



THE Lantern

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June 27 Show Still a Go, But Could be Delayed; Important BBMRA Meetings Via Zoom Tuesday Night

Here are excerpts from an April 15 President's Report by BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman. If you did not get Andy's full report, let Andy or Sam Miller know.

I am sure that the 800-pound gorilla in the room is, "What about the show?" Will people be ready to attend? Will vendors be willing to attend? This COVID 19 Virus mess has everyone wondering what happens next.

...The Coronavirus outbreak is currently impacting everything around the world. Your show manager, the show committee and the BBMRA Board are monitoring local, state and federal guidelines regarding precautions and best practices for our train show. At this time, we are cautiously optimistic and plan on proceeding with the Tallahassee Model Railroad Show and Sale and will work with the Fairgrounds to provide the safest possible environment for the attendees...I spoke with the North Florida Fairgrounds and from their perspective, with the information we have today, we are a go. People will be ready to do something and our show may be it.

But because this situation is so fluid, we will continue to monitor it and the collective warnings and briefings to make the best decision for our show. This week we may be a go and next week we may be postponing. We have to weigh many things. Will people be ready to get together in a large venue, especially older people? Will vendors who are older want to participate in a large venue so soon after this COVID 19 experience? Will our exhibitors be willing to participate? If we have to make the tough decisions, should we explore an alternate date? Or cancel altogether?

...While I remain optimistic, I have to be pragmatic as well. If our peak in Florida is indeed this week (there are federal predictions that the Florida peak would be around April 15), then the show must go on June 27 as scheduled. If the peak, as some predict, is to be mid-June, then we need to postpone or reschedule, if not cancel altogether.

...I am in discussions with the North Florida Fairgrounds on alternative dates that may be beneficial to everyone. The only available alternate dates currently are July 25 and the possibility of August 22. The August date is not ideal because there is a Golden Spike show in Atlanta that same day. Lots to talk about at the April 21 meeting.

Board/Show Committee and Full Club Meetings by Zoom Planned for Tuesday Night

This also is from Andy's April 15 special report. The BBMRA Zoom session begins at 7:30 p.m.; the Board and Show Committee meeting, an hour earlier. Zoom invites will be sent out shortly. Andy's report included a link to download Zoom: <https://zoom.us/>

With respect to our meeting for the 21st, we have decided to err on the side of caution and not have a physical meeting. I am working out the details and waiting to see what our program will be after the business meeting. We need to have a Board and Show Committee meeting, so I will send out a Zoom invite for a separate meeting about one hour prior to the actual club meeting. Wherever you are, please be sure to be on the Zoom

meeting if you are a Board officer or Show Committee member. There will be a separate invite to all club members for the regular club meeting. Zoom works on your Smartphone, tablet or laptop or personal computer.

Model Railroading While You “Stay at Home”

How many of us have reverted back to our childhood doing quarantine!? 🚂



This is an abbreviated issue of the Lantern because so many of the normal BBMRA activities have been disrupted by the Coronavirus. There is no calendar because right now every event is up in the air. Things will return to normal, perhaps a new normal – and, hopefully, sooner than later. If you know of railroading events which have been cancelled or rescheduled or are planned to go ahead as normal, please let Sam Miller know.

Doug Gyuricsko and Jack Herzog have submitted fine articles on what they are doing while they “Stay at Home” during the virus crisis. What have you been up to in model railroading to occupy your time at home? Email Lantern editor Sam Miller at sammiller61113@outlook.com

Thanks to David Barth

Jack Herzog: “Fix Up Some Junk!”

(Jack Herzog always has special model train projects – with or without the COVID 19 pandemic. Here is a great one.)

From Jack Herzog:

When dealing with toy trains, it can be difficult to pin down scale. For example, in O Gauge, while the track gauge is the same, the different Lionel, Marx and American Flyer products vary in scale within that gauge. Lionel issued both large items in O Gauge as well as small. If you assume that the large items are approximately 1/48th scale, then it is fair to assume that the smaller items are 1/64th scale.

An example of 1/64th or 3/16th scale would be the small O Gauge Prewar caboose project as depicted in the pictures. This little modest caboose started life as the Lionel number 1682 tin lithographed caboose from the years 1933 to 1941, depending on its type.

When I obtained it from Sam Miller, it was considered to be junk or junkie if you prefer, and I do not know which type it was. Sam gave it to me at one of his large scale group meetings before the current pandemic crisis and I was very happy to receive it as a restoration and customization project.



The photos show it in mid stage. I plan to install Marx trucks with the Marx scissor couplers and illuminate it. I might add end ladders and window glazing as the creative sparks dictate. This caboose will look great with the line of better scale 3/16th Marx lithographed freight cars.

On YouTube, you might tune into Benz Trainz, Trains in the Basement, nathan5chime or myworld67 to see what other hobbyists are doing with the junk.

You see, it is not really junk. It is simply a modeler's project. It makes me feel like I am a boy back in the 1950s working on a Monogram or Revell kit. So turn your imagination loose and fix up some junk. You can do this in N, HO Or G as well. The only limit is your effort.

“Bullfrog Snot Instead of Traction Tires;” Yes, Doug is Serious!

From Doug Gyuricsko:

I have some N scale and HO scale engines that have "traction tires". There may still be a few of you who are not familiar with that term. So here is my short history lesson. Our Postwar trains had metal drive wheels. Many like me liked to make an engine spin the wheels when starting out. That is a real event many times in reality. But I'm told the engineer could be fired over that. Real trains to this day need traction. There is a supply of sand that can be applied to the rails ahead of the drive wheels. For our scale trains, that won't work well. Lionel started to make a magnetic axle called Magntraction for many engines. They could then take off with less spinning, and pull a bigger load.



During the Korean War, Magntraction production stopped, until the war ended. Magntraction returned and was a popular model train feature for years.

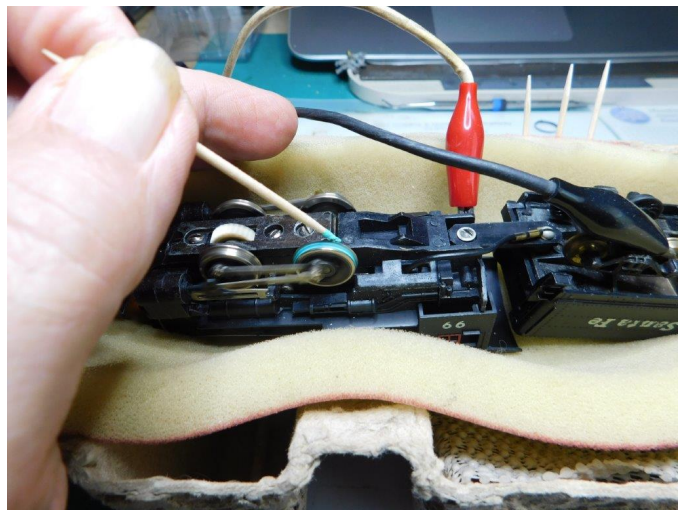
Later model locomotive production featured a rubber ring fitted to a machined groove in a few

drive wheels. Using those can increase the pulling power for steam or diesel engines. The down side to all scales using rubber traction tires is the tire gets old and cracks and can break off. Some engines can be re-tired with ease using new tires if matched correctly. (Check numbers and fit.) It is very difficult to replace the traction tire on other locomotives, especially steam engines with side rods and other wheel connections.

Now along comes "BullFrog Snot!" The name infers slippery slimy gooey stuff. The small bottle contains one fluid ounce of a light green liquid. Reading the fine print can make one smile. I won't be a spoiler and tell you why.

Frog Snot costs \$20 a bottle. It is worth it because there is nothing slimy about the results. I was told by Jack Herzog I could use shrink wrap for a traction tire. Jack used it on an O gauge engine. I did try that on an HO engine. It can work if the right size tube is used. I had to limit my attempt on the HO steam engine to the shrink wrap I had on hand, but it worked. I found it difficult to heat the shrink wrap while on an HO engine, so I decided to try Bullfrog Snot.

I set up a soft stand to hold the engines upside down so power can be put to them and the wheels rotated as needed. The Frog Snot was applied using a round pointed toothpick with only a small amount on the tip. The instructions are very easy to follow. I also cheated and watched a few YouTube videos. (I watch YouTube



videos during many of my modeling projects to limit my mistakes.)

The first time I used Frog Snot, I applied too much too quickly and then had to redo the surface. It doesn't take long to form a skin with liquid under. Well, you can fix this by letting the mess dry, then peeling it off and starting again. I found one application was not enough to fill the machined groove. Wait for each application to dry well before applying the next. It may take a number of coatings to get it right. But it will work just like the instructions said.

I think there is enough in the jar to make me wonder about shelf life now. There may be enough in there to fill a lifetime of wheels.

And I learned it's never too late to teach an old dog - or old bullfrog - new tricks.

Minutes and Special Reports: March Meeting Cancelled Because of COVID 19

Here is part of the special report Andy sent to members. This is offered as the minutes for the March 17 meeting.

I hope everyone is doing well! This is certainly a crazy time. As we've seen in the past few days, COVID-19 has turned the world upside down. Air travel, athletics (from pro's all the way to the little league), schools, amusement parks, stock markets, and even toilet paper! How are we to respond?!?! Gathering in groups of 50 or more is cautioned so how will that affect us? Older adults or adults with compromised immune systems should take more precautions to ensure they do not get exposed. So what do we do?

MANY of you have expressed concern through e-mail or by text. There have NOT been any confirmed Cases of the Corona Virus in North Florida, the Panhandle or South Georgia. Will it spread here? Likely, at some point, Just like the Flu. So be prepared but don't panic. Be informed, and take precautions, just like you would if your spouse or mom had the Flu.

Given the amount of concern from the highest levels and out of an abundance of concern, I am Canceling the March meeting.

Big Bend Model Railroad Association Minutes for Meeting of February 20, 2020

(These could not be approved in March as the meeting was cancelled.)

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order around 7:35 p.m. at the Capital City Christian Church, 6115 Mahan Drive. About 30 were present.

The Secretary's Minutes for January 21, 2020 were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Drew Hackmeyer reported that BBMRA remains solvent. His report was accepted as presented. [The Treasurer's Report is not published in the Secretary's minutes; members may request details from the Treasurer.] We have 63 paid members

President Andy reported that guest speaker Waris Wade, an officer of the new Florida, Gulf and Atlantic Railroad, had to cancel late Tuesday afternoon when called for an unexpected company meeting in Pensacola.

Andy also welcomed one new member, Brandon McKenny. Brandon is into HO and was recruited by HO coordinator Phil Weston.

Division Reports/Large Scale - Sam Miller reported that longtime member Ken Brock had passed away. Sam expressed the thanks and appreciation of the BBMRA for Ken's extensive service to the club, especially with

the O Scale layout at the annual show. Ken's funeral was held at Fellowship Baptist Church, on Wednesday, February 19.

N Scale - Garth Easton reported that the N Scalers would not be participating in the Woodville Founder's Day festival this year. Garth said a work session would be scheduled soon.

HO Scale - Phil Weston reported that his group had a great time operating T-Traks at the January Children's Day at the R.A. Gray Building near the Capitol.

Youth coordinator - Lisa Blair was unable to attend meeting.

Good of the Members - Andy Millott reminded members of the March 21 layout open house – Andy has one volunteer so far and would appreciate more. Randy Lombardo reported that Amtrak has a new diner named Tallahassee. John Booth reported that there are now nine locomotives in the old SCL/CSX B Yard. Dave Brazell reported that the Folkston Funnel Train Fest is Saturday, April 4. Bob Fuerstein advised all that NMRA is a beneficiary of Amazon's "Smiles" program. Bob also reported that the Northern Division of NMRA is planning a workshop in Tallahassee on the weekend of October 24, 2020, and will be coordinating with BBMRA.

The Meeting adjourned at 08:16 P.M.

These minutes were respectfully submitted on March 11 by Ed Schroeder for Secretary Sheldon Harrison.