



THE Lantern

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2007 BBMRA Officers

The BBMRA officers for 2007 are as follows: President – Barrett Johnson, Vice-President – John Sullenberger, Treasurer – Bill Boyle and Secretary – Lyn Heath, Small Scale Coordinator, Garth Easton, HO Coordinator, Sam Miller, Large Scale Coordinator, Randy Lombardo.

2007 Membership Dues

2007 membership dues are now due. Currently the BBMRA only has one dues category: an all inclusive category covering you and your family. Membership dues are \$20. Members will be dropped from our roster if their dues are not paid by March 31st.

Roy Mantooth is Recovering A note from Sam Miller

Maxine Mantooth hopes Roy will be able to come home by the end of this month, as he continues his slow, but steady recovery from the acute pancreatic attack he suffered on January 2.

Roy was hospitalized at Tallahassee Memorial Regional Medical Center for a month, had some very serious problems, had his gall bladder removed and faced other serious conditions which were finally successfully treated. He was transferred a week ago to HealthSouth, a rehabilitation hospital.

He already is making a list of the first 100 things he will do when he returns to his train room again. I am certain he will want to resume the Old-timers meetings the first Monday of the month as soon as possible. It probably will be April, but that seems a reasonable goal. Maybe one of you other fellows will host it for March.

Roy can have visitors at HealthSouth, although the weekday hours are limited, from 4 to 8 p.m. They are a little more flexible on Saturday afternoons and Sunday afternoons, although the official hours remain 4 to 8. If you sign in, they usually don't say anything.

He is, as of this writing (February 6) in Room 106. He is still weak, but eating normal food, although not as much as Maxine would like. He does physical therapy (Roy is not really into exercising) much of the weekday.

The train club's support of Roy has been wonderful, through prayers, visits, food, and other kindness. You are truly appreciated. Thank you.



HO Division Sunday Afternoon Trains Social A note from Sam Miller

The HO Division has stolen from the N scale division and Roy Mantooth's Old-timers and will be getting together from time to time, beginning Sunday, February 18th, at Bill Thompson's house. Hours are from 2 to 4 p.m.

Bill has a fine little layout in what I called a "sun room," off the back of his house, when I was growing up. One of his features is a "live" drive in theater.

Bill has a video he thinks will be very informative and interesting, we will have light snacks, and I will lead a discussion on HO division plans in the coming months.

HO members are really encouraged to stop by, although I don't think Bill will turn anyone away at the door. He lives at 2431 Oakdale St. His house is about halfway between me and Roy's. Go east on Woodgate Way, past Stillwood, and turn left on Oakdale. There is a winding turn to the left. He is on that corner on the left.

Call me for further information (385-7733).

Veterans Memorial Railroad by John Sullenberger

In a letter dated January 18, 2007, Tom Keenan writes:

Dear Barrett, Eric and Paul: Please forgive the multiple addressed letter, but I want to get these kits in the mail today though there is absolutely no rush in getting them back to me. Watch for the small motors when you open the package. They are in separate envelopes.

Let me know when they are done and I can probably have John Anthamatten pick them up at a BBMRA meeting. If anyone is really into this, I have 4 more motorized rides to assemble and a slew of concession stands which I can probably do myself.

Eric has informed me that he will not be able to put his two kits together. He says that HO is now too small for his fingers. He asked me to ask the club if someone else could take over. The two kits are: Carnival kit #5117 – the Falling Star and Carnival kit # 5118 the Sea Dragon. Give me a call (544-1870) if you are interested. I will bring these kits to the February meeting regardless.

BBMRA Milestones

BBMRA passes two milestones this year. BBMRA will celebrate its 20th birthday and the Board is working on plans to mark that observation appropriately. Even more important, the two men who did most to bring scale model railroading to Tallahassee, Dave Kerns and Vernon Parramore, will both see their 90th birthdays. Dave was 90 in January and Vernon will be in April. You may recall that the occasion happened in 1950 when one of our banks wanted a display in the lobby. Vernon still has a copy of Dave's original dues check. The Board is planning recognition of this great event, part of which may be a BBMRA family picnic in lieu of the April meeting.

Roy Mantooth Award

BBMRA's own Roy Mantooth was honored February 8th by the Sunshine Region of the National Model Railroad Association when SSR announced establishment of the Roy Mantooth Award, to be given annually for the best model entered in the model contest at the SSR convention by someone who has never entered an NMRA modeling contest. The model can be submitted in person or by proxy. Detailed contest rules will be published in the March Lantern. NMRA judging criteria can be downloaded from the NMRA website.

Hobbytown has agreed to sponsor a plaque and certificate for the award. The first one will be presented, hopefully by Roy himself, at the SSR convention May 18-20 at the Hilton Inn Ocala.

BBMRA members should plan on attending both to show our support for Roy and because of the many excellent clinics planned, especially when the SSR convention is this close to Tallahassee. The four laning of US 27 has been essentially completed, which shortens the driving time to three hours. For information, phone (352) 854-6867. For reservations, contact the Hilton directly at (352) 854-1400. The full registration fee is \$40 for NMRA members, \$50 for non-members. The extra \$10 includes a 6 month "Rail Pass" trial membership if that option is still available. The keynote speaker is Ken Silvestri, Sales Manager of BLI and General Manager of Precision Craft Models.

Notes from the President submitted by Barrett Johnson

BBMRA Members please note: the March meeting will NOT be at the Library. Because meeting attendance always falls sharply when we use the library, the Board decided to move to the Tallahassee Antique Car Museum for March, if available, and to meet at our usual 7:30. In addition, members are invited to join in an informal Dutch treat dinner at the adjoining Rose & Thorn pub at 6:00 PM. The preceding will be announced at our February meeting and published again in the March Lantern, so hopefully everyone will get the word.

Our February meeting will include a presentation by Dennis Little, who is chairing the SSR convention in Ocala. SSR has asked that we consider hosting the convention in 2008. That obviously raises a lot of questions, and Mr. Little's presentation is designed to provide information and answers. In addition, the Board decided that it would circulate a survey at the Ocala convention to get a handle on how many people from South Florida might actually attend, as well as what kinds of clinics and activities they would prefer. In addition to showing our support for Roy, this is an opportunity for as many BBMRA members as possible to get a feel of what is done and how because it is the closest the convention has ever been held.

Our February meeting will also include a brief presentation by Hobbytown and a Q&A on how Hobbytown can best serve club members.

Minutes of January 2007 BBMRA Membership Meeting

The January 16, 2007 membership meeting was called to order by President Barrett Johnson at 7:32 p.m. in the Community Room at Myers Park. Thirty two members were present.

Minutes: The December meeting was the Christmas Party at Sam's. No minutes were necessary. Minutes of the November 21, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously as published in the January issue of *The Lantern*.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Boyle reported a balance of \$3089.00. A draft zero based budget was distributed by Treasurer Bill Boyle for information. The new Board will prepare a budget for presentation and adoption at the February meeting. An issue on dues reduction was discussed by the board and it was decided that the dues are not excessive and will remain \$20.00 a year.

Division Reports:

N Scale: Garth Easton made a motion that the N-Scale Division be changed to small scale so as to include Z-scale. Included in the motion was a requirement to change the bylaws. Motion was seconded and accepted.

HO Scale: HO division will meet after the elections to elect a coordinator and discuss future events.

Large Scale: The large scale division hoped to purchase a Polar Express from Dillard's but was unsuccessful.

Veteran's Memorial – Bristol: John Anthamatten and Tom Keenan reported that the Christmas runs were successful. They should get the Notice to Proceed on the grant from DOT by the end of the month. They hope to build a trestle, more engine coverings and more tracks. They also reported that they had several HO circus displays if anyone was interested in building them.

Good of the Group Comments, Etc.:

Guests: New members included the Swans and Bill Bell.

Albany Show: We have a reciprocal admittance agreement with the Flint River Model Railroad Club and our members will be admitted free. Discussion was held and it was decided that a roster of last year's members plus new members will be sent to them by John Sullenberger.

Sal Martocci reported on a live steam meeting he attended.

Barrett Johnson reported that 26 scouts received model railroading merit badges last year. He also reported on a Prototype Rails clinic he attended. Prototype Rails is an annual meeting in Cocoa Beach of modelers, almost entirely HO, interested in strict adherence to every detail of the prototype. For example, one of these modelers models the Yosemite Valley Railroad--as it was in August, 1939 so that the grass color is correct and the cars correspond to what the RR actually ran that time of year. The clinics are filled with detailed information and techniques and there is good support from manufacturers.

Sam reported that Roy Mantoath is still in intensive care in TMH. Recovery will be slow but it is possible that he may not recover. Sam was recognized by the membership for his almost daily updates via E-Mail.

Joe Haley reported that he is in the process of getting sound engines on the switching yard.

Program:

Elections were held for the 2007 year. Candidates for each position were as follows: President – Barrett Johnson, Vice President – John Sullenberger, Secretary – Lyn Heath and Treasurer – Bill Boyle. As a member of the nominating committee, David Brazell conducted the election. The floor was opened for nominating any other candidates. There were none. Motion was made, seconded and accepted that nominations be closed. Motion was made, seconded and accepted that the candidates be accepted in their respective positions by acclamation. Outgoing Vice President Randy Lombardo gave a farewell address thanking members for his opportunity to serve.

Next Meeting:

Formal business portion of the meeting was adjourned by Barrett Johnson at 8:20. Divisions then met to elect coordinators and discuss plans.

The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at the Community Room at Myers Park.

Respectfully submitted, Lyn Heath, Secretary (Taken and drafted by David Brazell – Thanks David!)



Children's Day 2007 - A Salute to Holidays in Florida

By R. M. Lombardo, Large Scale Crew Chief

While skies were filled with thin puffy white clouds, the sun peaking in and out, with a wisp of wind in the air, many children in winter's wear gathered round because on this day this was their special playground.

While most members were in Georgia, two were in Tallahassee at the R. A. Gray Building "running trains" at the 2007 Children's Day Festival. "Yardmaster" Joe Haley and I entered the Museum of Florida History with our wares for the Big Bend Model Railroad display. Two tables and four chairs were assigned to us and we mutually agreed to use one table each plus one chair would accommodate adults of kids wishing to have a seat.

Two scales were represented, Joe's was the HO-Scale Timesaver switching layout, while I set-up an O-27 Lionel layout. While Joe had all the necessary equipment, I only had the Thomas the Tank engine set from last year. However, the choices weren't limited and I would either use the Lionel Fastrack (O-36) that was included or some Lionel postwar tubular track (cataloged 1942-1969). I chose the later since the standard 80 watt transformer was wired in this manner and I brought an extra lock-on to complete the electrical connection.

Young and old were excited as Thomas (a 0-6-0 engine), was let out of the box and placed on the track along with coaches "Annie" and "Clarabelle" for their second debut! Two Lionel structures were also added: a station platform (cataloged 1985-1987) and a worn American flagpole kit (cataloged 1983-1987). Meanwhile, Joe placed his buildings and matchbox trucks from the 1960's on the layout and we were ready to "Run Trains" shortly after 11:30 AM.

The younger crowd and some teenagers with parents in tow lined-up between other activities to take as many turns as they wanted operating Thomas, who had a mind of his own operating either forwards, backwards or not at all due to a loose wire. Despite this little bug, it didn't deter anyone from visiting the well-known engine. The object was to operate Thomas for a while then stop him at the collapsible station platform (think Florida and its hurricanes), where three figures were preparing to board: a conductor, an engineer and Sir Topham Hat ("the boss of the railroad"), which kids and parents recognized immediately. Speaking with many children and parents (several couldn't stay a way and hung around nearly an hour) about future plans for the layout (Percy, a 0-4-0 engine) and whether Thomas had a bell or not; he doesn't.

Joe had little bugs too; the Rock Island switcher and transformer were bad-ordered (malfunctioning) and were replaced by a Pennsylvania railroad switcher and another transformer. As "Yardmaster" or "Yard boss", he instructed the person after placing a CSX hardhat on his/her head to pick-up loaded freight cars at one end of the layout and deliver them to their final destination through many switches; a "Junior Engineer" certificate was awarded if they performed satisfactory.

Towards tear-down time, Joe went for lunch, while I ate mine during the hours of operation. I finally had the opportunity to briefly view the other activities taking place and created a souvenir 2007 button. Shortly after 4:00 PM, we dismantled the layouts and as I was exiting the building, a little girl talking to her parents exclaimed, "There's the trainman!" Joe and I certainly were if only for one day.

Many thanks to the staff and volunteers of the Museum of Florida History, who provided lunch and let our club participate in this annual event.

2007 Meeting Schedule & Timetable

All Meetings: 7:30 pm to 10 pm

Date	Location	Date	Location
February 20 th	Myers Park Community Room	July 17 th	Myers Park Community Room
March	Tallahassee Antique Car Museum	August 21 st	Myers Park Community Room
April 17 th	Myers Park Community Room	September	Tallahassee Antique Car Museum
May 15 th	Myers Park Community Room	October 16 th	Myers Park Community Room
June	Tallahassee Antique Car Museum	November 13 th	Myers Park Community Room
		December	Sam Miller's Open House

TALLAHASSEE MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE

Saturday, July 21st -- 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

