

FLORIDA



Garden Railway Society

February 2023

NEWSLETTER



Sharing the Joy of Garden Railroading Since 1990 !



PRESIDENT'S NOTES FROM FRED WEBER

February 2023

February is a very busy month for FGRS. With two Scottish Festivals and the Bradenton train show, this gives every member an opportunity to run trains at any of these events. So, if you have an "in the box" railroad, get the trains out and join other members running trains. Members also can run their trains at Bushnell Station anytime the Museum is open. Other events will be at the 7 ½" scale train clubs around the state. These winter meets are something to see if you have never been to one.

March 10 & 11 we will be hosting the Ohio Garden Railroad Club and Marklin trains at the Bushnell Museum. We will have 3 to 5 layouts open over the two-day event. All members are invited to do the tour and enjoy the demonstrations and new product information at the Bushnell Museum. A listing of the outdoor layouts will be provided in All Aboard within the next week.

*****Pay your Dues!!!!!!**

Pay your dues by March 1, 2023. We will put all paid members' names in a drawing. Two prizes of \$50 gift certificates to be used at the Bushnell Station will be awarded. Add this to the member discounts and \$50 makes LGB and Pola products a lot cheaper.

If anyone has an idea for a club activity, please let us know. You have the better knowledge of the area in which you live. Or you may have an interesting idea as a club activity. Reach out to me and we can discuss it.

With so many opportunities for fun get-togethers, I hope that many of you will plan to join us for any and all events.

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

Cover Photo: A smooth running 2-6-0 goes clattering across a beautiful covered bridge on Dave and Ruth's garden railroad on January 28, 2023.

Photo by Fred Weber

Don't Forget to Order Your New Shirt!

Traditional "FGRS" Shirts

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. Men's shirts are available either with or without a pocket. Men's "Tall" sizes are only available without a pocket.

Color choices are True Royal (Blue) or White.

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. 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 being sent as an additional attachment with this Newsletter and also is available on the Members page of the FGRS.org website.



FGRS 2022 BOARD MEMBERS



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



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



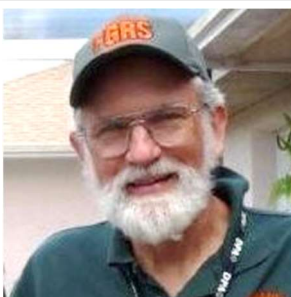
FGRS Event Coordinator
Chip Danneker
214-543-5133
chipdanneker@gmail.com



FGRS Secretary
Millie Weber
941-224-2996
Fgrs.secretary@
gmail.com



FGRS Treasurer
Inga Thaw
352-341-7799
Thawwillie42@
gmail.com



FGRS Newsletter
Paul Wagner
941-445-0409
Fgrs.newsletter
@gmail.com



FGRS Membership
Ray Lambert
954-551-3392
fgrs.membership
1992@gmail.com

2022 TRAIN SHOWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

February 18-19, 2023 – RealRail’s 44th Annual Train Show, Palmetto (Bradenton), Florida

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

FGRS will have a display layout and booth.

(US Highway 301 just north of the Manatee River)

Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM

Sunday 10 AM – 3 PM

Fun for the whole family at the Bradenton Area Convention Center, Buy — Sell — Trade — 100+ tables of model railroading merchandise

Adult admission \$8

Kids 13 and under free with paid adult

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

We’ll have both our large modular layout and the “Kid’s Zone” layout on display. The festival is an all day event both Saturday & Sunday. For more info go to

<https://ci.mount-dora.fl.us/698/Mount-Dora-Scottish-Festival>

February 23 - 26 — Ridge Live Steamers Winter Meet — Lake Wales

The Ridge Live Steamers Club has invited all FGRS members to join them at their winter meet Thursday, February 23 - Sunday the 26th. The RLS is a 7½" gauge railroad that has 7,500 feet of mainline with an additional 7,300 feet in sidings and yards. Additionally they have a 180 foot, 3 track loop of elevated Gauge 1 and G-Gauge. The tracks are located at 7750 North Scenic Hwy, Lake Wales 33898. About 3 miles south of Dundee. The club plans to have trains running all day beginning late morning throughout the meet. Saturday the 25th will be the busiest day with the most action.

(Train Shows and Special Events Continued Next Page)

February 25, 2023 – Northeast Florida Scottish Games and Festival

Clay County Fairgrounds

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

This event takes place at the Clay County Fairgrounds Green Cove Springs, (just south of Jacksonville). The club will have both the full layout and the kids display set up at the event. Gates open at 8:30. Go to

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

for details.

March 11, 2023 - LGB of America will be at Bushnell Station

6470 West CR 476, Bushnell, Florida 33513

They will be giving seminars and talking about coming products.

You and your guests are invited to join us at our “Open House” next month on March 11th. We have special admission pricing of \$5.00 per person for FGSR members and your guests. As always Museum members are free. Be sure to ask about the benefits of joining the Bushnell Station Museum as many of our FGSR members have done. A lunch will be available for a small charge – the best hot dogs in Florida, and other items are on the menu!

The flyer on the following page will give you the basics but we will also have a few surprises to share with you when you visit.

We all have heard about DCC controls but most don't know how to use it. This is your opportunity to learn more about DCC from the experts from LGB / Marklin who are flying in one of their technical specialists for this event. Also flying in for our event will be the General Manager of North America from LGB / Marklin along with their Manager of Marketing and Club Memberships. So bring your questions and talk with the experts and we look forward to seeing you and your guests on March 11th.

This special event will feature three interactive seminars:

10:30 — Marklin smaller scale trains

1:00 — LGB G Scale Trains

2:30 — Technical overview focusing on DCC systems

These seminars will provide a fantastic opportunity to see new products, learn more about LGB and get feedback directly from the source.

We will enjoy a special admission of only \$5 per person which includes Terminal A and Terminal B, train exhibits in scales Z, N, HO, O, On30,S, and G. You will see over 20 trains in different scales running at one time in our 10,000 sq ft museum. Your admission also includes unlimited rides on our 1/8 scale outdoor train. Just outside our doors on your way to the train ride

you will see the G Scale outdoor Garden Railroad designed, built and maintained by the Florida Garden Railroad Society with trains running through the building, tunnels, and an active waterfall .

The concession stand will be open featuring the best hot dogs in Florida.

Also: March 11 & 12 — Marion County Spring Festival/Master Gardener Show - Ocala This two day festival will take place in the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion located at 2232 NE Jacksonville Road, Ocala, 34770. Don Carter has built a new 5' x 16' table top display that will make its debut at this event. The show runs from 8:00am — 4:00pm Saturday and 9:00am — 4:00 pm Sunday. Admission is \$3. For more information please contact Don Carter at 352-207-5434.

April 1 — Golden Spike Model Train & RR Artifacts Show — DeLand The next Golden Spike Train Show will be held on Saturday, April 1 from 1:00 - 8:00pm at the Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3150 East New York Ave, DeLand, FL The FGRS will have both layouts at this show. <http://www.gserr.com/>

April 14,15, 2023 - The East Coast Large Scale Train Show

1564 Whitehall Rd, Annapolis, MD 21409

One of the premier model railroading conventions in the eastern United States

May 06, 2023 – VENICE MUSEUMS DAY

Historic Venice Train Depot

303 E. Venice Ave., Venice FL 34285

FGRS will set up the event layout

July 1, 2023 – July 8, 2023 – National Garden Railways Convention 2023

Santa Clara Convention Center 5001 Great America Pkwy.,

Santa Clara, CA

For more information go to <https://ngrc2023.org/> (See ad, next page)

For a list of many other Train Shows go to
http://www.railserve.com/events/train_shows.html

LGB / MARKLIN Open House

WHEN

March 11, 2023
10 am – 4 pm

WHERE

Bushnell Station

6470 West CR 476, Bushnell, Florida 33513

FEATURING · Marklin & LGB Seminars on
DCC Operations and New Item Releases

LGB **G scale trains**
Marklin & Trix **H0 scale trains**
MiniTrix **N scale trains**
Marklin **Z scale trains**

Presented by: Gale Cousins – General Manger of
North America Operations for LGB / Marklin
Stacy Cousins – Marketing and Club Membership &
Rick Sinclair - Digital Specialist for Marklin / LGB

PHONE: **352.901.0829**
Website: **www.BushnellStation.com**

SPECIAL OPEN HOUSE PRICING

\$5.00 for everyone
Under age 4 - Free

INCLUDED

All Access Pass to:
All Seminars
Museum
Terminal A - Exhibits
Terminal B - Exhibits
Train Ride – ½ mile

HIGHLIGHTS

LGB Museum – 1000 cars
and engines on display
G Scale Garden Railroad
(Florida Garden RR Society)
G Scale Exhibit Hall
O Scale Exhibit
O Scale Switching Layout
On30 “Muskrat Ramble”
N Scale Layout
S Scale Layout
H0 Scale Layout
(Under Construction)
**Over 20 trains running
at one time**

BENEFITING

The Gulf Coast and Central
Florida Railroad Museum
Inc.
A 501 (c)(3) non-profit



38TH NATIONAL GARDEN RAILWAY CONVENTION

JULY 1 - 8, 2023

**HYATT REGENCY, SANTA CLARA, CA
SANTA CLARA CONVENTION CENTER**

RECEPTION & FIREWORKS

BBQ & TRAIN RIDE AT ROARING CAMP RR

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & VENDOR HALL

ACCUCRAFT BANQUET

"The place to be in '23!"



Product News

January 2023

You can download a LGB catalog of LGB's **New Items** at

https://www.lgb-trains.com/lib/catalogs/issue20-29/pubs/LGB2023_383062_NewItems_EN.pdf

You can purchase a complete LGB catalog when you drop into the Bushnell Station hobby shop when you come out to run trains on our layout, ride the train, and visit the museum exhibits there.

Split Jaw Products is introducing wider radius curved bridges for 2023; has purchased and is now producing the HR stainless track line, and is offering a line of three-color signals.

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

Sunset Valley Railroad track products company is still delivering product, but the owners are retiring and the company is for sale.

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

Model Train Technology, a manufacturer of signals and signal control systems is introducing a new under the track NANO Precision Detector (suitable for all scales) for detecting approaching trains and controlling signals. See these signals in operation at the Real Rail Train Show in Palmetto, February 18 and 19.

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

Tim Smith reports that the heavy duty 5 amp Blunami 4400 sound and motion decoder, contrary to the backorder announcement last month, is now shipping! (And Tim has installed two of them which will be running at the RealRail Train Show in Palmetto, February 18, 18th . .

Tim also reports that the ride-on train at Lakes Park in Ft Myers is now back in operation.

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

March 10, 2023 – Special FGRS Layout Tour featuring four FGRS Member’s Layouts
We are hosting guests from the Columbus Garden Railway Society, Columbus, Ohio. Put on your FGRS shirt and name tag and join in on this tour to help make our guests feel welcome.

STOP A 10:00 am -11:00am

Don & Lenojo Carter

6130 NE 3 Place

Ocala, Florida 34470

(Best Parking is head in on a dead end road along white fence adjacent to this home

Note: Mapquest route with no toll roads indicates 1 Hr 7 Min to stop B. Suggesting everyone do a fast food stop in Lady Lake Fl area in route to Stop B

STOP B 1:00pm -2:00pm

Dave & Ruth Taisch

11605 Lane Park Rd

Tavares Florida 32778

Note: Parking is recommended to be along the road near the lake and those with any walking issues to park in the driveway

Drive time to Stop C is aprox. 15 Min

STOP C 2:00PM-3:00PM

Charlie Beall

7839 Sloewood Dr.

Mt Dora, Florida 32757

Stop D 3:30-4:30Pm

Mike & Tracy Walls Ph # 614-969-7242

14611 Green Valley Blvd

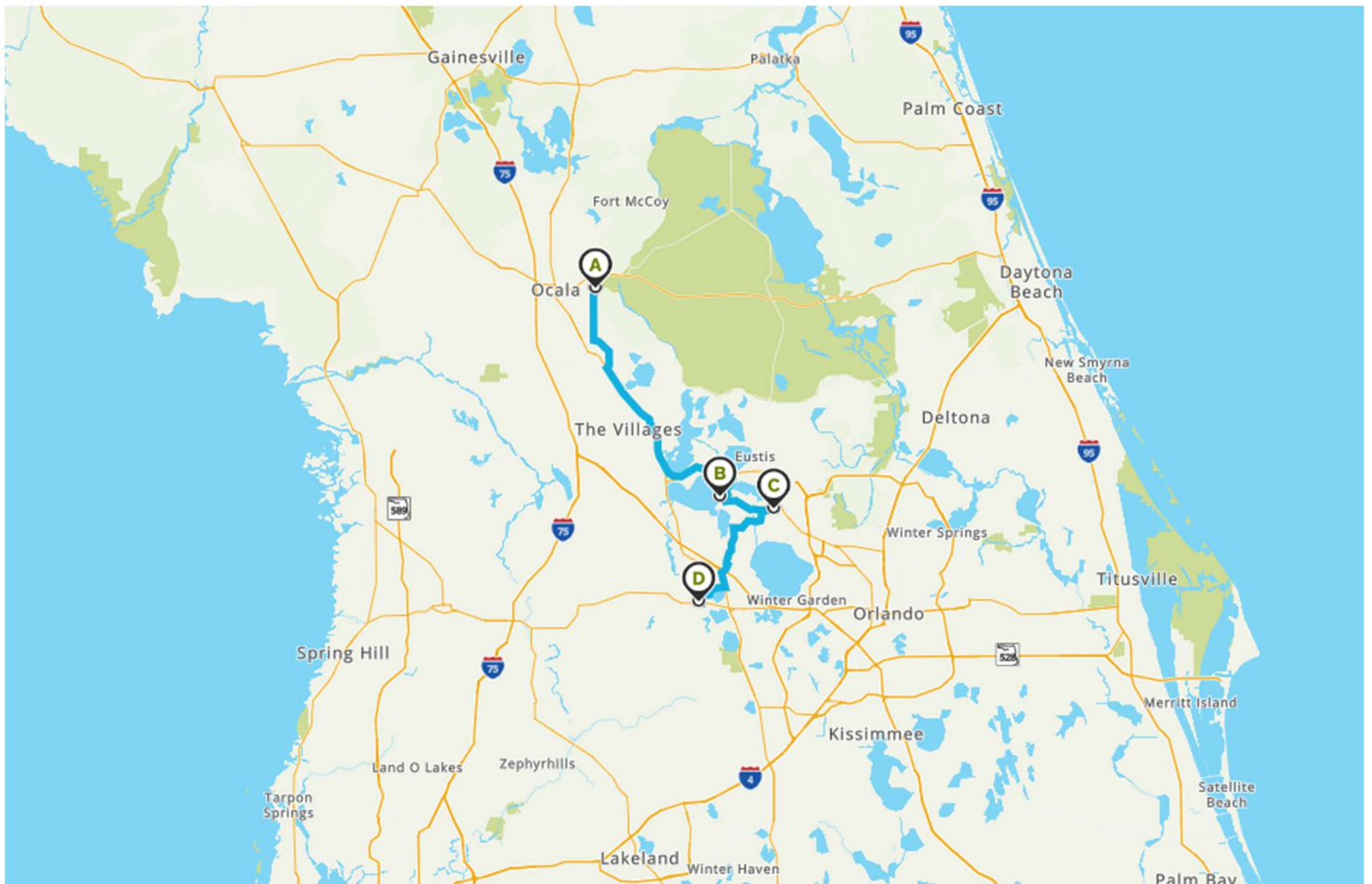
Clermont, Florida 34711

Note: Parking is recommended head in on grass off the road near Mail Box stand across from this home. Watch for possible Golf Carts when arriving.

Stop E 4:30 -5:00pm
Bruce and Patty Krumeich
15021 Green Valley Blvd
Clermont, Florida 34711

This is an indoor G Scale loop with some of the most exceptional custom scratch- built cedar buildings. Enter thru side yard on left side screen room door.

Dinner Arrangements to be discussed at 4:00pm with three possible locations within 15 min.



(More FGRS Meets and Fun Runs on the Following Page)

**March 25, 2023 - Nature Coast Botanical Gardens /
Doug Brainard Fun Run
Spring Hill, Florida**

Doug Brainard is hosting a meet at the Nature Coast Botanical Gardens, 1489 Parker Ave, Spring Hill, FL. March 25, 2023, from 9:30 til 12. The Nature Coast Garden



Railroad is newly refurbished and is quite impressive. After the visit to the Gardens, everyone is welcome come over to Doug's home, 8119 Earlshire Lane, Spring Hill (about 5 miles away) to see his layout. His layout has also been refinished with new buildings and upgrading the tracks, etc. Doug's phone # 352-667-3140.

Many FGRS Meets and Fun Runs are in the works.

Contact me if you are interested in hosting a Fun Run.

Chip Danneker – FGRS Event Chairman chipdanneker@gmail.com 214-543-5133

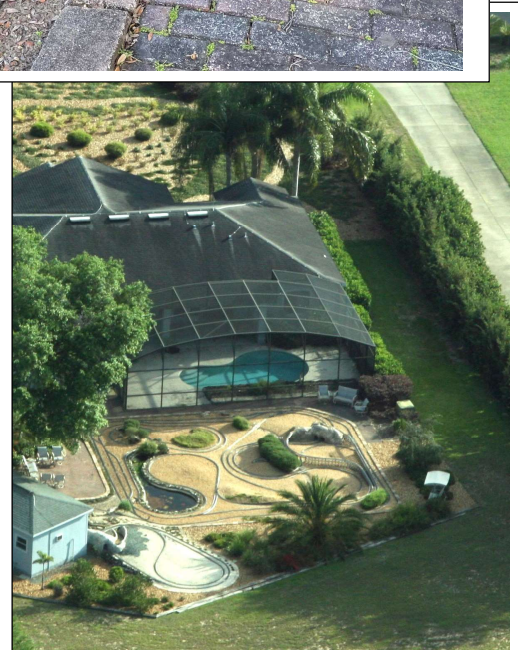
Fun Run at Dave and Ruth Taisch's **January 28**

I'm not sure why, but every time we go to Dave and Ruth's it just is very relaxing. It could be the 5 or 6 trains running all the time, maybe the sound of the water feature, or great sound of the trains. How about the food with the pot luck lunches we have there? You are never sure what types of food will be there, but it always works out great. And of course, the view of the lake isn't bad at all. I just feel like I should be sitting in an easy chair with a cold beer and enjoying the Railroad. If you missed this event, be sure to plan on the next time they open the railroad to the club. They will be on the Special Layout Tour on March 10th. Enjoy the pictures.

Thanks, Dave and Ruth!

- Fred Weber

President FGSR



Visit to Big Boots and Western RR

On February 1st, Our president Fred Weber, Millie, John and Katie Abbott went out to the Big Boots & Western Railroad Winter Meet in Belleview. This is a great railroad with 3 miles of 7 ½" scale track, 3 separate freight yards and an industrial park. The railroad features bi-directional running with 28 signals and plenty of passing siding with many route options. They have more than 125 switch tracks, 5 diamonds, 2 wyes and a 60-foot tunnel. Of special interest to us is the G Scale layout, and we will be sure to want to have more club functions here in the future.



Member Spotlight - David and Tracy Bergmann

Since I was a kid, something about the aesthetic of seeing a train following a track has fascinated me. I can remember daydreaming of holding big model steam engines, and imaginary train trips through mountains and valleys, when I should have been thinking about my schoolwork. Finally, my parents gave me a TYCO HO scale train set for Christmas, and soon after, my late brother Carl and I built our first layout on a 4 x 8 sheet of plywood.

Years of college, dating and finally starting a family saw many attempts at layouts in HO and N scale. It wasn't until our first child came into our lives that I found a formula for making a layout in 3-rail O scale that could be truly enjoyed.

Later, as my main business matured, I left O scale, but very soon after found a good layout builder, Train Installations' Dave Bennett, to build my first "complete" N scale layout with scenery and details. You see, I like designing a layout, laying track and running trains, but I don't have the patience for scenery. My main modeling influence was the great John Allen, but I cannot claim to have a fraction of his skill or sense of artistry.

A couple years later, he also built me an HO scale layout for our then vacation home in Florida (now our main residence). Today, I have a G scale layout, and again, Dave worked with me to build the basic layout, using my chosen track and bridges, and I added the details later. I conquered my aversion to making scenery by building in my backyard, where the trees, plants and sky serve as all the scenery I need.

Yes, I am a multi-scale junkie, but G scale is home. For me, G scale has huge advantages - the awesome scale of the trains, the convenience of building a layout that doesn't always need detailed scenery added, and the ease of maintaining cars and locos, without needing a neurosurgeon's dexterity. As I see it, the main disadvantage of G is that the hobby isn't big enough to support as big a selection of trains as the smaller scales enjoy. And if you want a layout, you need space. My G layout is 100% track, bridges and signals; nothing else, except trains, of course. But that's just my take - I have admired many gorgeous G scale indoor/outdoor layouts with full detailed scenery, and wonderful buildings.

How I Re-Created "Split Jaw"

When our son Erick was 5-6 and our daughter Lisa was only a baby, I wanted to build a backyard train layout. I'll never forget my local hobby shop walking me through my first G scale train set purchase, over 20 years ago. This is where I was introduced to Split Jaw. "Whatever you build," he said, "these rail clamps will make it better." I never built that outdoor layout, but his advice made a lasting impression.

Years later I saw the ads that Split Jaw was for sale. I spoke with Jerry Chapman about buying his nice company. Unfortunately, it didn't work out for me (or anyone else) to take the reins, so the original Split Jaw was liquidated by the owners in early 2019. I thought that was a pity, because they had some nice ideas, and did a great job for the hobby.



In early 2021, in midst of COVID, like most people I had extra time on my hands. Being a lifetime model railroader myself, I eventually looked up the Split Jaw company. I learned that the company was dissolved, but the web addresses could be bought. I jumped in, and started planning to start a brand *new* Split Jaw company. A lawyer checked for any intellectual property I needed to honor, and we were clear to start fresh. That's how we ended up with the name, but we are a completely different company than the original Split Jaw.

I already owned a manufacturing company, so in that area, I had a head start. However, I had no records, designs, or other starting point: only a few of those rail clamps I had bought over 20 years ago, languishing in my toolbox. For a few intensive weeks I sought out and purchased all of the original Split Jaw products I could find. Interestingly, I never ran across any of the PVC roadbed and only one reversing unit. To this day, PVC bridges/roadbed and reversing units are not part of our product line. I spoke with many successful people in the trade, notably Alice at HR Trains, Robbie of RLD Hobbies, and Gail at Zitnik trains, who offered valuable advice on what G scale needed from a "new" Split Jaw. Thanks, guys!

I have huge respect for the original products, but in recreating them, I wanted make them even better. Having a materials scientist son and engineering team as support, it was fun to take each legacy Split Jaw item and ask, "hey, this is good - how can we make it a little better?" I am proud of the changes we made to the fundamental rail clamps, but also insulating clamps, power lugs and expansion joints. And, we also managed to make all the products 100% compatible with the 'legacy' of Split Jaw. After some constructive customer feedback in our first months, we made some further changes to make the expansion sets and insulating joiners extra tough. Now, they can handle nearly metal-like crush forces (by the way, anyone who bought a product from us in our first few months, can contact us for a free upgrade).

I also had to decide how we would serve potential customers. The formula I settled on was: have a real, bricks-and-mortar factory, but a virtual, web-based store. That's why we do not list any address or phone number. We also have a small number of re-sellers who get my full support, and for 2023/2024 I am trying to rebuild the Split Jaw brand at local hobby shops. (*The hobby shop at Bushnell Station carries the line – Ed.*)

We got off to a hot start, but then spent the next months 4 months in frantic backorder mode trying to simultaneously serve existing orders and also build inventory, all during a supply chain crisis. If that doesn't sound challenging, you should try it. But by March 2022 Split Jaw was well-stocked in all rail clamp products, and we haven't run dry since. I am an avid model railroader myself, so we want Split Jaw to enhance the hobby.

We Brought in Bridges

I like bridges. OK, I am nuts over bridges. Alice of HR Trains kept pushing me to buy her hand-made Bridgewater's bridge line, but the time-consuming hand assembly didn't fit my factory workforce. Finally, we found a semi-retired machinist who does a beautiful job. Each bridge is an heirloom piece.

We wanted to work with only one metal, so we settled on Aluminum due to its strength, light weight, value and corrosion resistance. To accompany the Bridgewater's bridges, we introduced a less-detailed, lower priced line made from channel stock aluminum. We call this "Design Line." Our popular Drawbridges are in this group. All the Design Line bridges are assembled in the USA,

with some key components made in Europe. These days, I assemble most of them myself! We have sold over 100 bridges, thank you!

Our “Custom Shop”

I “borrowed” the Custom Shop idea from Fender and Gibson guitars (my other hobby) to provide the hobby with custom/hard-to-find engines and rolling stock. About one third of these items are customized by us. It takes a long time to get painting done (we subcontract it out), and sound cards, paint and decals have at different times, been hard to come by. Still, we do our best to make all of our customers happy.

Our next move: Corrosion-Resistant Track

Going back to the ever-persistent Alice Morris of HR trains, and her nice family... Alice suggested I should buy her stainless steel track line, but I resisted - for nearly three years - until I felt the rail clamp business was settled enough that I could take on a major new product group. My hope is that Split Jaw Track can fit into a niche alongside today’s great existing track suppliers. Our focus will be corrosion-resistant track, targeted for intermediate to advanced modelers, and needing little or no cleaning outdoors. Please stay tuned for developments!

And please be sure to support all of our remaining G scale train manufacturers. As of now, we work closest with USA Trains, and hope to do more with the others. They all do a great job, make great products and have big challenges in today’s supply chain.

My Background: I am 61 years old and have been married for 27 years to my dear wife Tracy. Our adult children are Erick and Lisa. I have an Industrial Engineering Master’s degree from the University of Florida and over 30 years experience in manufacturing. 25 years ago, I made the leap into entrepreneurship and now own NAECO, an electrical subcomponent and specialty metals manufacturer I founded in 1999. Our main market is Aerospace, but we are also a major real-life railway industry supplier, making relay and switch subcomponents used by our customer to build Signaling and Control systems. Through our main rail customer Alstom, we are in nearly every major class 1 railway (CSX, CN, NS, UP, etc.) and light rail system in North America. We also have some content in the new generation EMD DC power diesel locos.



Starting with the famed “Railclamps”, we have expanded the line to include bridges, signals, and much more! Please go to <https://www.railclamp.com/> to see the entire line, and watch for new product announcements.



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

Bachmann Metal Wheels

I have been asked to reorder metal wheels. In order to receive the special pricing, we will need a minimum of 10 boxes, either 24 or 48 axles.

One box of 48 axles or 12-4 axle train cars is \$160 plus shipping.

One box of 24 axles or 6-4 axle train cars is \$85 plus shipping.

My best guess on shipping will be about \$10 a box.

Please email me or call me no later than March 20th to let me know if you're interested.

FGRS.president@gmail.com

410-310-6001

Fred

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 2023: \$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.

First Badge: Name: _____ Town or RR Name: _____	Second Badge: Name: _____ Town or RR Name: _____
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