



THE Lantern

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HO Division Hosting "Run Trains" Luncheon in February

BBMRA's HO Division is planning a Run Trains and Lunch event for a Saturday in February. HO Coordinator Phil Weston and Scott Garner are working out the details now. The entire club will be invited. HO and N Scale T-Trak setups are planned.

In person club meetings have not been held regularly since Covid, but Andy Zimmerman and the BBMRA board are working for special in person activities, at least once a quarter and every other month when possible. In lieu of a December meeting, members of the club participated in a holiday reception at Sam Miller and Linda Medlin's house.

The Third Tuesday meeting each month is still on Zoom.

Phil will discuss the February plans on this Tuesday's Zoom call, and we will provide details later in the Lantern and through special emails.

Most Sundays, the Large-Scale Division meets at Sam's house in Woodgate, at 1:30 p.m. The entire club is welcome at that.



BBMRA meets Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. through Zoom.

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

Two Key Club Events: Ballasting Workshop & Annual Layout Tour

February 1, 2025, Workshop on Track Ballasting and General Landscaping: 10a to 2p. BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman will lead the workshop on Ed Schroeder's layout. Ed lives at 806 Middlebrooks Circle, Tallahassee, 32312. This is off Piedmont Drive.

March 22, 2025, Saturday, BBMRA Annual Model Train Layouts Tour: Andy Millott is coordinating this again for our club and will be announcing details a little later. Contact Andy at (850) 443-0781 to sign up as part of the tour.

Jacksonville and Mobile Model Train Shows Coming Up Soon

From "Big Bend Ties," the monthly newsletter of the Gulf Wind Chapter, NRHS. **Be sure to mark your calendar for two model railroad shows that promoters say will have plenty to see and do.**

The 46th Annual Jacksonville Rail Fair Model Train & Railroad Artifact Show will take place at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More than 35,000 square feet of space is available in the convention center's Hall B to accommodate all the various exhibits, including dealers from all over the United States.

Besides a wide array of model trains, parts and accessories in all gauges, there will be displays of railroad artifacts and collectibles for sale, among them dining car china, lanterns, timetables, and other hardware actually used in railroad operations. The convention center is located at 1000 Water St. in downtown Jacksonville. The building is the city's former Union Terminal.

An additional feature of the Jacksonville show will be numerous working train layouts for visitors to see during show hours. Tickets are \$10 plus tax and children under age 12 are admitted free. Be sure to visit www.gserr.com for discount coupons. Parking is free at the main convention center lot only.

The annual model train show sponsored by the South West Alabama Railroad Modelers will be March 8-9 in Mobile.

The show, which will be housed in the Mobile Via Health, Fitness and Enrichment Center, 1717 Dauphin St., in Mobile, will have operating train layouts, model railroad demonstrations, and exhibits by numerous vendors, collectors and dealers.

Show hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$8 per person, with children under age 10 admitted free. A family admission ticket is \$15.

For more information, see SWARM's page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/p/SWARM>.

BBMRA Important Events in 2025!



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.railservice.com/events/train_shows.html

BBMRA meetings are the third Tuesday of each month through Zoom.

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. No meeting January 19, but there is on January 26. Call (850) 459-3012 for further information.

January 17, 18 & 19, 2025: Florida Panhandle Toy Expo, Central Panhandle Fairgrounds, 2230 15th Street, Panama City, FL. 12-4, Friday and 8-4 Saturday and Sunday. This is an established show for Hot Wheels, Matchbox and other toys and collectibles. It is being expanded for the first time to include model trains, featuring Sam Miller of Tallahassee and Rick Heilman, Lynn Haven.

February 1, 2025, Workshop on Track Ballasting and General Landscaping: 10a to 2p. BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman will lead the workshop on Ed Schroeder's layout. Ed lives at 806 Middlebrooks Circle, Tallahassee, 32312. This is off of Piedmont Drive.

February 1-2, 2025, 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 am. To 3 p.m. Admission \$7; children under 12 free.

February 8, 2025, 46th 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.

March 22, 2025, Saturday, BBMRA Annual Model Train Layouts Tour: Andy Millott is coordinating this again for our club and will be announcing details a little later. Contact Andy at (850) 443-0781 to sign up as part of the tour.

April 26-27, 2025, Pensacola Railfest 2025: Saturday, 9a to 5p (Central), Sunday, 10a to 4p. Pensacola Fairgrounds, Building No. 1, 6655 Mobile Highway, Pensacola, 32526.

June 21-22, 2025, 34th Annual Tallahassee Model Railroad Show and Sale, North Florida Fairgrounds, 441 Paul Russell Road, Tallahassee, 32301. 9a to 5p, Saturday and Sunday. The set-up is Friday, June 20. Kids 12 and under get in free; ages 13 to adult, \$10.

Sopchoppy Depot Days September 13, 2024, Sopchoppy, FL: The BBMRA HO Division has become a regular participant, operating a special layout developed for this festivity.



On The Square in Quincy

BBMRA Participates in the “On the Square” festivities in Quincy in December by setting displays and layouts in the Gadsden Arts Museum on December 14. Randy Lombardo displayed the Thomas the Train Layout and had many children come in to see and operate the train. Sam Miller had an O-Scale Christmas layout for all to see. Stacey Elliott, Drew Hackmeyer, and later Neal Meadows operated a large layout of N-Scale T-Trak Modules. Patrons strolled through the various displays in the museum and talked with BBMRA members about their memories of trains in their youth.





All Aboard!
**Come Play
with the
Model Trains**

Thursday, December 19
6:30 to 8:00 pm
Tallahassee Senior Center



BBMRA members were well represented at this event. Phil Weston is shown in the above picture with a little guy explaining how the trains operate. Phil's HO-Scale group had a large layout of T-Trak modules some of which were Christmas themed as you can see in the above picture. He had good participation from his teammates: Paul Schneider, Art Wilson, Scott Garner, Bill Bell, and others that I could not see from the pictures.





Thomas the Train was a big hit with all the kids. Randy Lombardo always has an interesting layout. The colored lights that move with the passing of the train was a great feature.



Sam Miller and David McDonald man the O-Scale Christmas layout with two train lines operating.





We had N-Scalers operating a nice T-Trak layout with members: Stacey Elliott, Drew Hackmeyer, Bob Feuerstein, Neal Meadows, and Will Newberry. A variety of scenes were displayed, and a lot of discussion happened between visitors and members of the BBMRA. Two tracks were in use during the event with various members swapping different trains to vary the action.





The G-Scale group had a large layout up on the stage area.



As the evening moved along a visitor showed up to see what all the fuss was about! It was Mr. Grinch.





As the evening ended there were approximately 100 in attendance. The crew at the Senior Center was pleased and invited us to be there next year.

Photographs contributed by: Neal Meadows, Ed. D., Sam Miller, and Robert Feuerstein.

Minutes from the November 19, 2024, Meeting of BBMRA



Submitted by Sheldon Harrison

President Andy called the meeting held on November 19, 2024, via Zoom to order at 7:33 pm. There were 9 participants present at maximum.

Minutes – The minutes from the October meeting were discussed. Phil moved to accept the minutes

and Ed seconded. The minutes were passed without objection.

Treasurer's Report – President Andy delivered the report given that Neal was absent. In a nutshell, the club is doing well. There was then general discussion of some financial issues re advertising etc. that have been resolved. As is customary, the actual financials are not disclosed in the minutes, but club members are free to request the details if needed. Stacey moved a motion to accept the report as presented by President Andy and Sam seconded. The motion passed without objection.

Division Reports

Small Scale – Stacey mentioned several shows that the group will be participating in including one on Dec 7th in Quincy. He mentioned a Macon event in the last weekend of March 2025, and the Senior Center event on the 19th of December. There was also mention of a possible Havana event in January.

Large Scale – Sam mentioned that Dec 14 at 3:00 pm will be his Christmas open reception that will be partly sponsored by the club. Members will be asked to carry a side dish. He mentioned the Gadsden County event at the Arts Center on the 7th in Quincy and the display will be up between 10 and 4. Setup will occur on the 6th. He also mentioned the Dec 19th Senior Center event that is now highly anticipated annually. Disney, Thomas etc. and several T-Traks will be present. The setup will be at 4 pm with the event open to the public at 6 PM. The event will have HO, O and N Scale exhibits.

HO Scale – Phil mentioned that HO is all set for the Christmas layout at the Senior Center and the group is looking forward to it.

Switching Layout – Joe was absent.

Good of the Group

Andy Millott and President Andy coordinated on feasible dates for the layout tour. The date that seemed most feasible is the 22nd of March. There was then a follow up discussion on track laying, including using isopropyl alcohol and other techniques. There will be no December meeting given that Sam's event will serve as the informal replacement. The club will host a clinic at Ed's home on track laying and general landscaping on February 1 between 10 and 2. Ed moved a motion to adjourn, seconded by Phil at 8:25pm.

Pay Your 2024-25 Dues – *Not Paid? Get your dues paid quickly – Use 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 \$21.25 using this method, 2 years for \$42.00.



BBMRA dues are \$20 a year and must be paid by July 30, under club bylaws. Over the years, however, we have not considered dues delinquent until the end of August, BBMRA President

Andy Zimmerman says.

If you want to mail a check, please mail it directly to Neal Meadows at 2812 Whittington Dr. Tallahassee, FL 32309. This will expedite the process since the mailbox only gets checked about twice a month during this time.



"The LANTERN" is the official publication of the BIG BEND MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC. and is published monthly just prior to each regularly scheduled meeting. Subscriptions are included in all members' dues. The deadline to submit materials for publication is the first day of each month sent in c/o Secretary/Editor. P.O. Box 3392, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3392. Items may also be forwarded to the Editors via email attachment: (Neal Meadows) meadowsn1956@gmail.com or (Sam Miller) samthetrainmanmiller@gmail.com.