



# THE Lantern

August 2016

Volume 21 Number 8

## Nominating Commission Slate 2016-17 BBMRA Officers Elections Tuesday, September 20

These recommendations are submitted by Sam Miller and Doug Gyuricsko, who served as the Nominating Committee, and will come before the full club September 20. The four officers are elected by the entire membership. The Board seats held by the division coordinators will be filled during division elections also September 20. Anyone can run, but they must be nominated by another BBMRA member. This publication in the August Lantern complies with BBMRA By-Laws' notice requirements.

**President:** Andy Zimmerman for another term;

**Vice President:** Paul Schnieder – Sheldon Harrison has asked not to be nominated for reelection;

**Secretary:** Ed Schroeder – Doug Gyuricsko has asked not to be nominated for reelection;

**Treasurer:** Drew Hackmeyer for another term;

**HO Coordinator:** Art Wilson for another term;

**N Scale:** Garth Easton for another term;

**Large Scale:** Sam Miller for another term.

(Division coordinators are nominated and elected by each division's members. Art, Garth and Sam have agreed to continue as coordinator and Board member and they are likely to be reelected.)

## Mitchell Green will be Missed; Memorials Saturday, and at VMRR in Bristol Sept. 17

Most of you know by now that Mitchell Green died on August 5 after a long struggle at Tallahassee Memorial Regional Medical Center, Big Bend Hospice and Centerpoint Rehabilitation Hospital. He was a faithful member of BBMRA for years, a good friend to all of you and an enthusiastic engineer at Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol. Mitchell loved HO and O gauge models and, of course, the big VMRR trains.

There is a memorial service for Mitchell during the Saturday, August 13, 11 a.m., worship at My People's Hope Messianic Synagogue (Tikvat Ami Messianic Synagogue). This church meets in the Iglesias Christiana Pentecostes Building, 7130 W. Tennessee Street, 1.5 miles west of Capital Circle.

### \*\*\* BBMRA Meetings \*\*\*

**August 16, 2016: 7:30 p.m.** Third Tuesday-BBMRA Meeting – Business Meeting. We will be collecting dues and updating our roster. "Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

**September 20, 2016: 7:30 p.m.** "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting – Election of Officers for 2016/17; T Trak and O Gauge Disney setups – running trains! "Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

Mitchell's family says an additional memory service is planned at VMRR in Bristol September 17 and it is requesting donations to Veterans instead of flowers. "The Celebration of Life that Mitchell requested be held should he pass will be at Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol on September 17," Mitchell's sister, Roberta Robbins, informed the club. "It will be a covered dish dinner. There will be an open mike so those who wish to share their love and friendship or a memory may do so. The trains will be available for free rides for all who attend. We are deciding on a time but my guess is it will be 2 or 3 p.m."

**Sam Miller**

## **Mitchell Loved Trains**

From **Andy Zimmerman**

Fellow Model Railroaders, Mitchell Green had a number of issues that sent him to the hospital a time or two. Recently Mitchell was admitted to the hospital to have his legs amputated due to complications with his diabetes. After what looked to be a successful surgery Mitchell was to be transferred to physical therapy. With deep regret and sadness, I am letting you know that Mitchell Green passed away August 5, 2016, at 9:30 p.m. He was surrounded by his loving sister and nephews.



### **Good friend Mitchell Green**

Mitchell's upbeat attitude and dedication to the hobby and Veterans Memorial will be sorely missed! I ask that you each take a minute to remember Mitchell and what he meant to you and to this club. If you are inclined to pray, I ask that you say a prayer for Mitchell's family and take a minute to reflect on how he impacted your life.

May the Lord bless you all and may he comfort Mitchell's family in this time of need.

**Mitchell's sister, Roberta Robbins**, posted the following on Facebook:

Mitchell passed away peacefully around 9:30 tonight. Thanks to all of you all for your loving thoughts, encouragement and prayers. Soon.....Isaiah 25:8 and Isaiah 33:24 will be fulfilled. We will see Mitchell on earth in the promised resurrection John 5:28,29. Then Revelation 21: 4 will have come to pass.

Roberta also posted on Facebook:

Mitchell loved trains. It would please him if anyone wanted to honor him to send donations to:

Veterans Memorial Railroad  
10561 NW Theo Jacobs Way,  
Bristol, FL 32321

Mitchell was concerned that his engines get repaired. Those repairs are costly. If anyone is an experienced mechanic and wishes to give freely of their time to work on them, Mitchell would have been pleased.

**David Blodgett** was kind enough to get us the following information:

Mitchell “was worshiping at a local Messianic Jewish Synagogue, My People's Hope Messianic Synagogue, or Tikvat Ami Messianic Synagogue. They are planning to include a time of remembrance for Mitchell during their Saturday service this week, August 13, beginning at 11 a.m., and have said that it would be great to have members of the BBMRA attend. After the service everyone will be encouraged to stay for food (a light lunch) and a time of fellowship where people would have an opportunity to share their remembrances of Mitchell,” David reports.

Location: My People's Hope Messianic Synagogue (Tikvat Ami Messianic Synagogue), 7130 W. Tennessee Street, 1.5 miles west of Capital Circle N.W. This group meets in the Iglesias Christiana Pentecostes Building. The building is on the north side of W. Tennessee.



**VMRR was one of Mitchell's passions**

## **2017 Show is June 24; Show Committee Being Developed**

The dates for next year's show, the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale, have been finalized. The show is Saturday, June 24, 2017, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., again at the North Florida Fairgrounds in Tallahassee. Setup will be the day before, Friday, June 23.

BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman is seeking volunteers to the annual Show & Sale Coordinating Committee and probably will discuss the status of the important initiative at our meeting August 16. Andy needs folks who are going to the train show at the Villages near Leesburg August 20-21, and the Dothan show September 17-18 and other shows in the coming months to take flyers and talk to vendors.

Drew Hackmeyer is heading up a related project, developing written procedures and plans for the annual show. As part of this, Doug Gyuricsko is updating a list of hobby shops in Florida, Georgia and Alabama to be



And Sam Miller is compiling sources like Craig's List for Tallahassee, Dothan and Jacksonville which should be contacted each year as we spread the word about our show. Other possibilities are event calendars in area newspapers, newsletters from area model train clubs, TCA and NMRA chapters and radio and television station community calendars. Sam would appreciate suggestions.

Our show is old enough that many people recognize it. Doug got this email note recently from Bruce Elfreth, Secretary of the Treasure Coast Model Railroad Club in Port Saint Lucie/Stuart.

"Hi, Doug. I'm the Secretary of the Treasure Coast Model Railroad Club in Port Saint Lucie/Stuart, and I consider myself a serious model railroader. Having family that lives in Tallahassee, I would like to plan a trip to include your next *Model Railroad Show and Sale* in 2017. Would you please provide the date of your next big event and I will likely see you there. Thanks. Bruce Elfreth."

## Division Reports: Improving T- Traks, Disney

**HO/ Art Wilson:** I will run for another year as HO Coordinator.

Our plan for the HO group is to have every member that has T-Traks to bring them for the September 20 meeting and be ready with suggestions on how and what we can get better. We have come a long ways and have more people participating. We are all happy with our show layout. I do appreciate all the efforts that have been put forth.

**N Scale/Garth Easton:** I will run for another year as N Scale Coordinator.

We are looking at doing more animation and automation on our traveling layout.

**Large Scale/Sam Miller:** I will run for another year as Large Scale Coordinator.

Doug Gyuricsko has rewired Disney Two after Jeff Hornsby had to spend so much time getting all loops running at the June 25 show. We will set it up and test it September 20 instead of the T-Traks. You should still bring engines to run.

Doug also is thinking about how to modify the T-Traks and Disney to accommodate DCC or its O Gauge equivalent: "I know DCC style is coming to O gauge some day. Everything else has it. All it is, is the track has one voltage setting, not variable. Our older stuff needs variable voltage so engines can go slow or faster. The new stuff uses receivers in the circuit boards to make that change in speed and many other features now. Also it means that a different code in each engine allows many engines on the same track in any direction. Anyhow, that is why wires need to be able to be separated both power and ground."

## Leesburg, Melbourne, Dothan Train Shows Coming Up

Two of these have been regularly attended by our members – The Villages and Dothan. Melbourne is a longer drive, but might be a good show if you have the time and inclination.

**August 20-21, 2016: The Villages Summer Train Show**, 9a to 4p on Saturday, 10a to 3p on Sunday. The Villages near Leesburg, adult admission \$6.

**September 3, 2016: Melbourne Train Show**, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Azan Shrine Center, 1591 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., Melbourne, adult admission \$5.

**September 17-18, 2016: Wiregrass Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale**, National Peanut Festival and Fairgrounds, Dothan, AL., Saturday, 9a to 5p, Sunday, 10a to 4p., BBMRA members admitted free.

BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman needs volunteers who are going to these shows to take flyers and talk to vendors.

## Religion and Model Railroading

By Mike Sassard, BBMRA member who now lives in California

(From Editor Sam: We all place churches on our layouts, usually more than one. Your reason might not be Mike's, but again it might be.)

While I do not attend church or am a member of any denomination, anymore, I am, in my own way, religious. I have a set of beliefs that I adhere to adamantly. When you finally decide what you really believe, it is easy to live by it.

I, therefore, have always put a "church" on my train layouts, every one of them. It is my way of touching God. While a model church is good scenery, it is also a good thing to have around. God is a good thing to have around. Maybe this means my railroad is blessed. It needs to be.

God made me and I made the layout, therefore God is a model railroader.

Amen



**Church Scene from Mike's layout in California**



## **BBMRA Meeting Minutes for July 19, 2016**

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

Andy announced he will run again as president for the next election. He has requested Sam Miller to head the nomination committee.

Vice President Sheldon Harrison and Secretary Doug Gyuricsko are not seeking new terms and Andy and Sam are encouraging candidates to come forward for these offices.

Andy thanked all the members, and family members who volunteered to make this year another success even under last minute problems. Andy is looking for a show committee to improve and eliminate many of the issues found.

Meeting minutes for June 21, 2016 were accepted as is.

**Education Coordinator:** Lisa Blair announced that Allan Ragsdale, a BBMRA, Lionel collector and new member of the Large Scale Sunday group, will assist with the mission. Lisa is working on a program to help young people who are interested in railroading learn more about the BBMRA and the railroading world. The switching layout has been involved with scouts for years and can help with this.

Lisa reported over 20 renewals and new members listed at the show this year.

**Treasurer Report:** Drew Hackmeyer says we are in the black.

**Large Scale Report:** Doug Gyuricsko substituting for Sam Miller read parts of an email Sam sent. Sam thanked all our members who helped with so much to make this year's show a success. On this list are many names and also thanks to the new war gaming group for their participation in this success. Sam and Linda are leaving for a Far Western railroading experience in the Northern Rockies in Canada. The regular Sunday operating session is suspended for the next two weeks, but will be continued Sunday August 7. This email has many names and Doug G. will have it for viewing.

**HO Report:** Art Wilson thanked all those who helped make the newer HO system a better display. Except for leveling issues, the modules were great. Art wants to bring the HO to the forefront, and run trains even more this year.

**Small Scale Report:** Garth Eastman thanked the skeleton crew for the hard work they did to display the N scale layouts. Matt Baronovich did triple duty to bring the modular system to life. One major incident with a viewer at a switch fried a DCC engine. A replacement is in the works.

**Switching Report:** Joe Haley reports up to 50 certifications had been earned on show day. Joe thanked his neighbors - Lisa Blair and Randy Lombardo located both sides of the switching layout - for helping with the success. Joe has studied the use of this adult switching layout and suggested using a less confusing youth switching layout for the younger crowd.

**Good of the Group Report:** President Zimmerman notified us that Mitchell Green has been moved to TMH for further medical procedures. Mitchell's sister updates Face Book on his condition at this time. Members of the BBMRA had many suggestions and observations on the show experience this year. Many issues are being worked on to improve next year's show. A few issues, like changing the show date have been studied in the past. It has been concluded that a new date would produce conflicts with other events of all kinds and would most likely result in lower attendance. In addition, BBMRA has committed to the fairground buildings for the next two years. A new roster is being worked on and is being updated. The web site is being updated to make proper changes. New rules to eliminate other problems found are being worked on also. This year Andy was still at the fairgrounds at 9 P.M. Saturday night. Other issues discussed at the meeting included renewing members paying dues at the show and vendor language near young people.

David Brazell brought many various items for the taking again.

I counted 35 members present; the meeting ended at 8: 35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Doug Gyuricsko.

“The LANTERN” is the official publication of the BIG BEND MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC. and is published monthly just prior to each regularly scheduled meeting. Subscriptions are included in all members’ dues. The deadline to submit materials for publication is the first Tuesday of the publication month (unless otherwise noted) sent to: BBMRA, Attn: Editor, PO Box 3392, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3392 or e-mailed to [smiller@flains.org](mailto:smiller@flains.org)