



THE Lantern

June 2018

Volume 23 Number 6

27th Tallahassee Model Railroad Show Saturday June 23; Set-up is Friday, June 22

Andy Zimmerman will be opening up Building 2 and Building 4 at the Leon County Fairgrounds at 9 a.m. Friday, June 22, for club members who want to set up layouts and “early bird” vendors and there always are a couple, at least. The air conditioning won’t come on until noon, but the buildings should be bearable. 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.

HO coordinator Art Wilson reports: “Hey Sam. As it stands right now, I am planning to be at the fairgrounds at ten a.m. We are going to check tables to try for level ones. We are going to start complete setup at 12:30 to 1 p.m. Joe Haley will, of course, be bringing the HO Time Saver.

The N Scale folks will be announcing their set-up plans soon.

The Large Scale Division will be staging its O Gauge T Traks at 9 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.

“The live stream bunch will be there around 1p.m. to set up our track and get ready for Saturday,” Sal Martocci says. 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.

More on Page Three

Also in this Lantern:

Special Coming Attraction! New BBMRA Website Update on an Old Friend; Roy Mantooth Turns 90 2018 Show Vendors, Layout & Exhibitors Brightline Update

*** BBMRA Meetings ***

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.

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

July 17, 2018, 7:30 p.m.: Third Tuesday” BBMRA Meeting. “Old’ Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive. Show critique, officers’ elections, dues renewals.

Special Coming Attraction! New BBMRA Website

By Neal Meadows, EdD

The website for the BBMRA has been available at the URL www.bbmra.org for many years. Shawn Vann had worked on the website until the last year. He moved down state and has become involved in other ventures. President Andy Zimmerman asked that I work to get the domain moved to a more local server and take over the management of the website.

There has been difficulty in moving the previous domain to a local server. The domain must be transferred from Shawn's server to one here in Tallahassee that I can manage the site on. In the interim, I developed a new website at the URL www.bbmra.club. It is up and running with some additional work to be completed as we move along.

Different format and more flexible viewing: You can view it on your desktop, your pad, and your phone. The screen adjusts to each format. Menus allow for viewing all the content that is available on the big screen on all your various devices.



HOME

Welcome to the Big Bend Model Railroad Association Online. We're glad to have you. The BBMRA serves train and modeling enthusiasts in Tallahassee, Florida and the surrounding communities. We even have members from Thomasville, Georgia.

The BBMRA is a great place to fellowship with fellow hobbyists. We conduct modeling clinics, photography and modeling contests, and exhibit our trains. We model in N, HO, and Large Scale. We do have a few members that model in Z scale and even smaller. Want to see us running trains? Check out our events schedule and join us at the next meeting. We hope to see you soon.

Our primary goal is to preserve and promote the world's greatest hobby, but we love to "just run trains!" Come check us out, perhaps at our next annual show.



ALL ABOARD!

THE LANTERN

The May edition of our monthly newsletter is available now.

Read about the FasTrak Modular Concept in the special issues section.

[Click Here](#)

As soon as the domain for the www.bbmra.org is transferred, we will redirect it to go to the new website with current information. We welcome any pictures that you have of any events that the BBMRA has been involved in. I need a little back story or caption or description of the pictures. You can email those to the webmaster address at the bottom of the home page on the website.

I am also archiving all the past newsletters back to January 2001. I am missing a few copies. If you have any of these missing issues, I would appreciate if you can share them with me. I can scan paper copies, or you can send any electronic versions such as pdf files by sending them to me at meadowns1956@comcast.net. The missing issues are: 2001 January; 2001 June; 2001 July; 2001 August; 2001 December; 2003 September; 2004 March; 2012 December; and 2013 December.

Check out the new website and give me some feedback!

2018 Show is Here Ready or Not

From Page One



Show Time Saturday, June 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Vendors will be allowed 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.

2017 Tallahassee Train Show, Saturday, June 24

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

Tear-Down, Saturday, June 24, 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.



Remote control introduced to the Thomas Layout at last year's show by Randy Lombardo.



John Meister Sr. with captivated N Scale fans last year.

BBMRA 27th Annual Show & Sale June 23 2018 Show Vendors, Layout & Exhibitors

This was as of June 6. Some vendors could still be coming in.

Vendors

All About Toy Trains, Melbourne: Richard Adelberg had six tables in 2017 and has registered for 14 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.

Aven Bacon's Name Trains, Porky & Aven Bacon: registered for 10 tables, t-shirts, hats, similar items. Regular for years, 10 tables. cebacon@bellsouth.com

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.

Ralph Brown, Pace, FL., registered for one table. N scale locomotives, rolling stock, passenger car sets.

Cains Trains, Robin Cain, Oneonta, AL: requested registration information for three tables. Robin would be a newcomer to our show.

Lane Hall. Registered for one table. She sells Lilarose Hair Jewelry which has different themes. Masculine and feminine. Newcomer to our show.

Bill Haws, Ocala: used to own Trains of Ocala. Four tables. Bill is bringing "a good mix of things," he says, including vintage Lionel and constructed Plasticville buildings. Bill's late brother was national distributor for Matchbox cars and he is bringing some of his brother's personal collection, including 1/43rd, including GTOs and Oldsmobile 4-4-2's.

Bob Kettel, Dahlonaga, GA: Registered for four tables. "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."

Jay Leinbach, Tarpon Springs: registered for two tables, miscellaneous HO.

Chris Lucibello, Tampa, American Flyers Trains. Chris has registered for five tables this year.

Memory Station, Lewis Collier, Watkinsville, GA: registered for eight tables. "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.)

Sam Miller, George Allen and Eric Ecklund, Tallahassee, Crawfordville and Eastpoint, BBMRA: These guys have registered for 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.

Joe Ray, Wilsonville, AL: all scales, new and used, registered for 10 tables. 2017 and previous years.

Bill Reschke, BBMRA, Donalsonville, GA: registered for one table, wonderful scratch built HO buildings and motor vehicles.

Preston Richards, Martinsville, IN.: registered for four tables. "I have just acquired a van load of vintage and modern Lionel," Preston told Andy. He is a newbie to our show.

Dewey Smith, Homerville, GA., registered for two tables. N Scale, new and used engines and rolling stock; other items too.
(912) 487-6088

Social Circle Trains, Fred Eggers, Social Circle GA., requested registration information for 10 tables. Sells primarily O/HO/S scales and lots of diecast items. A newbie to our show.

Swift Trains, Gainesville, GA: Robert Romaine, requested registration information for one table. Walthers and Tangent dealer, primarily HO engines, rolling stock and kits.

Todd Tait, HO, Hahira, GA: registered for one table.

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

Larry Weigle, Homestead: registered for four tables. "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."

Operating Layouts/BBMRA:

- Live Steam, Sal Martocci.
- N Gauge Layout, Garth Easton.
- British modeling, N Scale, Patrick and Leo Shaffer.
- HO T- Traks, Art Wilson.

- HO Timesaver, Joe Haley.
- Minature HO Layout, Bill Reschke.
- O Gauge T-Traks, Sam Miller, Doug Gyuricsko.
- Disney - O Gauge, Sam Miller.
- Garden Railroad, Ron & Karla Fletcher.
- Thomas the Tank Engine (O Gauge), Randy Lombardo.
- MTH O Gauge layout, Jeff Hornsby, Quitman, GA.

Operating Layouts/Other:

- N Scale Pensacola, 16 by 30 feet, Headed up by Terry Tucker, Tuckers Trains.
- N Scale T-Traks, Pensacola.
- N Scale, Keith Jowers, Mary Esther, (850)-243-4956.
- Panama City model railroad club, HO T-Traks

Exhibitors:

- Lisa Blair, BBMRA Membership Recruitment.
- West Florida Railroad Museum, Milton, registered for 2018.
- NHRA, Gulf Coast Chapter, registered for 2018.
- WFSU Television, confirmed for 2018. Carlton has new contact.

Update on an Old Friend!

Roy Mantooth turned 90 on May 31st. Maxine hosted a grand celebration about a week later and she says "it was wild with two two-year-olds running around."

Joining Roy for this special birthday were his sister, two sons – Barry and Michael from the Louisville area - and Maxine and her daughter and son-in-law from Lenoir City, TN, a Knoxville suburb. There were a lot more folks as well.

Roy doesn't climb the stairs to his layout much these days, but remains active in our hobby through books and model railroading magazines and YouTube and the History Channel.

Linda Medlin and I visit Roy and Maxine once a year and we are going up this year in mid-July. I know they cherish the friends they made in Tallahassee and through modeling all over the country over the years. Several members of our club have Roy's hand-painted and decaled Attic & Lofty Railroad engines and rolling stock. Roy is a master modeler – one of the best I ever met – and one of the best friends ever too.

Sam Miller



Same old Roy and same old twinkle in his eyes!



Special family times – a 90th birthday is always special!

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@centrylink.net and **Andy Millott:** millott32073@hotmail.com

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:** 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

Brightline Update

From Dan McDaniel (HAMcDaniel@embarqmail.com):

As some of you may remember, I have provided updates to Brightline Trains in South Florida in the past. My original home is the Treasure Coast and I have taken time to educate and lobby local politicians in the area. The Treasure Coast encompasses 70 miles of Florida East Coast track, and is essential for Brightline to eventually link its current Fort Lauderdale-to-West Palm Beach shuttle service to Orlando.

Here is the problem: many people are excited that Miami-to-Orlando fast rail service can become reality through a private carrier such as Brightline. That is worth celebrating. On the other hand, the Florida East Coast Railway was built through this region in 1894. The rails almost perfectly bifurcate the downtown areas of most towns through the region that grew after the line was constructed. These are towns where grade crossings aren't conducive to fast train service, and never will be – not because of serviceability but because of geography.

In the 124 years since completion of the line, many of these towns instituted “no whistle” ordinances (I know, that's sad) and 25 mile per hour speed limits on trains, but laws are made to be changed, as we have seen. Now the reality of what I had first proclaimed as the enmity of Brightline is sadly happening: in barely three months of operation and from earlier staging, already six deaths have occurred as these faster-than-normal trains have sped by. For now, the deaths are being registered in the more industrialized areas of Palm Beach and Broward Counties; if Brightline gets their way, they will be running at much faster speeds through the residential and small commercial zones to the north.

RouteFifty.com, a national local government information service, featured these issues in its 4/19/2018 volume and added a whole new headache for Brightline: Congress. Two Congressmen whose districts are in the proposed path of Brightline, Brian Mast and Bill Posey, questioned Patrick Goddard, president and chief operating officer of Brightline, and Grover Burthey, deputy assistant secretary for policy at the U.S. Department of Transportation, on the project's use of tax-exempt bonds and other issues.

Rep. Mast was not pleased and requested the hearing through the House Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee. There, Rep. Posey's position was summarized succinctly: "I've heard a lot of talk about overwhelming support for the project, man, I sure as hell haven't seen that..."

Embattled from a number of legal battles, now Brightline is facing a federal lawsuit filed in February by Indian River County, Martin County, Indian River Emergency Services District, and a citizen group, Citizens Against Rail Expansion in Florida. Federal DOT and the Federal Railroad Administration are also defendants in this suit. Unlike other suits, which focused mostly on safety concerns, this suit went federal and is challenging the government's allowance of approximately \$1.1 billion of tax-exempt private activity bonds (PABs) to enable the project. The plaintiffs have also presented evidence of added public safety and environmental costs they believe their communities will have to bear should Brightline reach Orlando. Indian River County alleged that upgrades around rail crossings alone would cost it \$8.2 million through 2030 solely due to Brightline's presence.

Regarding the PABs, Subcommittee Chairman Mark Meadows of North Carolina added: "At this particular point, I have a real concern that the intent of Congress is being overridden with the private activity bond measure here."

PABs are intended to be a way for state and local governments to issue bonds that receive favorable tax treatment on behalf of private entities and nonprofits, but the plaintiffs are arguing that they derive no benefit from the fast train service. Brightline has no plans to add any stops anywhere between West Palm Beach and Orlando (a distance of at least 140 miles, route not yet finalized). Another claim is that one of the fifteen permissible categories of PAB projects is “high-speed intercity rail, where trains travel over 150 mph.” Brightline is not expected to travel that fast. Additional arguments were made over the use of Title 23 funding, and whether Brightline met the threshold for that funding requirement.



Brightline at Fort Lauderdale. From Wikipedia.

Because I am so wrapped in the Treasure Coast area, I have many opinions, but for the sake of reporting I am not trying to belittle either side. No matter what you hear or believe, both sides have legitimate points and both sides are also throwing whatever they can that sticks to the wall. Personally, as a rider who rode the last scheduled passenger train along the Treasure Coast on July 31, 1968, I want to see service restored – fast or slow. What I do not want to see is a train that skips through the region without stopping because that is not “service” at all. Growing up along the route, the safety concerns are partly legitimate too, but I have also heard more stories exaggerating potential problems than any railroad could ever possibly create. (Well, there was Penn Central, but those were different problems....)

The fact that the counties of Indian River and Martin are fighting the most is not surprising either. Nowhere along the route is the congestion of downtown activity and the volume of grade crossings more prevalent than it is in Vero Beach and Stuart, places where elevated service may be the only realistic fly-by fast train option. In fact, Indian River County has no grade separated cross-overs at all. They exist in Stuart, Fort Pierce, and even Tallahassee. One train will (and has) the power to completely divide Vero Beach (I remember the FEC strike and subsequent bombing that occurred near 27th Street).

A final point: State authorities have not stepped in, but the federal lawsuit does implicate some actions of the Florida DOT. Back in 1963 when the FEC ceased passenger service as a response to its striking workers, a Miami group went to state court and, citing its charter, forced the FEC to restart “first class passenger service” as a matter of “public necessity”. How this will play into the present controversy is in doubt, but I believe it will ultimately be the determining factor. This leads us to three very different “rights” questions concerning what the “public necessity” happens to be, because this time even that is up for debate. (1) Is it the right to travel by train from direct from West Palm Beach to Orlando as fast as reasonably possible? (2) Is it the right to live along the route without contributing dollars or fearing harm from a non-stop train? (3) Or is it the right to slow a whizzing train to a stop so that it can be boarded in an interim community? Like our polarized Congress, unfortunately most everyone in South Florida is either advocating #1 or #2. If you are wondering, I’m in the middle. I want to start with Question #3.

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 May 15, 2018

Big Bend Model Railroad Association

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.; about 30 were present.

The Secretary's minutes for April 17, 2018 were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer reported that the BBMRA remains in the black. Just over 66 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 member Tanner Warewick - HO

* The Show Committee met before the club meeting.

> We're bout 2/3 of way along

> Participation in train shows is down country wide

* Andy commended Neal Meadow's work revising the BBMRA website and linking it to the BBMRA Facebook site.

Reports

Large Scale - Sam Miller

* reminded members to let him know if anyone needs tables for the show,

* Andy Z is bringing flyers to Sam's Sunday afternoon open-house.

HO - Art Wilson - turnout modules have been modified by Phil Weston and Paul Schneider for inclusion in the HO T-TRAK show set-up.

* Timesaver Layout - Joe Haley - no update

* N Scale - Garth Easton –

> Work party scheduled for Memorial day Saturday and the following Saturday

* Education coordinator - Lisa Blair – no update.

Good of the Members

Sheldon Harrison reminded members of the Transcontinental Railroad Sesquicentennial celebration that will take place on May 10, 2019. See: <https://www.nps.gov/gosp/planyourvisit/2019-150th-anniversary-of-the-completion-of-the-transcontinental-railroad.htm>

New Meeting Sight Necessity remains in limbo – no further word.

Business Meeting adjourned 8:05 P.M.

Program - John Sykes, III put on another nicely detailed presentation - Freight Car Marking and Lettering. President Andy will post John's pre presentation on the club web site.

Respectfully submitted,

May 31, 2018

Ed Schroeder, Club Secretary

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