



THE Lantern

July 2012

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July 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.

2012 / 2013 BBMRA Officer Slate submitted by the Nominating Committee

The BBMRA will elect the 2012/2013 officers during the Annual Business Meeting to be held Tuesday, July 17th, 2012 at the old Tallahassee Antique Car Museum. The following is the current slate of nominees: President – John Sullenberger; Vice-President – Andy Zimmerman; Treasurer – Larry Benson; Secretary – Doug Gyuricsko. Nominations can be taken from the floor prior to the elections. The Division Coordinators will be elected by their respective Divisions after the general elections.

The BBMRA would like to thank the Sam Miller for chairing the Nominating committee.

Time to Pay Dues for 2012-2013

The BBMRA Treasurer will be accepting members' dues payments for the upcoming fiscal year – July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 at our meeting on Tuesday, July 17th.

Dues for the next year are \$20 and may be paid by cash or check made payable to BBMRA. Members have until September 30, 2012 to pay their dues. After that date members who have not paid their dues will be considered in default and their membership privileges will be suspended until their dues are paid.

Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale Recap by John Sullenberger

The 2012 Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale was a good show. The gate this year was 548 (paid) at the door. Counting children we had between 900 and 1100 attendees. The next Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale is scheduled for June 15, 2013 at the North Florida Fairgrounds.

I would like to thank the following members for their help with this year's Show & Sale: Jim Amidon, John Anthamatten, Bill Atkinson, Gary Austin, Porky Bacon, Larry Benson, Zachary Birdwell, Steve Blanton, Dave Blodgett, David Blodgett, John Booth, Bill Boyle, David Brazell, Ken Brock, Mike Carryl, Ronald Clark, Tim Colletti, Will Davis, Garth Easton, Eric & Ina Ecklund, John Edrington, Ron Eudy, Andy Fritze, Mitchell Green, Doug Gyuricsko, Drew Hackmeyer, Joe Haley, Sheldon Harrison, Lyn Heath, Jack Herzog, Carlton Ingram, Ron Jackson, Barrett Johnson, Dan King, Dale Kishbaugh, Randy Lombardo, Roy Mantooth, Sal Martocci, Michael Mascagni, Gordie Meade, Neal Meadows, Don Meeks, John Meister, Dastagiri Mettupalli, Sam Miller, Andy Millott, Steve Mindlin, Robert Moody, Calvin & Lou Ogburn, Bob Pope, Paul Richter, Steven Robbins, Robert Ruggles, Bob Sayes, Richard Schmitt, Paul Schneider, Sandy Scott, Michael Simpson, John Sykes III, Jim Taylor, Bob Temple, Bill Thompson, Ron Villella, Art Wilson, Bob Woodard and Andy Zimmerman. My apologies if I've left anyone off the list.

A special "Thank You!" to Patricia White, who although not a member volunteered to work the ticket table and to be our official door warden.

HO Division to Raffle the Ed Olson in August

The Ed Olson layout will be raffled off during the August meeting. You will need to be present to win. The current plan is to deliver the layout to the winner's home the same night. Details to follow.



Thank You to the HO Division by Sam Miller

I couldn't ask for better cooperation than we received this year from the HO Division around our show. This included unloading the truck on Sunday, Father's Day. The traveling layout looked as good as it has for years, although we still have a lot to do on it. Let's catch our breath and let it cool off some and then get going again. Next job is cleaning out the storage unit.

BBMRA Promotes June 21st Model RR Show

Small Scale, HO & Time Saver Exhibits

By Larry Benson

The Small Scale (N) and HO Divisions and the Switching Layout were displayed at two different Tallahassee building supply stores on two consecutive Saturdays in June to promote the BBMRA Train Show and model railroading.

Small Scale (N) Layout

The Small Scale (N) Division crew had four of their six-module show layout on display during the morning of Saturday, June 2nd at the Home Depot on Capital Circle N. E. Division members reported attracting quite a few store customers who stopped by to pass the time of day, look at the layout and ask questions about model railroading. Some indicated they were planning to attend the BBMRA's 21st Annual Model RR Show & Sale held last month at the Fairgrounds.

HO Division Demonstrations

HO Division members attracted customers to their display at the Lowe's on Capital Circle N. E. on Saturday, June 9th where they talked about model railroad supplies available at the store. Highlighted was an already completed layout base ready for painting, track to be laid and scenery and buildings to be installed. The art of finding and using common on-the-shelf items to fashion HO scale loads for railroad models was also on the menu. The members took advantage of the occasion to promote our 21st Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale that was held a week later at the Fairgrounds on the 2012 Father's Day Weekend.

Switching Layout – Time Saver

Call it what you will, "Switching Layout" or "Time Saver" the results are the same – the portable HO layout draws a lot of attention. Master engineer and consummate teacher Joe Haley is as much an attraction as are the trains weaving back and forth through the multiple sidings. He tutors youngsters in the art of running model trains while he is teaching them the basics of proto-railroading. The two of them together make quite a package!



BBMRA members runs Small Scale at Home Depot



BBMRA members discusses model building at Lowe's



Venerable teacher Joe Haley guides switching moves

Folkston Trainfest 2012 by David Brazell

BBMRA members Dan King, Larry Benson, Paul Schneider and David Brazell journeyed to Folkston Georgia on April 13th and 14th to attend the annual Trainfest 2012 sponsored by the Folkston/Charlton County Development Authority. There were more than 100 people in attendance on Saturday to view some presentations at the depot and watch all day as traffic slammed through the "Folkston Funnel". Some railfans including the four of us stayed in Folkston Friday night.

We drove over on Friday morning and went through Waycross on the way where we toured the historic depot (that Dan traveled through when he was a teenager) and the Okefenokee Heritage Center Museum. Displayed at the museum are a restored #9 2-8-2 steam locomotive, a mail car, a passenger car and an ACL caboose. Reflecting back on his time working for the Coast Line, Dan provided us with endless and valuable information about how different items on display actually were used and operated. We also crossed over an overpass in Waycross and looked down at Rice Yard, which is the largest CSX classification yard on

the east coast and the hub for traffic throughout the Southeast. We couldn't really see the end of the yard because it is 4½ miles long. For more information about Waycross, the museum or the historic depot and Rice yard, the web address is: <http://swampgeorgia.com/> After spending several hours at Waycross, we continued our odyssey to Folkston and along the way saw two Waycross bound freights.



Folkston is a unique location because every train that runs in and out of Florida goes through Folkston except for one due East and West and one Norfolk-Southern Line. You cross both of these lines on the way to Folkston. About 70 trains a day pass through the double tracks located at the Funnel. One of the reasons we went as early as we did was so I could shoot some video from on top of a nearby overpass and to see the Tropicana Juice Train. I took video from the overpass including a running meet until "Folkston's Finest" asked me to leave. After supper, we waited late into the night for the Juice Train to pass by and we were not disappointed when it rolled through Northbound about 10:00 p.m. on Friday night. Lighting was set up for viewers so we were able to see the "Juice" illuminated and I shot some great video. After a good night's sleep at a local motel (where I recommend the Western) we were back at the viewing stand at 7:00 a.m. hoping to see the Southbound Juice Train in daylight, but it didn't come by. There was plenty of other traffic and several times trains passed by two at a time. We enjoyed 34 trains in 1½ days. Traffic included 14 mixed freights, 8 intermodals, 6 coal drags, 3 Amtrak passenger trains with the rest a mixture of grain, tank and auto-rack consists.

About 6:00 that evening we were offered another bonus. Our hosts were fixing supper! The ACL/SAL Historical Society (thanks to Danny Harmon), with assistance from some local vendors, prepared free hamburgers and hotdogs with all of the trimmings. Most of us made contributions to cover some of the cost. What a deal! The food beat Hardees where we had planned to stop on the way home so we stayed later in Folkston and enjoyed our meal (and a few more trains).



If you have a spare day and want to relax and enjoy some great train traffic, Folkston is the place to go. You will not be disappointed. The facilities are clean; there are restrooms and the viewing platform is equipped with a scanner so you can hear railroad traffic over the radio. Even without sound, you can see signals for northbound traffic and tell when an approaching train is headed in that direction. If you want more information about Folkston and the Folkston Funnel, their web address is: <http://www.folkston.com/> There is even a link to an article created a few years ago by TV personality Bill Geist about Folkston and train watching in which Dan and I briefly appear. We had a great two days and can't wait until next year!



Drew Hackmeyer to take over as BBMRA Editor

You can submit articles to Drew at bbmra-editor@ngsouth.net.

Minutes of the June 2012 BBMRA Meeting

The June 14th meeting was called to order at 7:39pm by President John Sullenberger.

The President expressed a need for a volunteer for the newsletter editor position. No volunteer was forthcoming. *Editor's Note: Drew Hackmeyer has agreed to become the BBMRA's next editor (see above).*

Minutes: The May minutes were accepted unanimously.

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

Division Reports:

Small Scale: thanks to all for 20 workdays this year; we had a successful day at Home Depot with the layout;

HO Scale: had a successful clinic at Lowes for layout building; thanks to all who worked on the HO layout;

Large Scale: ready to go for the show;

Switching Layout: ready to go for the show;

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

NMRA: 2013 Sunshine Region convention will be held in Bradenton;

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

Good of the Group Comments: the Pensacola RR club suffered damage from flooding; David Brazell has DVD's of railroading and club shows;

Program: our 2012 Tallahassee Model railroad Show & Sale.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 17, 2012, at the Old Antique Car Museum.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. Respectfully submitted by Drew Hackmeyer, Secretary

The Fabulous Lionel Santa Fe by Mike Sassard

No matter what gauge you model in, you are probably familiar with the Lionel brightly painted Santa Fe F3. According to author Ron Hollander, it alone could be said to be responsible for Lionel's phenomenal post war success and making Lionel one of the leading toy manufacturers in the world. It came out in 1948 and was the best-selling engine in Lionel's history. It was so popular it ran in the Lionel catalog for nineteen years.

They later came out with the New York Central. It was realistic but not as bright and colorful and ran in the catalog for eight years.

A year after its appearance, the diesel was selling better than the steam engines ever had. It was estimated that 16,000 Santa Fe engines would be made in 1948. At its peak, 125 Lionel Santa Fe's an hour were coming off the assembly line. The Santa Fe Railway agreed to pay approximately \$7000 to cover the cost of tooling.

Editor's Note: Mike finally got a Santa Fe F3. Lionel was sold out, so he got a Mike's Train House F3. He says it's absolutely gorgeous!



"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 bbmra-editor@ngsouth.net.