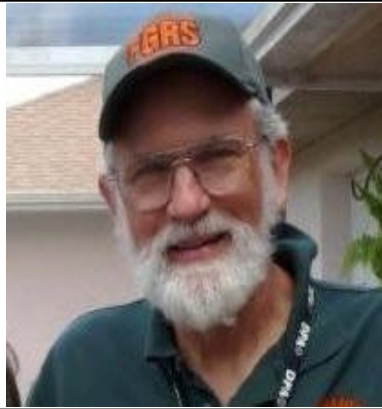




SEPTEMBER 2019



PRESIDENT'S NOTES FROM PAUL WAGNER

Another Great National Garden Railway Convention! All three of us FGRS members who went out to Oregon got driven back early by Hurricane Dorian, and missed seeing some of the best layouts, and the banquet, where they announce the coming National Conventions. I have since talked to the Convention Chairman, and verified that next year (2020), the convention will be in Nashville, Tennessee (Opreyland, anyone?); in 2021, it will be back to Denver, Colorado, considered by some the birthplace of garden railroading; and in 2022, it will be in San Francisco, hosted by the Bay Area Garden Railway Society, home of some of the most rabid garden railroaders in the world!

I had planned a meeting on Friday with Kent Johnson, the new editor of Garden Railways Magazine, to get his take on the future of garden railroading, and to give him our request for a larger, more robust magazine than the dwindling shell of the former editions it has become. I met Kent during the tours and activities, and can tell you he is a great guy with a passion for trains, but due to coming home early to prepare our house for the hurricane, I did not have the opportunity to have an in-depth discussion with him.

There are some breath-taking layouts in the Oregon area (see the special article in this issue) and a highlight of the week was seeing the 4449 “Daylight” come steaming in, pulling our train to the barbeque.

Jim Jerele opted for a cab ride, and couldn’t stop talking about the experience.



Hope to see you all at the Ridge Live steamers on September 28th. Until then,

Good health and Railroading to all!

Paul Wagner

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NGRC IN PORTLAND

National Garden Railway Convention 2019, Portland Oregon!

By Paul Wagner

Started off with a bang, with tours of some fine layouts – 40 of them in all.



So you think you've got water feature headaches!



Incredible trestles hanging on mountainsides everywhere!



A finely crafted cliff made with cement



And many fine little backyard layouts, like this one, complete with operating wind generators.



Here comes the Daylight, to take us to the barbeque.



This one was a real cliff-hanger – can you imagine what happens when a train jumps the track?



Another beautiful hillside layout.



The well-known Baker and Grande Ronde was awesome, of course.

POWER SOUND & CONTROL

Power, Sound, and Control Options for your Trains by Paul Wagner, with Tom Hite

In October we will again be visiting Dave and Ruth Taisch in Tavares, who operate trains on their large beautiful layout with *Digital Command Control (DCC)*.

You will be able to see, first hand, the advantages of controlling trains with this system, and this will enable you to compare the advantages and disadvantages of DCC with *DC Track Power*, with the old standby, DC power packs; and with battery power and radio control, which, with certain systems, is actually related to DCC.

Coincidentally, Kevin Strong of Garden Railways Magazine has recently reviewed a new sound and motor DCC “Decoder” unit from the Phoenix Sound company, that promises to simplify the installation of DCC in many late-model engines, especially from Bachmann. Phoenix was formerly a manufacturer of only sound units, and now is producing this total solution to easily equip an engine with DCC control system and sound. The link to Kevin’s review is

<http://grw.trains.com/news/product-reviews/2019/06/phoenix-sm-18-sound-and-motor-dcc-decoder>

All you would need, in addition, would be the trackside box, known as a “DCC Booster”, and its accompanying hand-held throttle.

Another new control product is from ESU Loksound:

https://traincraftbyklaus.blogspot.com/2019/07/installing-new-esu-xl-50-sound-decoder_29.html

The list of control systems is growing longer, here are some of the other old and new DCC and RC/battery systems available today:

Airwire – <http://www.cvpusa.com/>

Revolution - <https://www.revoelectronics.com/>

(Formerly Aristocraft Crest Electronics. Note that Revolution also offers a substantial trackside power supply, similar to the old Aristocraft Train Engineer.)

Phoenix - <http://www.phoenixsound.com/>

RailPro - <https://www.ringengineering.com/RailPro.htm>

BlueRail - <http://bluerailtrains.com/>

(Controls your train with your cell phone)

RCS - <https://www.rcs-rc.com/>

NCE - <https://www.ncedcc.com/>

Locolinc - <http://www.locolinc.com/>

For plain old DC track power, it's hard to beat the old stand-bys:

MRC - <https://www.modelrectifier.com/>

USAtains - <http://www.usatrains.com/>

Bridgeworks - <https://bridgewaterks.com/>

LGB – Both trackside and DCC control

Piko – Both Trackside and DCC Control

Each of these many systems has its enthusiastic followers. A comprehensive review and comparison of these is long overdue by the Garden Railways press, but until then, the best path is online research, including the forums, and talking first hand to other garden railroaders.

FGRS Fun Runs

2019

September 28 – A Special Meet will be hosted by the **Ridge Live Steamers**.

Directions:

Turn east on to dirt driveway off of N. Scenic Highway (SR 17) at:

7740 N Scenic Highway

Lake Wales, FL 33898

This will be the southern-most entrance to the property.

Pull up to pavilion and register with the club.

Trains will be running at 10:00AM, bring lawn chairs and a picnic lunch.

There is currently over 14,800 feet of 7½" gauge track consisting of approximately 7500 feet of main line rail and an additional 7300 feet of sidings and interchange track, with over 100 turnouts.

They also have a live steam G gauge layout under a roof. Bring a train to run, especially if you have a live steamer. To find out more about this club, go to www.ridgelivesteamers.org



A live steam UP #844 pulls a long train carrying guests

If you have been here before, you will notice that the "G" gauge area has recently seen some very nice additions and improvements. Originally there was one covered area. Now there are two! The new covered area is a great addition. In the pictures you can see the new bench work and details.

A Ridge Live Steamer crew adds detail to the G gauge layout



A G scale Mike resplendent in Southern green with gold striping steams by



October 19th – Fun Run Meet at Dave & Ruth Taisch's house. Address:

Dave and Ruth Taisch

11605 Lane Park Rd

Tavares, 32778

Phone 352-343-3196 or daveanruth@aol.com

The Lane Park & Wherever RR will start running trains at 11:00, with plans for lunch at 12:00. Please bring a dish to share. The LP&W has a thousand feet of track divided into four loops, with another ninety feet of storage track in the shed. We run NCE DCC track power. Twenty two wooden bridges cross two rivers connecting three ponds and two dry river beds. Two mountains with fifty feet of trestle complete the layout. I found a picture of the depot/warehouse that used to be just down the road from us and built a loose interpretation of it for the LP & W this year.



if anyone else is interested in hosting a fun run at their house please send me an e-mail with all the details, date, time, address, length of main line, minimum diameter curves, what you will supply, and anything else you feel is pertinent to the event.

If you have requested to host an event with someone else you need to contact me to get onto the official schedule. Please do not contact any other board member. Things can get forgotten or lost in transition.

TRAIN SHOWS

SEPTEMBER

September 7, Melbourne Train Show, 9am - 2pm

[Azan Shrine Center](#)

Melbourne, Florida 32935

FGRS will exhibit, please contact Fred Weber if you can help

September 21, TCA Meet and Train Show, Lake Nona Middle School, 13700

Narcoossee Road

Orlando, FL 32832

FGRS will exhibit, please contact Fred Weber if you can help

OCTOBER

October 5, 69th Florida Rail Fair, Deland, FL, Volusia County
grounds (Model Train Show)

Fair-

"FGRS will exhibit, please contact Fred Weber if you can help"

NOVEMBER

November 23, Regal Railways Toy Trains and Collectable Show,

Dover, FL, Hillsborough County Fairgrounds

215 Sydney Washer Road

Dover, FL 33527

DECEMBER

December 7, Melbourne Train Show, 9am - 2pm

[Azan Shrine Center](#)

[Melbourne, Florida 32935](#)

"FGRS will exhibit, please contact Fred Weber if you can help"

December 22, 23, Tampa Train Show, Florida State Fairgrounds

"FGRS will exhibit, please contact Fred Weber if you can help"

JANUARY

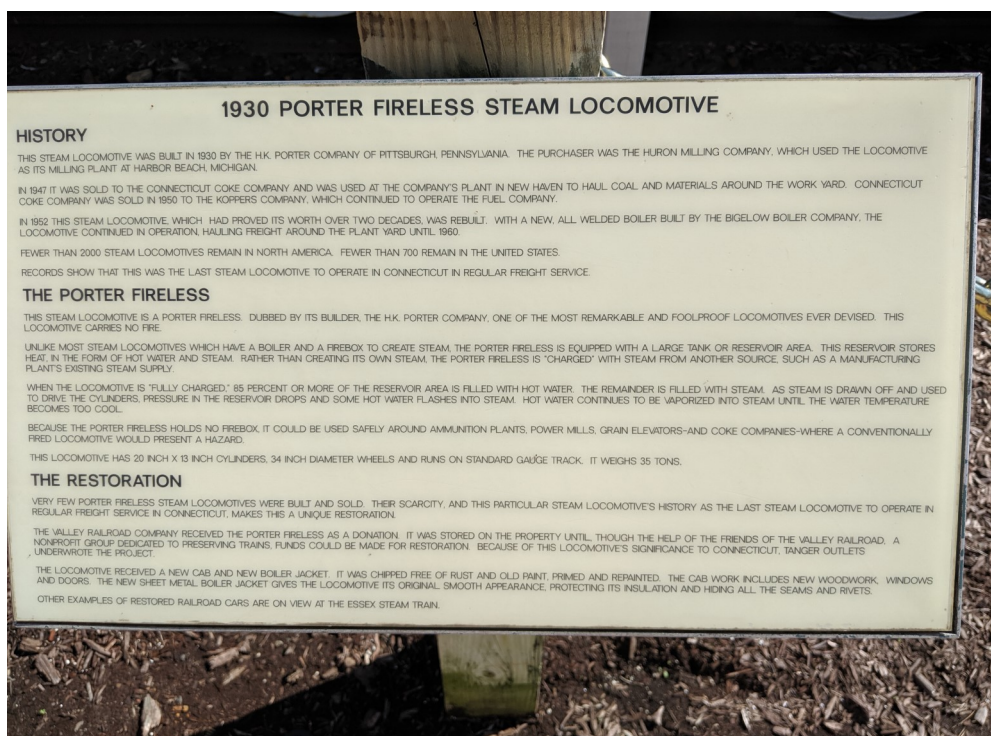
January 11,12 - 70th Florida Rail Fair, Deland, FL, Volusia County Fairgrounds (Model Train Show), "FGRS will exhibit, please contact Fred Weber if you can help"

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.

LINKS TO TRAINS PAST & PRESENT

I went shopping with my wife in Westbrook, CT. This was on display at the shopping center. Submitted by Tom Hite.



TRAINS FOR SALE

Nothing for sale this month.



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: _____

Please take note

When submitting pictures and articles to the NL I need the articles written in Word and the pictures as .JPG attachments.

Imbedded pictures in an e-mail sometimes gets stripped off by my virus software.

A few sentences to be put in the NL is okay.

Copying word documents into the NL works great. Problems exist when I have to copy and paste. Imbedded pictures do not work well and sometimes come out weird and I have to do a lot of editing.