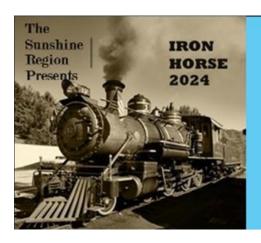
The Telegraph Key An NMRA Sunshine Region Monthly Publication May 2025



The 2025 Sunshine Region Convention October 9 – 11, 2025 in Ocala Fl



- > Clinics
- > Practical Classes
- > Fellowship
- > OP Sessions
- > Contests/Raffles
- > Banquet

For more info and to register, visit WWW.NMRASunshineRegion.org



Convention Registration is Open!

(Click on the image above to be redirected to the website)



WWW.NMRASunshineRegion.org





Sunshine Region Officials

- President, Andy Zimmerman: ssrprez@nmra.org
- Vice President, Robert Leonard: leonardstrait@gmail.com
- Secretary, Eric Menger: emenger77@gmail.com
- Treasurer, Glenn Kopriva: glennkopriva@yahoo.com
- At Large Director, Todd Slaughter: todd.h.slaughter@gmail.com
- At Large Director, Ken Hoot: hootk@bellsouth.com
- At Large Director, Paul Beckstrom: paulbeckstrom1948@gmail.com
- At Large Director, Jeff "Ski" Guzowski: <u>iguzowski@bellsouth.net</u>
- Northern Div. Super, Allen Scott: alco54@hotmail.com
- Eastern Div. Super Unfilled
- Southern Div. Super, Richard Berger: <u>rwberger@comcast.net</u>
- Western Div. Super, Mark Lewalski: vwtrainsailor@gmail.com
- Achievement Program, Ken Hoot: hootk@bellsouth.net
- Model Contest, Carl Smeigh, MMR:
- Journal Box Editor, Robert Leonard: leonardstrait@gmail.com
- Telegraph Key Editor, Mark Lewalski: vwtrainsailor@gmail.com

Editor's Message



Welcome to May!

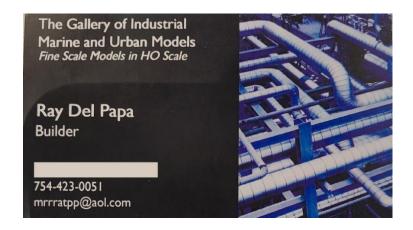
As you will see below in the President's Message, there have been some changes to our organization. I won't go over them here as you should read them from Andy for yourself.

You may have noticed the banner on the title page which announces the Sunshine Region 2025 Convention. Just click on the image and you will be taken to the registration pages on our SSR website. I have already signed up and am looking forward to it.

Suffice to say, we all are trying our best to support our Sunshine Region. Read on...

Mark Lewalski

Telegraph Key Editor



President's Message



To the Members of the NMRA Sunshine Region,

Wow, it is May! Before you know it, it will be the start of hurricane season, and kids will be out for the Summer. Swimming in pools, lakes, ponds and springs or at beaches all across the state. We will be attending backyard BBQs with Family and friends, taking vacations and

traveling. WHERE does the time go?

As your President, I want to take a moment to reflect on the strength and resilience of our model railroading community. Over the past year, we have shared challenges, celebrated successes, and supported one another in true NMRA spirit. From the cancellation of our Iron Horse 2024 convention due to Hurricane Milton to the continued rebuilding of our communities and clubs, the Sunshine Region has remained committed to our core values: mentorship, fellowship, inclusion, and a shared love of model railroading.

Today, I am writing to share important news about recent changes to our Sunshine Region Board of Directors. Due to health concerns and other personal life events, several of our dedicated board members have stepped down from their roles. We are incredibly grateful for their service and wish them the very best.

In response, the Board met and voted on April 19, 2025, to ratify the following appointments:

- Vice President: Robert Leonard (replacing Mark Lewalski)
- **Director at Large: Todd Slaughter** (replacing Robert Leonard)
- Northern Division Superintendent: Alan Scott (replacing Robert Feuerstein)
- Eastern Division Superintendent: Vacant (formerly Jim Moore)
- Western Division Superintendent: Mark Lewalski (replacing Don Wetmore)

We welcome these motivated and dedicated individuals to their new roles. Each of them brings fresh energy, experience, and perspective to the board, and I am confident they will serve our Region well. Their willingness to step up at this pivotal time speaks volumes about their commitment to our community. We are still in need of an Eastern Division Superintendent. Out of 82 members in the Eastern Division, surely one of you would like to participate as the Sunshine Region Eastern Superintendent; we are doing some great things in all of the Divisions as more motivated and inspired people to join the team and participate. I am looking for a dedicated and motivated individual that can step up. Who among you has the dedication and talent to step into this role? Send me an e-mail: ssrprez@nmra.org

I look forward to meeting and speaking with each of you at the upcoming **Sunshine Region Northern Division Meeting**, focused on modeling and fellowship. This event is a great opportunity to reconnect, learn, and get inspired:

Northern Division Meeting Details

• **Date:** May 10, 2025

 Location: Lake City Library West Branch 435 NW Hall of Fame Drive, Lake City, FL

• Hosted by: Alan Scott and Richard Segall

Doors Open: 10:00 AMMeeting Starts: 10:20 AM

• Basic Breakfast and Coffee will be provided in the morning, and a Light Lunch in the afternoon.

- You don't have to be from the Northern Division to attend.
- If you are planning on attending, it is important that you **RSVP with Alan Scott** (see the Northern Division announcement for contact details).

As we look ahead, I encourage each of you to stay involved, stay connected, and continue to share your passion. Whether it's through your local Division, virtual or in-person meets, or just helping a fellow modeler with a project — your participation is what keeps the NMRA Sunshine Region strong and vibrant. That said I am extending invitations to our western Florida SER brothers/sisters to join in and participate in our events. Many are unsure of who we are as an organization and as a Team and I hope to engage all of them in conversation at one point. If they come to your event Be sure to welcome them and engage with them as fellow modelers should! Remember the fellowship and community are paramount in building strong relationships!

Let us continue to build on our foundation of fellowship, mentorship, and fun, and support one another as we move forward into the rest of 2025 and beyond.

With appreciation and respect,

Andy Zimmerman

President

New Region Director Introduction



Hi, I'm Todd Slaughter and I go by "Todd" or sometimes "Chief." I began my model railroading journey as a small boy of five years old when my father bought me a Lionel train set. As expected, I eventually outgrew that toy train. Fast forward to 2010, when my wife Jennifer and I visited Gulf Coast Model Railroad to buy another Lionel train set. It was Christmas time, and I felt our daughter Sophia needed a train around the tree. Soon after, our family visited the Florida Railroad Museum to ride the North Pole Express and we saw the Florida Garden Railway Society holiday layout; we were hooked! After that, our family enjoyed garden

railroading for many years to come. Now I model in HO scale, with my "Clay Sink branch line" layout set in the transition era, in what is now called Clay Sink, Florida. FYI, Clay Sink was originally called Slaughter, Florida and was settled by my family.

I am very passionate about model railroading, especially the Special Interest Group (SIG) I recently started with my daughter Sophia; the Special Needs Model Railroad Association (SNMRA). The club is enjoying N scale T-Trak model railroading at the Sarasota Toy Museum. We even have a module entered in the 2026 Scenic City Express Chattanooga - NMRA National Convention and T-Trak Record Breaker. I also volunteer with the Model Railroad Division of the Florida Railroad Museum from time to time. I am a proud Florida native. Although the military has taken me out of the state many times, sometimes with my family and sometimes without, I've always called Florida my home. I currently work for the Department of the Air Force, in Tampa and I live in Sarasota with my wife Jennifer, our two daughters Sophia and Daphne, and my father Marshall. I am so excited to be a part of the organization and enjoy model railroading with you.

THE SPECIAL NEEDS MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION SIG

The Special Needs Model Railroad Association (SNMRA) is a National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) Special Interest Group (SIG). In order to provide a supportive community where model railroaders of all capabilities can gather, exchange ideas, and enjoy the hobby, the SNMRA actively engages with the community. From local model railroad clubs and retailers to the NMRA, we are working to bring all aspects of the hobby within the reach of our members. The Sarasota Toy Museum has been an integral part of our journey and monthly SNMRA meetings are held there. We are currently working with the Florida Railroad Museum to bring the joy of volunteerism and prototype operations to our activities. We have an SNMRA Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1219352316029628. Our Groups.io page is: SNMRA@groups.io. You can find us on Instagram (@snmra_online), or on Threads. Our email address is info@snmra.org.

In celebration of the anniversary of the driving of the Golden Spike at Promontory Summit, Utah, and the creation of the first transcontinental railroad across the United States, the SNMRA is hosting a meet up at the Sarasota Toy Museum on 10 MAY 2025 from 2PM-4PM. The Sarasota Toy Museum is located at 3580 17th St, Sarasota, FL 34235, and may be reached by phone at (941) 993-1897.

www.RobsHobbyWorld.com

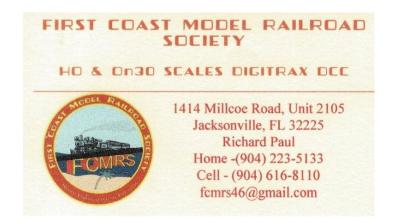
Robshobbyworld@msn.com Hours: Monday-Friday 10-530, Saturday 9-4

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352-854-2799





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

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Treasurer's Message



Hello Everyone –

It's already May and the convention registrations are in full swing. We already have a good number of folks that have registered and selected some of the limited how-to clinics. Space is limited in some of these clinics so be sure and register early so you can lock in your seat.

We are also having the Echoes club set up their modules for a huge layout in the ballroom of the hotel. This will provide both an area for Ops Sessions for newbies and well-seasoned operators as well as giving the public a view into model railroading. Win-win!

If there is something you would want to share with the group, we welcome you to share your knowledge with the rest of us. There are so many facets of our hobby none of us can know it all well. Please, share what you've learned or something you are passionate about. Please contact Jeff Guzowski and see if we can set you up with a clinic --- yes, you can do a clinic!! It's fun to share - teach a clinic -- you'll be glad you did!!

Another new change that we've added is the ability to allow Manufacturers, groups or clubs to do short term advertising with us in the Telegraph Key. These are reasonably priced rates designed for 2 or more months. Great to advertise upcoming events. The new advertising form is on the website – you can access it from the home page – click on advertise with us.

Lastly, if you haven't registered yet, do so today and make your reservation at the Hilton. It's going to be a great time for all and you really do not want to miss this!

Glenn Kopriva

Treasurer

Achievement Program



As of right now I have no APs for the month. So let me see if I can shake up some of the Divisional AP Chair people. We can get some more evaluations going now and maybe get to APs in the near future.

Here are the Divisional AP Chair people to contact if anyone needs help of any kind with the Achievement Program.

The Northern Division is Richard Paul.

The Eastern Division is Erick Menger.

The Southern Division is Rober Leonard.

and The Western Division is Joe Gilmartin.

Also let's get some of the models that we were going to enter into the Contest Room at last year's Convention out and touched up for this year's Convention or maybe start a few more models some for this year. I look forward to quite a few to be evaluated this year because I know there are quite a few good modelers out there and we will have some real good models. So be sure to get yours done and ready for the Contest Room. So, everybody that needs help with your models should get with your Divisional Achievement Program Chairperson for help.

So that is all I have for this month.

Thank you,

Ken Hoot

Achievement Program Chair

Northern Division



I would like to introduce myself. My name is Allen Scott, and I have been active in model railroading for the past forty years. I have been a member of the NMRA Sunshine region for ten years. Recently I chose to volunteer for the position of Sunshine Region Northern Division Superintendent. Thanks to the Sunshine Region Board of Directors, I was appointed to this position. Personally, I have met many talented individuals in this region and look forward to

representing all of the Northern Division and the Sunshine Region.

Events

Northern Division Meet

Focus on Modeling Hosted by Allen Scott and Richard Segall

Date Saturday May 10, 2025

Location Lake City Library West Branch

Address 435 Hall of Fame Drive Lake City Florida

Doors open at 10:00am meeting starts at 10:20am to 4:00pm

Refreshments will be available, donations accepted

Clinics

Richard Segall Seeing Details to Improve Modeling

Richard Paul Tree Building

Allen Scott Modeling the Scrap Metal Recycling Business

A Show and Tell Table will be available. Bring a project finished or not

SSR AP Chairman Ken Hoot will be presenting some AP awards

Please RSVP to me at alco54@hotmail.com or leave me a message at (386)623-3030.

Future Workshops

Several places are being evaluated for future Northern Division workshops.

I really hope to have the support of the Northern Division Membership going forward!

Thank You.

Allen Scott

Northern Division Superintendent

Eastern Division



Eastern Division Superintendent Resignation & Path Forward

(I'm running this message from Andy again since it is still applicable – Ed.)

Last Month we regrettably needed to inform you that Jim Moore had stepped down as Superintendent of the Eastern Division, NMRA Sunshine Region. We sincerely thank him

for his service and dedication during his tenure and appreciate his contributions to the division and the greater SSR community. Jim Stepped in for Benita Jameson who stepped up in at a critical time to keep the division moving forward. Unfortunately, life has a way of disrupting the best of plans and family and personal health need to come first. We appreciate their dedication and willingness to serve.

With this transition, we encourage members of the Eastern Division to take this opportunity for introspection. Leadership is vital to the growth and success of our organization, and now is the time for those passionate about model railroading and the NMRA to step forward and help guide the division into the future. The continued success of the Sunshine Region depends on the engagement and support of its members, and we urge you to be part of that momentum.

We will share updates on the next steps for Eastern Division leadership soon. In the meantime, we ask for your input, involvement, and commitment to ensuring the division remains strong and active. If you have thoughts or are interested in taking on a leadership role, please reach out.

Thank you for being part of the NMRA Sunshine Region. Let's work together to keep it growing and moving forward.

Sincerely,

Andy Zimmerman

President

Western Division



Well... I think some of you may have heard of me before.

When our previous Division Superintendent, Don Wetmore, indicated that he'd like to step away from this position, I offered to take this on as I've been wanting to get more involved with our local Western membership. Many thanks to Don for serving as Superintendent for these past years.

A few months back, I had turned Jeff Guzowski on to the idea of visiting the Mulberry Phosphate Museum as a possible Division outing. I had planned on attending but a turn of fate meant that my daughter moved out and into her own place on that very same Saturday. She needed her dad to help her out and I wasn't going to say no. Therefore, your new Superintendent was a no-show at his first event. I plan on doing better!

I have some ideas for our Division that I hope will bring us all together a bit more. I will be reaching out to our membership, our clubs, and our hobby shops and asking for assistance. I especially hope to involve the folks at both ends of our Western area. I look forward to meeting all of you. Please work with me to do great things for all of us.

If you'd like to email me, please do so at vwtrainsailor@gmail.com

Thanks.

Mark Lewalski

Western Division Superintendent

Southern Division

Now that I've returned from my travels, the first order of business is a huge thanks to Bob Leonard for filling in for me last month. Bob is already a very busy guy, editor of the Journal Box, the President of the SFRM club, and now the newly elected Vice President of the Sunshine Region. Congrats, Bob!

My travels via cruise ship included New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, and Singapore. While I didn't have the opportunity to visit model railroads in my travels, 1:1 scale railroad excursions are always a priority. We managed two on this trip. In Gisborne, NZ, there was a steam train excursion. Motive power was a circa 1904 tank locomotive running on coal. I spent a lot of time speaking with the engineer sand fireman prior to departure and managed a cab ride when they did the run-around for the return trip. In Dunedin, NZ in the south of New Zealand in the mountainous country, we took a trip on the diesel-powered Taieri Gorge railroad. This one included spectacular scenery and several high wooden trestles. On top of that, Melbourne, AUS has the most extensive modern light rail network I've encountered with double track lines including double track crossings and junction turnouts, a huge treat for you traction fans. We had scheduled a jungle train ride in Cairns, AUS, but a huge downpour the previous day washed out the tracks and it was canceled. That's an interesting use for a MOW train that I had never considered: food for thought.

On to model railroad club news: The Florida Citrus Model Train Society (FCMTS) is on hiatus right now, but will reopen their display at the Plantation Museum on July 2nd, 2025. 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) club has almost completed their rehab efforts at the Gold Coast Railroad Museum and plans to have their entire modular layout moved into the museum by mid-May. Per their agreement with the Museum, the club will run trains in display mode every Saturday and Sunday. But they will be able to run operating sessions when the Museum is closed on Mondays or Tuesdays and they hope to schedule their first operating session in this new permanent location before the end of May. Eventually, the club plans to build a permanent layout in the Museum, taking advantage of around-the-wall space efficiency. I should also note that the ECHOES club will be transporting their entire modular layout to Ocala in October for the annual Sunshine Region convention. This will include operating sessions using their JMRI-based switch-list program with two-man crews on each train and they plan to host a JMRI clinic at the convention. It's definitely worth the trip to the convention, scheduled for Oct. 9-11, and the registration form is on the NMRA web site. For additional information on ECHOES, please contact Rick Diaz, rickdiaz@att.net or Tracey Sanders, tassailor@mac.com.

The Palm Beach Model Railroaders (PMBRR) just completed a weekend open house in support of the Barrett-Jackson Auto Show, but there are no similar events scheduled for May. The club meets weekly on Tuesday evenings 6-9 PM at the South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd, West Palm Beach, 33411. I have been in discussions with the club about opening their layout for a day for a visit by NMRA members- more on that below. They can be contacted at PBMRRclub@gmail.com for additional information. The club's web site is www.pbmrr.org.

The South Florida Railway Museum (SFRM) at the Deerfield Amtrak and Tri-Rail station on Hillsboro Road plans their next open house on May 10th with visitors welcomed from 11 AM through 4 PM.

The Telegraph Key

May 2025

They are also opening for a private group visit this month, as the club has done previously upon request. The club maintains a Facebook page in lieu of a web site. For additional information, contact Bob Leonard, leonardstrait@gmail.com.

South Florida Railway Museum

JOIN us for LAYOUT TOURS

Tour Dates for 2025
Go to our website for dates and times

The Museum is Open on the 2nd Saturday of the month 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

05 - 10, 06 - 14, 07 - 12, 08 - 09, 09 - 13, 10-11, 11-08, 12-13

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

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May is the month when the SFRM begins the 3rd Annual Home Layouts Tour which I organize. Bob Leonard and I discussed that this year we should expand this into a Southern Division NMRA event, inviting NMRA members and members of club in the Southern Division to visit our home layouts and inviting those from other clubs to host open hoses themselves. I am also working on getting the clubs to open their club layouts for visitors as well. The open houses will be scheduled on Sundays, as that is a day when kids are out of school, adults (hopefully) are off from work, and ideally traffic is much less than on weekdays. The first two tours will occur on May 4th, with visits to the layouts of SFRM member Bill Cialini and PMBRR member Larry Lawler. Bill's skills are widely known and his work was featured in the February issue of Model Railroad Craftsman. His freelanced HO layout feature CSX and NS motive power. Larry's HO Penn Central layout operates using JMRI. Both are definitely worth seeing.

The tours continue on May 18th (of course we skipped Mother's Day on May 11th) with the N scale layout of SFRM members Jonathan Berman and the HO layout of Jeff DeVido. Jonathan's eclectic layout is capable of running 5 trains at a time, including a commuter train on an automated point-to-point elevated line. Jeff's layout is very scenery intensive and his skills are world class. Again, these are layouts not to be missed.

I am also in discussions with the PMBRR to open their club layout for visitors on Sunday, June 1st. They are in the process of confirming with their landlord, the Palm Beach County Fairgrounds, that

there are no competing events that day which would prevent our access. Once I have that solidified, I will officially add it to the tour schedule. I described this layout in the March column. It's really impressive and not to be missed.

As I am personally the organizer of these layout tours, <u>please contact me first</u> if you are interested in visiting. I will provide you via email with short brochures for each layout that include key items like contact information for the layout owner, directions to their homes, any parking restrictions and gated community barriers, and layout stats and photos to whet your appetites. And of course, the times each layout will be open for visitors. Before visiting these layouts, PLEASE contact the owner via phone or email to let them know you are coming. Once there, be mindful of the reality that a typical layout room can only support a few guests at a time, but our hosts usually provide a gathering spot in the house for guests. Unless a host chooses to do so, there is no requirement to provide refreshments, so please plan accordingly.

We plan to publish the full schedule of layout tours on the SFRM web site www.sfrm.org

That's all for now. Let's make 2025 a great year for model railroading.

Richard Berger

Southern Division Superintendent

Ski's Tidbits



UPCOMING EVENTS

for everyone, presented by Richard Segall and Allison Dendy.

Saturday, May 3rd, Martin County Model Railroaders Spring Free Open House, Martin County Fairgrounds, Stuart FL, 10am to 2pm.

Saturday, May 10th, there will be a Northern Division Meet, at the Lake City Library,

West Branch, 435 NW Hall of Fame Dr., in Lake City. The doors will open at 10AM, along with donuts and refreshments, and the Meet will begin at 10:20am. The three (3) Clinics that will be presented are: 1) Tree Building Clinic, presented by Rich Paul (SSR Northern Division Assistant Superintendent), 2) Modeling a Scrapyard, presented by Allen Scott, and 3) Producing quality models requires many things with the ability to project how the work will come together to be more than the sum of the parts. The NMRA's Judging Guidelines offer a starting point for developing this skill. This hands-on clinic with participants working in small teams aims to enhance modeler's skills in planning their work and selecting challenges for going beyond glueing parts together. The clinic seeks to expand the pool of modelers capable of producing merit award models while providing practical skills

There will be a Show and Tell after the clinics, so bring your models. Your models Do Not have to be completed. If you have an unfinished model, bring it as someone might have a question on how you may have done something on your model. Lunch will be provided.

We cannot charge money for the Division Meet, because it is being held in a Public Library, but there will be a donation cup available, so please put a few bucks in the cup. This Northern Division Meet will be presented by Allen Scott and Richard Segall (past Northern Division Superintendent).

If you have any questions, you can contact Allen or myself (see my info at the bottom of the page). Allen Scott's cell phone (386) 623-3030, email is alco54@Hotmail.com.

Saturday, May 17th, Brooksville, FL Brooksville Spring Model Train Show, Hernando County Fairgrounds, 6436 Broad St. Free Parking, Wheelchair Accessible, 9:00am – 2:00pm. Admission: \$6.00 for adults, children under 12 free. Vendors and operating layout. Lunch items are available. Contact Joe: 727-244-1341 or visit www.regalrailways.com for more information.

Saturday, June 21st, Pinellas Park, FL Model Train Show, Lopez Hall, 7177 58th St N, Free Parking, Wheelchair Accessible, 9:00am – 2:00pm. Admission: \$6.00 for adults, children under 12 free. Vendors and operating layout. Lunch items available. Contact Joe: 727-244-1341 or visit www.regalrailways.com for more information.

Saturday/Sunday, June 28th & 29th, 34th, Annual Big Bend Model Railroad Association Train Show, North Florida Fairgrounds, Tallahassee.

Week of July 14th-19th, 2025 Novi, Michigan, NMRA 90th Anniversary National Convention and Train Show.

Just a Reminder: The Annual Sunshine Region Convention will be held at the Hilton in Ocala, on Thursday through Saturday, October 9th- 11th, 2025.

MULBERRY PHOSPHATE MUSEUM TOUR

On Saturday, April 26th, the NMRA Sunshine Region Western Division hosted a free guided tour of the Mulberry Phosphate Museum. We were greeted by Lauren next to the 1880 American Standard Locomotive 4-4-0, who proceeded to explain the locomotive history and the phosphate dragline pile. There was one person digging in the dragline pile, who found 3 shark's teeth, and numerous vertebrae bones in less than 20 minutes. Our tour guide Bonnie escorted us into the Phosphate Gallery, which was housed in a 50-foot Seaboard Boxcar, where she presented a full history on Florida's Phosphate Industry. Florida is one the only places in the world where phosphate comes in round rocks. During the Dinosaur Age, Florida was covered in water and wave action rounded the phosphate rocks. Florida Phosphate mining is only 15-30 feet below the surface, everywhere else in the world, it is usually 10,000 feet below the surface. We then proceeded into the Fossil Gallery in the Mulberry Historic Train Depot, that displays the Bone Valley Fossil Collection. We were amazed by all the fossils including a giant mammoth, large tortoises, dolphins, beluga whale, giant sloth, head of an 18foot crocodile, shark's teeth, arrowheads, and so many more artifacts that I wouldn't be able to list them all. Outside the Train Depot, hooked to a Seaboard Coast Line Caboose, was a 44-ton locomotive that was used overseas in the European Theatre of World War 2, with bullet holes in the rear cowling. The Mulberry Tree, namesake and symbol of the City of Mulberry, was a fully mature red Mulberry tree when the Winston and Bone Valley (W & BV) Railroad began hauling phosphate rock from the mines in Bone Valley. The tracks ran just west of the large tree next to the station. When the train came through, Mulberry was the only town around with a Post Office. When the mailbag was delivered, they always threw the mailbag, and it always got caught in the tree.

When we were walking around the tracks at the train station, David Leider noticed there was a 2-track crossing in the middle of the 4-lane road next to the train depot.

The Phosphate Museum Tour was worth the trip, and if you are in or close to Mulberry, check it out for yourself. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, and is located at: 101 SE First St., Mulberry, FL.

I would like to thank the City of Mulberry for preserving a part of Florida's history, and to our 2 tour guides Lauren and Bonnie who work at the museum and were so knowledgeable and made the phosphate mining tour interesting and enjoyable at the same time.

Photos will be posted on the NMRASunshineRregion.Org website shortly.

Jeff "Ski" Guzowski – NMRA Sunshine Region Director

Cell (954) 401-0804 Email: jguzowski@bellsouth.net

Jeff Guzowski

Sunshine Region At Large Director





June 28th & 29th 2025 at the North Florida Fairgrounds



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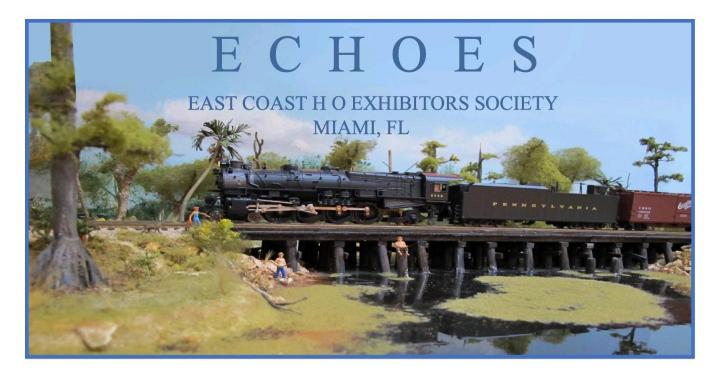
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E.C.H.O.E.S is a modular model railroad club located in Miami-Dade, Florida, dedicated to building and displaying our HO scale model railroad layout. Our purpose is to enjoy and promote the hobby of model railroading and preserve the history of railroading 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.

Our mailing address is:

NMRA Sunshine Region, Inc. 4621 Bexley Village Dr Land O Lakes, FL 34638

