



THE Lantern

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**NEXT MEETING:
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST, 7:30
MYERS PARK COMMUNITY ROOM**

**Sam and Linda Miller's
Christmas Open House will be held on
Friday, December 15th from 7 PM to 10 PM**



The "A-OK" Is AOK submitted by Larry Benson

A few months ago, I ran across the Arkansas & Oklahoma Railroad (AOK) while surfing the net. Being an "Okie," naturally I was intrigued by a short line flagged with the name of my native state. So, I decided to search a little further. While I didn't find much, what I did locate is interesting to me and I hope to you.

In March 1996, the AOK assumed the Union Pacific's 69.6 miles of trackage owned by the State of Oklahoma. The trackage extends between Howe, OK and milepost 364.96 just east of McAlester, OK. On this portion of the A-OK, traffic may move either via Oklahoma City-McAlester-UP or Howe-Kansas City Southern where there are interchanges with these two lines.

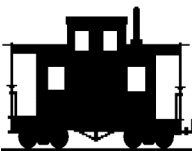
Then, in August, 1997 A-OK leased additional trackage owned by the UP's yard at McAlester. Again in July, 2000 the A-OK also leased the Shawnee, OK branch running from there to near Oklahoma City, a distance of 35.5 miles. In all, the AOK now leases 105.1 miles of trackage not including that in the McAlester yard.

Strictly running freights, the A-OK serves some 15 industries between Howe and Oklahoma City, including grain, feed and milling companies, iron and metal processors, a mining company, plastics manufactures, and a major oil company. How's that for a diversified portfolio of customers?

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



N Scale Set to Make "Bright Spirits" for Kids submitted by Larry Benson

The N Scale crew will run trains again at Goodwood Museum and Gardens on Sunday, December 3 from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Jubilee Cottage. This appearance marks the fourth time BBMRA members have helped to make a special afternoon of "Making Spirits Bright" for kids. Along with Garth Easton's small portable N Scale layout, he will be running his tiny Z Scale oval. The Switching Layout, which is a hit whenever and wherever it is set up also will be available for youngsters who want to try their hands as locomotive engineers.

Flint River Model Railroad Show is January 27th – 28th

The 16th Annual Flint River Model Railroad Train Show and Sale will be held in Albany, GA on January 27-28 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2009 Gillionville Rd. Hours for the 2-day show are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Adult admission is \$4.00; 12-18 \$2.00 and under 12 free with an adult. For more information, contact Jim Swann evenings at (229) 883-3517.

Children's Day Festival is January 27th

The BBMRA has been invited to participate in the 2007 Children's Day Festival at the R. A. Grey building on Saturday, January 27th. Last year, the N and O Divisions participated. Do we want to participate in 2007? Please note, this is the same day as the Flint River Show.

Minutes of October 2006 BBMRA Membership Meeting

The October 17, 2006 membership meeting was called to order by President Barrett Johnson at 7:32 p.m. in the Community Room at Myers Park. Thirty-six (36) members were present.

Minutes: Minutes of the September 2006 meeting, as published in *The Lantern*, were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Sal Martocci reported a bank balance of **\$3,278.00** as of this meeting.

Division Reports:

N-Scale: Garth Easton announced they are showing the switching layout along with N and Z scale at Goodwood on December 3, 2006, from 2:00 to 4:00p.m. Set up will begin at noon. He asks that anyone who would like to help please come out. Garth says there are no workshops scheduled at this time.

HO Scale: Sam Miller is out of town. It was announced we are participating in the Havana Centennial Celebration on December 9 & 10. The HO layout will be on display. Set up will begin on December 6th.

O-Scale: Beth Edwards announced there is nothing new at this time.

Veteran's Memorial – Bristol: John Anthamatten announced they have everything cleared up with the federal government and are proceeding with purchasing lumber and planning. The grant has ended up being \$608,000.00 due to inflation. The "Spooktacular" is being held October 27, 28 and 30, beginning around dark and ending whenever people quit coming – approximately 9:00 to 9:30p.m. The Baby Run will be at twilight with nothing really scary.

Good of the Group Comments, Etc.: A unanimous round of applause, and thanks, went out from the group to Eric and Ina Ecklund for inviting everyone to their Model Railroad Open House. Those of us that did not attend really missed a great time watching Eric run his outdoor G Scale. The members that attended said it was phenomenal!

Joe Haley announced they did a switching layout for Troop 10. Barrett said all the scouts really paid great attention. The Scouts are now able to earn a merit badge in model railroading. Barrett thanked Sal and Sam for being such a big help.

Larry Benson announced the Flint River Model Railroad Show (Albany) will be January 27 & 28, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Larry spoke with Danny Lewis with the Wiregrass Model Railroad Club (Dothan) about exchanging membership lists and complimentary admissions into each other's shows. He says Danny is waiting to present the idea/information at their next meeting and will let us know their decision.

Dan King has attempted to contact Jimmy Swann with the Flint River Model Railroad Club (Albany) about our reciprocal agreement/offer between clubs, but has yet to receive a response. Dan is going to try to contact him again and will keep us informed.

Larry Benson reported we have gotten permission to put Tom Mann's tutorials in our Lantern. However, we are waiting for the written okay due to the material being copy written, and exactly what we have permission to use at this time.

Dan King announced the Jacksonville Terminal Company Historical Society has a web site: jacksonvilleterminal.com. Their web site has lots of pictures of their layout. They are located in the building at the foot of the Main Street Bridge on the Riverwalk. If you need complete directions you can contact Dan and he'll be glad to help. They are soliciting membership with a kick off drive on the 29th.

Program: I think our Swap Meet went really well. Members brought in stuff to trade, swap and sell. Several members went home pleased with their new acquisitions, and others went home pleased to know their "stuff" had found a new home.

Guests: Although there was no official announcement of guests, I noticed a very cute little lady with her dad. She was really interested in several items at the Swap Meet.....I believe we have a future "female" member in the making.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be at **7:30p.m., Tuesday, November 21, 2006**, in the **Community Room at Myers Park**. The program will be presented by David Brazell who is going to show us how to make the interiors of our passenger cars bigger, better and more pleasing to the eye.

The (official) meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Lyn Heath, Secretary

Veterans Memorial Haunted Train Story by Mitchell "Flash" Green

The dates were announced. The Halloween Ghost Train would run Friday, Saturday and Monday (October 27th, 28th and 30th). I had made arrangements at work so I could be available to volunteer for the Veterans Memorial Train. Fridays' heavy rains cancelled any chances of running. I was disappointed; as I am sure the anticipated passengers were as well. I watched the weather channel with hopes the rain would move out of the area for Saturday. My prayers were answered! Hooray!!!

When I woke up Saturday morning, I headed out for the Flea Market and went shopping. I planned on being home by 2pm for a nap. At 3:30, I set out for the trip. I stopped at Burger King on West Pensacola and Capitol Circle for dinner and headed west on route 20 from there. I arrived in Bristol just after 4:30. I was met by John Anthamatten and Tom Keenan. Babs and the others arrived about an hour later to get ready for our guests. The train had been positioned in the station.

I was assigned the position of Conductor and took my place at the rear of the train. John was engineer and Tom was Stationmaster. Babs was selling tickets. Rides were advertised from 7pm to 10pm.

The first train left the station about ten past seven with a full train. It was amazing. Every time we pulled back into the station, it seemed like the line kept getting longer!! We were having a fantastic evening. We finally had our last train about 10:15pm.

Among the passengers were Barrett Johnson and his family and Mrs. Jack Herzog with her son and grandson.

Fourteen trains were run that night and I was told we brought in over \$1,000 from an estimated 700 riders. The train was put back in its container, the lights were shut off, and we all went home for a good nights' sleep.

Monday was going to be a long day. My work shift started at 5:30 a.m. I got permission to take a 30 minute lunch instead of one hour so I could leave at 2pm instead of 2:30. Being on my feet for eight hours and then going to Bristol was going to take a lot of coffee throughout the day. I went straight home, took a shower, got dressed, and was able to leave for Bristol by 3:45. Luckily, I had made sandwiches the night before to take with me so I wouldn't have to stop and waste time. The rides were advertised for 6pm to 9pm on Monday.

I was at Veterans Park by 4:30. John 'certified' me to operate the engine for daylight running only. He said that with time and experience, I would get to 'know' the track and be 'recertified' for night running next year.

We got off to a very late start Monday. Apparently, there were adults with children playing soccer on the lighted playing fields. The bright lights were disastrous for the train hauntings. The parents understood about the train and agreed to leave. Everything was straightened out by 6:30 and the first train left the station.

Monday seemed to be a repeat of Saturday. The crowds kept arriving! Everything was going along just great until a few oversized people sat in the last car with me. Going thru a switch, the front truck on the last car derailed. As conductor, I called for the engineer to go into emergency. John sounded the distress signal and help was on the way. The car was safely unloaded, re-railed, passengers re-loaded, and we were on our way again. Luckily, no one was injured and no ties or rails were damaged.

On the very last ride, the volunteer spooks and goblins really out did themselves. There were two couples in the seats ahead of me. The guys had to physically wrap their arms around their dates to hold them from jumping off the train and running into the park. The women were literally scared out of their wits!!!

The last train was just after 9:15pm. We had an estimated 400 to 500 passengers and over \$750 from ticket sales. John will have the exact details in his report.

I can't wait till December. While it won't be a scary time, the holiday rides will be just as fun. The dates and times will be announced.

Havana Centennial Celebration

The Town of Havana is located 14 miles north of Tallahassee in beautiful Gadsden County, Florida. In 1902, after the completion of a railroad track for the Georgia, Florida and Alabama Railroad, families who had originally settled in nearby Salem decided to move about a mile east to the present site of Havana. The railroad was very important to the town, as was tobacco. The Town was incorporated on December 5, 1906. The name "Havana" was proposed by a local schoolteacher, James Mathewson. Shade tobacco, used in fine cigars, was the major crop in the area at that time. Over the years, tobacco crops dwindled and now Town of Havana is well known for our many antique shops, art galleries, and specialty shops.

The Town, will be celebrating their 100th anniversary this December with so much, it will take two days - Saturday & Sunday, December 9th and 10th! The history of Havana throughout the past 100 years will be celebrated with a lawn mower parade, eldest and youngest citizen recognitions, arts & crafts vendors, activities in the Park, chorales, displays of historical memorabilia, a street dance in the evening, & more.

Sam announced that we will be participating in the Havana celebration on 9 – 10 December. The HO layout will be on display. Setup will be starting on Dec 6th.

