



# The Lantern

January 2006

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## Layouts at Goodwood Impress

By Larry Benson

*The Big Bend Model Railroad Association has become a regular feature at the Goodwood event. 2005 marked our third showing.*

Youngsters were fascinated as three layouts in three different scales – HO, N and Z, were displayed by BBMRA members at Goodwood Museum and Gardens on the first Sunday in December. The crowd was difficult to measure, with families drifting in and out of Jubilee Cottage during the 3-hours event. Nonetheless, it seemed to be at least 150 kids and parents.

The new “HO Switching Layout” (previously called the time saver) was the real attraction. Joe Haley served as Yardmaster giving kids their operating instructions and congratulating the ones who

learned quickly what to do, which most of them did. Wearing Joe’s engineer’s hat which was two sizes too big for them, the youngsters’ concentration was mirrored in their broad smiles and large round eyes.

Evan Hughes conducted a double track N-Scale layout belonging to Garth Easton. Youngsters stood as close as possible watching as two freights loop around the layout at scale speed. Garth brought his “under construction” Z-Scale with tiny Christmas cars and a great new steam locomotive he had just received from Germany the day before our display.

All three layouts performed perfectly and seemed to be the hit of Family Day at Goodwood. Oh, and the four of us had a good time, too.

## Learn more about the Golden Spike Award

By Barrett Johnson

Jim Kellow, the NMRA Achievement Program Manager for the Sunshine Region, will present the program for our February meeting. Members who wish to qualify for the Golden Spike Award or any or all of the criteria for Master Model Railroader need to let me know at our January meeting so they can be scheduled during the afternoon preceding our February meeting.

The Golden Spike Award is the easiest, and the first Achievement Program award, a model railroader earns. The requirements are such that any BBMRA member who has built a layout will be in full compliance or a long way down the road. To earn the award, one must be a member of the NMRA at the time the paperwork is signed off. NMRA is still offering a membership deal that is too good to pass up. Those who have not been NMRA members recently can get a six month membership for \$9.95.

To then qualify for the Golden Spike award, you must then (1) Display 6 units of rolling stock. Setting them out on your layout is “display”. There is no requirement to earn a minimum number of points in judging, although the contemplation is they are a bit more detailed than something straight out of the box.

The next requirement is to construct at least 8 square feet of layout and five structures. Remember that trestles and bridges, as well as buildings, are structures. Again, the contemplation

**Golden Spike** Continued on page 3

# Election Time!

Elections will be held during the BBMRA's Annual Business meeting this coming January 2006. The nomination slate is as follows:

President – Barrett Johnson;  
Vice-President – Randy Lombardo;  
Treasurer – Bill Boyle;  
Secretary - John Anthamatten, Marsha "Lyn" Heath and Ed Schroeder.

The N, HO and Large Scale Divisions will elect their respective Coordinators during the January meeting.

Nominations for the above listed positions can be made at any time from now until the elections are held. You may place your own name in nomination or have another BBMRA member place your name in nomination for you. Nominations for the Division Coordinators will only be taken during the January Division meetings.

## Dues Paid Members to Vote

Members must have paid their 2006 dues to be eligible to vote in the election of officers during the January 17th Club meeting. To ensure proper credit, please bring your dues to the meeting if you haven't paid to date.

# Working the Railroad after Wilma

After Hurricane Wilma, I had a lot of time on my hands! From gas stations to grocery stores, South Florida shut down. That is, except the railroads. Prior to the storm trains were "tied down" to ensure minimum damage.

After Wilma, work began in earnest to get the lines running again. Inspecting the entire line to check crossing gates, track and other damage allowed the railroads to finally return to work. With spotty power, FEC proved quite inventful. They blocked crossings during the night and sent miles-long parades of trains in a single direction.

— Shawn Vann

# Nothing Could Be Finer than Dinner on the Diner



To paraphrase a line from a famous southern lyric about Carolina: "Nothing could be finer than eating dinner on the diner." On Veterans Day last November, the Georgia Park Service ran a special "Dinner Train" from Veterans Memorial Park on Lake Blackshear to the little village of Leslie and back.

The train departed at 6:30 p.m. for the two hour trip while we dined and listened to a guitarist and his girlfriend sing southern ballads.

Two Heart of Georgia yellow and blue (HOG) diesels, one on each end of the train, provide the motive power over SAM Shortline tracks. A crew member said the coaches now belong to the Georgia Park Service. He said to his knowledge the train is the only "moving park on wheels" in the country.

A couple of weeks before our journey, Shirley and I read an article in the newspaper about this "first ever" dinner

trip to be offered by the Park Service. The article said reservations were necessary and listed a phone number to call. We called to confirm reservations not only on the dinner train but also for Friday night at the Retreat on Lake Blackshear, a large gorgeous lodge in Veterans Memorial Park. At the same time, we selected our dinner of barbeque ribs from a menu of three dishes. Dinners were served on china plates with Cole slaw, baked beans, French fries, pecan pie and a bottomless glass of soft drinks, coffee or iced tea.

The dining coach overflowed with cheerful, laughing diners so additional tables were set up in the observation-bar car. The conductor said 52 people were on the train and it was considered a success. Apparently, the Park Service intends to offer the trip again in the future. If they do, you should book seats; it's delightful.



## How Fast Are Your HO Scale Trains Traveling?

To travel 3 feet on HO Scale Rail:

Scale MPH	Running Time
5	36 SEC
15	12 SEC
25	7 SEC
60.	3 SEC
90	2 SEC

# Executive Reports & News Briefs

## Randy Lombardo, **Large Scale**

BBMRA will begin the New Year with election of officers at our first meeting of 2006. We meet on Tuesday, January 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Myers Park.

Look for a “Thomas the Tank” engine along with “Annie & Clarabel” and a new 80 watt transformer to make their debut on Saturday, January 28 during Children’s Day at the Museum of Florida History (if invited to participate.)

There are two shows in Jacksonville this year: The annual Railroad Collectors Model Train & Railroadiana Show, which is one day only, convenes on Sat-

urday, February 25 at the Prime Osborne Convention Center. The show runs from 9 to 4 and admission is \$6 for adults and children under 12 years of age are free.

The second show in Jacksonville is returning after several years’ absence. The Great Western & Atlantic Train Show (formerly G.A.T.S.) will be on Saturday, March 25 and possibly Sunday, March 26. The show will be at the fairgrounds near Alltel Stadium. More information will be forthcoming at our next meeting.

And, of course, don’t forget our own BBMRA show on Saturday, July 29 at the North Florida Fairgrounds. All in

all, 2006 will be a GREAT YEAR to be a member of BBMRA!

## **Lantern Editors Reach End of the Line**

Thank you all for a very enjoyable period as your *Lantern* editors! Have you had as much fun as us watching *The Lantern* evolve over the past year? The major reason our time at the helm was so fulfilling, quite simply, was each of you.

Everyone who submitted articles made our jobs easier. With your help, we were able to continue instructing, informing and entertaining the BBMRA membership throughout the year!



## **Golden Spike**

Continued from page 1

is to do more than glue a simple plastic kit together but there are no minimum point requirements.

Dovetailing into the foregoing are the engineering requirements. Three types of trackage are required, which may include change of grade, turnouts, crossings or more than one of the above, such

as three turnouts. Trackage has to be on proper roadbed, which may include commercial cork etc.

The installed trackage must be wired so that two or more trains can be operated simultaneously. Having two sidings with power routing turnouts meets this requirement because one train can be on a siding while the other is running down the main line. The final requirement is to provide one additional electrical feature such as powered turnouts, signaling, turnout indication, lighted buildings, etc.

Finally, all of these requirements do not have to be met on the same layout or even in the same scale.

The Master Model Railroader AP award is given for earning at least 7 of the 11 categories for which certificates are given. This will be described in more detail in the February *Lantern*.



## **Photo Composition Workshop**

Taken from PhotographyTips.com

Composition, the act of composing the image in the viewfinder, is a visual process of organizing the elements and individual details of a scene into a balanced and pleasing arrangement.

### **RULES ARE GUIDELINES**

Some of the so-called “rules” of composition presented here should be considered as guidelines. They are based on recreating similarities in the make-up of many different images that many people have found to be esthetically-pleasing.

Besides, some renowned photographs violate all the rules of composition and are still excellent pictures. This doesn’t mean that the rules are without value. They are tremendously valuable. They are time-proven, and provide great guidelines for photographers at any level. We use them all the time.

### **ORIGIN OF COMPOSITION RULES**

Years ago, artists who had been born with an innate sense of design created works that were perceived, by other skilled artists, as having good composition. Not only that, but their works were very popular with the general public and art aficionados. Analysis of such works showed patterns and trends in the organization



# The Lantern

Post Office Box 3392, Tallahassee, FL 32315

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

## Upcoming events

### January

1/17 • 7:30 pm

BBMRA Meeting

Election of Officers

Myers Park Community Room

1/22-23

Flint River Train Show

Knights of Columbus Hall

Albany, GA

1/28-29

Great Train Expo Show

Tampa Fairgrounds

Tampa, FL

### February

2/18-19

Sarasota Model RR Show

Palmetto, FL

CALENDAR

and inter-relationships of lines, shapes, forms and colors that were recognized as contributing to the effectiveness of the works. It was found that others could employ these patterns as techniques in improving their own works. When they were defined, they became known as the rules of composition.

### **FOLLOW THE RULES UNTIL YOU KNOW WHEN TO BREAK THEM**

We hope in this section to help everyone to compose better pictures, but especially the person who has no idea of composition - the photographer for whom taking a picture means just picking up a camera to point it and shoot it with little thought for the arrangement of the elements in a scene. Such a person would rarely be pleased with the results of his or her normal photography, and could benefit enormously from an understanding of the elements of composition.

Anyone who has an interest in improving their pictures would do well to go through this section and use the tips and hints it contains in their photography to see if their pictures improve.

By religiously observing the principles



of composition, they will become firmly cemented in your mind. Employing them will become second nature to you. If you don't find there is an improvement in your pictures and people aren't commenting on how great they look, we will be greatly surprised.

Once you have the rules of composition down pat, experiment and break a rule here or there when you feel the image will work better without it. That's called individual style, and the creativity that stems from it produces some great images. The point is that you will know when to break a rule of composition once you know what the rules are and how they work.