



THE Lantern

March 2010

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March 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.

March Program: Turning Plastic into Rust by John Sykes

Tips and techniques for weathering plastic models without (or at least limiting) the use of an airbrush. Techniques include using cans of spray paint, dry brush techniques, commercial weathering products, artist's oils and pastels to obtain (hopefully) realistic weathering effects.



SUNSHIE REGION CONVENTION IN TALLAHASSEE MAY 14-16, 2010

For the first time ever, the Sunshine Region, National Model Railroad Association, will hold its convention in Tallahassee. This event is even more special, because it is the 50th anniversary convention of Sunshine Region and the 75th anniversary of NMRA.

Convention activities actually begin Thursday afternoon with an operating session at Roy Mantooth's, followed by a free hamburger cookout Thursday evening at Barrett and Merry Ann Johnsons'. Friday morning there are Capitol tours with admission to the Senate or House Chambers and a demonstration of the voting boards at 11:00 for convention attendees—a privilege not accorded regular tours of the Capitol. Friday afternoon from 1-4 there are free rides on Veteran's Memorial RR in Bristol, most likely behind Veteran's steam engine. Friday evening is the welcome reception at the Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, which includes a tour of the whole Museum, plus our own BBMRA live steam folks will be operating under the portico. Saturday there are clinics from 9-noon and from 2-5. These clinics cover a wide variety of subjects. Three of them are two hour make-and-takes, one of which is Sunshine President Stan Seeds clinic on how to make trees. It is limited to the first 10 to sign up. Jim McGill is also giving a two hour clinic on making paper structures, which includes a tool kit and is limited only by the seating capacity of the room (37). Jim Gore is giving a very unusual clinic, based on the rumor that the D&RGW did not actually abandon the chili line in 1942 but instead rebuilt it as a top secret spur to supply Los Alamos during World War II and how that could be modeled. Bill Bell's brother is giving a clinic on breaking the rules in applying decals and there are many others.

There is also a model contest. Models can be entered for display only or to be judged for NMRA achievement award points. Those wishing to have their models judged should go the NMRA.org and download the sidebar under achievement program to the judging matrix that will be used.

There will be a Saturday night banquet and the entrée choices are London broil or stuffed grouper. Model contest winners will be announced at the banquet.

There will also be a limited number of high quality vendors open all day Saturday and most likely Friday evening. Sunday morning is the Sunshine Region Board meeting at 8:30, followed by layout tours, including Roy Mantooth's and Eric Ecklund's.

Registration forms for the Convention will be available at our next meeting on March 16th.

Adding “Fun” to my Collection of RR Odds ‘n Ends By Larry Benson

When Shirley and I were in High Springs in February, we made the circuit of shops and antique stores. There aren't many in the town so it didn't take us long. In one, I found the toy tinsplate train which is shown in the nearby photo. The train appeared to be original – not a modern copy - and the price was reasonable so now it sits among my “fun” collection of railroad odds ‘n ends.

I don't know a lot about tinsplate toys except, like many of them it's a friction toy – before it goes forward it must be pushed backwards to wind the spring. In tiny letters on one end under the railing is the word “Japan” indicating where it was manufactured. A corner of what was a paper label is still stuck to the underside but it's not enough to tell me anything more.

I am curious about the letters “E. F.” printed in the rectangle on the side of the coach? Are the numbers “1953” the year when the train was made? As can be seen clearly in the photo, the tinsplate has the words “ELECTRIC TRAIN” in capital letters on both sides of the top. I believe the graphics are printed rather than stenciled or painted.

To tell the truth, it looks more like an electric trolley than it does a train. The coach is 5 ½” inches long, 1 ¼” wide and 2 ¼” tall to the top of the pantographs.

For those BBMRA members who receive black and white paper copies of *The Lantern*, the color around the windows is orange, below the windows blue, above the windows red with yellow reverse lettering. The small minor embellishments, grills, circles, etc., are red and orange. The metal railings on each end, the pantographs and the top-mounted lights are metallic brown. The undercarriage is painted blue as are the four flanged metal wheels which are set 7/8” inch apart.

Any tidbits to share? E-mail me at Larben75@comcast.net



A “fun” addition to Larry’s RR collection.

Hobbytown sponsors a scenery clinic by Drew Hackmeyer

Hobbytown sponsored a scenery clinic Saturday. The clinic was based on a Woodland Scenics sampler kit and Frank had asked me to be the presenter. I was quite pleased with the turnout and with the response from those participating.

A dozen individuals took part in painting rocks, spreading ground cover and building trees. A couple others audited the class, watching the goings on from the back.

The Woodlands Scenics kit included a plaster coated hillside with a rock casting, several colors of paint, scenic cement, four or five different varieties of ground foam and a pair of tree armatures. In about 90 minutes, everyone had turned a piece of white plaster into realistic rendition of a rocky hillside. And I hope they had a good time doing so.



Minutes of February 2010 BBMRA Meeting

The February 16, 2010 Membership Meeting was called to order by President John Sullenberger at 7:35 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the old Antique Car Museum. Fifty-three (53) people were present.

Guests: David and David (father and son) Blodgett introduced themselves. They're getting back into HO scale model railroading.

Raffle: Jim McGill won the raffle.

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

Treasurer's Report: Bill reported a plus balance. \$600.00 for 6 months of storage has been paid. We owe \$50.00 for the domain name for our web site. Longer commitment was discussed. Decided we would pay \$95.00 to retain our domain name

for 5 years. In addition, the web site was discussed. John needs pictures for the web site. It was suggested we add a classified section for sale items, swap meets etc. John also indicated he would add a link for the Sunshine Division of the NMRA.

Division Reports:

Small Scale: Garth Easton announced there would be a meeting right after this meeting.

HO Scale: Barrett Johnson announced would have a work party on the 27th of February from 10 – 12 at the museum.

Large Scale: Randy Lombardo reported that Percy was still broke from Children's Day at the Gray Building. They are still working on it. He reported there may be an issue on the archives on the web site. Some old Lanterns are not there. John will look into it but some of the older issues may not be available.

Veteran's Memorial – Bristol: No report.

Switching Layout: Joe Haley reported he had about 40 – 50 kids at the Gray Building last month. He also said he was having surgery coming up soon and needed an assistant to fill in for a few months until he was able to operate the layout again.

Show Report: John Sullenberger reported that 26 tables are sold. Everything is going well.

Good of the Group Comments:

John Sullenberger also announced that the Junior League of Tallahassee has invited us to participate in their Jingle Jubilee on the 20th of December 2010 at the Leon County Civic Center as a part of their entertainment.

The Jacksonville show is this weekend. John reminded everyone that their dues are due by March. You can mail it in and if there is a struggle for you, you can pay a little at a time.

David Brazell announced that he had BBMRA 2009 events DVDs for sale for \$5.00. He also had some BBMRA 2008 DVDs still available for \$5.00 too. But, you could buy both for \$8.00. All proceeds go to the club.

John Sykes announced that Seth Branson was planning a third edition of his "**Speedway to Sunshine: The Story of the Florida East Coast Railway**" book. It will be in paperback. He also said he had a roster of all of the FEC engines and he distributed it to any interested club members.

Eric Ecklund reported that on March the 6th, Hobbytown was going to have a class on scenics.

A member reported that Lowes had mountains available for about \$50.00 and they are beautiful.

Joe Haley announced that he had a book entitled "The Golden Age of Posters", which had British Railroad posters. If anyone wanted to see it, see him.

Eric Ecklund announced that Hobbytown was conducting a modeling contest in April.

Antique Car Museum Update: John Sullenberger announced there are functions approaching that the museum would like for us to man the layout. There will be an "Art Gone Wild" function from 5 PM – 9 PM on Thursday the 4th of March and a St Patrick's Day event there on Saturday the 13th of March from 10 AM – 4 PM.

Program: John Sullenberger conducted the program that consisted of discussion of what the club wanted for programs in the future. Suggestions included couplers, weathering (specifically rust), videos, swap meets, air brushing from Brad at Hobbytown, photo contests, uses of Plexiglas, electrical issues, scratch building, uses of Styrene and landscaping. John invited anyone that wanted to present a program was welcome to make a presentation.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.; respectfully submitted, Lyn Heath, Secretary.

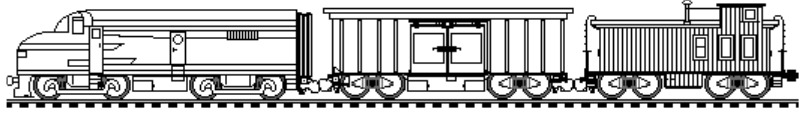


TALLAHASSEE MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE
Saturday, June 19th, 2010 – North Florida Fairgrounds, Building #4 – 9 am to 4 pm
Adults & Children 13 and older: \$5 – Children 12 and younger are free – Free Parking

Bill Thompson has these items for sale:

FOR SALE: HO scale layout 6' x 8' with 4' high stand and skirt. Has 4 separate tracks to run 4 trains. Numerous items included - 4 turn outs, drive-in theater, elevated track, river bed and bridge, tunnel, hobo camp, junk yard, track signals, street lamps, trees, figures, station covered platform, town center, etc. Some basic wiring set up. Does not include structures or vehicles. Must see in person to realize potential.

Asking \$400. Call Bill at 850 385-6581 in Tallahassee for appointment to view or with any questions. March only.



FOR SALE: 1949 American Flyer train set: See picture for all that is included. Not running and needs maintenance and minor parts such as one set of wheels on tanker, new power cord, lubrication and soldering of engine and tender wires. All cars are in good condition with light use. Good basic train set especially for Christmas tree set up. Selling for a friend. Call Bill at 850 385-6581 for questions.

Asking \$140.
Case included.

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