



# THE Lantern

February 2006

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Joe Haley, Randy Lombardo and Beth Edwards tend to the public operated HO switching layout and the public operated O-27 layout at Children's Day.



Garth Easton and Ken Brock tend to and talk about the Z scale and HO layouts at Children's Day.

## February 21, 2006 Meeting: Myers Park Community Room

As published in the January Lantern, our February meeting program will be presented by Mr. Jim Kellow, Master Model Railroader, who is the NMRA Achievement Program coordinator. Jim will discuss, among other things, the Achievement Program and how it works as well as the benefits of belonging to NMRA.

The first Achievement Award is the Golden Spike, which includes a certificate as well as a patch. If you are a BBMRA member who has built a layout, you have probably met most of the requirements and could meet the rest without much trouble. You must be an NMRA member at the time the paperwork goes in. NMRA has a special deal at this time called the Railpass, which will let anyone become a member for 6 months for \$9.95, including a six month subscription to Scale Rails, the NMRA monthly. To do this, go to the NMRA website. At the top of the page in the center, click on Railpass and you can join online, or call NMRA at (423) 892-2846. You will need your NMRA number for the Golden Spike application form, which

can also be downloaded from the NMRA website.

When you have met the requirements--and as we said in January, do read into them things that are not there--call me at 556-6056 and we will arrange a time for me to witness the application and get it started through channels. Hopefully, we will have several Golden Spike certificates for Jim to present at our February meeting.

To reiterate a bit from the January Lantern, remember that you do not have to meet all the requirements on the same layout or the same scale. As an example, a layout with two sidings and power routing turnouts will meet the engineering requirement of having a layout wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously; one train sits on a siding while the other occupies the mainline. As a general guide, where the requirements mention super detailing, it is quality that counts rather than quantity. Again, if you operate six units of rolling stock on your layout, that is "display" for purposes of the requirements.

Shifting gears a bit, to give everyone plenty of lead time, our March program is scheduled to borrow a bit from Roy Mantooth's layout, where he has a grade with a starting point and a marked ending point. Roy tests the rolling resistance of cars to see if they will make it past his ending point. If not, then the cars are tinkered until they do.

Our March meeting will begin a three part series by Roy Mantooth and Sal Martocci on how to work on cars to get lower rolling resistance. This is important for a lot of reasons. Given today's technology, properly maintained cars will roll on a 1% grade and this makes possible operating a classification yard with several cars rolling slowly to their destination all at the same time, as is the case in prototype operation, especially since it is common for scale layouts to use grades much steeper than 1% to compress space. Obviously, cars with lower rolling resistance make longer trains possible. Lower rolling resistance also decreases derailments, because it is easier for the wheel to turn the  
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axle than to climb the rail. For those who use rail smaller than code 100, this is even more important. The other major factor is correct car weights and NMRA has developed a table that gives these, reprinted in Shawn Vann's article a few Lanterns ago.

BBMRA members can bring one or at most two HO or N cars to our March meeting to be tested. At our April meeting Sal and Roy will give a clinic on tinkering cars to lessen rolling resistance. At our May meeting there will be a contest to see who has the car with the lowest rolling resistance in each scale. All

this advance notice gives everybody time to prepare.



## Minutes of January 2006 BBMRA Membership Meeting

The January 17, 2006 membership meeting was called to order by President Barrett Johnson at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Myers Park. Thirty two members were present.

Minutes: No meeting was held in December 2005, so there were no minutes for approval.

Treasurer's Report: Evan Hughes gave the treasurer's report which was accepted.

Division Reports: The division coordinators reported on the activities.

A lengthy discussion ensued about whether or not BBMRA should participate in the GATS show in

Jacksonville on March 25-26. Two motions died for lack of seconds. Barrett announced that the board would take members' comments into consideration, look into the show further and decide what would be appropriate for BBMRA to do.

Barrett talked about the NMRA "Golden Spike" and he said Mr. Jim Kellow will be at our February meeting to talk about the awards program.

Elections: The following candidates for 2006 officers were elected by unanimous consent:

President	Barrett Johnson
Vice President	Randy Lombardo
Treasurer	Bill Boyles
Secretary	Lynn Heath

The following were elected by their respective Divisions:

N Scale	Garth Easton
HO Scale	Sam Miller
Large Scale	Beth Edwards

A motion was made to express appreciation to the outgoing officers for their work during 2005 especially those who published *The Lantern* and faithfully recorded the minutes of every membership and board meeting. Motion passed unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Larry Benson, outgoing secretary



A sparse crowd of shoppers attended the Flint River Model RR show in Albany, GA on January 21 & 22. Several dealers remarked that attendance seemed to be off this year.

### **THE LANTERN:**

John Sullenberger has agreed to be the editor of *The Lantern*. If at all possible, please send all articles and other submissions for the newsletter by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month via e-mail to: [sullyjws@aol.com](mailto:sullyjws@aol.com)

### **BBMRA SHOW:**

Over two-thirds of the table space at our July 29<sup>th</sup> Show & Sale has been reserved. Contact the BBMRA immediately if you wish to reserve table space.

John Sullenberger:

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