



# The Lantern

February 2005

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## Railroadin' From the Head End

By Dan King

The mountains of North Carolina are a beautiful place to be in mid-October. Fall foliage is peaking and the weather is perfect. In this setting began a breathtaking nostalgic two days on the former Murphy branch of the Southern Railroad, now known as the "Great Smokey Mountain Railroad."

My wife Dixie and I arrived in Dillsboro, NC, at 1 p.m. to ride the steam train to Bryson and back – a distance of 20 miles – over three trestles and a 518 ft. tunnel. Our engine was a 2-8-0 Consolidated built in 1942 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by Baldwin Locomotive Works. She was converted to burn oil and pulls a tender with a capacity of 3,600 gallons of water and 1,200 gallons of oil. Operating at 185 lbs. of steam pressure, this locomotive is a living, breathing "Monster!"

Our engineer, Pick Vick, is an expert at his craft and eased the 10-car train smoothly and professionally through the countryside. With smoke trailing over the train and steam exhausting from the cylinders, it was a sight to behold. After an hour and 45 minutes, we arrived in Bryson



*Engineer Pick Vick checking the journals on his 2-8-0 Consolidation.*

for a layover before returning to Dillsboro.

Earlier, I had arranged with the engineer to climb into the locomotive's cab for a tour and chat. Steam engine cabs are cramped with the engineer's seat on the right and fireman's on the left with a maze of pipes and valves, among them steam and water

### 2005 Dues Notice

It's membership renewal time! Please send \$20 for your annual dues to the treasurer or bring your dues to the next club meeting:

BBMRA Treasurer  
P.O. Box 3392  
Tallahassee, FL 32315-3392

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# Mall storefront has been a success



For over two and a half months our club has dazzled the public with our displays at Governor's Square Mall. Thanks to everyone who kept the lights on and the trains running for the mall's regular operating hours between Thanksgiving and the New Year.

Also, our thanks to all club members that signed up to staff

the mall through the end of February. This has been one of our most ambitious outreach events and it has been an overwhelming success.

With your support, we hope to continue serving the public for as long as possible.

— Sal Martocci & Lantern Staff

# News Bits & Events

- Congratulations to John Anthamatten, who is the new president of the Veterans Memorial Railroad in Bristol, Florida. To learn more about this line running in Liberty County and for an application, visit our web site: <http://www.bbmr.org/feature.html>.
- The Ocala Model RailRoaders Historic Preservation Society will present the fifth annual Rail Expo 2005 and Open House. The event will take place on Saturday, March 12 from 9AM – 3PM at the Ocala City Auditorium. 836 NWE Sanchez Ave. \$4 admission. For more information: 352-401-0747 or [omrr6@msn.com](mailto:omrr6@msn.com).
- The annual Folkston Trainfest event will occur April 9, 2004 in Folkston, GA at the "Folkston Funnel," which is the CSX mainline that brings most rail service into Florida. <http://www.folkston.com>

## Head End

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gages for the engineer and fireman. A small bench in the tender coaling space is now occupied by the 1,200 gallon oil tank.

After a few minutes talking and taking pictures, I accompanied the engineer to check the bearing on the side rods and journals. Nowadays, the engineer reads temperatures with a thermometer, but in steam days he would simply feel the rods and journals with the back of his hand

to determine if they were running too hot.

I would guess Vick is in his 60s and dressed in bib overalls and a denim work shirt he looks every bit like the typical locomotive engineer of bygone days. He is friendly, courteous and very knowledgeable about railroading and steam locomotives which he said he learned at the Southern roundhouse in Ashville, NC.

There's no way to turn the locomotive around in Bryson, so it became the rear unit of the train as we backed down to

Dillsboro. A GP9 diesel leads down the grade but the 2-8-0 tails along working to keep the cylinders oiled. It would be risky to let the steam engine lead, running backwards through several sharp curves, because it wouldn't have a leading truck and could easily derail.

The ride back to Bryson was delightful, spent mostly in conversation with the conductor, taking photographs and thinking about my cab ride scheduled for the next day which I will tell about in a later article.

# From the President

Barrett Johnson

BBMRA is the member's club, so it is important to have the kinds of programs the membership wants. To aid that process, please make a list of the kinds of programs you would like to see and things you think are a waste of the membership's time and bring it to the February meeting.

There is no limit to the number of items on that list. To help your board organize things, please assign a weighting to the items on your list: 10 if you would be happy having that type of program every single meeting and 0 if you would not knowingly attend a meeting with that type of program.

An item I picked up from "Trainline," the Florida Live Steamer's newsletter, will be of interest to some members. The Shawnee Manufacturing Company in Shawnee, OK makes engineers' bib overalls, using the same pattern they began with in 1903. Their website is [www.roundhouse.com](http://www.roundhouse.com). Their internet outlet is RW's Country Store in Arnett,

OK. The toll free number is (866) 405-0360 and website is [www.rwcountrystore.7p.com](http://www.rwcountrystore.7p.com). According to "Trainline," men's sizes are \$27.95 and kids' sizes are \$18.95. Engineer hats are \$7.95. The article also states that they give discounts of 40% on hat orders of 24 or more and 20% on overall orders of 24 or more. There is a \$2 surcharge on really large sizes.

For those interested in seeing live steam running, February 24-27 is the annual meeting of Florida Live Steamers at the Ridge layout near Dundee, which is about 15 miles South of I-4 just off US 27. I went last year. There were about 75 steam engines of 7 1/2 inch gauge, plus another 25 or so diesels. There were yard goats and even a two unit street car made entirely of wood with a very high quality of craftsmanship. I met three couples who had come all the way from Michigan to run their engines. Another couple had his and her engines. One gentlemen told me he worked on his engine for 26 years!

the Florida Insurance Council, 1430 Piedmont Drive East. We will set up the old modules at FIC and make some strategic decisions.

Several of us believe the best course is to reduce the size of the layout, focusing on the new corners and four to six of the best straights.

In addition, we need a volunteer to temporarily store the modules so Sal can have the use of his trailer, especially with bike week at Daytona International Speedway coming up.

Thanks to all of you for the wonderful support and work on the Governor's Square layout, but we can make it better now that we have had time to catch our breathe.

If you would be interested in running DCC, especially DCC with sound, please let me know. Do you have suggestions for refinements to the layout? Suggestions are welcome.

Thank you for re-electing me as HO coordinator and I apologize for not being able to make the meeting.

## N-Scale

The division participated in Kid's Day at the R.A. Gray building on January 29. Evan, Larry & Garth ran two layouts (Evan's 3x6 and hobby towns 2x4).

Evan had more fun than the kids watching them run and crash trains. A great crowd gathered to see the trains.

As we work toward the show, there will be a workday Saturday, Feb. 12, 9 am at Garth's and a meeting at 7:15 before the meeting.

## Executive Board Reports

### Secretary

January 18, 2005 meeting minutes: After calling the meeting to order, President Evan Hughes gave a brief overview of the history and current activities of BBMRA. Election of officers for 2005 followed. Elected were Barrett Johnson, President; Sal Martocci, Vice President; Shawn Vann, Treasurer, Larry Benson, Sec-

retary along with Coordinators Sam Miller, HO, Garth Easton, N-Scale, and Randy Lombardo, Large Scale.

### HO Scale

Don't forget we still have our traveling layout and want to prepare it for the annual show. Please participate in a workday Saturday, February 15, 9 a.m., at



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P.O. Box 3392, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3392

- *Don't forget! 2005 member dues are now due.*
- *Next club meeting – February 15, 2005 at Myer's Park.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>February</b> Storefront open 12-6 weekends	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Club meeting: 7:30 Myers Park	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> HO Workday: 9AM, FIC
<b>20</b> Storefront open 12-6 weekends	<b>21</b> Storefront open 3-6 everyday	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> FL Annual Live Steam Meet	<b>25</b> FL Annual Live Steam Meet	<b>26</b> FL Annual Live Steam Meet
<b>27</b> FL Annual Live Steam Meet	<b>28</b> Storefront open 3-6 everyday	<b>March</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> HO Workday: 9AM
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Rail Expo 2005 Ocala, Florida
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Club meeting: 7:30 Myers Park	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>