

THE TELEGRAPH KEY

A NMRA SUNSHINE REGION MONTHLY PUBLICATION

NOVEMBER 2023



2023 CONVENTION RECAP

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

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SUNSHINE REGION OFFICIALS

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EDITORS MESSAGE



All,

Well, with the Convention now history, and as we get ready for Winter (is there really Winter in Florida?), a few changes are about to happen. I need to announce that this is my last editorial as editor of the Telegraph Key. While I may continue to write articles or keep you informed about one thing or another, I really have been spread a little too thin and need to share the fun with others! I'll be passing the baton to Mark Lewalski. Mark is no stranger to the Region and will be able to jump right in at the helm. I will continue to maintain the treasury and the website.

That being said, I want to thank all of you for helping, commenting, and providing me with your knowledge and experiences in order to make our Region the best it can be. We all need to share with one another, this is our Region; yours, and mine. It's a collective and we form a pretty solid matrix when we work together.

We have also had a change in the Board of Directors. Jim Robertson has stepped down from Vice President and moved into a Director at Large role and Andy Zimmerman has moved from a Director at Large to Vice President. We thank both of these members for their continued support of the Region.

This Region is changing, and for the better. More information, more transparency, more more more! Please get involved, let us know if you'd like to get involved, what you can offer and how much time you can donate. Even if you are an armchair modeler, I'm sure you have a story or experience you'd like to share with our membership. With that being said we will always review anything you submit to us to insure it meets with basic guidelines (i.e. no stories from a bar when you were 25 while maybe interesting and a good laugh just not here 😊) .. so railroad related content please.

Lastly, the final print edition of the Journal Box will go out in December. As promised, we will be refunding all subscriptions that run into 2024 and 2025 at 1 dollar per month. While I know many of you are upset about the move to go digital I can only express to you that the new digital format will allow us to offer more enriching content, more articles, more information and more pictures all at a price of zero, nada, nothing. We want **all** members to be able to learn from one another and what better way than allowing everyone to receive it. This change allows us to have an unlimited page length, something the printed version was restrictive about and with postage costs going up it was not a good fiscal option for us. As an FYI, we

shared the Lonestar regions version of their quarterly digital magazine at our convention Board meeting so that those in attendance had a chance to see what we'd like to deliver to our membership. Their quarterly magazine had 90 pages of content – wow! Will we have 90 pages of content on March 1, 2024, probably not, but we will be building this as time goes on. It truly is the path we want to be on—and it will always be available to read on your cell phone, ipad, laptop etc. For those of you that enjoy a printed copy, it's in standard page layout online and so easy to print or download. I hope everyone will see the value of this enhancement to the Journal Box and the membership as a whole.

As always please send your questions, comments, opinions and thoughts to:

NMRA_SunshineRegionMail@yahoo.com

Happy Railroading!

GLENN KOPRIVA

EDITOR, TELEGRAPH KEY

THE MAILCAR



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At this years' convention we put together a survey to hear from our members, not only about the convention but also what they would like to see from the Region going forward. As mentioned previously, we want to hear from you; what you need from the region, what clinics you'd like, convention location, etc. Many folks filled out the survey, but many did not. You can't complain about the region's direction if you don't share what you would like to see or see changed. We

will be sharing this first round of surveys in next months' Telegraph Key.

Those of you who were not at the convention will still get a chance to share your opinions. We will be contacting every member to 1) ensure we have your correct email address and 2) ask you a few basic questions to better understand where you are as modeler, your skill set, and answer any questions you may have. As we move to an all-digital organization, it is imperative

that we have your correct email address to keep you informed of various events throughout the year.

More to come on the web, more content, more info at your fingertips. Stay tuned and keep those comments coming – we need your thoughts and ideas to improve the site for everyone!!

Please email me, glennkopriya@yahoo.com any comments, questions or suggestions to keep this format engaging for all. It's our way to stay involved and keep you involved!

~~~~~

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### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I hope everyone survived all the ghosts, goblins and kids on Halloween!

The 2023 SSR Convention was great! We had a couple of special guests, Gordi Robinson NMRA President and Rick Cobel NMRA Vice President. Glenn Kopriva and his team worked hard to put together the best possible convention, and I think they did a great job! Thursday, we had a tour of the Brightline maintenance facility at the Orlando airport. Friday evening, we had an ice

cream social on the patio at the hotel and most convention attendees were there. At the convention we had multiple clinics, a hands-on clinic, the train show, the Caboose Challenge and the Banquet.

After the banquet Austin Strenecky did a presentation on the construction of Brightline. He covered the construction from start to finish.

If there is something that you would like to see at the convention, let Glenn Kopriva know.

**GENE JAMESON**

**PRESIDENT**

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## **ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

AP's for the month of October.

Robert Feuerstein for Association Official from Tallahassee Florida from the Northern Division.

Also, we are the number 2 Region in the NMRA for Certificates so far this year. We have 1 Master Model Railroader, 15 AP Certificates, and 22 Golden Spike Certificates for a total of 38. The leading Region is the Northwest Region and they are from the west coast of Canada. and have 51 Certificates. We also had 8 merit awards from our Sunshine Region Convention this year.

The new way that we are going to be judging AP Awards will be coming out soon. Until that time, we are still under the old method for our AP Merit Awards.

**KEN HOOT**

**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM CHAIR**

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## **TREASURERS REPORT**

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

\*\* Note – you will soon be able to purchase advertising online with us. Watch for the “Advertise with us” message on our website soon.

**GLENN KOPRIVA**

**TREASURER**

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## NORTHERN DIVISION



**Florida and Southeastern Georgia "O" Scalers**-We will be exhibiting their O Scale 2-rail modular layout at the Jacksonville Agricultural Show and Fair November 2nd - 12th and will be operating their equipment at the main exhibition hall, For fair operating hours. Visit [www.Jacksonvillefair.com](http://www.Jacksonvillefair.com) Florida and Southeastern Georgia

"O" Scalers, formerly known as Southeastern Florida, was formed in 2012 is a modular group started by Walter Horlacher and Stephen Pariseau, and the layout serves as a platform to operate "O" Scale 2-rail equipment. Individuals interested in joining the group are not required to build a module, and there are no annual dues, but they do require a current NMRA membership to maintain the group's 100% NMRA status.

For more info, e-mail [sefloscalers@gmail.com](mailto:sefloscalers@gmail.com) or call Walter at 954-254-4609

**Don't Forget the NMRA monthly SSR Meet and Greet.** Instead of the monthly Sunday "Meet and Greet" event in Jacksonville, we now run trains every Sunday, and anyone is welcome to visit. Sunday Run sessions are at the FCMRS club at 1414 Millcoie Road, Jacksonville, FL. The contact person for the club has changed from Stu Shef to John Piselli @ 904-993-0225

[jpmickey@att.net](mailto:jpmickey@att.net) or [fcMrs46@gmail.com](mailto:fcMrs46@gmail.com)

### Keep on the lookout for Northern Division Virtual Clinics:

Now that the very successful SSR Regional convention is in the rear-view mirror we are lining up our next set of quarterly Northern Division Clinics, which will include DCC, Model railroad manufacturers, and MMRs from across the US and Canada, and providing quality Clinics. If you are in the Northern Division, look at your e-mail for Links. If not, send your e-mail to [photobob321@gmail.com](mailto:photobob321@gmail.com), and we will get you added to the distribution list so you will get notified as we schedule them. If there is a specific area you would like us to focus on, please email me!!

**Railfest 2023 November 11-12, 2023:** While technically, it is in the Southeastern Region (SER), Pensacola Model Railroad Club (PMRC), will be hosting Railfest 2023 on November 11-12, 2023, at the Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds Several SSR Northern Division members will be running Trains on T-TRAK layouts at this event! This is going to be a great show. If you are in the

Panhandle of FL or in the area, be sure to stop in and check us out. Bring a train and run with us!

**The Northern Division Superintendent was awarded the “*Meritorious Service*” award** by the NMRA President, Gordy Robinson at the SSR Banquet. The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) Meritorious Service Award recognizes a member's long-term service to the association. The award is given to members who have served in administrative departments or committees. Congratulations to Robert “Bob” Feuerstein

**AP Certificates Awarded**, The NMRA SSR Vice President and Northern Division member Andy Zimmerman received his AP Certificate for “Volunteer” This makes number 4 for him.

**Caboose Challenge!** While several people were recognized for their entries into the Caboose Challenge at the NMRA SSR Convention, The Northern Divisions own Richard Paull (Northern Division Deputy Superintendent) was awarded \$25 for his 3<sup>rd</sup> place entry along with Ken Hoot (Regional AP Chair), who was awarded \$25 for his 4<sup>th</sup> place entry. Congratulations, Richard and Ken!!

**ROBERT FEUERSTEIN**

**NORTHERN DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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## **EASTERN DIVISION**



No update for October

**BENITA JAMESON**

**EASTERN DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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## WESTERN DIVISION



The Sunshine Region hosted an excellent convention this month. It started with a tour of the Brightline High Speed Rail shops in Orlando, followed by 2 days of clinics, contests, AP judging and a train show. NMRA President Gordy Robinson was in attendance and gave an inspiring speech at Saturday night's banquet.

The next upcoming event is the Prototype Rails meet in Cocoa Beach on January 4-6, 2024. This is one of the best prototype modeling meets of the year with almost 100 clinics, 1000 models on display, modular railroads, manufacturer representatives and more. Info at <https://www.prototype Rails.com/>

The Western Division will host several one day workshops in 2024. These are 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.


**DON WETMORE**

**DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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## SOUTHERN DIVISION



Greetings Southern Division,

Well, I could sit here and tell you all about the happenings at the convention, but I will let others do that. What I will report are the things that were personal to me. Of note was the proto tour of Brightline “Base Camp”. The maintenance facility is a far cry from what could be called a diesel shop, you could picnic off the floors. The equipment as well as the stores and diagnostics would make an OCD advocate proud. It was a well attended tour (roughly 30 bodies) and the information garnered from the presentation was well worth the I-4 Disney traffic.

As I saw it, the convention was a success, granted the train show was a bit thin, but it did draw in prospective SSR members. The clinics that were offered were varied and educational, they covered many subjects. I was surprised at how many attended the clinic that I presented, quite surprised, but I appreciated the participation. The banquet was the banquet, I can never be too enthusiastic about them, no matter where, or when. I was successful in by strategically selecting cups and placing my raffle tickets, or overloading them, for I did quite well. The SFRM was there in force and represented by eight members of the organization, eight well dressed members of the organization and I have proof.



(L to R) Bill Steffen, Sacha Kravitz, Dennis Conroy, Jonathan Berman, Richard Berger, Alan Chesler, me, Anthony Bennett, and NMRA Pres. Gordy Robinson MMR.

I fully appreciated the presentation of the regions "Presidents Award" to me, the applause recognition from those in the room and because it took an unconventional form. When they called my name I did not know what to expect since I had already received the award in the mail. But our NMRA president Gordy Robinson and our SSR president Gene Jamison called me up and presented me with an award that does not get mounted on the wall. You had to be there!

Now that our convention is behind us, here are the other things that are going on, by the time you read this the ECHOES would have had the workshop in Cutler Bay. As I write this, I am sure that it was successful, a few of the SFRM group planned on going all the way down there.

So, what is coming this November? The SFRM will be having their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Train Show on the 18th of November, the weekend prior to Thanksgiving. Again, as in the past, it will be held at the Saint Paul Lutheran church on Palmetto Park Road in Boca Raton. Take a look at their web page [www.sfrm.org](http://www.sfrm.org) and their Facebook page for further information.

Florida Citrus group is holding a swap meet (so much for coordination within the region) at the beginning of November. They also are scheduled for exhibiting at the Southwest Regional Library on Sheridan St. In Pembroke Pines at the end of November. They provide their example of celebrating the Christmas / New Year holidays, it will go on into the second week of January. Check out their website, [fcmts.org](http://fcmts.org).

That is about it! Hopefully no one will over stuff themselves on the Turkey or stuffing come Thanksgiving. Just remember that your involvement (couch sitting) in watching televised football games is dependent upon how much tryptophan you ingest. Have a good November, a Happy Thanksgiving and see you next month.

Until next month, Model 60!

**ROBERT LEONARD**

**DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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

For more information, please contact:

|                       |                   |              |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <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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## THE ROUNDHOUSE



Here we are on the eve of our convention, and I can tell you it has been one hell of a ride getting us to this point. Even with the disruptions we had over the summer we have moved this region so much further ahead and will be delivering to the membership. Our website will become our focal point and the place for you to keep up with “happenings” around the State.

We are envisioning adding much more information to the website including collaborations with other regions to provide our members with the best possible learning and modeling experience. More how-to’s, demonstrations and getting our members to Division meets to take part in hands on clinics through out the year.

We will be calling each and every member to ask some basic questions and to insure we have your correct email address. We want to understand what you need from the Region and how we can help you enhance your knowledge and modeling skills. If you need to learn more about painting, ballasting, scratch building ... whatever it may be let us know. We are here to help you! I welcome your thoughts, needs, comments, questions .... Email us at [NMRA\\_SunshineRegionMail@Yahoo.com](mailto:NMRA_SunshineRegionMail@Yahoo.com)

And now some pics from the Convention:

**GLENN KOPRIVA**

**CONVENTION CHAIR**



**Hydrogen Powered Test Train from California.**



**Caboose Challenge - (Left to Right) Ken Hoot, Alan Chesler, Anthony Bennett, David Leider (MMR), Rich Paul, Don Wetmore, Tom Wilson, Jeff Guzowski, Gordy Robinson (MMMMR)**



**(Left to Right) Gordy Robinson (MMR) & Jeff Guzowski**



**(Left to Right) Benita Jameson awards Mark Wilson for 1<sup>st</sup> Place Freight Car/Kit Built**



**- (Left to Right) Gordy Robinson (MMR) and AP Chairman Ken Hoot awards Bob Feuernstein NMRA National Meritorious Service Award**



**(Left to Right) Gordy Robinson (MMR) and Ken Hoot awards Chip Percere Civil AP Award, David Leider (MMR), and Gail Komar (MMR)**





**(Left to Right) Ken Hoot, David Leider (MMR) and Gail Komar (MMR) Congratulate Tom Wilson for (4) four AP Awards**



**(Left to Right) Gordy Robinson (MMR) and Ken Hoot**



**(Left to Right) 2023 SSR Convention Banquet attendees**



**Our Banquet Guest Speaker, Vice President of Florida East Coast Railway Society, Austin Strencky**



The  
Roaming  
Railfan

Building a Railroad in the 21st Century:  
Brightline's Orlando Expansion

Austin Strenecky

"The Roaming Railfan"

Vice President - Florida East Coast Railway Society



**(Left to Right) Gordy Robinson (MMR), Richard Segall, and Ed Harris waiting at the Cookie Line**



**NEW YORK LIFE VOLUNTEERS !**



**Contest Judges (Left to Right) Bob Leonard, Chip Percere, Ed Harris, Donovan Lewis, Joe Gilmartin, Rich Paul, Carl Smeigh (MMR), Richard Segall, Ken Hoot, Richard Webster (Seated) Benita Jameson**





Caboose Challenge, Don Wetmore's "Haunted Caboose"



**Caboose Challenge, Ken Hoot's Tailgating Park**



**Friday Night Ice Cream Social**



**SSR Vice President, Jim Robertson**







**(Left to Right) – Mike Hurlburt, Glenn Kopriva, and Donovan Lewis**



**Contest Room, (Left to Right) Bob Leonard, Jeff Guzowski, seated, Tom Wilson & SSR President Gene Jameson**





**(Left to Right) NMRA Vice President, Rick Coble, Carl Smeigh (MMR), Andy Zimmerman, NMRA President, Gordy Robinson (MMR), Donovan Lewis and AP Chairman, Ken Hoot**



**Brightline Base Camp Tour attendees' discussion**



**Brightline Base Camp Tour with Richard and Joy Segall**



Brightline Base Camp Tour picture of Brightline Wheel Sets



**Brightline Base Camp Tour Orientation group with Brightline Director of Public Affairs, Katie Mitzner briefing attendees**



**Brightline Base Camp Tour Orientation group with Brightline Director of Public Affairs, Katie Mitzner briefing attendees**



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