December 2022 Volume 27 Number 12

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- Christmas Display at Senior Center
- Christmas Layouts Field Trip
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- Merry Christmas to All

December 20, 2022, 7:30 p.m. BBMRA Meeting, Lowell Smith, RailSmith Models



BBMRA meets Tuesday, December 20, at 7:30 p.m. through Zoom.

Our program is Lowell Smith, RailSmith Models. Lowell produces signature series models in N, HO and O.

http://lowellsmith.net/railsmith

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

A Christmas Tree Train: "Comfort Food" for the Soul

From Sam Miller: I found this wonderful piece on the Internet site of the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay, Wisconsin, while gathering information for a presentation at the Senior Center last fall. It stayed with me, especially, the last paragraph.

https://nationalrrmuseum.org

Many of us have seen the familiar sight of the toy train around the Christmas tree, most often making its way about its infinite oval, sometimes passing a few buildings and observers along the way. A few of the outstanding ones had real smoke coming from the stack and the familiar "whoo-whoo" that would ward off any house cat from messing with the ornaments on the tree.

But, what do trains have to do with Christmas? For generations, toy trains have filled the Christmas lists of children of all ages. Most of us know that regular-sized trains first appeared in the early 19th century. Since most children were more familiar with trains than automobiles, toy train sets were popular requests for Christmas gifts. Upon opening a toy train set, assembling it to run under the Christmas tree was a natural thing to do. For many Americans, toy trains also evoked sentimental feelings similar to the other emotions associated with Christmas. Christmas was a time when

many people traveled long distances to reach home or to see relatives. Soldiers were coming home on leave; grandparents were coming from out of town. Most of these journeys would involve a train ride. Likewise, the nation's railroads were a primary means of transporting packages around the country at Christmas time.

Toy and model trains have been given at Christmas almost since there were trains. Not very detailed and made of wood or tintype metal, these trains were often given as gifts and viewed as toys. In the late-19th century, push-toys that looked like trains joined push-toys that looked like wagons or ponies underneath many Christmas trees.



The first working model trains were not necessarily "Christmas" trains or even toys. They were steam-powered models that required a certain amount of skill and patience to operate safely. Sometimes these came into the home at Christmas, but even if you had a circle of track for it, you wouldn't want to run a locomotive burning real fuel underneath a real cut tree.

The modern train set came into being at the dawn of the 20th century. At the time, trains were the main form of overland transportation, and their popularity had yet to be challenged by airplanes or cars. Most historians credit German toymaker Eugen Marklin, with inventing and marketing the first true, but non-electrical, train set in 1891. These early trains were so influential that many modern international standards and gauges for toy trains originate from the Marklin Company's tracks.

Soon after these first sets hit the market and gained popularity, other inventors entered the arena. The first electric toy train was sold in 1896 by the American company Carlisle & Finch. It was powered by a 2-pole 10-volt electric motor and traveled on a 3-foot circle of track. But it was Lionel trains that would change the landscape of toy or scale model trains.

In 1901, Lionel showed New York City families that it was possible to fit an electric motor into a toy locomotive and power it by low-voltage electric current. A new industry and a new hobby were born.

... Toy trains were...expensive. Between 1901 and 1950, an electric model train was considered a significant purchase



that needed to be budgeted. But as manufacturing techniques improved and "economies of scale" grew, the cost for a good train set went from being about the same price of a small car to that of a refrigerator or other major appliance.

Even with its hefty price tag, trains became the quintessential Christmas present for many young children, especially post-World War II into the 1960s.

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, elaborate toy

railroads would appear in homes. Many of these in-home railroads started as an extension of the Christmas tree, while others expanded to take over spare rooms and back porches. In Catholic homes, train sets would incorporate the Nativity, with other buildings and accessories added over time and not always scale.

...Year-after-year many families added to their toy train set-up. What might have started as a simple circular track around the tree with a few train cars would eventually become an elaborate layout with multiple tracks and buildings. Some families began constructing entire holiday villages under their Christmas trees soon after Thanksgiving.

...After a while, it wasn't enough to have a single train running around the Christmas tree once a year. Rather, hobbyists might own several trains and have a permanent railroad set up on a custom-built table year-round. For decades Lionel held the lion's share of the model railroad market, with American Flyer coming in a distant second. But both brands were still large enough to look good around the tree.

Even at half the Standard Gauge trains' size, O-scale trains were too large to fit into most homes without compromises. To meet the new demand for a smaller size model train, Lionel and other companies started making their equipment of about three quarters the size it ought to be. Eventually, American Flyer would also adopt the narrower track, and the S-scale model railroads were born.

With the rise of modern technology and electronic gadgets filling Christmas lists, toy trains under the Christmas tree became less common over the years. However, some experts have seen a renewed interest in the toy train tradition within the past decade, attributing this resurgence to the popularity of modern entertainment that features trains prominently.

Whether you are an avid model-railroader or bring a train out for the holiday season, model trains running around Christmas trees bring back memories of simpler times. Christmas trains are to the soul what "comfort food" is to the appetite, a kind of reassurance that there are still good things in the world. So, when you sit down and watch your children or grandchildren unwrap a train set and play around the Christmas tree, know that you are part of a longheld and proud tradition that keeps moving forward in our memories and our hearts.

Photo from https://entertrainmentjunction.com/

BBMRA Important Events in 2022/23!!



Help us build this calendar. Email <u>sammiller61113@outlook.com</u>. 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. No get together Sunday, December 25, but come by on Sunday, January 1, if you like. What better way to celebrate New Year's Day than with football and trains.

Remaining Dates for VMRR Polar Express, Bristol: Operating sessions for the Polar Express are scheduled for 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Many trips will be pulled by the Crown, a wonderful steamer. The remaining dates are December 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.





https://www.veteransmemorialrailroad.org/

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

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: Protype 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/ccbchhf-hilton-cocoa-beach-oceanfront/

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

No Children's Day at the R.A. Gray Museum of Florida Museum this **January** because the building is closed to the public for renovations and repairs. This wonderful annual event hopefully will be back on track by the last Saturday in January in 2024.

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, 2023: 32th 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.



It's Delightful to Stay Busy with Model Trains Around the Christmas and Jewish Holidays!

The last few weeks have been really busy – with our club running trains at the Tallahassee Senior Center on Thursday, December 15th, several members opening their personal layouts to neighbors in special holiday events and the Pensacola model train show in November.

Here is a pictorial report – and a chance to wish everyone Happy Holidays!!



Joe Haley works with some kids on the Switching Layout



Viewers of the O Scale Layout



Two Boys watch the Trains!



Conductor Phil Weston in Attendance



Barbara Donner with her Hannukah House and O Scale Layout



Grandfather and Boy



Neal Meadows & Will Newberry and their N Scale Christmas Layout - 1



Gary Edwards vintage Lionel layout with operating accessories.



Grandmother and Boy



Neal Meadows & Will Newberry and their N Scale Christmas Layout - 2



Gary held a "Holidays" open house in November; lots of neighborhood kids had special treat!



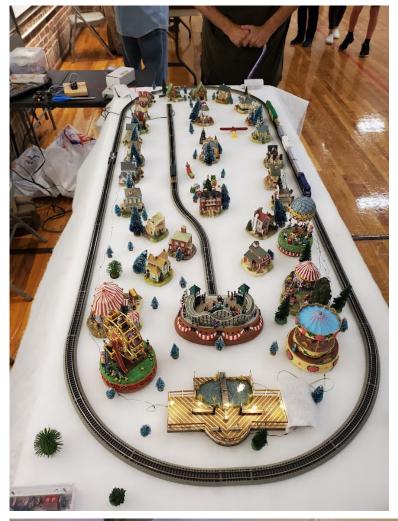
Parents and a Little Boy



Neal Meadows & Will Newberry's N Scale Christmas Layout – 3



Not Gulliver from Gulliver's travels, but one of the stalwarts from the Emerald Coast Garden Railroad Club in Milton. This group set up at the Pensacola model train show in November.



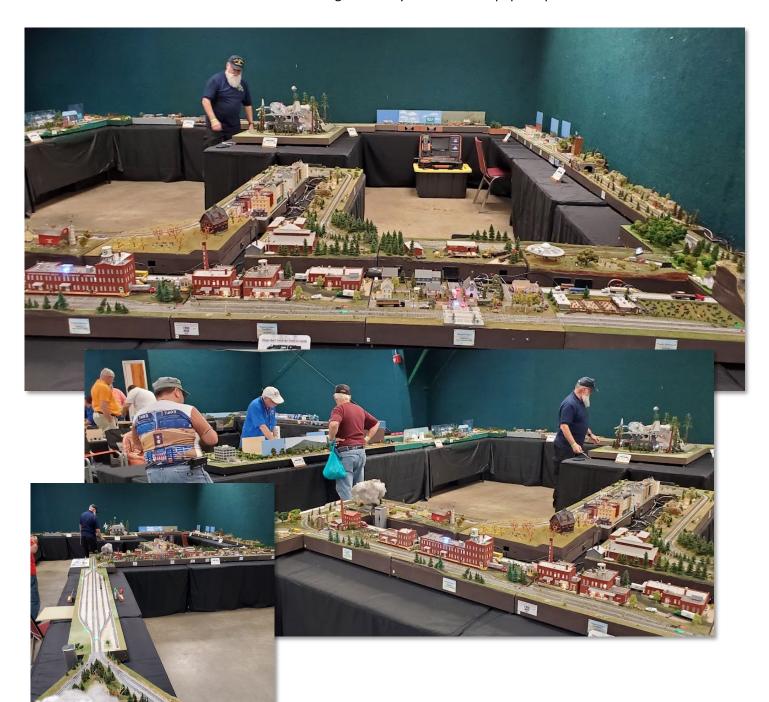
Neal & Will's N Scale Christmas Layout in Full View. Zoom in for closeup detail.



Christmas Time A 'Coming on Sam Miller's O Gauge garage layout.

BBMRA Members at the Pensacola Show November 12 & 13th, 2022

We had three members participating in the N Scale TTrak module Layout at the Pensacola Show. Andy Zimmerman, President, Stacey Elliott, Vice President, and Neal Meadows, Treasurer joined their 37 modules with the 20 plus modules from members of other clubs to make a huge TTrak layout. It was the popular point on the show floor.



This roundabout was very popular with its fire scene and the smoke drew lots of attention.

See the Christmas Layouts Field Trip

By Neal Meadows

I spent some time looking at layouts people have shared on YouTube. Some people spent a tremendous amount of time building elaborate structures and some were simpler. However, they had one thing in common. The happiness and joy in sharing something at Christmas time focused on their trains. Some of these had a lot of memories for me as I am sure they will for most all of you. Click on the links and view the videos. You will like them. Some you may have seen before but they were all new to me. Celebrate with a little Christmas Cheer! Enjoy.

Moffat Railroad Museum

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msfXYGOr 4w

The Moffat Road Railroad Museum has been putting up the seasonal display for more than a decade. Largest permanent Christmas display in Colorado. Christmas all year but really decorated for the Christmas season.









new and interesting items. Lots of hidden items that you must search for. Holiday "Train Gardens" as they are known are a Maryland tradition, and the Jarrettsville's Volunteer Fire Company may just have the largest. This massive setup consists of four layouts, and features trains running in G scale, O gauge, S gauge, On30, HO, HOn3, N scale, and even Z scale!

The Jarrettsville VFC Holiday Train Display

https://www.youtube.com/watch ?v=Ic5CscXEdvA

The Jarrettsville Volunteer Fire Department has been having this Christmas display for 34 years and began with a history of having a setup day for kids to come and get items for setting up their own layout. Constantly under adding





Danish) for more information on my 1950's Danish Layout.

Some materials used in this video: • Elmer's PVA Glue •

Elmer's Spray Adhesive • Foam Board 5 mm • Liquitex

acrylic paint • Owens Corning Pink Panther Foam Board •

Plant (trees) are panicle hydrangeas • Preiser 16325 Figures

• Preiser 16326 Figures • Preiser 16328 Seated • Rhodes

American Steel Wool grade #0000 • Woodland Scenics

B1373 Fine Ballast Buff • Woodland Scenics SN 140 Soft

flake snow.

Making a Winter Layout in Hoe Scale

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEnHZ8z6kkU

Making a small winter layout for a H0e narrow gauge railway in 1:87 scale. A simple circular track plan with a few sidings and a minimalistic landscape. A family project - and it all fits under the coffee table. Please visit my blog Sundborg.Wordpress.com (mostly in













Model Train Christmas Table Construction

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qW_8rRbXqJc

Follow along as we design, build, finish and decorate a Christmas tree table with an N Scale model train layout. Two weeks of work compressed into five minutes of holiday cheer. Our previous table was a slap-dash abomination made of scrap lumber. We decided to build it right, with a red oak table, soldered track and terrain built around our tree stand.

After 14 years of sameness with the annual family Christmas timelapse video, 2018 was time for a radical change. While each family Christmas video is about the process of getting ready for the holidays, this year's video really is about that process in excruciating detail. Here is a story about how Drew spent much of his December (with help from Kyra). Follow along through each stage of construction, including decorating the tree and the first runs on the track. Shot with a Canon C300Mii, Canon 5DMiii, Sony 6500 and GoPro. Finished with LRTimelapse, Lightroom, Premiere and AfterEffects. The finale is really cute. A must see!



Polar Express Ultimate Christmas Village 2021

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qL9yloBldkU



38 North Pole Central diesel 1990s vintage 4-4-2 New York Central engine MTH holiday cars



2021. Running 6 different trains (5 at a time) and using 7 different engines. Hope you enjoy it. Includes: Polar Express 15th Anniversary Edition Polar Express Elf Work Train Harry Potter Hogwarts Express Angela Trotta Thomas Hudson engine Angela Trotta Thomas passenger cars 0-4-0 New York Central engine GP-

Our Lionel train Christmas Village for



Christmas Village Display 2022-2023

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LVju n-1L0

2022 Christmas Village Including Jaegerndorfer Ski Lift purchased from trainli.com. Lemax and Dept. 56 Buildings and Accessories and Bachmann On30 Yuletide Special Delivery Christmas Train. Mt. Hood and Rock Walls Carved from Polystyrene with foam cutting tools from Hot Wire Foam Factory. Ski Lift System purchased from trainli.com.





Eric's Christmas Train 2013

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGBfZvwzYls

Christmas train set up in the living room every year. This layout runs to two rooms and is composed of 10 remote switches and 300+ feet of track. All engines are Lionel o-gauge. Takes about a week to set up. There are 4 separate loops of track, intertwined with one another. If you are good with the Lionel Legacy controller, you can run eight trains at once on this layout (two per loop). These trains are not controlled with a transformer, but rather a hand-held remote controller. Each engine has a different ID number and after keying that in, the engine is then operated by the remote.



Greatest Christmas Model RR Train Layout in Tire Shop! Awesome Lionel O Scale.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-n t1NbYsg

Lou Costabile shares: On 12-14-19 I'm in Palatine IL and I'm sharing the Christmas Lionel Train Model Railroad Layout, at the Busch Auto Service Center. I'm with John Busch III, and he's 3rd Generation at the Service Center. His grandfather John Busch opened the shop in 1946, and his father John Busch II introduced him to model railroading. In 2006 John Busch III started with a simple loop around a Christmas tree in the showroom, and it has grown every year since to what you see today. The layout takes over two months to build and is ready to view by Thanksgiving. Every area on the layout is amazingly detailed, and many areas of the layout have a theme. There are 8 trains running in a town, a farm, a ski Mountain, an amusement park, and a Mickey Mouse area too. This is just a wonderful experience to view. John Busch III is at the Goodyear Tire & Service Center which is located at 137 S. Northwest Highway, Palatine IL 60074 and the layout is open during business working hours from Thanksgiving through the last business day of December. Enjoy!



Trains Under the Christmas Tree: Remembering Electric Trains of Christmas Past

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSRcJCOQTGQ

If you had a train running under your Christmas tree when you were growing up, this is for you!

Chapters



Jingle Bells

0:00



Silver Bells

2:29



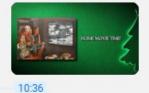
Santa Claus Comes Tonight

5:33



Frosty The Snowman

8:34



Santa Claus is Coming to Town













How many of you ended up in this situation?



Comments by viewers:

- My dad couldn't afford to buy me many toys. He did buy me 2 different used train sets. Thanks dad! I truly appreciated that. You always kept a roof over my head, and I never ever went to bed hungry. We didn't have much but I did have 2 not 1 but 2 train sets. Doesn't get any better than that. I'm 67 years old and still have them both. Love you dad.
- My Dad set up an electric train set for us in our basement on a 4 by 8-foot sheet of plywood, and of course it was a Lionel, I still have it.it was from 1950! What wonderful memories, Thanks Dad!
- I got my first train for Christmas in 1958 when I was 3 yrs. old, and I still have to this day. What a wonderful time that was to grow up in. Thanks for the memories!
- What a treat to watch these videos. I'm 77 years old and I sure glad I was raised in these times (1945/1955) My brother and I got a Lionel train and track set.... thanks to my Aunt Mary who won it from one of her entries in a contest she won. She was always entering contest and by gosh won a lot of them. Thank you, Aunt Anna Mary, for giving it to us. All made of stamped tin. Every toy was actually made to mimic the real thing.... not molded plastic. We loved out Aunt Anna Mary!!!!
- My grandfather gave me a Marx train set in 1955. 65 years later it is still running strong. The sounds and smells of running the set always takes me back many years with warm memories.
- This brings back so many great memories!!! Toys were made in America and lasted, and they are still out there today! I'm glad I grew up in the best era along with the great music and movies!
- This one brings back some special memories. When I was 8 years old, for Christmas my dad built a 12'x24' American Flyer train layout with a town, railroad depot, countryside with trestles and tunnel. There were two separate tracks that could be connected through switches. I had a five-car passenger train and nine car freight and a work crew with hand car. He built it to where it would raise and lower from our garage ceiling, so I could play with it whenever I pleased. We moved to a new home on our ranch and before we could dismantle the layout, someone broke in and stole it. By that time, American Flyer had gone out of business, and we weren't able to replace it. But the insurance money I received from the theft help me purchase my first car, a 65 Mustang GT. Wish I still had both. Oh, but I do have great memories.
- Wonderful. Full of memories. Our Aunt and Uncle were in the Air Force after the war and sent us a Lionel Texas Special train set from Amarillo AFB. Dad brought it out only at Christmas and only for two weeks under the tree. Fifty years later, my elderly father would sit in our living room with his grandchildren, directing traffic. When the time came, we duplicated the set and split it among the children so that all the grandchildren had a set. Guess now that I'm a grandfather, I'll do the same thing. Thanks for the memories.
- About 10 years ago, there was a Lionel store in Rockefeller Center in NYC for the holiday season. When I walked in, it was like stepping into a time warp! When I was growing up on Long Island in the 50s and 60s, there was a fairly large train store, The House of Mulvaney in Rockville Centre. They had it all, Lionel, American Flyer, HO scale. Model railroading was big in the 50s.

I hope you have enjoyed this Christmas field trip through the past and in the present.

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.



Minutes from the November 15, 2022, Meeting of BBMRA

This is a work in progress. Both Secretary Sheldon Harrison and backup note taker Sam Miller were unable to participate in this Zoom call meeting and we are in the process of creating minutes. Please bring up during the

December meeting items which should be included in the official minutes. Here is our draft so far:

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting, held on November 15, 2022, via Zoom, shortly after 7:35 p.m.

Minutes – The minutes from the October meeting, developed by Secretary Sheldon Harrison and as appearing in the November Lantern, were presented, and discussed. The minutes were approved without objection.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Neal Meadows reported on BBMRA finances. The BBMRA balance is not shared in the minutes but will be produced upon request by any club member. As we report monthly, we are in the black and looking good. The treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

Division Reports

Large Scale –Vice President Stacey Elliott delivered this division report from Sam, who was not on the call. 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. Barbara Donner will display her Hanukkah house and O Gauge train. There may be other layouts as well; we have plenty of room.

Gary Edwards is having a holiday, vintage Lionel open house November 26, the Sunday after Thanksgiving, from 1 to 4 p.m. Gary lives at 343 Milestone Dr., off Ox Bottom Road just east of Meridian.

N Scale: The primary discussion was over the club's participation in an N Scale T-Trak operations session at the Pensacola model train show the previous weekend. Andy Zimmerman, Stacey Elliott, and Neal Meadows set up and operated our T-Traks during the entire weekend. Terry Tucker, president of the P19ensacola train club sponsoring the show and he of Tucker's Trains, told our group he was delighted with the layout and the public's reaction to it.

HO: Phil Weston discussed the Senior Center operating session.

Good of the Group: Barbara Donner reported that a model train set would be given away during the BBMRA operating session at the Senior Center December 15, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. A man I know is looking for a good home for his new train set," Barbara said. "I suggested that we have a free drawing for kids at the Senior Center on train night. He liked the idea, and the Senior Center liked it, too. The train set is nothing fancy, but it's new. It's from China and is battery operated." Barbara suggested that kids and grandkids of train club members not sign up for it to give others a chance who don't have exposure to trains, to make it fair. Members agreed.

Merry Christmas to all...

Check this one out for the Official World Record!

Classical Music Melody played by a train! Kantastic.

https://www.noutube.com/watch?v=aBN HULIGPa



We hope you have enjoyed reading the Lantern this year and we look forward to bringing you new and interesting news in 2023!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Neal Meadows & Sam Miller

