



# THE Lantern

November 2016

Volume 21 Number 11

## Thomas, Timesaver Operating Saturday, November 12, at “Junior Museum”

As has become a tradition, BBMRA is setting up at annual Farm Days at the Tallahassee Museum of Natural History (Junior Museum). Farm Days is Saturday, November 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Representing BBMRA are Thomas the Tank Engine layout operated by Randy Lombardo and the Large Scale Division and the Time Saver, operated by Joe Haley and the HO Division. All club members are encouraged to come out and help and enjoy Farm Days.

From the Junior Museum: “The event will host an array of activities offered by a variety of organizations and individuals. Activities will spread beyond the farm and throughout the Museum’s grounds, with an emphasis on both the historic and contemporary use of local resources.”

\*\*\* BBMRA Meetings \*\*\*

**November 15, 2016: 7:30 p.m.** “Third Tuesday” BBMRA Meeting – John Sykes III, Non-traditional Paints for Buildings and Other Model Railroad Structures. “Old’ Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

**December 9, 2016, a Friday:** Holiday Reception, home of Sam Miller & Linda Medlin, 3008 Stillwood Court, Woodgate in Tallahassee. 6:30 p.m. until. Call Sam for details – 850-459-3012.



Sam Miller’s favorite time of the year – Holiday Goodies for his model railroads. More in the December Lantern.

## Special Holiday Modeling Railroad Events Planned for December

The December Lantern will be published about December 7 because the December meeting is the annual Holiday Reception on Friday, December 9. The Lantern will include a special report on holiday model train operations in Jacksonville and west Florida, which would be close enough for you and grandchildren or great grandchildren. Lantern editor Sam Miller knows about some special holiday shows, shows and exhibits, but is sure he doesn't have everything covered. Contact Sam at : [sammiller611134@outlook.com](mailto:sammiller611134@outlook.com))

Here is an early partial list:

**Christmas and Jewish Holiday Sales Displays** at Michael's; Lowes (Christmas Village items at the West Side Lowes only); Home Depot; Joann's Arts & Fabrics; Hobby Lobby USA; Hobbytown; Espositos; Walmart and other stores. Dozens of Christmas decorations feature trains. Many small lights and ornaments, model trees and some building can be used to decorate model train layouts. Boxed model train sets also are available at this time of the year at some stores, including Hobbytown and Hobby Lobby.

**51<sup>st</sup> Annual Market Days:** December 3 & 4, 2016, Leon County fairgrounds; benefits Tallahassee Junior Museum. This is one of the Southeast's largest and best juried arts and crafts shows, with some 300 artists, artisans and craftspeople.

**The Villages Christmas Train Show:** December 15-18, 2016: The Villages Christmas Train Show, Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 510 Colony Blvd., The Villages, FL 32162. 3,000 square feet of trains. Free admission, although donations requested. Thursday-Saturday, 9am to 4pm Sunday, 10am to 3pm: Train Show.

## Veterans RR Launching "Polar Bear Express"

Celebrate the Winter Holiday Season with the Polar Bear Express at Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol! Operating sessions begin December 3 and are nightly on the designated days from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Many of the trains will be powered by VMRR's two-foot gauge Crown Live Steam Locomotive, the only coal-fired live steam locomotive operating in a public park in Florida. The Crown will be running Friday, December 3; Thursday through Saturday, December 8-10; , Friday through Sunday, December 16-18; and Thursday and Friday, December 22-23.

Diesel trains will be running Friday, December 3; Friday & Saturday, December 9-10; Friday & Saturday, December 16-17; and Thursday and Friday, December 22-23.

Admission is \$8 for diesel trains and \$12 for steam trains. Children two and under ride free. The rides are about 25 minutes long around Veterans Memorial Park to and from the Tom Keenan Station.

Fast Track tickets are available online at: <http://www.VeteransMemorialRailroad.org>. For additional information, go to the Internet site or call: (850) 643-6646.

VMRR is located at Veterans Memorial Park, 10561 NW Theo Jacobs Way, Bristol, FL 32321. Although pretty far west of here, it remains in Eastern Standard Time.

**POLAR BEAR EXPRESS**

**DECEMBER**  
**3-8-9-10-15-16-17-18-22-23, 2016**  
 Trains Depart Tom Keenan Depot:  
 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM ET  
 Steam Train Available on Dates in Red

**VETERANS MEMORIAL RAILROAD**  
[VETERANSMEMORIALRAILROAD.ORG](http://VETERANSMEMORIALRAILROAD.ORG)  
 10561 NW THEO JACOBS WAY, BRISTOL, FLORIDA  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL - (850) 643-8646

**NON-STEAM TRAINS**  
 \$8 per Person  
 Children under 2 ride FREE

**STEAM TRAIN**  
 \$12 per Person  
 Children under 2 ride FREE

**AVOID THE WAIT - BUY FAST TRACK TICKETS ONLINE!**

**Kids' Delight (and grown-up railfans' too).**

## **TCA Southern Division Train Show; Jacksonville, Saturday, November 19**

We invite everyone back to the Morocco Shrine Auditorium, 3800 St Johns Bluff Road S, Jacksonville. The location has very easy access off I-295 (the east side of the loop). We again will have operating layouts with at least five displays (maybe more) including clubs from Jacksonville, and another world debut, this time in 3-rail modular. This venue is well known in Jacksonville. We will utilize the Activity Building which has a separate entry in the rear of the facility with its own dedicated parking lots. It is fully handicapped accessible.

**HOURS:** 9 AM to TCA members only and to the public from 10 AM to 3 PM. Admission is our division standard of \$5.00/person with free admission to a child 12 and under when accompanied by an adult or any adult accompanied by a child 12 or under.

**WORKSHOPS:** This year we will be trying workshops for the first time. We will have a hands-on workshop on running trains with the Lionel TMCC/Legacy System by Jim Troutman of the Toy Train Collectors of Jacksonville. Those who participate will get the chance to see and try remote control. If you have been intimidated in the past by TMCC, this will show you how simple it is to hook up and operate.

Fair warning: it is easier than my Smart phone or my Comcast remote control and could lead to another purchase!

Did you know that you can even run your postwar or prewar trains (Marx, Lionel, Williams, MPC, Weaver, RMT, Hoge, Hornby, Carlisle & Finch, just about anybody) by remote control?

The local NMRA (National Model Railroad Association) has agreed to host two workshops. The first workshop, "Putting Track in Its Place," will look at railroad right of way and how water flow and drainage influences the location of drainage ditches and structures to drain water away from the railroad track. Information will include railroad typical standards for cuts and fills as well as drainage ditches. This will be presented by Richard Segall.

We have two possible topics for the second NMRA workshop, which will be decided based on the availability of instructors. Our first possible workshop topic is "Installing a Liftgate." The folks doing this one would bring their module with a liftgate that allows them to access the center without ducking under. The concept would be the same for a fixed layout. My knees vote for this one. The second possibility is a workshop on weathering (those who collect only Mint or Like New items avert your eyes). This will show the basics of making that bright, shiny, new Lionel look like a real locomotive or how to make that good to very good condition train look like a real one, dings and all, and rescue it from the projects drawer.

WORKSHOP TIMES are tentatively scheduled for 11:30, 12:00 AND 12:30.

DIRECTIONS: From I-295 East Beltway heading south, take the Beach Boulevard exit and turn right (west) and a quick left turn onto St. Johns Bluff Road South. From I-295 East Beltway heading north, take the Town Center Parkway / Univ of North Florida exit, turn left (west) and a quick right onto St. Johns Bluff Road heading north (you can't go south). The Morocco Shrine Auditorium has a very large sign and is a very prominent structure on the west side of St. Johns Bluff Road. Good location, trains, workshops, trains, shopping nearby, trains, dining, trains, close to the beach, trains, an open house. Did I mention trains?! Hope to see you in a few weeks.

Brad Woodward  
President, TCA Southern Division

## **Also Next Weekend, Pensacola Railfest**

**Pensacola Railfest:** November 19-20, 2016: Pensacola Railfest, Hadji Shrine, 800 North Nine Mile Road, Pensacola, 32534. Saturday from 9am to 5pm, Central. Sunday from 10am to 4pm, Central. Admission \$6 for adults, with children under 10 getting in free. layouts in all major scales including Z, N, HO, O, and G. Also workshops and panels on different model railroading topics throughout the weekend.

## **Why I Put on My Layout What I Do**

By Mike Sassard, a BBMRAer living in Paso Robles, CA

I am a paradox. Most of the scenery on my layout is complete fantasy, while I insist that all my trains, except the New Bright Christmas train be realistic and close to scale.

It's not that I can't do scale scenery. I did at one time in my life. I was once a full fledge total scale modeler, HO and N. I know how. Been there, done that. It's now , I choose not to. Oddly, I absolutely abhor the Lionel and MTH trains painted up to represent baseball teams, NASCAR, etc. I was told these things sell and I don't understand why. I will only tolerate "Lionel Lines" and "American Flyer"

Possibly, some is due to age, 77. While I do not see the grim reaper around the corner, my body is telling me that I am no longer a spring chicken. This has caused me to be a little reflective over my past life, which has had its good moments. I tend to want things that are meaningful to me around me, sort of like a collection.

Some people collect stamps, coins, old cars (the wealthy), antiques and, of course, trains. I have never wanted to just collect trains. Although I used to belong to the Train Collectors Association, I ran what I bought. Yet earlier in life, and now too, I have had the feeling of , I have always wanted one of those. Standard gauge, Marx, American Flyer and so on.

Mostly I run what I collect, with one exception. My Marx Commodore Vanderbilt won't run, but I have it. Childhood memories. Lately I have been getting many of those memories. Much of my fantasy scenery is actually a memory collection from the past and what better place to put it than on the train layout.

I have always liked planes too. Yes, I have tried radio control planes, but unsuccessfully, so I stick to models of my favorite planes. As a child I built many model airplanes and saw many plane movies. Each is a favorite for a separate reason. They are either on the airstrip or flying above the trains.

The fantasy scenery started back in Tallahassee. At that time, I started ordering stuff on line and placing it on the layout. It of course was not scale size, but I found scale size too small to enjoy. Some of my scenery, actually, is my memory collection, with a few additions. All or most of my collection I brought with me to California and it has ended up on my Super Camelot layout. What didn't fit on the layout went to the backyard Garden Railway.

I do not like to display items on a shelf. I do have to put the overflow of O gauge trains on a shelf, now that I am mostly G gauge. I do not want to get rid of most of the O trains.

Another part of my scenery scheme is it all has to be nice. I use green grass indoor/outdoor carpet because I don't model brown grass, dirt, or fall trees. Hence the layout name Camelot. This explains all the castles and royalty. "In short, there's simply not a more convenient spot for happy everaftering than here in Camelot."

Simply put, This is Mike's World - a bit more complete than Disney World, but on a smaller scale (pun ). This also blends in with my life philosophy. As Dan put it, "Livin' the dream , Baby, livin' the dream." Do it now, there's not much time left.

Remember, too, that these are all toys. Call them what you may, they are toys and there is a child within us that wants to play. This is a good thing. May this child never grow up. Life is hard enough with all the adult responsibilities and pain and suffering, this is our salvation. Heaven will welcome those who play. Play is the embodiment of the innocence of childhood.

## **Metcalf Saw Mill Modeler's Dream Challenge**

By Jack Herzog

On Highway 59, on the way to Thomasville, north of Lloyd and Miccosukee and just above the Florida-Georgia line, is an interesting facility which could be modeled with animation by a skilled modeler. It's the Metcalf sawmill. One of the N Gauge layouts at the recent Dothan train show did feature a similar facility involving logs but not wood chips. It was animated and added considerable interest to the layout.

The facility in Metcalf represents a timber industry railroad interface. The large crane lifts logs which are turned into wood chips and then loaded into wood chip railroad freight cars. The crane rotates in a circle and lifts bundles of logs. There is also a well preserved train station near this plant. The station could also be modeled. I hope one of you will be inspired to check out Metcalf and model it.

(From Sam Miller: The Metcalf mill was a favorite of Vernon Parramore. More than once, when we were returning from the Albany train show, Vernon would want to drive through Metcalf and see the mill.)



Photos by Dr. Tony Herzog, one of Jack's many sons.

## BBMRA Meeting Minutes for October 18, 2016

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order shortly after 7:30 p.m.

September 20, 2016 minutes were accepted as presented.

**Treasurer's report** - Drew Hackmeyer reported we are in the black; 66 members have paid their dues. Report was accepted as presented.

President Zimmerman reminded us that timely payment of dues helps the board to determine division budgets to start annual projects.

### Division reports -

Large scale - Sam Miller reported

- Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> 2016, 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. Natural History (Junior) Museum "Fall Farm Day." Randy Lombardo will have Thomas set up. Joe Haley will operate the Time Saver.
- Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 10 A.M. - 3P.M. - "Children's Day" at the Florida History Museum in the R.A. Gray Building -Thomas and the Disney layouts for their annual theme "Touching History".

HO - Art Wilson was out of town.

Switching - Joe Haley - no report.

N Scale - Andy indicated that Garth is in the hospital for a procedure and hopes to have a complete recovery. Andy asked for prayers.

- Maintenance and other work needs to be done on the modules. All members welcomed at time T.B.A.

Education coordinator - Lisa Blair is working on plans to coordinate advertising and a structure for possible open house to introduce young people ( students) and parents to the BBMRA.

**Good of the group:** we need to learn operation of the lighting system in railroad room at the new car museum. There is need to check HO and N scale layouts now that the weather will be cooler.

The business meeting ended at 8:12 P.M

**Program** - Mike Simpson, Sam Miller and Barrett Johnson told of their adventurous experiences in northwest USA, Canada, and Alaska.

Mike Simpson described ventures to much of Alaska where he found railroad history in unusual places, for example the Kennecott Copper mine facilities still standing, along with very old bridges. He found signs differentiating black bears from grizzly bears using bells! He had excellent photos of diesel engines, especially for a live steam guy!

Sam Miller and Barrett Johnson spoke of their trip to the Canadian Rockies. They and their wives joined another couple and rode the rails along canyon walls to Banff. A picture perfect area they will never forget. Sam said "he will not cross this off his bucket list, he has to do it again". They found a place called Craigellachie, British Columbia. Check it out on Google Earth!

Their presentation had beautiful pictures along with a choreographed description by both like a Broadway stage play!

Thanks, Mike, Sam, and Barrett for a very interesting presentation.

**Respectfully submitted by; Doug Gyuricsko subing for Ed Schroeder.**



**June 24, 2017: BBMRA's 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., again at the North Florida Fairgrounds in Tallahassee. Setup will be the day before, Friday, June 23.**

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

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