



THE Lantern

December 2010

Volume 15 Number 12

Merry Christmas from the BBMRA!



**Sam and Linda Miller's Christmas Open House
Friday, December 10th – 6:30 to 9:30 PM**



Veterans Memorial Railroad Christmas Runs

The Christmas runs are scheduled for the nights of Dec 11th and Dec 17th thru 21st. The Bristol Holiday Parade is the night of December 11th. The train will run after the parade (on the 11th) and will run from dusk and until the last customer has ridden.

2011 Officer Slate submitted by Sam Miller and David Knowles

The 2011 officer slate is as follows: President – John Sullenberger, Vice-President – Andy Zimmerman, Treasurer – Larry Benson and Secretary – Drew Hackmeyer. The 2011 BBMRA elections will be held during the January Annual Business Meeting.

The Tallahassee Museum's Fall Farm Day is December 11th

Fall Farm Day at the Tallahassee Museum is on December 11th and the BBMRA is setting up and running two layouts: the Switching and the HO 4-Corners. The event runs from 10 am to 5 pm. We need volunteers to run both layouts. Please contact John Sullenberger (e-mail sullyjws@aol.com or on my cell at 850 544-1870) if you can run either layout on the 11th. Set up begins at 9 am.

Minutes of November 2010 BBMRA Membership Meeting

The November 16, 2010 membership meeting was called to order by President John Sullenberger at 7:32 pm in the Antique Car Museum meeting room with 35 members present.

Raffle: Ed Schroeder won this month's raffle keeping his "lucky" two dollars and donating the rest to the BBMRA.

Minutes: The October meeting minutes as published in the Lantern were accepted.

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

Division Reports:

Small Scale: no report.

HO Scale: no report.

Large Scale: Randy is planning on acquiring a Tropicana train in 2011.

Switching Layout: Joe Haley reported that the Switching layout would attend the Breakfast with Santa at the Jingle Jubilee.

Veterans Memorial: the Halloween Spooktacular runs went well and are on YouTube. The Christmas runs are scheduled for the nights of Dec 11th and Dec 17th thru 21st. The Bristol Holiday Parade is the night of December 11th. The train will run after the parade (on the 11th) and will run from dusk and until the last customer has ridden.

Good of the Group Comments, Etc.:

Our Fall Schedule: Fall Farm Day at the Tallahassee Museum on December 11th.

Sam and Linda Miller will be hosting their annual Christmas Open House on Friday, December 10th. This will take the place our December meeting. A map and directions are included in this newsletter.

Sam Miller and David Knowles volunteered to be on the nomination committee.

There was a question on whether the BBMRA would be willing to build a layout to be given away during the holidays. It was decided that there was not enough time this year but would be revisited early next year.

The BBMRA's first model contest, a DPM based structure contest, will be 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?" If you are interested, your model can be judged by the NMRA as well.

Program:

Three mini-workshops were provided: Drew Hackmeyer demonstrated and answered questions concerning locomotive maintenance; Larry Benson demonstrated ballasting techniques and Sam Miller painted people.

Next Meeting:

The next gathering of the BBMRA will be at Sam and Linda Miller's annual Christmas Open House on Friday, December 10th. The next official meeting will start at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at the (old) Antique Car Museum meeting room.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Lyn Heath, Secretary (taken by Drew Hackmeyer)



Flint River Model Railroad Show is January 22 & 23, 2011

The 20th Annual Flint River Model Railroad Train Show and Sale will be held in Albany, GA on January 22-23 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2009 Gillionville Rd. Hours for the 2-day show are 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 11 am to 4 pm on Sunday. Adult admission is \$5.00; 12-18 is \$3.00 and 12 and under are free with an adult. Under our reciprocal agreement with the FRMRR, BBMRA members get in free. For more information, contact Jimmy Swann evenings at (229) 854-1193.

Christmas Trains Are Delightful - By Larry Benson

If you want to watch your children's or grandchildren's eyes twinkle brighter than the lights on your Christmas tree, then spend a few bucks and buy a delightful Christmas Train set this year. Now, come on "Scrooge", we all know most if not all of these trains are molded plastic and probably won't last much beyond one or two holidays. But, just watching the expressions on our youngster's faces is certainly worth the cost.

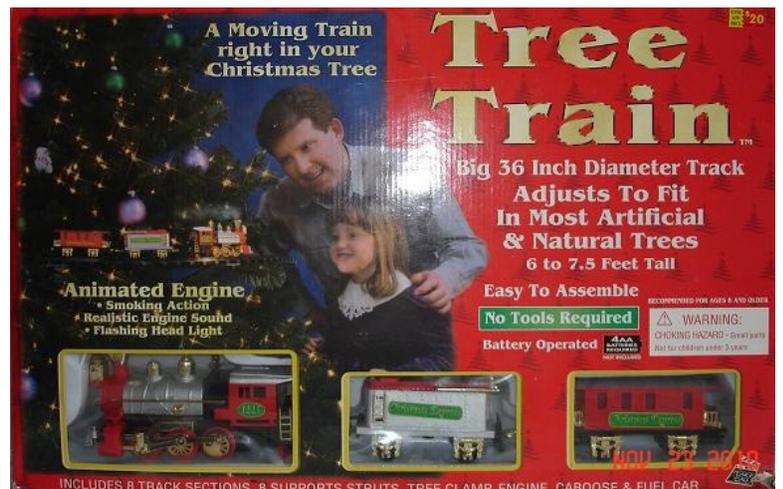
And while we're speaking of cost, Christmas train sets run around \$29 to \$49 and prices vary depending on the design of the train and the store where you buy it. These sets also come in different scales, but most of them I have seen are large scale, either "O" or "G" scale and usually are battery powered.

The vast majority of the trains are made to run on the floor around the base of Christmas trees, however, not all are floor models. A few years back, our neighbor gave us a "Tree Train" as a Christmas gift. He knows I am a "rail nut", so he figured Shirley and I would enjoy his gift, and we have. Tree trains are designed to run in the branches of artificial trees although they may also be mounted in natural trees. The track is held in place by arms attached to the center trunk and which extend outward to the tips of the limbs. Precarious? Yes, we only put our train up inside the tree branches for one year. It looked like it was going to topple onto the floor every time it made a circle because the track sagged when the weight of the train crossed the span between branches. But, they are still a lot of fun!

And, by the way, adults will be pleasantly surprised as well as delighted to see that you have upheld an age-old tradition of running a Christmas Tree Train. Merry Christmas!



Christmas Trains delight children of all ages



Tree Trains are designed to run in tree branches

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.