



THE Lantern

October 2020

Volume 25 Number 10

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 our Tuesday meeting (October 20 at 7:30 p.m.) 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."

BBMRA is continuing to meet through Zoom, including our regular monthly sessions and the new First Tuesday "fun" sessions. More and more of you are participating in the Zoom sessions and we are hoping for a really fine turnout Tuesday. Andy Zimmerman is offering special assistance to club members unsure of how Zoom works and recently conducted a special Zoom survey.

Happy Halloween!
Celebrate it on a Model Train Layout if You Can!



Sam Miller sets up this Halloween scene on his O Gauge layout each year.

Happy Halloween!

Like everything else during the last nine months, 2020 Halloween will be different and limited in many ways because of Covid-19. Celebrate however you can with the focus on children, as always.



Sam Miller sets up a Halloween scene on his garage O Gauge layout. Drop by Sunday afternoon for the Large Scale Sunday Group Therapy if you want to see it. We are Social Distancing and staying outside. Sam's scene include animated Halloween themed carnival rides from Lemax and produced for Michaels over the years.

One of Sam's favorites is the skull-faced Ferris Wheel ride. It came out eight or 10 years ago and is still available on eBay, but difficult to find.

Unfortunately, you can't buy Halloween carnival items at Michaels in October. They are all sold by then and replaced by Christmas village and carnival items. No kidding! Next year, shop Michaels in August or early September. Normally about a dozen new large pieces are featured each year and lots of smaller decorations.

Beware! It is addictive!



Fellow O Gauger Gary Edwards is now collecting Lemax Halloween carnival rides. Beware! It is addictive!

Clankety Man and the Super Pumpkin



Clankety Man is in here somewhere!

Jack Herzog has added a wonderful Halloween video to his YouTube Channel, "John Long's Silver Railz." It is entitled "Clankety Man and the Super Pumpkin."

"Jumpy Monkey wants to buy the largest pumpkin possible for the people of Lionelville for Halloween, but he runs into a big problem. Can Clankety Man save Halloween?" Jack teases about the video. "I hope all the youngsters enjoy it. As to you adults, just hold your laughter."

Go to YouTube and search for John Long's Silver Railz. Jack's channel should pop up and the Halloween video link should appear. You also can search for "Clankety Man and the Super Pumpkin." Jack has been starring in his own YouTube channel for several years, with the help of sons Jamie and Steve. He has several reports on the club's last model train show at the fairgrounds from 2019 and other fine reports on model railroading, especially on older Marx and Lionel items.

Marking Halloween, Thanksgiving and the Christmas Holidays through Model Railroading

Andy Zimmerman already is planning for next year. "I have not added anything particularly Halloweenish to my T-Trak modules; however I do have a haunted house kit and another thunder and lightning kit to build out over them," Andy says. "I am not there yet but it is in the planning stages."

What are you doing? Let me know and send photos! To sammiller61113@outlook.com
Does anyone have a snowy, winter scene which is perfect for Thanksgiving? Several of you have developed special features for the Christmas religious holidays. We will be sharing as much as we can in the Lantern for the rest of this year.

Sam Miller

2020/21 NMRA Sunshine Region Officers, Including Bob & Stacey

Elections for 2020/2021 officers of the NMRA Sunshine Region were concluded earlier this month and the officers include two BBMRA members. Bob Feuerstein, "Photobob," was elected Northern Division Superintendent, succeeding Richard Segal. Stacey Elliott was designated director of Social Media for the region. Bob Feuerstein will continue as Webmaster and also serve as Historian and Photo Contest co-chair.

BBMRA member Barrett Johnson was not elected in his quest to become an at large board member, but we hope Barrett will try again. He is a former president of the Sunshine Region and has held other offices too.

Bob's goals in the coming months include expanding Northern Division activities from the Jacksonville area to Tallahassee and Gainesville. These three communities have the most BBMRA members in the division. Bob is from Tallahassee, of course. The new Northern Division treasurer, John White, is from Gainesville. The outgoing ND superintendent, Richard Segal, lives in Jacksonville.

A special Zoom meeting on Tallahassee is planned. BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman will be one of the hosts and is developing a Powerpoint overview. Bob hopes to organize a ND meeting around the two-day BBMRA Show & Sale in June 2021. "We hope to bring NMRA members from Jacksonville and Gainesville to Tallahassee to meet the folks here and participate in our two-day show," he says. "My major goal is getting the club together."

Most NMRA activities in north Florida are open to all BBMRA members, not just the NMRA membership.

SSR ND Zoom Meeting on Tallahassee Set for Oct. 24 Postponed

The NMRA Sunshine Region Northern Division quarterly meeting on Tallahassee area modeling activities which had been planned for October 24 has been postponed. "Before the virus pandemic, we were planning on a sit-down meeting in Tallahassee with NMRA members coming in from throughout north Florida," incoming ND Superintendent Bob Feuerstein reports. "This was switched to a Zoom meeting and is now being postponed with the new date to be announced later."

Here is more on the postponement from outgoing ND Superintendent Richard Segal's note:

"I am giving you a heads up that our planned date of October 24 has to be changed. As soon as we get it firmed-up we will let you know. The program will include Show and Tell and Tips and Tricks so think about what you can share over zoom. It will work best if you have done the "show" part on camera beforehand as getting good images of model work with a laptop camera can be a little tricky. You can also use the session to put one of your great RR pictures up on a green screen to share if you have access to one.

"Bob and I will be back in touch soon."

ACL & SAL Historical Society Unveils Updated Website

From Big Bend Ties, the monthly newsletter of the Gulf Wind Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

The ACL & SAL Railroads Historical Society, Inc. has rolled out a brand-new website that the organization says will have many new features, content and improvements.

Society president W. Jim Langston said his organization decided to use the Garbely Publishing Company to help maintain the revised site and assist on some updates.

“Our plans include the addition of considerable new content, members-only features, and a much-improved company store with new digital products that can be bought online and downloaded. The events calendar will be improved and updated more frequently,” Langston said in announcing the changes.

The Garbely Publishing Company specializes in railroad publishing and has been producing websites for railway historical societies, short line railroads, and other organizations since 2012.

Information on the redesign is available by visiting www.aclsal.org/article/website.

Where did the Standard Gage Rail Come From?

Submitted by Stacey Elliott:

Ever wondered why the 4' 8-1/2" standard gage rail came from?

<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ne/topic/railroads/trivia.html>

2020/21 NMRA Sunshine Region Officers, Including Bob & Stacey

SSR President

Jeff (Ski) Guzowski
Beverly Hills, FL

SSR Vice President

Jim Robertson
Lecanto, FL

SSR Secretary

Richard Webster
Port Saint Lucie, FL

SSR Treasurer

Ken Farnham - MMR
Palm Bay, FL

SSR Past President

David Barron - MMR
Winter Garden

At Large Directors

Al Sohl - MMR
Port St. Lucie, FL

At Large Directors

Allan Chesler

Boca Raton, FL

At Large Directors

Donovan Lewis
Bradenton, FL

At Large Directors

Gene Jameson
Melbourne, FL

Superintendent Northern Division

Robert (Bob) Feuerstein
Tallahassee, FL.

Secretary/Treasurer Northern Division

Joe White

Superintendent Southern Division

Robert (Bob) Leonard
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Superintendent Eastern Division

Beverly Farnham
Palm Bay, FL

Superintendent Western Division

Donald (Don) Wetmore
Hudson, FL.

Secretary-Treasurer Western Division

John Crellin
Bradenton, FL.

AP (Achievement Program) Chairman for all Divisions

Al Sohl - MMR
Port St. Lucie, FL.

AP (Achievement Program) Regional Chair for Northern Division

Ken Hoot
Jacksonville Beach, FL.

AP (Achievement Program) Regional Chair for Southern Division

Mike Collins - MMR
Pembroke Pines, FL.

AP (Achievement Program) Regional Chair for Eastern Division

Eric Menger
Vero Beach, FL.

AP (Achievement Program) Regional Chair for Western Division

John Giammasi - MMR
Beverly Hills, FL.

Communications

Daniel Frolich
West Palm Beach, FL.

Historian

Robert (Bob) Feuerstein
Tallahassee, FL.

Photo Contest Chairman

Ken Farnham - MMR
Palm Bay, FL.

Photo Contest Co-Chairman

Robert (Bob) Feuerstein
Tallahassee, FL.

Social Media

Stacey Elliott
Quincy, FL

Big Bend Model Railroad Association Minutes for Meeting September 15, 2020

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting, held on September 15 to order via Zoom at about 7:37 PM. The virtual meeting was attended by about 14 present at the maximum.

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

Treasurer's Report – Drew Hackmeyer gave the Treasurer's report. The numbers were shared online with attendees. As usual, we are in the black and looking good. Drew mentioned receipt of dues for the new financial year. There was a question on number of paid members and the answer was 41 as of the meeting date. Of note, there were 3 members paid through 2022. There was also discussion on following up with unpaid members as we were down by 22 members compared to the 2020 year. A motion was moved, accepted and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Division Reports/Large Scale – Sam Miller mentioned that Ina Ecklund, Eric's wife, is seeking to sell the home. Sam and Doug went over and obtained some G scale track, which Doug hopes to use to begin an outdoor layout at his home.

HO – Phil Weston the HO coordinator, mentioned that HO folks are still doing various odds and ends regarding the T-Traks etc. and otherwise staying occupied.

Small Scale – President Andy mentioned that he is getting started on John Sullenberger's T-Track module and he is trying to come up with a unique theme befitting and in honor of John. He also mentioned that the club should get organized about taking pictures of the modules and assigning appropriate module names.

T-Track Discussion - There was then general discussion about module durability and other aspects related to the modules. Sam then discussed the need for a few more O-Scale modules and will coordinate with Drew on construction. President Andy then presented the work he is doing on putting the module information in a spreadsheet. Items such as module name, model owner, module type, module scale, separate power, wiki links etc. were illustrated.

Good of the Group – President Andy mentioned that Model Train Technology will present the program for the October meeting. We are also trying to get a big model train manufacturer to present in November; perhaps TCS, Digitrax or Broadway Limited Imports.

The business end of the meeting was concluded at 8:07 PM following which a presentation was given by CMR Products. **Submitted by Sheldon Harrison**