

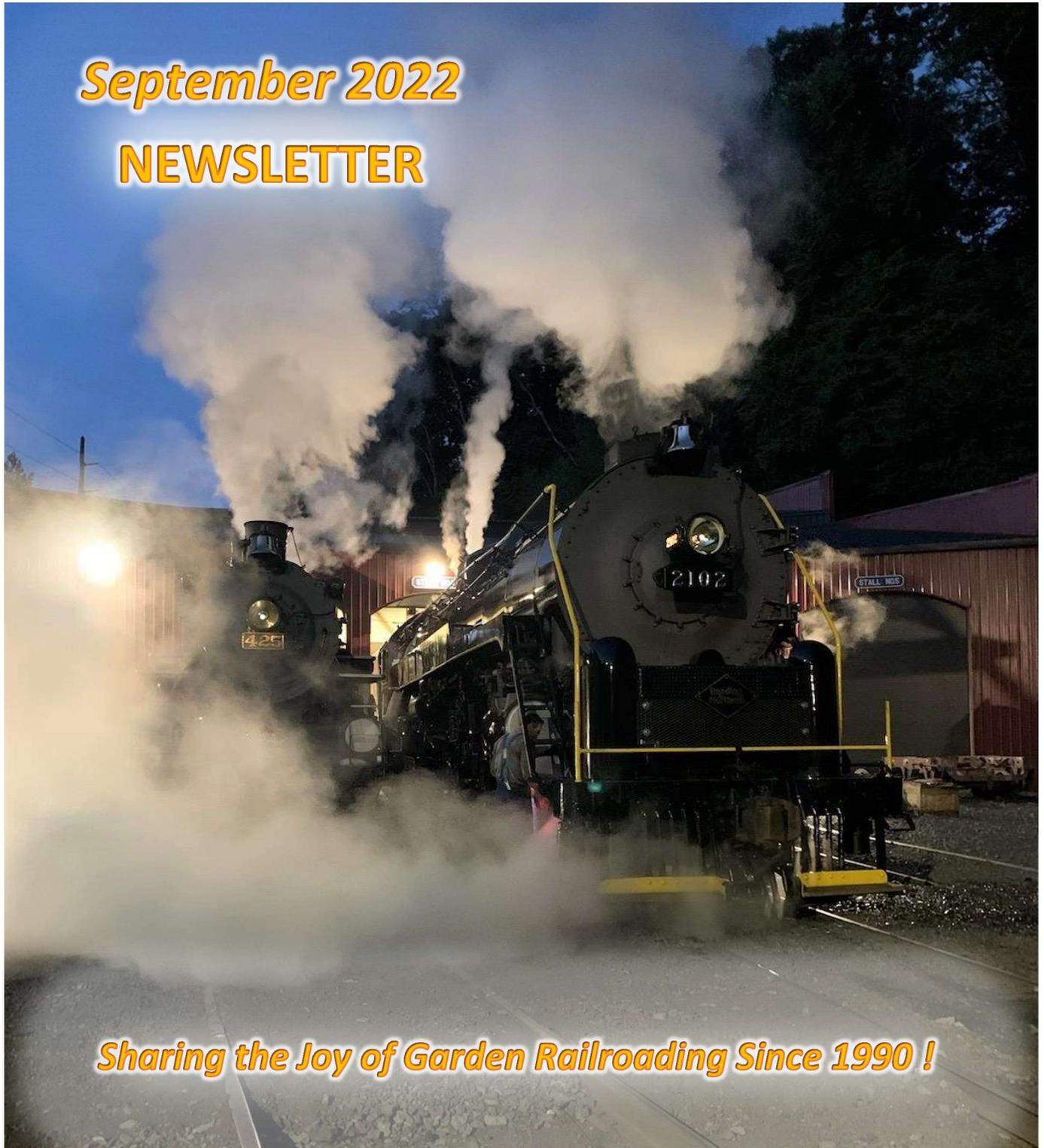
FLORIDA



Garden Railway Society

September 2022

NEWSLETTER



Sharing the Joy of Garden Railroading Since 1990 !



PRESIDENT'S NOTES FROM FRED WEBER September 2022

Ok everyone I was wrong about the rainy season being over, there is a hurricane heading toward North Carolina. I did get some of the weeds pulled from my tracks. Maybe by Thanksgiving the trains will be running.

On September 17th we will be heading to Ridge Live Steamers in Lake Wales. They have a great train ride and bring trains to run on their G scale layout - track power, battery or live steam!

On October 20th, (a Thursday evening event) we'll be at a Halloween Special at Bushnell station. Ghosts, bats, and witches will show you the way. The layout built by FGRS members will be on display, so come and enjoy the trains running or bring your train to run. A contest in train switching will challenge your skills.

Also in October, on Saturday the 15th, we will be setting up a small version of our event layout at the Baker Howe House in Wildwood in conjunction with a Sumter County Homecoming event. This is another great opportunity for people to see what FGRS is all about and get them interested in outdoor railroading.

See the Events and Fun Run sections of this Newsletter for details on these and other upcoming events.

We are still working on November and December events. Bushnell Station will have its Christmas special nighttime train ride. If someone is going to open their railroad for the holiday season, let us know. I'm sure many of our members would like to see your layout.

Your Board would like some help, we need an events coordinator. This would create a single point of contact for all events. This position would keep the board aware of who is doing what and when. Please consider helping your club get better organized with potential events and submit your name for this position.

Keep the trains running!

- *Fred Weber*, **FGRS President 2022**

Cover Photo by Ian Hollida on a late summer excursion trip with his grandfather, FGRS Member, Tim Smith, at the Reading Blue Mountain and Northern RR, in Reading PA. They chased and photographed the steam excursion from Reading to Jim Thorpe, PA. Locomotive 2102 is a T-1 class "Northern" 4-8-4 steam locomotive built by the Reading RR Company in their own Reading, PA shops in 1945. There will be videos on our Youtube Channel.

Don't Forget to Order Your New Shirt!

Both 30 Year Anniversary *and* Traditional "FGRS"

All shirts are \$35 which includes embroidering your name, taxes, and shipping to your home. The shirts are made by Core365 and are 100% Polyester - Moisture Wicking, Antimicrobial, UV protection, and easy care.



Traditional Shirts
Available in True Royal (Blue) or White



30 Year Anniversary Shirts
Available Only in "Platinum"

Men's shirts are available either with or without a pocket. Men's "Tall" sizes are only available without a pocket. 30 Year Shirts are not available in "Tall" or with a pocket.

Color choices are True Royal (Blue) or White. 30 Year Shirts come only in "Platinum"

Sizes start at S,M,L,XL,2XL,3XL,4LX, and 5XL

Ladies sizes start at XS,S,M,L,XL,2XL, and 3XL

Youth sizes start at S,M,L,XL

Ladies sizes are true to size. Women who wear a men's large would need to order a ladies "extra large". These shirts are very comfortable and easy to care for. You will love them! All arrangements have been made. Order yours direct from the dealer using the form sent out in a separate document. The form with 30 Year Anniversary Shirts added is being sent out again as you receive this Newsletter. Be sure to include your email address on the order form so they can contact you if there are questions about what you want. The order form is available on the Members page of the FGRS.org website.

FGRS 2022 BOARD MEMBERS



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Fred Weber
410-310-6001
Fgrs.president@gmail.com



FGRS Vice President – Eastern Region
Phil Barcelona
386-562-4859
fgrs.vicepresident@gmail.com

**YOUR PICTURE
COULD BE HERE!**

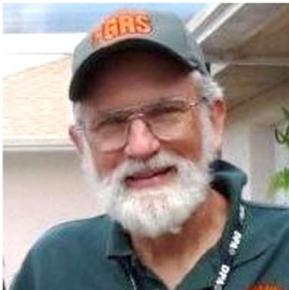
**FGRS Western Region Vice President & Event
Coordinator**
Position Open – This can be you!



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2022 TRAIN SHOWS AND EVENTS

October 1, 2022 –78th Railfair, Deland, Florida

9am – 4pm

Volusia County Fairgrounds

FGRS will set up the “Kid’s Zone” layout

Go to <https://10times.com/rail-fair-florida> for more information

October 1, 2022 – Suncoast MRR Club Train Show and Open House

Pinellas Performing Arts Center

4951 78th Avenue N. , Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Go to https://www.suncoastmrrc.com/pdfs/Train_Show_Flyer.pdf for info

October 15, 2022 - The Baker Howe House Homecoming Open House

6106 County Road 44A

Wildwood, FL 34785

FGRS will set up the event layout

See <https://www.wildwood-fl.gov/parksrec/page/baker-house>

and the event announcement on the following page for more information.

October 20 – 23, 2022 – York TCA Train Show

York PA

<https://www.easterntca.com/>

October 22 – 23, 2022 - HR Trains Train Show

10 AM – 5 PM, Show and Clinics

Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center,

4951 78th Ave N, Pinellas Park, FL 33781

(Just behind the HR Trains & Toys store)

Go to <https://hrtrains.com/blogs/news/74th-train-show-october-22-23-2022>

December 3, 2022 - Melbourne Train & Toy Show

9am - 2pm

Azan Shrine Center, Melbourne, Florida

Go to <http://schultzspacecoasttrains.com/> for information

January 14 - 15, 2023 – 79th Railfair, Deland, Florida

9am – 4pm

Volusia County Fairgrounds

FGRS will set up the event layout

Go to <https://10times.com/rail-fair-florida> for more information

January 21-22, 2023 - Martin County Model Railroaders, 16th annual Train Show and Sale

9-3 both days

Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 S Dixie Hwy, Stuart

\$1 off coupon and more details on their website:

www.martincountymodelrailroaders.com

February 18-19, 2023 – Real Rail Train Show, Palmetto (Bradenton), Florida

Bradenton Area Convention Center, 1 Haben Blvd, Palmetto, Florida

FGRS will set up the event layout

Go to <https://realrail.org/upcoming-events/rail-pass/> for more information

February 18-19, 2023 - Mount Dora Scottish Highland Festival

Time: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

530 N. Donnelly Street Mount Dora, FL 32757 – 3524553171

FGRS will set up the event layout

February 25, 2023 - Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival

Clay County Fairgrounds

2497 State Road 16 West, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

FGRS will set up the event layout

May 06, 2023 - VENICE MUSEUMS DAY

Historic Venice Train Depot

303 E. Venice Ave., Venice FL 34285

FGRS will set up the event layout

For a list of many other Train Shows go to

http://www.railservice.com/events/train_shows.html

The Baker Howe House Homecoming Event

Sumter County will be having a Homecoming event on October 15, 2022, and Florida Garden Railway Society has been invited to display a running G scale layout. We will be setting up part of our club's big layout. Because it will be a small layout, we will not be running any long trains. You are invited to join in this event.



We will be setting up around 7:30AM - 8:00AM and the

event runs from 10AM and ends at 2:00PM. We will need volunteers for set up and teardown so if you are able to help us or would like to run your trains, please let me know. Email fgrs.president@gmail.com or cell phone 410-310-6001

The Baker House was built by Senator David H Baker around 1890, in the community of Orange Home. The home consists of a two-story main house with porches on both floors and a separate two-story kitchen house. The craftsmanship can be seen throughout the house from the original wood floors, the original sash windows, the ornate and detailed door hinges and the hand carved stair railing. The focal point of the main house is the stained-glass window. Much of the glass is original and depicts the four seasons.

This is another great opportunity for us to show people what FGRS is all about and get them interested in outdoor railroading.

The Baker House is located on
6106 County Road 44A
Wildwood, FL 34785

See <https://www.wildwood-fl.gov/parksrec/page/baker-house> for more information about the facility.

- *Fred Weber*, FGRS President 2022

UPCOMING FGRS FUN RUNS/OPERATING SESSIONS AND FGRS MEETS AT SPECIAL TRAIN ATTRACTIONS

September 17, 2022 – Fun Run Meet at Ridge Live Steamers

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 G gauge layout is under a roof and was primarily designed for live steam trains, but it does have track power.

There is plenty of shade, and a large pavilion. Bring a train to run, especially if you have a live steamer, chairs, cold drinks and a picnic lunch for yourself and guests. To find out more about this club, go to www.ridgelivesteamers.org

Remember this meet? No masks required this time!



Thursday, October 20th, 2022

Special Halloween Fun Run Meet and dinner at Bushnell Station and Train Museum

4 PM – 9PM The cost for this event for FGRS members will be \$15 per person (Including dinner, total event value is over \$20). See details on the following page.

Bushnell Station is located at

6470 W County Road 476, Bushnell, FL 33513

Please RSVP to Fred Weber, email fgrs.president@gmail.com



**Many FGRS Meets and Fun Runs are in the works.
Contact me if you are interested in hosting a Fun Run.
Hope to see you at the next event.**

- *Fred Weber*, **FGRS President 2022**
410-310-6001
[Fgrs.president@gmail.com](mailto:fgrs.president@gmail.com)

Thursday, October 20th, 2022

Halloween Special Event- "Track or Treat" at Bushnell Station

Thursday October 20th, 4 PM Until 9 PM

Warning be careful of the engineer or passengers on train ride!!!!

The Halloween Special Event will be a meeting and train ride for Florida Garden Railway Society members on Thursday, October 20th. The Museum will be decorated for Halloween featuring Specialty Lights, Fog, Witches, and of course Ghosts. There may even be a skeleton or two lurking about. The best time to ride the train will be after dark but the train will be running the whole time we are there. There will be a contest on the train switch layout with prizes.

The meeting will start at 4:00 PM. You will have



time to take a tour of the museum, take a turn at the switch puzzle, and ride the ghost train.

You will also be able to run your trains on the outdoor layout if you wish. At 5:00 PM we will have a short meeting before dinner. At 6:00 PM the museum opens to the public and nighttime train rides begin. All activities will be available to us after dinner.

Dinner will be included with your choice of the Bushnell famous Hot dog combo (Hot dogs, chips, and a drink, plus potato salad, coleslaw, and some haunted cake) or pizza with the trimmings and a drink!

The cost for this event for FGRS members will be \$15 per person, which includes a

donation to the museum to cover the visit to the inside exhibits, train rides, and the dinner. Please RSVP so we know how much food to get so no one goes hungry! Include whether you want hot dogs or pizza. Email fgrs.president@gmail.com

Don't miss all the fun and exciting entertainment. If you haven't seen the FGRS garden layout our members have built since it has been completed, now is your chance. And don't forget about the excellent indoor G layout, which is now augmented by the new "Switching Puzzle and several other small scale layouts.

Bushnell Station is located at
6470 W County Road 476, Bushnell, FL 33513

And just saying, it might be a good time for those of you from far away to plan a "STAYCATION" in conjunction with this event. There are no suitable hotels in Bushnell, but there are many in nearby towns, such as Springhill, where you could see the Springhill Gardens on the Friday after (with its garden railway); the old village of Tarpon Springs (if you haven't had your fill of Greek food and belly dancing lately); or Wildwood, where there are some of the best antique shops in the state.



FALL PLATES FOR YOUR ENGINES

By Tim Smith and Paul Wagner

Fall plates are large pieces of metal that are made to cover the spaces between railroad locomotives and the tender. Numerous cables and hoses are connected between the loco and tender which would present hazards that the railroad crews would have to contend with. The fall plate effectively covers these hazards, as well as making it easier for the fireman to walk from the loco to the tender.

The fall plate is hinged so that it can be lifted out of the way when coupling the tender. Once the tender is coupled to the engine, cables and hoses will be connected together and tested before lowering the fall plate into position, effectively covering the connections

and providing a safe walking area for the fireman. The hinge also allows the plate to ride up and down with unevenness of the track as the engine pulls the tender down the track.



Man Standing on "Fall Plate"

Tim Smith had noticed that the Bachmann 4-4-0s are one of the very few G scale locomotives (Actually an F scale 1:20.3) model) that came with a fall plate installed. He owns several of these engines, and also noticed that all but one of his were missing their fall plates. Couldn't stand for that!

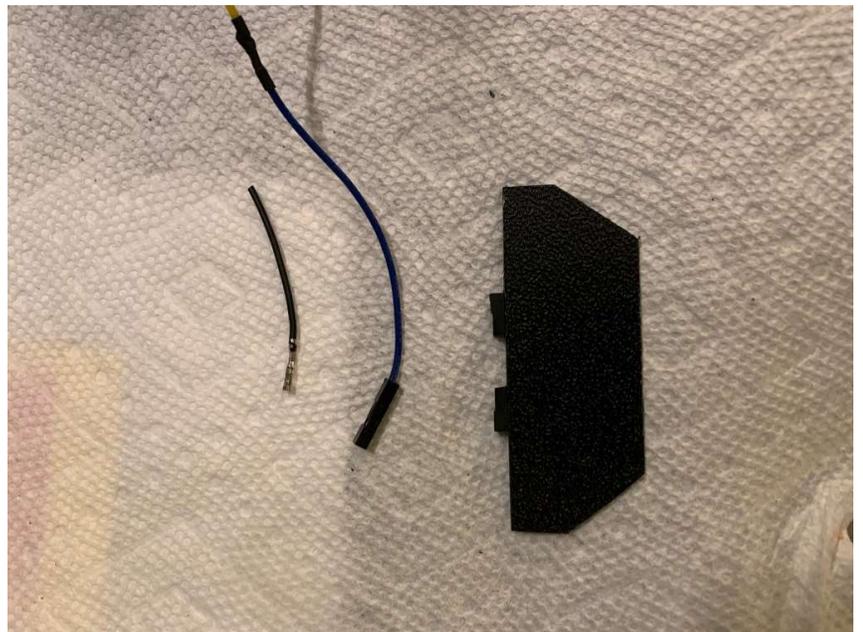
Tim described his project in an email to some friends:

"Here is how I make them:

Take a piece of black 1/16th inch thick plastic and cut it to size.

Fall plates for a Bachmann 4-4-0 are 2&5/8 inches long at the loco, 1&1/2 inches long at the tender, and 1-inch deep. See the pix for the corners to be cut off...looks sort of like a six-sided trapezoid.

Remove both ends of a PCB jumper wire...and discard the copper wire! Use the black plastic ends as hinges. Run a 1/16 bit through the



removed ends to expand the pin hole just a bit. Super-glue the two jumper ends at the proper location on the edge of the loco side of the fall plate (just inside the two corresponding hinges on the loco). If the build process or gluing have created unsightly appearance of the fall plate, spray on some black primer or color of your choice!

Let everything dry and set before you actually install it on the loco.

Set the new fall plate hinges between the existing loco hinges and carefully run a 3/64 inch brass rod through both hinges and cut the rod just a bit long on each end. No brass rod? No problem...a sturdy paper clip will likely work!

Squeeze the brass rod tips out of round on each end using needle nose pliers. That keeps the brass rod from coming out during use. If you use

a paper clip, you will have to squeeze the pliers pretty hard! Or use "vise grips" instead of needle nose pliers. Congratulate yourself on a job well done!

I am unsure how long the hinge glue joint will last or how much abuse it will take, but I have made two more of these so far and both have lasted without issue during my routine operations."



It just so happened that fellow modeler Paul Wagner had also constructed a fall plate, his was for an Aristocraft 0-4-0 he was re-working. He compared notes with Tim when he received the email about Tim's project. Paul also constructed the plate from a piece



of plastic (ABS) sheet, and glued a piece of screen to the surface to simulate “diamond plate”.

The Aristo 0-4-0 had never been designed with a fall plate, and Paul was also dissatisfied with overly long spacing of the standard Aristo tender coupler. Not as sophisticated as Tim, Paul made a tongue on the fall plate that fits into a recess under the cab floor, and merely fastened the fall plate to the underside of the cab floor with a screw and washer, leaving the screw loose enough to allow up-and-down movement.



Paul wrote:

“The disadvantage of not having a real hinge is that the fall plate cannot be raised out of the way for connecting and coupling. It works well enough, BUT... but it makes wiring and coupling difficult. Since I wanted a closer coupling between the 0-4-0 and its tender, I constructed a solid drawbar which I screwed in place from the bottom. It's such a small engine that handling them as one unit is not a problem, but I'll definitely construct a hinge similar to Tim's before I add a fall plate to a big Mikado or Pacific. You really need to think through those issues before starting, as well as any switches and jacks mounted on the tender front or in the cab.

On the 0-4-0, I put the battery charging jack under the tender water fill lid; and the on-off switch, volume control and programming jack for the Phoenix sound underneath the tender, so no problem there. The channel selector switch for the Airwire is mounted in the cab, however, and it is extremely difficult to get at to change channels.

Fortunately, I don't have to do that very often.

I'll bet a lot of visitors won't even notice these details on my engine as it chugs down the track, but I really get stoked, picturing myself standing in the cab of a steam locomotive like these.”





Member Train Items For Sale

Looking to buy or swap something? Send in your request- FGRS.Newsletter@gmail.com

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.

Please submit items you would like to buy or sell to Paul Wagner, FGRS.Newsletter@gmail.com

Ads will be run for 2 months if they are not renewed. Please notify me when an item is sold, so it can be removed from the following newsletter. – Paul Wagner

Corky Eckman has for sale: USA Trains Hudson Locomotive, track power w/Phoenix sound; 5 Heavyweight Passenger Cars lettered NYC.

Phone: 612-850-4071

Come see at my house and make offer

Address:

611 Via Cala, Englewood, FL, 34224



FGRS Membership Application for 2023

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 and outdoors, or modules. We are a group of individuals, couples, and families who enjoy socializing with others and participating in train related activities.

Dues for 2022: \$25/YR for single or family memberships.

Annual dues includes a subscription to FGRS Newsletter, via web and email. If you cannot receive the newsletter via internet, a printed copy will be mailed to you. All renewals are due in January. If you are 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: Ray Lambert, Membership Chairman
410 S Center Street
Eustis, FL 32726**

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. The badge has two lines: One for your name, and the other line can have the town where you live, or the name of your railroad.

<p>First Badge:</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Town or RR Name: _____</p>	<p>Second Badge:</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Town or RR Name: _____</p>
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COMPARING WATCHES FOR THE AFTERNOON SILVERTON



Silverton Colorado – 8/3/2022
Photo by Scott Shelley

**A REMINDER
OF MORE
PROSPEROUS
TIMES**



Albuquerque Botanic Gardens –
6/13/2022
Photo by Paul Wagner