



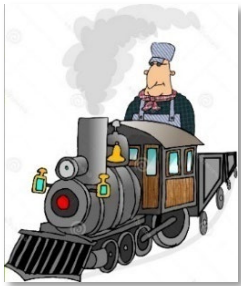
THE Lantern

March 2024

Volume 29 Number 03

HEADLINES

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March 19, 2024

BBMRA meets Tuesday, March 19, 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



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 a special email from Sam a couple of days before the Saturday, March 23, special event.

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: Tom Rush, Gary Edwards, Ed Schroeder, and Joe Haley. Last year's layout tour was our first in four years and was



Contact Andy Millott at Millott32073@hotmail.com



BBMRA 2024 Layout Tour Schedule

Saturday, March 23, 2024

10:00 AM- Meet at Tom Rush's residence at **2014 West Randolph Circle**

10:00 - 10:45 AM – Layout Tour at Tom Rush's

10:45 – 11:00 AM – Travel to Joe Haley's residence at **611 Collins Drive**

11:00 – 11:45 AM – Layout Tour at Joe Haley's

11:45 AM – 1:20 PM – Lunch (4 Rivers BBQ) and travel to Ed Schroeder's residence at **806 Middlebrooks Circle**

1:20 – 2:20 PM – Layout Tour at Ed Schroeder's

2:20 – 2:45 PM – Travel to Gary Edwards's residence at **343 Milestone Drive**

2:45 – 3:30 PM – Layout Tour at Gary Edwards's



Folks Already Signing Up for the June 22-23 Fairgrounds Show

Andy Zimmerman opened up registration for the June 22-23 Show & Sale last week and vendors began signing up on the first day! First in was Rick Wolfe of Bay Minette, AL, a regular, and we welcome Rick back. He will have three tables with used engines and rolling stock in N HO and O.

“Welcome to the Panhandle’s largest model railroad show and sale!” Andy noted in a “blast fax” delivered by email. “The Big Bend Model Railroad Association's (BBMRA) 2024 Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale will be held on June 22 and 23 at the North Florida Fairgrounds in Buildings 2 and 4 from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 9-4 pm on Sunday.

Set up will occur Friday, June 21, beginning at 8 am for exhibitors with layouts and 10 am for vendors, until 5 pm, and Saturday morning from 7 am to 8:30 am.

As in previous years, vendor tables rent for \$30 if folks register and pay by May 11; \$35 after that. We sold out our 150 tables last year for the 2023 show by the middle of April and had a long waiting list.

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 be meeting each Sunday through April 21 and will then take a couple of weeks off.

March 16, 2024, 2024, Woodville Founder’s Day, Woodville, FL. Leon County Library Annex, along the St. Marks Railroad Jogging and Biking trail. The BBMRA N Scalers will be operating T-Traks.

March 23, 2024, 2024 BBMRA 024 Layout Tour: 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, and Joe Haley. Anyone else who would like to have their layout in the tour should contact Andy Millott at Millott32073@hotmail.com. Times and directions will be in a special email from Sam Miller a couple of days before the event.

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, 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. The 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



The National Train Show slated to be held August 9-11, 2024, at the Long Beach Convention Center has been relocated to the Long Beach Westin. This hotel is also the site for the Surfliner 2024 NMRA National Convention.

Women in Model Railroading WIMRR Zoom Link - NMRA

Here is the link for the Second Friday of each month's Zoom Hangout:

- Topic: WIMRR Friday Hangouts
- Time: 5:00 PM **Mountain Time** (US and Canada)
- Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86520380595>.
- Meeting ID: 865 2038 0595
- The North Central Florida Model Railroad Club in Alachua is open to the public on Sunday afternoons 1-3 PM for visitation and train running on the club's HO scale layout. The club is located at 13201 Rachel Blvd, Suite SW-12, Alachua, FL 32616. Call 352-871-4973 for further information.
- Visitors are free to bring their DCC equipped engines. Train control is possible through any throttle that will connect with a Digitrax wifi system. Club members will be available to assist visitors.
- We are moving to Sunday operations, but for the next few months we are just running trains.



St. Patrick's Day Ride Through the Irish Countryside!



Four Freedoms Trail on old Valdosta & Southern Right of Way; Fascinating Trestle Bridge Remnants if You Can Get There

Much of this information and the photos are from Internet sites about the Four Freedoms Trail and the Valdosta Railway. Some of the text is lifted directly from these sites, beginning with Valdosta Railway Overview.

<https://www.traillink.com/trail/four-freedoms-trail/>

<https://www.naturalnorthflorida.com/things-to-do/floridas-four-freedoms-trail/>

<https://www.visitflorida.com/listing/four-freedoms-trail/23980/>

From Sam Miller:

Bike riding and tracing historic old railroads are a great combination because some of the best jogging, biking, and walking trails are on old railroad right-of-ways. Tallahassee's St. Marks Railroad Trail is one of them. My trail biking friend, Peter Kelly, and I found another one which is especially interesting and out of the way. It is the Four Freedoms Trail on old Valdosta & Southern Railroad right-of-way from Madison, through Pinetta and on to the Withlacoochee River and Georgia-Florida line. Out and back, which we usually do, is 25 miles.

It is a wonderful trail, although bumpy and needing repairs in spots. Much of it is rural, especially the final few miles toward the Withlacoochee River. Railfanning highlights include a mural depicting the area's logging railroad history at the Pinetta Trailhead and remnants of the Valdosta & Southern

bridge which once crossed the Withlacoochee.



I know how to get to the river and old bridge by trail bike. By vehicle is something altogether different, although there is a dirt road which gets you close. I can't tell you how to find that route. What is left of the old Valdosta and Southern is the still active Valdosta Railway.

The Four Freedoms Trail has ties to the Four Freedoms outlined by President Franklin Roosevelt in his 1941 State of the Union

speech: freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. The speech inspired a statute created by sculptor Walter Russell and dedicated to Captain Colin Kelly Jr., who was from Madison. Kelly was killed three days after Pearl Harbor when his B-17 was shot down following a bombing run. The statue was dedicated at Madison Square Garden in New York in 1944 and moved to Madison. It is in a park across from the courthouse.

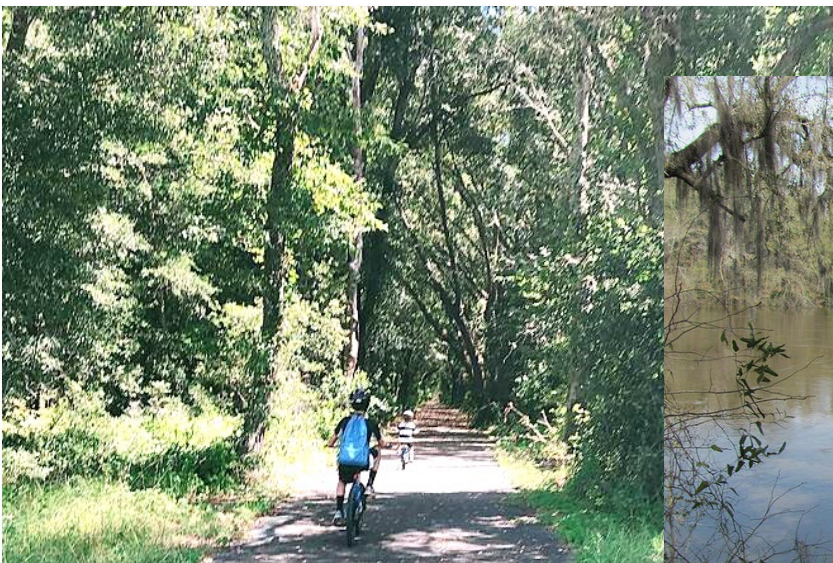
Valdosta Railway Overview

The Valdosta Railway is a shortline railroad running from Clyattville, Georgia to Valdosta, Georgia. The company began operations in 1992 as a subsidiary of the Rail Management and Consulting Corporation and was acquired by Genesee & Wyoming in 2005.

VR interchanges with CSX and Norfolk Southern in Valdosta.

The Four Freedoms Trail extends north from the city limits of Madison to the Withlacoochee River at the Florida-Georgia border. Much or all of the Four Freedoms Trail is a former abandoned railroad corridor. The Valdosta Southern Railway, chartered in 1896, opened its 28-mile line from Valdosta to Madison Florida in 1901. The Georgia-Florida Railway was organized in 1906. In 1954, the new Valdosta Southern Railroad began operating the former Georgia & Florida line between Valdosta Georgia and Madison Florida. The tracks from Clyattville to Madison were abandoned in 1972. In 1992 the line was sold to Rail Management Corporation, which established the Valdosta Railway to operate it.

In 2005, Rail Management sold all of its assets, including the Valdosta Railway. Here people can enjoy biking, walking, and horseback riding (beside the trail). There are also covered rest shelters along the way. No water is provided here so bring plenty. The locals in Madison all know what a special trail this is.





Good Place to Eat!

By: Neal Meadows, Ed. D.

If you are down in Wakulla County on a road trip to the beach and back or to visit the depot museum in Sopchoppy, you might get a little hungry, especially if it is on a Monday. Not many eating places other than the fast food places are open on Monday. Last Monday, my twin granddaughters had a field trip to the Gulf Specimen Marine Aquarium in Panacea.



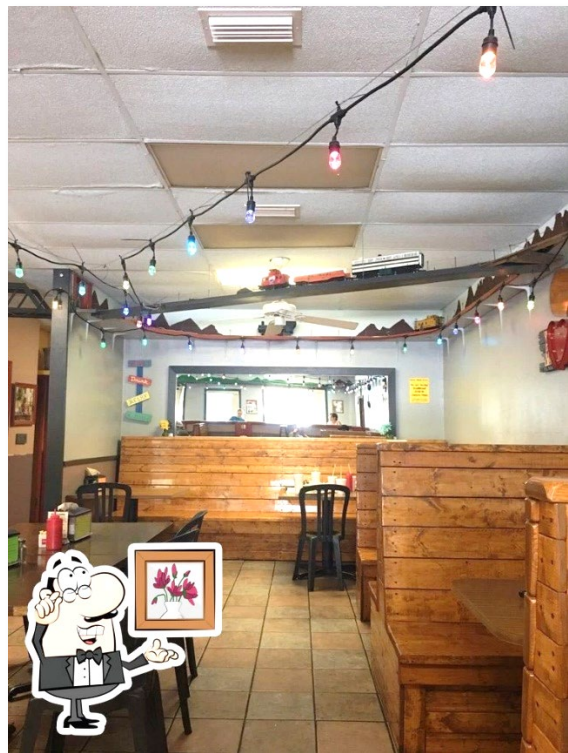
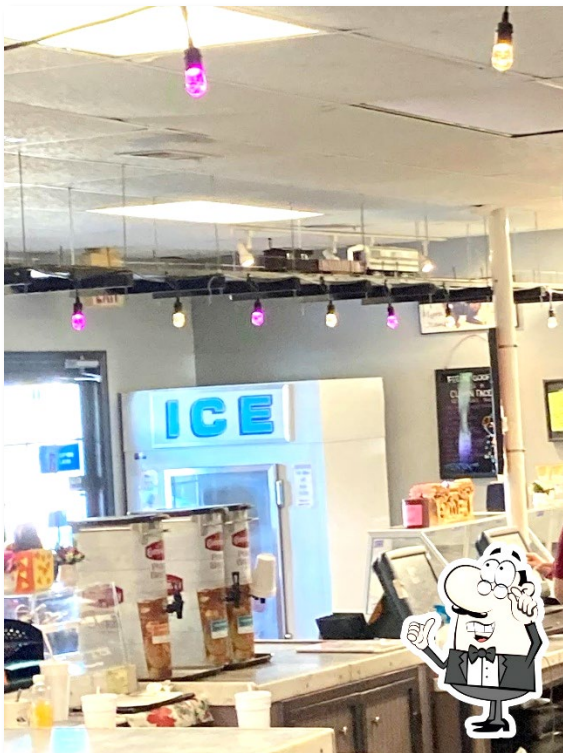
My wife, Jane, and I went as chaperones. The kids had a great time in the new park prior to the visit to the aquarium. There is a great playground with a new boardwalk out into the bay. At the aquarium there are a lot of touching and feeling tanks with specimens that the kids can actually hold and pick up. Other tanks not so much, you might lose a finger!

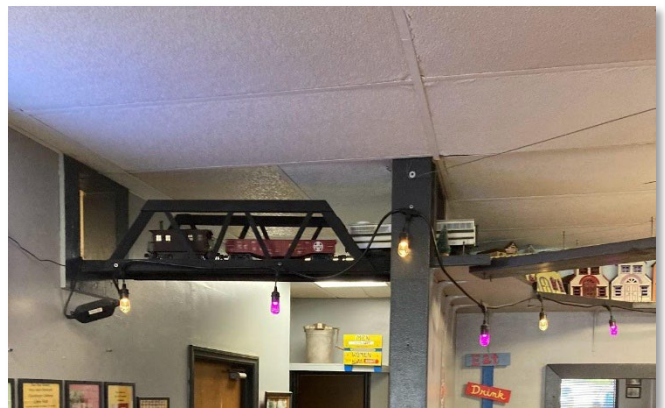




After the tour of the, the kids got back on the bus and went back to Tallahassee. Jane and I were hungry, so we looked for a place to eat. We did not eat any of the specimens while at the aquarium. Wandering back to Tallahassee we drove into Crawfordville and decided to go to Myra Jean's Restaurant, I would call it a Café.

This place has outstanding food with a lot of variety. The atmosphere is like a family owned café. The best thing for me was the model railroad roaming around the upper walls of the dining room. It is G-Scale and has a variety of locomotives and cars. The trains operate on timers and change out occasionally to run different consists. I tried to take some pictures, but these were available on the web. I did not show any pictures of the food since you would get hungry, drool all over your keyboard, and would probably swallow your tongue. Try it out, you will enjoy it.





Okay! One food picture.



Happy St. Paddy's Day!





A Little Culture and a Little Surprise!

By: Neal Meadows Ed.D.

This past week Jane and I traveled to Atlanta to visit family and watch my 10-year old grandson play baseball. While there we attended the Vincent Van Gogh Immersion Experience. Some of his most famous paintings were the Sunflowers and Sary Night. Most people have seen one or both of those somewhere in passing. The event was at the new Doraville art center, which is situated on a five-acre site, with more than 250 parking spaces (music to any city driver's ears)! The scale of the site also presents the opportunity to host both indoor and outdoor experiences.

There are images displayed in traditional settings with replicas of many of Van Gogh's paintings with explanations about style and historical data about the time period, mental state of Van Gogh, and the political climate of his lifetime. Exhibition Hub, Atlanta Art Center (5660 Buford Hwy NE)



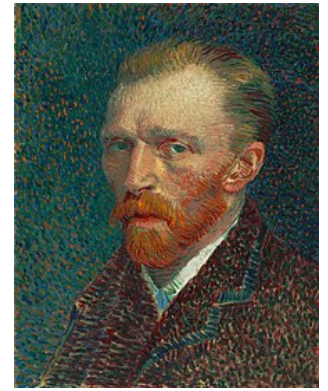
Vincent Van Gogh in 1873, photograph

“Vincent Willem van Gogh was a Dutch Post-Impressionist painter

who is among the most famous and influential figures in the history of Western art. In just over a decade, he created approximately 2100 artworks, including around 860 oil paintings, most of them in the last two years of his life.” [Wikipedia](#)



Vincent was born in 1853 in the Netherlands and died at the age of 37 in France. His death was most probably the result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.



Self-Portrait circa 1887
Art Institute of Chicago



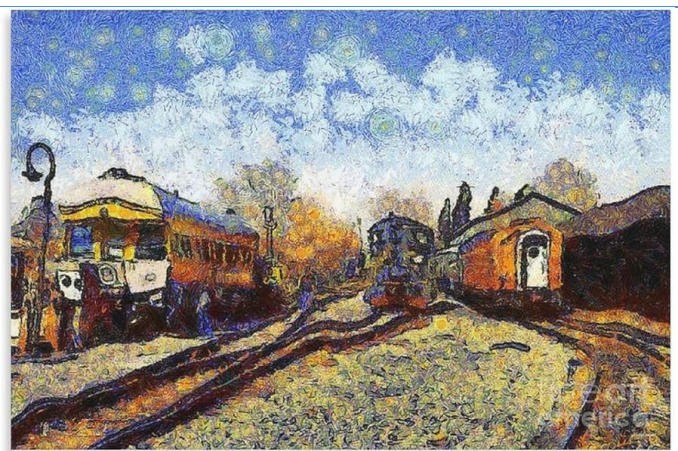
Jane and I first visited a Van Gogh exhibit in Amsterdam, Netherlands in 2018. The exhibit was quite extraordinary. A couple of years previously, we visited Arles, France where Van Gogh had lived and painted his Bedroom in Arles series. A replica of the bedroom is on exhibit in the Atlanta exhibition.

The Connection!

One thing that I found out that I did not know about Van Gogh was he was an avid painter of trains! That was the mode of travel during his lifetime and out of his 2100 paintings he had many that were of trains. Here are some examples for your cultural enlightenment.



“Train in a Sunflower Field” Oil on Canvas. You can get this for \$15,000!



Train Station, 1888.



Budapest Railway Station in 1884.



Steam Locomotive



Landscape With a Train and Cart, 1888

Railway Cars, 1888.

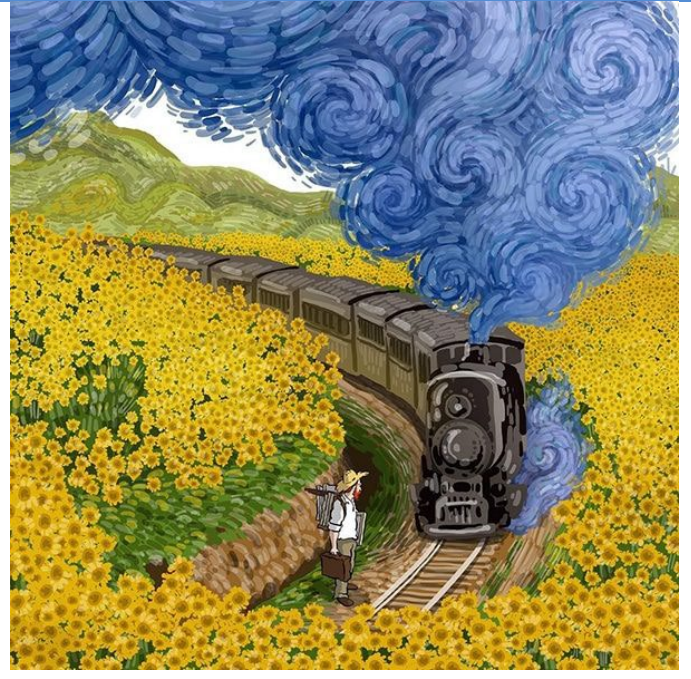


Train in a Field on a Starry Night.



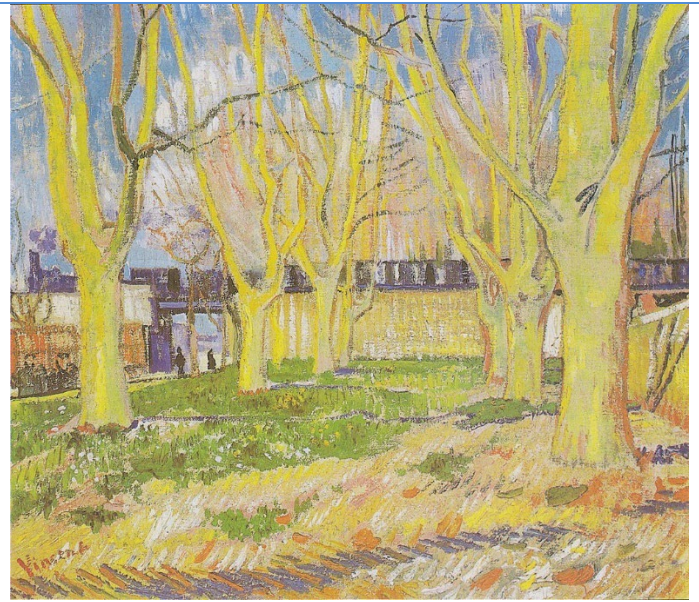
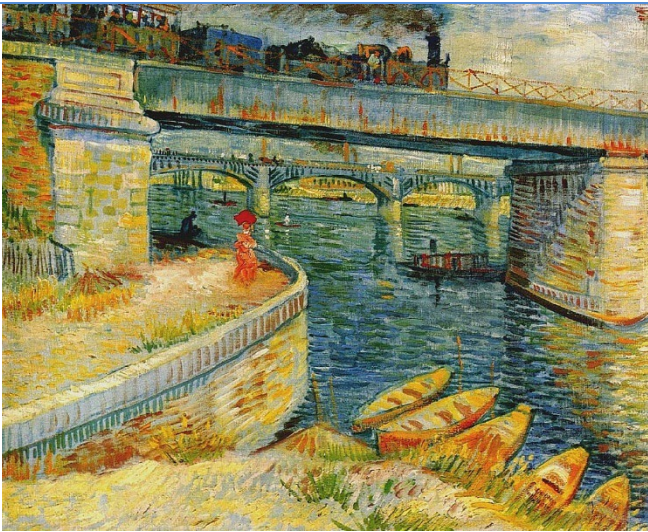
Train Station on a Rainy Day.





Another Rainy Day.

Train in Another Sunflower Field. 1888.



Bridge Across the Seine at Asnières, 1887.

Avenue of Plane Trees Near Arles, France, 1887.

February 20, 2024, BBMRA Meeting Minutes

President Andy called the meeting held on Feb 20, 2024, via Zoom to order at 7:34 pm. There were 11 participants present at maximum.

Minutes – The December minutes were provided in the Lantern. There were no suggested edits. Stacey forwarded and Phil seconded a motion to accept the minutes as presented. It was accepted without objection.

Treasurer’s Report – President Andy showed the report via Zoom functionality. Treasurer Neal went ahead and described the report contents which showed there was very little activity in January. There were a few sets of dues incoming and some fees for Google Drive etc. The conclusion is that we are as usual doing well and in the black. Neal mentioned that he will follow up regarding investigating CDs as an option for club funds. As is

standard practice, the report is not shared in the Lantern but will be shared with club members upon request. Ed forwarded a motion to accept, and it was seconded by Stacey. The motion to accept the report as presented was passed without objection.

Division Reports

Small Scale – Stacey mentioned that he did not have anything to share except that Brandon, the scale leader is in California on a bee pollinating mission. There was then general discussion of a permanent location to hold the club layout, the logistics, costs etc.

Large Scale – Sam had nothing to share re large scale but did mention that the layout tour is on for March 24. Andy Millot was absent for this meeting, however, to further elaborate.

HO Scale – Phil mentioned a helix (spiral) that Jack Herzog wanted to part with, and he asked around re those interested in talking possession for free. Phil then mentioned a “hanging light” HO item regarding availability etc. He mentioned he ordered examples when he located the item, and he is pleased with how it works.

Switching Layout – Joe had nothing new to share.

NMRA – Bob Feuerstein gave an update on various activities, including operating sessions etc. of NMRA. He mentioned that HO is the primary scale in the Jacksonville area. He also mentioned upcoming elections and a few other items. President Andy then gave additional details on NMRA members, activities, re-railing members etc. along with other general discussion.

Good of the Group

There was mention of Robert Gangwish, a stellar NMRA member who recently passed away. President Andy mentioned someone looking to sell prints of four train stations. Robert Dwyer collection of physical magazines primarily of Model Railroader. Bob Ruggles mentioned that the Grady County History Museum has a layout (looks like O-Scale) that needs maintenance. He gave the information of the location and details to interested club members, particularly Stacey and Sam. Ed then asked about sources of model railroading information, including available magazines. Stacey then briefly mentioned the Jacksonville show that he attended which he considered the best in years. Joe asked who to contact re the layout tour list and Stacey as well as Sam mentioned Andy Millott. He is interested in being on the tour and shared descriptions of some of the progress made on his layout, with Doug’s help.

The meeting was concluded at about 9:10 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 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 or (Sam Miller) samthetrainmanmiller@gmail.com .

