



THE Lantern

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BBMRA Stepped Up; Kept Annual Model Train Show Going

The kids were happy, responding to the most impressive operating layouts BBMRA has had in some time. Most vendors thought they did well and actually better than at some larger shows. The paid gate was down a little, but still substantial. The 24th annual Tallahassee Model Train Show & Sale, our first without John Sullenberger, was a good one because of hard work by Club President Andy Zimmerman, Show Coordinator Marc Beshara, other BBMRA officers and so many members of the club.

If John had still been with us, I am guessing he would have been happy and would have wondered where all of the extra help came from. "Despite the lower numbers, I was pleased and pleasantly surprised at the outcome, but I know we can probably do a little better," Andy says.

"I feel like we kept it together for 2015 and prepared ourselves for the 25th anniversary show. The handful of vendors I was able to chat with were happy with their sales. This year's show was a good first step towards understanding what we need to do next year," Marc says.

When John Sullenberger, our long-time president and annual show coordinator, and Sandy Scott, club treasurer, passed away within days of each other last fall, BBMRA was left reeling and scrambling to plan and conduct the 2015 show.

John had done so much himself over the years and it was difficult to find all of the records needed for this year. So much was in his head and based on his personal relationships with the various vendors.

So many stepped up, including Andy Zimmerman, who was suddenly president, March Beshara, suddenly show coordinator, Sheldon Harrison, suddenly vice president and Drew Hackmeyer, suddenly treasurer, secretary Drug Gyuricsko and the coordinators – N Scale's Garth Easton; HO's Art Wilson; and Large Scale's Sam Miller.

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June 27 Show a Kids-Pleaser

All kids love trains, especially Thomas. See David Blodgett photo essay on the 24th Annual Tallahassee Model Train Show in this edition of the Lantern.

BBMRA Meetings

Third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

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

July 21, 2015

Live from the Cumbres & Toltec

– how BBMRA veteran Drew Hackmeyer spent part of his summer.

August 18, 2015

Election of officers and a program, still being developed.

TALLAHASSEE MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE

Saturday June 25, 2016 -- 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 Stepped Up

From Page One

Drew and Andy directed an unprecedented Committee of the Whole meeting of BBMRA late last year where each member was asked to help the club reconstructed details plans to carry out the 24th annual show.

The final paid gate was 570 – with actual total admission estimated at about 1,000. This was down from the paid gate of 725 in 2014, which was the highest in the history of the show, and a ranking of eighth during the last 16 years. Most vendors said, however, they actually sold more than at previous shows. John had done so much himself over the years and it was difficult to find all of the records needed for this year. So much was in his head and based on his personal relationships with the various vendors.

“We attracted people who actually wanted to spend money, not just kick the tires, but actually buy things,” Andy says.

Visitors came from as far away as Connecticut and Pennsylvania, Andy noted after looking at a survey of show attendees conducted again this year. The visitors from the Northeast were in Tallahassee visiting family.

Most of the attendees came from within a 100-mile radius of

Tallahassee, although the survey turned up visitors from Atlanta, Mobile, Ala., and Tampa and Orlando.

Sam Miller

A Vendor’s Perspective on our Show

From: Aven and Clyde “Porky” Bacon
To: Andy J. Zimmerman
Subject: Tallahassee Train Show

A bit of information for you, Andy.

We made \$200 more at the Tallahassee show this year than the first day of the Tampa show two weeks ago. Tampa had 1,700 paid admissions the first day. and you said you had about 570 paid admissions yesterday. And we made about \$150 more this year than last year at your show (which was an all-time high of 725 paid attendance). Shows that you are doing something right!

We were very pleased.

Next Year will be 25th Anniversary Show

All: This will be the 25th Anniversary show flyer that I need to get printed so I can get them to Porky and Aven to drop off at the shows they attend between now and then. I wanted to note two things.

There are new QR codes on here. One on the front allows people to sign up to be notified about our show automatically.

A second QR code allows new vendors or interested Vendors to apply to the show. I think this will cut down on confusion and be a value added set of tools.

Andy Zimmerman



Sully's Tavern. Each of the club's T Trak Layouts had the appropriate scale version of Sully's tavern, from Woodland Scenics. This is in memory of John Sullenberger. (David Blodgett)



Veterans Memorial RR's Tom Keenan Dies at 85

Tom had been a member of BBMRA for years and hosted special operating sessions for club members. We are saddened by his death in late June. Barrett Johnson in our club was a good friend of Tom and Gloria, Tom's widow. Barrett says he has been assured by Gloria that Veterans Memorial Railroad will continue full speed ahead.

This notice appeared in the Tallahassee Democrat:

TA Thomas Alphonse Keenan, Lt. Col. USAF (ret), age 85, went to be with the Lord on Monday, June 22nd, 2015.

Tom was born on Jan 13th, 1930 in Dubois, Pa to Donald Thomas and Mary Schalk Keenan. He spent his youth in Bradford, Pa and graduated from St. Bernard High School in 1947. He attended the US Coast Guard Academy, and in 1948, he joined the US Air Force. Following two years as an enlisted man in Washington, DC, he joined the Aviation Cadet program. He was commissioned in 1951 and spent the next 10 years on a SAC combat crew, then 15 years as an aircraft maintenance officer. During his military career, he was stationed in Texas, Oklahoma, Maine, Washington, Louisiana, Vietnam, Germany, Guam, and Michigan.

After "retiring" in 1975, he earned his Business degree and MBA from Louisiana Tech University, then worked as a venture capitalist, ran a business college, managed the county airport in Minden, La, taught flying, maintained seaplanes in Key West, and sold real estate in Boca Raton. After moving to Eastpoint, FL, he served one year as the director of the Florida Seafood Festival in Apalachicola.

In 1988, he married Gloria Jacobs and settled in Bristol, Fl. In 2002, with the assistance of countless others, he began development of the 2ft gauge railroad at Veterans Memorial Park in Bristol. The VMRR has become a regional attraction known for the Halloween and Christmas train rides. He and Gloria also travelled extensively.

He is survived by his wife Gloria; his former wife, Inis (Ed) Bultmann of Panama City; son, Tom Allen (Suzanne) Keenan of Fernandina Beach; daughter, Kathleen (Nick) Bahadirli of Panama City Beach; three step daughters, Jill (Wilson) Carraway of Thomasville, Ga., Joni (Donnie) Read of Bristol, and Jena Willis of Bristol FL, and grandchildren Jeremy, Alex, Evan, Paige, Ryan, Hali, Hunter, Riley, Summer and Jessica.

Tom will be interred at the Tallahassee National Cemetery at a future date. Bevis Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Memories and condolences may be shared at www.bevisfh.com. Memorial donations may be made to Veterans Memorial Railroad, P.O. Box 399, Bristol, FL 32321.

FEC Briefing BBMRA on All Aboard Florida

Florida East Coast Railway has agreed to make a presentation before BBMRA in September or October on All Aboard Florida. The speaker will be Rusty Roberts, All Aboard Florida Vice President of Government Relations

BBMRA's Sam Miller will work with Rusty to firm up the presentation. All Aboard Florida is a passenger rail service being built by the FEC to connect Orlando and Miami, using existing FEC track and new track to be built along State Road 528 between Cocoa and Orlando. All Aboard Florida will be the first time a privately owned company in the US has developed and operated express passenger rail system in over 100 years. The project will include stations in downtown Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach.

Thomas & Friends at WFSU Aug 1 - & BBMRA's TTE Layout

Randy Lombardo and other members of the Large Scale Division will be running Thomas the Tank Engine Lionel trains Saturday, August 1, during "Thomas and Friends" Day at WFSU studios near the FSU golf course. WFSU reports all available tickets were snapped up within eight hours.

Randy, Doug Gyuricsko and Sam Miller will operate the TTE Layout from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., which also are the hours of the WFSU event. Set-up is at 8 a.m. The studios, for Florida State University's radio and television stations, are located at 1600 Red Barber Plaza, Tallahassee, FL 32310

In the past, WFSU advertised Thomas Day on its Internet site and allowed parents and grandparents to register for tickets. "Before we promoted this year, we sent an email to our Summer Challenge people. Some of those parents ended up sharing the event, and it sold out in eight hours without any promotion!" says Becca Piers, Coordinator of Educational Outreach.

Here is a notice which WFSU produced for a similar event a couple of years ago:

"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."



Randy & the Thomas Layout. They made lots of friends during the June 27 show at the Fairgrounds.

BBMRA Meeting Minutes from June 23, 2015

This meeting, as in the past had been changed to "just before the show." President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M.

The meeting minutes of May 19th. 2015; accepted as is.

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

President's Report: Andy Zimmerman said the divisions need to get together and coordinate Friday and Saturday times: Sam Miller, Art Wilson, Garth Easton, and Joe Haley of Switching. Andy Millott needs a few more people to sign up for the booth.

Andy Zimmerman discussed the needs of vendors, members, volunteers, and show patrons from wrist band separations to food vendors; starting Friday morning at 8 a.m. until the last vendor shows up. The work resumes again starting Saturday early again, until vendors have removed any items they have.

Good of the Group: David Brazell has new DVDs from the last show, in fact he has video from years ago. In the videos are many members from the BBMRA history. He spent time at CSX, and the U.P. He also has videos of local layouts. He said there will be scenes that John Sullenberger is in also. See, or contact David and see him at the show.

Andy Zimmerman reminded us of election time coming, and the need for a nomination committee. Andy also recommended we read the "By Laws".

Vice President Sheldon Harrison said he wanted volunteers to sign up to help vendors with hand trucks.

Drew Hackmeyer recommended we make notes of things we do, to make life easier in the future.

President Zimmerman said he will have people at the show doing a survey like before to find out folks learned of us and our annual event. He reminded us also we are learning how much John Sullenberger had done on his own in the past for the BBMRA and the Show.

It's time for dues in July and August. We will need more members to "step up" this year for all offices. A welcoming committee would be the people who do the badges. More members who know more about the operations of the club is a very important lessons learned.

Mark Beshara, our show coordinator, says we are pretty much filled out, with a little room left in the buildings.

Mark Van Hoeij won an HO engine Broadway Limited donated to the club. Mark has donated the engine with the idea of a raffle. The proceeds to be donated to the BBMRA. The beautiful Broadway Limited Florida East Coast EMD E6A engine was purchased by Phil Weston!

Tonight we had 40 people present.

The next scheduled meeting will be July 21st. 2015

Doug Gyuricsko

Trains and Kids – Life is Good

Build model train layouts and the kids will come. Credit Field of Dreams, the baseball movie, of course, but it was true for the 24th annual Tallahassee Model Train Show & Sale.



Club member **David Blodgett** took these wonderful photos.







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, Woodgate. Call 850-459-3012.

July 21: BBMRA Meeting: Drew Hackmeyer on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad; also collection of 2015-16 dues.

THE NEW YORK, NEW HAVEN, AND HARTFORD RAILROAD COMPANY					
EASTBOUND			WESTBOUND		
No.	Due	Remarks	No.	Due	Remarks

August 1; Thomas the Tank Engine, WFSU Studios, 1600 Red Barber Plaza, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

August 8: 49th Atlanta Model Train Show.

August 18: BBMRA Meeting/Election of officers.

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

September 12: Garage Sale – Model Trains, Toys, Hobbies. Sam Miller and anyone else interested. 3008 Stillwood Court, Woodgate in Tallahassee. Bring your own tables.

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

September 22: BBMRA Meeting.

September 26-27: Mobile train Show, Mobile VIA Health, Fitness & Enrichment Center, 1717 Dauphin St., Mobile, AL.

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: Garage Sale – Model Trains, Toys, Hobbies. Sam Miller and anyone else interested. 3008 Stillwood Court, Woodgate in Tallahassee. Bring your own tables.

November 17: BBMRA Meeting.

December 11: Sam Miller/Linda Medlin Holiday Reception, Woodgate. Call 850-459-3012.

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.