



THE Lantern

September 2024

Volume 29 Number 9

HEADLINES

- [BBMRA Meeting](#)
- [Sopchoppy Depot Days](#)
- [BBMRA Important Events for The Year](#)
- [Lloyd Depot Day](#)
- [Wiregrass Steel Wheels Train Show](#)
- [Buy, Sell, or Trade](#)
- [Pay Your Dues!](#)
- [Some New Models to Consider](#)
- [Memories of the Might Haag Circus](#)
- [Minutes](#)



BBMRA meets Tuesday, September 17, 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](#)

Sopchoppy Depot Days September 14 and a Select BBMRA HO Group

Sopchoppy's Depot Days is now an annual event on the second Saturday in September – which is this Saturday, the 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The BBMRA HO Division has become a wonderful regular player. Phil Weston and his crew will operate a midsized HO T-Trak layout developed for Sopchoppy to depict its railroading history as a major stop for the Georgia, Florida and Alabama Railroad.

The BBMRA HO folks will set up in the Towle House that adjoins the Depot. "This has been a fun event for the past few years, and I want you to know that all BBMRA members are invited and welcome to attend and enjoy the time together," Phil says.



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. There is no session Sunday, September 22, as Sam is at a train show.

Sopchoppy Depot Days September 14, 2024, Sopchoppy, FL: , 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The BBMRA HO Division has become a regular participant, operating a special layout developed for this festivity.

September 21-22, 2024, The Wiregrass Steel Wheels Train Show will be held at the Westgate Park Recreation Center next to Water World in Dothan, Alabama. Admission 6 and under is free, 7 – 12 \$5.00, 13 & up \$7.00.

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.

The Gulf Wind Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society Hosted Lloyd Depot Day

The members of this chapter hosted an open house event last Saturday, September 7. Under somewhat dreary skies, but no rain, approximately thirty visitors came and viewed the displays and watched Thomas the Train operate. The "Pumpkin" gang rail car was on display. People asked a lot of questions, took pictures, and kids tried to drive it. Drew Hackmeyer was able to give an extensive history of the refurbishment of the vehicle, how it operated, and where it has been taken to participate in car runs. Attendees enjoyed a fine lunch of grilled hotdogs with all the trimmings, sodas, water, and cookies.



WIREGRASS STEEL WHEELS TRAIN SHOW

Location:
501 Recreation Rd.
Dothan, AL 36303
Westgate Park
Recreation Center
next to Water
World



Dates:
September 21-22
2024
Hours:
Saturday 9 – 5
Sunday 10-4

Admission
6 and under is free
7 – 12 \$5.00
13 & up \$7.00

Most scales will be present
at the Show

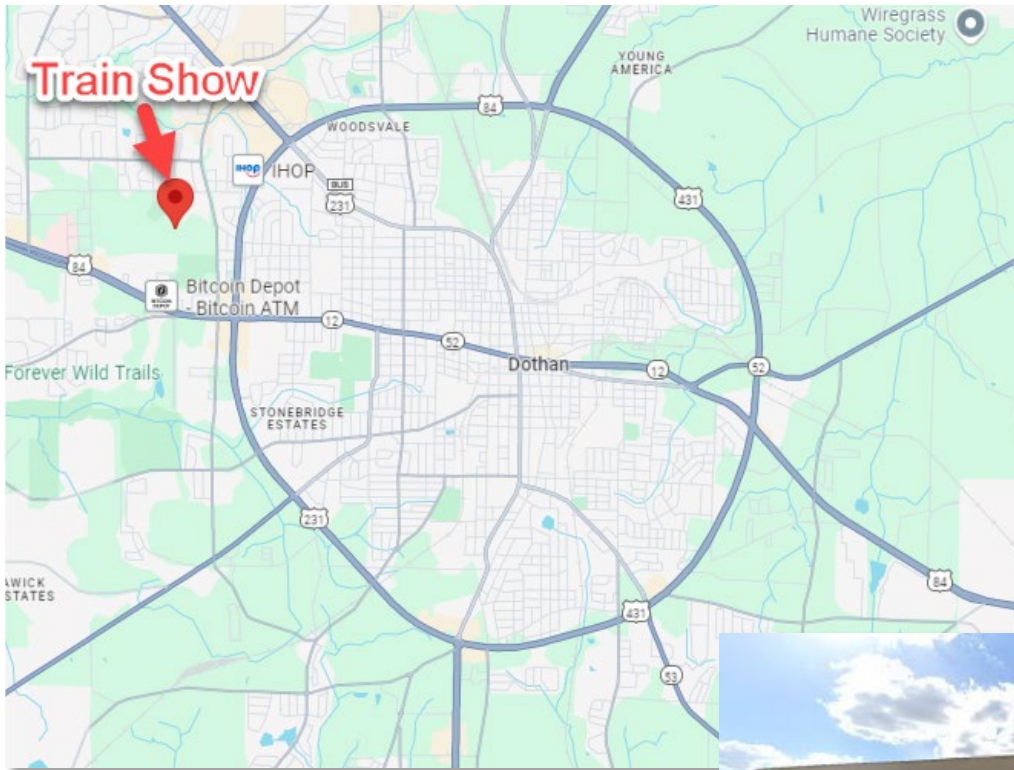
**Featuring
Vendors from
near & far**

T-TRAK

**Layouts from
neighboring clubs,
local individuals, and
Club Members**

Contact:
George at: gbaum@roadrunner.com
Jerry at: jhughes@hughesonline.com
Wayne at: baker.joseph@myyahoo.com

wiregrasssteelwheels.org





Model Railroading Classifieds

(We ran this in the Lantern a few years ago. Let's try it again for the rest of the year. Send items for sale or trade or things you are seeking to:

samthetrainmanmiller@gmail.com.

This is free.)

Wanted Lionel Post-War Steam Engines



WANTED:

Looking to purchase O Gauge Lionel Steam Locomotives & matching tenders. Specifically interested in the following: #'s 681, 726, 736, 2065, 2037. Contact: David Walker:

woodwalker@att.net

Lionel Southern Passenger Set, Lionel ZW Transformer, MTH Street Car

For sale: Lionel 25121 4 Car Southern Streamlined Passenger Set LN \$180.00, Lionel ZW 275 watt Transformer \$100.00, and Rail King 2503 Septa PCC Street Car \$90.00 Contact Dale @ (850) 570 2801, dalekishbaugh@hotmail.com



Similar item to show likeness. Not necessarily the one for sale. Check with Dale or look up the part number.

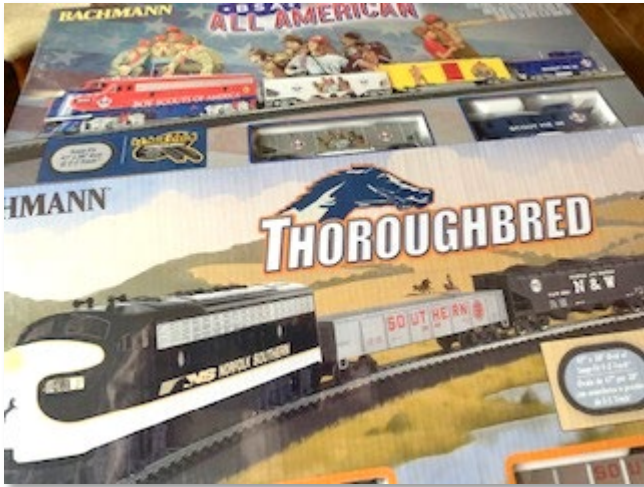


FREE PLYWOOD

Three large scrap pieces of 1/4" plywood. Give me a call or text if you are interested. Bob Parmenter (954) 232-9894

BRAND NEW BACHMANN HO TRAIN SETS – Steam, Diesel & Christmas

Sam Miller, through his LLC, Sam in Tallahassee, is offering a dozen brand new Bachmann HO Train sets. These include everything needed for a start-up HO operation, including engine, cars, caboose, Bachmann E-Z Track and power pack. Sets include #00734 CSX Coastliner Train Set; #00706 Rail Chief HO Train Set; #00692 Pacific Flyer HO Train Set; #00775 Boy Scouts of America All American HO Set; #00724 Jingle Bell Express Train Set; #00751 North Pole Express Train Set; and #00774 Norman Rockwell Christmas Express Train Set. Prices range from \$135 to \$225. Sam Miller, (850) 459-3012



"Typically, I don't accept magic beans for payment."

Pay Your 2024-25 Dues – **Not Paid? Get your dues paid quickly – Use PayPal!**

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.

If you want to mail a check, please mail it directly to Neal Meadows at 2812 Whittington Dr. Tallahassee, FL 32399. This will expedite the process since the mailbox only gets checked about twice a month during this time.

Some new models to consider:

LGB 20384 San Francisco Streetcar, Car Number 130 w/Lights and Sound



Item: 20384
List: \$960
Price: \$914.99
plus shipping

This is a model of an American four-axle streetcar, as it is currently still in use on the Muni in San Francisco with car number 130. The paint scheme and lettering are prototypical for Era VI. All of the wheelsets are driven by two powerful Bühler ball bearing motors. Traction tires. The streetcar has an ~~mf~~DCC decoder with many digitally controlled light and sound functions. The running sounds will also work in analog operation. The doors can be opened and the step boards fold under.

Length 55 cm / 21-5/8".

A sheet of stickers with various destination signs is included.

First time with a decoder and sound

New kits from Custom Model Railroads reproduce classic architecture in HO and N

HO & N – At 2024's Amherst Show, Custom Model Railroads unveiled a new group of buildings based on Brooklyn, N.Y., prototypes. These classic architecture city structures are coming from the manufacturer in HO and N scales. Visit Custom Model Railroads online to view their line of highly detailed craftsman-level kit releases.



Custom Model Railroads, custommodelrailroads.com

Mini Metals offers Mayflower trucks in HO and N scale



HO & N – The well-known Mayflower World-Wide Movers imagery appears on a new Classic Metal Works Mini Metals vehicle release available in HO and N scales. The truck is a reproduction of a 1954 Ford box truck and comes assembled and decorated. The single-model HO offering (CMW30670) retails for \$23.99. The N-scale release (CMW5448) provides a pair of the limited-edition vehicles in 1:160 and they retail for \$27.99.

Classic Metal Works, distributed by Round 2 Corp., round2corp.com

*PLEASE NOTE THAT ART PICTURED ABOVE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

For the first time in Lionel's history, we are excited to offer the unique and endeared, the Doodlebug. Dating back to as early as 1904, these gasoline engines were popular for light passenger and freight duty until 1960. Using all new tooling, our first run includes four popular road names and two highly decorated holiday inspired deco schemes. These Doodlebugs are feature rich and equipped with our LionChief Plus 2.0 technology, making them a great addition to your layout.





Features:

LIONCHIEF® PLUS 2.0 DOODLEBUG FEATURES:

- Command-control equipped - Operate via Bluetooth using Universal Remote or LionChief App, via Command Control using TMCC or LEGACY Cab, via conventional transformer, or lash-up with similar LC2.0 locomotives in Command Control
- Speed control
- Railsounds equipped - Gasoline engine and background sounds, Horn, Bell, Crewtalk / Towercom dialog
- Lionel Voice Control (LVC) - run your locomotive by speaking commands into your phone via LionChief App
- Fan-driven smoke
- On/Off switch for smoke and sound
- Dual ElectroCouplers™
- Powerful maintenance free motor
- Die-cast trucks and pilot
- Metal frame
- Cab illumination

Product Specifications:

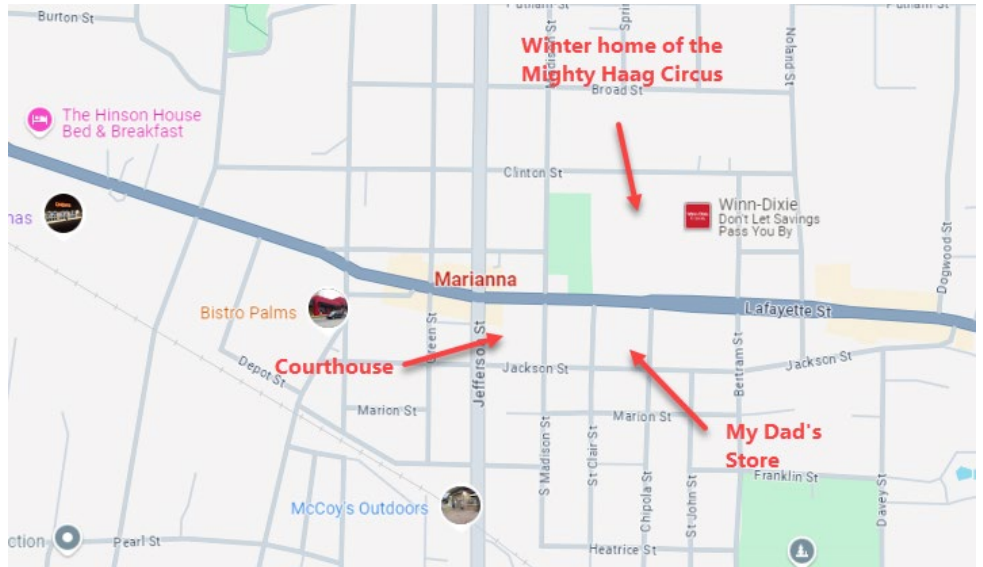
Gauge: O Gauge 
 Dimensions: Length: 14 1/2"
 Minimum Curve: O31 

Memories of The Mighty Haag Circus and the Ringling Bros. & Barnum and Bailey Circus – Part 1 by: Neal Meadows, Ed.D.

I grew up in Marianna, Florida. Some of the events that I remember at this time of year in my preteen years were the County Fair in the Fall and the traveling Circus that would come to Marianna, usually in September, not long after school started. The circus was usually a one ring circus, sometimes two, with the usual animals and acts with clowns while the calliope blared in the background.

As I reached my late teen years, I began working at my Dad's Auto Parts store located on Lafayette Street in Marianna. It was on the south side of Lafayette St, also known as Hwy 90. On the north side of the street the ground dropped off significantly into a flat area with pecan trees more than 20 feet to the bottom. One day a discussion came up about the property across the street. An incident that had happened in the early 1960s

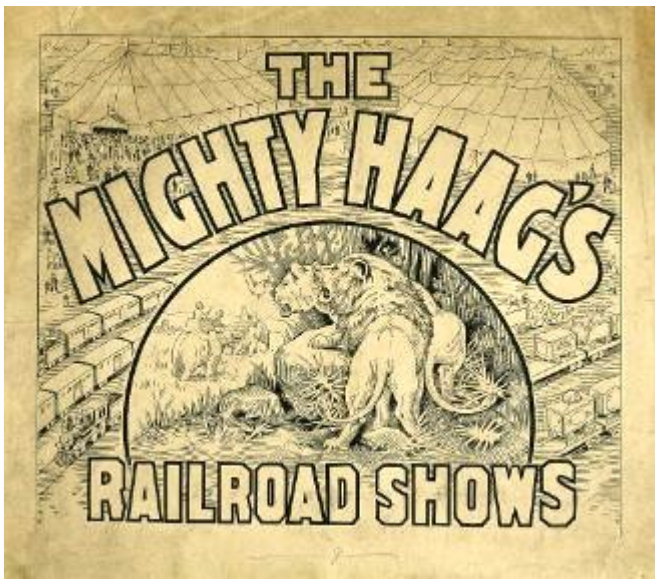
involved one of the station wagons used by the outside salesmen for the company. They usually backed their vehicle up to the double doors on the front of the building for loading all their filled orders on their route. The vehicle mentioned was a 1957 Plymouth station wagon and if you might recall it had a push button transmission with a small lever for putting it park position. The driveway was probably a 20 degree decline toward the street. While loading one day the



transmission slipped out of park and the car rolled away down the ramped area across four lanes of traffic on Hwy 90, up over the curb on the other side and plunged down the embankment standing up on the front end of the car. That was a shock to see that happen. It was later retrieved by a wrecker but was totaled.



1957 Plymouth Station Wagon



My father remarked that the area used to be a winter home to a traveling circus called The Mighty Haag Circus. At the

time there was no internet, cell phones, or any other way to readily find out about the circus history. In later years a shopping center was built on the parcel and I forgot about the Mighty Haag.

As an adult, I moved to Virginia for a few years in the early 1970s and worked for Montgomery Ward. I lived in Portsmouth which is across the Elizabeth River from Norfolk. An announcement of the Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Bailey Combined Shows caught my attention. It was held at the Scope Colosseum in Norfolk. I went to see it and was

very impressed with the size of the show with the three rings and the many acts to keep your attention all the time. I later moved back to Florida and did not have much opportunity to see the circus again.

As I grew my collection of n-scale models, I started collecting various cars decorated in the Ringling Brothers Circus theme. There were various models produced by several companies over the years. Micro-Trains started some of annual serial collections and I started collecting those. The circus traveled by rail across the country. When Ringling announced it was closing in 2017, I decided I needed to collect as many of the n-scale cars as possible before the manufacturers stopped making them. My collection grew significantly. Some of the series that had already been sold were hard to come by. Some took me months to see one to purchase.

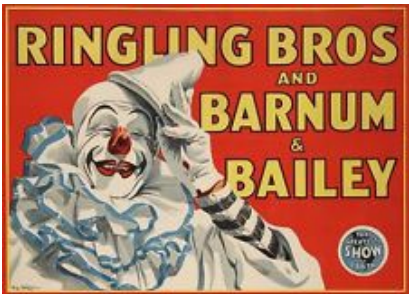

I want to share in several parts some pictures of the models that I have and share some information about the two circuses that I described. I will start with pictures of the models, then about The Mighty Haag Circus, and finally about the Ringling Bros. & Barnum and Bailey Circus Combined Shows.

N & Z Billboard Series





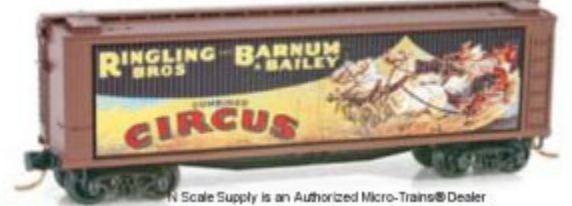
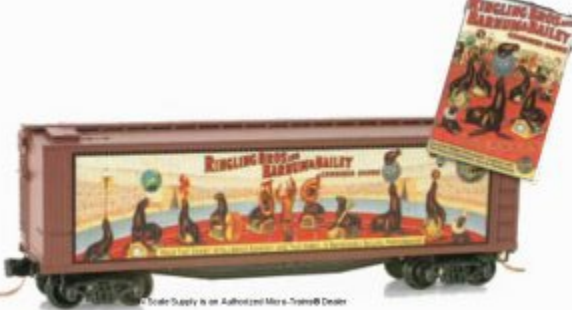
Beginning in August 2009, Micro-Trains will release the first car in an all new series—the *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey™* Billboard Series! This 12-month series will feature colorful representations of actual vintage posters that were used to promote *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey* shows. Each poster will be displayed on freight cars! The series will include 11 freight cars, one locomotive and a caboose.



*Posters are for representational purposes only.

Posters were an essential promotional tool for the circus. They were posted by the advance crew all over town and often up to 20 miles outside of the community weeks before the circus arrived. Thousands of these colorful and detailed advertisements were produced for each show and would range from single sheet flyers to large billboards for vacant fields or large buildings. This collectible freight car series will celebrate 11 special *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey* posters, so get ready...the show begins this August!



Billboard Car #1 Big Cats
This car depicts the tiger acts that patrons will be able to see. Ringling was always known for the Big Cats Acts.

 <p>N Scale Supply is an Authorized Micro-Trains® Dealer</p>	<p>Billboards Car #2 Multiple Acts This car depicts a picture of the various types of acts available for viewing by the adoring public. The other side has somewhat different acts.</p>
 <p>N Scale Supply is an Authorized Micro-Trains® Dealer</p>	<p>Billboard Car #3 Exotic Animals This Double-Sheathed Wood Reefer is painted brown and features a colorful representation of an actual Ringling Bros./Barnum & Bailey poster promoting their shows. In the first half of the twentieth century Ringling Bros./Barnum & Bailey Circus had the largest exotic animal collection in the world. Created in the 1920's, this poster exemplifies the variety of exotic animals showcased in their famous shows.</p>
 <p>N Scale Supply is an Authorized Micro-Trains® Dealer</p>	<p>Billboard Car #4 Women Acrobats This Double-Sheathed Wood Reefer is painted brown and features a colorful representation of an actual Ringling Bros./Barnum & Bailey poster promoting their shows. This poster depicts acrobatic and aerial acts performed by over 200 women. These acts would include extraordinary feats of balance, wonderful and daring mid-air performances and many other agility routines.</p>
 <p>N Scale Supply is an Authorized Micro-Trains® Dealer</p>	<p>Billboard Car #5 Dancing Bears This Double-Sheathed Wood Reefer is painted brown and features a colorful representation of an actual Ringling Bros./Barnum & Bailey poster promoting their shows. These massive, powerful animals demonstrate truly impressive skills in these very popular acts. The artist of this 1920's poster did an excellent job illustrating bears wire walking, stilt walking, riding bicycles, skating, dancing and playing musical instruments.</p>
 <p>N Scale Supply is an Authorized Micro-Trains® Dealer</p>	<p>Billboard Car #6 Chariot Race The chariot race was a highlight of the circus adventure. Racing horses with chariots bouncing and flying along behind with the drivers popping their whip.</p>
 <p>N Scale Supply is an Authorized Micro-Trains® Dealer</p>	<p>Billboard Car #7 Seal Acts This 40' Double-Sheathed Wood Reefer is painted brown and features a colorful representation of an actual Ringling Bros./Barnum & Bailey poster. This 1930's poster touts the "Marvelously Skillful Performance" of a talented company of Seals. Seal Acts were always an audience favorite with barking, balancing and playing in the band, they have the center ring in this brilliantly bright billing.</p>

 <p>N Scale Supply is an Authorized Micro-Trains® Dealer</p>	<p align="center">Billboard Car #8 Actors, Animals, & Clowns</p> <p>This 40' Double-Sheathed Wood Reefer is painted brown and features a colorful representation of an actual Ringling Bros./Barnum & Bailey poster promoting their shows. The decoration is based on one of the first posters designed to announce the historic union of the Ringling Brothers Circus with that of Barnum & Bailey, which took place in 1919. It embodies three main elements of the circus, Beautiful Performers, Entertaining Clowns and Magnificent Animals.</p>
 <p>N Scale Supply is an Authorized Micro-Trains® Dealer</p>	<p align="center">Billboard Car #9 Train Cars of Wonder</p> <p>This 40' Double-Sheathed Wood Reefer is painted brown and features a colorful representation of an actual Ringling Bros./Barnum & Bailey poster promoting their shows. This stunning poster boasts a train length of over 1 1/2 miles long containing 10,000 wonders from around the world. The mass numbers of train cars and the crowded unloading process clearly illustrates it was no small event when the circus came to town.</p>
 <p>N Scale Supply is an Authorized Micro-Trains® Dealer</p>	<p align="center">Billboard Car #10 Tiger Poster Car</p> <p>This 40-foot Double-Sheathed Wood Reefer is painted brown and features a colorful representation of an actual Ringling Bros./Barnum & Bailey poster promoting their shows. Unlike many other vintage posters, this well-known Tiger poster had a very clean and simple design. The message was clear. The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus was coming to town.</p>
 <p>N Scale Supply is an Authorized Micro-Trains® Dealer</p>	<p align="center">Billboard Car #11 Elephant Band</p> <p>This 40' Double-Sheathed Wood Reefer is painted brown and features a colorful representation of an actual Ringling Bros./Barnum & Bailey poster promoting their shows. Set off by the bright red performance floor, this vintage poster shows elephants dressed in costume, playing various musical instruments and other talented acts.</p>
 <p>N Scale Supply is an Authorized Micro-Trains® Dealer</p>	<p align="center">Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey™ Billboard Series</p> <p>This Powered FT- A Unit Locomotive enhances and compliments the Ringling Bros. / Barnum & Bailey Billboard car series. The loco features red and yellow lettering that matches the wood-sheathed freight cars in the series.</p>
	<p align="center">Billboard Series Caboose</p> <p>34 foot wooden caboose painted brown with the leaping tiger logo on the side with the Ringling Bros & Barnum & Bailey Circus name on the side in circus script.</p>

"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 .



Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the August 20, 2024, Meeting of BBMRA

Submitted by Sheldon Harrison

President Andy called the meeting held on August 20, 2024, via Zoom to order at 7:35 pm. There were 10 participants present at maximum.

Minutes – The minutes from the July meeting were discussed. Ed moved to accept the minutes and Phil seconded. The minutes passed without objection.

Treasurer's Report – There was no Treasurers Report.

Division Reports

Small Scale – Stacey mentioned that some of the N-Scalers will be setting up in Dothan in September. That will be a two day show.

Large Scale – Sam was absent, but President Andy gave an update on his behalf, including mentioning the regular Sunday gathering at Sam's house.

HO Scale – Phil mentioned the Sopchoppy Depot Days event to be held on Saturday, September 14. Setup will be on the 13th. He mentioned that a small T-Track layout will be used. He also stated that the group has plenty of help and all should be set.

NMRA – President Andy mentioned a Re-Rail initiative for the upcoming Spring. It will be held in Kingsland, GA which is located near Jacksonville. He then mentioned a Sunshine Region event to be held in Ocala at a Hilton property on Oct 10th through the 12th.

Switching Layout – Joe stated that he can't continue to be the overseer of the switching layout. It's getting too physically difficult for him. There was then extensive discussion about what to do regarding the layout, including logistics of transportation and storage.

New Business – In the Lantern, the current board slate was listed. President Andy repeated the slate verbally as follows :

- President – Andy Zimmerman
- Treasurer – Neal Meadows
- Vice President – Stacey Elliot
- Secretary – Sheldon Harrison

President Andy asked for other nominations, but none were received. There was then a vote by show of hands whether the group accepts the slate as presented. The slate was subsequently accepted.

Good of the Group

Railserv.net is no longer online so we need to plan accordingly. Upcoming shows mentioned included the Regal Railways Hobby show in Brooksville and the Melbourne on Sep 7. There was an IMAX presentation on the 8th of the History of Florida Railroads. There was then discussion about the NMRA train show in California and some logistical issues re location and pricing. The upcoming Michigan and Chattanooga NMRA shows were also mentioned and are highly anticipated. Randy mentioned an upcoming open house in Lloyd. Stacey motioned to adjourn, and Joe seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was thus concluded at about 8:36 PM.