



The Lantern

March 2005

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Boiling Water In Mississippi

By Mike Simpson

I like my model trains large and running on fire and water. On the Martin Luther King holiday weekend, Sal Martocci and I went to the Mecca for such doings, the Thirteenth International Small Scale Steamup and Arts Festival in Diamondhead, Mississippi.

Around 250 attendees gathered from the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean, England, Australia, and elsewhere to show off their work, sell off their surplus (usually to finance the next engine), and mostly, run trains and talk trains.

Diamondhead is the largest event of its kind and completely occupies a Ramada Inn for a week or more. Although Sal and I arrived Wednesday night, the Canadians and Michiganders began showing up late the previous week.

The two story atrium was filled with three large portable set-ups at one end to allow at least six trains to run at once. Work, display and gossip tables were in the middle; steamboats in the pool; and a bustling flea market at the far end. Three smaller tracks were tucked into corners.

The tracks are open 24 hours a day and someone was always steaming through the night (I tried to



Diamondhead attendee checking out the equipment before 779 stretches its legs.

get to bed by 4AM). The unique creations exhibited included Larry Smith's 125 year old tinplate engines which run great; Jim Hadden's Steam Shovel, which is fully operational and usually employed loading Skittles or peanuts; and Kevin Strong's "Allyson Wonder Steam," a tea kettle populated by Lewis Carroll characters, which sets

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2005 Dues Notice

We're still collecting dues for 2005. Please send \$20 to the treasurer or bring your dues to the next club meeting:

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



BBMRA Member Mike Simpson (hat) and others preparing for the 19 Shay lash-up.

Boiling Water

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on a one cylinder engine and chugs serenely around the track.

Craftsmen on site were installing "spitillators," which keep oil and water out of the burner on Accucraft Shays and LOUD whistles on a variety of live steamers. Most trains run on Gauge 1 (45 mm) or

0 (32 mm), but there was a little HO. And the Gauge 1 included some 7/8" scale (13.7:1) monsters.

A number of new live steam locomotives debuted, including Aristocraft's Mikado, Accucraft's SP 0-6-0 switcher, Cheddar's Philadelphia, and the Aster Berkshire. I bought the demo model of the Cheddar Claire steamboat.

The dealer rooms were open for hours each day, with every North American live steam dealer present,

as well as an Australian and a Brit. Many engines changed hands, both from the dealers and among the common folk.

This is more a cooperative than a competitive affair. People lend tools, supplies and expertise freely. Among those present and accessible were Marc Horovitz of "Garden Railways" and Ron Brown of "Steam in the Garden."

There was a loco-pulling contest, with one four-footed entry (See Sal for the results). And we set a new record with a lash-up of nineteen Shays, eclipsing that of 14 set in Sacramento last Summer.

I have left out: smoke alarms; seminars, a field trip to "Wales West," King cake, the brass band, tie-dyed steam aprons, coal fired lokies, and a better introduction to some of the warmest people anywhere.

To see photos, visit <http://www.Johnsgardenrailway.com>. Better yet, register and take the 325 mile trip down I-10 to Diamondhead for the next blessed madness next January.

BBMRA Model Railroad Show & Sale this April

By John Sullenberger

The show, sponsored by the Big Bend Model Railroad Association will take place at the North Florida Fairgrounds, building #4, at the corner of Paul Russell Road and South Monroe street in Tallahassee, Florida.

Admission is \$5 for adults and children 13 and older, children 12 and under are free. Hours are from 10AM to 5PM.

Exciting train layouts, from large scale live steam trains and 3-rail

Lionel to desktop sized Z scale will be on display. For photos of last year's show, visit the show page on <http://www.bbmra.org>.

Experts on model train design, layout, equipment and construction will be on hand, along with vendors featuring a wide range of trains and other model railroad items.

For more information contact show manager John Sullenberger at (850) 410-8425, (24/7 voice mail).

Welcome aboard new members!

Larry Callahan
Will Davis
Beth Edwards
Dr. Lee Elgin, Jr.
Greg Glass
Mitchell Green
Bob Roller
Robert Ruggles
Paul Schneider



Past Due Notice!

If your *Lantern* has a bright dot attached to it, your 2005 dues are past due. Unfortunately, this will be your last newsletter.

Executive board reports

Barrett Johnson, **President**

In the last *Lantern*, I asked for BBMRA members to give me a list of the types of programs they would like and the types they would not like. The total number of responses I have received so far is zero, which either means everybody is happy with what we have done or announced or that writer's cramp is widespread.

Our March program will be a demonstration of how to take computer images, reduce or enlarge them to any desired scale and then build models of the desired size. April's meeting will feature a presentation by Mike Ashby on fine scale modeling techniques.

In the last *Lantern*, I noted that there is a manufacturer of locomotive engineer's clothing in Oklahoma that gives discounts of 40% on caps and 20% for overalls for orders of 24 or more. At our March meeting we will have a sign up sheet to see if there is enough interest to place such an order.

Of local interest, Esposito's has a new manager, Juan, for their train inventory. He told me that he is trying to reduce inventory and indicated a willingness to negotiate prices.

Esposito's has very little HO or N, but some G and a fairly large selection of Lionel and O items. Caboose Hobbies it is not, but there may be some buying opportunities there. Juan also offered to distribute BBMRA flyers to any interested customers.

Sal Martocci, **Vice President**

We are about a month away from our annual show. This year a little

earlier than in the past and hopefully not as hot. There is a job for each of us, in this our major fundraiser, to be ambassadors of our club. Many of you had first hand experience of being involved with the public during our mall stay. How we interface with each visitor will leave an impression of who we are.

Larry Benson, **Secretary**

Thirty seven BBMRA members attended the February 15, 2005 meeting at Myers Park community room. Dr. John Goodwell, dentist for the Leon County Health Dept., asked members to consider loaning locomotives and rolling stock for a static display to be encased behind glass at the new county dental clinic soon to be opened on Railroad Ave. near the Amtrak station. Members' responses were positive.

Treasurer Shawn Vann reminded members about their 2005 club dues which are due now. He also reported that BBMRA has paid rental to the N. Florida Fair for our April train show.

Both N-scale and HO scale are holding regularly scheduled work parties beginning mid-February until our show on April 16th. Watch your E-mail for times and places. Members were encouraged to help with these activities. Large scale is shopping for new locomotives to replace those which were running previously in the mall.

N-scale

Since mid-February the N-Scale crew has been remodeling and refreshing almost all of the modules on our layout. They'll be eye-catch-

ing when completed and will surprise members who haven't already seen them. For a sneak preview, come join us at Garth's house from now until our train show on April 16th. We'll be working every Tuesday evening starting at 7PM. and every Saturday morning beginning at 9AM.

HO scale

HO crew members are asked to participate in a planning session/workday on the traveling layout Saturday, March 12, from 9AM - noon at the Storage Center, 3110 Apalachee Pkwy. (Everyone in the club is welcome to attend and lend a hand.)

We plan to set up the modules and determine if we can reduce the size by focusing on the corners and the best straight pieces.

Please meet in front of the security gate at 9AM. There is a password required for entry. Someone will be there to admit members. There are two gates. By using the gate on Capital Circle Drive, you will enter a few hundred feet away from our unit.

HobbyTown USA sold; moving in May

HobbyTown USA has been sold to a firm from Columbus, NC effective March 1. According to current employees, the shop is expected to move in May of this year from Mahan Drive to East Lafayette.

HobbyTown's new owner is reported to be a model train "buff." Previous owner, Jeff Radkins, is leaving later this spring to sign on as a crew member on an around-the-world working trip.



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

- **Next club meeting location: Florida Insurance Council!**
- **Don't forget! We're still collecting dues for 2005.**

www.bbmra.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March	14	15 Club meeting: 7:30 FIC	16	17	18	19 N scale workday: 9AM at Garth's
20	21	22 N scale workday: 7PM at Garth's	23	24	25	26 N scale workday: 9AM at Garth's
27	28	29 N scale workday: 7PM at Garth's	30	31	April	2 N scale workday: 9AM at Garth's
3	4	5 N scale workday: 7PM at Garth's	6	7	8	9 Folkston, GA Train Fest
10	11	12 N scale workday: 7PM at Garth's	13	14	15 Annual Show: Club set up	16 Annual Show: Fairgrounds
17	18	19 Club meeting: 7:30 Myers Park	20	21	22	23