



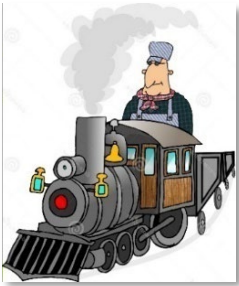
# THE Lantern

April 2024

Volume 29 Number 04

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### April 16, 2024

BBMRA meets Tuesday, April 16, 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

## 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! The 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.

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## June 22-23, 2024, Show Vendors – Registered So Far!

Updated on April 10, 2024

**Green means they are a new vendor.**

- **A Bag for Hope, Jane Meadows, Tallahassee, and others:** two tables, hand-made cloth items. Jane is Neal's wife, and this group makes and sells these items as a fund raiser for the Hope Community, a program under Tallahassee's Big Bend Homeless Coalition. They have sold items and donated over \$60,000 to the Hope Community.
- **James Barrett, Pensacola, FL, three tables:** HO used engines and freight cars.
- **Ralph "Pell" Brown, Pace, FL, one table:**
- **Capital City Comics and Toys, Daryll Gunter, Tallahassee, three tables:** Legos and wooden Thomas railroad items. He will operate a Lego train and accessories.
- **Rick Heilman, Lynn Haven, FL, six tables;** O Gauge, new and used locomotives and rolling stock and new O Gauge vehicles.
- **Preston Knuth & Lily Maytorena, PKG Railway, Navarre, FL:** three tables, O Gauge/O-27, new and used engines and rolling stock.
- **Koda's Model Train World, Rick Wolfe, Bay Minette, AL, two tables:** 3D printer detail parts for most scales of model railroading.
- **Jay Leinbach, Tarpon Springs, one table:** a regular at our show; HO, new engines, new and used rolling stock, books, and odds 'n ends.
- **Locomotive Logos, Kim Hawkins, Byron, GA: seven tables, embroidered cas, hat pins, patches, signs.**
- **Memory Station, Lewis Collier, Watkinsville, GA, eight tables:** Lionel and other O Gauge. An anchor vendor for us over the years.
- **Sam Miller, Tallahassee; nine tables.** Sam has O Gauge, including high end Lionel and MTH locomotives; also, lots of used HO trains and accessories, including a selection of Marklin and other European trains. time. Also, some factory-new Bachman HO items.
- **Jacin Mueller, Baton Rouge, LA, three tables:** a regular; die-cast airplanes and vehicles, usually O Gauge or larger.
- **Joe Ray, Wilsonville, AL:** 10 tables, all scales, new and used, but heavily N Scale. Joe is a long-time anchor of the Tallahassee show and other area shows.
- **Texas Model Train Collections, Jim Shepherd, Flower Mound, TX:** eight tables, a major new O Gauge vendor for us; New and used engines and rolling stock, power supplies, track, scenic materials.
- **Todd Tait, HO, Hahira, GA, three tables:** used trains and accessories, heavily N Scale, usually.
- **T-Trak by Denniston, Stuart Denniston, Cantonment, FL, one table:** N and Z T-Trak modules.
- **Tuckers Train Supply, Terry Tucker, Pensacola, 12 tables:** another long-time regular at the Tallahassee show. Large inventory of new model railroading products, including HO and N.
- **Judy Weston, Crawfordville, one table:** greeting cards and other originals. (Phil's wife).
- **Larry Weigel, Homestead, four tables:** used HO and N. Larry has been selling with us for a long time. He also is active in NMRA Sunshine Region shows.

## 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 be meeting each Sunday through April 21 and will then be off until May 12.

**May 14, 2024: Neal Meadows will make a presentation, along with Phil Weston, about the Georgia, Florida, and Alabama Railroad service through Wakulla County.** The presentation is at 4:30 pm at the Sopchoppy Depot Museum along with Nelson Martin's tour of the facility. This meeting is for the Wakulla Historical Society.

**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. 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.

## Cairo History Museum: A "Secret Garden" of Model Trains; BBMRA Agrees to Help Out!



From Sam Miller:

[Grady County History Museum](https://gradyhistory.org)  
<https://gradyhistory.org>

The Grady County History Museum in Cairo is like "The Secret Garden" depicted in the 1910 children's novel and the 1993 movie. Two



operating O Gauge trains in the store front window offer a tease, but you have no idea what is really there until you see it. It includes the largest and best operating indoor Garden Railroad exhibit I have ever seen, an O Gauge layout loosely depicting historic, old town Cairo and walls full of model and prototype railroading displays.

The museum was established to document Grady County's history, and it does, with exhibits on Jackie Robinson, born and raised near Cairo; the Muscogee Creek Indian history of the area; a real, last century barber shop; and an old school classroom. But a large area is devoted to model trains. Hampton Ward, a former Cairo resident now living in Atlanta, donated the trains to the museum in 2012 and a \$100,000 grant to Train Installations of Atlanta to set it up.

The exhibit is labeled the Grady Crossing Railroad. "The collection of authentically recreated scale models of historic trains delights young and old visitors," The History Museum notes on its Internet site. It consists of "five fully functioning trains and meticulously detailed scenery... Historically accurate trains depict the actual life-sized cars that served this area of South Georgia."

"Of special interest is a replica of the old Pelham and Havana Railroad which, although never completed, served most of the projected route for a decade. Nicknamed the 'Poor and Hungry' from its initials, the railroad is legendary for the personal service it provided to area residents," the Internet site continues.

"Other railroad memorabilia donated by Mr. Ward details the history and romance of the rails, its daily operations, and mechanics."



Don Nickerson

“Our community has really embraced it. Children bring their parents and grandparents, and they love it just as much as the kids,” said Don Nickerson, the museum director. “Everyone really enjoys it. This has been a big boon for us.” The trains “are the most popular feature of the museum, “to say the least.” The museum applied to the City Council for use of part of the old train depot about a block away for the model train exhibit. “The whole community backed the idea,” Don says. But council members wanted a retail revenue-producing enterprise in the old depot “and it is now a pizza parlor.”

BBMRA has begun a special relationship with the History Museum and Don Nickerson, the museum director. Bob and Connie Ruggles of our club learned that some of the trains were not operating properly, and Nickerson needed some help. Ward comes down from Atlanta every few months and fixes what he can. One of the store front trains had stopped running. Ward got it going again, but a few days after he returned to Atlanta, it stopped again, Don notes.

Bob Ruggles talked about the museum’s model railroad problems on a Zoom call. Club members, including Vice President Stacey Elliott and folks in our Sunday group,

agreed to help and we spent several hours at the Cairo museum last month - Stacey, Sam, David McDonald, Barbara Donner, and Randy Lombardo.

Two O Gauge locomotives needed new traction tires and David took care of that. Stacey is working on a beacon car and caboose which were causing a short in the store front window trains.

We will be going back to the museum soon and Don Nickerson hopes to get down for the June 22-23 show on that Sunday when the museum is not open.

“Signal lanterns, spikes, flagman and conductor uniforms, china cups and saucers, signs, schedules, original photographs, and much more recreate the sights and sounds of a bygone era. Children come in with their parents and grandparents to see the trains but all leave with the childlike wonder of the rails in their eyes,” the History Museum says on its Internet site.

We model railroading fanatics are not likely to lose “the childlike wonder of the rails” in our eyes. But if we do, the Cairo model train museum is a wonderful place to get it back.

The Grady County History Museum is located at 101 North Broad Street in Cairo. The operating hours are 1 to 4p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. It is closed on Sunday and Monday.



Stacey Elliott stepping lightly!



## Signals from the Sunshine Region



By: Robert Feuerstein

### Traveling

Local traveling looks at the Sunshine Region website for other clubs and events happening in our state. Quick Link: <https://www.nmrashineregion.org/>

For other traveling, look at the National Model Railroad Association Calendar website for other clubs and events happening in the United States of America and Other Countries. Quick Link: <https://www.nmra.org/calendar>

### Events

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

Florida, Jacksonville (Beaches)–First Coast Model RR Society open, running every Sun. Operational 750 sq ft.

The double-level freelance mixed-era HO layout is 50% complete. Meet On30 modular layout members. The location is gated near I295 and 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).

Quick Link: <http://www.fcmrs.club/Default.html>

#### Big Bend Model. Railroad Association

Put on your calendar June 22 and 23, 2024 Train Show. Quick Link: <https://mailchi.mp/8cee4c734498/32nd-anniversary-tallahassee-model-railroad-show-and-sale-17363816?fbclid=IwAR1EkbGRa7YpWDC9A8uwXOUq0onhr1niV1UAXNoEYe3ghh5YPfAOzIOjOc>.

This month, the Big Bend Model. The Railroad Association is preparing the N-scale layout for the train show.





### From President Andy Zimmerman:

If you are an NMRA member, you must be aware of some things. If not, you need to be aware. The NMRA has Contracted with a Medicare provider (Grouper) to Provide those 65 and older a way to get their NMRA dues (and possibly Club dues) paid for. It works much like Medicare paying for your Gym memberships. Please take a minute to read about it here: <https://www.nmra.org/categories/membership>

NMRA SunShine Region (SSR). The SSR will hold regional Elections this Summer, and as the SSR President, I will be running for another term. Bob Feuerstein will be running for the Northern Division Superintendent. When you receive your electronic ballot, I encourage you to vote. We have come too far to let our efforts to bring about Mentorship, Fellowship, and Community as a region focus. Through this current board's actions, we have grown the region by 3% in the past year. We were projected to lose 3%. That is a 6% difference! If you are not an NMRA member, I encourage you to try the Grouper solution and join us as we bring about real change.

If you wish to be a Vendor at our show you need to get your tables now. The second call for tables will go out soon, and the discount deadline is quickly approaching. You can get tables and download the contract by visiting our website: <https://bbmra.club/vendor-information/>

Andy

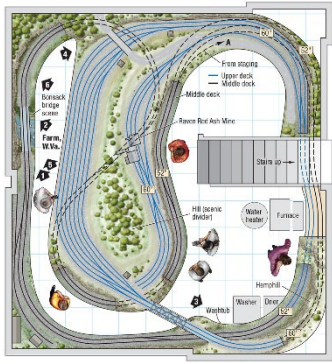


# BBMRA 2024 Layout Tour

Saturday, March 23, 2024

By: Neal Meadows, Ed.D.

The Layout Tour was a success with over 25 people participating. The group met first at Tom Rush's house and viewed his HO layout. Tom's layout is in one of his bedrooms and is very detailed and totally digitally operated. He models the area around Crawfordville and the railroad that operated there. I was impressed at how much he was able to get on his layout – various levels and grades.



We next all went to Joe Hayley's house and visited his "Shed." He and Doug Gyuricsko have worked for weeks getting Joe's layout back in operating order. For several years it had been unusable after some storm damage. Now it is in working order with some new track, industries, and businesses. Stacey Elliott and I have been working on our NMRA certification for Dispatcher. We talked with Joe and Doug about working to get the layout ready to conduct operations so we and others could work on those points without having to travel to Gainesville, Lake City, or Jacksonville in order to complete it all. Quite a bit of prep has to be done to set up for an operations session, but it will be a fun project.

Next on the Layout Tour was at Ed Schroeder's house. Ed's layout fills the majority of a two-car garage. It is HO Scale and is called the New Orleans and North Eastern. The L&N Railroad has a starring role in the rolling stock. The New Orleans part represents Ed's hometown where he grew up and the other part, the North Eastern part represents where his wife, Marietta, grew up. I know it is in the Northeastern part of the US but at this point, I can't remember where and as usual, I did not write it down. I liked his layout because it was almost chest high to me so was easy to see the rolling stock as it glided by. Ed regaled us with his many stories of life in New Orleans in his early years. We all had a great time there.



After lunch we headed over to Gary Edwards' residence. Gary's Lionel layout fills one half a two car garage and is very extensive. He has lots of switches and sensors that help with the "Train Disappearing In The Mountain" feature. It was pretty neat.

I never had any Lionel gear, but I am thinking Gary has most everything Lionel offered for their trains. He displayed the barrel loading and unloading, the log loading and unloading siding, and the log to lumber mill factory. Things like the signal tower with the switchman stepping outside to inspect as the train went by. He had dual tracks and had trains on both tracks. We turned out the lights in the garage to see all the buildings lit up like Christmas trees. Lots of lights! I really like the station with the conductor announcing the departure of the trains



and their destinations. Pretty neat!

**A great day was had by all!** The society editor for my hometown newspaper always used that line at the end of all her articles on weddings and other social events. I couldn't resist an opportunity to use it.

The picture sections below are from each of the sessions. Enjoy!

**The two pictures above and the next six are from Tom's layout.**





The next group is from Joe Haley's layout.

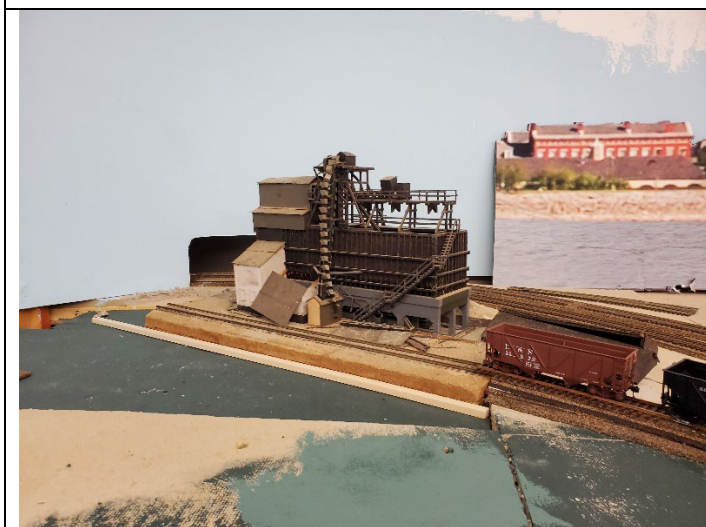
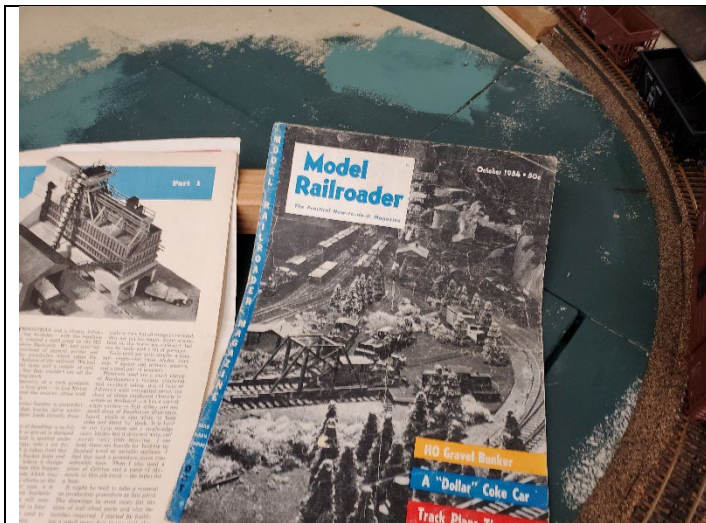


The next group is from Ed Schroeder's layout.



Some of these cars are named "Alabama Pine, Green Pine, Churchill Downs, and coaches 3257 and 3254.

## Continuing Ed Schroeder's Layout



The structure was scratch built by Ed from an article in Model Railroader October 1954. It was a bunker for Consolidated Rock Products.

## Some More of Ed's Layout



I took a lot of pictures of Gary Edwards' layout. Too many to include in this newsletter and be able to email it out to members. I will feature pictures of his layout next month. Promise! Neal.

## March 19, 2024, BBMRA Meeting Minutes

**President Andy** called the meeting held on Mar 19, 2024, via Zoom to order at 7:47 pm. There were 9 participants present at maximum.

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

**Treasurer's Report** – President Andy as usual coordinated with Treasurer Neal re the report and displayed the report via Zoon sharing functionality. Neal went ahead and described the report. There were a few monies paid out for show related items, PayPal transfers etc. The conclusion is that we are as usual doing well and in the black. Neal again mentioned that he will follow up regarding investing in CDs as an option for club funds so that we get back some interest. He also mentioned corporate filing fees that were also paid up. As is standard practice, the report is not shared in the Lantern but will be shared with club members upon request. Bob Parmenter forwarded a motion to accept, and it was seconded by Andy Millott. The motion to accept the report as presented was passed without objection.

## Division Reports

**Large Scale** – Stacey mentioned on behalf of Sam that Bob Ruggles' wife arranged for club members to visit the Grady County museum and diagnose issues they are having with their model trains of the G-Scale and O-Scale variety. He then went on to share pictures of the museum trains. One issue that was pointed out was dirty track and traction tire issues. He encouraged club members to go up there if they have a chance to take a look and help.

**Small Scale** – Stacey did not have much to add re small scale activities except for a planned outing at Easter. He also mentioned a possible workday on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Layout Tour** - Andy Millot chimed in on logistics for the layout tour on the weekend.

**HO Scale** – Phil was absent so there was no HO report.

**Switching Layout** – Joe was absent so nothing new was shared.

**NMRA** – President Andy mentioned that Sunshine Region members should look out for a promotional effort for Medicare participants where NMRA dues may be paid by the respective plans. This is owing to research studies showing model railroading encourages longevity.

## Good of the Group

Mike Sassard, former club member passed away. He had moved away from California and had a series of health problems.

The meeting concluded at about 9:21 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](mailto:meadowsn1956@comcast.net) or (Sam Miller) [samthetrainmanmiller@gmail.com](mailto:samthetrainmanmiller@gmail.com).

This picture is one that I have been working on for the 25-foot First Baptist Church (FBC) Heritage Timeline Banner for their 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This picture shows the boys on a train car. I thought it was interesting and thought it might be interesting to you too.

Neal Meadows, Ed.D.

