



# THE Lantern

February 2014

Volume 19 Number 2

## February Program – the return of Jim Gore

Well BBMRA you are in for a treat! When I asked Jim Gore if he would do a clinic he said sure! “I will schedule February 18<sup>th</sup> for the clinic. The title will be: “Telling A Good Story!” the use of details, figures, and vehicles on a model railroad layout.” Jim has presented at many NMRA conventions, club meetings and other venues. Make sure to be on hand for this one. Jim has promised a full description of his clinic and I will send that after the New Year! February 18<sup>th</sup> is a date you will not want to miss!

## Children’s Day Festival Submitted by John Sullenberger

I would like to thank David Brazell, Doug Gyuricsko, Joe Haley, Randy Lombardo and Sam Miller for the stellar job they did on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at the 2014 Children’s Day Festival.

Randy ran the Thomas sub-division; Joe and David ran the Time Saver layout; and Sam and Doug ran Sam’s new Disney O-27 layout.

All during the day you could find lots of kids crowding around the three layouts trying to get the best spot to watch the trains roll by.

Next year’s Children’s Day Festival is January 31<sup>st</sup>.

## February Project: A Paper Challenge

As Jim Gore will be returning in February this seems to be a good time for another “BUILD A PAPER MODEL” challenge.

There are many free resources available. Your only investment is to print a sheet of cardstock and the time to assemble it. This is not a contest. There will no grades, scores or prizes, just a “show and tell.”

Jim provided (in March 2012) a list of resources and instructions:

- 1) Study the model pieces and plan your assembly
- 2) Plan some more and make notes of how you will assemble the model
- 3) SHARP blades are a must!!!

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

**February 18th  
2014**

**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**.

\*\*\* HO Division \*\*\*

The HO Division would like to hold a brief meeting at 7:00 pm before the regular meeting.

## TALLAHASSEE MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE

Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – North Florida Fairgrounds, Buildings 2 & 4 – 9 am to 4 pm  
Adults & Children 13 and older: \$6 – Children 12 and younger are free – Free Parking



- 4) Use a metal straight-edge and a cutting mat
- 5) Spray the printed sheet with a clear flat coating
- 6) Use the photo or best quality setting on your printer
- 7) Ink-jet printers are preferred
- 8) Remember HIWAB.... if you screw up, "Hide It With A Board"... or a Bush.

Also, if you want to build something that is not in your scale, you can use the Print to Scale Percentage feature of your printer. If you are going to resize something, better to scale down than scale up. An HO building on one sheet scaled up will run off the paper. An O scale building scaled down will have extra white space on the page. The S scale building I scaled down from O has an extra inch of margin all around. To calculate the percentage to use, divide the scale ratio of the original by the scale ratio of your scale. Example, an O scale original (1:48) to S scale (1:64), divide 48 by 64 equals .75, so print at 75%. HO (1:87) to N (1:160), divide 87 by 160 equals .54375, so print at 54%. HO to S, 87 divided by 64 equals 1.359, so print at 136%. Got it?

## **BBMRA to set up at the CEF Crafters Market on March 8<sup>th</sup>**

The BBMRA has been invited back to the Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) Crafters Market on March 8<sup>th</sup> for their 6th annual event to benefit children all over the world. The Market will take place at the Thomasville Road Baptist Church located at 3131 Thomasville Road in Tallahassee (right next to Dorothy B. Oven Park).

The N-Scale division will set up and run our modular layout (27 by 10 feet) and the Time-Saver sub-division will set up and run the switching layout. The Market will be open from 9 am to 3 pm and our layouts will be in the Fellowship Hall. Set up will occur the day before.

Please come out and support the BBMRA and if you have N Scale trains come run with us.

## **A Wealth of Information** submitted by Mike Sassard

To the BBMRA: I believe we are sitting on an untapped information resource: each other and we have the means to use it, the Lantern. When I discovered the foliage and trees at Jo Ann Fabrics and Crafts, Sam told me he had been using them for years and while there, I discovered we have a hobby shop. The lantern has usually published articles on big events. But if members would send hints and little bits of ideas, I believe we would all benefit. I realize some of it may borderline on advertising, but can we ignore that?

With the above thought in mind:

### **Saw Blade**

If you have a skill saw and are getting ready to build a layout, I would recommend not buying a regular steel blade, as they get dull quickly and bind up on you. Pay a little extra and buy a "carbide tip" blade. They will make superb cuts and last a long time. Try not to cut the power cord into as I have twice.

### **Layout support**

If you are not a good woodworker and don't want to tackle the standard "legs" of a train table, like I am, I have found that Stanley folding plastic sawhorses do an excellent job. You don't even have to fasten the plywood to the sawhorses. They are a little lower than the standard 40" and can be found at most home supply stores.

### **Repainting**

In building your layout, you may find there is something that needs "repainting". You may not have an airbrush, but you can do a fine job with spray cans. I always buy 2 cans of the color I want as I have run across faulty cans. I have done a lot of painting and have never run across any that hurt plastic.

The secret to a good paint job is not to point the can at the object. Start spraying off to the side and sweep across the object. I may take a number of sweeps. You want the thinnest coat of paint possible. You may want to put your arm inside of a large plastic bag to keep from painting your arm and hand.

## Screws

When building a layout, I was taught to use “screws” not nails. I do not recommend what’s called “all purpose” screws, but black drywall screws. They are Phillips head and threaded all the way up. You will need a good screw gun and after throwing away a number of faulty ones, I finally bought a DeWalt, model DW920. It comes with two long lasting batteries and is one of the best tools I have ever bought.

## Packing Trains

If you ever need to pack your trains, I read somewhere that you need to wrap them in paper or paper towels first and then bubble wrap. It’s possible that bubble wrap could damage the “paint” on your trains.

## Dirty Track

I not sure about HO and N track, but I know in O gauge I have noticed a black oily film on the track. I’ve found the best way to clean this off is with household 409. Fold a paper towel into quarters and spray heavily with 409. Wipe the track. If there is still a black glob, rub harder. Do not use an abrasive like sandpaper.

When putting smoke fluid, do it carefully as the fluid is a mineral oil and can make your wheels and track slick.

## What does Model Railroading Mean to You? Submitted by Andy Zimmerman

As I drove into work today, and heard the horn of a CSX diesel cutting through the cool morning air, my thoughts turned to trains and Model Railroading. It brought to mind the World's Greatest Hobby campaign. It got me thinking what model railroading means to me. I realized that in a fast paced, high pressure world where folks aren't necessarily friendly all the time, and the day is filled with stressors personal and professional; that model railroading is an escape. It's stress relief, an imaginary time machine that can take you to a simpler era. It's about modeling and creativity for sure but that's only a small part. For me the greatest part has been countless hours spent with friends and family building, running trains, going to train shows and railfanning. There is no price that could be put on that. My wife has often asked me what the appeal is and I have a hard time putting it into words (Imagine that a man that cannot put an emotion into words). Through model railroading I've been able to relive a part of my childhood with my grandson and other younger generation individuals who come into my life. What a privilege! With today's advancements in products and in the DCC arena we're having even more fun running the railroad, the Sounds of a steam engine chuffing or that diesel engine ramping up for the day just means it's getting better by the day. Soon, our railroad will be mostly complete. But for now if you need us, we'll be passing somewhere through the Rockies over Marias Pass or through the Cascades on the Great Northern railway somewhere in circa 1950...

What does model railroading mean to you?

## Indoor Garden Railroad by Mike Sassard

I have built two indoor G gauge railroads. What I have now I am most satisfied with. This one I can honestly call a “garden” railroad and I am more than pleased with the way it came out.

First, you will want to see if you have floor space as G gauge takes up a considerable amount of room. This time, I thought I was going to move and gave Goodwill a great deal of my furniture; I then decided not to move, leaving me with considerable space in the living room. A second choice would be a garage and leave the cars outside. One nice thing about G gauge is you don’t have to build a table.

Second, you will need to choose your train or trains. In the past I have used Aristocraft and Bachmann trains and Aristocraft track. I had a double loop. The outside loop had an 8 foot diameter. Some Bachmann trains are satisfactory, but I am not a big fan of Bachmann track, even though this is inside.



Even though the living room is carpeted, I preferred a green “grass like” surface, so I covered most of the area with green indoor/outdoor carpet from Lowes.

This time I used Lionel’s battery powered, European prototype, Hogwarts Express. Extra track in straight and curves are available. I am not only pleased



but thrilled. It is quite satisfactory. Its main fault is that it does use up batteries quickly.

This time, instead of handmade or "model railroad" scenery, I bought ALL my scenery from Michael's crafts store. I enjoyed that extremely. I also bought and installed three Lionel accessories, which I remembered as being a little oversize for O gauge. The station platform turned out to be actually more O scale, but the old type crossing gate and streetlights look fine with G gauge. You will need a power pack or transformer to power those, which I had handy. The street lights are beautiful. I mounted those to a 1 by 4 and stapled the wiring right on top, then covered it with flat moss (not Spanish moss). Michael's also sells lichen. They may call it reindeer moss. The crossing gate works, sort of. Only the tender with the batteries is heavy enough to activate it. Because of the plastic track I cannot use an insulated rail. I mounted the trees by sliding a 2 by 4 on edge under the green carpet and drilled a ½ inch hole about every 4 inches. You don't need glue, just drop the trees in the hole. You can later swap some around if needed. I also screwed some ¼ inch plywood on some short 1 by 4s on edge, sprayed it green and drilled a lot of holes in that to make a forest. If the edge shows you can staple on some flat moss. I also purchased some artificial plants with long stems, which you can cut, with diagonal cutters to varying length for variety. These I stapled to painted plywood, an inexpensive TV stand and the walls. Now think, a staple hole is smaller than a picture hanging nail.



Next are structures. These I purchased at Toys R us and I found out they can be expensive. I got some really good ones and some which required assembly, which were not so good. You can look there for 1/24 scale vehicles. When I went they were in short supply. If you really want some good ones, you can check Dicast Direct on line. Their prices vary. I wanted to light the structures so I plugged 120 volt Night lights into a lightweight extension cord and just lay it on the floor inside the building. They look great.



A 4 watt bulb is not going to melt the plastic floor of the building. For the station scene, I got a \$19 15 inch florescent fixture from Lowes and mounted it to a 2 by 4 covered by green carpet and laid it on the floor. You can run your wiring under the green carpet.

What I enjoyed the absolute most was doing the scenery. Bless the man who invented the staple gun. I made three trips to Michael's and left each time with a buggy filled.

## **BBMRA meeting minutes for Jan 21, 2014**

President John Sullenberger called the meeting to order at 8:16 P.M.

Meeting minutes of Nov. 19, 2013 accepted as is. Note; no meeting in December.

Treasurer report; Sandy says we are in the black, report accepted.

John reminded the group about Children's day at the Grey Museum Saturday Jan. 25, 2014.

Thomas, the switching layout and the new Disney layout to be there.

The 2014 show notices have been sent out, and at this time 46 tables are committed.

John asks the group if they want to run trains every other month? Those nights would be a short business meeting so the members can run trains. The next alternating meeting would be a business meeting with demonstrators. The vote was yes by the attending members.

The meeting ended at 8:26 P.M.

The meeting was "run trains", and many were there. HO, N, modules running switching layout, and Thomas 'O' scale too. A live "O" scale steam engine ran on vintage Lionel "O" scale track. Many members ran trains, and shared information on the building of the modules.

Respectfully submitted by Doug Gyuricsko

# A 13 by 15.25 foot HO Layout for Sale: David Roche, Marianna, Florida, 850-526-5757

I am sending an inventory and some pics of the trains and miscellaneous related items that I would like to sell. Anyone can call me for additional information on the items I have, or for directions to come and see what I have. Any contacts you might help me with would be appreciated.



- |  |                 |        |
|--|-----------------|--------|
| 4 - Atlas Master Locomotive - GP38     | CSX             | DCC    |
| 1 - Atlas Locomotive - FP-7            | Union Pacific   | DCC    |
| 1 - Train line - GP38                  | CSX             | DCC    |
| 1 - Spectrum Doodlebug - 81405         | Union Pacific   | Analog |
| 1 - Athearns Locomotive - 3650         | Amtrak          | Analog |
| 1 - Athearns Locomotive - SW1500       | Conrail         | Analog |
| 1 - Athearns Locomotive Dummy - SW1500 | Conrail         | Analog |
| 1 - Athearns Locomotive - GP38         | Bayline         | Analog |
| 1 - Walthers Coal Car (6-Pack)         | CSXT            |        |
| 1 - Walthers Coal Car (6-Pack)         | WEPX            |        |
| 1 - Walthers Coach Baggage Car         | Amtrak 932-6151 |        |
| 1 - Walthers Sightseeing Lounge Car    | Amtrak 932-6121 |        |

- |                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 - Walthers Dining Car               | Amtrak 932-6131 |
| 1 - Walthers Coach Car                | Amtrak 932-6101 |
| 1 - Walthers Material Car             | Amtrak 932-6021 |
| 1 - Atlas Master DCC System Commander |                 |
| 1 - Atlas Master System Generator     |                 |
| 1 - Atlas Control for remote switches |                 |
| 1 - Track Cleaning Tank Car           |                 |
| 1 - Coal Plant                        |                 |
| 1 - Atlas 3-Bay Roundhouse            |                 |

Approx. 30 cars, all kinds: tank cars, box cars, flat cars, chip cars, etc.

All locomotives and cars are fitted with Kadee Couplers

Layout is 13'x15'3" with numerous track, buildings, autos, animals, landscaping, etc. (too many to list)



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