



THE Lantern

December 2020

Volume 25 Number 12

Our Toys for Tots donation this year!

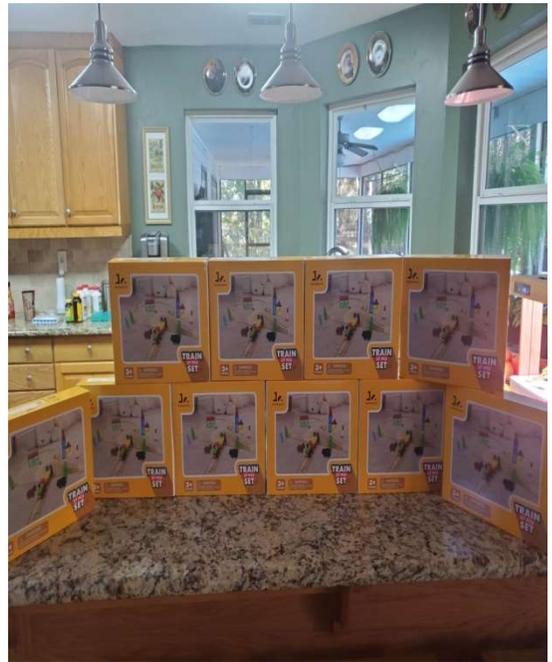
Here is the BBMRA donation to Toys for Tots for 2020. The donation came from the BBMRA Memorial Fund in honor of former President John Sullenberger and many of our other club friends who have passed away. Thanks to Garth Easton for the photo.

MicroTrains, Colorado Model Railroad Museum Making Zoom Presentations December 15

From Andy Zimmerman

IMPORTANT ***** Join us Tuesday night at 7:30 for a presentation by two fantastic organizations, Model-Train Line and the Colorado Model Railroad Association!

First up will be the President and CEO of MicroTrains line; Eric Smith



Micro-Trains® is the only model train manufacturer of any scale that offers more than 120 different styles of prototypically correct model train freight cars. The company's uncompromising standards of excellence are reflected in the uniquely accurate features and exacting fidelity in the micro-fine printing and lettering that each freight car offers. The fit, finish, and detail of each item produced is celebrated throughout the railroad modeling community. If you are an N or Z scaler you will not want to miss this!

Next up will be the Executive Director of the Colorado Model Railroad Museum (CMRM); Michelle Kempema!



Colorado Model Railroad Museum

The Colorado Model Railroad Museum is one of the finest, one of a kind miniature accomplishments in the world. This 5,500 sq. feet masterpiece required over five years and 280,000 volunteer hours to complete. Located at 680 10th Street in Greeley, Colorado, this one of a kind museum has hundreds of railroad sceneries, more than 500 scale locomotives, 80 scale miles of train track, thousands of other handmade artifacts including around 28,000 handmade trees. The museum houses thousands of artifacts including a 1919 Colorado and Southern Caboose that you can tour.

Unlike typical model railroads, the museum utilizes an open air design with broad aisles and theatrical lighting, allowing visitors to clearly view the detailed scenery from just inches away. The Colorado Model Railroad Museum utilizes a dispatcher for train operations for the public. These quality characteristics have attracted visitors from all over the world, reaching as far as Australia and New Zealand.

Regardless of the scale you model, this Tuesday is sure to be a great "won't want to miss" presentation!

Looking for max participation Tuesday! If you were one of the people that said they wanted some help with Zoom Text me at 850-524-4399 and we will set up a test session.

I know some of you are ZOOM shy but don't be. It really is easy as 1,2,3. I will be glad to guide you and help you test prior to the meeting. I will be on at 6:30 pm to assist anyone having difficulty.

Open the Zoom program on your computer or use the link below and the meeting ID and password, which is the same for every BBMRA Zoom meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87359055848?pwd=YnZaMFVtUGN3enZzaEQ3ZVBvekpEdz09>

Meeting ID: 873 5905 5848, Password: 162465

Merle Haggard: "If We Make It Through December"

Sam Miller and Linda Medlin are not hosting their Holiday Reception this year because of the Coronavirus. Sam and Linda hope to host with BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman a club get-together on an afternoon sometime next year when it is safe to do so and resume the holiday parties next December. We wish everyone safe and wonderful winter holidays, however you celebrate them. And, as Merle Haggard wrote in his wonderful, but sad Christmas song: "If we make it through December, everything's gonna be all right, I know...If we make it through December, we'll be fine."

My Tiny Christmas Layout

By: Dr. Neal Meadows



A couple of years ago I became aware of the N scale reversing track set by Bachmann. I thought that it would be an interesting set of tracks to work with. Looking for a good deal revealed how expensive the set was without the trolley. I had patience and one day on EBAY a used set was offered with the Happy Holidays Brill Trolley.

The price was great! I already had one of the trolleys so if the one did not work that came with the set; I would be good. I bid on the set and was able to win the bid. I received the set, and all the parts were there along with the reversing power supply. The trolley, however, did not run right. I am sure that was the reason the person was selling it and so cheaply.

I played with the set and got it working well with several different locos and trolleys. I decided to create a Christmas village display. I bought a few extra track pieces for the set to extend the length. I was able to bid on some Liberty Village buildings that were sold at Christmas at Dillard's years ago. Each year new additions were offered. I ended up with about 35 of those buildings.



My first year, I placed the setup on the mantel above the fireplace. Plenty of room but it was too high for my grandkids to

see and it would get hot there. I later moved it to the windowsill in our breakfast area.

That is the current location, and it works well for the grandkids to see and to operate it. Jane and I watch it during breakfast.

I added some trees, a large snowman for a town display and a huge Christmas tree for a town attraction. I must add people to the setup, but I will attach them to a card set so that I can place them without having to glue them



days of Christmas set

by Con-Cor, the reindeer cars by Micros-Trains, some cars from N Scale Enthusiasts. Those are very detailed.

I look forward to next year and having a larger layout to run my bigger trains. Until then I will watch my favorite TV program.

MERRY CHRISTMAS.



down each time. I plan to add features as I have time to create them.

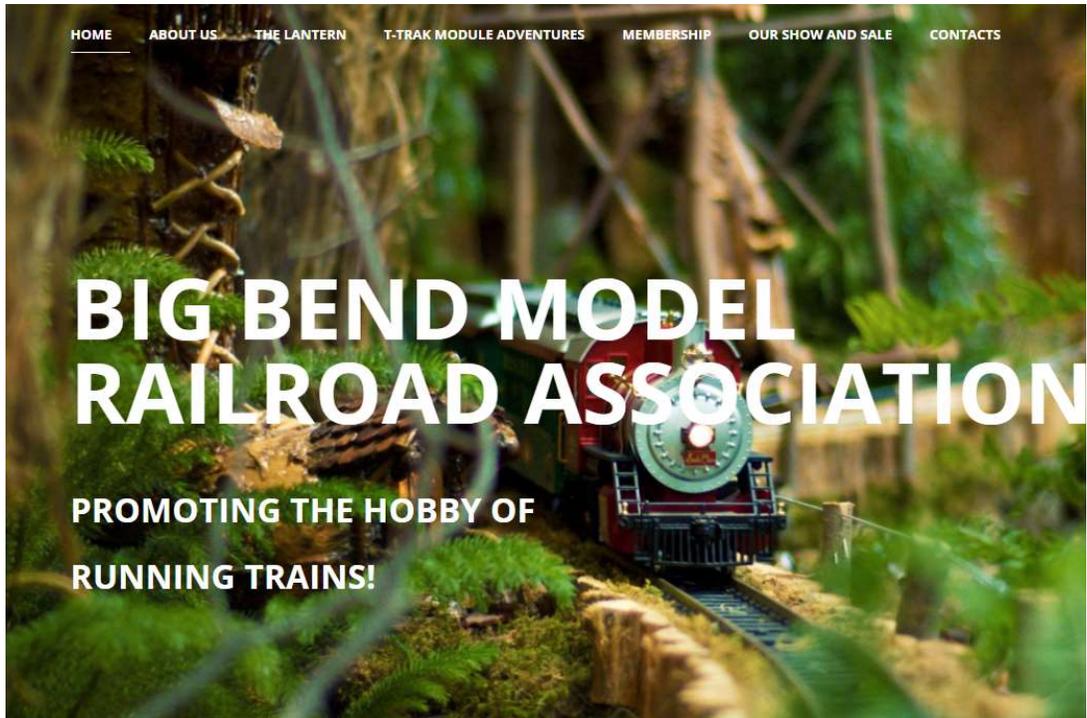
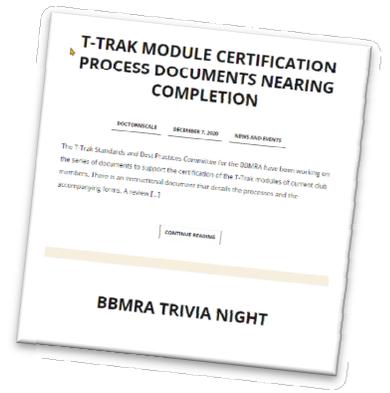
I have a lot of Christmas train cars and locos that I plan to run on a larger layout. Some of them are old from the early 1970s. Many are new. I have the 12



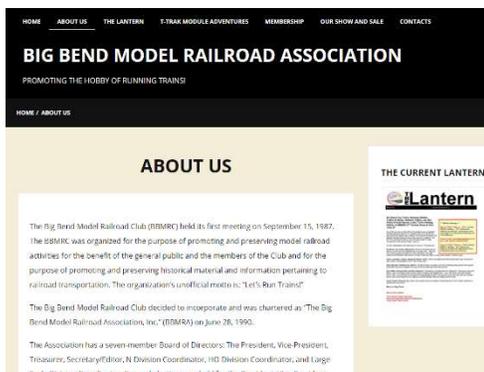
NEW WEBSITE FOR BBMRA

By: Dr. Neal Meadows

A new website for the Big Bend Model Railroad Association has been developed. The more powerful format, WordPress, provides capabilities for adding blogs for sharing information, multiple graphics, adapting to different media formats, and creating archives. The blog feature is useful for sharing information about upcoming meetings, events, and happenings for club members. The menu selections to date are: Home, About Us, The Lantern, T-Trak Module Adventures, Membership, Our Show and Sale, and Contacts.



AboutUs displays information about the club meetings, Board members, history, and structure. Contact information for each Board member is located on this page.

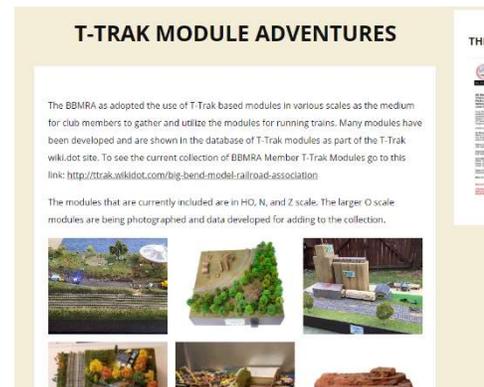


The Lantern has the archives for BBMRA newsletters back to January 2001. The display is a grid for selecting the issue desired. Look for the year and scan down the column to the month and click the number. The Lantern issue will open in a new window for your reading pleasure. Stacey Elliott has contacted me with a copy of a February 1998 that he is going to scan and send to me for adding to the archives. Anyone else having older versions can send them to me and I will add them to the archive. This has been an interesting activity since I did not join the BBMRA until 2006. It has helped me to learn more about the club.

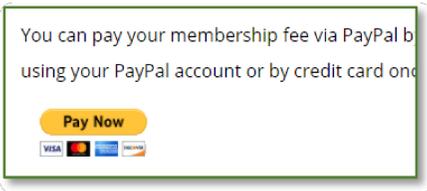
information for the T-Trak modeler.

T-Trak Module Adventures has

Links to the T-Trak Wikidot site show the current module collection by BBMRA members. Certification documents and forms will be added to this page as soon as they are finalized. A standards document for T-Trak module development is under final review and will be available for downloading from this page as well.



[Membership](#) page has information about joining the club. The application form is a downloadable page that can be filled in and emailed to the membership chair. The \$20 membership fee may now be paid by using PayPal on this page. Directions for mailing the application and dues as an option are included.



[Our Show and Sale](#) shares information about the BBMRA Annual Show and Sale held at the Leon County Fair Grounds each June. Upcoming information will detail the plans for the 2021 2-Day Event. Updates are forthcoming. A vendor section is planned to provide forms and other contact info for vendors.

[Contacts](#) page has the phone number of the Club President and the mailing address for the Club and for the Model Railroad Show and Sale.

Additional pages may be added as the need arises.

Visit the website: You can use either www.bbmra.org or you can use www.bbmra.club. Both will end up in the same place. The site can be viewed on your computer, tablet, pad, or phone. The screen will adapt to fit the medium you are using (new feature!). If you have additional items that you would like to see added to the website or you have recommendations for changes, please contact Neal Meadows at meadowns1956@comcast.net and send your ideas.

Lionel Postwar F-3's Link to Jean Blodgett's Father

David and Jean Blodgett recently pulled out of storage a classic Lionel Postwar O Gauge train set from the 1950's which provides an important link to Jean's late father, MoPac railroader James C. Heyer.



Jim Heyer began working for the Missouri Pacific Railroad at St. Louis, MO, on April 20, 1936. He rose through the ranks as helper, Carman, Assistant Foreman and General Passenger Car Forman before becoming the Association of American Railroads Inspector for the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company and the Texas and Pacific Railroad Company, in October 1, 1969.

He retired on December 31, 1974, and later moved to Port Charlotte, Florida, where he was very active in N.A.R.V.E., the National Association of Retired and Veteran Railway Employees, rising to the office of Grand

Vice President and member of the Legislative Committee.

"Late in his railroad career he set up a Lionel Postwar layout in his basement consisting of Lionel Santa Fe ABA passenger engines and four blue striped Santa Fe passenger cars," David Blodgett remembers. "We became the recipients of his trains and layout when they moved to Florida."

The trains had not been run in years, but old Lionel engines almost always can be brought back to life. A little work by the Large Scale Division's Sunday Group got the powered Lionel F-3 humming again. Jean, David and one of their sons got to see it operate on Sam Miller's Lionel layout. It was a moving experience in more ways than one.

"Graduating from high school in 1930, Jim hadn't been able to attend college, but had scored the highest math score in the State of Missouri while in high school," Jean remembers. "While working for the MoPac, he was often called out to the scene when wrecks happened in the St. Louis area, to supervise the wrecker in safely lifting parts and cleaning up the mess. When we went on family train vacations, when traveling on the Colorado Eagle, for example, Jim would be called upon to solve problems such as the air conditioning not working in one of the cars; he cheerfully went and fixed things."

James Heyer, on the right wearing a white shirt and tie, with his work crew at the MoPac Rankin Street Passenger Car Repair and Maintenance Facility in St. Louis.



Minutes for BBMRA Meeting on November 17, 2020

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting, held on November 17, to order via Zoom at about 7:37 PM. There were about 19 members present at maximum.

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

Treasurer's Report – Drew Hackmeyer was absent. Andy Zimmerman presented the report. As usual, we are in the black and looking good. The report was shown to the group in the presentation. There was then discussion about the new capability to use PayPal for payment. There was also mention of a new membership form that is form fill-able. The Treasurer's report was moved, 2nd ed and accepted without objection.

Division Reports

Large Scale – Sam Miller mentioned the passing of Cal Ogburn over the weekend. He opened the floor to discuss his and other club members' relationship with Cal. Sam and Andy then coordinated to get the meeting details to Bill Reschke, who had trouble connecting. There was then lengthy general reminiscing on the wonderful personality that was Cal and the general consensus was that Cal will be greatly missed. President Andy then asked about memorial service details and Carlton indicated that he will let the group know as he obtains the details.

HO – Phil Weston, the HO coordinator, mentioned that two junction T-Trak modules were recently obtained and he so far has been impressed with the quality of the work. HO folks are holding up well during the whole pandemic situation.

Small Scale – President Andy mentioned that work continues and the small scale group is anxiously awaiting the opportunity to be able to get together and set up the T-Trak modules. Bob Feuerstein then mentioned items related to standards etc. There was then discussion about the North Raleigh rail club regarding their approach to standards etc. Discussion then ensued on the logistics of testing T-Traks to make sure everything works well before hand and of the use of module testers. President Andy continued to mention the desire to keep updating the T-Trak Wiki page, encouragement of club member to upload their modules etc. The T-Trak Wiki page was also reviewed in the meeting, with examples from all over the world depicted, our BBMRA entries and how they compare, etc. One notable item of discussion was the inclusion of things like past BBMRA Lanterns on the Wiki page.

Switching Layout – there was no report on the switching layout so nothing was available to report.

Good of the Group – No additional good of the group items were discussed.

The business end of the meeting was concluded at 8:47 PM following which several presentations were undertaken on local railroading history around Tallahassee.

Submitted by Secretary Sheldon Harrison