

# THE TELEGRAPH KEY

A NMRA SUNSHINE REGION MONTHLY PUBLICATION

JUNE 2023



## SUNSHINE REGION OFFICIALS



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- President, Gene Jameson:  
[b-n-ferrrco@cfl.rr.com](mailto:b-n-ferrrco@cfl.rr.com)
- Vice President, Jim Robinson:  
[jnr@tampabar.rr.com](mailto:jnr@tampabar.rr.com)
- Secretary, Eric Menger: [emenger@gmail.com](mailto:emenger@gmail.com)
- Treasurer, Ken Farnham:  
[hobbyguage@bellsouth.com](mailto:hobbyguage@bellsouth.com)
- Past-President, Jeff "Ski" Guzowski:  
[jguzowski@bellsouth.com](mailto:jguzowski@bellsouth.com)
- Northern Div. Super, Robert Feuerstein:  
[photobob321@gmail.com](mailto:photobob321@gmail.com)
- Eastern Div. Super, Beverly Farnham:  
[bevchase@aol.com](mailto:bevchase@aol.com)
- Southern Div. Super, Robert Leonard:  
[leonardstrait@gmail.com](mailto:leonardstrait@gmail.com)
- Western Div. Super, Don Wetmore:  
[stjoeterminal@mail.com](mailto:stjoeterminal@mail.com)
- Achievement Program, Ken Hoot:  
[hootk@bellsouth.net](mailto:hootk@bellsouth.net)
- Model Contest, Benita Jameson:  
[b-n-ferrrco@cfl.rr.com](mailto:b-n-ferrrco@cfl.rr.com)
- Membership, Daniel Frolich:  
[dwfrolich@gmail.com](mailto:dwfrolich@gmail.com)
- Woman's Program, Bev Farnham:  
[bevchase@aol.com](mailto:bevchase@aol.com)
- Webmaster/Social Media, Chip Pecere:  
[webmasterchio2023@gmail.com](mailto:webmasterchio2023@gmail.com)
- Journal Box Editor, Robert Raymond:  
[robertraymond@bellsouth.com](mailto:robertraymond@bellsouth.com)
- Telegraph Key Editor, Glenn Kopriva:  
[glennkopriva@yahoo.com](mailto:glennkopriva@yahoo.com)

## EDITORS MESSAGE



All, welcome to the new face of the Telegraph Key. I hope everyone will enjoy the new look of the newsletter, larger print and a simple to print format (for those of you that like that paper in your hand). Not only will this issue be emailed to everyone on our roster that provided an email address to National but it will also be available on our website (<https://www.sunshineregion.org>) where you will find all the work Chip Pecere has done to make the site look great, allow for us to take credit card payments and enhance our social media presence. If you haven't been to the website, please take a few minutes to look it over and let us know what you think and what we may be missing. This is your newsletter and website and our way to connect with everyone.

Also, our convention is building momentum and you can register online at – (<https://www.sunshineregion.org/region-convention>). Please don't wait to register, especially if you need a hotel room at the Holiday Inn. We have a limited number of rooms available to us and they are first come first serve. A separate email will be sent to you after you register that contains a special link in order for you to get the special rate we negotiated.

Please feel free to email me directly any comments, questions or items that could be added to next month's newsletter.

Thank you!

**GLENN KOPRIVA**

**EDITOR, TELEGRAPH KEY**

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

No Report Submitted.

**GENE JAMESON**

**PRESIDENT**

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## **ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

Well to start off this has been a good month. We had 2 AP's and 23 Golden Spike awards. The AP awards go to Frank A. Wilson for Author and Scenery from Davenport, FL., Western Division.

The Golden Spike Awards go to members of the Scale Rails Club in Fort Myers, FL., Western Division. They are:

- Bruce Lauerman from Fort Myers, FL.
- Elizabeth Mac Rae from Bonita Springs, FL.
- Patrick Flash from Cape Coral, FL.
- Henry Doden from Apple River, IL.
- Karl L. Johnson from North Fort Myers, FL.
- Erick Boone from Naples, FL.
- Robert Salem from Fort Myers, FL.
- Ken Carpenter from Fort Myers, FL.
- Tom Dahlheimer from Lehigh Acres, FL.
- Tim Huitema from Fort Myers, FL.
- Jim Meeham from Cape Coral, FL.
- John Cafaro from Fort Myers, FL.
- Herb Schneider from Cape Coral, FL.
- Robert Slusser from Cape Coral, FL.
- Ryan Liker from Cape Coral, FL.
- Hunter Culberson from North Fort Myers, FL.
- Keith Kremer from Coral Gables, FL.
- John Seaman from Sanibel, FL.
- Robert Watson from Cape Coral, FL.
- Frank Broderick from Cape Coral, FL.
- Dave Fender from Fort Myers, FL.
- Dave Doty from Fort Myers, FL.
- Richard Pollina from Bonita Springs, FL.

That is all I have for now but lets keep up the good work and see what we can do next month.

Thank you.

**KEN HOOT**

**ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM CHAIR**

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## **TREASURERS REPORT**

The convention registration is in full swing, and the region is in a sound financial status. The Eastern, Western and Southern Divisions have had successful events and have contributed to the financial support of the region. A southern group of the Western division just had a successful event and provided financial support to the region. Donations are always welcome from institutions and individuals to support our Region. Local businesses and clubs are welcome to place advertisements in the Journal Box quarterly publication, for more information contact the treasurer.

Ken Farnham, Treasurer

**KEN FARNHAM**

**TREASURER**

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## **NORTHERN DIVISION**

The Northern Division workshop will be held on Saturday, June 24 from 11am-3pm in building two at the Tallahassee Fairgrounds. The workshop will be held during the Big Bend Model Railroad Association train show which is running Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Tallahassee Fairgrounds.

**ROBERT FEUERSTEIN**

**NORTHERN DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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## **EASTERN DIVISION**

No Report Submitted.

**BEVERLY FARNHAM**

**EASTERN DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

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## WESTERN DIVISION



The Western Division held a workshop hosted by Scale Rails of Southwest Florida in N Fort Myers on May 20. There were 26 in attendance. Four clinics were presented:

Jim Morse - Easy Weathering for Rolling Stock and Structures

Bruce Laurerman - How to Obtain the Golden Spike Award

Mark Wilson - Realistic Train Consists for Layout Operations

Jim Morse - History of Scale Rails of Southwest Florida

The clinics were followed by an open house and operating session on the club layout.

A number of awards were presented at the meet. The Scale Rails Club has been very active in the NMRA AP program and 25 members have earned the Golden Spike Award in the last year. Those members are: Eric Boone, Frank Broderick, John Cafaro, Ken Carpenter, Hunter Culbertson, Tom Dahlheimer, Henry Doden, Dave Doty, David Fender, Pat Flash, Dick Helmick, Tim Huitema, Karl Johnson, Keith Kramer, Bruce Laurerman, Ryan Liker, Elizabeth MacRae, Jim Meehan, Richard Pollina, Robert Salem, Bob Slusser, John Seaman, Bob Watson, Mark Wilson, and Herb Schneider. Congratulations to all on a job well done!

The next event will be the Sunshine Region Convention in Plant City on October 12-14.

## DON WETMORE

### DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

## SOUTHERN DIVISION



Greetings Southern Div.

The ECHOES group will be having a running/operating session at their usual haunt in Cutler Bay next weekend, June 17 & 18. Cornerstone Methodist Church, 20740 Old Cutler Road. As Rick Diaz put it, operations both days, before and after operations there will be open running, bring your locos and consists.

We had our Southern workshop on the 13<sup>th</sup> last month and it was well attended by members of the ECHOES and SFRM. I would have liked to have seen some junior members of the SFRM, but

unfortunately there were no trains running. I would have liked to have seen some members not of those two groups. Larry Weigel was there selling his wares to smiling faces, great bargains once again. Larry Lawler did an outstanding job explaining the caboose/cabin equipment of Penn Central, a very informative and interesting clinic. One that should be considered for October. Our Southern AP chair provided a photo grouping of open loads for flatcars and gons, another one of his graphic clinics. Morning coffee and donuts, lunch, camaraderie, and raffle rounded out the day. It was positive day and we made a buck, or two!

There will also be another Southern workshop in September hosted by the ECHOES, roughly a month before the regional in Plant City. Rick says the clinic schedule will have new topics and follow the same format, meet & greet, clinic, lunch, clinic, and raffle. Speaking of Plant City, it appears it will be a step above previous ones. When you consider a tour of the Brightline shops in Orlando, a new caterer, the train show, and other sundry subjects, it should be a good time.

Well, there isn't much more to report. Now if I could only find some judges, I would be a happy camper. Other than what you have read, not much else is going on in the south, so that is it for the Southern Div. news.

One other thing, if you have not looked at the SSR website, you should! The webmaster has done an exemplary job updating the site and he has also created a Facebook page that should be seen. Take a look!

**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. 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 \$1,000.00 worth of goods that everyone has a chance to win... all it takes is one ticket to win something 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

<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 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 be registered 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**



**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>			

## **DIVISION WORKSHOPS**

The Northern Division workshop will be held on Saturday, June 24 from 11am-3pm in building two at the Tallahassee Fairgrounds. The workshop will be held during the Big Bend Model Railroad Association train show which is running Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Tallahassee Fairgrounds.

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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)

**BEVERLY FARNHAM**

**WOMAN'S PROGRAM CHAIR**

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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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## OPEN INVITATION

No Comments

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## CLUB ACTIVITIES

No info submitted.

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

**Our mailing address is :**

NMRA Sunshine Region, Inc.

2557 Boyd Ave

Melbourne, FL 32935

**ADD US TO YOUR CONTACT LIST**

