

# The Telegraph Key

An NMRA Sunshine Region Monthly Publication

February 2026



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## Sunshine Region - NMRA



Where modelers come to  
share, develop, and learn  
new skills.



Welcome to the best region  
under the sun!

Convention 2025 Click the IRON HORSE

The Sunshine Region Presents Iron Horse 2025 Oct 9-11, 2025

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Convention Information

Hotel Registration

Convention Registration

Convention Clinics (as of today)

Convention Sponsors

MFG Support Info

**[WWW.NMRASunshineRegion.org](http://WWW.NMRASunshineRegion.org)**



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- Achievement Program, Ken Hoot: [hootk@bellsouth.net](mailto:hootk@bellsouth.net)
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## Editor's Message



Happy February Sunshine Region!

Welp... I missed Proto Rails. Just as I was almost ready to leave the house and drive across the state, I realized that I couldn't remember if I had ever made hotel reservations. One panicked call later, I confirmed my lack of forethought. Unfortunately, at that same time, I developed a week long migraine. I was pretty let down that I couldn't make it. I hope everyone that attended had a great time and got a lot of useful information and friendly interaction. Here's to next year.

Working on your layouts and models? That's good! Even though I have my shelf layout going, I'm interested in maybe doing a T-TRAK module or two. I need to have a talk with our SSR Prez and see what my options are. I should see if the Tampa Bay area has a T-TRAK group. I'll let you know how it goes.

Now... here's my plug for the upcoming **Western Division** meet in Tampa at **American Legion Post 139** on **Saturday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>**. Put it on your calendars and join us for coffee, donuts, clinics, lunch, the CP&W Model Railroad Club Open House, and the camaraderie of your fellow railroaders. **Details are below in the Western Division section.**

Take care,

**Mark Lewalski**

**Telegraph Key Editor**



## President's Message



### Moving Forward, Together

As we look ahead, one thing is clear: moving the Sunshine Region forward starts with *being involved*. If we want a more inclusive, more engaging, and more robust member experience, that journey begins with each of you. While the Board can and will continue to introduce new initiatives, align our efforts with the NMRA 2035 Plan, and advocate for meaningful programs, the true strength of our Region comes from active participation by the membership.

Today I had the opportunity to attend a Northern Division meet, and it reinforced exactly what our division gatherings *can*, and *should*, be. The room was filled with energy and collaboration: SER members attending under the leadership of their Division Superintendent, SSR members from the Northern Division, local club members who are not yet part of the NMRA, and even individuals who walked in simply because they saw the signs and were curious. Everyone participated side-by-side, united by a shared love of trains.

We enjoyed high-quality clinics, including presentations from the SER and my own clinic on T-TRAK module testers and modular wiring. Trains were running across multiple scales, N, HO, S, and On30, on T-TRAK modules and other mobile platforms. More importantly, we had open group discussions about the future: expanding meaningful Division meets, exploring joint SER-SSR events, and continuing to grow our communities through mentorship, fellowship, and shared experiences.

What I witnessed was powerful. It was a clear example of what our Division meetings should be: welcoming, productive, educational, and fun. It showed what is possible when we come together around our shared hobby and passion for model railroading.

Significant developments are underway within the Sunshine Region, all focused on one central goal: *ensuring that we get to do what we love most. Running trains. Participating in operating sessions. Learning from one another. And sharing in the full model railroading experience.*

The future of the SSR is bright, but it will be built together. I encourage each of you to stay engaged, get involved, and be part of shaping what comes next. Our community, our fellowship, and our shared love of model railroading depend on it.

*Andy*

**Andy Zimmerman**  
President



Fun, Friends, Trains

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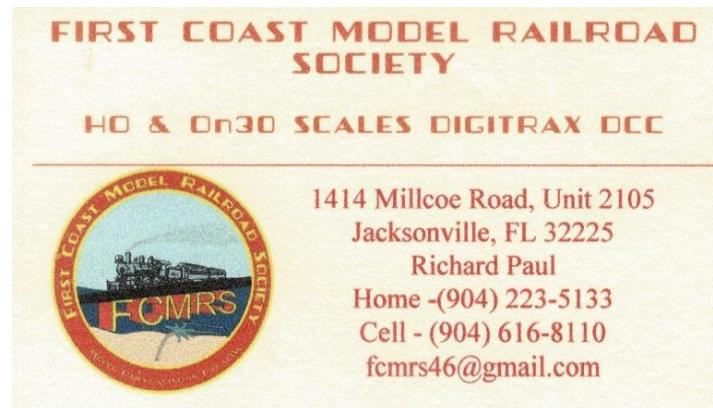
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Ocala, FL 34481

**352-854-2799**



## Treasurer's Message



Hello all,

It's that time of year when we reflect on the financial activity over the previous year and our plans for 2026. Below is our P&L for 2025, a comparison to 2024 and the budget for 2026.

NMRA SUNSHINE REGION Year Ending 2025 Profit and Loss					
	Total 2024	Total 2025	Variance YOY \$	Variance YOY %	2026 Budget
INCOME					ESTIMATE
Interest Earned CD's	1,394.06	863.21	-530.85	-38.08%	\$735.00
Interest Earned MMA	315.15	181.19	-133.96	-42.51%	\$165.00
Advertising	620.00	505.00	-115.00	-18.55%	\$750.00
NMRA (member stipend - \$2 per member)	866.00	794.00	-72.00	-8.31%	\$755.00
Convention	811.82	10,595.48	9,783.66	1205.15%	\$9,800.00
Subscriptions (Journal Box)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	\$0.00
Donations	1,618.00	1,120.00	-498.00	-30.78%	\$1,130.00
Division Meets 50/50	394.46	101.00	-293.46	-74.40%	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,019.49</b>	<b>14,169.88</b>	<b>8,150.39</b>	<b>135.40%</b>	<b>\$13,335.00</b>
<hr/>					
EXPENSES					
Insurance - Bonding and Liability	1,023.59	1,062.98	39.39	3.85%	\$1,160.00
Website - WIX	2.99	386.64	383.65	12831.10%	\$0.00
Website - Domains	20.99	88.95	67.96	323.77%	\$0.00
Convention Expenses	1,758.60	9,387.15	7,628.55	433.79%	\$0.00
Bulldog (Journal Box)	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00%	\$0.00
Journal Box Refunds	818.00	0.00	-818.00	100.00%	\$0.00
Legal (Amended Returns/Elections)	169.00	70.00	-99.00	-58.58%	\$70.00
Advertising/Marketing	267.21	0.00	-267.21	100.00%	\$300.00
Office Supplies	0.00	446.27	446.27	100.00%	\$0.00
Postage/Awards - AP program	71.28	195.40	124.12	174.13%	\$180.00
misc expenses	788.41	474.71	-313.70	-39.79%	\$240.00
prepads	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00%	\$0.00
Equipment Purchase	59.04	1,110.00	1,050.96	1780.08%	\$0.00
Division Meet expenses	0.00	226.89	226.89	100.00%	\$0.00
		0.00			\$0.00
<b>TOTAL Expenses</b>	<b>4,979.11</b>	<b>13,448.99</b>	<b>8,469.88</b>	<b>170.11%</b>	<b>\$11,450.00</b>
<hr/>					
<b>NET PROFIT/LOSS</b>	<b>1,040.38</b>	<b>720.89</b>	<b>-319.49</b>	<b>-30.71%</b>	<b>\$2,467.00</b>
<hr/>					
BANK ACCOUNTS					
PREPAID DEPOSITS -	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	
CD 1 @ 3.3% matures 3/20/26	5,346.77	5,518.67	171.90	3.22%	
CD 2 @ 3.0% matures 5/18/26	0.00	5,182.57	5,182.57	0.00%	
CD 3 @ 3.5% matures 2/22/26	10,626.57	10,968.23	341.66	3.22%	
CD4 - @ 3.3% matures 3/20/26	5,196.65	5,363.73	167.08	3.22%	
Money Market @ 1.97%	13,164.29	7,589.43	-5,574.86	-42.35%	
Checking Account 65	400.00	849.10	449.10	112.28%	
Checking Account 73	150.00	133.44	-16.56	-11.04%	
<b>TOTAL CASH IN BANK</b>	<b>34,884.28</b>	<b>35,605.17</b>	<b>720.89</b>	<b>2.07%</b>	

Keep in mind financials were a bit off since our convention was cancelled. Even with this disruption we still managed to increase our cash by \$720. However, interest rates are falling, advertising is

down and membership is shrinking. These all cause our income to drop and make it difficult to cover our annual expenses.

Granted, we have a nice sum of money in the bank and the interest we make there covers 25-30% of our annual expenses so if we draw from that money we reduce our income potential – less money-less interest earned. We would need to find other income sources to replace this loss of income. We only have a couple of income streams that we can tap, advertising and our convention.

We've tried to hold the convention costs down amongst rising costs that we all see and still improve the experience. We have honestly tried to keep the convention at a break-even level to make it more affordable, which in turn allows more members to participate.

While I haven't gotten the new contracts yet for our 2026 convention from the Hilton I am expecting some increase (we all know prices rarely go down 😊 ), but I'm hoping it will be modest, and our pricing will not go up too much.

All in all, we are solid financially, but I would be amiss if I didn't point out future concerns.

(if anyone has any questions on our expense lines/plans/revenue please feel free to email me at [nmra\\_SunshineRegionMail@yahoo.com](mailto:nmra_SunshineRegionMail@yahoo.com) and I will get back to you as quickly as possible).

**Glenn Kopriva**

**Treasurer**

## Achievement Program



We have three (3) Achievement Program Certificates and one Golden Spike Certificate for the month of January and they are Douglas Bowman for Master Builder Structures from Orlando, Florida of the Eastern Division, next we have Eric Menger for Association Official from Vero Beach, Florida of the Eastern Division, next we have Eric Menger again for Association Volunteer from Vero Beach, Florida of the Eastern Division and the last award is for Georgia Hilton for the Golden Spike Award from Fort Lauderdale, Florida of the Southern Division. This has been one of our better months in quite some time let's keep up the good work. That is all I have for this month.

That is all I have for this time.

Thank you,

**Ken Hoot**

**Achievement Program Chair**

## Northern Division



Hope you all are enjoying this lovely Florida Winter!

The January Deland Train Show was a good one. Plenty of vendor tables with many different scales and types of trains. Very impressive layouts were on display also.

The Northern Division Workshop will be held at the Miccosukee Community Center 1504 Cromartie Road, Tallahassee Florida, Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup> 2026, doors open at 9:00am. There will be Modular layouts with trains running, clinics and a few items for sale. Breakfast will be served donations are suggested.

The Jacksonville Train Show will be held on Saturday February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Prime Osborne Center 1000 Water St. Jacksonville Florida, doors open at 9am. With many vendors and the First Coast Model Railroad Society will have their On30 layout operating.

On Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> the Northern Division will have a new event. The location will be the St. James Episcopal Church 2423 SW Bascom Norris Drive, Lake City Florida, doors will open at 9:00am, for set up. Meeting will start at 10:00am. The theme will be modular model railroading. Please bring a couple of modules to display. Please tell us about your vision for building, frame work, track gauge, scale and wiring. Did you build to established standards or your own design? Please let me know what you would like to bring and the size for table arrangements. Our popular Show and Tell Table will be available for your projects finished or not. Coffee, donuts and other items will be on hand in the morning. Please give a donation for the snacks and building rental. Lunch will be on your own, plenty of places to eat in the area. Please contact me if you would like to participate at [alco54@hotmail.com](mailto:alco54@hotmail.com) Thank you.

The North Central Florida Model Railroad Club in Alachua Florida is having Operation Sessions for beginners and veteran operators. If you would like to learn about operating trains or need hours for your NMRA Chief Dispatcher AP contact Richard Segall at [rese@gmail.com](mailto:rese@gmail.com) The layout represents the area in North Florida around Alachua. Please check their website at ncfmrc.org for more information on the Club and the layouts.

**Allen Scott**

**Northern Division Superintendent**

## Eastern Division



I'm posting some info for the Eastern Division membership.

Chip Pecere is putting together a meet for mid-March.

### Eastern Model Railroad Meet Open to all Model Railroaders Monday - March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

#### Sign Up

Location:

Indian River County Library (MAIN MEETING ROOM)

1600 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960

*Join Us* *Join Us*  
Time: 10:30am to 4:30pm  
Donations: \$12.50

Donation covers facilities and lunch

#### Operating T-Track Display

Email if you'd like to bring modules

#### Four Clinics!

Live! Designing your railroad before construction \_Chip Pecere

Live! TT & TO for prototype operation \_Robert Raymond

Live! Layout Planning for Operation \_Joel Morse, PSR/NMRA President

Zoom! Introduction to T-Track Modeling \_Andy Zimmerman, SSR/NMRA President

Email or call for more information

Please reserve your spot NO WALKINS so I have a head count

Donations are \$12.50

Payable by Check or Cash to: Frank Pecere (Chip)

280 11<sup>th</sup> Court, Vero Beach FL 32962

Or Email and Venmo... Chip Pecere@Chip-Pecere

Or Email and PayPal, send as gift... Frank Pecere@frankpecere1

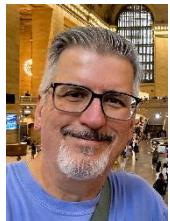
Email [chippecere@gmail.com](mailto:chippecere@gmail.com) 516-852-9234

First	Last
Name	
Email	
Phone	
Please make your payment by March 5 so I have a head count	

Mark Lewalski

Telegraph Key Editor  
Western Division Superintendent

## Western Division



Hey Westerner's, Happy February!

I'm happy to announce our upcoming Western Division Meet!

I've worked with members of the **CP&W Model Railroad Club** and together, we have organized this coming event. Registration and payment at the door. I hope to see you there!



### SSR Western Division Meet

**Saturday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>**

American Legion Post 139

3818 W. Bay Vista Ave, Tampa, FL 33611

**9:30am – 4pm**

**\$20 per person at the door**

Coffee, Donuts, and Lunch included

*Lunch order taken at registration*

#### CLINICS

*Six Tips for Successful Weathering – Jim Hopes*

*Ten Tips for Becoming a Better Modeler – Jon Addison*

*Making Realistic Deciduous Trees – Jim Hopes*

*And...*

**Chicago, Peoria & Western Model Railroad Club - Open House**

*For More Information Contact :*

**Mark Lewalski, SSR Western Division Superintendent – 727-542-6731**

**ALL MODEL RAILROADERS AND TRAIN ENTHUSIASTS ARE WELCOME!!**

**You *DO NOT* need to be an NMRA member**

## Events in the Western Division



- **Feb 7-8 – The Villages Model RR Clubs - The Villages (Savannah Center)** – Train Show/Swap Meet
- **Feb 15 – Zitnik Trains Spring Parking Lot Swap Meet – Pinellas Park (Zitnik Trains)** – Swap Meet/Open House
- **Feb 21-22 – RealRail RR Club – Venice (Community Center [new venue])** – Train Show/Swap Meet.

If you'd like to email me, please do so at [vwtrainsailor@gmail.com](mailto:vwtrainsailor@gmail.com)

I hope to see many of you out and around. Please work with me to do great things for all of us.

Thanks,

**Mark Lewalski**

**Western Division Superintendent**

## Southern Division



Hello Southern,

I am filling in for your Superintendent who is off gallivanting around South America. Since I have had no contact with him and I am sure he does not want to be bothered and have any contact with me, you are stuck with me. So, let me tell you what I have observed this New Year. It has been and will be as of this writing, a busy January, first the annual gathering in Cocoa Beach with the RPM. I found it light in participation, but heavy with information. I think much had to do with the economy and the cost of the Hilton, \$26.00 for breakfast. I attended a few clinics that were very informative, both in prototype modeling (hence RPM), and historical backgrounds of railroads. So, two weeks after Cocoa and as I write this (01/21), two days before my departure to the largest train show in the nation, Springfield, MA. Another annual gathering for me and one I look forward to. Next month I will have a better idea of what January had to offer, but on to local happenings.

The Florida Citrus Model Train Society finished up their stay at the Pembroke Pines Library and are recovering. Their future presentation and display is unknown at present, but the group continues their morning breakfasts. Also, I see they are looking for new members and they cover all the bases, G to N, or the other way around. See their website [www.fcmts.org](http://www.fcmts.org) for more information.

Members of the Palm Beach Model RR Club are on the south side of the fair, 14 days of continuous revelers waltzing through their raised viewing platform. I am sure they are looking for a break and relaxing this coming month. As far as I am aware the annual show was a success, no incidents, no accidents and all survived. Check out their Facebook page "The Palm Beach Model Railroad Club (Official)".

The South Florida Railroad Museum has done well these past few months with new members and one member who has received their Golden Spike award. The new member, Georgia Hilton, models in "N" scale and demonstrates a very self-sufficient layout with all the latest tech, scenery is not too bad either. I am sure you will be hearing about some of her accomplishments in the future. As for the events at the museum, well this year is the Centennial for the museum's home. The construction start of the Deerfield Beach station took place a century ago, with a completion date mid-1927, a lot of trains have passed by. The building has had a few renovations over the years, most notably in 1962 and again in 2000, but the general appearance has remained. The museum is looking to spruce the place up and make the old girl presentable.

So, what is in the future, well a Division meet / workshop is in the future! There will be one scheduled toward the end of spring and hosted by the SFRM. It will not interfere with the planned Vero gathering mid-March, no double booking. The plan is to have a day of clinics and a mini-RPM of sorts. The schedule will follow the regular donuts / coffee, clinic, lunch, clinic and display and judging if required. The RPM side of it will hopefully engage a few folks to entertain showing their stuff without going through the paperwork. All of this to be held at the museum's regular venue of the Lutheran church on Palmetto Park Rd. We shall see!

The ECHOES are having a grand time in their new digs at the Gold Coast Museum, they are there every weekend to host museum visitors and run their modular operations. Contact them if you are in the area, or if you are intimidated by large animals when your family wants to visit the zoo. Check out both their website and Facebook pages for the special events they hold during the year. There are two Facebook pages, ECHOES and ECHOES at GCRM.

That is it for this month, next month I will tell you how damn cold it was in Massachusetts!

***Bob Leonard for,***

**Richard Berger**

**Southern Division Superintendent**

## 2026 Sunshine Region Iron Horse Convention



The dates for the SSR 2026 Ocala Convention will be held on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, through Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Ocala Hilton Books Overflow for the University of Florida Gator Football Games and for 2026, The Gators play on the weekend of October 10th, so that weekend was unavailable for our convention.

At our 2025 Convention, we handed out a Survey at the Banquet, and your comments helped the convention committee, on what attendees want to see for 2026. One of the requests was to have shorter Hands-On Clinics, since it restricted you to 3 ½ hours in one clinic and you cannot attend other clinics. We can shorten the Hands-On Clinics to 1 hour, but just understand, you will not be able to get one-on-one attention with the 1-hour clinic as you do with the 3 1/2-hour clinic.

Another Survey request was, that you would like to have repeated clinics, like they have at Cocoa Beach Prototype Rails. Some of our clinicians are only available at certain times and for certain days when they can present their clinics. I will try my best to work with them to make that possible for 2026.

**LIVE ZOOM CLINICS** - We want to make sure you understand the concept of the Live Zoom Clinics. They are no different than a live In-Person Clinician except that the Clinician is on a screen from another location (maybe even a state), but you are still able to talk and interact with them, as if they are in the clinic room with you.

**QUESTIONNAIRE** - We will be sending out an email, in mid-February, directing you to go to the Sunshine Region website, where there will be a questionnaire that you can fill out, asking what Hourly and/or Hands-On Clinic YOU would like given at the 2026 Convention. We need you to give full details, so we understand exactly what clinic you're looking for.

For example:

**TRACK WORK?** – Laying Track? Wiring Track? Ballasting Track? Etc.

**WEATHERING?** Locomotives? Structures? Rolling Stock? Etc.

The more information you give me, the easier it is for me to try to get the clinicians for these clinics you would like to attend. Would you please fill out the Questionnaire as soon as you get the February email, so it gives me the time to work on all the requests. The Questionnaire will ONLY be open for 15 days, so please respond as quickly as possible.

Also, we've included in this issue of the February Telegraph Key, a **NUMBERED** list of all the Clinics/Clinicians from the 2025 Ocala Convention. If you would like me to repeat any of these clinics for the 2026 Convention, please use that number on the list when you fill out the Questionnaire.

*[Editor's Note: See the list of numbered clinics/clinicians after Ski's column.]*

Please take the time to fill out the questionnaire, because your Feedback is how we can make the 2026 Convention even better than the 2025 convention.

You can contact me if you have any questions about the Questionnaire or you would like to add something that wasn't included in the Questionnaire.

Jeffrey "Ski" Guzowski, Clinician Chairperson

Cell: 954-401-0804 Email: [Jguzowski@Bellsouth.net](mailto:Jguzowski@Bellsouth.net)

**Jeff Guzowski**

**Sunshine Region At Large Director**

**Clinician Chairperson**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**February 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>**, The Villages Train Show, Saturday from 9am – 4pm and Sunday from 10am – 3pm. Located at: 1545 N Buena Vista Blvd, The Villages, 32162. Go to their [TheVillagesTrainClub.com](http://TheVillagesTrainClub.com) website for a \$1 off Admission Coupon.

**February 28<sup>th</sup>**, SSR's Western Division will be holding a Division Meet on Saturday, at the American Legion Post, located at: 3818 W Bay Ave., Tampa, 33611. See Mark Lewalski's Western Division Column for more information.

**March 21<sup>st</sup>**, SSR's Northern Division will be hosting a Division Meet on Saturday, in Lake City. See Allen Scott's Northern Division Column for more details.

## **Iron Horse 2025 Clinics**

### **The Hands-On Clinics**

#### **1. Weathering with the (non) Masters – Clinicians: Bill Cialini, Tim Ellis, and Bob Leonard – 3 ½ Hours**

This clinic will cover weathering three of the primary mediums used in weathering all our toys, whether those toys are on the rails, or alongside of them. There are three clinicians that will teach their approach to weathering, Gouache paint, Pastels / Powders and Watercolor Pencils. We can't teach airbrush techniques and practices because no one wants a smelly room!

All who attend will have the opportunity to employ these techniques as you follow along. There will be boxcar "mules" that will be distributed for your use to practice what you have been taught.

#### **2. Tree Making Clinic – Clinician: Ken Hoot, Region SSR AP Chairman/Rich Paul – 3 ½ Hours**

Ken will furnish all the materials, tools, jigs, and machines to make over 200 trees in 3 different styles, Bottle Brush, Furnace Filters, and Poly Fiber. I will furnish each attendee with enough material to build over 30 trees in the workshop. Also, I will have 3 of my plastic flocking bottles along with all the flocking that is needed to furnish the trees. Ken has a homemade jig to speed up your tree making and all attendees will take the jig home.

### **The Hourly Clinics**

#### **3. The Ubiquitous F Unit – Clinician: Bob Leonard**

The clinic describes the changes over the years of the (Bulldog) nosed design of EMC-EMD F units, from the 1940s to the 1980s. The emphasis is on the 1<sup>st</sup> generation of units built and the models that have been produced by the many manufacturers, FTs to F7s. Everyone has done an F unit, pot metal, brass, plastic, they are like "Big Boys" if you have seen one, you have seen them all. Not true!

#### **4. Waterfalls, Oh the Grandeur – Clinician: Bill Cialini**

This covers the creation of waterfalls using commercial products and some unorthodox methods.

#### **5. Bridges – Clinician: Bob Leonard**

There are seven types of bridges, which ones can a railroad modeler use prototypically? We look at the types of bridges and the manufacturers who provide models of them.

## **6. Florida Early Orange Production – Clinician: Tom Wilson**

In Central Florida, Transportation, Plants, Byproducts, to modern Production and what you did not know what is made from oranges.

## **7. How to detail your Steel Mills and Coke Ovens - Clinician: Tom Wilson**

Tom models in HO Scale the Pittsburg & West Virginia Railroad and the Union Railroad. The Union Railroad (a subsidiary of US Steel) around the Pittsburg area. US Steel had 2 Steel Mills and Coke Operations around the Pittsburg area. Tom worked for US Steel for 20 years and will show you how to correctly model steel mills and coke operations, from someone that actually worked in the mills.

## **8. Basic Switching Techniques – Clinician: Donovan Lewis**

This presentation will show the basic techniques and terminology used in delivering cars to customers. Car cards, waybills, and switch lists will be discussed. Techniques of switching will be demonstrated via videos of two railroads.

## **9. Operations – Clinician: Donovan Lewis**

This presentation will go into the details of how a railroad operates and how it can be duplicated in a modelling situation. Designs of railroads and their effects on operation will be discussed. Timetables, waybills, card cards, switch lists, and train orders will be introduced. Train operation will be illustrated step by step via video and still shots during this presentation.

## **10. Model Railroading and Artificial Intelligence – Clinician: Glenn Kopriva**

Have you heard about all this Artificial Intelligence (AI) stuff and wondered

if you could use it or wondered how it works, or how it could help you? Are you an expert in some aspects of our hobby and would like to share your knowledge as a clinician but don't know how to assemble a Power Point or even organize your thoughts? AI can help you with that! In

this clinic we will discuss how AI works and how you can take advantage of

it! This will be a fun, interactive clinic. You will walk away wanting to try it out.

## **11. Selective Compression Clinic - Clinician: Jeff Hanke, MMR**

This PowerPoint based clinic will walk through, step-by-step, the process to take a prototype railroad area and adopt it to a smaller area for a model railroad, while preserving the operational character of the place. The clinic will explore how to interpret a prototype track plan, how to determine the operational necessary features and how to conduct the trades needed to make a prototypically operating model railroad. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad's Hancock, WV yard will be the primary example used with photos of the actual model railroad compared to the prototype.

## **12. Decaling Clinic - Clinician: Jeff Hanke, MMR**

This PowerPoint based clinic will be an in-depth look at the dying art of decaling. Mastering this skill will open a world of opportunities for unique paint schemes on your railroad. The clinic will review the types of decals on The Telegraph Key

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the market, care and storage of decals, recovering old and brittle decals, the process of applying decals, adding period correct markings and overcoming decal problems. It will also walk through a wide variety of manufacturers of decals on the market with examples being passed around.

### **13. Modeling Scrap Yards, The Metal Recycling Business – Clinician: Allen Scott**

1. Prototype research on buying, sorting, processing and selling.
2. Modeling the material handling equipment, buildings, fencing, gates and scales.
3. Modeling the materials to be recycled. Automobiles, heavy steel, lighter steel, copper, aluminum and brass.
4. Modeling gondola loads and other materials.

### **14. Advanced Tools and Tips – Clinician: Doug Geiger MMR**

Tools can easily be the most important part of enhancing your modeling skills. Join us as we explore various modeling tools and supplies, ranging from advanced (for example, calipers and material organization), moving to exotic (punch and die sets and scribes to name just a few), and concluding with some power tools (slow speed drills and mini sawz-alls for instance). Many of these tools are not often seen in the model railroading world but are used extensively in the IPMS world (International Plastic Modeling Society – those folks who build airplanes, armor, cars and ships). Modeling tips using these tools will also be discussed during the seminar. Some of the tools will be passed around for you to handle. Some of the more exotic supplies will also be discussed.

### **15. The Transcontinental Story, Trivia and Tidbits – Clinician: Doug Geiger MMR**

2019 was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad from Omaha to California. We will explore some of the lesser-known events (and scandals!), facts and people involved in building one of America's greatest achievements. Year-by-year construction details (many of which you may not know about) are also covered. Come and hear fascinating facts about America's first major railroad construction project.

### **16. Laser Engraving for Rolling Stock – Clinician: David Vescovi**

Clinic will discuss using laser engravers for model railroading models, showing the Pros and Cons of Laser Engraving vs 3D Printing. I will talk about the costs and different features of engravers used on acrylic, wood, and Styrene. The Software Program is Lightburn and will show how to set up a project, use, tips, techniques with a demo. Examples: wood caboose, steam car, LNG tender, etc. Followed by discussion and Q&A's.

### **17. Judging for Celebration of Models - Clinician: Carl Smeigh MMR**

This class is mandatory for "New Judges" who are participating for judging in the Celebration of Models to achieve AP Certificates. Class is on Friday Morning 8:30-9:30am

### **18. Scratch Building with Wood – Clinician: John Giammasi MMR**

John will teach you how to build structures using Bass Wood.

**19. Making a City Backdrop using Silhouettes, Building Fronts and Flats – Clinician: Mike Collins MMR**

Mike will have projected pictures and use a demonstration board to show the six steps of making a City Backdrop. He is bringing the seven-foot backdrop that won Second Place for Displays at the 2017 Sunshine Region National Convention in Orlando. He will provide a handout which includes the six steps and reference website with his YouTube videos that show the background.

**20. Latest Technology and Trends using DCC – Clinician: Carl Marchand**

The clinic covers the latest tools, devices and software available for DCC users of all scales with heavy emphasis on HO and N scale. Highly recommended for newbies and seasoned veterans alike.

**21. Creating a Small Switching Layout: Part One (and ½) – Clinician: Mark Lewalski**

This clinic describes the ongoing building of my small, portable HO shelf switching layout. I cover the ups and downs of my track plan journey, my search for a modeling era, changes I made along the way, and my final decision to put plan into action and actually get some modeling done. I will have my layout available during the clinic.

**22. Laser Cutting and 3D Printing – Clinician: Andrew Deek**

We usually buy 3D printers and Laser Cutters with the intention of making Prototypical Models and Detail Parts. But you can also use those tools to create accessories for your layout. Come and get inspired by Andrew as he shows you things you can create using these high-tech tools.

**23. Using JMRI for Operations – Clinician: Tracy Sanders**

Tracy will go over, using JMRI for Operations in class and then he will take you out to the Echoes HO Layout to do Hands-On demonstrations. You will then get to operate on the layout on what you have learned in the class. First time operators and seasoned veterans will find this clinic helpful.

**24. The Military Moves by Rail – Clinician: Larry Lawler**

Using “Tiedown Instructions for Rail Movement”, transportation TMs and FMs as guides covers both new model examples as well as detailing some old models to represent the rolling stock used by the military.

**25. Penn Central Cabins and Cabooses – A Look at the Prototype and Modeling Options in HO Scale – Clinician: Larry Lawler**

A history of cabin cars and caboose that were taken from the parent railroads and contacted after the merger to follow Pen Central consists. From PRR N 5s, NH Ns to NYC N 7s and beyond to the N 12, Larry covers them all. He also provides modeling information, what steps to follow whether it be for kit bashed models, craftsman models, or produced models to better represent those prototypes of the Penn Central.

**26. Water Water Everywhere – Clinician: Tim Ellis**

The clinic explains the use of two-part epoxies, UV epoxies and creating textures (ripples/waves) with other products to give your water a look of realism. It also covers the coloring, not all water is blue, have you been to the Mississippi?

**27. Modeling Deciduous Trees with Root Structure – Clinicians: Anna and Jeff DeVito**

We have no description for this clinic

**28. Installing DCC Decoders and Sound Systems in Locomotives – Clinician: Greg Garbacz**

We have no description for this clinic

**LIVE ZOOM CLINICS****29. Talkin' T-TRAK - Presenters: Andy Zimmerman & Terry Moore**

**Description:** Curious about T-TRAK or looking to get started with this versatile and beginner-friendly modular system? Join Andy Zimmerman and Terry Moore as they dive into the basics of T-TRAK, covering everything from module construction and layout design to wiring, scenery, and operations. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned modeler, you'll gain insights on how T-TRAK can fit into your model railroading journey. Discover how this small, adaptable format fosters creativity, collaboration, and community involvement, making it an ideal platform for expanding your model railroading skills and connections. Come prepared with questions, and let's talk T-TRAK!

**30. Take Me to the River - Presenter: Dean Smith MMR**

**Description:** Ready to bring your layout to life with dynamic, fast-moving water scenes? Join Dean Smith in this hands-on clinic as he guides you step-by-step through the process of modeling mountain rivers, streams, and waterfalls. Fast-moving water can be an intimidating element for many modelers, but Dean will demystify the techniques needed to create realistic water features. From creating convincing rapids to cascading waterfalls, you'll learn methods to enhance the natural beauty of your layout. This clinic has been presented at regional and national NMRA conventions, National Narrow Gauge conventions, and on NMRAx, making it a must-see for anyone wanting to elevate their scenery skills. Don't miss out on this chance to master the art of water modeling!

**31. From Proto Photo to Model Scene - Presenter: Dean Smith MMR**

**Description:** Ever wondered how to turn a real-world photograph into a model scene? In this clinic, Dean Smith presents "From Proto Photo to Model Scene," showcasing how he constructed a detailed model of the gasoline fuel depot at Newland, North Carolina, for the Vida Division. Follow along as Dean walks you through the entire process, from analyzing a prototype photograph to recreating the structure with accuracy and realism. In addition to prototype modeling techniques, Dean will share essential tips on scenery and basic modeling along the way. This clinic has been featured at an NMRA national convention and on the "Off the Beaten Track" series. If you're looking to enhance your layout with prototype-inspired realism, this clinic is for you!

### **32. JMRI with DecoderPro - Presenter: Mark Juett MMR –**

**Description:** JMRI Decoder Pro is an essential tool for setting up and configuring your DCC decoders with ease. In this ever-popular clinic, presented at both Regional and National conventions, Mark Juett will guide you through the many features that Decoder Pro offers. With its intuitive graphical user interface (GUI), Decoder Pro simplifies tasks that used to involve counting bits and configuring complicated CVs like CV29.

You'll learn how to take advantage of Decoder Pro's capabilities, including setting up special lighting effects, speed tables and speed matching, momentum, and braking. Mark will also cover how to copy and duplicate settings for similar locomotives, saving time and effort. Additionally, you'll learn about programming on the main, as well as the benefits of using a dedicated programming track.

Whether you're new to DecoderPro or looking to enhance your skills, this clinic has something for everyone. It's a fantastic opportunity to discover how simple and efficient Decoder Pro can make your DCC experience. Come see just how easy it is to get started!

### **33. Car Forwarding with JMRI (Operations) - Presenter: Mark Juett MMR**

**Description:** Looking for an effective way to generate traffic on your model railroad? Mark Juett's popular clinic on JMRI for car forwarding is a must-see. Frequently requested and in high demand, this clinic was originally part of the "Setting Up for Operations" clinic but was split out to allow more time for both topics. It fits perfectly as a follow-up to "Setting Up for Operations."

Traditional car forwarding methods like car cards and waybills are still widely used but come with limitations—cars are typically assigned just four destinations before waybills need to be rotated. In the past, some operators used colored thumbtacks, which detracted from the realism. While various software programs exist, many rely on one person for updates and maintenance.

This clinic will introduce you to JMRI as a versatile solution for car forwarding. Learn how to set up and configure the software to meet your operational needs. You'll discover how to assign various car types to appropriate destinations, create flexible movements that aren't stuck in repetitive patterns (unless desired, like with unit trains), and generate switch lists customized with your railroad's logo and name.

Mark will show just how simple it is to get started and demonstrate how JMRI can handle freight and passenger movements with ease. If you're looking for a reliable, customizable system that enhances operations, this clinic will equip you with the knowledge and tools to get your railroad moving smoothly.

### **34. Cinematic Modeling: Creating Dramatic Scenes using Film Production Design Principles - Presenter: Roman Pastucha**

**Description:** Transform your shelf layouts, dioramas, and modular layouts into captivating, cinematic scenes using principles of cinematic production design. As trends like T-TRAK and modular railroading grow, a unique opportunity arises to elevate your model railroad scenes to a new level of artistry. This clinic explores how to design foreground scenes and backdrops as cinematic art, turning your trains into the "actors" on a well-crafted stage.

Drawing inspiration from theater and natural history museums—where taxidermy mounts are displayed in realistic settings—this clinic will guide you through designing backdrops that enhance the drama and realism of your layout.

The clinic is divided into three key sections:

- Design Elements and Principles:** Learn the foundational concepts of creating backdrops that enhance your scenes, including composition, perspective, and color theory.
- Materials and Techniques:** Explore the different materials and methods for crafting foreground and backdrops, from traditional painting to modern digital printing, and discover how to select the best approach for your layout.
- Final Installation and Photographic Composition:** Discover how to install your backdrops with precision and gain insights into photographic techniques that make your scenes look like they've been lifted straight from a cinematic frame.

Whether you're a seasoned modeler or just starting out, this clinic will provide the knowledge and inspiration to create backdrops that complement your layout and transform it into a cinematic masterpiece.

### **35. On30 Modular Railroading: The Pudding River Lumber Co. - Presenter: Kevin Spady**

**Description:** Join Kevin Spady as he takes you through the fascinating world of On30 modular railroading with his Pudding River Lumber Co. layout. This clinic offers an in-depth exploration of what it means to build modular scenes in On30, from concept to execution. Whether you're new to modular railroading or an experienced modeler, Kevin will share valuable "how-to" tips for creating highly detailed and realistic modules.

Kevin began his journey in modular railroading in 2012 when he joined the California South Coast On30 Modular Group. Since then, he has built several intricate and award-winning modules, many of which have been featured in the On30 Annual magazine. In this clinic, Kevin will discuss everything from layout design and construction techniques to scenery, weathering, and detailing that bring his Pudding River Lumber Co. to life.

If you're looking for inspiration to start your own modular project or simply want to learn more about On30 modeling, this clinic will provide the tools and insights to help you get started. Kevin's experience and passion for modular railroading make this clinic a must-see for anyone interested in building and showcasing modular layouts.

### **36. Introduction to 3D Printing – Presenter: Ray Persing**

**Description:** In 2020 I acquired what has quickly become an indispensable tool in my modeling arsenal – a resin-based 3D printer. This clinic covers basic questions of Why 3D printing; What printers are available and what can they do; Where can I get printers and files; When is 3D printing appropriate; and How do I go about doing this? This is designed as an introduction to 3D printing, with specific application to structures, rolling stock, and details.

### **37. Scratchbuilding in Wood – Presenter: Ray Persing**

**Description:** Nothing makes a more realistic model of a wood structure than using wood as a modeling medium. In an era when craftsman kits are becoming increasingly expensive, scratch-building makes high-quality models possible on a budget. For the modeler who is considering scratch-building but either hasn't started or hasn't started or has started with limited success. We'll cover techniques used in constructing wood models by stepping through the construction of a prize-winning structure. Methods used to build a Merit Award quality model, as well as a number of warnings of things to do, and alternative methods to achieve similar effects.

### **38. Achievement Program Update – Presenter: Ray Persing**

Description: The Achievement Program is one of the great perks of being in the NMRA – a structured way to learn more about this great hobby, improve your modeling skills, and have a great time in the process. For people who aren't active in the AP, we'll show you how participating in the AP can make you a better modeler and for those who are further along on their journey we'll talk about what we're doing at all levels to improve the experience to everybody.

## South Florida Railway Museum

# Happy New Year Sunshine Region

**The Museum is Open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, the following dates are for our 1<sup>st</sup> quarter**

**01-10, 02-14, 03-14**

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

Follow us on our website [www.sfrm.org](http://www.sfrm.org) and our Facebook page

1300 W. Hillsboro Blvd. Deerfield Beach, FL  
(The south end of the AMTRAK station in Deerfield Beach)



Home of the

South Farmington Rail & Mule RR

South Florida Regional & Metro





**E.C.H.O.E.S** is a modular model railroad club located in Miami-Dade, Florida, dedicated to building and displaying our HO scale model railroad layout. Our purpose is to enjoy and promote the hobby of model railroading and preserve the history of railroading in South Florida. The club was started in the summer of 1985, with the goal of presenting a HO scale modular model railroad layout for display at "The Harvest Festival". Throughout the years, the layout has been displayed at regional conventions, four NMRA National Train Shows (Atlanta twice, Ft. Lauderdale, FL and Orlando), and other events in Miami Dade and Broward counties. We do running/operating sessions several times a year and welcome guests to join us. Membership is open and we welcome anyone who shares an interest and passion for Model railroading.

For more information, please contact:

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