



THE Lantern

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BBMRA Web Site Updated & Running

Submitted by Larry Benson

The BBMRA web site is up and running again thanks to Shawn Vann. Shawn volunteered to bring the site up to date and to make a few improvements. In exchange, the BBMRA Board allows him to "post" a small, discreet logo about his new business, "Shawn Vann Designs" in the lower right hand corner. Check it out! You'll find our web site at <http://www.bbmra.org/>

April Meeting – 7:30 PM Myers Park Community Room

Submitted by Barrett Johnson

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.

Back to basics: cleaning wheels

by Marty McGuirk (Marty McGuirk is a former associate editor of Model Railroader Magazine. This article is from the March 2001 issue.)

I'm always surprised at the lengths model railroaders will go to for clean track while completely ignoring the other half of the equation - the wheels. Here are some tips for keeping those wheels dirt-free.

When to clean?

For me, it's about once a year for cars and every six months or so for locomotives. Sound-equipped engines need cleaning when intermittent contact causes the sound to cut in and out. Locomotives without sound need cleaning when they stall and stutter on clean track.

The frequency of this cleaning regimen is influenced by other factors, the two most important being the cleanliness of the layout room (a finished ceiling will pay big dividends!) and the frequency of operation - more is better.

Rolling toward clean wheels

There are two approaches to wheel-cleaning: dry and wet. I don't like dry cleaning with an electric wheel-cleaning brush since I don't want to scratch the plated surface of the wheels.

Here's a simple way to clean your wheels with a bottle of rubbing alcohol and a piece of old cloth (an old cotton T-shirt is ideal). It works with all scales and you can use it anywhere on the layout.

Place a dab of alcohol on the cloth and stretch it over the rails. Put one truck on the cloth, the other on the rails. Apply power.

Remove the locomotive and move the cloth slightly. Then repeat using the other truck. Add more alcohol if needed.

Here are a couple of wheel-cleaning rigs offered by manufacturers which also work well.

Micro-Mark Wheel Cleaning Station
800.225.1066
www.micromark.com
Gumbuster 2000

F. Skidmore Products
41 S. Hickory St.
Palatine, IL 60067
847.934.9685
www.cleantains.com

Minutes of March 2006 BBMRA Membership Meeting

The March 21, 2006 membership meeting was called to order by President Barrett Johnson at 7:15 p.m. in the Leroy Collins Leon County Public Library. Twenty-nine members were present.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Boyle reported a bank balance of \$2,421.01 as of this meeting. There are 57 paid members. The yearly premium for liability insurance for 2 million dollars has been paid. This will save us later when we do not have to buy insurance at the show. His report was accepted.

Minutes: Minutes of the February 21, 2006 meeting were approved as published in the March issue of The Lantern. There were positive comments on the minutes. There was also a question concerning the electronic transmission of the Lantern. This problem is being worked by the new web master – Shawn Vann.

Good of the Group Comments:

Barrett Johnson reported that there were two Golden Spike Awards approved – Vernon Parramore and David Kerns. These awards will be presented next month.

There were two guests introduced – Calvin Ogburn and a man named Bob.

Dan King announced the coming Trainfest at Folkston on 8 April. This is an annual event.

Randy Lombardo announced that there is an O-Scale layout on display at Cypress Gardens.

Division Reports:

N-Scale: Garth Easton announced he needed to meet with the N-Scalers at the next break.

HO Scale: Sam Miller said we need to have a few workdays, probably at his house, to work on the layout before the show. He'll announce dates and times later.

O-Scale: Beth Edwards reported things are going OK.

Veteran's Memorial – Bristol: John Anthamatten reported that their Regular Run Weekend at the Veteran's Memorial will be on 8 April, 2006. All are invited to attend. He hopes the train will run every 30 minutes.

2006 Train Show: John Sullenberger announced 76 tables have been reserved for our upcoming show. There are still 16 tables available but reservations are still coming in. Our Annual Show is on July 29, 2006 at the North Florida Fairgrounds.

Program:

After a short break, Sal Martocci and Roy Mantooth set up a test track to test cars for roll ability. Several had brought cars to be tested. Most failed to roll properly. After taking several questions, Roy announced he would conduct a workshop next meeting on how to improve to rolling and smoother operating of your cars.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 2006 in the Community Room at Myers Park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lyn Heath, Secretary (with a very special thanks to David Brazell)

Open Houses:

There was a time when the BBMRA had bi-annual "Open Houses"; it became an annual "Open House" when the volunteers dwindled. Our 2005 "Open House" had to be cancelled when the even fewer volunteers had time conflicts. I sent out an "Open House" volunteer card and only had two mailed back to me: from Larry Benson and Dick Daniels.

With all of this in mind, I have a question: do we, the members of the BBMRA, want to have a 2006 "Open House"? If so, I need more volunteers to be willing to open up their houses or yards and host a stop on the Big Bend Model Railroad's Whistle Stop Open Houses.

Whistle Stop "volunteers" should contact John Sullenberger:

Day 410-8425

Night 562-5137

Cell 544-1870

E-Mail sullyjws@aol.com

Lantern Articles: If you don't submit it I can't print it.

I need articles to be submitted for printing in the Lantern. There was a GATS in Jacksonville last March, did anyone go? There were two events during the weekend of April 8-9: Trainfest at Folkston on the 8th and a community event at the Veteran's Memorial. Did anyone attend either event and were pictures taken? If you attend events such as these, please submit an article with or without photos to the Lantern. Our members (including this editor) would appreciate it!