



THE Lantern

February 2010

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February 16th 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 (across from the McDonalds in the Wal-Mart parking lot). The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm.

2010 Membership Dues

2010 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 default their membership if their dues are not paid by March 31st.

2010 BBMRA Officers

Elections were held during the 2010 Annual Business meeting, the following are the BBMRA's generally elected officers: John Sullenberger, President, Bill Thompson, Vice-President, Bill Boyle, Treasurer and Lyn Heath, Secretary.

The Divisions met and elected Garth Easton (Small Scale), Barrett Johnson (HO Scale) and Randy Lombardo (Large Scale) as their Division Coordinators.

Jingle Jubilee – An Invitation

The Junior League of Tallahassee has invited us to be a part of their 2010 Jingle Jubilee. The Jingle Jubilee runs from Thursday, November 18th to Saturday, November 20th at the Leon County Civic Center. The BBMRA would be part of the entertainment during Saturday's two "Breakfast with Santa" events. We should be done by noon, are we interested?

Eleven Members Submit Puzzle Solutions - By Larry Benson

Eleven BBMRA members e-mailed me their solutions to the "Switching Puzzle" published on page two in the December issue of *The Lantern*. In that article, members were challenged to see if they could figure out what movements an engineer might have made to accomplish a "run-around" to the head end of our Tennessee Valley RR (TVR) excursion train for the return trip from Chickamauga to Chattanooga. To complicate matters, the only two available sidings were blocked with cuts of parked covered hoppers.

On page two of the January *Lantern*, I illustrated how our TVR engineer performed his run-around. Of the puzzle solutions I received, only Farley Light's duplicated exactly those moves of our engineer. Congratulations, Farley! Although responses varied somewhat, the most workable solution submitted by a majority of those who responded - and the one closest to the actual movements of our TVR engineer - went as follows:

1. Back down the main line and enter Siding #1
2. Go north far enough for hoppers to clear the north main line switch
3. Back south down the main line and couple onto passenger coaches
4. With the diesel in the middle, continue backing south down main line until hoppers clear the switch into Siding #1
5. Push hoppers north on Siding #1 to original spot above Gordon St.
6. Uncouple hoppers and back south beyond switch into main line
7. Run north on main line to passenger loading platform

The "most fun" solution, submitted with tongue in cheek, caused me to laugh out loud! It ended with the phrase "...or get me one hellacious big crane and move the engine". That's the kind of great humor that makes our model train hobby so enjoyable.

Besides Light, other members who submitted solutions were: John Anthamatten, David Brazell, Ed Buist, Mitchell Green, Sheldon Harrison, Barrett Johnson, Tom Keenan, Calvin Ogburn, Bob Ruggles and Art Wilson. I want to thank each of them for "playing" and helping to make my day!

Children's Day Festival

I would like to thank Joe Haley and Randy Lombardo for the stellar job they did on Saturday, January 30th at the Children's Day Festival. The BBMRA was well represented and were well received. Next year's Children's Day Festival is January 29th.

Rain, rain go away, we would like to play on Children's Day!

The 27th annual Children's Day was held at The R. A. Gray Building (The Museum of Florida History) on Saturday, January 30th, 2010, from 11 AM until 4 PM.

By R. M. Lombardo, Large Scale Chief

I arrived around 10 AM under partly cloudy skies with the Thomas & Friends set, which I managed to reduce down to 2 crates because of the threat of rain. Fellow member Joe Haley was at the door and after placing my stuff inside, I helped him carry the HO Scale switching layout also known as "Timesaver". Our President, John Sullenberger was there as well and helped me obtain an additional table.

Joe's set-up went smoothly but mine was challenging. I had planned a figure 8 however, the tables wouldn't support that configuration so, volunteer Ms. Rolle (no relation to Florida State University (FSU) Rhodes Scholar Myron Rolle) and myself tried the original track set-up (8 curve, 3 straight and transformer hook-up straight) and I was perplexed because nothing seemed to be working despite following a diagram in a Lionel Catalog. 11 AM finally came with many spectators but we still weren't ready and told everyone to come back later & Joe was up and running by that time.

I explained to Ms. Rolle, that Lionel's FasTrack seems to favor curved versus straight track and we were operating by "high noon". Children (some stepping on my toes) along with digital camera toting parents, flocked to see the second wonder of the world next to Santa Claus, Thomas The Tank Engine!

The Layout consisted of Thomas (# 1) & Percy (# 6) engines, Annie & Clarabelle (passenger coaches); Troublesome Trucks (freight cars); green Reading & Yellow Chessie System Bobber Cabooses; old Erie "Marx" Girder Bridge (replacing a Short Extension Bridge); K-Line gas station; Bachmann Union Station; 2 rural crossings (no gates or signs) and a non-powered staging track to switch equipment. Of course, there was an 80 watt transformer to power everything. One girl and three boys won a pack of Thomas & Friends Uno Cards for describing an engine in the Thomas series not on the layout.

Around 1 PM John, took over while I went to lunch and returned to find an FSU student from The Ukraine (near Russia) was filming both layouts. Joe's was operating a Chesapeake & Ohio ("C & O For Progress" painted engine blue & yellow before the "Chessie System" Cat logo was adopted along with Baltimore & Ohio (B & O) in 1973.). A B&O tanker along with several freight cars, vehicles (A Yatming dump truck filled with Gold or Quartz) and many buildings of various industries dominated the pike.

I asked the student if he filmed Percy before a rod came apart taking him out of service? (New parts were ordered from Lionel & he should survive). It was hard explaining to parents and kids alike that Percy was in the shop (later hospital).

Before the day came to a close, one boy had a chance to hold Thomas & cried when his mother told him he had to give it back. Many requests were fulfilled to keep the layout operating well past 4 PM and then it was time to take Thomas home.

Thanks to Joe Haley, Ms. Rolle, John Sullenberger and all the volunteers I met.

Minutes of January 2009 BBMRA Annual Business Meeting

The January 19, 2010 Annual Business Meeting was called to order by President John Sullenberger at 7:44 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the old Antique Car Museum. Forty-five (45) people were present.

We welcomed the following new member: Buddy McChesney was born in Madison and has lived in Tallahassee for many years. Buddy is an avid HO scaler.

We also welcomed visitor Jimmy Frances from Grand Crossing, Chicago. Jimmy is an avid Santa Fe HO scaler and has loved trains all his life growing up really close to railroads.

Raffle: John Anthamatten won the monthly donation raffle and graciously gave his winnings to BBMRA. Thanks John!

Minutes: The minutes of the November 2009 meeting as published in the Lantern were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Bill reported a plus balance.

Division Reports:

Small Scale: Garth Easton announced there will be a work day at TACM on February 6th.

HO Scale: Barrett Johnson announced they need to set a work day for TACM soon.

Large Scale: Randy Lombardo announced they will have Thomas at the Children's Day Festival.

Veteran's Memorial – Bristol: John Anthamatten announced nothing new.

Switching Layout: Joe Haley reported the switching layout will be at the Children's Day Festival at the Gray Museum on January 30th.

Show Report: John Sullenberger reported the BBMRA Train Show will be held June 19, 2010. Information and sign-up sheets have been sent out to the first 27 vendors. A second round of information will be sent out the 1st week of February.

Good of the Group Comments: John thanked Sam and Linda Miller for another wonderful BBMRA Christmas party.

The Albany Train Show is January 30-31. BBMRA Roster has been sent. It was suggested members wear their BBMRA name tags. The Jacksonville, Prime Osborne Show will be February 20th.

Barrett announced that if anyone is considering purchasing QSI recording device to wait a few months for decoders to be upgraded.

Sam announced if anyone is considering static grass to purchase an electric fly swatter from Harbor Freight and he and several others will be glad to show you how to convert them.

Barrett announced Esposito's is getting out of the railroading business. Esposito's has offered BBMRA members a 45% discount on all Lionel merchandise beginning tomorrow. John will be dropping off a BBMRA Roster at Esposito's tomorrow.

Sunshine Region of the NMRRA is sponsoring the NMRRA in Tallahassee on May 14, 15 & 16. Sam and Barrett said there will be some very interesting clinics held and encouraged BBMRA members to attend.

TACM has requested we put our chairs back under the tables before we leave after our meetings.

Program: John announced the purpose of the January meeting was to elect new BBMRA Officers. Drew Hackmeyer made a motion to elect, Barrett Johnson seconded and membership unanimously voted on the following 2010 BBMRA Officers: John Sullenberger, President; Bill Thompson, Vice President; Bill Boyles, Treasurer; Lyn Heath, Secretary.

There was no scheduled program due to election of new 2010 Officers.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be at 7:30p.m., Tuesday, February 16, 2010, at the Old Antique Car Museum.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Divisions met to vote on new Division Coordinators - they are as follows: Garth Easton, Small Scale; Barrett Johnson, HO; Randy Lombardo, Large Scale.

Respectfully submitted, Lyn Heath, Secretary

Name Badges: Store Bought or Home Made?

The BBMRA has two types of name badges: store bought (made by a company in Thomasville) or "home made" (printed by John Sullenberger). Below are three examples of what I can print, a locomotive and/or a freight car with your choice of locomotive type and road name. The badges printed by me slip into clip-on name badges. I don't have a picture of the company bought badges. If you do not have a printed badge or want a new printed one, please contact me and inform me which locomotive type and road name you want, I can be reached at 562-5137 (h) or 544-1870 (c) or via e-mail: sullyjws@aol.com.

Big Bend Model Railroad Association

Lou Ogburn



Big Bend Model Railroad Association

Calvin Ogburn



Big Bend Model Railroad Association

Elsie Olsen



Flint River Train Show “About the Same” - By Larry Benson

What can I report about the 2-day Flint River Model Railroad Show held the last weekend in January at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Albany, GA except the event was “about the same” as in past years?

First, there was “about the same” number of dealers – 15. Actually, the number was two or three less than in prior years but for good reason. As one dealer told me, “some vendors couldn’t make it to Albany due to the snow and ice storm that blanketed North Georgia, and North and South Carolina earlier this week.”

Second, dealers offered “about the same” variety of merchandise including new and used motive power, rolling stock, supplies, and structures in scales from tiny “Z” to large “G”. Also, caps, T-shirts, theme paintings, photographs and canceled railroad stock certificates were on sale. There were five large multiple-table booths along with 10 small dealer and individual tables scattered around “the same” two show rooms.

Third, there were five operating layouts. I think two of them, a large “HO” scale and an outstanding “N” scale, were “the same” as ones which were running at previous shows. The other three layouts were two “Z” scales and one “O” scale.

One thing was “*not the same*”. Prices on model railroad items have skyrocketed! When I asked Dave Ramirez (Trains by Johnson, Pensacola) why he thinks prices continue to go up, he held out both hands, palms up, smiled, shrugged and said: “Beats me, but it’s been going on for some time now.”

The drizzling rain apparently didn’t dampen show attendance. Flint River Model Railroad members who manned the gate and kept track of attendance with a “hand counter” told me that in the first two hours they had already tallied 174 people entering the show. And, more hobbyists were standing in line waiting to come in! Among those in attendance were some 15 BBMRA members including the four of us - Maurice Stone, Sheldon Harrison, David Brazell and me. When we left the show a little before noon, the show rooms were becoming crowded and buzzing with activity.



Above – Rooms were crowded by noon at the Flint River Model RR Show



Right – Layouts were popular at the Flint River Model Railroad Show

2010 Schedule / Timetable - All Meetings 7:30 to 10pm

Date	Day of the Week	Location
March 16, 2010	Third Tuesday	Old Tallahassee Antique Car Museum
April 20, 2010	Third Tuesday	Old Tallahassee Antique Car Museum
May 18, 2010	Third Tuesday	Old Tallahassee Antique Car Museum
June 15, 2010	Third Tuesday	Old Tallahassee Antique Car Museum
July 20, 2010	Third Tuesday	Old Tallahassee Antique Car Museum
August 17, 2010	Third Tuesday	Old Tallahassee Antique Car Museum
September 21, 2010	Third Tuesday	Old Tallahassee Antique Car Museum
October 19, 2010	Third Tuesday	Old Tallahassee Antique Car Museum
November 16, 2010	Third Tuesday	Old Tallahassee Antique Car Museum
December 10, 2010	Second Friday	Sam Miller’s Christmas Open House

TALLAHASSEE MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE

Saturday, June 19th, 2010 – North Florida Fairgrounds, Building #4 – 9 am to 4 pm
Adults & Children 13 and older: \$5 – Children 12 and younger are free – Free Parking



“The LANTERN” is the official publication of the BIG BEND MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC. and is published monthly just prior to each regularly scheduled meeting. Subscriptions are included in all members’ dues. The deadline to submit materials for publication is the fifth (unless otherwise noted) day of each month sent in c/o BBMRA, Attn: Editor, PO Box 3392, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3392 or e-mailed to sullyjws@aol.com.