



Next Meeting

Tuesday

April 20, 2004

7:30 PM

Myers Park

AGENDA

SWAP MEET

Don't forget to bring those items you would like to swap and sell to others

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BY
EVAN HUGHES

We are nearing the completion of our agreement with the Tallahassee Mall for the third store front on the left at the main entrance of the mall. We are trying for April 15. The only part of our proposal that the mall attorneys did not agree to was the amount of notice they have to give us to leave. They maintained the twenty-four hour notice. We have \$1,000,000 insurance for \$116 per year. We will have a workday scheduled for the Mall store as soon as possible. We will arrange an open house at the mall site shortly for all to come and see.

Our next meeting is a swapmeet at Myers Park. Bring stuff to sell or trade and money to buy what you need or just have to have!

WESTMINSTER LAYOUT PROJECT PROGRESSING

BY
LARRY BENSON

Considerable progress was achieved during our joint BBMRA-Westminster Oaks work party on Monday, March 22. David Kerns, Evan Hughes, Shawn Vann, Ken Brock and I worked for three full hours replacing bent, spent, broken and missing track. After cleaning the track, we were able to run a diesel completely around the upper loop, except for one switch which tended to short out when the points were closed. The switch is scheduled for replacement during our next work party. The layout is beginning to take shape and to attract interest from Westminster residents.

MARCH MEETING SUMMARY

Guest speaker, John Govans, Jr., City of Tallahassee Recreation Superintendent, presented ideas about how BBMRA and his office might work together in joint activities to attract and entertain youngsters in the area. He agreed to submit his ideas in writing for BBMRA Board consideration. Show Chairman, John Sullengerger, reported that the date for this year's show at the North Florida Fairgrounds is July 10th.

RAILROADING WEBSITES

BY
JEREMY SHAW

www.nscale.org/ Great Site!

www.rustall.com/ Want it to look rusted?

www.thortrains.net/marx/drlaydex.html Small space for your layout?

www.rtrack.com/ Track planning software for sale (not Atlas)

www.venturea.com/train.htm O Gauge layout with specs and photos

www.cooltrains.com/layouttips.htm Cool tips for cool layouts.

www.bobtmedia.com/bobbot-railroad-2001.html A good plan for O-27

EXCURSION TRAIN BACKS INTO IZNAGA, CUBA

BY
LARRY BENSON

ALL ABOARD!!



During my 7 day visit to Cuba in early March, our missions group from Trinity UMC here in Tallahassee was escorted by our hosts to the beautiful beach at Ancon near the historic old town of Trinidad. The 3 hour ride in a 1950's vintage GMC bus was interrupted at the tiny hamlet of Iznaga long enough for us to see the "famous" Manaca tower. The seven story tower, resembling a bell tower and pointed at the top, was built in Colonial times by a Spanish slave holder who wanted a keep an eye on his workers.

Climbing out of the bus, we crossed railroad tracks as we began to clamber up a cobblestone driveway leading to the tower. Then I thought I heard the whistle of a steam locomotive. Were my ears deceiving me? Better check, I thought. Where there are tracks and a depot, there might also be a train!

I scurried back down the path, camera at the ready, just as two open-sided wooden coaches full of sightseers approached backward into the station. They were being pushed by a little, old, rusty steam engine, number 1517, which was backing slowly to a creaking stop. The name on the oil tender hooked behind the loco was "Ma Dolor".

Judging from the name and vintage look of the locomotive, it was made either in Spain or Italy. While I am unaware of a sensible translation for "Ma Dolor" from Spanish to English, in Italian it literally means "But Pain" or "Nothing but pain." I must confess, I didn't look for the manufacturer's nameplate, if it even had one.

The passengers got down from the coaches and headed up the drive toward the tower. After only 10 minutes, the engineer tugged the whistle and pulled out of the station. Tourists waiting at the depot who had arrived earlier, boarded for the return trip while those who had just arrived gawked up at the tower. It was a Cuban excursion train. I didn't find out where the train originated, but a safe bet is it runs from Trinidad to Iznaga and back again, making several round trips a day.

