



THE Lantern

October 2023

Volume 28 Number 10

HEADLINES

- [BBMRA Meeting](#)
- [Ed Schroeder Spirits High](#)
- [Lots of Fun Model Railroading Coming Up](#)
- [Barrett Johnson Moved to Clarksville, TN](#)
- [BBMRA Important Events](#)
- [Signals from the Sunshine Region](#)
- [N-Scalers Build a Big T-TRAK Module](#)
- [Minutes](#)



October 17, 2023

BBMRA meets Tuesday, October 17, 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](#)



Ed Schroeder's Spirits High After Leg Amputation; Wants to Resume Work on his HO Layout Soon From Sam Miller:

Control what you can control and then move on as best as you can. Ed Schroeder probably has operated with that philosophy his entire adult life, but, I think, especially now, following the below- knee amputation of his right leg.

Ed is learning to balance properly and walk safely **with a** prosthetic leg. He and his wife, Marietta, are having necessary, extensive renovations made to their Piedmont Drive area home. And, among other important priorities, he is impatient to return to work on his HO model railroad.

His layout is the New Orleans & North East Railway - not the New Orleans and Northeastern Railroad, which operated into New Orleans as part of the Southern Railway network, Ed emphasizes. He picked his name because "I grew up in New Orleans and Marietta grew up in the Northeast" and it was the name of a train which operated into London, England.

Osteomyelitis , a bone infection, required a below-knee amputation of his right leg in late July. Ed was provided a prosthetic lower leg about a week ago.



Ed has been treated for Type 1 diabetes since 1952. Thanks to doctors, Marietta, and personal discipline, he believes diabetes has been controlled successfully for decades. The Osteomyelitis could be related, although that is not clear, he says. Ed experienced Osteomyelitis in the past and amputation of several toes.

Disturbing symptoms began to appear again several months ago. He underwent a leg amputation operation at Tallahassee Memorial Regional Medical Center on July 26 and was hospitalized for two nights. He was transferred to a rehabilitation facility and stayed there 12 days. He received the prosthetic lower leg about a week ago and physical therapy at home is continuing.

“I am feeling well. I don’t have my balance exactly yet,” Ed says. “I am taking physical therapy to learn how to walk better and do things with the prosthesis. “This is the same learning process as with anything new like something complex in model railroading.”

Ed has been working on his detail specific New Orleans-based layout for years, but he moved into some final stages earlier this year – with the help of several

BBMRA members, including HO coordinator Phil Weston, club Vice President Stacey Elliott, Neal Meadows, and Sheldon Harrison. The important medical issues intervened.

Ed wants to return to his model railroading objectives as quickly as possible. He has a couple of goals for the near future - being able to run trains when two grandsons visit from Boston at Christmas and wanting to be part of Andy Millott’s BBMRA annual layout tour next spring.

Ed is another longtime member of the Big Bend Model Railroad Association. Like most of us, he loves real trains as well as model trains and he and Marietta have ridden trains throughout the world over the years. Ed is a retired professor of law at the Florida State University Law School and was director of the law school library. One of his best friends is Tom Hart, a retired professor of library science at FSU. Tom is a painter with art on display in town and is ready to paint skyboards for the New Orleans and North East Railway. “I told him he can’t do that yet. We still have track to lay!” Ed says.



This picture is of the outside of the Apple Valley Model Train Club Building in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Looks like a great place to visit. The inside shots look even more exciting!

Lots of Model Railroading Fun in Coming Weeks

If you like trains – real or modeling – there is plenty to do the remainder of this year, especially around the Christmas and Jewish Holidays.

Here are details of these and other upcoming activities:

Cordele Railfan Festival, Cordele, GA, Saturday, November 11, 2023, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. SAM Shortline rides will be a highlight. Trains will depart from the downtown terminal at 10:15, 11:45, 1:15, 3:45. The ride is a one-hour round trip and tickets are \$20. They can be purchased in advance or at the depot on the day of the festival. 105 East 9th Avenue. Cordele, GA, 31015. These trains do not go to Plains, GA, this year.

Pensacola Railfest Model Train Show & Sale, Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds, November 11-12, 2023. Saturday, 9 to 5, and Sunday, 10 to 4 (Central Time), Building 1, 6655 Mobile Highway, Pensacola, 32526. Show organizer Lewis Holiday says BBMRA members get in free, as Pensacola club members get free admission to the Tallahassee show next June. **Plus!** Andy Zimmerman, Stacey Elliott, and Neal Meadows will be operating N Scale T-Trak modules along with the larger, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida group. They are using the Large-Scale trailer to transport 55 modules – 40 of Andy’s and 15 of Stacey’s. Vendors include Sam Miller of our club.



Senior Center BBMRA Operations, December 14, 6:30 to 8 p.m.: For the third 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. on Thursday, December 14. 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.

Woodgate Neighborhood Holiday Trains, Saturday, December 9, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.: Large Scale Coordinator Sam Miller and the Sunday Group will host an outdoor open house for the Woodgate Neighborhood at Sam’s home, 3008 Stillwood Court, Tallahassee, 32308; on Saturday, December 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. Sam’s garage Lionel layout will be full of holiday carnival rides and lights. Marc Beshera will set up a Lego train. A smaller HO layout will be on display in the driveway, with HO and On30 trains. BBMRA members are welcome to come by.

Veterans Memorial Railroad Polar Express 2023: From the VMRR Internet site: The Christmas Polar Express will be operating full steam ahead at Veterans Memorial Park in Bristol beginning December 1 and with added after Christmas dates. Until December, the operating schedule is limited to the second Saturday of each month and special reservations.

The Christmas “Polar Bear Express,” 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 14 nights in December. Many trips will be pulled by the Crown, a wonderful steamer. The dates are December 1,2,8,9,10,14,15,16,17,19,20,21,22,27!!!

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 want 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 \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under. Children two and under ride free. The address is 10561 NW Theo Jacobs Way, Bristol, FL 32321

Click here to order tickets: <https://www.veteransmemorialrailroad.org>



Barrett Johnson has Moved to Clarksville, TN Area

From Sam Miller:

Barrett Johnson, long-time BBMRA member and friend, has moved to Kentucky, near Fort Campbell and in the Clarksville, TN, metropolitan area. Barrett has been a member of the Tallahassee model train club and the NMRA Sunshine Region for as long as I can remember.

Barrett was BBMRA president for at least a year or two. I think he succeeded me as president. He held several Sunshine Region offices.

He helped arrange for DeVoe Moore, who was and is a friend, to allow the club to set up layouts at the new Antique Car Museum, an arrangement which worked out well for the club for several years. Barrett, John Sullenberger, Andy Zimmerman, and others also persuaded Moore to let the club hold its monthly meetings in part of the space of the old Antique Car Museum. Barrett was among the club's leaders who negotiated agreements for store front layouts in Tallahassee Mall and Governor's

Square Mall before that.

Barrett was the club's liaison with the Local Boy Scout Council. Barrett, along with me and other club members taught the Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge.

Professionally, Barrett has been an attorney and legislative lobbyist for the last several decades. He was a key figure in the lobbying which helped Florida State University win the "Mag Lab" in competition with 3M and the University of Minnesota. He provided legal advice to BBMRA on non-profit organization status issues.

Barrett has been seriously ill for the last several months, although he is recovering. He is living for the moment at an assisted living facility in Cadiz, Kentucky, a few miles over the Kentucky line from Clarksville. He was moved there by his daughter, Jennifer Carlan, who is a registered nurse in the hospital at Fort Campbell.

Jennifer and husband David Carlan are building a new house in Cadiz, which will include living quarters for Barrett and his wife, Merry Ann. Merry Ann designed their portion of the house, including, Barrett says adamantly, room for the HO model train layout he has been planning for years.

Merry Ann is still in Tallahassee preparing to sell their house and other property. She will join Barrett later this year.

Barrett has shipped all his trains to Kentucky. He is donating about three dozen books on railroading – real trains and train lines – to club members who want them. They are at my house. Please come by and take a few.

I visited Barrett two weeks ago during a trip with Linda Medlin, my wife, to see her family in Nashville. During that same trip, we went to Knoxville to see Maxine Mantooth, Roy's widow. We took Maxine to Louisville and southern Indiana across the Ohio River to stop at Roy's grave and visit with his sons Michael and Barry.

You don't break ties with special friends even if they move hundreds of miles away.



Maxine and Michael Mantooth

BBMRA Important Events in 2023!!



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.railserv.com/events/train_shows.html

BBMRA meetings are the third Tuesday of each month. We currently meet through Zoom but meeting again face-to-face is being discussed.

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.

September 16-17, 2023, 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.

September 16-17, 2023, 2023 Wiregrass Steel Wheels model train show: 501 Recreation Road, Dothan, AL. This show is no longer at the National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds. Admission is \$6.00 for everyone 7 and up, 6 and under are free. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Times are Central).

October 12-14, 2023, NMRA Sunshine Region Annual Convention and Train Show. Trinkle Center, Hillsborough Community College, 1206 N. Park Road, Plant City, FL 33563. The train show is October 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Events are open to NMRA SR members and non-members. See this link: <https://www.nmrasunshineregion.org/general-4>

October 21, 2023, a Saturday, WFRM Tailgate Swap Meet, 8 a.m. to noon (Central). Milton RR Depot, 5003 Henry Street, Milton FL. Free admission. Vendors must register for space and pay a \$5 donation. Historic L&N RR Museum, vintage passenger and freight cars, Caboose gift shop, operating G Scale and HO layouts. For additional information, email: wfrmtreasurer@wfrm.org

November 11-12, 2023, Pensacola Railfest 2023. 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). BBMRA will set up models as part of this show's N Scale T-Trak layout.

December 9, 2023, Woodgate Neighborhood Model Trains Open House: a Saturday, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., at Sam Miller's house in Woodgate.

December 14, 2023, a Thursday, BBMRA running again at the Tallahassee Senior Center. It will be the third December in a row for this holiday-related operating session, We had a great turnout last year.

December 2023, Veterans Memorial Railroad Polar Express: VMRR Polar Express: Operating sessions for the Polar Express are scheduled for 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Eastern, on 14 nights in December. Many trips will be pulled by the Crown, a wonderful steamer. The dates are December 1,2,8,9,10,14,15,16,17,19,20,21,22,27!!!

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 want is sold out of Reservation Tickets come on anyway! We have General Admission every evening when the train is running. Just walk up and buy a ticket. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under. Children two and under ride free. The address is 10561 NW Theo Jacobs Way, Bristol, FL 32321

Click here to order tickets: <https://www.veteransmemorialrailroad.org>

January 4-6, 2024: Prototype Rails 2024, 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 \$55 before December 31 and \$60 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/>

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 am. To 3 p.m. Admission \$7; children under 12 free.

February 2024, Golden Spike Enterprises Jacksonville Train Show, Prime Osborne Center, Jacksonville. The exact date has not yet been announced.



From Neal Meadows, Ed.D.

Andy Zimmerman and Bob Feuerstein attended the 2023 Sunshine Regional Convention – Oct. 12 – 14, 2023. The convention was held at the John Trinkle Center, Hillsborough Community College Campus, 1206 North Park Road, Plant City, Florida. A highlight of the convention was the outing sponsored by Brightline Railroad with a tour of Orlando Brightline Station to see the inner workings of that facility. Andy and Bob will share their experiences at the meeting on Tuesday.

N-Scalers work on a full-scale T-TRAK Module

By: Neal Meadows, Ed.D.

The N-Scale Group met on Saturday September 30, 2023, at Stacey Elliott's house in Quincy to work on constructing a structure that was way bigger than the normal 1/160 buildings we usually work on. Barbara Donner called Stacey before hurricane Idalia and asked if we would like to have the garage structure, she had been using for her garden railway. It was one of the metal pole structures with a canvas cover. Stacey and Drew Hackmeyer went and disassembled the framework and hauled it to Stacey's house.



Barbara had purchased a new cover for the frame and donated that as well. Thanks to Barbara for her generous contributions.

An all call went out to assemble the building at the new site. The illustrious crew that arrived were Jeff Bearden, Gary Austin, Will Newberry, Stacey Elliott, Neal Meadows, Andy Zimmerman, and Bob Feuerstein. A puzzle was the first thing to work with on this project. All the pieces looked alike at first. We had no directions. After much discussion we began the process of putting the structure together. We finally figured out how to put it together and get the top on it. The purpose of the structure was to house the N-Scale trailer to keep it out of the weather. There has been some leaking and damage to the trailer and contents. We had fun and are proud to have it completed with a big thanks to Stacey's wife Kelly for climbing the ladder for us to put on the canvas top. Here are some pics of our fun day!



Photos by Bob Feuerstein

OUT OF THE PAST - ODDBALL FLATCARS ARTICLE SAVED FOR NEXT MONTH!

Minutes from the September 19, 2023, Meeting of BBMRA

President Andy called the meeting held on Sep 19, 2023, via Zoom to order at 7:54pm. There were 8 participants present at maximum.

Minutes – A motion to approve the minutes of the August meeting was forwarded and Joe seconded. It was accepted without discussion or objection.

Treasurer's Report – The report was tabled until October as no quorum was present for this meeting.

Division Reports

Small Scale – Stacey mentioned that he would like to get together to put a canopy up over the trailer used to store the T-Trak modules. He also mentioned trying to get the PVC pipe up off the floor and perhaps deal with the trailer roof leak if possible.

Large Scale – Sam mentioned Mike Helms and James Franks have joined the club and will be a part of the O-Scale group. He also mentioned that David McDonald had a layout but suffered a barn fire.

HO Scale – Phil mentioned the Sopchoppy Depot Day layout session and that it was a pretty good day. He said they estimated that 400 passed through the display on the day. He then mentioned the December meeting at the Senior Center. Sam confirmed that the event is listed in the calendar.

NMRA – Stacey provided an update from Bob F, who was absent owing to his wife's health difficulties.

Good of the Group

Barrett Johnson, former club member is in an assisted living facility near Clarksville, TN. President Andy then mentioned a set of books became available, including a Lionel one that Randy may be interested in.

The meeting was concluded at 8:33 PM.

"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 inc/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@comcast.net or (Sam Miller) samthetrainmanmiller@gmail.com .