





December 2020 Newsletter Contents

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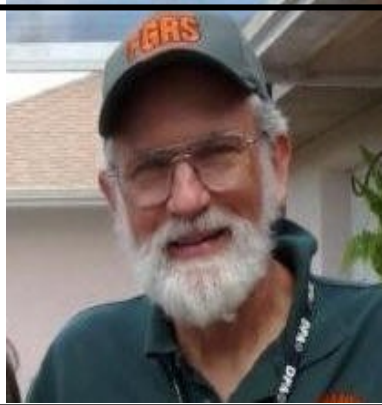
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December 2020



PRESIDENT'S NOTES FROM PAUL WAGNER

As the Year 2020 comes to a close, I breathe a sign of relief, and am optimistic about the coming year. I have had many great experiences with FGRS during the year, but it was a far cry from what I expected, and our plans and announcements for the coming year do not look anything like I expected to be writing to you about.

Dues for Renewal of FGRS Membership

First, let me bring your attention to the announcement from Jay, our Membership Chairman, that your FGRS Board has decided to make the dues for renewing your membership for the coming year, "complimentary"! That's right, in view of the fact that since we have not had a single FGRS event since last March, (due to the Corona virus pandemic) not even a Train show display, we feel that all of you who have supported FGRS through the years deserve to ride free for the coming year.

Thanks to the generous donations of past members' estates and others, and the hard work of Phil Barcelona and those who helped with the sale of much of the surplus rolling stock this past summer, this will not be a hardship on FGRS.

30 Year Celebration Postponement

All of us on the Board, and I hope all of you, have wanted to have this long-awaited “convention” styled celebration weekend garden railroad fest in February 2021, despite our inner angels saying that the ongoing pandemic is making it an increasing bad idea at this time. Just as the final preparations were underway, someone finally said, “Hey, in this coming February, we would be having an event attended by relatively few, we would all be looking at each other with masks on, and worrying about a deadly disease. Versus waiting until February, 2022, and having a really good time, with everyone in attendance?” That observation brought us to our senses, and regrettably, we are postponing the Celebration for exactly one year. Please see the message in this newsletter from the Events Chairman, Fred Weber, for details. The Deland Train show for January 2021 has also been cancelled by its sponsors.

Coming Events

Outdoor meets, while taking extreme precautions, are a different matter, however. We feel that in an open outdoor environment, by taking all possible measures to ensure a minimum risk of contact, we could begin having some get-togethers.

On December 19th, we’re going to have that long awaited train ride and operating session out at Ridge Live Steamers 7-1/2” gauge train ranch in Dundee. RLS is a 12 acre rolling estate with 3 miles of 7-1/2” gauge track roaming the hills through tunnels and over trestles. They also have a 180 foot, 3 track loop of elevated Gauge 1 and



G-Gauge. Stationary and steam traction engines are also welcome. John Abbott, our FGRS resident Ridge Live Steamers host has cleared it with their board, and it is a go! There will not be a crowd and we can use the pavilion if sitting outside with our own chairs up by the G scale track is not comfortable.

The grounds will be decorated for Christmas, and those of you who have been out there before know that there are lots of wide open spaces, so social distancing will not be a problem. Please wear a mask, just to be on the safe side. Bring your own lunch and drinks if you want to picnic out there. The directions and details are printed on the “Special Events” page. We will have a brief meeting at which we will vote for the new officers for 2021.

Some More Donations!

Donations continue to roll in. We'll have some more amazing member sales and raffles soon!

A gentleman named Bart Baker contacted us through the website and offered us a dozen G scale structures made by Rick Adams in Lake Mary over the years before he passed away in 2017. He put a lot of work into them, and Bart felt he would have been very happy about us using them for club layouts. I'm not sure that Rick was ever a member of FGRS. Bart said that Rick just set up his own layouts at home, but went to many of the train shows at the Volusia County Fairgrounds, and enjoyed his collection. Do any of you have memories of the man?

From member Richard Bliven, we received a donation of some very nice freight cars from a yard sale via a neighbor who was looking out for his railroad interests. There are 2 USA box cars, 1 LGB Covered Hopper, and Richard included metal wheels for them from his own toolbox. Thank you, Richard!

"Garden Railroading eNews"

You should have already received your November – December issue of the new



"Garden Railroading eNews" which we forwarded in an email on 12/1/2020. It is really exciting, and, in my mind, it is going to completely replace "Garden Railways" magazine. As you can see, this magazine is carrying articles from all over the country, and has many great pictures and ideas for garden

railroaders. We will be contributing material for it in the near future. Send in your pictures and stories.

Check out their website, <https://www.grnews.org/>. Links to their other pages are in the string of titles at the upper right corner of the homepage. It's not immediately obvious that they are links – At first, I thought they were just a list of things they were going to be doing.


News From Kalmbach, the publishers of the now discontinued Garden Railways magazine:

Here are more details on the “Trains.com - Unlimited Membership” they announced last month. We now have more details as to the content, and the price has been announced as \$83.88 per year. So far no release date, however. Here’s their ad from www.trains.com/membership page:

As an Unlimited Member, you’ll get access to:

- All content on Trains.com from our family of brands, including News Wire, Product Reviews, Track Plan Database, and more!

Kalmbach’s free “GardenRailways.com Newsletter” for December offered free links to a couple of previously published articles, as well as ads for the purchase of several of their railroad booklets and downloads. There was a link to a very nice video of a great little live steamer chuffing through the snow


(https://grw.trains.com/beginners/reader-videos/2019/12/first-run-of-the-winter?utm_source=Yesmail&utm_medium=email&utm_email=wagstation@aol.com&utm_campaign=News0_GRW_201201_000000_Test-Ver.A)

If you’re not on their list, you might consider it worth signing up for this free newsletter, even though they are not writing any new content for it. Go to www.trains.com, and click on the appropriate box under “Get our free e-mail newsletters”.

The Zoom Fun Run on November 28 was very stimulating. While only seven members and friends signed on, there was a lot to be learned from one another, while we observed trains running on five layouts, and heard from some new people who are just beginning their garden railroads.

I’m so looking forward to seeing many of you at the Ridge Live Steamers Meet on this coming December 19th. Even with masks on, it will be good to see you face-to-face.

May your Holidays be Joyful and Safe!

Paul Wagner

FGRS 2020 BOARD MEMBERS



FGRS President

Paul Wagner

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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



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Millie Weber

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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



FGRS 2021 BOARD POSITIONS

We want to thank all of you who send in nominations and ideas. At this time each of the following positions have one, unopposed, candidate. A few positions are still open. Official voting/confirmation will happen at the February 19th Live Steamers meet. Details for the event are in this newsletter.

You can also vote by email at FGRS.President@gmail.com

PROSPECTIVE BOARD

President Elect: Fred Weber

Vice President East OPEN

Vice President West OPEN

Secretary: Millie Weber

Treasurer: Melinda Archer

Membership: Jay Archer

Newsletter Chairman & Webmaster: Paul Wagner

To All 2020 FGRS Members:

After talking with Santa, with the FGRS Board Members, and because of this year's Covid-19 shutdown of planned events, we have decided that our holiday gift to you, in appreciation of your 2020 membership, is:

“ALL PRESENT FGRS MEMBER DUES RENEWALS FOR 2021 ARE WAIVED”.

That means “no dues” for 2021 if you are a 2020 FGRS MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING” with the club. (All new club members for 2021 will pay normal club dues of \$30.00)

From your entire FGRS board we wish you a Happy & Safe Christmas.

Jay Archer

FGRS Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 2695, Dunedin, Florida 34697



FGRS FUTURE Fun Runs

FIRST CLUB FUN RUN SCHEDULED FOR 2021

CALANDER PLANNING FOR FUTURE FUN RUNS

We're looking for members to host a Fun Run in 2021

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.

At this time we have one Club Fun Run scheduled:

Sunday May 9, 2021. Charlie Beall, Mt. Dora 12-3 PM

Thank you Charlie;

Paul

Paul Wagner

2020—2021 TRAIN SHOWS

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

December 5, 2020

Melbourne Train & Toy Show

9am - 2pm

[Azan Shrine Center](#)

Melbourne, Florida 32935

December 12, 2020 Dover

Hillsborough County Fairgrounds

215 Sydney Washer Road

Dover, FL 33527

December 19-20, 2020 Tampa (CANCELLED)

Florida State Fairgrounds (Primarily Model Trains, some artifacts)

4800 U.S. 301 Tampa FL 33610

New Years Show, Sat. January 2, 2021

Elk's Lodge, 401 N. Indiana Ave., Englewood Florida 34223

Adults \$5.00, Children under 12 FREE

EARLY BIRD \$7.00 Reservation 8am to 9 am

Golden Spike Enterprises

January 9 & 10, 2021

Deland—Volusia County. Fairgrounds (CANCELLED)

February 13, 2021

Jacksonville - Prime Osborn Center

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.

RIDGE LIVE STEAMERS EVENT DECEMBER 19, 2021, 9 AM Start Lake Wales Florida

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.



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 and sign a liability waiver.

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 Be sure to pull up the track plan, at http://www.ridgelivesteamers.org/trackplans/rls_track_plan_8x11_051419.pdf You'll be impressed!



**CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF FGRS
RESCHEDULED FROM
FEBRUARY 19 - 21, 2021 TO
FEBRUARY 18 - 20, 2022**

POSTPONED

We are close to a vaccine being available, but based on the present increase in Covid-19 cases and delivery mechanisms not yet in place, we have agreed as a board that our get-together in Ft. Meyers should be postponed until after the vaccine has had time to make its way through all high risk individuals.

We will continue to update you through the newsletter or a club wide FGRS e-mail Alert. As for those who have already submitted a check. You will receive a full refund. Hotel reservations are cancellable, be sure to cancel those if you have reserved a room."

Look for future info on 30th Anniversary celebration events and activities to climax with the 30th Anniversary weekend in February 2022.

Fred Weber

The Harvey Girl's Defined Hospitality in the Wild West of the 1880s

Posted by: Grand Canyon National Park - South Rim on February 24, 2016

Pioneers of the West: How “young women of good moral character” who became Harvey Girls at rail station diners in uninhabited areas, helped create dozens of small towns across America



Authentic Harvey Girls – photo courtesy of The Camp Fire Chronicle

- Fred Harvey created rail station diners, called Harvey Houses, to provide high quality meals and service for passengers on cross-country train trips
- He employed attractive young women with 'good moral character' aged 18 to 30 to work at locations in the America West
- Those hired underwent six weeks of intense training before moving to a small town to work at Harvey House where they also lived under strict rules
- But the women broke barriers being the country's first national corp of independent women working in the 1800s to 1900s

The Harvey Girl's Defined Hospitality in the Wild West of the 1880s

Posted by: Grand Canyon National Park - South Rim on February 24, 2016

They were the true pioneers of the American West – thousands of young women aged 18 to 30 who worked six days a week at ground-breaking rail station diners that created dozens of small towns scattered 100 miles apart from each other in the Southwest and West.

The majority of the brave women had traveled to these tiny and seemingly uninhabited areas leaving everything they knew behind, including their childhood homes and



parents, just to have a chance to earn a decent wage and be independent, while unknowingly helping to change the landscape of the new U.S. territory gained after winning the pivotal

Mexican-American War in 1848. The acquired states, including Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, and parts of Colorado, Nevada and Utah, were largely unpopulated by Americans until people began migrating from the East Coast, Midwest and South for a fresh start at life by traveling via the newly built railroad system connecting the entire country.

The Harvey Girl's Defined Hospitality in the Wild West of the 1880s

Posted by: Grand Canyon National Park - South Rim on February 24, 2016

Many of those Americans were following the popular phrase, 'Go West, Young Man, Go West'.

But in the beginning, the rides on the trains were dreadful – long trips with essentially no real decent food to eat. There were no dining cars or fancy snacks available for purchase. Instead, the only viable option for passengers was to patronize a roadhouse, which often served rotten meat, cold beans and week's old coffee, during stops for the locomotive to refuel.

Those grim conditions deterred many Americans from wanting to make the journey via the railroad system. That all changed when businessman Fred Harvey created rail station diners called Harvey Houses that provided high quality service delivered from his female employees known as The Harvey Girls starting in the 1870s.



Over a period of 90 years, Harvey House employed more than 100,000 young women to work at Harvey Houses that were strategically situated about 100 miles apart from each other at numerous rail stations located in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, and more.

The intriguing day-to-day lives of Harvey Girls helping to build-up the American frontier was even put on the big screen in 1946 when Judy Garland, John Hodiak and Angela Lansbury starred in the hit musical titled, 'The Harvey Girls' (above)



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.

I am clearing out my **USAT Reefer cars @ \$50.00**

Factory Brand New and Well Below Dealer Cost.



Contact: Bruce Benardo, 941-474-2792

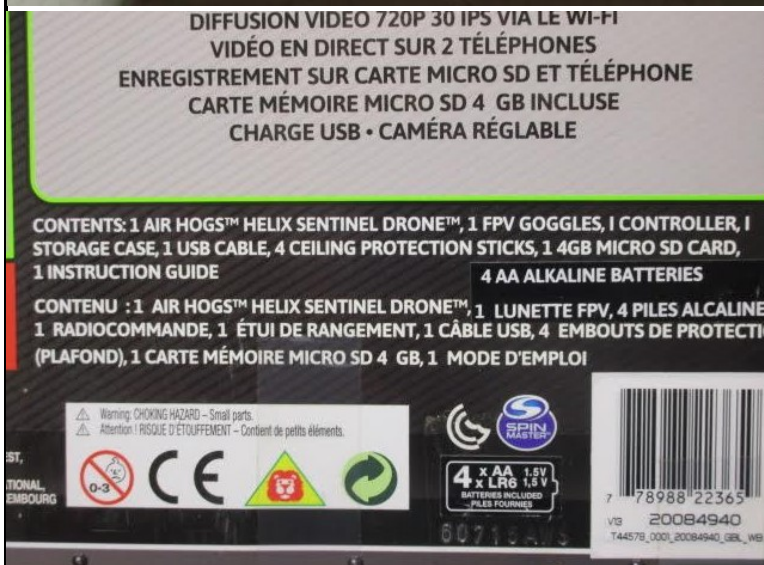
email = bcb1226@comcast.net



Member Train Items “For Sale”

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Air Hogs Helix Sentinel Drone with Camera New , Never used.



Video and Stream your Outdoor Railroad Layout from Above, or any Other Subject.. Check out the pictures for all the Features.

List Price was \$249.00.



Member Train Items “For Sale”

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2 VIEW MODES
CONTROLLER FOR EASY FLIGHT
GOGGLES FOR PURE EXCITEMENT

2 MODES DE VISIONNAGE
SUR LA RADIOCOMMANDE, POUR FACILITER LE PILOTEGE
AVEC LES LUNETTES, POUR PLUS DE SENSATIONS

COCKPIT VIEW GOGGLES
WORK WITH YOUR
SMART DEVICE

LUNETTES PANORAMIQUES
COMPATIBLES AVEC
TON APPAREIL MOBILE

“THE AIRCRAFT MUST REMAIN IN VISUAL LINE OF SIGHT OF THE OPERATOR OR OF THE VISUAL OBSERVER. THE AIRCRAFT MUST REMAIN IN VISUAL LINE OF SIGHT OF THE OPERATOR OR OF THE VISUAL OBSERVER.”
“LE DRONE DOIT RESTER DANS LE CHAMP DE VISION DU PILOTE OU DU GUEETTEUR. LE DRONE DOIT RESTER DANS LE CHAMP DE VISION DU PILOTE OU DU GUEETTEUR.”

DO NOT RETURN TO THE STORE.
NE PAS RETOURNER AU DISTRIBUTEUR.
NORTH AMERICA - AMERICA DU NORD
1-800-422-8229, CUSTOMERCARE@SPINMASTER.COM
UK - 0800 266 1191, SERVICEUK@SPINMASTER.COM
FRANCE - 0800 909 100, SERVICEFR@SPINMASTER.COM

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1 SET/COFFRET

**INDOOR AND OUTDOOR
HD 120° WIDE ANGLE LENS CAMERA
WIFI STREAMING VIDEO (VIDEO STREAM IS 720P)
CONNECT UP TO 2 PHONES TO LIVE STREAM
RECORDS TO MICRO SD AND TO YOUR PHONE
INCLUDES 4GB MICRO SD CARD
USB CHARGING • ADJUSTABLE CAMERA**

Video and Stream your Outdoor Railroad Layout from Above,
or any Other Subject...Check out the pictures for all the Features.
List Price was \$249.00.

Contact: Bruce Benardo, 941-474-2792
email = bcb1226@comcast.net



Member Train Items “For Sale”

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**New in the Original box
LGB # 4080-GR, Florida Garden Railway Society Tank Car**

Factory New, Limited Edition \$75.00

Rare and hard to find in New Mint Condition.
Factory add on Items are included in the box.

Features consist of the following,

- 1) Tank can be filled with liquid and dispensed thru discharge cock.
- 2) Operating Hook & Loop Couplers
- 3) Detailed Underframe including air brake components
- 4) Detailed freight car painted trucks.
- 5) Simulated wood-grain flooring





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.

Item #1: **Aristocraft brass curved track, super wide 10 foot radius.** Each piece is about 48” long. Pre-owned but in great shape. 16 pieces, making a full 20 ft dia circle. + 2 pieces, same size, but ties closer together. About 72 ft total. The bunch: \$125.00



Item # 2: **Aristocraft Wye,** matches the radius of the curved track.

New in Box \$50.00



We are in Sarasota. Contact:

David Linick
201-417-5313
dslinick@gmail.com



What is The Biggest Garden Railroad Mistake you've Made?

You and your stories and experiences being a Garden Railroader can add value for all members.

Sharing your latest project, worst and best model or train moments as a teaching experience for other club members is newsworthy!!!! . So whether its your backyard project, or a vintage train adventure, we'd love to hear about it.

For those that have shared a BIG "THANK YOU" . You are making our newsletter better.

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

Thank you!



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: _____
