



THE Lantern

January 2024

Volume 29 Number 01

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January 16, 2024

BBMRA meets Tuesday, January 16, at 7:30 p.m. through Zoom. The program is still being developed.

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



Find a Good Train Show and You will be Set Until the Next One

From Sam Miller:

(Sam in Tallahassee, LLC, will be participating – in addition to the Tallahassee show June 22-23 – in shows in Deland this weekend, the Villages and Jacksonville in November, Mobile in March and Pensacola in May.)

Finding a good model train show – in addition to the BBMRA annual June show - is lots of fun and a necessity for modelers who want to add to their collections and layouts throughout the year.

Train shows are the best bet now unless you live in a rare community with a thriving model train store. Tallahassee certainly isn't that. eBay is an excellent place to shop, but there is nothing like looking at and

holding something before you decide to buy it; seeing an innovative, impressive layout for the first time; or chatting with vendors who don't set up at the Tallahassee show.

The 32nd BBMRA Annual Show & Sale is June 23-24, 2024 and has become one of the very best in our region, but several good shows within comfortable driving distance of Tallahassee will be taking place during the first few months of 2024. There are shows at the Villages near Leesburg and Jacksonville in February and Pensacola in May. There are shows throughout Florida throughout the year, especially in south central and south Florida.



RailServe is a terrific model train show calendar even though it is national, and you have to search for the Florida events. But search it if you are

planning a trip down state. There is a good chance something involving model trains will be going on.

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

Deland may be a stretch for a drive over and drive back the same day trip (about five hours each way), but this weekend's Golden Spike Enterprises show at the Volusia County Fairgrounds is one of the best and best attended in our state. It also features several model train set-ups, including O Gauge and G Gauge. The January show is a two-day event, but Golden Spike operates three one-day shows at the fairgrounds later in the year, in the spring, summer and fall.

Here are the basics: January 13-14, 2024, **83rd Florida Model Train Show & Sale, Deland**: 9a to 4p Saturday, 10a to 3:30p, Sunday. Tommy Lawrence & Townsend Buildings, Volusia County Fairgrounds. Admission, \$10; children under 12, free. Golden Spike Enterprises.

One of the best overall shows is the event staged in early February and again in mid-September by the coalition of model train clubs in the Villages between Ocala and Gainesville. There is no large modeling event in Orlando anymore and this has become it for the region. There is a waiting list for vendors – it took me a couple of years to get in. There is a Villages model train club specializing in every scale and those folks put up amazing layouts, including Lionel Standard Gauge.

Here are the basics: **February 4-5, 2024, The Villages Model Train Show**: Savannah Regional Center, 1545 N. Buena Vista Blvd., The Villages, FL, 32162. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. To 3 p.m. Admission \$7; children under 12 free. The fall Villages show is September 13-14, 2024.

Over the years, the Jacksonville train show at the Prime Osborne Center, once the train station and one of the major passenger train hubs for the South, was a favorite for BBMRA members. There would be several carloads of us leaving early enough to get there when the doors opened. This year's show is Saturday, February 10. It is still a good show, although not what it was once. Unlike other area events, it features a lot of railroad memorabilia in addition to model trains.

Here are the basics: February 10, 2024, **45th Annual Jacksonville Train Show & Sale**: 9a to 4p, Admission, \$13; children under 12, free. Prime Osborne Center, 1000 Waters Street, Jacksonville, 32204. Golden Spike Enterprises.

If you are willing to drive to Pensacola, another hour puts you in Mobile. The Mobile Train Show March 2-3, 2024, is a smaller event, but well attended and with vendors from Louisiana and Alabama you probably are meeting for the first time. It is held at the Arlene Mitchell Heath, Fitness & Enrichment Center in Mobile. Spending the weekend in Mobile can be great fun, including its version of Bourbon Street and the U.S Alabama Battleship Park.

Here are the basics: **Mobile Train Show**, Arlene Mitchell Heath, Fitness & Enrichment Center, 1717 Dauphin Street, Mobile, 9a to 5p, Saturday, March 2, and 11 to 4, Sunday, March 3, Central Time. Admission \$8, children under 10, free, family rate, \$15.

The annual Pensacola model railroad show scheduled for November 11-12 was cancelled and has been rescheduled as the new Pensacola Spring Railfest. The 2024 Railfest will be May 18-19, 2024. Beginning in 2025, this show will be held during the last weekend in April.

Louis Holiday and Terry Tucker of the Pensacola Model Railroad Club notified vendors a couple of weeks before the November show that a scheduling glitch had developed with the Escambia County Fairgrounds forcing the cancellation. Not only did the club lose the 2023 dates to one of the gun and knife shows, but also the mid-November weekend for the next 10 years. The club decided to switch their annual show to the spring.



Here are the basics: May 18-19, 2024, **Pensacola Spring Railfest 2024**. Sponsored by the Pensacola Model Railroad Club. Building 1, the Pensacola Fairgrounds, 6655 Mobile Highway, Pensacola, 32526. Saturday, 9 to 5; Sunday, 10 to 4 (Central times).

Another highly popular train show for BBMRA members has been the Dothan show. The Wiregrass Steel Wheels Model Train Show was September 16-17 last year and had been moved to 501 Recreation Road in Dothan. It is no longer at the National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds. Attendance has dwindled over the years; it was low last September and most of the regular vendors from the past did not participate. I am not sure of the status of this show and if there are plans for a 2024 event.

Regal Railways conducts train shows in Pinellas Park, Crystal River, Kissimmee, and Brooksville throughout the year. They are Saturday, 9a to 2p, shows, apparently in conjunction with local model train clubs. See RailServe https://www.railserve.com/events/train_shows.html or their Internet site: www.regalrailways.com for details. Also contact Joe Schramm at joe_@regalrailways.com.

Several times a year there is a train show in Melbourne at the Azan Shrine Center. F course, there are others and several in Atlanta if you are willing to drive five or six hours up I-75. You can find it all on the amazing RailServe calendar and a lot of it as well in BBMRA Important Events in 2024 in the Lantern.

BBMRA Important Events in 2024!!



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 currently meet through Zoom but Andy Zimmerman is planning face-to-face

meetings soon.

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: most Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Sam Miller's house in Woodgate. Call (850) 459-3012 for further information. The group will not meet January 14, but will be back at it January 21

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March 2024, Woodville Founder's Day, Woodville, FL. Exact date to be announced later. BBMRA set-ups.

Mobile Train Show, March 2-3, 2024, Arlene Mitchell Heath, Fitness & Enrichment Center, 1717 Dauphin Street, Mobile, AL, 9a to 5p, Saturday, March 2, and 11 to 4, Sunday, March 3, Central Time. Admission \$8, children under 10, free, family rate, \$15.

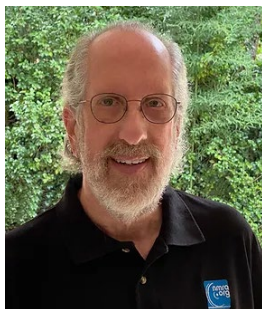
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June 22-23, 2024, 33rd Annual Tallahassee Model Railroad Show and Sale, North Florida Fairgrounds, 441 Paul Russell Road, Tallahassee, 32301. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Set-up is Friday, June 21. Kids 12 and under get in free; ages 13 to adult, \$10.

Sopchoppy Depot Days September 14, 2024, Sopchoppy, FL. The BBMRA HO Division has become a regular participate, operating a special layout developed for this festivity.



Signals from the Sunshine Region



Keep on the lookout for Northern Division Virtual Clinics: Now that the very successful SSR Regional convention is in the rear-view mirror we are lining up our next set of quarterly Northern Division Clinics, which will include DCC, Model railroad manufacturers, and MMRs from across the US and Canada, and providing quality Clinics. If you are in the Northern Division, look at your e-mail for Links. If not, send your e-mail to photobob321@gmail.com, and we will get you added to the distribution list so you will get notified as we schedule them. If there is a specific area you would like us to focus on, please email me!!

From Andy Zimmerman: *Recent developments in the Sunshine Region. Yours truly has been elevated to President of the SSR. I started out as the director at large and was promoted into the Vice president position. On December 18th The Then President Gene Jameson had some serious medical issues that prevented him from continuing as the President. And he asked me to step up and step in as President.*



The BBMRA N-Scale group is an N-RAIL Superclub now!

The N-Scale members are reminded to log in to <https://nrail.org/sys/website/?pageId=18144> to take advantage of the member benefits. While you are in there look around.

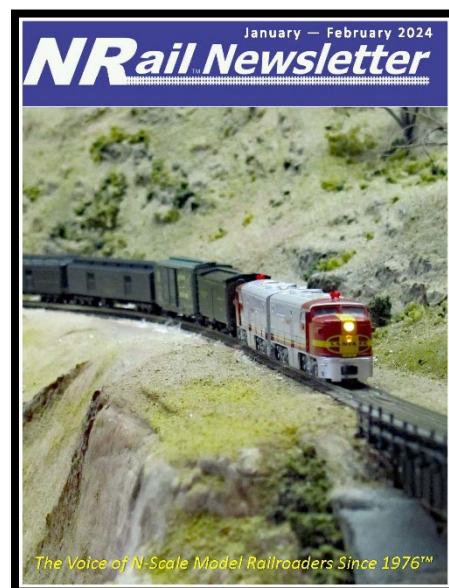
Andy Zimmerman has been appointed as a Vice President of N-Rail.

What is NRail?

In 1974, Jim FitzGerald started publishing a newsletter with the intent of establishing communications with the N scale community about new ideas and about N scale. That newsletter became the NTRAK Newsletter and in 1994, NTRAK became a formal organization with incorporation. In 2000, T-TRAK was born and introduced through The NTRAK Newsletter which continued to be a communications channel for the N scale community.

Today, N scale is the second most popular scale in the North America and the Newsletter continues to be a communications channel for N scale. The purpose of NRail is to promote N scale in all forms, all standards in many different environments at many different displays.

Membership in NRail supports N Scale and provides the communications channel on which N Scalers have come to rely over the years.



Concrete Loading Dock

For you **HO Scalers**: Here is a downloadable concrete loading ramp that you can make. It is free from Team Track Models.

[Click Here](#)



O Scale Central is the new name for the organization promoting 1/48 scale model railroading. We are the national inclusive group for all gauges from O, P48, On3, On30, On2 and including 3 rail scale modeling. If you are not already a member, please consider joining O Scale Central. This website is the central source for 1/48 scale model railroading including:

- Supporting national and local meets and activities
- The Product Guide is included in this website.
- Club and Group Listings
- Getting started and other background modeling information.
- Historical information about model manufacturers, modelers, and our history

This site is the home of the NMRA O-Scale special interest group.

- [Click Here](#)

My Trip to the “Trading Post Train Shop”

By Andy J. Zimmerman President



Over the Christmas break, my lovely bride and I decided to visit friends and family in Ohio and have a good old-fashioned family Christmas. My Brother-in-law was working to ensure that I could visit Local Train shops and started making a list of model railroad shops within an hour of his house. He came across 3 O scale/Lionel shops and one local shop Ormandy's Toys and Trains in Medina, Ohio,

The first two Stores were Lionel shops and little in the way of other scales. There was nothing for this N-Scaler, other than some N-Scale vehicles that were off in an obscure corner. We then traveled back north from Akron to Medina and stopped in [Ormandys](#). It's always a treat to stop in here as he has something for everyone in every scale, including

a large selection of Marklin that he had on sale for 30-50% off. I know that there are a couple of you who would have enjoyed that!

After our outing, we headed home, and my brother-in-law was back on the computer looking for more Train-related activities. He asked me if I had ever heard of The Trading Post Train Shop? I had Not, so we scheduled a trip for the next day to the [Corner Field Model Railroad Museum and the Trading Post Train Shop](#) in Middlefield, OH.

When we arrived I really did not know what to expect given what we had experienced the previous day. Some of you are saying, "I know. It is a model railroad museum with a hobby shop. You see the trains in the hobby shop and then watch this train go around in a small circle, and that is their museum. I have seen these places so many times. They are just not worth your time."



Little did we know! As we walked up to this large building, we were greeted by a large Lionel sign. As we walked in there was a small Shop with mostly Lionel rollingstock to the right. I was met by Tom, and he was very engaging. He explained the background of the store and how it came to be. Tom was very passionate about the layout in the other room.



As the NMRA Standards and Conformance Chair for National, I was a little skeptical about what was actually behind door#1. I wasn't being judgmental, honestly. I just hadn't been overly impressed with the Shops I had seen in the previous days and expected a bit more of the same. Little did I know that I was about to be impressed with an extensive, detailed layout.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am here to tell you that it is not a train going around in some small circle. It is more like a very big complex oval, but that is really an understatement. As I turned the corner and stepped into the room, I was amazed. This display is huge. How huge? It happens to be the largest family-owned and operated O gauge train display in the United States of America. It was built by one family and not in a typical manner like so many others, as the collective efforts of a model railroad club, and it remains in the family to this current day. You see trains going over bridges

and past buildings, some of which are at least sixty years old. From steam to diesel, this display will amaze you. There is so much to see that you may want to plan on going back to see it again.



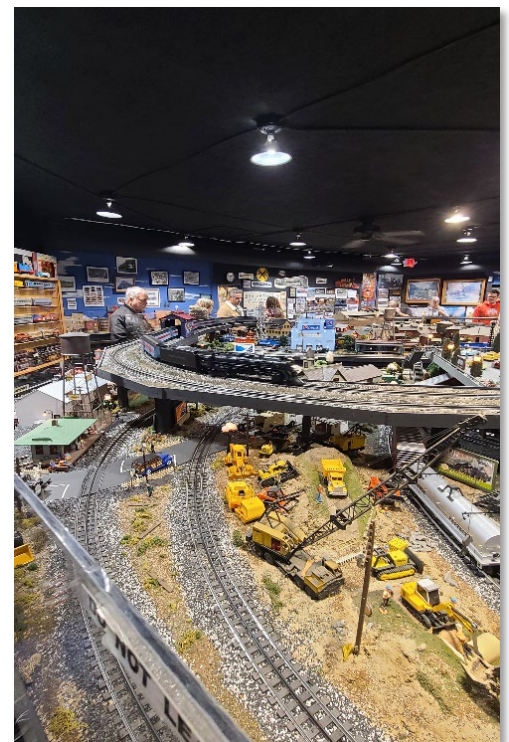
Neither my brother-in-law nor I expected to see what was now before us. Suffice it to say that we were Gobsmacked, virtually speechless... This thing was HUGE!

The roundhouse alone held a small fortune in engines and accessories. As I scanned the room, I could see the meticulous

attention to detail and the passionate effort that had gone into this display. The hours, days, and months of work were evident in every square inch of this layout. I have been on a great number of layout tours, and this one is definitely on the list of must-see layouts.

The [Corner Field Model Railroad Museum and the Trading Post Train Shop](#) has over 4,500 buildings surrounded by over 7,000 feet of track. It boasts hundreds of freight cars and 250+ engines, including steam, diesel, electric, subway, etc. Details include over a thousand lights, automobiles, and trees! Numerous animations are woven into all of the other details to increase your viewing experience.

Corner Field's railroad is set in a freelance style from the 40s to today's modern era, from freight yards to roundhouses to a major city and a major passenger yard. They specialize in used trains, Lionel, MTH, Williams, American Flyer, K-Line, and Weaver.





If you are ever in Cleveland Ohio or NW Pennsylvania, you really need to consider a visit to Corner Field Model Railroad Museum & Trading Post Train Shop. Even if you model in any of the other scales, you will be impressed by the size and scope of this layout. The Detail is fantastic, and more than you will likely be able to see in one visit!



Hours are:

Monday: CLOSED

Tuesday: CLOSED

Wednesday: 11AM-4PM

Thursday: 12PM-4PM

Friday: 11AM-4PM

Saturday: 11AM-4PM

Sunday: 12PM-4PM

Closed On All Major Holidays:

Easter, July 4th, Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Years Day.

Museum Layout Admission:

Adults: \$10.00

Seniors: \$8.00

Kids 4-12: \$5.00

Under 3: Free

To learn more about **Corner Field Model Railroad Museum & Trading Post Train Shop**, and the products and services they offer, please call them at **440-636-5162 or 216-661-7300**
LOOK FOR THE BALLFIELD & FIND THE TRAINS

Minutes

The minutes from the November Meeting will be sent out separately. There were no December minutes.

MARINE CORPS RESERVE



This year the BBMRA donated 26 Wooden Train Sets to the Toys for Tots Campaign for 2023. Kelly Elliott is shown here with Mr. Marc Dickieson, Toys for Tots Coordinator. Stacey Elliott is taking the pictures.



History

Toys for Tots began in 1947 as the brainchild of Marine Corps Reserve Major Bill Hendricks. Actually, it was his wife, Diane, who was the real inspiration. She had a few handcrafted dolls and asked Bill to deliver them to an agency that supports children in need.

When Bill reported back to his wife that he could not find such an organization, she instructed him to “start one!”. Maj Hendricks and the Marines in his reserve unit in LA collected and distributed 5,000 toys in 1947.

Seeing such successful community engagement in 1947, the Commandant directed all Marine Reserve Sites to implement a TFT campaign transforming it into a national community action program in 1948.

Bill Hendrick’s civilian job was Director of Public Relations at Warner Brothers Studios. He was friends with many celebrities who he asked to help support the newly created Marine Toys for Tots Program. As a personal friend and as a favor to Bill, Walt Disney designed the first Toys for Tots poster which included a miniature three-car train that was subsequently adopted as the Toys for Tots logo.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, an IRS recognized 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit charity, was established in 1991 at the behest of the Marine Corps to help run and support the Marine Toys for Tots Program.

The Foundation raises funds, purchases toys, provides promotional and support materials, manages all funds raised and donated, solicits corporate support, educates the public, and handles day-to-day operations.

Description:

- Toys for Tots: national program, locally run, that provides toys for children and teens.



- The Marine Corps collects new, unwrapped donated toys to partner with other agencies and distribute to parents of needy children and persons 65 and older at Christmas time.
- Procedures and dates for registration and distribution vary each year.
- Phone number for national office is not publicized; may contact by emailing from the website or use website to find phone number for local coordinator.

Thanks so much to Kelly and Stacey Elliott for organizing and implementing this event for BBMRA.

Drew Hackmeyer sent this information to me to share. It relates to a website owned by Roland Levin in Stockholm, Sweden. The subject is the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. He is discontinuing his website and offers this message.

Hi all,

I would like to inform everybody that I'm closing my webpage about Denver and Rio Grande's operation in San Luis Valley. It will be available until the end of February. This will give you almost two months to download any information that you would like to save for the future.

The address is www.drgw.se

Hidden in the website is also a photo collection of the freight cars I have used for the traffic on my model railroad.

The address for this is <https://www.drgw.se/drgw-roster.htm>

Best regards
Roland Levin
Stockholm, Sweden



I took a look at the site, and it is quite the display. There are some interesting documents that might be of interest to all of you modelers out there! *Neal Meadows*



Happy New Year

Neal and Sam wish you all a Happy New Year!