



THE Lantern

August 2006

Volume 11 Number 8

NEXT MEETING WILL BE AT MYERS PARK AT 7:30 ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 15TH

Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale Recap by John Sullenberger

The 2006 Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale went very well. We had good member attendance as well as good public attendance. There no major problems with the exception of the non-existent food vendor (I still don't know what happened). All of the vendors showed up. Most of the vendors did OK and said they would be back next year. We had a better gate this year: 363 paid at the door compared to last year's 222. With BBMRA members, Gulf Wind Chapter members, Boy Scouts and Leaders and all of the children we had well over 450 in attendance. The 2007 Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale is tentatively scheduled for July 21, 2007 at the North Florida Fairgrounds in building #4.

Thanks to the BBMRA Membership submitted by John Sullenberger

I think this was one of the best BBMRA member attended shows in a long time. Fifty of sixty-six members helped with either the set-up and/or tear down or with layout operations or just showed up to add moral support.

I would like to thank the following members: Jim Amidon, John Anthamatten, Ryan Barker & his father, Larry Benson, Paul Beverly, David Brazell, Ken Brock, Larry Allen Callahan, Ronald Clark, Dick Daniels, Will Davis, Garth Easton, Eric Ecklund, Ina Ecklund, John Edrington, Beth Edwards, Mitchell Green, Milton Grosz III, Terry Hague, Harry Fischer, Joe Haley, Lyn Heath, Jack Herzog, Barrett Johnson, Tom Keenan, David Kerns, Dan King, David Knowles, Randy Lombardo, Roy Mantooth, Sal Martocci, Jim McGill, Sam Miller, Steven Mindlin, Harold Odom, Ed Olson, Bob Pope, Tom Rice, Paul Richter, Robert Ruggles, Bob Sayes, Doug Schilb, Paul Schneider, Ed Schroeder, Sandy Scott, Reed and Tristan Seeley, Philip Shafer, Michael Simpson and Bob Woodard. Please let me know if I've left anyone off the list. I culled it from the sign-in book and from what I can remember.

Thanks to the Division Coordinators: Garth Easton, (N Scale), Beth Edwards (Large Scale) and Sam Miller (HO Scale) for their outstanding work in preparing the layouts for the show. And even though it's technically part of the Large Scale Division, I would like to thank Sal Martocci and Bob Pope for getting the modular G Scale track operational for the Live Steamers. Speaking of which, the BBMRA owes a special thanks to Harold Dunsford from Dundee, Florida for bringing the raised double track G Scale layout to our Live Steamers.

Special thanks to John Anthamatten for bringing and operating his Z Scale layout, to Bob Woodard and Reed & Tristan Seeley for bringing and operating their N Scale layouts, to Tom Keenan for bringing the Crown steam locomotive from the Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol, Florida and to Joe Haley for his continued support of the "Time Saver" switching layout.





TRAIN SHOW & OTHER NOTES by R. M. Lombardo, VP

The Big Bend Model Railroad Association's Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale was held at the North Florida Fairgrounds on Saturday, July 29, 2006 from 10 am TO 5 pm.

PAID ATTENDANCE

John Sullenberger, our Train Show Manager estimated 500 people came to see the annual show (this is far better than last year when it was held in April). A final tally will be given at the monthly meeting (and in this newsletter, *Editor*) on Tuesday, August 15th at Myers Park Community Room.

STEAM ENGINE MAKES DEBUT

Members of The Veterans Memorial Railroad from Liberty County, Florida (Bristol) hitched an open trailer bringing this enormous piece of equipment (a Crown 2 foot gauge quarter scale locomotive) to Tallahassee for the first time. (Unfortunately I didn't get Photos.) However, after receiving a Federal Grant, a minor setback occurred, the new track that will be laid has to be made in the USA, but currently is produced in Australia, India & Japan. If this issue is resolved, operation will commence at the end of 2006 or sometime in 2007. Thanks to Tom Keenan, Founder, Babs & John Anthamatten, President (also a member of our club) for their cooperation in making this event happen! I also plan on being a member and anyone is welcomed to join @ \$10 per year.

MEETING & GREETING

Several members that we haven't seen at the regular meetings made their appearance known including, Ed Olson, Harold Odorn, Milton Grosz III, Mike Simpson & Sandy Scott (skirting the layouts). I don't recall seeing Vernon Parramore or David Kerns. Did anyone see them?

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

Jeremy Shaw & Louis Stokley (who is from Monticello) want to rejoin the club and Carlos (a friend of mine from Tallahassee who has attended past shows), is considering joining along with a gentlemen from Madison who wears an Engineer's Uniform.

SECRETARY GETS INTO (THE TRAIN) MOOD

Lynn Heath along with her son, purchased some HO Scale equipment including, The Walt Disney Magic Kingdom Station from Vendor Dan Sheppard and a blue Engineer Cap. She said, "I would be razzed if I had chosen the pink one".

THEY CAME FROM NEAR & FAR AWAY

Besides all of the Vendors who came from all across Florida Georgia & Alabama, there were also some attendees that accomplished the same thing. I met a gentleman from Milton (The West Florida Railroad Museum is located there) who, informed me that the 1909 Depot Complex has a new roof & the HO Scale Layout is still operating in an air conditioned outer building on the premises. I also spotted his son/grandson wearing a t-shirt from the museum similar to mine. WE HAVE TO MAKE A TRIP THERE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE! BAMA' BOUND? - An unexpected surprise - Three members of The Wiregrass Train Club in Dothan, Alabama (two of the members donned a blue vest with colorful railroad patches) surveyed the new 0 Scale Layout to gain some insight in building their own and invited all our members to the show on Saturday, September 16th & Sunday, September 17th @ The Houston County Fairgrounds off Route 231. This writer needs a ride or I'll be Greyhound bound.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAYOUTS

Z SCALE - I didn't get to see this layout in operation nor photos however, with John Anthamatten at the throttle, it ran smoothly.

N SCALE - It had to be the new switching yard with all those Canadian National (CN) hoppers along with a rare CN Alco locomotive! The only missing item was a Canadian flag! However, CN does operate in the USA. N Scale Crew Chief Garth Easton, said, "No photos". Reed & Tristan Seeley's display shelves with several die cast vehicles looked great in the background of their layout. I didn't get photos once again.

HO SCALE - Mitchell Green's Florida East Coast (FEC) freight in the blue & yellow scheme took the prize and he's adding some red phosphate hoppers purchased from vendor Paul Kyzer (PK's Provideo Services). I also operated my Tyco 50 foot plug door Canadiana, which David Knowles would like to purchase. Speaking of David, his new Howard Johnson's Restaurant & Hotel was spectacular! A special thanks to Paul Beverly for his help.

O SCALE - Manned by Ken Brock, Large Scale Crew Chief, Beth Edwards & Vice President, R. M. Lombardo. New this year, the layout is a much lighter 4x16 modular Layout comprised of four 4x4 pieces of plywood with a painted light green surface that sits on collapsible framework. Children of all ages enjoyed the handouts of a caboose to color or a word search of items found on the railroad. The only disappointment was that Thomas (Engine # 1) was sick. Once again, no photos were taken. A special thanks to Paul Schneider for help in setting up.

LIVE STEAM - The new double tracked high wooden platform along with a switching track was much improved from last year's portable stage and Mike Simpson & crew especially, Sal Martocci perched above with a giant never before seen remote control, boldly revealed the future in railroading is here!

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA RAILROAD MERIT BAGES - I noticed several individuals painting/weathering HO scale boxcars and enjoying the event. Our President, Barrett Johnson will give us a progress report at the August meeting.

MY PURCHASES

It turned out the need to expand my video library (I don't have DVD yet) took precedence. American Alta Vista (Member vendor Bob Loehne) who is getting out of the business, PK's Provideo Services and Rodney Smith all had videos. I also purchased a MONON railroad pin from The Tallahassee Chapter of The National Railway Historical Society. This money will go towards the restoration of the railroad station in Lloyd (near Monticello). Part of the station is currently occupied by the U. S. Postal Service.

TIME FLIES WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN

The set-up on Friday and the tear-down on Saturday was the best I've seen in many years and many of our members did all they could to help each other enter and exit the facility. Beth loaded the O Scale layout in back of her van. Though I didn't sell any of my items, I loaded them in Ken Brock's truck, picked up some trash, gave Ron DeVincenzo his bags, offered and asked Beth to help Bob Loehne, thanked our Show Manager and we drove off.

PLUG PULLED ON GREAT AMERICAN SHOWS

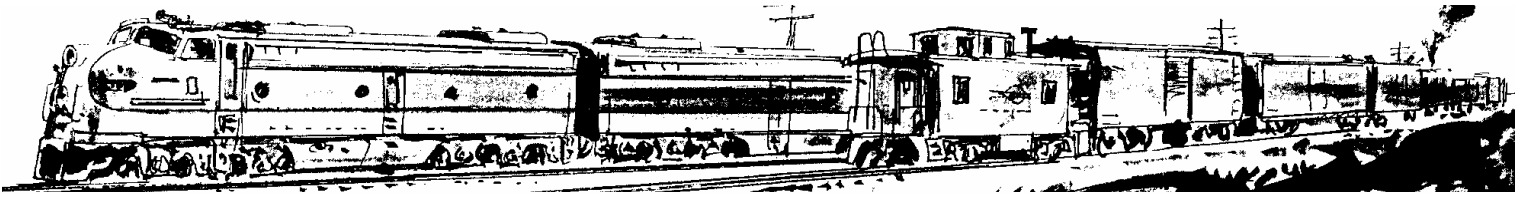
According to Hobbies Unlimited, the company that ran the Great American and Great Western Shows (formerly G. A. T. S.), all shows scheduled for the remainder of 2006 have been canceled. The announcement was made in letters to exhibitors dated April 24.

The similarly titled Great Train Expo shows, formerly staged under the Greenberg name, are operated by an unrelated company and will continue as scheduled. A list of Great Train Expo shows can be found on the company's website, greattrainexpo.com and also in the Events listings in the back of every issue of CLASSIC TOY TRAINS.

WHERE'S THE SUNSET LIMITED?

On August 2nd, I spoke with a reservation agent at 1-800 USA-RAIL regarding re-establishing Amtrak service to Tallahassee and there's no news on its return. Eastbound to Orlando (Train #2), last departed Tallahassee before Katrina struck New Orleans on Saturday, August 27, 2005 @ 12:59 PM (27 minutes late) and arrived in Orlando @ 8:49 PM (4 minutes late).





Riding Our Fifth Excursion Railroad - the GSMR by Larry Benson

In mid July, Shirley and I journeyed to western North Carolina to ride the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad. The GSMR was our fifth ride on an excursion railroad which were in many ways the same, but unique as well. All were certainly enjoyable.

A few years ago, we rode behind the 2-6-0 steam engine "Tarantula" of the Fort Worth & Western Railroad from Grapevine, TX to Fort Worth and back on old Cotton Belt tracks. Then, we flew to Phoenix, rented a car and drove to Williams, AZ where we boarded the Grand Canyon Railroad for a half day trip to the south rim of the Grand Canyon. One summer on a return trip from Oklahoma, we stopped at Eureka Springs, AR where we stayed the night so we could ride the Eureka Springs and North Arkansas excursion railroad, again behind a 2-6-0 huff-puff steam engine.

Our fourth experience (not necessarily in this order) was on Sam Shortline from Cordele, GA to Archery, the boyhood farmstead of Jimmy Carter. (It marked the third time I had ridden SAM in 18 months.) Our fifth and latest rail journey was on the Murphy Branch of the old Southern RR line now known as the GSMR

The GSMR runs in two segments, or trips: one is from Dillsboro, NC to Bryson City and the other from Bryson City to the Nantahala Gorge and return. Railfans can't do both excursions on the same day because the schedules overlap. We took both trips on consecutive days catching the one from Bryson City up the gorge first. It was by far the most interesting although both trips were entertaining and provided many excellent photo opportunities.

Sites along the GSMR rails between Dillsboro and Bryson City include the location where a staged train wreck was shot for the film "The Fugitive" starring Harrison Ford and Tommy Lee Jones. Next railfans go through the 836 foot Cowee Tunnel dug by hand with pick axes and shovels. Upon arrival in Bryson City, the GSMR pauses for an hour and a half so passengers can shop, have lunch and visit the huge O Scale layout located in the Smoky Mountain Trains Lionel Museum next to the depot.

On the Bryson City excursion, the GSMR follows along the Little Tennessee River and the Nantahala Gorge, crossing the 800 feet long Fontana Lake Bridge standing 100 feet above the water. Once in the Gorge, the excursion stops for an hour at the Nantahala Outdoor Center where riders can grab lunch and sit on shady picnic benches watching rafters arrive at the end of their float down the river. Farm houses, tomato fields and green meadows dot both sides of the right-of-way adding a touch of rural domestic scenery to the rugged mountains of western North Carolina.

Many BBMRA members have enjoyed riding excursion railroads. But, some haven't had the fun of boarding a "train to nowhere," one with a "turnaround destination" and plenty of time to get there and back. If you've not experienced riding an excursion railroad, consider SAM or the GSMR. Both are drivable from Tallahassee. Cordele is about three hours away and Dillsboro is around a 10-hour drive, or less depending on the route you take. As with most excursion railroads, both SAM Shortline and the GSMR have web sites on the Internet. Check 'em out at www.samshortline.com and www.GSMR.com



Great Smoky Mountain Railway

Minutes of July 2006 BBMRA Membership Meeting

The July 25, 2006 membership meeting was called to order by President Barrett Johnson at 7:34 p.m. in the Community Room at Myers Park. Thirty four (34) members were present.

Minutes: Minutes of the May and June 2006 meetings, as published in The Lantern, were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Boyle reported a bank balance of \$1,044.54 as of this meeting. His report was accepted. Bill passed out, and explained, the 2006 Budget Report. A discussion was then held regarding the beginning and end of year balances. Bill also explained different ways we are and could save money.

Division Reports:

N-Scale: Garth Easton announced the group should be at his house on Thursday (7/27/06) at 7:00p.m., to pick up the layout for set up on Friday for the show Saturday.

HO Scale: Sam Miller announced there would be a short meeting after the regular meeting tonight (7/25/06).

O-Scale: Beth Edwards announced they have no meeting scheduled at this time.

Veteran's Memorial – Bristol: No report.

2006 Train Show: John Sullenberger announced: The flooring layout had changed since the previous Lantern and provided copies. The building (#4) at the Fairgrounds will be open at 12:00 noon on Friday (7/28/06) for set up. Each group will be responsible for pick up and set up of their layouts. The building (#4) will be open at 7:00a.m. Saturday (7/29/06), and all layouts need to be operational by 9:30a.m. Anyone with extra electrical cords, are asked to please bring them. John informed the group "DO NOT PARK AT OR AROUND BUILDING #2".

John contacted the Democrat and sent pictures of previous Shows hoping to get Saturday's Show in the center of the Limelight this week. Channels 6 and 27 are supposed to be at the Show on Saturday. Members' name badges will be at the front door.

Members are asked to wear their BBMRA badges and/or shirts, or shirts with train themes to help promote enthusiasm. The portion of the show for Boy Scout Merit Badges is scheduled to being at 1:15p.m.

It was decided that any Military personnel in uniform and older past members will be allowed to attend the Show free.

David Brazell and David Knowles appeared on WCTV's "In the Spotlight" to promote our Show and hopefully get more people interested in coming out and possibly joining our group. David Knowles thanked the members who loaned their G, O, HO, N, and Z scale pieces for the taping. (Sal Martocci – G scale engine; Larry Benson – O and N scale engines; Garth Easton – Z scale engine and boxcar!) David B video taped the show and brought it to the meeting for all of us to watch. Everyone agreed (by applause) they did an outstanding job.....Thanks Guys!

Good of the Group Comments, Etc.: Surplus layout materials were brought in for sale before and after the meeting. The money from the sale is being put back into the general budget.

A short discussion was held regarding getting an updated Member Rooster to everyone. John Sullenberger requested members contact him as soon as possible with new phone numbers, addresses, and e-mail addresses.



Barrett brought the group up to date on his latest discussion with Davoe Moore. Davoe is in the process of pulling permits and ordering steel for the new building which should be nearing completion by the end of the year. The plans are for the first floor to be the antique car museum. The second floor will have a banquet room, kitchen, storage, and approximately 6500 square feet designated for train layout. The plans include HO and O scale inside with G scale outside. Barrett emphasized this is all still in the discussion stages! When the new museum is ready and the cars moved the old building will go on sale and the proceeds will be set up as a trust to maintain the museum.

A question was asked about the possibility of having our future Train Shows at the Museum. Barrett says this could create problems and questions from the public regarding entry fee and whether it entitled them to tour the car museum as well as the train show. Barrett says this would have to be looked at closely before any decision could be made.

The question was asked if we are going to do the fair this year. John says no because the fair is doing things different and asked us to "hold off". He says we are not invited to participate this year. This led to a short discussion of what took place last year and what the Fair committee is planning for the future.

A question was asked as to whether or not BBMRA would be involved with the new Cascade Park. Barrett feels this could be more of a problem than a positive situation.

Barrett shared recent train trip experiences in the West. For example: The San Diego MRR Club is about our size--80 members. Their HO layout and affiliates S gauge, O scale and Lionel are all housed in a building in Balboa Park in San Diego which the MRR club share with the San Diego Historical Society. The building is owned by the City of San Diego and this year San Diego renewed its operating agreement with the MRR club for a second 25 year term, extending to 2031. Under the agreement, the MRR club pays its own utility bills but no rent and sets its own admission charges, operating hours, etc. Currently, they are open to the public 5 days a week from 1-4 and 1 day 1-5. The HO layout is roughly 65 x 100 and the other layouts are much smaller.

The Denver O scale layout is the oldest MMR at one location in the country. They have been in the basement of Denver Union Station since 1935. They got the space from the railroad by accident. It seems the railroad had something like 20 tons of paper records stored in the basement of the station. In 1933 the South Platte River flooded the basement and the railroad told the MMR they could have the space if they cleaned it up. After several expansions the MMR now has roughly a 70 x 90 foot O scale layout. The Denver Garden RR club is smaller and is located at the Colorado RR Museum in the NW suburbs of Denver.

Also in Denver is the Forney Museum of Transportation, which includes a UP Big Boy in its collection. There is also a 7 1/2 inch gauge live steam club located SW of downtown Denver. Contact info can be picked up at Caboose Hobbies, the largest model train store in the world, located at 500 South Broadway in Denver. This is a must stop for anyone in the Denver area.

FYI, Amtrak is still not operating in the Tallahassee area.

Program: There was no planned program for this meeting. We had no guests at this meeting; however we did have some members in attendance we hadn't seen in a while.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be at 7:30p.m., Tuesday, August 15, 2006, in the Community Room at Myers Park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34p.m. Respectfully submitted, Lyn Heath, Secretary





Big Bend Model Railroad Association 2006 Budget

INCOME

Dues	\$1300.00
Show & Sale	
Tables	\$1500.00
Gate	\$1375.00
Total Income	\$4175.00

Total Income	\$4175.00
Total Expenses	\$3817.25
Proposed Surplus	\$357.75

EXPENSES

Show & Sale Fairground Rent	\$730.00
Mailings	\$80.00
Printing & Supplies	\$200.00
Post Office Box Rent	\$50.00
Annual Corporate Filing Fee	\$61.25
Association Liability Insurance	\$116.00
Achievement Programs	\$100.00
Storage Company – Warehouse	\$1,390.00
Newsletter	
Postage	\$300.00
Printing	\$200.00
HO Scale Division	\$180.00
N Scale Division	\$180.00
Large Scale Division	\$150.00
Timesaver	\$80.00

Total Expenses	\$3817.25
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New Members

The Big Bend Model Railroad Association would like to welcome the following new members to our club: Bill Atkinson, David Barth, Michael & Maria Carryl, Mark Caruth, Andy Gray, James Herzog, Ray Higgs, Bill McCord, John Meister Sr, Andy Millott, Bill Nass Jr, Katie & Daniel Nunez, Josefa Schlottmann, Norbert Schlottmann, Herman Schol, Jeremy Shaw, Louis Stokley, Willie Thigpen, Bill Thompson and Jack Wolfgang II. This is by far one of the best shows for recruits the BBMRA has ever seen.

Thanks to WGWD

The Big Bend Model Railroad Association would like to thank radio station WGWD in Quincy, Florida for their support just prior to our Show & Sale. Not only did they promote our show during their community announcements, they had a ticket give-away.

We sent them 10 tickets for our Show & Sale, they gave them away and four were presented at the door. A good promotion all around.

Admit one adult or child 13 or older to:

The Big Bend Model Railroad Association's Tallahassee Model railroad Show & Sale

Saturday, July 29th, 10 AM to 5 PM
North Florida Fairgrounds, Building #4



TALLAHASSEE MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE

Saturday, July 21st, 2007 -- 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

