



THE Lantern

October 2022

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[October 18, 2022, 7:30 p.m. BBMRA Meeting](#)



BBMRA meets Tuesday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m. through Zoom.

Club Meetings are Zoom Only

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87359055848?pwd=WTVtUDhBUmhXVFp3RkY4WWNnZ2NXdz09>

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

Meeting ID: [873 5905 5848](#), Password: [BBMRA2022](#)

SAM Shortline and a Glimpse at Jimmy Carter

From Sam Miller

The SAM Shortline Railroad at Cordele, GA, is terrific for a lot of reasons, including that we share a first name. The \$39 SAM Shortline monogrammed blue jean shirt I bought on my family's September 24 Peanut Festival excursion to Plains was an awesome buy.

Some of us long-time BBMRAers used to make the trip to Cordele to ride this train regularly, but I hadn't for years, since Roy Mantooth moved away and has since passed away. My daughter, Lily Shettle, and youngest grandson, Charlie, both had birthdays September 25, and Charlie wanted to take a train ride.

SAM Shortline excursions are available most Saturdays, but this was a special one. The Plains Peanut Festival was underway and there was a dedicated ride to and from the community made world famous by Jimmy Carter. As an unadvertised, but really special treat, Charlie, 7, Bleakley, 11, and Logan, 9, their parents, Lily and John Shettle, and

Linda Medlin and I got a peak at former President Carter and First Lady Rosalynn, riding in the festival parade in a red 1946 Ford Rag Top convertible. (See the photo from the next day's Atlanta Constitution.)

I emphasized to the kids how unusual and significant it was to see a former U.S. President and First Lady in person, especially in conjunction with a wonderful train ride.

We had even talked earlier about Carter, Plains, how I covered Carter for United President International when he was governor of Georgia in the 1970's and how one of my best friends, Tallahassee Democrat columnist Bill Cotterell, traveled with Carter for UPI during the 1976 presidential campaign. I talked about some of the highs and lows of Carter's presidency. I sure know how to bore my grandkids, don't I? But



Jimmy, Rosalynn, and the red rag top – given the Carters by Garth Brooks and Trisha Underwood to mark their 1946 wedding date – made all of that relevant and our weekend trip more memorable.

Our excursion to Plains began at Georgia Veterans State Park about 10 miles from Cordele. Most of the regular trips begin and end at the downtown Cordele terminal. We were powered by two Heart of Georgia (HOG) GP 38-2 diesels. The vintage passenger cars are mostly Pre-World War II.



I had forgotten how easy the drive to Cordele is – about two-and-a-half hours – making SAM's probably the most convenient train excursion for Tallahassee folks. The trip and train ride can be done in one day, but it is easier if you go up Friday. The trains leave early, around 8 a.m. There was a "whistle stop" at Americus to pick up the handful who didn't make it to the Veterans State Park before the train pulled away.



There are several upcoming wonderful excuses to make the trip to Cordele. SAM Shortline rides will be a highlight of the 2022 Cordele Railfan Festival, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, November 12. As noted in Big Bend Ties, the newsletter of our area Gulf Wind Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society, another highlight is Cordele Railway Park, "a prime location downtown for watching trains. The park is situated near the Cordele railroad diamond, a unique track configuration where three different railroads – Norfolk Southern, Heart of Georgia and CSX – intersect as they pass through the city."

In December, SAM Shortline will operate its annual **Candy**

Cane Express with trips from Georgia Veterans State Park to Plains.

Other special events include a Halloween Express October 29, Plains Christmas Lighting November 26, and the Cordele Holiday Train with Santa Clause December 9.

For information on all of the SAM Shortline events, call (229) 276-0755 or go to www.SAMShortline.com



Another good site is www.downtowncordele.com

By the way, SAM is for Savannah, Americus and Montgomery, but also for its founder, who had a fine sense of humor – Samuel Hugh Hawkins.

Photos are from the Atlanta Constitution, samshortline.com and Sam Miller.



BBMRA Running Trains at Tall Senior Center Dec. 15 – Grandparents Holiday Event

From Sam Miller:

For the second straight year, the Big Bend Model Railroad Association will operate trains in a special holiday event at the Tallahassee Senior Center for seniors, grandparents, and their grandchildren. The operating session is from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, December 15. Set-up begins at 4:30 p.m. We have the entire auditorium on the second floor and will be bringing several small layouts - two O Gauge layouts, Walt Disney and Thomas the Tank Engine, plus, an HO T-Trak layout and Neal Meadows' N Scale holiday layout. There may be other layouts as well; we have plenty of room.

BBMRA has not had regular setups for the Christmas and Jewish Holidays for years. This was a lot of fun last year and we know it will be this time as well.



Veterans Memorial RR: No Halloween Train, but Christmas Polar Express is Back

From: <https://www.veteransmemorialrailroad.org/>

There is no Halloween train at Veterans Memorial Park in Bristol this year, but the Christmas Polar Express will be operating full steam ahead beginning December 2 and with added after Christmas dates. Until December, the operating schedule is limited to the second Saturday of each month and special reservations.

Experience the Magic

For those who have never ridden the Christmas “Polar Bear Express,” it is an amazing ride over one mile of track around the park to view thousands of lights and life-size scenes, including Santa’s Village, Polar Bear Mountain, an extensive Frozen scene, Western Town, and other scenes. This unique train ride is designed to delight all ages.”

VMRR Polar Express: Operating sessions for the Polar Express are scheduled for 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Eastern, on 13 nights in December. Many trips will be pulled by the Crown, a wonderful steamer. The dates are December 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29. The rides are about 25 minutes long around Veterans Memorial Park to and from the Tom Keenan Station. For additional information, go to the Internet site or call: (850) 643-6646.

If the night you are wanting to come is sold out of Reservation Tickets come on anyway! We have General Admission every evening the train is running. Just walk up and buy a ticket. Tickets are \$10. Children two and under ride free.

CHECK-IN BEGINS AT YOUR RESERVATION TIME! No need to arrive before your reservation time. Reservations are for 30-minute time slots. **The address is 10561 NW Theo Jacobs Way, Bristol, FL 32321**

“DON’T MISS ORDERING TICKETS ONLINE TO AVOID EXTENSIVE WAITING TIME. OPENING NIGHT IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, AND TWO DAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO ANSWER REQUESTS FROM GRANDPARENTS WHOSE GRANDCHILDREN COME TO VISIT AFTER CHRISTMAS,” VMRR notes on its Internet site:

<https://www.veteransmemorialrailroad.org/>

Click here to order tickets: <https://www.veteransmemorialrailroad.org/polar-bear-express-2021>



Toys for Tots Support Began as a Tribute to John Sullenberger

From Drew Hackmeyer

(From Sam Miller: BBMRA once again this December will donate toy trains to Toys for Tots – more than \$700 in items, under a formula proposed by Drew Hackmeyer and adopted by the club based on profits from the annual model train show. Garth Easton handled this in recent years, including in 2021 just before he passed away. We asked Drew for his thoughts and some background.)



BBMRA 2021 Toys for Tots contribution, with Ben Caplin, WCTV, right, and a U.S. Marine Corp League officer.

The genesis was after John Sullenberger's death in 2014. We received over a thousand dollars because of an 'in memoriam' item in his obituary. I pushed to keep that money out of BBMRA's day-to-day funds and use it for something special. The idea of a Toys for Tots donation of toy trains for small kids was the result.

I have pushed that the donation be of non-powered train toys for small kids. Things like Thomas that can be handled roughly without breaking and with no critical pieces like electric trains. They can be played with on a table, the floor, a rug or in the yard. No batteries or power pack... just a kid's imagination.

John's long involvement with the train show and its success made it a natural to link the two. A flat and constant percentage of the train show's net to fund the donation account and a fixed and constant percentage is

to be spent from the account each year. With this fiscal premise, this could go on for many years.

We have received other cash donations in the past. Those too have been funneled to the JWS Memorial Fund.



John Sullenberger 1957 - 2014



Garth Easton 1950 - 2021

These parameters need to be remembered:

- Trains
- Young kids
- Sturdy
- Non-powered





Signals from the Sunshine Region



Sunshine Region of the NMRA National Model Railroad Association will be hosting workshops for the 2022 – 2023 year.

1. November 19, 2022, address – 600 3rd Street, Neptune Beach, FL.
2. February 25, 2023, address First United Methodist Church of Alachua 14805 NW 140th St, Alachua, FL.
3. June 24, 2023, address Tallahassee Fairground 441 E Paul Russell Rd, Tallahassee, FL, and **TRAIN SHOW.**

Robert Feuerstein Email: photobob321@gmail.com

BBMRA Important Events in 2022!!



Help us build this calendar. Email sammiller61113@outlook.com. Please confirm that an activity is still on before you travel to it. We are listing Internet links whenever possible.

Here is a terrific national calendar:

https://www.railserve.com/events/train_shows.html

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: BBMRA2022

Lionel Interest Group Operating Sessions: each Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at Sam Miller’s house in Woodgate. Call (850) 459-3012 for further information.

November 5, 2022, Silver Springs Lions Train Show: Saturday, November 5, 2022, from 9 a.m. to noon at the First Christian Church, 1908 E Fort King St, Ocala, FL 34471. The Ocala Model Railroaders Historic Preservation Society will be in attendance with its travelling N scale layout and model railroad items for sale. Entry fee is \$5.00 (Children under 12 free with a paying adult.) A canned food item for the Interfaith Food Pantry saves you \$1.00 on the entry fee.

November 12, 2022, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: 2022 Cordele Railfan Festival, Cordele, GA: SAM Shortline rides will be a highlight, leaving from the downtown terminal. As noted in Big Bend Ties, the newsletter of our area Gulf Wind Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society, another highlight is Cordele Railway Park, “a prime location downtown for watching trains. The park is situated near the Cordele railroad diamond, a unique track configuration where three different railroads – Norfolk Southern, Heart of Georgia and CSX – intersect as they pass through the city.”

November 19-20, 2022, Pensacola Railfest Model Train Show & Sale, Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds, Building 1, 6655 Mobile Highway, Pensacola, 32526. This is a new date. In the past, this show has been on the first weekend in December. See www.downtowncordele.com

November 19, 2022, Sunshine Region NMRA Northern Division Workshop: 600 3rd Street, Neptune Beach, FL.

December 2-29, 2022, VMRR Polar Express, Bristol: Operating sessions for the Polar Express are scheduled for 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on 13 nights in December. Many trips will be pulled by the Crown, a wonderful steamer. The dates are

December 2,3,9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21,28, 29. The rides are about 25 minutes long around Veterans Memorial Park to and from the Tom Keenan Station. For additional information, go to the Internet site or call: (850) 643-6646.

December 8-11, 2022: The Villages Model Train Club Christmas Show: Thursday, December 8, through Sunday, December 11, 2022 – 9 a.m. to 4:00 pm. Train layouts only and no vendors at this show. Savannah Regional Recreation Center, The Villages. 1545 Buena Vista Boulevard, The Villages, Florida 32162.
<http://www.thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com/>

December 15, 2022, BBMRA Running Trains at Tallahassee Senior Center: For the second straight year, BBMRA will operate trains in a special holiday event at the Tallahassee Senior Center for seniors, grandparents, and their grandchildren. The operating session is from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, December 15. Set-up begins at 4:30 p.m. We will be bringing several small layouts - two O Gauge layouts, Walt Disney, and Thomas the Tank Engine, plus, an HO T-Trak layout and Neal Meadows' N Scale holiday display.

December O Gauge Trains at the Museum of Science & History, 1025 Museum Circle, Jacksonville: Each day the museum is open from December 17 to December 30. This is by the big O Gauge group in Jacksonville and has become an annual event, with several layouts. The museum is open throughout the week except Tuesday and Wednesday, although it is possible one of these days may be scheduled open during the holidays. Saturday, 10 to 5; Sunday, noon to 5; Monday, 10 to 5; Thursday, 10 to 5; Friday, 10 to 5. It will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Check the museum operating schedule through this link for the specific operating schedule: <https://themosh.org/>

January 5-7, 2023: Prototype Rails 2023, 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 Tom Meyer, 2321 Kumquat Drive, Edgewater, FL, 32141. Mention Group Code NMR 23 when reserving your room.
<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/cbcchhf-hilton-cocoa-beach-oceanfront/>

January 14-15, 2023, Golden Spike Enterprises Deland Train Show, Volusia County Fairgrounds.

February 2, 2023, Golden Spike Enterprises Jacksonville Train Show, Prime Osborne Center, Jacksonville.

February 25, 2023, Sunshine Region NMRA Northern Division Workshop: First United Methodist Church of Alachua 14805 NW 140th St, Alachua, FL.

June 23-25, 2022: 32nd Annual Tallahassee Model Train Show & Sale: North Florida Fairgrounds, Tallahassee. Set-up is Friday, June 23. Show hours are 9 to 5 on Saturday and 9 to 4 on Sunday - <http://bbmra.club/>

June 24, 2023, Sunshine Region NMRA Northern Division Workshop: In conjunction with the BBMRA annual train show and sale at the Leon County Fairgrounds, 441 E Paul Russell Rd, Tallahassee.

Pay Your 2022-23 Dues by PayPal

The BBMRA now has the option for new and current members to pay their dues online by using the PayPal link on the BBMRA.ORG website. It is under the Membership menu item. When you select the PayPal button you will get the



option to use your PayPal account if you have one or use a credit/debit card. The dues are \$21 using this method. If you would like to pay by check, you can send your \$20 to **BBMRA, PO Box 3392, Tallahassee FL 32315-3392** or you can send it directly to **Neal Meadows, Treasurer, 2812 Whittington Dr., Tallahassee FL 32309-8213.**

ALL ABOARD FOR
PENSACOLA
RAILFEST
2022
 MODEL TRAIN SHOW AND SALE



AT PENSACOLA INTERSTATE FAIRGROUNDS
 6655 MOBILE HIGHWAY, BUILDING 1
 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH, 9AM TO 5PM
 SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 10AM TO 4PM
 ADULTS: \$7.00, \$1.00 CASH DISCOUNT
 CHILDREN 12 & UNDER: FREE!
 FREE PARKING!
 CONCESSIONS FEATURING 3-D EATS & TEA



PMRC



VISIT US ONLINE AT
 WWW.PMRC.US

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T-TRAK
 N-Scale Modular Railroading

NTRAK

T-TRAK-Z
 Z-Scale Modular Railroading



locomotives from 1902 until 1952.

Pensacola Rail Fest

Pensacola Railfest 2022 will be held November 12th and 13th at the Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds located at [6655 Mobile Highway, Building 1](#). The two-day event will include over 20 vendors featuring Tucker's Train Supply and Joe Ray's Alabama Trainman. The PMRC will be hosting the South West Alabama Railroad Modelers O-Scale Layout. HO layouts from the PMRC HO Division and Miracle Strip Model Railroad Club and N-Scale N-TRAK layouts from the PMRC. N and Z-Scale T-TRAK layouts will also be on display. BBMRA will be participating with our N Scale T-Trak modules. A children's play area will be provided. Food Truck vendor services will be provided by Wrighteous Eats. Big Bend Model Railroad Association members have reciprocity entry to Pensacola Railfest 2022. We hope to see you there!

Model of the Glover Machine Works building that was in Marietta GA and produced steam

Next month I will have another article on the Glover Locomotive Works. I featured one back in May. It was from the perspective of the museum in Kennesaw where there are several displays of the history of the company. Most of the article focused more on the General and the history of the Great Locomotive Chase. The new article(s) will focus on the development of the company and the building of locomotives that were used by companies across the state of Florida. Many of these were companies nearby and have interesting history. Check it out! – Maybe another Billboard Reefer Out of the Past one as well! -- Neal Meadows

Minutes from the August 19, 2022, Meeting of BBMRA: President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting, held on September 20 via Zoom, at about 7:35 PM. There were 12 participants present at maximum.

Minutes – The minutes from the July meeting were discussed. Neal forwarded and Stacy seconded a motion to accept the minutes as presented in the July Lantern. The motion was accepted without objection. Sam commented on Neal’s dedication to formatting the Lantern and they make a good team.

Treasurer’s Report – President Andy asked Neal to report on the finances. There was brief discussion on the file and email logistics. Once that was resolved, the report was shared with the club via Zoom functionality. As consistently stated, the BBMRA balance is not shared in the minutes but will be produced upon request by any club member. Like reported last month, we are in the black and looking good. There was discussion of a toll entry, but it will be resolved. There was also discussion of present club membership count. The membership was recorded at 50 as of the meeting date. Drew then submitted a motion to accept the report and it was seconded by Sam. The motion was approved without exception. Drew then briefly asked about the Toys for Tots status after which there was some discussion.

Division Reports

Large Scale - Sam mentioned Large Scale did not have anything going on at the moment. He then mentioned getting with the Senior Center for another outing like what we did in the past. Not on a Wednesday. There was mention that the R.A. Gray Museum is closing for renovations which means Children’s Day in January may be jeopardized. Discussion then followed about the layout of the museum and the large section below the plaza and the issue with water intrusion that needs to be fixed.

HO Scale – Phil mentioned not much was going on and mentioned the cancelled Sopchoppy event that both N-Scale and HO were planning and preparing to participate in.

N-Scale – Stacy mentioned that not much was going on and he had the same comment re the cancelled Sopchoppy event. Sam mentioned that the local Boys Town reached out to him about an N-Scale layout and equipment that they are seeking to dispose of. He described some of the items including a Bachmann set etc. that club members may be interested in.

Switching Layout – Nothing was discussed.

Good of the Group - President Andy mentioned he has been in communication with SoundTraxx and that Doug from SoundTraxx is hoping to present at next month’s meeting. He mentioned the Tsunami II and the Bluenami (Bluetooth version of Tsunami).

He then mentioned a company called Railsmith Models and he would like them to present either next month or later in the Fall if necessary. This company does a lot of multi-scale models, and he would also like to get them to present if feasible. He also brought up an idea of an event for club members to have fellowship over the holidays with food etc. on an afternoon. We could also setup T-Trak for HO and N. Sam mentioned he liked that idea and would be willing to help where he can.

Bob F mentioned the Sunshine Region’s annual convention in Plant City on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of October. He did mention hotel rooms may be scarce. On November 19, there will also be a Sunshine Region workshop in Jacksonville. There was then general discussion of other NMRA related items, activities and dates extending into 2023.

Joe mentioned he has defective NCE stuff that he would like someone to take a look at. Sam suggested Joe can take it over to him to have a look. As usual, Sam mentioned his weekly Sunday get together and that all club members are invited if interested. The meeting was officially concluded at 8:38 PM.

Thanks for reading! Sam shared a great article on the Sam Shortline Railroad. Our family went on that same trip a couple of years ago and we stayed over night in Americus GA in the hotel there and went to the old theater across the street. Great trip and I even won the door prize on the train. A three-layer spice cake. – Neal Meadows