



The LANTERN

Big Bend Model Railroad Association Volume 7, Number 8 Aug 2002

NEXT MEETING

August 20, 2002

Myers Park

TALLAHASSEE MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE by John Sullenberger: Ah yes, it's August, no more train show worry's or concerns for a month or so. It's time to sit back and reflect on this year's show. And what a show we had, we ended up with 24 vendors occupying 104 tables with 581 people paying at the door (one less than last year's show).

I would like to thank the following members for helping to make this year's show one of the BBMRA's best shows: John Anthamatten, Larry Benson, David Brazell, Ken Brock, Jeff Crew, Sim Dekle, Garth Easton, Eric & Ina Ecklund, John Edrington, Jim Faris, Milton Grosz III, Drew Hackmeyer, Joseph Haley, Jack Herzog, Evan Hughes, John Kane, Dave Kerns, Dan King, David Knowles, Bob Loehne, Randy Lombardo, Roy Mantoath, Fred Martin, Sal Martocci, Diane McCarthy, Sam Miller, Paul Moon, Paul Moyer, Harold Odom, Ed Olson, Bob Parker, Vernon Parramore, Mitt Paul, Jeff Radkins, Ed Schroeder, Bill & Sandy Scott, Reed & Tristan Seeley, Jeremy Shaw, Rodney Smith, Louis Stokley, Bob Swanson, Eric Taylor, Michael Webb, Blue Whitaker, and Bob Woodard.

I'm sorry if I've left anyone off the list, I tried to keep track of all who helped, but when I left the North Florida Fairgrounds Saturday evening, I was pretty frazzled.

I would like to thank the Heartland Modular Railroad for setting and running at our show, also, thanks to Gregg Mahlkov for coming up from Port St. Joe and bringing his 2 by 4 foot N Scale layout and John Kane for bringing his 2 by 3 foot Z Scale layout. New to this year's show was Esposito's "indoor" garden layout and Todd Dillard's Lego Layout. Both layouts were a welcome addition to our show. We truly appreciate all of their efforts and contributions.

The BBMRA's reservation for 2003 has been made, the Twelfth Annual Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale will be held on Saturday, July 19th at the North Florida Fairgrounds, Building #2.

TALLAHASSEE MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE – a follow up by John Sullenberger: So much for a couple of months off. Thank you letters and a survey have been sent to the dealers and exhibitors who attended the 2002 Show. The main point of the survey is to see what the vendors think of moving the date of our show to late April or early May. This would be prior to our local schools (Leon County, Tallahassee Community College, FAMU and FSU) letting out for the summer. Our thinking is that more people would be in town (not away for the summer or on vacation). Think about it and we'll discuss this during the August meeting.

BBMRA August Program: The life and times of an ACL fireman! - Dan King will talk about his jobs on the railroad. He worked from 1955 (in Florence, South Carolina) to 1964 (in Lakeland, Florida) for the Atlantic Coast Line.

BBMRA September Program: A Swap Meet: September 17th, 2002: Florida Insurance Council

So you didn't want to buy a dealers table at our show? Well, now's your chance to unload all those items you've wanted to get rid of but haven't had the chance, and it's free. The BBMRA will hold it's semi-annual (semi-annual because we hold one every couple of years) BBMRA Swap Meet to be held during the September meeting.

BBMRA October Program: Our Annual Photo Contest – October 15th, 2002: Myers Park Community Room

The photo contest will have two categories: 1) Prototype railroads and 2) Model railroads.

Rules:

1. Photographs should be in the form of color or black and white prints, 4X6 inches or larger.
2. Each photograph should feature a railroad subject and be taken by the individual submitting the photograph.
3. Each entry should include (a) a title; (b) a description of the prototype/model railroad featured; (c) a description of what is happening in the photograph; (d) a brief description of the photography techniques applied.
4. Enter up to 3 photographs per category.

Judging:

1. The club members present at the meeting will conduct the judging.
2. All entries should be given to the Contest Administrator prior to the start of the meeting. The Contest Administrator will number the photographs and display them for the club. The club will be able to view all photographs.
3. The club will vote for the photographs that best depict the category.

4. The photograph receiving the highest score will win.
5. First, Second and Third place awards will be given out in each category.

President's Column by Eric Taylor: CONGRATULATIONS!! The Show was a complete success for the Club. Thank you for all of your assistance and work before, during, and after the Show. I will not repeat the details of the Show, John has done that in his article about the Show already. But I cannot say enough that we put on a great show and it showed.

Now let us look forward. I have already authorized John to both reserve a date in July, 2003 and to roll over our security deposit for next year. I have also given approval to John's suggestion to rent Building #2 instead of Building #4. While it's a slight bit smaller, I believe John can rearrange the layouts, tables and aisles to get the same number of tables for vendors as was in Building #4 this year. There is a kitchen in Building #2. This area will provide 2 advantages we did not have in Building #4. First, it provides us and the vendors with a rest area outside of the public eyes (Dan and Larry will appreciate this benefit) and second, it will allow us to serve food and make some money. I bring this up because Bob Loehne (who not only is a member but also runs Alta-Vista Videos) has offered to run a food concession during the next Show. At this year's Show, Bob said he would coordinate food, especially if he had a "theater" like area if at the same time he could use the area to show his videos. Well Bob, Building #2 has an area next to the kitchen that we can use as a theater. John and I propose we cook the food in the kitchen and walk it over to the theater and sell it inside there. Bob believes this could add more than \$400 in additional profits.

While the Club made a fair profit from the show, the vendors did not do as well. For that reason John is sending a questionnaire to the vendors to see if they would rather have our Show in late April 2003 while the colleges and schools are still in session and no vacation time to compete with.

Our next event of major importance is the North Florida Fair at the end of October and early November. The plans are for the HO modules, the N Scale modules and the O-27 layout to be displayed. Because of all these layouts, we will need more people present throughout the day than we did last year. Each Division will have to insure adequate volunteers. I expect the HO modules will be completed in time for the Fair.

I have asked the Fair Association if we could have a fundraiser during the Fair. For example, if the Club built a small HO layout for under a Christmas tree and stated that anyone "donating" a \$1.00 to the Club could have a chance to win the layout. The Club may want to consider this as a further fundraiser both during the Fair and at our Show next year. For not a lot of money, we could raise a fair amount of money.

As we discussed at last month's meeting, the Fair Association requested our assistance in creating a set of dioramas for the Fair. Here is an update on the situation. As I write this, 4 2x4 modules have been constructed and delivered to the Fair. An area in Building #1 has been made available to build the dioramas. I have picked up the first box of models and have passed them to David Knowles, Bob Swanson and Sam Miller for building. I am building one too. We are expecting an additional box of models and can still use other volunteers to build these models and assist the Fair employees in doing the scenery for the dioramas. If you wish to help, and provide good will for the Fair, let me know (553-9104).

Finally, a decision has been made, for many reasons, to tear down or give away the 4 former HO corner modules. However, John and I have proposed replacements in the form of two 30"x54" or 24"x50" modules that would serve as new corners for member's 2x4 modules when they are set up at some time. Additionally, when joined together, the 2 modules would serve as a complete, light small layout that could be easily taken to libraries, schools and other places the larger HO modules cannot be taken. The layouts would be simple and easy to transport. The N Scale Division is also doing something small to also be very portable.

See you at the August meeting.