



# THE Lantern

May 2013

Volume 18 Number 5

## BBMRA welcomes Broadway Limited Imports!

Over the last year our membership has been fortunate enough to have some well-known players in the Model railroading community come to our humble meeting place. They came to educate us and demonstrate for us techniques and products that make our Hobby that much more exciting. We learned from Jim Gore how to take a 2 dimensional medium and create a 3 dimensional building worthy of any layout!



Next we had Digitrax with Dave Chaney and Buddy Black (Electrical engineer, President of Nova Technologies). Digitrax drove from Panama City on their own dime and brought decoders and all of the DCC knowledge you would ever want to know. We had quite the turnout for both of these events and we are hoping that for this next event we we will will have even more of you turn out.



Thanks to a little due diligence on the part of your leadership and the program committee we have managed to score yet another major manufacturer!! On May 21<sup>st</sup> 2013 we are to play host to **Broadway Limited Imports!** (<http://www.broadway-limited.com/index.aspx>)

That's right!! Direct from Ormand Beach Florida, President and CEO Robert "Bob" Grubba and Ken Silvestri will be demonstrating some of BLI's outstanding Line.

**Robert "Bob" Grubba** was the director of engineering for [Lionel](#) Trains in the late 1990s. He started [Broadway Limited Imports](#) in 2001 with partners Tony Wenzel of Oriental Limited and Bob Zimet of QS Industries, maker of QSI sound systems. Broadway Limited Imports was the first company to offer sound and remote control equipped HO trains, and won the [Model Railroader](#) Magazine 2002 and 2003 Product of the Year and HO Model of the Year awards. Mr. Zimet and Mr. Wenzel sold their shares to Mr. Grubba in 2004 and the company was moved to Ormond Beach, Florida.



From their site "Broadway Limited Imports is composed of a team of 15 fun loving individuals who are dedicated to creating the most realistic model railroading experience possible, with the best customer service possible. Our in-house engineering and product development produces rapidly emerging new features that our competitors simply are unable to match. Our cutting-edge technologies are, however, regularly mimicked about a year or so after we've developed and delivered them. Our team is small, but our award winning products and customer service are praised by customers across the globe."

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

**May 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).

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

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

Please join me in welcoming Bob Grubba and Kevin Silvestri **As they travel 246 miles one way (3hrs and 45 minutes) from Ormond Beach.** Bob has informed me that they will probably show some samples, give away a door prize, and ask club members questions about what products and features they would like to see in the future. So come and join us next month for BLI's demonstration and bring your questions for their Q&A period!!

We want to be great hosts, so please respect the presenters and give THEM the attention during the meeting. Side Conversations need to go outside so you do not disturb those who are trying to listen. Additionally please plan to stay for the duration of the meeting if possible so as to be respectful to our guests and show them that coming to Tally and one of the largest Model railroad organizations in Florida was well worth their time.

We want to encourage as many of you as possible to come to the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and show BLI that we appreciate their time and efforts.

**THIS IS ONE MEETING YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS!!**

Andy J. Zimmerman  
VP BBMRA

## Why Trains Do What They Do

Richard Schmitt found the following in the NMRA's South Mountain Division newsletter "Wheel Report" (volume 12/13 no.3):

"...Until radio communications became prevalent around 1970, two-thirds of the Nation's rail lines operated by the timetable and train order system..."

For additional information, see the Operations Special Interest Group at <http://www.opsig.org/> and the Yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ry-ops-industrialSIG/>. They have a new book available "19 East, Copy Three" by Sprau and King shown on the website.

## WOMEN IN MODEL RAILROADING

Model railroading is not just a one gender hobby. Over the years many women have become very involved and a very important part of this hobby. You could say, "behind every great model railroad there is a woman." From the NASA engineer who incorporates the same lighting system she designed for the space shuttle into her N scale projects, to the woman who made Hallmark Models a leading name in brass model trains, women are playing a very important role in this hobby. And let us not forget the wives, girlfriends, and sisters who have added their own personal contributions to our shared interest in model railroading. Women such as; **Bobby Hall** of Hallmark (She started Hallmark Models (not associated with the greeting card company), one of the best importers of quality brass model trains) **Gail Allen Komar** (NMRA MMR); **Leslie Eaton**, NMRA master modeler and a NASA engineer and **Beverly Belkin**; formed Bev-Bel corp. Bev-Bel specialized in producing limited run roadnames and schemes on items produced by the major manufacturers, but not offered by them; all come to mind.

After reading about "Linda Quick" and her Red Pine River RR (<http://www.parisconsulting.com/published/ogr-apr13.pdf>) Mike Sassard in conjunction with the Big Bend Model Railroad Association would like to find and encourage a Lady model railroader. We want to promote the hobby with women as well as men. Take a minute to read the Linda Quick article and you will see what we mean.

In an effort to further promote our hobby Mike Sassard and the Big Bend Model Railroad Association would like to find a woman who is interested in building her own Model Railroad.

### Program and Dinner Announcement for May

Broadway Limited Imports (BLI) will attend the BBMRA's May meeting. They will give a general overview of their products, lead a discussion of our views on possible future production items and answer questions. They told Andy they would bring something for a door prize.

With that in mind we will cater another dinner from Sonny's during our next meeting on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. The menu will be as follows: pulled pork, chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, French bread and drinks all for \$7.00 per person. Dessert will be provided this month.

**The same major rule is still in effect: you MUST pre-register to eat.** You don't have to prepay the \$7.00 (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.

Dinner is not a requirement so please make every effort to attend this meeting.

John

Mike will provide a nice Lionel train and everything to run it, however the selected individual would have to build (or have built) a 4 by 8 foot table and furnish the landscaping materials. It would be her choice as to how she wants to scenic the layout. The train would be hers to keep and Mike has an armload of instructions that he would e-mail to her.

Mike would like to show that Model Railroading is not just a "man's" hobby. The Big Bend Model Railroad Association only has one female member and Mike would like to increase that number to at least two.

Please note: first you must try to take care of this train. Lionel has produced some really "good" trains. This is not a "toy". It is a model and is one of their better productions.

Second, you must try to build a complete model railroad, using on a theme of your choice.

Third, Mike would like for you to read all of his e-mail instructions and attachments. You can e-mail him anytime if there is a question and he will answer as soon as possible.

Mike would like pictures during the layout's construction and after its completion for an article he wants to write concerning this program.

As noted above you will need to furnish all the wood, scenery products, buildings and vehicles.

This is a program Mike came up with trying encourage women to become interested in model railroading. As you can see in the article on Linda Quicks railroad and he endorses her statement: "And whatever we put on our layout that makes us happy is all that matters."

Mike will take the FIRST e-mail or call he receives. [msassard@centurylink.net](mailto:msassard@centurylink.net) 850-671-5725

So you see you don't need to be an importer of highly detailed brass models or a master modeler in the NMRA to be part of this hobby. Women have been a big part of their husband's, boyfriend's, or their own model train layouts ever since this hobby began. How many times has that new locomotive come in the form of a gift, by someone who shared in the love of trains? Or how often has that special woman's touch finished off a perfect vignette that takes a scene to a totally new level. We have seen it here at BBMRA with those women who are part of our organization or significant contributors to their significant others layouts... We want to help you get started.

## Minutes of April 2013 BBMRA meeting

Meeting started at 7:36 P.M.

March minutes; Accepted.

Treasurers report; we are in the black.

No visitors.

Division reports;

Small scale, Garth E. reports a work party at Andy Z's house Saturday 9:30 A.M. There will be a set up of the "N" scale layout at Lowes (East side) May 25th, also a set up at Home Depot (East side) June 5th.

H.O. Building modules, Drew H. has many available.

Large scale; No report.

Switching; Joe H. recommends a "new improved" switching layout.

Veterans Memorial; still free.

NMRA; Barrett J. reminds us of the NMRA National convention in Atlanta this July. It will be far away next year. He recommends their web site for the details.

John reports the Tallahassee Auto Museum "Train room" is closed to the public. We are still allowed to go up there to work on the layouts. However there will be no air-conditioning available. It gets hot after awhile, so be prepared.

John also reports 110 tables have been sold for the show.



A kitbashed sawmill scene on Jack Herzog's American Flyer layout.

We need volunteers, Bob R. is doing the coordination of volunteers. Help is needed to aid vendors with unloading, and loading when possible. This helps them, and us by keeping large doors closed sooner, and the room cooler. John also has the "Hot Dog Man" for our goodies. It will be very important to have and wear our badges. There are show flyers on the tables for distribution for our show.

Barrett J. also announced a going away party for the Mantooths, April 28th 2-4 P.M. Call Sam.

Good of the group; Andy Z. announces a photo session to include in the database. Also there will be a dinner next month. It will still be only \$7 drinks included. Sonny's doing the cooking. Andy also announced the B.L.I. (Broadway Limited Imports) of Ormond Beach has been invited to our May meeting. Door prize examples of their product lines. H.O. and N scale detailed sound. Telling other clubs about this is encouraged, like Dothan, Albany, and others. Also remember to be as courteous as we can around the demonstrators.

No new news about our search for new building. Dues will be due on July first, still only \$20 for the year.

There will also be a survey (about 6 questions), of club members, asking for honest answers here.

Art Wilson is willing to donate some old (sat for a time) engines.

Business meeting ending at 8:14 P. M.

Our program demonstrator is Drew Hackmeyer. Drew has surprised us with an old standby car repair material, "Bondo". Bricks from Bondo can be cast into model railroad details. Using it with wrinkled wax paper for stone like facing and coloring it with inexpensive paints makes for realistic stone, or brick. Good job Mr. Drew, I know Bondo is strong too!

Respectfully submitted by Doug Gyuricsko.

## Monticello

### The Hub of Rail Activity ? By Mike Sassard and Bob Moody

Recently, in doing some research on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, I came across the following paragraph from the Internet.

In 1928 the ACL completed a line between [Perry, Florida](#) and Drifton, near [Monticello, Florida](#), the last link of the new "Perry Cut-off". This created a more direct route between Chicago and Florida's west coast, one which passed through Macon, Albany, and Thomasville, the route followed by ACL's passenger train *The Southland* from December 1928 to 1957 when it was rerouted to Jacksonville.

Upon remembering a conversation I had with our own Bob Moody, I sent him the information. He replied with information which I believe to be more accurate:

"The "Southland" service thru Monticello ended in the late 50's. I rode it from Macon to Monticello in I think 1959 just months before it ended,

"I am sending a photo of the station at that time. It was located about a mile or so west of town on US 90 called 'New Monticello'.

"This is the only picture known to have survived the years

"I have been checking on the dates for the "Southland"

"I was in an auto accident on Easter Sunday 1957.....I was in a neck cast until early August.....I remember going up to Macon to visit my folks and taking the train back.....we moved to Ft Worth in August 1957.



"The termination of service could have been late 1957....but, there is some evidence that it ran until late 1959."

Bob sent me a splendid picture of the station. As you can see it clearly says "Monticello". I believe the Internet is in error here.

Here is a picture of the L and N *Southland*.

The photo shows a date of Nov 30, 1957  
Central of Georgia Passenger Trains  
Discontinued since Dec 31, 1950  
Nos. 32 and 33 Atlanta and Albany

Mike Sassard



## Upcoming Events

**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](#)

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