



THELantern

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Marc Bershara to Assist in Organizing June 27 Show & Sale

Marc Bershara has agreed to assist Club President Andy Zimmerman in key tasks to organize the 24th Annual Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale, Saturday, June 27 at the Leon County Fairgrounds.

Marc is an enthusiastic BBMRA member and owner of Hobby MonstroCity, at 720 Capital Circle N.E., Suite G, across from Tom Brown Park, in Tallahassee. He will be very valuable to Andy and our club as we commit to hardly

skipping a beat,
which is what long-
time show
coordinator John
Sullenberger would
have expected.

We almost certainly
will skip a beat or 10, but the show can still be a huge success if we
work hard enough.

Andy has contacted all of the vendors who are regulars from previous shows and believes most will be back this year. He personally spoke with vendors at the Flint River Show in Albany last month and got several expressions of interest and a couple of commitments.

This will be the last show for the Hollashes from Riverview near Tampa.

Bill and Jean are retiring and shutting down their store. We will miss them, especially the Lionel enthusiasts among us.

Andy and Marc need volunteers for several important jobs and will be calling on all of us to help. We plan many activities to honor John Sullenberger, but what could be better than to keep the BBMRA show as strong as John built it up to be?

Sam Miller



June 27th 2015 at the North Florida Fairgrounds

*** BBMRA Meetings ***

February 17, 2015

Third Tuesday-BBMRA, 7:30 p.m.

"Old' Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

John Sykes: Railroad Yards - Wye and Triple Switches (and other railroad yard specifics).

March 17, 2015

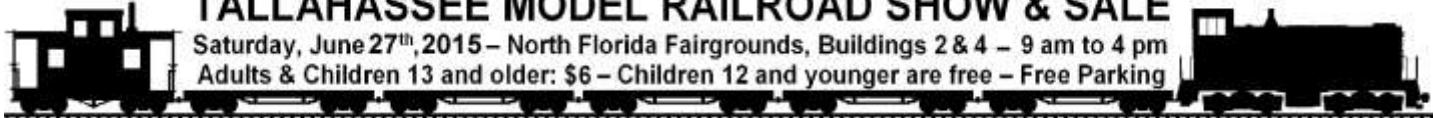
Third Tuesday – BBMRA, 7:30 p.m.

"Old' Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

Bill Metzger, railroad mapmaker : presentation on western railroad.

TALLAHASSEE MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE

Saturday, June 27th, 2015 – 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



BBMRA Leads Area Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge Program

The Boy Scout railroading merit badge program is alive and well in Tallahassee. Since Barrett Johnson began to head up the local program in 2002, 207 Scouts have earned the badge through classes conducted by BBMRA members.



Joe Haley, our tireless Timesaver operator, Sam Miller, Roy Mantooth, Bill Boyle and others have worked with Barrett to make the program prosper. The most recent merit badge class was taught by Sam and Barrett February 7, for troops in the Tallahassee area sponsored by the Church of Latter Day Saints. It included 25

Scouts, more than the average for an entire year.

To earn the badge, Scouts must read the railroading merit badge book. There are also several other requirements, typically involving a choice among several alternatives. BBMRA teaches the course in roughly the same way it is

taught at the Boy Scout National Jamboree. We begin with a 15-minute Q&A so Scouts can show they have read the book and met other requirements. The Scouts are then divided into two groups. While one group builds a car from an Athearn blue box kit and then weathers it, the other group operates the Timesaver. The Scouts buy the kits; Barrett furnishes the tools and weathering supplies. When both groups are done, the Scouts than have a weathered car to take home.

Serving as a railroading merit badge counselor also helps modelers who are NMRA members. Railroading merit badge counselors get credit for every month they serve, plus credit for each Scout they counsel, which makes serving as a counselor the fastest and easiest way to earn the Association Volunteer Achievement Award. Earn that, plus another six from the remaining 10, and the NMRA member becomes a Master Model Railroader. MMR is quite a distinction; fewer than 500 have ever been awarded, most of them in the United States. NMRA--the National Model Railroad Association--is actually quite a misnomer. NMRA has divisions in Canada, Great Britain, Europe, Japan, Australasia and a working agreement with China that they will follow NMRA standards.

Barrett has served twice as president of the Suwannee River Area Boy Scout Council (Tallahassee region). He is vice chair of the NMRA's National Railroading Merit Badge Committee. Bill is a Suwannee Area Council employee. Sam is an Eagle Scout.



Barrett Johnson, standing in for Joe Haley with the Timesaver and highly motivated Boy Scouts.



Sam Miller getting tips on Blue Box model train kits from some fresh eyes.

2015 BBMRA Directory Being Developed

We are developing an updated BBMRA directory, something many of you have been asking for. Club President Andy Zimmerman is spearheading this, with the help of several. Andy will be circulating the current roster for corrections and updates during the February meeting. "We will get as many people taken care of as we can at the meeting and this move from there," Andy says.

By March, we hope to have an updated, complete club directory, with scales of interest and contact information. The goal is to distribute it with the March Lantern. Sam Miller will work with Andy to produce separate directories for each of the divisions as well as a club-wide directory.

BBMRA Important Events for 2015!!

BBMRA Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Old Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

Lionel Interest Group Operating Sessions: Most Sunday afternoons, 1:30 p.m. – Sam Miller's, 3008 Stillwood Court.

February 17: **BBMRA Meeting:** John Sykes: Railroad Yards - Wye and Triple Switches (and other railroad yard specifics).

**March 7-8: 36th Model Railroad Expo - Palmetto, FL,
10:00am to 4:00pm, Bradenton Area Convention Center,
1 Haben Blvd.**

March 14 & 15: **Piedmont Division Model Train Show**, Cobb Galleria 2 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia
March 17: **BBMRA Meeting**: Bill Metzger, railroad mapmaker – presentation on western railroad.

April 21, 2015: BBMRA Meeting – Operating session (tentative)

May 19: BBMRA Meeting

Late spring/early summer: **Lowes & Home Depot Setups** – just before the annual show & sale.

June 16: BBMRA Meeting (This probably will be rescheduled for closer to the June 27 show & sale.)

June 27, 2015, BBMRA Show & Sale, Leon County Fairgrounds

July 21: **BBMRA Meeting**: Elections and 2015-16 dues

August 18: BBMRA Meeting

September 5-6: Wiregrass Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale, National Peanut Festival and Fairgrounds, Dothan, AL

September 22: BBMRA Meeting

October 20; BBMRA Meeting

October TBD: Farm Day, Tallahassee Museum of Natural History (Junior Museum),

November 17: BBMRA Meeting

December 11: Sam Miller/Linda Medlin Holiday Reception, 3008 Stillwood Court.

Thomas, Time Saver Operate During Children's Day, State Museum

(Thanks to Randy Lombardo, Joe Haley, Doug Gyuricsko, Sam Miller and Andy Zimmerman, who helped pull off this very popular setup once again this year.)

Randy Lombardo had printed sheets for young people to do a coloring page or a Thomas puzzle. He sets up the Thomas layout so people can actually use the transformer to run the trains, and a switch to operate the remote turnout to direct the route it takes. There is a line people form to get their chance, like a black Friday sale. We had many viewers of all ages all day.

Andy Zimmerman brought the hard copies of our program and show information for us to hand out. He talked to many people about the BBMRA and many signed up to get current news about our mission. The fall farm day, the museum, Home Depot, Lowes, and other places we display our work is a great opportunity to inform the public about us, and the important show information.



Joe Haley and the Timesaver, at Children's Day, State Museum

The staff people at the museum were very helpful, and some who knew John Sullenberger had very kind words to share about him. They sure felt the loss too.

Sam Miller was there very early and helped save us much time, making a run for us.

As usual Joe Haley had the crowd under control from the yard tower. Horns bells, and radio communications could be heard from the switching layout.

Many new engineers are ready for the work force. The layout worked as designed this time. There is concern about the antique sound system. If it retires without notice the difference will be deafening!

We had members with family visit the busy museum. Andy had discovered the museum is researching Florida railroads. We may be helpful with sharing and learning more. It was a good day. Hats off to Joe giving lessons to many interested folks, and to Randy Lombardo who did not feel real well but kept going. I am glad I could help them some.

Doug Gyuricsko

BBMRA Meeting minutes for January 20, 2015

A run trains meeting.

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:34 P.M.

A guest introduced by Sam Miller, Jim Blue. Jim is building a large HO layout.

Andy announced the appointment of Sheldon Harrison as our vice president. Sheldon accepted the temporary position, and was approved by the board.

Andy announced the January 31st 2015 Children's day event at the Florida Museum of History, beginning at 9A.M. ending at 4P.M. The BBMRA members setting up will be Joe Haley, with the switching module, and Randy Lombardo, with the Thomas layout.

The Albany train show is this weekend Saturday Jan 24 and 25th. There is a show in Jacksonville Feb 14th.

Treasurer report; Drew Hackmeyer reports we are in the black. Drew also said the BBMRA is getting donations in John Sullenbergers name.

Division reports:

Large scale: Sam Miller asks the members for suggestions, ideas, and any input about an idea to start a classified section in the Lantern. If there is enough interest, he and Doug G. will work on the idea. Contact Sam Miller.

Randy Lombardo reported a Fast Track girder bridge has been seen in catalogs. One of the bridges could have decals applied to benefit the BBMRA.



HO report: Art Wilson announced the completion of more corner modules, (applause).

Small scale: Garth Easton reports a work day at his home set for Feb. 21st. 2015.

Switching: Joe Haley confirms his Museum layout will be ready for the museum.

A discussion about Boy Scout Merit badges and the switching, looks like a go.

The short business meeting ended at 7:46 P.M. Run trains resumed. We had set up many of the modules in N, HO, and O gage.

I did not count the members present, but for a large area it was a busy place.

The next scheduled meeting to be Feb. 17th 2015. The third Tuesday.

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 smiller@flains.org