



THE Lantern

December 2021

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HEADLINES

- Tuesday, December 21 BBMRA Zoom Meeting – KenRay Models – Ken and Joan Izzo. 7:30 PM
- Tribute to Garth Easton
- BBMRA Running Trains at Tall Senior Center Dec. 14 – Grandparents Holiday Event
- Sunshine Region Magazine Correction
- More Articles and Minutes

Garth W. Easton: Small Scale Pioneer, Long-Time BBMRA Board Member

Garth Easton, the Big Bend Model Railroad Association's Small-Scale Coordinator, and a board member for years, died December 10, 2021. This is a lightning bolt loss to everyone in the club and one more awful episode in a very sad year for our community. A memorial service for Garth will be held in the near future. Here is a heartfelt tribute to Garth from Club President Andy Zimmerman:

Having to Say Goodbye to a Good Friend

By Andy Zimmerman



Today is a tough day for me, truth be told it has been a tough week. The loss of my close and dear friend [Garth Easton](#) comes on the heels of losing my brother, Rich Mulhare Jr. I lost Rich on Monday, December 6th and now my close friend Garth on Friday, December 10th.

Garth was a very unique individual who had a way of bringing out the best in you. He was always very practical and well-reasoned. Once you had earned his friendship, he was a fierce friend indeed. There wasn't anything

he would not do for you. He was also the kind of friend who would tell you the truth even when it wasn't what you wanted to hear. You could count on him to give it to you straight and many times when seeking his counsel, he did just that!

He was also a bit of a joker and never missed an opportunity to have some good old-fashioned fun. He challenged you on many levels to be better, to step outside your comfort zone and he was there to support you the entire time.



While I have many fond memories of my friend, one of my proudest ones was sitting with him as he was waiting to be sworn in as an American citizen. Earlier in the year, Canada had announced Dual Citizenship for Canadians living in America. He said he was thinking about it, and I encouraged him strongly. Garth got everything done fairly quickly and proudly told me when he was getting sworn in. This was a day I would not miss. I was so proud of him. I found him upstairs in the federal building downtown and we sat together and talked about how much this meant.

When it came time, I slipped in with the other observers and proudly watched my Canadian friend become an American citizen. It was a milestone in his life, and I was honored that he asked me to share that day with him.

Garth had a passion for model railroading, especially N-Scale and Z-Scale. He always stepped up within the club as the Small-Scale Division coordinator. He was very creative and built many N-scale and Z-scale T-Trak modules. It always seemed like a bit of a friendly competition between him and me, always trying to up the "Wow" factor. His contributions to the club, his support and advice as a long-time member, model railroader, and more importantly as my friend will be deeply missed.

To my good Friend... Saying goodbye to you is one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. My spirit grieves, yet I know that one day we will meet again. Thank you for being my friend, for accepting me for who I am, and for being there when I needed an ear, and for supporting me throughout the years. I am a better man for having known you as my friend and having you in my life! Thank you for being a part of my life, you are missed.

Garth Easton's Interesting History

Garth was born on July 24, 1950, in Camrose, Alberta, Canada. He grew up in Jasper, Edmonton, and Sherwood Park, Alberta. He graduated from high school in Sherwood Park in 1969. He then obtained his journeyman electrician certification at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton.

While working as an electrician, he took up scuba diving as a hobby. Diving became his love, a part-time business, and a reason to travel to exotic and warm destinations. A vacation to the Bahamas turned into an opportunity to become a dive master on San Salvador. In December 1978, Garth left a cold and snowy Edmonton to follow his dreams of living in the Bahamas.



Garth's time on San Sal was special in many ways, but it was truly life-changing when a young Carol Randolph Taylor, from Delaware, visited on a dive vacation and stole his heart. In 1982, Garth and Carol moved to Grand Cayman to run East End Dive Lodge, and on April 7, 1984, they were married on their island paradise.



With plans to start a family, Garth and Carol moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 1984. Carol worked as a nurse practitioner and Garth found a job in the cable television installation industry, eventually owning the company. They welcomed their son, Kevin, in 1988.

In 1996, Garth and Carol began looking for a great family community in a more temperate climate. Friends had moved to Tallahassee, and following a visit, Garth and Carol decided they liked the area too. The land was purchased, and Garth started construction on a new family home. Carol found work in her profession and Garth started a fourth career in the building supply industry. In true form, Garth excelled and became an award-winning salesperson.

In his spare time, Garth loved to cook for and host family

and friends, fish, and tailgate and cheer for his beloved Seminoles. As a young boy living in the Canadian Rocky Mountains Garth developed a love for trains. Later in life, he became an avid model train enthusiast and served on the board of directors for the Big Bend Model Railroad Association in Tallahassee.

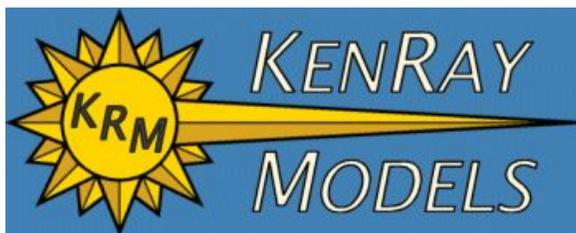
Garth is survived by his wife of 37 years, Carol Taylor Easton; son, Kevin Alexander Easton (fiancée – Mary Culver-Strickland); brother, Reginald Easton (Sheila Easton); sister, Mary-Ann Easton (Carol Connick); and, sister, Heather Orey (Dave Orey). He is also mourned by the Taylor family and many nieces, nephews and cousins in both Canada and the United States. He was predeceased by his mother and father, Martha and Harry Easton, and his mother and father-in-law, Ruth, and Joseph Taylor.

On a personal note, I cannot express how deeply it saddens me that I (and our community) have lost a close personal friend and valued member of our club. Garth got involved and stayed involved. He loved model railroading and being a part of the BBMRA! Garth's passing has left a huge void. I can count the number of close personal friends I have on one hand, and I just lost one. While I grieve for the loss of my friend and all he meant to me, I know that the good Lord has him comfortably in his arms. I take solace in knowing that a good and genuine man is no longer in pain. Rest in peace my friend, you are missed!!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Carol Taylor Easton, and son Kevin Alexander Easton as well as his extended family. -- Andy Zimmerman

A celebration of life will be held on a date yet to be determined. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations are made to the American Heart Association or the Big Bend Model Railroad Association of Tallahassee.

December 21, 2021, Program Presenters – Ken and Joan Izzo



A long time ago, in a hobby shop not really that far away, two guys met. There was no evil empire to revolt against, just a how-to class teaching kids to build models. One guy, in desperate need of a shave. The other guy had a couple of young kids and a wife who dealt with model building and all its vagaries. It was the beginning of something really good.

The real start of KenRay Models was pretty simple. Ken was a repressed model railroader and interested in WW II modeling. Ray was interested in almost every kind of modeling. Ken was a draftsman by trade and able to discern infinite details. Ray was an award-winning master modeler and model painter with an eye for colors that were spot on. Both were very attuned to accuracy, solid details and wanting to share a passion for both those things.



Ray saw some WW II tanks that Ken built and mounted on flatcars and asked a question that was to have a farther-reaching effect than either would imagine: "Hey, you think we could make some money selling those?" Ken's answer was pretty much standard Ken: "I don't know, let's see." Ray's next question led to something on the business cards that stayed for a long while and will probably make a return. "A business needs a name, so what do we call this?" Ken's answer was vintage sarcastic Ken. "Two ***** Guys Models." Ray intelligently nixed this idea, and the name KenRay Models was born in 2005.

There were five models at the start. A four-ingot mold car and four military flatcars with loads. We've come a long way since then, folks. The military cars line was expanded, with steel mill equipment and detail parts added. The product list grew slowly, but steadily. In 2008, Ray was diagnosed with cancer and Joan entered the picture. Joan often introduces herself at shows by saying she's the half of KenRay Models that is neither Ken nor Ray. Yes, this adds

up to three halves, but the beauty of model railroading is when it's your layout or model train manufacturer, you can make it anything you want it to be.

That same year, some great guys in Kentucky hosted the N-Scale Collector and N Trak National Convention in Louisville. KenRay Models was there with products that weren't widely available in N-scale. Military flatcars with loads, vehicles that were single loads and steel mill cars. Distressed gondolas, artillery pieces and tanks. Jeeps, trucks, and a plethora of detail parts including those cement steps you see in the middle of a field that go absolutely nowhere! (What is that about anyway? Did those steps have a purpose at one time?)



In 2009, KenRay Models introduced our first model made with 100% rapid prototyped masters, the 150-ton bottle car. Since that time, we've gradually converted to having the majority of our masters created this way. It allows for a level of detail that is difficult to achieve without needing a month to build a single car. Model railroaders are patient folks, but that's asking a lot!

Ray passed away late in 2008. We bought the business outright from his wonderful wife, Donna, in 2012, with the understanding we'd never change the name from KenRay Models. In mid-2012 we built a 12x16 foot shop building in the backyard, installed the equipment, and got back to work.

It's been a good run so far and we've no intention of stopping any time soon. We've met great people, made good friends, created a business we enjoy. Keep coming back to the site and stopping by our tables at the shows. We promise that we'll always make time for you.

Thanks, Ken and Joan Izzo - Proud owners of KenRay Models

Pensacola & Dothan Train Shows, and Running Trains at Tallahassee Senior Center

It has been a busy first half of December, with BBMRA members running the N Scale T-Trak modules at the Pensacola model train show and the O Gauge and HO Divisions celebrating the Christmas holidays with trains at the Tallahassee Senior Center. In between was the Dothan show which has always been popular with the club and with several members driving over either Saturday or Sunday last weekend.

Andy Zimmermann and Stacey Elliott used one of the BBMRA trailers to haul the N Scale T-Trak modules to the Pensacola Model Railroad Show – Railfest 2021 - December 4-5 and operate them as part of the larger Florida-Georgia-Alabama T-Trak Layout, which are featured in our show and sale each summer. Andy says the Pensacola show was a good one, although he is disappointed that more BBMRA members were not able to attend. But it is a four-hour drive each way and the holiday season.

The Wiregrass Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale at the National Peanut Festival and Fairgrounds in Dothan was last weekend, December 11-12. BBMRA members got in free under the reciprocal agreement between BBMRA and the Dothan model train club, and some 10 or so drove over. This event had been rescheduled from September because of the new COVID threat. Also, last weekend was a major show in Nashville and several vendors who would have come to Dothan went to Nashville instead. Danny Adams hopes to move the Wiregrass show back to mid-September in 2022.



BBMRA ran trains Tuesday, December 14, at the Tallahassee Senior Center in a special holiday event for seniors, grandparents, and their grandchildren. Phil Weston brought a terrific HO T-Trak layout, including a winter, Christmas module built by Art Wilson. Almost a dozen HO Division members participated.

“We were well received,” Phil says. “I think it was a successful inaugural at the Senior Center and the facilities and staff assistance were great.” Phil thinks about 100 folks came to run model trains.

In addition to the HO T-Traks, club members ran the O Gauge Disney layout, with a Mickey Mouse train, and a Hersey’s Christmas train from Steve Pollock. Steve had the gondolas filled with real Chocolate candies. Randy Lombardo was present with Thomas the Tank Engine, and Neal Meadows operated an N Scale Christmas layout.

Barbara Donner brought the *Hanukkah* celebration scene she developed last year. It was a nice, appropriate addition to our layouts.

It was fun to run Christmas trains and operate at night. We have not had a night operating session for some time. Neal gave out the new club brochures and talked to a lot of people who asked questions about the club activities. A few new people to Tallahassee were interested in possibly joining the club.





Next up for the club is the Museum of Florida History's 39th Annual Children's Day, January 22, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. BBMRA's HO Division will be operating along with the Large Scale's Randy Lombardo and Thomas the Tank Engine. Set-up begins at 9:15 a.m. The museum is in the R.A. Gray Building located between the Capitol and the Civic Center downtown.

Santa Likes Model Trains and Harleys

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, and they live in Crawfordville, Florida, and run N Scale and Garden Railroad model trains when they aren't tied up with Christmas. Santa John and Judy Meister were back again this year at Esposito's Garden Center for several weekends. They finish up their pre-Christmas activity this Saturday, December 18, at the Harley Davidson motorcycle center on West Capital Circle, and Sunday at Esposito's from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Check'em out if you have a chance.

November BBMRA Meeting Program – KenRay Models



December 21, 2021, 7:30 p.m.: Guest presenters will be Ken and Joan Izzo of KenRay Models. They will be sharing information about their products in various scales, and field questions from members. <https://kenraymodels.com/about>

Club Meetings are Back to Zoom Only for Now

BBMRA Zoom: Go to Zoom Program or Internet site and use these codes.

Meeting ID: 873 5905 5848, Password:162465

Jacksonville Running Lionel Trains at Christmas (Updated – Still being offered!)



The Jacksonville Lionel Collectors are running Lionel and other O Gauge trains for several days around Christmas at the Museum of Science and History in Jacksonville.

"We run seven trains and one bump and go trolley line – all in O gauge. Lots of fun. Lots of noise," says Chuck Bryner, a member of the group.

The museum is located at **1025 Museum Circle, Jacksonville, 32207.**

Here is the schedule:

- Thursday, Wednesday, December 23, 10 to 5.
- The museum is closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
- Sunday, December 26, 12 to 5.
- Monday, December 27, 10 to 5.
- The museum is closed December 28-29 and the TCA operations will be over.

BBMRA Important Events in 2021!!

BBMRA meetings are the third Tuesday of each month. We have resumed meeting through Zoom only because of the COVID resurgence.

BBMRA Zoom: Go to Zoom Program or Internet site and use these codes.

Meeting ID: 873 5905 5848, Password:162465

Lionel Interest Group Operating Sessions: each Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at Sam Miller's house in Woodgate.

December O Gauge Trains at the Museum of Science & History, 1025 Museum Circle, Jacksonville, 32207. This is by the Jacksonville Lionel Collectors. Here is the schedule: Thursday, December 23, 10 to 5; museum is closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; Sunday, December 26, 12 to 5; Monday, December 27, 10 to 5; museum is closed December 28-29 and the TCA operations will be over.

January 6-8, 2022: Prototype Rails 2022, Cocoa Beach Hilton. This is an NMRA Sunshine Region sanctioned event with a wide variety of model railroading workshops and presentations. Featuring O, HO and N. The registration fee is \$45 before December 31 and \$50 after that. Checks payable to Prototype Rails and must be sent to Marty Megregian, 480 Gails Way, Merritt Island, FL 32953. Mention Group Code NMR 22 when reserving your room.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/ccbchhf-hilton-cocoa-beach-oceanfront/>

January 8-9, 2022: Golden Spike Model Train Show, Deland. Volusia County Fairgrounds.

February 5, 2020: January 8-9, 2022: Golden Spike Model Train Show, Jacksonville. Prime Osborne Conventional Center.

BILLBOARD REEFERS OUT OF THE PAST & THE HISTORY AND OPERATIONS OF THE APALACHICOLA NORTHERN RAILROAD articles will resume in the January Lantern.

Minutes November 16, 2021

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting, held on Nov 16 via Zoom at about 7:35 PM. There were 16 participants present at maximum.

Minutes – A motion to accept the minutes submitted with the early Lantern was forwarded by Bob Ruggles and seconded by Drew. The motion was accepted and passed without objection.

Treasurer's Report – Neal, the new Treasurer mentioned he had some details to resolve re account details etc. Drew did answer some questions raised by Neal on some accounting details. President Andy did show the Treasurer's report however, using the Meeting share functionality. There was discussion about the Memorial fund balance. We are still at 68 members, the highest total since 2018. We are in the black and still looking good. The report was moved by Ed Schroeder and seconded by Phil. Weston.

The motion was passed without objection.

Division Reports

Small Scale – Garth mentioned that he had nothing new to share. He is looking forward to recovering from his upcoming medical procedure and being able to participate fully in club activities afterwards. He will not be participating in upcoming show visits in Pensacola and Dothan.

Large Scale – Sam Miller was absent and consequently nothing was discussed.

HO – Phil mentioned the upcoming outing and the preparation that the HO group is undertaking for the Senior Center request. He did mention the need for some tables to place the T-Trak modules and other logistical details. The group plans to use 16 modules contributed by 7 members. Phil also mentioned he is looking forward to a Spring layout tour that hopefully we can have organized.

Switching Layout – Joe was absent and consequently nothing was shared.

Good of the Group – There was nothing to add re general good of the group discussion. The business portion of the meeting was then concluded quickly at 7:47 PM.

Submitted by: Sheldon Harrison – Secretary



Neal and Sam bring you all the news and views that we can put together for your viewing pleasure around model trains. Hopefully, you will see something you like and can share the info with others.

Merry Christmas

Happy Hanukkah

& Happy New Year

To You All!

