



**May 2017**



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

Hello fellow G-scaler's and welcome to the end of Spring 2017. Included in this newsletter you'll find some railroad history, some modeling/layout ideas and tips, great pictures from our last event at the Hite's in Port Charlotte, Florida, (Thank you both for opening your house to us and hosting our monthly club event) and more! Our next event is at Charlie Beall's place in Mt. Dora and if you have not seen his layout you are in for a treat! Details are contained in this newsletter.

For all those who have paid 2017 dues...thank you and remember for under \$20.00 you can order a personalized club badge.

- 1) 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.
- 2) Remember to join our "PRIVATE" Facebook Page. It is closed to the public and allows us to share pictures, videos and share our building accomplishments

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# **FGRS 2017 BOARD MEMBERS**



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## **FGRS UPCOMMING MEETS AT MEMBERS HOUSES**

**May 20th - Meet at Charles Beall's house. 7839 Sloewood Dr. Mount Dora, Fl. Drinks and paperware will be provided. Bring a chair if you want to sit. Hours 12-4.**

**October 21st - Meet at Dave & Ruth Taisch's house. Details TBA.**

**If anyone else is interested in hosting a fun run at their house please send me an e-mail with all the details.**

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

## **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  
Paul**

**Wagner**

**Picture  
captions  
by Tom  
Hite**

**April 8th was great day for a "Fun Run" meet at Tom and Gloria Hite's. Seventeen members and guests showed up for an afternoon of getting caught up with friends and running trains. Tom's layout, as usual, provided faultless operation for his and guests' trains. A four-unit diesel lash-up coupled up to 65 hopper cars on several yard sidings and pulling them around the wide curves featured on this layout, encompassing the front and back yards. Later, Corkey's USA "Big Boy" coupled up to the long train and pulled them with equal ease, this being one of only two layouts in the state with wide enough curves to handle these 50 pound monster locomotives. At the other end of the size spectrum, Gary Nichols**



**Here is Corkey's Big Boy.  
Looks like a proud father.**



**Four Dash 9's pull the hoppers  
around the curve.**



**ran his nicely detailed custom Consolidation, pulling an interesting string of narrow gauge freight cars. Amtrak was represented by a Phase 2 Genesis pulling a passenger train. Most FGRS business matters were works-in-progress at the time, so there was no business meeting.**



**Is this a big snake ?**



**No upon closer look it's just one long coal drag.**



**This is what Gary had to say about his train.**

**The train is headed-up by a modified 1/20 Bachmann 2-8-0 that has an Accucraft K-27 plow and LGB bear trap stack. The back wall of the cab was also removed. Otherwise, it's pretty much as delivered. The tender has a shortened coal bin to make room for an Accucraft air tank and Bachmann Shay rear light and ladder. It is lettered for the Fiddletown & Copperopolis Rwy. - a whimsical California railroad that sprang from the creative genius of artist Carl Fallberg. And almost forgot, it has a Bachmann Shay head light, Accucraft marker lights and those wacky moose antlers! LOL**





**Big Boy in the yard waiting for assignment.**



**Corkey working the Big Boy.**



**Amtrak and an old RDC waiting their turn.**



**Part of the crew enjoying the day.**







**Gloria and I hoped everyone had a good time running trains and we look forward to next year.**

**Below are Youtube links of the day. Just click and enjoy.**

[https://youtu.be/9tTryBN\\_Sv4](https://youtu.be/9tTryBN_Sv4)

<https://youtu.be/0bfMwnkWkUc>

<https://youtu.be/lujbSkwD-ew>

<https://youtu.be/dMGEB6smvqE>

<https://youtu.be/iC4uPjpXlqs>

<https://youtu.be/jN8UHG37uZM>

<https://youtu.be/CYjkx8hE4oU>

[https://youtu.be/0vacbNIQm\\_8](https://youtu.be/0vacbNIQm_8)

**Turn up the volume if you like noisy trains (are there any quiet ones ?) There is an article in April's Garden Railway magazine about stopping the wheel squeal. You all be the judge - do you like quiet or noisy wheels?**

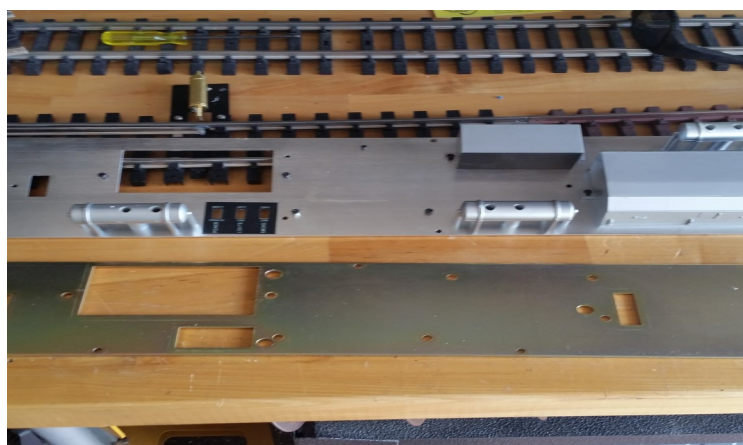


# What's going on in the garden



## Reconditioning an old RDC and converting it to Airwire. By Tom Hite

**I found an old RDC, which was not in the best of shape on E-bay. I disassembled it into its major components (photo 1 & 2). Upon inspection of the motor blocks I decided they needed to be overhauled. I started by removing the top cover (photo 3). Inside I found carpet fiber.**

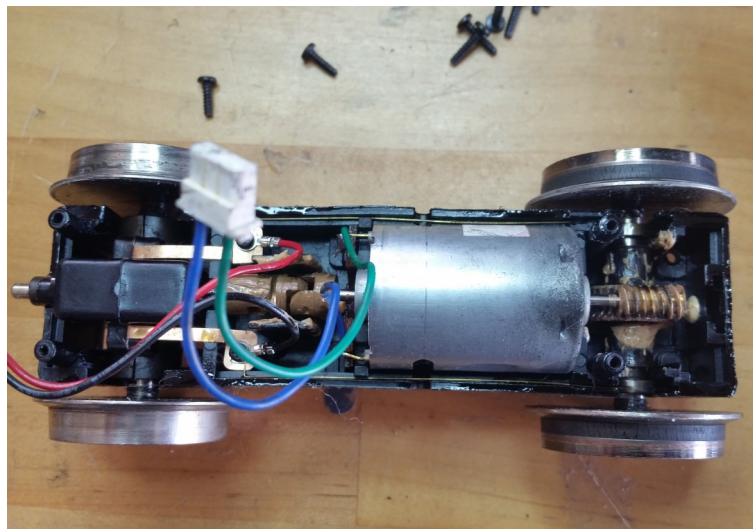


**1. Frame removed.**

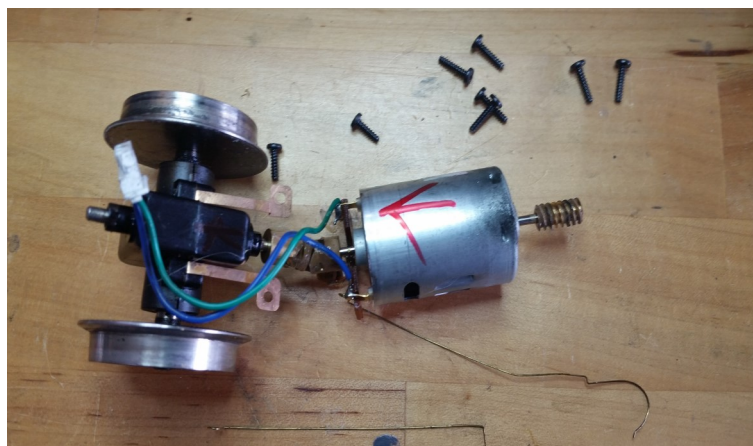


**2. Rest of components.**

**I also noticed that the traction tires were cracked and would need to be replaced. I removed the motor and gear box from the housing (photo 4). I separated the gearbox from the motor using a 050 Allen wrench (photo 5). Once separated, I begin the task of dismantling the gearbox, cleaning and removing all wheels from the axels to regrease the bearings (photo 6).**



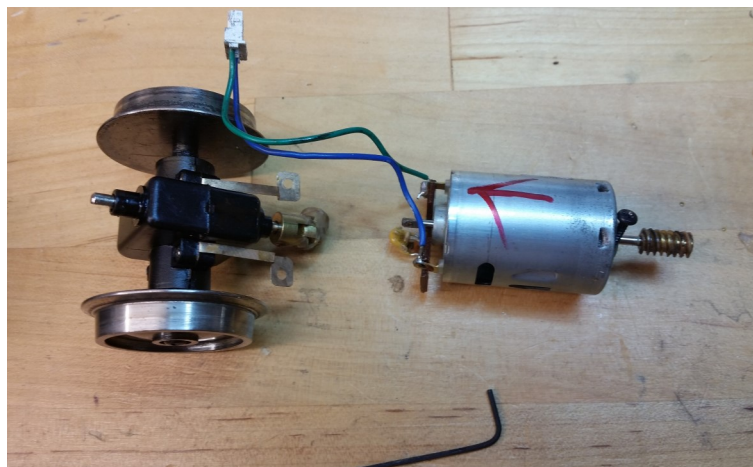
**3. Motor block top cover removed.**



**4. Motor with gear box attached.**



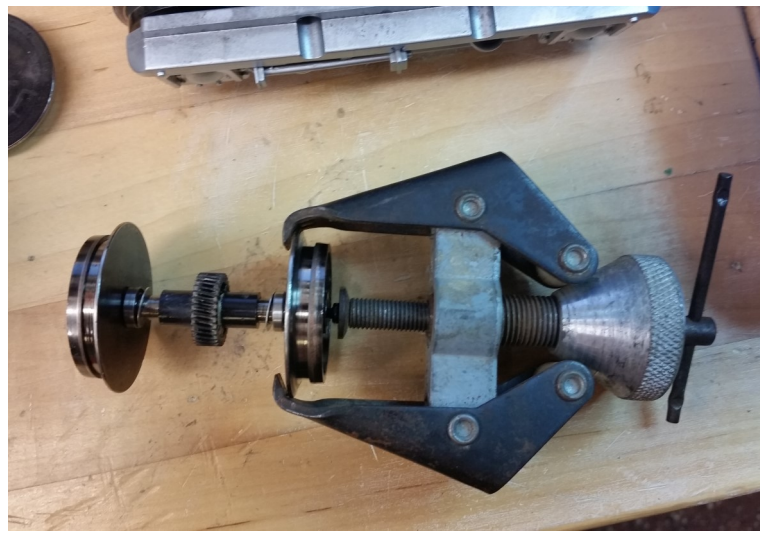
**6. Worm gear portion.**



**5. Gearbox detached.**



**Also in photo 6, I removed the copper track pickup because this is an Airwire conversion with battery power and I do not want an electrical connection with the track. Also, there was a slight gap between the gearbox halves at the bottom that allowed grease to drip out when it became hot. By removing the copper track pickup, the gearbox fit more tightly. This should stop the grease from dripping out. I removed all the wheels (photo 7) using a battery cable puller, which worked quite well. In (photo 8) you can see the lint on the axel and in the bearing. All the bearings were cleaned and re-packed with grease (photo 9).**



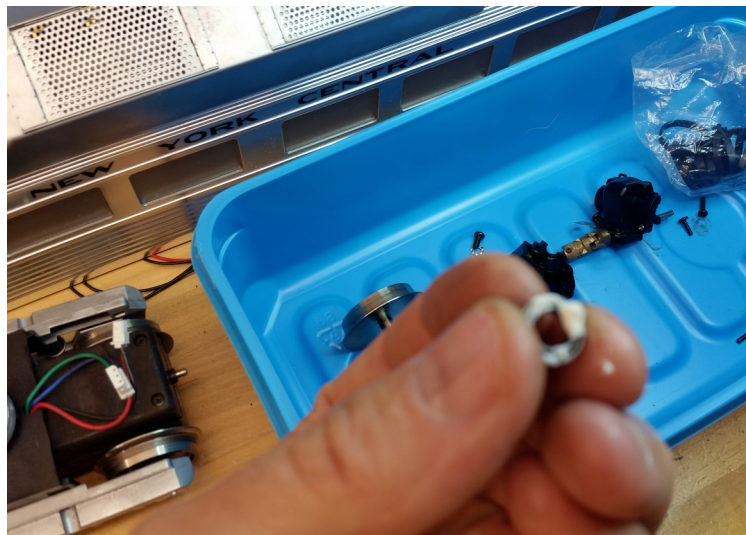
**7. Puller in action. Note you must leave the screw partially out so the puller has something to push against.**



**8. Look closely to the right, you can see the fibers.**



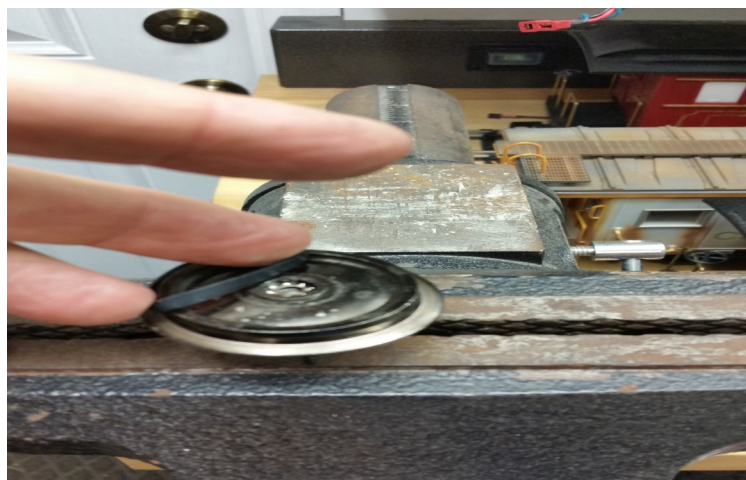
**The next thing I did was to remove all the traction tires. I personally do not like traction tires but they had to be reused because I don't have replacement wheels at this time. The tires were simply removed using a dental pick (thanks to my Dentist who gives me old tools that he can no longer use). I then set up the tire changer to install the new tires (photo 10). This is an axel half from a dash-9. How I came about this will be covered in another article. In (photo 11) I prepared the tire to be stretched over the wheel. Then I used two dental picks to actually get the tire over the wheel (I was unable to show this in the picture).**



**9. Grease on the bearing**



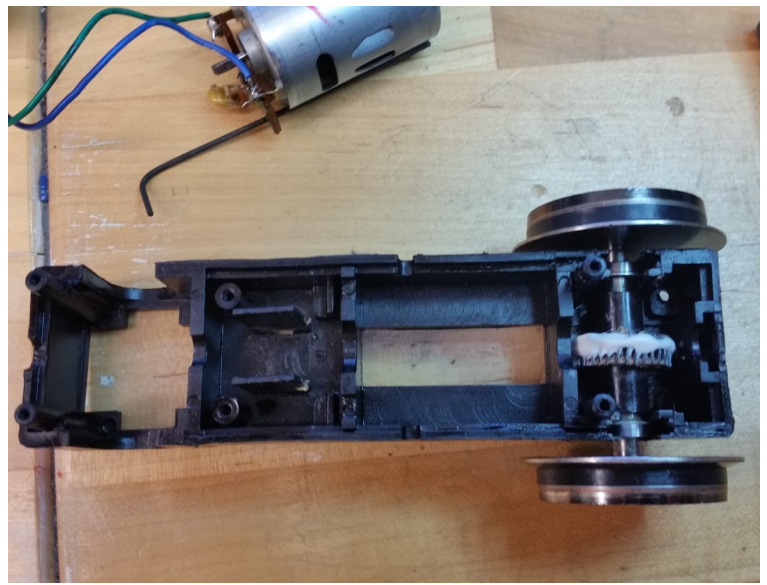
**10. Axel half in the vice.**



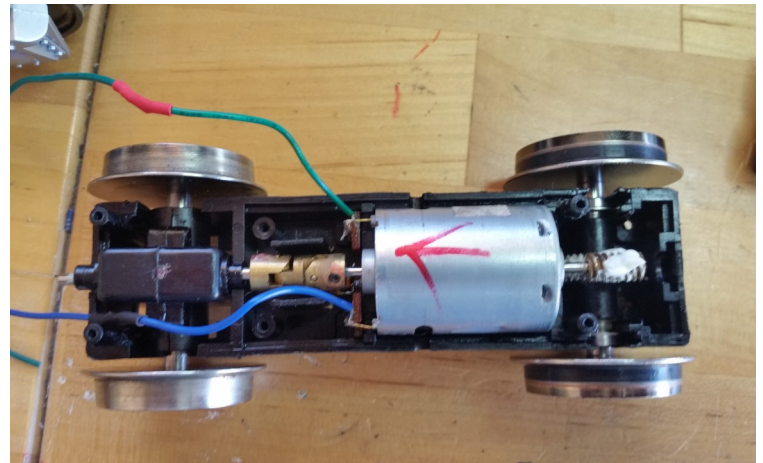
**11. lined up for the picks**

**I have found this method the most successful. Next I now reassemble the motor block. In (photo 12) the completed axel was all greased up and placed into the block. The motor block was now complete and ready for the cover (photo 13).**

**The cover was then affixed to the body and placed on the test stand (photo 14). Here it got a work out for an hour reversing direction every 15 minutes. The final assembly after testing was to put the side frames on (photo 15).**

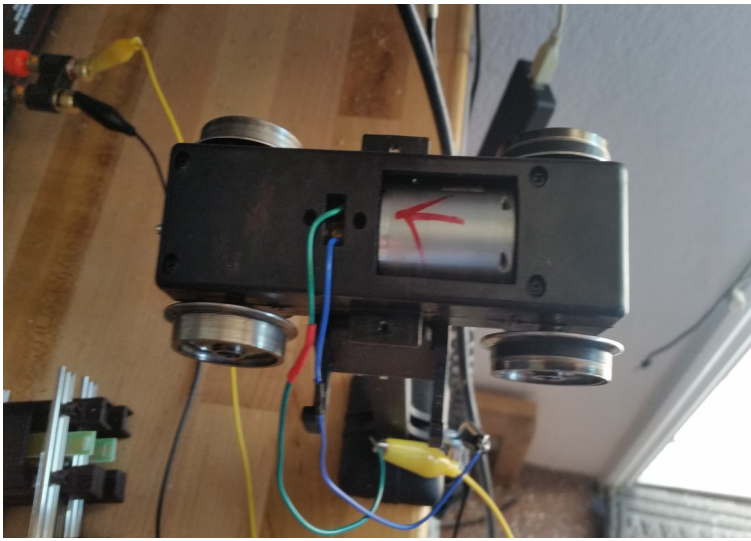


**12. Block with axel in place.**

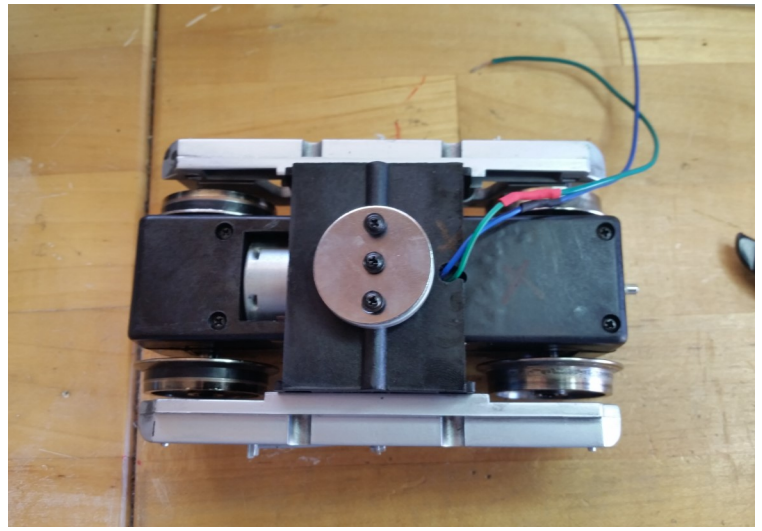


**13. Ready for cover note the plug has been removed from the motor and wire extensions have been added.**





**14. Test stand with 12v power supply.**



**15. Side frame installed on motor block.**

**I then repeated all these steps to do the other motor block.**

**In next month's article, I will attach the motor blocks, beef up the frame, install Kadee couplers and start laying out the electrical components that are going to be installed.**



# LINKS TO TRAINS PAST & PRESENT



Submitted by Bruce Benardo

Here is some Info & Pictures from our trip to the Tennessee Valley Railroad Train Museum in Chattanooga last November.

We booked the Special Fall Double Headed Steam Trip From Chattanooga Tn. to Summerville Ga. They used the 4501 Southern Mikado and the 630 Steam Locomotives. Attached are some pictures.

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





**This was sent to me by Bob Urganhart who is a member of the Central Connecticut “G” Gaugers (CCTGG), the train club I belong to back in CT.**

**This is an English train, but a very good video for both sights and sounds.**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P15HEIVCUVA>

**The engine is a British King Class 4-6-0. It is a large main line passenger engine, and has 4 cylinders, 2 outside, and 2 inside, giving it a different sound.**

**Turn up the speakers.**

# 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.**





### 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.**

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.

3) We do not have any events scheduled for June, July, and August, so if you have any ideas, or want to host a “Fun Run”, please let us know. Thank you to Ruth and Dave Taisch who confirmed for Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>.

4) YOU TUBE videos. One of the great global modeling and g-scale resources out there is Youtube. If I have a question for just about anything...I can find some examples of how to build, make, fix it on the internet. I have a couple of videos on making trees that I thought were very cool so I have included them: (Although for exterior layouts...your garden may be all you need.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hztif1Koj-g&list=PLuDRL4Slb4krE6LDncY892MQlr7GjDIAj&index=14>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgBqcTfNEOY&t=152s&list=PLuDRL4Slb4krE6LDncY892MQlr7GjDIAj&index=10>

This month’s “Links to Past & Present” is about the incredible “BIG BOY” Engine. The Union Pacific Railroad is restoring one to its original state. It started in 2014. The included videos will share the story. We hope you enjoy them along with the other information in this content rich newsletter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=strzUIp9hS0&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5i5pv-dLndc>

We hope you are all enjoying the “new” newsletter format. As always, Keep on G-scaling. Ross