



THE Lantern

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Vernon Parramore Reception

Submitted by David Brazell



There was a reception for Vernon Parramore on Thursday 4th of May, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. at Broadview Assisted Living, Vernon's living facility. Pictured from left to right are Roy Mantooth, Sam Miller, Sal Martocci, Vernon, Dan King and David Brazell.

The reception was to honor Vernon with a Resolution from the Big Bend Model Railroad Association; the Certificate of Appreciation was for the founding of our ancestor to BBMRA over 50 years ago. Without people like Vernon, the BBMRA might never have existed. Vernon also received a Golden Spike Award.

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



May Meeting – 7:30 PM Myers Park Community Room

Submitted by Barrett Johnson

March saw the beginning of a 3 month program borrowed 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 began 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.

BBMRA members were able to bring one or two HO or N cars to our March meeting to be tested. The April meeting saw Sal and Roy give a clinic on tinkering cars to lessen rolling resistance.

At our upcoming May meeting there will be a contest to see who has the car with the lowest rolling resistance in each scale. All of this advance notice gave everybody time to prepare to participate in the contest.

Folkston Trainfest 2006

BBMRA members Dan King, Larry Benson and David Brazell made the two and a half hour trip over to Folkston Georgia to attend the annual Trainfest 2006. This event is sponsored by the Folkston/Charlton County Development Authority. There were about 100 people in attendance to view the presentations and watch the traffic through the "Folkston Funnel" all day.

Folkston is a unique location as every train going in and out of Florida go through Folkston (with the exceptions of CSX due East and West and one Norfolk Southern Line that you cross going there). They get about 70 trains a day through there. This day, we enjoyed 26 trains in the 9 hours we were there. Traffic included two Amtraks, 13 mixed freights (including one with a BNSF Dash 9 as the lead engine), six intermodals and the remaining made up of grain, coal, and autorack consists. On the way home, we crossed the Norfolk Southern line and there was an autorack crossing through there – an added bonus.

This year we had another additional bonus. A crew led by Bill Geist from the Sunday morning show "Sunday Morning" were there doing an article on trainfans. His article aired on 6 May, 2006 and included a brief shot of Dan King and David Brazell watching the trains! It was a great article shown nationwide.

The clouds started moving in about 6:30 and we were about to leave when we received another bonus – they were fixing supper! For four dollars you could get all the steak, potato salad, baked beans, pasta salad and desert you wanted. What a deal! It beat the Hardee's we had planned to stop at on the way home so we stayed and ate to our delight.

If you have a spare day and want to relax and enjoy a day of rail traffic, Folkston is the place to be. You will not be disappointed with the traffic. The facilities are clean and they even provide a viewing platform equipped with a scanner so you can hear railroad radio traffic. We had a great day and we can't wait until next year!



Minutes of the April 2006 BBMRA Membership Meeting

The April 18, 2006 membership meeting was called to order by President Barrett Johnson at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Myers Park. Twenty-four (24) members were present.

Minutes: Minutes of the March 21, 2006 meeting were approved as published in the April issue of The Lantern.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Boyles reported a bank balance of \$2,097.84 as of this meeting. He also reported we currently have 58 members. His report was accepted.

Division Reports:

N-Scale: Garth Easton announced the division is setting up a work party at his house beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 22, 2006.

HO Scale: Barrett Johnson announced there is nothing currently happening.

O-Scale: Beth Edwards announced there is nothing new at this time. Randy Lombardo announced the group needs to get together to work on layout plans and plan a workshop.

Veteran's Memorial – Bristol: John Anthamatten reported the Blue Grass Festival went okay until mid-afternoon when they had to shut down because of potentially bad weather and lightening. He was pleased to announce there was only one derailment. He also announced the plans for the Halloween and Christmas runs.

2006 Train Show: John Sullenberger announced 90 tables have been reserved, with 18 vendors participating. There is still a 3 table grouping available. He said we have a new vendor that has reserved 6 tables. Once again our Annual Show is being held on July 29, 2006, at the Leon County Fairgrounds.

Dan King asked questions about publicizing the show (suggested 93.3). John said information went to magazines 2 months ago, and will go to radio 2 weeks, TV 8 weeks, and all others 6 weeks prior to the show. There was a suggestion to do a survey to find out how people heard about the show. Joe Haley suggested having a "sidewalk show" to draw people in off the street. Lots of ideas were passed around, but no final decision was made.

There was a discussion about getting sponsors for the show.

Good of the Group Comments, Etc.:

Barrett Johnson presented a Resolution, which was accepted unanimously, to David Kerns (in absentia) and Vernon Parramore. The Certificate of Appreciation was for their founding of our ancestor to BBMRA over 50 years ago. Without gentlemen like these, who had a vision, BBMRA might never have existed.

Barrett also presented 3 Golden Spike Awards to David Kerns (in absentia), Vernon Parramore, and Sal Martocci. He informed the group that NMRA requested pictures to put in their national newsletter.

Barrett informed the group that Master Model Railroader, John Lewis Curry, passed away. His daughter is auctioning his HO, scratch built, and kit built models on May 6, 2006, in Live Oak. Contact Barrett for directions to the auction.

Barrett announced Andy Keith wants his whole Boy Scout troop to earn a merit badge in model railroading. There will be a class at our show where they will have to build a kit, do switching layouts, etc., for them to earn their merit badge. John suggested letting any scouts in Class A or B uniforms get in free, which could bring in more paying customers. Bill asked could we get vendors to donate prizes for boy scouts earning their merit badge. This will be checked into.

There was a short discussion about whether we are going to have a spring/summer Whistle Stop. The big question is can we get enough participation. No decision was made. However, it was suggested we have a Family Picnic Day at Veteran's....no date has been set.

Briefly, John Anthamatten informed the group that GATS was a big disappointment this year with very little to do with trains.

We Have Celebrities Amongst Us:

Larry Benson, Dan King & David Brazell attended the Folkston Trainfest on April 8, 2006. They observed 28-29 trains of varying types as they traveled down the tracks, enjoyed the presentations that were put on, and a really good meal. Bill Giest of the CBS Sunday Morning Show was in attendance with his Producer and Cameraperson. Larry and David were interviewed by Bill. [Unfortunately, the interview was cut. However, they did show a clip of Dan and David watching the trains. The show aired on May 7, 2006.]

Program:

Sal Martocci brought in a test track to demonstrate and measure roll ability. Roy Mantooth did a presentation on trucks and wheels. He passed around examples of wheels and trucks with problems and examples of good wheels. Roy says what works for him may not always work for the rest of us. His suggestion is if you are going to use plastic wheels get them with brass axels. For cleaning wheels, he suggested pouring alcohol on a blue shop paper towel and rolling the car over the towel several times. He gave us some good information on building and cleaning does and don'ts. He feels Kadee and Intermountain wheel sets are the best. He provided handouts.

After the meeting adjourned a group gathered around to share more ideas and information with each other.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2006, in the Community Room at Myers Park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lyn Heath, Secretary

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 have three possible "Open House" volunteers: Larry Benson, Dick Daniels and Dr. Lee Elgin and the Westminster layout.

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

N Scale News:

The N Scale Division has been busy, we have had two work sessions since the last meeting and another one is scheduled for May 20th at Garth Easton's house.

The Division is investigating each module and fixing, modifying, or rebuilding as necessary.

A new two module yard is under construction as well.



This is the layout that N-Scale will be using at this year's Show!

