



# THE Lantern

March 2020 – Happy New Year!

Volume 25 Number 3

## March 21 Layout Tour – Vintage Lionel, Thomas, New Garden Railroad

The annual BBMRA layout tour is later this month – Saturday, March 21 – and it highlights our club's large scale activities. "This year's layout tour will consist of three wonderful model railways," layout tour director Andy Millott notes. "The first from Gary Edwards consists of an O Gauge vintage Lionel layout. The second from Randy Lombardo consists of an O gauge Lionel Thomas the Tank Engine layout. The third and final layout is from Chris Martin and it is a G scale layout."

Gary is running his vintage Lionel layout, with terrific operating accessories and a "disappearing" O Gauge passenger train. Randy is presenting a new Thomas the Tank Engine set. Chris Martin, who joined BBMRA last fall, is building a sophisticated Garden Railroad inspired in part by Ina and Eric Ecklund. Chris has purchased from Ina some of Eric's buildings, which long-time club members enjoyed over the year in Eric's Crawfordville layout.

Here is the Saturday, March 21, Layout Tour Schedule:

Gary Edwards  
9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Gary lives in Ox Bottom Manor off of Ox Bottom Road.

Randy Lombardo  
11 a.m. - noon.  
Randy lives in the Camelot neighborhood off of Park Avenue. He has moved to a duplex and is no longer in the house he and his parents lived in for years.

Chris Martin  
12:20-1:20 p.m.  
Chris lives in Southwood. He will be providing refreshments and Large Scale Division folks are invited to bring engines to run.

**The addresses and directions will be provided in a special email to BBMRA members next Thursday before the layout tour.**

## Ken Brock's Family Remaining Active with BBMRA

### From Sam Miller:

Ken Brock's family will remain as active BBMRA members and Ken's O Gauge T-Trak module highlighted by a small country town will remain in the Large Scale Division's T-Trak setup.

Ken passed away February 15. He was 79. In Ken's memory, the Large Scale Division has made a \$100 contribution to the Friendship Baptist Church Building Fund.

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

**March 17, 2020, 7:30 p.m.**

"Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive. David Brazell gives a talk on auto carriers. The BBMRA Board meets at 6:30, the Show Committee at 7.

We certainly will miss him as a good modeler and good friend. The help Ken, his wife, Sharon, and sons Brent and Brad provided with the Lionel T-Trak layout at the annual show each June was appreciated and will be missed. Sharon has donated Ken's T-Trak module and building scene to the club, but Brent will continue to keep it and bring it to set-ups. We want to use it each time the T-Traks are operated in the future, along with a plaque remembering Ken.

Ken had a fine collection of O Gauge and HO trains and a large selection of model airplanes and tanks and other U.S. Army models. These are going up for sale and I will be assisting the family. Brent will be bringing some trains to an upcoming BBMRA meeting – probably in April or May. And the family will purchase two tables for our show June 27 to sell Ken's trains.

"It is with a very heavy heart that I come before you today. The BBMRA received notice that a well-respected member, Ken Brock, 79, has passed away," Andy Zimmerman wrote in a special report to BBMRA members. "Ken was a well respected and esteemed long time member of our organization. Ken had a love of trains since he was a child and modeled in O and HO scales. Ken's passion for Trains and Model railroading was evident at our last show, His sons, Brad and Brent, assisted in running the HO T-TRAK layout and were there all day to assist.

"We will miss Ken, his contributions to the club and his passion for model railroading."

From the memorial note prepared by Ken's family: "Ken was a U.S. Army Veteran. In 1960 he went into the Army and was discharged in 1966. He has greatly enjoyed his veteran activities through the American Legion, especially attending the Veterans Day Parade. Kenny also enjoyed trains, stemming from when he was small at Mother and Papa West's home in Cairo. He would hang over the fence and watch the trains go by. Kenny and Sharon had many enjoyable trips riding vintage trains, and Kenny loved participating in the train running of the Big Ben Model Railroad Association."

## **Coronavirus Virus Update**

Andy Zimmerman and other BBMRA officers are monitoring the Coronavirus pandemic and precautions being taken in the Tallahassee area to determine whether club activities will be affected. Everything is going forward as scheduled as of now. "To the best of my knowledge, everything is on track," Andy says. "There are no cases of Corona in northern Florida or the Tallahassee area. If someone has flown internationally recently, I would ask that they not come to the meetings until they are sure they have remained healthy. Each person will have to decide what is best for themselves. Everyone should observe the same protocols as they would with the flu."

## **NMRA Northern Division Bringing its Quarterly Workshop to Tallahassee October 24**

The NMRA Sunshine Region's Northern Division is bringing its quarterly workshop to Tallahassee October 24 of this year. This is a Saturday and activities will be planned for much of the day. These workshops are usually held in the Jacksonville area, but Tallahassee was selected, partly through the efforts of BBMRA member Bob Feuerstein. You won't have to be in the NMRA to participate and we are encouraging all BBMRA members to plan on it.

This is an opportunity for NMRA members in north Florida to learn more about the Big Bend Model Railroad Association and BBMRA members to see what programs and other opportunities are available from the

[More on Page Five](#)

## Mickey Mouse Trains a Hit at Maclay School – on Crazy Hat Day!

Doug Gyuricsko and Sam Miller brought the BBMRA Large Scale Division's Mickey Mouse/Disney layout to the Pre-Kindergarten Building at Maclay School March 6. Kids and teachers could run the Lionel LionChief remote control trains and they were delighted! This is always the case during a Mickey trains set-up and the Mickey Mouse trains on the Large Scalers Disney II layout are now pulled almost exclusively by remote control trains.



**Sam and Lily Shettle, his daughter; Lil is the teacher's assistant for this fine class.**

This was the second Disney set-up at Maclay in two years. Sam has a special connection there. His three grandkids attend MacClay and his daughter, Lily Shettle, is a Pre-K teaching assistant at MacClay. The Large Scalers always support Sam during setups like Maclay. Doug was on hand this year. Two years ago, Ron Fletcher pitched in.



**These are 3, 4 and 5-year old Pre-Kindergarten students.**

Disney will be one of the layouts operated by the Large Scalers at the North Wide Springtime Festival, which will be discussed at the March 17 club meeting, and it is always operated during BBMRA's annual show and sale June 27. It has been a huge hit at the R.A. Gray Building's annual Children's Day over the years. If you have a school or church event where the Disney might be appropriate, talk to Sam.



**Sam and Doug got this special Thank You  
From Sam's grandson Charlie's Pre-K class.**

The Disney layout is built around the Lionel MPC Mickey Mouse high cube box cars and locomotives produced in the 1980's. Within the last several years, Lionel produced Mickey Mouse locomotives and Christmas theme engines, like a Frosty the Snow, with remote control as part of the LionelChief series. Kids get to run the trains and this has taken off. Every youngster lined up along the Disney layout wants to run the trains. And usually adults too.



**It was Crazy Hat Day at Maclay along with Mickey Trains Day.**

Doug Gyuricsko and Gary Edwards have taken a liking to a little more sophisticated Lion Chief locomotive with Blue Tooth capability and they will be letting adults run trains on the big O Gauge T-Trak layout in the future. The older folks will have to show an ID, though; otherwise, they will be directed to the Disney layout.



**Mr. Doug, as the kids call him.**

## **BBMRA Joining Northside Springtime Festival April 11**

**From BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman:**

BBMRA will be running Trains at the Northside Community Center's Spring Festival Saturday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (<https://www.northsidetlh.com/>) See our event here! <https://www.facebook.com/events/2673669672860914/> .

There will be plenty to do and see at the festival and we will be representing the world's greatest hobby! At the moment we two large rooms right in the middle of the action. I want this to be an opportunity to set up and show off each division's T-Trak modules built thus far, along with Disney, Thomas and the new switching layout. This will be a great dry run for the June Show, especially for the N-Scale guys because we will not coordinating with Bruce Arbo, National T-Trak, this year.

So be prepared to show up and make smiles happen! If we carry this off well then we will be positioned to return during a similar festival in the fall. This will be a great way to advertise the club and the show!

## **NMRA Northern Division Workshop Coming to Tallahassee**

**From Page Two**

NMRA's Sunshine Region, covering most of Florida, and the Northern Division. Bob is working with ND Superintendent Richard Segal and BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman on the details to be announced later.

Here is a notice Bob has prepared for the NMRA:

**The Northern Division  
Is holding a Workshop  
in Tallahassee  
October 24, 2020**

Location: To be determined



information on this major event later. Includes train show and sale June 26-27. Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront.

**June 23, 2020: "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.** The third Tuesday is June 16, but the meeting will be shifted to the 23, the final Tuesday before the 2020 show at the fairgrounds for final planning for the show.

**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.

**August, 2020: The Villages Summer Train Show, 9a to 4p on Saturday, 10a to 3p on Sunday.** The Villages near Leesburg. Not sure of exact dates yet.

**July 21, 2020, 7:30 p.m.: BBMRA "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.** Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive.

**August 18, 2020, 7:30 p.m.: BBMRA "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.** Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive.

**September, 2020: Wiregrass Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale, National Peanut Festival and Fairgrounds, Dothan, AL.** Not sure of exact dates yet.

**September 15, 2020, 7:30 p.m.: BBMRA "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.** Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive.

**October 1-3, 2020: NMRA Sunshine Region 2020 Convention - SUNSHINE EXPRESS.** The John Trinkle Center, Plant City Campus of HCC 1206 North Park Road, Plant City, FL 33566. Hotel: Holiday Inn Express & Suites 2102 Park Road, Plant City, FL 33566

**October 20, 2020, 7:30 p.m.: BBMRA "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.** Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive.

**October 24, 2020: NMRA Sunshine Region Northern Division Workshop, in Tallahassee.** Bob Feuerstein is helping plan this event, working with ND Superintendent Richard Segal and BBMRA president And Zimmerman. Details will be announced later.

**November 17, 2020, 7:30 p.m.: BBMRA "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.** Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive.

**November 2020: TCA Southern Division Toy Train/ Christmas Show: Jacksonville, Morocco Shrine Auditorium.** Exact date to be announced later. Open to the public from 10a-3p. Open to TCA members beginning at 9a. Exact date to be announced later.

**November 2020: Tallahassee Museum of Natural History Farm Days, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Exact date to be announced later.

**November 2020: 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. Exact date to be announced later.

**December 2020: 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pensacola Railfest Model Train Show & Sale: Saturday and Sunday.** Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds, 6655 Mobile Highway, Pensacola, 32526.9 to 5, Saturday, 10 to 4 Sunday, Central. Admission \$6 for adults. Exact date to be announced later.

**December 11, 2020: 6:30 p.m. BBMRA Holiday Reception, Sam Miller & Linda Medlin, Woodgate.**

**December 12, 2020, Sopchoppy Winter Holiday Festival: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., HO T-Trak set-up at the City of Sopchoppy Train Depot.**

**December 18-19, 2020: Winter Tampa Model Show, Saturday & Sunday, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL.**

**December 2020: Christmas Trains, Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol. The Polar Express will run this Christmas. Details will be announced later.**

### **Big Bend Model Railroad Association Minutes for Meeting of February 20, 2020**

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order around 7:35 p.m. at the Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive. About 30 were present.

The Secretary's Minutes for January 21, 2020 were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer reported that BBMRA remains solvent. 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.] We have 63 paid members

President Andy reported that guest speaker Waris Wade, an officer of the new Florida, Gulf and Atlantic Railroad, had to cancel late Tuesday afternoon when called for an unexpected company meeting in Pensacola.

Andy also welcomed one new member, Brandon McKenny. Brandon is into HO and was recruited by HO coordinator Phil Weston.

**Division Reports/Large Scale** - Sam Miller reported that longtime member Ken Brock had passed away. Sam expressed the thanks and appreciation of the BBMRA for Ken's extensive service to the club, especially with the O Scale layout at the annual show. Ken's funeral was held at Fellowship Baptist Church, on Wednesday, February 19.

**N Scale** - Garth Easton reported that the N Scalpers would not be participating in the Woodville Founder's Day festival this year. Garth said a work session would be scheduled soon.

**HO Scale** - Phil Weston reported that his group had a great time operating T-Traks at the January Children's Day at the R.A. Gray Building near the Capitol.

**Youth coordinator** - Lisa Blair was unable to attend meeting

**Good of the Members** - Andy Millott reminded members of the March 21 layout open house – Andy has one volunteer so far and would appreciate more. Randy Lombardo reported that Amtrak has a new diner named Tallahassee. John Booth reported that there are now nine locomotives in the old SCL/CSX B Yard. Dave Brazell reported that the Folkston Funnel Train Fest is Saturday, April 4. Bob Fuerstein advised all that NMRA is a beneficiary of Amazon's "Smiles" program. Bob also reported that the Northern Division of NMRA is planning a workshop in Tallahassee on the weekend of October 24, 2020, and will be coordinating with BBMRA.

The Meeting adjourned at 08:16 P.M.

These minutes were respectfully submitted on March 11 by Ed Schroeder for Secretary Sheldon Harrison.