



# THE Lantern

March 2009

Volume 14 Number 3

## **March 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting: at the OLD Tallahassee Antique Car Museum**

The OLD Tallahassee Antique Car Museum is located on Mahan Drive just east of the intersection of Capital Circle and Mahan Drive. The meeting will begin with a catered dinner at 6:45 and continue with a regular meeting at 7:30.

### **Menu: Spaghetti, salad, bread, desert and a drink, all for \$6.50 per person.**

We need as good a body count as possible, so please RSVP to me (John Sullenberger) by Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>: I can be reached by telephone at (850) 562-5137 (h) or (850) 544-1870 (c) or via e-mail at [sullyjws@aol.com](mailto:sullyjws@aol.com).

## **March Program: Swap Meet**

So, you didn't find that perfect item at the last train show you attended which is just as well since you don't have any more storage space. Well, the BBMRA has the solution (maybe). The March 17<sup>th</sup> program is a "Swap Meet." Think of it as a mini-show without the layouts. Members bring in items they want to sell, swap, and/or give away. It's a good way to make a little money, clear out storage space, to have a good time and maybe, just maybe find that perfect item you've been searching for.

## **Minutes of February 2009 BBMRA Membership Meeting**

The February 17, 2009 Membership Meeting was called to order by President John Sullenberger at 7:30 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the old Antique Car Museum. Forty-two (38) members and five (4) guests were present.

### **New Members/Guest:**

BBMRA welcomed the following new member and his guest. Andy Zimmerman, retired Petty Officer, works at FSU and is our newest member. Andy is an N Scaler. Andy brought a friend, Mike Partain.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the January 2009 meeting were accepted as published in The Lantern.

**Treasurer's Report:** John reported a balance of \$2341.20 in the budget. Warehouse rent has been paid through October.

Questions were asked about doing away with the warehouse. John explained the racks for transporting our layouts are in the warehouse and we do need a place to store them. He did suggest we need to go through the warehouse to see about the possibility of downsizing.

### **Division Reports:**

**Small Scale:** Garth Easton announced the N Scalers had a successful work party two weeks ago and now have things fixed up good enough to start doing some replacements to the layout at the Museum.

**HO Scale:** Barrett Johnson announced to the club that the debut of Ed Olson's layout was great.

**Switching Layout:** Joe Haley announced Children's Day at the Gray building was a great success. Joe said they gave out 48 certificates. Barrett said the club owes Joe Haley a debt of gratitude for representing BBMRA so well with the parents and children at Children's Day. Members agreed with a round of applause.

**Large Scale:** Randy Lombardo was elected as Division Coordinator for Large Scale. Randy said he has given Thomas a good cleaning and they are in need of a new engine.

**Veteran's Memorial – Bristol:** No announcements

### **Antique Car Museum Update:**

David Brazell asked what the status is on the new lease agreement since our one year lease is now up. Barrett said at this time we are on a month to month basis until a new 5 year contract can be drawn up and signed. Barrett said he and DeVoe have not been able to meet due to conflicts in schedules.

Paul Beverly asked if we had enough participation with the running of the Antique Car Museum layouts. The answer was that we were getting by and could always accept more participation from our members. The Museum's one year anniversary is coming up in April and we will definitely need volunteers to run the layouts for the celebration. Even if you haven't signed up for a day and time if you find you have some free time by all means go and run the trains.

**Program: Part 1:** Operation Lifesaver was presented by Lorin Krueger from DOT. Operation Lifesaver originated in Idaho. It is now a nationwide program. The purpose of Operation Lifesaver is to do educational programs to save lives at railroad crossings. There are 26 crossings in Leon County, 56 in Gadsden County and 9 in Jefferson County. There are 140,000 public crossings and 4,600 private crossings in Florida alone. The motto of Operation Lifesaver is "Look, Listen and Live". In 2004 94% of driver involved crossing accidents were due to "risky" drivers and 50% of these occurred at active grade crossings. The 3Es of Operational Lifesaver are:

**Education** – starts at grade school level; **Engineering** – looks at making crossings safer; **Enforcement** – unfortunately this is not universal in the US

Mr. Kruger was assisted by his colleagues Annette Lapkowski and Janice Bordelon.

**Program: Part 2:** Barrett Johnson did a great presentation on "Rules of the Road" and included a handout. When modeling roads for layouts you must make sure they are accurate for the time period. Signage is also an important aspect to consider for accuracy when modeling for particular eras. [If you did not attend the meeting, I'm sure Barrett will be glad to give you a handout.]

### **Good of the Group:**

The next meeting will be a "Swap Meet" after the business portion is over. So, if you have things you would like to sell, swap or give away, bring them with you to the meeting in March. Tables will be available.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be at 7:30p.m., Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at the Old Antique Car Museum. Dinner will be catered for \$6.50 at 6:45p.m. Please contact John Sullenberger if you plan to eat dinner so he can give the caterer a headcount.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51p.m. Respectfully submitted, Lyn Heath, Secretary

## **YMCA TACM Tour submitted by John Sullenberger**

On Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> I got an e-mail from the TACM informing me that the YMCA had just decided to offer a tour of the museum to 500 to 600 teenagers who would be dining in the banquet hall on the 21<sup>st</sup> and could someone from the BBMRA operate the layouts? I in turn e-mailed the membership asking if anyone would be available on such short notice. The BBMRA came through; I would like to thank Sal Martocci, Joe Haley, Roy Mantooth, Terry Hague, Ed Schroeder, Dave Kerns, Paul Richter, and Paul and Peggy Schneider for joining me at the museum running our trains.

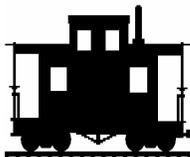
## **Extreme Makeover: Home Edition**

**February 21st: (from Rhonda Penney)** I'm a volunteer helping Myddelton-Parker builders here in Tallahassee with the "Extreme Makeover" project. One of the children in the family is an 11 yr old boy that likes trains. The design team is going to make a train themed bedroom for him. I am working to help find props for the bedroom. I am hoping to contact some train enthusiasts to help me with a project. An O Gauge train set has been provided by HobbyTown. Do you know anyone that would be interested in helping with this project?

**February 28<sup>th</sup> (from John Meister)** Rhonda Penney met me at the extreme makeover house today along with another member of BBMRA. He had already turned over his items to the family or designers so I had the honor of representing the BBMRA on camera when my wife and I presented Martin with a railroad brakeman's lantern. He was understandably overwhelmed by all the gifts and attention given to him and his family so he won't remember much of what was said at the time. Although none present were able to look over his new layout I'm sure it is something to be treasured. Hobbytown should be congratulated many times over for their generosity along with Eric Ecklund who had a big hand it getting things together for the design team. Again, thanks for the opportunity to help out with this most worthy project. P.S. the show is tentatively scheduled to air April 26th.

## **TALLAHASSEE MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE**

Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – North Florida Fairgrounds, Building #4 – 10 am to 5 pm  
Adults & Children 13 and older: \$5 – Children 12 and younger are free – Free Parking



# Amtrak Trips Highlight ACL/SAL Convention

By Larry Benson



ACL/SAL members board Amtrak in Winter Park for return trip to Jacksonville.



Fantastic HO layout owned and operated by the Orlando Society of Railroad Modelers.



Shoppers pack Southeastern Railrodiana Collectors Show at Prime Osborn Convention Center.

The Atlantic Coast Line & Seaboard Air Line Historical Society winter convention convened in Jacksonville Thursday thru Sunday, February 19-22 with 65 members in attendance. Dan King invited me to go with him as a guest and the event was enjoyable, interesting and educational.

The highlight of the convention was riding Amtrak train numbers 97 and 98 on Friday from Jacksonville to Winter Park and back. Southbound train 97 with 11 coaches arrived at the Jacksonville depot 15 minutes early! The 43 ACL&SAL members and guests who signed up to make the trip boarded our exclusive coach at 7:00 a.m. Exactly at 7:15 a.m., the horn honked twice and we eased out of the station on time. We arrived in Winter Park on time at 10 a.m.

Waiting for us at the Winter Park depot were three vans which took 30 of us to see the fantastic HO layout owned and operated by the Orlando Society of Model Railroaders. The OSMR layout is in a large warehouse which they rent. With a mere 45 Society members, they staff their layout regularly and especially on weekends. Although I didn't see their schedule, members told me they "run it a lot". Like many layouts, theirs is a "work in progress". One train running while we were there consisted of 150 ore cars strung out behind two huge 4-6-6-2 steam engines. What a sight!

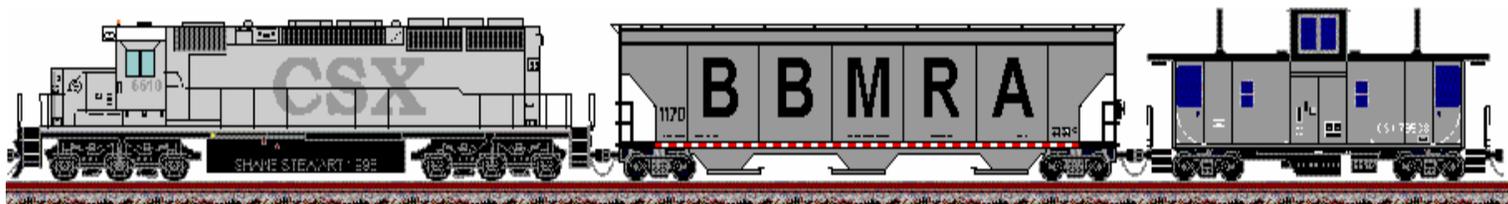
We boarded our reserved coach on train 98 for the return trip to Jacksonville where we arrived about 20 minutes late at 5:30 p.m. On the way back there were 12 coaches in the consist and, again, we had a coach exclusively. Listening to engineers and dispatchers in route on our scanners was a bonus which added to the interest and enjoyment of our journey.

Two presentations by ACL&SAL members on Friday evening capped off a fun-filled and busy convention day. The first talk was by author Larry Goolsby who showed illustrations that will appear in his forthcoming book about Seaboard postwar passenger service. The second speaker was Bob Stewart who talked about riding the rails in Europe including the Orient Express.

Saturday was the Southeastern Railrodiana Collectors Show at the Prime Osborn Convention Center in downtown Jacksonville. The show opened at 9:00 a.m. and was crowded with shoppers most of the time. And, they were "buying" because a lot of the train hobbyists I saw leave the center had purchases in plastic shopping bags. BBMRA members I saw at the show were Sam Miller, Roy Mantooth, Paul Richter and Barrett Johnson. (I apologize if I missed anyone.) Dan and I helped staff the ACL&SAL sales tables during the show.

Saturday evening was the closing banquet. The Southern Divisions Manager for Amtrak was the keynote speaker. His talk was very interesting and enlightening. He stated clearly that "politics" are delaying the return of the Sunset Limited between Jacksonville and New Orleans. He also said State of Florida leaders aren't interested in seeing the train re-instated.

The ACL&SAL breakfast business meeting rounded out the Convention. However, the fun wasn't over! Many of the members, including Dan and I, gathered at Folkston Funnel for a barbecue lunch and to watch trains. Regrettably, only two trains slammed through the Funnel during the two hours we were there. Scuttlebutt was a teenager torched a bridge across a bayou east of Mobile so trains were being re-routed.



# Hobbytown USA is moving to 1812 Thomasville Road

Hobbytown USA, currently located on East Lafayette Street is moving to a bigger and better store in Capital Plaza at 1812 Thomasville Road. The Capital Plaza contains Beef O'Bradys', Tuesday Morning, a Sherwin-Williams paint store and the Red Elephant and is directly across from the Miracle Theaters.

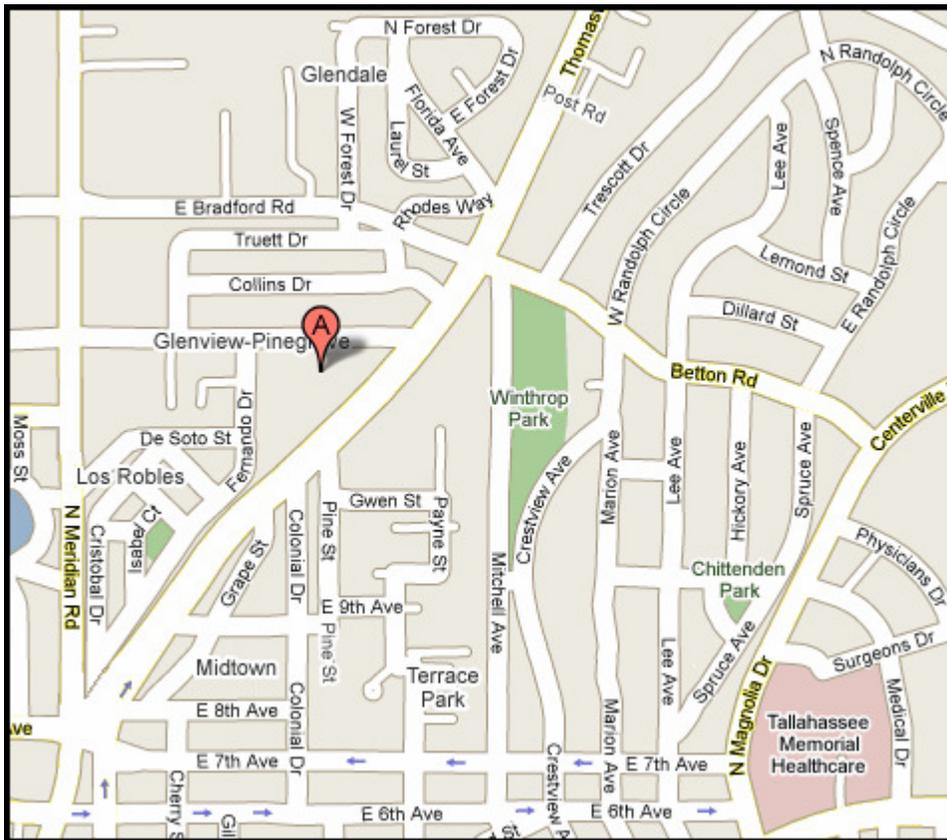
Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> is the last day the Lafayette store will be opened. They will be closed on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> to complete the move and the setting up of the new store. The Thomasville Road store will open for business on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

The new store's hours are:

- Monday thru Saturday: 10 am to 8 pm
- Sunday: 12 noon to 5 pm

Their telephone number remains the same:

- (850) 671-2030



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