



# THE Lantern

September 2018

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## Dothan Train Show September 15-16; Other Area Shows Later This Year

The Wiregrass Annual Model Train Show & Sale in Dothan is this weekend, September 15-16, with BBMRA members once again getting free admission.

Show hours are: Saturday, 9a-5p, and Sunday, 10a-4p. This is Central time, so add one hour for Tallahassee time. Admission is \$5, with children under 12 getting in free. BBMRA members will get in free because of a long-standing reciprocal agreement between our club and the Dothan folks.

The train show is at the National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds on U.S. 231, a couple of miles south of Dothan proper.

BBMRA member Sam Miller is a registered vendor for the Dothan show, working with George Allen of Eastpoint. Sam has quite a bit of Lionel and MTH items in O Gauge and a large selection in HO, including several dozen engines and a lot of track and switches.

## 2018/19 BBMRA Officers

A slate of officers – with almost everyone currently serving taking on another 12-month term – was elected during the August 21 meeting at the Old Antique Car Museum.

Here is the official slate for 2018-19:

### BBMRA Officers

President: Andy Zimmerman.  
Vice President: Paul Schnieder.  
Secretary: Ed Schroeder.  
Treasurer: Drew Hackmeyer.  
HO Coordinator: Phil Weston, succeeding Art Wilson, who has chosen to retire as coordinator.  
Small Scale Coordinator: Garth Easton.  
Large Scale Coordinator: Sam Miller.

(President, vice president, secretary and treasurer are elected by the club at large. Division coordinators are nominated and elected by each division's members. Andy asked Lisa Blair to continue serving as Education Coordinator, Randy Lombardo to continue as Thomas the Tank Engine coordinator, Joe Haley to continue to run the Timesaver and Bob Feuerstein to serve as T-TRAK Coordinator. )

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

**September 18, 2018, 7:30 p.m.:** Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. Last meeting at the "Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive. Andy Zimmerman-led strategic planning for new BBMRA year; and video, FS&M Part 2.

**October 16, 2018, 7:30 p.m.:** Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. NEW LOCATION: Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive, near the Florida A&M agricultural facility and a little east of the Old Antique Car Museum. Running trains.

## Also in this Lantern:

- **BBMRA Meetings Moving East on Mahan Drive to Capital City Christian Church**
- **Fall, Early Winter Busy Time for Area Train Shows**
- **End of an Era in Crawfordville – Breakdown of Eric’s Garden Railroad Paradise**
- **This ‘n That Railroading Updates**
- **Ghost Train at VMRR, Bristol; “Spooky Fun for the Entire Family”**

## **BBMRA Meetings Moving Slightly East on Mahan Drive To Capital City Christian Church**

Big Bend Model Railroad Association meetings are moving to Capital City Christian Church beginning October 16. Capital City Christian Church is at 6115 Mahan Drive, near the Florida A&M agricultural facility and a little east of the Old Antique Car Museum. BBMRA member Don Meeks is an officer at the church and has arranged for the club to meet there.

Our meetings on the third Tuesday of each month have been held for many years at the Old Antique Car Museum and this has been a terrific location. Devoe Moore is converting the old car museum and the entire strip mall into climate controlled storage units and construction will begin this fall.

## **Fall, Early Winter Busy Time for Area Train Shows**

(This report will be expanded in the next Lantern to include BBMRA set-ups for the rest of the year. Some details are available now in the calendar.)

**TCA Southern Division Toy Train/ Christmas Show:** November 17, 2018, 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.

**Winter Tampa Model Show:** December 15-16, 2018, Saturday and Sunday: Winter Tampa Model Show, Saturday & Sunday, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL.

**Winter MRC Train Show, Pensacola:** December 1-2, 2018, 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 Time. Admission \$6 for adults.

## **End of an Era in Crawfordville – Breakdown of Eric’s Garden Railroad Paradise**

From Sam Miller

“I guess it is the end of an era,” Eric Ecklund said the other day. Eric and Ina were selling most of the remainder of their massive Garden Railroad collection to Trainz.com in Atlanta and a crew had come down early on a Saturday morning to pick it up.

Eric, now 80-plus in age, realized some time ago he could no longer operate and care for what was once the finest Garden Railroad layout I ever saw. According to Jerry Wise, BBMRA member and a widely traveled G Gauge enthusiast, Eric’s was one of the best in the country.

So working with me and George Allen of Eastpoint, Eric began selling engines and rolling stock at the BBMRA annual show, the Dothan and during a special sale at his Crawfordville home last winter. Most of the remaining pieces finally were sold to Trainz.com. Track and switches and other items, including buildings and figures, are still available. Also available is the Doodlebug which Eric converted into a leaf blower to keep his tracks clear. Let me know if you are interested.

He and Ina began work on the layout in 1990, Eric remembers. "Many of the folks who helped us have now passed away," he says.

But planning it, building it, expanding the layout, buying wonderful G Gauge trains, scratch building other trains and buildings and entering friends and kids are memories he will have forever. So will we!



**Good Old Eric Ecklund.**



**Eric and Ina had one of the largest G Gauge collections in the state.**

## **This 'n That Railroading Updates; News from South Georgia**

Compiled and condensed by Randy Lombardo:

The City of Hahira has re-created its original railroad station of 100 years ago to lure people to the downtown area. The multiple-use building sits on five acres of land that was originally owned by Norfolk-Southern Corp. and was recently turned over to the City of Hahira. A red Southern caboose is near the station surrounded by

a fence. Events are planned for 2019 when the rest of the project is scheduled to be completed. For further information visit WTXL-TV's Website.

Thoronateeska Heritage Center Museum Day will take place in Albany on Saturday, September 22. The museum is located on West Roosevelt Ave. near the old Albany Union Terminal. This all-day event is part of an open house with several other museums in the area. Admission charges will be waived. Several club members visited in January, 2011 on the way to the (now deceased Albany Train Show. Albany is 88 miles from Tallahassee. For more information visit WALB-TV's Website.

### **Not too Early to Think about Christmas Cards**

Trumble Greeting Inc. (TrumbleGreetings.com) LEANIN' TREE has been producing Railroad Christmas Cards for many years & 2018 is no exception. Among the offerings are two different Union Pacific (UP) famous 4-8-8-4 Big Boy locomotives and Norfolk & Western's (N & W) J6 4-8-4 locomotive. You can also order by phone, 800-525-0656. I also have several catalogs in my possession that club members are welcome to & will bring some to the next meeting.

### **Collecting Railroad Pins**

Railroad pins have been around for decades and you could easily obtain them from many sources including, Avon & Porky Bacon (at our annual show), Sundance Marketing Inc. of Portland, Oregon (rr@sundancepins.com), Charles Products Inc. (CPI) of Rockville, Maryland (names of famous railroads in a circular stick pin form), and JRC Company of Fort Worth, Texas (eBay).

Upon researching online at Amazon.com, I couldn't find a book that focuses on this one subject other than grouping it with other railroad memorabilia. In my opinion, focus on employee issue pins (Norfolk Southern Alabama Division Thoroughbred and CSX years of service & safety), one of a kind pins (Railroads Built America) & pins involving locomotives (Indian Railways Electro-Motive GT46MAC). Some of the pins you might obtain may reveal few clues on who actually produced the product similar to the last example mentioned here. Depending on age, gold plating, size and weight (single pin & double applications), most can be purchased for reasonable amounts. It's also best to avoid rubber pin backings versus metal ones because the pin can penetrate through the rubber & cause injury.

### **Loss of a Railroad Author & Photographer**

Jim Shaughnessy, author of "The Delaware & Hudson Railway - Bridge Line to New England & Canada," originally published by Howell-North Books in 1967 with all black & white photos, passed away on August 7. He was 84. Born in Troy, New York (near The State Capital of Albany where "The D & H" was headquartered) on November 24, 1933. He is survived by his wife Carol and son, James. The full obituary can be read in the October 2018 issue of Trains Magazine.

(One day after The 44th Anniversary of Amtrak's Adirondack, which in the early start-up years operated with D & H Equipment including the famous Santa Fe American Locomotive Company (ALCO) PA's, built in nearby Schenectady).

### **BBMRA Dues - Time to Pay Up**

Annual dues of the Big Bend Model Railroad Association were due by the end of August and are now delinquent if they have not been paid. Dues remain at \$20, which is pretty darn attractive. Members can renew at the upcoming meeting or by mail:

Drew Hackmeyer, Treasurer  
3201 Hawks Landing  
Tallahassee, FL 32309

## **Ghost Train at VMRR, Bristol; “Spooky Fun for the Entire Family”**

It's almost October, Halloween is coming up and it is time for the Ghost Train at Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol!

Operating sessions have been scheduled for 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on five nights near Halloween. The Crown, a wonderful steamer, will be running Saturday, October 20, and Saturday, October 27. Diesels will be providing the fun and pull on these nights: Friday, October 19, Friday, October 26, and on Halloween, Wednesday, October 31.

Admission is \$8 for diesel trains and \$12 for steam trains. Children two and under ride free. 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://VeteransMemorialRailroad.org>. For additional information, go to the Internet site or call: (850) 643-6646.

Dates also have been announced for the Polar Bear Express at VMRR: the steam train on December 7, 8, 14, 15, 20 and 21; and diesels on December 9, 13, 16, 22 and 23. 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.

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.

Our club has had a special relationship with Veterans Memorial Railroad over the years. The late Tom Keenan was a long-time member of BBMRA. Current member John Anthamatten was an officer at the railroad for several years. Mitchell Green was our VMRR liaison until his passing this summer. Barrett Johnson is active with this wonderful organization.

VMRR's two-foot gauge Crown Live Steam Locomotive is the only coal-fired live steam locomotive operating in a public park in Florida. This little train requires a lot of muscle and work - an engineer and fireman in the cab to keep it running – shoveling coal and watching gauges.

Veterans Memorial Railroad was founded in 2001 when a group of local people, interested in both railroading and community service, banded together to install a passenger train at Veterans Memorial Park in Bristol. The Liberty County Board of Commissioners gave their permission to use a large area of the park for the Railroad.





**December 1-2, 2018: Winter MRC Train Show, Pensacola, Hadji Shrine Temple, 800 North Nine Mile Road, Pensacola, FL 32534-1858,. Exact dates to be announced later; 9 to 5, Saturday, 10 to 4 Sunday, Central. Admission \$6 for adults.**

**December 2018: Celebrate the Winter Holiday Season with the Polar Bear Express at Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol. Dates to be announced later.**

## **2018/19 BBMRA Officers and Division Leaders**



**Lisa Blair, and son, Matthew, representing the Education Committee; HO Coordinator Phil Weston; Vice President Paul Schnieder; Secretary Ed Schroeder; Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer; N Scale Coordinator Garth Easton; Large Scale Coordinator Sam Miller; and Thomas the Tank Engine Coordinator Randy Lombardo.**

## **BBMRA Minutes for August 21, 2018**

Big Bend Model Railroad Association

Minutes for Meeting of August 21, 2018

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:34 P.M.; 20 to 25 were present.

The Secretary's minutes for July 17, 2018 were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer reported that BBMRA is solvent; dues for 2018-19 are payable. To date 56 have renewed memberships. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

The Treasurer's report is not published in the Secretary's minutes. Members may request details from the Treasurer.

The following were elected by the club to serve for the coming year

> President - Andy Zimmerman,

> Vice-President - Paul Schneider,

> Treasurer - Drew Hackmeyer,

> Secretary - Ed Schroeder

The following were elected coordinators by their divisions

> N - Garth Easton; HO - Phil Weston; Large Scale - Sam Miller

> President Andy asked Lisa Blair to continue serving as Education Coordinator, Randy Lombardo to continue as Thomas the Tank Engine coordinator, Joe Haley to continue to run the Timesaver and Bob Feuerstein to serve as T-TRAK Coordinator.

#### Division Reports

\* Large Scale (Sam Miller) and N (Garth Easton) had nothing to report

\* HO - Phil Weston reported that switching module is operational and that a planning meeting will be scheduled. Phil asked HO T-TRAK members to provide module pictures.

> President Andy added that pictures should be cropped, free of distracting background.

\* Timesaver Layout - Joe Haley reported that new, simpler folding 6' layout is in process.

\* Youth coordinator - Lisa Blair – is working on collaborative possibilities with local school.

#### Good of the Group:

\* Sam Miller – said the BBMRA Christmas party is scheduled for Friday, December 14, 6:30 P.M. at the Miller/Medlin homestead. \* Web Page - compiler Neil Meadows: meadowsn1956@comcast.net - President Andy said he would give Neil the link to club posted pictures

\* Extensive discussion followed without clear answers to fact that the Chinese Factory that was principal manufacturer for many importers has gone out of business as producer of model railroad equipment.

> Some companies such as Broadway Limited, Kato, Rapido, Kadee seem unaffected

> Others such as Con-Cor, Bowser are severely affected.

> Check websites to determine company's status. E.g., <https://www.con-cor.com>

Meeting adjourned around 8:10 P.M.

After the meeting, President Andy indicated that the Tuesday, September 18 meeting will be the last meeting at the Old Antique Car Museum. Owner Devoe Moore is moving forward with use of the site for other purposes.

Respectfully submitted on August 21, 2018

Ed Schroeder, Secretary



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. Submit materials to Lantern Editor Sam Miller at [sammiller61113@outlook.com](mailto:sammiller61113@outlook.com)