



THE Lantern

November 2017

Volume 22 Number 11

Busy Winter Holiday Season: VMRR Polar Express, Old Capitol Setup, Junior Museum Farm Days, Dec. 15 BBMRA Holiday Party

Early Winter is a busy time for BBMRA members, but a very special and happy time:

TCA Southern Division Toy Train Show: November 18, 2017, Saturday: Jacksonville, Morocco Shrine Auditorium, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road, Jax, 32224. Open to the public from 10a-3p. Open to TCA members beginning at 9a.

Woodgate Lionel Open House: November 19, a Sunday, 1:30 to 4 p.m. at Sam Miller and Linda Medlin's home, 3008 Stillwood Court, Woodgate in Tallahassee. Sam and the Sunday Lionel Group Therapy folks will be operating the big garage layout and the Disney Layout in a special showing for neighborhood kids organized by the Woodgate Neighborhood Association.

VMRR Polar Express: Operating sessions for the Polar Express are scheduled for 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on 11 nights in December. The Crown, a wonderful steamer, will be running on December 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23; and diesels on December 7, 10, 14, 17, and 21. The rides are about 25 minutes long around Veterans Memorial Park to and from the Tom Keenan Station. For additional information, go to the Internet site or call: (850) 643-6646.

*** BBMRA Meetings ***

November 21, 2017: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting: October 17, 2017: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. "Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive. Part 2 a presentation by Patrick and Leonesse Shaffer on British proto-type railroading and modeling.

December 15, 2017, Friday, Annual Holiday Party, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Sam Miller and Linda Medlin's house in Woodgate.



Sam & Linda's Lionel Layout was inspired by Tallahassee's Festival of Lights and the North Florida Fair.

Winter MRC Train Show, Pensacola: December 2-3, 2017: 2017 Winter MRC Train Show, Pensacola, Hadji Shrine Temple, 800 North Nine Mile Road, Pensacola, FL 32534-1858, 9 to 5, Saturday, 10 to 4 Sunday, Central. Admission \$6 for adults.

Florida Old Capitol: December 4, 2017, Monday, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Members Party, Florida Old Capitol Museum. The Large Scale Division will be operating the Disney Layout platform, with some special touches for Christmas.

Tallahassee Museum Fall Days: December 9, 2017, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tallahassee Museum Fall Farm Days, a lot later than normal this year. BBMRA has requested space from the Farm Days coordinator. Club will have to determine a set-up plan.

BBMRA Holiday Reception: December 15, 21, 2017: 6:30 p.m. BBMRA Holiday Reception, Sam Miller & Linda Medlin, Woodgate. This is one week later in December than in previous years.

Winter Tampa Model Show: December 16-17, 2017, Saturday and Sunday: Winter Tampa Model Show, Saturday & Sunday, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL.

Villages Christmas Train Show: December , 2017: Details have not been confirmed. The Villages Christmas Train Show, Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 510 Colony Blvd., The Villages, FL 32162.

Children's Day, Museum of Florida History: January 27, 2018; 35th Annual Children's Day, Museum of Florida History, Capitol Complex; Details of BBMRA setups being planned.

Polar Express at VMRR, Bristol

December wouldn't be complete for many of us without a ride on the Polar Express at Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol, especially if the wonderful fall-like weather continues.

Operating sessions for the Polar Express are scheduled for 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on 11 nights in December. The Crown, a wonderful steamer, will be running on December 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23; and diesels on December 7, 10, 14, 17, and 21. The rides are about 25 minutes long around Veterans Memorial Park to and from the Tom Keenan Station. Fast Track tickets are available online at: <http://www.VeteransMemorialRailroad.org>. For additional information, go to the Internet site or call: (850) 643-6646.

Admission is \$15 for the steam train and \$10 for non-steam. Hours are 7 to 10 p.m. Children two and under ride free. We will have additional information on the Christmas trains in an upcoming Lantern.

VMRR is located at Veterans Memorial Park, 10561 NW Theo Jacobs Way, Bristol, FL 32321. Although pretty far west of here, it remains in Eastern Standard Time.

November 21 Program: British Modeling Scales

Our program next Tuesday is Part Two in a special presentation on British OO model trains by Patrick and Leonesse Shaffer, who recently joined our club.

From Leo:

"This time our presentation will focus on British modeling scales. There are many difference and similarities between American and British modeling scales. We will be covering everything from Gauge 1 to 2mm fine scale. Also, we will be talking about a few companies that make models for a variety of scales."

One of our programs early next year will be showing the first part of George Sellios' Franklin & South Manchester video. The video is being provided by club member Bill Reschke.

January 13-14, 2017, Saturday and Sunday, 62nd Florida Rail Fair, DeLand, FL, Volusia County Fairgrounds.

January 27, 2018; 35th Annual Children's Day, Museum of Florida History, Capitol Complex; Details of BBMRA setups being planned.

February 10, 2018, Saturday: 40th Jacksonville Rail Fair, Prime Osborne Center, downtown Jacksonville.

Doug has a Barn, is Building an N Scale Layout

From Sam Miller

Except for getting the scale wrong and we thought we taught him better, it is wonderful news that club member Doug Gyuricsko has purchased a barn-like storage shed for a certainly to be awesome N Scale layout. Doug will not be allowed, however, to relinquish his role as part of the backbone of the Large Scale Division.



“The shed will need some work for atmosphere conditions. Though it was good for records and paper, trains need more care. Air movement heat and cooling being the main project. (Pay as I go.)” Doug told us. “I have had a prototype railroad - The Grand Trunk - in mind and have been planning it for years. But I have only been acquiring the rolling stock, scenery, track, and things to use on it. I have nothing structural yet – but a work space, walk around, background, lighting, and storage for most all my hobby stuff.

“I plan to be able to do operations from the docks in Portland, ME, to Island Pond VT. It was 154 miles long and then went to Montreal, Canada. It was the first non-U.S.-owned line in the states as far as I know.

“It will take some time (I am a rivet counter guy.) using Code 55 N gage track. I will need a loop to loop for continuous running, yards for switching, and passing sidings near towns. I am planning freight and passenger service.”

Congrats to Doug Gyuricsko on this new train shed.

Stacey Elliott's On30 Bookshelf Layout

Club member Stacey Elliott and his wife, Kelly, developed a fine Christmas layout in limited space, using the bookshelf technique and On30 trains.

“This layout is a little over 8 feet long and about 20 inches deep. It started out as a permanent display for my wife Kelly's hand-painted plaster buildings,” Stacey says. “We later decided that what is a Christmas display without a train, so an HO train was added.

“The HO train looked a bit small after the first year and about that time we found the Thomas Kincaid On30 engine and cars to use. I totally rebuilt the layout as the shelf layout that it is now about three years ago. We have been adding a few things here and there ever since but consider it finished. It has a shelf above with lighting and a valance and a hand painted the back drop that Kelly did.”

The Elliotts live between Havana and Quincy.



Stacey and Kelly Elliott's year-round Christmas, On30 layout.

Gary Edwards has a New Lionel Layout, Including Childhood Trains

Gary Edwards, a retired financial planner and antique car collector who joined BBMRA this summer, premiered his Lionel layout November 12 to the Lionel Sunday Group Therapy folks. It is a great layout, although Gary sure is wasting a lot of space in his garage by putting his wife's car in there.



Gary's NOMA Talking Station, which he talked about during a recent BBMRA meeting, is included here, along with passenger and freight trains he received while growing up.

Gary Edwards, with Joe Furiato and Doug Gyuricsko in the background.

Lantern Looking for Other Layout Profiles, Holiday Photos

Send Lantern editor Sam Miller a report and photos on your layout or on special scenes you have developed for Christmas and the other winter religious holidays.

The Lantern is only as good as the ideas, information and photos provided by BBMRA members.

Email Sam at: samthetrainmanmiller@gmail.com or sammiller61113@outlook.com

Happy Holidays!!

Big Bend Model Railroad Association

Minutes for Meeting of October 17, 2017

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M. About 25 were present.

The Secretary's minutes for September 19, 2017 were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report - Drew Hackmeyer out of town; no report submitted.

President's Report and Welcomed New Members

- Tom & Marcia Reagle, O gauge
- Gary Edwards, O Gauge

Division Reports/Large Scale, Sam Miller:

- Swap meet in Milton at Milton L & N Station.
- Eric and Ina Ecklund dismantling the CROW; items for sale.
- Holiday party at home of Sam and Linda on Friday, December 15.

HO, Art Wilson: no report.

Timesaver Layout, Joe Haley: running well.

N Scale, Garth Easton: work party 10/28; 9 A.M. at Garth's house.

Education coordinator, Lisa Blair:

- Received HO layout from Chuck Lester and got it into her cellar.
- T-trak modules still to be developed.
- Andy Z will help Lisa and her group develop modules.

Good of the Members:

- Roster, Ed Schroeder will update
- Tallahassee Museum Farm Days, Saturday, December 9
- State Museum Children's Day, Saturday, January 27

Program - by new BBMRA members/ Gary Edwards - The NOMA O Gauge Talking Railroad Station:

- Added lights
- 1951-52 by NOMA, not Lionel – red and green roof versions

- 78 RPM record player
- Actual announcement of departure of Pennsylvania Railroad's Broadway Limited from Chicago

Patrick and Leonesse Shaffer:

- Tampa Bay Model Railroad Club - short video produced by Patrick & Leonesse
- British Railways - Patrick & Leonesse
- Railroads in the UK – 1 to 9 eras
- Era 2 - 1875-1922
- WW I – railways heavily devoted to needs of the military,
- Poor control of right of way, chaos
- Terrible wrecks
- Era 3 – multiple private railways combined into four railways
- London Midlands Scottish - LMS
- Examples of LMS steam engines
- William Stanier and other heads
- Great Western - GWR [originally a broad-gauge railway]
- E.g., Hall, Castle and Manor classes
- London North Eastern Railway - LNE
- Noteworthy chief mechanical officers
- Sir Nigel Gresley 1941 and Edward Thompson - antagonists
- Southern
- Note worthy chief mechanical officer
- Bulleid for his Merchant Class Pacifics
- Many of these engines were prototypes for Thomas the Tank Engine and the Harry Potter Express.
- The presentations ended around 9:20 P.M. -
- Respectfully submitted.
- November 15, 2017
- Ed Schroeder, Club Secretary

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