



THE Lantern

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Marc Beshara/Andy Zimmerman Show Update April 19

BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman and Show Coordinator Marc Beshara will update us on planning and preparations for the June 25 show and sale, the 25th anniversary of BBMRA's signature event. Marc and Andy will be seeking volunteers to help in the main task right now – contacting and re-contacting vendors to finalize our group for the show. "We mainly need volunteers to make calls and/or send out emails," Marc says.

BBMRA Meetings

April 19, 2016: 7:30 p.m.: "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting – Matt Baronovich on DCC Operations.

May 17, 2016: 7:30 p.m.: "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting – Andy Millott, Modeling Interchanges.

Please be ready to also volunteer for specific tasks Friday, June 24, and Saturday, June 25, the day of the show. We need all club members to step up – to help vendors unload and set up; to fill slots staffing the ticket booth; to serve as floating volunteers to handle a variety of tasks throughout Saturday; and to handle many other jobs as well. Marc and Andy will be seeking coordinators for the ticket booth and assistance to vendors.

Several new things are being considered to make the 25th annual show really special, including a 25th Anniversary Raffle, 25-cent tickets or five for a dollar. Prizes would include a grand prize model train set. Sam Miller is contacting WFSU Television at Florida State University about the possibility of participation by train-related PBS characters – Thomas the Tank Engine, Daniel Tiger and Trolley and the Dinosaur Train. Lisa Blair, our youth outreach coordinator, has some ideas to improve the club's member recruitment booth and activities.

We need as many club members as possible the Friday before the show, doing last minute things like installing extension cords and helping vendors. We will need lots of help breaking down late Saturday.

From the club, we are planning the N, HO and Large Scale T Traks, plus Thomas the Tank Engine, the Time Saver, the Live Steamers and perhaps other layouts as well.

It is almost here. Club members are stepping up as John Sullenberger would have expected and another outstanding show and sale is in the making.

Full Steam Ahead for 25th Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale

June Meeting to be Devoted to Last-minute Planning for the show

The regular June meeting, the third Tuesday, is the Tuesday before our annual show and sale, buy luck of the draw and calendar. It will not be necessary to reschedule for the fourth Tuesday as it the club's custom. Tuesday, June 23, is three days before the show weekend. We will devote the entire meeting to last minute planning for the show. There will be division meetings as well as the club-wide meeting.

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



Mel McCarthy's "Kiddy's Delight" Riding Toy Train

(Mel McCarthy joined BBMRA a month ago. He is an avid tennis player and competes with two other club members – Joe Furiato and Paul Dirks. Mel was leader of one of Tallahassee's first Lionel interest groups in the 1970's and then put away his Lionel trains until recently. Jack Herzog remembers that Mel bought this "Kiddy's Delight" hand car set from Walter Panpillion in Cottondale. Walter was a retired "carnie" worker, Lionel enthusiast and o gauge parts dealer. 'We met Walter through the Gulf Winds Chapter of TCA and would go over to his house every so often,' Jack remembers.)

On a trip with some Tallahassee toy train friends in the late 70's I found the parts and pieces to put together a hand powered riding train in my back yard rusting away in a field near Marianna.



Mel, Barrett Johnson and Jack Herzog.



Mel, Cal Ogburn and Sam Miller.

I purchased for \$200 the three hand cars and a pile of one inch "tee" bar track and brought it to my new home in Tallahassee for my three young sons to ride. There was enough rail to make an oval but no cross-ties plus my back yard isn't level. So I had to make enough cross-ties to build 8.5 inch gauge track out of the rail and

excavate a large hole in my natural back yard to get enough dirt to build a dam to make a level oval for the track.

Once operational, the boys and their young friends enjoyed racing around the track as fast as they could go without falling off the un-banked curves. To make it more like a train I added couplers to connect the cars together and built a gondola for children to ride in that were too young to be able to propel themselves.

One of the cars had a barely legible name plate that called it a Kiddy's Delight Hand Car made by Hodges Amusement & Man. Co. in Indianapolis and it contained a patent number which I was lucky enough to find online. I have been unable to locate the maker so assume they no longer exist.

The original patent was dated 1934 for an Amusement Apparatus states, "for children at fairs, carnivals, parks, or other places of amusement...including a car and a fixed track, and with the car including means operated by hand power of a child seated thereon for the purpose of propelling the car over the track thus affording amusement, recreation, and healthful exercise for the child." The design patent was dated 1950.



Mel and David Blodgett's Grandson, Carter. (Photos by David Blodgett)

I was not aware of the existence of any similar hand cars until I was watching a restoration program on TV some years ago where they totally restored two of the same hand cars at a cost of \$2,000 each. I've been unable to obtain a copy of that show. I have restored only one of my three cars.

Adults enjoy riding on the train except when the cars are coupled together there is not enough room for long adult legs to extend straight out between the cars. And we're not used to using our arms much so they get tired and start to burn after riding a while.

Anyone wishing to ride this unique train or bring their children or grandchildren for a ride can call new member me at 893-5845 to set a mutually agreeable time.

Mel McCarthy

On Our Own: Important Updates on BBMRA'ers

(Please send items to smiller@flains.org)

Bill Bell Going Home After Successful Surgery

Veteran HO member and craftsman Bill Bell is going home Wednesday (April 20) from HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Tallahassee, Riggins Road. Bill has undergone successful rehab following serious surgery for a hernia operation a couple of months ago. He can have visitors after 4 p.m. at HealthSouth and is in Room 132.

Bill already has volunteered for work at the June 25 show. "I am willing to either sell tickets or take tickets at the door," Bill says. "I intend to bring my two grandsons with me."

Bill built a special table for his HealthSouth hospital bed to work on a craftsman kit.

Ron Clark's Wife Recovering from Fall

Ron Clark has been unable to attend BBMRA meetings and other activities since last year. Ron is a talented HO modeler, including developing a corner for the HO T Traks. He is a retired chemistry professor at Florida State University.

Ron's wife had a serious fall last year and there have been complications. Ron says she is getting much better. "I have had to be with my wife most of the time and have been unable to include my two train clubs in my activities - BBMRA and the historical club," Ron says.

Ron was encouraged to resume his wonderful participation in BBMRA when possible and he has promised to do it.

BBMRAers Taking Rocky Mountaineer Through Canadian Rockies

It is described in their literature as the trip of a lifetime and Barrett Johnson and Sam Miller are not arguing. Sam, and his wife, Linda Medlin, and Barrett and his wife, Merryann join other friends in late July in a Rocky Mountaineer trip beginning in Seattle, going through Vancouver, Kamloops, Lake Louise, and Banff and ending in Calgary,

If you are willing, they will share their slides in a meeting program this fall.

Are you going on a special railroading vacation this summer or any special vacation?

Special Birthday for Barrett

Barrett Johnson, long-time member of BBMRA and former president, is an HO and American Flyer collector and regular at the Sunday Afternoon Lionel Interest Group meeting at Sam Miller's house. Barrett also collects premium beer cans. Merryann Johnson, his wife of 50 years, worked with Sam and Linda Medlin to surprise Barrett one recent Sunday. This wonderful cake – shaped like a model train – was designed and made by Merryann. She is a terrific dessert chef, along with many other talents.



Barrett, the cake, Carlton Ingram and Jack and Barbara Herzog

BBMRA Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2016

The BBMRA Meeting Minutes for March 15th 2016.

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:34 P.M.

Minutes of February 16th 2016; were accepted as is.

Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer reports: we are in the black, in addition to vendor payments to our June 25th Annual Show. The report was accepted as is.

President Zimmerman requested **division reports**.

Large Scale: Sam Miller introduced a new member, Mel McCarthy. Mel has had large scale trains for years, and is now going to get more involved. Welcome Mel. Sam also announced tonight's mission for the large scale group. We will set up the expanding benches for the T-Trak modules, where Doug G. will share the information so many members can set them up. This is also a preshow exercise and testing of the system.

HO: Art Wilson thanked all the members who helped with organizing the HO part of the New Car Museum railroad room. Art also reported along with running trains tonight, that before the show, he plans to set up again and test the system before the June show.

Small Scale: Garth Easton thanked all the people who were at the Woodville Founders Day event. Garth also reported there will be a work party on the 26th of March to work on electrical issues with an N module.

Switching: Joe Haley reported he was at the Woodville Founders Day event; and he thanked our Vice president Sheldon Harrison for sharing the mission to teach a rail yard switching experience to young railroaders. The visitors earn engineer certificates when they pass the testing. Joe also said he will need more certificates again.

Education Coordinator: Lisa Blair, along with her son, Mathew Blair, requested a youth table be set up at the show to share information with young people who would like to know more about model railroading.

Good of the Group: President Zimmerman pointed to a table where H.O. trains were brought to sell.

David Brazell thanked all the members who attended the memorial for our "railroaders railroader" Dan King.

David also reminded us of the Folkston train event.

Jack Herzog reported on the logging industry found in Metcalf (north HWY 59) to be very interesting as a prototype model idea.

President Zimmerman reminded us of our need to volunteer to fill the spots show coordinator Marc Beshera had listed in his detailed list of show planning.

The business meeting ended at 7:51 P.M.

Tonight is a scheduled "run trains night" and the members went back to work on the modular systems.

I counted 30 members tonight; a reminder the next meeting is scheduled for April 19th 2016. That will leave less than 70 days till show time!

Respectfully submitted by **Doug Gyuricsko**.

"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