



THE Lantern

February 2019

Volume 24 Number 2

VMRR in Bristol Gets \$500 BBMRA Donation to Help in Michael Recovery

From Gloria Keenan, Veterans Memorial Railroad:

As everyone is aware, Liberty County was affected by Hurricane Michael with considerable damage throughout the county.

Veterans Memorial Railroad, Inc. thanks the Big Bend Model Railroad Association for the very generous \$500 donation. This is a major contribution in meeting ongoing expenses of the Railroad as we work to prepare for reopening of the Railroad in the spring. We are very grateful for your thoughtfulness.

Veterans Memorial Park was severely damaged by the hurricane. Three buildings used by the Railroad were adversely affected with major roof damage. The maintenance building housing the coal-fired steam engine was most severely damaged. Fortunately, the trains which were housed in the two container tunnels, as well as the steam engine in the maintenance building, were not damaged. All require TLC in preparing them for the next event, i.e., pressure washing and painting.

The massive damage throughout the park was the uprooting and destruction of over 200 trees, leaving a wasteland. This damage contributed to the damage to the buildings and many of the permanent outside props constructed by the Railroad volunteers, including the "western town", Santa's work shop area, the alien satellite dish and others.

We are happy to report that with the help of county road department and work crews from the Department of Corrections, as well as the FEMA clean-up crews with their massive pick up equipment and trucks, the park is

Continued on Page Five.

Also in this Lantern:

- **HO Folks Demonstrating BLI Paragon3 "Rolling Thunder"**
- **Committee Launched to Plan 2019 Show & Sale**
- **Saturday, March 23, Selected for Layout Tour**
- **New & Improved Switching Layout Launched at 36th Annual Children's Day**
- **CSX Panhandle Route Sale Falls Through**
- **2019 Lionel Catalog Highlights**

*** BBMRA Meetings ***

February 19, 2019, 7:30 p.m.: BBMRA Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive. Program is running trains, including BLI "Rolling Thunder" Demonstration by Bill Bell.

March 19, 2019, 7:30 p.m.: "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive, near the Florida A&M agricultural facility and a little east of the Old Antique Car Museum.

HO Folks Demonstrating BLI Paragon3 “Rolling Thunder”

From club member and Broadway Limited enthusiast Bill Bell:

BBMRA HO Coordinator Phil Weston has authorized a trial run of the new Broadway Limited Paragon3 with the Rolling Thunder Sound System at our meeting Tuesday, February 19. This system, which radios the lower frequency engine sounds from the engine to a sub-woofer and woofer under the table, is supposed to incorporate improvements in reliability and expanded sound recording capabilities of each engine and make model railroading sounds more realistic.

My intention is to set up a multi-channel system at home. I have been testing the current configuration and found it has the unquestioned seal of approval from the under eight crowd. On a large layout, the equipment's sound tapers off as the engine moves further away from the listener or ramps up as the train approaches. Adults will have to make up their own minds, but I would say this system rocks!

By the way, last Wednesday, my son, who has a house in Jefferson County and lives about 800 yards from the railroad track, was changing clothes at the other end of my house so he could take my grandson to Cub Scouts. He came tearing into my hobby room to find out how I was imitating the big GE's that pass his house. He said he could feel the train through his feet like the real thing as well as hear the horn.

Attention HO BLI Paragon3 Locomotive Owners: A BLI Rolling Thunder Sound System will be available Tuesday night to test the Paragon3 external sound capabilities of your diesel and steam engines. Please bring all Paragon3 engines to the meeting. Only BLI Paragon3 locomotives will work with the Rolling Thunder System. All BLI Paragon3 locomotives come out of the box ready to transmit on channel #1. This sound system is set up to run one engine at a time on channel #1, so no set-up will be required on your part.

Phil Weston would like to have a list of all HO locomotives running Paragon3 with Rolling Thunder to determine if this would be something that would be cost effective for the HO T-Traks. So if you own one or more of them, email me your list to wbell9520@comcast.net and I will tabulate them for our HO Division.

If anyone would like to try out an N Scale BLI Paragon3 locomotive, just take an N Scale T-Trak with a power source over to the HO set-up and we will let you try. I think they will work the same.

See everyone Tuesday night!

Show Committee Getting to Work on BBMRA 28th Annual Show & Sale June 22

Andy Zimmerman and the Show Committee have kicked off full-scale planning for the 28th Annual Show & Sale June 22 at the North Florida Fairgrounds in Tallahassee and set-up Friday, June 21. Andy will lead a discussion on the show at this Tuesday's meeting.

Andy has updated the vendor registration site on the Internet and communications with last year's vendors and potential new ones are under way by Andy, Sam Miller and Carlton Ingram. Andy made a lot of face to face contacts at the recent train show at the Prime Osborne Center in Jacksonville. Cards publicizing the 2019 show are being distributed at every opportunity and are available to club members during this coming meeting, the Sunday sessions by the Large Scale Group at Sam Miller's house and other opportunities, including the February 16 N Scale Workday in the morning at Garth Easton's house.

Porky and Avon Bacon, BBMRA members as well as train show vendors marketing t-shirts, hats and lots of other neat items, got a huge supply of the cards in Jacksonville and will be handing them out as they travel throughout Florida this spring. Phil Weston has begun to contact event calendar people continuing the work he did so successfully last year.

During the January club meeting, BBMRA President Zimmerman re-appointed these members to the 2019 Show Committee:

- Sam Miller and Carlton Ingram to assist Andy in communications with potential vendors and registered vendors.
- Bob Parmenter to assign tables and locations in the two buildings to confirmed vendors, exhibitors and operating layouts.
- David Brazell to handle publicity, including articles for the Tallahassee Democrat, Chronicle, Tallahassee Magazine and releases for Channel 6, WCTV, and other important local media.
- Phil Weston to contact event calendar people.
- Paul Schneider and Sheldon Harrison to coordinate people to work in the admissions booth and help vendors unload and then load up again after the show.

Andy appointed two new members, Stacey Elliott and Bob Feuerstein, to work on Facebook and other Social Media communications and in areas not handled by Phil or David. There is room for still more committee members. We never have enough. And then every club member will be asked to step up during the weekend of the show.

Saturday, March 23, Selected for BBMRA Annual Tour of Layouts

March 23, 2019: This year's BBMRA Layouts Tour. Final details are still being developed by director Andy Millott, but the date has been selected to not conflict with the club's annual operations at Founder's Day in Woodville on March 9. Andy is looking for several layouts to complete the tour, representing as many scales as possible.

If interested, please contact Andy Millott at millott32073@hotmail.com. Thank you and we look forward to having this layout tour be a success!"

New & Improved Switching Layout Launched at 36th Annual Children's Day

From Randy Lombardo:

"Daddy runs the electric train, while all the children wait in vain to take their turn at playing engineer"....Kids, from The Sinatra Family Christmas Album

Three different layouts of two different scales represented the Bend Model Railroad Association at the 36th Annual Children's Day at the Florida Museum of History on the last Saturday of January.

"Yard Boss" Joe Haley operated BBMRA's new & improved HO Switching Layout. The new layout still has that rural Americana feel and features a coal mine on gradient similar to a prototype railroad, while the rest of the yard is all flat. (I was impressed.) A Main Central (MEC) General Purpose (GP) unit from the 1950s was the primary power transporting different commodities, including coal, oil and scrap, to many buildings located in the yard itself.

A small bulldozer was spotted working a new water source that will flow down to the yard from the coal mine and there is an ash pit for future steam switcher operations. Doug Gyuricsko, "Assistant Yard Boss", designed and built the new structure. It replaces the switching layout put together by Roy Mantooth and faithfully nurtured by Joe, Doug and others in the HO group over many years.

HO Coordinator Phil Weston, along with Art Wilson (former HO Coordinator), Club Vice President Paul Schneider, Leo and Patrick Shaffer, Scott Garner, Don Meeks, David Brazell and probably others I missed helped operated the HO T-Trak layout. Patrick's collection of steam hauled European passenger coaches operated almost flawlessly on one track (There were some minor derailments due to the radius of the track.) A freight consist operated on the other pulled by a modern Norfolk-Southern (NS) Diesel.

Phil and this writer had a ball pushing the sound effects buttons on a separate speaker system hooked up to the DCC layout. Highlights of the fine HO layout included a drive-in movie theater featuring as the movie screen a computer tablet showing non-stop John Wayne films; a seafood warehouse; a tank farm; and Scott's simply outstanding, detailed junk yard with flattened automobiles.

O Gauge was represented by your writer (Randy Lombardo) operating Lionel's Thomas & Friends with a new figure eight design concept. Surprisingly, this was up and running within an hour thanks to the help of Leo and Patrick and Mel Mccarthy. Kids of all ages were amazed at the massive main station along with the windmill and water tower (all G Scale), with vehicles and decorations to enhance the layout. The shining moment came when Thomas comes 'round the bend along with Harold the Helicopter on a Flat Car and coaches Annie and Clarabel. There was more excitement when kids took their turn operating the train including pushing of the buttons to ring the bell, blow the whistle and unleash Sir Topham Hatt (boss of the Railroad) to shout, "All Aboard!"

Several derailments side-lined Thomas for a while; diesels James and Percy filled in making them all useful engines. Coloring sheets, cardboard watches and hats and two Build-A-Thomas prize-winners made the day extra special.

Parents armed with different electronic gadgets captured pictures of all three layouts throughout the day. Sam Miller and this writer had special buttons for the front of their shirt made featuring a Seaboard E Unit. The innovative button booth, offering drawings and buttons with a variety of things, was among the dozens of special events throughout the museum making Children's Day so special. Our club has been a regular, popular attraction as long as any of us can remember.

Children's Day, Now Yearly Highlight of BBMRA Calendar



New Switching Layout – Joe Haley at the helm. Doug Gyuricsko's coal mine.





BBMRA was well represented: Joe and Doug; Randy Lombardo and the Thomas Layout; and the HO Division's Always Improving T-Trak Modules. (Photos by Sam Miller)

VMRR in Bristol Gets \$500 BBMRA Donation

From Page One

taking shape again. It will never look the same but it will be useable and with all of our combined efforts will be a gem of a park again.

VMRR is very fortunate to have a full-time volunteer overseeing the park at this time. Harold and Barb Sande from Ontario, Canada, have been coming to Bristol since 2014 to volunteer their services to the Railroad. He has personally overseen the cleanup and is now planning to start repairing and replacing the track.

These volunteers arrive in October and stay until the middle of March. This year they were overwhelmed with the magnitude of damage in the Park from Hurricane Michael. Harold immediately assessed the damage and started planning on the work needed to enable the Railroad to open in the spring.

The maintenance building for the Railroad houses the steam engine and many worthwhile tools and equipment for maintaining the Railroad including a large drill press and a lathe. The Railroad requires work on wheels and axles at various times and volunteers are needed to assist in these maintenance functions. VMRR would welcome any of your members to come and assist in any way.

VMRR had prepared for the Halloween Ghost Train and was ready to open on Oct. 17th when the hurricane struck on October 10th. Fortunately, the volunteer artistic crew who had worked hours and weeks on the

decorations and new props were able to work for two days 24/7 to remove those decorations and store them in a safe place. There was no time to remove the permanent props put up over a period of 3-4 years. The Railroad had spent several thousand dollars in materials for this event and the Christmas event, Polar Express. The Railroad's budget for 2018-19 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019) includes the money raised through the major fundraising events – 2018 Ghost Train and Polar Express. Therefore, VMRR, Inc., suffered a major loss due to the hurricane.

VMRR volunteers are dedicated to getting “back on track” and opening for the many families who have enjoyed the train rides in the past and expect to come again. It is a unique and enjoyable experience for all ages.

We will keep you informed as to the reopening date and sincerely hope you will join us for that occasion

Thank you again for your timely and very much appreciated contribution.

Respectfully submitted,
VETERANS MEMORIAL RAILROAD, INC.
Gloria Keenan, Volunteer

CSX Florida Panhandle Route Line-Sale Deal Falls Through

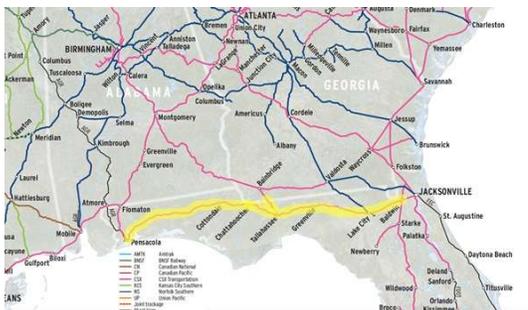
By Bill Stephens | January 21, 2019
Trains.com

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — It's a failure to launch for the Florida Gulf & Atlantic Railroad.

Federal regulators had approved the sale of 373 miles of CSX Transportation trackage across the Florida Panhandle, effective Jan. 6, but CSX and short line operator RailUSA scuttled their deal last week.

“CSX and RailUSA were unable to come to terms on a transaction for CSX tracks through the Florida Panhandle,” CSX said in a statement. “CSX will continue to evaluate options for the rail line and will continue communicating with customers, union representatives, and employees as we move forward.”

In November regulatory filings with the Surface Transportation Board, RailUSA said it would acquire CSX's Tallahassee Subdivision between Baldwin, Fla., and Chattahoochee, Fla., the P&A Subdivision between Chattahoochee and Pensacola, Fla., and portions of the Bainbridge Subdivision between Tallahassee and Attapulgus, Ga.



CSX's Florida Panhandle route

The Florida Gulf & Atlantic planned to hire 37 people in Tallahassee to run the railroad.

Florida Gulf & Atlantic was to be the second acquisition for RailUSA, a new company headed by Gary Marino, an industry veteran who founded shortline holding companies RailAmerica and Patriot Rail. RailUSA is a subsidiary of International Rail Partners. Both companies are based in Boca Raton, Fla.

The Panhandle route once hosted Amtrak's *Sunset Limited*, which ran between Orlando, Fla., and Los

June 18, 2018: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive, near the Florida A&M agricultural facility and a little east of the Old Antique Car Museum. Final planning for 2019 Show.

June 22, 2019: BBMRA's Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., again at the North Florida Fairgrounds in Tallahassee. Setup will be the day before, Friday, June 21.

July 18, 2019: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive, near the Florida A&M agricultural facility and a little east of the Old Antique Car Museum. Critique of 2019 Show.

August 20, 2019: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive, near the Florida A&M agricultural facility and a little east of the Old Antique Car Museum.

August 17-18, 2019: The Villages Summer Train Show, 9a to 4p on Saturday, 10a to 3p on Sunday. The Villages near Leesburg.

September 14-15, 2019: Wiregrass Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale, National Peanut Festival and Fairgrounds, Dothan, AL.

September 17, 2019: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive, near the Florida A&M agricultural facility and a little east of the Old Antique Car Museum.

October 2019: Halloween Trains, Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol. Not yet scheduled because of the hurricane damage last fall.

October 15, 2019: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive, near the Florida A&M agricultural facility and a little east of the Old Antique Car Museum.

November 19, 2019: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive, near the Florida A&M agricultural facility and a little east of the Old Antique Car Museum.

Woodgate Lionel Open House: November 24, 2019, a Sunday, 1:30 to 4 p.m. at Sam Miller and Linda Medlin's home, 3008 Stillwood Court, Woodgate in Tallahassee. Sunday Lionel Group Therapy folks are helping.

December 2019: Christmas Trains, Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol. Not yet scheduled because of the hurricane damage last fall.

December 6, 2019: 6:30 p.m. BBMRA Holiday Reception, Sam Miller & Linda Medlin, Woodgate.

December 7-8, 2019: 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.

December 14-15, 2019: Winter Tampa Model Show, Saturday & Sunday, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL.

2019 Lionel Catalog is Here

From Randy Lombardo:

Coming home from Children's Day I found a surprise: the Lionel Trains Catalog for 2019! Here are some highlights:

Disney: Mickey's Wish List Christmas Boxcar, \$69.99; Sweetest Helper Reefer (Featuring Minnie Mouse), \$79.99; and Disney LionChief Set - Disney 0-8-0 Locomotive and Tender, 'Tis the Season boxcar, Season of Magic gondola with tree and present load, Jingle Bell Fun cabooses, RailSounds Remote Control (RC0 sound system with steam chuffing and background sounds, whistle, bell and authentic Mickey user-activated announcements, \$349.99.

Thomas & Friends: Thomas The Tank Engine or Percy or James Boxcar, \$74.99 each; Sir Topham Hatt Gateman, \$119.99. (This is upgraded version of the original, cataloged 2007-2012, and will require upgraded power supply, 6-81603, 72-watt power supply if added to LionChief set layout.)

Auto Racks & Flatcar with frames: Chevy or Toyota Auto Rack, \$84.99, Chevy or Toyota Flatcar with Frames, \$74.99

Batman Classics TV Series: Batman & Robin Hi-Cube Boxcar or Classic Gotham City Villains Boxcar, featuring the Joker, the late Cesar Romero; the Penguin, the late Burgess Meredith; the Riddler, the late Frank Gorshin; and the CatWoman, Julie Newmar; \$79.99 each.

Have a layout built in no time flat: With The 86" L x 58" W x 34" H LIONEL TRAIN TABLE EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE ON WWW.LIONELSTORE.COM, \$899, DELIVERY & SET-UP INCLUDED! There's more to see in the 252 pages!

Big Bend Model Railroad Association Minutes for Meeting of January 15, 2019

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. at our new meeting site, Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive. More than 30 were present.

The Secretary's Minutes for November 20, 2018 were accepted as presented. The December meeting was the annual holiday reception, with no business conducted or minutes kept. (What Happens at the holiday reception stays at the holiday reception.)

Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer reported that BBMRA is solvent. To date 63 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.*]

New Members - no new members.

Division Reports

- ❖ Large Scale - Sam Miller reminded everyone of Children's Day on January 26, 2019 at the State History Museum in the R.A. Gray Building.
 - An array of large scale modules and the Timesaver HO layout will be set up.
- ❖ N Scale - Garth Easton - work parties scheduled for 26 January & 2 February.
 - Garth reminded everyone of the Woodville exhibit on 9 March.
- ❖ HO Scale - Phil Weston
 - Module backdrops have been prepared and painted light shade of blue
 - Encouraged HO gaugers to continue working on their T-TRAK modules.
 - Pres. Andy asked T-Trakers to bring modules to the next meeting.
- ❖ New Switching Layout - Joe Haley described work being done with Doug Gyuricsko
- ❖ Youth coordinator - Lisa Blair had no updates to report.

Good of Members

- ❖ Sam Miller reported that long time member Roy Mantooth had fallen and broken his leg. Roy and his wife Maxime live in a retirement facility in Lenoir City, TN.
- ❖ Pres. Andy - Annual Show - June 22, 2019; committee:
 - Chair, Andy Zimmerman,
 - Media and Internet, e.g., Facebook,
 - Stacy Elliott
 - David Brazell
 - Phil Weston,
 - Ticket booth volunteers, Paul Schneider
 - Vendor communication, Sam Miller and Carlton Ingram
 - Vendor and layout space assignments, Bob Parmenter
- ❖ Bob Fuerstein reported that he has been designated PR head for Sunshine Region of NMRA
- ❖ Veterans Memorial Railroad, Bristol, suffered significant damage from Hurricane Michael. See <http://www.veteransmemorialrailroad.org>
 - Sam Miller moved and the members approved contributing \$ 500 to the Veterans Memorial Railroad in honor of former President John Sullenbeger.
- ❖ Sheldon Harrison asked if anyone was attending the 150th Promontory Point celebration in Utah.
- ❖ Garth Easton- Raspberry development will be shared as it becomes more substantial.
- ❖ Layout Open-House - Andy Millot suggested and the members approved Saturday, March 23, 2019 for the Spring Layout Open House - volunteers will be needed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 P.M. Program: Andy Millott showed Franklin & South Manchester Part 2.

Respectfully submitted
January 7, 2019
Ed Schroeder, Secretary