

# THE TELEGRAPH KEY

A NMRA SUNSHINE REGION MONTHLY PUBLICATION

SEPTEMBER 2023



## 40 DAYS UNTIL 2023 CONVENTION

### 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

## [WWW.NMRA.SUNSHINEREGION.ORG](http://WWW.NMRA.SUNSHINEREGION.ORG)

Register until 9/30/23 to be part of the fun! Our expanded hotel block has sold out!



### SUNSHINE REGION OFFICIALS

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## EDITORS MESSAGE



All, it's been quite a wild couple of weeks with a hurricane affecting most of the State in one way or another and a delay in both the Telegraph Key and the Journal Box. I hope everyone fared well and prayers to our neighbors in the Big Bend area.

On a positive side of things let's all congratulate our newest MMR, Beverly Farnham!!! According to the NMRA Sep/Oct E-Bulletin, Beverly is MMR # 743!

### **Congratulations Beverly!**

Another positive change in the region is that we will cease the printed version of the Journal Box with the December 2023 issue. We feel, and we hope you feel the same, that by going digital, *all* our members can take advantage of the great content we are offering and we want all members to have the opportunity to read and learn at no additional cost. Now I know you are saying, wait, woah, hold on, my subscription doesn't run out until the year 2025! Not to worry, we intend to refund all subscribers based on their subscription end date at one dollar per month for every month after 12/31/2023. We will send each subscriber an email with their subscription end date and give them a choice to receive the refund or donate the remaining value to the region with the default of the region mailing you a check in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024.

Please feel free to email me directly any comments, questions or items that could be added to next month's newsletter. Remember, the Telegraph Key is also available to read or download directly on our website!

Happy Railroading!

**GLENN KOPRIVA**

**EDITOR, TELEGRAPH KEY**

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## THE MAILCAR



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Thanks to all for the continued positive responses to the new website. As mentioned, it is still a work in progress and will get better as time goes on.

We were recently notified that our Chat option gave the impression that we were “manning” the website 24/7 that would allow for an immediate chat response, a reasonable expectation as many websites offer this – we simply cannot do

this today, but this left the user with a bad experience. We have corrected this issue by providing a better form to fill out and a message that would suggest we would get back to you soon. If anyone sees a shortcoming on the website please let us know. We want this to work as flawlessly as possible.

Please email me, [glennkopriya@yahoo.com](mailto:glennkopriya@yahoo.com) any comments, questions or suggestions to keep this format engaging for all. It’s our way to stay involved and keep you involved!

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

No updates for August.

**GENE JAMESON**

**PRESIDENT**

## **ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

AP's for the month of August.

- 1) Beverly Farnham for Master Model Railroader from Palm Bay, Florida the Eastern Division.
- 2) Thomas Wilson Chief Dispatcher and Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical from Davenport, Florida, the Western Division.

Congratulations goes to **BEVERLY FARNHAM** for her Master Model Railroader. **GOOD JOB BEVERLY !!**

We will be making changes to the way we do AP Judging in the future, as we have a mandate from National to make changes due to some things that have happened in the past to our program. I will list the changes in the near future as soon as I get a handle on what is going to happen.

**KEN HOOT**

**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM CHAIR**

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## **TREASURERS REPORT**

The Regions treasury remains strong and secure. The convention also looks strong this year. We expanded our hotel block this year for an additional 10 rooms and they were sold out earlier than expected! If you have not registered yet, please register now! You can register online until 9/30/23. You do not want to miss out on the fun.

Local businesses and clubs are welcome to place advertisements in the Monthly Telegraph Key, Quarterly Journal Box or our Annual Convention Timetable publication, for more information contact Ken Hoot via email: ( [HOOTK@Bellsouth.net](mailto:HOOTK@Bellsouth.net) ).

**GLENN KOPRIVA**



## TREASURER

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### NORTHERN DIVISION



#### **SSR Director at Large receives the NMRA Presidents award.**

Andy Zimmerman- SSR Director at Large from the Northern Division received the NMRA's Presidents Award for his Leadership. Andy rebuilt and restructured the NMRA National Standards and Conformance department and has provided strong leadership to a team of 70+, resulting in the resolution of longstanding issues, such as clearance gauges, and standards gauges as well as a host of DCC and other Standards related issues.

#### **Sopchoppy Depot Days- September 9, 2023 Towles house/ the Depot**

SSR Northern Division members will be running HO and N-Scale trains for this event in Sopchoppy FL. The historic Sopchoppy Depot is the only remaining depot still standing in Florida on the G F & A. It was beautifully restored in 2010 and now serves as a museum with historical exhibits and a collection of old photographs, memorabilia and recovered artifacts. Come join us as we celebrate Depot Days!

#### **Wiregrass Steel Wheels model train show. September 16 & 17 2023**

Members from the SSR and the SER will be participating with local clubs at the Wiregrass Steel Wheels Model Train Show at its new location in the Westgate Recreation Center 501 Recreation Rd Dothan, AL 36303.

**NMRA monthly magazine Meet and Greet Correction** Instead of the monthly Sunday "Meet and Greet" event in Jacksonville we now run trains every Sunday and anyone is welcome to visit. The contact person for the club has changed from Stu Shef to John Piselli @ 904-993-0225 or [jpmickey@att.net](mailto:jpmickey@att.net) or [fcMrs46@gmail.com](mailto:fcMrs46@gmail.com).

**The Beaches area History museum is holding a Trains Day event** on September 9th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A small version of our FCMRS On30 modular layout will be **exhibited** as well as an "O" scale layout and model display.

The History Center's website for more info is: [Events - Beaches Museum](#)

**Northern Division Virtual Clinics:** Now that the NMRA National Show is in our rearview mirror we are loaded up with new information and new presenters for our quarterly Northern Division Clinic. DCC, Model railroad manufacturers, MMR's from across the US and Canada will

be joining us and providing quality Clinics. If you are in the Northern Division, look at your e-mail for Links. If not send your e-mail to [photobob321@gmail.com](mailto:photobob321@gmail.com) and we will get you included as we schedule them.

**The Lloyd Railroad Depot:** Several of the NMRA SSR Northern Division in Tallahassee have continued to volunteer to restore the Lloyd Railroad Depot (<https://gulfwindnrhs.org/LloydDepot.html>) The Lloyd Railroad Depot is a historic depot building 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 two surviving railroad depots in the state built prior to the start of the American Civil War. The building closed in 1966 after its owner at the time, the Seaboard Air Line Railroad, discontinued service there and donated it to the Jefferson County Historical Society. A few years later, ownership was transferred to the Gulf Wind Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, who own it to this day. On December 2, 1974, it was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. The structure is located near the junction of SR 59 and Old Lloyd Road. It is currently used as a post office.

## **ROBERT FEUERSTEIN**

### **NORTHERN DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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## **EASTERN DIVISION**



No updates for August.

## **BENITA JAMESON**

### **EASTERN DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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## WESTERN DIVISION



No updates for August.

**DON WETMORE**

**DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

## SOUTHERN DIVISION



Greetings Southern Division,

Down here in the South not much has been going on other than what the ECHOES group has been doing. Well, almost only the ECHOES group, the SFRM has been busy with maintenance and upkeep of their museum. The month of August is an anniversary for them, 30 years at the Deerfield Beach station, but first we'll talk about the ECHOES. They announced an operating and open running session for the weekend of 25 – 27 last month, again at the Cornerstone church in Cutler Bay. I am sure they had a productive weekend, unfortunately members of the SFRM were not in attendance due to a workday at the museum. The Florida Citrus group is planning.

When last talking to the president of the ECHOES, Rick Diaz, he reiterated they will be holding the Workshop in October after our regional convention. As I said before it will follow the standard workshop schedule, meet & greet, clinic, lunch, clinic, and raffle.

Speaking of conventions, last month I reported that four of the SFRM members signed up for the regional in Plant City and talked about the confusion of their registrations being recognized, due to the change of websites mid stream. Well, that confusion was remediated quickly, so for those others interested in the activities up there, sign up! Unfortunately for these guys who wanted to ride Brightline, it will not be available to ride north, but the tour the maintenance facility still on. They should consider the money they saved, more for trains!

The Florida Citrus group will be exhibiting once again at the Southwest Regional Library on Sheridan St. In Pembroke Pines at the end of November, through the holidays and to the second week in January. They hit all scales, actually gauges.



The South Florida Railway Museum is gearing up for their annual Train Show scheduled for the weekend before Thanksgiving, which is the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. Once again it will be at St Pauls Lutheran on Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton. Along with readying for the show they are also in the process of extending their presence.

The SFRM has been located at the old Seaboard station in Deerfield Beach as of the 23rd of August for the past 30 years. I know this because the museum is in the process of renewing the lease on the building through the Florida Department of Transportation. This has been quite a journey, close to four years in this process, pre Covid, we are looking to extend it another five to ten years.

Time is marching on; we are just a little over 5 weeks before Plant City is upon us. From the description and outlook of the convention, it has the recipe of being an entertaining and educational weekend. Hopefully, weather permitting, no unforeseen catastrophes, I will see some familiar faces at the convention and meet some new ones, see you there.

Until next month, Model 60!

**ROBERT LEONARD**

**DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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## **REGION CONVENTION**

Can you believe we are under 45 days from our 2023 convention?! We sold out of our block of rooms, but you can still register! Don't delay – Register today! (I strongly suggest you register online. A back-up hotel might be the Quality Inn @ 321-710-0339. They are located 1 block away from the Holiday Inn. We do not have any pricing locks with them so use those AARP discounts if applicable or select another nearby hotel.

This is going to be a great convention and train show. As I mentioned last month, we have a new caterer serving a steak and chicken combo along with sides and beverages and a convention cake! On top of the great food, we are anticipating Brightline to tell us their story and Gordy Robinson, president of the NMRA will also share some words of wisdom and encouragement.

Unfortunately, we were forced to remove raffle tickets from our online order form. Not to worry, you'll have plenty of opportunities to purchase more tickets at the convention at the same great price. All it takes is one ticket to win and we have some fantastic items available.

I've included a copy of the registration form on page 20, so if you do not want to register online, please print out the registration form and get it in the mail today!

### **CORPORATE SPONSERS**

I would like to thank our corporate sponsors who have generously supplied merchandise and materials to make our convention a success. Please support these companies when you can:

- |                                      |                                     |
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**Thanks to all our sponsors!**

## CLINICS

Here are the Clinic Descriptions for Thursday Night, October 12<sup>th</sup>, Friday October 13<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>.

*I would like to thank all the Clinicians for volunteering their time to make this Convention a success. Hope you will attend our Convention and enjoy all the activities we have planned for you. Ski (Director at Large)*

Andy Zimmerman **T-Trak, a Day in the Life of a T-Trak Module** – How to build a T-Trak Module from start to finish.

Benita Jameson **Celebration of Models – Judging 101**- Have you ever considered entering a model in a contest? Do you have a model that you want evaluated for the AP program? Have you ever wondered what goes on behind those closed doors? Do you want to become a better modeler? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this is the clinic for you! You will learn:  
 \*Judging criteria in each of the 5 factors \*Point allotments for each factor  
 \*How models are evaluated \*How is the judging done \*What are the categories \*AP judging guidelines. **NOTE:** This clinic is mandatory for all SSR judges! Attendance in this clinic is a prerequisite for Judging 102

**Celebration of Models – Judging 102** - This is an interactive advanced judging class with emphasis on calibration, so that an experienced judge can consistently and fairly judge any type of model. **NOTE:** This clinic is mandatory for team leaders!

Bob Leonard **Hands-On (Cost \$10, need to sign up on website) Making Signs for Buildings (Clinic is 2 Hours)** - Signs of Tissue - New signs, Old signs, Ghost signs, all interesting additions for your structures. The clinic covers the use of using tissue paper, adding the printed paper sign to your structure and weathering to fit the timeframe. We will go through the print process to capture the types of signs, wall painted, posters, enamel logos that create a story and scene. What to bring; a blank kit wall, a structure, a copy of a sign sized for the wall, and your presence.

Bob Miller **Modeling Florida Scenery** – How to clinic dealing with the scenery of the Southeast including the coastal areas. Sabal (Cabbage Palms), Long Leaf Palms, Cypress Trees, Palmettos, Marsh Grass, Mangroves, and Citrus Trees,

covered in detail. Robert models and HO but his techniques are workable on all scales. Join him for a fun trip through FL. This is the one to see if you are modeling FL scenery. Bob's will supply a very detailed handout, on FL Scenery.

- Bruce Lauerman     **Getting Your AP Golden Spike** – Bruce will show you how to get your Golden Spike without owning a layout. He will show you how to take a module from start to finish to get your Golden Spike.
- David Leider (MMR)     **Chicago Stock Yards** - Beginning of Stockyards in Chicago and how they came to be and the history from start to finish.
- David Leider (MMR)     **The Chicago Milk Shed- Shipping milk to Chicago** – Where Chicago got it's milk and how the railroads were so important to deliver their milk.
- Don Wetmore     **Introduction to Operations on Your Model Railroad** - Getting started in model railroad operations, including different options for car forwarding, train scheduling, and train dispatching. Also learn helpful tools to assist your operating crews.
- Don Wetmore     **Modeling a Prototype Passenger Consist** - Accurately modeling a prototype passenger train using examples of shorter trains run by the Burlington and Chicago Great Western.
- Don Wetmore     **Researching a Prototype Railroad** – This clinic will be a fill-in in case a clinician is unavailable. Sources of information about prototype railroads, what you can learn from each source, and how to apply it to your model railroad.
- Greg Garbacz     **Installing DCC & Sound Decoders Diesels** – Greg will show you how to replace motors, trim weights and add speakers using regular garage tools.
- Gene Jameson     **Documenting Your Layout** – Clinic will be useful for ALL modelers regardless of scale. Gene will cover all the items that need to be documented and other items that concern your layout in an emergency. \*Do you know how much your railroad is worth if you had to replace it, \*Do you remember how you wired the matrix for your yard, \*Or the location of all your insulated rail joiners? If you answered NO to any of these questions, this is the clinic for you.

Gilbert Thomas, Jr. **Modeling Considerations for the 1950's Modeler** - American railroads are quickly retiring their steam locomotives and purchasing new diesel locomotives. This clinic will review the major changes in railroading and help to give the 1950's modeler a clearer focus for their modeling efforts.

**Modeling Considerations for the 2000's Modeler** - American railroads have completed their mergers (for the time being). Railroads are more focused on developing efficiencies within their companies. Technology is quickly replacing employees. A new concept in railroading "Precision Railroading" is taking hold. What does all this mean for the 2000's Modeler? This clinic will review major changes in the modern railroad business and help give the modeler a clearer focus to help them in the modeling efforts.

Glen Kopriva **3D Printing** – Introduction to 3D Printing, types of printing, where to find items to print, visual display of printers, and general printing tips and instructions.

Gordy Robinson (MMR) **Meet the NMRA President** – What's been happening at National. What has happened, what is on the way and how the NMRA is building for the future.

Jim Weiss **Add Lighting to Modern Day Locomotives** – Jim will show you how to add Ditch lights, Cab lights, and Step lights, using LEDs.

John Crellin **JMRI Creating a CTC Panel** – John will show you how to use JMRI Software to create a CTC Panel.

John Wilkes (MMR) **Trackside Scenery** - Ideas on how to weather and ballast track, use actual dirt and rocks, and commercial scenery products to complete the scene.

Ray Hazen **Arduino Timers and State Machines** - Timing methods and their use in program flow, multiple simultaneous timers, state machines for program sequences. (Basic Arduino experience will be helpful.)

Ray Hazen **Building a Battery Powered Locomotive (HO, On30, & O Scales)** - Steps to design and build a battery-powered locomotive. Choose parts, build, suggestions, Examples in HO, On30 and O scales.

Rich Mahaney **13 Clinics - \*\*\* All Clinic info is at the bottom of the page \*\*\***

Rich Paul **Watertown Northern, The Moonshine Line** - Clinic Description: Presentation about The Watertown Northern Railroad, a logging railroad of

the East Coast Lumber Co in Watertown, Florida just east of Lake City Florida.

- Tom Wilson      **Building Details through the Eyes of a Building Inspector** – Tom will show you examples of building details that you may miss through the eyes of a Building Inspector.
- Tom Wilson      **Layout Renewal/Rehabbing Your Layout from Old to New** – Taking a fully operational section of the layout stripping it down to bare plywood and rebuilding it back.

**\*\*\* Rich Mahaney – will be presenting the 13 Clinics below \*\*\***

- 1. Thursday Night Hotel Clinic – 7PM - Potatoes** - This new presentation looks at the potato from growing to the final product in an “audience participation” clinic format. The students will participate in selecting railroad car needs and traffic, transporting chemicals, growing products, railroad car traffic, the making of consumer products from potatoes, potato industries, and more. Lots of fun, answer questions, fill out flip charts on the wall and discuss the answers with the group for comparison answers and different answers.
- 2. Intermodal 101 For Model Railroaders** - This 60 minute presentation looks at intermodal operations, intermodal box and tank containers, truck trailers, intermodal facilities, intermodal and truck trailer equipment and transferring the prototype to the model railroad.
- 3. Interesting Flat Car Loads** - This 45 to 60 minute presentation looks at a variety of “stuff” that is transported on flat cars by railroads. It answers the question, “do they really transport that “stuff” on flat cars for real”? It will give the modeler some ideas for their own flat car loads to build.
- 4. “Quick Industries” for Your Model Railroad** - This 60 minute presentation is designed give model railroaders industry ideas for their model railroad that can be assembled in several evenings (or days) of work. These industries can quickly increase railroad traffic and new customers. Examples of real facilities and model railroad examples are used to make the points.
- 5. Creating Other Interesting Industries on Your Model Railroad Layout** - In this 60 minute presentation we look at other industries and buildings made from structural members and backdrops involved with layout construction.



- 6. Railroad Cars That Transport Hazardous Materials** - This 60 minute presentation provides the model railroader with a basic understanding of what kinds of railroad cars transport what kinds of solids, liquids and gas types of hazardous materials. Discussion and photos illustrate the many types of railroad cars that are used to transport hazardous materials safely across North America every day, along with their placarding.
- 7. 1950's Refrigerator Car Layout Operations on Model Railroad Layouts** - After looking at and photographing refrigerator cars, icing platforms, cold storage and other buildings and operations on many layouts, this clinic presents some of the best ideas and modeling I have seen that capture the feel and operations involved with refrigerator car operations in the 1950's.
- 8. "OMG" – Prototypical Accessories To Buildings and Communities For Model Railroads!** - Take a look at the accessories and details that you are missing on your buildings and in your communities that stand out when you look around or travel around. The only thing you can say when you see these images is "OMG"! Most of these additional features can probably come from the scrape boxes or parts and pieces underneath your layout or on your work bench. You may not have much to buy when you go through "spare stuff". (60 minutes)
- 9. The Smells of Model Railroading!** - A 60 minute look at ways to add another aspect of scenery to your model railroad – "smells". Did you know there is a candle that smells like fresh cut wood?
- 10. Making "Stuff" for Model Railroaders** - How is "stuff" made? A look at how "stuff" is made so that the model railroader can understand the correct use of railroad cars for delivery of solids, liquids and gases by railroad cars to industries. Several products and industries will be case studied and a process to do this will be discussed for the model railroader to use. The primary goals are to get it right and do it right for better rail car movement and use and be prototypically correct.
- 11. Five Busy Railroad Traffic Locations for Your Layout (Interchanges, Freight Houses, Team Tracks, Bulk Transfer Facilities and Rail Car Repair Facilities)** - This clinic looks at five busy locations that can be built on your layout to increase rail car operations, can use any kind or type of car on your layout, create rail car traffic and operations, can be used to support industries that don't have a railroad spur and can fit into a small space on your layout.
- 12. "Big Pipes" – Adding pipe details to various types of industries.** - This clinic looks at very large pipes on industries that are used to move solids, liquids, and gases. Besides serving as an important part of the industrial process in manufacturing, they also look cool. Get some modelling ideas for industries on your layout.

**13. Understanding how stuff is made, how the railroad supports that with car placement, just in time deliveries, modeling industries and operations** - This clinic deals with industry design and operations; how products are made and assembled involving solids, liquids and gases; railroad operation to support industries with parts and shipping; "just in time" operations, car placement at industries and railroad operations and traffic. Model railroaders need to do research into the industries and products they want to model, it is not just enough to just place some buildings or a siding on your layout.

SSR Director at Large, Jeff "Ski" Guzowski, Cell (954) 401-0804 or email at

[JGuzowski@Bellsouth.net](mailto:JGuzowski@Bellsouth.net)

### **THE CABOOSE CHALLENGE**

The Caboose Challenge started when Rich Mahaney (Gobles, Michigan) came down to present 4 clinics at one of our Eastern Division Workshop. When I met Rich, we started talking about how to get more people involved in bringing models to our convention. He told me about a Caboose Challenge they ran for one of their NMRA, North Central Region Conventions, which is centered around the Great Lakes states of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. Rich did a Caboose Challenge Presentation at the 2022 SSR Convention Banquet last year, and we had 30+ people immediately accept the challenge.

The Caboose Challenge is free and open to anyone coming to the SSR 2023 High Speed Rail Convention in Plant City. Everyone from young to old, NMRA Members, non NMRA Members, you just need to be willing to build a Diorama any size up to 24x24", any Scale (N, HO, S, and O) of a caboose in its "2<sup>nd</sup> Life After the Railroad". There will be example pictures in the T-Key and on our (SunshineRegion.Org) Website.

The winners will be chosen by a "People's Choice" vote, the Ballot will be in your Goody Bag, so please look for it. There will be 4 prizes to be presented to the winners. The Grand Prize will be a 2024 Convention Registration and Banquet ticket. Second Prize will be a 2024 Banquet ticket, Third Prize will be \$25 off their 2024 Convention Registration, and Fourth Prize will be \$20 off their 2024 Registration. *Disclaimer: Prizes are non-transferrable, non-refundable, and have no cash value.*

There will be a Special Clinic Room set up for display of the Caboose Dioramas. You will need to fill out a Model Entry form as the Model Diorama will only have a number. Caboose

Challenge Models need to register before 10AM on Saturday morning. People Choice voting starts on Saturday between the hours of 10:30AM and ends at 3:30PM.

So, are you ready to get off your “Caboose” and get ready for the Challenge?

If you have any questions about the Caboose Challenge, please contact:

Jeff (Ski) Guzowski, SSR Director at Large - cell 954 401-0804 email [jguzowski@bellsouth.net](mailto:jguzowski@bellsouth.net)

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

What a convention the SSR Board of Directors has planned for everyone this October. We have been working really hard to provide you with 3 days of fun-filled events that you won't want to miss. The Board chose Plant City again to hold down the cost of our conventions, so it's easier on your wallets. From all the searches we have done during this year and past years, no other venue has been able to match the price and value (hotel and Trinkle Center) along with the needed space to hold a Train Show that accommodates all our needs.

NMRA President, Gordy Robinson (MMR) (all the way from Scotland) and NMRA Vice President, Rick Coble, (all the way from Atlanta) will be our guests at the convention this weekend.

NMRA North Central Region President, Rich Mahaney will be returning again this year to help with the Caboose Challenge and another surprise challenge for 2024.

### **Our Convention starts on Thursday morning, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

With our tour of the Brightline Maintenance facility at the Orlando Airport. Brightline will be getting their FRA Approval in September for full service between Miami and Orlando. For those who are planning to take the tour, please pay attention to the Telegraph Key for any tour changes that may arise. I will also email each of you individually, that are on the tour, on any changes to the tour.

Registration will be open at the hotel between 4-5:00PM and 7-7:30PM.

Thursday evening, there will be an OP Session on Tom Wilson's HO Pittsburg and West Virginia/Union Railroad between 4-9PM, (dinner is included at this OP Session).

Dinner is an “On Your Own” night, and we have included a sheet in your Registration Packet, for a list of Restaurants in Plant City to choose from.

Between 7:30-9:30PM, there will be 2 Clinics presented by Rich Mahaney at the Holiday Inn, in the first-floor meeting room. One of the clinics Rich is presenting will be a member participation clinic and one not to miss.

### **Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**

We have one Hands-On Clinic, and (18) Hourly Clinics scheduled for today. Clinics will start at 8:30 AM, at the Trinkle Center.

Model and Caboose Challenge Registration opens today at 10:30AM.

We also have an OP Session on John Wilkes (MMR) HO, Virginia Southwestern Railroad, from 4-9PM (dinner is included at this OP Session).

Attendees will be on your own for dinner. Later tonight we will be having an Ice Cream Social Meet and Greet on the patio at the Holiday Inn, between 7-9PM.

### **Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**

There are more Hourly Clinics (18) and a Train Show (with lunch available inside the Train Show room).

All Model Registrations must be completed today by 10AM. AP Judging will start at 11:30AM. The Caboose Challenge will be done by Popular vote (this ballot will be included in your Registration Packet).

Lunch will include a choice of a meatball sub or a quarter pound hot dog with a bag of chips and a drink for \$5.

Saturday night, our SSR Banquet will start serving dinner at 6PM. This year we will be serving a Marinated Flank Steak and Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast (you get both), served with Tropical Fruit Salsa, Caribbean Rice, a Garden Salad, Roasted Vegetables, assorted rolls, Tropical Chips and a Dessert Basket with Cookies and Brownies and a Celebration Cake. Sodas, Coffee, Ice Tea and Water will be provided.

Our Guest Speaker for the Banquet will be Brightline Director of Public Affairs, Katie Mitzner M.A. Katie will be sharing the latest info about Florida's newest passenger railroad, and the extension to Orlando, which involves 168 miles of new track, and a new state-of-the-art maintenance facility.

Next, we will have the Award presentations for the Celebration of Models, Caboose Challenge, and AP Model Judging. Our Raffle will follow the award ceremony.

Also, there is a special coupon for a “Door Prize” in your Registration Package, for those attending the Banquet, please remember to bring it with you that night.

**Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a SSR Board of Directors meeting at 9AM, located at the Holiday Inn first floor meeting room.

I hope to see you all at our 2023 SSR High Speed Rail Convention, in Plant City.

That’s all I have for now, and if you have any questions, please contact me.

Jeff “Ski” Guzowski, Director at Large – [JGuzowski@Bellsouth.Net](mailto:JGuzowski@Bellsouth.Net) – Cell (954) 401-0804

### **REGISTER NOW ONLINE**

<https://www.nmrasunshineregion.org>

*(Press CONTROL + Click)*

**GLENN KOPRIVA**

**CONVENTION CHAIR**

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### **NATIONAL CONVENTION**

The 2023 National Convention was held in Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX. It was a week long endeavor followed up with a banquet where our very own Andy Zimmerman was given the NMRA Presidents Award (see Northern Division report).

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**HIGH SPEED RAIL SPECIAL  
2023 SUNSHINE REGIONAL CONVENTION  
REGISTRATION FORM**

*(please read website convention information page before filling out registration form)*

|                                                                                                                                                            |        |           |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------|-------------------|
| Registrant Name:                                                                                                                                           |        |           |                   |
| Name on Badge:                                                                                                                                             |        |           | NMRA#             |
| Address:                                                                                                                                                   |        |           |                   |
| City:                                                                                                                                                      | State: | Zip Code: |                   |
| Email Address:                                                                                                                                             |        |           |                   |
| Cell Phone Number:                                                                                                                                         |        |           |                   |
| Emergency Contact Name & Number:                                                                                                                           |        |           |                   |
| Spouse/Significant Other:                                                                                                                                  |        |           |                   |
| Spouse/Significant Other: Name on Badge:                                                                                                                   |        |           |                   |
| <b>Item</b>                                                                                                                                                |        |           | <b>Base Price</b> |
| <i>Note: (registration includes Thursday Brightline tour)</i>                                                                                              |        |           | <b>Quantity</b>   |
|                                                                                                                                                            |        |           | <b>Total</b>      |
| Registration - Received on or before <b>8/15/2023</b> (Hotel Discount available)                                                                           |        |           | \$90.00           |
| Registration - Received <b>after 8/15/2023</b> (No Hotel Discount)                                                                                         |        |           | \$100.00          |
| <b>Hotel Room Discount Rate is \$109 (plus tax) per night. Ends after 8/15/23 -- min 2 night st</b>                                                        |        |           |                   |
| <b>Will you need the discount code for the hotel? (2 night min stay)</b>                                                                                   | Yes    | No        | Circle One        |
| Spouse Registration                                                                                                                                        |        |           | \$40.00           |
| One Day Registration      Friday      Saturday      Circle One                                                                                             |        |           | \$50.00           |
| Saturday Banquet Per Person <i>(read website info page for meal description)</i>                                                                           |        |           | \$35.00           |
| <b>Hands on Clinic #1</b> - Friday 1pm - 3pm    Signs by Bob Leonard                                                                                       |        |           | \$10.00           |
| <b>Train Show Entrance fee</b> ( 100 vendor tables, Lego layout, lunch counter)                                                                            |        |           | \$3.00            |
| <b>Raffle Card</b> -- each card contains 10 raffle tickets                                                                                                 |        |           | \$10.00           |
| <b>Raffle Card</b> - get three cards (30 tickets) for \$25 -- <b>save \$5.00</b>                                                                           |        |           | \$25.00           |
| <b>NO REFUNDS ON OP SESSIONS UNLESS OP SESSION IS CANCELLED</b>                                                                                            |        |           |                   |
| <b>OP Session #1 Tom Wilson's</b> , Thursday 4-9pm, pizza dinner (5 hr session) <b>MAX 9 people</b>                                                        |        |           | \$20.00           |
| <b>OP Session #2 John Wilkes Friday</b> 4-9pm Dinner provided (5 hr session) <b>MAX 12 people</b>                                                          |        |           | \$20.00           |
| <b>Will you be attending the Brightline tour on Thursday?</b>                                                                                              | Yes    | No        | Circle One        |
| <b>Will your spouse be attending the Brightline tour on Thursday?</b>                                                                                      | Yes    | No        | Circle One        |
| <b>Will you be entering into the Caboose Challenge?</b>                                                                                                    | Yes    | No        | Circle One        |
| <b>Will your spouse be entering into the Caboose Challenge?</b>                                                                                            | Yes    | No        | Circle One        |
| <b>Is this your first Sunshine Regional Convention?</b>                                                                                                    | Yes    | No        | Circle One        |
| <b>NON NMRA Members:</b>                                                                                                                                   |        |           |                   |
| Railpass, NMRA 9 month membership -- includes ALL National perks and digital magazine                                                                      |        |           | \$19.95           |
| NMRA Non-Member Surcharge (if not selecting Railpass above)                                                                                                |        |           | \$10.00           |
| <i>If you are not a NMRA member, due to insurance regulations with the NMRA Insurance Carrier you must pay the surcharge or Select the Railpass option</i> |        |           |                   |
|                                                                                                                                                            |        |           | <b>Total</b>      |
| <b>Payment by mail can only be made by check payable to:      NMRA Sunshine Region</b>                                                                     |        |           |                   |
| <b>Mail check and registration form to: Glenn Kopriva, Convention Chair, 4621 Bexley Village Dr. Land O Lakes, FL 34638</b>                                |        |           |                   |
| <b>Payment by credit card can only be made on-line. Cash payment will only be accepted at the Convention</b>                                               |        |           |                   |
| <b>Refunds will be accepted as follows:      NO REFUNDS ON OP SESSIONS UNLESS CANCELLED</b>                                                                |        |           |                   |
| 100% of all fees will be refunded less a \$10 processing fee If cancellation is received no later than September 1, 2023.                                  |        |           |                   |
| If cancellation is received after September 1,2023 and before September 15, 2023 -- 50% of all fees will be refunded.                                      |        |           |                   |
| <b>No refunds after September 15, 2023</b>                                                                                                                 |        |           |                   |



## THE ROUNDHOUSE – 3D PRINTING 101



3D printing technology has been around since the 1980s, but it has only recently become more accessible and affordable for use in homes and small businesses. This technology has advanced significantly, making it possible to print objects with a wide range of materials, from plastic and metal to food and even living tissue, but what can we “print” for our

railroads?

The 3D printing process typically starts with the creation of a 3D model using specialized software or a 3D scanner. The digital model is then sliced into thin layers and sent to the 3D printer, which uses the information to create the object layer by layer. The printing material is deposited by a print head or nozzle that moves along the x, y, and z-axis, building up the object as it goes.

There are several types of 3D printing technologies, each with its own strengths and weaknesses. Some common types of 3D printing technologies include fused deposition modeling (FDM), stereolithography (SLA), selective laser sintering (SLS), and digital light processing (DLP).

3D printing has a wide range of applications, from rapid prototyping to manufacturing complex components for aerospace and medical industries. It has also revolutionized the production of customized products, such as prosthetics and dental implants, and has even been used to print entire houses.

Despite its many advantages, 3D printing also has its limitations. The technology is still relatively slow and can be expensive, and the quality of the printed objects can be affected by factors such as the type of material used and the complexity of the design. However, as the technology continues to advance and become more accessible, it is expected to become an increasingly important tool for manufacturing and innovation in a wide range of industries.

The main difference between filament and resin 3D printers is the material they use to create objects and the maintenance methods.

### FILAMENT

Filament 3D printers use a spool of plastic filament, typically made from PLA or ABS, which is melted and extruded through a nozzle to build up an object layer by layer. Filament 3D printers are often more affordable and easier to use than resin printers, and they can create larger objects with more color options. However, the resolution of filament 3D printers is typically

lower than that of resin printers, meaning that the surface finish of the object may not be as smooth.

Maintaining a Filament 3D printer is essential to ensure that it performs optimally and produces high-quality prints consistently. Here are some maintenance tasks that are typically required:

1. **Cleaning:** 3D printers require regular cleaning to remove any dirt, dust, or debris that may affect the quality of the prints. The printer's build plate, nozzle, and extruder should be cleaned regularly with a soft cloth and isopropyl alcohol.
2. **Lubrication:** The printer's moving parts, such as the rods and bearings, should be lubricated periodically to prevent wear and tear and ensure smooth movement. This can be done with a small amount of lubricant oil.
3. **Filament management:** Proper storage of filament is important to prevent it from absorbing moisture and causing issues during printing. Filament should be kept in a dry and cool place, and only enough should be removed from the spool for a single print to prevent tangles and knots.
4. **Leveling the build plate:** The printer's build plate should be leveled to ensure that the first layer of the print adheres properly to the plate. This should be done regularly as the plate can shift during transport or use.
5. **Nozzle maintenance:** The printer's nozzle should be checked and replaced if necessary to prevent clogging and ensure proper extrusion of the filament.
6. **Firmware updates:** The printer's firmware should be updated periodically to ensure that it is operating at its best.
7. **General inspection:** Regular inspection of the printer for loose screws, damaged parts, and worn belts or gears can help prevent more serious issues and ensure the printer is working properly.

## RESIN

Resin 3D printers, on the other hand, use a liquid photopolymer resin that is cured with UV light to create an object. The resin is contained in a vat and the printer uses a build platform to gradually raise the object out of the resin. Resin 3D printers are capable of producing very high-resolution objects with fine details and smooth surface finishes. However, they are typically more expensive than filament printers, and the resin can be messy and difficult to

work with. Also note that the resin printer is the item on the left in the picture while the curing station is on the right. The curing station is needed to harden the resin using UV light.

Resin 3D printers require specific maintenance to ensure optimal performance and to extend the lifespan of the printer. Here are some maintenance tasks that are typically required:

1. **Cleaning:** Resin printers require frequent cleaning due to the mess created by the resin. All parts that come in contact with the resin, including the build plate, resin tank, and resin cartridge, should be cleaned regularly with isopropyl alcohol or a specialized resin cleaner.
2. **Resin tank replacement:** The resin tank has a limited lifespan and should be replaced periodically, as it can become scratched and hazy over time, affecting print quality.
3. **Build plate leveling:** The build plate should be leveled regularly to ensure that the first layer of the print adheres properly to the plate. This should be done before each print.
4. **Resin filtering:** Resin should be filtered before and after each print to remove any solid particles or impurities that may affect print quality.
5. **UV lamp replacement:** The UV lamp in the printer should be checked and replaced if necessary to ensure that the resin cures properly.
6. **Firmware updates:** The printer's firmware should be updated periodically to ensure that it is operating at its best.
7. **General inspection:** Regular inspection of the printer for loose screws, damaged parts, and worn belts or gears can help prevent more serious issues and ensure the printer is working properly.

Overall, proper maintenance of a resin 3D printer is important to ensure that it operates optimally and produces high-quality prints consistently. By following these maintenance tasks, you can help prolong the lifespan of the printer and prevent issues from occurring.

In my opinion, filament 3D printers are better for creating larger objects with more color options, while resin 3D printers are better for creating smaller, highly-detailed objects with smooth surface finishes – think N scale and even some super detail items in HO. The choice between the two will depend on the specific needs and requirements of the project and the amount of money you have to spend. While 3D printers can be had for only a couple of hundred dollars it may be a prudent decision to find a fellow hobbyist that already has a 3D printer 😊 .

For those of you attending the convention I'll be offering a hobbyist's introduction to 3D printing and I'll have both printers on site for you to see and ask questions about as well as where to find prints online and how items can be printed at scale and how you can adjust them. See you there!

Glenn Kopriva

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Land O Lakes, FL 34638

