



# THE Lantern

March 2017

Volume 22 Number 3

## BBMRA Layouts Tour, March 25, HO, N & O

March 25, 2017, Saturday: BBMRA Layout Tour – Look for a special email with directions to each home Thursday, March 23. The tour also will be highlighted Tuesday night.

These are super-fine layouts and we appreciate Andy Millott, Bob Woodward, Ed Schroeder and Jim Blue opening them and their homes to us.

Andy Millott, the tour coordinator, suggests that folks interested in carpooling throughout the day meet at the Old Antique Car Museum Saturday at 10. This is convenient for Andy's house, first stop on the tour.

Here is the schedule:

1. Andy Millott's House (3971 Magellan Trail) 10:30 -11:30 a.m.
2. Bobby Woodard's House (4125 Scarlett Drive) 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
3. Ed Schroeder's House (806 Middlebrooks Circle) 1:15 - 2:15 p.m.
4. Jim Blue's House (1485 Constitution Place East) 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Contact Andy M. if you need additional information – at 443-0781 or [millott32073@hotmail.com](mailto:millott32073@hotmail.com)

## Albany, Panama City Layouts Commit to June 24 BBMRA Show; Show Committee Activated, Vendors Being Contacted

There were no visiting layouts at the club's 2016 Annual Show & Sale, for a variety of reasons. Two layouts already are committed for the 2017 show June 24, a "hand-on" HO layout from the Flint River Model RR Club in Albany and a huge N-Scale exhibit from the Panama City model railroading club.

There may be other visiting layouts still, in addition to the BBMRA's fine home-grown model train exhibits.

"The FRMRRC of Albany, GA is interested in displaying and operating our portable 4x8 HO layout during your 2017 train show June 24," Walter Godwin recently wrote BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman. "We allow children to align turnouts and assist in switching operations (with our supervision). This is an operating layout children are actually allowed to touch."

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

**March 21, 2017: 7:30 p.m.** "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting – Interchanges on Steroids – Andy Millott's updated presentation from last year. (Bill Reschke's program is being postponed until this summer because of illness.) "Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

**April 18, 2017: 7:30 p.m.** "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting – Running Trains. "Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

Continued on Page Three.

## O Gauger Paul Dirks is Veteran FSU Basketball Official; Bet You Didn't Know!



**Paul Dirks, center with glasses, has been FSU's official timekeeper since the 1970-71 season.(Tallahassee Democrat)**

(Paul Dirks is a member of BBMRA and the Lionel Sunday Group Therapy folks, although we don't see him during basketball season. Paul has a wonderful Lionel layout.)

From the March 5, 2017, Tallahassee Democrat:

Paul Dirks has had the best seat in the house at Florida State basketball games since 1970-71. But the 75-year-old Dirks can't hoot or holler for his alma mater. Or heckle the officials. He is detached from the action. His focus is on the ball and the officials. It's good to be ambidextrous, too. Dirks is the Seminoles' official timekeeper for men's and women's basketball.

"To be good at this, you can't be a spectator," Dirks said Saturday. "You have to totally remove yourself from the game."

Dirks estimates he has worked over 1,000 Seminole home basketball games, including the FSU men's regular-season finale against Miami Saturday at the Tucker Civic Center.

The Seminoles beat the Hurricanes 66-57 to earn the second seed at this week's ACC Tournament.

Dirks has seen a lot of seconds tick away over the past 46 years, but he doesn't know where time has gone. Dirks just might be the most tenured game clock operator in college hoops, but who's counting? Dirks isn't.

All the Virginia native knows is that he's been on a wonderful ride – one that's even gotten better after he had double-knee replacement surgery three years ago. "It's the best thing I could have done," Dirks said.

Dirks plans to continue to work FSU basketball games as long he's healthy and enjoying it. He's having a ball, too. In fact, his clock never stops. Dirks is engaging, enthusiastic and eager.

Long involved in the Tallahassee Tennis Association, Dirks plays tennis three times a week. He also officiates tennis tournaments. Dirks and his wife have planned a bicycle trip with friends in Sarasota.

He first manned the game clock for the men's basketball program under coach Hugh Durham when the Seminoles played in Tully Gymnasium. He was recruited by the women's program in the late 1970s. Actually, Dirks' connection to FSU extends back to 1962, when the catcher signed to play baseball under coach Danny Litwhiler. He later was an assistant baseball coach, an umpire and the school's campus recreation director. There may not have been a more positive force behind the school's growth in that important area than Dirks.

...One of the few games Dirks has missed was the "Henson Heave" in 1980 in Tully Gym. Virginia Tech's Les Henson, a left-handed shooter, grabbed a rebound on the baseline, wheeled and threw a length-of-the-court heave (right handed) for the game-winning basket at the buzzer to beat FSU.

On Saturday afternoon, however, Dirks was where he belonged, at the official's scorer's table in the Tucker Civic Center. He used his left hand for the game clock and his right hand to update the score, fouls and time outs.

FSU beat UM and recorded its first unbeaten home season since 1975-76 .

"You can't beat the seat," Dirks said.

## **2017 Show Update – Visiting Layouts, Vendors Being Contacted**

**From Page One.:**

"This is one of the layouts that want to do our show. The other is the Panama City club and their huge N-scale layout," Andy says.



**Albany club traveling layout is hand-ons for interested youngsters.**



**March 21, 2017: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" – Interchanges on Steroids, Andy Millott's updated and expanded presentation from last year. (Bill Reschke's program is postponed because of family illness.) "Old' Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.**

**March 25, 2017, Saturday: BBMRA Layout Tour – Details in the March Lantern and special email March .**

**April 1, 2017: Folkston Annual Train Fest, Folkston, GA.**

**April 18, 2017: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. Running trains. "Old' Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.**

**April, 20127: Old Fashioned Tailgate Swap Meet, Milton, West Florida Railroad Museum, 5003 Henry Street, Milton, FL. Exact date to be announced.**

**May 16, 2017: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. – Modeling Lumber Yards, Andy Zimmerman. "Old' Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.**

**June 3-4, 2016: 16th Tampa Model Show, Saturday & Sunday, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL**

**June 20, 2017: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting – Final planning for 2017 Show. "Old' Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.**

**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 18, 2017: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. "Old' Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.**

**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 20127: 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.**

## **Big Bend Model Railroad Association Minutes for Meeting of February 21, 2017**

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.; about 35 persons were present.

**The January 17, 2016 Secretary's minutes** were accepted as presented.

**Treasurer's report** - Drew Hackmeyer reported we are in the black; 68 members have paid their dues. His report was accepted as presented.

### **Reports**

- ❖ **Large Scale** - Sam Miller reported
  - January 28<sup>th</sup> - "Children's Day" at the Florida History Museum was a success and thanked those who helped.
  - Wednesday, February 22 - Disney Two layout at Maclay School's Pre-School, and
  - Crawfordville Lionel Layout - work party Friday afternoon, March 10
- ❖ **HO** - Art Wilson
  - March 18 at 2 P.M. - HO division will meet at Paul Schneider's home.
- ❖ **Timesaver Layout** - Joe Haley
  - No report - Joe's back problem prevented him from attending.
- ❖ **N Scale** - Garth Easton
  - March 4 - work party to prepare for March 11 in Woodville.
  - Woodville Founders Festival on 3/11/17
    - Set up around 9 A.M.
    - 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
  - Hope to participate in Orlando National Train show in August
- ❖ **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 – no updates**

❖ **Andy Millett - layout tour - Saturday, March 25**

- asked members to indicate their willingness on sign up sheet.

**Good of the Group:** no comments

The business meeting ended at 8:08 P.M.

**Program – Freight Car Loads - David Brazell**

❖ Why?

❖ How?

❖ Types cars

- Bulkhead cars
  - Walthers
  - Con-Cors
  - Athern
  - Roundhouse (Dave's favorite; says they are no longer being made)

❖ Load Ideas - eye test

- some longer than the cars
- does it look real?
- Sources
  - Scrap of all type
  - Square tooth picks
  - Throw away stuff
  - Black rubber pipe
  - Flat steel loads - hanging file rods
  - Pipes
    - straws from Burger King
    - milk shake straws
  - paint stirrers
  - busted old models

❖ General observations

- Don't mix eras on the model, a contradiction on the face of the model.
- Be innovative & creative
- Loads can serve an artistic purpose, e.g., cover mistakes and glitches.

❖ Questions and observations by members present.

Presentation ended around 9:05 P.M.

Thousand thanks once again, Dave.

3/14/17

**Respectfully submitted by Ed Schroeder**

## David Brazell's Terrific Ideas on Modeling Railcar loads

David conducted a terrific program during the February meeting. He is a talented, creative modeler. Some of David's loads will be on sale during the June 24 show.



Photos by David Blodgett

The "LANERN" 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. Submit materials to Lantern Editor Sam Miller at [sammiller61113@outlook.com](mailto:sammiller61113@outlook.com)