



THE LANTERN

February 2012

Volume 17 Number 2

February 21st 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.

February Program: Andy Zimmerman will present "A Day in the Life of a T-Track module!"

March Program: Cardstock Craftsman Models by Jim Gore

March 20th is a BBMRA meeting you will not want to miss! Jim Gore will be our guest speaker and he will be providing a clinic on "Card Stock Modeling", turning ordinary cardstock into highly detailed Models.

Jim is a well-known modeler and a published author. His work was most recently published in "["O" Scale Trains Magazine \(Jan/Feb 2010\) Issue #48](#)". He has provided clinics at many levels from local clubs to NMRA conventions and brings new insight to Cardstock modeling.

Cardstock models have always been with us, but recent CAD capabilities and resurrecting some forgotten modeling techniques allows the creation of craftsman style structures for our model railroads. This clinic will trace the history of cardstock models, demonstrate examples of cardstock construction, visualizing the structure (thinking in 3D as opposed to 2D), and allow attendees to examine examples of cardstock structures and rolling stock.

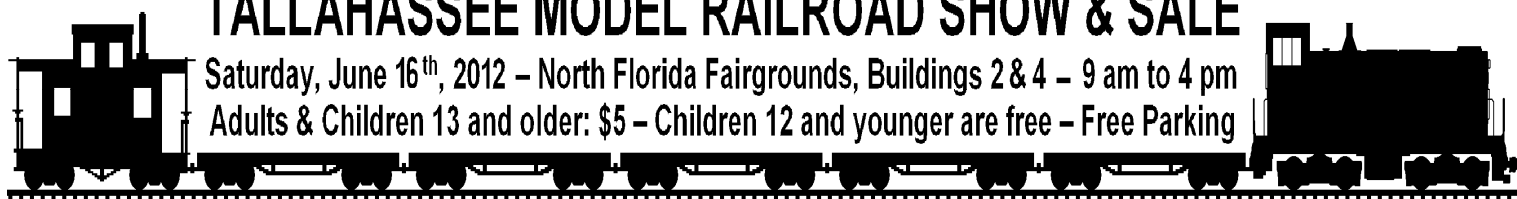
Jim is the Dean of College of Natural and Health Sciences and Professor of Biology at University of Tampa. He has been a Biologist for over 30 years and is a Navy vet (2 tours in Vietnam and POW for a while). This will be a great opportunity for us to learn from a SME (subject matter expert). This clinic is being provided FREE to members and guests at our March 20th meeting. Let's have a great showing for Jim and make his trip from Tampa well worth the drive! Even if you are not a regular attendee you will not want to miss this!

2012 Dues for the first six months of 2012 (from January 1st thru June 30th) are due.

Members have until March 31, 2012 to pay the first half 6-months dues of \$10. After that date, members who have not paid will be considered in default and their membership privileges suspended until they pay dues. Please do not attempt to pay in advance for the second half of the year. This new payment amount and period are the result of BBMRA changing from calendar year to fiscal year budgeting.

TALLAHASSEE MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE

Saturday, June 16th, 2012 – North Florida Fairgrounds, Buildings 2 & 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.

HO – T-Trak Modules

OK, if anyone in the HO Division is interested in building and running T-Trak (HO) modules here are the details.

The standard corner module is 28 inches square. It uses four 24 inch (#2-220 at \$7.80 per 4 track pack) and four 21 5/8 inch (#2-210 at \$7.20 per 4 track pack) curved tracks. The tracks utilize 60 mm track centers which is helpful as it allows size variations.

Variation #1: 25 inches square. It uses four 21 5/8 inch (#2-210 at \$7.20 per 4 track pack) and four 19 1/4 inch (#2-270 at \$7.20 per 4 track pack) curved tracks. These tracks utilize 60 mm track centers.

Variation #2: 23 inches square. It uses four 19 1/4 inch (#2-270 at \$7.20 per 4 track pack) and four 16 7/8 inch (#2-260 at \$7.20 per 4 track pack) curved tracks. These tracks utilize 60 mm track centers.

An upside to the variations is that they are smaller and will be easier to build, scenic, maintain and handle, the downside is the smaller radius tracks.

The standard straight module will be 19 7/16 inches wide and will use four 9 3/4 inch straight tracks (#2-150 at \$7.50 per 4 track pack). These tracks utilize 60 mm track centers. The diagram states that the module should be 19 1/4 inches wide but that doesn't actually work. Two of the 9 3/4 tracks end-to-end are 19 1/2 inches in length; take away 1/16 inch for the track (end of modules) extensions leaves an end-to-end length of 19 7/16, which will be the module width. The depth of the modules depends on the depth of the corner modules.

Each loop will need to use one electrical feeder track (#2-151 at \$3.60 per one track pack).

Turnouts – Kato has #4 manual (LH #2-840 – \$15.00, RH #2-841 – \$15.00) and #6 manual (LH #2-862 – \$15.00, RH #2-863 – \$15.00) turnouts; turnout machines #2-503 (for LH turnouts) and #2-504 (for RH turnouts) will turn a manual turnout into an electric turnout.

Bumper – Kato has one 4 1/4 inch bumper track (#2-170 at \$6.60 per 2 track pack).

28" – Standard corner		25" – Corner variation #1		23" – Corner variation #2		Standard Straight	
#2-220	\$7.80	#2-210	\$7.20	#2-270	\$7.20	#2-150	\$7.50
#2-210	\$7.20	#2-270	\$7.20	#2-260	\$7.20		
Total	15.00	Total	\$14.40	Total	\$14.40	Total	\$7.50

Remember: each loop will need to use one electrical feeder track (#2-151 at \$3.60 per one track pack).

The prices listed in this article were provided by Garth Easton (who can and has ordered materials for the BBMRA). Each person who orders will be responsible for a portion of the shipping costs.

OK, so is the HO Division interested in building and running T-Trak modules?

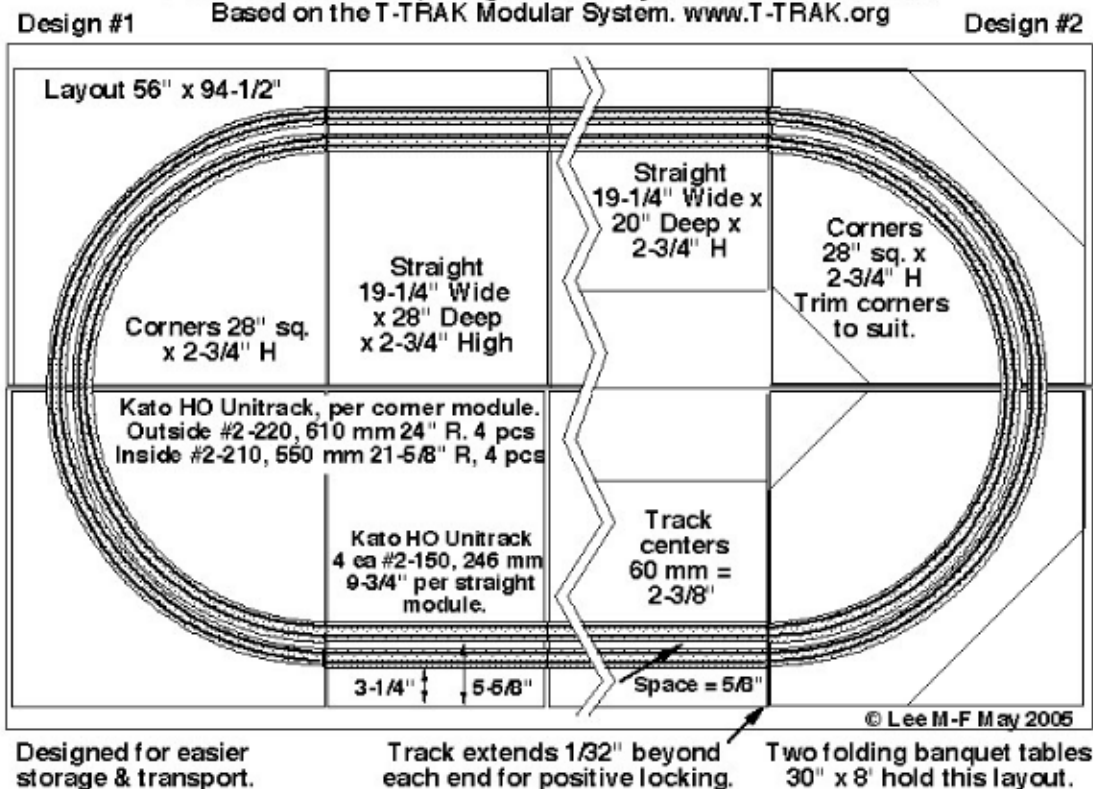
T-TRAK for Other Scales

T-TRAK has become very popular, not only in "N" scale but for other scales, as well. T-TRAK in N has been growing and spreading to many areas, here and abroad, At shows and in the NTRAK Newsletter and this web site, I have displays for other scales and interest has been awakening, for those modelers, also.

LAYOUT Drawing and Dimensions are for two HO Designs.

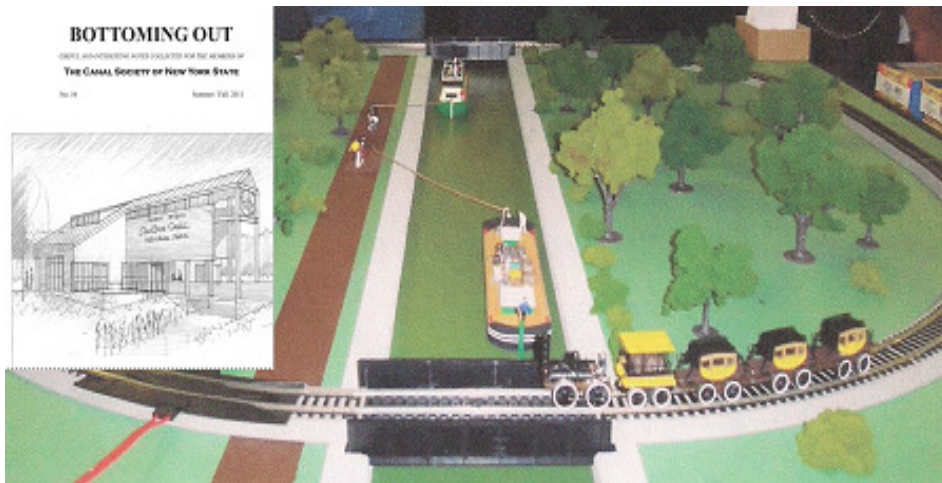
T-TRAK - HO Modules, Designs #1 & 2 by Lee Monaco-FitzGerald

Based on the T-TRAK Modular System. www.T-TRAK.org



Erie Canal Article Published in CSNYS Journal

An article written last summer by Larry Benson about his Erie Canal HO scale layout has been published in Vol. 54 of the Summer/Fall 2011 issue of *Bottoming Out*, the official journal of The Canal Society of New York State (CSNYS). The article as it appeared in the journal is reproduced in this issue of *The Lantern*. The small inset in the upper left corner is the front cover of the 24-page edition.



Erie Canal Model Debuts in Florida

By Larry Benson

"That's the Erie Canal!" "My daddy's farm bordered the Erie Canal." "What's the Erie Canal doing in Florida?" These and other similar remarks were forthcoming from rail fans who attended the 20th Annual Big Bend Model Railroad Show in Tallahassee on June 18th of this year. The railroad buffs who commented about the Canal lived at one time in the State of New York along or near the banks of the famous waterway.

My portable model layout of the Erie Canal was inspired about a year ago when I bought a miniature DeWitt Clinton train set. I remembered from history classes that Clinton was governor of New York when the Canal was built and that he "pressured" the state legislature to authorize construction funds. I also was aware that the demise of the Canal was caused by the advent of railroads which were being built between Albany and Buffalo. It is "poetic justice" that one of the Mohawk & Hudson Railroad locomotives was named in honor of DeWitt Clinton.

A railroad modeler for years, it dawned on me that I should build a model representing the two industries that contributed so much to our history, westward expansion and economy - the Canal and the Railroad. The project seemed like a good idea. And besides, I figured it would be challenging, but fun. It was both.

Designing and building the "base" was a little daunting. It had to be light enough to carry and have no permanently mounted scenery so I could haul it around in the wind or rain in the back of my pickup. I constructed the surrounding framework out of one-by-three inch lumber, cross-braced below for strength and faced with quarter-inch plywood. Next, I cut out two pieces of three-quarter inch thick foam insulation to fit inside the wooden frame but they were not glued down and can be lifted out for portability. The foam's thickness represented the depth of the Canal's water and I left space between the pieces to represent the width of the Canal. Gray paint serves as the masonry banks and a brown stripe painted along one side is the tow path. Different colors of green paint, representing water and surrounding land surface. Scale size trees and foliage were glued onto the foam pieces and completed this phase of the model.

Next were the two Canal boats. I was unable to purchase vessels of the correct modeling scale so I resorted to building them from scratch. Designing, carving, painting and adding superstructures - one for passengers and the other for cargo - took over three months. The horses towing the two boats are plastic models. My layout was now complete and ready for our June show.

During the model's debut at our train show, I couldn't believe how many rail fans remarked about their familiarity with the Erie Canal. I saw in the eyes of former New Yorkers far away looks as I listened to their memories. Their shared reminiscences made my hours of work on the Erie Canal - DeWitt Clinton project worthwhile and enjoyable.



Hand crafted Erie Canal boat created by the author.

Minutes of January 2012 BBMRA Meeting

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

A board meeting preceded the meeting. A budget was approved for the period of January thru June.

Two new members were present, John Booth, an HO gauger and Andy Fritze, now an N scaler.

Minutes: The minutes from the November 2011 meeting were accepted unanimously and without corrections.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report indicated that we are still in the black.

Division Reports:

Small Scale: meeting to plan for June show No report;

HO Scale: will have a workday in two to three weeks at the museum; a tour of HO layouts is being considered;

Large Scale: working on equipment maintenance and will be at Children's Day on January 28th;

Veteran's Memorial: running three trains on second Saturday of the month;

Switching Layout: will be at Children's Day on January 28th;

NMRA: the state convention will be in Winter Haven in May;

Train Show: three new vendors added and we will be in two buildings.

Good of the Group Comments: HO T-Trak standards were discussed.

Program: Andy Zimmerman presented a railroad quiz. With grading on a curve, everyone present passed.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be at 7:30p.m., Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at the Old Antique Car Museum.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. Respectfully submitted by Drew Hackmeyer.

2012 Children's Day

