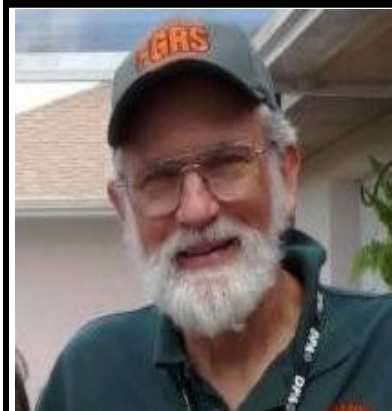




**February 2018**



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

We're ridin' down the rails! What a start for the year! A great meet at Riverbend, a full setup and train sale at the Deland Train Show, and a setup at the Englewood show, all attended by many interested garden railroaders.

It was all good, but let's not let up... You may have noticed, there are no meets scheduled past April 28th, at Tom and Gloria Hite's. Come on, everybody – **HOST A FGRS MEET!** Phone or email Tom Hite, our Newsletter editor, with a proposal for a meet. He'll help you get it together by checking the calendar for conflicts with train shows, holidays, and other special events. If you haven't hosted a meet for a while, Tom can help you decide how you'd like to format the meet. For instance: would you prefer to ask everyone to bring their own picnic lunch? Would you like to make it a "potluck" lunch, with everyone bringing a dish to share? What time will the meet begin? Are there any special parking restrictions? Send Tom a short description of you railroad, telling about some of the unique features.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

# FGRS 2018 BOARD MEMBERS



**FGRS President**

**Paul Wagner**

**941-445-0409**

**fgrs.president@gmail.com**



**FGRS Vice President (ACTING)**

**THIS POSITION IS OPEN**

**ANY VOLUNTEERS?**

**fgrs.vicepresident@gmail.com**



**FGRS Treasurer**

**Joyce Chapman**

**352-536-9499**

**fgrs.treasurer@mail.com**



**FGRS Membership**

**Jay Archer**

**727-736-1989**

**fgrs.membership18@gmail.com**

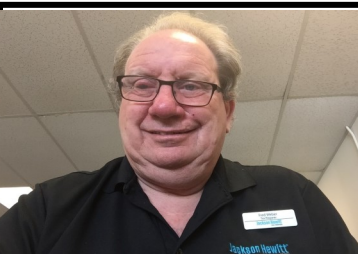


**FGRS Newsletter**

**Tom Hite**

**860-803-0049**

**fgrs.newsletter@gmail.com**



**FGRS Event Manager**

**Fred Webber**

**410-310-6001**

**fgrs.eventsmgr@gmail.com**



My name is Jay Archer ,

Your 2018 New Membership Chair from Dunedin, FL . I have been a member of FGRS since 2002 . I can be reached at the NEW membership gmail address of [fgrs.membership18@gmail.com](mailto:fgrs.membership18@gmail.com) the NEW involves the insertion of the year 18 , as google would not allow the exchange of address from old to new any other way. My background is that I am a 100% disabled and medically retired USAF Veteran Leukemia/Cancer survivor X 3 who needed to find a Hobby . Friend's say I'm a Jack of all trades, Fine Artist/craftsman/carpenter/handyman/mechanic/model builder. My

past life was that of F-16 C fighter Jet crew chief/mechanic and love everything vintage aircraft "Planes". I grew up around Lionel trains and my own model trains, "trains" and recently found myself purchasing a 1915 Ford Model T open touring car "automobiles" to tinker with. Never thought I would become the definition of " Planes, Trains and Automobiles" Ha Ha . At the young age of my 50's I am always involved in 4 or more projects at once keeping my time filled. A History Buff too, I first entered into G scale in 1998 wouldn't you know it ? We chose to represent the only railway you could not find in stores, the early "Florida East Coast " I set out to represent it our back yard, mainly because of our love of the Florida Keys and the railways rich and impossible History. Our small scratch built backyard railway, may be small in size but packed with historical recreation of a by gone Railway empire. Hope this give a short introduction gives you a small idea of who is your new person in charge of membership. I would like to get to know you all better in the coming year!

- Jay Archer

## UPCOMING TRAIN SHOWS

### 2018 Upcoming Florida Train Meets/Shows

February 3-4: Model Train Show & Sale, Savannah Regional Center, 1545 Buena Vista Blvd., The Villages 32162, Feb. 3, 9A-4P; Feb. 4, 10A-3P. Contact Sam Mathis 352-750-2433, [sammathis@bellsouth.net](mailto:sammathis@bellsouth.net), or Cecil Byrd 352-693 - 4079 ([thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com](http://thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com))

February 10: Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water St., Jacksonville 32204 (Golden Spike, above)

February 17: New Lake Civic Association, 8330 Civic Rd., Port Richey 34668 (Regal Railways, above)

February 17-18 Scale Rails Fort Myers 2010 Hanson Street 10A - 4pm Info Call Jim Morse 239-775-8905

February 24: Fenn Center, 2000 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce 34982, 10A-3P Meet Story in this issue! (TCA SD)

February 24: Columbian Club of Osceola Cty., 2000 Neptune Rd., Kissimmee 34749 (Regal Railways, above)

March 3: Azan Shrine Temple, 1591 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., Melbourne 32935 (Schultz Space Coast Trains, 321- 805-1953, [schultzspace-coasttrains.com](http://schultzspace-coasttrains.com))

March 3: First Christian Church, 1908 SE Fort King, Ocala 34471 9A-3P (Lions Club, contact Bob Chadwick, 352694-6381)

March 10: US Army National Guard Armory, 8551 W. Venable St., Crystal River 34429 (Regal Railways, above)

March 10-11: Bradenton Convention Center 1 Haben Blvd. Palmetto 10AM-4PM (RealRail) Contact Bill Clark 941-504-2474

March 24: Hillsborough Cty. Fairgrounds, 215 Sydney Washer Rd., Dover 34429 (Regal Railways, above)

April 7: Lopez Hall, 7177 58th St. N., Pinellas Park 33781 (Regal Railways, above)

April 14: 63rd Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Tommy Lawrence Arena, 3150 E. New York Ave., Deland 32724 Contact Charles W. Miller 703-536-2954, [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com) (Golden Spike)

May 19: Hernando County Fairgrounds, 6436 Broad St., Brooksville 34601 (Regal Railways, above)

# FLORIDA LIVE STEAMERS

## WINTER MEET

FEBRUARY 22 – 25, 2018

Hosted by

Ridge Live Steamers, Inc.

7750 North Scenic Highway

Lake Wakes, FL 33898

**We have been invited to attend as visitors, at no charge, the FLORIDA LIVE STEAMERS WINTER MEET, FEBRUARY 22 – 25 Hosted by the Ridge Live Steamers, 7750 North Scenic Highway, Lake Wakes, FL 33898**

**It is a 4 day meet, and around 100 live steam locos from around the world are expected to show up. Their website is at <http://www.ridgelivesteamers.org/>**

**although the club now has may more miles of track than is posted there. No advance registration is required, but you must sign in and sign a waiver at the registration table when you arrive. Tell them you are with the FGRS and were invited by Rollin Patrick, you can phone him for more information at [407 496-1143](tel:4074961143). They ask that we wear our FGRS name badges.**

**Follow the signs to "Visitor Parking". You can attend any time during the 4 day meet, but the best action will be on Friday and Saturday. There are no vacancies in their campground at this time.**

**A "Diner Car" will be available for noon meals, hamburgers, hot dogs, and chips. There will**

**be a covered dish carry-in supper at 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening and the FLS Annual**

**Meeting and Banquet at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday evening. If you'd like to attend the banquet, please send the reservation slip for the Saturday banquet to Allen Newcomb, or sign up at the track before Saturday. The Annual Banquet will be at Camp Endeavor, 1301 Camp Endeavor Blvd, Dundee, FL 33838**

# MEETS AT MEMBERS HOUSES

**February 17, 2018— Fun Run** at Charlie Beall's

**NOTE THE DATE CHANGE FROM JANUARY 21ST**

If you missed the opportunity to see Charlie's spectacular layout before, he has reserved Feb 17 for another event.

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. Don't miss this opportunity, Also...we have two videos of his layout on our closed to members only Group Florida Garden Railway Facebook page from May 10<sup>th</sup> last year. 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**

**March 24, FGRS Garden Railroad Meet -- 11:00 AM to 4 PM.**

**Paul and Pat Wagner**

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

**Phone 941-426-4847, or mobile: 941445-0409**

**email: [wagstation@aol.com](mailto:wagstation@aol.com)**

Bring chairs and a picnic lunch, and a train to run. This layout was designed for 1:29 scale rolling stock. The clearances will not allow most 1:20.3 to run. Battery power, only.

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

There is a double track mainline which can be operated point-to-point between two towns, or as a single, long “dogbone” for continuous operations. There are stations, a logging spur, and a coal mine along the way. There is 300’ of mainline and 6 stub sidings set up for switching operations. Sharpest curves are 12.5’ diameter with #6 turnouts. Mainline grades are 2%.

The layout covers 23’ x 72’ of hilly terrain with a pond and cascading waterfalls. There is also an extension to a staging yard in a shop. The landscaping was constructed using 17 tons of rock and 70 yards of various types of fill. Embankments and roadbed grades were constructed using buried bricks, and various concrete mixes, including hypertufa, with the ballast and stone embankments being bonded in place with concrete bonding agent. Rolling stock includes 1:29 scale steam engines and heavyweight passenger cars in Crescent Limited livery; coal hoppers serving a mine; a logging train, and several peddler freight trains.

Control is by Airwire with battery power being charged through constant track voltage. Sound is from Phoenix P5 units plus one LGB sound-equipped loco.

**April 28th - Fun Run** at Tom & Gloria’s House. Located at 23379 Superior Ave Port Charlotte. The Tropical RR hours will be 12:00 to 4:00. 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.

**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.



# Past Meets/Shows



We again set up an impressive little display at the Englewood Train Show, on January 20. We handed out brochures and applications, displayed videos, and talked to many people who are interested in joining FGRS.



The setup at the Deland train show was a big success, our huge layout setup and sale drew in more interested garden railroaders than ever before. Thanks to the leadership of Frank Kimmel and Ron White, and to all the others who helped set up and operate the layout, we signed up some new members and got leads for many more. Ross headed up the equipment sale, and as mentioned in this month's President's Notes, the gain from that, and the payment from the show for our setup helped put us on firm financial footing for future growth.



There was a light attendance at the Riverbend meet at Labelle, but we all had a great time. Those who turned out a day ahead of time to help out were greeted by an intense train running session, with the host's fine scale narrow gauge trains running, as well as a few visitors competing for room on the mainline. Gary Nichols took his fine old F&C 102 out to stretch the rods - a beautifully detailed engine, complete with a Christmas wreath on the pilot. Unfortunately, she ran into a rescue operation for another engine, and left the rails at 90. Gary said, "No harm, she kept running - Glue-X to follow." Thanks to Bill Severns and the entire crew at Labelle for putting on a great meet.

# Garden Railway National Convention and Train show June 4-9



**STONE MOUNTAIN PARK – HOME OF THE NGRC BBQ**

**THURSDAY JUNE 7TH, 2018**

Visit [www.ngrc2018.com](http://www.ngrc2018.com) for more information.



For more information visit their web site.

<http://ngrc2018.com/>

# LINKS TO TRAINS PAST & PRESENT

## Heavyweights The Large Scale Trains Page

by **George Schreyer**

Submitted by Ross Marvin



The heavyweight passenger car came into existence after the turn of the century. It's design evolved from the recognized inadequacies of the older wooden coaches.

Wooden coaches served the railroads well for many years, but it's not clear that they served the passengers all that well. Wooden coaches had significant passenger safety and comfort problems. The cars were fairly light so that older and smaller engines could handle them. However, from their lightness, came serious problems. They didn't ride well, especially as speeds increased past 20 or 30

mph and they weren't very strong. The wooden construction wasn't sturdy enough to hold up in a wreck so that cars often broke up and splintered badly even in minor accidents. The hot coals from the stoves used for heating were often scattered among kindling that was formally the structure of the car and started horrible fires. The cars had no compressive strength so that cars often "telescoped" in a wreck with one car simply plowing through another, often killing everybody in the telescoped car.

Wooden cars rode pretty poorly. After a day of bumping and swaying, one's body could hurt all over from trying to correct for the car's movement. The early railroads provided a smoother ride than a stagecoach, but it was still much worse than an automobile on a fair road. This is one of the reasons that the railroads lost short haul passenger traffic to automobiles.

Steel cars came into being to service the long haul and commuter markets. First the cars just had steel frames, but eventually, the whole car was made of steel and vestibules were added to the cars. This had the desirable effect of eliminating the end platforms allowing safer and more comfortable car to car access. Much more important is that the vestibules were structurally integrated into the car bodies so that the cars did not tend to telescope in a wreck. The cars would often derail in accordion fashion instead but at least they wouldn't be crushed. Cars could roll over completely and still retain something like their original shape. Low pressure steam heat replaced coal heat and electric light replaced oil lamps, which with the elimination of all of that wood, sharply reduced the tendency for fires to start after a wreck.

The cars were called "heavyweights" for a very good reason. Besides the steel used in construction, the cars often had a six inch slab of concrete cast into their floors. This added a lot of sprung mass which made the car bodies tend to resist the tendency to bump and bounce over track irregularities. This resulted in significantly improved riding qualities, especially at the high speeds often used in the late steam era. Only significant improvements in suspensions allows the newer and lighter streamlined cars to ride better. If you are interested in the rest of this article it can be found at: [http://www.girr.org/girr/tips/tips2/hw\\_tips.html](http://www.girr.org/girr/tips/tips2/hw_tips.html)

# FLORIDA GARDEN RAILWAY SOCIETY FACEBOOK

## “MEMBER’S ONLY” PAGE

By Ross Marvin

Continuing to add value to club members remains a 2018 goal. We are a statewide club which means getting us all together is a challenge. One of the ways we can stay in touch, share updates on our layouts, ask questions to other experienced members, buy, sell, trade or giveaway train accessories, etc., is a dedicated Facebook page that is exclusively a “Member’s Only” site.

That means we are not exposed to all the things we might find annoying on Facebook such as political grandstanding, etc., just G-scale trains and train stuff.

It’s easy to join. Just go to Facebook, join if you are not already a member, and then go to our page, [Florida Garden Railway Society](#). You will ask to join. Then your invitation will be reviewed so we make sure it is just members. Once verified, you’ll be accepted. It is that easy. If you have problems, send me an email and I’ll help you through it at [fgrs.vicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:fgrs.vicepresident@gmail.com). The more members that join, the more active the site and therefore more value to our members. Hope to see you on our Facebook page soon.

# 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.**





## 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 FRS 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 \$18 each. If mailed add \$3.00. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When you see a meet scheduled, are you in a position to help out? Call the host and volunteer to help get the railroad ready for the meet. Or, volunteer to help setup the covered dishes if it is a potluck lunch meet. Do you have a recent project which you can share with others at the meet as a “clinic”? We need more participation! The more you do, the more fun it is for everyone, and the more new members we will attract.

I would like to aggressively promote the FGRS and increase membership to at least 100 members by the end of 2018. I think this will be the key to getting meets going in everyone’s areas each month. In talking to folks at the last few train shows, I have been surprised by how many people have G scale trains, but were not doing much with them and were unaware of us. I think they just need some encouragement to do some real garden railroading. If we can show them how much fun we are having, and the value of joining FGRS and coming out to our activities, I think they might become lifelong garden railroaders.

Thanks to Harry Beckham’s equipment donation to FGRS and to Ross’s management of the sale, the club has realized a gain of several thousand dollars in our treasury, which will enable us to go forward with our plans to make it a really first-class, full activity club! A few of the things I would like to see us do in the coming year are:

1. Create and build a new and simpler track layout which will allow us to set-up, tear down and store the display easily. Ron White has enthusiastically agreed to design a new show layout, but we will need many volunteers to get it together.
2. Create and print an updated brochure that promotes the club. Buy pockets for the new brochures and applications and place them in hobby shops all over the state, and at special events.
3. Create a new banner stand to promote the club at special events.

4. Plan and execute participation in a minimum of 4 to 6 show during 2018.
5. Explore working with a botanical garden to create a garden railway display for the public, and/or create a display that needy or convalescent kids can enjoy.

These are a few of my ideas, but this is your club – please get in touch with me, or any of the board members to make your ideas part of our future!

Don't forget, the Garden Railway National Convention is in Atlanta this year, June 4 – 9. It should be a good one. Several of us have already made plans to attend. It would be fun to have some FGRS group gatherings at the convention and participate in planning for a future National Convention in Florida, sponsored by the FGRS. Remember, these conventions are scheduled about 5 years in advance.

Good Health and Railroading to All!

Paul Wagner – 2018 & 2019 FGRS President