



THE LANTERN

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The Official Newsletter Publication of the
BIG BEND MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 17, 2003
7:30 PM
MYERS PARK

GOODWOOD GRATITUDE

The following note was received by BBMRA in reference to the Family Day held in December, 2003:

"On behalf of all the kids and kids at heart, thank you and all the members of the Model Train Society. What a great addition to the Making Spirits Bright event. It was a treat to watch the folks enjoying the set-up and then to hear them talking about the trains while they participated in other activities. I'm betting there are a few more trains under Christmas trees in a couple of weeks.

Many, many thanks - you all are very special."

Larry Paarberg
Goodwood Museum and Gardens

ELECTION RESULTS

President - Evan Hughes

Vice-President - Jeremy Shaw

Treasurer - Shawn Vann

Secretary - Larry Benson

HO Coordinator - Sam Miller

N Scale Coordinator - Garth Easton

Large Scale Coordinator -
Randy (R.M.) Lombardo

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BY
EVAN HUGHES

Modeling trains and landscapes of all size really is the "world's greatest hobby." As your new President, I expect to learn more this year than I have for a long time. I am sure Jeremy Shaw will have many things to teach me about being President and with the help of Shawn Vann and Larry Benson, we will have a smooth and progressive year. The division coordinators are all experienced leaders in their scale and will continue to expand our knowledge of layout setups and teaching the public about our hobby.

We have many things to do this year. This may be the year we move to a public place for a permanent layout. We will be able to show our skills as modelers and run trains for the public and ourselves. We will person some of our standing committees to help our club and provide opportunities for model railroad activity for members.

I hope to see all of you at meetings during the year so we can learn and have fun together talking and running trains.

GOT NEWS?

Please send all information before
the
fifth of the month to:
E. Hughes
2401 Tree Top Court
Tallahassee, FL 32303
or
evandel@comcast.net

HO LAYOUT POPULAR DURING KID'S DAY ON JANUARY 31, 2004

BY
LARRY BENSON

Hundreds of kids of all ages, some in their mid 70's (ahem) crowded around to watch and enjoy BBMRA's HO layout during "Kid's Day" at the R. A.Gray Building. As HO Coordinator Sam Miller observed: "You're never too old to have a happy childhood." The event was held from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 31.

Only the four corners were set up, back to back, but they provided enough space for several interesting scenes and abbreviated loops of track. "The HO Division has been looking for a small, portable layout that could be easily transported and set up while representing the fun of model railroading and entertaining to our visitors," Sam said. "While we will need to do some "tweaking" to the corners, I think we've found the answer," he added.

Members who helped set up, run and take down the layout were: Sam, David Brazell, Jim McGill, Joe Haley, Sal Martocci, Randy Lombardo, Ed Schroeder, Jeremy Shaw, John Sullenberger and Larry Benson.



ALL ABOARD!!**RAILFAN TRIP TO CSX YARD IN CHATTAHOOCHEE BY LARRY BENSON**

Near the end of December, David Brazell, Dan King and I motored to Chattahoochee to watch some trains. We knew the best vantage point would be in the CSX Yard a mile or so South of downtown. And, of course, it was.

The old abandoned station at Chattahoochee was built around 1880 and had been in use for over 75 years. Its first location, opposite where the yard office sits today, was subject to flooding by the Chattahoochee, Flint and Apalachicola rivers. In 1910, with a combination of mules, log rollers and loud shouting, the old building and was tugged and pulled to the present location of the yard office. In June 1960, a new passenger and freight station, which serves today as the CSX Yard office, was occupied and hasn't flooded since being moved. (Excerpts from *ACL News*, Sept. 1960 - page 36.)

When we drove into the yard, Dan and I urged David to park among employees' vehicles. Rather than wondering if we could watch passing rail traffic, Dan and David went into the CSX office to ask permission. I waited in David's car monitoring my scanner for signals from approaching trains.

Employees were very friendly, more so after we assured them we were three members of BBMRA in Tallahassee and we just wanted to stay out of the way and catch some passing consists. They said two freights were due before long. One of them would drop off and pick up some cars as well as change crews for the run to Jacksonville. At 9:30 a.m. a double-headed freight arrived, pulled by UP diesels, an SD 40-2 #3412 and a GE C40-8 # 9072. A second double-headed freight, which dropped and picked up cars, passed at 11:30 a.m. towed by a UP SD 70 M #4882 and a Conrail C40-8 W #7343.

We were told after the second freight departed for Baldwin Yard, local engineers would be shifting cars and we might be interested in watching them do some switching. We hung around until almost one o'clock watching the yard activity and to see AMTRAK, which was about due, headed east. (Yard workers said the streamliner was headed timetable "north" which never has made sense to me.) Anyway, we waited for nearly an hour but AMTRAK didn't arrive, so we drove into town to eat lunch before returning along Highway 90 toward Tallahassee.

While we were having lunch in Chattahoochee, AMTRAK went through although we didn't know it at the time. Unexpectedly, we caught up with the speeding train just west of the Ochlocknee River Bridge. David put the pedal to the medal and we beat the train to the Adams Street crossing South of the Capitol. We saw it as the "Silver and Blue" pulled out of the Tallahassee station headed East...uh, North, that is. What a great railfan day for the three of us!

**SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 2004 MEETING**

Sandy Scott presented a Treasurer's report showing a \$1619 balance as of December 31.

Barrett Johnson discussed the possibility of getting space in the Tallahassee Mall. After discussion, a committee was named to work with Barrett and the Mall representatives about the details of the offer.

David Knowles mentioned BBMRA might receive funding from a restaurant chain in return for placing a replica of their distinctive buildings on our layouts.

N-scale Coordinator, Garth Easton, reported his conversations with John Govans, a representative of the Recreation department, about helping youth enter the hobby and finding a permanent home for BBMRA. Mr Govans will be our speaker at the February 17th meeting.

Several changes to the BBMRA By-laws were adopted by the membership to make our by-laws confirm with our current practice.

Drew Hackmeyer chaired the election process for BBMRA officers. The results are listed on page 1 of this newsletter.