



December 2017



PRESIDENT'S NOTES FROM ROSS MARVIN

One of the core duties of any President is to leave the office and have improved the organization, company or country he or she had the privilege to serve/lead. As I turn the reigns over to Paul I can confidently say we are back on the right tracks:

- 1) We are registered with the State and our marks are protected.
- 2) Our club coffers are cash positive and it is a good base to start with as we focus on 2018 goals.
- 3) We updated and/or created several new ways of communicating to members throughout the state, including the electronic club newsletter that allows us to share unlimited information to members without increasing club newsletter costs. (Not to mention it added color pictures and a newly designed club banner head)
- 4) A private FGRS Facebook page for members to share train related experiences, photos, ask questions, etc.
- 5) An updated FGRS website, FGRS.org, which will become a greater club resource for our members, as well as a tool to communicate who we are, what we do and hopefully positively impact/grow FGRS membership with many G-scalers who live in our state and are looking for a club.

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FGRS 2017 BOARD MEMBERS



FGRS President

Ross Marvin

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FGRS Vice President

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FGRS Membership

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FGRS Newsletter

Tom Hite

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FGRS Event Manager

Frank Kimmel

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fgrs.eventsmgr@gmail.com

UPCOMING TRAIN SHOWS

2017-2018 Upcoming Florida Train Meets/Shows

December 2: Lopez Hall (former K of C) 7177 58th St. North, Pinellas Park 33781 (Regal Railways, above)

December 2: Azan Shrine Temple, 1591 W Eau Gallie Blvd., Melbourne 32935 (Schultz Space Coast Train Show, www.Schultzspacecoasttrains.com, 321-805-1963)

December 9-10: 9th Annual Toy and Train Show, St. Marks School Gymnasium, 3395 Burns Rd., Palm Beach Gardens 33410, Sat: 9A-3P, Sun: 11A-3P Contact Will Wagner, 561-373-9603, Derrickwagner-foundation@gmail.com or wwainc@comcast.net; website www.DerrickWagnerFoundation.com

December 16-17: Tampa Model Show, Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 U.S. 301, Tampa 33610 (Golden Spike, above)

January 6, 2018: Hernando County Fairgrounds, 6436 Broad St., Brooksville 34601 (Regal Railways, above)

January 13-14: 62nd Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Tommy Lawrence Arena, 3150 E. New York Ave., Deland 32724 (Golden Spike, above)

January 20-21: Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 SE Dixie Hwy., Stuart 34996 9A-3P both days; contact Bill Smet 847-331-0440, email cqwbill@aol.com

January 27: Minnreg Hall, 6340 126th Ave., Largo 33773, 10A-3P Meet Story in the next issue. (TCA SD)

February 10: Jacksonville, Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water St., Jacksonville 32204 (Golden Spike, above)

February 17: New Lake Civic Association, 8330 Civic Rd., Port Richey 34668 (Regal Railways, above)

February 24: Fenn Center, 2000 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce 34982, 10A-3P Meet Story in the next issue. (TCA SD)

We need volunteers to participate at our booth for the December 16th & 17th Tampa Train show at the Fairgrounds. To volunteer, please contact Paul Wagner @ fgrs.vicepresident@gmail.com

Let's not forget the engelwood train show.

Jan 20th - Englewood Toy Train,Collectible & Hobby Show/Sale

9AM - 2PM

Elks Lodge

401 N. Indiana Avenue, Englewood, FL 34223

Engelwood

Elks will sell food for lunch

Name - Don Carter

Email - doncarter521@embarqmail.com

I am hosting a Open House Fun Run here in Ocala on Dec 8 ,9 & 10. Please respond if you would like to attend and invite your members. I am part of a small club here in Ocala , The Ocala Stud Club. My layout was part of the tour for the NGRR convention in 2014. For more information respond to this e mail or call 352-207-5434 Don & Lenojo Carter (The Silver River R/R)

Past meets

November 11, 2017 was Corky and Wanda Eckman's first FGRS meet, and they pulled it off like pro's! Perfect weather, a nice gathering of 15 people, and the UP Bigboy was running to perfection, pulling a long string of freight cars. Tom Hite's battery powered RDC car was raising dust around the layout. Everyone had a great time meeting new friends, and getting re-acquainted with old ones.





LINKS TO TRAINS PAST & PRESENT

FGRS members might be interested in knowing that the last two issues of Garden Railways Magazine have each had photos from the garden layout of Doug Brainard of Spring Hill, Florida. Doug has been a member of the FGRS and the late Gulfcoast Garden Railroaders. Quite few of our members have visited his well done railroad. The most recent photo appears on page 18 of the December, 2017, issue of GR Magazine. I am submitting this in case many folks have missed seeing this.

Regards,

Bob Conant

Bradenton, FL

[Georgia Garden Railway Society](#)

· [23 hrs](#) ·

Friends,

2018 is getting closer. We, at the Georgia Garden Railway Society, are getting excited about hosting the 2018 National Garden Railway Convention. We ha...ve added a bus tour for layouts in the Athens, Georgia area for Saturday, June 9, making the layouts on tour Wednesday through Saturday somewhere near 30. There will be additional layouts on pre-tour Sunday, June 3 and post-tour Sunday, June 10, including some surrounding Atlanta as well as some along the interstate highways leading into town in neighboring states. Real train rides will include Monday, June 4 trip to ride Tennessee Valley Railroad's steam locomotive(s) in Chattanooga and this trip includes a riverboat luncheon cruise on the Tennessee River, 7 mile steam train ride, railroad shop tour, photo runby, and Cracker Barrel meal (dutch treat) on your way back to convention center. Tuesday will find a 47 mile diesel train ride over former L & N mainline with trip over the 'Loop' and along the scenic Hiwassee River. Lunch and antique shopping in Copperhill, TN before returning to convention center with stop at Mercier Orchard on the return trip. Wednesday will start traditional 'Garden Railroad Convention' with layout tours, dealer hall opening, and clinics. Ice Cream Social will be at a Smithsonian affiliated museum that houses the Civil War 4-4-0 locomotive 'General' from the great locomotive chase fame. Thursday is layout tours, clinic, dealer hall, and BBQ with 5 mile diesel train ride around the largest piece of exposed granite in the world, Stone Mountain. The park offers 4-D movie, Antebellum plantation, cable car to top of mountain, and laser show included in your BBQ ticket, along with all the BBQ you can eat. Friday is layouts, clin-

ics, dealer hall, and banquet at a private club by the convention center. Voting will follow for the 2020 Convention if bids are submitted. Saturday is a public day in the dealer hall, with layout tours in Athens. Two convention cars (USA 40 ft. wood reefers) and limited edition 4-4-0 Hartland General locomotive are available for pre-order. Atlanta has the World of Coke, Georgia Aquarium, Atlanta Braves baseball (in town game Sunday, June 3), Whitewater Park, Six Flags Over Georgia as well as outlet mall shopping and other parks and attractions. I think we will all have a good time with our hobby, friends, and family in Atlanta next June. Register now! All tracks lead to Atlanta in 2018!

Happy Rails To You,
Ted
Georgia Garden Railroad Society

The following link was submitted by Carl Webber

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

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.

The following trains are for sale by Bruce Benardo. He can be reached by phone 941-474-2792 or e-mail bcb1226@comcast.net



LGB # 21576 F7-A, # 21586 F7-B, and # 21576 F7-A Santa Fe Diesel Set. New in the box. \$1,500. BEAUTIFUL SET with Factory Sound.

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Aristocraft # 23011 Dash 9 Diesel BNSF Warbonnet # 778 .Mint, Like New Was displayed only and test run.\$550.00.



USATrains, R22207 GP-38 # 3508 Santa Fe Diesel Locomotive, Like New, Mint Test Run Only , \$325.00.



Aristocraft # ART-28425 Rogers Christmas Set, New, Complete set and ready to run., \$250.00.



WANTED: Looking for a steel sided boxcar, any brand, any road name for a project I'm working on. I'd prefer that it be complete but distressed and well used is OK. I'm looking for something very low cost. Thank you for any help you can give me.

Bob Conant

Bradenton, FL

bobconant@aol.com

(941) 792-2701

If any members are in the Sebastian FL area on Dec . 20 th , from 7 to 9 pm .
Whispering Palms railway
will have a Light Up night .. The G scale train layout is decorated for the season .
Weather permitting of course .

Bring the whole family , Santa visits , there are refreshments , and hopefully entertainment .

Come if you can .

Syd and Joanne Small

40 Alisa Dr

Sebastian, FL 32958

We are members of the FGRS and would welcome the visit .

After over a year of learning and yearning, the new website is up and running, and substantially complete! Please take a few minutes, and give it a spin. It is where the old one was:

www.fgrs.org

but has a completely new look and feel.

If you still see the old website when you try to open it, do a "Refresh" to clear the old one from your PC memory. In some cases, you will have to clear your browser history, to get it to work the first time. Let me know if you have difficulty with that, or any aspect of seeing what you want on the site.

Several of the "Members Only" (Hit "Members Sign In") pages are incomplete, but they will be coming soon. All the 2017 newsletters are available, as is the "Membership List".

The "Members Sign In" password is "Trains" (case sensitive)

It will work on your tablets and cell phone browsers, but all functions may not present properly. Give me a report on how that goes if you try it on one of those. I will try to get that working better, as it is handy to look at when your are traveling or visiting friends.

I'm anxious to hear how it works on your computer, if the graphics fill the page properly, or if you have difficulty navigating. Please send me photos of your layout, or anything else you would like to have posted. In the members photos section, I would eventually like to have a pictorial story about every one of you.

Notice also there is a place to post things for sale, no cost to you. The Links page will be completely new, and organized so you can find other clubs, dealers, tech support, rail faning info, and anything else you would like to see there. Send me your favorites.

All the FGRS newsletters from 2017 are posted on the "Members Sign In" page, so if you missed one, you can pull it up in PDF format, and print it. It will be kept up to date, and soon all the newsletters for prior years will be posted there, also.

The "Schedule a Meet" page will have a complete graphic calendar where all activities that any of our members might be interested in will be posted, so you can plan a meet without interfering with other meets and shows. There will also be tips and answers to FAQs for planning a meet.

Hope you enjoy the website,

Yours with Trains,

Paul Wagner

FGRS VP, Webmaster, and incoming Pres.



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.

I received word that one of our longtime members Earl Chevalier has passed away. (Sunday October 22, 2017) I am somewhat of a newbie with four years in the club and did not know Earl personally. I understand he and his wife Barbara were early and very involved members of FGRS. If you have any stories, club pictures you want to share, please feel free to send them into the newsletter chair, Tom Hite, or post them on our Facebook page. I am sure I speak for all FGRS members when I share our appreciation for all his involvement with the club and our condolences to Barbara and the family.

- 6) Updated the club by-laws to fit the one statewide format and removed the divisions until a future time when it will improve the club.
- 7) Updated the club member badge, added member value by revised the raffle so members can target exactly what they want.
- 8) Have a more workable event strategy and tools (smaller layout, TV and DVR), so our club will attend more regional train shows and be able to show more examples of what the Garden Railway hobby is all about and sign-up new members.

So as my term ends I want to thank the club board for all their efforts. Including putting up with my constant reminders/nudging. I want to thank all of you who opened your homes to us and allowed us to enjoy your company and layouts. And I want to thank all club members for their loyalty, sticking with the club as we change into a new, stronger and more fun Florida Garden Railway Society. As we move forward I would use some very familiar words to all our members. Help us to make this a club that works for you. Get active again in the club. To really make a big impact, we'll need you "All Aboard"!!!!!!

Keep on G-scaling,

Ross Marvin – 2016 & 2017 FGRS President