

# THE TELEGRAPH KEY

A NMRA SUNSHINE REGION MONTHLY PUBLICATION

JULY 2023



## SUNSHINE REGION OFFICIALS



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## EDITORS MESSAGE



All, we have had a few changes in leadership. A board meeting was held on June 26, 2023 whereby the Board of Directors had voted unanimously to appoint myself as Region Treasurer, Benita Jameson as Eastern Region Superintendent and Jeff Guzowski was moved from Past President to a Board Member at Large position.

We wish everyone continued success as we move forward.

We have also added a couple of new sections to the newsletter that we hope you'll enjoy.

We've added "The Mailcar", a section where you can make comments, suggestions, and ask questions. Basically, an area to learn and share ideas. Another new section is "The Roundhouse", this section will be devoted to our readers by allowing them to share their railroads, how to's, best practices, etc. (I've shared my story to lead it off). Pictures are always great too, so please send them to me as a picture is worth 1000 words!

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



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed

Last month we had a number of comments on the new format of the magazine:

**"Well that was an eye opener, well done!",**

Robert Leonard

**"I got the Telegraph Key and it looks fantastic. Thank you!",**

Don Wetmore

“Very very impressive. Well done!”, Al Sohl

Thanks for all the positive comments, we hope to continually improve this monthly newsletter.

Please email me, [glennkopriya@yahoo.com](mailto: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**

No Report Submitted.

**GENE JAMESON**

**PRESIDENT**

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## **ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

No Report Submitted.

**KEN HOOT**

**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM CHAIR**

## TREASURERS REPORT

The treasury is currently in transition and a more detailed report will be added in the next edition. Local businesses and clubs are welcome to place advertisements in the Journal Box quarterly publication, for more information contact me.

**GLENN KOPRIVA**

**TREASURER**

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## NORTHERN DIVISION

The Northern Division of the Sunshine region held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Division workshop on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This was held at the North Florida Fairgrounds in conjunction with the Big Bend Model Railroads "Tallahassee Model Railroad Show and Sale." The Clinic room (\$50,) and SSR Table (\$35) were donated to the SSR by the BBMRA in support of the SSR.

The workshop was made up of the following.

- 11-11:30- Gordy Robinson, NMRA President, presented virtually. Introduction, State of the NMRA, and question and answer session with members and non-members
- 11:30 to 12:30- Ken Hoot, SSR Region AP Chair and SSR Director at large, presented in person. *"NMRA AP Program; The road to Master Model Railroader"*
- 1230-1300- Break for lunch
- 1300- 1400 Mark Juett; - Pulse of DCC Columnist and Deputy S&C Manager; *"JMRI with Decoder Pro."*
- 1400-1500 Keith Kohlmann- *"Modeling Realistic Freight Carloads."*

All in all, we had 12 people in attendance, including the NMRA Standards and Conformance manager and SSR Director at Large, Andy Zimmerman, and Region AP Chair, Ken Hoot. Northern Division AP Chair Richard Paul, Southern Division Superintendent Robert Leonard, Members from the Western Division, and other members who attended virtually. Several Non-members attended one Clinic or another, and we signed up two new members.

- Larry Callahan from Tallahassee, FL,

- Lynn Rull (and her son) from Port Charlotte, Florida.

Andy Zimmerman completed his 4<sup>th</sup> AP qualification for the Volunteer AP, and it is being routed. Ken Hoot and Richard Paul provided invaluable guidance on attaining the “*Master Builder – Structures*” AP and the “*Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical*” by reviewing and evaluating his current work.

The Show consisted of 10 Layouts, T-TRAK (in HO and N scales), NTRAK, Lionel O-27 G-Scale, and Live Steam layouts, to name a few.

39 Vendors purchased 152 tables selling Items in all scales from G-Z, including DCC products and tailed parts, scenery items, engines, and rolling stock from every era. Several manufacturers were in attendance, including Jacksonville Terminal Company (JTC) Motrak Models, Mudd Creek railroad, and Rail Scale Models also attended. Con-Cor -LaBelle donated door prizes as well as JTC.

Overall attendance at the show was north of 1000 people (official numbers forthcoming). The SSR received some great exposure all the way around.

Report from Richard Paul, SSR Northern Division AP Chairman on May 1st, 2023, SSR AP Chairman Ken Hoot hosted a work session at his home for Richard Segall and me to work on some Fast Track assemblies for our Civil Engineering AP certificate. The first order of business was to present Richard Segall with his Structures AP certificate (see attached photo). Following that, Richard built two turnouts for a crossover and a third turnout for a siding. I made a gauntlet track arrangement.





**ROBERT FEUERSTEIN**

**NORTHERN DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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**EASTERN DIVISION**

No Report Submitted.

**BONITA JAMESON**

**EASTERN DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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## WESTERN DIVISION



No updates for July.

**DON WETMORE**

**DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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## SOUTHERN DIVISION



Greetings Southern Div.

It is mid-year, summer is upon us and we are a month closer to Plant City, something to look forward to. Activity has been light down here, the most active has been the ECHOES group. I can report the running/operating session by the ECHOES was a success, I am told there were many content faces. They have also scheduled a maintenance day on July 15<sup>th</sup>, again it will be held at the Cornerstone Methodist Church, 20740 Old Cutler Road. As President Rick Diaz describes the day, it will be focused on maintenance of the modules and rolling stock. I am sure if there is maintenance, there will be running, how else do you know if you got it right.

There will also be another Southern workshop in October hosted by the ECHOES, it was to be in September, but it was pushed out another month. So, two weeks after the Regional it will be held, Rick says the clinic schedule will have new topics and follow the same format that we have been accustomed to, meet & greet, clinic, lunch, clinic, and raffle.

Last month I asked via the Journal Box if anyone in the Southern division would be interested in becoming a Celebration of Models judge. One or two situations occurred, either no one in the Southern division gets the Journal Box, or no one in the Southern division is interested. So far there is nothing but crickets out there, which means I'm still looking for judges. For any who are interested there will be a class at the Plant City convention that is tailored to explain the parameters of contest judging.

Speaking of the Regional at Plant City, I see the website is full of information and promoting the convention in a new light. It should be a good time considering some of the changes that are being implemented. Some of the members of the SFRM are considering traveling north on Brightline, while other members will be designated drivers and chauffeurs. I think the only thing missing will be the obligatory hats. When you consider a tour of the Brightline shops in Orlando, a new caterer, the train show, and clinic subjects, it appears it will be a step above previous conventions.

Well, there isn't much more to report. Now if I could only find some judges.

**ROBERT LEONARD**

**DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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### **JOURNAL BOX EDITOR**

No report submitted.

**ROBERT RAYMOND**

**JOURNAL BOX EDITOR**

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### **REGION CONVENTION**

Can you believe we are just 3 months from our 2023 convention?! This is going to be a great convention and train show. As I mentioned last month, we have a new caterer serving a steak and chicken combo along with sides and beverages and a convention cake! You do not want to miss this year's banquet for sure. On top of the great food, we will also have a guest speaker from Brightline to tell us their journey and Gordy Robinson, president of the NMRA will also be in attendance. Okay, enough name dropping – you know you are really wondering about the raffles. I can tell you this, we already have over \$2,000.00 in donations that everyone has a



chance to win... all it takes is one ticket to win (hmm, I've heard that before somewhere 😊), so insure you buy your raffle tickets!!

I've included a copy of the registration form in this newsletter, so if you do not want to register on line please print out the registration form and get it in the mail today!

### REGISTER NOW ONLINE

<https://www.sunshineregion.org/region-convention>

For those of you planning on staying at the Holiday Inn please get your registration in quickly as rooms are filling up, when our block of rooms are all used, you'll need to pay regular rate so don't hesitate.

I'd like to thank our corporate sponsors who have generously supplied merchandise and materials to make our convention a success. Please support these companies when you can:

- ❖ Showcase Miniatures
- ❖ Soundtraxx
- ❖ RAM (Radio Controlled Models, Inc)
- ❖ Intermountain Railway Company
- ❖ Blackstone Industries, LLC
- ❖ Larc Products
- ❖ Ron's Books
- ❖ Wm. K. Walthers, Inc.
- ❖ Tru-Color Paints
- ❖ Microscale Industries
- ❖ Build Your Own Model Railroad.com
- ❖ Kadee Quality Products, Co.

Thanks to all our sponsors!

### THE CABOOSE CHALLENGE

The Caboose Challenge started when Rich Mahaney (Gobles, Michigan) came down to present 4 clinics at one of our Eastern Division Workshop. 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?

**GLENN KOPRIVA**

**CONVENTION CHAIR**

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**HIGH SPEED RAIL SPECIAL  
2023 SUNSHINE REGIONAL CONVENTION  
REGISTRATION FORM**

*(please read website convention information page before filling out registration form)*

|                                                                                                                                                            |        |           |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------|-------------------|
| 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>                                                        |        |           |                   |
| <b>Will you need the discount code for the hotel? (2 night min stay)</b>                                                                                   | 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           |
| <b>Hands on Clinic #1 - Friday 1pm - 3pm    Signs by Bob Leonard</b>                                                                                       |        |           | \$10.00           |
| <b>Train Show Entrance fee ( 100 vendor tables, Lego layout, lunch counter)</b>                                                                            |        |           | \$3.00            |
| <b>Raffle Card -- each card contains 10 raffle tickets</b>                                                                                                 |        |           | \$10.00           |
| <b>Raffle Card - get three cards (30 tickets) for \$25 -- save \$5.00</b>                                                                                  |        |           | \$25.00           |
| <b>NO REFUNDS ON OP SESSIONS UNLESS OP SESSION IS CANCELLED</b>                                                                                            |        |           |                   |
| <b>OP Session #1 Tom Wilson's, Thursday 4-9pm, pizza dinner (5 hr session) MAX 9 people</b>                                                                |        |           | \$20.00           |
| <b>OP Session #2 John Wilkes Friday 4-9pm Dinner provided (5 hr session) MAX 12 people</b>                                                                 |        |           | \$20.00           |
| <b>Will you be attending the Brightline tour on Thursday?</b>                                                                                              | Yes    | No        | Circle One        |
| <b>Will your spouse be attending the Brightline tour on Thursday?</b>                                                                                      | Yes    | No        | Circle One        |
| <b>Will you be entering into the Caboose Challenge?</b>                                                                                                    | Yes    | No        | Circle One        |
| <b>Will your spouse be entering into the Caboose Challenge?</b>                                                                                            | Yes    | No        | Circle One        |
| <b>Is this your first Sunshine Regional Convention?</b>                                                                                                    | 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>                                                                     |        |           |                   |
| <b>Mail check and registration form to: Glenn Kopriva, Convention Chair, 4621 Bexley Village Dr. Land O Lakes, FL 34638</b>                                |        |           |                   |
| <b>Payment by credit card can only be made on-line. Cash payment will only be accepted at the Convention</b>                                               |        |           |                   |
| <b>Refunds will be accepted as follows:    NO REFUNDS ON OP SESSIONS UNLESS CANCELLED</b>                                                                  |        |           |                   |
| 100% of all fees will be refunded less a \$10 processing fee If cancellation is received no later than September 1, 2023.                                  |        |           |                   |
| If cancellation is received after September 1,2023 and before September 15, 2023 -- 50% of all fees will be refunded.                                      |        |           |                   |
| <b>No refunds after September 15, 2023</b>                                                                                                                 |        |           |                   |

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## **DIVISION WORKSHOPS**

No Activity for July

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## **WOMAN'S PROGRAM**

Everyone who is interested in joining the Women in Model Railroading SIG Group (WIMRR) will need to go to the below website and complete the form.

<https://www.nmra.org/sigs/women-in-model-railroading>

(Press Control Key and click on the link to go to site)

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## **NATIONAL CONVENTION**

The 2023 National Convention will be held in Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX. For more information please click on the link below:

<https://www.2023texasexpress.com/>

(press control key and click link to go to site)

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## **TRAIN SHOWS**

No Information available

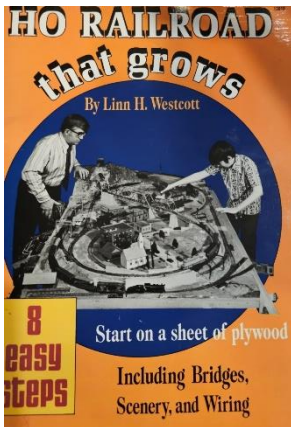
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## THE ROUNDHOUSE



In this first run of The Roundhouse I thought I'd share my journey with model railroading and where I am today. I'd like everyone to feel free to email their story so we can share with everyone. Sometimes seeing what someone else has done will spark an idea to enhance your own railroad or better ways to do something – we can all learn from each other.

My journey dates back to 1973, just a kid with a newspaper route (do we remember newspapers – let alone a bike route?). Growing up in Chicago trains were everywhere, I had a train yard just a couple of blocks from my childhood home so I was able to walk around the trains, climb in cabooses and just explore. Then I came across a magazine in my local hobby



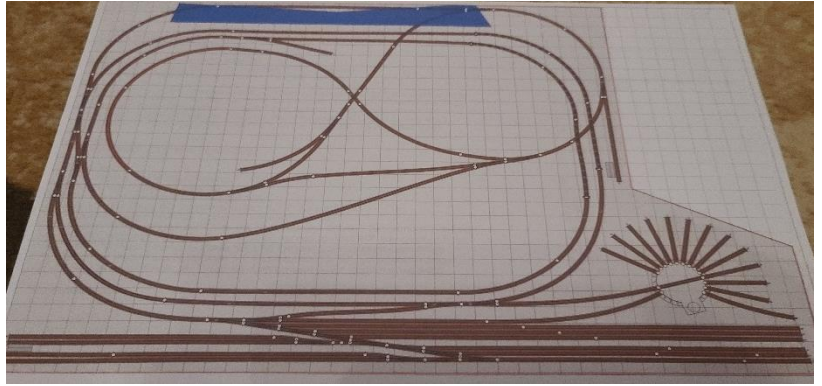
store that caught my interest called “HO Railroad that grows” by Lynn Westcott. This, I thought was so cool as it walked you through step by step carpentry, track laying, DC wiring including using terminal strips for “dual cab control” and having a slew of double pole double throw center off switches to power sections of the track. As you might have guessed I still have this magazine and it does bring back some great memories.

While this railroad did not survive and my student NMRA subscription expired (does anyone remember those monthly bulletins?), I left for college. My folks reclaimed their basement in my absence but some pieces of my railroad have survived to this day including buildings, rolling stock, engines as well as both my Control Master X power packs!

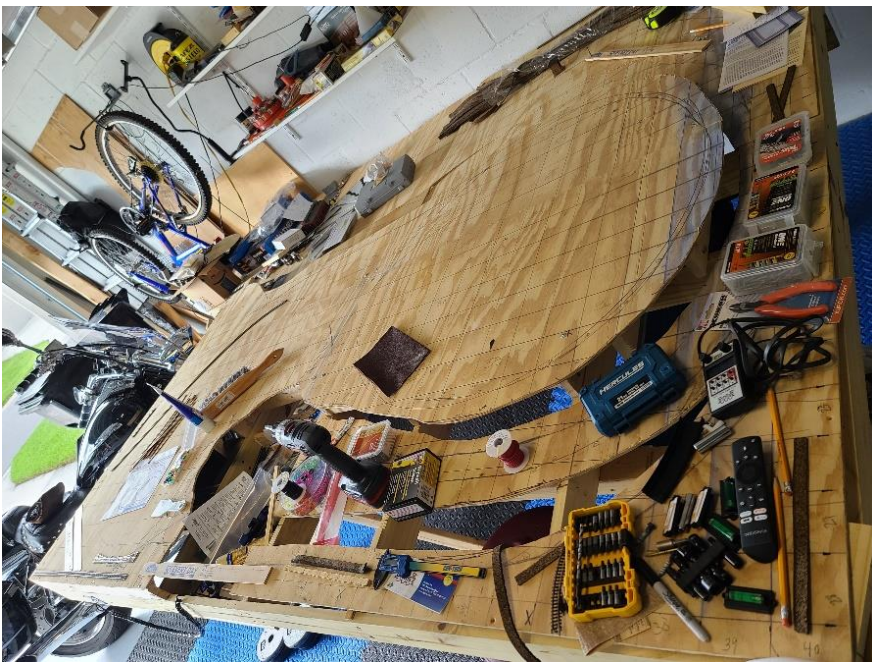
As with all of us, life happens and my train hobby took a back seat. Four kids later and almost retired, I have been able to finally get back into the hobby. My years as an armchair modeler with my slew of magazine subscriptions had finally ended!



Today, lacking a basement, my garage now has a 11x7 island that is still in the very, very early stages. I spent lots of time deciding my track layout which is still very flexible but is my guideline as I move through this build phase. I will be using Digitrax as my DCC choice basically since I have been collecting bits and pieces of “stuff” over the last 30 years knowing one day I’d get to build something. I have also moved from HO to N scale to afford myself a more sophisticated layout given my tighter space limits. As you can see on the right, I have my power setup built between the two legs of my island giving me easy access to all controls once it is completed. Lots to still do but I’m enjoying the build and in no rush to get trains running. The only track I’ve laid and wired is the tunnel section. Sooo, I may offer a pizza and beverage gathering in the near future to help me get passed the hump as well as ask for more suggestions for a better operating layout. Below are a couple of photos of the initial built island and then after I cut out the layers (old school for sure).







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## OPEN INVITATION

No Comments

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## CLUB ACTIVITIES

No info submitted.

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**Our mailing address is :**

NMRA Sunshine Region, Inc.

4621 Bexley Village Dr

Land O Lakes, FL 34638

**ADD US TO YOUR CONTACT LIST**

