



THELantern

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BBMRA Layout Tour Highlighted Modeling Realism and Impressionism

From Jack Herzog

My son, Jamie, and I had a great time on the layout tour. Many thanks to the hosts – Tom Rush and Ron Fletcher and their families.

Before I get into the details, let me offer some layout philosophy. I believe that there are three schools of



Tom Rush and “realism” HO

thought in the world of layout building, derived from the art world. They are the school of realism, the school of impressionism, and the Salvador Dali school of surrealism.

Now most HO and N gaugers are realists. Most hi-railers (Lionel, Marx, American Flyer) are impressionists. I only know of one surrealist layout which I have only seen in pictures but it looks like fun.



Ron Fletcher's Impressionism

A realist may go to extremes to model a particular year and place with great historical accuracy, which is wonderful when done right. An impressionist may be loose with scale, may crowd his layout with stuff, and often just wants to watch trains run with speed, smoke and lots of sparks and ozone.

A surrealist does not care about scale, time or place. On his layout you may see N gauge running next to G scale, a dinosaur next to a way out-of-scale superman, and a spaceship next to a cave man - all in wonderful good fun. I have gone into all of this in the hopes that all of us in the model train world will learn to appreciate one another's work as it is and for what it is intended to be.

As to the tour, I very much enjoyed Tom Rush's HO layout. He is a great

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March 23 Layout Tour

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scratch builder as reflected in his buildings and railroad cars. The layout was very realistic, well thought out, and not too crowded. His Florida pine trees were superb. His era and place are great - old Florida railroading at its best featuring our geographic area. Good job, Tom.

Ron Fletcher's layout is an outdoor G scale layout featuring an upper and lower pond connected by a flowing river. His buildings are scratch-built and well done. Best of all, the food and drinks he provided were great and the Good Lord got in on the act by giving us wonderful weather in which to enjoy this outdoor layout. As a bonus, it's fun to watch the fish in the pond. (As Sam pointed out, through, the fish are not to scale.)

Thanks Ron.

(Ron and Karla Fletcher also have a portable Garden Railroad layout which has been featured at our show the last few years. Ron scratch builds his buildings, like Tom; he often uses left-over election signs for material.)

Tom Rush's Georgia, Florida & Gulf Railroad

From Tom Rush:

I began construction of the Georgia, Florida and Gulf almost four years ago in a spare bedroom, generously donated by my wife. My ambition was to include everything I wanted on a layout, including: a steam engine facility with roundhouse and turntable, a switching yard and a branch line. The challenge was fitting everything I wanted into a limited space.

Every model railroad must have a story. The GF&G is a mythical railroad that runs north to Atlanta and has a branch line that runs south from Tallahassee to St. Marks, and Carrabelle. I had to take some liberties with geography. The time is September 1941. The country is coming out of the depression and preparing for war. With the improved economy, there is a demand in the north for seafood and fresh produce, especially watermelons. There is an increasing demand for gasoline and oil that arrives by barge in St. Marks.



The layout was designed in the traditional manner, building the maximum amount of benchwork that would fit in the room, then buying a bunch of track and turnouts, and seeing how much would fit. Curved turnouts are a great space saver, but require really close tolerances. I finished laying track about six months ago and have 70 turnouts, all powered. I used both Shinohara and Micro Engineering track and turnouts. I have incorporated two staging tracks and a wye that can be used to turn trains. The layout is DCC and is controlled by an NCE Powercab.

Motive power consists of a collection of small and medium steam from Bachmann, Proto 2000, BLI and Trix. I also have some brass locomotives that have been converted to DCC. All locomotives have sound decoders by Soundtraxx, or TCS. Rolling stock is comprised of old school wood kits, resin and plastic kits, as well as some modern rtr freight and passenger cars. The structures are a combination of craftsman kits from FSM, Campbell and Barr Mills and are lighted by led's.

While I operate it by myself, when finished, the layout will accommodate two operators. With 70 turnouts there is plenty to do. I can spend an evening making up or breaking down a couple of trains. Since I have been operating the layout, construction has taken a backseat to having fun. It looks like if I am ever going to finish the layout, I'm going to have to exert some self discipline.

Foto Coverage of March 23 Layout Tour





Photos by Bob Feuerstein and Sam Miller

Veterans Memorial RR Plans to Reopen This Fall

Barrett Johnson called Gloria Keenam and provided important information for this report.

Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol did not make a March 9 goal to reopen after suffering severe damage during Hurricane Michael last year, but important work continues and the park expects to be back in business this fall.

"Gloria says the track has been repaired and rebuilt and is useable. There are still trees on buildings and the county is still dealing with damage all over and not just the park. In the circumstances it is just not very feasible to be open to the public. Current plans are to fix everything and open to the public in the fall," Barrett says

"Another important fact is that many of the local volunteers so important to Veterans still are not back in their homes around the Bristol area or are still dealing with major repairs," Barrett says.

Veterans, hopefully, will be able to operate its Halloween and Christmas/Winter Holidays fund-raising trains, which were cancelled last October and December because of the hurricane. Veterans suffered a huge financial hit and asked for donations to assist in the recovery. BBMRA contributed \$500 earlier this year.

"Thank you so much for remembering VMRR with your generous contribution," Gloria wrote BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman. "Please express our heartfelt gratitude to all of the members of BBMRA."

After it reopens, "the park will not look the same, but we are grateful that the trains were not damaged," Gloria wrote Andy. "Trees are still laying across the tunnels and the maintenance building, which has severe damage. The county has had massive cleanup of debris, but there is still much to be done as to repairs and new roofs. We understand these processes move slowly. In the meantime, we will be thrilled to run the trains again for the public. This is being accomplished with your help."

Large Scale Sunday Group Moving Around in April

Sam Miller and Linda Medlin will be on their trip to England, Wales and Scotland the first two Sundays in April, but the Sunday group will be meeting anyway.

Mel McCarthy is hosting the group Sunday, April 7, at 1:30 p.m. at his home at 417 Audubon Drive, Tallahassee 32312. Audubon is on the east side of Meridian Road between Lakeshore Drive and Timberlane. Mel is just down the road on Audubon on the right. Mel built his clever O Gauge layout years ago and has a wonderful collection of vintage Lionel trains.

Steve Pollack is hosting Sunday, April 14, also at 1:30 p.m. Steve lives in Killearn at 3040 Carlow Circle, Tallahassee, 32309-3303. Come in the door by the garage. We'll see his Lionel layout upstairs and also his 3-D printer which has intrigued many of us.

We're not meeting April 21, which is Easter Sunday. Normal Sundays at Sam's house in Woodgate will resume April 28.

BBMRA Important Events in 2019!!

**Help make this calendar complete – email items to
sammiller61113@outlook.com**

BBMRA Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive.

Lionel Interest Group Operating Sessions: Sunday afternoons. Mel McCarthy is hosting the group Sunday, April 7, at 1:30 p.m. at his home at 417 Audubon Drive, Tallahassee 32312. Steve Pollack is hosting Sunday, April 14, also at 1:30 p.m. Steve lives in Killearn at 3040 Carlow Circle. We're not meeting April 21, which is Easter Sunday. Normal Sundays at Sam's house in Woodgate will resume April 28.

April 6, 2019: Folkston Funnel Annual Train Fest, Folkston, GA.

April 6, 2019: 67th Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, DeLand, FL, Golden Spike Enterprises. Saturday, 9-4.

April 16, 2019: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. , 6115 Mahan Drive, near the Florida A&M agricultural facility and a little east of the Old Antique Car Museum.

May 21, 2019: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. , 6115 Mahan Drive, near the Florida A&M agricultural facility and a little east of the Old Antique Car Museum.

June 1-2, 2019: 16th Tampa Model Show, Saturday & Sunday, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL

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.

Big Bend Model Railroad Association

Minutes for Meeting of March 19, 2019

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:57 P.M. at the Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive. Around 30 were present.

The Secretary's Minutes for February 19, 2019 were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer reported that BBMRA is solvent. To date 64 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; one fallen away member rejoined the flock, Ron Reynaldos.

Division Reports

- ❖ Large Scale -For Sam Miller
 - Sam & Linda to England in April
 - No large scale gathering the first two Sundays in April.
- ❖ NScale - Garth Easton -
 - Work party on 30 March
 - Z Trak - 13 modules completed; Garth and Zack developing Z Trak standards
- ❖ HO Scale- Phil Weston reported T-Trak developments
- ❖ Switching Layout -Joe Haley- good time enjoyed at Woodville.
- ❖ Youth coordinator - Lisa Blair - absent.

Good of Members

- ❖ President Andy -Annual Show - June 22, 2019; committeeis hard at work:
 - 90 plus days away
 - reminded all to verify electronics on their modules.
- ❖ Dave Brazell
 - reminded members of the Folkston Funnel weekend,
 - brought remnants of Dan King's HO materials for members to have.
 - Layout Open-House -Andy Maillot - March 23, 2019 Spring Layout Open House at homes of Tom Bush and Ron Fletcher.
 - Google maps – Sam Miller will e-mail Google maps to members
- ❖ Module Upgrades
 - President Andy – showed updates to several of his modules; encouraged members to upgrade their modules
 - Patrick Shaffer–showed his sci-fi module
- ❖ Bill Bell -asked members for help with consisting, especially with Bachman locomotives.
- ❖ Joe Haley – showed cheap thunder and lightning with Halloween stuff costing \$ 8 to \$ 10.
- ❖ Pres. Andy – read Veteran's Memorial thank-you letter from Gloria Keenan; the railroad reopened March 9.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Program: Phil Weston - Making Trees for Pappy's Pecan Orchard. His power point presentation will be posted on BBMRA website.

Respectfully submitted
March 27, 2019
Ed Schroeder, Secretary

*** BBMRA Meetings ***

April 16, 2019, 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive. Show Committee meets briefly at 7 p.m.

May 21, 2019: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. , 6115 Mahan Drive, near the Florida A&M agricultural facility.

