



THE Lantern

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David & Paul Notice CSX Changes During Folkston Visit

(David Brazell and Paul Schneider didn't make the Folkston Trainsfest in April because of the pandemic, but they took a special trip up there earlier this summer.)

By David Brazell

BBMRA member Paul Schneider and I made the three-hour trip over to Folkston in early June. Folkston is a unique location because every train that runs in and out of South Florida goes through Folkston except for one due East and West FGA line (that comes through here) and one Norfolk Southern line. You cross both of these lines on the way to Folkston.

We enjoyed over a dozen trains over the double track mainline on the day, including a running meet and the regular northbound Amtrak. We had one rain shower but the traffic kept coming.



I wanted to take my drone over there and see if I could get some high level video. But, the settings were not programmed properly and all of my videos were a little washed out. I have got to work on this. It provides me with a good excuse to go back.

We made again several observations that substantiated the new leadership in CSX. First, they have moved away from the unit train philosophy. As an example, we saw no Tropicana Juice train consists but there was a Northbound and a Southbound that had several Tropicana reefers in the consist. One consist started out as a grain train but halfway through it became a mixed freight. As we left, we saw an intermodal that was also half made up with auto racks.

We saw fewer trains, particularly mixed freights, but they virtually went on forever with a Distributed Power Unit (DPU) in the middle of the consist. You see this often in the West or up in mountainous areas due to terrain. Now they are here.

I also noticed something I had never seen before. I saw a Northbound and Southbound Montana Rail Link (MRL) boxcar. I used to live there. I was there before the railroad was created so I never saw any MRL equipment while I was there but I have several Montana



Rail Link pieces for my layout anyway. They handle most any type of freight, but they rarely get down this far South. But these boxcars had Norfolk Southern (NS) reporting marks! Interesting. That tells me that MRL must be selling off some of their rolling stock and NS is buying. Norfolk Southern didn't repaint the car so it still looks like a MRL boxcar. It was great seeing them.

One other thing of note. Virtual Railfan (a company that runs many train cams around the country) has a set of cameras there at Folkston. They are across from the viewing stand. You can subscribe, but occasionally they provide a free live feed through You Tube. You should check it out.

If you have a spare day and want to relax and enjoy some great train traffic, Folkston is the place to go. You will not be disappointed. The facilities are clean. There are public restrooms and the viewing platform is equipped with a scanner so you can hear railroad traffic over the radio. Even without sound, you can see signals for Northbound traffic and can tell when an approaching train is headed in that direction. I've never, including this time, gone over there and no one else was there. There's always other rail watchers there to talk to. There happened to be a certified loco engineer for a small middle West railroad there this time. He was great and answered all of our questions.

We had a great day watching trains and look forward to an opportunity to go back.

BBMRA July 21 Meeting Via Zoom

BBMRA is continuing to meet through Zoom, including our regular monthly session July 21. More and more of you are participating in the Zoom sessions and we are hoping for a really fine turnout Tuesday. The program is still being developed. The business session will include discussion of officers elections in August and collection of 2020/2021 club dues, which should be paid now.

We are distributing through the link below a PDF document on how to set up and test your Zoom account:
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1SyAPMOMOnX2ILbLzPO7zqzsj4NmSaCX8>

You can download Zoom Here <https://zoom.us/>

BBMRA members will be receiving a report from club President Andy Zimmerman informing you that the meeting this Tuesday will be through Zoom and formally inviting you. As a formal invited participant to the meeting, you will receive a second notice Tuesday by about 7 p.m. with all of the meeting details and will be asked to join the meeting which will begin at 7:30. Andy will be online to assist participants still having difficulty.

Next Zoom Trivia Night is August 4

The next BBMRA Zoom Railroad Trivia Night is Tuesday, August 4. These have become a regular event for now and they are a lot of fun. Brandon McKenney was the winner of the July 7 Trivia event and he earned a BLI cattle car with sound. Because club members cannot physically get together as normal, President Andy Zimmerman and the other officers have planning these special events. Vice President Stacy Elliott is the trivia moderator. Club members will receive Zoom notices from Andy as they have been getting for the regular Third Tuesday meeting.

Collin Haley, Joe's Son, Passes Away

Joe Haley's son, Collin, died about two weeks ago at the age of 45, here in Tallahassee where he had lived. Joe's many friends in BBMRA are so sad for him and his other family and trying to help Joe however they can. Collin suffered from serious illnesses for years, but persevered amazingly. Joe was a strong support to Collin and they saw each other almost every day.

September 19-20 Dothan Train Show Cancelled

The Wiregrass Steel Wheels 30th Annual Model Railroad Show and Sale scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, September 19-20, was cancelled, according to Dan Adams, one of the organizers. Dan and George Baum were unable to figure out how the show could comply with Coronavirus reopening regulations by the State of Alabama. The Dothan show at the National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds is a huge favorite of BBMRA members, partly because they get in free, as Dothan club members receive free admission to the Tallahassee show. Hopefully, it will be on in 2021.

SSR Northern Division Meeting Aug. 15; Tallahassee in October Still On for Now

The NMRA Northern Division meeting and workshop scheduled for August 15 is still scheduled, but could be done through Zoom instead of an in person session in Orange Park, according to Superintendent Richard Segall.

Richard last week polled Northern Division members to determine if enough are able to come to Orange Park to make a sit-down meeting feasible or if the session should be conducted through Zoom. BBMRA members who are in the NMRA should complete Richard's survey if they have not already done so. Contact Bob Feuerstein or Sam Miller if you don't still have Richard's email from last Wednesday.

Significantly for us, Richard also had this update about the Northern Division meeting planned for Tallahassee in October: "We are still on schedule for the layout tours in the Tallahassee area on October 24 **BUT** this is under review as we will going into peoples' homes and unless we can do this safely, that event will be cancelled."

Also, Richard reported, "the Sunshine Region Board of Directors has determined that the pandemic's impact on Florida makes the Annual Convention scheduled for the first weekend in October unworkable and has cancelled the event. For those who have submitted payments, refunds will be sent in the very near future. Monitor the Sunshine Region website for status reports."

NMRA Sunshine Region officer elections are going on now and two BBMRA members are candidates. Bob Feuerstein is running for ND superintendent as Richard is stepping down, and Barrett Johnson is running for an at large Board of Directors seat.

Rare Tobacco Car Reminds David of Departed Friends

From David Brazell:

Just wanted to share a rare find I came across this month. Do any of you know what this is or have you ever seen one of these? These were called Hogshead Tobacco cars. Only Southern Railway had them. I never saw any when I was young but I am confident they would have been prevalent in the Virginia and North Carolina areas. (I grew up in Alabama and Florida). They are 86' boxcars (I also favor the longer cars) and are very unique. Southern again lives up to its motto – "Gives a green light to innovations". Notice the air vents in the top.



I saw one of these available on eBay some weeks ago and knew I had to have it. It's from an Ambroid wood kit. I was thrilled when I won the auction and got it in the mail a few days later. I do have to add a coupler to it but I can handle that. I still am in disbelief that I was able to find one of these and it will

be an interesting addition to my layout. The only regret I have, I wish Ed Olsen was still here so I could share this with him. Dan King would also probably be interested too considering he had North Carolina roots.

I first saw these in a picture and wondered what they were. Then I saw them in a book I purchased several years ago called "Southern Railway Color Guide to Freight and Passenger Equipment" by James Kinkaid. It's on the cover. I think this type of book is essential for any serious modeler of a particular railroad. He has other books for other railroads. These books are not common, which also means they can be pricy but search eBay and shows and you may come across one at a reasonable price.

David's Rare Find Number 2

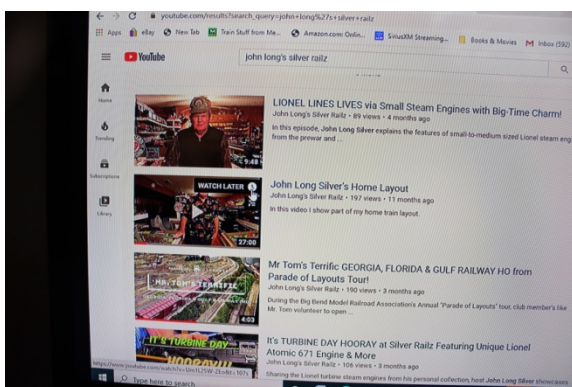


Just wanted to share another rare find I came across this month. First, most of you know I model Southern Railway. One of my favorite cars is their 7000 CF wood chip hoppers. They are rare and very seldom come available at shows and on eBay, where I do most of my shopping. I connected with this lady that was conducting an estate sale. To make a long story short, I got seven of these hoppers, all with different numbers. One of those numbers was a real car. I got them at a reasonable price even though these are pretty expensive. Now I have an even dozen of these cars for my layout. All I must do now is load 'em up, which I will do in the next few weeks.



Jack Herzog's YouTube Channel Keeps Growing; 100 Subscribers & New Videos

Jack Herzog and his sons, Jamie and Steve, launched a YouTube channel on model railroading last year with excellent footage of Ron Fletcher's Garden Railroad from our club's layout tour that spring. They have moved on with several reports based on the BBMRA Annual Show & Sale in 2019 and special modeling projects by Jack, who is creative and innovative, especially with older Marx and Lionel.



Go to YouTube and search for John Long's Silver Railz. Jack's reports will come up.

Here is an update from Jack: I have 100 subscribers. My channel was listed in a recent video on Goodwill on line auctions as a toy train source. One of my recent reports included a Unique Art steamer from Goodwill. I may soon do a video on Lionel MPC steamers.

I started my YouTube channel because I wanted to share the hobby and my hobby projects with others. This has been especially important during this time of the epidemic chastisement. My favorite uploads have to do with my videos featuring the BBMRA Show last June.

I especially like the report honoring Sim Dekle and a more recent one honoring Ken Brock. My most popular video featured Gary Edward's disappearing train layout. People seemed to really like it. The videos on Tom Rush's HO layout and Ron Fletcher's Garden Railroad layout were also popular.

Recently I did one called Lionel Goes Chicken. I also did one called Lionel Goes Camel. My most recent video discusses alternatives to train shows such as eBay, Goodwill auctions, Craig's List, Let Go and Facebook Market Place.

I hope my fellow club members will subscribe to my channel and I especially hope they will start channels of their own which will help promote our hobby. I have made friends with other YouTubers in other states since we watch and comment on each other's work and share ideas. We look forward to each other's latest uploads.

This 'N That: Amtrak Names New President; New Lionel Catalog

From Randy Lombardo

William J. Flynn, 66, became Amtrak's president and chief executive officer (CEO) on April 15, replacing Richard Anderson, who will remain as senior advisor until the end of the year. Anderson had been president/CEO since July 2017. Flynn's past work history includes 13 years with Atlas World Wide Holdings Inc., a cargo airline, holding the position of president and chairman until December of 2019. From 2000-2002 he was Senior Vice President-Strategic Planning at CSX, then worked as an executive at Sea Land, a CSX subsidiary at the time.

(My source is Passenger Train Journal-2nd Quarter, 2020 & Amtrak Website.)

Direct Bus Service Tallahassee to Jacksonville Discontinued

Getting to Jacksonville from Tallahassee aboard Greyhound is no longer practical. I have been a regular on Greyhound to Jacksonville to attend model train shows and take care of other business for years, including in February for the Golden Spike show at the Prime Osborne Center. It is not going to be worth the trouble any more.

In early June, Greyhound cancelled the last buses operating directly between Tallahassee and Jacksonville, so now one has to undertake an eight-hour trip – Tallahassee to Lake City to Gainesville to Orlando, where you transfer to another bus for Jacksonville.

I wrote a letter to Greyhound on June 24, proposing that direct service between Jacksonville and Tallahassee be restored with an extension to Mobile, Alabama, via Panama City, Fort Walton Beach and Pensacola or via Dothan. Another suggestion was to divert to Tallahassee a current operating schedule serving Jacksonville, Lake City, Valdosta, Albany, Atlanta Airport and Atlanta. I have not heard back from Greyhound and I am not sure what is going to happen.

Lionel 2020 Catalog Volume 1 Finally Available

This year, Lionel celebrates 120 years making model trains for young and old kids at heart, and some of us have anxiously anticipated the 2020 catalogs. One of the benefits of joining the Lionel Collectors Club of America (LCCA) is the latest Lionel Catalogs. I didn't get mine, maybe because I moved and changed addresses last December. I called recently and they said some extras were lying around. I just received Volume 1 and here are some highlights:

Adult Beverage Cars and Accessories, including:

- Anheuser-Busch Cold Storage Car \$89.99
- Anheuser-Busch Brewing Reefer \$79.99
- Anheuser-Busch Barrel Shed \$24.99
- Enjoy Budweiser Reefer \$79.99

- Miller High Life Reefer \$79.99
- Coors Banquet Reefer \$79.99
- Chuga Chuga Brew Thru Bar \$89.99

Some neat Batman items including:

- BATMAN Shark Repellent Tank Car \$74.99
- BATMAN vs THE JOKER Duel Car \$84.99

Disney/PIXAR/Frozen II, including:

- Toy Story LionChief Set \$399.99
- Pizza Planet Aquarium Car \$99.99
- Lightning McQueen Lion Chief \$219.99
- Toy Story Hand Car featuring Woody & Buzz Lightyear figures \$99.99
- Inside Out Memory Ball Transport Car \$89.99
- Finding Nemo Aquarium Car \$99.99
- Disney Frozen 2 LionChief Set \$399.99

Star Trek, including:

- Star Trek LionChief Set \$449.99
- Tribble Transport Car or Romulan Ale Tank Car \$79.99 Each
- Capt. Kirk or Capt. Picard Boxcar *MUSA \$74.99 Each

Thomas and Friends:

- Thomas & Friends Gordon, Rebecca or Nia Boxcar \$74.99 Each
- Thomas & Friends 75th Birthday Music Car \$79.99

O Scale Christmas:

- North Pole Central/Sled-Ex 50' Flatcar w/20' Trailers #2024 & #2025 \$119.99 Each
- Christmas Signs 5-Pack \$7.99
- Merry Christmas FasTrack Girder Bridge (now in Red!) (*Compatible only with FasTrack) \$24.99
- Christmas Boxcar #20 \$79.99
- Santa's Elves Houses (3 Pack) \$59.99
- Santa Tracker Command Tower \$99.99
- Lighted FasTrack O36 10" Straight 4-Pack or Lighted FasTrack O36 Curve 4-Pack \$59.99 Each.
Colored LEDs in each section illuminate as the train passes over it. LEDs remain illuminated shortly after the train has passed to create a light trail effect.

Big Bend Model Railroad Association Minutes for Meeting June 16, 2020

President Andy Zimmerman called to order at about 7:30 p.m. the meeting held on June 16 via Zoom. The virtual meeting was attended by about 25 members.

Minutes – The minutes from the May meeting were accepted and passed without serious objection.

Treasurer's Report – Drew Hackmeyer gave an overview of the club's finances via screen. The club is solvent. Note that the BBMRA does not report financial details in the minutes but club members may obtain the details upon specific request. Three members paid up for 2021 with one paid up through 2022 and the club has 63 paid members. The report was forwarded, seconded and passed without objection.

Division Reports

The division reports were skipped in the interest of time to allow for several presentations on layouts and club member activities during the virus lockdown.

Good of the Group – Stacy Elliot mentioned the trivia competition held two weeks prior to the meeting and announced that plaques will be distributed. The first plaque will be presented to Sheldon, the winner of the first Trivia competition. The trivia competitions will be held on the biweekly interval between the main monthly meeting. President Andy then proceeded to share the presentations, of which there were several.

At the end, there was a presentation on the club's T-Trak Wiki site and the procedures to join, update information on modules etc.

The meeting was concluded at 9:49 pm.

Submitted by Secretary Sheldon Harrison