



THE Lantern

November 2013

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Sam & Linda Miller's Christmas Open House

- submitted by Sam Miller

Linda and I would like to invite members of the club to our house in Woodgate on Friday, December 13th, to see the Christmas lights on my HO and O-Scale train layouts. The Open House begins at 6:30 pm and runs until 9:30 pm.

Our house is at 3008 Stillwood Court, just off of Woodgate Way. Coming from Thomasville Road, Stillwood Court is the first left, about half-a-mile from Thomasville. From Centerville, it is about a mile. Go to the second Stillwood Court sign and turn right. Our house is the third house on the left, there is a train engine mailbox. If you turn right at the first Stillwood Court, go almost all the way to the end and look for the train engine mailbox on the right. We hope you will come to our Christmas Open House.

November 19th Meeting and Program

In the years preceding our "permanent" locations on St. Francis Street and Woodville Highway the BBMRA's meetings were held at the City of Tallahassee's Parks and Recreation Community Room and in one of the Leon County Public Library's Program Rooms.

The HO Division would set-up and run at the Community Room during the first month of each quarter and then the N Scale Division would set-up and run during the second month. We were able to run trains and enjoy the fellowship of each member's company with very little business conducted.

Our business meeting was held every third month in one of the Program Rooms at the Park Avenue Leon County Public Library. Parking was always a challenge and the meetings were short and to the point as we had to be out by 8:45 (due to the library closing at 9 pm).

And then we would start the cycle over again: The HO Division would set-up and run at the Community Room.....

We abandoned the quarterly routine when we moved in a building on St. Francis Street and then into a warehouse on Woodville Highway. After we left Woodville Highway we tried to recreate our quarterly schedule but members and modules were in short supply and the meeting format we use today slowly became the "norm."

Now with the advent of T-Trak and a good membership base we will go back in time, this November the BBMRA will harken back to those days and we'll just "Run Trains!"

I am calling on the HO and Small Scale Divisions to bring, set-up and run their T-Trak modular layouts. And I mean all of the modules, if the track is glued down then the module is ready to run. Scenery can be added or completed at a later date.

There will be a short business meeting: accepting the minutes and the treasurer's report and a few announcements and then we're back to running trains.

I'm also calling for a "Swap Meet" to be held as well. Members can shop while watching the trains.

*** Next Meeting ***

November 19th

**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.**

All in all it should be a good evening of fellowship and train watching.

John Sullenberger

President, BBMRA

Thomas (the Tank engine) & Friends Visit WFSU

The Thomas Sub-Division will set up and run at WFSU's Thomas & Friends™ event on Saturday, December 7th. The event runs from 9 am to 1 pm. Reservations are required (even though this is a free event) and according to the WFSU website all reservations have been taken. WFSU is trying to obtain addition time slots for those interested in attending this event." You can check for updates at WFSU's Thomas webpage: www.wfsu.org/thomas.

Tallahassee Antique Car Museum submitted by John Sullenberger

There have been a couple of rumors floating that the BBMRA has been asked to leave the Tallahassee Antique Car Museum. In a conversation I had with Devoe Moore in mid-October I was told point blank that we have NOT been asked to leave. Please contact me at 850-544-1870 if you have questions or comments on this matter.

2013 Veteran's Memorial Railroad "Christmas in the Park" Train

The trains will run on Saturday, December 14th, Friday, December 20th, Saturday, December 21st and Monday, December 23rd from 6:00 pm till 10 pm (Eastern Time). Tickets are \$5 per person for the Red, White and Blue diesel and the Nbr 59 "steam" locomotive and \$7 per person for the Crown steam locomotive (the Crown will not be available on December 23rd).

The Veteran's Memorial Railroad is located in just behind the Civic Center in Veterans Memorial Park, 10561 NW Theo Jacobs Road / County Road 12, Bristol, FL 32321.

Welcome to Camelot Submitted by Mike Sassard

Camelot is the name of my Model Railroad. I call my railroad *The Florida Coast Line*, which is a combination of *The Florida East Coast* and *The Atlantic Coast Line*, two of my favorite prototype railroads.

My Philosophy

To say that my two layouts are unusual is putting it mildly. I have made no attempt to imitate real life. Only the trains, vehicles, people and animals are



O and G scale (under Camelot II). I even have a framed 5 by 7 picture of my deceased wife on the main layout. Unlike most model railroads, I have not attempted to copy much of the prototype. My goal is to provide entertainment with 3 rail O gauge model trains. I do not run any freight trains on the main Layout. All of my trains on the main layout are a mixture of Lionel and Mike's Train House steam and diesel engines and MTH Premier Line scale passenger cars. I use all Lionel Fastrack, none of it fastened down. I have four switches and they are very reliable. I have no uncoupling tracks. I just enjoy the heck out of watching my trains run!

The Layouts

My main layout is located in my apartment guest bedroom. I am not a good woodworker and the layout is constructed of ¼ inch 2' by 4' panels, with 1 by 4 bracing. Instead of traditional scenery, I chose to cover everything with green indoor-outdoor carpet. All track wiring is under the layout. Switch wiring is on top of the carpet, covered with "sheet moss", from Wal-Mart. There is no control panel and the switch controllers as well as the siding power switches (ordinary household light switches) are screwed to the layout front surface. Main power is supplied by a MTH Z4000. There are two main loops. The inner loop has all the sidings. Some sidings use O-36 curves, making it difficult for some engines to navigate. I mainly enjoy watching the trains run (all have train sounds), and I occasionally change engines. I have a number of favorites. One favorite engine is a MTH DL109 with an operating "Mars" light. I also enjoy running my trains to



Bluegrass Music. My CD begins with "Steel Rails" by Alison Krauss and I have a mini poster on the shelf for that number. There is a framed "Welcome" on the front corner with the words to Camelot.

My second layout, which I call Camelot II, I came upon by accident. I intended to build a 4 by 8 N gauge layout in the living room, (I gave some unneeded furniture to Goodwill), but found the N gauge unsatisfactory and donated it to our local club. That left me with a 4 by 8 table, so I put a loop of 0-27 track and a postwar train and a loop of Fastrack around that with a MTH Pre War Reproduction on that. I filled the inside with Buildings which my pharmacy was selling as "birdhouses", but they were detailed beautiful buildings. Finally, I cleared part of the floor out and put a favorite battery G gauge train there and with some extra space I run a Bachmann G gauge trolley. I did not have any G gauge people (other than my super heroes), so I bought a set of toy soldiers and cut off their weapons. That left them in a variety of good positions. I painted them to look civilian.

Other Landscaping

For other landscaping, on my main layout, I go by a phrase emailed to me by Linda Quick,(a noted O gauge modeler), "and whatever we put on our layouts that makes us happy, is all that counts". I use plenty of trees. In fact I have an abundance of trees and other foliage. I discovered Jo Ann Fabrics and crafts had some dandy trees, so I bought all they had. I have vehicles, but no roads. I have many oversize statues, including a 12 inch bronze statue of Christ. I have a reproduction American Flyer Union station, a large log building and the highlight is a Castle, built brick by brick by my 97 year old Father. I have just two Plasticville buildings, the rest are wood and paper kits built by my father. I have a Fisher-Price castle which I have spray painted gray primer. I like seagulls and have a Jonathon Livingston Seagull park. Most of the people are in the station parking lot. There are others watching the sailboats and in the park. There are no police cars, nor ambulances. I have one operating accessory, a double crossing gate which works perfectly and is fun. I also have a "garden" up front. The parts I got from Scenic Express. Also, overhead, hanging is a helicopter. I have made billboards on my computer and put them in small wood picture frames. My pride and joy is two sailing boats fastened to the back of the layout. The larger one is a scale model (not O scale, but close) of the yacht "Endeavor". I also have some visitors seated nearby watching the sailboats. In the center I have a small orange grove.



I have done my share in promoting model railroading to the younger generation. I have sent a large number of trains to two of my stepsons for their children. I belong to the Big Bend Model Railroad Association and recently learned of a young boy and his mother, who had joined the club. The boy only had a plastic battery train which wasn't even working. Our Vice President got that working and I bought the boy a good Lionel train set. The club jumped in and gave some more items and is building him a layout.

I have the following framed and hanging in my train room From Jonathon Livingston Seagull: "You will be ready to begin the most difficult, the most powerful, and the most fun of all. You will be ready to begin to fly up and know the meaning of kindness and of love."

Happy Rails, Mike Sassard
msassard@centurylink.net

BBMRA Meeting Minutes for October 15th 2013

John Sullenberger using a gavel, called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.

John called on guests to introduce themselves.

Don Younker told us as a youngster he had received an O scale Lionel train set his dad bought in 1946. It had been put away for 60 years. Tested at Sam Millers it ran well. He looks forward to getting the whole set back up and running.

Ben Carroll having a passion for trains since his first Thomas wood set. Now in his teens, Ben is working on an HO scale layout. His passion is supported by his mom and dad.

Mark Beshara has opened a local hobby shop (Hobby Monstro city) on Capital Circle NE. He has been in N scale for 30 years! (see last months Lantern).

John Sullenberger welcomed them all, and started the business meeting.

Sept. 17th 2013 meeting minutes; accepted as is.

Treasurer report; Sandy says we are in the black.

Division reports;

Small scale; Garth reported the Woodville founders day event went well, the N scale and switching were there, it looked like over 600 people signed the guest book, he estimates there were more than 600 present. The BBMRA is invited back next year.

HO; Art Wilson reports the HO members need to gather together. They plan to be at the Junior Museum November 9th for the Fall Farm Day event.

John asks HO to set up.

Large scale; no report.

Switching; Joe Haley reports the Woodville Founders day event had a good bunch of people, he thanked Sheldon H. for being the back up with him.

Veterans Memorial; John Sullenberger reports they will have the Halloween special. New is "The Haunted Depot". Open Oct. 25, 26th and then the 31st. 6:30 to 10 P.M. in Bristol.

NMRA; Barrett Johnson reminds us the NMRA Sunshine Region convention was in Bradenton FL. (Oct. 11-13th 2013). The National convention will be in Orlando in 2017. Even though that sounds far off, time flies and they are looking for volunteers to help out. The next few years will be a long flight from here. (2014, July, Cleveland, OH,- 2015 August, Portland, OR,- 2016 July, Indy).

John thanked the by-laws committee for all the work they have done updating our by-laws.

He also told us there is a 14 year old in Quincy who needs help with his HO scale layout, is anyone available?

John says the garage sale by Susan Sanders will again be held one last time, mainly on HO scale buildings, this is the last sale there.

John reminds us Sam Miller will have the Christmas open house running trains. Looks like Friday December 13th for the gathering. As in the past donating food items gratefully appreciated.

John Sullenberger announces our vice president, and by-laws committee chairman Andy Zimmerman to open comments to the floor on the by-laws new updated changes. Andy first thanked the committee members Dan King, Paul Schneider, and David Brazell who volunteered to work on this. Andy stated that the changes to the by-laws have been sent out for review ahead of time. A few questions about convicted felons from Joe Haley as to what will happen to those who have paid their debt to society? Joe said it's like double punishment. What about child molesters, child predators? Who decides the status for membership? Andy said we need to know about it. The board will make the determinations on their membership application. Liabilities of the club is important because we deal with children. Andy stated there has been a check up on the club. Using various sources for guidance on this subject the committee made the by-law changes needed. With no other questions brought up from the floor. The by-laws as amended were accepted by the membership present with one abstaining.

The business meeting ended at 8:03 P.M.

John Sullenberger turns the program "eBay Selling" to David Brazell. The eBay selling experiences David has learned over the years and passing on to us. He used the computer, and a video display to present a vast list of the good, the bad, and the ugly, of selling, shipping, receiving payments, and dealing with feedback from buyers. His willingness to share his experiences were priceless in saving time for us (don't use a bath scale, don't misspell!). Thanks David.

We also ran trains on an even larger N scale module layout, the largest yet, with a space invasion to boot. We were left to determine the cause of a strange derailment out of a tunnel. But we do know how the next one happened! Clocked at 161 MPH the next derailment was sure to happen!

Respectfully submitted by Doug Gyuricsko.

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