

# The Telegraph Key

An NMRA Sunshine Region Monthly Publication

February 2025

I ♥  
TRAINS

**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)



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## Editor's Message



It's February and we all love trains!

I spent the early part of last month at Prototype Rails 2025 in Cocoa Beach, where I enjoyed meeting up with old friends from near and far, sat in on some fantastic clinics on subjects that were new to me, and saw great manufacturers' products that just get better and better each year.

Some of my friends and manufacturers were going on to the Amherst show up north. I have never been but hope to take part in that someday – I hear that experience is quite spectacular.

On my small switching layout, I got around to start removing the older turnouts that I had soldered the rail joiners of and set in place with construction adhesive. Wow! What a big pain that has turned out to be. Removing that solder was a real issue and that adhesive just wouldn't let go. I'm actually considering just pulling up all the track and starting with fresh flex-track and fresh cork sheet under that. It may be worth my time and effort. Hobby shop, here I come.

This past week, I did some searching on YouTube and found several new-to-me model railroad related channels to start watching. It's amazing how much content is out there, for every scale, and for every skill level. If you've never had a chance to check out that method of content delivery, you may want to give it a try.

Also, this is a **Save The Date** call out to everyone for our Region Convention later this year:

### **Iron Horse 2025**

**Thu-Sat, October 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> at the Ocala Hilton with an open membership meeting on Sunday, Oct 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Finally, Andy, our Region President, has a message to present to you this month. Please take a few minutes to read what he has to say along with the content from the rest of this Telegraph Key issue including the new "Spotlight On..." article from Eric Menger.

Thanks, and take care.

**Mark Lewalski**

**Vice President and Telegraph Key Editor**



Yet, a thriving organization depends on strong support from its membership. Our leaders take on significant responsibilities, often with little recognition or reward. Their challenges extend beyond policies, logistics, and managing change; they also grapple with the realities of member participation. Balancing professional, personal, and community obligations is difficult, and when only a handful of members step up, the burden on them increases significantly.



An organization flourishes when its members are **active, involved, and willing to step forward**. When we don't, we place an unfair load on the few who do. **Engaged members** are not just passive participants; they contribute their time, skills, and ideas. They help organize events, lead clinics, and support mentorship initiatives—strengthening our organization and ensuring its long-term success.

## Your Participation Supports Leadership and Strengthens the Organization



Leadership cannot do it alone. Successful engagement requires clear communication, meaningful opportunities, and an environment where volunteers feel valued, supported, and empowered.

When members actively participate, they also gain insight into **why certain decisions are made**, reducing misunderstandings and fostering trust. A well-informed membership helps ensure **transparency, unity, and collaboration, rather than conflict**.

### Conflict vs. Disagreement: Understanding the Difference

Engagement also plays a role in preventing and resolving **conflict**, which can **discourage volunteer leadership and weaken the organization**. However, it's important to recognize that **conflict is not the same as disagreement**.

- **Disagreement** allows for differing viewpoints while maintaining a working relationship. It is constructive, rooted in shared goals, and focused on the organization's well-being.

- **Conflict**, on the other hand, is personal, divisive, and disruptive. It results in a loss of focus on the mission and can manifest as ultimatums, resentment, or members withdrawing their support altogether. Phrases like *“I’m taking my toys and going home”* or *“If you don’t do what I say, I’m out”* reflect this shift from healthy discourse to destructive behavior.

When we remain engaged and communicative, we mitigate unnecessary conflict and help maintain a **servant-oriented leadership structure** that keeps the organization running smoothly.

## Mentorship and Community: The Foundation of Our Success

Equally important to engagement is **mentorship**. Our organization thrives on both **fellowship and mentorship**—sharing skills, guiding new members, and fostering the next generation of model railroaders. We should not only welcome newcomers into the hobby but also **teach, encourage, and inspire** them to grow alongside us. Mentorship must be an integral part of our engagement efforts.

A thriving club, region, or division isn’t just about how many members we have, it’s about how **engaged, connected, and active** those members are. Would you rather have a large membership that simply pays dues but does little else, or a smaller group that is **highly engaged and productive**? Dues help pay the bills, but without active participation, the organization **cannot thrive long-term**.

That’s why we must **continuously seek flexible ways** for members—especially those facing time poverty—to get involved, whether through in-person or virtual contributions.

## The Solution Begins with You

The strength of our organization depends on **each of us stepping up and getting involved**—whether through small tasks or larger commitments. Every contribution matters.





When you follow through on commitments, you **inspire others** to do the same. Strong organizations thrive on trust, accountability, and shared effort. But if too few carry the load, burnout follows, placing undue strain on dedicated individuals.

By **sharing responsibilities**, we ensure that our community remains sustainable and that **leadership is supported rather than overburdened**. Together, we can continue to **learn, grow, and thrive**.

So, the next time leadership asks for volunteers, voices fresh ideas, or seeks involvement, ask yourself:

- **Am I supporting my leaders?**
- **Am I part of the solution?**
- **How can I use my talents to help grow this organization?**


Our **club, region, and division** are only as strong as their members. **Let's do our part—not just to maintain the organization, but to help it grow and thrive**. After all, *many hands make light work!*

**Andy Zimmerman**  
**President**

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

***'No dues, just a great experience'***  
**[westernbayrailroad.org](http://westernbayrailroad.org)**





## Treasurer's Message



As I mentioned last month, I want to be fully transparent to our Board as well as our membership. Each February, you can expect to see the report below along with an explanation. I am always happy to explain anything that isn't clear to you, just email me.

### NMRA Sunshine Region's Profit and Loss for 2024

	Total 2023	Total 2024	Variance YOY \$	Variance YOY %	2025 Budget
<b>INCOME</b>					
					<b>ESTIMATE</b>
Interest Earned CD's	0.00	1,394.06	1,394.06	100.00%	\$660.00
Interest Earned MMA	283.97	315.15	31.18	10.98%	\$195.00
Advertising	1,213.00	620.00	-593.00	-48.89%	\$900.00
NMRA (member stipend - 2\$ per member)	872.00	866.00	-6.00	-0.69%	\$840.00
Convention	13,136.91	811.82	-12,325.09	-93.82%	\$8,800.00
Subscriptions (Journal Box)	2,614.72	0.00	-2,614.72	-100.00%	\$0.00
Donations	2,115.50	1,618.00	-497.50	-23.52%	\$1,120.00
Division Meets 50/50	1,917.80	394.46	-1,523.34	-79.43%	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>22,153.90</b>	<b>6,019.49</b>	<b>-16,134.41</b>	<b>-72.83%</b>	<b>\$12,525.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Insurance - Bonding and Liability	1,002.18	1,023.59	21.41	2.14%	\$1,043.00
Website - WIX	1,052.06	2.99	-1,049.07	-99.72%	\$325.00
Website - Domains	100.00	20.99	-79.01	-79.01%	\$100.00
Convention Expenses	10,760.09	1,758.60	-9,001.49	-83.66%	\$8,100.00
Bulldog (Journal Box)	2,049.72	0.00	-2,049.72	-100.00%	\$0.00
Journal Box Refunds	0.00	818.00	818.00	100.00%	\$0.00
Legal (Ammended Returns/Elections)	62.00	169.00	107.00	172.58%	\$70.00
Advertising	0.00	267.21	267.21	100.00%	\$0.00
Office Supplies	90.45	0.00	-90.45	-100.00%	\$0.00
Postage/Awards - AP program	537.50	71.28	-466.22	-86.74%	\$180.00
misc expenses	170.69	788.41	617.72	361.90%	\$240.00
prepaids	500.00	0.00	-500.00	-100.00%	\$0.00
Equipment Purchase	2,530.71	59.04	-2,471.67	-97.67%	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL Expenses</b>	<b>18,855.40</b>	<b>4,979.11</b>	<b>-13,876.29</b>	<b>-73.59%</b>	<b>\$10,058.00</b>
<b>NET PROFIT/LOSS</b>	<b>3,298.50</b>	<b>1,040.38</b>	<b>-2,258.12</b>	<b>-68.46%</b>	<b>\$2,467.00</b>
<b>BANK ACCOUNTS</b>					
PREPAID DEPOSITS - Trinkle Center	1,000.00	0.00			
CD 1 @ 4% matures 5/9/25	5,000.00	5,346.77			
CD 2 4.5% 7/2/24XXXXXX	5,000.00	0.00			
CD 3 @ 4% matures 4/18/25	15,000.00	10,626.57			
CD4 - @ 4% matures 5/9/25	0.00	5,196.65			
Money Market @ 2.1%	8,256.01	13,164.29			
Checking Account 65	200.00	400.00			
Checking Account 73	387.89	150.00			
<b>TOTAL CASH IN BANK</b>	<b>33,843.90</b>	<b>34,884.28</b>	<b>1,040.38</b>	<b>3.07%</b>	

Let's start with Income, we derive monies through 4 basic sources; 1) interest earned with our cash in the form of CD's or Money Market accounts (See Bank Account section for specific account details), 2) Advertising in our publications, 3) The NMRA provides us 1 dollar per member twice a year (lifetime members are excluded from the count), and 4) Donations – primarily the majority of donations are provided by New York Life Insurance. As you can see, by us investing our monies in CD's and money markets we generate 1,700 a year. Add to that advertising dollars and we are over 2700. This is money that previously was generated by the convention – which means it's coming out of your pocket (or convention attendees' pockets). Although this past convention didn't happen, it was designed as a break-even event with the goal of generating more attendance (which we did).

I think the expenses speak to themselves for the most part. We only spend money on required or needed items. We have the same expenses as any other business; paper, insurance, printer ink etc. We will take advantage of multi-year agreements if it saves us some money, our website is a good example of that as we get a price break for a 2yr commitment.

As the steward of our monies, I take this responsibility seriously and want to ensure everyone understands what it costs to run this region and where our money comes from. I implore everyone to try and get their local hobby store to advertise with us as well as local clubs. Our advertising rates are extremely reasonable (a one year business card ad is only 50 bucks) - it all adds up folks.

**Glenn Kopriva**

**Treasurer**

# Life's Too Long Not To Belong

**JOIN THE  
MOVEMENT!**



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## ***Life's Too Long Not to Belong***

NMRA Sunshine Region, Inc. members age 65+ can enjoy support from Grouper and their health plan to cover participation costs and unlock additional benefits.

Once your eligibility is confirmed, Grouper will send you an annual payment of \$50. Also, for every three months of activity after that, Grouper will send \$20, if you keep them updated on your in-person group activity! Enroll now at [GrouperGroups.com/SSR-NMRA](https://GrouperGroups.com/SSR-NMRA)

## Achievement Program



We have one (1) AP for the month, and it is Kenneth Hoot for Official from Jacksonville Beach, Florida from the Northern Division.

There have been some changes in the NMRA – they are moving away from the terms “JUDGE” and “JUDGING” for the AP Program, favoring "EVALUATOR" and "EVALUATION" instead. Also, in the near future there will be some changes to the Scenery AP evaluation and 3D Printing in evaluating models.

The Sunshine Region has made a change in the way that Merit Evaluation will be done in the future. The Region is doing away with the need to have an Evaluator from a different Division to do Evaluations for the Achievement Program. That means that each Division can have their own Evaluators. A list of who can Evaluate will follow.

The Achievement Program Regulations May 2006.

Witnesses for those categories which require that someone act as a witness or a evaluator to accomplishments of the member requiring certification a qualified witness or evaluator shall be.

- \* Past or present National or Regional Officers.
- \* Past or present National, Regional, or Divisional Contest or Achievement Program Chairs or AP committee members.
- \* NMRA members holding the Certificate.
- \* NMRA members, appointed by the Regional or Division AP Chair as committee members, evaluator or witnesses.

**ALL WITNESSES MUST BE CURRENT NMRA MEMBERS AND PUT THEIR NMRA NUMBRS ON THE WITNESS FORMS.**

So, let's continue with the Achievement Program Statement of Qualifications with Master Builder Cars.

To qualify for this certificate, you must:

1. Build twelve (12) scale structures. At least six (6) different types of structures must be represented in the total. One (1) structure must be a bridge or trestle. At least six (6) structures must be scratchbuilt., The remaining six (6) if not scratchbuilt, must be super-detailed with either scratchbuilt or commercial parts as defined in the AP Regulations " DEFINITIONS " section. UP to three (3) of the twelve (12) total models may be" low- relief " structure's, 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

2. Earn a Merit Award of at least 87.5 points with any six of the above models, either via an NMRA sponsored contest or AP Merit Award Evaluation.

3. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) which shall include the following

\* Attachment giving detailed descriptions of each of the models.

\* Identification of the scratchbuilt features for each of the models.

\* List of all the commercial components appearing on each model

\* List the materials used in building each of the models.

\* Verification of Merit Awards - copies of the evaluation sheets or the Merit Awards

That is all I have this time.

**Ken Hoot**

**Achievement Program Chair**

## Northern Division



**The North Central Florida Model Railroad Club** has initiated an outreach program for the hobby and potential members.

The club modified a donated N-scale layout that can be taken to meeting rooms. Our member(s) create programs specific to the audience: elementary schools, robotics clubs, and retirement communities. We discuss the hobby and its opportunities to explore art, science, engineering, logistics, and just having fun.

The club invested about \$300 to make the traveling layout easy to set up and strong enough to be handled.

Richard Segall

**First Coast Model Railroad Society (FCMRS)** exhibited its On30 modular layout at the January 11&12 Golden Spike Train show at the Volusia County Fairground in Deland, FL. Member enjoyed Exposing the Model Railroading hobby to a number of visitors to the show. The layout will again be set up at the Golden Spike train show on February 8th at the Jacksonville Prime F. Osborne Convention Center (Former Jacksonville Terminal train station). FCMRS continues to hold open run sessions at the club layout each Saturday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Visitors are welcome to these sessions.

Rich Paul

FCMRS president

**Area of The Bid Bend Model Railroad Association**, Lecture about the Rocky Mountaineer train on Thursday, March 27th, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 pm The address will be AAA Travel 3491 Thomasville Road #Ste 15 Tallahassee, FL 32309. RSVP visit [AAA.COM/events](http://AAA.COM/events) or call 850) 907-1000.

**Women in Model Railroading WIMRR Zoom-ZOOM LINK** Here is the link for the Second Friday of each month's Zoom Hangout:

- Topic: **WIMRR Friday Hangouts**
- Time: 5:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)
- Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86520380595>.
- Meeting ID: 865 2038 0595

For the world events, look at NMRA<org Calendar: <https://www.nmra.org/calendar>.

**Big Bend Model Railroad Association** <https://bbmra.club/>

**First Coast Model Railroad Society** <http://www.fcMrs.club/>

**Flager Model Railroad Club** <http://www.fmrrc.com/>

**The North Central Florida Model Railroad Club** <https://ncfmrc.org/>

**Robert Feuerstein**

**Northern Division Superintendent**

## Eastern Division



### Eastern Division Members

We want to inform you that Jim Moore has resigned as Superintendent of the Eastern Division, NMRA Sunshine Region.

When Jim initially accepted this position in January 2024, it was intended to be temporary, allowing the incumbent time to address personal matters. However, as the situation evolved, it became clear that the division requires long-term leadership whose vision and priorities closely align with the NMRA and the Sunshine Region. Additionally, due to increasing personal and professional commitments, Jim is unable to dedicate the necessary time to advancing the division's goals.

We sincerely appreciate Jim's contributions and dedication during this time and thank him for his service. It has been a pleasure for him to engage with so many talented modelers, historians, and enthusiasts within the division and the greater SSR community.

We will provide updates regarding future leadership for the Eastern Division soon. In the meantime, we encourage all members to remain active and engaged in the division's activities. If you know of someone who would like to be considered for this position feel free to Contact me.

**Andy Zimmerman**  
**President**

## Western Division



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](mailto: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



The year has started with the arrival of Winter in southern Florida. Cold temperatures have driven most people to turn on heat, a relatively rare occurrence this far south. The silver lining is that the cold encourages indoor activities such as enhancing our layouts and holding operating sessions on home and club layouts. For those brave members willing to endure even colder temperatures, a number of our members have trekked North in late January to attend the annual Amherst Train Show in Springfield, Mass. It's one of the largest shows in the USA each year, with 4 buildings of vendors, manufacturers, and operating layouts. Truly an experience worth the trip. If only they would hold it in warmer weather...

In club news, the Florida Citrus Model Train Society (FCMTS) has completed their holiday display, shutting it down a bit earlier than planned on January 4<sup>th</sup> vs. the originally planned January 7<sup>th</sup>. There are no specific activities planned in February other than the club's regular breakfasts at the Plantation Diner. The club does plan to return to the Plantation Museum for their annual display in June 2025 and more specific dates will be noted when that information is finalized. Please contact Ken Sargeant at (954) 253-0413 for any additional information. Their web site is found at [www.fcmts.org](http://www.fcmts.org).

The East Coast HO Exhibitors Society (ECHOES) held a planned operating session January 25-26<sup>th</sup> at the St. Andrews church at 14260 Old Cutler Road, Miami with about 70% of their modular HO layout running during that show. There are no plans for February, but possibly an operating session to be held in March. That is currently tentative, but as more information becomes available, we'll pass it on here.

In some exciting news, the club is now working with the Gold Coast Railroad Museum at 12450 SW 152<sup>nd</sup> Street in Miami. FL 33177. They are currently cleaning out the existing model railroad display and will then begin moving in their modular HO layout. The timing of installing the modular layout is still unresolved, depending upon how long it takes to get the room ready. The plan is to become the resident model railroad club at the museum, and slowly building a permanent layout section by



section until they have removed all of the modular layout so it is free to travel to shows. Supporting and maintaining two complete layouts will be a challenge, but the club's goal is to increase membership once a permanent layout location is available to them. For additional information, please contact Rick Diaz, [rickdiaz@att.net](mailto:rickdiaz@att.net) or Tracey Sanders, [tassailor@mac.com](mailto:tassailor@mac.com) .

The Palm Beach Model Railroaders are currently open with trains operating during the South Florida Fair through February 2<sup>nd</sup>. During the fair, the club is open 7 days a week and for the entire day and evening each day the fair is open. Please check the South Florida Fair web site for specifics on hours each day. This is their 50<sup>th</sup> year of participation in the fair. Following the fair, the club activities in February consist of holding their annual dinner and elections of their board. The club meets weekly on Tuesday evenings 6-9 PM at the South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd, West Palm Beach, 33411. They can be contacted at [PBMRRclub@gmail.com](mailto:PBMRRclub@gmail.com) for additional information. The club's web site is [www.pbmrr.org](http://www.pbmrr.org).

The South Florida Railway Museum (SFRM) at the Deerfield Amtrak and Tri-Rail station on Hillsboro Road is continuing open houses in 2025, held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month with visitors welcomed from 11 AM through 4 PM. The next open house is February 8<sup>th</sup>. Work continues on both the HO and N scale permanent layouts, both of which are operated using wireless DCC throttles (Digitrax for N scale and NCE for the HO layout). The engine terminal on the HO layout is making excellent progress and operational enhancements are in progress on the N scale layout.

The club has begun early planning for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual tour of member home layouts, typically held during May and June. In previous years, the tour has consisted of both N scale and HO scale layouts of various styles and in various stages of completion. Typically, there are two layouts open per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon and the tours occur on Sunday when most people are not working and there is no school. It's a great opportunity for visitors to gather ideas and for layout owners to gather suggestions and of course, complements on their efforts. This year, we are hoping to expand this concept into an NMRA Southern Division event, inviting members from all clubs and individual members in the Southern Division to host their layouts and to visit layouts of other members. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at [rwberger@comcast.net](mailto:rwberger@comcast.net).

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

**Richard Berger**

**Southern Division Superintendent**

## Ski's Tidbits



One of the NMRA Sunshine Regions premier events, "Bash at the Beach" was held Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Cocoa Beach, FL. This was the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Prototype Rails Modelers Meet, and it checked all the boxes. There were over 200 attendees, 85 clinics (which ran 6 different clinics every hour), Vendor room with over 400 different models on display and the Florida East Coast (FECRS.com) NTrak Modular Layout. Some of the major model manufacturers in attendance were

Scale Trains, Intermountain, Broadway Limited, Rapido, Class One Model Works, and Roco to name a few. If you have never attended a Prototype Rails Convention, you should put it on your bucket list.

Congratulations go out to Bill Cialini on his article in Railroad Model Craftsman, February 2025 Issue, (pages 58 to 63) on How to Scratchbuild a Modern MoW Gondola. Bill belongs to the South FL Railway Museum (SFRM.org). SSR Director and Past SSR Southern Division Superintendent Bob Leonard told me to be on the lookout for this article and it will not disappoint you. If you are interested in scratch building a modern gondola that can be built as a MoW Gondola or a Modern Day gondola with minor changes, then check out Bill's article.

We are in the preplanning stages of having some SSR Western Division, Bradenton/Tampa area Layout Tours. The tours will probably be held on Saturday's, from 10AM to 3PM, with 3 layouts each tour. Also, we are preplanning a Layout Design Special Interest Group (LDSIG) OP Till You Drop weekend, in the near future. We would like to do a pre-event test run to work out any issues that may come up. If you are an experienced person or even a Newbie who has never participated in OPS sessions before, we will have an experienced person to show you how an OPS session actually works. If you are interested in participating, contact Royal Bruce at: Cell (914) 374-1911 or you can email him at: [RoyalBruce@Comcast.net](mailto:RoyalBruce@Comcast.net).

2025 NMRA, Pacific Coast Region (PCR) Annual Convention/Virtual Convention will be held Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in San Louis Obispo, California. We normally do not promote NMRA Events that are over 600 miles from our Sunshine Region, but this one is an exception, due to it being offered virtually. Last March 2024, ten (10) SSR members attended the PCR Virtual Convention, and it was a hit with all of us. We attended both the Virtual Clinics and Virtual Prototype Tours. The highlight of the 2024 PCR Convention was the Virtual Prototype Tour of the Niles Canyon Railroad. The guest Banquet Speaker had a great Power Point and videos of the Niles Canyon Railroad in depth.

The 2025 PCR Convention will be held March 27-30, 2025, in San Louis Obispo, CA, hosted by the Daylight Division - San Louis Obispo, CA. Check out the convention at: <https://PCR2025.org>

The convention team has you covered because they are also putting on a virtual convention that will be streamed live from SLO so that no one has to be left out! The virtual convention will stream all the clinic content from one of the in-person clinic rooms with ample opportunity to meet socialize with and learn from fellow virtual attendees. What's more is that some of the features being presented can only be accessed virtually, such as bonus clinic content and virtual tours of local prototype and model railroads!

Think you can't attend from home during the live stream? Don't worry, that is covered also! All the clinic content from the clinic room is being recorded so it can be accessed for two weeks after the event is over so you can watch when you have time. Don't let work or other important commitments get in the way of the enjoyment of our great hobby!

Sign up today using the code PCR2025 for a \$10 discount on your virtual registration. Sign up for the Virtual Convention <https://PCR2025.org>

**Jeff Guzowski**

**Sunshine Region At Large Director**

## Spotlight On...

### Spotlight on SSR Member Alan Brown

One of the important benefits of membership in the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) is participation in the Achievement Program (AP). You don't get a pay raise, but you do get interaction with expert modelers who can help you to improve your skills in the hobby. One of those skills is prototypical operation of model railroads.

NMRA member **Alan Brown**, a professor of organic chemistry at the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) in Melbourne, Florida, recently won his AP Certificate for Model Railroad Chief Dispatcher. He gained most of his required operating hours on Master Model Railroader Ken Farnham's HO-Scale FEC Brevard Division model railroad in Melbourne. Alan said that "the Chief Dispatcher certificate was fun to get and I'm deeply grateful to Ken and Beverly Farnham for letting me and others work toward their AP certificate at their layout."

Congratulations, Alan!



*Photo Caption: On December 10, 2024, Alan (right) was presented his AP Certificate by Eastern Division AP Chair Eric Menger (left) at Alan's office at FIT.*

## South Florida Railway Museum

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Open Dates for 2025**

**11:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**The Museum is Open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month**

**01 - 11, 02 - 08, 03 - 08, 04 - 12,  
05 - 10, 06 - 14, 07 - 12, 08 - 09,  
09 - 13, 10-11, 11-08, 12-13**

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Mule RR

South Florida Regional &  
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W/HO Scale Modular Railroading

2 day Show!  
Sat & Sun

Z-Scale Modular Railroading

Big Bend Model Railroad Association

34th Annual

Tallahassee Model Railroad Show and Sale

June 21st & 22nd 2025 at the North Florida Fairgrounds

A graphic featuring a blue map of Florida with a yellow star in the north. Overlaid on the map is a green and yellow train engine with the number 274 and the words "GREAT NORTHERN". The text "Big Bend Model Railroad Association" is written in a stylized, golden font across the top of the map. Below the map, the "T-TRAK" logo is shown in blue and white, with "W/HO Scale Modular Railroading" underneath. To the left of the train, the text "2 day Show! Sat & Sun" is written in red. Below that, the "T-TRAK-Z" logo is shown in blue and white, with "Z-Scale Modular Railroading" underneath. The text "34th Annual" is written in large, blue, 3D-style letters across the middle. Below the train, the text "Tallahassee Model Railroad Show and Sale" is written in red, and "June 21st & 22nd 2025 at the North Florida Fairgrounds" is written in blue.





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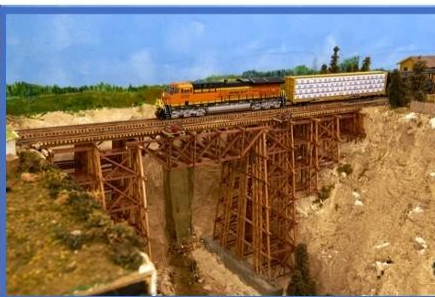
# E C H O E S

EAST COAST H O EXHIBITORS SOCIETY  
MIAMI, FL

**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:

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



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