



THE Lantern

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Attendance Down, But 25th Tallahassee Show a Success

“Despite this year’s lower turnout, participants were there to spend money and that was good for our vendors. If the vendors don’t see a profit they don’t return so in that respect we did well,” BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman reports.

Paid attendance for the 2016 show June 25 was 500, down somewhat from 570 a year ago and significantly off our high in recent years of 725 in 2014. It was much better than the 390 paid admissions in 2009, 222 in 2005 and 218 in 2007, the worst turnouts in recent years. Actual attendance was higher, probably 650 to 700, including children and participants who did not have to pay.

“We had a successful show. Why? Well it wasn’t by accident. I want to thank everyone who volunteered,” Andy continued. “Many hands make light work. Finding volunteers has been anything but easy, but those of you who worked together with me as a team - everyone playing their part and sharing the burden - made this show work.”

“A small but dedicated group of members put forth a full faith effort this year and in a very compressed timeframe. We made some subtle changes, moved some vendors around, brought in some club layouts, restricted the number of tables and got the information about the show out to businesses, newspapers, Internet sites, television stations, radio stations and other shows and venues,” Andy said.

Show Committee, Written Procedures Planned for 2017

Replacing John Sullenberger as show coordinator has turned out to be more than any one BBMRA member should be expected to do. The club leadership is proposing a show committee, with individual members handling key responsibilities, including vendor recruitment and coordination, show promotions and outreach and public relations.

President Andy Zimmerman is seeking volunteers for the Annual Show & Sale Coordinating Committee and there already has been some good response.

Club leaders also are proposing a written plan of preparation and operation, with BBMRA members providing much of the information. As Drew Hackmeyer recommended during the June pre-show club meeting, each member who performed a certain task this year – or in years past – can help by providing written information on what they did to make the show a success.

*** BBMRA Meetings ***

July 19, 2016: 7:30 p.m.

Third Tuesday-BBMRA - Dues Renewals; Critique of 25th Annual Show. We will be collecting dues and updating our roster.

“Old’ Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

August 16, 2016: 7:30 p.m. “Third Tuesday” BBMRA Meeting – Election of Officers for 2016/17; and 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



“We need folks to step up. We need people to contact the Tallahassee Democrat, its Chronicle neighborhood paper, the Dothan Eagle and other publications; and radio and television outlets,” Andy says. “Wherever we can do an interview we need to do that.”

“We need someone to compile addresses of the hobby shops in Florida, southern Georgia and southern Alabama and mail out materials promoting the show. We need a good coordinator for our vendors, someone working the vendors’ list, confirming that our regular folks will be back and looking for new outlets. We also need a person to approach exhibitors to get layouts in here.”

All of this must be done early because we are competing with other shows, Andy emphasizes. For a variety of reasons, we did not get early commitments this year and some vendors had a conflict and went to other shows. All of the major work must be done earlier in the future, especially contacting vendors and exhibitors.

The committee will oversee the many other activities which must be completed for a successful show, including coordination of duties in the ticket booth, helping show participants and trouble-shooting.

Sam Miller

2016/17 Officers to be Elected in August

Andy Zimmerman has agreed to run again as president, but other board members are ready for a rest, or have not yet decided what they want to do. There will be an opportunity - and critical need - for new faces in the leadership of our club.

Andy has asked Sam Miller to serve as head of a nominating committee. Andy will lead a discussion during the July meeting and there will be a formal report by the nominating committee and elections in August. Up for election by the full club are president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. The three division coordinators round out the board and will be selected by the divisions – HO, N Scale and Large Scale.

Contact Andy or Sam if you are willing to serve on the nominating committee or put your name up for election as one of the BBMRA officers.



**This young fellow was fascinated by the BBMRA N Scale layout;
He also, obviously, is a fan of Thomas the Tank Engine. (John Meister)**

Show & Sale Paid Gate in Recent Years

2001: 582 paid gate	2009: 390
2002: 581	2010: 595
2003: 622	2011: 680
2004: 417	2012: 548
2005: 222	2013: 615
2006: 363	2014: 725
2007: 218	2015: 570
2008: 444	2016: 500



Sam Miller, his daughter, Lily, son-in-law John Shettle, grandson Logan, granddaughter Bleakley and grandson Charlie. Sam Built this Disney layout for his grandchildren with the Large Scale Division.

On Our Own/Important Notes on BBMRA Members

Mitchell Green Moved to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital

After a month at Big Bend Hospice, club member Mitchell Green rallied to the point where he could be moved to Centerpoint Rehabilitation Hospital and now Tallahassee Memorial Regional Medical Center. Mitchell is in Room 531, TMRC, awaiting surgery, and would enjoy club member visitors.

David and Jean Blodgett visited Mitchell July 15 and reported he may undergo major surgery next week. Mitchell is alert and optimistic, the Blodgetts said.

January: Children's Day, Museum of Florida History, Tallahassee, Details to be Announced.

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

Choo Choo, Wheels and Couplers

By Mike Sassard, BBMRA member who now lives in California

Back in the late 60s or early 70s, when I changed from HO gauge to O gauge, I sold my HO trains and got a modest start in O gauge. I purchased a bottom of the line Lionel set, mainly because the box said "Choo Choo sound." I remembered the superb Choo Choo sound of Post War American Flyer trains I had seen. This sound was generated by a gear and rod and piston into a cylinder with a hole in the back. In my opinion the Flyer engineers should be congratulated for developing this superb and believable sound from their steam locomotives. Even at full speed and with a long train of cars, the sound was plenty audible and not at all annoying. It was music.

This Lionel sound was a major disappointment. It was produced by a large, tender-mounted, plastic cylinder, which rotated on the center rail (most of the time) and inside was a handful of metal ball bearings, which in motion were thrown from side to side. Did this sound like a Choo Choo? Not in the least, but really sounded like ball bearings. The engine was a plastic bodied 2-4-0, new design and would have been nice looking, if the cab had been a little higher. Did Lionel continue with this Innovation? Not to my knowledge, thank goodness!

With the advent of electronics, "Train Sounds" came about. The Lionel "Ready to Run" sets came with a Choo Choo which was in the tender, but seemed to be coordinated with the wheels. Unlike "scale" Choo Chos with four chuffs to a wheel revolution, they had one chuff per revolution. This I found acceptable. The four chuffs per revolution can be a plus and a minus. At slow speeds this sounds good. At the entertaining speeds at which I run my passenger trains, it becomes a roar. This was probably true in real life because we are plenty familiar with an engine starting but are less familiar with an engine going 85 MPH. The RTR engine I had, a "Polar Express" Berkshire, did not have loud sound, even with the volume all the way up. With a long train of metal wheels, that sound can be drowned out.

I assume we are all using metal wheels. There was a time, in Lionel's history that Lionel used plastic wheels. This was not good. If I'm not mistaken, the trucks were fastened to the car bottoms with a plastic pin. Plastic has its place. Because of two rail track, Flyer used all plastic wheels, on metal axels, except on the tender, lighted caboose and passenger cars. You could not hear their wheels. Plastic has been used for major parts on the M16 Rifle. Plastic engine and car bodies are fine. I like my wheels metal. On my Fastrack, wheel noise is considerable, but not objectionable. My G gauge trains don't make noise as the wheels are plastic (two rail).

Speaking of wheels, I mentioned in a previous article, that Flyer used the same size wheels on all its engines. I was mistaken. The 0-8-0 had smaller wheels, something Lionel should have noticed, because at the time their 0-4-0 switcher had wheels the size of their 2-4-2. This made an otherwise nice engine, funny. Now they still produce that same out-of-proportion engine for kids, but for Dad, they also make a scale 0-4-0 with small wheels. Figure that out.

Lionel's competition for the Berkshire and Turbine was the American Flyer Northern. (Remember in real life there was only one Turbine ever made because it was a failure.) Yes, the wheels were the same size as the others but it was majestic! Unlike Lionel's multi-gear drive, Flyer transmitted power to other drive wheels, just like the prototype, through the side rods, which Lionel left off on less expensive engines.

A short word on couplers. After the war, Flyer used a very long and unrealistic hook type coupler. This was tolerated, but later they developed a knuckle coupler similar to Lionel's. Lionel, of course, was noted for its oversize, but realistic knuckle coupler, which worked most of the time.

One more note off the subject, I mentioned in another article, that the Post War American Flyer "S" gauge track was a wider radius than Lionel 0-27 or regular O to facilitate the inherently lower speed of wide open Flyer trains. I then realized that this does take some of the challenge of running toy trains away from the operator.

As a child, with Lionel, one took pride in the ability of running your trains as fast as possible without running them off at the curves. Some scale modelers are not familiar with this as their challenge is to see how slow and smooth they can run. Sorry, for this continued slow is somewhat boring, at least to me. There is still some kid in some of us. Smooth, yes, a little faster, better! Unless it is a switcher).

BBMRA Meeting Minutes for June 21, 2016

Show Bizzzzzz. As expected, this meeting, only three days before the 25th Annual Show & Sale, was spent largely on the show.

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Meeting minutes of May 17th 2016 were accepted as is.

Treasurer's Report: Drew Hackmeyer said we are in the black.

Education Coordinator: Liza Blair discussed setting up procedures for her membership and outreach activities during the show. Lisa and son Mathew will have two tables of information at the show for new members, and returning members. She will set up items to show the difference in scales. Lisa also reports family members to volunteer to help out.

Division Reports/N Scale: Garth Easton said the N scale T-Traks and the large modules will be set up at the annual show. The T-tracks will have two separate layouts, one will be DC, the other will be DCC.

Switching: Joe Haley requested help to set up and run the Switching system.

Large Scale: Large scale volunteers were requested to run T-Traks and the Disney layout, and help with Thomas may be needed.

Good of the Group: Andy Millott was gathering volunteers for the ticket booth assignments.

David Brazell announced Mitchell Green, hospitalized at Big Bend Hospice, can receive visitors and looks forward to them.

David also has DVD's of past shows, and other RR interests on the entrance table.

Andy Millott has magazines.

President Andy Zimmerman announced the elections for new officers will be held in August, as requested.

Drew Hackmeyer asked that all volunteers helping put on our show record what they do for use in developments of written procedures which can be a guide for next year. This is important for future needs and expansion plans.

No Program: There was no program so that the show coordinators and division leaders could discuss the needs.

The meeting ended at 8:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by **Doug Gyuricsko**.

David Blodgett Photo essay of 2016 Show & Sale



One of the wonderful N Scale Layouts, operated by BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman.



Thanks to PMRC for its support of our show.



Randy Lombardo's Thomas layout is always a huge hit.



Disney Two with Club member Howard Douglas, his wife and grandson.



Also enjoyed by kids, the Timesaver operated by Joe Haley.

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