



THE Lantern

May 2018

Volume 23 Number 5

All About Toy Trains, Memory Station, Trains of Ocala, Tucker's Trains, Joe Ray Porky & Aven Bacon, Cains Trains Among Sellers at BBMRA 27th Annual Show & Sale June 23

Andy Zimmerman and the Show Committee have scheduled another planning session for Tuesday, May 15, 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. The 27th Annual Show & Sale is June 23 at the North Florida Fairgrounds, with set-up Friday, June 22.

Vendor registrations are beginning to come in. They include:

All About Toy Trains, Melbourne. Richard Adelberg had six tables in 2017 and has registered for nine this year. "We are one of the largest purchasers of train collections. We offer some of the hardest to find items in Lionel, American Flyer & many other brands," Richard says.

Chris Lucibello, Tampa, American Flyers Trains. Chris has registered for five tables this year. He and his wife, Karen, participated in 2016, but not last year.

David Brazell, Tallahassee, BBMRA. David will have two tables with HO, including rolling stock with special built loads. David is a regular, but was out of town last year and was missed.

Sam Miller, George Allen and Eric Ecklund, Tallahassee, Crawfordville and Eastpoint. These guys have six tables. Sam is bringing mainly higher end HO engines and freight cars – new "old" stock still in the original boxes. Also some already constructed O Gauge buildings still in the original boxes. George will have vintage Lionel. Sam and George will be selling wonderful Garden Railroad rolling stock for Eric.

Cains Trains, Oneonta, AL. Robin Cain texted Andy and asked for three tables for 2018. Robin would be a newcomer to our show.

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**11th Annual Tampa Train Day
Return the Sunset Limited to Tallahassee
Lloyd Depot Open House**

*** BBMRA Meetings ***

May 15, 2018, 7:30 p.m.: Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. "Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive. John Sykes III, Rolling Stock Markings and Their Meanings.

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

June 19, 2018, 7:30 p.m.: Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. "Old" Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive. Final planning for June 23 Show.

11th Annual Tampa Train Day

From Dan McDaniel:

Saturday, May 12, is the 20-year anniversary of the re-opening of Tampa Union Station and marks the 11th Annual Tampa Train Day.

The historic station was opened May 15, 1912, and served the ACL, SAL, SCL, and Amtrak at various times until 1984 when it was closed for several years due to decay. In 1998 CSX donated the station to the City of Tampa and restoration began.

This marvelous structure, from the Grand Days of Railroading, is beautiful today, with its famous clock structure at the front corner near Nebraska Avenue. BBMRA member Dan McDaniel is attending.



From the Grand Days of Railroading – by Dan McDaniel



BBMRA 27th Annual Show & Sale June 23

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Bill Haws, Ocala: Bill used to own Trains of Ocala. He now attends selected Florida shows as an independent model train vendor and has registered for four tables for the Tallahassee show. Mainly Lionel and O Gauge.

Bob Kettel, Dahlonaga, GA: "I look forward to this show because it has been good to me in the past and has a good following. I believe this is my 5th year. In addition, I have family in Tallahassee and my wife and I and both kids are all graduates of FSU.

"Currently, this is the only Florida show I do. I will be bringing N gauge trains, primarily buildings, along with air planes, some Lionel O gauge, and a few unusual antique toys. I think I have a good selection of items to sell and I look forward to being at the show."

Bob is a retired college dean with a life-long interest in old toys, trains - primarily O Gauge Lionel - , and in recent years, Legos. He has two kids, one living in Tallahassee, one in Jacksonville, and five "grands."

Larry Weigle, Homestead: "I've done the BBMRA show probably 10 years. It is a good reason to visit family in Marianna. The show is a good time to meet people interested in model trains. I also do shows in Deland, Plant City, the Villages and Deerfield Beach near Boca Raton. The usual fare is HO models – structures, freight & passenger cars. This year, I have framed railroad art."

Memory Station, Lewis Collier, Watkinsville, GA: "We started Memory Station in 1985. We will have Lionel, Ho, some N and some G." (Memory Station is one of the largest Lionel and O gauge stores in the south and a regular at all of the big shows in our region. Lewis has come to most BBMRA show in recent years, including last year. He does Lionel repairs for members of our club.)

Tuckers Train Supply, Pensacola: Getting nine tables for 2018; had eight tables in 2017. HO and other scales, new and used. Long-time regular at our show and a significant vendor in our region.

Joe Ray, Wilsonville, AL: All scales, new and used. Getting 10 tables this year; purchased nine tables last year.

Exhibitors for 2018 so far, confirmed by Carlton Ingram:

- Lisa Blair, BBMRA's Outreach to Schools and other Youth Activities.
- West Florida Railroad Museum, Milton.
- NHRA, Gulf Coast Chapter.
- WFSU Television.

Operating Layouts/BBMRA:

- Live Steam, Sal Martocci and group.
- N Gauge Layout.
- HO T- Traks.
- HO Timesaver (rewired), Joe Haley.
- Crate Layout (HO), Bill Reschke, one table.
- O Gauge T-Traks.
- Disney - O Gauge.

- Randy Lombardo's Thomas the Tank Engine, O Gauge.
- Jeff Hornsby, Quitman, GA, MTH O Gauge
- Ron & Karla Fletcher, G Gauge.
- Patrick and Leo Shaffer, British Modeling.

We also are expecting visiting layouts from Pensacola and Mary Esther, FL. and Albany, GA.

Special HO Alert:

Time is going by in a hurry for our annual layout. We need to make sure all of our t-modules are up and running. If anyone needs help for repair or upgrade. Please contact Art Wilson: awilson177@comcast.net or (850) 320-1866.

To Pledge Your Time and Support for the June 23 Show:

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

Return the Sunset Limited to Tallahassee

From Dan McDaniel

Earlier this year, President Trump signed the 2018 budget bill into law which included \$20 million for resurrecting passenger service on the Sunset Limited corridor from Jacksonville to New Orleans, including through Tallahassee. The service has been terminated since Hurricane Katrina damaged rails and trestles between Pensacola and New Orleans in August 2005.

According to The Hill (1/16/2016) Amtrak was testing the corridor for "feasibility" in February 2016 when the Amtrak Test Train visited Tallahassee and eleven other former Sunset Limited stops no longer receiving Amtrak service. Those stops are: (in Florida) Lake City, Madison, Tallahassee, Chipley, Crestview, Pensacola; (in Alabama) Atmore, Mobile; and (in Mississippi) Pascagoula, Biloxi, Gulfport, and Bay St. Louis.

At the time of the Test Train, Amtrak CEO Joe Boardman proclaimed that he wanted "to work with community leaders and CSX" in light of an Amtrak-commissioned study, partnered with the Southern Rail Commission (SRC), that showed restoration of the Sunset Limited would attract between 138,300 and 153,900 passengers

annually. That study used a figure of \$5.48 million to operate a daily train from New Orleans to Mississippi (the original Sunset Limited was only three times per week).

Although other options were studied, fully restored service to Orlando via the Sunset Limited was found to bring 69,100 passengers and cost \$14.4 million per year to operate. The study was included in a highway funding bill passed in 2015 and assumed local governments would pick up certain costs of all options.

From Washington's view, The Hill reported that, "Amtrak supporters have defended the losses on national routes such as Sunset Limited by arguing that subsidizing long-distance trains in parts of the country with little air service is a big part of the reason Congress created the company in the first place."

Last year the SRC hosted a meetings in Mobile and other target cities to plan for service restoration, but with Amtrak bracing for a 12.9 percent cut to its annual budget according to the al.com news (4/11/2017), there was not an optimistic attitude. Several weeks later, CSX balked at the idea of bringing back the Sunset Limited when David Dech declared that it would be "virtually impossible" to comply with current federal standards and "overwhelming new legal requirements standing in the way", according to the pulsegulfcoast.com (7/11/2017). Dech argued that an inability to provide on-time service and the need for mandatory safety upgrades will keep the effort away from the iron rails. "Two years of shared and committed study, including ideas that involve dramatic spending commitments, still have not yielded a single proposal that would come close to addressing these issues." Well, whoever called CSX to come to the rescue of the rail passenger anyway?

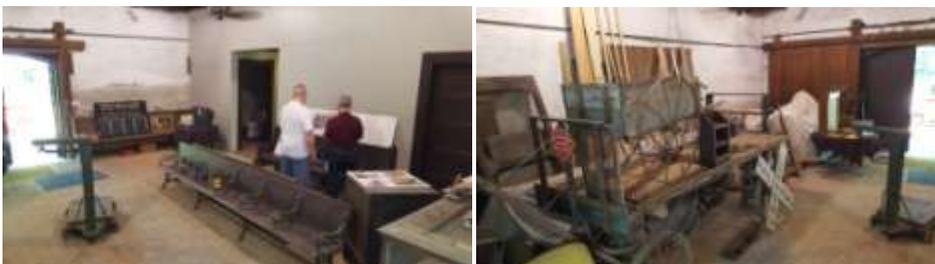
Enter the Washington madness of March 2018. Who would have predicted this? Last year's budget of \$1.428 billion increased to \$1.942 billion and includes new dollars for various system and infrastructure upgrades. According to the Biloxi Sun Herald (3/30/2018), it also includes a two-year, \$20 million grant with a 50 percent match requirement to initiate two daily trains between New Orleans and Gulfport (and perhaps as far east as Mobile). SRC Vice-Chairman Knox Ross credited Senators Cochran and Wicker of Mississippi for making the \$20 million possible. He expects Mississippi will match the \$20 million with BP oil spill monies to complete two years of funding.

The strangeness of Washington never ceases (I once worked in the U.S. Senate and was scared back to Florida for the things I learned!) At least this time we can show that money is not the impediment. Consider the 2017 Amtrak commitment under budget restrictions and now the \$20 million bonus for service projected to cost \$5.48 million (per train), and I see an opportunity if we let ourselves be heard and demand that Amtrak follow through with what they promised when the Sunset Limited was originally suspended.

As an interested party, I am building an email list of persons who are willing to sound off on this issue - not just for Tallahassee train enthusiasts, but for people across the route. Please look back at the cities and towns listed above. Anyone you know who lives there who would help? We will be planning letters to Amtrak, to local media, and demonstrations at local train stations over the summer in an effort to commit sufficient funds to bringing the Sunset Limited back to the Sunshine State.

If you want to be part of this list please email me at HAMcDaniel@embarqmail.com. Please share this with your friends along the corridor and ask that they join this list too.

Lloyd Depot Open House



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: 18th 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 April 17, 2018

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at approximately 7:35pm. An estimated, typical 25 were in attendance.

The Secretary's minutes for March 20 were accepted without comment as presented in the March Lantern.

Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer reported that the club was still in the black. The club has 66 paid members. He also reported that some recent big expenditures were made related to recurring annual financial commitments. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Note that the Treasurer reports on the Club's financial condition but in accordance with club policy, the details are not published in the Treasurer's minutes. Club members are free to contact the Treasurer or other board members if the financial details are desired.

President's Report

Andy welcomed any guests, if any.

He also mentioned the continuing coordination of the show committee that meets before the main meeting.

Reports

Large Scale – Sam mentioned the weekly Sunday meeting at his garage and welcomed anyone interested to come by.

N-Scale – Garth Easton mentioned that there is to be a work party scheduled for the following Saturday

HO – Art Wilson mentioned the T-track setup present at the meeting. He also mentioned observations and conversation encountered on a recent visit to the Antique Car Museum.

Time Saver Layout – Joe Haley had nothing new to report

Education Coordinator – Lisa Blair had nothing new to report

Good of the Group –

Barrett Johnson presented the Golden Spike award in official capacity as an NMRA member to Paul Schneider. He described the requirements that need to be met to be considered for the award and encouraged club members to participate.

There is a desire from folks at the ACM for club members to man the layouts and even expand and setup an O-scale layout as well. This prompted healthy discussion regarding the logistics and feasibility.

There was discussion about an operational 0-6-0 tank steam loco (decorated in Thomas livery) in Pennsylvania and the rarity of such operational engines. The fact that the Thomas branding was sold to Mattel Inc. also prompted discussion, particularly regarding licensing rights.

The recent allocation of a grant for Amtrak Gulf Coast Service resumption was discussed. Members were encouraged to forward any relevant info to Andy Z's email address to be shared with the club. The thought is

that it is important to keep this discussion alive and not let the grant money slowly disappear by being used for other activities.

Next meeting will have John Sykes doing a presentation on rolling stock markings and their meanings.

Drew Hackmeyer mentioned an upcoming open house at the Gulf Wind Chapter of the NHRS (National Historical Rail Society) on May 5th at the Lloyd depot (Post Office) and welcomed all interested to attend.

As before, a new meeting site remains necessary but issue is still unresolved. As soon as status quo changes, all members will be alerted.

The business meeting was adjourned at around 7:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted by **Sheldon Harrison** for Ed Schroeder on April 21, 2018

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