



THE Lantern

September 2013

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23rd Annual Wiregrass Model Railroad Show and Sale

The 23rd annual Wiregrass Model Railroad Show and Sale will be held at the National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds (5622 US Highway 231) just south of Dothan, Alabama on Saturday, September 21st and Sunday, September 22nd. Show hours on Saturday are 9 am to 5 pm CDT and on Sunday are 10 am to 4 pm CDT. The show will feature vendors from throughout the Southeast selling model train equipment and supplies and operating model railroads in several scales. The show also will feature an outdoor train ride for children, concessions and door prizes on both days. The non-profit show is sponsored by the Wiregrass Heritage Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children under age 12.

Remember, the BBMRA has a reciprocal show entrance agreement with the Wiregrass Chapter and BBMRA members get in free.

September Program – Purchasing on eBay by David Brazell

David Brazell will lead a discussion on the finer points of buying stuff on eBay.

Home Depot welcomes The BBMRA to the West Side!

September 7th 2013 marked a great day for the Tallahassee community and the BBMRA. The Home depot on the west side of Tallahassee welcomed the N-Scale division eagerly. This was the first time in recent history, possibly ever that we have run trains at the West Side Home Depot. Upon arrival we were met by the warm welcome of the Home Depot staff. I am quite sure they did not know what to expect. As we unpacked you could see the wow and wonder set in, young and old alike watched intently as we set brought out the different modules. Gary Austin, Doug Gyuricsko, John Meister, John Sullenberger, Garth Easton, Matt Baronovich, Andy Zimmerman, Sheldon Harrison and The Mayfields (prospective members) were on hand to set up, answer questions about the club and do what we love to do best! Run Trains!

*** Next Meeting ***

September 17th 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**.

Last Chance to Pay Your Dues

The Big Bend Model Railroad Association's official membership renewal period ended on August 31st. Of the 97 members in the association on June 30th 69 renewed and 28 have not. Our "unofficial" renewal window will be open through our meeting on September 17th. A new roster will be generated after the meeting and will be sent to the Wiregrass Historical Society for their model railroad show to be held on Saturday, September 21st and Sunday, September 22nd. Remember, only active membership in the BBMRA grants you free admission to the Wiregrass Model Railroad Show.

Throughout the day we had a small crowd gathered round, some were locked into the scavenger hunt while others took pictures and sent them off to family and friends. We were pleasantly surprised to hear that Home Depot was receiving phone calls inquiring just how long we would be there running trains. Word got around fast and young and old alike gathered round to enjoy the layout. Some had so much fun that they decided to join the BBMRA right then and there.



By the end of the day the Store Manager thanked us and welcomed us back for another day. He said that having the trains there brought up the morale of his crew, drew in customers and added a whole new facet to the Home Depot experience. He would be grateful if we would consider coming back for another day. We thoroughly enjoyed running trains, answering questions and sharing our passion for Model railroading.

Andy J. Zimmerman
BBMRA VP

Future Display Dates

The BBMRA will have set-ups in October and November. The October set-up will take place at the Leon County branch library in Woodville on Saturday, October 12th. We are to set-up in a room off the main lobby. The room is 14 by 27 feet with a permanent counter in a corner. The library's activities are in conjunction with Woodville's Founder Day Festival. Set-up begins at 7:30 am and the event runs from 10 am to 4 pm.

The November set-up will take place at the Tallahassee Museum on Saturday, November 9th. We are to set-up in the Education Room (across from the gift shop). The room is 19.5 by 25.5 feet. The museum's activities are part of their Fall Farm Day. Set-up begins at 8 am and the event runs from 9 am to 4 pm.

I would like the HO Division to take part in at least one of these events.

For the football fans: FSU has an open date on October 12th and plays at Wake Forest on November 9th; FAMU plays at Savannah State on October 12th and at South Carolina State on November 9th; UF plays at LSU on October 12th and Vanderbilt at home on November 9th; and Alabama plays at Kentucky on October 12th and plays LSU at home on November 9th.

Large Scale Update: Lionel Sale, T Trak Meeting, Dothan, Jessie

From Sam Miller, Large Scale Coordinator

Vintage Lionel Sale Sunday afternoon, 1-5 p.m.

Eric Ecklund and I will have vintage Lionel locomotives, rolling stock and accessories for sale Sunday afternoon during the regular Sunday operating session at my house, 3008 Stillwood Court, in Woodgate.

We are helping the widow of a wonderful collector dispose of items and there is a lot of neat, older Lionel stuff. We will have tables at the Dothan show next weekend and we are offering BBMRA Lionel collectors a shot at these fine pieces first. We will be set up from 1 to 5 Sunday at my house and also will be operating trains. All of you are welcome.

(By the way, we won't have an operating session Sunday, September 22 because of the baptism of my new grandson, Logan. We will gear back up Sunday, September 29.)

Lionel T Trak Planning Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Come to next Tuesday's BBMRA meeting early, at 7 p.m., for a planning session on the Lionel T Trak layout. John Sullenberger, club president, will be meeting with us; and hopefully also Drew Hackmeyer, who has been building the T Traks, all scales.

We have decided to go with Lionel's FasTrack full-width curve module setup, two tracks with a 84" curve and a 72" curve. The club is paying for construction of the corners and, hopefully, Drew will build the modules for us. Members of our group will take on straight away pieces and I need volunteers.

Dothan Train Show Next Weekend

If you are going to the Dothan show either Sept. 21 or 22 and have room for riders or need a ride, contact me and I will try to coordinate for our group. smiller@flains.org or 385-7733

Helping Jessie Jamerson

Mike Sassard purchased a Lionel starter set for Diana Jameson and her son, Jessie, members of our club, and this was presented at the last BBMRA meeting. This was a wonderful thing for Mike to do. Diana, Jessie and Jessie's brother came over to my layout on Labor Day and Barrett Johnson and I showed it off to them. I had a handful of extra items to give them – vehicles, a couple of buildings and some people. If you can give Jessie some items for his layout, please bring them to the club meeting next Tuesday.

Thank you.
Sam

Membership, what does it mean; to belong or not to belong, THAT is the question!

Membership in the BBMRA is easy for the most part, the BBMRA does not exclude anyone because of race, creed, ethnic origin, educational attainment, vocation, material status or physical stature. We measure character by what one does and is, not by title or positions.

We stress working together for the greater good, for the benefit of the club as a whole and the world's greatest hobby in general... Model Railroading!

Membership for some is about putting their money down and that is it, just to say I belong. For others it is about being included with likeminded people sharing a common interest. Coming to a meeting and listening to what the club is involved in when the next shows are, and what our presenter for the evening has in store for us, no more no less, content to sit on the sidelines. For others it is about making a difference, making an impact. You belong because you want to see the club succeed. You know that while you may not have every skill you have something to contribute to the club as a whole, you're the electronic technician with a penchant for soldering because you do not subscribe to "the bigger the blob the better the job philosophy" or the carpenter who makes the



benchwork right and doesn't cut corners. Maybe you're the guy with the talent for track planning and squeezes as much trackage as possible into a design or the Scenery expert who can make it all look real and suspend disbelief! Singularly we are limited by our individual skillsets but as a whole we can make most anything happen. Synergy at its finest.

Need to ask yourself what club do you want to belong too and further, which one would new members want to belong too? We need as many of the latter type as we can get (self-starters, motivated to see the group/club succeed). Instead of asking yourself "how" do I fit in ask WHERE can I fit in and then make it happen.



You have heard me say that many hands make like work and get involved. Well with new leadership at the division levels and a new focus I believe as I always have. With the talent present in this club there should not be anything out of reach. For the 71% of you who renewed (69 out of 97) take a look at where you can contribute your talents. Do not wait to be asked. We have committee positions that need to be filled, need for presenters and clinics as well as a myriad of other things. So you have taken the first step and you renewed your membership that is just the beginning. Now I ask you what kind of member are you prepared to be?-

Andy J. Zimmerman BBMRA Vice President

Minutes of August 2013 BBMRA meeting

Meeting called to order by John Sullenberger at 7:39 PM August 20, 2013.

Dues being accepted.

New Members; Tim Tallman, being in HO scale, and Fred Martin, has more time for HO these days.

July 16th. meeting minutes; accepted as is.

Treasurers report; Sandy reports; we are in the black.

Small scale division; Garth says a work party on the 31st. There will be an N scale display at Home Depot west side of town on the 7th of Sept.

HO; Art recommends HO getting into the act.

Large scale; John Sullenberger says "O" scale will go with "T"-track 45* units using 72"-84" radius. Contact Sam if interested.

Good of the group;

John Sullenberger reports the next train show to be June 28th. 2014.

Andy Millott said the NMRA convention in Atlanta was awesome to see.

Drew Hackmeyer has plans for low cost scratch built building project.

John also says the St. Marks Stone Crab Festival hopes we could come down in the future.

Program put on by John Sykes; Weathering and details on gondolas. Use of paints, chalk, Dullcote, sand paper and sanding tools, couplers, trucks, hand brakes, and experience with brakes. A hole in the side of a gondola is useful! We got to hear good stories about gondolas. John also gave his experience with Dullcote use on chalk weathering, and the types of chalk out there. Using video, models, narration, a large screen display, supported by Andy Z. it was very educational on many levels.

I am told, Mike Sassard purchased a complete Lionel train set for one of our youngest train members who was having problems with his set. Young Jessie became speechless when it was presented to him. (I would be too!). Jessie was able to thank him and waved on camera. This is what makes model railroaders shine. There was cake, too! You just needed to be there to see the joy.

Respectfully submitted by Doug Gyuricsko.

"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.