

The Telegraph Key

An NMRA Sunshine Region Monthly Publication

November 2025



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Sunshine Region - NMRA



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



Convention 2025

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Iron Horse 2025

Oct 9-11, 2025

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Convention Information

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Convention Clinics (as of today)

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Welcome to the best region under the sun!

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Editor's Message



Welcome to the NMRA Sunshine Region!

I know we acquired some new members during the Convention in October and I want to say "Hello!" to them and that we all welcome them to our Region.

I ran around quite a lot at the Convention and didn't *make* the time to operate on the ECHOES layout. I helped connect some sections and move part of the layout around and am surprised how smoothly the trains ran across the junctions. Nice design and **Thank You**, ECHOES! You made a lot of people happy.

I presented my clinic covering my small shelf layout and was pleasantly surprised to have the room as full as it was. I'm already working on it again and am now considering a flip up staging yard that comes off the front (to form an "L" – instead of out the left side). If I can do that, I can actually use the staging. I will be bringing another clinic next year to show my progress and, this time, I hope to be able to transport the layout so it's available to share with all of you.

Ski and Glenn put in a TON of work to make the Convention happen. There are always things that could go better or maybe a little differently. When you get the Convention questionnaire in your email, please take the time to fill it out. You need to be honest too... please share.

I should see some of you in the Western Division at the parking lot sale at Zitnik Trains on Sunday. Come up and talk to me if you spot me – I will wear my nifty nametag,

I hope you all have a great November and are able to find something to give thanks for this season.

Mark Lewalski

Telegraph Key Editor



President's Message



Iron Horse Convention: Our Best Yet!

Did you attend the **Sunshine Region's Iron Horse Convention**? Well, if you didn't — you **seriously missed out!**

What an incredible weekend! Over **85 attendees** came together to celebrate model railroading, fellowship, and fun at what many have called *the best Sunshine Region convention in years — maybe since the 2017 National in Orlando!*

From the moment the doors opened, the energy was off the charts. The **ECHOES group** absolutely blew everyone away with their operations sessions on their massive layout — a true highlight for both seasoned operators and newcomers alike. The sound of trains, the teamwork, and the camaraderie reminded us all why we love this hobby.

Our **clinics** were nothing short of spectacular — both **in-person and virtual**. Presenters from across the **U.S. and Canada** shared their expertise, creativity, and passion, covering every aspect of model railroading imaginable. Each clinic was a learning experience and a testament to the depth of knowledge in our community.

The **Contest Room** was packed — in fact, it hosted **more models than Novi!** The craftsmanship, detail, and artistry on display were inspiring. Add to that a huge raffle with generous donations from **Trainz, ScaleTrains, and many others**, and you had excitement in every corner of the room.

Saturday night's **Banquet** was ***sold out!*** It was a celebration of achievement, fellowship, and recognition. We presented numerous awards — including the **President's Award**, a **Meritorious Service Award**, and even **crowned another Master Model Railroader!** The smiles, applause, and sense of community made it a night to remember.

None of this would have been possible without the **hard work and dedication of your Sunshine Region Board members** and volunteers. They worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure every detail came together — from registration and logistics to clinics, awards, and everything in between. Their teamwork and commitment turned this event into a convention to remember.

The feedback has been overwhelming — words like *“fantastic,” “best in a decade,”* and *“inspiring”* keep pouring in. New members and first-time Conventioneers commented that this was well worth it and were glad they experienced it! To everyone who attended, thank you for making it special.

And to those who didn't... well, we'll see you next year — because you won't want to miss what's coming!

Plans are already underway to make **next year's Iron Horse Convention** even bigger and better. We're aiming to **double our attendance**, so spread the word on what you experienced. We will add even more clinics (with redundancies) and bring you another unforgettable experience.

Mark your calendars now — **October 8-10, 2026** — and get ready for another **Sunshine Region blowout!**

All aboard for fellowship, fun, and the future of model railroading in the Sunshine Region!

Andy Zimmerman

President



Fun, Friends, Trains

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Treasurer's Message



Hello Everyone,

What a convention!!! We had 87 people register for the convention this year and we sold out all of the 64 banquet seats!! Both counts exceeded past conventions attendance!

If you missed this year, you should be considering attending next year, just ask this year's attendees about the impressive new venue, a good variety of clinics, and our awards banquet. Let's also not forget the East Coast HO Exhibitors Society (ECHOES) out of Miami for setting up a huge layout giving everyone a chance to operate. Lots of fun all around including time for fellowship in the hotel bar area and on the patio.

We surveyed members at the banquet and emailed the remainder of attendees to find out what worked, what didn't and what everyone would like to see for future clinics. As you may have suspected, everyone was extremely satisfied with this year's convention location, the Ocala Hilton. Members also commented how great it was to be in one location – no traveling between buildings, the ample free parking, and a good variety of clinics.

However, with all that being said we did make some mistakes. Some, not even noticeable to those of us who have become familiar with the convention process but clearly a new person would be lost. While we printed information in the Timetable or on the Website it still went unseen. Rather than going into each issue I will bullet the items so you are aware that we will be correcting them.

- Poor Speaker system in virtual room (resolved)
- Lack of signage (registration/op session/Raffle - where/times) (resolved)
- White Board with daily changes (resolved)
- NOT ENOUGH DESERTS at the banquet (resolved but remains to be seen)
- More information for 1st timers (resolved)
- Simpler ordering on website –bundling Registration and Banquet
- More information on the website about convention details
- Darker rooms / Projector brightness (resolved)
- Hotel meal pricing

As you can see, we have already taken care of some of the issues you have identified but have more work to do.

We've published numbers of convention photos on our website. We've created separate albums for the Banquet, Clinics, Op Session, Judging and a General catch all. If you have pics you'd want us to add please email them to NMRA_Sunshineregionmail@yahoo.com

You can find the pictures on our website from the Main Menu by clicking on Publications then Photo Albums or click the link -> [Convention Photo Albums](#)

I'd like to thank Greg Komar and Robert Feuerstein for being our professional cameramen during the convention. Without them we would be dependent on our own memories, and I have enough issues

now! When looking at the pictures you can identify the ones you love by clicking on the Heart, download them to your device or share them with folks (see below).

****The three icons display within the picture when your mouse hovers over a single picture.**

Click here to love the pic, click here to download the picture to your device, click here to share the pic



You may be asking how we did financially from the convention. I am pleased to say we managed to make about \$100. Yes, one hundred dollars with a couple of bills still outstanding but I can say with a great deal of confidence that we met our goal – the goal was to have a convention where we broke even – not using it as a fund-raising event.

Lastly, clinics are always a tough nut to crack, either we aren't offering exactly what you are looking for, or you have two clinics running at the same time making you choose one or the other. Part of the problem is having enough clinicians available to teach the subject you are interested in. We will be sending out a short survey specifically surrounding clinics. I know some of you have mentioned some things in the surveys that went out but now we are going to try and dig our heels in and identify specifics. When you get this survey please answer it so we can deliver what you are hoping for. AND if you are open to teaching a class on a particular topic, please email us!!!!

Thanks again to everyone for making this a fantastic convention for all of us – !

Glenn Kopriva

Treasurer

Joe Brann Receives MMR #796



On October 12, 2025, Sunshine Region (SSR) President Andy Zimmerman and SSR Regional Achievement Program (AP) Chair Ken Hoot presented the National Model Railroad Association's highest AP award, Master Model Railroader (MMR), to J. Joseph Brann. This award makes Joe Brann MMR #796 and is an achievement he has been working on for years. Joe completed his "Model Railroad Engineer - Civil" in 2022, when the hand laid trackwork for his certificate was inspected by Ken and yours truly and met the standards for that award. Having already achieved APs in 5 other categories while building his model railroad, the Susquehanna Valley Line (SVL) in Orlando, Florida, Joe only needed 1 more AP certificate. This year, he completed the requirements for his "Master Builder – Cars" certificate, so he submitted all his paperwork and met the qualifications for MMR (7 AP certificates)! Joe Brann, MMR, is an accomplished model railroader. His model railroad can be viewed on his website at [Susquehanna Valley Line Model Railroad \(svl-rr.com\)](http://SusquehannaValleyLineModelRailroad.com).



Photos of him receiving his "Cars" AP (#7) and his MMR are included here.

CONGRATULATIONS, JOE, from all your fellow model railroaders!

Eric Menger

Sunshine Region Secretary

Achievement Program



I have one Achievement Program Certificate, and it belongs to me, **Kenneth Hoot** for Author from Jacksonville Beach, Florida from the Northern Division. That is all I have about that for this month.

There was a mix up at the recent Regional Convention in the Model Evaluation Room in that the #902 (Evaluation Forms) for the contest models never got signed and that makes them not valid. I am going to have the following Sunshine Members send me a copy of their #902 (Evaluation Forms) so I can get them signed so they can be used for their Models or Structures AP Certificates.

The following list is the names:

Paul Beckstrom for your *Logging Caboose*

Paul Beckstrom for your *Gas Mechanical Locomotive*

Jeff DeVido for your *Sand house Structure*

Jeff DeVido For your *Small Station Structure*

James Donovan For your *Pam's Flour Mill Structure*

Doug Bowman For your *ATSF MOW Flatcar*

Tom Wilson For your *DRGW Drop Bottom Hopper*

David Barron For your *Dunkirk Steam Locomotive*

I DO NEED YOUR #902 (Evaluation Forms) SO I CAN GET THEM SIGNED

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE ON THE ABOVE MATTER AND I AM SORRY THAT THE SLIP UP HAPPENED.

That is all I have for this time.

Thank you,

Ken Hoot

Achievement Program Chair

Northern Division



The Sunshine Region Iron Horse Convention in Ocala absolute success! The Hilton Hotel was a great host for this event. The clinics were informative and presented well. Thanks to ECHOES for setting up their fantastic HO layout. Had the opportunity to operate on the layout and it ran flawlessly. The Banquet was excellent and an interesting program on early Florida East Coast operations. Awards were given to people that have worked very hard to earn them. One Master Model Railroader was presented to J. Joseph Brann #796, congratulations to him. It was my pleasure to meet all of the Sunshine Region Board members in person during and after the convention. One of the best things about this hobby is fellowship. I met many new people and some old friends. A couple attended the convention from Colorado that I had not seen for over twenty-five years. It was nice reunion. Thanks to all that participated in making this event happen!

The inaugural Wannee Junction Railroad Exhibit was held in Stark Florida on October 15th. The First Coast Model Railroad Society had their On30 layout set up. Walter displayed O scale two rail modules with examples locomotives and cars. All were very well detailed. Also, G gauge trains were on display. I had NMRA membership fliers and talked to people about the Sunshine region. Attendance was approximately forty people. Stark is a great location train shows and develops. Regal Railways has train show booked April 18 2026, see Regalrailways.com for more information. This will be a show with model railroad dealers and displays.

I have found a Church in Lake City to have Northern Division meetings and workshops for a very reasonable price. The plan is to have a workshop in March 2026. Actual date to be determined. I will be looking for clinics and displays. Let me know if you would participate. Contact me at alco54@hotmail.com thanks.

There will be a Northern Division Meeting put on by Andy Zimmerman and the Big Bend Model Railroad Club on January 31st 2026. It will be held at the Miccosukee Community Center near Tallahassee. The last meeting there was fun and informative.

Allen Scott

Northern Division Superintendent

Eastern Division



I was passed some information about an event in the Eastern Division so I figured I would include it here. If you attend, I hope you have a great time!

Western Bay Railroad is having an OP Session on December 6th in Port Saint Lucie.

If you're interested in attending please contact Al Sohl at als0622@yahoo.com



The Western Bay Railroad is a 950 square ft On30 layout in Port St Lucie. We meet almost every Tuesday evening. We are looking for new members to join our group. There are OP sessions & scenery that we are still working on. If you're a

modeler and serious about learning, give us a try! Go to our website or contact Al Sohl MMR als0622@yahoo.com

***'No dues, just a great experience'*
westernbayrailroad.org**



I hope it goes well,

Mark Lewalski

Telegraph Key Editor

Western Division Superintendent

Western Division



Hey Westerner's,

I need to get in contact with the person I'm working with to set up an early Western Division Meet next year. **Please hold this date: Saturday, Feb 28th** with a location to be announced.

Events Around the Western Division

-**Zitnik Trains** in Pinellas Park (St. Petersburg area) is holding their **Fall Parking Lot Swap Meet *this Sunday, November 2nd***. I've attended a couple of times before and there are usually some good deals to be had. I always end up inside to spend more money too. [Zitnik Trains Event](#)

-The **Train Collectors Association (TCA) Southern Division** is hosting a **Holiday Toy Train Show** on Saturday, November 22nd in Lake Nona (Orlando area). tcasoutherndivision.org

-The **West Pasco Model Railroad Association** has announced an Open House on Saturday, December 13th from 10am-3pm. Info here: <https://wpmra.org/>

-The **Villages Model Train Club** has a Holiday Train Show (*no swap meet*) December 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th. Info here: <https://www.thevillagesmodeltrainclub.com>

If you'd like to email me, please do so at 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



Hi, everybody. Hope you enjoyed Halloween this year, and are now preparing for the always busy holiday season. As expected, the Ocala convention was a great success. The hands on “how to” clinics were well presented and rewarding as were the more traditional lecture style clinics. The ECHOES modular layout was a big hit with everyone, and a fair number of members tried their hands at participating in the operating sessions. If you haven’t attended one, please think about doing so next year, again in Ocala.

In model railroad club news:

On November 19th, the Florida Citrus Model Train Society (FCMTS) will begin setting up their annual holiday display at the Southwest Regional Library, located at 16835 Sheridan Street, Pembroke Pines, FL 33331. They estimate opening about a week later, but check their web site for final dates. The library display will be open from Noon to 4 PM Monday-Thursday and Saturday through January 6th, 2026 and admission is free. There is a Polar Express special event scheduled for the evening of December 18th, including train rides in the parking lot, cookies and hot chocolate, visits with Santa, and more. This event is scheduled to start at 4:30 PM and will run until at least 8 PM and possibly later. Please contact Ken Sargeant at (954) 253-0413 for any additional information. Their web site is found at www.fcmts.org.

The East Coast HO Exhibitors Society (ECHOES) club will be operating every weekend in November at the Gold Coast Railroad Museum located at 12450 SW 152nd Street, Maimi, FL 33177. They are running at the museum from 10 AM to 4 PM, but note that there is an entrance fee to the museum (see the Gold Coast Railroad Museum web site). They are also planning a special Halloween event on Oct 31st, if this reaches you in time. You are certainly welcome to watch and even run a train. If you are interested, ask about their operating sessions. As of this date, they haven’t scheduled an operating session for November, but plan to do so. The ECHOES also plans to open a smaller version of their modular layout for the holidays at Pinecrest Gardens, located at 11000 Red Road in Pinecrest. The holiday themed layout will include both existing and new modules. It will be open every evening starting December 6th, with the exception of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Years Eve. For additional information on ECHOES events, please contact Rick Diaz, rickdiaz@att.net or Tracey Sanders, tassailor@mac.com.

The Palm Beach Model Railroaders (PMBRR) has no specific events planned for November but the club meets weekly on Tuesday evenings 6-9 PM at the South Florida Fairgrounds, 9067 Southern Blvd, West Palm Beach, 33411. Recently, the club has been working on replacing the large fluorescent lights with LEDs that will last a lot longer. Some members are looking into building a small number of portable HO modules compatible with the ECHOES standards, so they can insert them into the modular layout. If you wish to visit them during one of those Tuesday operating sessions, please call first to ask and get permission as fairground security will not allow you to enter without it. Also, the annual County Fair is coming soon, open January 16th through February 1st. During the fair the layout is open all day, every day. This is the best time to see the layout even if you are sharing with the fairground crowds. They can be contacted at PBMRRclub@gmail.com for additional information. The club’s web site is www.pbmrr.org.

The South Florida Railway Museum (SFRM) at the Deerfield Amtrak and Tri-Rail station at 1300 West Hillsboro Boulevard plans their next open house on Saturday, November 8th with visitors welcomed from 11 AM through 4 PM. Both N scale and HO scale layouts are open and on display. There are wooden trains set out on the outdoor deck to keep the small children happy, as the “look but don’t touch” rules do not apply to the extremely rugged wood trains and track. The HO layout team is currently finishing up their locomotive terminal, with the goal of having the turntable operational before the end of November. Additional scenery upgrades are also in progress. The N scale group plans to begin revamping the N scale layout in late January, so now is time to

see the current version before demolition begins. The club currently maintains a Facebook page in addition to the web site www.sfrm.org. For additional information, contact Bob Leonard, leonardstrait@gmail.com.

The SFRM is holding its annual train show and swap meet on Saturday, November 22nd at the St. Paul Lutheran Church at 701 West Palmetto Park Road, Boca Raton FL 33486. Hours will be 9 AM through 2 PM with \$8 admission for adults and free admission for children up through 12 years old. Please contact Bill Steffen at btrain88@att.net or by phone at (561) 419-3676. The club's N scale T-TRAK layout will be operating at the show. The club itself will also be open on this day from Noon through 4 PM with both the HO and N scale layouts running.

South Florida Railway Museum

JOIN us for LAYOUT TOURS

Tour Dates for 2025

Go to our website for dates and times

The Museum is Open on the 2nd Saturday of the month
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

07 - 12, 08 - 09, 09 - 13, 10-11, 11-08, 12-13

Follow us on our website www.sfrm.org and our
Facebook page

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For any inquiries, my contact info is rwberger@comcast.net.

That's all for now. Enjoy the fall weather and do whatever hurricane preparation you need. When the weather is not cooperating, that can be one of the best times to enjoy model railroading.

Richard Berger

Southern Division Superintendent

2025 SSR Iron Horse Convention – Recap



Happy early Thanksgiving to everyone.

Our 2025 SSR Ocala Iron Horse Convention was a smashing success. We broke a record for attendance, and everyone seemed to like that everything was under one roof, where before we had to travel between the hotel, clinics, and banquet.

We ran a survey during the Banquet and attendees loved the new venue, so the Hilton will be our Headquarter Hotel for 2026 also. Our record attendance was 89 attendees, 39 clinics, and great food for the Banquet.

I would like to thank all the Clinicians, Echoes Train Club, Speaker Richard Beall, and NMRA National AP Chairman Ray Persing (MMR) along with NMRA National Eastern Region Director John Doehring, all the Volunteers, and all the attendees for making this convention one to remember. We couldn't have done it without all your help.

Our Banquet Survey said 90% really liked the new venue. Some other questions on the survey asked what you would like for 2026, and you responded with more "How To's", having clinics run twice since there were a lot of choices and could not attend 2nd or 3rd on your Bucket List. Also, a Round Table where attendees could ask modeling questions on Building Layouts, Wiring, Track Maintenance, etc. So, for 2026 there will be a **Friday Night Round Table** added, where attendees will be able to ask questions, with the Non Modeling with the Masters, to answer all your questions. I will try to get some of our clinicians to run their clinics twice, like at Prototype Rails. We will be sending out questionnaires on what "How to's" and Clinics you would like to see for 2026. Please take the time to answer the questionnaire so I can recruit the Clinicians for the Topics that you all would like to see. It is your convention, and we need you to help us make it even better.

Mark Lewalski, our Telegraph Key Editor, will have all the 2025 Clinics listed after my column. If you want to see some of those clinics repeated for 2026, please let me know so I can plan, with the clinicians, for those clinics as soon as possible. (*Please see the list below – Ed.*)

I would like to thank Allison Dendy for opening her 5 Deck HO Canadian National Layout for tours. Allison said she had close to 50 people show up for the tour. Also, I want to thank President Rick Diaz and the Echoes Club for transporting their HO Modular Layout from South Miami to Ocala, so our attendees could run trains and operate on their 30' x 50' Layout. There were over 50 attendees that ran trains in-between clinics, lunch hour and at night.

Just a reminder, please fill out our questionnaires in detail on what you would like to see for 2026 clinics. Questionnaires will be emailed to all Sunshine Region members in the next few weeks.

That's all I have and thanks to everyone that made out 2025 Convention one of the best we have had in years.

NMRA Prototype Rails 2026, Bash at the Beach, in Cocoa Beach, FL, will be held on Thursday, January 8th to Saturday, January 10th, at the Cocoa Beach Hilton Oceanfront. The Registration cost is \$55 for all 3 days, and usually will have over 270 attendees. There will be no banquet, but they will

have a Saturday night Raffle. There will be 82+ Clinics. Go to PrototypeRails.com for clinic descriptions and clinic schedules.

Hands-On Clinics

Weathering with the (non) Masters – Clinicians: Bill Cialini, Tim Ellis, and Bob Leonard – 3 ½ Hours – Cost \$20 – Class is limited to 20 Students - Clinic will be Friday afternoon, October 10th, 1PM – 4:30PM.

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.

Tree Making Clinic – Clinician: Ken Hoot, Region SSR AP Chairman/Rich Paul – 3 ½ Hours – Cost \$20 – Clinic will be Friday morning, October 10th, 8:15 – 11:45AM - Class is limited to 20 Students

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.

Hourly Clinics

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 1st 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!

Waterfalls, Oh the Grandeur – Clinician: Bill Cialini

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

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.

Tuscarora Operations – Clinician: Robert Raymond

Operator Robert Raymond (designer of the *Tuscarora Branch Line*) gives ideas and tips on how to build your dream layout in a small and manageable area. The Tuscarora shows how much the N-scale railroad operations you can pack into a 2x4 foot space. Set in Pennsylvania in 1962, we can accommodate five operators (scheduled freight and local engineer, coal operations, an interlocking lever operator, a station agent and a dispatcher). Come and run!

Ops in Tight Spaces – Clinician: Robert Raymond

Even if you only have a friend or two or a small space, you *can* still operate.

Robert will have the Tuscarora Layout for Operations in the Hilton Ballroom.

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.

How to detail your Steel Mills and Coke Ovens - Clinician: Tom Wilson

Tom models in HO Scale the Pittsburgh & West Virginia Railroad and the Union Railroad. The Union Railroad (a subsidiary of US Steel) around the Pittsburgh area. US Steel had 2 Steel Mills and Coke Operations around the Pittsburgh 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

The Transcontinental Story, Trivia and Tidbits – Clinician: Doug Geiger MMR

2019 was the 150th 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.

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.

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

Scratch Building with Wood – Clinician: John Giammasi MMR

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

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.

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.

Creating a Small Switching Layout: Part One (and 1/2) – 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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?

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

Description Pending - Saturday Only

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

Description Pending

ZOOM CLINICS

Talkin' T-TRAK - Presenter: Andy Zimmerman

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!

Take Me to the River - Presenter: Dean Smith MMR (Virtual and interactive)

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!

From Proto Photo to Model Scene - Presenter: Dean Smith MMR (Virtual and Interactive)

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!

Beyond the Basement – Interchange Staging - Presenter: Mark Juett MMR

Mark writes the Pulse of DCC Column in NMRA Magazine

Description: Model railroads, like the prototype need to connect to other railroads for more economic prosperity. Prototype railroads interchange cars and loads with many other railroads. Cars and loads should go "beyond the basement". If you model an earlier time the number of railroads with which you interchange may be many more. Look at some examples of live interchanges that don't require a lot of space or labor to operate. Cars leave the railroad for long periods of time. New cars come in their place. The methods are easy, and only require basic carpentry skills. Car Cards, JMRI Operations or several other systems can be used to track and move cars.

Planning and Wiring for DCC - Presenter: Mark Juett MMR

Mark writes the Pulse of DCC Column in NMRA Magazine

Description: Wiring for DCC is different than wiring for DC. We can get rid of all those blocks and toggle switch wiring but with several locos running at once we have a lot more current draw. We need beefier wiring to prevent voltage drop at the far end. We still may need multiple blocks and power districts, circuit breakers and more equipment.

If we plan to have a signal system we will need many blocks and detectors. Learn how to calculate current draw and voltage drop, how to adequately size wiring, solder feeders to the rails that are undetectable even before weathering. Build your own snubber circuits, Learn about twisted bus for reducing interference. Learn about some of the current circuit breakers, block detectors, boosters, auto reversers and other products on the market today. Learn how to wire your staging yards so that only one set of locomotives are running at a time (saving on the noise). Learn how to plan and wire blocks for signaling. A portion of this information went into NMRA TN-9 of which I was the main author, this clinic provides even more information.

Cinematic Modeling: Creating Dramatic Scenes using Film Production Design Principles - Presenter: Roman Pastucha (Virtual and interactive)

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:

1. **Design Elements and Principles:** Learn the foundational concepts of creating backdrops that enhance your scenes, including composition, perspective, and color theory.
2. **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.
3. **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.

On30 Modular Railroading: The Pudding River Lumber Co. - Presenter: Kevin Spady (Virtual and Interactive)

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.

The Telegraph Key

November 2025

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.

Scratchbuilding in Wood – Presenter: Ray Persing (Virtual and Interactive)

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.

Achievement Program Update – Presenter: Ray Persing (Virtual and Interactive)

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.

Email: JGuzowski@Bellsouth.net Cell: (954) 401-0804

Jeff “Ski” Guzowski

Director at Large



South Florida Railway Museum

Our 5th Annual Train Show

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
701 W. Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton**

**Saturday 22 November 20245
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

Admission \$8.00, 13 and under FREE

40 + Vendors on the floor

Door Prize & Raffles

Museum Open House 12:00 to 4:00 PM

**Come and see the changes to the “HO” & “N” scale layouts
maybe run your new Train**

Follow us on our website www.sfrm.org and our
Facebook page

**See you on the Saturday before
Thanksgiving**





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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Herb Ford	ehf640@gmail.com	786 375 1424



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Embroidered Heavy Cotton Terry Towels

Embroidered Heavy Cotton Terry Golf Towels

UNDERGARMENTS

Embroidered Underwear

TIES

Railroad Embroidered Ties

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The collage features several items of railroad-themed merchandise. At the top, the Jelsma Graphics logo is repeated twice, with the tagline 'America's Railroad Embroiderer' and 'SERVICE SINCE 1985'. Below the logos, there are images of various products: a blue apron with 'CSX TRANSPORTATION' on it, a red jacket with 'RAILROAD JACKET' text, a collection of colorful shirts and hats, and a black jacket with 'HERITAGE JACKETS' text. A steam locomotive is shown at the bottom right. The website address 'www.jelsma.com' is printed at the bottom of the collage.

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