



The Lantern

August 2005

Volume 10, Number 8

Treasurer resigns; relocating



It is with great sadness that I announce my departure from the BBMRA. I have thoroughly enjoyed the chance to meet new people, grow in the hobby and

“just run trains.”

My wife and I have decided to leave behind Tallahassee, a place we love, in pursuit of new found opportunity. Kim has accepted an offer to pursue an MFA in Creative Writing at FAU in Boca Raton, FL. We will have moved by the time this letter finds you.

Because of everyone who helped tighten our belt, our finances are strong. Recently the board voted to move our bank account to Tallahassee State Bank. That move was finalized on August 5, 2005. One benefit is that Tallahassee State Bank recognized the club as a non-profit cooperation. As such, we have a fee-free account in the club's name

A special thanks to Jim Lubber, who has agreed to update the club's web site calendars after I depart. Jim has assisted in the background since the beginning of the new web site. I am sure he'll carry on well in my absence.

I hope that you've enjoyed my work as Treasurer at least half as much as I have enjoyed fulfilling the duties of office. It's been fun. I take many lasting friendships with me. I look forward to seeing each of you at the 2006 show and sale. Until then, I am only a phone call or email away.



BBMRA Makes Train Camp Special

By Jasper Brey

From June 20 until July 1, 2005, The Magnolia School ran its first train-themed summer camp. Camp activities included train stories, art projects, a one-hour ride on Amtrak's Sunset Limited (4 1/2 hours late!) and the construction of a 4 x 8-foot 027-gauge layout.

So what does this have to do with the BBMRA? Well, on the first day, club president Barrett Johnson came and showed the campers three model locomotives: an N&W Class A, an SP “Cab Forward,” and a UP Alco. He explained some about railroad history, operated the three locomotives on a three-foot section of track, and explained the details and sound systems of the locomotive models.

The next day the camp took a field trip to Eric and Ina Eckland's large-scale garden railroad in Crawfordville, escorted by “Mitt” Paul. Many of the twenty

campers enjoyed the visit, chasing a USA Trains Hudson around the upper loop. It was pulling, at the end of its passenger train, an LGB Oscar Mayer “Wienermobile” flatcar with track-cleaning pads. “I think it was really cool,” said nine-year-old Sage Veale. “We kept following a train called Northern Folk.” He was referring to a Norfolk and Western Class A. “It was probably the biggest train set I've ever seen,” said Isaac Vasquez.

On the last Thursday of the camp, the young train enthusiasts traveled to “Mitt” Paul's HO railroad, where his train store was once located (hence the name of the street: All Aboard Lane). Five campers went inside at a time. Nearby peacocks and a game of Duck-Duck-Goose amused those waiting to go in. “I liked that it was really detailed,” said

Continued on page 3

Photo Contest Rules

This year's photography competition will occur during the August meeting. Start gathering your submissions now! There are two categories, prototype and models.

1. Photos must be 4 x 6 or larger prints.
2. Photos must feature a railroad subject, either prototype or model.
3. Up to three photos per category may be submitted.
4. Photos must be taken by the member submitting them.
5. Each photo must have a description of the subject presented.
6. Names of members are NOT to appear on the photos.

Modeling Grain

How many times have you encountered a grain elevator on a layout? There are a lot of things that are overlooked when it comes to ideas for weathering. This idea came to me after watching a Cargill grain train pass one weekend. From that I made notes for good weathering ideas:

Step 1: Pick up a tube of Elmers Glue, Model Glue or any glue. Step 2: Get a package of Woodland Scenics Burnt Grass 785-44, or 785-62. Step 3: Add dabs of glue around the top hatches of the hopper, even between them if you wish. Put the burnt grass on the glue spots and tap it down with your finger.

What you get is a car that has been overfilled or a mass pile of over spill. The burnt grass gives the look of grain on the roof. Be sure to put a small trail of grass between the tracks at your local gain station to show that grain has leaked out the bottom of some of the cars. Maybe add a bit of Green Clump Foliage to show that some grain seeds have started to grow.

Even a bit of Woodland Scenics Field Grass such as Natural Straw item #785-171 or Harvest Gold #785-172 would make interesting things like wheat growing. As always best of luck with your model railroad.

Credit: <http://www.trainweb.org/danderso/weathern.html>, Posted by Brandon.



Photos **David Brazell**

Photo Flashback: Members of the club spent a fun day hanging out in Bristol. We were guests of the Veteran Memorial Railroad's organizers. If you haven't visited yet, see www.bbmra.org for more information.

News & Notes

Do you really want the "Lantern" staff to ramble on each month? Contribute now! We need feature articles, photographs and modeling tips for our September issue. Its pretty blank right now. No pressure.

HO Crew members, or any club

member willing to assist, are asked to contact Sam about the August 13 setup of the smaller HO traveling layout. [See Sam's column for details.]

Don't know what a swap meet is? For our new members, we periodically have a meeting where you pack all the things you're ready to offload and sell them flea market style. Pack small bills. You'll find things to buy, too!

Executive board reports

Barrett Johnson, **President**

Our August meeting is the annual photo contest and swap meet. The photo contest comes first, after which BBMRA members can swap to the limits of their energy.

Club members present at the August meeting will judge the entries. Members should turn their entries in to the contest administrator who will number and display them for judging. Each member gets one vote for the best photo in each category: prototypical and model. The highest score wins and Hobbytown gift certificates will be the prize for the winners and runners up.

Sal Martocci, **Vice President**

Referring back to last month's article on "Getting Started." well I raised the America Flag on my back yard layout this past Sunday. It was ringing wet hot out but with the unrelenting help of Bob Pope and gallons of tea and ice water we completed the construction phase of the layout. Painting and laying the track are next. I need to let the layout dry some before painting, but getting a short, dry spell may be difficult to find. Nonetheless, we are closer to "Getting Done."

Larry Benson, **Secretary**

President Barrett Johnson called the July 19, 2005 meeting to order at 7:45PM at Myers Park with 27 members present. The Treasurer's report and minutes of the June meeting were approved. Division coordinators reported on their activities. The Tour of Layouts has been postponed until September 24. A motion was passed to allocate up to \$100 to fund building a new "Time Saver" layout. The next meeting will be August 16 featuring our annual Photo Contest and a swap meet.

HO Division Preparing Four-Corner Traveling Layout; To Premier at August 13 Boy Scout Event

Sam Miller, **HO Scale**

The HO Crew has developed the initial pieces of its new traveling layout and will operate the display August 13 for Boy Scout troop leaders at Killearn United Methodist Church.

We want to entertain scouts, but also use the layout to demonstrate how the BBMRA can work with area scouts who are meeting requirements for the BSA railroading merit badge.

HO folks will set up the night before, around 5PM. Operation will begin at 9AM and run until sometime in the afternoon. Please contact me if you can participate.

The HO Crew was invited to a workday July 25 at the club's storage unit. A decision to focus the traveling layout around the four corners was made. Some simple renovation work will be required to ensure smooth running in the smaller format.

Barrett Johnson agreed to build four connection pieces to close the gaps created by the sky boards when the corners are united. A couple of the sky boards were found to be higher than the others and needed trimming. A couple of leg braces needs to be replaced and one of the racks for the corners needed to be repaired. Helps is always welcomed on these and other projects

Other than that, the corners just needed some touchup work and tender loving care. They also required some strategic planning for placement of buildings and other accessories so we get an ordered-scene look out of the smaller setup.

We scheduled workdays for the last Saturday in July and first Saturday in August at Roy Mantooth's house, in his carport, and believed at the end of all of this effort the four-corner layout would be in good shape.

The group showing up July 25 decided to undertake a second phase. Four straight modules will be selected later and then redesigned to fit with the four corners when the division has slightly more room and more time to set up a traveling display. John Sullenberger suggested – brilliantly – we design the setup to give us two options: putting a straight on either side of each corner so we have a large square or putting two straights along each side to produce our conventional rectangle look.

Some hard thinking and innovation will be necessary here, but the HO Crew

and our club have some smart people. We may keep a couple of other modules for backup or for special displays. Some time this fall, if the majority agrees, we will dispose of surplus modules, offering them to club members at a modest charge.

HO Crew members decided during the July 25 workday to go through all of our buildings and decide what can be used on the traveling layout and the big main layout and which buildings and other materials are surplus. The surplus will be offered for sale to club members during a silent auction as part of the swap meet at the August BBMRA meeting.

The HO Crew has taken a break for the last several months, but is now back at work – unfortunately, just in time for the severe summer heat. The support of members who have helped so far is greatly appreciated. Those of you who can help this fall will be welcomed as well. We still have lots to do. Thank you.

N & Large Scale

Keep your ears open, both crews plan to begin workdays later this fall.

Train Camp

Continued from page 1

Rowan Penton-Filer. And six-year-old Brooks Ricca added, "My favorite was the pretend car crash with the fake car that was supposed to be wrecked. I also liked the two little hanging helicopters." I noticed things such as the odd engines in the yard, and the larger-than-scale snake on a rock by the creek. (Who knows-maybe it's a reticulated python?)

The campers would like to thank "Mitt" Paul, Barrett Johnson, and the Ecklands for sharing their love of trains and making the camp more enjoyable. The BBMRA really goes out of its way to welcome younger train lovers into the hobby. Thanks.

Editors' Note: Jasper is our youngest registered member & we'd like to thank him for an excellent submission.



The Lantern

Post Office Box 3392, Tallahassee, FL 32315

NEXT MEETING:

- Photo Contest
- Swap Meet

www.bbmra.org

Upcoming events

August

8/16 • 7:30PM

BBMRA Meeting. Photography contest and swap meet! Myers Park.

September

9/3

Space Coast Train Show
Melbourne, FL

9/17-18

Wiregrass Show
Dothan, AL

9/20 • 7:00PM

BBMRA Meeting
Leroy Collins Library
Program Room A

9/24-25

Rail Fair. Duluth, GA

9/30 – 10/1

H&R Train Show
Pinellas Park, FL

Do You Believe There's A Frisco City?

By Larry Benson

Have you ever been asked the old question: "Do you believe there's an Easter Bunny, Santa Claus and Toledo?" To which one answers: "Well, I believe there's a Bunny and I think there's a Santa but I'm not too sure about Toledo!"

So, now I ask you: "Do you believe there's a Frisco City, Alabama?" Such a place is located 70 miles north of Pensacola. It's on highway 21 about nine miles southwest of Monroeville, AL. Covering four square miles, the population of Frisco City in 2002 was 1,420 and the community even has its own web site at <http://www.friscocityalabama.com/>

According to the October 1971 Frisco RR System Timetable, Frisco City was on the main line running from Springfield, MO through Memphis and just above Birmingham, AL joined the Pensacola Sub – Southern Division at Amory, for the run to Pensacola. Four passenger trains a day, two south bound and two north bound, stopped daily in Frisco City. Two of the daily trains offered second class accommodations while the other two were third class. The third class must have been a slow "milk and newspaper" run because it took an hour and a half longer for the third class trains to

cover the same distance as the first class trains. Yard limits ran from Cantonment, FL into Pensacola.

How did I discover Frisco City? Last fall, Shirley and I were at our annual antique car club auction on a farm near Havana, when we spotted several green hourglass shaped Coca-Cola bottles on the sale tables. Modern Coke bottles don't have city names imprinted on the bottom, but we could see these were older ones. Out of curiosity, I casually sorted through them and to my surprise one was stamped "Frisco City, ALA" on the bottom.

One club member at the auction collects all kinds of Coca-Cola memorabilia so I knew I would have to outbid her to get this "prize." She bought several Coke collectibles including all of the other bottles except one. When it came up for sale, she already had a box full of Coca-Cola items and didn't bother to bid above my offer of \$6. I held my breath until the auctioneer hammered it down. The Frisco City bottle was mine!

Why was I so excited to find a Frisco bottle? Most BBMRA members already know, along with the Rock Island my N-Scale layout features the Frisco Railroad.