

The Telegraph Key

An NMRA Sunshine Region Monthly Publication

October 2024

IRON HORSE

2024

Hilton Ocala, Florida Oct 10, 11, and 12

It's Convention Time!



Sunshine Region - NMRA

Where modelers come to share, develop, and learn new skills.

Welcome to the best region under the sun!

2023 Sunshine Region Convention
Convention Registration

The banner features a dark grey header with the title 'Sunshine Region - NMRA' in white. Below the title are two logos: the Sunshine Region NMRA logo (a green circle with a map of Florida) and the NMRA logo (a blue square with 'nmra.org'). The background of the banner is a photograph of a snowy, forested landscape. In the center, there is a blue box with white text that reads '2023 Sunshine Region Convention' and 'Convention Registration'.

WWW.NMRA SunshineRegion.org



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Editor's Message




Hooray! October has arrived. This is the month a lot of us gather for our annual Sunshine Region Convention where we get to reacquaint ourselves with all the other Region members we haven't seen for about a year. We get to attend great clinics covering topics on prototype and model railroading, operate layouts, and see the fantastic models that have been submitted for judging.

I've got three clinics to present during the convention and hope to attend a lot of others. I'm especially interested in the T-TRAK hands on clinic that our SSR President, Andy Zimmerman, is going to conduct. Because, you know, I need another scale to work on and more trains to buy – right? **If you haven't done so yet, please check out the clinics in the convention section of this Telegraph Key issue.** I hope you find many clinics that you want to sit in on. See you soon in Ocala.

Mark Lewalski

Vice President and Telegraph Key Editor



Fun, Friends, Trains

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President's Message



My Fellow Sunshine Region Members,

As we approach October, I am thrilled to reflect on the past 10 months since I took office. It has been an incredible journey, and I am grateful for the support and enthusiasm from all of you.

The Convention is just around the corner, and I am excited to announce that we are already breaking previous records for attendance! This is a testament to the vibrant and engaged community we have built together.

Voting has concluded, and I am pleased to share that the new board will be announced at the Banquet. I look forward to welcoming the new members and working together to continue our mission.

It's not too late to get registered and join us for the "Iron Horse" convention in Ocala. At the heart of the Sunshine Region, it's all about Model Railroading, and even more importantly, it's about the mentorship from seasoned modelers, the fellowship of like-minded enthusiasts, and the strong sense of community we share. I'm eager to join all of you in Ocala. We want to see over 100 participants this year and we are nearly there, so bring your friends! Encourage them to try out the NMRA with a Railpass for just \$20, which offers full membership benefits for nine months. Did you know you can use the Railpass again if it has been three years since you last renewed? Check it out!

Together, let's keep building a stronger, more connected Sunshine Region! See you in October!!

Warm regards,

Andy Zimmerman
President

The Gallery of Industrial
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FIRST COAST MODEL RAILROAD SOCIETY

HO & On30 SCALES DIGITRAX DCC



1414 Millcoe Road, Unit 2105
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Richard Paul
Home -(904) 223-5133
Cell - (904) 616-8110
fcMrs46@gmail.com



The Western Bay Railroad is a 950 square ft On30 layout in Port St Lucie. We meet almost every Tuesday evening. We are looking for new members to join our group. There are OP sessions & scenery that we are still working on. If you're a modeler and serious about learning, give us a try! Go to our website or contact Al Sohl MMR als0622@yahoo.com

'No dues, just a great experience'
westernbayrailroad.org



Treasurer's Message



Hello All,

As we are now days away from the convention, I wanted to share a quip I ran across recently, "As I have grown older I've learned that pleasing everyone is impossible but pissing everyone off is a piece of cake" 😊 .

While we have no intent on pissing anyone off, I would ask everyone to be patient and understanding as we are in a new facility, new staff, new events, etc., and as much as we have planned and spent countless hours working on things, some things are not going to go as planned.

I would ask that any problems you have be shared with us at the Region's email address nmra_SunshineRegionMail@yahoo.com so we can learn where we fell short and can improve upon next year. Whether it's a problem with hotel reservation, your room was dirty, a clinic was not good, I think you get the idea. At the same time please share the things you really enjoyed or would like more of. Even ideas of what you might like to see in the future.

I will be emailing out the clinic schedule to all registered attendees as soon as we have it together. Keep in mind that things may still change but should be pretty accurate. We will also have the schedule in the Timetable which you will receive at registration.

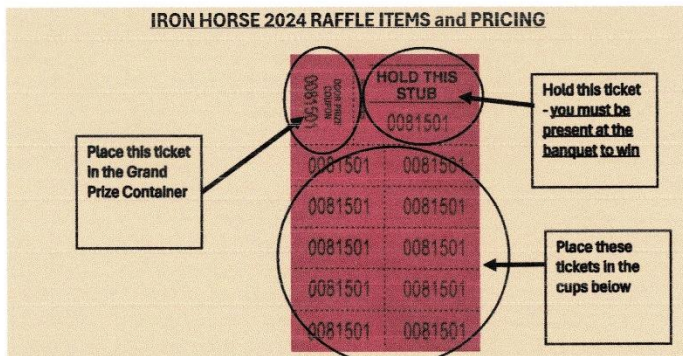
PS – take a look at the convention listing in this issue for the 40+ raffle items. Raffle cards are the same as last year, 1 card has 10 tickets and one door prize ticket and costs \$10 **OR get three cards for \$25 (what a deal!)**. Raffle tickets are cash only and can be purchased in the contest room.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the convention!!

Glenn Kopriva

Treasurer

(see example of raffle card on the next page – Editor)



Raffle Card Prices : 1 card of 10 tickets plus door prize \$10 OR get 3 cards for \$25. CASH ONLY at Cor

***** **2 Door Prizes!!: One \$50 and One \$100 gift Certificate to Trainz!!!**

CUP	Item
1	Books: North American Locomotives and Trains and Locomotives
2	Books: Love of Trains and North American Railroads
3	Books: Encyclopedia of Locomotives and Treasury of Railroad Folklore
4	Books: Locomotives that Baldwin Built and Steam Locos of the Burlington Route
5	Walthers HO " Lee's Grocery Store "
6	Rix HO Early Highway Overpass 150'
7	Rix N Multi Purpose Building plus Rix N "Rail-it"
8	Rix HO Town Bank plus Rix HO "Rail-it"
9	Xuron Railroad Toolkit
10	Micro Sol and Micro Set plus Flag Decal HO
11	Micro Sol and Micro Set plus Flag Decal N
12	MicroScale : HO FL Tri Rail and East Coast Decals
13	MicroScale: HO FL East Coast and Graffiti Decals
14	MicroScale : N FL Tri Rail and East Coast Decals
15	MicroScale: N FL East Coast and Graffiti Decals
16	KaDee : Coupler assortment
17	Showcase Miniatures \$25 dollar gift certificate
18	Showcase Miniatures \$25 dollar gift certificate
19	Accurail HO #2209 N&W Hopper
20	Accurail HO #2213 Southern Hopper
21	NEW Book - Norfolk Southern in Action
22	NEW Book - Norfolk Southern Heritage Fleet
23	NEW Book - CSX in Action
24	LARC Railroad Graphics 5 plus a Train Clock
25	LARC Railroad Graphics 5 plus a Steam Express kit
26	LARC Railroad Graphics 5 plus O scale Microscale Decals
27	Trainz \$25 dollar Gift Certificate
28	RAM 50% off Gift Certificate
29	Zona Hobby Toolkit
30	Woodland Scenics Shaper Sheet
31	Tin Signs - Welcome to the Station and You Can't buy happiness..
32	Tin Signs - Lionel Trains and Have to have more Trains
33	Tin Sign - Build Model Railways
34	Tin Sign - "Cute Caboose" - Santa Fe
35	Tin Sign- "Ride the Rail" - UP
36	Tin Sign- "All Aboard" Penn RR
37	Used HO scale Penn 2-8-2
38	Spectrum HO Diner and Coach 89244 and 89245
39	Spectrum HO Coach and Observation 89245 and 89246
40	Spectrum HO Coach and Combine 89241 and 89242

Achievement Program



There has been no action for the Achievement Program this month and I hope it a lot of members are going to have models to be judged at the upcoming Sunshine Region Convention in Ocala Florida on October 12, 2024. If not, we will just have to wait and see what happens.

I would like to put a plug in for the clinic that Richard Segall is going to be giving at the Convention on how to make a merit score when you get your items Judged, it is a very good clinic and should be of value for everyone. That is all I have for now.

Thank you,

Ken Hoot

Achievement Program Chair

Northern Division



Meets and Operations Session

The First Coast Model Railroad Society (FCMRS) is starting its formal operations sessions back up on Saturday September 28th 2024. OPS sessions were suspended during the hot summer days. One of our members, Kevin Paige will receive his Golden Spike Certificate at the Ocala Convention. He is working on several other AP certificates, mainly the Scenery, Electrical, and Chief Dispatcher. Another club member is rejoining the NMRA after 8 years absence. The club continues to run Open Run sessions each Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. then go to lunch as a group. afterwards. Visitors to the club are always welcome during these run sessions.

- First Coast Model Railroad Society meets each Thursday night 7 - 9 pm and each Saturday morning hold an open run session from 9.a.m. to 11 a.m. with gathering afterwards at a local Pizza store for lunch
- Layout is a double deck HO scale, 85% complete, and utilizes Digitrax DCC control. Contact fcMrs46@gmail.com for further information

Places to Visit

The First Coast Model Railroad Society (FCMRS)

- We are on track to resume the FCMRS formal operating sessions starting Saturday, September 28th, 2024, dependent on weather conditions, mainly hurricanes, torrential rains, etc.

- These are NOT the usual Saturday "open run sessions", but a formal session with switch lists and assigned trains to work specific areas on the layout.
- Date: Saturday, September 28th 2024
- Time: start 9:00am to about 11:00a.m.
- Place: FCMRS club layout. 1414 Millcoe Road, Jacksonville, FL
- As usual, bring your favorite loco and a matching caboose to run with your train. We use club cars only for these sessions.
- Will need help to "reset" the layout on Thursday night and or Friday before session.

The Lloyd Railroad Depot

This is a historic building in the United States in Lloyd, Florida. Built in 1858 by the Pensacola and Georgia Railroad, it is the oldest brick railroad station in Florida and one of only three surviving railroad depots built before the American Civil War. Wikipedia

Opened: 1858

You may want to stop by this historic depot when you travel to Tallahassee or pass through Tallahassee. Quick link: <https://www.gulfwindnrhs.org/LloydDepot.html>

Grady County History Museum

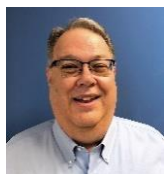
While in our area, you might like to take a side trip to the Grady County History Museum in Cairo, GA. It is about forty miles from Tallahassee, FL - Don Nickerson, Director. Quick link:

<https://gradyhistory.org/grady-crossing-railroad/>

Robert Feuerstein

Northern Division Superintendent

Eastern Division



Around the Division

The Sunshine Region's annual convention will soon be here (October 10 -12, 2024). This year's event includes a new venue, many interesting clinics, and an opportunity to gain some hands-on operating experience. Am looking forward to the weekend, and to visiting with fellow SSR members. Hope to see you there.

Prototype Rails 2025. RPM Cocoa Beach, January 9 – 11, 2025. Cocoa Beach Hilton. Nearly 100 clinics, thousands of models on display, operating modular layouts (O, N, and HO scales). Visit prototyperrails.com for registration details.

Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fair Grounds. Saturday, October 5, 2024, 900 am to 500 pm. Google Gold Spike Enterprises for details.

Train Collectors Association – Southern Division. Will meet Saturday, November 9, 2024 at Lake Nona Middle School. Visit tcasoutherndivision.org for details.

On the workbench

As I shared in an earlier *Telegraph Key* column, am presently developing an HO scale industrial-theme shelf layout inspired by John Wright's Federal Street track plan (*Model Railroader*, May 2003). John's layout drew upon the Pennsylvania Railroad's one-time Whitehall Branch, a five-mile branch located along the south bank of the Monongahela River in a neighborhood known as Southside Flats. The branch included a variety of online customers, many of which reflected the heavy industries characteristic of mid-20th century Pittsburgh.

Given the shelf character, the proposed layout will feature numerous low-relief industries across the 15-foot "backdrop", including a compressed depiction of the Jones & Laughlin Steel plant. Deciding on a suitable stand-in for the J&L Steel plant presented a challenge. Initially considered using one or more kits from Walthers' popular "Steel" series. However, kit availability is limited and the available backdrop space (i.e., depth) does not translate well. Next, I considered Plastruct's Steel Mill (Kit #1030) and Sinter Plant (Kit #1031). While the Steel Mill's low-relief (three inches) could be a good fit, given so many competing layout priorities, I decided to pass (at least for now).

What turned out to be a solution (at least on a temporary basis) was suggested by my friend John Teichmoeller. John's home layout features a substantial steel-making component, and he's a long-time member of the Steel Mill Modeler's SIG. John suggested Clever Models which offers a broad selection of industrial and commercial paper models in HO and O scales. The American Steel Pipe Co. (Kit S43) is 68'-4" wide, 7'-4" deep, and 50'-0" high; a good (perhaps temporary) fit given the available real estate. Depending upon how the final track plan plays out, Clever Models also offers a Big Steel Mill Building (Kit S29) and a Small Steel Mill Building (Kit S30).

Paper and cardstock models are fairly commonplace among British and European model railroaders. The structure is provided as a full-color downloadable file in full HO scale. The link is temporary, so I saved the file to my Desktop. To obtain quality resolution, I decided to email the file to my local FedEx/Kinko's for printing on matte finish cardstock in 8.5 x 14-inch format.

Using a series of fresh Xacto #11 blades and a steel rule, I cut out the main façade and roof pieces. The façade features a large steel roll-up door at each end of the front elevation, and full-width series of windows. To enhance the single-dimensional appearance of the front elevation, Clever Models suggests cutting out the roll-up doors (and perhaps the small personnel door, as well), and adding bit of trim to simulate depth. Some modelers may also elect to cut out the full-width window and substitute clear styrene with appropriate mullions.

Once the façade was cut out, I decided to strengthen the structure by gluing pieces of foamcore to the interior surface. This proved particularly important for each of the side walls. To facilitate bending, lightly score the inside front and side wall joints.

Additional details such as recessed vents and appropriate piping can add to the overall appearance of the model. I chose to cover one of the large roll-up doors using spare pieces of corrugated siding provided with the kit.

My purchase of the American Steel Pipe kit was a first for me; and in retrospect, a pleasurable modeling experience.

Postscript to Sept 2024 column

Last month I shared some thoughts regarding modeling a pair of ACF 70-ton “first generation” covered hoppers. While the plan was to decal the models as L&NE cement cars, some roster photos of Shippers Car Line LO’s caught my eye.

Established in 1917 as a tank car leasing company, SHPX was acquired by American Car & Foundry in 1927. The SHPX reporting marks were used until 1968, when they were replaced by ACFX.

Fortunately, Microscale Decals offers a nice set of HO scale decals (87-660) for ACF 70T LO’s (Private Cars 1939-70). Contained therein is artwork for ten possible cars including two for SHPX. Microscale’s roster lists three SHPX series covering 1947 and 1948.

Next step: Create appropriate waybills for these latest fleet additions.

Jim Moore

Eastern Division Superintendent

Western Division



The next NMRA event will be the Sunshine Region Convention on Oct 10-12 in Ocala. Watch the Telegraph Key for details.

Our Western Division AP Chair Joe Gilmartin is ready to help you move forward in the NMRA Achievement Program and answer any questions you may have. You may contact Joe at 224-637-5965 or jgilmartin@mac.com

If your club would like to host a one day workshop, please contact me directly to work out the details.

Don Wetmore

Western Division Superintendent

Southern Division



Hi, folks. I'm filling in for Robert Leonard again this month.

In club news, the Florida Citrus Model Train Society (FCMTS) has a Model Train show scheduled for Saturday, October 12th. It will be held at the Old Davie School Historical Museum at 6550 Griffin Road in Davie, FL 33314 from 10 AM through 3 PM. The entry fee is \$7 per family (not per person). There will be vendors at the show where you can buy / sell trains. Perhaps it's an opportunity for some early holiday shopping. Please contact Ken Sargeant at (954) 253-0413 for any additional information. Their web site is found at www.fcmts.org.

The East Coast HO Exhibitors Society (ECHOES) is planning an SSR divisional meet and workshop on November 2nd, with a layout running session November 2nd-3rd at the Cornerstone Methodist Church. It's located at 20740 Old Cutler Road, Cutler Bay, FL 33189. The meet on Saturday opens at 8 AM for registration. The registration fee of \$20 includes attendance at the clinics, lunch, donuts and coffee in the morning, and a single raffle ticket (you can purchase additional raffle tickets separately). If you pre-register via email, you will receive a free 2nd raffle ticket. There are two parallel clinic tracks planned 9:15-11:45 AM: one is focused on Tsunami DCC decoders, and the other combines sessions on backdrop painting and operations with JMRI. All division members as well as non-NMRA members are welcome to attend.

Starting at 1:15 PM on Saturday, an operating session will begin on the ECHOES modular HO scale layout. The layout is DCC using the Digitrax system. You are welcome to bring your own Digitrax throttle, or you may use one of several club throttles. The Digitrax system supports wireless operation with duplex throttles. At 4 PM, the layout will be opened for free running with a "to be determined" end time. On Sunday, open running will begin at 9 AM with an operating session from 1-4 PM.

If you need a place to stay overnight, there are two hotels located close to the church, a La Quinta Inn (305) 278-0001 and a Motel 6 (305) 253-9960. For additional information, please contact Rick Diaz, rickdiaz@att.net or Tracey Sanders, tassailor@mac.com.

The Palm Beach Model Railroaders are planning to be open with trains operating during the South Florida Fair from January 17th through February 2nd. During the fair, the club will be open 7 days a week and for the entire day and evening each day the fair is open. This will be their 50th year of participation in the fair. The club meets weekly on Tuesday evenings 6-9 PM at the South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd, West Palm Beach, 33411. They can be contacted at PBMRRCclub@gmail.com for additional information.

The South Florida Railway Museum (SFRM) continues to make updates to both the N scale and HO scale permanent layouts. Progress continues on the HO scale engine terminal, with test fittings of the new turntable underway. In addition to the permanent layouts, a group of both N scale and HO scale members are busily working on N scale T-TRAK modules to bring to the NMRA convention in Ocala in October. The power module has been assembled and test fittings of the various modules are in progress. There will be enough modules completed to support a standalone layout that the SFRM plans to set up at additional venues in the future.

In upcoming events, the SFRM annual Train Show at the St. Paul Lutheran Church at 701 West Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton FL 33486 is scheduled for Saturday, November 23rd. Hours will be 9 AM through 2 PM with \$8 admission for adults and free admission for children up through 12 years old.

The members who attended to FEC historical society convention in Jacksonville during September got the rare opportunity to enter the cab of a GE Evolution (GEVO) diesel locomotive. They took a lot of photos at the FEC yard, and the consensus was that it was a great experience.

That's all for now. I hope to see you in Ocala October 10-12th. Until next month, enjoy our incredible hobby!

Richard Berger for Robert Leonard

Southern Division Superintendent

Convention Update



We have planned a great Sunshine Region Convention for 2024, with a new location at the Hilton in Ocala. We were able to get everything under one roof, hoping this will make it more convenient for everyone, not having to travel between clinics and the banquet.

We still have openings on the 3 Hands-On clinics. We are presenting these 3 clinics, because when we read the 2023 Convention Survey's from the attendees, these were the most requested clinics they would like to see. We take these surveys seriously and try to learn what we can do, to make the clinics something you are interested in for you. So, make sure when you get your survey, please take the time to fill the survey out, so we know what Hands-On and Hourly clinics you would like to see at the 2025 Convention.

Celebration of Models: we have received emails asking if an attendees can bring models to display that are not being judged for an AP Merit. Please, if you want to bring your models, we would love to see them.

Please keep checking the SSR website for any changes on the itineraries and clinic schedule at NMRASunshineRegion.com.

Last note, on Sunday morning, October 13th, at 9AM at the Convention Hotel (room TBA), there will be a meeting that is open for all the membership and guests. If you would like to attend, this is the time you can let us know what you liked and what you think we should change. Following that meeting, the SSR Board of Directors will have a closed meeting for only Board Members.

We will have Layout Tours open Sunday Morning after you check out from the hotel. We will have directions in your Goodie Bag. Thank you,

Jeff "Ski" Guzowski

Convention Clinic Chair

South Florida Railway Museum

Beginning January 2024

New Hours

**The museum will be open from 11 AM to 4 PM on the
2nd Saturday of the month**

Remaining Dates

07-13, 08-10, 09-14, 10-12, 11-09, 12-14

Follow us on our website www.sfrm.org and our
Facebook page

1300 W. Hillsboro Blvd. Deerfield Beach, FL
(The south end of the AMTRAK station in Deerfield Beach)



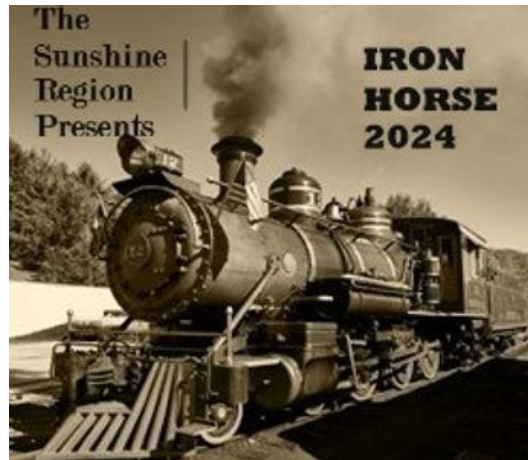
Home of the

**South Farmington
Rail & Mule RR**

**South Florida
Regional & Metro**

Convention Update – October

IRON HORSE 2024



The Sunshine Region of the NMRA invites you to our new convention home at the Ocala Hilton in beautiful Ocala Florida, known as [The Horse Capital of the World®](#), for Iron Horse 2024!

Enjoy numerous hands-on activities, clinics, op sessions, contests, meet and greet, fellowship and more. The convention will run from 4pm Thursday, October 10, 2024 to Saturday, October 12, 2024, 11pm (or when the banquet breaks up).

This years' change of venue offers us at least 6 benefits:

- 1) A much lower convention cost
- 2) All activities are under one roof
- 3) Longer clinic room availability (we have clinic room availability from morning to night)
- 4) The opportunity for more fellowship
- 5) You asked for more hands-on clinics and we are delivering more!
- 6) Op sessions on-site!

If you've never been to an op session or are a seasoned pro, we will have time to train the newbies and let our pros have at it. If you are new to op sessions and have been curious to what it's all about then this is the place for you!

We think you will agree the Board has worked hard to bring more to our convention and to increase the quality, while being mindful of the price. Now it's up to you to come out and have some fun and fellowship. Let's celebrate our hobby together!! **Every registration gets a \$10 discount card from TRAINZ!! trainz.com!**



Things To Do

There's something for everyone in Ocala/Marion County. Come to the convention early or stay longer to take advantage of all the things there are to do. Please click the logo or link to see the vast listing and descriptions that this area has to offer as well as day trips and scenic drives! Also, please stop by and say hi to Rob at Rob's Hobby World @ 8585 SW HWY 200, unit 14 in Ocala. Rob has been a longtime supporter of this region. He's closed on Sundays so try and stop by on your way in on Thursday.

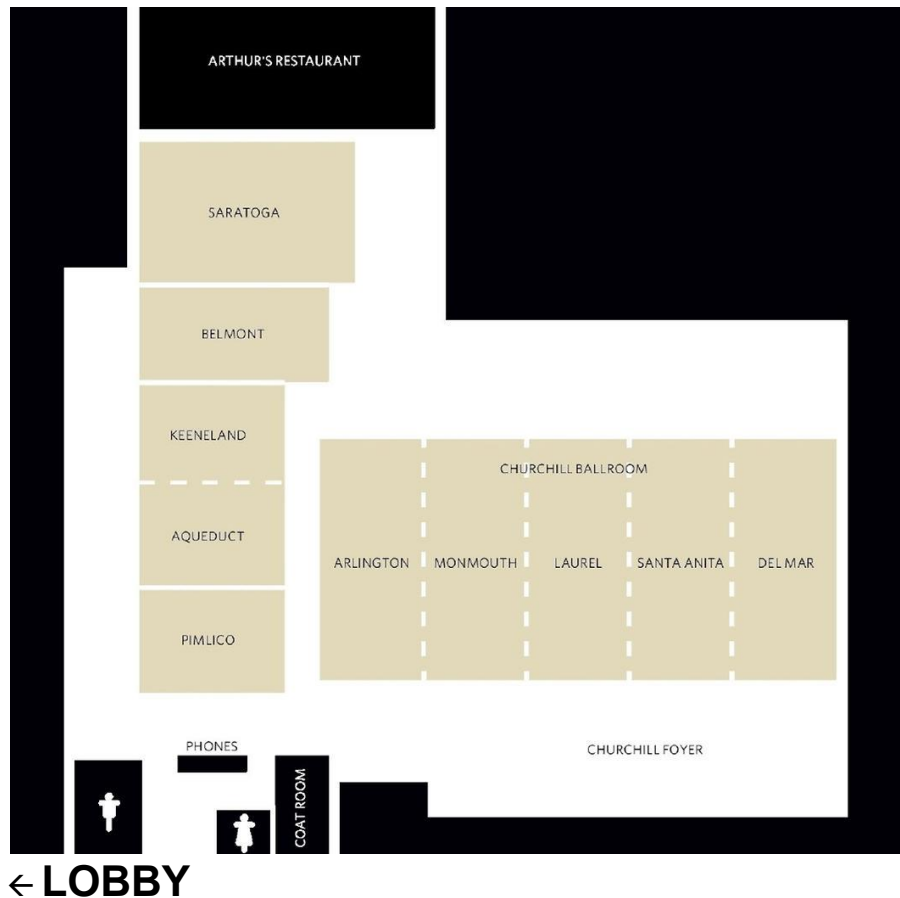
Convention Hotel - Hilton Ocala



The convention hotel is the **Ocala Hilton** located off of I-75, exit # 350 (see the map/directions above). All activities are now under one roof. No more traveling back and forth to the convention. This also provides you the opportunity to go to and from your room should you need a break, nap or just need some alone time. The hotel offers free parking, an onsite restaurant, bar, outdoor pool and more. I think you will find it is a vast improvement from our previous venue. The room rate per night is \$149 and you can make your reservations NOW as this rate won't last long – only thru 8/31/24 or until our allotment of rooms runs out. Rooms are limited so make your reservation today!!

Planned Room Use

Saratoga - *Banquet*
 Belmont - *How to Clinics*
 Keenland - *Clinics*
 Aqueduct - *Judging/Raffle*
 Pimlico - *Clinics*
 Arlington - *TBD Clinics*
 Monmouth & Laurel - *Op Sessions*



Iron Horse 2024 Banquet Speaker

Florida East Coast Railway Operations & Memories on Film

The Convention Banquet's Guest Speaker will be Richard Beall. He will have home movies, from a father and son capturing the FEC from the 1940s to 1980s. Richard has firsthand experience from following in his father's footsteps into the cabs of FEC motive power. The presentation covers his father's early movies to Richard's more current ones. Richard was a locomotive engineer for over 40 years on both the FEC as well as Tri Rail, so a lot of ground has been covered in the films. Tri Rail is a commuter Railroad that runs from Miami to West Palm Beach on the CSX Tracks.

Convention Awards Banquet

Our awards banquet will be held Saturday October 12th at 6pm in the Saratoga room. The banquet will be a buffet style dinner serving:

- Baby greens salad bar with ranch and gorgonzola
- Penne pasta salad
- Grilled flank steak served with au jus and whipped horseradish sauce
- Breast of chicken with artichoke mushroom sauce
- Oven roasted garlic potatoes
- Roasted pepper risotto
- Fresh seasonal vegetables
- Chef's choice seasonal cobbler
- along with assorted tea and coffee

All for just \$35 per person. The banquet will include a featured speaker, issuance of awards and, of course, our fun raffle. Seating is limited.

Convention Clinics

We listened to our survey responses at last year's convention and one item that stood out was hands-on clinics. We hope to meet your expectation with how to subjects on weathering, tree making, T-TRAK assembly, op sessions and more.

Hands-On Clinics

Weathering with the (non) Masters – Clinicians: Bill Cialini, Tim Ellis, and Bob Leonard – 3 ½ Hours – Cost \$20 – Class is limited to 20 Students - Clinic will be Friday afternoon, October 11th, 1PM – 4:30PM.

This clinic will cover weathering three of the primary mediums used in weathering all of our toys, whether those toys are on the rails, or alongside of them. There are three clinicians that will teach their approach to weathering, Gouache paint, Pastels / Powders and Watercolor Pencils. We can't teach airbrush techniques and practices because no one wants a smelly room!

All who attend will have the opportunity to employ these techniques as you follow along. There will be pre-primed boxcar shells, that will be distributed for your use to practice what you have been taught. Clinic attendees, if you have a favorite weathering media, bring it to share your knowledge of your technique. If you want to bring some rolling stock or structures to weather, please do.

Soldering for Beginners – Clinician: Allison Dendy – 3 ½ Hours – Cost \$20 - Class is limited to 18 Students - Clinic will be Saturday morning, October 12th, 8:15 – 11:45AM. (If Soldering Projects not completed, the class will continue at 1PM) –

Would you like to learn how to solder? Are you frustrated trying to solder feeders to track without melting ties? Are you not satisfied with your wiring connections? Hesitant about attempting an electronics project? Then this is the course for you. After a *brief* lecture overview, I will personally guide you from how to turn the iron on to tackling any model railroad soldering task with

confidence. This is a practical course with the attention you deserve to assure that you leave with the skills you need. A comprehensive, progressive list of soldering tasks will be taught with each student performing the work with as much personal guidance and attention as may be required, culminating in the student completing an electronics project to show off to your friends.

Learn to Solder Practice Kit

This kit is ideal for beginners. It has all the necessary electronic components (but no tools) to build a working circuit. Dive into hands-on learning as you assemble a European siren with flashing lights on a cutting-edge printed circuit board. This project not only teaches basic soldering techniques but also provides insight into circuit functionality. The solder practice kit includes a detailed lesson manual, making it a perfect educational tool for creating an intruder alarm, bicycle siren, or an eye-catching attention-getter.

Along with instruction on how to solder feeders to rail, cable to connectors, surface-mount resistors to PC cards, and making wire splices, this kit rounds out the learning curricula for this practical clinic so that students will have the skills and confidence to manage their model railroad soldering tasks.

Requirements: Preferably a stick soldering iron with a fine point tip, Rosin Core Solder, needle nose pliers, a small wire cutter, a wire stripper, Helping Hands to hold soldering items, and magnifiers if you have them. We tried in a test run of this clinic, and found the digital soldering stations did not work very well.

Tree Making Clinic – Clinician: Ken Hoot, Region SSR AP Chairman/Rich Paul – 3 ½ Hours – Cost \$20 –

Clinic will be Friday morning, October 11th, 8:15 – 11:45AM - Class is limited to 20 Students

Ken will furnish all the materials, tools, jigs, and machines to make over 200 trees in 3 different styles, Bottle Brush, Furnace Filters, and Poly Fiber. I will furnish each attendee with enough material to build over 30 trees in the workshop. Also, I will have 3 of my plastic flocking bottles along with all the flocking that is needed to furnish the trees.

Pursuing Merit AP Certificates – Clinician: Richard Segall – 2 Hours – NO COST – Attendees: 20 Max

The NMRA Achievement Program offers terrific guidance for quality modeling. It is a process that empowers modelers to improve.

This Hands-On clinic will address the characteristics of good modeling and remove much of the mystery from the model evaluation process. Group collaborations will look for common mistakes and omissions. Together, we will explore strategies to elevate scores to maximize current abilities.

Attaining a Merit Award involves more than just putting a model together; it is the pursuit of quality with multiple focal points. Knowing what to expect in the assessment process then address its components puts merit attainment within reach of most moderately experienced modelers.

Are you ready to raise your game on you modeling? *Recommended: Phone camera capable of close-up photography.*

“Trakin’ with T-TRAK, Back to Basics – Clinician/Instructor: Andy Zimmerman, an experienced T-TRAK modeler President of the Sunshine Region of the NMRA and Vice President of NRAIL (T-TRAK) – For any questions about this clinic, My Cell: 850-524-4399

Hands-On - Participants: 20 Maximum Duration: 3 hours - Cost: \$20 - Clinic will be Friday evening, October 11th, 7PM – 10:00PM.

One T-Trak Module Kit will be provided to attendees, and you will take this module home.

This hands-on clinic is designed for model railroad enthusiasts interested in learning how to build a T-TRAK module. T-TRAK is a modular system that allows modelers to create small, portable modules that can be connected with others to form a larger layout. This clinic will cover the basics of module construction, including materials, tools, and techniques.

Agenda:

- 1. Introduction to T-TRAK Modules (15 minutes)**
 - Brief history and concept of T-TRAK.
 - Advantages of T-TRAK modules: portability, ease of construction, and community building.
 - Overview of module standards and specifications.
- 2. Materials and Tools (20 minutes)**
 - List of necessary materials: wood, foam, track, wiring, scenery supplies.
 - Recommended tools: saw, drill, screwdriver, soldering iron, glue gun.
 - Tips for sourcing materials on a budget.
- 3. Module Base Construction (45 minutes)**
 - Measuring and cutting wood for the base.
 - Assembling the base frame.
 - Attaching the top surface (foam or plywood).
 - Ensuring the module is square and level.
- 4. Track Laying and Wiring (45 minutes)**
 - Choosing the right track: Kato Unitrack or similar.
 - Laying and securing track to the module.
 - Basic wiring techniques: power feeders, bus wires, connectors.
 - Testing the track and wiring for smooth operation.
- 5. Scenery Basics (30 minutes)**
 - Planning the scenic elements: terrain, buildings, vegetation.
 - Applying basic scenery techniques: ground cover, trees, roads.
 - Tips for realistic scenery and detailing.
- 6. Finishing Touches and Troubleshooting (20 minutes)**
 - Adding final details: figures, vehicles, signage.
 - Common issues and how to fix them.
 - Maintenance tips for keeping your module in top condition.
- 7. Q&A and Hands-On Assistance (30 minutes)**
 - Open floor for questions and answers.
 - Hands-on help with individual modules.
 - Sharing resources for further learning and community involvement.

Materials Provided:

- A sample T-TRAK module kit.
- Handouts with step-by-step instructions and diagrams.
- Resource list for additional reading and supplies.

What to Bring:

- Personal tools if preferred (screwdriver, drill, etc.).
- Any specific materials or scenery items you wish to use.

Conclusion: Participants will leave with a basic understanding of T-TRAK module construction and the confidence to complete their own modules at home. They will also have the opportunity to connect with other modelers and join a community of T-TRAK enthusiasts.

Hourly Clinics**The Ubiquitous F Unit – Clinician: Bob Leonard**

The clinic describes the changes over the years of the (Bulldog) nosed design of EMC-EMD F units, from the 1940s to the 1980s. The emphasis is on the 1st generation of units built and the models that have been produced from the many manufacturers, FTs to F7s. Everyone has done an F unit, pot metal, brass, plastic, they are like “Big Boys” if you have seen one, you have seen them all. Not true!

A Short History of Brass – Clinician: Bob Handin

A brief history, from the introduction of brass models after WWII, crude, sometimes un-running, but where else are you going to find it? To, a niche facet of model railroading that belies the fact that model railroading is affordable, but where else are you going to find it? From listening to collectors that swore if you painted it, you lost the investment, too, if it not painted, it is not worthy of collecting, and everything in between.

Tuscarora Operations – Clinician: Robert Raymond

Operator Robert Raymond (designer of the *Tuscarora Branch Line*) gives ideas and tips on how to build your dream layout in a small and manageable area. The Tuscarora shows how much N-scale railroad operations you can pack into a 2x4 foot space. Set in Pennsylvania in 1962, we can accommodate five operators (scheduled freight and local engineer, coal operations, an interlocking lever operator, a station agent and a dispatcher). Come and run!

Ops in Tight Spaces – Clinician: Robert Raymond

Even if you only have a friend or two or a small space, you *can* still operate. Robert will have the Tuscarora Layout for Operations in the Hilton Ballroom.

Florida Early Orange Production – Clinician: Tom Wilson

In Central Florida, Transportation, Plants, Byproducts, to modern Production and what you did not know what is made from oranges.

How to detail your Steel Mills and Coke Ovens – Clinician: Tom Wilson

Tom models in HO Scale the Pittsburg & West Virginia Railroad and the Union Railroad. The Union Railroad (a subsidiary of US Steel) around the Pittsburg area. US Steel had 2 Steel Mills and Coke Operations around the Pittsburg area. Tom worked for US Steel for 20 years and will show you how to correctly model steel mills and coke operations, from someone that actually worked in the mills.

Basic Switching Techniques – Clinician: Donovan Lewis

This presentation will show the basic techniques and terminology used in delivering cars to customers. Car cards, waybills, and switch lists will be discussed. Techniques of switching will be demonstrated via videos of two railroads.

Operations – Clinician: Donovan Lewis

This presentation will go into the details of how a railroad operates and how it can be duplicated in a model situation. Designs of railroads and their effects on operation will be discussed. Timetables, waybills, card cards, switch lists, and train orders will be introduced. Train operation will be illustrated step by step via video and still shots during this presentation.

3D Printing Class – Clinician: Glenn Kopriva

In this class we will discuss both methods of printing but focus on filament printing. We will go online to various sites, download and item, "slice" it. We will actually print any item or two in class and compare an older 3d printer to a new one and discuss costs.

Judging for Celebration of Models – Clinician: Carl Smeigh (MMR)

This class is mandatory for "New Judges" who are participating for judging in the Celebration of Models to achieve AP Certificates.

Scratch Building with Wood – Clinician: John Giammasi (MMR)

Here we'll learn about the use of both common and unusual tools, working with basswood, designing and planning the basics of a structure, sources of materials, and tricks of the trade for a great product for your layout.

Installing DCC Decoders and Sound Systems in Locomotives – Clinician: Greg Garbacz

What's in My Toolbox? – Clinician: Mark Lewalski

This clinic reveals the mysteries of my modeling toolbox where you will discover WONDERS that you too can own!

Creating a Small Switching Layout: Part One (and ½) – Clinician: Mark Lewalski

This clinic describes the ongoing building of my small, portable HO shelf switching layout. I cover the ups and downs of my track plan journey, my search for a modeling era, changes I made along the way, and my final decision to put plan into action and actually get some modeling done. I will have my layout available during the clinic.

The Bath & Hammondsport: 9 Miles of Prototype to Model – Clinician: Mark Lewalski

How I chose a prototype to model and the thought process that went into it.

How To Use the ESU LokProgrammer – Clinician: Carl Marchand

This clinic will cover how to navigate the LokProgrammer software and how to upload and upgrade your sound projects. Learn how to take advantage of the latest features using Loksound V5 decoders.

JMRI Decoder Pro - A Primer – Clinician: Carl Marchand

Learn how to use Decoder Pro to setup your locomotives and DCC equipped rolling stock. We will cover the basics and some additional tips and tricks to streamline setting up your DCC fleet.

Athearn Blue Box Conversion to DCC – Clinician: Howard Goodwin, MMR

In this clinic, you will learn the steps to convert your older Athearn Blue Box locomotives to DCC from Howard Goodwin, MMR. Follow along as we take the Athearn loco from its basic state of DC to the completion of a DCC installation and a modern up to date locomotive. Steps will include chassis preparation and truck upgrade to all wheel pickup. Learn as well how to prepare for the decoder install and construction of the motor “saddle” on which your decoder will sit. Included will be tips and tricks for LED lighting and the addition of sound. While originally designed for those who are just beginners, this clinic may be just what you are looking for to help take you over the top and encourage you to upgrade your fleet of Athearn locomotives. You **can** teach an old dog new tricks.

Laser Engraving for Rolling Stock – Clinician: David Vescovi

Clinic will discuss using laser engraver for model railroading models, showing the Pros and Cons of Laser Engraving vs 3D Printing. I will talk about the costs and different features of engravers used on acrylic, wood, and Styrene. The Software Program is Lightburn and will show how to setup a project, use, tips, techniques with a demo. Examples: wood caboose, steam car, LNG tender, etc. Followed by discussion and Q&A's.

****There will be more Hourly Clinics added as they become available****

*****Disclaimer: All Hands-On Clinics are non-refundable after September 1st, 2024. If you cannot attend any of the Hands-On Clinics, please notify me, so we may open that spot for another person. If someone fills your Hands-On Clinic spot, we will refund your \$20*****

The Hands-On Clinics have cost involved to buy all the supplies for the Hands-On Clinics. The manufacturers have cut back drastically on donating supplies.

If anyone is interested in presenting a clinic, please get in touch with me, we are in search of more Clinicians.

Jeff Guzowski – NMRA Sunshine Region Director

2024 Clinician Chairperson – email: Jguzowski@Bellsouth.net Cell: 954-401-0804

Call for Clinicians

With more clinic times available to us we need more folks to step up and share their knowledge and skills with the rest of us. You know you have that little trick for ballasting, making roads or that nifty backdrop. TEACH and SHARE with your fellow members. If you are interested in sharing your knowledge and expertise with others, please contact Jeff Guzowski "Ski" at: Cell (954) 401-0804 or email at JGuzowski@Bellsouth.net

Online Reservation

We are now ready to take registrations for this year's convention.

[Hilton Reservation Click Here](#)

[Convention Registration - Click Here](#)

One location for all activities, more how-to clinics, on-site op session and op session training! – you do not want to miss this, and a much lower registration cost!

Register NOW! Our registration fee is currently on sale, but only for a limited time!

Celebration of Models

Our Celebration of Models room will be open on Friday, 9:30A-11:30am, (closed for lunch 11:30am-1:00pm), reopening from 1:00-4:30pm, and again on Saturday same times as above. All models being judged need to arrive before 10:00am on Saturday, and Judging starts at 10:15am. The room will be open for viewing and attendees voting for the People's Choice award during the above hours. Please do not talk to Judges while they are judging models.

Please bring your models for the Achievement Program judging **and any models you would like to just display**. If you are bringing models to be AP Judged, email Carl Smeigh (MMR) at CSmeigh@Yahoo.com

For new Apprentice Judges, there will be a mandatory clinic on Friday, from 8:15-9:15am, for Judging Rules and Regulations.

If you plan on being one of this year's Judges or new Apprentice Judges that wants to participate, being part of the Saturday AP Judging, please contact Carl.

Any questions or need more info contact Carl Smeigh (MMR) at CSmeigh@Yahoo.com

Note Our normal Contest Chairperson Benita Jameson will be unavailable this year and Carl has graciously volunteered to be Celebration of Models Contest Chairman this year. Thanks Carl

Cell 954-401-0804 email JGuzowski@Bellsouth.net

Thanks,

Jeff "Ski" Guzowski



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E.C.H.O.E.S is a modular model railroad club located in Miami-Dade, Florida, dedicated to building and displaying our HO scale model railroad layout. Our purpose is to enjoy and promote the hobby of model railroading and preserve the history of railroading in South Florida. The club was started in the summer of 1985, with the goal of presenting a HO scale modular model railroad layout for display at “The Harvest Festival”. Throughout the years, the layout has been displayed at regional conventions, four NMRA National Train Shows (Atlanta twice, Ft. Lauderdale, FL and Orlando), and other events in Miami Dade and Broward counties. We do running/operating sessions several times a year and welcome guests to join us. Membership is open and we welcome anyone who shares an interest and passion for Model railroading.

For more information, please contact:

Rick Diaz	rickdiaz@att.net	305 496 9266
Tracey Sanders	tassailor@mac.com	786 514 5667
Herb Ford	ehf640@gmail.com	786 375 1424



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