



# THE Lantern

March 2018

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## Show Committee Getting to Work on BBMRA 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Show & Sale June 23

Andy Zimmerman and the Show Committee have kicked off full-scale planning for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Show & Sale June 23 at the North Florida Fairgrounds and set-up Friday, June 22. Andy has scheduled a meeting of the Show Committee for Tuesday, March 20, at 6:45 p.m., just before the regular club meeting. This will be held at the Old Antique Car Museum and anyone is welcome to attend.

In addition, Andy and other show committee members will lead a discussion on the show at the regular meeting.

Bob Parmenter, who joined the club last fall after he and his wife moved to Tallahassee from Texas, has agreed to work with Andy and assign vendor and layout tables throughout the two Fairgrounds buildings. Doug Gyuricsko did this so well last year, but needs a break.

**More on Page Three.**

## 2018 Layout Tour Well Attended; Much Fun!

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this year's layout tour a huge success, including director Andy Millott and the layout hosts: Gary Edwards, Drew Hackmeyer, Eddie de Arrigunaga, Phil Weston and the N Scalers and Joe Haley and the HO Time Saver. Special thanks to Eddie and his mom for serving lunch to more than a dozen club members.

Here are two special reports:

### From Doug Gyuricsko:

We had a good day at the Woodville Founder's Day Festival, long, but we are treated very kindly by everybody. We were a slim crew to set up. Garth E., Joe H., Neil M., Stacey E., Doug G., Sheldon H. We had a small but steady flow of people of all ages. A number of people did have trains at home, and I think became inspired to dig out of storage what they had fun with at one time.

The N scale and HO switching layouts had various gremlins at times. This was overcome with determination, replacing insulating connectors, and some luck.

Parents and kids had fun on the switching layout with a few kids needing to share some time with others. I'd say future engineers, if we still have trains.

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

**March 20, 2018, 7:30 p.m.:** Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. "Old' Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive. George Sellios' Franklin & South Manchester video, part one. The video is being provided by club member Bill Reschke. (Rescheduled from February.)

**Show & Sale Committee meeting at 6:45 p.m., also anyone interested too.**

**From Eddie de Arrigunaga:**

Today was the traveling train show where the members from the BBMRA travelled the area to visit various model railroad layouts. We had about 12 or so come visit and offer very welcomed advice, and also share their knowledge. An even more impressive group of enthusiasts!!

My Dad would've been so proud of this layout today. Our next big obstacle is to wire up the accessories and breath life into the layout. I took a video of one of the original steamers from when my Dad was maybe seven or so? Still running as strong as the day it rolled off the line. Bug (Eddie's daughter) and my mom also enjoying the view!!

What a great day today was!!!



**Eddie's daughter, "Bug." George Allen of Eastpoint in the background.**

## **27<sup>th</sup> Annual Show Prep Underway**

### **From Page One**

Andy Zimmerman has updated the vendor registration site on the Internet and communications with last year's vendors and potential new ones are under way. Cards publicizing the 2018 show are being distributed at every opportunity, including Children's Day at the state museum in late January and the Golden Spike train show in Jacksonville last month. Porky and Avon Bacon, BBMRA members as well as train show vendors marketing t-shirts, hats and lots of other neat items, got a huge supply of the cards in Jacksonville and will be handing them out as they travel throughout Florida this spring. Phil Weston has begun to contact event calendar people continuing the work he did so successfully last year.

BBMRA President Zimmerman made these assignments to the 2017 Show Committee. Let Andy know if you can continue throughout 2018 and we hope all of you can.

- Sam Miller and Carlton Ingram to assist Andy in communications with potential vendors and registered vendors.
- David Brazell to handle publicity, including articles for the Tallahassee Democrat, Chronicle, Tallahassee Magazine and releases for Channel 6, WCTV, and other important local media.
- Phil Weston to contact event calendar people.
- Paul Schneider to coordinate people to the admissions both and helpers for vendor loading and unloading.

As noted above, Bob Parmenter has agreed to assign tables and locations in the two buildings to confirmed vendors, exhibitors and operating layouts. Doug Gyuricsko has stepped down from this job because of a major construction projection underway at home – a large train building.

## **CSX Gulf Rail Line Sale Could Raise Passenger Train Hopes**

### **Karl Etters**

Tallahassee Democrat USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA, Early March

Railroad giant CSX is looking to sell off a chunk of track running from just outside of Jacksonville through Pensacola.

The 330-mile stretch went on the market in mid-January and passes through the Panhandle, an area where officials have been pushing to bring back passenger rail service. Officials with the Southern Rail Commission and communities along the line say a potential sale could be a boon for returning passenger rail to the Gulf Coast.

A CSX spokesman said the listing is part of the company's evaluation of "every aspect of the company's network and operations to be sure that all assets are maximized for efficiency and add value to our company's longterm business need." "Based on an initial review of our network, the company has decided to solicit bids on the Tallahassee and PA Subdivisions in the Florida Panhandle," the spokesman said in an email.

Knox Ross, the vice chairman of the five-state SRC group that has worked for years to restore the Gulf Coast line closed down since 2005's Hurricane Katrina, said passenger rail should be considered by whichever company buys the line. "There will be regulatory processes that govern the sale of this line," said Ross, who is also the former mayor of Pelahatchie, Mississippi. "We want to make sure that the regulators understand we want to bring the train back and that that be considered as part of any sale."

The sale of the line could also mean an economic boost, or at least the opportunity to bolster it, to communities that rely on the rail system to ship goods.

For various reasons, he added, negotiations with CSX to bring passenger rail to the area have been difficult. "This may end up being something that helps us get it. This may end up being a positive," Knox said. "We want to have a voice in it. This is not just a passenger rail deal. This is a big economic development issue for Northwest Florida and they need to make sure this is done correctly."

The bid could go to a short line rail operator which has a history of buying small portions of tracks to offer more localized service than can be offered by larger companies.

CSX is in an overhaul phase, looking to cut 2,200 jobs by the end of this year and reduce the number of rail cars on its tracks by 20 percent by 2020. Its Chief Executive Hunter Harrison died in December.

At the same time, the Trump administration's proposed budget looks to slash federal funding for Amtrak in half. A decision on that spending package could be completed by March 23. The package would cut federal grants to Amtrak as much as \$1.2 billion. The Gulf train route was closed due to damage from Hurricane Katrina. The line previously extended from Los Angeles to Orlando but now ends in New Orleans.

In 2016, the SRC asked Amtrak to evaluate options for bringing service back to the defunct route. They also made a huge show of support with a 14-stop ride along the line. The Amtrak report on Gulf Coast ridership estimates that reestablishing the line could produce an annual ridership between 38,000 for a trip from New Orleans to Mobile to one as large as 153,900 for a round trip to Orlando that stops in Mobile. The cost of re-establishing the route ranges from \$6.97 million to \$14.4 million.

## Pikes Peak Cog Railway's Future Uncertain



**Swiss-built diesel-powered rack rail cars pause at the top of Colorado's Pike's Peak during a *Trains* Magazine tour in June 2015.**

March 14, 2018, *Trains* Magazine. Suggested by Ed Schroeder

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Pikes Peak Cog Railway's operator says there is a chance that the famed rack railroad of the Rockies will close for good.

Jack Damioli, president and CEO of The Broadmoor hotel, which owns the 8.9-mile rail line, tells the Colorado Springs Gazette that after months of winter maintenance the railroad could remain closed for up to another three years while the hotel studies its future.

At that point, Broadmoor leadership would either close the railroad permanently or rebuild it, which could take "tens of millions of dollars" the newspaper quotes Damioli as saying.

During the winter maintenance, railroaders review the condition of the equipment and track and determined that it had reached the end of its useful life, the newspaper reports.

The Pikes Peak opened as the Manitou & Pikes Peak Railroad in 1891 with Baldwin-built steam locomotives. It is the highest rail line in North America and, for most of its history, has ferried passengers to the top of Pike's Peak — the mountain — from Manitou Springs, Colo., at the base.

## Dave Blodgett Railfanning in Cambodia



Here are a couple of photos from my short-term mission trip in January to Banteay Meanchey province, Cambodia. The three-foot gauge line is being rebuilt and is not quite operational yet.

The first picture includes a warning sign to "slow down" with the steam train crossing sign. I'm not sure this sign will survive the reconstruction.

The second photo shows a bridge and the concrete cross ties. I suspect the line will haul containers to the port. I'm not sure about passenger service or other details.

I will probably be able to make a short presentation during a club meeting later this year.

**Dave Blodgett**



**August 18-19, 2018: The Villages Summer Train Expo, Show, 9a to 4p on Saturday, 10a to 3p on Sunday. The Villages near Leesburg.**

**August 21, 2018: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.  
"Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive. Program being developed.**

**August 2018: The Villages Summer Train Show. Dates and times to be announced. The Villages near Leesburg.**

**September 18, 2018: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.  
"Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive. Program being developed.**

**September 2018: Wiregrass Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale, National Peanut Festival and Fairgrounds, Dothan, AL. Dates and times to be announced.**

**October 16, 2018: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.  
"Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive. Program being developed.**

**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 20, 2018: 7:30 p.m. "Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting.  
"Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive. Program being developed.**

**November 2018, Saturday: TCA Southern Division Toy Train Show, Jacksonville, Morocco Shrine Auditorium, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road, Jax, 32224. Exact date to be announced. Open to the public from 10a-3p. Open to TCA members beginning at 9a.**

**Woodgate Lionel Open House: November 18, a Sunday, 1:30 to 4 p.m. at Sam Miller and Linda Medlin's home, 3008 Stillwood Court, Woodgate in Tallahassee. Sunday Lionel Group Therapy folks are helping.**

**December 7 or December 14, 2018: 6:30 p.m. BBMRA Holiday Reception, Sam Miller & Linda Medlin, Woodgate. Final date will be selected later.**

**December 2018: Florida Old Capitol Museum. Date and times to be announced. The Large Scale Division will be operating the Disney Layout platform, with some special touches for Christmas.**

**December 2018: Tallahassee Museum Fall Farm Days. Date and times to be announced. BBMRA setups planned.**

**December 2018: 18<sup>th</sup> Winter Tampa Model Show, Saturday & Sunday, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL. Dates to be announced.**

**December 2018: Winter MRC Train Show, Pensacola, Hadji Shrine Temple, 800 North Nine Mile Road, Pensacola, FL 32534-1858,. Exact dates to be announced later; 9 to 5, Saturday, 10 to 4 Sunday, Central. Admission \$6 for adults.**

**December 2018: Celebrate the Winter Holiday Season with the Polar Bear Express at Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol. Dates to be announced later.**

## **BBMRA Minutes for February 20, 2018**

**President** Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.; 25 to 30 were present.

The Secretary's minutes for January 16, 2018 were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer reported that we are in the black. Dues for 2017-18 are payable; 65 have paid dues. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Note, the Treasurer reports on the Club's financial condition at monthly meetings but in accord with club policy the details are not published in the Secretary's minutes. Members may request details from the Treasurer.

President

- ❖ Andy welcomed new members
  - Mark Stover HO &
  - Eric Taylor N

### **Reports**

- ❖ Large scale – Sam Miller encouraged all to visit Crawfordville Lionel layout of Eddie de Arrigunaga during the March 10 Open House. Under Sam's leadership, club members have been helping Eddie finish the layout started by his deceased father.
  - HO- Art Wilson expressed need to run HO T-Trak more frequently.
  - Paul Schneider, Phil Westin and Art enjoyed a perhaps constructive meeting with Museum curator during visit to Antique Car Museum.
- ❖ Timesaver Layout- Joe Haley - nothing to report.
- ❖ N Scale -Garth Easton -work parties in preparation for Woodville Open House March 10.
- ❖ Education coordinator-Lisa Blair - nothing to report

Good of the Members -

- ❖ Andy Maillot- outlined Member Layout Open House - March 10
  - Hosts
    - Gary Edwards - Lionel
    - Drew Hackmeyer Sn3& N
    - Eddie de Arrigunaga – Lionel
    - Phil Weston – HO
  - Start on north side of Tallahassee and end in Crawfordville. The open house was arranged to facilitate membership visits to the Woodville Founders Day Festival at the Woodville Public Library in which the N Scalers set up and run their T-Trak layout.

New meeting site necessary but issue remains unresolved in limbo—limited discussion.

Video Presentation cancelled because no equipment

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

**Ed Schroeder, BBMRA Secretary**

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