



THE Lantern

August 2018

Volume 23 Number 8

2018/19 BBMRA Officers to be Elected August 21

A slate of officers – with almost everyone currently serving taking on another 12-month term – was formally announced a month ago in a special email edition of the Lantern, complying with the 30 days notice required in our by-laws. The slate was developed in public discussions during the July BBMRA meeting. Anyone else can run during the actual election Tuesday, August 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Antique Car Museum.

Here is the official slate for 2018-19:

BBMRA Officers

President: Andy Zimmerman.

Vice President: Paul Schnieder.

Secretary: Ed Schroeder.

Treasurer: Drew Hackmeyer.

HO Coordinator: Phil Weston, succeeding Art Wilson, who has chosen to retire as coordinator.

Small Scale Coordinator: Garth Easton.

Large Scale Coordinator: 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.)

Sim Dekle & Mitt Paul Passed Away This Week - Two Pioneers of Model Railroading in the Tallahassee Community

From Sam Miller

Two pioneers of model railroading in the Tallahassee community passed away this week – Sim Dekle, one of the most prominent Lionel/O Gauge collectors in Tallahassee, and Mitt Paul, who operated the All Aboard Hobby Store south of Tallahassee for years and built a giant HO layout. Sim was 78 and Mitt was 81. Sim had been a member of BBMRA and I am pretty sure Mitt was a member at one time also.

Another former club member, Rodney Smith of Chattahoochee, died earlier this summer. Rodney was in his late 70's.

Sim was a regular at the Sunday Lionel Group Therapy Sessions at Sam Miller's house until the last few months. This group will have a special get together to remember Sim later this fall, including his two favorite beers – "cheap and free." I do not know Sim's family's plans for his memorial services and burial. His wife, Nell,

*** BBMRA Meetings ***

August 21, 2018, 7:30 p.m.: Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. Still at the "Old' Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive. Discussion of 2018 Officers Elections; 2018-19 dues; division meetings.

September 18, 2018, 7:30 p.m.: Third Tuesday" BBMRA Meeting. "Old' Tallahassee Antique Car Museum. Program still being developed.

is buried near Boston, GA. Mitt's funeral was Friday at New Hope Baptist Church south of Tallahassee and he was buried at Hillcrest Cemetery in Quincy.

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Dothan Train Show September 15-16; Other Area Shows Later This Year

The Wiregrass Annual Model Train Show & Sale in Dothan is September 15-16, with BBMRA members once again getting free admission.

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 O Gauge and a large selection in HO, including several dozen engines. Sam will be loading up Friday, September 14, 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.

Fall, Early Winter Busy Time for Area Train Shows

TCA Southern Division Toy Train/ Christmas Show: November 17, 2018, 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.

Winter Tampa Model Show: December 15-16, 2018, Saturday and Sunday: Winter Tampa Model Show, Saturday & Sunday, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL.

Winter MRC Train Show, Pensacola: December 1-2, 2018, 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 Time. Admission \$6 for adults.

Timesaver too Tough for Adults, but Great for Kids

From Joe Haley.

The Switching Layout, or Timesaver, built for our adult members to operate turned out to be too much for "adults," but has been a great hit with the youngsters for some years. We take the Timesaver to all of our demo-events and BBMRA's main annual show. Kids successfully maneuvering throughout the Timesaver receive an Engineer's Certificate and we issued a couple of hundred last year. The "tough love Yard Boss" assigns the task and when they complete the work they get the certificate.

It is more complicated than it needs to be, but I have had (with help) five-year olds run it. It has a two-track yard that feeds eight industries, the Yard Boss control house, and an engine shed. There are 10 hand thrown Peco (Yea! springs) switches. We use Kadee couplers, and hand tool uncoupling.

The layout has two runarounds. Two youngsters at a time operate. One engineer is on the three-way toggle: forward, reverse, and center off. I set the speed to scale, so there is no running off the layout. The second operator runs a sound system by QSI that is no longer made. It has a remote speaker with 18 sounds, but we stick to engine rev's, brakes, horn and bell.



Joe Haley and the Timesaver, always a hit.

We have two main rules which must be obeyed. One is that the engine cannot move without a horn signal - two shorts for forward and one long for reverse. This is to teach that the yard folks know when and where the engine is going. The other is that the tough old Yard Boss will dock their pay for blocking the engine while unloading.

The layout is 7.5 feet by 2 feet, on a 1x4 frame with 2" foam. It fits in my old van.

Anyway, I hope that this "tough love" and the pretend that this is working on a real railroad show young railroaders that by following instruction and figuring out engine moves, they are capable of real operation, giving them some self-worth and the ability to work with others, even a tough boss.

Mitt Paul, Sim Dekle Remembered

From Page One

Sim, who led a large Lionel interest group which included several members of our club in the 1980's and 90's, died August 13 at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. The Heartland Express operated by Sim's group was a huge draw at the BBMRA annual show over the years and almost every other model train show in our region. It also operated downtown during the Festival of Lights at Christmas.

I am not sure where to begin – or more difficult – where to end a tribute to Sim. I won't try, other than to say he was a wonderful friend and I am privileged to have several landscapes he constructed, including the south Georgia farm house where he spent his childhood. We use some of Sim's scenes from time to time on the O Gauge T-Trak layout.

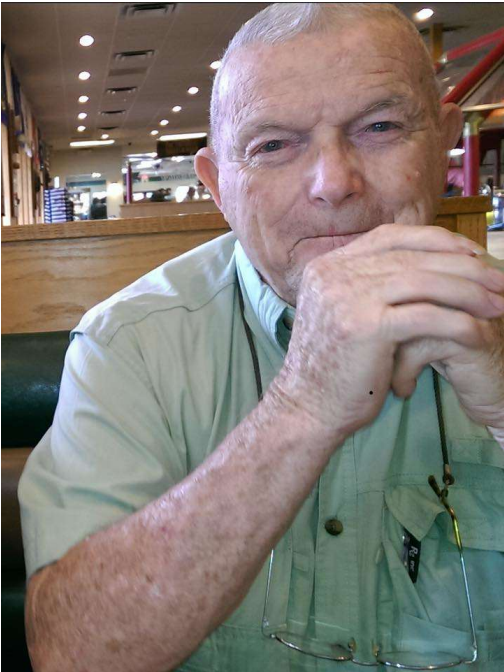
"Sim worked on that O Gauge engine I traded to you, Sam," BBMRAer Joe Haley recalls of Sim. "I found it being used as a door stop and saved it. I got it to run but it was making sparks and he fixed it. I remember his O Gauge group and their Christmas trains and display in their building on the downtown green."

"I not only visited Mitt's layout several times, but we also rode our motorcycles together. I enjoyed his company," Joe says of Mitt Paul.

“Sad to hear that these long time modelers are gone. I knew about Mitt but didn’t know about Sim,” David Brazell notes. “God bless and comfort their families and friends during this time of loss.”

“I remember purchasing a Marx #1666 locomotive & New York Central tender from Sim at our yearly show when his wife, Nell, was still living,” recalls club member Randy Lombardo. “I was surprised it ran for awhile without the missing smoke fluid dispenser! Sim also gave me some Lionel Track Clips in 1970-1971 "Banner Boxes", when Lionel first leased its name to cereal maker General Mills.”

Randy says of Mitt Paul: “I remember being at his store located on LL Wallace Road off of Spring Hill Road. His shop was actually on All Aboard Lane. I visited at least twice. The last time was in 2000 & I still have a 2001 magnetic calendar on my refrigerator! He had a very huge detailed HO Scale Layout and I have photos! I purchased an HO Gas Station & it remains unbuilt.”



Mitt Paul



Mitt died at home August 14.

Here are excerpts from Mitt Paul’s death notice in the Tallahassee Democrat August 16:

Millard “Mitt” Paul passed peacefully at home on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 surrounded by family. Mitt was born in Florala, Alabama on March 20, 1937 and grew up in Quincy.

Mitt began his law enforcement career with the Florida Highway Patrol, then served in the Tallahassee Police Department (TPD) from 1966 until his retirement in 1996. While at TPD, he was a member of the motorcycle patrol, eventually becoming a traffic homicide investigator.

...In 1967, Mitt married Joy Elene Chavous. They shared a beautiful life together for over 50 years with their children Dallas and Chyenne Paul and Mitt’s children from his previous marriage, Bryan Paul and Stephanie P. Whitfield (Paul).

A lifelong train enthusiast, after retirement, Mitt opened the All Aboard Hobby Store and became affectionately known as “the train man.”

Mike Sassard's Tribune to Sim Dekle

Dear Sim,

You have made an everlasting impression in my life. When you called me to come discuss the possibility of building and operating a public display layout, the "show Biz" aspect of my life came to fruition.

TOGETHER, we showed off our trains and especially your handcrafted buildings. There is no grater cause on Earth than to make other people happy and you served as LEADER in that. In your simple leadership, you made it happen.

There were times I may have been a pain in your side, but you understood.

Again, you were an inspiration to all of us and God will look favorably on that. You are a good man.

*Your Friend, forever,
Mike Sassard*



Mike and Sim from a long time ago

Farewell to Anne Lombardo

From Randy Lombardo

I appreciate fellow club members Ed Schroeder (who opened & closed the service with "Amazing Grace") & Sharon & Ken Brock for attending the service on Monday, July 9th. Many thanks also to Linda Medlin & Sam Miller for the card & to the rest of our organization for their kind words about my mother.

Many of you didn't hear the speech I made regarding my mother's life & want to give you the opportunity to read the following message:

"For many years in my life, I have had good friends & family members, only to lose them to diseases, natural causes & tragedies. Now, I dwell with them once again, in a place God set aside called heaven. Amen".

Discover the Joy of Marx Trains; with Help from Bass Pro Shops

From Jack Herzog

As we age we may be having difficulty working in the smaller scales, but feel we cannot justify the expense of the larger scales such as Lionel, American Flyer, Aristocraft, LGB or other large scale trains. The answer may be to take a look at Marx trains made for many years by the Louis Marx Company.

While some Marx trains are very expensive and rare collectors' items, most are very common and inexpensive. For an inspiring perspective on this check out the Benz Trainz You-Tube channel. Many Marx locomotives may be bought off eBay for \$20 or less.

Some of the Marx cars are so light weight that I have had problems with them lifting off the rails at speed. I found the answer at Bass Pro Shop in the form of the larger hook weights. These sinkers are lead, more or less cylindrical and split half way down the middle. I widen the split in order to press them over the axle and then crimp them on with pliers. This works especially well on the light weight tin lithograph cars and results in a lower center of gravity.

For light weight tenders, you can add a heavy sinker to the interior frame center with a screw. To remove the tin top, carefully bend the tabs to the vertical. When placing the top back onto the frame do not bend the tabs back to the horizontal since they will probably break off when you do this. Simply leave them vertical and give them a small kink or twist, just enough to retain the top. You should be able to do this a number of times without breaking the tab.

This applies to the old tabbed buildings as well made by Marx, T Cohn and others such as the gas stations, tin forts and doll houses. Marx made many of these playsets. Expensive examples are the Marx Super Circus, Mineral City, Untouchables, or Roy Rodgers and the Cape Canaveral sets or the T Cohn Navy Base. These are wonderful toys worthy of any retro-train set display. Chien also made many wind up tin carnival rides

Thank the good Lord for Louis Marx, the capitalist counter to Karl. Louis Marx, A. C. Gilbert and Joshua Lionel Cohen, three great Americans, long may they be remembered for the joy they brought to the world and to the hearts of train enthusiasts everywhere.



Bass Pro Shops solution



Jack's wonderful Marx layout.

This 'n That Railroading Updates; CSX Has Been Working on the Railroad

From Randy Lombardo:

I observed a tractor trailer flatbed with construction equipment on Thursday, July 19, at the Weems Road Crossing. What's hiding under that huge black plastic bag? As far as I can tell, new signals & gates on the lower portion. (The old ones were scattered on ground.)

Other than that I can give three possible outcomes:

- Routine maintenance upgrade?
- Routine maintenance upgrade because of The Return of Amtrak's Sunset Limited in the near future?
- Routine maintenance upgrade because of future sale to a shortline?

The (Not So) New Place to Watch Trains

Governor's Park located below the Bridge at Blair Stone Road Extension has been a fixture locally since 1997, but few have visited the area because of lack of signage at the entrance to the park. Finally, in late June or early July, The City of Tallahassee Parks & Recreation Department installed the long awaited sign.

Currently, many CSX Freights pass through daily and both of Amtrak's Sunset Limited did too. Too bad no one thought of taking a photo when Amtrak's inspection team came through several years ago. Unlike the Weems Road Crossing, there are many trees with a picnic table plus a history of the park. Food is available at nearby Governor's Crossing. There's also a bike trail to Tom Brown Park! I haven't been there actually myself & look for photos on the Internet including, the demolished spooky mansion.

Two Women You Should Know in Railroading

Many years ago, some railroad worker (no doubt Male) said, "The railroad is 98% Male and 2% Female". How times have changed since those words were first spoken.

Catherine Rinaldi was named sixth president of Metro-North Railroad (MNR) on February 21, 2018. She had been acting president since July 2017.) Ms. Rinaldi is the first woman to head the railroad in its 35-year existence.

MNR is the second largest commuter railroad in the United States behind the Long Island Railroad (LIRR). Both are part of the vast Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). MNR operates the Harlem, Hudson & New Haven Lines, which also serve the State of Connecticut, along with two lines in New Jersey - Pascack Valley to Spring Valley and New York & Port Jervis Line to Port Jervis, New York.

Ms. Rinaldi is an attorney. Previous positions include executive vice president with MNR & chief of staff & general counsel with LIRR.

Corina Moore, featured in the August 2018 Trains, became president of Ontario Northland (ONR or ONRail) in 2012, after being employed there for nine years.

ONRail) is a Canadian Government-owned railroad that faced closure & liquidation after 115 years of operation. Ms. Moore's position was supposed to be temporary. She wasn't a quitter, however, and turned the railroad around, streamlining passenger trains and the number of employees. Operations include, Freight & Passenger, inter community bus, locomotive, passenger and freight car repair and remanufacturing services.

She also has another issue to deal with, the derailment of The Polar Bear Express on May 30, some 24 miles south of its northern terminal of Moosonee, between Renison and Galeton on the railroad's Island Falls Subdivision. Seventy-three passengers and seven crew members suffered minor injuries. The cause of the derailment and the extent of damage to the equipment - a mixture of freight and passenger - is not known at this time.

Not All Aboard Amtrak Any Time Soon

Alabama, Ole Miss & Mississippi State may play together in the Southeastern Conference (SEC) but they could not agree on funding the Extension of Amtrak's Sunset Limited from New Orleans to Orlando. The deadline for the \$68 million federal grant came and went on June 22, 2018. Mississippi failed to come up with their portion & Alabama Governor Kay Ivey cited the "detrimental impact on other types of rail service" in her decision to withhold their portion of \$5.3 million, which would have been put aside over the next three years. Knox Ross from the Southern Rail Commission was disappointed with the decisions but optimistic that the next grant period would yield better results.

From Passenger Train Journal Third Quarter Issue 2018

Atlas Model Railroad Co., Inc. Acquires Walthers N Scale Locomotive and Rolling Stock Tooling

Atlas release submitted by Neal Meadows

June 22, 2018

Atlas Model Railroad Company, Inc., and Wm. K. Walthers, Inc. have reached an agreement under which Atlas will purchase all N scale locomotive and rolling stock tooling owned by Walthers, including the Walthers N tooling as well as former Life-Like tooling. Atlas will incorporate this tooling into its Atlas Master, Atlas Classic, and Trainman N scale lines. Walthers will continue to offer N scale items in its Cornerstone, SceneMaster, and Walthers Controls brands, including new items as well as items currently in those lines.

"We feel that this tooling has found a great home with Atlas. They have a strong N scale offering and these tools will help them bring some exceptional products back to the market," said Phil Walthers, President of Wm. K. Walthers, Inc.

Tom Haedrich, Executive Chairman at Atlas added, "We're pleased to be bringing these former Walthers N scale models back to the market so that they can be enjoyed by present and future model railroaders alike. These locomotives and rolling stock will fit right in with our existing N scale lines and we are committed to producing them with the latest technology, prototypical accuracy, and high quality you've come to expect from Atlas."

Established in 1932, Wm. K. Walthers, Inc. distributes model trains, accessories, and related items from more than 200 manufacturers, and also manufactures its own exclusive items for its WalthersProto, WalthersMainline, WalthersTrainline, Cornerstone, SceneMaster, Walthers Controls, and WalthersTrack lines.

Founded in 1924 and incorporated in 1949 as Atlas Tool Co. Inc., present day Atlas Model Railroad Co. produces locomotives, rolling stock, track, and accessories in N, HO and O scales for its Atlas Master, Atlas Classic, Trainman, and Atlas O lines.

Sayonara Shinohara: Iconic Brand Says Goodbye

From Dallas Model Works, via Bob Parmenter

In case, you missed the news back in April, the Japanese track manufacturer Shinohara announced that it would be ceasing track production.

This means that the Shinohara and Walthers Shinohara brands will soon be no more. This brings a bit of a nostalgic tear to my eye because my very first layout was built largely with Shinohara track.)

As you know, Shinohara makes all kinds of awesomeness such as curved turnouts, double crossovers, and double slip switches, as well as flex track, bridge track, and other goodness.

All that will soon be toast.

The good news is that our rep at Walthers has informed us that the Walthers Shinohara brand will live on, albeit under another name.

They are currently in talks to have another manufacturer produce the track. The bad news is, no one knows how long that will take. If you remember a few years back when Atlas switched (pardon the pun) track suppliers, their track was unavailable for a couple of years!

Craig Cooper
Dallas Model Works

BBMRA Dues - Time to Pay Up

Annual dues of the Big Bend Model Railroad Association are due now and will be delinquent after August 31. Dues remain at \$20, which is pretty darn attractive. Members can renew during the August meeting or by mail through:

Drew Hackmeyer, Treasurer
3201 Hawks Landing
Tallahassee, FL 32309



December 15-16, 2018: 18th Winter Tampa Model Show, Saturday & Sunday, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL. Dates to be announced.

December 1-2, 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 July 17, 2018

Big Bend Model Railroad Association

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.; 20 to 25 were present.

The Secretary's minutes for June 19, 2018 were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer reported that the BBMRA enjoyed a significant gain from the annual show and is much more solvent; dues for 2018-19 are now payable. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented. Details of the Treasurer's monthly reports are not published in the Secretary's minutes. Members may request details from the Treasurer.

President Andy indicated that the following are willing to serve the club for the coming year

> President - Andy Zimmerman,

> Vice-President - Paul Schneider,

> Treasurer - Drew Hackmeyer,

> Secretary - Ed Schroeder

> Coordinators

* N - Garth Easton

* HO - Phil Weston

* Large Scale - Sam Miller

Andy welcomed new members - Larry Callahan, HO, former member; and Frank Corrado, N, recently moved from NJ suburbs of NY.

Section Reports

* Large Scale – Doug Gyuricsko and Randy Lombardo for Sam Miller – successful large scale show operation.

* HO - Art Wilson - successful HO T-Trak show operation.

* N - Andy Zimmerman - successful N operation; Garth Easton, all the help greatly appreciated.

* Overall successful T Trak operations, comments from visiting clubs at show. President Andy is putting pictures on Club Facebook site

* Timesaver Layout - Joe Haley - Thanks for help. Gave out over 100 certificates

Show Comments - President Andy reported successful show.

* President Andy discussed some problems that arose regarding the show.

> Abuse of system by a nominal member, i.e., a person who pays dues but neither participates in nor aids club in its activities during the year. In two consecutive years the person made significant purchases on Friday during set-up time and then departed the premises. Did not aid in set-up on Friday. Left without assisting in or participating in any way at the show on Saturday. Did not participate in any other club function during the year.

> President Andy indicated that the person will be identified by President Andy, such a person will not be allowed to make purchases before the general public, notice will be posted on Facebook and given to other vendors and to groups similar to the BBMRA.

Unrelated to the above, President Andy reported that a former member had again caused a disturbance at the show and was asked to leave.

* Doug Gyuricsko expressed concern about early departures by some vendors

* Bill Bell suggested that vendors appreciated thank you's from club members and indicated that an S gauge vendor did great job repairing one of Bill's S gauge engines

* Web Page Status

> Neil Meadows at meadowsn1956@comcast.net is extensively updating the Web Page,

> Back issues of Lantern are being added

> Information is being added on Facebook - members should check their status

* Plan for Next Year - President Andy

> Meeting presentation ideas - short (5 minute clinic) problem solving comments before the program of the night

> Dues proposal - no proration of dues

> Rosters - new member Bob Feuerstein requested rosters

> Electronic Updates

* WIFI throttle - build three of these systems

* Raspberry 3.714 (pi)

* Digital circuit breakers

> T-Trak coordinator - need for???

Meeting Sight Change Remains in Limbo

Business Meeting adjourned around 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted on August 16, 2018

Ed Schroeder, 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