



THE Lantern

August 2019

Volume 24 Number 8

VMRR Plans November 9 Fundraiser and December Christmas Train; Halloween Trains Suspended Again this Year

From Barrett Johnson:

Veterans Memorial Railroad is coming back to life. Thanks to the hard working efforts of its volunteers, most of whom suffered significant damage to their own homes from Hurricane Michael - fallen trees and the like - Veterans Memorial Railroad will run again. The railroad itself escaped significant damage to track and engines. Only 200 feet of track had to be replaced and none of the trains were damaged although the buildings were; some are still awaiting repairs. The loss of revenue from the Ghost Train Halloween and Christmas Polar Bear Express runs in 2018 was a major blow, greatly offset by several anonymous donors, plus a donation from the Big Bend Model Railroad Association.

A major fundraising event at the park is planned for November 9, the normal second Saturday run day, but with a lot of extras added. The railroad will be running from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., an additional two hours. At 5 p.m., there will be a fundraising dinner at the Liberty County Civic Center, located very near the railroad. A band and musicians will provide entertainment. There will be a silent auction of holiday decorations, jewelry and other donated items.

Tickets for dining in or to go plates are \$10 each. There will be an additional train ride at 6:30 so that everyone who comes to the dinner will have an opportunity to view Veterans Memorial Park, see how much has been accomplished and get an idea of how much more remains to be done. This year it will just not be possible to run the Ghost Train at Halloween, then dismantle all that scenery and deploy all the Christmas scenery in time for the Christmas runs.



Continued on Page Two

2019/20 BBMRA Officers to be August 20

A slate of officers – with President Andy Zimmerman agreeing to run for re-election, comes before BBMRA during the Tuesday, August 20, meeting. The 30-day notice required in the BBMRA by-laws was provided in the July Lantern and the slate was discussed during the July meeting. The slate was developed in discussions among the current officers. Anyone else can run during the actual election.

Here is the official slate for 2019-20:

BBMRA Officers

President: Andy Zimmerman.

Vice President: Stacey Elliott. Paul Schneider has decided not to serve another term.

Secretary: Sheldon Harrison. Ed Schroeder also has decided not to seek another term.

Treasurer: Drew Hackmeyer.

HO Coordinator: Phil Weston.

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.)

From Sam Miller: Ed and Paul have been wonderful officers of our club the last few years and their service is greatly appreciated. We appreciate Stacey and Sheldon agreeing to step up.

Also in this Lantern:

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- **Dates Set for 2020 Show**
- **BBMRA Dues Delinquent August 31**
- **Herzogs Produce Outstanding YouTube Report on 2019 Show**
- **Dothan Show Sept. 21-22; Other Upcoming Area Shows**
- **Bob Feuerstein on NMRA Salt Lake City, UT Convention**
- **Florida Gulf & Atlantic: Tallahassee's New Neighbor**
- **This & That: Passenger Rail Updates, Lionel 2019 Catalog, Part II**

*** **BBMRA Meetings** ***

August 20, 2019, 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive. Election of Officers; Bob Feuerstein on the recent NMRA national convention.

Board meets at 7 p.m.; It will discuss Drew Hackmeyer's plan on Sullenberger Memorial Fund financing.

VMRR Plans November 9 Fundraiser and Christmas Trains

From Page One.

Plans are to run the Christmas Polar Bear Express for 2019. Some of the scenes and decorations will probably not be available in time for Christmas, 2019, in part because all of the permanent props for this scenery were damaged or destroyed.

Details will be published on the Railroad's website:

www.veteransmemorialrailroad.org/

in September. Volunteers who can help repair props and scenery, decorate for Christmas or help in any other way should contact Gloria Keenan at (850) 643-6646 to schedule a convenient time. Veterans was spared a lot of damage by the rapid and hard work by volunteers.

Due to weather warnings, volunteers were able to rescue all of the mobile decorations which had been put out for the 2018 Ghost Train, working until late in the morning of the day the storm hit. The decorations were stored in two large rental trucks which were not damaged. The decorations are now stored in the Museum at the Depot. In 2017 Liberty Country closed in a picnic pavilion to provide storage for VMRR decorations as well as workshop space. While the roof was damaged, it was repaired very quickly which saved the many boxes of electric cords and decorations stored in it. The outside air conditioning equipment was not so lucky. It was flattened by a tree and is awaiting replacement. The railroad depot and maintenance building are also still in need of repair.

The Liberty County Road Department did a great job of mowing grass and weeds which were over three feet high and rendered the railroad right of way invisible. The department also removed a lot of downed trees and cleaned up Veterans Memorial Park in general. One of the volunteers ran the red, white and blue engine around a mile of track and sprayed to knock the weeds back farther. That trip also demonstrated that the entire mile of track was safe and operable. Of course, there are still a lot of trees down in the park. Liberty County has only so many crews and they have a great deal of damage to repair.

Drew Hackmeyer's Plan for Sullenberger Memorial Fund

Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer offered during the July BBMRA meeting a proposal to provide regular funding in the coming years for purchase of model trains for Toys for Tots in memory of John Sullenberger. This was referred to the board by President Andy Zimmerman for a recommendation to be presented to the club at the August meeting. The board meets at 7 p.m. prior to the regular BBMRA meeting on Tuesday, August 20.

Here are excerpts from a summary by Drew of his proposal:

I proposed at the July meeting to dedicate 20 percent of the Train Show net amount to the John Sullenberger Memorial Fund and that the club spend between 20 and 25 percent of the fund each year for Thomas-style toy trains as a donation to Toys for Tots. Discussion pushed the issue to the board for study.

... There has no activity in the past three years to bolster or use the Sullenberger Memorial Fund monies. Given our financial history (in the club's general revenues account), I see no reason this proposal would have any detrimental effect on the club. The initial funds were donations by friends and family of John Sullenberger. As the Train Show was such a large part of John and John was such a large part of the show, dedicating a portion of the net of the show is a fitting remembrance.

To expand the memorial to honor all of our departed members, I would suggest that a memorial donation be made by the club from general funds by acclimation of the membership after each passing. The purpose of the memorial fund to donate toy train sets for young children through Toys for Tots should be formalized by act of the board and club membership.

Dates Set for 2020 Tallahassee Model Train Show

BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman has reserved the Leon County Fairgrounds for June 26-27 for the 2020 show. The 29th Annual Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale is Saturday, June 27, 2020, with set-up on Friday, June 26. Consistent with BBMRA's past practices, the June 2020 club meeting, presumably, will be moved to the fourth Tuesday, June 23, for last-minute planning and preparations for the show.

BBMRA Dues Delinquent August 31

Annual dues of the Big Bend Model Railroad Association need to be paid now and will be delinquent after August 31. Dues remain at \$20, which is pretty darn attractive. Members can renew during the August 20 meetings or by mail to:

Drew Hackmeyer, Treasurer
3201 Hawks Landing
Tallahassee, FL 32309

Several new members were recruited during the June 22 show by Lisa Blair.

Herzogs Produce Outstanding YouTube Report on O Scale T-Traks, 2019 Show

Jamie and Steve Herzog, along with their dad, Jack, took extensive videos of the O T-Traks during the recent 2019 show, as well as other layouts and of the overall show. It is available on one of their two YouTube channels, John Long's Silver Railz and through this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcyU4Um2hhU>

A wonderful report on Jack's home layout is available from this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Um1L2SW-ZEo>

Because these are not live links, the easiest way to find the Herzogs' YouTube site probably is to go to YouTube and search for: john long's silver railz

At least two other reports have been posted this month and something special with Doug Gyuricsko and his vintage toy aircraft carriers is currently being developed.

Check out this special YouTube channel and also subscribe to their channel.

Jack, Jamie and Steve Herzog have two YouTube channels:

Metal Sharxs - Metal Detecting and Treasure Hunting

John Long's Silver Railz - Everything Railroading

Other YouTube Reports on 2019 Show

Here are other good YouTube reports on our June 22 show. Again, because the links are not live, search on YouTube using the subject lines below.

Ralph Brown on Tallahassee's 2019 Model Train Show

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoBwVEP_b5g&t=142s

Bruce Arbo BBMRA T Trak Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0C3QQ3ofHA>

Dothan Train Show September 21-22; Other Area Shows Later This Year

The Wiregrass Annual Model Train Show & Sale in Dothan is September 21-22, 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.

Many vendors from the BBMRA annual show participate at Dothan, including Joe Ray, David Kirkland and Larry Weigel. Operating layouts include a large, highly detailed garden Railroad set-up.

BBMRA member Sam Miller is a registered vendor for the Dothan show, working with George Allen of Eastpoint. Sam will be loading up Friday, September 20, and encourages anyone unable to go to Dothan to drop by his house in Woodgate that afternoon between noon and 5 p.m.

Fall/ Early winter Busy Time for Area Train Shows

August 17-18, 2019: The Villages Summer Train Show: 9a to 4p on Saturday, 10a to 3p on Sunday. The Villages near Leesburg. Savannah Regional Recreation Center, 1545 Buena Vista Blvd. The Villages, FL, 32162. This is about a two-and-a-half hour drive each way, but is worth it. Organizers expect more than 130 tables of merchandise for sale. There will be operating layouts of most scales, including set-ups by the train club in the Villages, one of the largest in the state.

Toy & Comic Book Show, Tallahassee Shriners Club: November 23, 2019, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shriners Club, 805 N Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32303. There is something new and model train-related this year. Former club member Marc Beshera is setting up a LEGO train layout, with help from apprentice LEGO modelers Sam Miller and Doug Gyuricsko. Doug and Sam are trying out some new animation ideas with Marc and on his LEGO layout. If they work well, you will be seeing them again later.

TCA Southern Division Toy Train/ Christmas Show: November 23, 2019, 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 21-22, Saturday and Sunday, Winter Tampa Model Show, Saturday & Sunday, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL.

5th Anniversary Pensacola Railfest Model Train Show & Sale: December 7-8, 2019. This has been moved from the Hadji Shrine Temple to the Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds, 6655 Mobile Highway, Pensacola, 32526.9 to 5, Saturday, 10 to 4 Sunday, Central. Admission \$6 for adults.

Holiday Reception Rescheduled for December 13

The club's holiday reception, which also counts as the December meeting, has been rescheduled for Friday, December 13. It was earlier noticed for December 6. It is Sam Miller & Linda Medlin's house in Woodgate, beginning at 6:30 p.m..

Bob Feuerstein on NMRA National Convention in Salt Lake City

(BBMRA member Bob Feuerstein attended the recent NMRA national convention in Salt Lake City. He will be discussing his trip as the program for the August 20 meeting. Bob was just appointed to a NMRA committee developing content for national, regional and division Internet sites.)

From Bob Feuerstein:

Sunday, July 7, 2019 - What a beautiful day for flying to Salt Lake City, Utah, for the national model railroader's convention. The flight from Tallahassee to Atlanta, and then to Salt Lake City took a total of six hours. As we neared and then landed in Salt Lake City, I noticed all of the mountain tops still had snow, even though it is summer out there. We were supplied free light rail passes to get around Salt Lake City, so I took the city's light rail system from the airport to the hotel after one marvelous day of flying.

For the first-five days (from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm) there were lots of things to do. I taught four clinics, became a judge for the photographs for the National Convention and learned how to spread the word Using Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other programs like that. I learned a lot about DCC using Adreno and the Raspberry Pi. I learned how to paint backdrops and attended a marvelous clinic, Building Structures with Cardstock and Paper. I met lots of people from all over the United States and from England and Scotland.

I also took a class with Master Model Railroaders, including James Gore, from Tampa. Jim is going to oversee the NMRA Master Model Railroader program, replacing Clark Kooning. (Jim Gore is an innovative card stock building modeler and has spoken to the Tallahassee club in the past.)

On the sixth day, which was now Friday, I went to the national train show which was about 15 miles away from the convention hotel. Again we took the city's light rail, which I mentioned earlier. It was fantastic and it was a breeze getting around. About 1,000 People showed up the day I was there. One thing that especially inspired me was competition for children from four years old to up to age 13 in modeling through T-Traks. The youngster-build T-Traks were amazing. The supplies were donated by Subterrain T-Trak Kit.



Never too young to build a model train layout!



2019 National Train Show

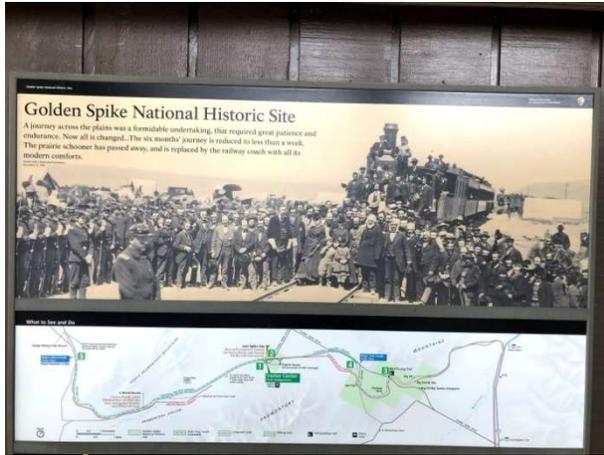


Master Modeler Jim Gorre

On the seventh day, which was now Saturday, I attended a reenactment outside Salt Lake City of the Golden Spike ceremony marking completion of the Transcontinental Railroad 150 years ago and the meeting of the Jupiter number 60 and the Union number 119 classic steamers. Four authentic actual Golden Spikes have been bought together from museums throughout the country for the 150th anniversary at the Golden Spike National Park. The National Park consists of only a few miles of track surrounded by private lands. The original

train tracks were all taken out except for these remaining few miles. The closest contemporary tracks are a Union Pacific line running into Ogden, Utah.

(Incoming BBMRA Secretary Sheldon Harrison – he hasn't actually been elected yet – attended the initial reenactment ceremonies in June, which included a visit by the UP's Big Boy, and he will be presenting thoughts and slides to the club as the program for the October meeting.)



150th anniversary at the Golden Spike National Park. Photos by Bob Feuerstein

Florida Gulf & Atlantic Railroad: Our New Neighbor

(What do you know about and what have you seen of Florida Gulf & Atlantic in our area. Email The Lantern at sammiller61113@outlook.com)

From: <https://www.railusa.net/florida-gulf-atlantic-railroad/>

RailUSA, LLC, an independent freight railroad and rail services holding company, announced in early June its acquisition of a 430-mile rail line and related real estate from CSX Corporation (CSX). The line, now named Florida Gulf & Atlantic Railroad (FGA), operates from Baldwin, FL, (near Jacksonville) to Pensacola, passing through Tallahassee, with a connection to Attapulgus, GA.



Former CSX yards at Baldwin



Our new neighbor

The Florida Gulf & Atlantic Railroad, LLC (FGA) serves the panhandle of Florida and southern Georgia. It operates 373 miles of mainline track along the I-10 corridor between Baldwin, FL and Pensacola, FL, with an

Attapulcus, GA branch. FGA's geographic location makes it a highly desirable rail freight route for shippers and offers prime railcar storage. The railroad's dedicated management and work force offers the timely and flexible service demanded by today's fast paced supply chains, while offering the inherent economies of scale shipping by rail provides.

The line, which was acquired from CSX in 2019, is operated at Class III and has a fleet of 18 locomotives and services 30+ customers. The railroad is working closely with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to exceed operating safety standards, and creating new job opportunities throughout the region.

The Florida Gulf & Atlantic Railroad is comprised of three subdivisions.

- The Tallahassee Subdivision starts near Baldwin, FL and ends near Chattahoochee, FL.
- The P&A Subdivision starts near Chattahoochee and ends near Pensacola.
- The Bainbridge Subdivision starts near Tallahassee and ends near Attapulcus, GA.

At a Glance

Reporting Marks: FGA

Miles of Track: 430

Florida and Georgia Counties Served:

- Baker, Columbia, Decatur, Duval, Escambia, Gadsden, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Nassau, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Walton, Washington
- Service Frequency: 7 days per Week

Railroad Connections and Interchange Locations:

- Baldwin, FL – CSX
- Pensacola, FL – CSX
- Attapulcus, GA – CSX
- Apalachicola Northern Railroad
- Bayline Railroad

Commodities Transported: Aggregate, Agricultural Products, Cement, Chemicals, Clay, Construction Materials, Lumber, Metals, Renewable Energy Machinery



This & That: Passenger Rail Updates, Lionel 2019 Catalog, Part II

From Randy Lombardo

LIONEL 2019 CATALOG VOLUME II is now available & here are some highlights:

DISCONNECT PASSENGER CARS for \$44.99 each. FEATURES: die-cast sprung trucks, non-operating couplers, interior details in coach, diner sleeper and observation cars, separately applied railings and details. DESIGNS: NEW YORK CENTRAL, PENNSYLVANIA, RIO GRANDE, SANTA FE, SOUTHERN PACIFIC, CHRISTMAS.

LOGGING CABOOSES for \$44.99 each. Die-Cast Sprung Trucks and non-operating couplers. DESIGNS: ELY THOMAS LUMBER #1, SAFETY FIRST #3.

(A lot of other neat Lionel stuff is included. Order your catalog on line or talk to Randy Lombardo for more details.)

Southern Rail Commission Receives Federal Railroad Administration Grant:

Part of a \$326 million in Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Package for 45 rail projects in 29 states; \$33 million will go to Southern Rail Commission to restore Amtrak service to The Gulf Coast. The Southern Rail Commission works with the States of Alabama, Louisiana & Mississippi.

-Trains Magazine September 2019

Appropriations for Amtrak:

On June 25, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an appropriations bill that provides \$2.692 billion for Amtrak, including \$700 million for the Northeast Corridor (Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Delaware, Maryland & Washington, D. C.) and \$1.292 billion for the National Network.

-Passenger Train Journal 3rd Quarter 2019

Orlando Expansion Taking Shape on Virgin Trains USA (Formerly Bright Line):

On May 22, construction begins on Phase II of the Planned Orlando-Miami "higher speed" line. Four contractor groups have been retained and two are already at work, one on a 70-acre maintenance facility one mile south of Orlando International Airport (MCO), the other on a 3.5-mile right-of-way segment at the airport. A third project involves building 35 miles of new right-of-way for 125 mph operation between MCO and Cocoa. The fourth project adds double track to much of the 129 miles between Cocoa and West Palm Beach plus new signaling, Positive Train Control (PTC) and added crossing protection, in order to allow an increase in maximum speeds from 79 to 110 mph.

-Passenger Train Journal 3rd Quarter 2019

Amtrak vs Bus in Jacksonville:

During the morning rush hour on July 1 in Jacksonville, Amtrak's Silver Star (Train # 91), bound for Miami, clipped a Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) Bus at a railroad crossing. An investigation into the incident was completed in a few days, which led to the firing of the driver involved, who had a total of eight accidents in the past, and creation and implementation of new procedures.

November 23, 2019: TCA Southern Division Toy Train/ Christmas Show: November 23, 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.

November 23, 2019, Toy & Comic Book Show, Tallahassee Shriners Club: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shriners Club, 805 N Monroe Street, Tallahassee, 32303. There is something new and model train-related this year. Former club member Marc Beshera is setting up a LEGO train layout, with help from apprentice LEGO modelers Sam Miller and Doug Gyuricsko. Doug and Sam are trying out some new animation ideas with Marc and on his LEGO layout. If they work well, you will be seeing them again later.

November 24, 2019: Woodgate Lionel Open House: 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 7-8, 2019: 5th Anniversary Pensacola Railfest Model Train Show & Sale: Saturday and Sunday. This has been moved from the Hadji Shrine Temple to the Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds, 6655 Mobile Highway, Pensacola, 32526.9 to 5, Saturday, 10 to 4 Sunday, Central. Admission \$6 for adults.

December 13, 2019: 6:30 p.m. BBMRA Holiday Reception, Sam Miller & Linda Medlin, Woodgate.

December 21-22, 2019: Winter Tampa Model Show, Saturday & Sunday, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL.

December 2019: Christmas Trains, Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol. The Polar Express will run this Christmas after the one-year hiatus caused by Hurricane Michael, but details have not been finalized.

2020 (Still Under Development)

June 27, 2020: a Saturday, the 29th Annual Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale. Leon County Fairgrounds. Set-up is Friday, June 26. Consistent with BBMRA's past practices, the June 2020 club meeting, presumably, will be moved to the fourth Tuesday, June 23, for last-minute planning and preparations for the show.

Big Bend Model Railroad Association Minutes for Meeting of July 16, 2019

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

The Secretary's Minutes for June 18, 2019 were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer summarized Annual Show transactions and noted that BBMRA improved its solvency. His 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 meeting was used primarily to summarize most aspects of the Train Show and express thanks to all who helped put on the show. There was substantial discussion of special “hands on” activities for youngsters at the 2020 show.

Another issue receiving club discussion was a plan by Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer to provide regular funding in the coming years for purchase of model trains for Toys for Tots in memory of John Sullenberger. This was referred to the board by President Zimmerman for a recommendation and for further consideration at the August meeting.

President Andy

- ❖ **commended members on show advertising, press releases, Facebook postings, T-Trak modules and the success of the show,**
- ❖ **indicated that the 2019 show enjoyed the third highest paid attendance of 27 shows,**
- ❖ **noted that vendors appreciated the set-up and tear-down help provided by members.**

The members thanked President Andy for his continued dedicated work

Division Reports

- ❖ **Large Scale - Sam Miller reported that**
 - **Eric Ecklund is in hospice care,**
 - **Dave Blodgett is recovering at Centre Pointe Health & Rehabilitation**
- ❖ **N Scale - Garth Easton –thanks to all for show help.**
- ❖ **HO Scale– Phil Weston – no news.**
- ❖ **Youth coordinator - Lisa Blair – expressed need for help in getting young interested in model railroading. A discussion ensued including:**
 - **kids’ play area at show,**
 - **wood Thomas the Tank Engine and other items to get kids attention,**
 - **Sam Miller volunteered to pull notes together.**

Good of the Members– James Dodson and Bill Bell commended American Flyer repair work done by one of the show vendors.

The Meeting adjourned at 08:48 P.M.

The retiring secretary expresses thanks to all for tolerating his errors and gives special thanks to Sheldon Harrison, Doug Gyuricsko and Sam Miller for taking the minutes at meetings when he was out of town or unable to attend the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
August 4, 2019
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