



The LANTERN

Big Bend Model Railroad Association Volume 7, Number 11 Nov 2002

NEXT MEETING

Nov. 19, 2002

MYERS PARK

RESULTS OF OUR ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST:

Model Railroads:

1st: Jim Faris
2nd: Jim Faris
3rd: David White

Prototype Railroads:

1st: Sal Martocci
2nd: Larry Benson
3rd: Sam Miller

Vice-President's Column - submitted by Jeremy Shaw: A Note to the BBMRA Board and membership – First I want to say thank you for the time and the help you give to this club. Your dedication does not go unnoticed. Your frustrations are not given alone. The fair setup is a huge undertaking by itself. Added with the 2 Talquin Electric "Energy" layouts, time became even more thin. I'm gathering that we as a club have basically good intentions in trying to do things together. However, as with any club, several members will end up doing most of the work. With the exception of a few members at a meeting, doing the Energy layouts was something the club decided to do together. It was a good way to introduce BBMRA to the community. The frustrations start piling up when those members who do show up to help out become the only few who ever show up. They start to realize that in order to get the project done they have to drop their plans until it gets done. I feel guilty because I wasn't out there helping set up for the fair. Why should I feel guilty though, I was out working on the Energy layout 3 weekends in a row, 2 nights and several hours building electric poles? I'm sure that I have done less than others too. From what I have been hearing from other members is that we have to have a real plan when committing to events. The general "yes we would like to do this" isn't enough. There has to be a time commitment from the members individually. Otherwise a few people will feel it is their duty to finish the project themselves. I think that the club is losing some of its attraction for the members due to frustration. I agree with the others about getting back to regularly scheduled board meetings. Having workshops at the meetings and "how to" demonstrations, and speakers who know about the hobby or about prototype railroading. I know that is the object but things start rolling back to business meetings without our even realizing it.

2003 Elections: Elections will be held during the BBMRA's Annual Business this coming January 2003. As of now (November 13, 2002, the 2003 Nominations are as follows: President - Jeremy Shaw; Vice-President - Evan Hughes; Treasurer - Sandy Scott - Secretary: John Sullenberger. The three Divisional Coordinators are not elected by the general membership, they are elected by their respective Divisions, therefore, they are not included in the 2003 Nomination Slate.

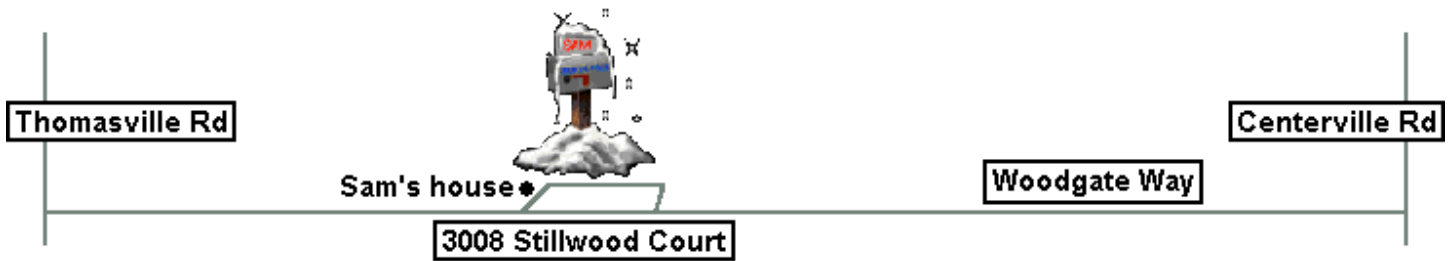
An "official" slate of nominations will be published in the December 2002 Lantern, however, nominations can be made at any time from now until the elections are actually held. You may nominate yourself or have someone do it for you.

Sam Miller's Christmas Open House - submitted by Sam Miller: Linda and I would like to invite members of the club to our house in Woodgate on Friday, December 13th, to see the Christmas lights on my train layout. We really enjoyed hosting many of you last year. The get together begins at 7 pm and runs until 9:30 pm.

Our house is at 3008 Stillwood Court, Tallahassee. Stillwood is off of Woodgate Way. Coming on Woodgate from Thomasville Road, it is the first left, about half-a-mile from Thomasville. Ours is the third house on the left. There is a train engine mailbox.

From Centerville, it is about a mile. Go to the second Stillwood Court sign and turn - to the right. Again, it is the third house on the left. If you turn in at the first Stillwood Court, go almost all the way to the end and look for the train engine mailbox on the right.

I hope you will come to our Christmas Open House. And I would be happy to help anyone trying to decorate their layout for Christmas this year. Just call me.



HO Division Report – submitted by Sam Miller: It might have been too much, but we managed to do it all!

Thanks to all of you who worked in our HO setup at the North Florida Fair and to those club members who built the HO modules on electricity for the fair and Talquin Electric Coop. The two jobs at once were probably too much, but we managed to get it all done and we earned some good will and chits from the fair staff which will be valuable in the future.

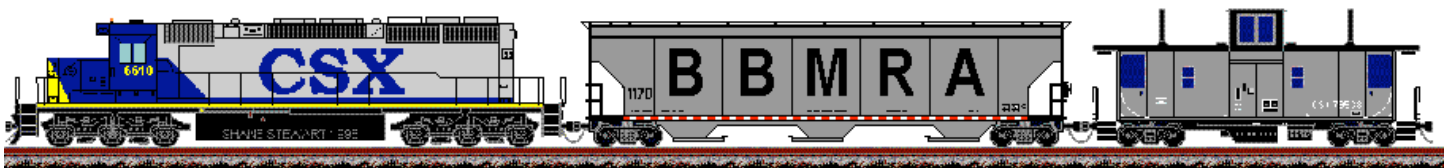
Special thanks to these club members who worked with me on the electricity modules, including Eric Taylor, Jeremy Shaw, David Knowles, Bob Swanson, John Anthamatten, Roy Mantooth and Jeff Crew, who had been putting some kits together when he had his stroke. The electricity modules were HO scale, but this was a club project and the N Scalers were well represented through John and Bob. Several other club members constructed buildings for the modules and your support was appreciated.

“Thanks to every one of you” is the only way to cover each club member who helped during the almost two-week run of the HO layout because so many of you got involved. Special thanks is warranted by Vernon Parramore who made dozens of calls again this year to remind people they had signed up to run the layout and recruit folks when our signup schedule was thin, and to Sal Martocci, our foreman of sorts. He supervised the setup and breakdown and was out almost every day to make sure the trains were running smoothly.

Sal and two other club members, Harold Odom and Ed Olson spent almost three full days working on the skyboards and other tasks before the fair actually opened. We got to set up early, the Sunday before the fair opened on Thursday. This was a wonderful opportunity and these guys made the most of it. David Knowles was out some during this period as well as were probably some others.

It's hard to really describe how far we have come on the HO layout in the past year, but if you went with us to GATS in Jacksonville last February, you know. I wasn't exaggerating too much when I wrote in the Lantern that we almost pitched the whole mess in the St. Johns River.

“This is not your father's layout,” to steal from a commercial or wherever I heard that. It's not the Jacksonville GATS layout. It has become a fine layout and we won't be throwing it into the river any time soon. We still have some work to do, including street lighting and further electrical work on the staging yard. But, as HO coordinator, I am delighted and very appreciative of the progress we have made and how well the fair setup went.



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"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.