

On Track with The Columbus Garden Railway Society



January 2026

Engineer's note:

Upcoming Destinations:

Come join us! Get these dates on your calendar. Details on following pages...

Next Club meetings 2-4pm

- Jan 25 Pat Waddell, Epworth UMC Columbus
- Feb 28 CGRS Banquet, Worthington
- Mar 29 Craig & Audrey Bigrigg, Johnstown
- Apr 26 Briane & Connie Spangler, Mt Sterling

News table meetings 7-8pm ish

- Feb 19 Tim & Lisa Dove, Columbus
- Mar 19 Bob & Jo Collins, Worthington
- Apr 16 Mary & Tom Ricci, Westerville



...more events & details read on the website...
directions shared by D Kruest in emails closer to event

TheCGRS.org

Hello Everyone,

Lots going on to start our 2026! Holiday celebrations, a train show display, banquet preparation and all things CGRS

In this issue:

Highlights from our Dec. Club meeting,
upcoming events and meetings,
travel by members,
banquet & new membership Info,
winter prep in our gardens,
and the regular contact &
merchandise information.

Continue to enjoy our hobby!

Tim Dove



Thank you, Barry & Sheila Young for hosting our December Club party!

By Mark Bartel

The December's meeting/Holiday Party was at Sheila and Barry Young's home. When entering their home, you couldn't miss their beautiful Christmas tree.

It was located in the newer, lower level, addition to their home.



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... A wonderful time for all.



Here are some of the ladies and gentlemen that were gathered together who I asked to pose for a photo shots.

A fun way to extend the holidays with friends!



2nd Annual Car Decorating Contest

And the winners are
1st place to Bev Mann (again) Congrats!

2nd place
Deb Sweet



Our announcer
was Jed, who did
a great job.



& 3rd place
Wendy Kirk

Not too early to plan
for Dec 2026!



Train Shows coming up...

Cincinnati Model Train Flea Market



MODEL RAILROAD SPRING FLEA MARKET & TRADE SHOW

Sponsored by Cincinnati Division 7, NMRA, Inc.

Sat March 7, 2026 10 AM to 3 PM

[Lakota West Freshman Campus](#)

5050 Tylersville Road

West Chester, OH 45069

Tables are still available...

Price

•Adults: \$7

(children 12 and under free)

Also ...Scouts in uniform free with paying adult

Event Website

•[2026 Cinti Div. 7 Spring Flea Market and Trade Show](#)



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The Great Train Show... *Great Event!*

*Thanks to all the CGRS members who participated.
Fourteen of us engaged in the festivities this weekend!*



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The Great Train Show... *Great Event!*

Wonderful turnout and a lot of interest in the hobby



The Great Train Show... *Great Event!*

SO much interest! Great conversations. Folks excited about our Sept Open House already...



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The Next Club Meeting...

Hosted by Pat Waddell

Please Join Us January 25, 2026

Where: Epworth UMC 5100 Karl Rd
Columbus, Ohio

Time : 2pm -4pm

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Clinic... TBA



Upcoming Events... Our Banquet Next Month!

**CGRS Annual Banquet Dinner – Make your reservation! –
Saturday, February 28, 2026 - Cash Bar Opens at 6:00pm**

It's time to make your reservation for our annual celebration at the Worthington Country Club.

Thank you to Richard Abler for leading this effort for so many years!



All reservations must be made and paid no later than February 1st. Please use the order form that is available on the CGRS website <https://thecgrs.org/> to make your reservation. As always, all \$\$ should be sent to directly to Bob Collins.

More details on the following pages as a reminder and for our new members who wish to join us.

A Reminder of Details... Our February Banquet Info

The cost of the dinner this year is **\$42.00**. Here's what we have to look forward to on our plates...

First Course – Served:

Salad/Rolls & Butter with 2 dressings – Ranch and Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrée: Buffet Style

Braised Beef Short Ribs – Gluten Free

Chicken Florentine – Gluten Free

Vegetable Medley

Roasted Red Skin Potatoes

Optional Entrée (upon request) - Served:

Vegetarian Meal – Pasta Primavera with Marinara Sauce

Dessert - Served: The Pecan Ball with Hot Fudge endures!



A Reminder of Details... Our February Banquet Info

The Annual Raffle:

Thank you, Doug & Ginny Clark,
for coordinating again this year!

We raised a little over \$1200 last
year due to the generosity of
members!

Please inform the Clarks what you
would be bringing, more logistics
at our upcoming meeting.



Come be in the room where it happens!

News table meetings 7 until 8pm ish

Feb 19 Tim & Lisa Dove
5785 Lindenwood Rd, Columbus

Mar 19 Bob & Jo Collins
924 Middlebury Dr, Worthington

Apr 16 Mary & Tom Ricci
6026 Poplar Ridge Dr, Westerville

**We need volunteers to host for
May, June & July**

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News Table Meetings

Please join us for Our Club News Table on Feb 19th hosted by The Doves. Your time and talent is a big part of our club's success. We would enjoy your help in guiding the different aspects of our organization along with your ideas and creative suggestions in railroading and gardening.



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Returning Home... a stop.

By Mark Bartel

Artwork by Ralph Parker



On the way back home to Columbus. Sheree and I took the time to see the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Station built in 1907 located in Mount Vernon Ohio. This station is located at 1 Columbus Road. The architecture style is known as “Richardsonian Romanesque.”

Henry H. Richardson has been recognized as one of the few, great American architects and his interpretation of Romanesque forms influenced a whole generation of architects, including the architect who designed this B&O depot. The style is easily identified by the heavy masonry construction, the Roman arches, and the deep window recesses.

Returning Home... B&O Depot in Mt Vernon

The exterior is of stone, brick and wood construction and the 4,200 square-foot interior is of plaster and quarter-sawn oak hardwoods, including the floors. The hip roof is red quarry tile.

The restoration of the B&O depot may be one of the largest private-public projects in the history of the City. The project was not being funded with state or federal money, but with local funds, more than half of it from private donations.



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Returning Home... B&O Depot in Mt Vernon



City of Mount Vernon purchased the depot from CSX Transportation in late 2002 for \$160,000. Work commenced on the structure in 2003 and was completed in 2007, in time for the depot's 100th anniversary. Total cost of the restoration was \$804,000.

Today you can rent this station for meetings and dinners. For more Information... [click here.](#)



Columbus Garden Railway Society

Membership Info...

Interested in becoming a member?

Get on board with The CGRS. We would love to invite those who have a garden railway, those who would like to learn more about garden railways, those who want to join in this exciting hobby, and those who are just love trains.

Come to a Sunday event. Learn more about the hobby and meet others.



And it's new members Jody & Colleen Goodhart at the show!

Membership Form & Information

<https://thecgrs.org/membership/>

New Members! Welcome!

Michael & Marilyn Frueh Columbus, OH

Don & Ora Temple Delaware, OH

Travis Osterholt Newark, OH

Ryan Edgington Newark, OH



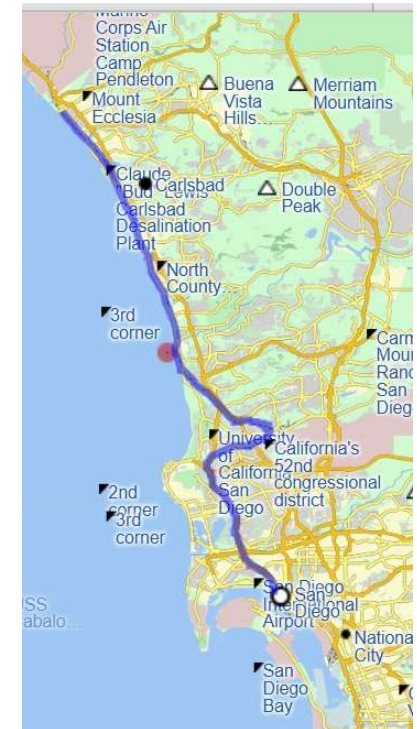
Visit San Diego, and find a fun train opportunity to explore!

By Tim Dove

Our retirement plan includes a lot of travel, and in San Diego we always take a day to ride the Coaster. Tickets and day passes are inexpensive and give you options to stop along the line from downtown San Diego (the historic Sante Fe Depot) to Oceanside.

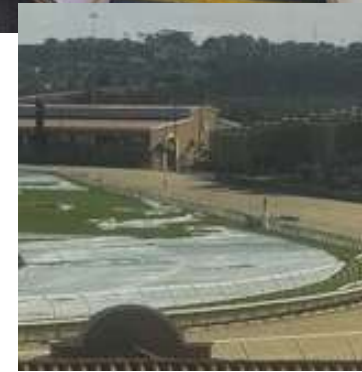
We prefer to stop in Solana Beach and grab a sandwich at T's Café (within short walking distance) and spend the rest of the day in Carlsbad visiting shops and walking the beach.

Route	
Termini	Oceanside San Diego
Stops	8 ^[3]
Distance travelled	41 mi (66 km) ^[4]
Average journey time	1 hour, 1 minute ^[3]
Train number	630-699
Line used	Surf Line
Technical	
Rolling stock	9 locomotives, 28 coaches ^[4]
Track gauge	4 ft 8½ in (1,435 mm) standard gauge
Operating speed	90 mph (140 km/h) (top) ^[5] 40 mph (64 km/h) (average)



The Coaster!

The coaches are comfortable with tables and two levels for seating options. The rail line travels along the ocean for a good portion of the trip.



The sites along the way include small coastal towns, many shops within walking distance from the station(s) and landmarks in southern California such as Old Town (with a stop) and the Del Mar Racetrack .

The Coaster!

If you have a day to explore. This trip is worth your time. We enjoyed it!



For more information...[click here](#)

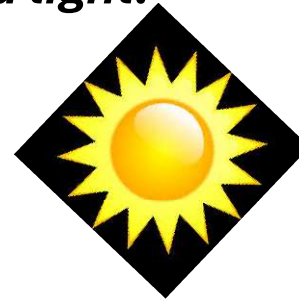
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The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)...

By Lisa Dove **What's in the bag? The Mystery of Potting Soil and Potting Mixes**

Right now, gardeners are starting to get a little antsy. Because we cannot do much outside, we begin to look suspiciously at our indoor plants that are looking a little tired. We also begin to scan our seed catalogs so that we can plan to start our vegetable and flower gardens indoors.

Success for any type of gardening is reliant on 4 critical environmental elements: **structure (soil), water, temperature, and light.**



Here are some things that may help you before you head to the garden store!

The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

Shopping for potting medium is comparable to going to the grocery store. You can buy ingredients to make your own, or you can buy pre-bagged, ready-made. All with colorful labels, promising spectacular results. Pick Me! Pick Me! You know that things are better if you make it yourself, because you can make what you want, but the other stuff is sooooo much more convenient!



Potting Soil is non-sterile and contains compost or topsoil. *It is best used for non-container gardening and landscape use.*



The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

Potting Mix is sterile and contains compostable organic matter (sphagnum moss and other amendments as listed below) and may contain fertilizer. Good for indoor/outdoor potted plants, and for seed starting.

pH of your medium should be between 6.0 and 7.0. You can customize your pH balance for specific plants, based upon their specific needs, by using other additives. pH is important to help your plant optimize nutrients.

Moisture Control: Look for Peat Moss, or Coconut Coir. This is important for repotting existing plants. The inclusion of Vermiculite and any additional organic material will add additional root support.



The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

Aeration: This gives roots “empty” space in the soil to access air, water, and nutrients. Look for Perlite, Vermiculite, Sand, Shredded Bark, etc.

Disease Prevention: Look for the word “Sterilized”, especially if you are looking to start seeds.

Root Support: Look for sand, small aggregate particles. Organic material such as pulverized or shredded bark is also a good option.



The Gardens (in Garden Railroading)... continued

Nutrients: This is where it gets complicated. Any bagged soil or mix that has added fertilizer, is not bad, but you need to decide if it is worth the extra \$\$\$. The fertilizer that has been added to the mix will support your plant for only 1 month or two, at the most. Then you must purchase additional fertilizer or re-pot the plant again, using new medium.



Commercial soil manufacturers are hip to our needs and market many different specialized types of soil and mixes. Some are targeted specifically for Seed Starting, Orchids, Cactus, Bonsai, etc. Each bag supports the basic needs of each type of plant (pH, drainage, moisture control, aeration) but, due to its specialty, comes with less volume, and a higher price tag.

CGRS Timetable



Members! Make sure to pay attention to the CGRS Timetable emails from Doug Kruest!

Doug provides important and timely information for the club and its members throughout the year. If you missed these... check them out!

This month Doug shared...

Dec 23 December Party Meeting details
Jan 8 Condolences & Info Daniel Wells



CGRS merchandise...

The CGRS Depot Store:

- Crew neck sweatshirts - XSmall to 4Xlarge - \$25.00 to \$27.00
- Golf shirts S to 3XL - \$28.00 to \$42.00
- Golf Shirts WITH pocket - same sizes as golf shirts without pockets - \$37.00 to \$45.00
- Jackets with hood - S to 3XL - \$62.00
- Hats - baseball type \$18.00 please choose color - Khaki, green, black, white.
- PLEASE NOTE: ALL golf shirts are ordered without a pocket unless a pocket is requested. **Bob Collins** is our Conductor for all wearable merchandise. Any questions, please contact him at 614-975-5753. Current examples and ordering will also be available for review and purchase at a later meeting.



Name Tags with Magnet fastener \$6 each

Bag Tags with loop \$8 each

Order forms

<https://thecgrs.org/members/cgrs-store/>



CGRS Bag Tags...

For those of us traveling this year...

Don't forget we have bag tags.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are interested bag tags for our Canadian Rockies trip, Money and order forms will be collected at the March 29th meeting. There will be forms at the meeting as well. They will be delivered at the Spangler's meeting on April 26.

Questions/order info ?

<https://thecgrs.org/members/cgrs-store/>

TMDedc@gmail.com or call (members list)



Bag Tags with loop \$8 each

About us

Contacts

- *Newsletter related business, articles and classified ads*
Tim Dove
- *Membership & Address Changes*
Bob Collins
- *General Information & Webmaster*
Kent Kloes
- *News Table Meeting Agendas*
Jed Hacker
- *Traveling / Display Layout*
Gary Schneider
 - *Meeting hosts*
Dave Bush
- *Principal Business Contact*
Bill Logan
 - *Bills and Invoices*
Lisa Dove



Where everyone can add their fuel to the fire of our hobby...

Content, suggestions, comments and creative ideas for upcoming events, news table meeting agenda items, possible new event ideas, information etc. are welcomed here.

For CGRS to stay on track your input is important to us. Please share photos and a short narrative to be shared with our members and beyond.

Send your ideas **and content to TMDedc@gmail.com**

Columbus Garden Railway Society

This Issue: Jan 2026

Vol. 35 number 1

ON TRACK is intended as a medium in which to share the news and views of the Columbus Garden Railway Society members.

CGRS is an informal group which meets monthly or so to share a common interest in garden railroading and to socialize.

Membership is open to all interested persons. All articles in this newsletter are provided by our members unless otherwise noted.

Article and content contributors:

Lisa Dove, Tim Dove, Mark Bartel
Pat Waddel & Doug Kruest.

Photography contributors:

Tim Dove, Mark Bartel, Jed Hacker,
& Kent Kloes.

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Any articles for the Feb issue
are due to TMDedc@gmail.com
by Feb 15.

