

THE TELEGRAPH KEY

A NMRA SUNSHINE REGION MONTHLY PUBLICATION

OCTOBER 2023



14 DAYS UNTIL 2023 CONVENTION

Sunshine Region - NMRA



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2023 Sunshine Region Convention
Convention Registration

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SUNSHINE REGION OFFICIALS

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EDITORS MESSAGE



All, the convention is upon us, and we are working hard to get everything put together and placing final orders. The convention committee will be packing up food, prizes, goodie bags etc., and will be making the Holiday Inn our temporary home.

Many of you have been asking for a **schedule of events for the convention**. This has historically been provided in a printed form at the hotel when you register, however, we are going to do something new this year and actually load the Timetable (our convention publication) on our website alongside the Telegraph Key and Journal Box. This gives you the opportunity to read or print the Timetable right from your cell phone or print it from your home computer. As this is the first-time we will be making the Timetable available online, please bear with us with this addition to our site. I'm hoping to have it online the first week of October.

Speaking of online, I wanted to reiterate the changes being made to the Journal Box. As mentioned last month the Journal Box's final print edition will be our December 2023 issue. We feel, and we hope you feel the same, that by going digital, **all our members** can take advantage of the great content that we are offering, and we want all members to have the opportunity to read and learn at no additional cost. For those of you that have a subscription that currently ends in 2024 or some in 2025 no need to worry. We intend to refund all subscribers based on their subscription end date at one dollar per month for every month after 12/31/2023. We will send each subscriber an email with their subscription end date and give them a choice to receive the refund or donate the remaining value to the region with the default of the region mailing you a check in the 1st quarter of 2024 unless we hear from you.

Please feel free to email me directly any comments, questions or items that could be added to next month's newsletter. Remember, the Telegraph Key is also available to read or download directly on our website!

Happy Railroading!

GLENN KOPRIVA

EDITOR, TELEGRAPH KEY

THE MAILCAR



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Thanks to all for the continued positive responses to the new website. As mentioned last month we may have given the impression that our site was being manned 24/7. We have made changes to the site whereby we can respond to a user while they are still on the site or be able to respond to them shortly after a question or comment is added to the Chat option. I know many of you have already experienced this new functionality and I hope it is now working as you had

hoped. We are still an all volunteer operation so it is hard to be available to answer everything “live” but I think we now have a reasonable response time.

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**

Its only a few days until the 2023 Sunshine Region Convention in Plant City FL. This year's Convention is going to be great, we have multiple clinics, a hands-on clinic, the train show, the Caboose Challenge and the Banquet. Just about something for everyone.

Glenn and his team have worked hard to put together the best possible convention. Friday evening (7PM – 9:30PM) we are having an ice cream social on the patio at the hotel. We will have a special guest, Gordy Robinson, NMRA President attending the convention.

There will be a SSR Board of Directors meeting on Sunday, October 15th at 9AM in the hotel 1st floor conference room. All members are welcome to attend.

I know in these times with higher inflation, you could have chosen another venue to attend. We thank you for choosing the SSR Convention.

As some of you know, I did my second season in Yellowstone National Part. Again, it was a amazing season. This season my wife Benita came out for the week of July 4th. Daytime highs were in the lower 60's and upper 50's. Nighttime lows in the mid 30's, Benita said she had winter in July!

Between myself and her sister, she got to see a lot of the park. I know she had a great time, and she got to meet my Yellowstone family. Ask her about her trip when you see her!

**GENE JAMESON**

**PRESIDENT**

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## **ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

AP's for the month of September.

1) Chip Pecere earned Model Railroad Engineer – Civil.

\*\*We will be making changes to the way we do AP Judging in the future, as we have a mandate from National to make changes due to some things that have happened in the past to our program. Once this list of changes is complete we will post it here and ultimately on the website.

**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



**Sopchoppy Depot Days**-On September 9, 2023, members from the SSR Northern Division ran trains on T-TRAK layouts provided by the Big Bend Model Railroad Association in the Towles house and Depot. The SSR Northern Division members ran HO and N-Scale trains for this event. The historic Sopchoppy Depot is the only remaining depot still standing in Florida on the G F & A. It was beautifully restored in 2010 and now serves as a museum with historical exhibits and a collection of old photographs, memorabilia and recovered artifacts.

**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 Millcoe 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)

**The Beaches area History museum** held its "Riding the Rails: Pablo Beach Train Day" event on September 9th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities included model train layouts (A small version of the FCMRS On30 modular layout was exhibited along with an "O" scale layout and model display), demonstrations of antique toys, a train robber suspect hunt, and a display of era automobiles. Tours of the Museum's 1911 steam locomotive were impressive. Operation Lifesaver demonstrated train safety and offered goodies for the kids.

**Keep on the lookout for Northern Division Virtual Clinics:** Since our SSR Regional convention is just 30 days (or so) away, we want to focus on that and not distract or duplicate. However, we are lining up our next set of quarterly Northern Division Clinics, which will include DCC, Model railroad manufacturers, MMR's 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!!*

**Are you coming to the Regional convention?** Come on down (or up) and join us as we share model railroading experiences, provide Clinics, and enjoy a train show. I have it on good authority that there will be NMRA National Board members on hand, such as The NMRA President Gordy Robinson, Vice President Rick Cobel, and the Standards and Conformance Chair, Andy Zimmerman. If you see us, SSR, or National Team members, introduce yourself. We



want to hear from you. Stay positive, and remember it is all about the fellowship of running trains! **See you October 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.**

**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 and 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!

**ROBERT FEUERSTEIN**

**NORTHERN DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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## **EASTERN DIVISION**



### **Wanted – Models that have been judged**

I am looking for rolling stock and structures that have been judged and you still have the score sheets. I need these as examples for my Advanced Judging class. If you have any of these, PLEASE contact me (321-432-5420) so we can make arrangements to have them at the convention in Plant City. These models will not be handled, just observed.

**BENITA JAMESON**

**EASTERN DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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## **WESTERN DIVISION**



No updates for September.

**DON WETMORE**

**DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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## SOUTHERN DIVISION



Greetings Southern Division,

Other than ECHOES, holding the Workshop on October 28, pickins are slim down here. As I said before it will follow the standard workshop schedule, meet & greet, clinic, lunch, clinic, and raffle. There is emphasis on our upcoming regional convention in Plant City, last month I reported that four of the SFRM members signed up, well that has turned to seven. Since Brightline has opened ticketing they may be riding north by rail instead of on rubber.

Florida Citrus group remains scheduled for exhibiting at the Southwest Regional Library on Sheridan St. In Pembroke Pines at the end of November. This will be their celebration of the Christmas / New Year holidays, it will go on into the second week in January. Check out their website, fcmts.org.

A couple of the members of the South Florida Railway Museum are finishing the details to their "Caboose Challenge" or is it "Boxcar Challenge"? Whichever, it has spurred interest at the museum and that was the whole point to begin with. Their annual Train Show scheduled for the weekend before Thanksgiving, which is the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, is in process. Once again it will be at St Paul Lutheran on Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton.

So, in two weeks' time we will once again be in Plant City for the convention, I hope to see many of you there.

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 |



## REGION CONVENTION

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**Thanks to all our sponsors!**

## CLINICS

Here are the Clinic Descriptions for Thursday Night, October 12<sup>th</sup>, Friday October 13<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>.

*I would like to thank all the Clinicians for volunteering their time to make this Convention a success. Hope you will attend our Convention and enjoy all the activities we have planned for you. Ski (Director at Large)*

Andy Zimmerman **T-Trak, a Day in the Life of a T-Trak Module** – How to build a T-Trak Module from start to finish.

Benita Jameson **Celebration of Models – Judging 101**- Have you ever considered entering a model in a contest? Do you have a model that you want evaluated for the AP program? Have you ever wondered what goes on behind those closed doors? Do you want to become a better modeler? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this is the clinic for you! You will learn:  
 \*Judging criteria in each of the 5 factors \*Point allotments for each factor  
 \*How models are evaluated \*How is the judging done \*What are the categories \*AP judging guidelines. **NOTE:** This clinic is mandatory for all SSR judges! Attendance in this clinic is a prerequisite for Judging 102

**Celebration of Models – Judging 102** - This is an interactive advanced judging class with emphasis on calibration, so that an experienced judge can consistently and fairly judge any type of model. **NOTE:** This clinic is mandatory for team leaders!

Bob Leonard **Hands-On (Cost \$10, need to sign up on website) Making Signs for Buildings (Clinic is 2 Hours)** - Signs of Tissue - New signs, Old signs, Ghost signs, all interesting additions for your structures. The clinic covers the use of using tissue paper, adding the printed paper sign to your structure and weathering to fit the timeframe. We will go through the print process to capture the types of signs, wall painted, posters, enamel logos that create a story and scene. What to bring; a blank kit wall, a structure, a copy of a sign sized for the wall, and your presence.

- Bob Miller      **Modeling Florida Scenery** – How to clinic dealing with the scenery of the Southeast including the coastal areas. Sabal (Cabbage Palms), Long Leaf Palms, Cypress Trees, Palmettos, Marsh Grass, Mangroves, and Citrus Trees, covered in detail. Robert models and HO but his techniques are workable on all scales. Join him for a fun trip through FL. This is the one to see if you are modeling FL scenery. Bob's will supply a very detailed handout, on FL Scenery.
- Bruce Lauerman      **Getting Your AP Golden Spike** – Bruce will show you how to get your Golden Spike without owning a layout. He will show you how to take a module from start to finish to get your Golden Spike.
- David Leider (MMR)      **Chicago Stock Yards** - Beginning of Stockyards in Chicago and how they came to be and the history from start to finish.
- David Leider (MMR)      **The Chicago Milk Shed- Shipping milk to Chicago** – Where Chicago got it's milk and how the railroads were so important to deliver their milk.
- Don Wetmore      **Introduction to Operations on Your Model Railroad** - Getting started in model railroad operations, including different options for car forwarding, train scheduling, and train dispatching. Also learn helpful tools to assist your operating crews.
- Don Wetmore      **Modeling a Prototype Passenger Consist** - Accurately modeling a prototype passenger train using examples of shorter trains run by the Burlington and Chicago Great Western.
- Don Wetmore      **Researching a Prototype Railroad** – This clinic will be a fill-in in case a clinician is unavailable. Sources of information about prototype railroads, what you can learn from each source, and how to apply it to your model railroad.
- Greg Garbacz      **Installing DCC & Sound Decoders Diesels** – Greg will show you how to replace motors, trim weights and add speakers using regular garage tools.

- Gene Jameson     **Documenting Your Layout** – Clinic will be useful for ALL modelers regardless of scale. Gene will cover all the items that need to be documented and other items that concern your layout in an emergency. \*Do you know how much your railroad is worth if you had to replace it, \*Do you remember how you wired the matrix for your yard, \*Or the location of all your insulated rail joiners? If you answered NO to any of these questions, this is the clinic for you.
- Gilbert Thomas, Jr. **Modeling Considerations for the 1950's Modeler** - American railroads are quickly retiring their steam locomotives and purchasing new diesel locomotives. This clinic will review the major changes in railroading and help to give the 1950's modeler a clearer focus for their modeling efforts.
- Modeling Considerations for the 2000's Modeler** - American railroads have completed their mergers (for the time being). Railroads are more focused on developing efficiencies within their companies. Technology is quickly replacing employees. A new concept in railroading "Precision Railroading" is taking hold. What does all this mean for the 2000's Modeler? This clinic will review major changes in the modern railroad business and help give the modeler a clearer focus to help them in the modeling efforts.
- Glen Kopriva     **3D Printing** – Introduction to 3D Printing, types of printing, where to find items to print, visual display of printers, and general printing tips and instructions.
- Gordy Robinson (MMR) **Meet the NMRA President** – What's been happening at National. What has happened, what is on the way and how the NMRA is building for the future.
- Jim Weiss       **Add Lighting to Modern Day Locomotives** – Jim will show you how to add Ditch lights, Cab lights, and Step lights, using LEDs.
- John Crellin     **JMRI Creating a CTC Panel** – John will show you how to use JMRI Software to create a CTC Panel.
- John Wilkes (MMR) **Trackside Scenery** - Ideas on how to weather and ballast track, use actual dirt and rocks, and commercial scenery products to complete the scene.
- Ray Hazen       **Arduino Timers and State Machines** - Timing methods and their use in program flow, multiple simultaneous timers, state machines for program sequences. (Basic Arduino experience will be helpful.)



- Ray Hazen      **Building a Battery Powered Locomotive (HO, On30, & O Scales)** - Steps to design and build a battery-powered locomotive. Choose parts, build, suggestions, Examples in HO, On30 and O scales.
- Rich Mahaney      **13 Clinics - \*\*\* All Clinic info is at the bottom of the page \*\*\***
- Rich Paul      **Watertown Northern, The Moonshine Line** - Clinic Description: Presentation about The Watertown Northern Railroad, a logging railroad of the East Coast Lumber Co in Watertown, Florida just east of Lake City Florida.
- Tom Wilson      **Building Details through the Eyes of a Building Inspector** – Tom will show you examples of building details that you may miss through the eyes of a Building Inspector.
- Tom Wilson      **Layout Renewal/Rehabbing Your Layout from Old to New** – Taking a fully operational section of the layout stripping it down to bare plywood and rebuilding it back.

**\*\*\* Rich Mahaney – will be presenting the 13 Clinics below \*\*\***

- 1. Thursday Night Hotel Clinic – 7PM - Potatoes** - This new presentation looks at the potato from growing to the final product in an “audience participation” clinic format. The students will participate in selecting railroad car needs and traffic, transporting chemicals, growing products, railroad car traffic, the making of consumer products from potatoes, potato industries, and more. Lots of fun, answer questions, fill out flip charts on the wall and discuss the answers with the group for comparison answers and different answers.
- 2. Intermodal 101 For Model Railroaders** - This 60 minute presentation looks at intermodal operations, intermodal box and tank containers, truck trailers, intermodal facilities, intermodal and truck trailer equipment and transferring the prototype to the model railroad.
- 3. Interesting Flat Car Loads** - This 45 to 60 minute presentation looks at a variety of “stuff” that is transported on flat cars by railroads. It answers the question, “do they really transport that “stuff” on flat cars for real”? It will give the modeler some ideas for their own flat car loads to build.

4. **“Quick Industries” for Your Model Railroad** - This 60 minute presentation is designed give model railroaders industry ideas for their model railroad that can be assembled in several evenings (or days) of work. These industries can quickly increase railroad traffic and new customers. Examples of real facilities and model railroad examples are used to make the points.
5. **Creating Other Interesting Industries on Your Model Railroad Layout** - In this 60 minute presentation we look at other industries and buildings made from structural members and backdrops involved with layout construction.
6. **Railroad Cars That Transport Hazardous Materials** - This 60 minute presentation provides the model railroader with a basic understanding of what kinds of railroad cars transport what kinds of solids, liquids and gas types of hazardous materials Discussion and photos illustrate the many types of railroads cars that are used to transport hazardous materials safely across North America every day, along with their placarding.
7. **1950’s Refrigerator Car Layout Operations on Model Railroad Layouts** - After looking at and photographing refrigerator cars, icing platforms, cold storage and other buildings and operations on many layouts, this clinic presents some of the best ideas and modeling I have seen that capture the feel and operations involved with refrigerator car operations in the 1950’s.
8. **“OMG” – Prototypical Accessories To Buildings and Communities For Model Railroads!** - Take a look at the accessories and details that you are missing on your buildings and in your communities that stand out when you look around or travel around. The only thing you can say when you see these images is “OMG”! Most of these additional features can probably come from the scrape boxes or parts and pieces underneath your layout or on your work bench. You may not have much to buy when you through “spare stuff”. (60 minutes)
9. **The Smells of Model Railroading!** - A 60 minute look at ways to add another aspect of scenery to your model railroad – “smells”. Did you know there is a candle that smells like fresh cut wood?
10. **Making “Stuff” for Model Railroaders** - How is “stuff” made? A look at how “stuff” is made is made so that the model railroader can understand the correct use of railroad cars for delivery of solids, liquids and gases by railroad cars to industries. Several products and industries will be case studied and a process to do this will be discussed for the model railroader to use. The primary goals are to get it right and do it right for better rail car movement and use and be prototypically correct.

- 11. Five Busy Railroad Traffic Locations for Your Layout (Interchanges, Freight Houses, Team Tracks, Bulk Transfer Facilities and Rail Car Repair Facilities)** - This clinic looks at five busy locations that can be built on your layout to increase rail car operations, can use any kind or type of car on your layout, create rail car traffic and operations, can be used to support industries that don't have a railroad spur and can fit into a small space on your layout.
- 12. "Big Pipes" – Adding pipe details to various types of industries.** - This clinic looks at very large pipes on industries that are used to move solids, liquids, and gases. Besides serving as an important part of the industrial process in manufacturing, they also look cool. Get some modelling ideas for industries on your layout.
- 13. Understanding how stuff is made, how the railroad supports that with car placement, just in time deliveries, modeling industries and operations** - This clinic deals with industry design and operations; how products are made and assembled involving solids, liquids and gases; railroad operation to support industries with parts and shipping; "just in time" operations, car placement at industries and railroad operations and traffic. Model railroaders need to do research into the industries and products they want to model, it is not just enough to just place some buildings or a siding on your layout.

SSR Director at Large, Jeff "Ski" Guzowski, Cell (954) 401-0804 or email at

[JGuzowski@Bellsouth.net](mailto:JGuzowski@Bellsouth.net)



Citrus Model Railroad Club, Inverness, FL

## THE CABOOSE CHALLENGE

The Caboose Challenge started when Rich Mahaney (Gobles, Michigan) came down to present 4 clinics at one of our Eastern Division Workshops. When I met Rich, we started talking about how to get more people involved in bringing models to our convention. He told me about a Caboose Challenge they ran for one of their NMRA, North Central Region Conventions, which is centered around the Great Lakes states of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. Rich did a Caboose Challenge Presentation at the 2022 SSR Convention Banquet last year, and we had 30+ people immediately accept the challenge.

The Caboose Challenge is free and open to anyone coming to the SSR 2023 High Speed Rail Convention in Plant City. Everyone from young to old, NMRA Members, non NMRA Members, you just need to be willing to build a Diorama any size up to 24x24", any Scale (N, HO, S, and O) of a caboose in its "2<sup>nd</sup> Life After the Railroad". There will be example pictures in the T-Key and on our (SunshineRegion.Org) Website.

The winners will be chosen by a "People's Choice" vote, the Ballot will be in your Goody Bag, so please look for it. There will be 4 prizes to be presented to the winners. The Grand Prize will be a 2024 Convention Registration and Banquet ticket. Second Prize will be a 2024 Banquet ticket, Third Prize will be \$25 off their 2024 Convention Registration, and Fourth Prize will be \$20 off their 2024 Registration. *Disclaimer: Prizes are non-transferrable, non-refundable, and have no cash value.*

There will be a Special Clinic Room set up for display of the Caboose Dioramas. You will need to fill out a Model Entry form as the Model Diorama will only have a number. Caboose Challenge Models need to register before 10AM on Saturday morning. People Choice voting starts on Saturday between the hours of 10:30AM and ends at 3:30PM.

So, are you ready to get off your "Caboose" and get ready for the Challenge?

If you have any questions about the Caboose Challenge, please contact:

Jeff (Ski) Guzowski, SSR Director at Large - cell 954 401-0804 email [jguzowski@bellsouth.net](mailto:jguzowski@bellsouth.net)

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

What a convention the SSR Board of Directors has planned for everyone this October. We have been working really hard to provide you with 3 days of fun-filled events that you won't want to miss. The Board chose Plant City again to hold down the cost of our conventions, so it's easier on your wallets. From all the searches we have done during this year and past years, no other venue has been able to match the price and value (hotel and Trinkle Center) along with the needed space to hold a Train Show that accommodates all our needs.

NMRA President, Gordy Robinson (MMR) (all the way from Scotland) and NMRA Vice President, Rick Coble, (all the way from Atlanta) will be our guests at the convention this weekend.

NMRA North Central Region President, Rich Mahaney will be returning again this year to help with the Caboose Challenge and another surprise challenge for 2024.

**Our Convention starts on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with a tour of the Brightline maintenance facility. The tour will start at 1pm and will end by 3pm.**

We will be touring the Brightline Maintenance facility at the Orlando Airport. Brightline has gone live in Orlando so be aware everything is operational. **We will be emailing each of you that are attending the tour with specifics;** directions to the maintenance facility, a waiver form that must be filled out prior to arrival, and where to meet etc. We have also been told everyone must be in long pants and closed toe shoes. I expect the email to go out by the weekend of October 7<sup>th</sup> – as we and Brightline finalize the tour.

You should leave yourself plenty of time to get to the Orlando maintenance facility as traffic on I-4 can be horrendous at best. Best to be way early than to miss the tour.

Registration will be open at the hotel Thursday between 4-5:00PM and 7-7:30PM and also at the Trinkle center Friday and Saturday.

Thursday evening, there will be an OP Session on Tom Wilson's HO Pittsburg and West Virginia/Union Railroad between 4-9PM, (dinner is included at this OP Session).

Thursday dinner is an "On Your Own" night, and we will have included a sheet in your Registration Packet, for a list of Restaurants in Plant City to choose from.

Between 7:30-9:30PM, there will be 2 Clinics presented by Rich Mahaney at the Holiday Inn, in the first-floor meeting room. One of the clinics Rich is presenting will be a member participation clinic and one not to miss.

### **Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**

We have one Hands-On Clinic, and (18) Hourly Clinics scheduled for today. Clinics will start at 8:30 AM, at the Trinkle Center.

Model and Caboose Challenge Registration opens today at 10:30AM.

Attendees will be on your own for dinner. Later tonight we will be having an Ice Cream Social Meet and Greet on the patio at the Holiday Inn, between 7-9PM.

### **Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**

There are more Hourly Clinics (18) and a Train Show (with lunch available inside the Train Show room).

All Model Registrations must be completed today by 10AM. AP Judging will start at 11:30AM. The Caboose Challenge will be done by Popular vote (this ballot will be included in your Registration Packet).

Lunch will include a choice of a meatball sub or a quarter pound hot dog with a bag of chips and a drink for \$5.

Saturday night, our SSR Banquet will start serving dinner at 6PM. This year we will be serving a Marinated Flank Steak and Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast (you get both), served with Tropical Fruit Salsa, Caribbean Rice, a Garden Salad, Roasted Vegetables, assorted rolls, Tropical Chips and a Dessert Basket with Cookies and Brownies and a Celebration Cake. Sodas, Coffee, Ice Tea and Water will be provided.

Our Guest Speaker for the Banquet will be from Brightline. They will be sharing the latest info about Florida's newest passenger railroad, and the extension to Orlando, which involves 168 miles of new track, and a new state-of-the-art maintenance facility as well as other Brightline information.

Next, we will have the Award presentations for the Celebration of Models, Caboose Challenge, and AP Model Judging and a few words from Gordy.

Our Raffle will follow the award ceremony.

Lastly, after the raffle we will have one final drawing. This drawing is special as it requires no purchase on your part, simply being present at the banquet is all you need to win. There will be 3 prizes given with the first prize valued at \$100!!

**Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a SSR Board of Directors meeting at 9AM, located at the Holiday Inn first floor meeting room.

I hope to see you all at our 2023 SSR High Speed Rail Convention, in Plant City.

That's all I have for now, and if you have any questions, please contact me.

Jeff "Ski" Guzowski, Director at Large – [JGuzowski@Bellsouth.Net](mailto:JGuzowski@Bellsouth.Net) – Cell (954) 401-0804

**REGISTER NOW ONLINE**

<https://www.nmrasunshineregion.org>

*(Press CONTROL + Click)*

**GLENN KOPRIVA**

**CONVENTION CHAIR**

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |        |           |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------|-------------------|
| Registrant Name:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |           |                   |
| Name on Badge:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |        |           | NMRA#             |
| Address:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |        |           |                   |
| City:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | State: | Zip Code: |                   |
| Email Address:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |        |           |                   |
| Cell Phone Number:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |        |           |                   |
| Emergency Contact Name & Number:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |           |                   |
| Spouse/Significant Other:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |        |           |                   |
| Spouse/Significant Other: Name on Badge:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |        |           |                   |
| <b>Item</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |        |           | <b>Base Price</b> |
| <i>Note: (registration includes Thursday Brightline tour)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |        |           | <b>Quantity</b>   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |        |           | <b>Total</b>      |
| Registration - Received on or before <b>8/15/2023</b> (Hotel Discount available)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |           | \$90.00           |
| Registration - Received <b>after 8/15/2023</b> (No Hotel Discount)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |        |           | \$100.00          |
| <b>Hotel Room Discount Rate is \$109 (plus tax) per night. Ends after 8/15/23 -- min 2 night st</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |        |           |                   |
| Will you need the discount code for the hotel? (2 night min stay)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |        | Yes       | No                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |        |           | Circle One        |
| Spouse Registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |        |           | \$40.00           |
| One Day Registration      Friday      Saturday      Circle One                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |        |           | \$50.00           |
| Saturday Banquet Per Person <i>(read website info page for meal description)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |           | \$35.00           |
| Hands on Clinic #1 - Friday 1pm - 3pm      Signs by Bob Leonard                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |        |           | \$10.00           |
| Train Show Entrance fee ( 100 vendor tables, Lego layout, lunch counter)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |        |           | \$3.00            |
| Raffle Card -- each card contains 10 raffle tickets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |        |           | \$10.00           |
| Raffle Card - get three cards (30 tickets) for \$25 -- save \$5.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |        |           | \$25.00           |
| <b>NO REFUNDS ON OP SESSIONS UNLESS OP SESSION IS CANCELLED</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |        |           |                   |
| OP Session #1 Tom Wilson's, Thursday 4-9pm, pizza dinner (5 hr session) <b>MAX 9 people</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |        |           | \$20.00           |
| OP Session #2 John Wilkes Friday 4-9pm Dinner provided (5 hr session) <b>MAX 12 people</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |        |           | \$20.00           |
| Will you be attending the Brightline tour on Thursday?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |        | Yes       | No                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |        |           | Circle One        |
| Will your spouse be attending the Brightline tour on Thursday?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |        | Yes       | No                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |        |           | Circle One        |
| Will you be entering into the Caboose Challenge?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        | Yes       | No                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |        |           | Circle One        |
| Will your spouse be entering into the Caboose Challenge?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |        | Yes       | No                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |        |           | Circle One        |
| Is this your first Sunshine Regional Convention?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        | Yes       | No                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |        |           | Circle One        |
| <b>NON NMRA Members:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |        |           |                   |
| Railpass, NMRA 9 month membership -- includes ALL National perks and digital magazine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |        |           | \$19.95           |
| NMRA Non-Member Surcharge (if not selecting Railpass above)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |        |           | \$10.00           |
| <i>If you are not a NMRA member, due to insurance regulations with the NMRA Insurance Carrier you must pay the surcharge or Select the Railpass option</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |        |           |                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |        |           | <b>Total</b>      |
| <b>Payment by mail can only be made by check payable to:      NMRA Sunshine Region</b><br><b>Mail check and registration form to: Glenn Kopriva, Convention Chair, 4621 Bexley Village Dr. Land O Lakes, FL 34638</b><br><b>Payment by credit card can only be made on-line. Cash payment will only be accepted at the Convention</b><br><b>Refunds will be accepted as follows:      NO REFUNDS ON OP SESSIONS UNLESS CANCELLED</b><br>100% of all fees will be refunded less a \$10 processing fee If cancellation is received no later than September 1, 2023.<br>If cancellation is received after September 1,2023 and before September 15, 2023 -- 50% of all fees will be refunded.<br><b>No refunds after September 15, 2023</b> |        |           |                   |

## 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)

Glenn

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**You are receiving this email because you opted in when becoming an NMRA member.**

**Our mailing address is :**

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Land O Lakes, FL 34638

