

Harold Ledbetter: Owner & Editor

LEDBETTER'S LEDGER

ISSUE THREE



MARCH/APRIL 2006

MGBRR TO BUY SWITCHING YARD FROM L&N

My old buddy J. W. "Spike" Bentley called me up last week and gave me some exciting news from the MGB home office. Spike told me that the MGB Railroad plans to buy and renovate the old L&N switchyard over near Bards-town.

You railroad fans from this area know that the L&N Railroad once did a booming business around here. As sometimes happens though, the economy took a downturn and business around here sort of

dried up. Factories moved, mills closed and more goods were shipped by truck. Business got so bad that L&N had to abandon their tracks in this area because it was costing them more money to keep them up than they were taking in.

Thanks to the better economy these days, railroads are doing more business now than they have in years. This is all great news for the MGB Railroad folks. Business for them is so good that they had to go lease

a new locomotive and now they plan to improve their ability to shuffle freight by buying the switchyard.

They hope to have the purchase completed this spring and hope to have the renovation completed by late summer. Spike told me that I would be invited to the grand opening ceremonies when everything is completed and I'll be sure to be there to take plenty of pictures to share with you readers. Thanks for the scoop, Spike!

THE AREA'S ONLY SOURCE
FOR MGB INFORMATION

FOR PAST ISSUES,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.MGBRR.ORG



MGBRR RESCUES ANTIQUE LOCO FROM SCRAP HEAP

MGB Railroad has managed to save an old 80-ton shay locomotive from going to the foundry. The former Ely-Thomas Lumber Co. Engine No. 2 was bought by MGB Railroad for future use in their planned lumber venture. MGB plans to renovate and repaint the engine with their logo and plan to change the number to 5.

This historic locomotive was originally built by Lima Locomotive Works in 1906 for Enterprise Lumber Co. in Alexandria, LA and was sold around 1913 to Cherry River Boom & Lumber Co. in Richwood, WV. In 1949, it was bought by J. Natwick & Co.

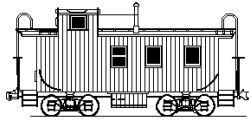
and then by F.C. Cook & Co. in 1950, both companies in Alexander, WV. In 1953-1954, it was leased to Beech Mountain RR, also in Alexan-

der, WV. The loco was finally bought in 1954 by the Ely-Thomas Lumber Co. in Fenwick, WV and was retired in 1966.



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MGB MODEL RAILROAD CLUB SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- March 2— We “breakdown” the temporary module and begin adding on the Phase 2 module. No more operating sessions until Phase 2 is complete.
- Thursday Work Sessions — 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
- Saturday Work Sessions — 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- March 20-24 — Spring Break

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Work Session	3	4 Work Session
5	6	7	8	9 Work Session	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Work Session	17	18 Work Session
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
SPRING BREAK						
26	27	28	29	30 Work Session	31	

MGB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: BRETT SCOTT

My love for trains began when I was about 7 years old. I spotted an electric toy train on the back of a Kellogg’s cereal box. If memory serves me, the train was \$19.95 with 5 proofs of purchase from Kellogg’s cereal. Maybe this is why I don’t eat much cereal these days. I ate many boxes of cereal to get the proofs of purchase. My mother paid the \$19.95 but, she made me wait till Christmas to get the train set.

It was a simple circle of track, not an oval like most sets today. It had a locomotive, two box cars, and a caboose. I put it together on the shag carpet floor. As you can imagine, I learned real quick about carpet fuzz; how it can get in the track joints and wrapped around the locomotive axles.

A couple of years later I moved to Clanton, where my grandparents home was a 2 minute ride by bike to the railroad tracks. During the summer, I spent most of my time outside. When I heard that train whistle, I would ride down to the tracks to watch the train. I would count the cars. Back then, all the trains

were over 100 cars long and included a manned caboose. Diesel trains, of course, steam was long gone, so I suppose this is why I am fond of diesels.



After spending most of my teen years away from Clanton, I moved back as an adult. This time the shop where my grandfather had his business sat empty. I decided to build a layout. I went to the store and purchased a train set, some extra track, rolling stock and went to the shop. I had a 4x8 and I started putting track together. A large oval with a passing siding...it wasn’t

much, but I was having fun.

Later, I moved again and had no place for a layout. Then, for a wedding present my father-in-law offered to build me a tool shed. I asked him to build it 12X18 so I could build a train layout in half of it. When he agreed, I went straight to Gary with some plan books and asked, “What do you want to build?” The result was dubbed “The Bomb Shelter”. This thing could hold up two grown men at once. It was strong. But, I wanted more; I wanted what other modelers had. I dreamed of having a climate controlled room. So, with a little coaxing here and a lot of persuasion there, I talked my wife in to letting me have my dream. I designed a nice train room, and then built a home around it. The result of many days of hard work, sweat and a few tears has been “MGB version 2”. Add some great friends, several supportive wives, a sprinkling of our inner little boys, stir in more room to grow than we will ever need or use and you have a place “where life is nothing but fun”!





MGB MODEL RAILROAD CLUB SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- No Operating Sessions this month
- Thursday Work Sessions — 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
- Saturday Work Sessions — 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- April 24—The MGB Model Railroad Club will go train watching

APRIL 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Work Session
2	3	4	5	6 Work Session	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Work Session	14	15 Work Session
16	17	18	19	20 Work Session	21	22
23	24 Train Watching	25	26	27	28	29
30						

PACO'S TACOS

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MGB Steam Train Excursions

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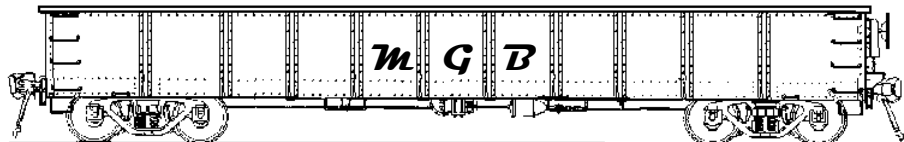
Look for us at Thelma Lou lake, just south of Otis Falls.

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Tel: (555) 357-1401

Expiration Date: 6/31/06

THELMA LOU RENTALS



TRAIN WATCHING

The MGB Model Railroad Club made a couple of train watching trips lately.

The Bay Line pictures were taken on January 8. This wasn't a club outing, but we wanted to share the pictures.

On Monday, January 16, the club and visitors Tim and Timmy Colquett made our way up US-31 to Thorsby, Alabama to see the action on the CSX mainline between Birmingham and Montgomery. Thorsby has a great park right next to the tracks with a playground for the kids, restrooms, picnic tables, a covered pavilion, and pecan trees. That's the Mayor's Jeep in front of City Hall. He paid us a visit and wished us luck with our train watching. On the way home, we saw a southbound train led by an ex-Conrail engine and a UP locomotive. We were able to reach our favorite old bridge at Mountain Creek ahead of it and get a couple of pictures.

On February 4, we took a trip to Milton, Florida for the Train Days Swap Meet. Making the trip with us were Barry Teague and Philip Hutchinson of the Central Alabama Model Railroad Club. Barry happened to be in touch with another member of their club, Joe Mashburn, who is an engineer with CSX. Luckily Joe was headed south in an SD70AC about the same time we left Montgomery. We were able to get to Fort Deposit ahead of him and see him coming through town. That's Joe waving out the window.



Leaving Milton, we went to the Fort Walton area to visit the Miracle Strip Railroad Club's layout and member Ray Brakebill's personal layout. We were amazed by the layouts and would like to thank them for their hospitality. We really enjoyed the trip. We would also like to thank Barry and Phil for introducing us to these great people.

The planned outing on President's Day, February 20, was cancelled due to inclement weather.



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RAILROAD CLUB

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"WHERE LIFE IS NOTHING BUT FUN"

**WE HAVE A
NEW WEB
ADDRESS !!!**

WWW.MGBRR.ORG

The MGB Model Railroad Club was founded in 1995 by Matthew Harris, Gary Moore and Brett Scott. Version 1 (as it is now known) of the MGB was located in a storage shed behind Brett and Jeanne Scott's home, while Version 2 is nestled within Brett and Jeanne's home. The railroad will eventually fill most of the 18' by 49' room above the garage. The MGB is an HO scale layout, and at present, the railroad has 164 feet of track laid along with 6 switches. There is approximately 350 feet of wire providing power to the track. Our railroad is operated through the use of a Digitrax Digital Command Control (DCC) system. Each locomotive contains a computer chip (a decoder) which allows it to receive instructions from the DCC system. Each locomotive has a unique DCC address (sort of like a house number), which under our system, is the same as its locomotive number. We currently have 5 locomotives with decoders installed in them (4 Diesels and 1 steam).

Unlike some other model railroads, the MGB is not modeling a specific timeframe. As a result we operate both steam and diesel locomotives. The scenery for Mt. Pilot will be modeled to represent springtime, but eventually, the MGB will "travel" through all four seasons. Our policy is not to get hung up on being so particular about "the way it is done in the real world", but rather to have a good time. That's why our motto is "MGB—where life is nothing but fun!"

MGB Model Railroad Club Layout Highlight

This is the layout's temporary section/work table with Mt. Pilot in the background

