



THE Lantern

September 2010

Volume 15 Number 9

September 21st 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.

September Program: Locomotive Lubrication by Drew Hackmeyer

Fall Farm Day at the Tallahassee Museum

By John Sullenberger

The Big Bend Model Railroad Association has accepted the Tallahassee Museum's invitation to set up and run our trains at their 2010 Fall Farm Day event on Saturday, December 11th, from 9am to 5pm.

We'll set up in the Visitor Center which is the first building guests pass through. This building houses the ticket booth, the gift shop and the 19 ½ by 25 ½ foot room we'll be in. The room is big enough for the Time Saver and one of our Division's layouts. We cannot block any of the doors.

Some of the activities occurring include: making cane syrup, cracker whip demonstration, blacksmithing, interpreters from the Department of Forestry at our Turpentine Commissary, Living History on the farm, and much more, so this should be great family event.

So, which Division wants to set up?

Levy County Railroad Days submitted by Toni Collins, Director

Levy County is celebrating 150 years of the Florida Railroad on March 19, 2011. The celebration will encompass Bronson, Otter Creek, and Cedar Key, Florida. There will be big HO and N model train displays in Cedar Key on March 18th, 19th and 20th. For more information, please go to www.levycountyrailroaddays.com.

Railroads on Parade by Larry Benson



Two exhibits at the Stamp Show sponsored by the Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club March 27-28 at the Senior Center featured railroads. "The Many Facets of Railroading" and "The Railway Post Office" were displayed.

Model Railroad Radio submitted by Andy Zimmerman

Here is a little info for our members that I happened to stumble across. This is a live show on Saturday evenings that our members can call in and participate in the show. There is a lot of great model railroading information in here, and these are provided as podcasts that you can sync with your iTunes. Something to listen to on those long road trips. Here is his website: <http://www.modelrailradio.com>.

Workday on HO Traveling Layout by Sam Miller

Now that the weather is getting a little better - not much yet, I admit, we are proposing some projects for the HO Division. Division coordinator Barrett Johnson will be scheduling work days at the Antique Car Museum on that layout, including an expansion under way. A topic for discussion at the September meeting will be the construction a light weight, easily transportable HO traveling layout. We needed three pickup trucks to move the current traveling layout to the Fairgrounds for the Club Show in June and could not get them. We did transport the four original corners from the Panama City layout which have been stored. As you recall, we built new, wider radius corners when we set up the bulk of the PC layout at the Antique Car Museum.

We had never directly connected the four Panama City corners before and had some trouble doing that. We finally got them running as a layout at the show, but it was a struggle. To our surprise, the corners handled some pretty large passenger cars during the show.

These are beautiful, lightweight corners and two fit into an SUV, which are more readily than pickups. I am proposing that we utilize these corners and formulate a plan on how we can convert them into a traveling layout. It would include building at least four straight modules and reworking some of the track on the corners. It probably could be done in two or three work sessions. We would like to have the new layout ready for setups this fall and during the Christmas Holidays.

HO division, please be ready to discuss this at the September meeting.

Minutes of August 2010 BBMRA Meeting

The August 17, 2010 Membership Meeting was called to order by President John Sullenberger at 7:34 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the old Antique Car Museum.

New Member: Rex Taylor has 1940s Lionel O27 and 1950s HO scale trains and is looking help.

Minutes: Minutes of the July 2010 meeting were accepted as published in The Lantern

Treasurer's Report: John reported that Bill said the Association has money.

Division Reports:

Small Scale: Garth Easton reported that two more doors for the new N scale layout were being prepped so that construction could commence and that a new 4 foot inside corner was being build for the TACM layout.

HO Scale: No report as Barrett Johnson is in Denver.

Large Scale: the Large Scale Division is in the works to acquiring a Thomas the Tank Engine caboose.

Switching Layout and Veteran's Memorial: No report.

TACM: Volunteers are always welcome to run their trains. If you want an audience, call ahead to see what's on their schedule.

Good of the Group Comments: The Wiregrass Model Railroad Show in Dothan is September 18th and 19th. Remember, we have a reciprocal admittance agreement with Dothan. Let them know you're with the BBMRA and you get in free.

Fall Farm Day hosted by the Tallahassee Museum has invited the BBMRA to set-up for the event. Do we want to attend? We've already committed to the Jingle Jubilee on Saturday, November 20th and to Children's Day at the RA Grey Building on Saturday, January 29, 2011.

Garth informed the membership that the Small Scale Division would be running their layout at the Home Depot on Capital Circle NE on Saturday, October 2nd as part of their Kids Day.

Program: Swap Meet.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be at 7:30 pm, Tuesday, September 21st at the Old Antique Car Museum.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. Respectfully submitted, Drew Hackmeyer for Lyn Heath, Secretary

Was A Russian Really Lurking in Havana? By Larry Benson

Who would expect a Russian to be lurking in Havana? Well yes, if we're talking about Havana, Cuba you might find thousands of Soviets in residence. But this "Russian" was found in the extreme northern region of Florida – in *our* neighboring village of Havana.

So, what's this all about? Shirley and I were poking around in Havana one day back in the spring this year and I ran across a little tin toy wind-up train. I think it probably was made in the 1950s or 1960s. The key was with the toy, so I wound it up to be sure it would run. And it did. The bright lithographic color printing on the train is yellow, green, red and blue.



Russian made windup features two revolving trains and depots

I thought the toy was unique or possibly even scarce. However, during our June 2010 train show, Sam Miller told me he has the same train on display in his office which he runs. While walking our show floor, I saw another one on Eric Ecklund's sale table. So much for scarcity! That makes three of them I know about right here in Tallahassee and there may be more.

Notwithstanding their apparent commonality, the trains sell for far more on E-bay so I snapped it up without hesitating. Although the toy doesn't have the country of origin printed on it, lettering in a blue rectangle stamped on the bottom of the box which came with the train says "Made in Russia" in English.

With the place of manufacture known - and it wasn't much of a mystery given the Russian printing on the top of the box - I wondered what that wording actually said. I turned to the Internet where I found a web site that translates from English into other selected languages. Problem was my keyboard doesn't have Cyrillic letters so I was forced to guess what English words might be equivalent to the Russian. After trying six or eight combinations, I eventually matched the Russian printing on the box roughly to the English words "Toy Mechanical / Rail Road."



Cyrillic lettering on front of box says "Toy Mechanical/Rail Road"

What appear to be instructions or precautions are printed on the bottom of the box and numbered 1. 2. 3. Of course, the sentences are also in Cyrillic and way too lengthy to guess the translation. I "guess" I'll just have to wait until I find someone who understands Russian.

Anyone in BBMRA read Russian?

For Sale:

Dick Daniels has an N Scale Layout for Sale – a 9 X 12 "L" shaped shelf layout, 21 inches wide with two helixes to the lower level 5 track staging, with turnouts controlled by Automatic Route Control. The layout has approximately 1 1/2 miles scale running. The layout contains 40 Atlas No. 6 turnouts of which 11 are remote controlled. The remaining turnouts operate with ground throws. The layout is wired for dual cab with 13 blocks and is built from a plan that appears in MR "Track Planning Ideas" by Tom Hayden, titled "Ottumwa Central" (page 80). The layout is up and operating. If you are interested please call Dick Daniels at (850) 668-8355. Asking price is \$350.

David Knowles is having a "Building Sale" – David Knowles will be selling HO scale buildings at the September 21st meeting.

Mitchell Greene is selling HO trains – I am seriously thinking of modeling N gauge if I can sell my HO trains. I have two Atlas FEC 400 engines, one being an anniversary unit, eight FEC (aggregate) Ortnor cars, two FEC cabooses, one is a bay window and the other is a kit. The engines are DC or DCC. I also have a 5 car TTX well car set, two yellow TTX trailer flats, FEC decals and a yellow High Railer that I will throw in if someone buys everything: \$200 or best offer.

Ron Jackson is selling On30 layout – The layout is an "L" shaped 4 by 8 by 7 feet and is constructed of 1/4 inch plywood on a 1 by 2 inch under frame. The layout the On30 track on cork roadbed, painted roads, snow covered scenery, trees and electric street lights. Trains and buildings are not included. The price is a firm \$325. The layout can be shipped for \$18.

Call Ron Jackson at 229-248-0721.

30th National Narrow Gauge Convention by Drew Hackmeyer

Nothing like a convention to get your modeling juices flowing.

I just returned from St Louis and the National Narrow Gauge Convention and I am stoked. I visited 21 outstanding home layouts from HO to G scale and roamed 35,000 sq ft of convention center with 11 more modular/portable layouts on display, all of the manufacturer's booths, 6 clinic rooms offering 45 different clinics each in two different time slots, and a contest room with entries to knock your socks off. If you are tired from reading that last sentence, that will give you an idea how tired I was each night.

The first day, Sept 1, started with the out of town layouts open for tours. Peter McGourty, a friend from the Tampa Bay area that I met at a previous convention and I were on the road at 7am to go to Columbia and Jefferson City MO. We saw all 7 of the layouts available for viewing, burned a whole tankful of gas, and made it back in time to pick up our registration packets and make the first clinic at 6:30 pm. Clinics ran from 8 am until noon and 6:30 pm until 10:30 pm with the vendor room open for the same hours. Afternoons were devoted to layout tours.

And did we see some great layouts. Two nationally known HO layouts we saw were Gary Hoover's Santa Fe in 1951 and Eric Brooman's Utah Belt. Both are as impressive in person as in print. Both of these layouts impressed me with sense of purpose and focus of their owners and reminded me of what can be done. There was a lovely little On3 layout by Axtell Kramer, the Ozark Mineral Belt in a space about 9 by 20. Ken Patterson has an HO layout based on the BN and MoPac in the Mississippi River valley. It fills an immaculate basement that also has a full wood shop.

Herb Koenig's Hon3 layout has a wonderful rendition of the Georgetown Loop. Tom Troughton's Cimarron and Tall Timbers layout has been in the NMRA's magazine with his monthly column a while back. His space is quite similar to mine and reminded me of the possibilities I have available. John Waite's ET&WNC layout has some spectacular scenes of the Doe River Gorge.

Clinics ran the gamut from the RGS in Color historic photos to N&W in Steam to DCC Tsunami Programming to Scrapping the Line given by the wife of a layout owner. Before your spouses get excited about being able to kick those trains out of the house, her clinic was about scrapbooking to preserve memories of model railroading activities.

Did I mention the camaraderie and fellowship? This is the primary reason to attend a convention like this. I would urge you to get involved with the various groups and their activities. The NMRA Sunshine Region just had its convention here in Tallahassee; I hope you didn't miss it. The historical societies such as the NRHS and the ACL/SAL groups which had its meet in Jacksonville. Prototype Modelers will be meeting soon in Cocoa.

And events like the National Narrow Gauge Convention. Did I mention that there is not a formal organization, just groups of like minded individuals who get together and decide to sponsor a convention. The first was in St Louis in 1981, as were the 10th, 20th and this year's 30th. A group from Houston put in their bid and were accepted to host the 35th. Did you know next year's NNGC will be in Hickory, NC? And that there will be several live narrow gauge railroads in operation?

Get out there and participate. There is a whole lot to be gained.

More pictures can be found online in the Newsletter section:

www.bbmra.org



Axtell Kramer's On3 Ozark Mineral Belt RR



Ken Patterson's BN-MP layout
That's his house on top of the bluff



Tom Troughton's Cimarron and Tall Timbers RR



John Waite's ET&WNC
in the Doe River Gorge