



THE Lantern

February 2017

Volume 22 Number 2

BBMRA Tour of Layouts, N Scale at Woodville Founders Festival

The Large Scale Division will run the Disney Two layout Wednesday, February 22, at Maclay School's Pre-School, whose fine students include Logan Shettle, Sam Miller's three-and-a-half-year-old grandson. Setup is at 9 a.m. at the pre-school, on the backside of the Maclay campus with the entrance off of Maclay Blvd. We will operate until noon. Contact Sam if you can help.

The N Scalers are committed for the annual Woodville Founders Festival, March 11 from 10 to 4, at the Woodville Branch Library, 8000 Old Woodville Road. "They have reserved the big community room for us!! We will definitely have room to stretch out!" says BBMRA president and N Scaler Andy Zimmerman.

*** BBMRA Meetings ***

February 21, 2017: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting – Flat Car Loads, David Brazell.
"Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

March 21, 2017: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting – Everyone has Room for a Model Train Layout, Bill Reschke.
"Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

Andy Millott is organizing a Saturday tour of club layouts for March 25 and needs volunteers. We have many fine layouts throughout our club and they should be shown off.

Contact Andy if you will be part of the tour – at 443-0781 or millott32073@hotmail.com

Children's Day & Crawfordville Activities Turned Out Well

Saturday, January 28, was the 34th Annual Children's Day at the Museum of Florida History (aka State Museum). Thanks to Randy Lombardo, Mel McCarthy, Doug Gyuricsko, Ron Fletcher, Ed Schroeder, Carlton Ingram and Sam Miller for a terrific BBMRA setup. "This is one of my favorite things we have done over the years," Sam says. "There are so many kids and so many wonderful activities, and model railroading fits right in."

Mel worked with Randy on the Thomas setup,, learning how Randy allows youngsters to run the whole shebang. The rest of us focused on Disney Two, including two train set with the Lionel Chief Remote Control. Almost everyone, including many adults, wanted to operate the Mickey Mouse Christmas and Frosty the Snowman consists, usually as fast as possible. They were natural O Gaugers!

Inside:

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How Much or Little Light on a Layout is Enlightening?



Dozens of kids, parents and grandparents enjoyed BBMRA trains.



For the first time, kids could actually operate trains with a Lionel remote control system.



Mel McCarthy assisted Randy Lombardo with the Thomas layout.

Club's First Stab at Huge Crawfordville Layout

Thanks to Mel McCarthy, Doug Gyuricsko, Phil Weston and Sam Miller for going down to Crawfordville February 11. These folks and several others from the Lionel/Large Scale Division will be going back on a Friday afternoon sometime in March or early May. Commitments to help the initial group have come from Jack Herzog, Barrett Johnson, Ron Fletcher, Sal Martocci and Steve Pollack, among the "best and brightest" of Lionel modelers in our area.

Eddie de Arrigunaga of Panama City, whose dad, Ray, began construction of this impressive layout before his passing last fall, has created a Facebook page. It includes reports on BBMRA's initiative to complete construction and document operations. Here is the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1075944435860840/>

Here is a note from Eddie:

"Mr. Sam,

"I wanted to take a moment to thank you and the BBMRA folks that came to help out this weekend on my Dad's layout. I really appreciate the guys that came out and we feel like we made some new friends. Hopefully my wife can come out next time and y'all can meet her and my daughter as well.

"I also wanted to let you know that I created a Facebook page that I will be using to log the progress of the layout so others can keep track of it too. The Facebook link is below. Please let me know if you would like to be added to the page and I will get that done quickly. Again, please know how grateful we are to you and the BBMRA for the support. If you know when next you'd like to come up just let me know and I'll get it planned out."

Folkston Trainfest 2017 is April 1 – No Fooling!

From David Brazell

They have posted the date for the annual Folkston Trainfest. Circle the 1st of April 2017 on your calendar (This is not an April Fool's joke). This is one of the rare opportunities to see trains roll through at night as the night before they deploy large lights so you can see the trains at night. These 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.

From www.exploregeorgia.org:

Rail watchers from all over the world come to watch trains at the Historic Depot Train Museum and the Folkston Funnel Platform. Enjoy photography, videos and other rail fans.

"The Folkston Funnel" is located in downtown Folkston, Georgia. It is a CSXT double-track main line. All of CSXT's trains moving to and from Florida (except the few trains that go west) must pass through the funnel.

There are six Amtrak trains passing through the funnel each day; the Auto Train is one of these. The Tropicana Juice Train moves from Bradenton, FL, to Kearney, NJ, five nights a week. The platform is equipped with a scanner tuned to CSXT's frequency 160.590 and 160.320. Lights and electric outlets are available. A picnic table, grill and restrooms are available for visitors.

For more information, visit us our website at www.folkston.com, email director@folkston.com or call 912-496-2536.

Westminister Oaks Model Railroader Dies

Dr. Lee W. Elgin Jr., a former member of BBMRA, died February 2 at the age of 89. Lee was a model railroader for decades and his last major activities were as a leader of the model railroading group at Westminister Oaks. These folks also included good friend and BBMRA member Dave Kerns. Lee was a regular at our annual show and sale.

Lee, Dave and several others set up an operating N Scale layout in one of the recreation rooms at Westminister Oaks. Several BBMRA members would go out from time to time to help under direction of N Scaler John Sullenberger.

At some point, Westminister needed the space for other uses. N Scale Coordinator Garth Easton relates that the layout was dismantled and is now stored in his barn. He hopes to put it back together eventually.

Dr. Elgin was the third ophthalmologist in Tallahassee and was a co-founder of Eye Associates of Tallahassee. He was born in Miami Beach in 1927 and was a graduate of Duke Medical School in North Carolina.

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

**August 15, 2017: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.
"Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.**

**August 19-20, 2017: The Villages Summer Train Show, 9a to 4p on Saturday, 10a to 3p on Sunday.
The Villages near Leesburg.**

September 16-17, 2017: Wiregrass Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale, National Peanut Festival and Fairgrounds, Dothan, AL.

**September 19, 2017: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.
"Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.**

**October 17, 2017: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.
"Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.**

October 2017: Old Fashioned Tailgate Swap Meet, Milton, West Florida Railroad Museum, 5003 Henry Street, Milton, FL. Exact date to be announced.

October 2017: Celebrate the Halloween Season at Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol. Many of the special Halloween trains will be powered by VMRR's two-foot gauge Crown Live Steam Locomotive. Dates to be announced

**November 21, 2017: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.
"Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.**

December 8, 21, 2017: 6:30 p.m. BBMRA Holiday Reception, Sam Miller & Linda Medlin, Woodgate.

December 2017: Winter Tampa Model Show, Saturday & Sunday, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL. Dates to be announced.

December 2-3, 2017: 2017 Winter MRC Train Show, Pensacola, Hadji Shrine Temple, 800 North Nine Mile Road, Pensacola, FL 32534-1858, 9 to 5, Saturday, 10 to 4 Sunday, Central. Admission \$6 for adults.

December 2017: Celebrate the Winter Holiday Season with the Polar Bear Express at Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol. Many of the trains will be powered by VMRR's two-foot gauge Crown Live Steam Locomotive. Dates to be announced.

How Much or Little Light on a Layout is Enlightening?

From Mike Sassard, BBMRA member living in California.

One day while I was running my trains for a guest, he noticed all the lights that I used to light my structures and many "Christmas lights" just used for special effect, some not on anything but the surface. I use ones that do something. He made the remark, "Boy, I'll bet this would look good in the dark". First, I can't cut the floodlights without cutting power to the layout. But if I could, he didn't realize how wrong he would be.

Think about it. The most important things are the trains. Steam engines have but one light, the headlight, if you don't count the firebox glow. Diesels have only the cab light and headlight and maybe a Mars light, which you

can see with the room overhead lighting on. Passenger cars are lighted but freight cars are not, unless it is a caboose.

I watched a video of the Sarasota Lionel Train Museum and during the “run,” they cut the spotlights. All I could see was a random selection of small lights, meaning nothing. The lights came back on and now good stuff was visible.

We all go through this amateur notion. As a child I had a set of Lionel diesels and once while running them, I cut off the room light. For a few moments it was “cool.” Then the couplers disconnected and the engines hit the curve and then the floor. From then on, it wasn’t fun.

From Sam Miller: If you have seen my layout, you know I run trains really as an excuse for carnival rides and other neat things with light and sound. In addition, I have small spotlights focused on different areas of the layout to highlight many of the details.

During an open house one night near Christmas for my Woodgate neighbors, someone said it would be neat to see the layout in the dark. Barrett Johnson installed dimmer switches on the spotlights, so I can now dim them or switch them off for effect. Obviously, you always need enough light to watch for train wrecks.

Big Bend Model Railroad Association Minutes for Meeting of January 17, 2017

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M.; about 30 persons were present. The **November 15, 2016 minutes** were accepted as presented.

Treasurer’s report - Drew Hackmeyer reported we are in the black; 64 members have paid their dues. His report was accepted as presented.

Reports

- ❖ Large scale - Sam Miller
 - reminded members that Jan 28th, 10 A.M. - 3P.M. is “Children’s Day” at the Florida History Museum in the R.A. Gray Building - Thomas and the Disney layout will be set up for their annual theme “Touching History” and
 - commented about the Crawfordville Lionel layout; more information to come.
- ❖ HO - Art Wilson – the HO division needs to identify space for setting up HO T-Track sections on a regular basis in addition to periodic meeting nights.
- ❖ Switching Layout - Joe Haley
 - the “time saver” switching layout will also be at the Museum for “Children’s Day”; help is always appreciated.
 - [Unfortunately Joe’s back problem deteriorated and he could not participate in the Children’s Day program at the Florida History Museum.]
 - Discussion followed regarding need to design and construct a new, simpler switching layout.
- ❖ N Scale - Garth Easton
 - N Scale modules will be set up for the Woodville function on 3/11/17
 - work day at Garth’s on 2/4/17
- ❖ Show Committee
 - President And Zimmerman invited interested members to volunteer for the show committee;
 - the show will be Saturday, June 24, 2017
- ❖ Education coordinator - Linda Blair
 - laying ground for a modular T-track youth layout

- discussion followed concerning
 - module options
 - cost of modules
 - time for youth group to meet on club meeting nights, and
 - need to establish committee to develop youth T-track layout.

Good of the group:

- ❖ Andy Millott - possible layout tour - March 25
- ❖ Randy Lombardo – commented on closing of Ringling Bros. Circus

The business meeting ended at 8:15 P.M.

Program – running trains on T-Trak Modules

Submitted by Ed Schroeder

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