



THE Lantern

April 2013

Volume 18 Number 4

BBMRA welcomes.....

Our vice-president, Andy Zimmerman, gave me a great article about next month's program. I'm going to save it for the May newsletter as it will have more impact then.

Suffice to say, it should be a good one. Somehow, he has pulled a rabbit from his hat and we will have one of the hobby's major manufacturers and a leading innovator in the house! Andy will probably tell you about it at the meeting.

And I will run his article in the next newsletter.

And there will probably be a special blast email sent.

And if that doesn't whet your appetite, John is planning to have dinner catered at a cost of \$7.00 a head. Plan now to be there on May 21st.

April Program

I'm not nationally recognized and I don't have any fancy initials associated with my name (does "B.O.L.O." count?), but I will step to the plate for the April program. I'll do a short program on scratch-building and show some of the work I've done lately.

Drew Hackmeyer

Be Safe...

"Why Risk Your Life?" -- 1940s Railroad Safety Film

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqpayZ2JqIU>

Richard Schmitt KJ4ZOC

My Goals as a Model Railroader and BBMRA Member

By Mike Sassard

That's a terribly long title, but I began thinking about my goals as a member of BBMRA and my personal goals. I guess there are two.

1. The first is to introduce model railroading and the creative pleasure it brings to today's youth. When they are grown maybe they will become model railroaders and pass the pleasure down to others.
2. Second is to increase the joys of model railroading to the female sex and try to increase family participation. We need to rid ourselves of this notion that model railroading is a "man's" hobby.

*** Next Meeting ***

April 16th

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.**

Nametags

submitted (*and created*) by John Sullenberger

Okay BBMRA members it's time to dig up, pull out, locate or have created nametags that need to be worn whenever we meet and whenever we set-up and run our layouts for the public.

Both members and the general public need to know who (without having to ask) they are talking to.

Let me know if you want me to create and print a nametag for you. I'll need to know if you want a steam or diesel locomotive and what road-name you want.

You can make your selection and either tell me at a membership meeting, or you can call me at 850-544-1870 (my cell number) or you can e-mail me at sullyjws@aol.com.

I am lucky that I have recently had the opportunity to do just that. One of my step sons e-mailed me and said he needed a project the he and his son could work on together. Perfect ! I told him I would send him and his son some trains I wasn't using. I also sent him an armload of e-mail tips, ideas and instructions. They have a large basement and right away they started laying out the track.

Then, his older daughter said "I like trains, too". Perfect again ! Why shouldn't she have her own layout? So, I gathered up some more trains and sent them to her, hoping that "Mom" would jump in there somewhere.

Later, I got a hint that my oldest stepson needed some trains. He has two kids in college and three left at home, so his finances were not abundant for buying trains. I was about to run out of "give-a-ways", so I sent what I could and ordered what was missing from Charles Ro. I e-mailed him all the information, also. I also ordered, on line, some Amtrak cars to go with ones he had as a child. Three cars hardly makes a train. I told him I wanted to do this and that I should have done this long ago.

I've been waiting for pictures, but it looks like I'm not going to get any for a while, but what I have gotten is a tremendous amount of satisfaction and happiness in having the chance to accomplish my personal goals as well as those of a BBMRA member.

2013 Milestones for model & prototype railroads

by R. M. Lombardo, Large Scale Chief

The New Year is almost here and to get you back on track here's some interesting events & facts!

(Ed: My apologies to Randy.....I'm a little slow sometimes.)

January 1, 1983: Metro-North (Commuter) Railroad formed, which operates primarily in New York, Connecticut & New Jersey (under contract with New Jersey Transit (NJT), January 1, 1984), languished under the shadows of the famous giant railroads of New York Central, Penn Central and Conrail. Now funded by New York State & The Federal Government. The "Commuter" portion of the name was later dropped however, remains for legal reasons. Metro-North is also part of The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), which operates the Subways and Bus systems in the 5 boroughs that comprise New York City (The Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island) and The Long Island Railroad (LIRR), which was once owned by The Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR). Metro-North is currently the number one commuter railroad in America. A model of The M7 was manufactured by Lionel in both Metro-North & LIRR schemes. Metro-North's Harlem Line was also featured as part of Trainz Railwayz Simulator for 2007.

February 1, 1913: Called "The Grandest Terminal of All", Grand Central Terminal in New York City was completed, now exclusively used by Metro-North Railroad's Harlem, Hudson & New Haven Lines. The only other railroad that shared the facility in modern times, Amtrak vacated on September 7, 1991. The future looks bright with the recent refurbishing and eventually a connection with Pennsylvania (Penn) Station, where, Amtrak, LIRR & NJT have their terminals. A BIG celebration is scheduled.

1953: 60th Anniversary of Matchbox Vehicles (Owned by Mattel, makers of Hot Wheels since 1997)

1968: 45th Anniversary of Hot Wheels Vehicles

A Double Feature at the Picture Show

Unseen Home Movie Footage of Walt Disney & Ward Kimball & Trains

<http://ogrforum.ogaugerr.com/displayForumTopic/content/15931049883571057/reply/lastReply#lastReply>

Richard Schmitt KJ4ZOC

(Ed: There are two videos in the discussion thread. They're great.)

Railroading Merit Badge Day

Received from Andy Gray

"Thank you for all the Big Bend Model Railroad Association does to help create an interest in our greatest and most neglected form of transportation.

"We had a total of 16 boys participate on Saturday, February 2nd in the railroading merit badge from several troops. Barrett and Sam did a great job and a good time was had by all. Their willingness to take time and work with the boys is greatly appreciated.

"The boys all seemed to enjoy the timesaver and most enjoyed completing the car kits. I would say that I wish I had got to work on one, but we found ourselves busy helping the boys figure out how to get the kits together. The adults who were there were also impressed with what they learned about trains and everyone agreed that we should not have waited so long."

Minutes of March 2013 BBMRA meeting

March 19, 2013 – Meeting began at 7:39pm

February minutes accepted as is.

Treasurer's report -- We are in the black.

Visitors -- Bill Ludwig visiting from Alaska. He has many travel experiences all over the world. Rode many rails, and has stories to match.

We also have Ken Fuqua who is in HO scale.

Division reports

Small scale -- Garth said thanks to all who were involved with the CEF Crafters Market. The N scale layout brought many inside. Joe had many who earned their engineer certs on the switching layout. Good job Joe, they want us all back next year.

Garth notified us there is a work shop Saturday March 23, 2013 at 9:00 A.M. Coffee will be on. (finish the paint job on the box, and some module work needed also).

HO -- Sam said Roy Mantooth has moved (sooner than expected).

Large scale -- No report. (I did receive an email later From Randy who explained his absence to an appliance breakdown, was sorry for missing the meeting.)

Switching -- Joe said he had a good day at the Crafters Market and was impressed with the N scale workings.

Veterans Memorial -- They run the 2nd Saturday of every month. There may be a special run of the live steamer, (before it gets too hot).

NMRA -- Sunshine Region's First Annual Joint Division Meeting Hands On Tampa Rails - A Day of Hands on Clinics Hilton Garden Inn, Riverview, FL on April 20, 2013

John reports that the car museum railroad section will be closed to the public. However we are allowed access, to our layouts. Lights can be turned on. "The air conditioner will not be turned on". This will make it (again), just too hot for us to work in very long.

John also notified us, there are many tables sold for the train show (coming soon). There will be an outside ticket booth (with A/C) two people needed inside, with an extra person to double check incase both are busy with other business. We need volunteers to make this work smoothly. Help is needed (many vendors very happy) with help to unload and load up at the end of the show. This helps big doors to close sooner, which helps with the A/C in the rooms. We can use extra hand trucks if you have them, and people to use them. Friday the day before will have some vendors setting up, as well as Saturday morning at 7am. We will need people to show up for that. Bob Ruggles will co-ordinate the help. Having two buildings, we need to step up to make it the best show in town. We were reminded by Andy that there are less than 90 days left.

John also told us we are looking at options for a home base were we can set up, work on, run trains and meet. Details need to be worked out in a variety of options. Remembering a club budget is a part of our decisions. The storage we pay for, needs to go, the division leaders will need to asses the size of existing layouts, as they may not fit a new location. One idea is to change the HO layout so it can be easier to run from the inside. There will be decisions that may need changing the size of layouts.

There has been great interest in the "T" trak modules, all scales. Working with them has had members working together for a common goal, to run trains.

John again said if anyone needs a badge, let him know, we need to wear them. Thanks.

Reminder of a Train Fest April 6th.

Garth again says thanks to all who came out to help with the Craft Fair.

Tonight's demonstration is by Andy Millott. He has gathered the information needed to kit bash a midwestern grain elevator. Using many different materials, kits can be made into great looking buildings. Roof materials, windows, stacks, signs, and weathering just right to make it look real. Andy Millott used a lap top with on screen large display, and the model itself. This is HO scale, but as Andy describes the "how to" in his work, it can be any scale. His research, and detailed study of buildings like this shows in the work he did. Thanks Andy, for sharing your success and pitfalls with the scratch building, kit bashing, and weathering you did on this project. The quality shows.

The HO modules were set up and running trains very quickly, testing the train and T-Trak system. Looks like a winner to me.

The N scale modules were also set up. One looked very cold (snow covered mountain in progress), and one with gators in the swamp at the other end. Running trains drew many together around them.

Respectfully submitted by Doug G.

"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 first Tuesday of the publication month (unless otherwise noted) sent to: BBMRA, Attn: Editor, PO Box 3392, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3392 or e-mailed to bbmra-editor@ngsouth.net.

Upcoming Events

Saturday April 20th, 2013

10:00am to 3:00pm

Train Show---Pinellas Park, FL

Knights of Columbus Hall
7177 58th Street North
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Admission: \$4.00 Children Under 12...FREE
EARLY BIRD...\$6.00 (9:00am)

Vendors and Small Layout
Lunch Available.

More Info: www.regalrailways.com

May 11, 2013 - May 12, 2013

Saturday — 9:00 AM - 5:00 P

Sunday — 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The Villages Spring Rail Expo

Savannah Regional Recreation Center
1545 Buena Vista Blvd, The Villages, FL

[Map this Location](#)

Description: 130 tables of vendors covering all scales and memorabilia. Separate room of operating layouts in G, O, HO and N. Raffles and hourly door prizes. Free parking!

Admission: \$5.00. Children under 10 free with adult

Contact: [Alan Goldberg](#)

Phone: (352) 205-4322

Show Link: [Click Here](#)

June 1, 2013, Saturday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm June 2, 2013 Sunday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Golden Spike Enterprises, Inc.

9th TAMPA MODEL TRAIN SHOW & SALE

Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, Florida
Special Events Center
Show Link: [Click Here](#)

Saturday, June 15, 2013

9 am to 4 pm

**Big Bend Model Railroad Association Presents
22nd Annual Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale**
Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale,

NOW IN 2 BUILDINGS, Buildings 2 and 4!

Admission: Adults & Children 13 and over \$5,
Scouts in Uniform as well as Children 12 and under are free.
Free Parking
North Florida Fairgrounds Location

Show Link: [Click here](#)