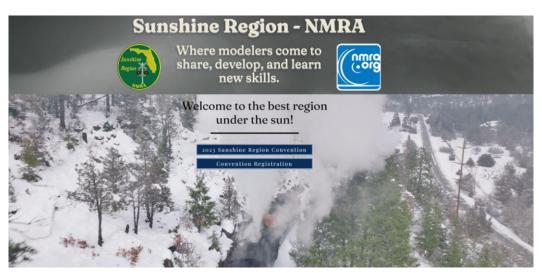
# The Telegraph Key An NMRA Sunshine Region Monthly Publication July 2024

4TH & JULY
INDEPENDENCE DAY



WWW.NMRASunshineRegion.org





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# Editor's Message



Happy Independence Day Sunshine Region! I hope you all are enjoying summer and are not getting too worn out by the high temps and high humidity – take advantage of that air conditioning... this is going to last a while!

I've done a bit of model railroading in the past few weeks. I cleaned up and resoldered jumpers to the frogs of the turnouts I'll be using on my small layout – I am a true believer

in the Frog Juicer! Over the next couple of weeks, I hope to get the track installed on that thin cork roadbed I told you about last month. I'm going to try a few different ways of attaching the track as I'm looking for something that will provide good holding power but stay a bit soft. Kind of like bathroom caulk. It may be for nought after I ballast the track in place. I'd just like to minimize the transfer of sound into the insulation from the trains rolling along the rails.

Some activities of mine have hampered my layout progress recently. I took a week to go visit my son who lives in north Georgia and then I went to Virginia Beach for a weekend to visit my dad. Good trips, both of them, but there went a couple Saturday/Sundays. When I got back home, I needed to take action to get my sailboat in better shape in our local marina. I received a "Do Better Letter" from the city. This wasn't really unexpected and no real surprise but I still had a timeline to meet to clean up my sailboat. Before I knew it, my railroad effort had stagnated by a month. It happens.

So, something I did this last week was to register for our upcoming Sunshine Region Convention. It was easy and I was done in no time. I went ahead and reserved my hotel room too. I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of you again and I'd like to meet those members whom I haven't met before. Gotta do some networking! From what I understand, we will have a great place to do that at the convention hotel.

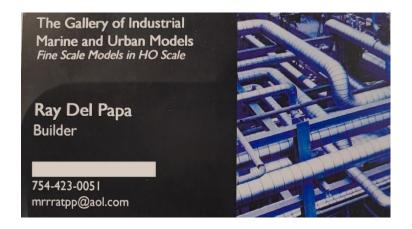
This issue contains an update of our convention. Take care everyone and have a great July.

#### \*\*PREPARE FOR REGION ELECTIONS!\*\*

Sunshine Region elections are coming up soon. As a part of this effort, we need ALL of you to please ensure you have a correct email address on file with our Region. If you doubt that you do, please send an email to <a href="mailto:nmra\_sunshineregion@yahoo.com">nmra\_sunshineregion@yahoo.com</a> and tell us. This will enable you to receive the election email when the time comes for you to vote. And when the time comes, please VOTE!

#### Mark Lewalski

Vice President and Telegraph Key Editor



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# President's Message



Good morning, Sunshine Region!

As I write this, I'm watching three deer graze in the backyard, one of them very pregnant. It's early, quiet, and serene—a rare moment of peace in my hectic life. I hope you all find time to slow down and cherish moments like these; it's truly cathartic.

Time flies—it's already July! To our Veterans and their families, my heartfelt thanks for your service and sacrifice. As we celebrate Independence Day, let's remember its significance: on July 4, 1776, the thirteen American colonies declared independence from British rule, marking the birth of the United States. Having visited 26 countries, I can say there's no place like home. Despite its flaws, America is a great country, and as a first-generation American, I feel blessed to be here. Let's raise a toast to our Veterans and all who have ensured our way of life. Salud!

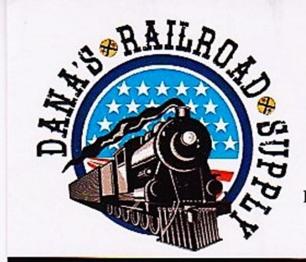
We have an exciting convention planned this year. Our team has worked hard to bring you the best of model railroading. The Sunshine Region boasts many talented individuals, and we'll also feature experts from across the U.S. at our banquet, where we'll celebrate your fellow model railroaders' achievements and enjoy good food and camaraderie. Join us as we strive to make this the best regional convention yet!

Our region continues to improve, and even National has recognized our hard work in rebuilding the SSR. We've been transformative and transparent, focusing on mentorship, fellowship, and community. We have a great team working together for the benefit of the region—one team, one mission.

Finally, the strength of a team lies in its members' willingness to step up when needed. This week, Benita Jameson informed me that she needs to step away from her duties as SSR contest chair temporarily. Carl Smeigh MMR has graciously agreed to step in. Carl is highly qualified, and we are grateful for his assistance. When you attend the regional convention, please thank him for his willingness to help.

Thank you all for being part of the SSR. We truly are the "Best region under the Sun."

Andy Zimmerman
President



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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



Welcome! I can't believe it is July already!! Time is really flying. I want to touch on a couple of things as there are a few updates to the website and the upcoming convention.

First off, we have added the long awaited Region MMR listing and those MMR's in the making with a complete listing of your progress towards reaching this pinnacle. It also

identifies those that have received their Golden Spike. This can be found from the main menu under the MEMBERS tab – Awards Progress (see below). This area of the website requires a login and password to gain access. Access instructions were provided in an earlier issue of the Telegraph Key. But I'll provide a quick instruction here:

Click on the words "Log In" to reach the Sign Up page (if you have already signed up click LOG IN otherwise click Sign Up with any of the three options you prefer). If you select "Sign up with Email" you will be prompted with your email address and a password. The system will verify your



# Sign Up

G	Sign up with Google
Ø	Sign up with Facebook
	or —
	Sign up with email

Email and send a request for access to the Webmaster for approval. This process can take a few days to get you set up and you will receive an email once your access has been added to the system. We are getting close to getting the new Bylaws and Region Policy and Procedures completed and those will be published to the site once they are approved.

Second, the convention is in full swing. All contracts have been signed and we are looking to a great new home at the Ocala Hilton. The website has been updated with all information about this year's convention and the new lower price of only \$65 per person and each registered member will also receive a \$10 discount on their next order from Trainz.com.

Those of you that have been to the Prototype Rail meet in January in Cocoa Beach will see a similar experience in Ocala with the addition of a Banquet and Op Session training/running on site to provide members the opportunity to see and feel an actual running op session. This is an upscale hotel with on-site restaurant, bar, pool and hot tub. I'm sure everyone will enjoy these added amenities and best off, no travel needed as all activities are in the hotel.

Please register soon, space is limited at the hotel so don't wait to make your reservation!

For more information click the link: 2024 Annual Convention

## Glenn Kopriva

#### Treasurer

# **Achievement Program**



The Sunshine Region has one AP for the month of June and it is **Alan B. Brown** for **Chief Dispatcher**, and he is from Melbourne, Florida, in the Eastern Division.

Good job Alan and keep up the good work.

## Ken Hoot

**Achievement Program Chair** 

#### Northern Division



#### Bicentennial Film Train Event on August 8, 2024.

In cooperation with the Tallahassee Film Society, a lecture will be on the history of train travel passing through the Lloyd Train Depot. The event will be at the Challenger Center auditorium in downtown Tallahassee on Monrow Street. https://tallahasseeleoncounty200.com/

#### The Lloyd Railroad Depot

Open House September 7, 2024, at Gulf Wind Chapter, National Railway Historical Society Lloyd Depot. From 10 am to 2 pm.

The Lloyd Railroad Depot 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.

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: <a href="https://gradyhistory.org/grady-crossing-railroad/">https://gradyhistory.org/grady-crossing-railroad/</a>

# Robert Feuerstein Northern Division Superintendent

#### **Eastern Division**



Greetings.

Getting started in the model railroading hobby can be both exciting and, at times, daunting. There are so many new and interesting products available for purchase; and so many new techniques and skills to learn. As a beginner, it is often possible to lose track of

one's progress toward a desired goal or objective. To stay on track, I've adopted two tactics. The first is Bob Leonard's (Superintendent -Sothern Division) 60-minute guideline. Following completion of my post-dinner chores, it's off to my "workbench" for a dedicated hour-long "work" session. Depending on the task at hand, these sessions have been known to expand to multiple hours. Second, my "work diary". Much of my professional life has been project-focused, typically where large —and often complex — projects are dissected into a series of more clearly defined individual steps. And so, too, is with my approach to model railroading. Employing a "dollar store" notebook or diary, I chronicle both work completed and work planned. This effort requires but a few minutes, and helps ensure any materials needed to support further progress have been identified and ordered.

While its likely each SSR member has their own approach, as someone new to the hobby, I (consciously) vary my focus between rolling stock, structures, and layout activities. Within the last several weeks, I assembled, painted, and decaled several open-top hoppers and wooden reefers. This was followed by a structure kit bash and my first attempt at scratch-building. (A tip regarding the latter: start with cardstock mockups.) Taken collectively, this approach has maintained my enthusiasm for the hobby while avoiding getting bored by task repetition (for example, brush painting freight car wheels).

One of the cornerstone tenets of our hobby is fellowship. Given my professional and and personal responsibilities, I'm not able to attend as many model railroading activities or events as I would like. Therefore, in support of my goal of meeting as many Eastern Division members as practical, I have relied on one-on-one meets, personal emails, and occasionally phone calls. In doing so, I have engaged approximately one-quarter of the Eastern Division's membership. Like any population, some members are currently active in the hobby, while others are "taking a break" or "retired".

Still, it has revealed an interesting microcosm of model railroading in Florida in 2024. Not only have I gained insight into individual member interests and priorities, I have also benefited from their experience and advice. (Case in point: Thank you, Dave Davies, for "interpreting" the various parts sprues within a Tichy tank car kit.)

In closing, Sunshine Region members will soon have the opportunity (October 10 - 13, 2024) to join together as part of the Region's annual convention. Based on preliminary information, I look forward to the new venue (Ocala) and the slate of planned activities and clinics. I hope many of you are also planning to attend; and I look forward to visiting with you.

Until next month...

# 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 <a href="mailto:igilmartin@mac.com">igilmartin@mac.com</a>

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



I really don't have much of a report this month, things have been quiet. For that matter, I'm not around, all of my information comes from the beginning of the month, so if something drastic has taken place after the 16<sup>th</sup>, I am in the dark. I am not completely in the dark, I have been focused on the Journal Box and getting it out for this coming quarter. So next month will be more informative, if there is anything to

inform? I am sure there will be!

The Palm Beach group is back to regular meeting evenings and work sessions. The Fair grounds will be quiet for a goodly amount of time, so crowds will not be interfering with their progress on refurbishment of areas.

The Florida Citrus group remains at the Plantation Historical Museum, the location is 511 N. Fig Tree Lane in Plantation. Regular museum hours, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Wednesday through Saturday, only. Their website gives you a daily breakdown of their activities, to include their breakfast meetings, birthdays, special events, and such.

The ECHOES are taking a break, for most of the remaining year. They will be doing maintenance and module upgrades and necessary repairs for the next half of the year. But there are two scheduled running sessions planned, August 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, all division members are welcome to attend. Also, Rick Diaz is planning a division meet between those two dates, nothing has been cast in stone yet. So, that is what is going on in South-South Florida!

The South Florida Railway Museum is really engaged in the building of T-TRAK modules for the regional convention in Ocala. They have a contingent of members involved, roughly ten of them have ordered and received over a dozen of the module kits. There is an enhanced enthusiasm for this, and it should be a great way for joint building techniques to be displayed. Plus, the inclusion of the operations sessions and clinics that will be offered. Their schedule changes to open weekends have

proven successful, more improvements to the overall operations of the layouts and displays prove their theory.

Remember the museum hours have changed, it is open to the public, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, for July the date is (07/13/24), from 11 AM to 4 PM.

On a non-divisional note, I have been surprised by the enthusiasm the SFRM has shown and devoted to the idea of T-TRAK. There are even "HO" members involved (not that, that is a bad thing), but "HO" folks certainly have a different outlook on smaller scales. Speaking to a few of them and learning what their plans and ideas are is intriguing, following guidance from popular TV shows will be enlightening. I see the convention unleashing a different group of people down a different avenue of the hobby. A forward look I might add, better than some of those of the past.

I hope some of our Southern Division members plan to attend the convention, it can only broaden your horizons!

Until next month, Model 60!

Robert Leonard

Southern Division Superintendent

# South Florida Railway Museum

**Beginning January 2024** 

New Hours

The museum will be open from 11 AM to 4 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month

Remaining Dates

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

Follow us on our website <u>www.sfrm.org</u> and our Facebook page

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# **Convention Update**

# **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.

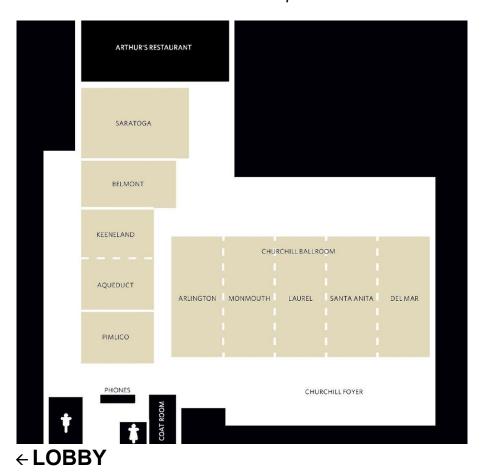
#### **Convention Hotel - Hilton Ocala**



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



#### **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 handson clinics. We hope to meet your expectation with how to subjects on weathering, tree making, T-TRAK assembly, op sessions and more.

The official clinic schedule will be furnished closer to convention time. We will post an early listing of clinics as we get that finalized.

#### **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!





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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 Diazrickdiaz@att.net305 496 9266Tracey Sanderstassailor@mac.com786 514 5667Herb Fordehf640@gmail.com786 375 1424



# ...America's Railroad Embroiderer



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You are receiving this email because you opted in when becoming an NMRA member.

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