



THE Lantern

September 2017

Volume 22 Number 9

Dothan Train Show Moved Back to October 14-15 Because of Hurricane Irma

The Wiregrass Annual Model Train Show & Sale in Dothan was not held this weekend, September 16-17, as scheduled because of Hurricane Irma's ongoing recovery efforts. The Dothan area folks running this fine event have re-scheduled it for Saturday and Sunday, October 14-15.

Irma didn't damage the Dothan area, but did cause severe damages, flooding and disruption throughout much of Florida. The Wiregrass show draws a lot of vendors and attendees from throughout our state and it was determined that a postponement until mid-October was necessary, according to Dan Adams and Danny Lewis, two leaders in the show coordinating committee.

Show hours are: Saturday, 9a-5p, and Sunday, 10a-4p. This is Central time, so add one hour for Tallahassee time. Admission is \$5, with children under 12 getting in free. BBMRA members will get in free because of a long-standing reciprocal agreement between our club and the Dothan folks.

The train show is at the National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds on U.S. 231, a couple of miles south of Dothan proper.

BBMRA member Sam Miller is a registered vendor for the Dothan show, working with George Allen of Eastpoint. Sam has quite a bit of Lionel and MTH items in HO and O Gauge, which he bought from Paul Malek, who recently returned to Arizona from Panama City. Sam will be loading up Friday, October 13, and encourages anyone interested in seeing it all and not able to go to Dothan to drop by his house in Woodgate that afternoon between noon and 5 p.m.

Paul Malek has lived in Panama City the last year and was sometimes over here for our Sunday sessions. He also was a vendor at the June BBMRA show. He has returned to Phoenix, AZ, to work for at least two years toward his retirement benefits. We will miss Paul, but hope he comes back to Panama City after he retires, which is possible if his son and granddaughters continue to live there.

Also in this Lantern:

Fall/ Early Winter Busy Time for Area Train Shows

2017/18 BBMRA Dues - Time to Pay Up

Ghost Train at VMRR, Bristol; "Spooky Fun for the Entire Family"

*** BBMRA Meetings ***

September 19, 2017: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting: Running Trains, including new O Gauge "Easy as Pie" package.

"Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

October 19, 2017: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting: Still being planned.

"Old" Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive

Fall/ Early winter Busy Time for Area Train Shows

TCA Southern Division Toy Train Show: November 18, 2017, Saturday: Jacksonville, Morocco Shrine Auditorium, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road, Jax, 32224. Open to the public from 10a-3p. Open to TCA members beginning at 9a. Vendors will include BBMRA members Dale Kishbaugh and Sam Miller.

Winter Tampa Model Show: December 16-17, 2017, Saturday and Sunday: Winter Tampa Model Show, Saturday & Sunday, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL.

Winter MRC Train Show, Pensacola: 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.

Large Scale: Sunday Sessions Back on; New 0-27 Layout

From Large Scale Coordinator Sam Miller

We missed our Sunday get-togethers during much of August and then cancelled once again because of Hurricane Irma, but it is once more business as usual – Sundays, at 1:30 p.m. at my house in Woodgate. This is open to any club members and their friends. Trains, beer, shooting the bull/breeze; an overall good time. Many of you have been traveling this summer and it will be great to get everyone back together in the fall. Call for further details: Sam, 850-459-3012.

Doug Gyuricsko has been planning a lighter, new 0-27 setup which we will use during BBMRA meeting operating sessions. Doug is bringing it this Tuesday. Other Large Scale members should bring trains and rolling stock.

We won't be scheduling a workday at the Big O Layout near Crawfordville until October. Eddie has been required to postpone his vacation. I will let you know when something has been set up.

2017/18 BBMRA Dues - Time to Pay Up

Annual dues of the Big Bend Model Railroad Association are now delinquent if they were not renewed by August 31. We will still take your renewal money and will, in fact, bug you until we get it. It is really important for BBMRA to retain current members as well as pick up new ones each year. Division coordinators should contact Drew Hackmayer for information on their folks who didn't re-up for some reason and contact them.

Ghost Train at VMRR, Bristol; "Spooky Fun for the Entire Family"

It's almost October, Halloween is coming up and it is time for the Ghost Train at Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol!

Operating sessions have been scheduled for 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on five nights near Halloween. The Crown, a wonderful steamer, will be running Saturday, October 21, and Saturday, October 28. Diesels will be providing the fun and pull on these nights: Friday, October 20, Friday, October 27, and on Halloween, Tuesday, October 31.

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.

Dates also have been announced for the Polar Bear Express at VMRR: the steam train on December 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23; and diesels on December 7, 10, 14, 17, and 21. Admission is \$15 for the steam train and \$10 for non-steam. Hours are 7 to 10 p.m. Children two and under ride free.

We will have additional information on the Christmas trains in an upcoming Lantern.

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.

Our club has had a special relationship with Veterans Memorial Railroad over the years. The late Tom Keenan was a long-time member of BBMRA. Current member John Anthamatten was an officer at the railroad for several years. Mitchell Green was our VMRR liaison until his passing this summer. Barrett Johnson is active with this wonderful organization.

VMRR's two-foot gauge Crown Live Steam Locomotive is the only coal-fired live steam locomotive operating in a public park in Florida. This little train requires a lot of muscle and work - an engineer and fireman in the cab to keep it running - shoveling coal and watching gauges.

Veterans Memorial Railroad was founded in 2001 when a group of local people, interested in both railroading and community service, banded together to install a passenger train at Veterans Memorial Park in Bristol. The Liberty County Board of Commissioners gave their permission to use a large area of the park for the Railroad.



The Crown will be pulling Halloween celebrants October 21 and October 28 at Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol.

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 have been announced: the steam train on December 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23; and diesels on December 7, 10, 14, 17, and 21. Admission is \$15 for the steam train and \$10 for non-steam. Hours are 7 to 10 p.m. Children two and under ride free.

We will have additional information on the Christmas trains in an upcoming Lantern.

January 4-5, 2018, Prototype Rails 2018, , Cocoa Beach, Cocoa Beach Hilton, 1550 North Atlantic Avenue, Cocoa Beach, an NMRA-sponsored event.

January 13-14, 2017, Saturday and Sunday, 62nd Florida Rail Fair, DeLand, FL, Volusia County Fairgrounds.

January 27, 2018; 35th Annual Children's Day, Museum of Florida History, Capitol Complex; Details of BBMRA setups being planned.

February 10, 2018, Saturday: 40th Jacksonville Rail Fair, Prime Osborne Center, downtown Jacksonville.

Bend Model Railroad Association

Minutes for Meeting of August 15, 2017

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.; about 25 were present.

The Secretary's minutes for July 18, 2017 were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report - Drew Hackmeyer reported that we are in the black; dues of \$ 20 for 2017-18 are now payable. 54 have paid 2017-18 dues so far. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

President's Report - Welcomed new member - OO Scale English; name missed. BBMRA promotional cards were distributed at NMRA Orlando meeting.

Reports/Large Scale – Doug Gyuricsko reported for Sam Miller who was out of town, progress is being made on the Crawfordville Lionel layout.

HO - Art Wilson - T-Trak progress.

Timesaver Layout - Joe Haley – absent.

N Scale - Garth Easton – no report.

Education Coordinator - Lisa Blair - discussion re T-trak for youth group, BSA merit badge.

Program - Andy Mallot Post Transition Railroading – 1960-86

Era defined.

Changes.

1960 - Last steam engines ceased service; Erie-Lackawanna merger; E & F, GP & SD 7 & 9 units still in service; growth of piggy back and unit service; 40' trailers, containers started later; hi-cube box cars; multi-level open auto rack cars; Transportation Act of 1958.

1964 - Railroad losses grew; unprofitable branch lines; passenger service declined, especially after R.P.O. contract terminated; featherbedding conflicts (FEC strike); ICC delays in merger process; PennCentral merger; Metroliner attempt; ACL-SAL merger -1965; KCS passenger service success; Katy - unsuccessful attempt at automation. Modeling the 60's.

1970's - IC/GM merger; PennCentral bankruptcy; AMTRAK, w/o Southern, Rock Island, Rio Grand; Rainbow rolling stock; development of AMTRAK rolling stock & engines; 2nd generation diesel locomotives; larger box cars, hoppers; Railbox development; center flow hoppers; more & more unit trains; increased coal production, especially Powder River, WY; new right of way construction on BN..

1976 - Many bankruptcies in northeast; redundant rail lines: Northeast, Midwest; 3R Act; repair and replace right of way; Conrail – 4/1/76; PC; Erie-Lackawanna, Reading, Lehigh, Et al; small town declines.

Modeling the 1970's: Larger freight rolling stock, more chain businesses, more foreign made vehicles, VW, Datsun, a.k.a. Nissan.

The 1980's - Staggers Act enacted, deregulation of all types of transportation, increased mergers, lightly used lines abandoned, longer trailers, double stack well cars, container numbers growing, auto carrier cars fully enclosed by mid 80's, merger/bankruptcies, Frisco into BN, WP & MP into UP.

1983 - Rio Grande turns over its passenger service to AMTRAK ; AMTRAK took over AutoTrain.

1986 - CSX officially established; Cabooses becoming less important; personnel numbers decreased under Staggers Act; 1986 – Virginia repeals law requiring all freight trains to have cabooses; EOT devices replaced most cabooses.

Modeling the 1980s - Piggy backs still heavy; Railbox equipment; Wilson's Containers and Piggyback book; Chain stores and fast food spots; beginning of mega mergers.

Andy's presentation ended around 9:00 P.M. -

Respectfully submitted.

September 16, 2017

Ed Schroeder, Treasurer

“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. The deadline to submit materials for publication is the first Tuesday of the publication month (unless otherwise noted) sent to: BBMRA, Attn: Editor, PO Box 3392, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3392 or e-mailed to sammiller61113@outlook.com

