



# THE Lantern

August 2012

Volume 17 Number 8

## 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 17<sup>th</sup>.

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.

## Results of the 2012 Members Survey!

submitted by Andy Zimmerman

A member survey was conducted at the end of our last fiscal quarter and each of you was able to contribute your views on how you really felt about the clubs direction, dues, newsletter, and how we are doing overall as well as a host of other issues. Well those results have been tallied and collated and are ready for prime time. With a 75% rate of return (which is exceptional by any statistical standard) you have brought clarity to many issues! Some of these results will be a catalyst for change to improve our club and help us to move forward.

Be there Tuesday to see what the majority had to say, you may well be surprised!

## The Lantern has a new Editor-in-Chief

submitted by John Sullenberger

It's been an honor, a privilege and sometimes a great pain in my.....well you probably get the idea. I took over as the Lantern's editor in February 2006 and the July 2012 issue was my last issue.

Drew Hackmeyer has volunteered to sit at the editor's desk and continue to publish the Lantern. Please support him with articles, news, photos and whatever else you think can be printed.

Submit items for publication to our new editor only e-mail address: [bbmra-editor@ngsouth.net](mailto:bbmra-editor@ngsouth.net).

## Minutes of the July 2012 BBMRA Meeting

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

**New members:** young Bryan with visitor Lia Thomas, and Don Smith all who are HO.

**Minutes:** June minutes were accepted unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer reports dues rolling in, we are well in the black after the show with income and expenses. The show has one table payment due.

### Division Reports

**Train Show:** Show discussion dealing with lessons learned, John will have a committee to deal with crowd control, vendors, displays, buildings and other issues needed for next year. All and all, even with the economy as it is, the show was a well done event.

**Small Scale:** Garth thanked all who worked on the N scale layout. It drew a lot of interest at the show.

\*\*\* Next Meeting \*\*\*

**August 21<sup>st</sup>**

at the

**'old' Tallahassee Antique  
Car Museum**

The 'old' Tallahassee Antique Car Museum is located at 3550 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**.

**HO Scale:** from Sam in HO (via Barret) thanks to club members for their participation for work on the show.

**Large Scale:** Randy reports a new loco "James" purchased. Must be related to Thomas!

**Switching Layout:** A new fuel storage tank to improve layout, Joe estimated 60 new engineers had earned certificates at the show. (Heck I don't have mine!)

**Veteran's Memorial:** will still hold free rides second Saturdays, donations gratefully accepted.

**NMRA:** will have their convention way up north this year, but will be in Atlanta next year 2013.

**Good of Group:** Many RR magazines donated from vendors at the show were on tables for the taking.

**Annual Elections:** Elections of officers was brought forth, slate was accepted as nominated, unanimous vote for John as president, Andy as vice president, Larry as treasurer, Doug G. as secretary, Drew will be the editor for our news.

Meeting split into divisions to elect division leaders.

Garth will lead the small scale, Randy the large scale, with Sam declining this year's position, HO had to table their vote???? The excitement level growing as we only wonder who will emerge to guide this large group!

**Program:** Mr. Drew held a small demonstration of his methods learned about scratch building from various materials we can all get. Using a kit to build one building, he developed methods to build from these same materials, other buildings, and structures. Hard to guess which were kits and which were scratch. I think there is some practice in those nice items.

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

I lost track of the ending time. With some guidance from our former secretary I respectfully submit this report. Doug Gyuricsko/ or G.

*(Editor's note: There's nothing like being thrown into the fire. You did quite well, even with my handwritten notes from the first half of the meeting. Thank you.)*

## Memories of a Tallahassee Model Railroading Pioneer

submitted by Sam Miller

Dave Kerns passed away in his sleep August 11 at the Westminister Oaks Health Care Center. Dave was a fine, sweet man, wonderful friend and enthusiastic, top notch model railroader.

Members of our club who went to Albany on Saturday in late January each year would help celebrate Dave's birthday, with candle-lit cupcakes. Dave delighted at that. (Carlton, Nancy, Cal and Lou: Please bring cupcakes to the 2013 Albany train show anyway. He would have had his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday then.)

Lots of you have played key roles in model railroading in Tallahassee over the decades, including our current officers and many BBMRA members, but Dave and Vernon Parramore probably went back the farthest, right after World War II when they helped set up the first Tallahassee club I know anything about. Dave was a few months older than Vernon. Vernon lives at Broadview Assisted Living and we are looking forward to celebrating his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday later next year.

Dave liked all model trains and until he and Dottie moved to Westminister Oaks probably 10 years ago had a Lionel/O gauge room in the garage and a huge HO layout in a dim-lit basement. Sounds a little like my house, I guess. He maintained a small HO layout in the one-bed room apartment that was his Westminister home the last few years after Dottie died. (This layout is mine now and I am most proud of it.) He was leader along with Lee Elder of the Westminister group operating the much larger N Scale layout which has been set up in a recreation room.

And there was always Lionel. He convinced Carlton Ingram, who had grown up with his son, Dave Junior, to build him a portable, fold-up Lionel layout. Dave would run some of his trains and allow other Westminister folks (who had Lionel, Marx or American Flyer's in small boxes in their closets) to run their trains.

In recent years, Dave would buy vintage Lionel for his son, Dave Junior, and together they built a huge O-gauge layout at Dave Junior's home on Mount Eagle, Tennessee, near Sewanee University of the South. A few of us were honored with visits with Dave Senior to that layout. It is tremendous.

"How do?" Dave would say when telephoning, not "Hello". "I have three things to tell you." Or four. Then he would go down the list. "Number one; Number two;..."

Linda and I have Nandina bushes all over our yard – because they spread like fire and are beautiful, but also because Dave, Vernon and Harold used the stems from the berries to make trees for their layouts. Our Nandinas came from Dave and Dottie’s house on North Ride. Dave, along with several other train club friends, helped me design and build the Lionel layout in our garage. It has never stopped growing.

Dave liked to stand in the middle of the layout on a stool and watch everything – something I do with my granddaughter Bleakley now.

## 103 *Lantern* Articles Written Over 14 Years

submitted by Larry Benson

The first article of mine to be published in *The Lantern* was in February 1998. Shirley and I had just returned from a week-long tour through Italy so it followed the article buzzing around in my noggin would be about those train sightings. It was entitled “Trains in Italy Are Interesting to See”.

At the time, I didn’t realize this initial experience would provide the motivation for writing 103 more articles and that my by-line would appear in *The Lantern* over a span of the next 14 years. My last article was published this year in the June issue under the title “BBMRA Promotes June 21<sup>st</sup> Model RR Show.” The one you are reading now is number 104.

In the year 2000, thirteen articles appeared and in several years eleven pieces were published – almost one a month. Printed copies of the articles cover one hundred pages plus a Table of Contents which fills up another three pages. The collection is dedicated to the members of BBMRA and is kept in a “spring-back” binder.

Topics “run the gambit” from personal observations to “rail fan” journeys, and from workshops to BBMRA activities and events. To name a few titles which you might remember: “100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Driving of the Golden Spike” (June 1998); “A Rail-fan Excursion to South Central Georgia” (September 2001); “Texas City Train Festival Features Great Layouts” (October 2005); “Workshop: Making Your Own Open Top Hopper Loads” (August 2007); and “Catching the ‘Chickamauga Turn’ on TV” (November 2009).

I would like to express my gratitude to BBMRA members who as *Lantern* Editors published my articles over these past 14 years. Also, I thank Club members who have provided me with information and assistance while I was writing several articles. And, I appreciate those members who took time to read what I wrote, for without their courtesy and encouragement fewer of my ramblings would ever have been published.



Larry’s *Lantern* articles are dedicated to BBMRA members and are filed in a springback binder.

## HO Theme Trains for Sale at Upcoming Meeting

A Lakeshore Drive area family is disassembling a large Department 56 holiday setup because they are moving to a smaller home in Orlando. There are some trains. They will be donating a Proto 2000 locomotive and dual track power pack to the club and some other items as well. They have asked for help in selling their other items.

Sam Miller will be bringing the following to the meeting: 1) a Bachman Alaska Railroad McKinley Explorer Passenger Train – the diesel and 10 West tours rail excursion cars; 2) an A-Unit powered Public train and additional billboard reefers; 3) an A-unit powered Coca Cola train.

He will also bring a list of their extensive Halloween and Christmas collection of Department 56 pieces. While the prices have not been set yet, they will be reasonable. These folks just want to recover some of their investment.

# HO Division to Raffle the Ed Olson layout in August

The Ed Olson layout will be raffled off (tickets are free) during the August meeting and the rules are simple:

- 1) You must be present to win and all of the raffle tickets are free;
- 2) You must be willing to take immediate possession, which is why you must be present to win;
- 3) After the meeting we'll load the layout back on the truck and deliver it to your house, which is why you must be present to win, you have to lead the way. (Out-of-town delivery may have to wait for the weekend.)

## Rally for the Train by R M Lombardo

Over 100 people gathered to "Bring Back Amtrak's Sunset Limited" on Saturday, June 23 at Tallahassee Station. Local politicians, television stations WCTV and WTXL, and dignitaries from Florida, Alabama, Mississippi & Louisiana were in attendance including the President of the National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP) and gave speeches and handed out literature about the organization. Most were involved with "High-Speed Rail".

The Sunset Limited hasn't operated since 2005, service being stopped due to damage to the track by Hurricane Katrina.

The event was organized by Bart Bibler.

Sheldon Harrison and I were present from the club.

## Back in the Saddle, Again

It has been quite a while since I've played 'Editor' for this organization. If memory serves, I was editor for the first 7 or 8 years of BBMRA's life. And John was President during some of that time.

Those times were literally "cut and paste" with an Xacto knife, straight edge and glue stick. The newsletter was a way to push ideas and prod members into action and I did just that.

This issue has been easy. John provided a template and a good start. Sam, Larry and Randy each provided articles and Doug supplied the meeting minutes and everything came together.

I eagerly await YOUR submissions for the newsletter.

Thank you

Drew Hackmeyer

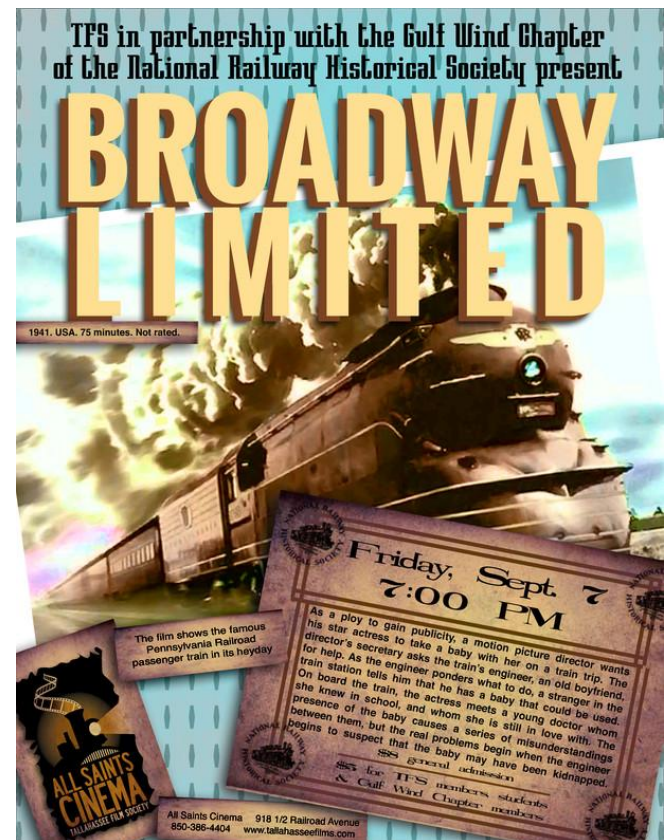
[bbmra-editor@ngsouth.net](mailto:bbmra-editor@ngsouth.net)

## Movie Night

The Tallahassee Film Society with the Gulf Wind Chapter of the NHRS will be showing the movie 'Broadway Limited' Friday September 7 at the Tallahassee railroad depot. Show time is 7:00pm.

See

<http://www.tallahasseefilms.com/show-594.html>  
for more information.



"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](mailto:bbmra-editor@ngsouth.net).