



THE Lantern

April 2017

Volume 22 Number 4

Vendors, Layouts Commit to June 24, 2017 BBMRA Show & Sale

From Sam Miller:

The 26th Annual Tallahassee Model Railroad Annual Show & Sale is only two months away – June 24, 2017! “Big John is looking down smiling!” said Tom Lacher, of Crusader Hobbies in Suwannee, GA, as he signed up for his tables recently.

Vendor registrations are coming in after a newsletter from BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman and follow-up note from Sam Miller and Carlton Ingram of the Show Committee, promising the best tables and locations to folks who sign up and pay by April 30. Here is what we have so far:

Vendors

- Bob Kettel, Dahlonaga, GA: O gauge, LGB, antique toys, and die-cast toys.
- Tom Lacher, Crusader Hobbies, Suwannee, GA: shelves and wall units, HO & N, past vendor.
- Porky & Aven Bacon, Port Orange: t-shirts, hats, etc., past vendor.
- Dale Kisbaugh, Tallahassee: all scales, past vendor.
- Memory Station, Watkinsville, GA: O Gauge, one of the biggest in the South; past vendor, but not last year.
- Tuckers Train Supply, Pensacola, FL: past vendor.
- Jay Leinbach: Miscellaneous HO.
- Gary Sparks, South Carolina: All scales, older used equipment, new vendor
- Sam Miller, Tallahassee: HO and O Gauges; used, including like new, past vendor.

More on Page Three.

Show Committee Full Steam Ahead!

BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman made these assignments to the 2017 Show Committee:

- Sam Miller and Carlton Ingram will assist Andy in communications with potential vendors and registered vendors.
- Doug Gyuricsko will assign tables and locations in the two buildings to confirmed vendors, exhibitors and operating layouts. Doug is keeping the critical “cheat sheet.”

*** BBMRA Meetings ***

April 18, 2017: 7:30 p.m. “Third Tuesday” BBMRA Meeting – Running Trains. All HO T-Traks requested; O Gaugers asked to bring trains to run. N Scale should check with Garth.

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

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

- David Brazell is handling publicity, including articles for the Tallahassee Democrat, Chronicle, Tallahassee Magazine and releases for Channel 6, WCTV, and other important local media.
- Phil Weston is to contact event calendar people.
- Paul Schneider will coordinate people to the admissions both and helpers for vendor loading and unloading.

To Pledge Your Time and Support:

For general volunteering, **contact BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman:** GBTrainman@comcast.net

To work in the ticket booth, **contact Andy Millott:** millott32073@hotmail.com and **Vice President Paul Schnieder:** schniederpaul@centrylink.net

To help with the vendors, **contact BBMRA Vice President Paul Schnieder:** schniederpaul@centrylink.net

To help with HO activities, **contact Art Wilson:** awilson177@comcast.net

To help with N Scale Activities, **contact Garth Easton:** gweaston@hotmail.com

To help with Large Scale Activities, **contact Sam Miller:** smiller@flains.org

To help with the Time Saver, **contact Joe Haley:** jhaley3rd@msn.com

To help with Thomas the Tank Engine, **contact Randy Lombardo:** penncentralpatriach@comcast.net

To help with the Live Steamers, contact Sal Martocci: sal.martocci@gmail.com



2017 Show Vendors & Layouts So Far

From Page One.

Operating Layouts/BBMRA:

- Live Steam.
- N Gauge T-Traks.
- HO T- Traks.
- HO Timesaver (rewired), Joe Haley.

- Crate Layout (HO), Bill Reschke.
- O Gauge T-Traks.
- Disney - O Gauge.

- Ron & Karla Fletcher – G Gauge.
- Randy Lombardo's Thomas the Tank Engine (O Gauge).

Operating Layouts/Other:

- Flint River Model RR Club, Albany, "hands-on" HO layout.
- Panama City model railroading club, huge N-Scale exhibit.
- Keith Jowers, N Scale, Mary Esther, FL.

Confirmed Exhibitors:

- Lisa Blair, BBMRA's Outreach to Schools and other Youth Activities.
- NMRA Sunshine Region, promoting July 30-August 6, 2017: NMRA International Convention, Orlando; The Rosen Plaza Hotel, International Drive, Orlando,

TimeSaver & Joe Haley Get Fixed up Like New

From Doug Gyuricsko:

The original switching layout which was built and used for years needed some repair, and updating to continue Joe Haley's mission - teaching people young and old what railroads really do. Not running around in circles continuously (Sorry, Guys), but connecting and spotting rolling stock, moving to engine maintenance areas; and determining who is the "boss" of the yard!

If you ever really watched what happens when those adventurous recruits go to Joe's Timesaver Switching School, you just have to smile at how well Joe works with them and how he keeps them standing in line for a chance to earn that Engineer's Certificate. I have been amazed and am convinced that Joe's mission is very important to the BBMRA.

To that point I volunteered to see what could be done to make the Timesaver work better and perhaps facilitate Joe getting help from other club members. Joe, simply, has been the only one who could keep the Timesaver going consistently. It seems like he and it really have come to know each other.



The Good Old Timesaver.

Joe Haley was sidelined with back surgery earlier this year and, from what we can learn, it has really helped his mobility, if not his looks. I took the Timesaver to my Lloyd homestead and rewired it. I found that some turnouts needed repairs and one needed a wired ground throw to route power.

The wiring originally done was following a method of common rail wiring which will reduce lots of wiring. However newer schools of thought are that power routing turnouts need to be fed from the point end, and gaps are needed in certain areas.

Finally, we were ready for the functional check out – for Joe as well as the Timesaver. Joe and his son, Collin Haley, come came out to Lloyd a few days ago. Joe ran his switcher all over the rewired apparatus without interruption. I believe Joe is a happy camper because he didn't tell me to redo anything and I actually saw him smile!

Another thing Joe and I looked at was how to reduce the size and weight of the Timesaver so it can be hauled around in smaller vehicles. Not much can be done on this with the original layout, but others are working with Joe on a possible new Timesaver, which might be built like HO T Trak modules. It could even be connected with the HO Division's T-Trak setup as a yard if they decided to do that. Yes wiring can be made to accept DC input and DCC input. That's another story.

Thanks to those I "recall" who helped me redo the Timesaver - , Joe H., Andy Z., Garth E., Paul S., Art W., Phil W., Matt B., Sam M., Ron F., Kato Info, You-Tube and various books. I also learned from looking under the layout tables on the Layout Tour (Ed S,).

What is really needed now is an apprentice or two to learn what Joe does with switching; another chance to step up and promote model railroading through the BBMRA. We need to gather more interested young people to show them a way to enjoy a great hobby.

Push Continues to Restore Amtrak Through Tallahassee

(President Trump's Federal budget recommendations probably would be the death knell, but those have not been adopted by Congress yet and Tallahassee officials continue to have hope Amtrak Service will be restored to our area.)

From the Tallahassee Democrat, April 14

The push to restore the region's Amtrak passenger rail service chugs along despite President Donald Trump's proposed cuts in transportation funding.

County Commissioner John Dailey and City Commissioner Scott Maddox attended a meeting earlier this week in Marianna where Amtrak and Southern Rail Commission officials offered a progress update and expressed concern over the new administration's budget priorities.

Trump wants to carve out 12.9 percent from the federal transportation department's \$94.7 billion budget and put a stop to subsidies for long-distance trains provided by Amtrak. That would mean popular routes like the New York-to-Chicago train could see the chopping block. Congress has yet to approve a federal budget.



Amtrak's return to Tallahassee is still possible.

Though it may be too soon to say "all aboard" in Tallahassee. But officials say they remain hopeful.

Scores of cities plan to unite in support of Amtrak service restoration from New Orleans to Orlando, with a stop in Tallahassee's Rail Road Avenue station. Gulf Coast service was severed after Hurricane Katrina wrecked the region in 2005.

"We are banding together to contact our members of Congress and the administration to let them know about the economic development potential of passenger rail service throughout Florida," said Maddox, who's spearheading the letter effort.

Amtrak and the Southern Rail Commission ran an inspection train through the station in February 2016. Locals organized a grand event designed to bolster community support for restoring service.

"It's too important. I think we are closer than we have ever been to make this a reality," Maddox said. "Now is the time to double our efforts."

Dailey said he walked away from the meeting encouraged, although he knows there are many moving parts. He said restoring service requires every level of government: federal, state and local. In Tallahassee, Dailey said the Leon County government owns the Railroad Avenue Station and maintains the station's infrastructure.

He said if service was restored sooner rather than later, Leon County would be ready to receive Amtrak service. By comparison, other areas are still battling the aftermath of Katrina and other natural disasters.

In addition, if all goes well, Dailey said Amtrak officials indicated service could be restored in 18 months to three years.

"We're excited about the possibility," Dailey said. "We're looking forward to seeing how the process plays out."

Thoughts on Growing Up – With Trains and other Stuff

(Mike Sassard has kept up his BBMRA membership, along with his wife, Brendasue, even though he now lives in Paso Robles, CA. Mike finally has finished his new O Gauge/G Gauge layout in California and obviously has time on his hands. These are interesting and fine thoughts about Mike's childhood, and probably ours too.)

From Mike Sassard:

Golden Memories. Memories are like a mental yearbook. The good ones are real keepers!

Making swords and sword-fighting, like in the movies.

Making bows and arrows.

Swinging on vines.

Playing imaginary baseball, without a ball or bat.

Playing "tackle the man with the ball"...football.

Building and flying model airplanes.

Modeling clay.

Making parachutes for toy soldiers.

Digging foxholes in Collier's back yard after seeing a war movie.

Cap pistols.

Growing too old to play "cowboys."

9- cent movies, jaw breakers, Necco wafers.

My paper route.

Kemps donut shop.

Lightners pharmacy....sodas.

Dunn Bros Hardware, Daytona,.....trains.

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

June 24, 2017: BBMRA’s 26th 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 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.

Big Bend Model Railroad Association Minutes for Meeting of March 21, 2017

Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.; about 30 persons were present.

The **February 21, 2017 Secretary's minutes** were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's report - Drew Hackmeyer reported that we are in the black \$ x,xxx; about \$ 1,000 in expenses expected; 69 members have paid their dues. His report was accepted as presented.

Reports

- ❖ **Large scale** - Doug Gyuricsko reported for Sam Miller
 - Crawfordville Lionel layout progressing
- ❖ **HO - Art Wilson**
 - March 18 at 2 P.M. - HO division met at Paul Schneider's home.
 - Discussed and expressed need for an up-to-date current membership list.
 - T-Trakkers will run at April meeting
- ❖ **Timesaver Layout - Joe Haley**
 - Parts on order for new layout
 - What to do about old layout - discussion followed
- ❖ **N Scale - Garth Easton**
 - Work session in April, date tba
- ❖ **Show Committee**
 - The show will be Saturday, June 24, 2017
 - Committee has met and assigned responsibilities
- ❖ **Education coordinator - Linda Blair**
 - Not much to report
 - Ad hoc committee to be appointed
 - Offer of switching layout by Joe
 - LB suggested not (joke)
- ❖ **Andy Mallot - layout tour - Saturday, March 25**
 - Has maps to hosts' homes
- ❖ **Good of the group:**
 - Folkston train fest - April 1

New member – Mike Eassley (not sure of spelling) S Scale

The business meeting ended at 7:55 P.M.

Program – Andy Mallot - Interchanges and Junctions (update of May 2016 presentation)

- ❖ Definitions.
- ❖ Types of signals at interchanges and junctions
- ❖ Abandoned crossings – effect on a model RR
- ❖ Freight traffic – diversity of rolling stock ownership
 - Travels across multiple RRs via interchange
- ❖ Some Well Known Junctions, or RR hot spots:

- Fostoria, OH
- Marion, OH
- White River Junction, VT (B & M, C.V.)
- Palmer, MA
- Cadosia, NY (New York, Ontario & Western, a.k.a., Old & Weary)
- Doswell, VA (RF & P; C & O)
- Folkton, GA (CSX)
- Auburndale, FL (ACL & SAL before CSX)
- Chattahoochee, FL (Apalachicola Northern, ACL, L & N, SAL) See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apalachicola_Northern_Railroad
- Florida - other e.g.'s were given
- ❖ Modeling junctions and interchanges
 - Not space hungry
 - What needed
 - Control tower
 - Signals
 - Clutter
 - Interlocking mechanism See article in a recent Model Railroader

Presentation ended around 9:05 P.M.

Thousand thanks once again, Andy.

4/12/17

Respectfully submitted by Ed Schroeder

The Lantern Classifieds!

(We're trying this again. This is free! Submit classifieds to buy or sell to Gyuricsko: akdoug@mindspring.com



Doug

Sam Miller Buys Old Trains for Resale.

Sam buys old model trains for resale. All scales, but Lionel and HO are what he sees the most. Sam also takes model trains on consignment. Commission varies according to the value of the trains. Sam: sammiller61113@outlook.com or (850) 459-3012.

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. Submit materials to Lantern Editor Sam Miller at sammiller61113@outlook.com