



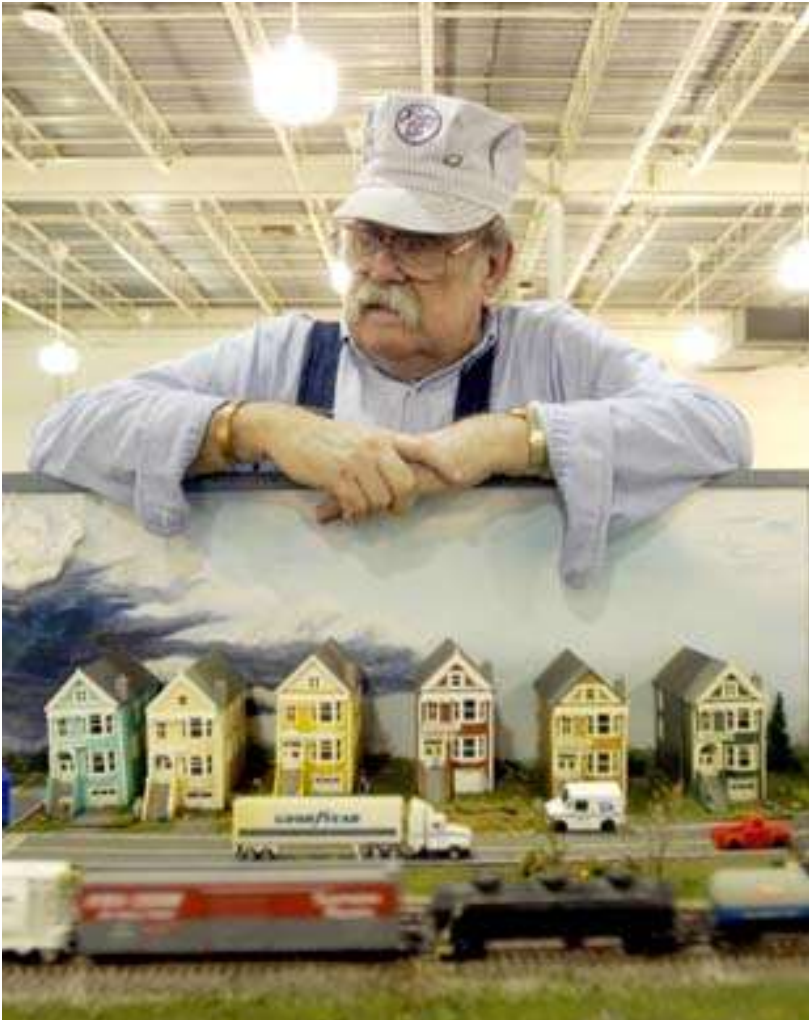
THE Lantern

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Dan King – The Railroader’s Railroader

On 31 December, 2015, the BBMRA lost an expert modeler, a dear friend, and what I’d describe as the railroader’s railroader.



**Dan King, the Railroader’s Railroader
and a founding member of our club**

him affectionately over the years that I had to join this club to stop this guy from bugging me – a decision, of course, I have never regretted.

BBMRA Meetings

January 19, 2016: 7:30 p.m.: “Third Tuesday” BBMRA Meeting – John Sykes III, History of F Units, the diesels that destroyed the steam era.

February 16, 2016, 7:30 p.m.: “Third Tuesday” BBMRA Meeting - Program still being developed.

His wife, Dixie, called me in mid-December to let me know that Dan was in the hospital. He had been weak and wasn’t feeling well so she took him in. He had an infection that they thought they could clear up but he wasn’t improving. Then they discovered he had late stage pancreatic cancer. He went peacefully in a few days surrounded by loved ones.

I owe so much to this man. He was like a second father to me. Several people asked me over the years if he was my father and I always told them the same thing – I’d like to claim him but can’t - just a dear friend. I owe the fact that I’m in this club to Dan King. We first met at the AMTRAK depot when the club had a display up for the opening of the facility. I met him and he looked at a picture on the wall of an ACL locomotive and he could date the loco because of the logo that was on the tender. I thought, wow! This guy really knows his stuff – a feeling that never diminished over the years as we traveled around. Then he kept on calling me the following few months on the day of the meeting to invite me. I told

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



We have traveled to many spots over the years (with Larry Benson and others too). We've made many a visit to Folkston and I never went over there that he didn't find someone he either knew or he met someone that knew someone he knew. We even went over there one time and there was only one guy there – a guy that worked in the ACL signal department just a few months after Dan left the ACL. They had many mutual friends.

Dan was a wealth of knowledge about the real thing. We'd go to a static display and he'd point to a small part on the loco and ask "Do you know what that is?" Of course I didn't and he went on to describe what the part was and what it did. After over 50 years after working on the railroad, he still knew that stuff. He could talk their language to the other guys that work the rails even today. That's why I'd call him the railroader's railroader!



David Brazell and two departed BBMRA pioneers, Larry Benson and Dan King

Dan was also one of those guys you could depend on if you needed something done. He was truly one of the most dependable "worker bees" in the club. He was always willing to help whether it be at a show, a display we set up somewhere, the fair or on workdays when we worked on our layout. He even helped the N scalers on a few work days. He was a wealth of modeling knowledge. When I first started to buy some cars to use on the club layouts, I had quite a few and I took them to the fair when we ran the layout over there and they didn't run very well. Dan asked me about my coupler height? I said, "My what?" He proceeded to tell me about this and at first thought this was crazy but I found out he was right on the money. I fixed the cars and then they have run well. I listened to everything he said about modeling ever since. He was always willing to share his modeling knowledge with anyone.

Finally, he will be missed by all that knew him. He left a wonderful loving wife and several other family members. The endless number of railroad, mediation, home owners and Texas A&M friends all will miss his wit, knowledge, love and personality. He will have a celebration of his life at the Abby's funeral home on North Monroe on 20 February, 2016 at 3:00. Pray for all of us, especially his family, during this time of loss.

David Brazell

With a heavy heart, we mourn the loss of one of our own

Fellow Model Railroaders past and present, It is with a very heavy heart that I come before you today. Many of you may know that Dan King had a number of issues that sent him to the hospital a time or two. Recently Dan was admitted with what seemed to be an infection. It turns out that Dan had late stage Pancreatic Cancer. With deep regret and sadness, I am letting you know that Dan King passed away Thursday morning at 11:39 am. December 31st. He was surrounded by his loving wife Dixie and his daughter.

Like many of our founding members Dan has been the one of cornerstones on which the BBMRA was founded. Dan loved the BBMRA and all that it stood for. He loved the interaction and being part of the organization. Dan was always the first to let you know how things ought to be and made sure you were listening. His voice always carried and got the attention of everyone. Dan was a treasure trove of Railroad information and had first- hand Experience with most of the trains that we love to model. He was a good friend and will not easily be forgotten by any who knew him. His indomitable spirit will be with us all. I am sure that John Sullenberger was there to greet his newest train club member along with Larry Benson, Sandy Scott and

January 23, 2016: TCA Southern Division's first meet of 2016, at the Minnreg Building, 6340 126th Avenue North, Largo, Florida 33773. 9 a.m. for TCA members with no admission charge and 10 a.m. for the public, \$5 admission charge. Show closes at 3 p.m.

January 30, 2016: 33rd Annual Children's Day, R.A Gray Building (State Museum) , Tallahassee, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., including BBMRA operating sessions; Randy's Thomas, the Large Scale Division's Disney Layout and Joe Haley and the Switching Layout.

February, 13, 2016: 38th Jacksonville Rail Fair, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Prime Osborn Convention Center, Jacksonville.

February 16, 2016: BBMRA Meeting.

February 27, 2016: The Woodville Founders Day Festival. The N-scale and Switching Layouts will be displaying. BBMRA will be out front in the main Lobby with the Full N-Scale layout.

March 15, 2016: BBMRA Meeting.

April 9, 2016, Saturday: 55th Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, DeLand, FL

April 19, 2016: BBMRA Meeting.

May 17, 2016: BBMRA Meeting.

June 4-5, 2016: 15th Tampa Model Show, Saturday & Sunday, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL

June 21, 2016: BBMRA Meeting, Final Planning for June 25 Show.

June 25, 2016: 25th Annual Tallahassee Model Train Show & Sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Leon County Fairgrounds, Tallahassee.

July 9, 2016: 56th Florida Rail Fair, Saturday, Volusia County Fairgrounds, DeLand, FL.

August 13, 2016: 50th Atlanta Model Train Show, Saturday, North Atlanta Trade Center, Atlanta, GA

October, 2016: Hobbies Garage Sale, BBMRA, Large Scale Division, Tallahassee, TBA.

NMRA 2017 Orlando: July 30-August 6, 2017, The Rosen Plaza Hotel, International Drive, Orlando, NMRA National/International convention.

All aboard: Rail service could be returning to Gulf Coast

From the Tallahassee Democrat, January 2, 2016

By Karl Eetters

Imagine hopping on a train in downtown Tallahassee to spend a weekend in New Orleans' French Quarter, then coming back, twisting through the rural charm of the Gulf Coast.

More than a decade has passed since thundering passenger locomotives stopped in Tallahassee or anywhere else east of New Orleans.

But that could all change as the Southern Rail Commission looks to restore rail service from the Big Easy to Orlando, which would include a stop in the capital city. This year, the SRC asked Amtrak to evaluate options for bringing train service back. The popular Gulf Coast Limited rail line closed in 2005 in the wake of destruction of miles of tracks in Hurricane Katrina.



Southern Rail Commission

The Amtrak report looks at three possibilities of restoring the rail line, all with stops in Tallahassee.

One would be a daily trip from New Orleans to Orlando with 16 stops along the way. Another would extend the New Orleans line to two daily trips between Mobile where passengers would change trains on their way to Florida. The third would be an overnight trip from New Orleans to Orlando.

The Amtrak report estimates that reestablishing the Gulf Coast line could produce an annual ridership between 38,000 for a ride from New Orleans to Mobile to one as large as 153,900 for a round trip to Orlando that stops in Mobile. The cost of re-establishing the route ranges from \$6.97 million to \$14.4 million. Funding sources would include local, state and federal dollars.

The Gulf rail lines are owned by CXS Transportation and were leased by Amtrak for passenger rail.

Mayors and government officials all along the line have shown support in returning rail service to their towns.

Tallahassee City Commissioner Scott Maddox sat on the Amtrak Mayor's Advisory Council when he was mayor from 1996 to 2003.

He is in favor of restoring the North Florida rail service, as long as it picks up at the Railroad Avenue station at a more agreeable time.

"The old service picked up around 2 a.m.," Maddox said with a laugh. "I think it's a real possibility and something I hope comes to fruition."

Part of what Amtrak is looking at is whether cities that once had rail service are still equipped to handle the influx of passengers and the returning economy that comes with them.

A depot sits quiet

From the Tallahassee Democrat, January 10, 2016-01-12
By Karl Etters

Tallahassee's Amtrak depot railway platform sits quiet except for when one of the daily cargo trains rambles through, the occasional pedestrian walks down the tracks or on the first Friday of the month when it becomes a hangout for teenagers on the fringes of a block party in Railroad Square.

People have fond memories of riding trains out of Tallahassee.

They recall the bygone mystique of the hum of the tracks, gabbing with other travelers in the dining car and seeing Florida, old Florida, in a way that interstate travel by car just lacks.

With the prospect of Amtrak rail service returning, linking Florida and the rest of the Gulf Coast to New Orleans, Jacksonville and other continental rail lines, people are digging deep into their memory banks to recall catching the rail out of the capital city.

Ken Winker's 1998 trip to see family in Wisconsin with his then 14-year-old daughter, Blair, remains unforgettable.

He remembers the 2 a.m. westward departure from the Railroad Avenue Amtrak train depot. He remembers he and



Old Railroad Depot, Tallahassee

his daughter were unable to sleep in the stiff, coach seating. He remembers seeing the Chicago skyline as their train pulled into Union Station.

But what he still reminisces about is taking in the sights as he and his daughter, who is now 32, wound through the country, stopping at small towns along the way.

“As the sun rose the next morning we saw a lot of areas you don't normally see on the road,” said Winker, now retired after working almost 25 years in the Florida Legislature. “We got to see lots of towns. Small towns, large towns, medium towns; It was a real memorable trip. We had a fun time father-daughter traveling together.”

The dining car was the place to meet other interesting travelers as people got on and off the train.

“You sat with strangers and got to meet different people and talk about where they're from, where they're headed and all about them,” Winker said. “They come from all over the place and you never know what kind of background they have.”

Winker chronicled their trip in a small journal Amtrak used to hand out to passengers.

A notable portion was on the return trip when Winker and his daughter stopped and explored New Orleans' French Quarter before hopping back on a train headed east for Tallahassee.

Winker is hopeful rail service will return so Blair, who is now married and lives in Gilmer, Texas, can retrace their tracks with her husband and her daughter without the bustle of airports.

“I think the train is more relaxing and interesting. On a train, you get to look out the window and you get to see the countryside go by. It's just a fun way to travel,” he said.

BBMRA Meeting Minutes for December

Simply: no regular business meeting this month.

However, it does not stop BBMRA members from getting together for the season. Sam Miller and Linda Medlin's open house was another warm gathering of our members. Every year this happens. It turns out to be a very friendly home-style gathering. Members of all ages can enjoy the welcome Sam and Linda extend to all. Then there's the food, and treats, plus the room full of H.O. trains, and a garage full of O gauge trains. Ancient relics, to modern trains running in many directions. Then the animated actions of circus animals, carnival rides, amusement parks, fishermen catching fish, to flying elephants! More to see every year and still miss something, except hospitality, fun and friendship.

Thank you both again this year.

Respectfully submitted by **Doug Gyuricsko.**