



THE Lantern

November 2010

Volume 15 Number 11

November 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.

November Program – a trio of 15 minute workshops

We're going to try something different this month. We'll have three different mini-workshops: Larry Benson – track ballasting, Drew Hackmeyer – locomotive upkeep, and Sam Miller – painting people. What will be different is that all three mini-workshops will be happening at the same time in different corners of the room. The idea of this round robin mini-workshop plan is that you can attend one or all as each is to take between 15 and 20 minutes. We'll see if this works.

Nominating Committee Volunteers Needed

It's that time again as our elections are right around the corner. I need two or three volunteers to work up a slate of nominations to be published in our December Lantern.

The slate is for our generally elected positions: President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. The three Division Coordinators are elected by their respective divisions and are not included in the slate. Please e-mail or call John Sullenberger (850 544-1870) if you're willing to volunteer for the committee.

Why Model Railroaders Keep Everything – By Larry Benson

In the March 2010 issue of *Trains* magazine I read an article* about how railroad companies seem to keep everything – old way bills, correspondence, train orders, etc. It seemed that three railroads were being merged which meant their records needed to be cleaned out and consolidated prior to combining offices.

As I read, I began to think about how model railroaders also tend to keep everything that “comes across their layout.” So, I went to my storage cabinets and drawers to see if I was a typical “keep everything packrat” like in the article. My layout is complete, except for about half the buildings which I plan to light – someday. I don't need to keep a lot of material, but what I found confirmed I am keeping everything that possibly might be useful.

Among those items I am still hanging onto are short lengths of curved and straight track, used and new turnouts, a scratch-built hotel I just can't part with, three N scale steam locomotive motors that don't run, a large plastic bag full of Rapido wheel sets left over when I converted my rolling stock to Micro Trains couplers, locomotives and rolling stock replaced by new purchases. Also, I found small empty plastic boxes, several identical screwdrivers, various size screws and nails, dozens of plastic boxes new model trains came in, wooden tongue depressors, terminal ends for flip-up track controllers which must be around here somewhere, a Ziploc bag full of mismatched building parts, and the list goes on and on. *And on!*

It seems to me there are at least three reasons why typical model railroaders keep everything. First, we think our keepers “may” be of use sometime either on our present layouts or another one we may build someday. Second, we plan eventually to trade an article or sell it at our BBMRA train show - but we don't do either. Third, being enthusiastic about all things connected with railroading, from building model layouts to watching and riding the real thing, we simply “*come by it naturally.*”

* “The Railroad Way” by Geoffrey H. Doughty; *Trains*, March 2010, pg. 52.

Minutes of October 2010 BBMRA Membership Meeting

The October 19, 2010 membership meeting was called to order by President John Sullenberger at 7:32 pm in the Antique Car Museum meeting room with members present.

Raffle: No raffle this month.

Minutes: The September meeting minutes as published and corrected (Fall Farm Day is December 11th, not the 4th) in the Lantern were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: There is money in our bank account.

Division Reports:

Small Scale: Garth Easton reported that the N Scale layout was set up and run on October 2nd at the NE Home Depot with no problems and that we were well received.

HO Scale: Barrett Johnson reported workday notices are coming and that a new HO portable layout built on doors is being discussed.

Large Scale: Randy Lombardo e-mailed his report to the Secretary: I sent an e-mail to Lionel Trains, Inc., concerning Fastrack layout diagrams lacking detail (black outline of track removed) after the 2003 catalogs were published. The only response received was the zip-code update for Hobbytown from 32301 (old location) to 32303 (new location).

Switching Layout: Joe Haley reported that the Switching layout also set up at the NE Home Depot.

Veterans Memorial – the Halloween Spooktacular runs are scheduled for the nights of Oct 28th, 29th and 30th starting at dusk and going till the last customer has ridden.

Good of the Group Comments, Etc.:

Our Fall Schedule: Cub Family Weekend at Wallwood on October 23rd, Jingle Jubilee at the Civic Center November 20th, Fall Farm Day at the Tallahassee Museum on December 11th and Children's Day at the RA Grey Building on January 29th, 2011.

The Tallahassee Park and Recreation Department has decided to create a "Candy Cane Park" instead of a smaller "Santa's Enchanted Forest" which means no trains, therefore they are off our fall schedule.

Sam and Linda Miller will be hosting their annual Christmas Open House on December 10th. This will take the place our December meeting.

On a sad note, Jeff Crew passed away on October 10th. Jeff was a charter member of the BBMRA and will be missed. On happier notes, David Brazell's second grandchild (a boy) was born on Tuesday, October 19th (mother and baby are doing well) and Sam Miller's first grandchild (a girl) is due sometime in March 2011.

David Knowles informed the group about a good Haunted House off of State Road 12.

Eric and Ina Ecklund will host an outdoor "open house" on Saturday, October 30th from 10 am till 1 pm and on Sunday, October 31st from 2 pm till 5 pm.

BBMRA elections will be held in January 2011; a nominating committee will be appointed to select a slate of officers (president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary) to be published in the December Lantern.

HobbyTown will offer a 10% discount on all train purchases for the month of November.

Program:

Part 1: The Workshop survey and options was discussed. The BBMRA will continue to offer workshops and we'll add model and photo contests as well. Our first contest will be a structure contest in February 2011. There will be two categories: novice and advanced. The structure can be any scale and judging will start with the following 2 questions: "What did you start with?" and "What did you do to it?"

Part 2: Drew Hackmeyer showed how he scratch builds trestles.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 16th at the (old) Antique Car Museum meeting room.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Lyn Heath, Secretary (taken by Drew Hackmeyer)

TALLAHASSEE MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE

Saturday, June 18th, 2011 – 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.