



THE Lantern

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John Sullenberger & Sandy Scott: Wonderful Friends; A Crushing Loss to Our Club



*** November/December Meetings ***

Third Tuesday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.

“Old” Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive. Andy and the board are still developing the program, but we will be discussing how to re-group and re-dedicate ourselves.

Sam Miller/Linda Medlin Holiday Party

Friday, December 12, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. 3008 Stillwood Court in Woodgate. 32308. Call Sam for details: (850) 385-7733

What John, Sandy and Others who have Passed Meant to Our Club

From Andy Zimmerman: Sandy Scott was a key player within our organization. She was not afraid to jump in and lend a hand and looked for ways to help out where she could. If you needed a hand she was there to do what she could and she did it with alacrity!

John Sullenberger was many things to many people. He was big hearted and had a kind and generous spirit. He was a huge train fan and loved anything that had to do with model railroading or rail fanning. John held many as many offices as there are within the club. He knew and understood what every position entailed and was able to guide each of the new officers in their daily duties and responsibilities to our club because he had performed those duties himself. John held the lion's share of the corporate knowledge and experience which enabled him to wear so many hats and maneuver through the problems and obstacles so easily.

(More on page three.)

New Appointments within the BBMRA:

Due to the recent passing of John Sullenberger (President) and Sandy Scott (Treasurer) the following appointments have been made, per the By-Laws, by the Board:

- Andy J. Zimmerman (Vice President) has been appointed President.
- Drew Hackmeyer (Editor) has been appointed Treasurer.
- Sam Miller (Current O scale Coordinator) has been appointed Editor
- Vacant -- Vice President -- Reviewing candidates

Andy J. Zimmerman
BBMRA President



BBMRA at Tallahassee Museum Farm Day John would have been “Delighted”



From Doug Gyuricsko

John Sullenberger had organized an extensive Big Bend Model Railroad Association setup at the Tallahassee Museum’s November 1 Farm Day just before his illness. All we needed to do was follow through. We carried on and had a great turnout both in visitors and BBMRA people to deal with it.

Time Saver guru Joe Haley had the switching layout up and running with sounds of a rail yard. Joe overcame some mysterious malfunctions with turnouts to begin the schooling. He again shared his knowledge of how railroads work behind the scenes.

Randy Lombardo again made Thomas the Tank Engine come alive for the young folks. I did see one older fellow, using his cane, walk across the room to check it out. A little later, with a kid’s smile, he was running Thomas using the transformer Randy sets out in front.

The layout has an outer and inner loop which can be routed, using remote turnouts. Young and old alike seem to be amazed having the option to change the route. Many parents asked about this O Gauge

Thomas because their young train enthusiasts were about to graduate from the wooden versions. Randy had the answers that dealers and Lionel may have paid for. He is the Thomas master.

Andy Z, Garth E, Gary A and Matt B. worked on the “N” scale modular layout. They had five engines running. Using DCC control, they could operate more than one locomotive on a single track. Show Offs!

Lots of people asked questions, got cards about the next show and now know who we are and where we are. John Sullenberger would have been delighted to see how full the room got, with kids not wanting to leave. Some came back three times.

Dear BBMRA Members,

We would like to thank you for the beautiful roses and for all of your kindness and support. We know that John loved the club and all its members. We were touched to see it returned from all of you.

Sincerely, the Sullenbergers,

Cat Sullenberger
Suzanne Sullenberger
Thomas Sullenberger

BBMRA Needs Vice President, Show Coordinator, Program Coordinator

With the passing of Sandy Scott, our treasurer, our club found itself not only mourning the loss of a friend but losing a proactive member willing to step up in our time of need. Sandy believed in the BBMRA, where we were going and what we were doing. We went to a BBMRA veteran, Drew Hackmeyer, and he has agreed to fill Sandy's shoes as our treasurer.

Scarcely a week later, the day we memorialized Sandy, came some of the worst news in the BBMRA's history. John Sullenberger, founding member and the club cornerstone, suddenly and tragically passed away. John was the consummate proactive member. If he wasn't president he was vice president or treasurer or secretary; and always the Tallahassee Model Railroad Show and Sale coordinator.

John's passing leaves us with a huge pair of shoes to fill (no pun intended). John was an Impact player and he invested himself in those things he was so passionate about. When John was in he was all in! His duties as BBMRA president, show coordinator, the Program Committee, the Policy Committee, the Ways and Means Committee and the Membership Committee, and the corporate knowledge/experience going with all of that will not be easily replaced. We will have a steep learning curve if we are to carry this off smartly.

BBMRA needs a vice president willing to take on some heavy lifting. It needs someone to help out as the show coordinator or perform in the assistant role; either way, someone willing to dedicate time and energy to this important event. We need a program coordinator, someone to help bring in or arrange training sessions/programs every other month. There will be other duties to be designated as well.

Time to Step up BBMRA.

What John, Sandy, Ron Meant to Our Club

(From Page One.)

From Bill Thompson: I was as shocked about John's passing as anyone and am still numb that he is gone. So sudden, so final. It makes all of us realize how precious life is and how fleeting time can be. The BBMRA has been a great social group for years to make new friends and learn more about model trains. The club won't be the same without John and I know Andy will step up and carry on. To the families of those who have lost their loved one I offer my deepest condolences for their loss.

From Doug Gyuricsko: For many years I put my hobby dreams on hold. Work, life issues, some laziness became the focus, yet the dream was there. In 2010 I checked out the BBMRA. There I met John Sullenberger and others with the dream. Some had dreams on hold, and others living it, even while they had the same issues I faced. I have seen groups, with the same interests get together in the past.

In those groups there are those who stand out as examples for us to do better. John did that for me. Not only to learn more about my interests, but to do more to share knowledge, and help others in many ways. He led by example. That I witnessed in the few years I got to be around him. The monthly meetings, work sessions, demonstrations at various locations, and the annual train show, only a few things I saw. He worked hard to inspire others to contribute to the mission. I also saw some of the great kindness that he had, quietly sacrificing his time helping others who were challenged to get to meetings, and back home again. He would be there early and leave late to be sure the BBMRA ran better. He strove to improve our meetings in many ways with seemingly tireless labor.

We now hope to carry on the work, to fill those shoes of a giant giving man we relied on so easily. We know this will take more than one member to do. I pray we can continue that level of spirit John demonstrated in our hearts and deeds. To continue the mission he loved, I believe honors him and the others we have lost. Lately for us, it's been tough on emotions, for me, I needed the strength of our members who gather to celebrate the lives of our friends. Thank you John. Thank you.

From Maxine Mantooth in Knoxville, TN (Roy's wife): Roy & I were talking when we learned that John had been hospitalized and saying that should anything happened to John, it would leave a real hole in the train club. The new is also sad about Sandy! I well remember her. She, too, was always very nice to me. Andy

Zimmerman's sad announcement to the club was a beautiful tribute to Sandy & John! It makes you realize immediately what an immense blow their loss is to the train club!

From Mike Sassard: John's passing hit me like a ton of bricks. Not only was he our President but I had had so many personal communications with him that I really considered him a "FRIEND". I am still in shock. It just doesn't seem possible. Boy, are we going to miss him. I guess the best thing we can do now is give Andy all our support. He's going to need it.

From Sam Miller to the Large Scale Division: Andy Zimmerman just notified you and other BBMRA members of John Sullenberger's passing at Tallahassee Memorial Regional Medical Center early this afternoon. This follows the death of Sandy Scott a week ago Wednesday and Ron Villella's death earlier this fall. We were still getting over the loss of Ron, a fine Lionel modeler, great friend and part of our Sunday afternoon group.

This is an unprecedented sad time for the Big Bend Model Railroad Association. We are a very close group which feels the loss of its friends deeply. I have been a member for 20 years and almost all of my close friends have been developed through BBMRA. I am deeply saddened by the loss of John, Sandy and Ron, and before them, such fine folks as Vernon Parramore and Dave Kerns. As Lou Ogburn just pointed out, we need to all grieve together for John, Sandy and Ron and our other wonderful train club friends who left us earlier.

From Randy Lombardo, who spoke for BBMRA at Sandy Scott's memorial services. Sandy was a mother to everyone in the club and was the only woman member at the time. She listened to everyone and we had something in common because I had a cat at the time and she always talked about her cats. After the ceremony, I spoke with her son Philip and told him, 'Your mother consoled me when my cat died.

From Richard Schmitt, a former club member now living in north Georgia: John was active and young - relative to me at 69. His passing is sad. Truly, we need to take each day he led the BBMRA as a gift.

Holidays Lights and Accessories – Now is the Time to Get Them

From Sam Miller, 'the Light Man'

Christmas and other holiday stuff used not to come out until after Thanksgiving and now it begins in October. Agreed most of it seems to be for O gauge, but there is so much wonderful stuff now, including new LED lights. Take a good look and you will find items that will enhance a layout of any scale. I will be showing off an expanded O gauge holiday carnival scene this year featuring newly introduced items. Linda and I hope to see all of you Friday, December 12, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

More holiday accessories are being produced especially for model train layouts, although it is still true that the most and best items are for ceramic holiday villages.



Here are some holiday model railroading alerts:

- Wander in Hobby MonstroCity, the shop operated by club member Mark Beshura. Mark has things you can use. It is at 720 Capital Circle N.E., Suite G, across from Tom Brown Park. Tallahassee, FL 32301
- Only one Lowes has the holiday villages and that is Capital Circle Northwest, across from the Harley Davidson dealership. There are several carnival rides this year, including a hot air balloon ride. This Lowes also has tight strings of lights and small lighted Christmas trees.
- Tiny LED strings are new at Walmart; but with the extension cords and holiday lighting. There is a ceramic holiday village section and it includes small Santa Clause figures, and holiday buildings. Also, look through the ornaments and even earrings.
- Holiday village accessories also are available at Michaels, plus lots of ornaments, earrings, stickers and other holiday items that will stimulate your imagination and your model train layout.
- Check out also Home Depot, Walgreens, CVS, Hobbytown USA and Hobby Lobby.
- Finally, so much is available on EBay.

Vintage BBMRA Photos and Lantern Material Requested

Sam Miller is requesting that club members email him photos of the BBMRA over the years. Sam is especially interested in photos of club members who have passed away, not only John, Sandy and Ron Villella, but Larry Bensen, Dave Kerns, Vernon Parramore and buddy McChessney.

Also, Sam will be taking over the Lantern from Drew Hackmeyer the first of the year. Sam needs your articles, ideas and suggestions and photos.

Contact Sam at sammiller61113@outlook.com

Most immediately, Drew and Sam need material for the December Lantern.

Minutes of the October 2014 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Andy Zimmerman at 7:36 PM.

Andy reported to us that John Sullenberger was admitted to TMH for a medical condition. John is at TMH and is in recovery.

Meeting minutes for Sept. 16th, 2014; accepted as is.

Treasures report, we are in the black.

Large scale report; Sam reports he will have the Christmas display at his home this year. Looks like 6 PM or so to start.

Set up at the fall farm day at Children's museum this year for Nov. 1st.

The meeting ended at 7:48 PM.

The meeting program is; "run trains night".

Some modules were set up and running before the business meeting started. Some were being set up, some could not be completed because critical parts were not present at the time. There are plans to deal with that problem. I counted 27 members present at this time. Again when it was time to break it all down, plenty of people there to help, thank you to all.

Respectfully Doug Gyuricsko