



# THE Lantern

September 2019

Volume 24 Number 9

## BBMRA Right-of-Way & Equipment Maintenance: Bob, Barbara, Doug, Sam, Sal, HO



Here is something new for the new Lantern year: a wrap-up of special activities by our members – building or expanding a layout, restoring a train or almost anything else interesting. We're calling it BBMRA Right-of-Way & Equipment Maintenance. What are you doing? Let me know and send photos if you can. Sam Miller

### Doug is Recreating the Grand Trunk Railway at Island Pond, Vermont

From Sam Miller:

Doug Gyuricsko is meticulously planning and building a Grand Trunk Railway N Scale layout and scratch building the historic station in Island Pond, Vermont. In the process, he has developed a friendship with Sharon Biron, president of the Island Pond Historical Society, and gotten to know through Sharon the accomplishments of her late husband, U.S. Army Lt. Col Mark C. Biron.

Col. Biron died in a small plane crash about a year ago and has been interred at Arlington National Cemetery. He was a 30-year Army veteran and tank commander and his service included Germany, Iraq and Afghanistan. He was president of the Island Pond Historical Society at his passing and he has been succeeded by Sharon. Doug and I are preparing a longer report on his wonderful new affiliation with the historical society for the Lantern later this fall.

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## 2019/20 BBMRA Officers

Here are the club's officers for 2019/20, as elected unanimously at the August 20 meeting:

### BBMRA Officers

President: Andy Zimmerman.

Vice President: Stacey Elliott.

Secretary: Sheldon Harrison.

Treasurer: Drew Hackmeyer.

HO Coordinator: Phil Weston.

Small Scale Coordinator: Garth Easton.

Large Scale Coordinator: Sam Miller.

(President, vice president, secretary and treasurer were elected by the club at large. Division coordinators were elected by each division's members.)

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

**September 17, 2019, 7:30 p.m.**

"Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.  
Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive. Running trains.

**October 15, 2019, 7:30 p.m.**

"Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.  
Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive. Sheldon Harrison talks about the Transcontinental RR's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

## Also in this Lantern:

- **Funding Plan Adopted for BBMRA Memorial Fund**
- **Dothan Show Sept. 21-22; Other Upcoming Area Shows**
- **NMRA Workshop on Arduino Uno October 26 in Orange Park**
- **BBMRA has 50 Members for 2019/20 So Far**
- **VMRR Plans November 9 Fundraiser**

## BBMRA Right-of-Way & Equipment Maintenance

### From Page One

"I am constructing a "N" scale (1/160<sup>th</sup>) recreation of the Grand Trunk Station in Island Pond which will help



anchor the model train layout I am building and I don't think I could do it without Sharon's assistance," Doug says. "I have ancestors who lived in Island Pond and near there and I visited Island Pond when we vacationed nearby," he says. "My parents are buried in East Charleston, Vermont, and although my siblings and I lived in Connecticut growing up, our hearts are in Island Pond and the wonderful area."

Singer Rudy Valee was born in Island Pond and Doug remembers his great grandmother reminiscing about Valee.

### Grand Trunk Station in Island Pond, VT

Doug has had a keen interest in model train operations patterned after the real thing over the years. "It was only natural to mix that with family history after my sister gave me a book about the Grand Trunk Railway. Island Pond became a connection so important to me," he says.

"I found books, pictures, postcards, on-line information, and Google Earth to help me recreate the route from Island Pond to Portland, Maine. This all makes for a realistic operation point to point and if made in "N" scale, I can bring it to life in the space I have available - my world of the early 50's."

Doug is recreating the Berlin Subdivision of 154 miles of the Grand Trunk Railway system from Portland, ME to Island Pond, VT. Grand Trunk is a "fallen flag railway and not Grand Trunk Western. With Sharon Biron's help, he is making the scale drawings to build the Island Pond station as it existed in the early 1950's.

### Bob Feuerstein Creating Huge N Scale Layout with Japanese Theme

Bob Feuerstein – with significant, important help from Drew Hackmeyer - is planning a N Scale layout for his 10-by-20-foot Man Cave and hopes to begin construction later this fall. It will feature the Japanese trains he has collected over the years and Japanese landscaping. This is Bob's first personal layout, although he worked for years on club layouts in California, including the Short-Track Railroad in Vista, California.

Bob is teaching himself how to plan a layout by reading "Track Planning for Realistic Operations" by John Armstrong. He also has joined two Internet special interest groups, all at Drew's recommendation. The groups are the Layout Design Special Interest Group - [www.ldsig.org/primer](http://www.ldsig.org/primer) - and the Operations Special Interest Group – [www.opsig.org](http://www.opsig.org). Membership costs \$10 a year for each of them, but it well worth it.

Bob may be using floating shelves and he has found a great source for information:

[https://www.ronhazelton.com/projects/how\\_to\\_make\\_floating\\_shelves\\_and\\_install\\_them](https://www.ronhazelton.com/projects/how_to_make_floating_shelves_and_install_them)

Bob plans some Japanese scenes, but he won't stop there. "I will be mixing in a Milwaukee Hiawatha traveling through the Northern states, and whimsical scenes like Star Wars," he says. The layout may be constructed of T-Trak modules, but Bob is still considering this.

### **HO Division Developing Broader T-Trak Corners**

From HO Coordinator Phil Weston:

The HO Division is building four 33-inch T-Trak corner modules with 26 and 28-inch radiuses. If all goes well and track we ordered arrives, I plan to bring them to run trains at next week's meeting. We found that some of the longer modern cars had performance issues on the original 28-inch corner modules with 22 and 24-inch radius curves, so we're building and testing these larger modules. In addition, several individuals are working on new T-Trak modules.

### **Barbara Donner's Austrian/German Garden Railway**

(This will be a Garden railroad in Barbara's backyard in northern Tallahassee. She will begin work this fall.)

From Barbara Donner:

"I am modeling the Zillertalbahn Railway in Tyrol, Austria. It is a 20-mile railroad in the valley of the Ziller River in the Alps. The Zillertal Brewery is located about midway and supplies the beer lounge car at the end of the train. The time period modeled will be the 1930s, pre-World War II.

"The layout will extend into south Germany and include part of the historic South German Railway and Mallet freight locomotive passing through the Black Forest and Munich's Oktoberfest."

### **There still is a Hobbytown of Boston**

(Sal is restoring old metal flywheel drive diesels which have weathered the years on a fireplace mantle in his bedroom.)

From Sal Martocci:

For those of us that were in this hobby back in the 60's, there is a bit of good news. Hobbytown of Boston is still around and although not exactly the same company, it is still the same products. They were and still are a maker of All America All Metal HO engine products. I was introduced to them early on because of their all metal flywheel drive RS-3's. These ran extremely well and would pull "the paint off the wall".

You can review their story and current products on the Internet. Review their offerings. You won't be disappointed. Go to [hobbytownofboston.com](http://hobbytownofboston.com)



### **Lionel Set-up Getting American Flyer Loop, Halloween Carnival**

From Sam Miller:

With the help of the Sunday Group, I am adding an American Flyer elevated loop to the Lionel/O Gauge layout. George Allen, my friend from Eastpoint, constructed it and now we are looking for the best place to locate it on the already busy garage layout. It will be portable, providing us a lot of options, including using it in the middle of the O Gauge T-Traks during the June show and sale.



On my own, and without my wife, Linda Medlin knowing it (not really), I purchased additional Halloween carnival rides and have enough for a special Halloween carnival scene, which will be operated on the layout for the next couple of months. You can't have too many toys.

**Big construction site**

## **Funding Plan Adopted for BBMRA Memorial Fund**

Club members attending the August 20 meeting unanimously ratified a plan by Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer to establish ongoing, dedicated funding for purchase of toy trains for Toys for Tots and similar activities in memory of John Sullenberger and now other deceased members and leaders of the Big Bend Model Railroad Association. The proposal was discussed during the July meeting and referred to the Board. Board members met August 20 just before the club meeting and unanimously endorsed the proposal. A few minutes later, this was accepted by the membership.

Here is the motion as outlined by outgoing Secretary Ed Schroeder:

Twenty percent of the annual BBMRA annual show and sale income will be contributed to the BBMRA Memorial Fund (formerly the John Sullenberger Memorial Fund). In the discretion of the Board, not more than 25 % (twenty-five percent) of the Memorial Fund may be used each year as a donation of Thomas -style toy trains for young children to a charitable organization such as Toys for Tots.

Just under \$600 will be contributed to the Memorial Fund as the new procedure is implemented this year. Additional details on the Memorial Fund and the overall BBMRA budget can be obtained from Drew or any other member of the Board.

"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," Drew wrote in a memo to the Board.

"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," Drew wrote in a memo to the Board. "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," Drew continued.

During discussions by the club August 20, President Andy Zimmerman promised that a wide range of possible activities by the Memorial Fund will be considered in the future. Andy noted that Bill Bell and other members have ideas which will be considered.

In a related area, club members have been discussing ideas for more hands on activities for youngsters during the 2020 Show and sale, including a Kids Korner.

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

(If you are going to Dothan and have room for others, please let your division coordinator know. They get calls from members seeking rides.)

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 morning before noon.

## **NMRA Workshop on Arduino Uno October 26 in Orange Park**

(This workshop being conducted by the NMRA Sunshine Region is available to members and non-members alike. We will be promoting nearby NMRA events that are available to all BBMRA members, not just members of the NMRA. Several of our members are in the NMRA.)

From Richard Segall, NMRA Sunshine Region Northern Division Superintendent:

On Saturday, October 26, the Northern Division of the Sunshine Region will hold a full-day, hands-on workshop on using an Arduino Uno to control light, sound, and motion aspects of a model railroad. This is an introductory level agenda designed for simple tasks.

Participants will receive a components package (including an Arduino Uno and a USB connector) to keep. Prior to the meeting, participants will be sent instructions for setting up a computer with the required software (free, but the developers do request a donation) and a set of videos to watch on-line. Participants should bring a laptop computer with a functioning USB port to the session OR arrange to partner with someone who will be attending.

The formal program begins at 9:30, with check in available from 8:30. People who have not successfully loaded the software are requested to arrive by 8:45 to allow the set-up to be completed by 9:15. The program will be limited to 30 participants to ensure ample help available during the session. The program is expected to end about 2:30.

The cost for the program: \$20 with the Arduino Supplies; \$5 for admission only. Location: Island View Baptist Church's Fellowship Hall at 900 Park Avenue in Orange Park. There will be a one-hour lunch break on your own.

Please register in advance for the workshop by emailing: [northerndivision.ssr@gmail.com](mailto:northerndivision.ssr@gmail.com)  
Confirmed registrants will be required to mail a \$10 non-refundable deposit no later than Oct. 10. (Checks can be mailed to me at 179 Long Lake Road, Hawthorne, FL 32640.) Upon deposit receipt, participants will be emailed instructions on downloading the software and videos to watch. Materials will be distributed at check-in. Note that program size is limited so early registration is a good idea. If you have already gotten a written confirmation there is no need to register again.

This program is open to NMRA and non-NMRA members, so feel free to bring a partner.

(If you have any problems with registration, contact BBMRAer Bob Feuerstein: [photobob321@gmail.com](mailto:photobob321@gmail.com))

## Fall/ Early winter Busy Time for Area Train Shows

**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.

**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.

**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.

**5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## BBMRA has 50 Members for 2019/20 So Far

BBMRA dues for the 2019/20 year should have been renewed by August 31. BBMRA had 50 current members as of this week, down from 64 last year. New Vice President Stacey Elliott is contacting members from last year who have not renewed, showing it is not quite that easy to get out of our fine club.

"I'll be spending some time this weekend calling everyone that has not renewed their membership in the last two years. Some of them may need a reminder, some may need some encouragement. If they don't intend to renew, I will be trying to find out what the club can do to get them back," Stacey says.

Dues remain at \$20 and can be paid at the September 17 meeting or by mail to:

Drew Hackmeyer, Treasurer  
3201 Hawks Landing  
Tallahassee, FL 32309

Membership over the last five years are as follows:

<b>2016</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>50</b>



members. The formal program begins at 9:30, with check in available from 8:30. \$20 fee. Location: Island View Baptist Church's Fellowship Hall at 900 Park Avenue in Orange Park. Please register in advance for the workshop by emailing: [northerndivision.ssr@gmail.com](mailto:northerndivision.ssr@gmail.com). (If you have any problems with registration, contact BBMRAer Bob Feuerstein: [photobob321@gmail.com](mailto:photobob321@gmail.com))

**November 9, 2019: Reopening Celebration at Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol.** The railroad will be running from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m and again at 6:30 p.m. 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.

**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.

**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.

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**December 7-8, 2019: 5<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 August 20, 2019**

**President Andy Zimmerman** called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. at the Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive. The meeting was well attended with about 30 present.

**Minutes** – The minutes from the July meeting were accepted and passed without objection.

**New Business** – A motion to provide ongoing, new funding for the fund honoring the late John Sullenberger, former BBMRA president, had been discussed during the July meeting and referred to the Board. The Board met just before the August meeting and recommended approval of a revised motion. Ed Schroeder read out aloud the language of the proposed resolution. The language reads as follows. **“20% (twenty percent) of the annual BBMRA Train Show gain will be contributed to the BBMRA Memorial Fund and, in the discretion of the Board, not more than 25 % (twenty-five percent) of the Memorial Fund may be used as a donation of Thomas-style toy trains for young children to a charitable organization such as Toys for Tots.”**

Joe Haley asked for clarification of some items in the memo and President Andy went ahead and explained some of the details for clarification. The BBMRA membership was then asked to vote on this resolution. Before the final vote, there was plenty of discussion re the style of trains, etc. that are suitable for donations and the exact language regarding the description of such trains. One suggestion in particular was the use of the term “Thomas-style,” rather than simply “Thomas” trains, given the vast availability and quality in all scales of trains that fit under the “Thomas” banner. Another suggestion was to add youth support to the resolution. The motion was moved and accepted.

There was a request to see the motion spelled out in print which this document should address.

### **Division Reports**

**HO** – Phil Weston, HO division coordinator, mentioned that a test of 33-inch radius on T-Track was underway. This is being done with a view to alleviating some of the operational difficulties with longer locomotives and rolling stock on the existing radius T-Traks. Phil also mentioned that there will be a planning meeting in September. He then mentioned his new T-Trak module showing a trestle over a marsh, etc., which was present at the meeting, and encouraged all to take a look. He mentioned the plan to take pictures of modules that we have. The last item he discussed was Lionel expanding into HO scale models.

**Small Scale** – Garth Easton, small scale division coordinator, mentioned that a meeting will be set up in the next month or two for planning and work on modules for next year’s show.

**Large Scale** – Sam Miller, large scale coordinator, mentioned that Barbara Donner is working on a G Scale layout. Andy mentioned that club members are available to help if necessary. Sam also mentioned the weekly Sunday meeting at his house of large scale folks and as usual, extended the invitation to all club members.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Drew Hackmeyer, treasurer, mentioned that the club is solvent and all is good on that front.

**Good of the Group** – President Andy introduced Riley, a guest at the meeting. He started out in HO and then went to N owing to space efficiency. John Sykes mentioned his foray into Sykes Power and Light instead of Sykes Railroad. His plan is to sell scale model poles, etc. and is seeking club input on items that will likely sell, etc.

**Officer Elections** – President Andy mentioned belatedly the current slate of officers after being reminded that business is not complete. The slate is as follows:

President – Andy Zimmerman

Vice President – Stacey Elliot

Secretary – Sheldon Harrison

Treasurer – Drew Hackmeyer

No other nominations were accepted from the floor. The motion was made to approve the slate as presented and it passed without objection.

The business section of the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Submitted by Secretary Sheldon Harrison.

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