



The LANTERN

Big Bend Model Railroad Association Volume 7, Number 2 Feb 2002

NEXT MEETING
February 19, 2002
Myers Park

www27.brinkster.com/bbmra

A work in progress, Mike Webb is in the process of building the BBMRA Web Site. Check it out!

President's Column by Eric Taylor: I want to thank all of you for electing me President of the Club. It is an honor and I will do my best to meet your expectations. Before I tell you of my goals and aspirations for this next year, I want to take this opportunity to thank Sam Miller, Larry Benson, John Sullenberger and Mike Webb for the wonderful job they did this past year. Under Sam's leadership, the HO modules have both expanded and improved in quality. We have appeared at the North Florida Fair, GATS and have made the decision to move our Train Show to the Fairgrounds. While we still have some jobs to complete, this Club is far from where it was on January 1, 2001. I thank all of our past officers for bringing us to this point.

I intend to continue this past progress and build on it. These are some of my goals that I hope the Club will meet by the end of 2002:

The HO Scale Division fine tunes the modules with new legs, an alignment system, finish the wiring already begun, begin the lighting of the buildings and the permanent replacement of some of the privately owned buildings.

The N Scale Division will be given Club support to rehabilitate the N modules and bring them up to the level of the HO modules

Due to the expansion of Club membership, I would like to expand the number of committees to address the needs and workings of the Club. I have suggested to the Board that we separate the Train Show from the Events Committee. Create a Youth Division to encourage young persons to take up model railroading; and to create a committee that will seek out opportunities in the community for us to spread the word about model railroading.

To find a permanent home for the Club in donated space. This will include a detailed presentation to the North Florida Fair Association of why they should provide the Club permanent space in exchange for waiving any payment from the Fair to be open during the fair.

I ask for your help in achieving these goals.

As for recent events, we had a successful presentation at the Children's Day Festival at the R. A. Gray Building. The HO modules again impressed many and it was the debut performance of the reworked Timesaver and the new O-27 Lionel Layout. Children enjoyed both.

We also had a successful appearance at the GATS show in Jacksonville. It was a learning experience for the HO Division in moving the modules for a distance for the first time. The HO Division, under Sam Miller, has already taken the issues of the show and are preparing solutions to those issues. A special assistance was provided by the Panama City Club in showing us some of the lessons they learned over time including the shape of modules and their module legs.

Finally, our presence at GATS allowed vendors to have access to us and before the end of the GATS show, John had sold out all of the available 100 tables.

Our next big event is our Train Show on July 13th. We need to set our sights on that Show to both assist John in the final organizing of the Show and to get the HO and N scale modules ready for display. We a Club, so let us all work together as a Club to make this the best Show we have ever had.

2002 BBMRA Board of Director's: President: Eric Taylor, Vice-President: Jeremy Shaw, Treasurer: Sandy Scott, Secretary: John Sullenberger, HO Division Coordinator: Sam Miller, Large Scale Coordinator: Ken Brock, and N Scale Coordinator: Evan Hughes.

HO Division Meeting: HO Division Coordinator Sam Miller has convened a meeting of the Division Tuesday, February 19, at 7 p.m., just prior to the club's regular meeting at the Myers Park Community Room. We hope to make several major decisions, including installing legs permanently on each module and constructing new corners. We plan some major work between now and July 13, our next setup. Please attend the meeting or contact Sam with your ideas.

Large Scale Division: A Large Scale Division was created during the January Business Meeting. Large Scale is defined by the BBMRA as "any scale larger than HO." Ken Brock was selected as the Division Coordinator.

February Program: Eric Taylor will hold a workshop / discussion on kit bashing and kit mingling.

Message from Jeremy: Hello Railfans, First things first..... Thank You to all the folks involved in the activities for the GATS show. When we arrived Sunday morning everything looked great. The layout was packed with buildings. The top foam rail looked nice and smooth. The trains ran great. During the day the compliments on the layout were plentiful. Most of the people who I talked with seemed excited about digging into the attic to setup their childhood trains or starting new layouts with their children. That's what makes all this worthwhile. Looking at all the vendor tables, one would think that there was plenty to choose from for that "just one more gotta have" item to sneak back onto the layout before "you know who" sees you with a bag in your hand. Bring your finds to the next meeting for show and tell. If you took pictures, bring them for the folks who couldn't make it over. Again, THANK YOU for making a good show GREAT.

If you are interested in donating pictures, I would like to put a scrapbook together for the club events. Do we have one already? Anybody know? Due to most of us meeting once a month and something's not getting discussed, it has been brought to my attention that a suggestion email/ box would be a helpful to the members. I heard a lot of wants and wishes on Sunday and all of them would improve on what we have now. You can send them to Eric or me.

HO Layout Finishes in the Money at the Jacksonville GATS by Sam Miller: BBMRA took another giant step and it was a huge success. We finished third - and in the money - after operating our HO layout February 2-3 at the Great American Train Show in Jacksonville. It was the first time we took the HO layout on the road - at least that I can remember - and it was the first time in several years any BBMRA layout was operated out of town. The support we had was mind-boggling!

At least 17 club members traveled to Jacksonville and helped during the setup. Several others came to GATS, provided moral support and would have stayed to lend a hand if we needed it. Special thanks to Larry Benson and Dan King, who spent Friday and Saturday nights and the entire GATS show in Jacksonville. Our third place finish - out of six layouts - won a \$200 prize. The club also earned \$40 for four workshops on lighting and engine maintenance.

"I looked at those other layouts. How did we do it?" Joe Haley asked me this week. I didn't talk to the GATS staff who did the judging, but to me, there were two that looked like polished movie sets, which took the top prizes, and then four "amateur" layouts. Ours was judged best of this second group.

Our setup was organized and neat. We had skirting inside as well as outside for the first time, plus new trim for the sky boards developed by Harold Odom. Our modules were detailed. The 12-foot scene of a small town "courthouse square" was superb, complete with Civil War monument and cannons. Rodney Smith and Jeff Crew donated some wonderful buildings which are now part of our small town. And David Knowles and I spent a lot of time organizing and detailing these modules.

Eric Taylor's industrial modules anchored the other side of the layout and looked great. Our roads and parking spaces are marked, most of our businesses have signs and our sky boards are superb.

We had to correct a disastrous short - it took two hours and we got it fixed about five minutes before the doors opened Saturday morning. Then the other loop went out for a short time about an hour later. After that, our trains ran smoothly the rest of the weekend, including the Amtrak set and a wonderful New Haven passenger train from the items donated to the club by Don Boudreau's family.

Roy Mantooth spend hours and hours in recent weeks working on the club's rolling stock. Sal Martocci did his usual top notch maintenance on the club's engines. You could see the results of their fine work.

We still have a lot of work to do. Several of us threatened to throw the legs to the modules into the nearby St. Johns River and operate the layout on the floor. And we have had a serious short for the second time now in our last three setups. But Harold Odom and Eric Taylor, our two resident carpenters, spent a lot of time looking at the other layouts. Most have legs attached to the modules - which we have decided is the way our club should go. We found other features we can copy. We have plenty of time to work on the layout before our next scheduled setup, July 13, during our show and sale at the North Florida Fairgrounds.

Some day down the road, we will be competitive among the movie set layouts at GATS too. Special thanks to these club members who helped during the Jacksonville setup (I sincerely apologize if I've left anyone out.): Larry Benson, David Brazell, Ken Brock, John and Carol Edrington, Joe Haley, Dan King, David Knowles, Randy Lombardi, Sal Martocci, Sam Miller, Paul Moon, Harold Odom, Jeremy and Jennifer Shaw, Louis Stokley, John Sullenberger, and Eric Taylor. These club members also attended GATS: Bill and Sandy Scott, Sim Dekle, and Terry Hague.

Lost and Found: A red London Fog jacket walked into the Myers Park Community Room but did not walk out. If you have lost such a jacket, it can be picked up at the February 19th Meeting.

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