

The Telegraph Key

An NMRA Sunshine Region Monthly Publication

September 2024



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



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Editor's Message



Happy Labor Day! For those of us who are still in the workforce, let's enjoy our day and maybe have some fun with Model Railroading. For those of us who are now retired... well, you get to enjoy your trains anytime you want! At least that's the rumor I've heard.


So, I've been working on the clinics that I will present at our upcoming Iron Horse 2024 Sunshine Region Convention in Ocala. I already have one completed and the other one requires me to work on my layout, take photos of my progress, and then create the clinic slides. I tell you what, this is the most I've done on this layout ever – I'm a procrastinator at heart. There were so many aspects of this layout build I needed to do that I made up a schedule with the tasks and dates to keep me sane. Actually, it's probably not a lot to do as layouts go but I haven't modeled in decades. I hope those who attend my clinics will appreciate the work I'm putting in, I'll have my layout on display.

If you haven't voted in the SSR Election yet, I've included the candidate biographies again this month. Please read up on them and then vote.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at this year's gathering and finding out about what you are interested in and what you model. **Also, check out the clinics in the convention section, four new clinics have been added.** Fun for all, I'm sure.

Mark Lewalski

Vice President and Telegraph Key Editor



Fun, Friends, Trains

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President's Message



Dear Hello Sunshine Region Members!

Can you believe it's September already? These past eight months as your President have flown by, and I feel like we're just getting started! Together, we've come a long way from the challenges of last year. We've adapted, overcome, and as a leadership team, we've become laser-focused on the mission of the Sunshine Region. Our commitment to enhancing the Model Railroading experience and strengthening our community has never been stronger.

Many of you have noticed our progress! Thank you for the emails to SSRPrez@NMRA.org, sharing your positive experiences and letting me know that you're rejoining or renewing your NMRA membership. Your feedback, both on what we're doing right and where we can improve, is invaluable. It's always wonderful to hear from our members, and your voices guide our way forward!

Thanks to the hard work of our Treasurer, Glenn Kopriva, and our Director at Large, Jeff "Ski" Guzowski, we're set for an amazing Regional convention this year! We've secured the Ocala Hilton to host all our events, including clinics, contests, and the banquet, as well as the accommodations under one roof—making it convenient for everyone. Despite the Current economy, we've also managed to keep costs down, so this is the perfect year to join us for the SSR Region "Iron Horse" Convention from October 10-12th. Visit our website for more details and remember to book your rooms soon—the discounted rates are available through September!

Your participation in our ongoing elections is crucial! So far, 110 members have voted, but with nearly 500 members, we know we can reach higher. Let's aim for three times that number! Look out for an email from Election Buddy, and make sure your voice is heard. Your involvement is key to our success!

Looking to the future, we are excited about a collaboration between the SER and the SSR possibly hosting Divisional Meets in Kingsland, Georgia. This event, planned for Spring 2025, will feature layouts, a mini train show, clinics, and even train excursions, including a dinner train! If you're a former member, this is a great opportunity to "Re-Rail" and reconnect with our vibrant community.

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

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Sunshine Region Election Biographies



President Nominee – Andy Zimmerman

Greetings, I am Andy Zimmerman, proud to call Tallahassee, FL, and SSR Northern Division my home. Today, I come before you seeking your vote for the esteemed position of Sunshine Region President. With over two decades of honorable service in the US Navy, rising to the rank of Senior Chief, I bring a wealth of leadership experience to this role.

Currently, I serve as the Assistant Director for IT at Florida State University, where my expertise in advanced electronics and computer systems is matched only by my lifelong passion for model railroading. This love affair with trains began at the tender age of nine, amidst the Lionel trains in my father's basement.

As my life journey unfolded across various corners of the globe, my devotion to trains remained steadfast, evolving to encompass the intricate world of N-Scale and T-TRAK modular model railroading. Beyond mere personal interest, I am deeply committed to this hobby, evident in my active participation in multiple organizations and leadership capacities.

At the core of my involvement lies my presidency at the Big Bend Model Railroad Association, where I have nurtured a thriving community of enthusiasts in Tallahassee. Furthermore, I proudly serve as the NMRA Standards and Conformance Manager, guiding an 82-member volunteer team in upholding the industry's highest standards.

My dedication to the NMRA and model railroading extends to my current role as President of the NMRA Sunshine Region. Here, I have championed excellence and collaboration, spearheading initiatives focused on mentorship, fellowship, and community enrichment for enthusiasts across the region.

Beyond regional boundaries, I also hold the position of Vice President at N-Rail, an organization committed to advancing our hobby through innovation and community engagement. My memberships in esteemed groups like the North Raleigh Model Railroad Club and the N-Gauge Society underscore my profound connection to the model railroading community.

In my bid for Sunshine Region President, I offer a unique blend of leadership, expertise, and passion. My national connections promise to forge new pathways for the region's growth and development. With your support, I envision a future brimming with innovation, collaboration, and an enduring love for model railroading.

I humbly ask for your vote as Sunshine Region President. Together, let us embark on a journey towards new horizons in model railroading excellence.



Vice President Nominee – Mark Lewalski

I joined the NMRA as a Life member in 1998. In 2013 I actively joined the Sunshine Region and became Treasurer the following year. I ran for SSR Vice President a few years later, was elected, and served in that position. During my tenure as a Board Officer, I reestablished the SSR website by creating a new site from scratch and served as webmaster. I also created a new design and reestablished the monthly Telegraph Key email. I took on the Region IT aspects and conducted the first purchases of new laptops and accessories with funds from our SSR sponsored NMRA 2017 National Convention in Orlando. I started a Facebook page for the SSR and appointed an administrator. As my duties became more hectic, I passed on the Webmaster and IT Chair duties to other capable individuals, and I kept the Telegraph Key and VP duties. For personal reasons at the time, I stepped down from SSR VP and Telegraph Key duties after passing all my responsibilities to other members. I have recently been appointed SSR Vice President again and would like your vote to continue in that role.



Treasurer Nominee – Glenn Kopriva

Glenn has worn many hats during his career, starting off with a stint in law enforcement with the US Army. He completed his education with an AAS in Law Enforcement and BBA and MBA, he may finish his PhD one of these days.

Some of the positions held during his career have been Controller of two large pharmaceutical firms, Director of Business Intelligence, and Sr Associate with New York Life Insurance dealing with Fraud and data analysis for the US and Canada based out of the Tampa office.

Glenn joined the NMRA back in 1976 when the NMRA bulletin was all black and white. He built the HO Railroad that Grows based on Lynn Wescott's instructions in his parent's basement. A career ensued and the train was put into storage. Four children later and nearing retirement he has moved to N scale and has begun construction of an island layout (7x10) in half of his garage.

He has taken on numerous roles with the Sunshine Region (currently Treasurer, Convention Chair, and Webmaster – previously the Telegraph Key Editor and Membership Coordinator). He has also authored a few articles and was a clinician at the last convention.

As the current Treasurer, Glenn has opened up the books of the Region for full transparency and delivers full details to the Board each month along with a rolling 3 year budget. Glenn has also invested the Regions monies generating the region 1/3 of its annual budget. He has also re-envisioned the Regions advertising practices, lowering advertising costs and enhancing ad revenue

which adds to the dollars needed to meet our fiscal requirements. These actions change how the region operates and allows us to focus on trains not fund raising. This benefits all our members.



Secretary Nominee – Eric Menger

Eric has been an NMRA and SSR member for many years, joining initially when he was a teenager. At that time, he used the NMRA Directory (a printed book mailed to members at the time) to contact local model railroaders. He was a founding member and newsletter editor (while in high school) of the Treasure Coast Model Railroad Club, which is still active in St. Lucie County, Florida. Eric graduated from high school and was appointed to the United States Naval Academy, so the model railroading came to an emergency stop. During his time in the US Navy, and then while serving as an airport manager, Eric started three HO layouts. However, he never completed them due to career moves, completing several tours as a Naval Reservist, raising 4 children, and concurrently running a busy airport (VRB). After retirement, Eric switched to O scale (On30) and joined Al Sohl's Western Bay Railroad Club in Port St Lucie, where he started working on his MMR certifications. He is currently serving the NMRA and SSR as Regional Secretary and the Eastern Division Achievement Program Chair. He has served as a contest judge and has given clinics on scenery using resin hardshell and rock molds.

Eric spent his active-duty career as a naval aviator and transitioned to the naval reserve in 1989. In the reserve, he served as a pilot and a naval intelligence officer, retiring from the Navy in 2007. He now works part-time as an aviation business development manager for a national civil engineering firm. Outside the NMRA, he has served as treasurer for the Veterans Council of Indian River County, treasurer for the local chapter of the Military Officer's Association of America, and Director, Secretary, Vice-President, and President of the Florida District of the National Exchange Club, a 501c(3) organization whose main focus is the prevention of child abuse. He and his family live in Vero Beach, Florida.



At Large Director Nominee – Paul Beckstrom

Currently serving as incumbent since 2022.

Model railroader for 60+ years. Have modeled in O, On3 & On30. Currently Prototype Modeling in HO; Western Pacific RR – 1960's/70's

Published author: Co-author, **Swayne Lumber Company, Narrow Gauge Logger in the Merrimac Forest**, PFM 1992; author numerous articles **Timberbeast** and **Timber Times**.

Co-Chair 39th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Sacramento. Clinic Presenter numerous Narrow Gauge Conventions and West Side Reunions. Model Contest winner at same conventions.

Retired California fire fighter. Assistant Fire Chief Governor's Office of Emergency Services Fire & Rescue Division. 48 years total service.

Instructor, California Community College System, Lifetime Credential - Fire Technology, 38 years.

I am a team player. I am interested in providing whatever services are necessary to improve and assist in NMRA proceedings and ventures in the Sunshine Region.



At Large Director Nominee – Jeff “Ski” Guzowski

I grew up in Dania Beach, FL, where only 4 blocks from our house were the Florida East Coast Railway, double track mainline (with our own passenger station/freight house). Also, about a mile away, was the Atlantic Coastline, (then the Seaboard Airline / Seaboard Coastline) all within bike riding distance, (1950's & 1960's). As a kid, I have always been interested in model railroading since I was 6 years old and I loved spending a lot of time with the Station Agent, watching trains that came through our town, and built 2 HO model layouts.

I rediscovered Model Railroading as a hobby in 2006, before I retired in 2009 (from AT&T as a Service Repair Technician). My newly built 30' x 40' outbuilding (my “new” train room) will be completed any day now. I can't wait to start building my new layout, modeling the Norfolk and Western Steam Era (1943) Shenandoah Division (Roanoke, VA to Hagerstown, MD) in HO.

I am currently a member of the Operations Special Interest Group (OPSIG), Layout Design Special Interest Group (LDSIG), Echoes Train Club (Cutler Bay, FL), Citrus Model Railroad Club (Inverness, FL), Norfolk Western Historical Society, and Florida East Coast Railway Society.

I joined the NMRA in 2007 and was appointed to the positions of Southern Division Asst Superintendent (mid 2008-2010) and Southern Division Achievement Program Coordinator (2010-2019). I was elected as Southern Division Superintendent (2010-2014) termed out, Sunshine Region Secretary (2014-2020), Sunshine Region President (2020-2022), Immediate Past President (Oct 2022-June 2023), Director at Large (June 2023- Present 2024). For the past 3 years, I have been involved in the SSR Annual Conventions, as Clinician Chair, finding the Clinicians and Scheduling 32 Clinics for the 2022-2024 SSR Annual Conventions. In 2023-2024, I was also Convention Co-Chair in which my other responsibilities involved getting a speaker for the Banquets, along with searching for a new venue location, for the upcoming 2024 SSR Annual Convention, which will be in Ocala.

I have been involved in the Region since 2008, working with the Board of Directors/Superintendents, to bring new ideas to the “Best Region Under the Sun”. I would appreciate your vote to serve another term (2024-2026), as your Sunshine Region, Director at Large.



At Large Director Nominee – Ken Hoot

I am Ken Hoot of Jacksonville Beach, FL, seeking your vote for Sunshine Region Board of Directors at Large Member.

My background includes 23 years in the US Navy, retiring as a Chief (E7). I subsequently worked in technical programs as an instructor guiding young people through mechanical training as they prepared for apprenticeships. In both cases I attempted to nurture a sense of craftsmanship, critical self-analysis, and feedback designed to help the person grow. I feel that this three-pronged approach yields sustained growth and increased work satisfaction. I believe this approach will advance our hobby and enable us to serve members as they develop their skills and insights.

I have engaged in model railroading for five decades; each with its special challenges and rewards. Currently, I model in On30 with a western orientation, and support the development of the First Coast Model Railroad Club in the construction and refinement of its multideck HO scale layout. I am actively pursuing various Achievement Program certifications which are truly raising my appreciation for craftsman level modeling and model railroad operations. I have been active in the Northern Division of the Sunshine Region for about a decade and have increased my participation in direct support of the Region itself. I am currently serving on the Sunshine Regions Board of Directors as Director at Large and as Region Achievement Program Chairperson.

Recognizing the options and limitations of people at different stages of life will enable our organization to expand membership. We need to move beyond the mass gatherings and contests as our core activities as these emphasize people with experience and only to a lesser degree the novice member who is looking for guidance and mentoring. We need to expand service to clubs and divisions and encourage both to implement exposure and outreach activities as gateways to the social network that enriches our hobby.

I look forward to the opportunity for service in elected office.



At Large Director Nominee – Robert Leonard

I am Robert Leonard, and most of the membership do not know me personally, but you might know me from my picture that leads the Southern Superintendent report in the Telegraph Key. It has been said the mustache enters the room before I do. I have been the Southern super for the past five years and a member of the NMRA and the SSR for the past 24 years. Most recently you may see my name attached with the title of Editor to the SSR Journal Box. I am running for the position of Director At Large and would appreciate your confidence and vote.

My background in the hobby dates back to the late 1940s, with five family members working for the railroad, my father one of them. Plus, my father used me as an excuse to buy Lionel trains, the interest was there, let's call it destiny, I had no choice. As the interest went on the normal series of life events took place, I got older, got a driver's license, graduated high school, joined the military, and with a marriage, or two, the inevitable hiatus from "trains" took place. After all of those diversions were behind me, I became active again in the 1980s and have been a member of a few organizations over the years, from Orlando, to Kissimmee / St Cloud, to Boston and back again to Florida.

Other than five years in Boston, most of my time has been in Florida, but a bit of history. I really got back into train modeling when I was up north in the late 80s, I joined the BayState Society of Model Engineers in Boston, in which I was an officer on their Board of Directors. My move back to Florida put me in Ft Lauderdale at the Big Pine & Sawgrass in Hallandale, I held positions of secretary, director, and president. In the year 2000 I joined the South Florida Railway Museum in Deerfield Beach, I have been a board member 14 of those years and held positions of Treasurer, Secretary, and the past seven years as President. At the SFRM I have been an organizer in one way or the other with the 2004 and 2008 SSR regional conventions hosted by the SFRM. With the more recent conventions I have become involved as a clinician, a judge, or a helping hand.

My reason for seeking the position of Director. I see the current leadership moving in a positive and progressive direction, visioning a different outlook for the region, I believe I have something to offer, I want to be part of that. I have followed the premise of, if you accept the role of leadership, you must be willing to be misunderstood, criticized, opposed, accused, and rejected. I know that I have the qualifications for the position, therefore I ask for your vote.



At Large Director Nominee – Chip Pecere

I first joined the NMRA in my early 20's, and after moving to Florida I rejoined. Upon my move I became a member of the Vero Beach Model Railroaders. Assisting in the growth of that group, I designed a modular HO display that we built and displayed. In 2023 I was asked to be the webmaster for the Sunshine Region. I rebuilt the website and added an E-commerce account enabling us to accept online registration for our convention. This saw a substantial increase over the previous year's convention. In the last year I earned 4 AP's toward my masters (MMR), Scenery, Electrical, Chief Dispatcher, and Civil Engineering. I've been published numerous times in our Journal Box Magazine with upcoming articles in N Scale Magazine. I've taken clinics on judging and have judged at our last 2 conventions.

My interest in model railroading started at a very early age when I received a 4x8 Lionel train set. I was and still am hooked. By trade I have been a NY professional photographer since my teens. I opened a photo/video studio in my 20's and have been self-employed my whole life. Sponsored by Canon Camera, I also traveled the country teaching professionals how to improve their skills. Here in Florida, I started building an N-scale railroad. After being close to completion, (LOL) I'm now rewiring it for full dispatcher control for OP sessions.

I believe my business, organizational, and marketing skills can help move our Sunshine Region forward. I'm extremely motivated, not afraid of hard work and am a good multitasker. I want to be helpful to all members and serve as your voice for improvements. I would welcome the opportunity to be one of your At Large Directors.



Superintendent Div 1 (North) Nominee – Robert Feuerstein

I am seeking election as a Northern Division Superintendent for the Sunshine Region.

I am a member of the Big Bend Model Railroading Association group in Tallahassee FL, and currently on the NMRA.org Calendar Website Support (link calendar@nmra.org.)

In the past, I was a member of the NMRA and the Short Track Railroad Club in Vista CA since April of 2015 and after a move to Tallahassee Florida in May 2018, am now with Big Bend Model Railroad Association. With the guidance of the many wonderful members of the Sunshine Region and Big Bend Model Railroad Association, I am currently working on the Achievements to become a Master Model Railroader. I have been active at a regional level participating in Regional Conventions. I've taught clinics at the 2016 Culver City Convention, 2017 Ontario Convention, CA, Sunshine Region 2018 and National NMRA in Salt Lake City, Utah 2019.

For many years I was very active in leadership positions in the City of Torrance where I was a member of the Cable TV Advisory Board, then Transportation Commissioner for 8 years and Water Commissioner also for an 8-year term. Working in city politics and making decisions while leading those groups gave me invaluable experience in working with committees and counsel to accomplish results. I believe I could utilize that experience to help our division meet the goals it sets and further the enjoyment of Model Railroading.

On a personal level, I have loved trains and modeling since I was a child. I am married and my wife is fully supportive of my interest and goals with model railroading. I currently retired. I enjoy being active and involved and would give the time and effort necessary to support the needs of our division.



Superintendent Div 2 (East) Nominee – Jim Moore

Am writing to introduce myself, and to request your vote as the NMRA Sunshine Region's Superintendent – Eastern Division.

In January, I was appointed to fill this position following the retirement of Benita Jameson. During my short tenure I have represented the Division's members at each month's SSR Board meeting,

organized a meet-and-greet at my home in Winter Springs, laid the foundation for a 2024 Eastern Division meet, and met with past and current NMRA region and division officeholders to learn more about NMRA organizational practices as well as identify opportunities for future activities for Eastern Division members.

By way of introduction, Sharon (my wife) and I moved to the Orlando area in Summer 2020 from Southern California. Soon thereafter, I took up HO scale model railroading and joined the NMRA Sunshine Region. When SSR President Andy Zimmerman issued a call for volunteers, I responded and was soon thereafter appointed to fill the remaining term of Benita Jameson.

As the founder and managing partner of a successful public transportation consulting firm, I have embraced three guiding principles: transparency, collaboration, and creation of value. If elected as your representative, I will bring these three guideposts to the position of Division Superintendent.

Model railroading enthusiasts enjoy many choices. One of my goals is to enhance the value of NMRA membership. And in doing so, help position the Sunshine Region as one of the NMRA's leading regions.

Each Sunshine Region member is eligible to vote in this important upcoming election. It would be an honor to serve as your Superintendent - Eastern Division for the next two years.



Superintendent Div 3 (West) Nominee – Don Wetmore

I will be running for reelection as NMRA Sunshine Region Western Division Superintendent, a position I have held for the last 4 years. I moved to Florida 6 years ago after retiring from a 35 year career with Union Pacific Railroad.

I have been active in the NMRA since high school which is now almost 50 years. The two things I value most over those years are fellowship and education. I have made many lifelong friends through the NMRA and hope to make many more. Clinics, contests and the Achievement Program have all helped me to become a better modeler.

I have enjoyed meeting many of you at Division Meets and Region Conventions over the last few years. I look forward to meeting more of you and getting to know you better in the coming years. I would like to expand Division Meets into other parts of the Division so more of you can participate. I would also like to encourage active participation in the AP program which will make all of us better modelers.

I hope that together we can continue to help each other improve our skills and share our enjoyment of model railroading.



Superintendent Div 4 (South) Nominee – Richard Berger

Richard has been a model railroader since 1960, when he received a gift of Lionel trains at the age of five. The Lionel trains were sold in the early 1970s to help fund a college education. After graduation and living in a small apartment, Richard returned to the hobby in the late 1970s by purchasing an N scale train.

Richard has continuously collected and run N scale trains since that time, eventually joining Northern Virginia NTRAK (NVNTRAK) when he resided in that area. He also attended a number of national N scale and NMRA conventions around the country, helping to assemble and run on the NTRAK layouts at the convention shows and interfacing with manufacturers to lobby for improved N scale products.

Richard has built multiple layouts in N scale, working in code 55 for years once turnouts were offered. But his current layout uses Kato Unitrak for ease of use and high reliability controlled with a wireless version of the NCE DCC system. Richard's primary interest in the hobby is in railroad operations, and his home layouts have usually consisted of a point-to-loop configuration with a multi-track stub yard and wye for engine terminal operations at one end and a multi-track staging loop at the opposite end.

Beyond modeling, Richard has been an avid and active member of the Union Pacific Historical Society (UPHS) for decades even though he has always lived on the East coast. It was the Union Pacific railroad's decision to never retire the FEF #844 steam locomotive that drove his decision and he has never regretted it. Richard has visited the steam restoration and maintenance facility in Cheyenne, Wyoming and was privileged to ride on a UP steam excursion with both the 844 FEF and 4014 Big Boy in 2019 following his attendance at the 150th anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad at Promontory, Utah.

Richard has ridden on many other trains over the years, both on historical excursions and modern transportation in the US and other countries. In 2023, he rode the privately owned and operated Rocky Mountaineer through the Colorado Rockies and also the famous Grand Canyon train. Earlier in 2024, Richard traveled to Orlando, Florida on the newly initiated Brightline high-speed rail service.

Richard has been a member of the board of the South Florida Railway Museum (SFRM) since 2023, having joined the group in 2022. He also leads efforts to maintain and enhance the club's N scale layout and has organized several evening operating sessions on the club layout. Richard also organizes the club's annual home layout tours which occur during April-June.

PLEASE VOTE NOW!



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

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westernbayrailroad.org



Treasurer's Message



Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone has had a great summer and survived a storm or two, depending where you are in this State of ours. I've been in the position of Treasurer, Webmaster, Convention Chair for just over a year now and am trying to understand where the Region can improve itself. It takes many of us a good deal of time to put programs together, develop ideas to try and foster a fellowship or comraderies with members.

You may have heard Andy, our Region President, talk about us having 500 members yet but only a few attend Division meets and many are not attending our annual convention. How come? While we have a good number of folks attending this year's convention, I know I hoped for more participation from our members. We moved the convention all under one roof, added how-to's, bringing in an Op Session all with the hopes of increasing participation.

What are we missing? What can we add? How do we make it better so that more folks participate locally as well as Region wide. We have some great folks in leadership roles that try to do their best to put on events of interest. If you are not one who wants to be responsible for a Region post there are always small things you can offer to all. Those of you that are skilled modelers can help those of us who lack modeling skills (like myself 😊). This is our hobby and it's more fun when we all participate, get together, share stories and learn from one another.

We can't do this alone and need more folks to get involved or at the very least participate in the various programs we put on during the year. I ask you to email me with your thoughts, ideas, concerns good or bad. This is your Region – how can we make it better for you?

Glenn Kopriva

Treasurer

The Telegraph Key

September 2024

Achievement Program



There was an omission from last month's AP Report for Allen B. Brown for Chief Dispatcher from the Eastern Division from Malborne, Florida. Now for this month we have Kevin Paige for a Golden Spike from the Northern Division from Ponte Vedra, Florida.

There has been a change to the MASTER BUILDER STRUCTURES AP and now in effect and they are. *(The new section will be in all Cap letters)* Build twelve (12) scale structures (MODELS MADE OF LEGO BRICKS AND SIMILAR MATERIALS ARE NOT CONSIDERED SCALE TRAINS AND ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AP EVALUATION.) At least six (6) different types of structures must be represented in the total. One must be a bridge or trestle. At least six (6) must be scratch built. The remaining six (6), if not scratch-built, must be super detailed with scratch-built or commercial parts. UP TO THREE (3) OF THE TWELVE (12) TOTAL MODELS MAY BE "LOW RELIEF" STRUCTURES, DEFINED AS STRUCTURES WITHOUT ONE (1) MODELED WALL (AGAINST THE BACKDROP OR OPEN ON THE AISLE) WITH AT LEAST TEN (10) SCALE FEET DEPTH (FRONT TO BACK) OF SIDE WALLS AND ROOF THAT ARE SUPER-DETAILED. FLATS WITH NO APPRECIABLE ROOFS OR SIDE WALLS ARE NOT CONSIDERED "LOW RELIEF" STRUCTURES AND ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.

RATIONAL: There has been an evolution to smaller model railroads and more around-the-wall linear shelf type railroads with limited space for structures. In many cases, structures are against the backdrop where space is very limited. The use of low-relief structures allows the perception of much larger and more prototypically sized structures. Often, a low-relief structure requires as much engineering and imagineering as a four sided structured. Use of a low-relief structure on an aisle with the aisle-side open allows for a highly detailed interior. Many of the required models still have four walls and a roof. This is all I have for now.

Thank you,

Ken Hoot

Achievement Program Chair

Northern Division



Traveling

Local traveling, look at the Sunshine Region website for other clubs and events happening in our state. Quick Link: <https://www.nmrasunshineregion.org/clubs>
<https://www.nmrasunshineregion.org/upcoming-events>

Other traveling, look at the National Model Railroad Association Calendar website for other clubs and events happening in the United States of America and Other Countries. Quick Link: <https://www.nmra.org/calendar>

Northern Division 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. 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/>

Events

First Coast Model RR Society Open Running Florida, Jacksonville (Beaches)—First Coast Model RR Society open, running every Sun. Operational 750 sq ft. The double-level freelance mixed-era HO layout is 50% complete. Meet On30 modular layout members. The location is gated near I295 and Monument Rd. Please contact us 24 - 48 hours before your visit.

John Piselli jpmickey@att.net, See the club on YouTube (FCMRS).
Quick Link: <http://www.fcMrs.club/>

Northeast Florida Live Steamers & Railroaders <https://www.northeastfloridarailroad.com/> join us (weather permitting) on the 2nd Saturday of each month between 9:30 am and 1:30 pm (for a nominal donation) to ride our 1 scale mile of 7.5 gauge Railroad, see the G-gauge railroad in action on its 1 scale mile of track, and help us raise funds to continue our work. Train owners are welcome to run with us. We look forward to seeing you at the Railroad!

Wiregrass Steel Wheels Train Show

For updates or any changes go to: <http://wiregrassteelwheels.org>. September 21-22, 2024 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Robert Feuerstein

Northern Division Superintendent

Eastern Division



Eastern Division happenings

Formed in 1947, the Central Florida Model Railroaders is home to an HO scale layout featuring 1,500 foot dual mainline replicating scenes from West Virginia 1945 to 1965.

This Orlando club welcomes visitors each Saturday from noon to 4:30 pm. The club hosts three “open houses” annually, and is presently accepting membership applications.

The Central Florida Railroad Museum (Winter Garden) is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Admission free, donations accepted. The museum’s current exhibit (“It’s About Time! How the Railroads Created Our Time Zones”) runs through February 1, 2025.

The Orlando N-Trak Club is home to two full-size layouts (N scale and HO scale) as well as a sectional layout. Founded in 1987, the club meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, and visitors are welcome.

Treasure Coast Model Railroad Club (Vero Beach) has an HO scale layout featuring 13 scale miles of track Admission is free. Donations accepted. Accepting new members. Email tcmrclubflorida@gmail.com.

Orlando Society of Model Engineers. Winter Park. HO scale. Open to visitors each Tuesday and Saturday. Visit OSMR’s Facebook page for further information.

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

Train show at the Azan Shrine Center (Melbourne) on September 9, 2024 starting at 9:00 am. Email schultzspaceacoasttrains@aol.com for details.

Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fair Grounds. Saturday, October 5, 2024, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Google Gold Spike Enterprises for details.

On the workbench

When I returned to the hobby a little more than a year ago, I became quite interested in the Anthracite Roads of the northeast. While transport of anthracite coal was a key element shared by the six lines, each railroad had its own personality. Ultimately, I favored the Lehigh & New England given its relatively short life span as well as the numerous online cement plants. This, in turn, triggered an interest in covered hoppers.

Across the past 40 years or so, several HO scale covered hopper models have been produced by a variety of manufacturers, from “first generation” models such as E&B Valley and Eastern Car Works to more refined offerings by Kato and Kadee.

The first L&NE LO’s (12001 – 12080) were home-built in 1933 and featured eight square evenly spaced roof hatches. This initial group was followed by six successive orders from ACF starting in 1937. These cars featured ten square evenly-spaced roof hatches. Ultimately the L&NE LO fleet would include versions from ACF, Bethlehem Steel, Pullman - Standard, and Greenville Steel Car.

At a recent train show I purchased two Eastern Car Works kits (Kit #2000 featuring eight square roof hatches, and Kit #2002 with eight round roof hatches). Each kit also includes three side options: large opening, small opening, and solid/no opening. The kit instructions can be somewhat challenging to follow, and some of the parts required preparation prior to installation. Some readers may consider the ECW models to be “three-foot” models. For me, they were an enjoyable build and add visual variety given the different roof hatch layouts.

Medium or light gray is a good exterior choice, and K4 produces appropriate HO scale decals. I hope to bring these to the upcoming NMRA Sunshine Region convention in Ocala to participate in one of the hands-on weathering clinics.

Interested in the cement industry of the Northeast? The Anthracite Roads Historical Society will host a “Cement Region Symposium” October 5 and 6, 2024 in Coplay PA. Saturday will include prototype operations and modeling presentations and Sunday a tour of Atlas Cement Co. (Northampton PA). At its peak, Atlas was the largest cement plant in the world. Details can be found on the Eric Lackawanna Railroad Historical Society website.

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



I'm the new guy on the block, filling in this month for current superintendent Robert Leonard with the goal of taking over permanently if I am elected as his replacement. I've been an N scale modeler for four decades, and marvel at the massive advancements in quality, electronics, and model selection. It's an amazing time to participate in model railroading!

Moving on to club news, the Florida Citrus Model Train Society (FCMTS) continues to have an exhibit at the Plantation Historical Museum at 511 North Fig Tree Lane in Plantation, FL through September 28th. It's open 10 AM through 4 PM Wednesday through Saturday and admission is free. They are currently having difficulties making updates to their web site, so the latest news hasn't been posted.

The East Coast HO Exhibitors Society (ECHOES) is planning an SSR divisional meet on November 2nd, with a layout running session November 1st-3rd at the Cornerstone Methodist Church. It's located at 20740 Old Cutler Road, Cutler Bay, FL 33189. Details on hours of operation and the meet agenda have not yet been finalized, so more information will be provided when we obtain it. All division members are welcome to attend. For additional information, please contact Rick Diaz, rickdiaz@att.net

The Palm Beach Model Railroaders are enhancing the Midway Yard on their layout, which has been devoid of scenery. A Walthers Pennsylvania prototype switch tower is being added along with additional scenic elements. The club has recently acquired steam motive power in the form of two articulated locomotives, a 4-6-6-4 and a 2-8-8-2. A bit of infrastructure update has occurred with a new air conditioner and refrigerator. In terms of future events, the club is already planning for the South Florida Fair at the end of January 2025.

The South Florida Railway Museum (SFRM) continues to make updates to both the N scale and HO scale permanent layouts. A team of N scale modelers have made significant progress on improving the river scene, which now reflects deep water. The water pour was accomplished using a single part resin that is cured using UV light. We found it to be remarkably easy to work with and the results are fantastic, in no small part to the artistry of one of our members. Additional work is planned later in the year. Enhancements continue on the HO scale layout with additional scenery and ongoing progress on the engine terminal. A signaling improvement is underway that will provide visual indication of the occupied main line running around the helix to prevent another train from passing a red signal. In addition to the permanent layouts, a group of members are busily working on T-TRAK modules to bring to the NMRA convention in Ocala in October. There will be enough modules completed to support a standalone layout that the SFRM plans to set up at additional venues in the future. Speaking of conventions, a group is making the trek up to Jacksonville September 5-8th for the Florida East Coast Historical Society convention that will include the FecNtrak modular N scale layout. 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.

That's all for now. Until next month, enjoy our incredible hobby!

Richard Berger for 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
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 – September

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.

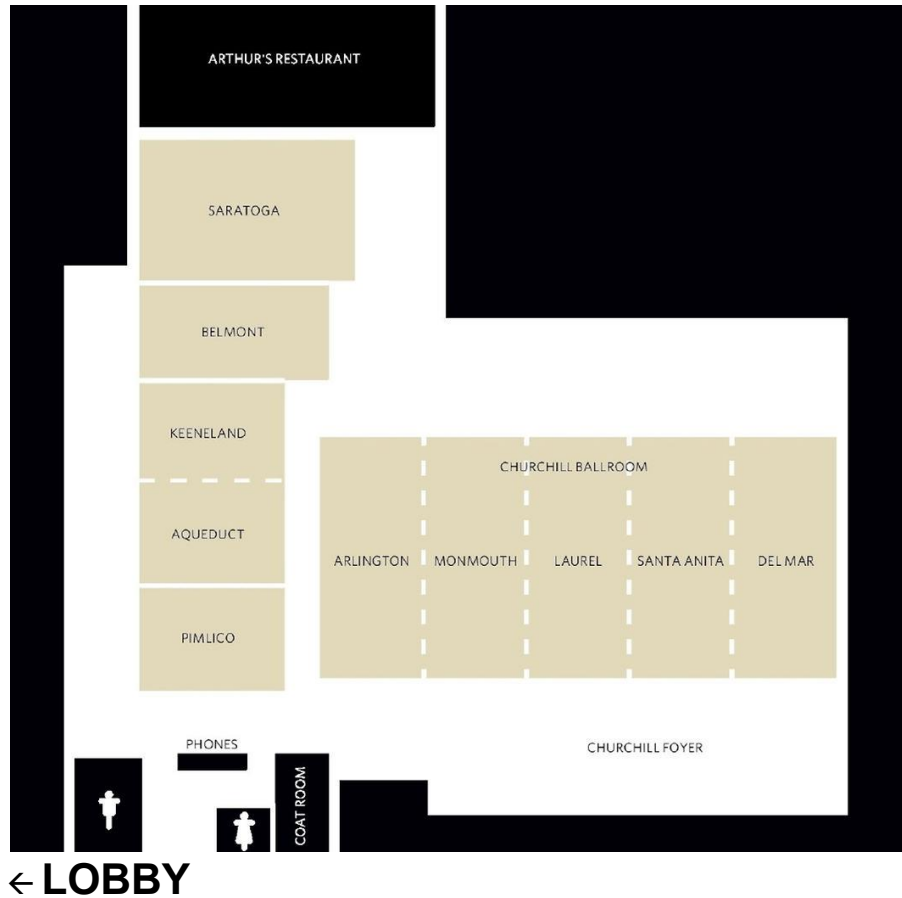
Convention Hotel - Hilton Ocala



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)

John will teach you how to build structures from wood.

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.

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 cabooses, 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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Scenics, Digitrax Decoders & Acc., SoundTraxx Decoders, TCS
Decoders, ESU Decoders, Rokuhan Z**

**Remember do not to wait until December to check your
Christmas Trains for repairs or cleaning!**

Tucker's Train Supply

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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:

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