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NMRA Sunshine Region Achievement Program Chairman, Jim Kellow, (center) presented "Golden Spike" certificates to BBMRA recipients (l/r) Larry Benson, Paul Beverly, Barrett Johnson and Sam Miller. Jim presented the awards during the February 21st club meeting.

Four Members Receive NMRA "Golden Spike" Awards

By Larry Benson

Four BBMRA members received National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) "Golden Spike" awards at the February 21st meeting. Recipients were Larry Benson, Paul Beverly, Barrett Johnson and Sam Miller. Jim Kellow, chairman of the NMRA Sunshine Region Achievement Program and Western

Division Superintendent, presented the awards.

Jim, who has achieved the highest possible award, that of Master Model Railroader, also talked about the NMRA Achievement Program (AP), highlighting the various levels which can be reached. Model railroaders must be members of NMRA to participate in the AP. He said chances are almost any NMRA modeler who has a layout has already qualified for the first level Golden Spike award.

Qualifications for Golden Spike are spelled out on the back of the AP

regulations which can be downloaded from the NMRA website at <http://www.nmra.org/>. Participants don't have to earn the Golden Spike first, but they may if they qualify, and then move on to the other 11 special categories of the AP.

To get started, contact BBMRA President Barrett Johnson, our local NMRA AP representative, who will guide you through the steps leading to NMRA membership and the awards regulations and qualifications. Barrett's phone number, mailing and e-mail addresses are listed in the membership roster.

March Meeting – 7 PM Downtown Public Library

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 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 February 2006 BBMRA Membership Meeting

The February 21, 2006 membership meeting was called to order by President Barrett Johnson at 7:36 p.m. in the Community Room at Myers Park. Thirty four members were present.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 17, 2006 meeting were approved as published in the February issue of *The Lantern*.

Treasurer's Report: Sal Martocci reported a bank balance of \$1,436.26 as of this meeting. His report was accepted. Garth Easton reported a \$1,000.00 check for the show was received from Thomasville Honda and this will be deposited soon.

Division Reports:

N-Scale: Garth Easton announced the division will be starting to get work parties together on weekends.

HO Scale: Sam Miller said we need to start getting together in the next couple of weeks to work on the new layout.

O-Scale: Beth Edwards reported work dates should begin about mid-March for the new layout.

Veteran's Memorial – Bristol: John Anthamatten reported the funding is at 99% and new equipment had been received and/or ordered. There were three runs in January which is unusual, and three runs planned in the next few weeks.

2006 Train Show: John Sullenberger announced 67 tables have been reserved for our upcoming show. There are still 26 tables available but reservations are still coming in. Our Annual Show is being held on July 29, 2006, at the Leon County Fairgrounds.

Sal Martocci announced he would be bringing in a test track next month to measure and prepare cars for the May contest.

A question was asked whether BBMRA would be participating in the GATS show in Jacksonville on March 25-26. It was decided, BBMRA would not attend this year but possibly try for next year.

Program: Barrett Johnson introduced our guest speaker, Jim Kellow. Jim is Chairman of the Sunshine Region NMRA Achievement Program. Jim presented four members of BBMRA with the Golden Spike Award: Barrett Johnson, Larry Benson, Sam Miller, and Paul Beverly.

Jim talked about the NMRA "Golden Spike", and the Achievement Program and how it works. He spoke about how the program is designed to help you become a better modeler and the requirements. Jim says: "Once the paperwork is done the rest is a piece of cake!" He passed out useful magazines, and handouts about the NMRA

Achievement Program. The Sunshine Region Spring 2006 Convention will be held April 28 – 30th in Fort Myers, Florida. Jim suggested BBMRA host a National Convention – to possibly be discussed at a later meeting.

Paul Beverly spoke about the advantages of belonging to NMRA and the layout insurance that is available.

Sal Martocci asked about establishing standards for G-Gauge. Jim suggested setting up a committee of members to work on establishing standards.

Barrett introduced additional guests Nancy Kellow, Maryanne Johnson, and Andy _____ (possible new member).

Paul Beverly and Sam Miller expressed appreciation to Barrett Johnson for all his help, motivation, and encouragement.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21st at the Leroy Collins Library downtown.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lyn Heath,
Secretary

TALLAHASSEE MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE

Saturday, July 29th -- North Florida Fairgrounds, Building #4 -- 10 am to 5 pm

Admission: Adults & children 13 and older: \$5 -- Children 12 and younger are Free -- Free Parking

