



# THE Lantern

September 2020

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## Tuesday's Program is Heritage Excursion Railroads and Scenic Rides. What is Your Favorite?



Andy Millott is leading a discussion about heritage excursion railroads and scenic rides as the program during the Tuesday BBMRA meeting, including the Conway Scenic Railroad in North Conway, NH, through the Mount Washington Valley, which he rode a few years ago.

Most of us have taken heritage and scenic railroad rides while traveling throughout the years and Andy is



**CSR's Mountaineer**

**Grand Canyon Railroad**

encouraging you to share the experience of one of your favorite "train rides." Let Andy Millott know by Sunday night if you plan to participate. Everyone should, at least, chime and say which heritage trains they have ridden. If you are making a formal talk, try to find out if your railroad is currently operating through the virus pandemic.

Sam Miller will discuss the Grand Canyon Railroad trip he and Linda Medlin took six or seven years ago from Williams, Arizona, to the Grand Canyon. He will also mention the Rocky Mountaineer through the Canadian Rockies.

Here is a note from Andy:

"I like the idea of having each person sharing a tourist train experience that they have had. Pictures are optional, but not necessary. With that said, if people want to use pictures, I request that they email them to me at [millott32073@hotmail.com](mailto:millott32073@hotmail.com) by Sunday evening (September 13) at the latest.



**1874 CSR station**

BBMRA is continuing to meet through Zoom, including our regular monthly session Tuesday, September 15, at 7:30 p.m. More and more of you are participating in the Zoom sessions and we are hoping for a really fine turnout Tuesday.

## **2020/2021 Officers for the Big Bend Model Railroad Association**

A slate of officers – with President Andy Zimmerman and the other incumbents agreeing to serve for another 12-month term – was approved during the BBMRA's August 18 Zoom meeting.

Here is the official slate for 2020/21:

### **BBMRA Officers**

President: Andy Zimmerman.

Vice President: Stacey Elliott.

Secretary: Sheldon Harrison.

Treasurer: Drew Hackmeyer.

The BBMRA Board will consist of the officers and the three division coordinators. The current coordinators were willing to serve again and were elected by their division members:

HO Coordinator: Phil Weston.

Small Scale Coordinator: Garth Easton.

Large Scale Coordinator: Sam Miller.

## **BBMRA Dues - Time to Pay Up**

Annual dues of the Big Bend Model Railroad Association need to be paid now. Dues remain at \$20, which is pretty darn attractive. Please submit your dues by cash or check to:

### **BBMRA**

**P. O. Box 3392**

**Tallahassee, FL 32315-3392**

## **3D Printer Genius Produces Black Diamond Track Inspection Locomotive**

Steve Pollock, a mostly retired electrical engineer with Syn-Tech Systems, Inc. and long-time Lionel modeler, is spending a lot of time these days with his 3D printer and he is really good at it. Steve probably can produce anything he wants, although some of his projects take hours and hours.

Steve provided this report on how he 3D printed a Black Diamond Track Inspection Locomotive.

### **From Steve Pollock:**

Earlier this year Jack Herzog suggested we take a look at the Lionel groups on Facebook, so I ended up joining five different Lionel groups. The members of these groups range from newbies to folks with huge wonderful layouts. Just about all members post interesting photos and discussions.

About a month ago, there was a post by an individual that showed an old caboos. He had put a four-wheeled motored unit from a locomotive under the caboos replacing two of the caboos's four wheels. Now he had a 6-wheeled configuration with four powered wheels. He painted it as the Black Diamond and with his post he supplied a B&W photo of the Black Diamond Track Inspection Locomotive.

Intrigued, I search the WEB for other pictures of the Black Diamond. With a few dimensions gleaned from the WEB, my Vernier micrometer and some tracings, I scaled four different pictures and set about drawing the Black Diamond with my 3D CAD software.

About a week later I had what I thought was an acceptable 3D rendering of the Black Diamond. It was composed of 24 different pieces. After half-a-dozen 3D printing iterations to thicken up scaled sections which were too thin to print correctly, I arrived at an acceptable un-powered prototype. With a bit of careful application of a cyanoacrylate adhesive - i.e. crazy glue - I had the prototype assembled; and yes the wheels still turn.



Will it ever get a motor? Probably not, although I did look into some toy motors and gearing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAlva9zNYJo>

<https://tnmot.org/collection/reading-black-diamond-last-one-surviving/>

## Ron Fletcher Builds Howe Truss Bridge for his Garden Railroad

Ron Fletcher helped construct buildings throughout the U.S. in Hawaii and in Canada during a career as a civil engineer. He now is scratch building structures for his Garden Railroad and one of his most recent projects is a Howe Truss Bridge.

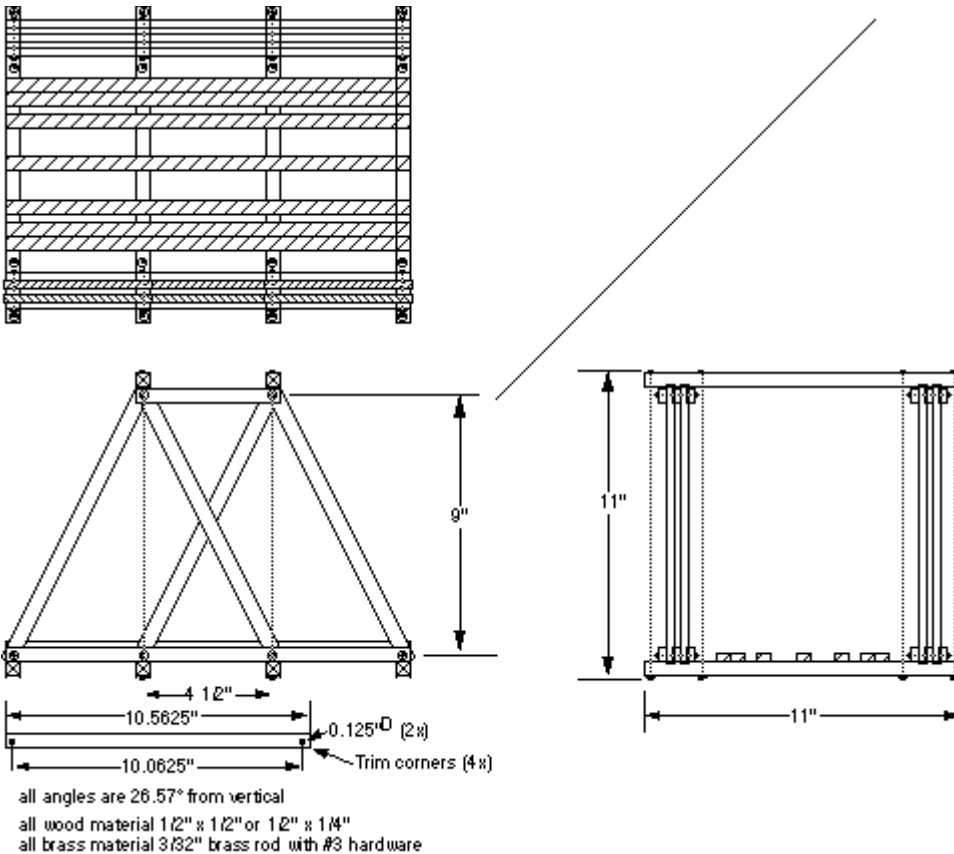
Ron worked from a Truss design by George Schreyer available from this Internet site:

[http://www.girr.org/girr/tips/tips2/howe\\_truss.html](http://www.girr.org/girr/tips/tips2/howe_truss.html)



"I changed the dimensions of the truss for my bridge. I changed the panel point dimension from 4.5 inches to five inches and the width from 11 inches to 12 inches," Ron says. "I increased the height from 11 inches to around 11.75 inches. I made the diagonal side pieces 12 inches long. "

"The length of the bridge is around six feet, three inches. I did not use wood for the bridge. I used PVC trim boards I bought from Lowe's that I ripped into the size pieces I needed. The members are either .25 X .5 inch or .5 X .5 inch."



Howe Truss bridges are still in use all over the country, Ron says. Most covered bridges are Howe Truss bridges. Ron's will soon find a permanent spot in his backyard Garden Railroad.

## October Zoom Program is on LED & Fiber Lighting of Vehicles and Buildings

Jim Lewis of Model Train Technology has agreed to make a Zoom presentation to BBMRA at its October 20 meeting and participate as a vendor in the two-day Tallahassee show next June.

Here is Jim's Internet site:

<https://modeltraintechology.com/>

"We had planned to do mostly shows in 2020 – obviously that got scrubbed – but it allowed me to create a bunch of new products," Jim emailed Andy Zimmerman recently. "We could consider bringing our N Scale layout that is fully automated, to your show next summer. "And yes, I am happy to do a clinic of some kind for your members. I can do a show and tell – not selling as much as just showing how we light cars and building and using both LED and fiber."

## Randy versus Greyhound

Greyhound is restoring direct bus service between Tallahassee and Jacksonville.

Randy Lombardo's letter to Greyhound officials identifying options which could produce a restoration of the service may not have triggered the decision, but it certainly didn't hurt.



Here is a note from Randy: "Just got the word from Greyhound.com. Schedule # 3803: Leaves Jacksonville at 8:20 a.m., arriving in Tallahassee at 11:50 a.m. Schedule #3806: Leaves Tallahassee at 11:55 a.m., arriving in Jacksonville at 3:00 p.m. Both stop in Lake City for a 15 minute layover."

We think Randy should write Amtrak next!

## Railroad Coronavirus Masks!

Randy Lombardo discovered that face masks with your favorite railroad's logo are available from Mohawk Design, which produces t-shirts and other cloth products. Check out their Internet site: [www.mohawk-design.com](http://www.mohawk-design.com)

Mohawk has an assortment of railroad logo face masks for \$15 each. Shipping is free if you buy two or more masks.

Dale Cook and his wife were vendors at the Jacksonville model train show last February and have been invited to our two-day show next summer. We expect Mohawk Design to participate in their schedule permits.



## Big Bend Model Railroad Association Minutes for Meeting August 18, 2020

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting, held on August 18 to order via Zoom at about 7:31 p.m. The virtual meeting was attended by about 22 folks.

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

**Treasurer's Report** – Drew Hackmeyer gave the Treasurer's Report. The numbers were shared online with attendees. We are in the black and looking good. Drew mentioned receipt of dues for the new financial year. A motion was moved, accepted and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report.

### Vote on Slate of Officers for 2020/2021

President – Andy Zimmerman

Vice President – Stacy Elliot

Secretary – Sheldon Harrison

Treasurer – Drew Hackmeyer

There was no opposition to the slate as presented, following which a vote was taken with no dissenting voices.

The remainder of the BBMRA Board consists of the three Division Coordinators. These were to be elected within each division. The current coordinators said they would be seeking re-election: Small Scale Coordinator Garth Easton, HO Coordinator Phil Weston and Large Scale Coordinator Sam Miller.

## **Division Reports**

**Large Scale** – Sam Miller mentioned that he is seeking 4 to 5 volunteers to take over from Doug, who does not wish to renew his club membership. He mentioned that the Golden Spike organization has canceled the Tampa Christmas show owing to the pandemic.

**NMRA** – Robert Feuerstein mentioned that the Sunshine Region will be trying to do an online meeting shortly. There was then discussion of various items, including cancellation of the main business meeting. He also mentioned an Arduino workshop and there was other miscellaneous discussion re amateur circuitry that is applicable to model railroading and other hobbies.

**HO** – Phil Weston the HO coordinator, mentioned that HO folks are busy working on home layouts, T-Traks etc. and otherwise staying occupied, as well as our ritual of waiting for items to be shipped via FedEx, UPS etc.

**Small Scale** – Garth stated that he had nothing new to report. There was then mention of the need to fix some switches and other general maintenance work on the T-Trak modules. This will likely have to wait however, until cooler weather later in the Fall.

**Switching Layout** – Joe Haley was absent so nothing was available to report.

**Good of the Group** – Randy Lombardo mentioned he made a new purchase on some rolling stock including Piggy Back flat cars for railroads including Bay Line and he also mentioned that Tallahassee markings were included.

The business end of the meeting was concluded at 7:52 PM following which a presentation was given by CMR products.

**Submitted by Sheldon Harrison**