



# The LANTERN

Big Bend Model Railroad Association Volume 7, Number 3 Mar 2002

NEXT MEETING

March 19, 2002

FIC Building

## [www27.brinkster.com/bbmra](http://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:** For those of you that missed the February meeting, let me inform you of some of the changes that have been instituted to both improve Club management and participation and to make the module setups proceed more smoothly. There are now 4 new or reconstituted committees. The 'new' Events Committee will coordinate our participation at all outside events such as GATS and the North Florida Fair. Procedures are being put into place that will allow us if we want to participate and, if we do, what our participation will be. Jeremy Shaw has agreed to be the Committee Chairperson. This Committee was created to separate our Train Show responsibilities from other shows. John Sullenberger will still be the Chair of the Train Show Committee. We will have a Youth Committee to seek out and work with the young people of the area to get them involved in model railroading. Terry Hague has agreed to head the Youth Committee. We are seeking a volunteer to head an Outreach/Speakers Committee. This Committee will seek our opportunities in the community where we can speak about model railroading. One task will be to coordinate the presentation of workshops a couple times a year at All Aboard Hobbies, Hobbytown and Esposito's. Finally, I will head an ad hoc committee to work on finding us a permanent home for the Club and our layouts. With these new committees we need additional volunteers to help. The size of the tasks will be small and manageable. This will give you Members the opportunity to be more active than you have in the past. Please volunteer to help.

**Upcoming Events:** For those interested, the next meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, March 12th at Jeremy Shaw's house, 1221 Brant Drive, at 7PM. At the March 19th meeting we will be having a presentation by Bob Loehne of Thomasville, Georgia. Bob just moved from North Carolina to Thomasville and operates AltaVista films. He will also be joining our Club. Additionally, the trainmaster for the CSX train yard in Tallahassee will join us at our March meeting to tell us about real train action.

The Club has been invited to place an exhibit and conduct workshops at the downtown Leon County Library. We have asked to do this on June 22nd and the Library has agreed. We will take the present 4 corners, the Lionel and Timesaver for the public to watch and operate. And we will conduct simple workshops to get people involved in model railroading. The timing of this invitation is excellent. Not only will it again allow us to present ourselves to the community, but it will also allow us to advertise our Train Show just three weeks later. The more awareness of the Show the community has, the greater the likelihood of attendance we will have. So set June 22nd aside and volunteer to help in this presentation.

**March Program by Sam Miller:** One of our speakers March 19 is Bob Loehne of American AltaVista, who produces railfanning videos. Bob, who recently moved to Thomasville from North Carolina, will make a presentation on Saluda Grade, America's Steepest Mainline Grade, until it was taken out of service on December 6th. Bob will have videos for sale, including an excellent video on Saluda Grade.

**Here is a note from Bob: by Bob Loehne:** Saluda's 5% incline was considered an anomaly in a world where 2% or 2.5% grades are considered steep. The next steepest grade was (and we say "was" here because BNSF recently has hinted that it may close that grade, too) a back breaker of 3.3% over Raton Pass in New Mexico. Both of those grades required special steep grade handling, of which 6- and 8-MPH downhill freight train speeds became the cornerstone of Saluda's safety.

In the program, we'll take a look at how the railroad -- Southern Railway and then Norfolk Southern -- operated its trains over such a steep grade. Learning from previous wrecks and incidents, crews helped develop and strictly adhered to a firm list of special Saluda operating procedures. Even then, the perils of nature and the bad luck of a mechanical failure left crews realizing that the next runaway was only a heart beat away.

We'll take a look at train handling (before, on and after the grade), the deceased but well loved Radio Trains, the importance of properly setting the brake retainers, tripling the grade, a near runaway in the snow, Asheville's role in mechanically setting up Saluda trains, the two diesel runaway trains of '63 and '71, more than a half century of fatality-free railroading, and lots more.

Come on out and join us as we take a crash course on the most dangerous piece of railroad in the United States.

**Train Master to Speak:** Randy Huntley, the Train Master at the "B" yard in Tallahassee will be on hand and speak at the March meeting at the Florida Insurance Council building. He will speak on general operations in and around Tallahassee and will answer member's questions as well.

**Roster Updates:** Rosters will be placed on the tables at the March 19th BBMRA meeting at the Florida Insurance Council. Please check out your listing and make any and all necessary changes directly on the rosters. I will update the information and include the roster with the April newsletter.

**When people complain about change they might want to remember this...**

Some changes are hard to accept. In 1829 Martin Van Buren, then the Governor of New York, wrote this to the President.

"The canal system of this country is being threatened by the spread of a new form of transportation known as 'railroads.' As you may well know, railroad carriages are pulled at the enormous speed of 15 miles per hour by engines, which in addition to endangering life and limb of passengers, roar and snort their way through the countryside. The Almighty certainly never intended that people should travel at such breakneck speed."

(Sylvia Simmons, How to Be the Life of the Podium, AMACOM, New York, NY)



# 2002 Spring Model Railroad Tour

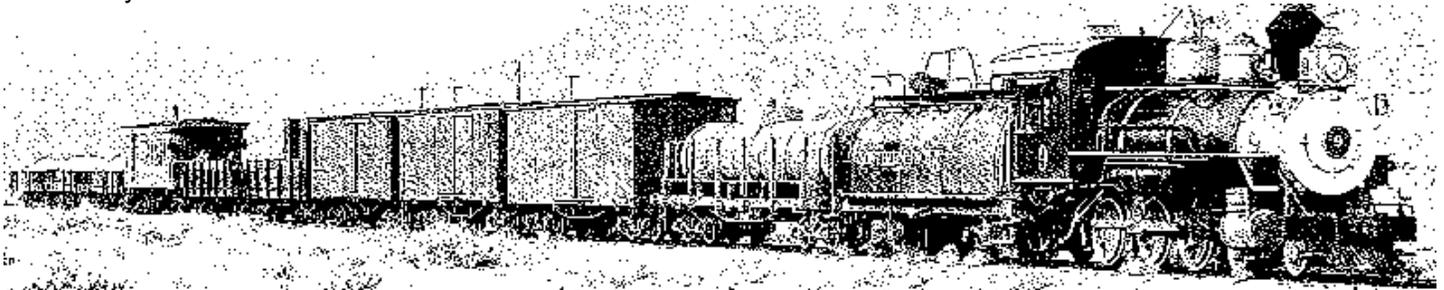
## Saturday, April 27, 2002

Stop #	Arrival	Departure	Member	Scale	Location	Phone
1	1:00 p.m.	1:50 p.m.	Ken Brock	O-27/HO/N	517 Collins Dr	385-4893
2	2:00 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	Roy Mantooth	HO	2427 Winthrop Rd	422-3038
3	3:00 p.m.	3:50 p.m.	Bob Woodard	HO	4125 Scarlett Drive	562-2994
4	4:00 p.m.	4:50 p.m.	Sim Dekle	O-27/G	4280 Kensington Rd	562-2218
5	5:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	Mitt Paul	HO	6992 LL Wallace Rd	576-7254

# Model Railroad Open House

## Saturday, April 20, 2002

Eric and Ina Ecklund will host an Open House from 1 p.m. until whenever. Eric lives in Crawfordville and has an outdoor G Scale layout



"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 fifth (unless otherwise noted) day of each month sent in c/o Secretary/Editor, P.O. Box 3392, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3392.