



THE Lantern

July 2024

Volume 29 Number 7

HEADLINES

- [BBMRA Meeting](#)
- [BBMRA Officer Elections](#)
- [BBMRA Important Events for the Year](#)
- [Pay Your Dues! – Up to Date Members](#)
- [Gulf Wind Chapter NRHS Presentation \(Lloyd Depot Group\)](#)
- [Trip to Dillsboro](#)
- [33rd Annual Show and Sale Gallery](#)
- [Signals From the Sunshine Region](#)
- [Narrative Report from the Show](#)
- [Minutes](#)
- [More railroad stamps](#)



BBMRA meets Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. through Zoom.

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](#)

The link above has been corrected and tested. It does work now.

2024/25 Elections

It's time to elect BBMRA officers for another year and everyone will be running for another term, including long-time BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman.

The president, vice president, treasurer and secretary will be

elected by all participating BBMRA members during the Zoom meeting Tuesday, August 20. The Large Scale, Small Scale and HO Division members will elect their coordinators, completing the BBMRA Board. Small Scale members have nominated Bob Feuerstein as their coordinator.

The 2024/25 slate of officers is being listed in this special email and the upcoming July Lantern in the July Lantern to comply with the one-month notice requirement in the club's by-laws.

This year's slate consists of:

- President - Andy J. Zimmerman
- Vice President - Stacey Elliott
- Treasurer - Neal Meadows
- Secretary - Sheldon Harrison
- Large-Scale - Sam Miller
- HO-Division - Phil Weston
- Small-Scale – Bob Feuerstein.

Any club member can run for office and nominations will be taken from the floor during the August 15 meeting.



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 through Zoom.

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.

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.

September 21-22, 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.

November 16, 2024, Woodgate Neighborhood Model Trains Open House: 1:30 to 4 p.m., at Sam Miller's house in Woodgate.

December 2024: Polar Express Holiday Trains, Veterans Memorial Railroad, Bristol. Dates to be announced later.

December 2024: BBMRA Holidays Trains at the Tallahassee Senior Center. Date to be determined this fall.

Pay Your 2024-25 Dues by July 30

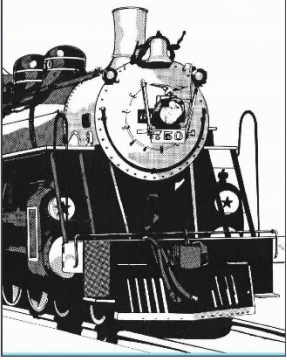
The BBMRA now has the option for new and current members to pay their dues online by using the PayPal link on the BBMRA.ORG website. It is under the Membership menu item. When you select the PayPal button you will get the option to use your PayPal account if you have one or use a credit/debit card. The dues are \$21.25 using this method, 2 years for \$42.00.



BBMRA dues are \$20 a year and must be paid by July 30, under club bylaws. Over the years, however, we have not considered dues delinquent until the end of August, BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman says.

Current Paid members as of July 26, 2024

Dave & David	Blodgett	Dale	Kishbaugh	Paul	Schneider
Sharon	Brock	Dan	Lhotka	Mayra	Segovia
James	Dodson	Paul	Malek	Michael	Sentman
Gary	Edwards	Sal	Martocci	Louis	Stokley
Stacey	Elliott	Dan (HA)	McDaniel	John	Sykes III
Phil	Ferguson	Neal	Meadows	Jaime	Valdez
Ron & Karla	Fletcher	John	Meister, Sr	Benjamin	Walker
Doug	Gyuricsko	Sam	Miller	David	Walker
Drew	Hackmeyer	Steve	Mindlin	Phil	Weston
Joe	Haley	Francis	O'Conner	Andy	Zimmerman
Sheldon	Harrison	Bob	Parmenter		
Mike	Helms	George	Revels		






Tallahassee's Railroad History

A free lecture program
commemorating the
Capital City's Bicentennial


Presented Thursday, August 8, 2024
at the IMAX Theater,
Challenger Learning Center
Meet-and-greet: 6:30 p.m. / Program: 7 p.m.

Sponsored by
The Gulf Wind Chapter of the National Railway
Historical Society, Inc.
Tallahassee Film Society
Visit Tallahassee



Visit
Tallahassee
Pretty Unexpected.



Gulf Wind Chapter – National Railroad Historical Society Event

From: Dave Hodges, President

Our chapter is putting on a program, an illustrated lecture, about Tallahassee's railroad history. It's part of the city's Bicentennial celebration and takes place at the IMAX Theater downtown. Here's an item for the next club newsletter.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Thursday, Aug. 8, when the Gulf Wind Chapter-NRHS, the Tallahassee Film Society, and Visit Tallahassee present "Tallahassee's Railroad History," a special Bicentennial lecture presentation at the IMAX Theater in the Challenger Learning Center. This free program traces the earliest railroad development in Florida -- which occurred here -- and the impact that railroads had in our community. Meet-and-greet is 6:30 p.m., followed by the program at 7 p.m. Our guest speaker is chapter member Richard Hall, Ph.D., a noted historian and retired professor from Georgia Southwestern State University.

Visit gulfwindnrhs.org for more info.

Ticket Booth Workers at the 33rd Annual Show and Sale

By, Neal Meadows, Ed.D.

A group of dedicated BBMRA members worked at the ticket booth during the two days of our show. In each of the pairs of members, one was familiar with the Zettle Credit Card machine we used to accept admission payments via credit cards. Most of them had worked last year, so it was not such a new venture. A little review of the guide sheets and/or the YouTube video we made last year worked out well.

The members that volunteered to work were: John and Judy Meister, Art Wilson and Barbara Donner, Sheldon Harrison and Doug Gyuricsko, Bob and Kelly Ruggles, Ed Schroeder and Tom Hart, Stacey Elliott and Andy Millott, Bob Parmenter and Neal Meadows, and Andy Millott and his wife Sunny. Andy organized the schedule and worked to get the volunteers for this important activity.



Trip to Dillsboro, NC

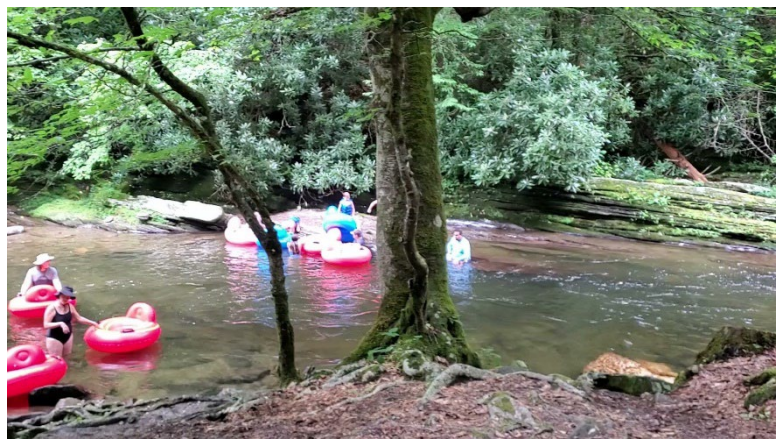
By Neal Meadows, Ed.D.

Jane and I spent a week in North Carolina in the Franklin area. We stayed in a really nice cabin and traveled out each day to a different area to hike or visit attractions. Franklin has a really nice 3 mile greenway along the Little Tennessee River that we hiked on. We visited Wayah Bald. Wayah Bald is a high-altitude treeless open area in Nantahala National Forest, near Franklin, North Carolina. The Wayah Bald Observation Tower is located at the area's highest point; the stone observation tower was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1937 for fire detection. On a clear day, you can see north to the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee and south into the rolling hills of

Georgia. We also visited the Deep Creek Campground and Hiking Area, known also for the fabulous tubing waterway.

One day we drove up to Dillsboro, NC. There was a Plein Air Art Festival planned for the day, so we wanted to see it. The original area of Dillsboro is only about 3 blocks long and 2 blocks wide. There are a lot of shops that cater to tourists – crafts, food, clothing, art galleries, gifts, etc. It was not very busy at 11:00 am when

we got there. The art show was supposed to start at 2:00 PM. About the time the show was supposed to start, the train rolls in. I did not realize it was the Great Smokey Mountain Railroad from Bryson City. Lots of people got off the train and filled up the town. Jane and I had ridden the dinner train 2 years before on a trip west from Bryson City along the Nantahala River. Luckily, I was able to watch as they moved the locomotive from one of the train set to the other and was able to capture it in a movie. Pretty neat! The loco on that day was a GP38-2. At other times a steam engine pulls the train on these trips. The next day we went to the Deep Creek Campground and when we returned to Bryson City the train from the west rolled into town with about 20 cars. The GSMR has about 200,000 passengers a year. A few pictures that I captured that day are next.











Picture Gallery from the 2024 – 33rd BBMRA Annual Show and Sale June 22 & 23, 2024.



It has always been all about kids!



Venerable Joe Haley was able to come to the show while still recovering from surgery on his back.



Disney O-Scale captivates



Really long stretch – lots of scale miles.



Around the bend.



BBMRA Vice President and top N-Scaler Stacey Elliott



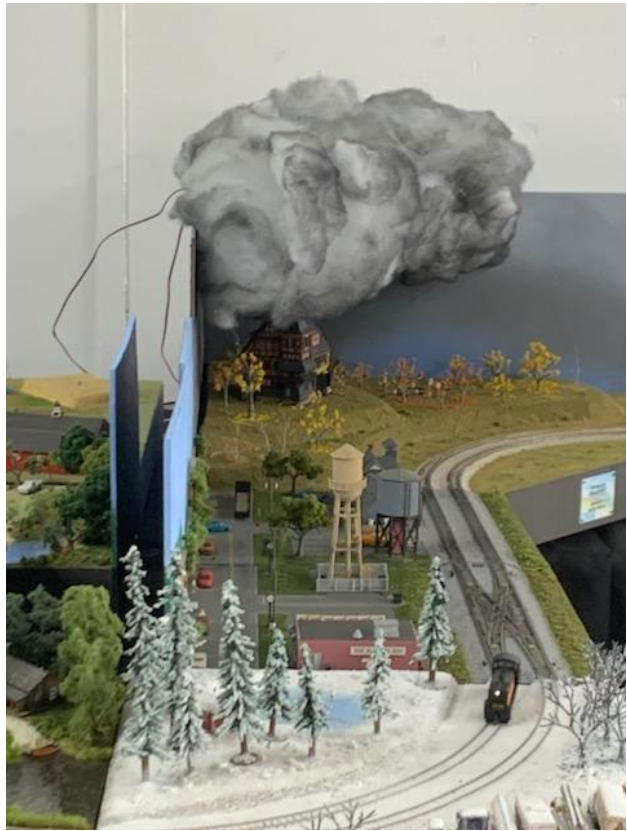
A close inspection of the Storm-A-Brewin'



Keeping it on the rails.



Daddy, look over there!



Omnibus at this stage of Hurricane Season.



Doug Gyuricsko, doing dual work in O-Scale and N-Scale



Great details here, with Karla Fletcher.



Jamie Valdez of Albany and tremendous N-Scale Layout.



What am I going to buy if they let me?



Ina Ecklund, Eric's widow, with some of their G-Scale items.



Looks like a drone shot.



This little guy is really happy to run the trains.



She is not sure about all this stuff!



Kid gets to run Disney Layout Locomotives.



I would sure love to grab that!



Booth set up for the sale of tickets to the 33rd Annual Show and Sale.



N-Scaler John Meister in upper left corner. Alias Santa Clause during the season!



Farming on the G-Scale T-Trak Layout.



O-Scale – David McDonald and two grandsons.





The two pictures above show the setup of the Dining Car area. This was prepared for patrons to have a cool place to eat the food and drink they purchased from our vendors. I got lots of compliments on the signs and the table decorations.



Signals from the Sunshine Region



President's Message to the Sunshine Region of the NMRA

Dear BBMRA Members who are Sunshine Region Members,

As we approach another exciting season within the NMRA Sunshine Region, I hope this message finds you all in good spirits and full of enthusiasm for the activities ahead. It is election time, and by now, you should have received the **Election Buddy link in your email**. This is your opportunity to shape the future of our organization by casting your vote for our new leaders.

Our Current Board is doing a fantastic job, and I would encourage you to vote for them again. IF you are an SSR region Member we need you to vote.

I am pleased to inform you that all candidate bios are available on our website(<https://www.nmrasunshineregion.org/2024electionbios>) as well as the current board members (https://www.nmrasunshineregion.org/about_us) if you are unsure who is currently serving. All info is at NMRASunshineregion.org and that a special election edition of the Telegraph key goes out August 1st. Please take a moment to review the bios to make an informed decision.

Our regional convention is just around the corner, scheduled for October 10-12th. Registration is filling up fast, and we are thrilled about the strong interest and participation we are already seeing. This year's convention promises to be an enriching experience with opportunities for mentorship, fellowship, and community throughout the convention experience. Detailed information about the convention, including clinics and activities, can also be found on our website. Keep in mind this is constantly evolving and to watch for updates as we approach October.

Your participation and engagement are what make our region vibrant and successful. I urge you all to cast your vote and ensure your voice is heard. Then register for the convention! We look forward to seeing you in October and sharing in the camaraderie and learning that our convention offers.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the NMRA Sunshine Region. This Team has worked hard to ensure that your Region is truly the best under the sun!

Now I am off to the NMRA National convention to Represent the SSR. I hope to bring back some great updates for the September newsletter. If you have a Comment or concern that you want voiced at the National Convention, Please send them to SSRPrez@nmra.org

Warm regards,

Andy J. Zimmerman
ATCS AW USN Ret
BBMRA/SSR President

Report from the 2024 BBMRA 33rd Annual Show And Sale

By: Neal Meadows, Ed.D., BBMRA Treasurer

Our show was held June 22 & 23, 2024 at the North Florida Fairgrounds in Buildings 2 & 4. The event this year was probably the largest we have ever had. More vendors and tables sold, several new vendors that we have not had before, great layout displays, new food vendors, and designated rest areas called “Dining Car.” Workshops were held in the classroom with the main theme being the use of 3D printing in model railroading.

The ticket booth operated smoothly as a result of Andy Millott’s organizing efforts and scheduling. There were a variety of wrist bands utilized to denote the participants, the vendors, the exhibitors, the presenters, and the children. The ticket booth was able to accept cash or use the Zettle credit card machine that was used last year. Everything went smoothly with that option. Membership dues payments were also accepted at the ticket booth.

The membership table was manned by James Dodson again this year. He added so many extra features to the membership table. There were a variety of tools to borrow to make small repairs using an assortment of repair parts for people buying used equipment. He also operated the test tracks so participants could test any equipment they were considering buying. Applications for new members were handled at this table. We have five new members as a result of James’ efforts.

This year there were 40 different vendor booths at the show purchasing 169 tables. That was 19 more than last year. We had 680 people pay with cash and 216 people pay with credit card totaling 896 paid attendees. We estimated that 200 children attended, 70 vendors working, 23 exhibitors, 3 presenters, and 4 associated with NMRA – Sunshine Region. All in that is 1196 total people at the event. That total does not include all the members that were in attendance, which were in excess of 50 people. I am sure we surpassed the 1200 mark this year.

After totaling up all the proceeds from all sources and subtracting all the known expenses on this date, the Net Income was 45% of the receipts. The exact amounts are reflected in the Sales and Attendance Report (Revised) sent to Andy Zimmerman, President.

I would like to thank all of those that participated in making this show successful. It takes a lot of preparation, organization, and implementation to make this show work. We had a great show, and we should be proud. This was a far cry from the first shows that were held at the Elks Club. Maybe we have just gotten smarter, we sure have gotten older!

There are bigger things ahead!





Minutes from the June 18, 2024, Meeting of BBMRA

Submitted by Sheldon Harrison

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting held on June 18, 2024, via Zoom to order at 7:48 p.m. There were 12 participants present at maximum.

Minutes – There were no minutes from the past meeting in the Lantern.

Treasurer's Report – Neal Meadows mentioned the number of tables sold for the upcoming show. He, however, did not discuss the report.

Division Reports

Small-Scale – Stacey Elliott mentioned that he plans to get to the show grounds with his items on Thursday afternoon and will be back at 8 a.m. Friday for setup. He said others can come in later that day at their convenience.

Large-Scale – Sam Miller also mentioned that he is ready to go and plans to be there from Thursday afternoon for setup etc.

HO-Scale – Phil Weston mentioned that since he got back from his Alaska trip, he is primarily preparing to get his modules finalized for the show. Other HO members will, as usual, trickle in throughout the day and the consensus is that HO was all set for the show. There was also a discussion about club members helping vendors unload / load as necessary.

Switching Layout – Joe Haley had nothing new to share.

Good of the Group

Andy Millott gave an overview of the ticket booth reservations. He did mention a need for some volunteers for some Saturday slots and then a few more on Sunday. Bob Parmenter then volunteered to help out for some of the slots. Neal also mentioned that he will be sending out the tutorial on using the credit card machine for ticket booth operators.

James Dodson mentioned that he will be working at the membership table, and he will also have an S-Scale display as well. There was also discussion about health insurance reimbursement for model train club participation, which is thought to help with preserving mental acuity and overall health as the human aging process unfolds.

The meeting concluded at about 8:18 p.m.

Minutes from the May 21, 2024, meeting of the Big Bend Model Railroad Association.

Recreated by Sam Miller from memory.

The meeting was called to order shortly after 7:30 p.m. by President Andy Zimmerman, with eight to 12 people participating.

Minutes – The minutes from the previous month's meeting were adopted with no amendments.

Treasurer's Report – Neal Meadows discussed the club's finances, including payments made to the Fairgrounds for the 2024 show. Details are not listed in the meeting minutes, but Neal will reveal them to club members if they request it.

Division Reports

The division reports were mainly devoted to the upcoming annual show v& sale. They were delivered by the following: Small Scale, Stacey Elliott; Large Scale, Sam Miller and HO Scale Phil Weston; Joe Haley did not make a presentation on the switching layout.

Good of the Group, again mostly devoted to show planning.

The club had sold almost all of the available vendor tables nearly two months out from the show for the second year in a row. Andy Zimmerman and Neal Meadows discussed other financial aspects, including advertising. Andy Millott gave an overview of the ticket booth volunteering.

The club took no official action during this meeting. It concluded around 8:30 p.m.

