



THE Lantern

June 2017

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26th BBMRA Show June 24; Almost 200 Tables of Vendors, Layouts and Exhibits

The 26th Annual Tallahassee Model Railroad Annual Show & Sale is just over a week away and registration for vendor and exhibitor tables has been very good. Both buildings are at almost full capacity with almost 200 tables planned for vendors, operating layouts and exhibits.

“From a modest show with 20 vendors and 60 tables at the Elks Lodge, the 26th anniversary show has grown to over 24 dealers with well over 100 tables of railroad items to entice modelers, rail fans and collectors,” show publicity director David Brazell wrote in the June 14 Tallahassee Democrat. “We’ve also moved it to the North Florida Fairgrounds.”

“The Tallahassee Model Railroad Show and Sale is going to be huge!! From the variety of vendors to the number of layouts, you will not want to miss this,” BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman wrote in a special release.

Doug Gyuricsko, assigning Fairgrounds space for the show, submitted a preliminary layout plan to the Leon County Fairgrounds staff earlier this week. “Building #2 has 87 tables; 10 are extra,” Doug reports. “Building #4 has 108 tables; 10 are extra.”

David Brazell is handling publicity for the show this year. “Andy Zimmerman and I will be on WCTV’s Morning Show on Saturday, June 17. And I am asking Channel 6 to rerun the interview Saturday June 24, the morning of our show,” David reports.

In addition to the June 14 article, David has been working with the Tallahassee Democrat to place an article in the special Chronicle section the week of the show and on the front page of the Limelight on Friday, June 23. Channel 6 and other television stations have the show on their calendar and may send a camera crew either at

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*** BBMRA Meetings ***

June 20, 2017: 7:30 p.m. “Third Tuesday” BBMRA Meeting – Final planning for the 26th Annual Show and Sale June 24. “Old’ Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

July 18, 2017: 7:30 p.m. “Third Tuesday” Election of Officers/Coordinators. Show wrap-up and critique. “Old’ Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.



Vendors, Exhibitors and Layouts for 2017 Show

Vendors:

*Blue means new since May Lantern list.

- **George Allen, Eastpoint: vintage O Gauge and American Flyer, one table.**
- Aven Bacon's Name Trains, Porky & Aven Bacon, Port Orange: 10 tables, t-shirts, hats, similar items.
- **David Blodgett, Tallahassee: one table, HO.**
- **Gregory Brooks, Spring Hill: one table, new and used N Scale and brass.**
- Crusader Hobbies, Tom Lacher, Suwannee, GA: four tables, shelves and wall units.
- **Ed's Boxcar, Opelika, AL: N and HO, new and used, three tables.**
- **D&D Trains, David Goolsby: HO & N Scale, five tables.**
- **Drew Hackmeyer, Tallahassee: two tables.**
- Bob Kettel, Dahlonega, GA: four tables, trains and antique toys and cars.
- **David Kirkland, Tallahassee: photos and art, three tables.**
- Dale Kisbaugh, Tallahassee: four tables, trains, all scales.
- Ron Frederick, Tallahassee: one table, Lionel/O Gauge.
- **Green Frog Productions: two tables.**
- Jay Leinbach, Tarpon Springs: two tables, miscellaneous HO.
- Ron Meade, Lakewood Christian School, Crestview: one table, laser cut O Gauge car kits.
- Memory Station, Lewis Collier, Watkinsville, GA: eight tables, Lots of O Gauge and other scales too.
- PM Railroad, Paul Malek, Panama City, three tables: lots of O Gauge and some HO and N; and repairs.
- Sam Miller, Tallahassee: three tables, HO and Lionel/O Gauge.
- **Joseph Ray, Wilsonville, AL: all scales, new and used, eight tables.**
- **Tony Raimondi, Pensacola: three tables.**
- **T. Roberts: two tables.**
- **Robert Romaine, Gainesville: HO and N Scale, two tables.**
- **Lance Savage, D'Iberville, MS: five tables, O Gauge and O-27, vintage and used.**
- **John Sykes III, Tallahassee: two tables, HO.**
- Gary Sparks, Sunset, SC: one table, older used items, all scales.
- Tuckers Train Supply, Pensacola: eight tables, HO and other scales, new and used.
- Trains by Johnson, Pensacola: 10 tables, HO and other scales, new and used.
- Larry Weigel, Homestead, FL.

Operating Layouts/BBMRA:

- Live Steam, 12 by 24-feet and three plus one tables.
- N Gauge Layout, 7 by 27 feet.
- HO T- Traks, 11 by 24-feet.
- HO Timesaver (rewired), Joe Haley, two tables.
- Crate Layout (HO), Bill Reschke, one table.
- O Gauge T-Traks.
- Disney - O Gauge, five tables.
- Ron & Karla Fletcher, G Gauge, 11 by 24-feet.
- Randy Lombardo's Thomas the Tank Engine (O Gauge), three tables.

Operating Layouts/Other:

- Miniature War Games Club, Tallahassee.
- Flint River Model RR Club, Albany: four by eight-foot "hands-on" HO layout.
- Keith Jowers, N Scale, Mary Esther, FL.
- HO Pensacola, 20 x 24
- N Scale Pensacola, 16 by 30

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.
- West Florida Railroad Museum, Milton.
- NHRA, Gulf Coast Chapter
- WFSU Radio and Television

Almost 200 Tables of Vendors, Operating Layouts and Exhibits

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set-up Friday, the Saturday show or at both. Commercials promoting the show will be run on selected Tallahassee radio stations beginning Sunday, June 18th, Father's Day. Be watching for this wonderful publicity.

Phil Weston has been distributing information on the show for various hobby store and train club calendars. "I have posted our train show & sale on every event calendar and website that I can find that would take it, more than 70 sites," Phil says. "I am looking forward to a good public turnout."

BBMRA President Zimmerman will update the group during the meeting Tuesday night.

Miniature War Games Club Returning to Model Train Show

The Tallahassee Miniature War Games Club was very popular during our annual model train show last year and the group is returning for the 26th annual show June 24. It will be playing a western game, "3:10 to El Paso," and operating around the game set-up a vintage American Flyer General O-4-0 set.

Long-time Lionel modeler Bill Dillon is a member of the war gamers as well as BBMRA. Bill introduced our club to the war gamers last year and is bringing them back this year.

"We will be doing a game called 3:10 to El Paso," War Games President Tim Fitzpatrick says. "Players will play a faction of Banditos, Federales, Bank Robbers or Lawmen with multiple victory conditions. It's a wild west game based on Spaghetti Westerns and the 'Man with No Name' series. Our American Flyer train will be a part of the game and will make stops as the game is played.

The Miniature War Gamers meet every third Saturday at the GAMESCAPE in the Tallahassee Mall, The group plays war games based on World War II, World War I Naval battles, the American Civil War, and the American Revolution and also the Napoleonic Wars, British Colonial wars, the Seven Years War and ancient and medieval battles.

Lots of folks attending our show stopped and watched this group last year. Several war gamers joined BBMRA to show support for our initiatives. We are glad to have the War Gamers with us again in 2017.

Sam Miller



War Games Club members playing the "All the Kings Men" 54mm American Revolution Game.



From last year's show: Sam Miller, his daughter, Lily; son-in-law John Shettle; and grandson Logan, granddaughter Bleakley and grandson Charlie. Sam Built this Disney layout for his grandchildren with the Large Scale Division.

26th Tallahassee Model Railroad Show: Set-up is Friday, June 23

Andy Zimmerman will be opening up Building 2 and Building 4 at the Leon County Fairgrounds at 8 a.m. Friday, June 23, for club members who want to set up layouts and "early bird" vendors and there always are a couple, at least. Andy needs BBMRA members to help the early birds unload. There will be a lot of other jobs, including adjusting table arrangements, installing extension cords and who knows what else. Many other vendors arrive in the afternoon, so BBMRA volunteers will be needed all day. Doug Gyuricsko reminds club members to bring extension cords and hand trucks, with your names on the items, and lots of muscle.

The Large Scale Division will be staging its T Traks Friday at 9:30 a.m. Coordinator Sam Miller asks that members meet at the Fairgrounds and help unload vehicles brought by Sam and Doug. One volunteer is asked to come to Sam's house at 8:30 a.m. Friday to assist in loading.

HO coordinator Art Wilson reports: "Hey Sam: We are planning to meet at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 23, to set up and check out everything. Our group will operate and breakdown after 4 pm on Saturday. We will also be helping in the ticket booth and anything else as needed."

The N Scale folks will begin their set-up at 8:30 a.m.

Sal Martocci says the Live Steamers will meet at the Fairgrounds in the early afternoon. Ron and Karla Fletcher will be running Garden Railroad trains and getting them in place Friday morning. Randy Lombardo plans to stage Thomas the Tank Engine in the afternoon. Joe Haley will, of course, be bringing the Time Saver.

Show Time Saturday, June 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Vendors will be allowed in at 8 a.m. to complete their work. BBMRA members will be allowed in to complete theirs and get an early look at vendor wares. We need volunteers throughout Saturday for the ticket booth, admission supervision, security throughout the two buildings and general trouble-shooting. There is a report below on whom BBMRA members should contact to volunteer their time.

The show will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tear-down begins at 4 p.m. and will continue until the last vendor is out. We will need lots of help breaking down.

To Pledge Your Time and Support:

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

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

To help with the vendors, **contact BBMRA Vice President Paul Schnieder:** schniederpaul@centyrylink.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:** sammiller61113@outlook.com

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

2017/18 Officers to be Elected This Summer

BBMRA officers and division coordinators rounding out the Board will be elected during the July meeting on July 18. A nominating committee will be appointed during the upcoming June meeting. A slate of nominees will be published in a special Lantern two weeks before the July 18 meeting. If you are interested in serving, contact Andy Zimmerman.

2016-17 BBMRA Officers

President: Andy Zimmerman.
Vice President: Paul Schnieder.
Secretary: Ed Schroeder.
Treasurer: Drew Hackmeyer.
HO Coordinator: Art **Wilson**.
N Scale: Garth Easton.
Large Scale: Sam Miller.

(President, vice president, secretary and treasurer are elected by the club at large. Division coordinators are nominated and elected by each division's members.)

BBMRA Dues - Time to Pay Up

Annual dues of the Big Bend Model Railroad Association are due beginning at the upcoming June 20 meeting and will be delinquent after August 31. Dues remain at \$20, which is pretty darn attractive. Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer reports 70 members now, making BBMRA one of the largest model train clubs in the South.

Members can renew during the June, July and August meetings or June 24 during the Show and Sale at the recruiting table staffed by Lisa Blair. New members receive a discount to offset their show admission, but not current members, who get into the show free.

Tidbits: Greyhound, Amtrak, FEC, Lighted Rolling Stock

Compiled by BBMRA member Randy Lombardo

Amtrak celebrated its 46th Birthday on May 1 and while it could take many years to restore "The Sunset Limited's Gulf Coast Journey", the Southern Rail Commission needs to consider other alternatives as follows:

Extended Greyhound Service to Tallahassee?

1. I contacted Greyhound Bus Lines on April 24, 2017, suggesting that reinstatement of the early morning bus from Tallahassee to Jacksonville and the mid-afternoon bus from Jacksonville to Tallahassee would benefit Amtrak customers. Instead of daily service, my proposal is for service only on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays because of low ridership. These buses were withdrawn in October 2015 and were due back last summer according to an agent I spoke to in Jacksonville. As of this writing there's been no reply. This would provide a transportation option for folks wanting to attend model train shows and other special events in Jacksonville and would not require that they spend the night.

2. Establish an Amtrak Thruway Bus Connection operating within "The Gulf Coast Region" terminating in Jacksonville (The nearest Amtrak Station) with either Greyhound or Martz (I saw one of their buses rolling down Apalachee Parkway many months ago). Biloxi, MS, and parts of Alabama have benefited from this service establishing connections to New Orleans, Louisiana

3. If the Federal Government opens up Amtrak's Long Distance Services to private operators, which seems to be the next step, states that desire service would need to negotiate with several individuals including, Iowa Pacific Holdings President, Ed Ellis.

Will Florida East Coast Turn Red & Green?

According to a March 28 release and an article in the June 2017 Issue of Trains Magazine, a Mexican mining company, Grupo Mexico, which also owns Mexico's largest railroad, Ferromex, won a successful bid to purchase Florida East Coast Railroad from Fortress Investment Group of New York (owner since 2007) for \$2.1 billion in cash. The purchase must be approved by the U. S. Surface Transportation Board.

Fortress still keeps FECI, parent company of All Aboard Florida and Flagler, one of Florida's largest commercial real estate development companies. The railroad was spun off from Flagler and made a separate company. The company store has a 2GB Thumb Drive in the shape of a modern diesel locomotive for sale. Bing/Google Florida East Coast Railway for more info.

**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 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 15, 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. Dates to be announced.

Big Bend Model Railroad Association Minutes for Meeting of May 16, 2017

The meeting started at 7:30 P.M.

Minutes of the April 18th meeting accepted as is.

Treasurer's Report: Drew Hackmeyer reports payments made and we are in the black, with on-going table payments coming in. The report was accepted.

Education Coordinator: Lisa Blair discussed having an ad hoc meeting on youth programs after the June 24 show. She will try to get help with the BBMRA table and volunteers to help with the wrist bands for the public.

President's Report: President Zimmerman reminded us of June being the end of our fiscal year, and it is time to think about elected officials and dues for the next year.

Division Reports/Large Scale: Sam Miler reports we will be ready for the show. He also announced a change of date for the annual Christmas reception when he and Linda open their home to the club. The reception is being moved to the third Friday in December, December 15.

HO: Art Wilson they should be ready for the show.

Small Scale: Garth Easton reported a pending work day to work on a module will be announced.

Switching: Joe Haley reports he expects the old switching layout to be a stand-alone display. He also again needed to request help to run it part of the time.

Thomas: No report.

Show Committee Members: Paul Schneider reports more volunteers needed for the ticket booth. Contact Paul or Andy Millott to help with this important spot.

Vendors and traveling layouts are coming in almost daily.

David Brazell said he can help with name tags for vendors and new members, but some of the graphics have not been located.

The meeting ended at 7:49 P.M.

Tonight's program was put together by President Andy Zimmerman to describe Lumber operations for model railroaders. Again a well done presentation showing older and newer methods and equipment used by the industry from the early days to what is used now. It included the transport methods of all kinds, and various model kits in different scales to model a lumber operation. Although it can be a very large use of space, it can also be a small scale operation showing parts of the industry and transport methods railroads use.

I counted 28 members present.

Respectfully submitted by **Doug Gyuricsko** (for Ed Schroeder)

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 sammler61113@outlook.com