



THE Lantern

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August 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.

BBMRA By-Laws Change

During the August BBMRA meeting I'm going to call for a vote to modify our By-Laws changing our fiscal year from January 1st through December 31st to July 1st through June 30th.

The reasoning is simple: it is much easier to estimate our number of renewals (a minimum of 75 have renewed each of the last five years) than to estimate our gate at our train show.

Our expenditures (insurance, warehouse, PO Box fee, corporate fee, fairgrounds, and newsletter) remain constant. Our income from membership renewals has remained constant over the last five years. The wild card is our income from the show. By changing the fiscal year to July 1st through June 30th the Board can prepare a more accurate budget that will benefit all of our divisions.

Dues: currently our fiscal year ends on December 31st and all BBMRA members have paid their dues through December 31st. To keep our dues on a fiscal year platform those members who wish to continue their membership in the BBMRA will pay \$10 (by March 31st, 2012) to retain their membership through June 30th, 2012 or \$30 (by March 31st, 2012) to retain their membership through June 30th, 2013.

Officers: the current BBMRA officers would have their terms extended six months to end in July at our Annual Business Meeting (to be held in July of each proceeding year).

The change to our fiscal year will aid us all around. As stated above the Board will be able to prepare a more accurate budget and the divisions will have a better idea of what they can or cannot do during each upcoming fiscal year.

August Program: Railroad Watches

Jim Fannin will present a program concerning an opportunity for railroad collectors to acquire antique railroad watches, watch chains/fobs, and antique railroad clocks. He is a member of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors and they have a chapter based in Tallahassee. Each year there are numerous Regional meetings throughout the nation where antique timepieces are offered for sale. The Florida Regional is held in Daytona Beach each February. Although our events are not open to the public, he has stated that he is willing to open their event to fellow collectors with similar interests. The event will be held February 9-10, 2012 at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach. There will be approximately 650 6 foot tables of timepieces and related materials. Jim will bring a display of timepieces and answer any questions regarding the event.

Minutes of the July 2011 BBMRA Meeting

The July Meeting was called to order by President John Sullenberger at 7:30 pm. There was no raffle.

Guests: Tom Jackson, a retired FAMU professor and administrator interested in O and G scale introduced himself and later joined the BBMRA.

Minutes: The minutes of the June meeting as published was corrected to include information concerning the HO Division meeting; the corrected minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Larry reported a plus balance.



Division Reports:

Small Scale: thanks expressed to all for their hard work with the show; Garth is hosting a N Scale cookout on August 6th in thanks for all the hard work the N Scale Division put in to get the new modules ready for the show;

HO Scale: no report;

Large Scale: the Division had several inquiries during the show and gave advice about track selection and we received a donation of O gauge track and equipment.

Randy Lombardo e-mailed the following report: I am reading a book about Lionel Fastrack to learn about options for future layouts. I apologize for leaving the following people out of my "Greatest Show in The Big Bend" story: David Blodgett & his grandchildren who enjoyed running the trains, David Brazell informing me when I was admiring his Matchbox Vehicles on flatcars, "not your scale" and a DHL Matchbox Volkswagen Caddy purchased from Bill Haw for \$1.

Veteran's Memorial – Bristol: no report;

Switching Layout: had a lot of participation at the show;

NMRA: there is a Western division meet in August;

2011 Train Show: We had a good show with gate of 680 paid attendance. Thank you and thank you again to the membership for all their efforts. Next year's show is June 16, 2012.

Good of the Group Comments: The Wiregrass show in Dothan is coming in September and the Flint River show in Albany is in January. If you are interested in building a T-Trak module, please contact Andy Zimmerman or Garth Easton for information. Sandy has pictures from the show available

New Business: John presented a proposal to change the fiscal year to July thru June. The change will allow for the year's budget to be prepared after the show and include that income instead of guessing as it is difficult to forecast the attendance. The divisions will then have an entire year to prepare with a fixed budget. The proposal will be voted on during the August meeting.

Program: Larry Benson gave a reading of several passages from his new book "Hobo Justice". The book is available for sale from Larry and online.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 16, 2011, at the Old Antique Car Museum. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm; respectfully submitted by Drew Hackmeyer, Secretary.

Does anyone want to sell old toys?

I'm an antiques dealer and I'm looking for people who own antique toys. I figured that train guys would own more than just trains and I'm contacting you to see if you have any friends who might have a toy or two to sell. It doesn't have to be a train but anything is fine. My phone number is 850-321-2291. Thanks, Ray Iannucci

Lionel Speed by Mike Sassard

I now run my trains at "Lionel Speed". It's not all that different from scale speed. I have a 0-8-0 switcher that just wouldn't smoke, so I put all my freight cars on it and put in ample supply of smoke fluid. I ran it almost full throttle and IT SMOKED. The sound was good, too. I think Lionel's were meant to run fast. The other two are passenger trains and in the prototype they generally run fast. Since I use Fastrack, the curves are wider so there's no fear of a roll-off.

I called Amtrak (800-872-7245) and was told there was no one who could give me a speed limit. It depends on track conditions and signals. Because of hurricane Katrina, a lot of track and stations were wiped out, so Tallahassee has no passenger traffic at this time. That explains why I got no answer on their phone (681-9074).

Editor's note: Mike did get a response from Classic Toy Trains:

Hello Mike,

Thanks for taking the time to share you thoughts on "Lionel Speed." I agree that the best speed is usually "as fast as possible." Amtrak was correct in saying that speeds vary a lot, but as a general rule of thumb it's 79 mph. It's much faster on Amtrak's electrified Northeast Corridor and slower on some segments of less-than-ideal track.

Sincerely, Carl (Carl Swanson is the Editor of "Classic Toy Trains")

So, "HI Yo Silver.....LIONEL SPEED!