



# THE Lantern

May 2014

Volume 19 Number 5

## Board of Director's meeting called for 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 20th at the old Antique Car Museum

The purchase of a trailer is to be discussed. Any and all BBMRA members are more than welcome to attend.

## 2014 Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale

**Set-Up – Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>:** set-up begins at 12 noon and runs to 7 pm.

**Set-Up – Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>:** I will be opening the fairgrounds and buildings #2 & #4 by 7 am. Members are welcome to come in and either complete their set-ups or to run their trains.

**Train Show – Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>:** the Show will run from 9 am to 4 pm.

**Tear-Down – Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>:** tear-down will commence at 4 pm and continue until the last vendor is gone.

**Members get in free** – There will be a sign-in book in the ticket booth. Please let the ticket sellers know you are a member. They will verify your membership and you will get in free. Or you can pay the \$6.00 entry fee. It's up to you.

**Extension Cords** – We will need extension cords as there will be 8 to 10 ceiling drops. Use the masking tape and the magic marker (found in a box at the front of both buildings) and put your name on your cord (to make sure the right cord goes to the right home). At the end of the day, if you leave your cord with me I will make every effort to get your cord back to you within a few weeks.

**Name Badges** If you need a name badge printed by me (John Sullenberger) let me know as soon as you can (at 562-5137 (home), 544-1870 (cell) or e-mail at [sullyjws@aol.com](mailto:sullyjws@aol.com)).

## May Program

I plan to do a presentation on Realistic Operation on a MR (Basic), as well as going over how to have your layout tell a story. This will be MR 102 :)

Andy Millott

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

**May 20th  
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**.



## Volunteer Coordinator Needed

I really need a Volunteer Coordinator for the show. The duties include getting members to fill the ticket booth (at least two members at all times) and to help with the vendor unloading and loading.

## BBMRA takes the Spotlight at CEF Crafters market!

08 March 2014 Tallahassee, Fl. Thanks in great part to Gary Austin (BBMRA member). This marked the 4th year in a row the BBMRA was invited back to the Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) market, for their 6<sup>th</sup> annual event to benefit children all over the world. The Child Evangelism Fellowship® reached more than 12 million children in over 180 countries last year and the BBMRA played a small part in that.

This year the N-scale division set up the day prior, Garth Easton and the N-Scale crew loaded up Garth's trailer with our Storage boxes (Yes we had to make two runs but when you are part of a great team you do what needs doing to accomplish the mission) and headed out around 3:30 pm. Accompanied by John Sullenberger, Doug Gyuricsko and myself we made it to Thomasville Road Baptist Church around 3:45.

Because the CEF wanted the whole layout they once again gave us a whole wall so we could set up all 27 feet of modules (27 feet long by 10 feet deep), there were small problems, however nothing untenable by this group. There were members on hand to work out potential issues, clean up track, and stage equipment for running trains on Saturday. It was a small but skilled and efficient group to say the least.



Children who were on location Friday with their parents (likely the children of CEF vendors) marveled at the big cases as we rolled them off the trailers. They quickly and unashamedly asked "Are those the Trains?" When we answered in the affirmative they eagerly followed us into the hall and waited to see what we would roll out. One young girl quickly informed her peers that she knew all about this layout and would be participating in our "scavenger hunt". Her mother said it is all she has talked about for weeks. Even on set up day we had no shortage of model railroading fans. As we unloaded each module our new found friends were all too happy to inspect each as we removed them from their storage cases. Time and again moms and dads alike commented on how the kids remembered last year and could not wait to see them again this year. Despite ( or should I say IN spite of ) all of our new found help we completed set up and preliminary testing about 6:30pm and made plans to return around 7am on Saturday.

Bright and early Saturday morning, the N-Scalers, John Sullenberger, Garth Easton, Doug Gyuricsko, Gary Austin and myself met to give the traveling layout its final check prior to putting our trains on display. We also took the time to set out our new and improved scavenger hunt, clipboards, pens and Club and show information. The layout was given a test run and by the show opening at 9 am we were ready to rock and roll! Engineers stood at their respective stations with throttles in hand, looking over their personally selected consists and ready to do what we do best....run trains!!



We had 3 sections running trains including our camera car that gave the viewers an engineer's view of the track and scenery, which is always a big hit with the kids!

Conveniently there was a monitor mounted above the layout on the wall, not so conveniently it did not readily accept the camera's receiver output. Not to disappoint we broke out the converter we purchased last year and we were back in business transmitting to the wall mounted monitor and showing off our camera train!

Once again, back by popular demand, the N-Scalers were joined by Joe Haley and the switching layout. Joe was nothing short of value added to the "Train Experience" as he provided the kids with some great onsite training. Joe not only showed the kids how to run trains but he taught them the significance the bells, horn blasts etc. He was very patient with the young ones and he kept it interesting the entire time. Joe's approach was nothing short of outstanding. He

put them at ease and showed them the ropes and all the while he was teaching them several things at once (and I do not think the kids even realized it). The kids were just delighted they could run trains and you can tell they enjoyed learning from Joe! From the sounds of the CEF leadership on site, it appears that Joe and the switching may well become a regular participant in future CEF markets.



Special thanks to those of you who came out to support and assist us. We had members such as, David Brazell, Doug Gyuricsko, Gary Austin and others, jump in and lend a hand.

The BBMRA was proud to participate and help out this great organization and we look forward to future events!!

Submitted by Andy J. Zimmerman V.P. BBMRA

## Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale Volunteers

I need volunteers to be ticket sellers and arm band handlers in the air conditioned ticket booth located between buildings 2 and 4. The shifts will be one hour each so I need seven teams of two to three members.

I also need unloaders (Friday afternoon Saturday morning) and loaders (Saturday afternoon after 4 pm) to help vendors with their unloading and loading. Times on Friday are from 1 pm to around 6 pm and on Saturday from 7 am to 9 am and from 4 pm to around 6 pm. This helps both the vendors and the membership by keeping the large doors closed as much as possible thereby keeping the buildings cooler.

**Please note:** I do not expect members who are vendors to volunteer as a ticket taker or an unloader/loader.

## Name Badges submitted

Okay BBMRA members it's time to dig up, pull out, locate or have a new name badge created 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 name badge for you. I'll need to know what type of steam or diesel locomotive and what road-name you want.



You can make your selection and either inform me at a membership meeting or call me at 850-544-1870 (my cell number) or e-mail me at [sullyjws@aol.com](mailto:sullyjws@aol.com).

## **Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale: Hot Dog Man**

The "Hot Dog Man" will return with good things to eat.

## **Nominating Committee**

The BBMRA needs at least three members who are not looking to run for one of the four generally elected board positions to be on our 2014/2015 Nominating Committee. The Committee needs to present at least one candidate for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Division Coordinators will be nominated during the Annual Business Meeting in July. All elections will occur during the Annual Business Meeting as well.

The Candidate Slate needs to be published in the June Lantern. If you are interested please call me at 850-544-1870 (my cell number) or you can e-mail me at [sullyjws@aol.com](mailto:sullyjws@aol.com).

## **Thanks Mom submitted by Mike Sassard**

I remember well, the first electric train I saw and it was in my childhood neighborhood. The boy's Mother called us in to see Bo's electric train. When we entered she said "You let Bo run it and you just watch". It was an inexpensive, but good quality, Lionel train with switches and a dump car.

I was thoroughly impressed and told my Mom what I wanted for Christmas. I got a catalog and made notes on what I wanted.

With my grandparents help, my Mom got me a train better than what Bo had and for many Christmas's after that I got accessories and diesel engines. I really had quite a railroad. My childhood best friend also got a train similar to mine. He saved his train and all the original boxes and has given that train to me.

My Mom didn't have to go so overboard on the trains, but she did. Before she died, I asked her why she got me the trains she did and she said "I wanted you to have the best". I would give anything if she could see what I have now. Those trains made a lifelong impression on me and led to a creative hobby which now brings me great joy.

## **Armed Forces Day- May 17**

Veterans Memorial Railroad will have a special "Free Train Ride Day" for everyone on Armed Forces Day to honor all military personnel(active or retired), Veterans and their families. 11:00-3:00 Eastern Time Donations appreciated.

Also, for your enjoyment, a walking trail, picnic pavilions, RR Caboose you can enter, playground, and an air-conditioned depot with a train table full of trains for young children's play.

For more information:

[VeteransMemorialRailroad.org](http://VeteransMemorialRailroad.org)

[YouTube.com/VeteransRailroad](http://YouTube.com/VeteransRailroad)

850-643-6646 or 850-643-5491

## **The Infamous Lionel Scout by Mike Sassard**

The designers at Lionel today must have short memories. The Lionel "Scout" train set was the worst mistake Lionel ever made. Even collectors don't want them and yet they are producing a set called the "Scout".

First they enclosed the motor and an inadequate two position reverse unit in an unopenable plastic case. When it ran, it sounded like a blender. It was maintenance free alright.

The worst feature was the couplers, which didn't look like couplers and didn't match any of their other couplers, meaning you couldn't add cars to the three car train.

There were NO side rods, it was a 2-4-2, and the drive wheel counterweights were not even aligned. There was no whistle or smoke unit. The body was plastic. It had a headlight, but no headlight lens.

Truly, if something went wrong you had to throw it away. The first disposable electric train.

## **BBMRA meeting minutes for April 15, 2014**

This was a run trains meeting, having a short business meeting to take care of needs.

President John S. called the meeting to order at 7:46 P.M.

Guest was "Jerry W." well not really a guest. :>)

Minutes of March 18<sup>th</sup> 2014; accepted as is.

Treasurers report; Sandy S. reports we are in the black. Accepted as is.

Large scale; Sam introduces the new "O" scale "T" track modules.

HO; Sheldon reports "we are setting up". It was said, we hope Art W. will be on board next meeting.

Small scale; Garth E. said thank you to the active volunteer people who helped with the Home Depot (west side) "N" scale module set up.

Time saver; no report.

David B. announced the new DVD video of last year's events are for sale. Discount for members, and they are high definition this year. Use of a blue-ray player is advised. David also brought up a news item of steam engines, going to diesel and next "natural gas"!

President John S. reports the show has sold out, there are flyers on the front table to hand out, and a plan layout of the two buildings are for viewing.

The issue of the rental storage unit as sent out in email was brought up for a vote, "to keep it, or close it out". The costs have been listed in the email notices previous to this meeting. If the unit is voted to be closed then the items in storage on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014 are to be given out with special care of four HO scale corner modules being very valuable. What items that are not taken will be trashed, and "the storage unit will need cleaning" to close out.

Next; The savings could be used for a trailer large enough to hold and transport the (2) N scale module containers, and other scale modular units. John went on to say it's been tougher to get two trailers to haul just the (2) N scale containers. Volunteers have donated the use of trailers but they are too small to haul the items at one time. Therefore two trailers have been used at the same time. But if both donated trailers are not available, it takes two trips to bring the items to the locations. That takes more donated time, gas, wear and tear and worn out volunteers. An enclosed trailer that is of adequate size can house those items and many more, is available, and at a good buy at this time. President John S. asks for comments, vote ya or nay?

There were comments of liability issues to consider and advice for some of those possible problems, more comments about the trailer brought the issue to be tabled, at this time.

The issue of the storage unit was voted on, and majority of votes are to close the rental unit.

President John S. next asked for a volunteer to co-ordinate the June 28<sup>th</sup> 2014 BBMRA train show set up. No one stepped up.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

I counted 38 people present. N scale modules, HO scale modules, and O scale modules up and running.

The next meeting usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. That would be May 20, 2014.

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