



# The LANTERN

Big Bend Model Railroad Association Volume 8, Number 12 Dec 2003

NEXT MEETING

Dec 12, 2003

Sam Miller's House

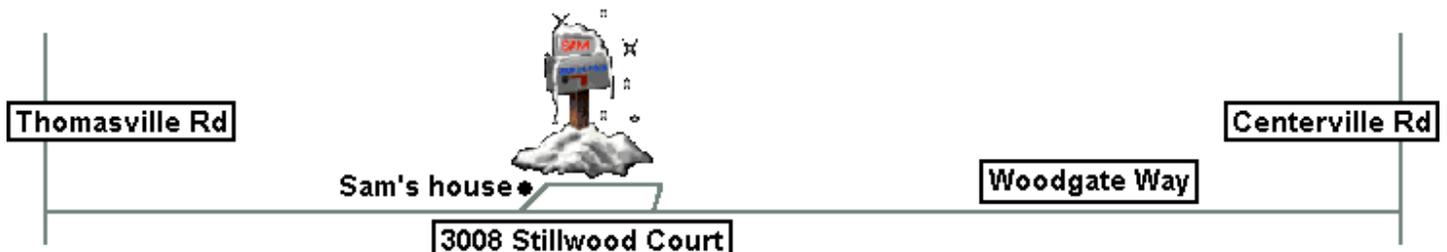
*Season's Greetings*



**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 6:30 pm and runs until 9:30 pm.

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.



**Greetings from the President:** About a year ago Dan King cornered me at FIC and asked if I would be interested in running for club President. I told him I would be interested if he and others decided to nominate me. The voting process was swift and all of a sudden it occurred to me that nobody else was running against me. Ok, I'm President, now what do I do? I go find the people who nominated me and ask them what it was that they saw in me. I have the gift of gab and hardly ever meet a stranger. In this club, there are many different personalities who share some form of interest in model railroading. Many of the members have gone to great effort and expense to create layouts and model train collections. Some members like me do not have a layout to show, but share the same wishes and wants as those who do.

In the past year my "layout in the sky" has gone through many changes. As some of you have pointed out, the difference between a good layout and a great layout lies in the planning of the overall task of building the layout. Making it complicated and labor intensive can be avoided if I know what my goals are. BBMRA shares this goal. We are a great group of people trying to achieve good things. As a club we meet together each month, sometimes more often, to work together in building the layout modules to share with the community. Each member uses their abilities to assist in creating smiles and memories for others. At times there may have been more gritting of the teeth than smiles though we made it through anyway.

Over the last several months, the club members have commented on how the meetings have helped them with their layout and the time to socialize has increased. I have seen many members share more and more time with each other becoming friends. Members continue to volunteer for the betterment of the club. I am glad to be a part of this club.

Thank You for all you do! Jeremy Shaw

**Official Notification of Proposed Bylaw Changes- submitted by Evan Hughes:** At the beginning of the January meeting the members will be asked to vote on several bylaw changes to do two things. The first will provide that "The Lantern" and other publications could be sent by e-mail. The current bylaws only provide for printed media and mail. Second, the bylaws provide that Directors for the Board be elected at large by the membership and the BBMRA has not done this in the last few years. The proposed amendment would change the bylaws to follow our current practice of electing the Directors from the three divisions. The officers would still be elected at large by the total membership.

**Current Slate of Officers - submitted by the Nomination Committee:** Elections will be held during the BBMRA's Annual Business meeting this coming January 2004. The nomination slate is as follows: President - Evan Hughes; Vice-President - Jeremy Shaw; Treasurer - John Sullenberger; Secretary - Larry Benson. The N, HO and Large Scale Divisions will elect their respective Coordinators during the January meeting.

Nominations for the above listed positions can be made at any time from now until the elections are held. You may place your own name in nomination or have another BBMRA member place your name in nomination for you. Nominations for the Division Coordinators will only be taken during the January 2004 Division meetings.

**N-Scale Run at Goodwood Popular - submitted by Larry Benson:** The N-Scale Division train layout at Goodwood's Youth Day held on December 7 was popular with the 200 or so youngsters and parents who attended the 3-hour afternoon event. Goodwood Executive Director Larry Paarlburg said our model train activity was one of the most popular attractions and he invited us to come back next year. Helping out were BBMRA members Garth Easton, Evan Hughes, Bob Swanson, John Anthamatten, Dustin Hand and Larry Benson.

