



THE Lantern

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Model Railroading 101 – an entry level course

-- Submitted by John Sullenberger

The BBMRA membership has spoken and the Board has listened: please offer instruction into the basics of building a model railroad. So, we will offer a class in Model Railroading 101 to teach the basics of building a model railroad.

We are going to use T-Trak modules (N, HO or O-27) as the base so you won't have to worry about hauling a large layout around with you.

Each member will need to purchase a module for \$10 (HO and N track included) and be responsible for obtaining his or her modeling supplies.

We'll start with a little bit of construction, track work and wiring. We'll then offer instruction on basic terrains and in the building of rocks, mountains, tunnels, streams and lakes. You'll learn to build trees or what to look for in a store bought tree.

Speaking of trees – a farmer buys 10 trees and plants them in his front yard, there are 5 straight rows with 4 trees in each row and each tree is the same distance from the tree(s) next to it. How did the farmer accomplish this?

Back to MR 101, more advanced techniques will be addressed as they come up. The first class for those interested will occur on Thursday, November 29th (7pm) at Drew Hackmeyer's house. We'll build the modules, glue down the track and figure out the wiring if needed.

We'll have more information at the meeting. Space is limited. Please sign up at the meeting or call Drew at 942-2536 or email bbmra-editor@ngsouth.net if you are interested in participating.

BBMRA Dinner Announcement for November

The BBMRA will cater a dinner at the next meeting on Tuesday, November 20th. We are going to get Sonny's again and the menu will be as follows: pulled pork, chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, French bread and drinks: all for \$8.00 (\$7.50 for the dinner and \$0.50 tax equals \$8.00) per person. No dessert this month.

The same major rule is still in effect: you MUST preregister to eat. You don't have to prepay the \$8.00 (per person), you just have to reserve a table and give me a headcount for your party.

Please respond to me directly by either bouncing an e-mail message back to me or giving me a call on my cell at 850-544-1870. If I don't pick-up please leave a message.

*** Next Meeting ***

November 20th

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).

Dinner will begin at **6:45 pm**.

The meeting will begin at **7:30 pm**.

Please, during the program and discussion from the floor, respect the other members and stifle any side conversations or take them outside.

It's basic courtesy.

Don't Get "Duded" by Common Barn Lanterns – Part 2

By Larry Benson

Don't get duped by common barn lanterns like the one pictured below. The first clue to look for is: "If it doesn't have a railroad name imprinted somewhere in the metal it probably isn't genuine railroad or it's a reproduction".

Antique shops and sometimes even hobby vendors at shows try to foist barn lanterns on unwary beginning collectors as being railroad in origin. Possibly the worst and most subtle attempts to mislead collectors are found in E-auction offerings. Why? Because railroad lanterns command higher prices!

Let's look at some important differences between railroad lanterns and barn lanterns: Railroad lanterns are portable hand-held signaling devices used for directing trains. They are short and heavily made with lots of wire bracing protecting their glass globes and they have small "founts" for holding kerosene. Barn lanterns are tall and tubular and have less protection around their globes. Two "tubes"—one running up each side of barn lanterns—serve as intake sources for air to reach their much larger fount. Railroad lanterns don't have these air tubes—those you see are bracing. Barn lanterns which also burn kerosene can be carried but they normally serve as stationary sources of light for a defined area or to illuminate the way after dark. Again, remember, tube type lanterns can only be "railroad" if they have a railroad name stamped in them.

Other railroad lighting collectibles include round squatly-shaped lanterns with hooks attached to the tops and have orange or red globes. These are used during nighttime hours by railroad maintenance crews on crossing gates and barricades. The ones I've seen were manufactured by Dietz or Embury

and a few had railroad company names stamped into the metal on the tops, but most of them didn't. Road crews also use them. So here again, be alert! If it doesn't have a railroad name or logo stamped or embossed in the metal, it isn't "railroad". I would like to add one of these to my collection, but haven't yet primarily because of cost. One I saw was imprinted "Rock Island" and priced at \$450. I passed it up!

There are "caboose" lanterns resembling ordinary barn lanterns, but I'm not confident telling the difference between them. Another type I bought last year called an "Acme Inspector Lamp" and stamped with the PRR herald was made by Dietz. My article "Encounter With a Hooded Cobra" was published on page three in the May 2011 issue of the *BBMRA Lantern*.

Eventually, the bulky kerosene railroad lanterns which always seemed to need refueling and featured easily breakable globes contributed to their replacement. Smaller, easy-to-handle battery operated lanterns with loop handles that workers hang over their arms became the norm. Although I do have one of these in my collection as a representative "electric" type it's another area of collecting with which I am not familiar. Their prices begin around \$10 which makes them a relatively inexpensive addition to almost anyone's collection. As with all collectibles, *condition* is all important. Always buy an item in the best condition you can afford. I hope this brief guide will be helpful if you are interested in collecting railroad lanterns. Good luck and happy collecting!



Minutes of the October 2012 BBMRA Meeting

Another very good dinner starting at 6:45 PM.

Membership meeting called to order by President John Sullenberger starting at 7:30 PM. in the Old Tallahassee Antique Car Museum meeting room.

Minutes of September 18, 2012 meeting accepted.

Treasurer Larry Benson reports, we are in the black.

Division reports:

Small scale: Garth said work party needed to repair, improve "N" scale modules to begin Saturday morning, October 27th. Prepare for display at Home Depot in November.

HO: Sam said a workday in November at the Car Museum will be scheduled.

Large scale: Randy reported later to me that he is considering a donation of an "O" scale Lionel boxcar. To celebrate the 500th anniversary of Florida. The boxcar to be an "I Love Florida" edition. He did not get to announce that to the group.

Veterans Memorial: No report

NMRA: Barrett reports Prototype Rail Meet 2013 in Cocoa Beach FL. Jan 10-13, 2013. NMRA sanctioned event. He knows the best way to reserve rooms near there. Check Prototype Rail Meet web site.

Good of the group: John reminded us of Fall Farm day, Saturday Nov. 17th, 2-3 small layouts, and the layout tour Saturday Nov. 10th. Tour starts in town, to end at Eric and Ina Ecklund's home in Crawfordville. Amazing large scale back yard layout.

Business meeting ending at 7:43 PM.

Program:

Program was presented by two volunteers, Dave Chaney from Digitrax, and "Buddy" Black, president of Nova Technologies and the NMRA SER region educational director. They drove from Panama City to help us learn more about DCC. Knowledgeable about many brands, they represent Digitrax specifically. They used visual aids, verbal discussion, personal experience, even gave out mobile decoders. They answered many questions of all kinds, some unexpected in a demonstration. Many thanks for coming so far to help our club members. Personally I did not even know that wiring a layout for DCC would require blocks! Most Digitrax products made in the USA, was good hear also. I'd guess they made it back home near midnight, many thanks to them and our program committee.

One more thing; Thanks again John for organizing a very good dinner, and thanks to the volunteers who helped with this effort. I did not get their names, I'm sorry, still on my learning curve.

Respectfully, Doug Gyuricsko

Getting Started....

The "Model Railroading 101" concept is something I've done with a few people to get started in a particular facet of the hobby. Doing a project over several weeks, getting together regularly for each phase and learning the skills, then finishing up each phase on your own.

Doing this with T-Trak modules is a small, low cost way to get started and learn some skills.

Thank you

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