The Telegraph Key

An NMRA Sunshine Region Monthly Publication

February 2024







WWW.NMRASunshineRegion.org



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!





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Editor's Message



As part of the effort to bring more information to our Sunshine Region membership, the Telegraph Key will begin a couple of new features – a Q&A section and an Event section.

The Q&A section will be coming soon and for it to be successful, your questions are needed. If you have questions that you would like to submit, please send them to this email nmra sunshineregionmail@yahoo.com and we will do our best to get them answered in a

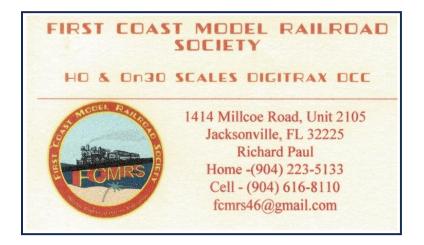
The Event sections is introduced in this issue and appears after each Division Superintendent's message. It will give you the lowdown on shows, meetings, swap meets, etc. and you'll be able to see what is near you by checking your Division area.

timely manner. You may not see the answers right away, so be patient and we'll do our best.

On a final note, we are trying to compile a list of Model Railroad clubs in Florida. If you have a club or know of a club in your area, please send the info to include Club name, location, which Division it's in, a point of contact (if known), and any website or social media information. You can email the SSR President at ssrprez@nmra.org. Thank you in advance.

Mark Lewalski

Editor, Telegraph Key



The Mail Car



Well, this section will be pretty short as I didn't receive any emails for The Mail Car last month.

If **you** have any comments, questions, or suggestions to pass on, positive or critical, please email me at wwtrainsailor@gmail.com with them. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mark Lewalski

Editor, Telegraph Key



President's Message

Can you believe it's already February? Time truly flies, and as we embark on this new month, I wanted to share some exciting updates regarding the Region, Divisions, and our overall progress.

In terms of recent developments, the SSR Board has officially confirmed my role as President, and I am dedicated to ensuring that we continue to grow and provide for our membership. We have a lot to do, and I look forward to taking on the challenges and bringing the SSR the Best model railroading experience. This past month, we also welcomed Mark Lewalski as our new Vice President. Mark brings a wealth of experience and dedication to our Region, and I encourage all of you to warmly welcome him. Together with our outstanding board, we are poised to navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Over the past weeks, I've witnessed the dedication and enthusiasm of many of you who expressed interest in contributing to our mission and the development of our Region. Your willingness to volunteer is truly commendable, and I'm grateful for your support. While there may not always be a formal title associated with these roles, the collective effort of many hands makes our work more manageable.

Currently, our Eastern Division Superintendent has asked to step out of her temporary role in favor of a more permanent replacement, and we have appointed Jim Moore from the Orlando area into that role. Have a look at the Eastern Division Superintendents column for more details. Benita Jameson will assist Jim in the transition to ensure a smooth knowledge transfer. I want to thank Benita for providing for standing in the gap for the Eastern division as we were transitioning the board to its current makeup.

The Southern Division is in need of an assistant Superintendent, and I know we have a lot of well-qualified individuals in the South. The Western Division is seeking an AP Chair to assist with their AP needs. If you're interested in lending a hand, please don't hesitate to email me, and we can discuss how you can be part of our journey.

In other news...

Regarding membership refunds, you should have received communication from Glenn Kopriva, our SSR Treasurer, regarding potential refunds based on changes to the Journal Box subscription. Please take a moment to reply to the email and choose one of the following options:

- 1. Request a full refund of the remainder of your subscription with confirmation of your correct mailing address.
 - OR
- 2. Express your desire to donate your refund back to the SSR to support our mission to bring you a better model railroading experience.
- 3. If you believe there's an error in the amount owed, provide details for further investigation, and if needed, attach a copy of both sides of your canceled check.

I want to express my gratitude to those who have generously donated their refunds back to the SSR. Your contributions, big or small, are instrumental in achieving our goals. We aim to begin processing refunds in mid-February.

As I write this, I'm preparing to attend the Amherst Railroad Hobby Show, representing both National and the SSR at the NMRA National board meeting. If you are attending, you are welcome to attend the open board meeting on Friday. I'm eager to update the board on our achievements and ongoing initiatives. The SSR is making significant strides, and I'm confident that we can make it the "best Region under the Sun" together!

Feel free to reach out to me at SSRPrez@NMRA.org with any questions or to schedule a discussion with me or for your club/group about our growing Region. Let's keep the community engaged Remember, it's about Mentorship, Fellowship, and Community, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Andy Zimmerman

President



Vice President's Message

As you've read, I was asked if I would assume the role of Sunshine Region Vice-President – at least until our next election. I accepted and am now working with Andy, Glenn, Eric, and the rest of our Board to bring good things to our Region.

I'm still getting my feet wet again in this role. Although I served as SSR VP in previous years, it's been a while and I'm learning about the new path that we're on. I believe that this Board has great talent to utilize during its term and I also have the greatest confidence in our awesome Division Superintendents. I hope to attend my local Western Division events and possibly some other Division meets too.

I look forward to this new position and will see many of you again.

Thanks,

Mark Lewalski

Editor, Telegraph Key

Treasurer's Message



All, I wanted to inform everyone that the Journal Box refund information was sent out to those who had an ongoing subscription that ended in 2024 or later. The email was sent on Jan 20, 2024 with a subject line of "Journal Box Refund".

If you believe you were due a refund and did not receive an email, please check your spam folder to ensure it did not wind up there. If it is still not found, please email me

along with a copy of the front and back of your cancelled check so we can research it.

As an FYI to all members, most refunds are for less than 10 dollars as very few members had a subscription that exceeded an additional year although there were a few. Keep in mind you must respond to the email sent on Jan 20 to receive your refund – this allows us to confirm your mailing address and that you agree with the refund amount stated.

We will begin the refund process in mid-February with all checks issued prior to the end of the month and the refund process will then be closed 30 days later on March 31, 2024.

Now let's get back to Trains!!!

Glenn Kopriva

Treasurer

Achievement Program



We have one AP for the month of January and it goes to Richard Segall for Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical. Richard is from Hawthorn, Florida and is located in the Northern Division.

We are in need of two Division AP Chair personnel. One from the Western Division and one from the Southern Division. The Divisional Chair personnel earn volunteer points

each month which go towards the Volunteer AP Award (which totals out at 60-time units). So, if anyone wants to get Volunteer points let me know and I can hook you up with the job.

Also, the people in the Northern Division need to get in touch with the Northern Division Chair Rich Paul so we can start to get more Merit Awards which turn into AP Awards. The Eastern Division members need to get together with Eastern Division Chair Erick Menger so they can get more Merrit Awards which turn into AP Awards.

The Sunshine Region has slowed down a little bit in the AP field and this is the best time of the year to work on trains and get some Merit Awards.

That is all I have for now,

Ken Hoot

Achievement Program Chair

South Florida Railway Museum

Beginning January 2024

New Hours

The museum will be open from 11 AM to 4 PM on the 2nd Saturday of the month

Dates

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

Follow us on our website <u>www.sfrm.org</u> and our Facebook page Call 561 441 6952 for more information

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

Northern Division



Lots of Model Railroading Fun in Coming Weeks in the Northern Division.

Look for more events open this Calendar at https://www.nmra.org/calendar.

Northern Events

First Coast Model RR Society Open Running.

Florida, Jacksonville (Beaches) – First Coast Model RR Society open, running every Sun. Operational 750 sq ft double-level freelance mixed era HO layout 50% complete. Meet On30 modular layout members. Gated location near I295 & Monument Rd. Please contact us 24-48 hours before your visit. John Piselli jpmickey@att.net. www.FCMRS.club, See the club on YouTube (FCMRS); https://www.facebook.com/groups/471801286331141/

The Villages Model Train Show

Savannah Regional Center, 1545 N. Buena Vista Blvd., The Villages, FL, 32162. Saturday, February 3, 2024 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday, February 4, 2024 – 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Admission is \$7; children under 12 free.

44th Annual Jacksonville Rail Fair

Model Train and Railroad Artifact Show and Sale

Location: Prime Osbon Convention Center, 1000 Water Street, Jacksonville, Florida, 32204

Date and Time: Saturday, February 10, 2024 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

For more information, use this link: https://www.primefosborn.com/events/2019/train-model-show.

Fox Valley Division Meet In Person and Online

Join us for this "hybrid"- in-person and online virtual Meeting.

Please see our website timetable for details https://www.foxvalleydivision.org/.

Date and Time: Sunday, February 18, 2024 - 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

The 2024 Layout Tour is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2024.

I just wanted to mention again that the 2024 Layout Tour is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2024 Last year's tour was a real hit, so we are hoping that this year's will at least meet that if not exceed it!

Robert Feuerstein

Northern Division Superintendent

Eastern Division

Given this is my first newsletter column, I will use it to introduce myself and to alert Eastern Division members to a couple of upcoming events.

I was recently selected as Superintendent of the Eastern Division. I'm happy to share that Benita Jameson has agreed to remain onboard as Assistant Superintendent. I look forward to building upon the foundation which Benita created across the past few years.

I returned to HO scale model railroading about a year ago following a 25-year hiatus. I'm in the early stages of constructing a modest-size shelf layout inspired by the Pennsy's operations in Pittsburgh in the late 1940s/early 1950s. My proposed track plan is based in large part by one designed by John Wright, noted British PRR modeler. (See "The Pennsy in Britain", *Model Railroader*, May 2003.)

On a personal note, my wife (Sharon) and I have two adult daughters, a great son-in-law, and three wonderful grandchildren. Our three-generation family moved to the Orlando area from Southern California nearly four years ago. Since then, we have all embraced the lifestyle offered by the Sunshine State.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the months ahead, visiting model railroad clubs throughout the Division, and working collaboratively for the benefit of the Division and the Sunshine Region. Feel free to send me an email with your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions.

Looking ahead, there are two Division activities on the horizon:

Eastern Events

Circle Saturday, April 6 on your calendar for a no-cost cookout at my home in Winter Springs (Seminole county). An opportunity for fellowship, sharing "fish tales", and Division brainstorming. Kick-off is 11 am with "last call" around 3:00 pm. Watch your mailbox for further details.

Next up is a Division Meet planned for a Saturday in June. Jeff "Ski" Guzowski (SSR Director-at-Large) has agreed to recruit potential clinicians. Ideally the event will feature four sessions and on-site lunch. We're looking for potential venues in either south Orlando or the Kissimmee-St. Cloud area. So, if you're aware of possible locations for a Saturday get-together, send an email to either Ski or me.

Cheers!

Jim Moore

Eastern Division Superintendent

Western Division



There is a nice article on page 12 of the January 2024 issue of the NMRA Magazine about the efforts of the Scale Rails Club of Southwest Florida to promote the AP program. They did an excellent job helping their members qualify for the AP Golden Spike Award with a special program designed for snowbirds in their membership. Check it out.

The Western Division should host some additional one day workshops in 2024. These will be held in conjunction with local model railroad clubs and rotate around the division. A typical workshop includes 4 clinics and a tour or operating session at the host club. Modelers are encouraged to bring modeling projects to display and AP judging is available on request. Admission is usually around \$20 and includes lunch. Watch this space for dates and locations. If your club is interested in hosting a workshop, please contact me directly.

If you or your club have any news or events to share, please let me know so I can share it with the Western Division members.

Western Events

There are 2 Western Division Workshops currently scheduled:

March 23 in N Ft Myers, hosted by the Scale Rails of Southwest Florida. Details in the attached flyer. April 20 in Davenport hosted by the Ridge Model Railroad Club. Watch for more details.

Don Wetmore

Western Division Superintendent

Southern Division



Greetings,

The Southern Div. is quiet, there isn't much going on down here for the month of February, other than the Florida Citrus group. But first we will start at the top of the Palm Beach contingent of the division.

The Palm Beach Model Railroaders were in the thick of being on display in conjunction with the South Florida Fair, but it has come to an end. I believe with the closing of the fair they will return to the projects that were in process. Or, they will take a much needed rest after the busy schedule of running trains for two weeks straight.

The Florida Citrus group packed up and left from the Southwest Regional Library and moved lock, stock, and barrel to the Plantation Historical Museum for an extended stay. Nine months! The museum is located at 511 N. Fig Tree Lane in Plantation. The museum hours are from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and the open days are Wednesday through Saturday, only. Stop by and see them.

The ECHOES are recovering from their annual holiday operation and taking the month of February off. They do have some maintenance planned for their modules in the upcoming months, but no public displays until April.

The South Florida Railway Museum in Deerfield Beach is one step away from being around for another five to ten years. The lease agreement is in its final stages, a relief for the membership. Again, I will post their new hours open to the public, the 2nd Saturday of each month, for February (02/10/24), from 11 AM to 4 PM.

A bit of excitement for the region, or at least the Southern part of it. One of the members of the SFRM got to run train operations with the president of the NMRA last month. Mr. Robinson made a work-related visit to south Florida and had a break in the meetings to run trains with Richard Berger at his home. I understand it was 90 minutes of breaking and making consists, set outs, and pick-ups on Richard's "N" scale layout. Richard had a great time running trains and conversing, I haven't talked to the president yet, I will let you know his observations next month.

As I said last month, the Journal Box, is in need of content. Luckily my request has been witnessed and answered and content has arrived. So, the next edition (Volume 80), which will be published in March will have something to fill the pages. As of this writing, there will be articles in the areas of general knowledge, some history, and step by step instruction. I hope to hear from some of our past contributors and as always, looking for new contributors to share their stories, ideas, and methods of modeling with the rest of us.

Until next month, Model 60!

Robert Leonard

Southern Division Superintendent



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

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NMRA Sunshine Region Western Division Spring Workshop Hosted by

Scale Rails of Southwest Florida http://www.scalerails.org

Location Scale Rails of SW Florida Depot 1262 Piney Road N Fort Myers, FL 33903

Date: Saturday March 23, 2024
Time: 9:30 am till 3pm
Admission \$20.00 Includes:

Meet and greet with coffee/doughnuts.

Lunch

4 Clinics:

John Seaman: Weathering for Rolling Stock/Locos

Bob McLaughlin: Decaling Tips/Techniques

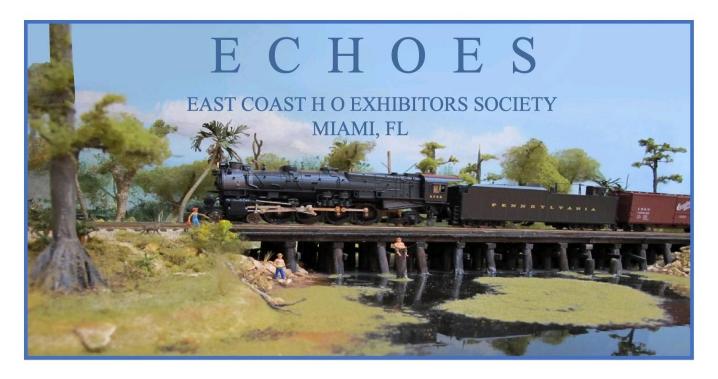
Donovan Lewis: Modeling the Steel Industry

Keith Kramer: Choosing Realistic Vehicles for Your Layout

Open house/operating session on club layout

Contact: Mark Wilson Mwilsongn1@aol.com 260-452-7727

https://www.nmrasunshineregion.org/



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

Rick Diazrickdiaz@att.net305 496 9266Tracey Sanderstassailor@mac.com786 514 5667Herb Fordehf640@gmail.com786 375 1424



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