



THE LANTERN

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The Official Newsletter Publication of the
BIG BEND MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

July 2004



NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, July 20th
at
Myers Park
Community Room
7:30 PM

Program:

Debrief of the show
and sale

Panel and Group discussion
about DCC
and ANALOG (analog
will be used in place on
variable DC) drive.

NEXT CLUB ACTIVITY

Whistle Stop Tour
on July 24th.

Details will be available
at the meeting and by
email.

PICNIC AND TRAIN SHOW ARE BIG HITS!

Over fifty members, families, and friends attended a train day picnic at Veteran's Memorial Park in Bristol on June 19th. We rode Babs Moran and Tom Keenan's 2 ft scale train around the 2700 feet of track through a tunnel, around wetlands and through two switches. The members had cross-buck envy at the road crossings.

The model diesel engine runs well on propane gas and pulls several cars full of people. Some of the members had the opportunity to be an engineer. Babs and Tom are looking for engineers to run the trains on occasional Saturdays if anyone is interested in learning to run the trains.

After a great lunch of grilled hamburgers, potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans and a variety of desserts there was a road trip to Tom's home where the steam engine is being stored until they add it to the main line at the park.

Everyone enjoyed the day thanks to the hospitality of Tom, Babs and the people from Bristol who helped them.

According to some members who have been around awhile, there were more families attending this show and sale on July 10th than ever. A rough count produced 417 paid adults and at least twice as many children all enjoying the ten train layouts. Three of the layouts were in a separate room where children could run them and receive a junior engineer's certificate. In addition, three other new events were presented: Garth Easton demonstrated a TV camera in the lead engine of an N-Scale consist. All enjoyed seeing the monitor of the train's realistic view of the landscape and structures.

John Anthmatten displayed his Z-Scale model for the public. His engines ran well and by the end of the day, he had fine tuned the track to run even better.

This was the first year we had two live steam engines running. Claude Hinson and Will Davis ran the engines.

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TRAINS continued

One of the engines pulled a chain of trucks around a small oval while the other engine sat on rollers laying on a short rail set. You could smell the steam and the oil, see the steam coming from the smoke stack, and see the wheels being turned by the steam pistons. It was great.

Members of the Dothan Model Train Club came by to say hello. Their show is in September. The Lantern will run the exact date in the next issue. Also, a group came from Westminster Oaks to support the show and let us know their layout is ready for the Whistle Stop Tour on July 24th.

GOT NEWS?

Please send all information before the fifth of the month

to

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BBMRA PHOTO CONTEST

The August meeting of the BBMRA will feature the Annual Photo Contest. The contest is open to all members and will have two categories: 1) Prototype railroads and 2) Model railroads.

RULES:

1. Photographs should be in the form of color or black and white prints, 4X6 inches or larger.
2. Each photograph should feature a railroad subject and be taken by the individual submitting it.
3. Each photograph should have a description of the prototype/model railroad featured.
4. Enter up to three photographs per category.

JUDGING:

1. The club members present at the August meeting will conduct the judging.
2. All entries should be given to the Contest Administrator prior to the start of the meeting. The Contest Administrator will number the photographs and display them for the club. The club will be able to view all photographs.
3. The club will vote for the photographs that best depict the category.
4. The photograph receiving the highest score will win.
5. First, Second and Third place awards will be given in each category.

STORE FRONT AT TALLAHASSEE MALL

The BBMRA will continue to open the Mall store front from 5:00 to 8:30 PM each Tuesday, except meeting night, as long as possible.

N-Scale had stated they would keep it open until September and the HO Division has volunteered to open it each Tuesday there after.

The new HO layout is progressing well. It is fun to enter after a few days away and see all the progress that has been made. It's like watching the layout grow in stop time photography.