

It had been speculated by some that, after the *General* had been damaged, the invading Union army restored the engine and operated it. However, many historians believe that the engine was left untouched for the remainder of the war.



WIKIPEDIA

According to Wikipedia

The General

The Union army had based its repair shops in Nashville, and there is no evidence to suggest the engine was moved there. The United States Military Railroad Service had many new or like-new engines, so they had no need to restore captured ones such as the *General*. The USMRR had often left the damaged equipment of a captured railroad undisturbed, and its records, having listed the *General* as "captured and returned," further suggest such was the case of the *General*.

After the war ended, the *General* was repaired and continued service on the Western and Atlantic. In the 1870s, the *General* was completely rebuilt, it had received a new pilot, boiler, and other components. Most notably, its three dome configuration was reduced to two domes, and its Radley-Hunter style balloon stack was replaced with a diamond stack, as the engine had been converted to burn coal. Indeed, the rebuilt engine had little resemblance to its original form.

Before the Civil War, most railways in the south, including the W&A, did not give their engines numbers. Rather, they were simply named, such as the *General*. When the railroad began numbering engines after the war, the *General* was the 39th engine to be acquired by the road, and was numbered accordingly. Locomotives came and went as years progressed, and by 1880, a renumbering was necessary. At this time, the *General* was given the number "3," being the third oldest engine that the railroad had at the time. The engine continues to carry this number today.^[4]

In the mid-1880s, the Atlanta and Florida Railroad began construction. During this time, the W&A had a locomotive surplus after buying several more modern engines, so they leased the *General* to the A&F from 1887 to 1888 to assist in construction.

The *General* was retired from service in 1891. On April 12, 1972, the Big Shanty Museum in Kennesaw Georgia (later known as the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History) opened, and the *General* remains on display there today.

U.S. Sugar Steam Locomotive No. 148 Hauls Sugarcane Train to Mill Ending Harvest Season, New “Sugar Express” Launched

by [Judy Sanchez](#) | May 28, 2020 | Media Center

Clewiston, Fla. – For the first time in more than 50 years, a steam locomotive hauled a train of harvested sugarcane from the field to U.S. Sugar’s mill.

To mark the end of U.S. Sugar’s annual harvest and the completion of a multi-year restoration of its 100-year-old steam locomotive known as Engine No. 148, the company called upon the vintage locomotive to haul cane on the last day of the season.

The 2019-20 harvest lasted 239 days, and despite drier than normal spring conditions and the global COVID-19 pandemic, was completed safely as scheduled.



“Seeing No. 148 under steam and back on her home track is a heartwarming sight to see,” said Judy Sanchez, Senior Director of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs for U.S. Sugar.

Locomotive No. 148 was built in 1920 by the American Locomotive Company for use on the Florida East Coast Railway.



In 1952, the locomotive was sold to U.S. Sugar to haul sugarcane trains from field-to-mill for processing raw sugar. As diesel locomotives became popular, Engine No. 148 was sold by U.S. Sugar into private ownership in the 1960s. The steam engine spent a few years hauling passenger excursions, then it was moved across the country, finally landing in Monte Vista, Colorado.

Thanks to the vision of U.S. Sugar CEO Robert H. Buker, Jr., the locomotive was re-purchased by U.S. Sugar in 2016, kick starting this restoration. Railroad mechanical contractor FMW Solutions LLC, working alongside more than two dozen U.S. Sugar employees, completed the restoration of No. 148 in late April.

“U.S. Sugar’s restoration of Engine No. 148 has been a tremendous source of pride for our employees, who have worked tirelessly over the past 4 years to bring this steam engine back to life,” said Bob Lawson, general manager for U.S. Sugar Railroad Operations. “We look forward to the day when we can host members of the public on excursions to share our rich history with railroad enthusiasts, Florida residents and children alike.”, visit sugarexpress.com.

“The pride that U.S. Sugar has in its heritage, and this historic symbol in particular, is something truly exceptional in this day-and-age,” said Shane Meador, FMW Solutions Vice President.



“We are honored to have worked with U.S. Sugar to complete the restoration of No. 148 and have been pleased with its performance during recent test runs and yesterday’s historic run.”

To coincide with this momentous occasion, and in support of the expanded mission of operating No. 148, U.S. Sugar is also pleased to announce that it will be operating the steam locomotive un-

der the brand it has dubbed the “Sugar Express.”

This new name is in reference both to the locomotive’s heritage at U.S. Sugar and its future role hauling “Express” trains across some of the hundreds of miles of mainline railroad maintained and operated by U.S. Sugar.

To learn more about the steam engine, and to stay up to date, visit SugarExpress.com and follow U.S. Sugar No. 148 on its updated Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/SugarExpress>

###

ABOUT SUGARLAND EXPRESS

The mission of the Sugar Express is to provide a safe and educational means to learn about transportation history, agriculture, and U.S. Sugar. It will use historic steam locomotive No. 148 to take visitors on trips through the lush crop lands cultivated by the nearly 2,500 hardworking employees of U.S. Sugar. For more information, visit: sugarexpress.com.

TIPS & TECHNIQUES

“Buildings” By Bob Pero

I am now venturing into an area that is foreign to me to a certain extent. I am talking about buildings for your large scale layout. I am going to talk about Piko buildings in this article.

Why Piko? Because they have quality product which can be assembled quickly to give you an almost "instant" town on your layout. If you are not skilled in woodworking, or do not have the time, the plastic building is the way to go.

Piko offers a large selection of structures, and lately, they have been adding new ones on a regular basis. Piko buildings have many common parts that can be interchanged thereby easily lending them to kitbashing. The company wisely uses the same molds for many buildings, and only changes the color of the plastic, or adds plugs to the kits to eliminate window openings that are not wanted.

The Piko stores or main street type businesses have been selectively compressed so that you can place many of them together in a small area and have a presentable town. While the buildings look good if assembled right out of the box, they will look like buildings on every other railroad. Because of the commonality of parts, two kits can be combined to make a larger building. By changing the paint color and signs, you now have a business that is different and unique to your layout.

I have seen two theaters combined to make one large more realistic structure. Color changes of stores can make a dramatic difference. The pharmacy is a bright blue color- why not make it gray or tan? I have repainted the Evening Post building to white with gray trim, and turned it into a small town City Hall and Police Station. The steak house has been repainted and make into a Post Office. The possibilities are endless.

TIPS & TECHNIQUES

“Buildings” By Bob Pero

I have seen many examples of the brewery turned into different types of factories. Two or three kits combined along with the out buildings, and suddenly we have a Hershey's factory like Ken Morgan made, or a Coca Cola Bottling plant.

Bills Body Shop can be made larger using a second kit, and re-painted to become a totally different business. The same goes for Mr. Mann's Can Factory. Your Piko Gas Stations do not have to be the brand that comes from the box. Some paint and new signs can make them into any brand of filling station that you may want.

I took the grain elevator and painted it white. I then added a scratchbuilt loading and scale house and Purina Mills signs to make it look like it belongs in the USA and not Sonneburg, Germany.

The Fire Station looks European on the box. Get rid of one tower and the castle type trim on top, and you have a more American looking structure. I have seen this done on the internet, and the results are remarkable.

The large engine house can be lengthened with additional parts, or more stalls can be added with a second kit. Why not repaint the green trim to a different color to change the appearance?

In many cases, removing the European trim and repainting the buildings will give you a look that is more unique to your layout. Use your imagination and you too can come up with some different buildings using basic Piko kits.

One word of caution. The kits do not hold up well outside if they are assembled with plastic glue. Use Marine Goop or Silicone, which is available from Home Depot, to put the walls and roof together. It would also be helpful to drill some holes near the roof to let the heat out on a hot day. Also placing the buildings on a foundation such as backer board or patio stones will help prevent condensation from building up inside.

TIPS & TECHNIQUES

“Buildings” By Bob Pero

These buildings will fade in the Florida sun over time, so like the real thing they will have to be repainted. I know many people who do not leave their buildings outside due to the extreme heat and the sand blasting effect of our summer monsoons, but if your buildings are in a shady protected area, this effect will be minimized.

These buildings are a great starting point. With some paint and styrene along with your imagination, they can be turned into structures that are unique to your layout.



With paint and some new signs, the old News Building and Steakhouse become a Post Office and City Hall.



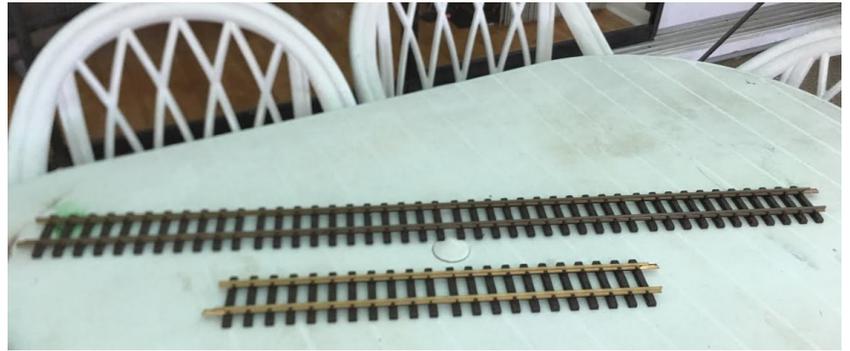
Member Train Items “For Sale”

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.

LGB Straight Track

10600 600mm. \$5. (29pcs)

10610. 1200 mm. \$11. (41 pcs)



LGB Curve Track

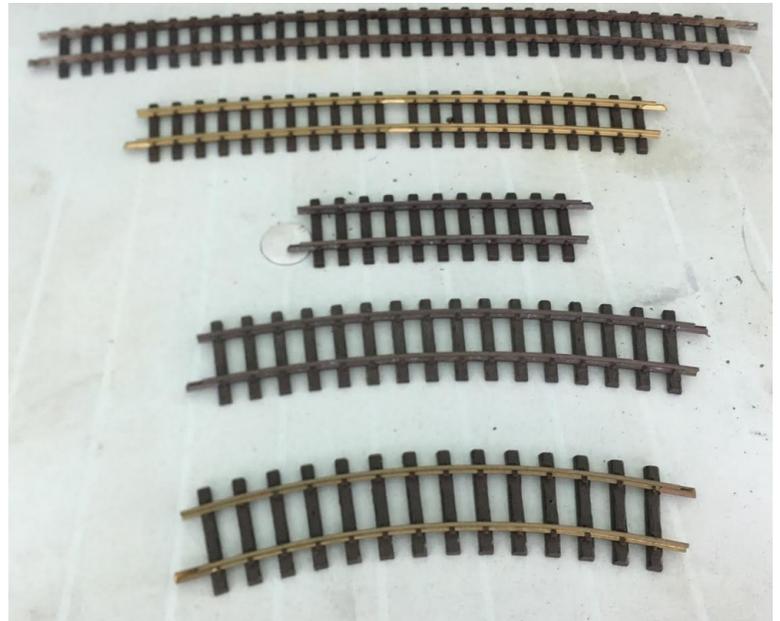
18000. 15% \$7. (22pcs)

18020- R7.5 \$4 (56pcs)

16000. 22.5 % \$5 (7pcs)

15000. R2 30% \$5 (15pcs)

Larger curve section \$8 (12pcs)



I will negotiate delivery on any large orders. Contact Info: 727-796-7900, Ask for Monroe.



Be On Our Newsletter Front Page “Member Montage”

As you can see, we have an opening page meant to highlight pictures of members and their layouts. Please send pictures of your layout or another G scale Railway project and we'll include them on future front pages.

We are also continuing a “**TIPS & TRICKS**” column so we can share our worst and best moments as a teaching experience for other club members. :) So send articles/stories, ideas, pictures with text. What will make this newsletter more fun to read is seeing what members like you are doing, have done or learned. So a few guidelines to help me, help you.....

1) When submitting pictures and articles to the NL please make sure the articles are written in Word and the pictures as SEPARATE .JPG attachments.

Imbedded pictures in an e-mail sometimes gets stripped off by virus software, or just come out weird. Separate attachments please.

2) A few sentences to be put in the NL is okay. It doesn't have to be long.

Please feel free to contact me at:

fgrs.newsletter@gmail.com



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: _____