



THE Lantern

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JUNE 19th MEETING, Tallahassee Antique Car Museum

Barrett Johnson submitted the following: The June 19th meeting will be held at the Tallahassee Antique Car Museum on Mahan Drive just east of the intersection of Capital Circle and Mahan Drive. The meeting will begin with a catered dinner at 6:30 and continue with a regular meeting at 7:30.

The menu will be baked ham, chicken, fresh vegetables, potato, drink and desert, all for \$6.50 per person.

We need as good a body count as possible, so Please RSVP to John Sullenberger by Friday, June 15th: he can be reached by telephone at (850) 562-5137 (h) or (850) 544-1870 (c) or via e-mail at sullyjws@aol.com.

The catered dinner plus regular meeting format is the same as that the Tallahassee Antique Automobile Club has found very successful. If BBMRA members like this as much as will likely be the case, we will shift future meetings to this format and location until the new auto museum opens.

Celebrating our History by John Sullenberger

The Big Bend Model Railroad Club (BBMRC) held its first meeting on September 15, 1987. The BBMRC was organized for the purpose of promoting and preserving model railroad activities for the benefit of the general public and the members of the Club and for the purpose of promoting and preserving historical material and information pertaining to railroad transportation. The organization's unofficial motto is: "Run Trains!"

The Big Bend Model Railroad Club decided to incorporate and was chartered as "The Big Bend Model Railroad Association, Inc." (BBMRA) on June 28, 1990.

This September 15th the Big Bend Model Railroad Club/Association is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

At the May meeting, I proposed that on Saturday, September 22nd the BBMRA hold a whistle stop layout tour and a party. There shouldn't be a major football conflict as FAMU and FSU both have open dates on that Saturday and UF has an away game in Mississippi.

There won't be a train show conflict as the Wiregrass Model Train Show is scheduled for the prior weekend, September 15th and 16th.

Bill Thompson has reserved a stop on the tour and I have three tentative reservations. Would anyone else like to reserve a tour stop and/or a "party" place? If you are interested in either, please contact me via the telephone at (h) 850 562-5137 or (c) 850 544-1870 or via e-mail at sullyjws@aol.com or see me at a meeting.

Folkston Trainfest 2007 by David Brazell

BBMRA members Dan King, Larry Benson, Maurice Stone, Beth Edwards, Sal Martocci, Bill Boyle and David Brazell made the two and a half hour trip over to Folkston Georgia to attend the annual Trainfest 2007 on 31 March 2007. This event is sponsored by the Folkston/Charlton County Development Authority. There were about 100 people in attendance to view the presentations and watch the traffic through the "Folkston Funnel" all day. The SAL/ACL Historical Society was also in attendance selling books, T-shirts and other historical memorabilia.

Folkston is a unique location as every train going in and out of Florida go through Folkston, with the exceptions of the CSX East and West line (which you cross at MacClenny just after you exit I-10) and one Norfolk Southern line (that you also cross on the way at Saint George). There are double track mainlines and they get about 70 trains a day through there. North of Folkston, the main lines split with traffic either going to Waycross (Rice Yard) or Jesup and other points North. South of Folkston, the line splits again with traffic either going to Baldwin or Jacksonville.

The weather was perfect and we enjoyed 19 trains in the 8 hours we were there (a little fewer than we've seen in the past). Traffic included one northbound Amtrak, 9 mixed freights with most any type of car, 5 intermodals, a couple of coal drags and the remaining made up of ballast and autorack consists. The day was concluded with supper. For ten dollars you could get all the steak, potato salad, baked beans, pasta salad and desert you wanted. We could continue to monitor the traffic from the depot while eating supper with many old and new friends we had met there.

If you have a spare day and want to relax and enjoy a day of train traffic, Folkston is the place to be. You will not be disappointed with the train traffic. The facilities are clean and they even provide a viewing platform equipped with a scanner so you can hear railroad radio traffic. We had a great day and we look forward to Trainfest 2008!



May Minutes Correction by John Sullenberger, Editor

I incorrectly identified Paul Beverly as the member who made and brought in the wooden locomotives for club members to paint for the Show & Sale.

Paul Schneider is the member who came up with the idea, cut the locomotives and brought them in. I want to apologize to Paul Schneider and Paul Beverly for the mistake.

With that in mind, if you took any of the little wooden locomotives to "finish" (the ones we will be giving out to kids at our show), they should be brought to our June meeting and turned in to Paul. Ed Schroeder is making BBMRA labels for the bottoms.

MINUTES: May 2007 BBMRA Membership Meeting

The May 15, 2007 membership meeting was called to order by Vice President John Sullenberger at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Myers Park. Twenty-nine (29) members were present.

Minutes: Minutes of the April 2007 meetings, as published in The Lantern, were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: John Sullenberger reported for Bill Boyle, a bank balance of approximately \$2500.00 after paying all of the Fair fees and depositing a check for \$320.00 from the Celander's. John helped the Celander's sell some of their father's kits on E-Bay and in return BBMRA received 25% of the profit. His report was accepted.

Antique Car Museum Update: No update at this time.

Division Reports:

N Scale: Garth Easton announced nothing new at this time.

HO Scale: John announced for Sam Miller that he is asking all HO Scalers to be ready to start setting up at 12:00 noon on Friday, July 20th. Sam will be making arrangements for pick up on that day.

Large Scale: Randy Lombardo announced they need another engine and would like to purchase Percy. He will be preparing and submitting a request for purchase to be voted on.

Veteran's Memorial: Nothing new at this time.

Train Show: John Sullenberger announced 67 tables have been sold. He brought in flyers to pass out for members to post. John explained that this year the Fair is charging us per table and per chair instead of a flat fee as in the past. A motion was made for BBMRA to pay for two (2) tables for each scale. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Randy Lombardo announced he sent flyers to several magazines for publishing. Dan King suggested we ask for rosters from the other clubs participating in our reciprocal agreement. John said he would take care of getting them.

Good of the Group Comments, Etc.:

Guests: No guests attended this meeting.

Roy Mantooth was placed back in the hospital last week but hopes to be going home tomorrow. A word of wisdom message was sent to all by Roy – everyone get your gallbladder removed!

John announced that Barrett had a death in the family. Our hearts go out to you and your family in your time of sorrow.

Drew announced the discussion group has 20 members. Bill suggested members use their names when participating in the discussion group so everyone will know who you are.

Randy Lombardo suggested changing the meeting night to another night besides Tuesday. A discussion was held and John said it would be discussed at the next Board meeting.

John brought to the members' attention that 2007 is BBMRA's 20th anniversary. The BBMRA began on September 15, 1987 in the back room of the Hobby Caboose on Tharpe Street. John checked and September 22, 2007 is an open date with no local football in the area. John proposed we celebrate with a Tour of Trains on that date. We will need 3 to 5 Whistle Stop Hosts in order for it to work. We will also need a volunteer to host the last stop where everyone would gather to eat, etc. If anyone would like to volunteer to be a Whistle Stop or to host the last stop, please contact John Sullenberger.

It was mentioned that the Dothan Wiregrass Show is held sometime in September. John said he would check to see what weekend it will be held and if it would propose a problem. Dan King reminded everyone that Wiregrass is a 2 day show.

Program:

John brought in the flyers to be mailed out for our Train Show and everyone pitched in and helped get them ready to go. A Big "Thank You" to all our stuffers, sealers and stamper!

The program topic for tonight was E-Bay. An open floor discussion was held about its pros and cons.

Larry Benson says there's a great book out called "E-Bay for Idiots".

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, June 19, 2007, at the Antique Car Museum.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lyn Heath, Secretary

Win Some, Lose Some and Some are Rained Out!

by Larry Benson

Over the years, I have purchased a few used items to add to my N-Scale layout. Most of what I've bought was rolling stock, boxcars, gondolas, reefers, etc. But, more than once, I purchased used steam locomotives and diesels hoping they would run. If they didn't operate, then I figured with some minor tinkering and I could get them up and running again.

One of my early acquisitions was an O-Scale Marx key wind steam locomotive with its tender, and the typical 3-car consist, a gondola, boxcar and caboose. The rolling stock is metal which means they were manufactured prior to 1960. All of the units are in great shape, very little or no rust with the decals and paint in very good condition. The engine which I wanted is similar to the cast iron locomotive I owned as a youngster. The dealer from whom I purchased the locomotive didn't have the key, so my steamer and cars sat "mute" on a shelf in my train room. Searching the internet, I found a dealer who specializes in Marx collectibles. I contacted him describing the engine and he immediately mailed me the correct key, even before he had received my check. The key fit and now the locomotive is a living, breathing reminder of my early "railroading days." Chalk up a "Win".

Sometime later, I bought a used Rock Island 2-8-2 Mikado while on a weekend shopping trip in Quitman, GA. (See article published in the December 2005 issue of *The Lantern* on pg. 3.) I won't repeat it here. Suffice to say, the motor in the Mikado steam locomotive was fried to a crisp. But, luckily, I was able to get a replacement motor from my Oklahoma buddy. After I installed it and with Roy Mantooth's help figuring out the polarity anomaly we got it running again. Another "Win."

A few weeks ago, I found a used O - Gauge battery operated "Continental" plastic train set at the Cannery in Havana which cost next to nothing when it was new and I paid pennies for it. When I got home and inserted two batteries, the engine wouldn't run. Another case of a cheap used train not being on the blink. I dismantled the loco, figured out the problem, made a soldering connection and now it runs like it's supposed to. Again a "Win."



My most recent "used train" purchase was a G-Scale "Gandy Dancers" motored unit with a hobo sitting on a following trailer. Just as I expected, the motor wouldn't budge. Being bolstered by my prior "Wins," I took it apart and tried everything my limited knowledge and tools allowed. I did get the wheels to turn but only for one or two revolutions. As I write this in early May the cause of its malfunction remains a mystery. I only hope I haven't accidentally burned up the motor in my vain efforts to diagnose and correct the problem. So far, this experiment must be put down as a "Loss."

But, I have high hopes of eventually resolving the Gandy Dancers reluctance to dance. In any event, I've had some great fun restoring and making some of these odd used pieces run again. As for the "Rain Outs," well we haven't seen much rain lately!

