



THE Lantern

April 2015

Volume 20 Number 4

April 21 Program:

T-Traks, “Committee of the Whole”, Update on Show

The HO and Large Scale Divisions have requested a special T-Trak operations session to help them prepare for the June 27 show and sale. That, plus a “committee of the whole” discussion among BBMRA members about the show will be the program for April 21. The N Scale Division will be setting up its T-Traks as well. “We have to recreate a lot of the knowledge John

Sullenberger had. It is spread out among us,” says BBMRA Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer, who will help lead the discussions of the committee of the whole. “What did we do to plan for and carry out the 2014 show, how did we do it, when did we do it and who did it?”

“What had to be done two months in advance, one month, two weeks, one week, the day before and the day of the show? You will be asked to help us remember. What did you do last year and will you do it again this year?”

The HO Division is requesting that everyone who has T-Trak modules bring them to our next meeting on April 21.

We will be running trains and working on our layout for the train show. At this time we will be able to see what is available for the show and if our modules need corrections or additional parts to fix the layout. This will give us plenty of time before the show to make any repairs or corrections,” said HO Coordinator Art Wilson. Art also has scheduled for April 25, an HO workshop at the Antique Car Museum. “The museum opens at 11:00. This meeting is to take inventory of everything on, around and under our train layout. Your help will be greatly appreciated,” Art said. “It is important that everyone bring their O gauge T-Traks so we can set up Tuesday night or let me know so we can arrange a pickup,” said Large Scale Coordinator Sam Miller. “Doug Gyuricsko will be bringing our four corners and his marvelous bridges. But several in our group have straights and we hope they bring them out.”

Both the HO Division and Large Scale divisions want their T-Traks setups June 27 to be as detailed and look as good as possible and will be scheduling work days following the Tuesday night setup. A workday for the Large Scale Division is planned for one Saturday in mid-May at Doug’s house.



*** BBMRA Meetings ***

April 21, 2015

Third Tuesday-BBMRA

Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

General Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

T Traks & “Committee of the Whole” Briefing on June 27 Show & Sale.

“Old” Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

May 19, 2015

Third Tuesday – BBMRA, 7:30 p.m.
Program still being developed

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



24th Annual BBMRA Show will have Some New Twists

BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman and deputy show coordinator Marc Bershera plan some new twists for the 24th Annual Tallahassee Model Train Show and Sale, although they are maintaining the staple of model train vendors and layouts which has made this one of the outstanding shows in the South.

Andy and Marc will be briefing club members during the April 21 meeting in a unique “Committee of the Whole” on the June 27 show at the Leon County Fairgrounds and reminding everyone of the many volunteers we will need, but here is a sneak peak.

Marc is owner/operator of Hobby Monstro-City, 720 Capital Circle, NE, across from the federal prison facilities, and has important retailing and organizing skills. He is contacting and finalizing details with almost 50 vendor personnel recruited or re-recruited by Andy and assuming some of the logistical assignments performed in the past by John Sullenberger.

“Everything is kind of coming along,” Marc says. Forty-seven vendor personnel have committed, including many of the regulars from BBMRA shows over the years.

There is room for additional model train and proto-typical train related vendors, but we may have reached the maximum overall number able or willing to participate. “I am looking to expand things a bit,” Marc says. “I want to bring in a couple of people who are not train related this year. In future years, we will look for other new options and some arts and crafts things. The show will still be 90 percent model trains, or train-related, but 10 percent something new.”

Marc is inviting a local businessman who makes his own candy and has been a regular at Spring-Time Tallahassee. He is trying to also find an interested kettle corn vendor and looking at other new options for the show.

The primary food vendor will be different this year, a food truck operated by Street Chefs. Street Chefs trucks are a common site near the Florida Capitol and House and Senate Office Buildings. The truck coming to the BBMRA show will have some special meals for children and some lower-cost options for adults than its main fare.

“It is definitely coming along,” Marc says.

Sam Miller

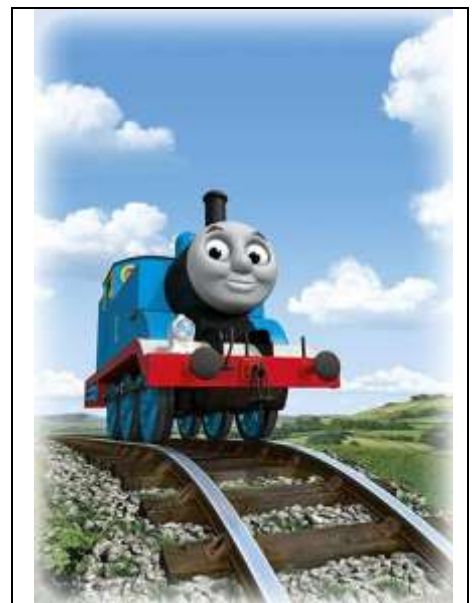
Randy Lombardo, BBMRA Helping in Thomas Visit at WFSU Aug. 1

Thomas the Tank Engine is coming to WFSU studios Saturday, August 1, and BBMRA has been invited to participate. Randy Lombardo will be operating his Thomas the Tank Engine Layout with the help of the Large Scale Division.

There is an opportunity for other BBMRA setups, including the Time Saver and one of the T-Trak layouts. Sam Miller will discuss this during the April 21 meeting.

“We just received a grant to have Thomas the Tank Engine visit

Tallahassee in August. We wanted to see if the Big Bend Model Railroad Association would like to be a part of this event,” says Becca Piers, WFSU Education and Outreach Coordinator. “I believe I was told that you brought the model train exhibits the last time Thomas visited, and that it



Club will participate when

Thomas comes to WFSU Studios August 1

was a big hit! We would love to have you partner with us again.” WFSU’s Thomas Festival will be Saturday, August 1, mostly likely from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be at the WFSU radio and television studios, 1600 Red Barber Plaza, southwest of Tallahassee and near the FSU Golf Course.

Some 800 to 1,000 families are expected throughout the day, Ms. Piers said.

Thomas visited WFSU in 2013 and here is how that was promoted: Thomas & Friends are pulling into the station at WFSU! Bring your friends and family, and don’t miss the opportunity to meet everyone’s favorite No. 1 blue engine, and get your photo taken! There will be trainloads of fun activities for your little engineers including crafts, snacks, snow flurries to play in, raffles, story time, and more! This is a free event, but registration is required. Visit wfsu.org/thomas now to register and print your ticket!

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 home

April 22: 51st Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County ‘Fairgrounds, Deland.

April 21, 2015: BBMRA Meeting – Operating session and “Committee of the Whole” on the 24th annual show and Sale

April 25, 2015: BBMRA HO Division Workday, 11 a.m., Antique Car Museum

May TBD: BBMRA Operating Session in Greensboro, restored ANNR Depot

Mid-May, TBA: Large Scale Workday

May 19: BBMRA Meeting

Late Spring/Early Summer: Lowes & Home Depot Setups – just before the annual show & sale.

June 6-7: 13th Tampa Model Train Show & Sale, Florida State Fairgrounds

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

June 26-June 27: BBMRA Show & Sale, Leon County Fairgrounds. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 27. Setup Friday afternoon, beginning at noon. Breakdown beginning at 4 p.m. on Saturday and until everyone is out of the Fairgrounds.

July 11: 53rd Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Deland.

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

August 1: Thomas the Tank Engine, WFSU Studios, 1600 Red Barber Plaza, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

August 8: 49th Atlanta Model Train Show

August 18: BBMRA Meeting

August 22-23: The Villages Summer Train Show, 9a to 4p on Saturday, 10a to 3p on Sunday at The Villages near Leesburg.

September 19-20: Wiregrass Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale, National Peanut Festival and Fairgrounds, Dothan, AL (corrected dates)

September 12: Garage Sale – Model Trains, Toys, Hobbies. Sam Miller and anyone else interested. Bring your own tables.

September 22: BBMRA Meeting

October 3: Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Deland.

October 20; BBMRA Meeting

October 22-25: NMRA Sunshine Region 2015 Convention, Jacksonville.

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

November TBA: BBMRA Tour of Layouts and fall 'Dutch Treat' Early Supper

November 17: BBMRA Meeting

December 11: Sam Miller/Linda Medlin Holiday Reception.

December 19-20: 14th Tampa Model Train Show & Sale, Florida State Fairgrounds

January 9-10, 2016: 54th Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Deland.

January 16, 2016: Atlanta Model Train Show

Welcome to Zip On By!

Paul Schneider provided this on his wonderful HO layout. This is the second in a series. Submit information and a photo on your layout to the BBMRA Lantern.



Paul Schneider's "Zip On By" HO Layout

Welcome to Zip On By, a fictitious town located on the Western Maryland Line, in the early 50's - where the fishing is great on the stream that runs through part of the town, and the living is easy.

This is during the time when Steam was King, but Diesel was coming on strong, pulling coal drags, freight, also passenger runs from D.C.

The layout is on 48 sq. feet, with a double track. The inside loop is DC, while the outside loop can be either DCC or DC feeding three sidings and a yard.

Included in this scene among hills and trees, are small businesses, a camping site, an abandoned shack, a farm and a down town area.

Paul Schneider

The Lantern Classifieds! Update - Update

(This is free! Submit classifieds to Doug Gyuricsko, akdoug@mindspring.com)

Extensive HO Collection- Civil War Era: Eric and Sam are selling an extensive HO collection for John Edrington, a former club member from

Shell Point. A lot of it will be at the June 27th show. If interested, contact Sam.

Looking for old trains. Sam Miller and Eric Ecklund sell and buy old trains. We are interested in all scales. Please contact Sam at smiller@flains.org or 459-3012.



Eric's Crawfordville Garden Railroad is Running Again

Eric Ecklund and his wife, Inna, constructed in the backyard of their Crawford home one of the finest garden railroads in Florida. But Eric has had some health problems and been unable to work on his fine creation the last couple of years. It had become non-operational.

A special Large Scale Division work crew April 4 fixed that, doing enough maintenance and other work to allow Eric to run one of his mainline loops. He believes he is close to being able to run other loops as well.

Helping Eric restore his layout were:

- Ron and Karla Fletcher, fairly new members of BBMRA who are building their own garden railroad layout;
- Carlson Ingram;
- George Allen, invited by Carlton. George is a Lionel collector and dealer from Eastpoint, who goes to the York TCA festival twice a year.
- Sal Martocci
- Barrett Johnson
- Sam Miller
- Bill O'Rourke.



Eric and friends got one loop running again.

Eric turned 80 earlier this spring and many of us helped celebrate.

Eric and Inna were very appreciative of the work we did on the garden railroad and I am too. As Bill O'Rourke put it, "this is what you do with friends."

Sam Miller

Folkston Railwatch

Railwatch 2015 happened last weekend in Folkston Georgia. Their local paper ran a brief article on the event. The only graphic accompanying the article was of one of our own, David Brazell, multi-tasking between trains. He appeared to be building some 'open loads' for a couple HO bulkhead flat cars. See the article here: http://www.charltoncountyherald.com/articles/2015/04/15/featured_photos/doc552d2a4f530c3338693326.txt

BBMRA Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2015

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order shortly after 7:30 p.m. The program for the meeting was operation of T-Traks, after a brief business meeting.

Minutes: There was a correction to the February Lantern which Andy requested be reported in the minutes. The dates of the 2015 Wiregrass Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale in Dothan, Ala., are September 19-20, not September 5-6 as reported in the Lantern calendar. With this change, the minutes were accepted.

New Business: Andy updated the club on a couple of items involving the BBMRA's 24th Annual Show and Sale June 27 at the Leon County Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds management "is being very generous" and not charging for extra chairs and other extra items. The club must carry a million-dollar liability policy, which it has. However, Andy was requested to see that members of the Leon County Commission are listed as an additional insured.

Andy noted he is still working on an updated club roster. HO Coordinator Art Wilson requested that it be broken down into an HO Division roster and Large Scale Coordinator Sam Miller requested that there be specific rosters for all of the divisions, as well as a club-wide roster.

Drew suggested that the club leadership use blast emails to remind division members of division activities, like workdays and setups and to remind club members of club-wide activities.

Treasurer's Report: Drew Hackmeyer reports we are in the black.

Division Reports/Large Scale: Sam Miller reported that the large scale folks were planning a workday Saturday, April 4, in Crawfordville as Eric Ecklund's garden railroad layout.

HO Division: Art Wilson reported that the HO folks are interested in a T Trak setup in May at the restored ANNR Depot in Greensboro in Western Gadsden County. Art noted that the HO Division would be having a work day at the Antique Car Museum to inventory its items still stored there and decide what to do with them. This was later scheduled for April 25.

Small Scale: Garth Easton thanked everyone who participated in the operations session which was part of Founder's day in Woodville. He noted that the N Scalars have already been invited back for the 2016 Woodville Founders' Day and promised a larger space.

There were no reports on the Switching Layout or the Thomas the Tank Engine layout.

Good of the Group: John Sykes noted that he has been able to locate Atlas no. 8 Custom Line switches from Bachmann. "They receive a container full of no. 8 Custom Line switches from China," he said.

Several club members mentioned a recent article about potential expanded rail passenger service in Florida, including All Aboard Florida.

Twenty-two people were counted present.

Send items for the Lantern to Sam Miller, smiller@flains.org and Doug Gyurickso, akdoug@mindspring.com - suggestions, calendar items, Classifieds listing, tips, photos and anything else which is legal and not terribly dangerous

"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