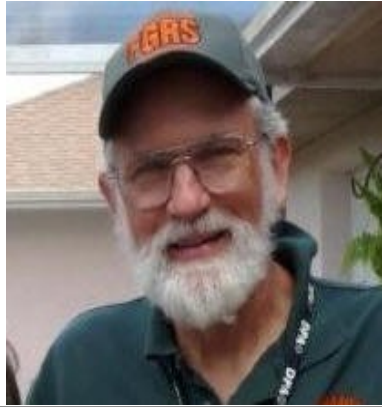




**FEBRUARY 2019**



## **PRESIDENT'S NOTES FROM PAUL WAGNER**

Corky and Wanda Eckman beat the odds with the weather at their meet last Saturday. With only a few drops falling from the sky at lunchtime, there was plenty of good railroad action, and the 14 members and guests who braved the threatening weather were rewarded with a great afternoon of friendly conversation and train running.



Corky almost lost out to the gremlins with his Big boy loco, however. Late Friday night, while charging its huge battery, the charger went up in smoke. No problem. A phone call brought a spare charger with a guest before the meet, early in the morning. But a top-off charge in the morning brought only 20 feet of chugging, and a look under the hood revealed a hole burnt in the battery. Another trip to a nearby railroad brought a spare, fully charged battery, and the behemoth was off and running, and never stopped for the rest of the day.



At the Deland Train show on January 12<sup>th</sup>, the new modular event layout went together like it had eyes! Not an accident, it was clearly the skill, planning, and hard work of Ron White, who took the initiative and first brought the concept modules to a meet at Charlie Beall's last February. He then turned over the construction of the straight modules to Fred and Millie Weber, aided by Glen Cooper. Returning from his summer home in November and enlisting the aid of Frank Kimmel, and others, they finished the layout just in time for the Deland show.



Here, Ron, Frank, Glenn, and several other members set up the modules at the Deland Train Show

Everyone held their breath as the trains made their first circuit around the double tracked mainline, but the trains ran smoothly, the modules looked great, and a steady stream of people came by to watch the trains run and talk to us about garden railroading!



We are all anxious to get more members involved with ownership and adding scenery to the club modules. After our first experience with it, there are many ideas on the table for the best way to take the next step. Already several members have offered to do scenery and operational modules. Give Fred Weber a call or email to discuss joining in this exciting event railway - with scenery, operation, and expansion.



As always, we catered to the youngsters, the future of our hobby! Here Vic Cary helps a young engineer, a regular visitor to our display, with operating the trains. As we move forward, we will continue to maintain a separate setup for the kids, and spend time with all those interested.



We will be setting up a small layout like this, as well as a recruitment and information booth at the upcoming RealRail Model Railroad Expo, Bradenton Area Convention Center, March 9-10, with setup on March 7. Additionally, we will be setting up a vendor's table at that show, selling equipment donated to the club recently. Many bargains will be available to our members at the show. Contact Fred Weber at 410-310-6001 or email him at [fgrs.eventchair@gmail.com](mailto:fgrs.eventchair@gmail.com) to volunteer to help with this and other shows.

Note that Joyce and Ross are still listed as our Treasurer and Vice President on the "Board Members" page, and have kindly agreed to continue on for a few more days until we have transferred responsibilities to the incoming officers. Melinda Archer will be taking over as Treasurer, and the Vice President's position is still open.

That's all for now, hope to see you soon, Good Health and Railroading to All!  
- Paul Wagner

# FGRS 2019 BOARD MEMBERS



**FGRS President**  
**Paul Wagner**  
**941-445-0409**  
**fgrs.president@gmail.com**



**FGRS Vice President**  
**Ross Marvin**  
**407-435-7012**  
**fgrs.vicepresident@gmail.com**



**FGRS Treasurer**  
**Joyce Chapman**  
**352-536-9499**  
**joyceechap@yahoo.com**



**FGRS Membership**  
**Jay Archer**  
**727-736-1989**  
**fgrs.membership18@gmail.com**



**FGRS Newsletter**  
**Tom Hite**  
**860-803-0049**  
**fgrs.newsletter@gmail.com**



**FGRS Event Chairman**  
**Fred Weber**  
**410-310-6001**  
**fgrs.eventchair@gmail.com**



# MEETS AT MEMBERS HOUSES

2019

\*\*\*\*\* DATE CHANGE \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* WAS THE 2ND \*\*\*\*\*

**FEBRUARY 23** – Fun Run at Bob and Irene Anttila’s in North Port

Address is:

6520 Center Lane

North Port, FL 34287

Call 941-468-8183 or email at [banttila@comcast.net](mailto:banttila@comcast.net) to confirm.

Starts at 12:00 Noon

Bring Chairs and a picnic lunch. Bob has added a nice deck this year, with part of the layout running under it. As usual, his village and industries are very interesting and well detailed, including a trolley line which carries the little villagers to his local VFW. He is using electric switch machines to add operating interest. He runs track power with MTH control system. From I-75 Exit 182, go south 4.6 miles to US 41. Turn right on US 41, go .4 miles to Tuscola Blvd. Turn left into Holiday Parkway, the gate code is 2726. Go straight through to the clubhouse and park in the lot. Walk to the left around back, past the swimming pool, follow the path across the stream to the only house with a railroad in the side yard.



**\*\*\*\*\* DATE CHANGE \*\*\*\*\***  
**\*\*\*\*\* WAS APRIL 13th \*\*\*\*\***

**March 23, - Fun Run — 11:00 AM to 4 PM**

**Tom & Gloria's**

**23379 Superior Ave Port Charlotte.**

**Phone 860-803-0049**

**E-mail: thomasrhite@gmail.com**

Bring your own lunch. Soda and water will be provided. The TRR has 400' of main line track with 20' diameter curves so bring on the Big Boys. The switching yard has 7 tracks for plenty of storage. All switches are #6. Battery power only.

**\*\*\*\*\* DATE CHANGE \*\*\*\*\***  
**\*\*\*\*\* WAS MARCH 9th \*\*\*\*\***

**April 13th, FGRS Fun Run Meet -- 11:00 AM to 4 PM.**

**Paul and Pat Wagner**

**1781 S Cranberry Blvd, North Port, 34286.**

**Phone 941-426-4847, or mobile: 941-445-0409**

**email: wagstation@aol.com**

Bring chairs and a picnic lunch, and a train to run. Paul will provide soft drinks and water.

The layout was designed for 1:29 scale rolling stock - clearances will not allow most 1:20.3 to run. Battery power, only. Sharpest curves are 12.5' diameter with #6 turnouts. Mainline grades are 2%.

This layout is patterned after the South Fork Division of the Southern Railway in the Lake Cumberland area of Kentucky, and depicts the Southern Railway as it would have appeared near the end of the steam era (circa 1945).

There is 300' of main-line and 6 stub sidings, a crossover between double tracks, and a passing siding. The layout is set up for multiple train switching operations



**\*\*\*\*\* DATE CHANGE \*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\* WAS THE 4TH \*\*\*\*\***

**May 5th**— Fun Run at Charlie Bealls. Charlie said the layout is roughly 70 feet x 90 feet and has four train track lines. It was built in 2006. There is a waterfall, water feature, stocked with fish, long truss bridges, and as the pictures show a varied, beautifully landscaped terrain throughout the layout . Also...we have two videos of his layout on our closed to members only [Group Florida Garden Railway Facebook page](#) . If you haven't joined yet....sign up, it's free as part of your membership, and you'll see great Garden Railway pictures and videos from members.

**The meet starts at noon, bring a dish to share, and chairs.**

**His address is 7839 Sloewood Drive, Mount Dora, 32757.**

[cbeall7839@gmail.com](mailto:cbeall7839@gmail.com)

**Phone 352-383-3976**

**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.**

## UPCOMING TRAIN SHOWS

### 2019 Upcoming Florida Train Meets/Shows

Submitted by Bruce Benardo

## FEBUARY

**Feb 2**, TCA Southern Division Train Show, Ft. Pierce

**Feb 2/3** The Villages Model Train Show/Sale, More info at [www.thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com](http://www.thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com)

**Feb 9** Jacksonville Rail Fair, More Info at [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com)

**Feb 9/10** Scale Rails Spring Train Show Ft Myers, More Info contact Jim Morse @ 239-471-2960

**Feb 16** Regal Railways Toy Train Collectible & Hobby Show Port Richey. More Info at [www.regalrailways.com](http://www.regalrailways.com)

**Feb 23** Regal Railways Toy Train Collectible & Hobby Show Kissimmee. More Info at [www.regalrailways.com](http://www.regalrailways.com)

## MARCH

**Mar 2** Melbourne Train Show, Azan Shrine Center Info at 321-805-1963

**Mar 9/10** RealRail Model Railroad Expo, Bradenton Area Convention Center, Contact Bill 941-504-2474



## UPCOMING TRAIN SHOWS

**Mar 22/23** York Train Show

**Mar 23** Regal Railways Toy Train Collectible & Hobby Show Crystal River.  
More Info at [www.regalrailways.com](http://www.regalrailways.com)

## APRIL

**Apr 6**, 67th Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds Deland, More Info at [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com)

**Apr 20** Regal Railways Toy Train Collectible & Hobby Show Pinellas Park More Info at [www.regalrailways.com](http://www.regalrailways.com)

## JUNE

**Jun 1/2** ,21st Tampa Model Train Show & Sale, More Info at [www.gserr.com](http://www.gserr.com)

For a Complete list of Model Train Shows and other information about the Hobby go to [railserv.com](http://railserv.com)

## AUGUST

**Aug 27– 31**, GR National Convention

For a Complete list of Train Shows go to [http://www.railserv.com/events/train\\_shows.html](http://www.railserv.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. .

# Member Spotlight



Rich and I are new members of FGRS and live in Sebastian, FL. We recently had lunch with other Florida East Coast members to meet each other and talk trains. Rich and I happily agreed to be the East Coast contacts for anyone already a FGRS member in our area and for anyone who reaches out to FGRS to know more.

We assisted Paul and Patty Wagner at the Melbourne Florida train show on December 1<sup>st</sup>. It was fun and the show attendance was great. Our layout was ap-

preciated by old and young alike and the kids were able to run the trains.

It is our hope that our area will have meets to show existing layouts and future layouts. Rich and I are in the process of building our last house so we can have an outdoor and indoor layout. We hope to invite members to visit and see it grow as time goes on.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will share your thoughts as to how we can make the East Coast presence greater.

Sincerely,

Rich and Kim Chatfield

Contact: 772-532-7979 and 772-532-8864

krcchat@bellsouth.net and kchatfield32958@yahoo.com

# NGRC 2019 Updates

Submitted by Bruce Benardo:

The following are links to the convention.

Check these links periodically because content will no doubt change over time.

[NGRC Newsletter - 17 August 2018.pdf](#)

[www.ngrc2019.org](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willamette\\_Shore\\_Trolley](#)



# SPECIAL EVENTS

This month there are several events of interest to our members falling on the same weekend as the FGRS Fun Run at Bob and Irene Anttila's fine garden railroad. We publish these announcements here for the convenience of those who may live too far away from North Port to attend the Fun Run, and who may want to visit these events. - PW

February 23 - Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games & Festival  
Clay County Fairgrounds

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

*"Wee Bit o' Scotland"* - Athletics, music, food and fun of the games.

Fred Weber and several other members will set up the new FGRS modular Event layout to bring the essence of the "Hogwart Express" to the festival.

Go to <https://www.neflgames.com/home.html> for more information.

February 21 – 24 – Ridge Live Steamers Winter Meet

7750 N Scenic Hwy, Lake Wales, FL, 33898

John Abbott - 321-917-6404 Cell, Home 321-255-0246

Live steam ride-on trains national meet.

Go to <http://www.ridgelivesteamers.org/index.htm> for information about this railroad

# Amherst Train Show

Submitted by Tom Hite

Last weekend January 26th and 27 was the Amherst Train Show at the Big 'E' fair grounds in West Springfield MA. This is a huge all scale show that takes up four buildings.

My train club up north the "Central Connecticut 'G' Gaugers" (CCTGG) participates in this show every year. Well this year was special .

They were awarded Best in Show Blue Ribbon by the Amherst Committee.

As you will see in the following photos the hard work and dedication to detail that is displayed on each module.



It all starts here unloading and set up. It takes the better of the day to complete.



The unloading is quick and organized. There are no pictures of actual set up because even the club photographer is put to work.

A2	10:00	Inside	R/B (Sun)	Modern	GE 4/4 II GE 4/4 III Electric	Freight (Tankers)	Jeff
M2	10:30	Outside	UP	Modern	SD 70 Fair Diesel	Freight (Mixed)	Pat D
A3	11:30	Inside	R/B (Sun)	Modern	GE 4/4 III	Freight (Tankers)	Chuck
M3	12:00	Outside	SF	Modern	Diesel	Freight (Mixed)	Bob G
A1	1:00	Inside	UP	Mid Century	Big Boy Steam	Freight (Mixed)	Mark
M1	1:30	Outside	EL	1963-66	E-8 Fair Diesel	Passenger "Phoebe Snow"	Bruce
A2	2:30	Inside	AMTK	1950s	F1 ABA Diesel	Passenger	Ray
M2	3:00	Outside	GN	1950s	F7 AB Diesel	Freight (Mixed)	Michael
A3	4:00	Inside	PRR	1950s	GG-1 Electric	Passenger w/ Roofers	Tom A
M3	4:00	Outside	CSX	Modern	SD 45 Fair Diesels	Mixed Freight	Bob C



The run schedule is posted, at that point trains are placed on the staging yard And readied for their time of departure from the yard.



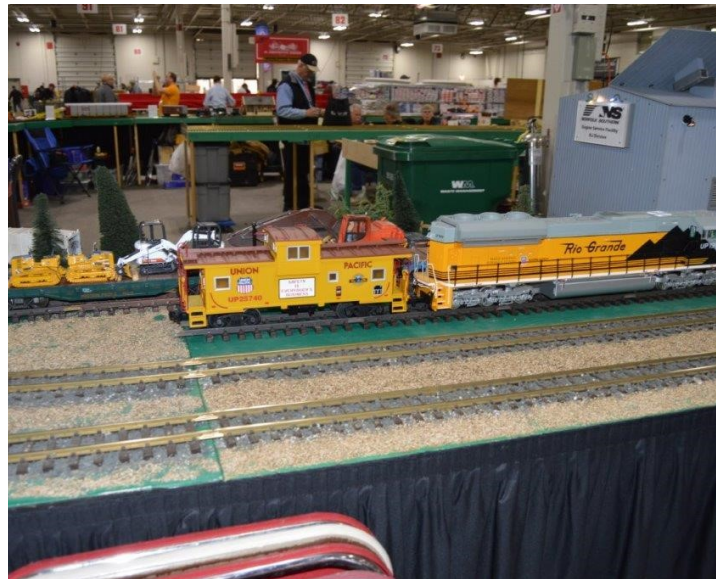
# And it's show time













## Here they are the 2019 Best in show Blue Ribbon recipients.



- Front row (L -to- R) seated are: Bob MacGregor, Bill Colwell, Tommy DiPietro and Rich Beverly. Standing next to Rich Beverly is Bob Urquhart.
  - Middle row (L -to- R) standing immediately behind seated individuals: Mike Livosi, Bruce Swaybill, Ray Jakabcin and Tom Carissimi. Behind Bob Urquhart is Mark Leach.
  - Back row (L -to- R) standing: Jeff Maynard, Chuck Karpinski, Pat Duffy, Ed Bratina and Tom Narrigan.
- In attendance but not in picture: Larry Otis, Rich Koszyca and Bob Guyon.

# LINKS TO TRAINS PAST & PRESENT

Submitted by Paul Wagner

In behalf of Rex Ammerman



Can you imagine taking two brand-new Aristocraft Pacific 4-6-2 locos, cutting them in two, across the boiler, and rebuilding them into a fine, Northern 4-8-4, Mountain 4-8-2, or a Berkshire 2-8-4? Rex Ammerman can, and has, many times in the past several years!

Rex Ammerman, a garden railroader from Bloomington Illinois, has been traveling the US to run his custom locos on large layouts, whenever he can. He first brought some of his engines to my layout here in North Port during May, 2011, while visiting his daughter in Naples.

## Aristocraft Pacific, Out of the Box







He came again for the National Garden Railway Convention in 2014, and wowed the touring visitors pulling long trains with his engines. Here's one of his favorites, a Santa Fe Northern 4-8-4.





Intrigued by my Southern Railway passenger cars, he built a Southern Crescent “Mountain” 4-8-2, and stopped by this month to re-create that famous train on my layout. Like to have one? For under \$2000 he’ll build you one – as long as the out-of-production Pacific’s last!

# 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](mailto: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.**

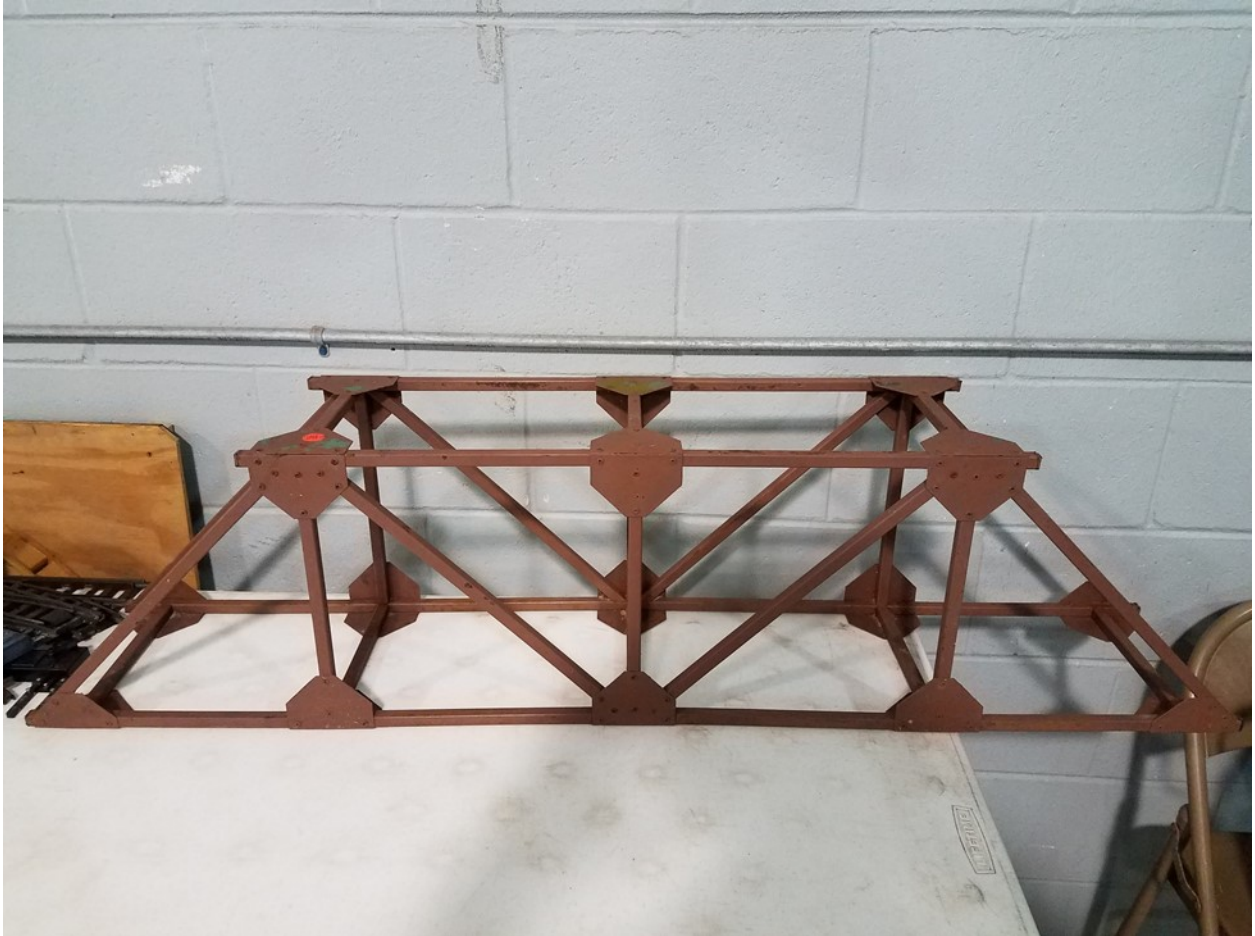
Victor Cary has the following items for sale. He can be reached at 321-848-2013 or email at [victor@caryaway.com](mailto:victor@caryaway.com)

Aristocraft ART-29400 Motor Drive Unit – Make Offer





## Steel 2' Bridge – Make Offer



He also has an engine cradle that you can make an offer on.  
Contact him for specifics.





### 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.**