



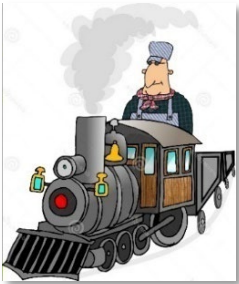
# THE Lantern

February 2024

Volume 29 Number 02

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### February 20, 2024

BBMRA meets Tuesday, February 20, 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

## 2024 Layout Tour is March 23: Still Room for your Model Trains

### From Andy Millott:

The 2024 BBMRA Layout Tour will take place on Saturday, March 23, 2024. The lineup will be as follows: Ed Grissom, Gary Edwards and Ed Schroeder

Last year's layout tour was our first in four years and was one of our best ever. We are really looking forward to this year's to match that greatness. If there is anyone else who would like to have their layout in the tour, let me know.

We will provide times and directions in the March Lantern.

Contact Andy Millott at [Millott32073@hotmail.com](mailto:Millott32073@hotmail.com)

## Model Train Shows Upcoming in Ocala and Pensacola

### From Sam Miller:

I will be participating as Sam In Tallahassee, LLC, in seven model train shows in 2024, at least, and writing about those and others around the state has become a mini-hobby. The BBMRA Annual Show & Sale - this year June 23-24 - has become one of the very best in our region, but there are others worth mentioning. If

they are too far for a special one-day trip, you might be in the area for other reasons and be able to work in a model train show of you know about it.

There are shows this spring in Ocala and Pensacola, and several in south Florida.

There is a small, but long-time show in Ocala at the First Christian Church Saturday March 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The address is 1908 Ft. King Street, Ocala, 34471. This show has a special twist: bring a can of food for Lions Club projects and get \$1 off admission. Show proceeds go to the Lions Club. For more information, call Bob at (352) 694-6381.

The Pensacola show is now on May 18-19, 2024, Pensacola Spring Railfest sponsored by the Pensacola Model Railroad Club. It is in Building 1, the Pensacola Fairgrounds, 6655 Mobile Highway, Pensacola, 32526. Saturday, 9 to 5; Sunday, 10 to 4 (Central times).



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**Model Train Shows & Model Railroad Conventions**

model trains will be going on.

[https://www.railserve.com/events/train\\_shows.html](https://www.railserve.com/events/train_shows.html)

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 downstate. There is a good chance something involving

## Barbara Donner's Hanukkah Display Becoming Regular in Large Scale Division Setups

**From Sam Miller:**

The Hanukkah display developed by Barbara Donner a couple of years ago has been donated to the BBMRA Large Scale Division by Barbara and will be included in the division's public operating sessions. Barbara did fine work on this special display, and it is most appropriate for late year operating sessions. Plans for this year

include the Senior Center and Cascades Parks Holiday Stroll.

The Hanukkah display consists of three buildings: a synagogue, a bakery, and a decorated house. In front of the synagogue is a figure of a Rabbi and little boy. There is also a figure of a boy reading a book on a bench and self-service library. A statue of a Rabbi and benches is in the center. There is a Hanukkah train car with a caboose.





# Amherst Railway Society

presents



## President Andy Travels to Amherst

BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman traveled to West Springfield, Massachusetts to visit the Amherst Railroad Society Railroad Hobby Show. It was held January 27 & 28, 2024.

The Railroad Hobby Show is the largest railroad-themed trade show in America. The event occupies 350,000 square feet in four buildings on the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds. The show covers all facets of the railroad hobbies - model railroads, railroad art and photography, railroad history and preservation, tourist railroads, railroad artifacts, and railroad books and videos.

The Amherst Railway Society sponsors the Railroad Hobby Show. Society exists to give as many people as possible the opportunity to experience and learn from the railroad and model railroad hobbies. They believe that enthusiasm for railroads and model railroads makes a positive difference in people's lives.



### January 27 & 28, 2024

Eastern States Exposition  
1305 Memorial Avenue  
West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089  
[railroadhobbyshow.com](http://railroadhobbyshow.com)



operating model railroads  
railroad art and photography  
railroad books and videos  
model railroad clinics  
family entertainment  
tourist railroads



*America's largest railroad-themed trade show*



[amherstrail.org](http://amherstrail.org)

Eastern States Exposition is the home of the BIG E Agricultural Fair

## BBMRA Important Events in 2024!!



Help us build this calendar. Email [sammiller61113@outlook.com](mailto: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](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

**January 13-14, 2024, 83<sup>rd</sup> 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 Deland Train Show.

**February 4-5, 2024, The Villages Model Train Show:** Savannah Regional Center, 1545 N. Buena Vista Blvd.,

**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.

**2024 Layout Tour March 23:** The 2024 BBMRA Layout Tour will take place on Saturday, March 23, 2024. The lineup will be as follows: Ed Grissom, Gary Edwards, Ed Schroeder. If there is anyone else who would like to have their layout in the tour, contact Andy Millott at [Millott32073@hotmail.com](mailto:Millott32073@hotmail.com). Times and directions will be in the March Lantern.

**May 18-19, 2024, Pensacola Spring 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).

**June 22-23, 2024, 33<sup>rd</sup> 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 participant, operating a special layout developed for this festivity.



Signals from the Sunshine Region



From: Neal Meadows

A Northern Division planning session was held to assess ideas of how to promote new membership in the Sunshine Region of NMRA. Suggestions were for each of the club areas to schedule layout tours and advertise them to entice new members and inactive members to join the group. The Northern Division has reorganized and is moving in a positive direction.

BBMRA members Neal Meadows and Stacey Elliott attended their second operating session in 2024 involving 10 members from the Northern Division. Neal and Stacey are working on their hours for operations and dispatching toward a Master Modelers Certification.

#### **First Coast Model RR Society Open Running.**

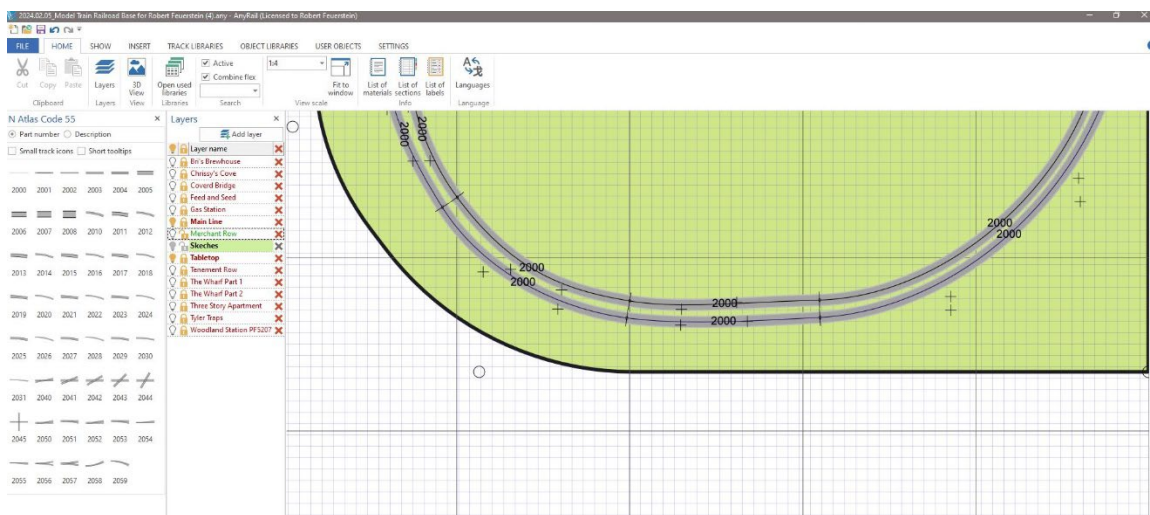
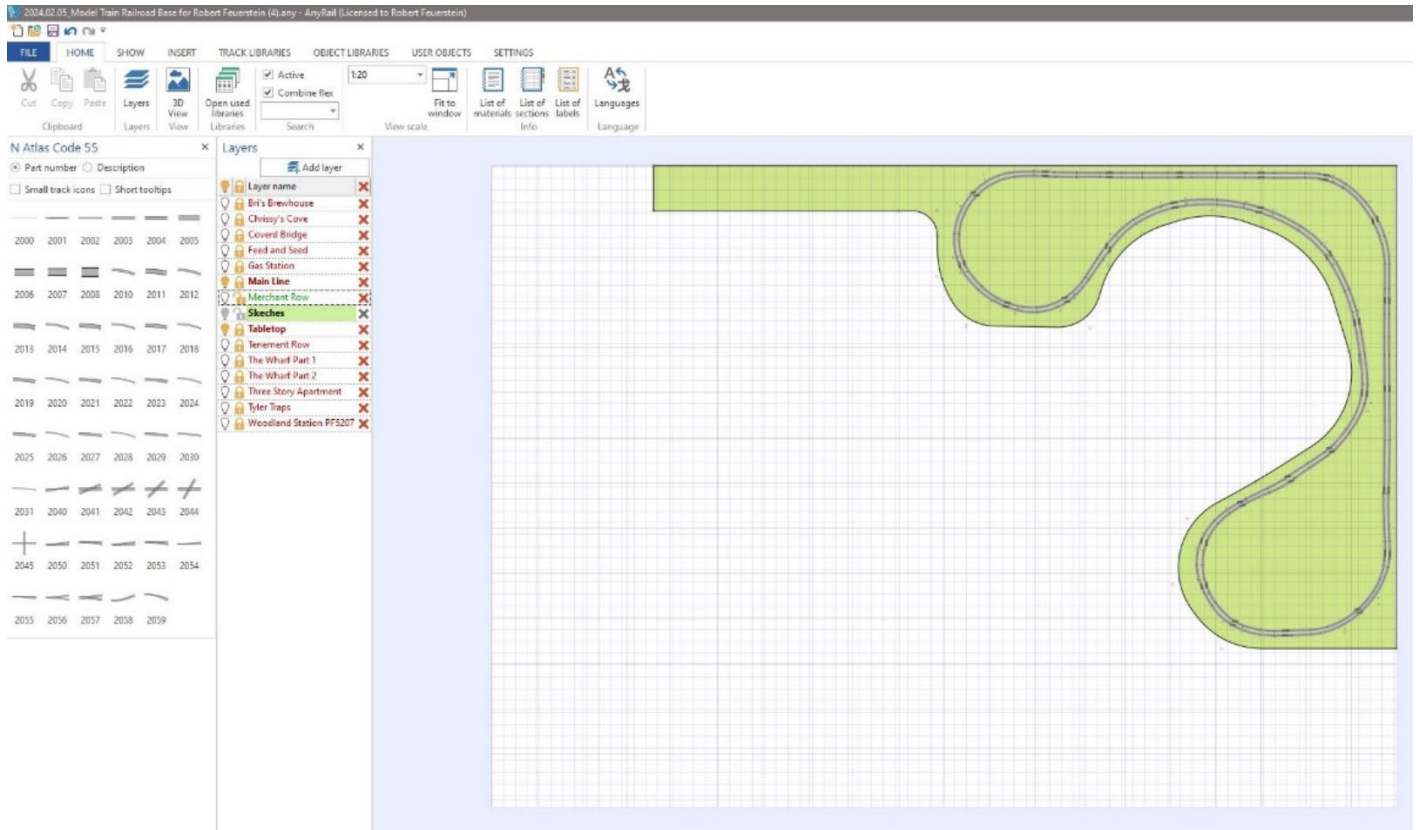
Florida, Jacksonville (Beaches)—First Coast Model RR Society open, running every Sun. Operational 750 sq ft Double-level freelance mixed era HO layout 50% complete. Meet On30 modular layout members. Gated location near I295 & Monument Rd. Please contact us 24 - 48 hours before your visit.

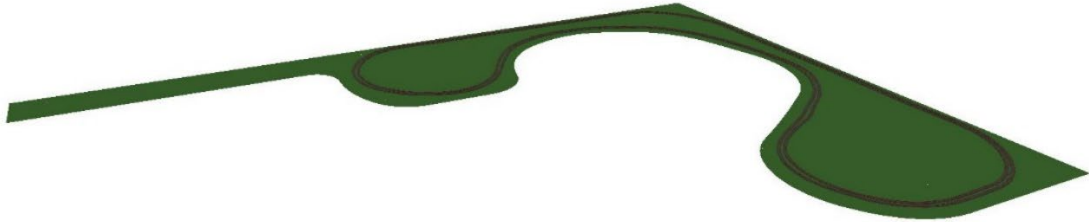
John Piselli [jpmickey@att.net](mailto:jpmickey@att.net). [www.FCMRS.club](http://www.FCMRS.club), See the club on YouTube (FCMRS); <https://www.facebook.com/groups/471801286331141>

# BOB'S RAIL YARD

From: Neal Meadows, Ed.D.

Bob Feuerstein has been planning his layout for some time. He now uses software called AnyRail to plan his layout. The software is free to download for a trial period and creates layouts with up to 50 pieces of track. It has enhanced features you can access plus create layouts with more than 50 pieces for the paid subscription. That one time purchase is \$59.00. Bob's layout will be in N-Scale. The software will let you set up a layout in any scale and utilize the parts with numbers from any of the track suppliers. Bob has started the graphic portion of his layout with the part numbers of Flex-Track he is using.





The drawing above shows the shape of his whole layout. As his drawings get closer to completion Bob will begin to place the track on the foundation. He has had assistance from Drew Hackmeyer, Andy Zimmerman, Stacey Elliott, and others. The long-range goal is to have an N-Scale layout that will support operations. We all look forward to getting that track on board so we can have some fun. Since I live closest to Bob, I am eager for it to become a reality. The logo and link to the software is below. This link is to a O-Scale layout designed with this software that a guy uses as his Christmas display. Check it out!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGBfZvwzYIs>



<https://www.anyrail.com/en>

## January 16, 2024, BBMRA Meeting Minutes

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting held on Jan 16, 2024, via Zoom to order at 7:34 pm. There were 14 participants present at maximum.

**Minutes** - The December minutes were sent on the 16<sup>th</sup> by email separate from the Lantern. There were no suggested edits. Andy Millot forwarded, and Stacey Elliott seconded a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

It was accepted without objection.

**Treasurer's Report** - As usual, President Andy shared the report using Zoom meeting functionality.

Treasurer Neal Meadows described the report contents which showed there was very little activity in December. The conclusion is that we are doing well and in the black. As standard practice, the report is not shared in the Lantern but will be shared with club members upon request. Phil Weston forwarded a motion to accept, and it was seconded by Bob Parmenter. The motion to accept the report as presented was passed without objection.

There was discussion regarding financial options for management of the club resources. There was then discussion regarding non-profit status and implications re tax policy etc.

**Division Reports/Small Scale** - Stacey Elliott mentioned that he did not have much to share. He did note that he went over to the "Arsenal" in Chattahoochee to investigate a potential setup venue. There was the general discussion of a permanent location to hold the club layout, the logistics, costs etc.

**Large Scale** - Sam Miller mentioned that his regular Sunday get together will be held on the Sunday following the meeting. He also mentioned the club gained members from the Senior Center Christmas outing and run in December.

**HO Scale** - Phil Weston mentioned he traveled to the Live Oak Railroad Club to help them with setup, including track work etc. He interacted with eight people. Phil has been helping them with other general club setup formalities. Bob Feuerstein also offered to go over as well to talk about the Sunshine Region of the NMRA. There was a general suggestion to do a BBMRA road trip over there to assist and share knowledge and mentoring.

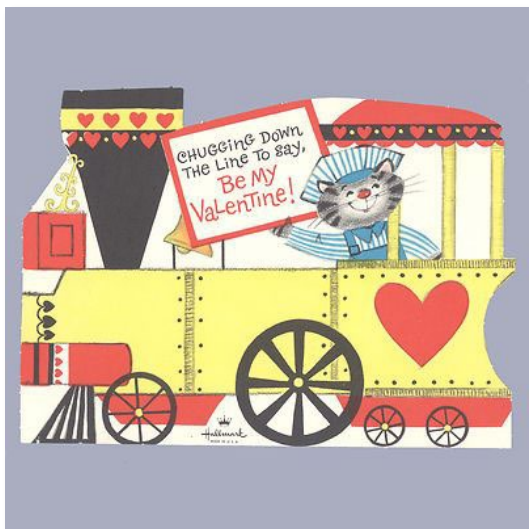
Switching Layout - Joe Haley had nothing new to share.

**NMRA** - President Andy is now the Sunshine Region president owing to health issues of the most recent past president. He plans to approach things with a totally new, more inclusive, and congenial attitude and he has already seen positive outcomes with his interactions so far.

**New Business** - President Andy then asked about returning to in-person meetings. There was discussion of logistics, particularly for the members who have issues with transportation and/or mobility. Will Newberry mentioned a club north of Jacksonville that is involved in train tours and history and there was discussion of coordinating with Sunshine Region events to encourage additional participation. President Andy then mentioned N-Rail and benefits to N-Scalers that have recently been agreed to. There was a discussion of the Pensacola and Jacksonville shows, dates etc.

**Good of the Group** - Andy Millott, after asking the club members in attendance, confirmed March 23 as the date of the annual layout tour. Randy Lombardo followed up with a question regarding the RA Gray museum and the Annual Children's Day event. Randy was told that renovations in the building are still under way and there would be no Childrens Day this year. Neal then mentioned he will be participating in an Operating Session run in Hawthorn, FL.

The meeting concluded at 9:08 PM. The minutes from the November Meeting were distributed separately from the Lantern in the Lantern email. There were no December minutes.



## Valentines Day

By: Neal Meadows, Ed.D.

As I work on the Lantern newsletter for February, I thought about the possible links between model trains and valentines. Traditionally valentines are cards that are exchanged with others that have sayings, poems, and comments about caring and loving. My three granddaughters that live in Tallahassee have been working on making valentines. We looked online for some examples to share with them and there are a lot of them available.

Some are vintage and some are more contemporary. I think about that and realize that those that I say are vintage are ones that I

may remember from when I was a child in elementary school. I turned 75 this month. Looking back things seem a lot closer than they are.



Since this looks like a cab locomotive it would have to be after 1939. Looks like some from the late 1950s to early 1960s.



This is really old, probably from the 1930s or early 1940s. He looks like one of the Campbell Soup Kids.



These two have almost the same theme but from different time periods. The one on the left is probably from the 1980s Care Bear period while the one on the right was much earlier, possibly in the late 1960s flower child era.

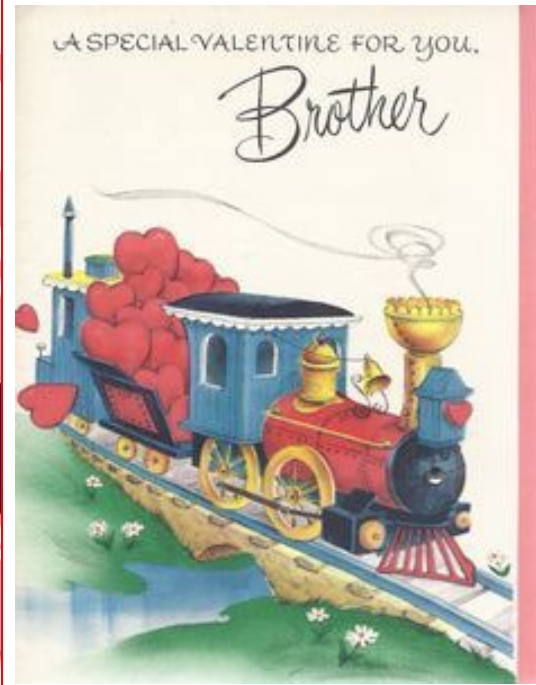




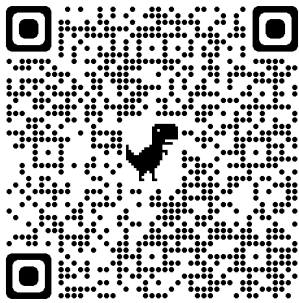
There are even some that you can customize with a picture to make them more personalized.



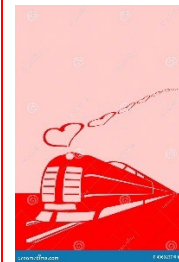
Some can be for specific people



Even Trains.com has a Valentine's Day gift guide for the contemporary model railroader. Flowers and chocolates are great but these models are the ticket. Click on the QR code to access.



All kinds of clipart!



You can get wallpaper and fabric in Valentine Train motifs.



Even Valentine Train candies.



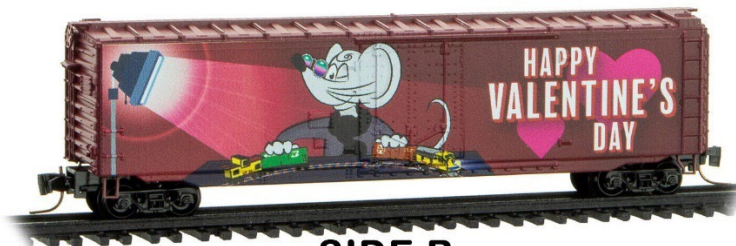
A Happy Valentine's Day VAT car from Lionel.



A Valentine's Day Wooden Train Boxcar – compatible with all magnetic wooden trains sets.



**SIDE A**



**SIDE B**

A Valentine's Day Boxcar from Micro-Trains

The Tennessee Valley Railroad even offers the Valentine Train Ride with a dining experience.



Here's another from New Hope Railroads



Here is a page that lists Valentine Train Rides. Most of these will be over by the time you read this but you can use it for next year. The links on each railroad are active.

<https://www.trains.com/trn/railroads/tourist/2024-valentines-day-train-rides/>

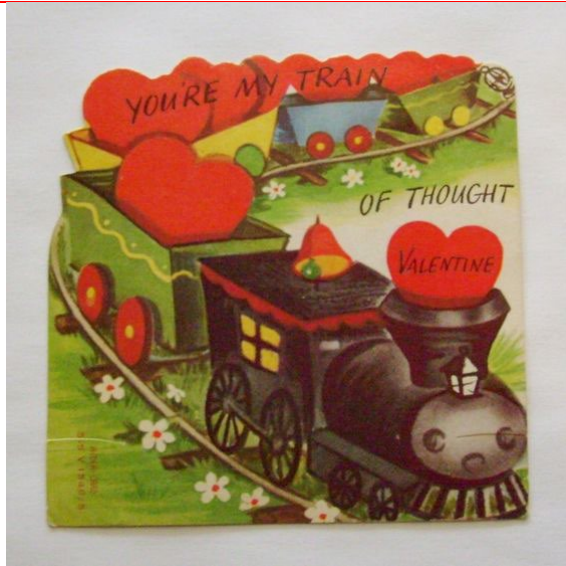
In the panel below is an example of the ride at the Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum in Calera, Alabama.



# A Romantic Train Ride, Wines & Pairings!

Depart the Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum Depot on an historic train for a short rail excursion to Ozan Winery & Distillery. Arrive at the vineyard for a trackside taste of [Yella Hound Spirits](#). Continue your short walk under the stars up the gentle hill to the rustic winery tasting rooms.

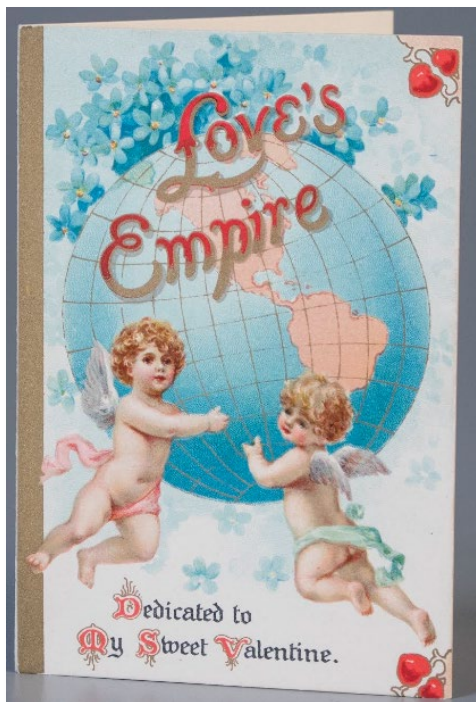
At the winery, guests will receive a souvenir wine glass and a pre-selected sampling of wines paired with sweet & savory selections! Taste favorites like Chardonnay, Peach and Pinot Noir, among others. All wines and spirits will be available for purchase by the bottle for you to take home.



I thought this one was poignant!

***"You are my train of thought, Valentine."***

At first, I didn't think there would be many that had train themes, but I was mistaken. How many of these do you remember from your past?



*If you always wanted to know the history of Valentine's Day, here is your chance. Click the image.*

"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@comcast.net](mailto:meadowsn1956@comcast.net) or (Sam Miller) [samthetrainmanmiller@gmail.com](mailto:samthetrainmanmiller@gmail.com) .