



The Lantern

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Dothan/ Chattahoochee Model Train Fest

By Sam Miller

It's time to travel again, and Larry Benson and I have lined up a terrific trip for Saturday, September 29. We will lead a group of BBMRAers to Dothan, Alabama, for the "Wiregrass Model Railroad Show" and will return through Chattahoochee to visit BBMRA member Rodney Smith, who has a wonderful HO layout.

Wiregrass is one of the finest model railroading shows around. Larry reports that approximately 170 tables have been reserved for more than 40 dealers. Eight layouts will be operating and Larry notes, "they are very, very attractive." Sim Dekle's O-scale layout is one of the eight and another club member, Mitt Paul, will be one of the 40 vendors.

The Wiregrass show is located at the Peanut Festival Fairgrounds on U.S. 231, about two miles south of Dothan.

Rodney, who has been a member of our club for quite some time, has a large, detailed HO layout located in a small building behind his house. He has done a terrific job, including lighting his layout. If you have seen my layout, you know that is a priority with me. He operates on DCC and has a wonderful collection of engines and rolling stock. You will enjoy visiting with Rodney and appreciate what he has accomplished on his layout.

Please contact Larry Benson if you plan to travel with our group so we can recruit enough drivers. Let's meet at the Walmart/



Old station from Larry Benson's recent railfan trip. See his column for details.

Steinmart Shopping Center, in the southwestern end of the parking lot near Steinmart, and be ready to leave at 8 a.m. That will put us in Dothan about the time the show opens. We will spend several hours shopping and watching, grab some lunch and head for Chattahoochee. Rodney will be expecting us sometime about mid-afternoon.

If you don't plan to go to Dothan, drive over to see Rodney's layout on your own, but wait until mid-afternoon to get there. Rodney will be spending the morning at the Dothan show.

Here are directions to Rodney's house. On I-10, get off at the Chattahoochee Exit, State Road 269, I believe. Go north a mile to a mile-and-a-half. The road dead ends and there is a sign for Chattahoochee pointing to the right. I am not sure of the name of this road, but take a right at

the dead end. Drive to the next paved road, which is State Road 268. Take a right, and go about four miles to Faircloth Road, a dirt road on the left. Take Faircloth a mile and a half or so. Rodney's house is the second one on the left. He will have a sign out front.

His telephone number is (850) 663-4263. Hope you will join us on this fine trip. 

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A Railfan Excursion To South Central Georgia

By Larry Benson - Veep

On Saturday, September 1, Dan King and I met Louis Stokley in Monticello and drove to Moultrie, Sylvester, Fitzgerald and Adel, Georgia, to visit several railway attractions, some more attractive than others, but each one unique. All together, we covered about 250 miles in 10 hours. The trip would



have been even longer except Louis navigated us down hidden shortcuts through piney woods! Ever been to Barney, Georgia? You haven't missed a thing!

In Moultrie, we saw a 2-8-2 Mikado and coal tender once belonging to Georgia Northern Railway. Old number 105 is now resting under cover, behind a chain-link fence two blocks east of Highway 33 on the northern edge of the business district. The old smoky commemorates the 70th anniversary of the first locomotive ever to steam into Moultrie. She's a beauty, but beginning to show signs of neglect and deterioration.

Then we motored up Highway 33 to the attractive settlement of Sylvester. At the corner where Highway 33 and 82 intersect, two blocks north of the courthouse, we stopped to admire another retired

Mikado manufactured in 1930 by Baldwin. Also under cover and fenced in, this Georgia, Ashburn, Sylvester and Camilla (G A S & C) number 100 is hitched to its coal tender and appears to be cosmetically more handsome than the one we saw in Moultrie.

After lunch, we headed up Highway 112 to Ashburn where we took 107 east to Fitzgerald. From 1956 to 1959 Dan lived in Fitzgerald while he worked for the Atlantic Coast Line maintaining switches and signals. He hadn't been back since then, so for him it was a homecoming of sorts. We had hoped to visit the railroad museum in the beautifully restored, Spanish style passenger depot first operated by Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic RR (A B & A) but, alas, it's closed on weekends. The exterior of the 201 foot long, poured concrete depot built by Carr & Co. of Atlanta and officially opened on May 14, 1910, was well worth the drive. Out front of the depot, is a Family Lines caboose, fenced off, of course. To find the museum, go west on Central from Main about four blocks until you see a sign saying "Museum" pointing to the right. You'll find the gleaming white depot between Jackson and Johnson streets.

We found the CSX Westwood yard on the outskirts of

Fitzgerald and snoopied around. As luck would have it, a CSX diesel freight pulled into the yard from timetable north to change crews. The two diesels were left idling on a siding so we expected a higher priority to come roaring through. But, after 30 minutes standing in the scorching sun, we opted for my air conditioned Camry and drove across the yard to take a gander at some old shops and locomotive sheds, now in a despicable state of decay.

South through Ocilla, Alapaha and Nashville (we accused Louis of taking us to Tennessee) to Adel. Here we were pleasantly surprised to see a Norfolk Southern EMD SD40-2 diesel built in 1979. Numbered #3319, the loco is powered by six driving axles but on this day was fast asleep on a siding guarded by a freshly painted orange derailler secured with a brass paddle lock. Nearby, a bright red Southern caboose sits on tracks to the left of Highway 37 as you leave Adel. On Highway 76 towards Barney, we bumped into twin HATX GP40-2 diesels numbered 502 and 517 waiting on a siding, motors running. According to Helm's locomotive roster, these are ex-B&M equipment out on lease. It looked like they had just unhitched from a string of wood chip cars parked along side which Louis thought might be returning empties from the paper mill in Perry, Florida.

What an enjoyable, educational railfan excursion. And, it won't be our last!



Fair Dates: November 1-11

Please check your calendar to see what time would be the most convenient for you to man the BBMRA layout at the upcoming North Florida Fair. We have been invited to set up the HO layout during the fair and need you to volunteer for one of the shifts shown below. Please contact Sam Miller to reserve your time.

Schedule: All meetings are 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Yes, BBMRA will meet this coming Tuesday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m. at MYERS PARK Community Room. Bill Scott will demonstrate weathering RR items.

ALSO, the N-Gage "crew" will convene at 7:00 p.m. at Myers Park just before the regular meeting. All N-Gagers are urged to attend!

September 18th	3rd Tuesday	Myers Park Community Room
October 16th	3rd Tuesday	Florida Insurance Council
November 13th	2nd Tuesday	Myers Park Community Room
December 18th	3rd Tuesday	Myers Park Community Room

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 28	Oct 29	Oct 30	Oct 31 Set up (most likely)	Nov 1 Begin: 4:30 End: 10:30 Hours: 6	Nov 2 Begin: 4:30 End: 11:00 Hours: 6.5	Nov 3 Begin: Noon End: 11:00 Hours: 11
Nov 4 Begin: Noon End: 8:00 Hours: 8	Nov 5 Begin: 4:30 End: 10:30 Hours: 6	Nov 6 Begin: 4:30 End: 10:30 Hours: 6	Nov 7 Begin: 4:30 End: 10:30 Hours: 6	Nov 8 Begin: 4:30 End: 10:30 Hours: 6	Nov 9 Begin: 4:30 End: 11:00 Hours: 6.5	Nov 10 Begin: Noon End: 11:00 Hours: 11
Nov 11 Begin: Noon End: 8:00 Hours: 8	Nov 12	Nov 13	Nov 14	Nov 15	Nov 16	Nov 17



Web Sites to check out

by Jeremy Shaw

<http://www.dastcom.com/lo/ trains.html> Another big site!!

<http://southern.railfan.net/ schnabel/schnabel.html>
HEAVY, HEAVY rail loads and cars.

<http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~wyatt/rail-transit-list.html>
Listings for worldwide light rail transit.

<http://severn.dmu.ac.uk/~mlp/ crsg.html> China Railways

<http://www.union.rpi.edu/railroad/>
Great site for modeling.

<http://www.cofg.org/> Central Georgia Railway.

<http://www.dnaco.net/~gelwood/>
Erie Lackawanna and Fallen Flag and Short line Rail Road Photos.

<http://www.srmduluth.org/Features/magic.htm> Duluth GA railroad museum.

<http://www.railroaddata.com/>
Over 4000 websites!!!!



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Weathering RR items, September 18 At Myers Park

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Club Meeting 7:30 -10 pm Myers Park	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Club Meeting 7:30 -10 pm Myers Park	17	18	19	20