



THE Lantern

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2015/16 BBMRA Officers to be Elected September 15

At our August 18 meeting we emphasized that we would not be holding the elections due to the unavailability of a slate of officers. This was for a few reasons. Most of the current officers were otherwise disposed, vacations, out of the state etc. So were many members. We want a good quorum to ensure you are getting the best leadership and the best officers to help pull our club up and out of the confusion left from the loss of John Sullenberger and Sandy Scott. Lots of corporate knowledge and experience were lost on those two days, so I cannot blame anyone for wondering what the future holds. All the more important to make sure the right leadership is in place.

As we need to have the slate out a month in advance, a proposed slate was distributed to club members by email immediately after the August 18 meeting. This sets the stage for elections September 15.

The positions that are available are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, as well as all of the divisional coordinators who round out the BBMRA Board. The current candidates are; President-Andy J. Zimmerman; Vice President-Sheldon Harrison; Treasurer- Drew Hackmeyer; Secretary- Doug Gyuricsko.

If other members wish to be considered, they have been asked to contact David Brazell at dbrazell@comcast.net and let him know which position.

The BBMRA divisions will have brief meetings following election of club officers to select coordinators for 2015-16.

Andy Zimmerman

All Aboard Florida Official Briefing BBMRA Sept. 15

Rusty Roberts, AAF's Vice President for Government Affairs, will speak to BBMRA during the September meeting, September 15 at 7:30 p.m. He is bringing along photos and possibly video as well. Most of our club members are interested in passenger rail and this should be an excellent program.

AAF, which is under the Florida East Coast Railroad, would become the first private interest in the U.S. to develop passenger rail in 100 years.

From All Aboard Florida:

As Vice President of Government Affairs, Rusty Roberts is responsible for engaging stakeholders involved with All Aboard Florida, including local, state and federal agencies. Mr. Roberts will oversee the company's interaction with executive and legislative branches, as well as community leaders throughout the state of Florida.

BBMRA Meetings

Third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. "Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

September 15, 2015:

Elections; All Aboard Florida – Rusty Roberts, AAF Vice President for Government Affairs.

October 20, 2015: Andy Millott: Story Telling on your Model Railroad.



Mr. Roberts brings more than 30 years of legislative and political management experience. He has served as Chief of Staff for Congressman John L. Mica, who also chaired the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Miami. He began his congressional service as the Director of U.S. Senator Paula Hawkins' Miami office.

Mr. Roberts was Managing Director of the Transportation and Infrastructure Practice at BGR Government Affairs, a top Washington, D.C. consulting firm, from 2011 to 2013, where he represented such high-profile clients as the Association of American Railroads, JetBlue Airways, Toyota and the Outdoor Advertising Association. Mr. Roberts' private sector experience includes serving as the federal lobbyist for Miami-Dade County; Public Affairs Director for Capital Bank; and Executive Director of Miami Baseball, Inc.

Mr. Roberts attended the University of South Florida and University of Maryland University College.

Modern Passenger Rail

From the All Aboard Florida Internet Site:

Driving from Miami to Orlando takes about four hours. The All Aboard Florida train will allow passengers to cover that same distance in about three hours — while reading, relaxing or simply enjoying a more productive way to travel.

Quality passenger rail holds the power to transform the travel experience. Rather than putting miles on your own car, paying for gas and navigating heavy traffic, passengers can sit back and enjoy the ride. All Aboard Florida will deliver you to Orlando, Miami and destinations in between faster than when driving — and you will arrive more relaxed, refreshed and comfortable.

The route will open for service between Miami and West Palm Beach in 2017, with full service from Miami to Orlando following later that year. In the meantime, All Aboard Florida will be improving the route between Miami and Cocoa, building out the route between Cocoa and Orlando, and constructing modern rail stations in Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach.

Last Chance to Avoid Delinquent Club Dues

It is that time of year again. We normally collect dues from July to the end of August. Because of some of the inherent delays we will extend that to the September 15 meeting. PLEASE ensure that you bring your dues to the September meeting if you intend on renewing. As always you can mail in your \$20.00 to:

Big Bend Model Railroad Association
PO Box 3392
Tallahassee, FL
32315-3392

Andy Zimmerman

Two Special Events This Fall – Layout Tour and Garage Sale

Two special events are in the planning stages for this fall – a Saturday Tour of Layouts November 14 and a model railroading garage sale, tentatively Saturday, October 31.

BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman announced the layout tour during the August 18 club meeting. The other Andy, Andy Millott, is coordinating this really fun event. Contact Andy M. if you want your layout included. This has been a regular BBMRA in the past, but not in recent years.

October 31: Garage Sale – Model Trains, Toys, Hobbies. Sam Miller, Doug Gyuricsko and anyone else interested, but bring your own tables. Sam's house in Woodgate. We will promote this on Craig's list and the Tallahassee Democrat and with yard signs. Let Sam or Doug know if you would participate as a vendor and customer.

Old News: Andy reminded us about this year's show. We had 570 "paid" at the gate. This was down from past years. However a survey of many vendors was positive.

Andy Z. said the new show flyers have new QR squares with more information for visitors and vendors with a quick scan of a cell phone. It will be the 25th show next year.

New News: Andy reported our "Small" Scale Division coordinator, Garth Easton, will be released from TMH Thursday. A scheduled surgery, and Garth is expected to be fine.

Andy called for division reports, from those who are present.

HO Division: Art Wilson reported Ron Clarks wife is ill at present. Art noted the lack of corner modules will challenge the HO system during the T Trak setups tonight. It was suggested a point to point may work.

Large Scale: Sam Miller reports he will have more time to RR. Sam retired last Friday and received applause. Sam expects to run trains on Sundays, and maybe more! Sam also reminded us of the September program guest, Rusty Roberts. Rusty Roberts is the Vice President for Govt. Affairs for All Aboard Florida and will be presenting information about the proposed AAF passenger rail system.

Thomas: Randy Lombardo reports a transformer he uses for Thomas developed a sticking horn and bell controls. He is not sure what the cause is. There is another that may be used.

Switching: Joe had no new news on the layout other than," he runs it; he is not a builder".

Good of the Group: Andy Millott said he brought extra pieces and parts for HO buildings for the taking. Andy M. also reported a plan for a BBMRA "layout tour" Saturday, November 14. Club members willing to show off their layouts should contact Andy M.

Dan King reminds us of the Dothan Train show September 19-20 and that we are a reciprocal club, so BBMRA members will not have to pay admission at Dothan. It's a great two day show.

Andy Zimmerman said an idea for a memorial to John Sullenberger is up for thought. Johns favorite RR is represented in the Greensboro train station. There are ways to do establish a tribute to John there. More information is needed to nail it down as to what may be best.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:12 P.M.

It's a run trains meeting night. Members and guests got together to watch, build, and talk trains, while Andy and Drew updated the roster and received dues.

I counted 40 people present.

Respectfully submitted by Doug Gyuricsko