

# The Telegraph Key

An NMRA Sunshine Region Monthly Publication

June 2024



**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



A couple of Telegraph Key issues ago, I wrote about trying to get a good start on my layout and then trying to get a good re-start on my layout. Well, I have made progress since then. I came up with a fairly simple track arrangement that only utilizes four turnouts, serves two industries, contains a small runaround, and provides me the possibility of a future, lift-up staging area. It took a while to get this to a point where I was satisfied enough with the operational aspects along with the overall “presentation” of the layout but I believe I achieved it.

Once everything seemed to be in the right place, I removed all the stand in structures and set them all aside on a nearby table. I then outlined the track with a black permanent marker and removed the track too. I knew that I wanted something to isolate the track from the foam insulation base because a locomotive and cars running across track that is mounted directly on foam will transfer that sound and get pretty noisy. I found some 1/8 inch self-stick rolls of cork online, ordered it, and put it in place. That's it... this is where I've gotten so far. But it is very far to me. I'm on a roll, so to speak, and I'm excited about my progress. I have told our SSR Convention planning team that I'd like to display my layout at our upcoming 2024 Convention in about a 50-70% form of completion and I'm pretty sure I can meet that goal.

Finally, you may have seen our Southern Division Superintendent's tag line in his monthly Telegraph Key updates. Bob Leonard signs off each month with “Until next month, Model 60!” It basically means to model at least 60 minutes a week - one hour out of 168. I'm taking his encouragement to heart and am having fun doing it. Have a great month of June everyone.

**\*\*PREPARE FOR REGION ELECTIONS!\*\***

Sunshine Region elections are coming up soon. As a part of this effort, we need ALL of you to please ensure you have a correct email address on file with our Region. If you doubt that you do, please send an email to [nmra\\_sunshineregion@yahoo.com](mailto:nmra_sunshineregion@yahoo.com) and tell us. This will enable you to receive the election email when the time comes for you to vote. And when the time comes, please VOTE!


**Mark Lewalski**

**Vice President and Telegraph Key Editor**

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## President's Message



Welcome to June! As Floridians, we have so much to look forward to: tax-free holidays, hot days, warm nights, and, of course, hurricane season. On a lighter note, there are fantastic train shows, like the Tallahassee Model Railroad Show and Sale on June 22nd and 23rd, and many other events around the state. Check your Division Superintendents' sections for details on what's happening in your divisions this month.

Reflecting on where we were a year ago, we faced significant turmoil and confusion, leading to many members missing the convention and feeling uncertain. However, we have come a long way since then. The Board and appointed positions have changed, and the current leadership has successfully guided the SSR through those challenging times.

Our leadership team has worked tirelessly to improve the SSR. Glenn Kopriva, our Convention Committee Chair, Webmaster and Treasurer, has revitalized our website, reinvigorated the convention experience and consistently improved our financial position transparency. Mark Lewalski, who stepped into the Vice President role during a leadership void, also took on the role of editor, ensuring we receive a high-quality publication each month with the most up-to-date regional information.

Jim Moore, the Eastern Division Superintendent, has invigorated his division with new events and meet-ups, generating significant momentum. As for myself, I took over as President in January, focusing on mentorship, fellowship, and community. My priority has been to enhance the quality of the membership experience, recognizing and including both new and advanced modelers.

Other key members include Jeff (Ski) Guzowski, Director at Large, who has provided invaluable support during our transition and has worked tirelessly to find new convention spaces and secure better deals. Ken "Chief" Hoot, Director at Large and Regional AP role holder, has advanced the AP program, ensuring everyone has access and guidance towards achieving their AP and MMR certificates.

Robert Leonard, a cornerstone of our organization, excels in multiple committee roles and division activities, bringing reason and dedication to every task. Don Wetmore, the Western Division Superintendent, keeps his division active and inclusive with a proactive approach. Eric Menger, our secretary, balances his business demands with his duties, ensuring concise meeting minutes and actively working with the Eastern Division on AP certifications.

Other dedicated members include Paul Beckstrom, Director at Large; Robert Feuerstein, Northern Division Superintendent; and Jim Robertson, Director at Large and former Vice President. Each of them contributes significantly to the SSR despite larger demands on their time.

I share this to recognize the hardworking individuals who keep the SSR functioning and exceed your expectations. Our team continues to strive for excellence, but much depends on local involvement. The success we're seeing is attracting new talent eager to join our efforts. Together, we have a bright future, and we will make the SSR the envy of the NMRA. A year ago, I wouldn't have said this, but today, I am proud to. When you get the opportunity to thank your SSR leadership please reach out

and let them know you appreciate their efforts. They can be located on our website at [https://www.nmrasunshineregion.org/about\\_us](https://www.nmrasunshineregion.org/about_us)

**Andy Zimmerman**

**President**

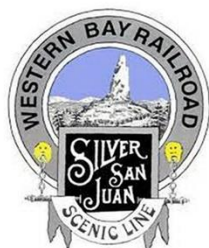


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**modeler and serious about learning, give us a try! Go to our website or contact Al Sohl MMR [als0622@yahoo.com](mailto:als0622@yahoo.com)**

**'No dues, just a great experience'  
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# South Florida Railway Museum

**Beginning January 2024**

## **New Hours**

**The museum will be open from 11 AM to 4 PM on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

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## Treasurer's Message



Hello all. I want to take this time to ensure every member is getting our communications. We no longer use snail mail, so it is imperative that we have your correct email address. If you are not getting our monthly email that goes out on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month letting you know the Telegraph Key has been published to the website, then you contact your

If you don't have an email address or you know we do not have your email address, please contact your division superintendent to provide it or get it updated. Elections are coming up and we want everyone to be able to cast a vote.

The convention is in full swing. Final contracts were just signed May 17<sup>th</sup> so you can expect an email to arrive touting all the fun we have planned for this year's event. The website will be activated with convention information between now and the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month.

I'm excited to share that we have listened to the comments from last year and have expanded clinics, added more how-to's, built in a meet and greet time, and will have an onsite op session for newbies or more seasoned ops folks to take part in. In itself this will be a great opportunity for us to learn from one another and celebrate the fun this hobby brings to all of us.

We've lowered the cost for registration to \$65 and held the cost on the banquet at \$35 and let's not forget about our raffle! The best part is that we are all together in one building no traveling back and forth, making it more convenient to all. I hope to see everyone at the convention this year!

**Glenn Kopriva**

**Treasurer**

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## Achievement Program



The Sunshine Region has one AP for the month of May, **Robert Raymond** for **Chief Dispatcher** who is in the Eastern Division from Orlando, Florida.

Here is the way the Sunshine Region is going to handle Merit Judging for the Achievement Program.

The person who wants to have an item judged for Merit will send me pictures of the item (rolling stock 6 sides, structures 5 sides, scenery 6-8 photos, motive power 5 sides, prototype models 6-8 photos,) so I can preview the items to see if they rate Merit so as not to send Judges on a wild goose chase. If I think the item(s) is Merit worthy I will assign two judges from another Division to get with that person to have their models judged.

If the item to be judged is movable, the judging location will be somewhere near the middle of the distance between the people involved (Home Depot parking Lot, Walmart Parking Lot, Sam's Parking Lot, Lowes Parking Lot, or somewhere similar). If the item to be judged is not movable, then the judges will have to go to the place the item is at. I will notify the person that wants the judging to be done if I think the item is Merit quality and give them the phone numbers of the Judges and it will be their responsibility to coordinate with the judges for time and place. The Judges will be paid for all Gasoline that they have to use to travel by the Sunshine Region from the Achievement Program Budget.

All photos should be emailed to me in *jpeg* format so I can scan them. My Email address is [Hootk@bellsouth.net](mailto:Hootk@bellsouth.net) or if you want to call me about any of this my number is 904 874 0008. If there are any questions about any of this, please get in touch with me.

**Ken Hoot**

**Achievement Program Chair**



## Northern Division



### Traveling

Local travelers can look at the Sunshine Region website for clubs and events happening in our state. Quick Link: <https://www.nmrasunshineregion.org/>

For other travelers, look at the National Model Railroad Association Calendar website for other clubs and events happening in the United States of America and Other Countries.

Quick Link: <https://www.nmra.org/calendar>

### Events

#### First Coast Model RR Society Open Running

Florida, Jacksonville (Beaches)—First Coast Model RR Society has paused their open running until further notice due to the Florida heat and lack of air conditioning.

John Piselli [jpmickey@att.net](mailto:jpmickey@att.net), [www.FCMRS.club](http://www.FCMRS.club).

See the club on YouTube (FCMRS). Quick Link: <http://www.fcmrs.club/Default.html>

#### Big Bend Model. Railroad Association

The club is preparing for its 33rd Annual Show and Sale on June 22nd and 23rd, 2024.

Location: North Florida Fairgrounds.

Quick Link: [Big Bend Train Show](#)

#### Visit Train Exhibit

In the Northern Division Area at the Grady County History Museum. It is about forty miles from Tallahassee FL to Cairo, GA.

Don Nickerson, Director, 101 North Broad St, Cairo, GA 39828,  
(229) 377-5142 or email [info@gradyhistory.org](mailto:info@gradyhistory.org)

### Robert Feuerstein

#### Northern Division Superintendent

## Eastern Division



### Greetings.

Seventeen members attended the Eastern Division “meet and greet” cookout on Saturday, May 4, 2024. Among the topics bandied about were potential Division activities, plans for the 2024 SSR convention, and the NMRA Achievement Program. Also discussed was the possibility of a joint meet with Southern Division members.

Congratulations to SSR member Robert Raymond. Robert recently earned his NMRA AP “Chief Dispatcher” certificate.

On the work bench: My focus across the last month has been the assembly, painting, and decaling a small fleet of steel gondolas. Most are (nominally) 40-footers, chiefly Accurail and Bowser. Still have a pair of Proto 2000 steel mill gondolas in the closet awaiting attention. Have also been working on a few larger low-relief structures to populate the late 1940s Pittsburgh landscape. Lots of soot-covered brick work!

Am putting the call out to all model railroad clubs located within the Eastern Division. Email me details regarding upcoming club activities, open houses, membership drives, etc. The *Telegraph Key* is your newsletter. Use it to publicize your club's activities. Plus, advertising in the *TK* is an affordable 50 dollars/year.

Until next month...

**Jim Moore**

**Eastern Division Superintendent**

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## Western Division



The next NMRA event will be the Sunshine Region Convention. Watch the Telegraph Key for details.

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



Half a year has gone by, where does the time go?

I was fortunate to get a behind the scenes tour of the Palm Beach club during the Barrett-Jackson auctions. The fairgrounds asked the club to be open to attendees of the auction, a first, by my understanding, a positive situation for the club. Paul Mathis, club president, invited me, Alan Chesler and James Hartman for a tour of both the layout and the supporting infrastructure, the layout is worth the visit. But I was extremely envious of their working area, they have quite the workshop. Paul explained the refurbishment of the main yards and the refinery changes we talked about the previous month. The animation that is involved, fireworks display, forest fires induced by the lightning storms are all very impressive. A lot of thought and effort goes into their presentation to the audiences they get through the viewing walkway. It is certainly worth a look see!

The Florida Citrus group is in for another month and more at the Plantation Historical Museum. Seth Bramson, Mr. FEC as he calls himself, was there for another presentation of his on the 11<sup>th</sup> of last month and once again it was well attended. But whether he is there or not, you should visit the group, the location is 511 N. Fig Tree Lane in Plantation. Regular museum hours, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Wednesday through Saturday, only. Families with children interested in Thomas the Tank should attend a "Thomas and Friends" event they are having on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Put it on your calendar!

The ECHOES have a running session at the church toward the end of last month, May 31 through June 2nd. They also will have a day of weathering clinics, I don't have a specific date for that, check their website for more details. Rick Diaz did say that a slow month of July was on the horizon. Everyone needs a break!

The layout tour of the South Florida Railway Museum continues, two more layouts were open on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, Bill Cialini's and Larry Lawler's, the two layouts are era related, present and past

respectively and both very well done. Coverage of both layouts are planned for an article in the Journal Box, whether third quarter or fourth and dependent upon what I get from them.

For some reason the SFRM skipped the weekend of the 12<sup>th</sup> of May for the tour, something about peaceful relations among adults, spouse survivability, loss of life if not staying home on that Sunday. They did pick up again on the 19<sup>th</sup> though with two more layouts for viewing. Now they are getting geared up for the regional convention by building T Trak modules for inclusion to the operations sessions and clinics that will be offered. Remember the museum hours have changed, it is open to the public, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, for June the date is (06/08/24), from 11 AM to 4 PM.

Until next month, Model 60!

**Robert Leonard**

**Southern Division Superintendent**





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For more information, please contact:

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<b>Tracey Sanders</b>	tassailor@mac.com	786 514 5667
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