



# The Lantern

May 2005

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## Street & road building tips

By John Anthamatten



Construction of roads, streets and highways on your layout will be one of the major details you do to make your layout look realistic. Constructing these streets of a lightweight but durable material, on your worktable, and then attaching them to your layout will give them a professional and realistic look. Painting or taping roads on a layout is another option, but then it will always look like paint or tape.

If you have a complete and detailed plan for your layout then it should also include streets and roads. The roads will be transferred to your board along with other details. If you do not have a detailed plan, then your streets should be left until much later in your construction.

Building roads and then trying to fit buildings and scenery around the roads will cause many hours of additional work moving roads to accommodate buildings. If you know what buildings you are going to use but do not have them yet then look at a kit or a catalog (Walthers has measurements for most structures and buildings) and get the dimensions. Draw floor or foundation

Continued on page 4

## The 26th Annual Jacksonville Rail Fair – A Report

By Randy Lombardo - Large Scale Crew Chief

On Saturday, February 19, Ed and Elsie Olson arrived at my house ready to depart for Jacksonville to attend the 26th Annual Rail Fair. As we headed east on what was a cold, nippy morning, the early frost was rising and drifting into puffy, white cloud-like whiffs.

The Florida Highway Patrol and Jefferson County Sheriff's patrol cars were very much in evidence along I-10, stopping several vehicles probably to discuss their owners' bad driving habits. We drove along in light traffic, enjoying the morning and chatting about trains and other topics. We braved the chilly morning for a rest stop and to eat McDonalds "big breakfast" at the Live Oak exit. As we passed the famous Baldwin Yard, we saw a great number of auto carriers and a blue and yellow CSX diesel dressed in the old paint scheme.

Upon our arrival in Jacksonville, a retired Atlantic Coast Line (ACL) locomotive on permanent display greeted us at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. The sun was shining and a breeze was blowing as we searched for parking in an already full lot.

While standing in line in front of the ticket booth, we glanced at a railfan who had purchased several lighted O-Scale buildings from Lionel & Mike's Train House, courtesy of Watkinsville, GA based Memory Station.

We bought tickets, got our hands stamped in case we needed to leave the show, and while Ed and Elsie went into Exhibit Hall B, I took time to

sign up for myself and for BBMRA to receive mailings about other train shows. We had two hours to shop before meeting for lunch a little after noon.

As far as our eyes could see, "railroadiana" lurked on top of and below dealers' tables ready to be bought and sold. My first purchase was from Bryant Bennett of Palm Bay, FL consisting of four bulbs for our Lionel gooseneck lamps. Bennett said he had just found the bulbs and put them in his display case, but he wasn't sure what they were for.

I stopped by Memory Station and chatted with owner Lewis Collier, who was dressed from head to toe in a conductor's uniform. We talked about Lionel's new illuminated Amtrak Shelter accessory which he had in his store but hadn't brought to the show. I also talked to a man, originally from Long Island, NY who was selling several Life-Like HO train sets. The same man had some photos of Long Island Railway equipment which I recognized.

Other BBMRA members attending the show were Dan King who was in Jacksonville for the ACL/SAL Historical Society meeting, Garth Easton, who was photographing a huge N-Scale layout, Roy Mantooth who tugged my shirt exclaiming "Are you lost?" I was told Sim Dekle and Sam Miller were also at the show but I didn't see them.

Ed, Elsie, Ed's brother Chuck and his wife (Ed showed me a Lackawanna

Continued on page 2



ACL #1504 on display at the Prime Osborn

## Jacksonville

Continued from page 1

RR printers stamp) along with four other folks ate lunch at the American Café at The Jacksonville Landing. Before and after lunch, we rode the Jacksonville Transportation Authority's "Skyway" or "People Mover." A one-way trip cost each of us 35 cents. On the return trip we rode for free because of a jammed machine. We squeezed through the turnstile and road up the escalator to wait for our train. After a few minutes, we boarded and made sure everyone knew we wanted to get off at Central Station, only a short ride in the 2.5 mile system.

Back at the show, several people expressed their disappointment because the show was only one day and that no other similar train related events

were scheduled anywhere in the Jacksonville area.

I did make a few final purchases including three hat pins and three Lionel catalogs from 1966, 1976 containing HO items and one published in 1982. As some dealers began to pack up and leave early, I was considering buying a VIA Rail Canada pin in the original blue and yellow colors along with Delta Air Line pins. I was

disappointed when I found out Jelsma Graphics, headquartered in Jacksonville and from whom I bought my Amtrak Accela jacket last year, wasn't at the show.

After saying goodbyes to everyone, we headed back to Tallahassee. Ed slowed down as we crossed the I-10 overpass at Baldwin Yard where we saw a string of auto carriers headed out of town. We paused again for a break at McDonalds in Live Oak for hamburgers. Flashing blue and white lights from FHP/Leon County Sheriff's patrol cars warned us about a tractor-trailer which had run off the interstate into some nearby trees.

I was home by 7:30 p.m. after a long, but enjoyable day with Ed and Elsie. We hope to make the trip again sometime in the future. If you'd like to attend, mark your calendars. The annual show usually occurs in February of each year.

# Executive board reports

## Larry Benson, **Secretary**

The April 1, 2005 membership meeting was held at Myers Park with 32 present. Treasurer Shawn Vann reported only 56 currently paid members and he is still collecting 2005 dues.

There wasn't a program because the guest speaker was unable to attend.

Division coordinators reported about their past work, future schedules for setting up club layouts for our train show, running them on the day of the show on April 16 and taking them back to the storage shed.

President Barrett Johnson said he, Sam and Garth had met with Mary Brogan Museum representatives to discuss how we might work together. He expects a board meeting to be called soon to work out proposals to present to museum staff.

Show coordinator John Sullenberger reported 86 tables were sold to 27 vendors. He explained the schedule for setting up at the fairgrounds, how members' entry would be coordinated and name badges issued to paid members, plus a special \$10 dues offer for the day of the show only.

Garth donated an HO train set to be given away as a door prize. Anticipated media coverage was also outlined.

## Shawn Vann, **Treasurer**

Thanks to everyone who paid their dues in the final weeks before the show. Those renewals, along with a few new members, brings our membership total to 65. Our show proceeds will help us complete our program for the year.

Being our major fundraising event of the year, the show is very important to the club. I want to personally thank everyone that contributed to help make the event as success as possible. Proceeds from the show will help fund our program for the remainder of the year.

## News & Notes

Next club meeting: May 17, 2005

Welcome new members! Ryan Barker, Tom Keenan and Doug Schilb.

8' x 2' N Scale train layout for sale. The offering includes 2 train sets, lots of track, buildings, houses and more. \$500. Contact John Calhoun for more information. Calhounj@att.net, 487-6287 day, 671-4047 eve.

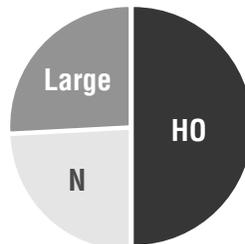
Thanks to all this month's contributors! Show photos provided by David Brazell & Larry Benson. If you would like to contribute stories, photographs

or how-to articles, see Larry or Shawn. Deadline for "Lantern" is 1st of each month.

Check the web. On Saturday, May 14th, the site will be updated with new show photos and some video too!

### Member's scale interest

Here's a look at our member's scale choices. Most have interest in multiple scales.



# Annual Show 2005 Memories

**Attendance: 222 paid guests**

Bobby & his  
N Scale layout



Evan and Sandy behind the N  
Scale layout having a laugh

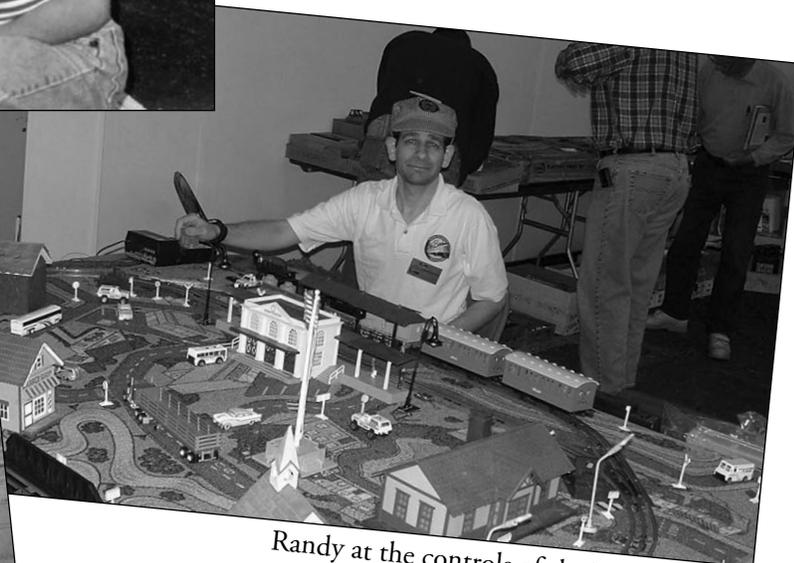
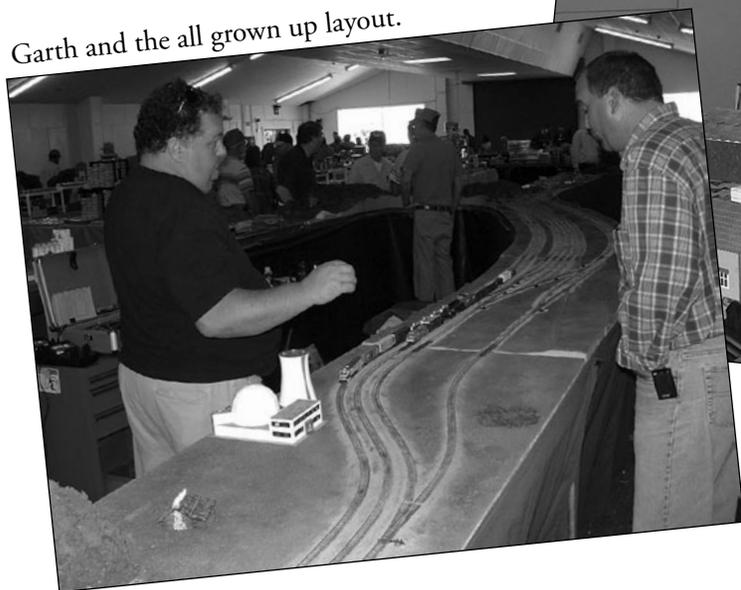
Kids just having fun



## **New Member Wins Door Prize**

Doug Schilb, a new member of BBMRA, won a Bachmann HO train set in the door prize drawing when our train show closed on April 16 at the fairgrounds. The prize was donated by N Scale coordinator Gath Easton. Funds raised will help with club expenses during the year.

Garth and the all grown up layout.



Randy at the controls of the Lionel layout.



# The Lantern

2023 Gardenbrook Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32301

[www.bbmra.org](http://www.bbmra.org)

## Upcoming events

### May

5/15 • 11AM-5PM

Orlando Society of Model Railroaders Open House. Orlando.

5/21 • 11AM-4PM

TCA Southern Division Toy Train Show. Maitland.

### June

6/11-12 • 9AM-4PM

Lions Train Show & Swap Meet. Ocala.

6/11 • 9AM-3PM

Space Coast Train Collectors Train Show & Swap Meet. Melbourne.

### July

7/9 • 9AM-3PM

13th Annual Central Florida Railroad Show. Deland.

7/16-17 • 11AM-5PM

Great American Train Show. Clearwater.

## Street & roads

Continued from page 1

plans for all buildings and sceneries you are going to use and place them on your board. When drawing your building floors remember to allow for sidewalks, flowerbeds, parking lots and other areas associated with each building. Once all floor plans and accessories are in place you have a good idea of where streets and roads may be placed.

Cut a stiff piece of cardboard about 6 or 8 inches in length and to the width of your streets. A typical two-lane city street is 24 feet wide. Parallel parking lanes are about 8 feet wide. Four-lane roads would be 48 feet wide. Dirt roads will be 15 to 20 feet wide. You may need 3 or 4 pieces of cardboard of varying widths for your layout roads. Drag or pull the 2 or 3 inches of your cardboard template along where you want roads and make a pencil mark on both sides of the cardboard every inch or so. When all roads have been marked with dashes then go back and connect the dashes. A radius at intersection corners can be

drawn in with a coin, big washer, bottom of a small paint can, jar or bottle lids or even with drafting tools. Now is the time to build ramps at rail crossings. Make them far enough back from the rail crossing to look realistic. A five-foot long ramp at a crossing just is not realistic looking. Remember also to make the ramp wide enough for shoulders on each side. Use blue foam, plaster, wood or your choice of material and then paint it your basic board color.

To make your sketched in roads more prominent or more noticeable for an overall view, while you develop your layout, cut patterns of your sketched road and streets out of used typing or printer paper and place them on your board. Short pieces can be taped together and taped lightly to the board. Cut these pieces accurately because you will use them at a later time. As you complete a layout section with buildings and landscaping and other details then you can add permanent roads in that section.

Start planning for roads on your layout. Next month we'll conclude this article.