



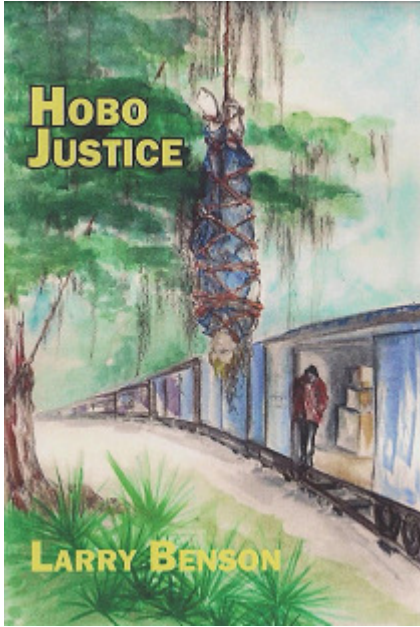
# THE Lantern

July 2011

Volume 16 Number 7

## July 19<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Reading and Book Signing is set for the July 19<sup>th</sup> Program

Larry Benson will read selected passages from his recently published novel entitled *Hobo Justice* and will autograph copies at our July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dedicated to the members of BBMRA, his book is priced at \$14.95.

**The story:** Grief-stricken following his wife's death in an automobile accident, former cop and ex-railroad detective Benjamin Reed runs away from the tragedy and becomes a hobo. He drifts around the country until one spring morning near a railroad switching yard in a small South Georgia town he encounters a dead teenager who is bound, gagged and hanging upside down below the limb of a massive tree.

Reed stops running. He interrupts his life as a railroad bum long enough to help the local county sheriff bring the killers to justice. During his successful investigation Reed finds new love and a renewed feeling of being alive, which help him overcome his anguish and quit his life as a hobo.



## Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale Recap by John Sullenberger

The 2011 Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale was by far our best show ever. The gate this year was 680 (paid) at the door. Counting children we had between 1000 and 1200 attendees. All of the vendors said they had a good day and would consider coming back next year. The next Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale is scheduled for June 16, 2012 at the North Florida Fairgrounds in building #4.

I would like to thank the following members for their help in making this our best Show & Sale ever: Jim Amidon, John Anthamatten, Bill Atkinson, Gary Austin, Larry Benson, Dave Blodgett, David Blodgett, Bill Boyle, Jr, David Brazell, Ken Brock, Mike Carryl, Tim Colletti, Will Davis, Garth Easton, Eric & Ina Ecklund, John Edrington, Dr Lee Elgin, Grady Foster, Mitchell Green, Doug Gyuricsko, Drew Hackmeyer, Joe Haley, Sheldon Harrison, Jack Herzog, Jamie Herzog, Carlton Ingram, Barrett Johnson, David Kerns, Dan King, David Knowles, Marc & Griffin Levi, Farley Light, Randy Lombardo, Roy Mantooth, Sal Martocci, Buddy McChesney, Gordie Meade, Neal Meadows, John Meister, Sr, Sam Miller, Robert Moody, Calvin Ogburn, Mike Partain, Tom Rice, Paul Richter, Robert Ruggles, Bob Sayes, Paul Schneider, Sandy Scott, Michael Simpson, John Sykes III, Jim Taylor, Rex Taylor, Bob Temple, Mark Van Hoeij, Ron Villella, Art Wilson, Jerry Wise, Chase & Fred Worrill, and Andy Zimmerman. My apologies if I've left anyone off the list.

We did have one vendor not show up. However, further investigation showed that the mistake was mine. I made an arrangement with the vendor at the Albany show that if I did not hear from them by May 1<sup>st</sup> than I would assume they were not coming. This arrangement was confirmed in a letter to them in February which I still had in my computer. I failed to make a note of the arrangement in the vendor's listing in the 2011 vendor list and then I forgot all about it. So the fault was mine.

I would like to thank the following members for their help in making this our best Show & Sale ever: Jim Amidon, John Anthamatten, Bill Atkinson, Gary Austin, Larry Benson, Dave Blodgett, David Blodgett, Bill Boyle, Jr, David Brazell, Ken Brock, Mike Carryl, Tim Colletti, Will Davis, Garth Easton, Eric & Ina Ecklund, John Edrington, Dr Lee Elgin, Grady Foster, Mitchell

Green, Doug Gyuricsko, Drew Hackmeyer, Joe Haley, Sheldon Harrison, Jack Herzog, Jamie Herzog, Carlton Ingram, Barrett Johnson, David Kerns, Dan King, David Knowles, Marc & Griffin Levi, Farley Light, Randy Lombardo, Roy Mantooh, Sal Martocci, Buddy McChesney, Gordie Meade, Neal Meadows, John Meister, Sr, Sam Miller, Robert Moody, Calvin Ogburn, Mike Partain, Tom Rice, Paul Richter, Robert Ruggles, Bob Sayes, Paul Schneider, Sandy Scott, Michael Simpson, John Sykes III, Jim Taylor, Rex Taylor, Bob Temple, Mark Van Hoeij, Ron Villella, Art Wilson, Jerry Wise, Chase & Fred Worrill, and Andy Zimmerman. My apologies if I've left anyone off the list.

## Time to “Come Out of the Closet” by Rex Taylor

All you "G", "O", "N", etc.; you know who you are. You sit there secure in your chosen gauge (scale). Let's face it there was a time in your life when you may have "experimented" with that mid size train or the scale of..."HO". Well for what ever reason, known only to you, you decided that "HO"ing was not your cup of tea. You boxed the train and accessories up, not out of embarrassment, but out of a thoughtful decision. The "HO" would not be seen or played with again. Well now is the time to "come out of the closet" with all that "HO" stuff and put it to good use. Make a kid happy at Christmas Time. Set yourself free and cleanse your soul. Donate to your clubs "HO" Division's Christmas project. And please "DO IT NOW". Thank you.

## 2011 Tallahassee Model RR Show Follow-Up by Andy Zimmerman

Good day fellow Big Bend Model Railroaders, so here we are fresh off one of the best shows we have had in 20 years, 680 paid visitors to our show! While this is great and a lot of hard work has paid off it sets the bar just that much higher for next year. To make our show go from good to GREAT! We have to start thinking out of the box while remaining fiscally responsible. There is only so much we can do for free, only so much free publicity that can be had and if we want to do better and make the show THE go see show, then we need to be willing to do a little more. In order to understand what that may or may not be we need to explore a few questions.

1. What makes a MRR show a “Must see” show for you?
2. What would entice you to drive 3-4 hours just to see a show?
3. Would the addition of clinics by a known subject matter expert (say Woodland Scenics) make a difference??
4. Does a variety of vendors make it more appealing or would you rather see a smaller group of select vendors?
5. More vendors means more space and more money for rentals, current gate really does not support that however Current gate may be limited BECAUSE show is limited and not bringing in the interest it should or could
6. If we were to expand the show would you rather see a 2 day show with the same vendors or a 1 day show with a second building and a larger variety of vendors?
7. Given the vendors we currently have at the show what others would you like to see?

One thing is a given we have to advertise it more. We have to get our show out to more shows throughout the year and we need something to create the draw.

We would like to brainstorm so send us your ideas, answers so we can develop a roadmap for future shows. We need to start early so your quick responses will be greatly appreciated!

For those of you who did not see it here is the statistical data from the last show:

### Here were the Stats derived from the Show Cards and the Gate:

The 2011 Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale was the BEST show we have ever had. We had 680 paid at the door (compared to the 595 in 2010, 390 in 2009 and 444 in 2008). Just over 600 was the previous best back in the late 90's.

As you know we asked that people fill out cards on how they found the show, here are the results:

#### People that live in town or in the Tallahassee area:

41 % Saw it in the Newspaper  
26 % Heard about it through word of mouth  
8.7% Saw it on a flyer  
8% Saw it on the BBMRA Website  
6.5% Saw it on an Internet Events Calendar  
5% Read it in a magazine  
3.2% Heard it on the radio  
1.6% Saw it on TV

#### People that came to the Show from outside the Tallahassee Area:

33% Saw it in a flyer at another show  
20.5% Read it in the Local paper  
15.3% Read it in a magazine  
10.8% Saw it on an Internet events site  
10.3% Heard it word of mouth  
5.1% Saw it on the BBMRA website  
2.5% Heard it on the Radio  
2.5% Saw it on TV

# The Greatest Show in The Big Bend

by R. M. Lombardo, Large Scale Chief

*This is my view of The 20th Annual model train show held on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

## Set-up on Friday

I arrived with former member, Jeremy Shaw shortly after 2 PM and was surprised to see most of our members and vendors were already there. I proceeded to my area meeting fellow member Ken Brock, his wife Sharon and son, former member, Brent. As, I unpacked the new Thomas & Friends set, next door neighbor, Ken, provided a cover for the table and helped me construct a 49 1/2" x 70 1/2" modified outer passing loop with two rural crossings replacing two 10" Straight Track sections similar to his using Lionel FasTrack. Doing some research, I found out there was another option that uses a 4 1/2" straight track and is 47" x 79 1/2". However, since I didn't have that section in my possession, I decided to choose the first plan and when it was finally completed, it looked similar minus a 10" straight track which, I conveyed to him was left at home. Engines consisted of the well known characters of the show: *Thomas, Percy & new Diesel* along with coaches *Annie & Clarabel & Troublesome Trucks*. There were also was a new *Thomas & Friends* bobber caboos (Interestingly based on the real ones built 1890-1925), yellow *Chessie* & green *Reading* versions rounded out the rolling stock. Extra pieces of curved track were used to display equipment that was idle during operation. Later, fellow member Joe Haley helped me rearrange the new diorama tunnel to give an added special effect of another engine exiting the other end. After cleaning the tracks, fellow member, John Sykes exclaimed, "Is that all you've got?" All the engines and most of the rolling stock was tested without any hiccups. Then, I made my first purchase of the show, a used # 59 1971 "MATCHBOX" Mercury Fire Chief Car for \$1 from former member "Judge" Charles Francis, manning fellow member, Calvin Ogburn's Table. Using my *Flip* video camera, I recorded a fifteen minute presentation of those tables and layouts that were partially covered or uncovered. During one clip, I had my eye on a truck while, having a conversation with Susan, wife of vendor Larry Weigel. After being satisfied with my results, I called it a day around 6 PM.

## The show on Saturday

As, I entered the building shortly before the opening at 9 o'clock, I made two check marks in a big binder to record my presence today and yesterday, made up my mind to purchase that 1985 *Corgi Volvo Globe Trotter* for \$ 4, Calvin Ogburn pointed to his watch and said, "You're late". I believe he was kidding as I went behind *The Thomas & Friends Layout* ready for operation. A boy named Landon ran the train several times while, children & adults started pouring in the door similar to a tropical storm. I explained the simple instructions on how to make the trains operate and the variety of rolling stock creating interesting combinations that even impressed me. Sir Topham Hatt (The Boss of The Island of Sodor Railways) along with a train driver and conductor were positioned at the station or platform. I felt like an overnight celebrity when many lights were flashing in my face courtesy of those digital devices. A girl named Hayden was a ham for the camera. One boy was dressed in a full *Thomas & Friends* outfit (other children were in tee shirts) and captured the moment with the *Flip* mounted on a mini tripod. Man's best friend wasn't let out of the excitement either when two small dogs made their appearance known. All the kids received a *Norfolk Southern (NS) F-Unit* outline to color while, some were selected to receive a special prize if they got the correct answer to a question about *Thomas & Friends*. I spoke with Brent about *the former Gulf Coast Limited Club (GCL)* tag fastened to his shirt and reliving those days of operating O & S gauge layouts. A grandmother who attended *Kidsfest* in May, brought her grandson & granddaughters. She was delighted to see us. As the day flew by quickly, the *Flip* filmed Mark Van Hoeij's *Lego* and Ken Brock's O gauge layouts. I made my final purchase, a *Clarabel* Coach from Hollash's Trains for \$15. I couldn't decide on purchasing a pin for \$1 from The Gulf Coast Chapter of The National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) and besides, there were kids waiting for a last try at *Thomas* even though it was after 4 o'clock. A friend arrived and both of us disassembled the layout and when everything was packed-up, I said my goodbyes. I asked President & Show Chairman John Sullenberger for permission to leave and upon receiving the reply, exited the building.

## An Ode to Jimmie Whitehead

I was shocked and many members felt the same upon the passing of one of our members, Jimmie Whitehead though, we new him a very short time, he will always be with us as we gather for monthly meetings, train shows and other club participation. We will all see each other again.

# Minutes of the June 2011 BBMRA Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm by President John Sullenberger.

**Program:** The meeting was held in reverse order to accommodate a presentation from the Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services on the Luraville locomotive, its restoration and shelter. Bill Irvin, an architect with the Div of Forestry spoke about the wood burning 4-4-0. It was built about 1848 to 1856 and came to the Bache Brothers Lumber Co of Suwannee County. It fell off of a barge into the Suwannee River in the late 1890's and was finally pulled from the river in 1972. Tom Barnum provided information about the proposed shelter. The construction section of the Division is contributing the design and construction labor and the Blackwater Forestry Center in Milton will cut the lumber. They are seeking other contributions toward the project. More information is available from the Friends of Florida State Forests -- <http://www.floridastateforests.org/>.

The business portion of the meeting then began. There were no guests present.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report: still in the black.

**Division Reports:**

**Small Scale:** good to go for the show

**HO Scale:** ready to go

**Large Scale:** (e-mailed in by Randy Lombardo) The new Lionel & Friends Starter set arrived as ordered and Thomas functions perfectly versus the old one. However, I will bring the 80 watt transformer because the one in the new set is only 40 watts! A new "Diesel" may arrive in time if not, one of the vendors could help get the old one operating. The Troublesome Trucks with Christmas Presents should be available in November. I am planning to set up on Friday. See you at the show!

**Veteran's Memorial – Bristol:** second Saturday operations continuing

**Switching Layout:** ready for the show

**NMRA:** no report

**Train Show:** THIS SATURDAY!!! Members admitted free as usual. New volunteers have stepped forward for ticket window. Food vendor is in question but should be there. Setup begins at 2pm Friday.

**Antique Car Museum Update:** volunteers needed as always

**Good of the Group Comments:** Marklin HO 3-rail and Z scale is available at Hobbytown, see Frank for info. David Brazell had a DVD available about Folkston with a discount for club members. Thanks go out to 'Porky' Bacon (a show vendor – "Alphabet Trains") has been distributing flyers for our show at other shows.

**T-Trak:** A presentation was made of the new T-Trak modules with 14' of modules in operation.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 19, 2011, at the Old Antique Car Museum. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Drew Hackmeyer, Secretary

## **The River of Rails Flowing South** by Mike Sassard

It is necessary, but redundant, to say that the flow of railroads and their "name trains" into Florida is responsible for what this state is today. This flow was not a trickle but a gusher. In the beginning these were filled with the rich and famous looking for a pampered paradise. They found it. The rail barons filled in where God left off. These were the pride of the Florida East Coast, Atlantic Coast Line, Southern, Seaboard Air Line and Louisville & Nashville Railroads. Even the Pennsylvania contributed the South Wind from Chicago to Florida.

When I checked into the list of "name trains" that were part of this movement, the list was far greater than I had originally expected. With a few exceptions, most of them ran from New York to Miami. As they brought their elite cargo south, their masters built lavish and even today unequalled hotels and resorts.

The number of today's name trains is far less than those of yesteryear. The Auto Train and the Silver Service belong to Amtrak. The Silver Service consists of the Silver Star, Silver Palm and Silver Meteor. A list from years gone by would include the Vacationer, Champion, Florida Arrow, Florida Special, Floridian, Havana Special, Miamian, Orange Blossom Special, Palmland, Silver Meteor, Silver Star, South Wind, Southland, Sun Queen, Gulf Coast Limited, East Coast Limited, The Gulf Stream, Dixieland Special, Dixie Flyer, Southern States Special, Suwanee River Special, Florida Sunbeam, Royal Wind, Florida Arrow, Sunnyland, Southland Express, Pinellas Special, Everglades, Royal Poinciana, Palmetto Limited, Henry M. Flagler, Dixie Flagler, Ponce de Leon, Flamingo, Royal Palm, and The Palm.

This paradise rush started with the Florida Special in 1888. Rush is a good term as the Seaboard Air Line's Atlanta Special was advertised to run 76 miles in 67 minutes. It was known as the "Cyclone" and was the predecessor to the Orange Blossom Special.

These gallant iron steeds and their consists were not only fast but plush and elegant. The Florida East Coast Florida Special was the first to have a strolling band and an actual red carpet.

This story would not be complete without recognizing the westward contributions, which incidentally passed through Tallahassee. Louisville & Nashville-Seaboard Air Line's Gulf Wind ran between New Orleans and Jacksonville. Also passing through Tallahassee was Southern Pacific's Sunset Limited. Today, Amtrak operates the Sunset from California's west coast to Jacksonville.