



THE Lantern

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2016 Folkston Train Fest is April 2

They have posted the date for the annual Folkston, GA, Trainfest.



Folkston, GA Train Funnel

Circle Saturday, the 2nd of April, on your calendar. This is one of the rare opportunities to see trains roll through at night as they deploy large lights for the Train Fest, which are not deployed the remainder of the year.

This is about the only way to see the highlight train – the Tropicana Juice train - which usually comes through at night or early in the morning.

There are a few motels there that are very nice and clean if you want to spend the night there. If you want a great day of train watching with a lots of great fellow train watchers, this is the time to go.

David Brazell

BBMRA Meetings

March 15, 2016: 7:30 p.m.: “Third Tuesday” BBMRA Meeting – Running T Traks – all scales.

April 19, , 2016: 7:30 p.m.: “Third Tuesday” BBMRA Meeting – TBA.



Amtrak at the Tallahassee Train Depot February 19

Amtrak Returns to Tallahassee

After Hurricane Katrina virtually destroyed the tracks in the area around New Orleans, the tracks were repaired and freight traffic resumed within six to eight weeks. Not so for Amtrak passenger service. The run between Jacksonville and New Orleans was suspended and has not resumed since. However, there has been discussion about resuming the service.

So, Amtrak scheduled a run to gauge interest in resuming the service. That run came through Tallahassee on February 19.

I went down to the Amtrak station to see the drive through. The crowd was enthusiastic. Several BBMRA club members also attended the event. Some local dignitaries were there. Some of these actually rode the train by hopping on board in Chipley. Local news crews were there too. I was on the east side of the depot in front of the CSX offices.

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



The train was supposed to arrive at 2:47 p.m. Interestingly enough, it was only about five minutes late. It was pretty exciting to see the train again. After the train came through and stopped, many of us went down to the engines to get video and pictures.

Several wandered on the tracks (which I wasn't too comfortable with) to get head on still shots and some got "selfies" with the train in the background. It was great getting video while the train was stopped as you don't get that opportunity very often.

It was fascinating looking at the details of each car. One of the train workers noticed and complimented my Super Chief shirt I wore for the occasion. After about a 30-minute stay, the engineer blew the horn (to clear the tracks) and they continued the eastward trek.

I don't know if Amtrak will resume the service or not. The speculation is if they do, it will not be for two or three years. If the enthusiasm of the crowd is any indicator, I would be optimistic that we'll see Amtrak rolling through on a regular basis again.

David Brazell



N Scalars at Woodville Founders Day

"It was a good day after the heat was turned on," says Doug Gyuricsko. "They gave us coffee, food and a good area to set up. They are nice people. There were not as many folks coming to see the layout as last year, for some reason, but there was a lot of interest in our operations and in the upcoming show in June."

A Train Comes to Chipley

February 26, 2017, Tallahassee Democrat

By Sean Dietrich. Sean is a journalist, humorist and novelist known for his commentary on life in the American South. He is a connoisseur of small towns, Labradors and barbecue

The train whistle screamed so loud I had to plug my ears. It was the kind of sound that made every face in Chipley light up like Christmas trees.

The man next to me shouted, "Lordy mercy!"

If you've never been to Chipley, you don't know what you're missing. And if you're just riding through town, it lasts about as long as a George Jones song. On a good day, you can stand on one side of Chipley, let out a holler, and they'll hear you on the other side.

Chipley is the county seat for Washington County – a tiny county with not enough residents to fill up one fifth of an SEC football stadium. It's a dry county. (If you don't know what that is, watch an episode of "The Andy Griffith Show.")

Chipley has a courthouse that screams 1930 — a block building with tall columns. There's a downtown, one you could roll a bowling ball through without any effort. The biggest buildings are churches, which remind me of potlucks and revival meetings.

The most important event on the calendar, besides Easter Sunday, is the Watermelon Festival, a summer shindig that attracts professional people-watchers from all over the tri-county region.

Last year at the festival, I saw a man with a skunk perched on his shoulder. Beside him were his wife and two kids, each with stink badgers of their own. "They make great pets," he said. "Better than expensive purebreds." His wife agreed. His boys were too busy working on funnel cakes to comment.

So you can imagine how stunning it was to see Chipley's train station fire up again for the first time in years. The crowd gathered to watch the metal machine roll in.

"Lordy Mercy!" the man said, elbowing me. "Looky!"

The old Bill Lee Depot, which has stood for 134 years in the same blessed spot, remained unimpressed by the modern train. The retired station has seen too many locomotives and wartime departures to get worked up anymore.

But we the people came unglued.

"I seen them working on them tracks," said the excited man beside me. "Lordy mercy, I hope it means they're fixin' to get this train up and rolling again. That would mean everything to our little community. We need all the help we can get."

He's absolutely right, of course. Small towns are disappearing at alarming rates. It's a nationwide issue. The town I grew up in erected a Red Lobster over my second base. I spent half my childhood punching my glove in the same spot the dumpster now sits. There's a Best Buy over my spaceship fort, a Dick's Sporting Goods over the place I had my first kiss.

There's something about a train station that flies in the face of Red Lobsters and Best Buys. I don't know why the sound of a whistle makes me proud of things like high school football games, or Sadie Hawkins dances. Or dry counties.

But Lordy mercy, I hope they get that train up and rolling again.

Double-Heading With Models Locos Tricky, But Doable

By **Mike Sassard**, BBMRA member who now lives in California.

Double Heading - two or more locomotives pulling a heavy, long train - is something real railroads have always done and is more common now with the advent of diesel locomotives. This is seldom practiced with model steam locomotives and most model diesel locos. For the most part, this is due to the lack of a functioning coupler on the locomotive's pilot.

On my railroad, both of my G steam trains are double-headed because I like the looks and the "out of sync" sound of a pair. This is for esthetics only as my trains are short. The LGB locos have a functioning coupler up front. Pictured with this report is a pair of my LGB double-headed trains.

I have seen a four-diesel lash-up on a long N Gauge model train. This could be accomplished with O gauge trains if the current draw was the same for each engine and each was produced by the same manufacturer.

Mixing Lionel and MTH engines won't work as the



Mike's mixed steam and diesel double-heading

Freedom Train engine was double-headed with a "like-painted" diesel engine behind it. I guess that old engine just wasn't up to the pull. The first Freedom Train was actually a patriotically-painted Alco PA.

Can that be accomplished with O Gauge trains ?
Yes. I paired up a Lionel scale Atlantic followed by a Lionel Dash 9. Did it work ? Yes and no.

First ,you must have a transformer big enough to handle both engines. I do. I used a MTH Z4000. The team started fine, but ran into a section of dirty track and the Dash 9 went into neutral, causing the train to halt, as the Atlantic spun it's wheels (little traction).

I tried again at a faster speed and got all the way around. On good track, yes, it will work. Pictured with this report is my mixed lash up as well as the steam Freedom Train and diesel.

Happy Rails.



Mike's LGB Double-Headed Set

reverse units are different. Lionel comes on in forward and MTH comes on in neutral.

Following prototype practice, many diesel "train sets" are sold as a "back to back" AA engine set, but mostly the second engine is a "dummy."

Some MTH AA engine sets do have a powered second engine, but you have to connect a temperamental umbilical cable and I don't do that.

On real prototype, trains, has there ever been mixed, steam and diesel, double-headed? Yes. The steam



Freedom Train steam and diesel

BBMRA Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2016

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:43 P.M.

Meeting minutes for January 19, 2016 were accepted as is.

Treasurer's Report: Drew Hackmeyer reports, we are in the black. The report was accepted as is.

President Zimmerman reported the room in the Greensboro railroad station dedicated to John Sullenberger is a go. A shelf layout above the doors is in the plans. A dedication with John's family present is being planned – likely in April or May.

Division Reports/Large Scale: Sam Miller gave us news of Harold Odom passing. Sam also requested the large scale members present to gather for a planning session when the business meeting ends.

H.O. Scale: Art Wilson asked that the HO group get to the new car museum the 5th of March for a cleanup. Art also requests the T-track modules be set up for the March meeting (the 16th) for testing before the show.

Small Scale: Garth Easton needed a work party to finish a module for the Woodville Founders Day event February 27. The Founders Day event will need members to help at 8:30 A.M. at the Woodville library; all large N modules will be run.

Switching; Joe Haley announced he will be at the Founders Day event. Joe also told the members the transformer was not the problem. It's in the HO turnouts on the switching layout.

Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol: Mitchell Green reported they had a record turnout for the Christmas run.

Good of the Group: Members were reminded of the Amtrak passenger train coming to Tallahassee.

David Brazell reminded us of Dan Kings memorial service.

The Mag Lab is having an open house.

The business meeting ended at 8:07 P.M.

Our Program: The program was "Run Trains".

Drew Hackmeyer and Matt Baronovich had been working under cover for some time. Only tiny bits of information that something was in the works could ever be learned from those two. Tonight we got to see what the secrecy had been about.. If you weren't there, sorry. You missed an excellent project displaying hand-crafted master works of art, engineering, electrical and mechanical wizardry. They shared this with many of us so we had a hands on experience too!

Thank you Drew and Matt. Hope to see that art work many times.

I did not count the members present.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 15th. To be a "Run Trains meeting".

Respectfully submitted by **Doug Gyuricsko**.