



THE Lantern

May 2012

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May 15th 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.

In Memoriam - William Henry "Buddy" McChesney Jr

William Henry "Buddy" McChesney, Jr., 66, passed away April 20, 2012, at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital.

Buddy grew up in Cherry Lake and Madison, FL., and settled in Tallahassee. Buddy was an avid outdoorsman and he loved hunting, fishing, and the University of Florida Gators with equal fervor. Recently, Buddy discovered the joys of setting up model train layouts and made new friends in the Big Bend Model Railroad Association. He was also excited to participate in the Tallahassee Regional Antique Auto Club with an original 1946 Willys Jeep acquired from his father-in-law.

May Program – Swap Meet

“The Man is Like the Train” – Or Is He? Submitted by Larry Benson

A small humorous plaque in a store in Panama City attracted my attention when Shirley and I were in that city to celebrate Christmas weekend with our youngest daughter and her family. And, as is our usual routine, we moseyed through some local shops on Harrison Avenue, the main drag running north south through PC.

I thought the ceramic plaque probably was a unique item until I saw another one in Albany at the Flint River Model Railroad Show. I was amused to see the vendor was offering the identical plaque at a price that was more than twice as much as I paid for the one I bought last Christmas in Panama City. After all, who needs two of them?

On the back of the six-inch square plaque imprinted in the clay and overlaid with a paper label are inscriptions that say “Hand Made in Greece.” The front, which is quite colorful as can be seen in the accompanying photo, is capped with a great color reproduction of a vintage 0-6-0 steam locomotive belching brown smoke.

The five ages of man from 20 years to 60 years are compared to different kinds of “trains” – meaning locomotives – from the local to the yard engine. These descriptions comparing man’s ages to trains are funny but I fear they also may be closer to the truth than we would care to admit. I’ll let you decide for yourself whether, or not, the description of your age group fits.



And the Survey Says....

An online (for those who have an e-mail address on file) and paper (for those who don't have an e-mail on file) survey has been sent to all current (and some former) BBMRA members. Questions deal with the management and direction of our club, divisions, our show, the Lantern and so forth. If you haven't taken the time to complete the survey please do so. The feedback should help the club move forward.

Minutes of the April 2012 BBMRA Meeting

The April 17th meeting was called to order at 7:32pm by President John Sullenberger.

New members and guests: Guest Paul Eakin, a ham radio operator and railroad enthusiast, was present.

Minutes: The minutes from the February meeting were accepted unanimously.

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

Program: A presentation was given by George Lane, a newspaper writer and columnist from southwest Florida on history and remembrances of Florida railroads.

Division Reports:

Small Scale: thanks to those who have worked on the new modules.....more to go;

HO Scale: new workday to move modules to the Antique Car Museum and a workday at Lowe's for a layout building clinic;

Large Scale: our show is listed in Classic Toy Trains;

Veteran's Memorial: still running on the 2nd Saturday of the month;

Switching Layout: thanks were expressed by Joe Haley for the correction to the minutes;

NMRA: Sunshine Region convention in mid-May in Winter Haven;

Train Show: on track and on schedule for June 16th;

Good of the Group Comments: Eric Ecklund will have an open house in October. The HO Division will host a layout building clinic at the northeast Lowes on June 9th. The Small Scale Division will operate at the northeast Home Depot on June 2nd.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 14, 2012, at the Old Antique Car Museum. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm. Respectfully submitted by Drew Hackmeyer, Secretary

ACL Issued Instructions to Enginemen in 1943 submitted by Larry Benson

It has been a while since I have bored you with tales of our grazing in stores and sniffing around antique shops in Tallahassee and surrounding hamlets. I hope you can put up with one more.

On the last weekend in January this year, Shirley and I dropped by "Good Finds" antique and collectibles emporium on South Adams. I have written about this shop before on more than one occasion. Anyway, when we walked into the front door, which is actually in the back off the parking lot, I overheard the owner say to a saleslady "We'll mark it as a railroad piece."

The round antennae mounted permanently on both sides of my head began to sing. But then again it may have been only my hearing aids! I accosted the duo in charge and asked if I had heard the word "railroad." The lady looked at me, smiled and handed over the thin pocket-size 4 by 6 1/2 inch 29-page pamphlet you see in the photo next door.

Issued on September 1, 1943, by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company, the instructions booklet contains an intriguing phrase in its title, "INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF ENGINEMEN IN BRAKING AND OPERATION." The booklet serves a serious purpose, of course, but I smiled when reading a couple of quaintly worded passages like those that follow.

Written below remarks on the contents page the reader sees: *"It is expected that the engineman will so familiarize himself with the working of the air brake equipment as to be able to act intelligently under all circumstances."* Yes, by all means, know how to stop the *dadgum* thing!

Another admonishment in Chapter V on page 19 under the heading "The Information On How To Improve Freight Train Handling" states: *"Good freight train service from the handling standpoint is that while doing all that is practicable and proper to make time, damage to draft gear, lading and injury to crews are avoided, and where brake sticking and wheel sliding are prevented."* Well, I certainly would hope so. I really doubt people want to hear a steam locomotive screeching through town with sticking brakes and sliding wheels!

"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.

