



THE Lantern

May 2011

Volume 16 Number 5

May 17th 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.

May Programs: Model Contest - Open Car with Load Plus a Swap Meet

2011 Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale Flyers

There will be multiple versions of our train show flyers for posting. Take as many as you need.

Three-Module HO Layout Returning to Duty by Sam Miller, HO Coordinator

Let's get the three-module, Governor's Square layout out of storage and back in business for the June 18th Show and Sale.

We have discussed a new traveling layout built around the four corners which were set up – with much difficulty – at the Fairgrounds a year ago and we may still do that, if it's the Division's will. However, we must build at least two straights and I will be limited in the orders I can give (or requests for cooperation) following my knee replacement surgery May 31st.

With your approval, I think the best thing to do is get the old girl out of storage and set up the three-modules. She needs some fixing up, but nothing major. We can do that as part of the setup Friday, June 17th.

We will need participation from many of the HO division folks, and, possibly, three pickup trucks with tarps for transportation, although we are looking at other alternatives.

We will make final plans during the June meeting, scheduled for June 14th, but here are preliminary plans. We will need a group, including, possibly, truckers, to meet at the storage unit at 1 pm, with others meeting us at the Fairgrounds at 2 pm. Two or three hours of work will have the modules looking great. We will need someone to solder the track between the modules. Breakdown will be after the show June 18th as normal.

We will need several of you and also truckers unless we have been able to make other arrangements.

Our rolling stock is at the layout at the Antique Car Museum. The plan will be to operate cars and engines which you bring with you from your personal collections or buy out there. Just remember, everything should operate smoothly so we don't shut down the layout for any extended period of time.

Please email (smiller@flains.org) or call me (459-3012) if you can help. Thank you.

Minutes of the March 2011 BBMRA Meeting

The March 15, 2011 membership meeting was called to order by President John Sullenberger at 7:35 pm. There were two guests present: Don Howard, a professor of French History at FSU for 35 years, who's interest began as a child in Pittsburg watching the railroads serving US Steel (currently models Lionel O gauge) and John Lawhorn, who retired from CSX in 1993.

Minutes: The minutes of the February meeting were amended to add a report from Large Scale and accepted unanimously

Treasurer's Report: Larry Benson reported that with dues incomes and expenses paid our current balance is in the black. The report was accepted without comment. Regarding dues, John will send a reminder to those who have not yet renewed.

Division Reports:

Small Scale: Garth Easton reported that two new modules are under construction for the show and that there will be a work party on Saturday.

HO Scale: John reported for Sam Miller: there will be a workday March 26

Large Scale: Randy Lombardo reported a thank you letter was received from the Museum of Florida History for our participation in the Children's Day Festival this past January.

Veteran's Memorial – Bristol: John Anthamatten is no longer a Veterans Memorial board member; there is a 2nd National Amusement Devices loco under restoration; the railroad runs the 2nd Saturday of each month. Come ride and volunteer for the work sessions.

Switching Layout: Joe Haley reported that the building of a smaller layout for easier transport is under consideration.

NMRA: Barrett reported the Ocala convention is the third weekend in May, please submit models for judging. DeVoe Moore is looking for an operating 7 1/2" locomotive for the museum.

Good of the Group Comments: please pay dues before the end of the month (March); the Museum of Florida History is planning an exhibit of the St Marks RR line; the Train Show is sold out without any promo material being mailed. 81 tables sold; the June meeting will be the 2nd Tuesday so that it will occur before the show; the model contest category for the May meeting is "open car with load".

Program: The March program was presented by David Brazell on open loads and correctly securing them with tie downs and blocking.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at the Old Antique Car Museum. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. Respectfully submitted, Drew Hackmeyer, Secretary

Minutes of the April 2011 BBMRA Meeting

Minutes of BBMRA meeting 4-19-2011

The April 19, 2011 membership meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by President John Sullenberger. There were no winning tickets in the raffle that was not held.

Larry Benson introduced a guest, Mike Paulson. Mike is a former member from many years ago. He has a 4 by 8 layout with a 3 by 4 extension that has not been touched in ten years. He offered the layout for sale as a package to the club members.

Minutes: The minutes of the March meeting were not published in the newsletter and were not offered for approval. They will be published in the May newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for the month stated that we are in the black with 75 paid members.

Division Reports:

Small Scale: There will be work party Saturday, April 23rd to work-on and clean the layout before the show.

HO Scale: A workday is coming, watch for an e-mail. Thanks given to Ron Clark for the ballasting job.

Large Scale: The Thomas caboose has arrived and a new Thomas is coming

Veteran's Memorial – Bristol: no report

Switching Layout: Looking at plans for new layout

NMRA: Sunshine Region convention is coming in May in Ocala

Good of the Group Comments: There is a TCA meet in Jacksonville on May 21st; Jim Whitehead passed away from cancer recently and his trains from his estate will be sold at the show, there is some Lionel and 800 to 1000 N-scale items, the club members will get first opportunity for these items on Friday evening at the end of setup; the May program will be a model contest – open car with load – also a swap meet; the June meeting will be on the SECOND Tuesday to be before the show; the Luraville locomotive on display at the Agriculture and Consumer Services Lab building will have a cosmetic restoration and a shelter built; please send any pictures taken at the show to John Sullenberger for publication; the upcoming show will be our 20th Show & Sale; the BBMRA will celebrate its 25th anniversary in September 2012; Andy Zimmerman will coordinate the building of initial T-Trak modules and Rex Taylor volunteered his assistance for any layout construction.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at the Old Antique Car Museum.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm. Respectfully submitted, Drew Hackmeyer, Secretary

Encounter With A “Hooded Cobra” by Larry Benson

We never guessed when we left home on a beautiful spring morning in March to run errands and meander through some shops that we would encounter a “Hooded Cobra” along the way. Yes, maybe you would confront this snake in the Indian sub-continent, but surely not in the “Rural North Florida Continent.” But, we did encounter a serpent of sorts - or what I thought was one at first glance!

Shirley and I were on *safari* again looking for nothing special when we stopped at a couple of antique shops on the south side of Tallahassee. The snake encounter occurred when we were at “Good Finds”, a funky, junky and interesting place on South Adams Street. We had nearly exhausted our “grazing” among the collectibles when I spied, way back on the bottom corner shelf of a booth, an article that looked like a “Hooded Cobra”. I’m always on the lookout for railroad collectibles so I dug the item out while wondering if it might be a train lantern of some sort.

Much to my surprise and delight, the reptile-looking monster was a “Railroad Inspector Lamp.” How do I know? Well, cast in raised letters in the metal on the back of the “hood” it says “DIETZ (in an oval) ACME INSPECTOR LAMP/NEW YORK USA”. The globe was also cast by Dietz in New York. I assume the hood shaded railroad inspectors’ eyes from the lamp’s light so they could more clearly see the object they were inspecting. I was still a little skeptical about the lamp’s origin until I saw the interlocking “PRR” logo of the Pennsylvania Railroad stamped on the handle. That clinched it. I wanted to add this unusual light to my railroad collection.

Have you ever seen one of these monster lanterns? If not, take a look at the photos with this article. The lamp stands 19 inches tall to the top of the raised bail, measures 8 ½ inches across the square braces at the widest part. It boasts a 6 ½ inch tall globe which is wrapped around and sheltered by the hood that measures 7 ¾ inches in width and 8 ¾ inches tall. This great rounded hood made me think I had encountered a Cobra with its hood spread.

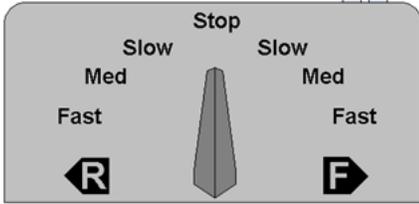
Was the “Hooded Cobra” I found at a reasonable price in the Good Finds antiques and collectibles shop really a good find? You be the judge. Since I bought the lantern, I have seen several offered for considerably more than I paid. One on E-Bay “Buy Now” was priced for \$341. And, in case you’re curious, I paid less...much, much less for mine... and without an added shipping charge!



BBMRA Name Badges by John Sullenberger

If you want or need a new name badge please contact me at 850-544-1870 or by e-mail at sullyjws@aol.com or at a meeting.

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| <p>Big Bend Model Railroad Association</p> <p><u>Gary Austin</u></p>  | <p>Big Bend Model Railroad Association</p> <p><u>Farley Light</u></p>  | <p>Big Bend Model Railroad Association</p> <p><u>Sheldon Harrison</u></p>  |
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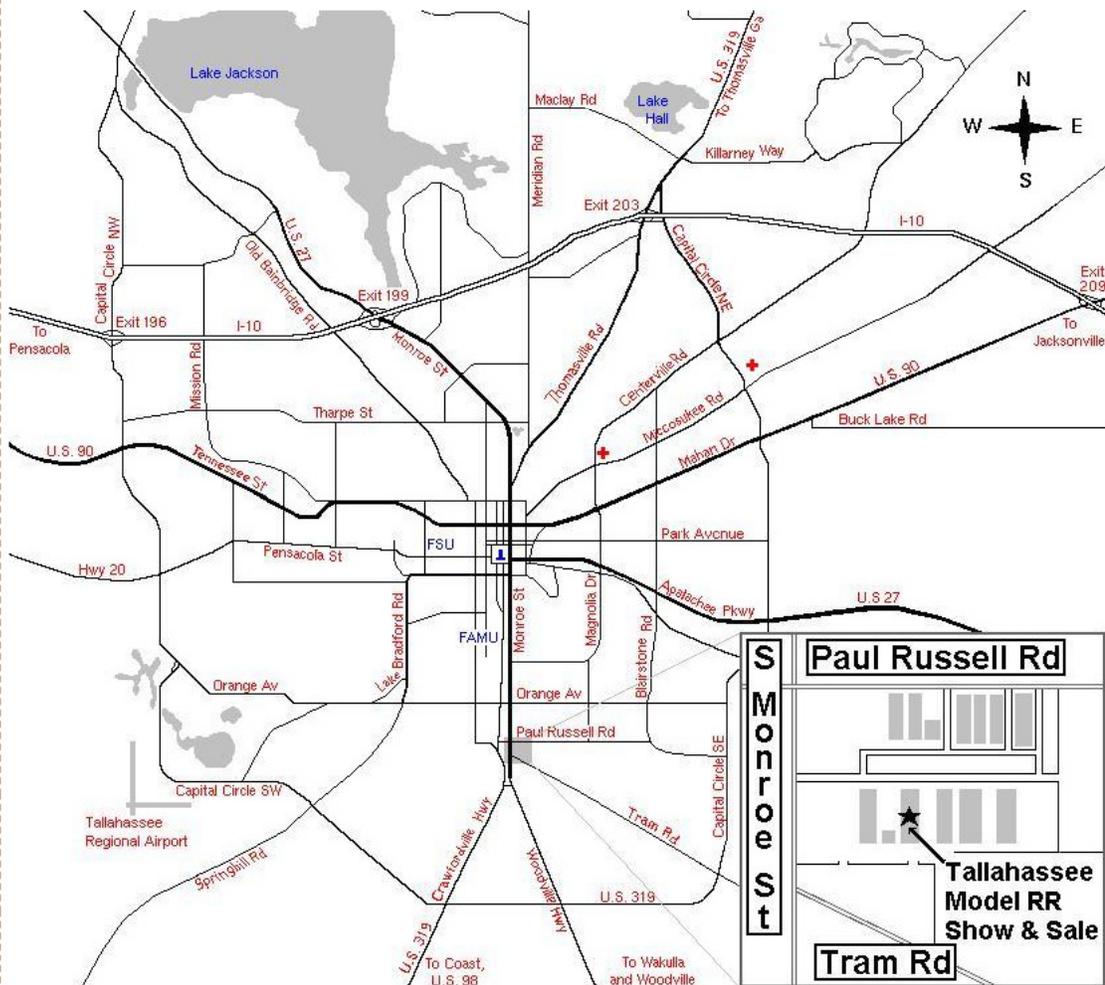


The Big Bend Model Railroad Association
presents our

20th ANNUAL TALLAHASSEE MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE

Saturday, June 18, 2011, 9 am to 4 pm

North Florida Fairgrounds, Building #4
441 Paul Russell Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32301



For more
information:

Model RR Show
PO Box 3392
Tallahassee,
FL 32315-3392

Or

John
Sullenberger
(850) 544-1870
(850) 562-5137

Or

Check out our
website

www.bbmra.org

