

The Journal Box

"The Best Region Under The Sun"



Special Fall/Winter 2017

Vol. 59 Issue 3



**Al Sohl wins Best In Show at Orlando 2017
National Convention**

The Journal Box

Volume Fifty-Nine Number 3 Fall 2017

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SSR on the Web

Looking for the latest Region activities? Check us out on website at www.sunshineregion.org. You can also get there via links from the NMRA website at www.nmra.org. Thanks to Dan Cioffi, our Webmaster, for keeping the site up to date. You can also try <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/SunshineRegion/info> and join the egroup for latest information. Mike Brock is owner and moderator of this site, assisted by Richard Webster who also serves as Moderator.

Journal Box Submission Deadlines

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Spring Issue | February 15 |
| Summer Issue | May 15 |
| Fall Issue | August 15 |
| Winter Issue | November 15 |

The Journal Box will be in the mail 2-3 weeks after these dates. Please do not include events with dates close to mailing dates as information will not reach readers in time.



EDITOR'S NOTES

DANIEL FROLICH

As you may have noticed by now, this issue is substantially larger than before. Hurricanes and personal and family health matters made it impossible for me to get out the Fall Issue. I called Gil and we discussed the situation and agreed that combining the Fall and Winter Issues would be the best solution.

So here it is, in your hands right now. I can only apologize for not being able to get you the Fall issue and have included almost all of what was contributed in this issue. There were some articles which had dates of events that were not necessary to include as those dates had passed but Division Reports are all included under one banner for each Division. There are many notices of upcoming events and even some news from National that I have been asked to include.

I keep receiving many photos and stories from one or two readers but would love to hear from many more of you...I don't want to turn the JB into an outlet for one or two members. Please contribute even if only "letters to the editor". Let me and the rest of the readers how we are doing on your behalf.

Here is wishing you all a great Holiday Season and a better next year.

Last Train out of the Station

Steve Reden (1942 - 2017, 75 years old) got his angel wings on July 28th, after a brief illness. He was the Sunshine Region Ballot Chairman and go to guy for the SSR Elections. I met Steve at the NMRA 2013 Atlanta Convention on the 2nd day where we were both standing in line at a restaurant at the Galleria/Hotel. We started talking while waiting in line and decided to share a table. We hit it off as friends and went to a lot of clinics and events together. It was nice to share the National experience instead of doing everything alone. Before the end of the Convention, I talked Steve in to becoming more active in the SSR and he started attending most of our Regional and Prototype Rail Conventions. Steve volunteered to be our SSR Ballot Chairman, where he held the position till his passing. Steve also became active in the SSR Northern Division as it started to blossom from a dormant division to one of the most active divisions in the SSR. Steve will be sadly missed by all of us, and he was a good friend. RIP

Steve is survived by his life partner Betty Cox.

This was supposed to be out in September's Fall issue, but Hurricane Irma changed all that, as there was no Fall issue. My apologies for the late notice.

Jeff Guzowski
SSR Secretary

(editor note) My apologies as well. Steve will be missed.

To have news from your club appear in the Journal Box
Send an article and photos to
Dan Frolich, Editor
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GILBERT THOMAS

PRESIDENT

Did you blink?! It is hard to believe the National Model Railroad Associations' 82nd Annual Convention in Orlando is over! Five years of working and planning. Gone in a Flash! What a great time it was. If you didn't make it to the convention you missed an opportunity of a life time. We had 850 attendees from all over the world (England, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Japan, Canada and even Kansas City, KS). We all have one thing in common, well maybe two things in common, we like food and trains. What more is there to life I ask? Yes, somehow my wife thinks there is more, but that is another story. We had 134 clinicians providing over 200 clinics on railroading topics, such as, "The Reason why I had to Build the Snow Shed in the First Place", "Bath and Hammondsport Railroad", Arduino both the very basics and advanced programming, "Modern Benchwork Using All Plywood Construction", "The Rebuilding of a Howe Truss Bridge, or The Bridge to Insanity", "Modeling Considerations for the 1970's and 1980's Modeler", and "Manufacturing the InterMountain Way" to name just a few. On behalf of Royal Bruce, Dan and I a big thank you to each of clinicians. We could not have done it without you and the variety of topics were quite a smorgasbord. Most of the classes I was able to get by seemed to be standing room only. Next year, when I am in Kansas City I am going to attend all the clinics I missed this year.

We sure did have some great tours too! By far and away the "The Calendar Pin Up Tour" was the hottest ticket to be had! This tour sold out in ten days of the tickets going on sale. The next hottest ticket was our tour on the Phosphate Industry in The Tampa Bay Area. I am already in the process of talking with Jim Langston to offer this tour either in the late fall or early spring as a division/region tour. Once we have all the details worked we will let you know. Another must see tour was Amtrak Auto Train. Auto Train limited us to 25 people in each tour, but everyone I talked to had a great time. This is another tour we are working on for the future for the division/region tour. Who could forget the tour to Broadway Limited? Bob and Ken did a great job of hosting our attendees and we look forward to working with Bob and Ken on future events (I want a chance to pick through the parts and pieces bin like the tour attendees). There were so many great tours I just don't have enough space to write about them all.

We also had a very exciting ice cream social that will occur on Thursday night. Intermountain Railway Co. sponsored the event. There was a total of 30 chances to win some really great HO and N scale prizes (13 each N and HO Cars and two N Scale and HO Locomotives). Doug and Frank were very excited about the Ice Cream Social and to get the word out on Intermountain Products. Somehow, neither Dan nor I won a door prize.

It was great to have my father attend the convention. He introduced me to the hobby at the ripe age of 3 or 4, and had no idea where this journey would take us. My father volunteered to be one of our tour guides and took a group of 48 attendees to the Orlando Clubs' layouts. This was a big help, since the tour didn't return until nearly 11pm. Way past my dad's bedtime. I gave him a special exemption this time. My two son's Gilbert and Jackson also were able to attend the convention Thursday through

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Saturday. They even found themselves put to work a time or two, when I ran out of volunteers for projects that still needed to be done. Don't feel too bad for them they still had plenty of time to play putt putt golf and make it to the National Train Show. It is not often you get to share the hobby with three generations of one family, but it is a special time I will remember.

I have a few volunteers I would like to personally thank. Whether you realize it or not the convention couldn't have happened without a few "key" people. Dan Cioffi my co-chair who put countless hours into working with National and our staff to make it the timeline of the convention flow, Doug Bowman our layout chair another worker who labored to find the layouts and work on the timing of each tour, Jim and Susan Robertson who worked so diligently on the Ladies and general interest program, Gene and Benita Jameson who took care of registration and finding volunteers to work at the convention, Donovan and Judy Lewis and Mark and Suzanne Lawalski for all their time, effort, blood, sweat and tears in the silent auction room (I would give them a medal for this task, but we haven't made one for it, yet), Aven and Porky Bacon for manning the company store during the convention and National Train Show, Gary Hendrickson for getting the letters out for the door prizes (110 in total) and selling time table ads, John Moran along with Rich Dobler for marshalling our tour groups, Royal Bruce and his hours of labor to put together our clinic program for the convention and my wife Jackie who got dragged into a lot of things she didn't even know she was volunteering for. I would also like to take a few moments to thank each of you who agreed to be a volunteer at the convention, tour host, clinician, staffing an open house for the Layout, Operations Special Interest group or home/club tour, written an article for the magazines, invited some of your friends to the convention, volunteered to help out in the silent auction or celebration of models room or purchased a model train car or convention shirt. Each of you has helped your region in your own way. We sure couldn't do it without you! Thanks again!

We had the great pleasure of having Todd Stennis Amtrak's Southern Director of Government Affairs to be our guest speaker at the banquet held Saturday night at the convention. I had heard that Todd was a model railroader just like you and I, but he really showed it in his presentation. Todd opened with a slide of him and his dad train watching in Mississippi in 1977 and he closed his presentation with him and his two son's trackside in the same location in 2014. Those two pictures spoke volumes to me. Todd did an amazing job of explaining the history of the development of Amtrak, discussed the history of Auto Train and the future of Amtrak. Todd answered questions about Amtrak for about 30 minutes after his presentation.

One other exciting thing happened at the banquet Saturday night. Donovan Lewis received the NMRA President's Award in recognition of all the work he had done on the behalf of the Western Division. During the Mid-Year National BOD meeting in Atlanta the board determined that they should do more to recognize the labor that someone puts in above and beyond for the division. I then received an email saying I needed to pick someone. You would think this is an easy task, but I am going to tell you it was one of my hardest decisions I have had to make in a long time. Gerry Leone finally told me to get it over and I know each of you will agree Donovan is the right choice. He has been the Western Division Superintendent for the last five years, you find him supporting the hobby all over the place and a great modeler and "a sage voice of reason". Congratulations!



NMRA President, Charlie Getz awarding Donovan Lewis

In closing I will be appointing Richard Webster and Lloyd Baldwin to fill the remaining two SSR Board of Director's vacancies in the fall. We have a lot to discuss at our next board meeting and I can't wait to get the names of all the new members that were signed up at before, during and after the convention! I can't wait to see what next year hold for our region!

See you soon,
Gilbert

ED. This was the Fall Contribution.

Season's Greetings to all.

I hope all of you survived Hurricane Irma and life is getting back to normal. This sure has been an exciting year around the Sunshine Region. I sure hope each of you took advantage of the opportunity of attending the National Model Railroad Association's 82nd Annual Convention in Orlando during the first week of August. It was a blast! Here are some of our accomplishments from the convention:

Over 40 clinicians from our own region were presenters at convention. A lot of the clinics were standing room only. Way to go!

When we initially brought our presentation to the NMRA Board we thought we might have 30-40 layouts in the region we now have inventory of 130 layouts. One of the things I am discussing with the superintendents is the need to host layout tours, so others can enjoy seeing you layouts. I believe your local fellow modelers would surely enjoy seeing your layout!

We actually have 20-30 members working at the convention and we are picking up more volunteers to help. If you are interested in helping with the division or region activities please let us know.

We gained 75 new members at the sign up at the national train show which is a drastic improvement for a region with 620 members or so. That is roughly a 15% increase in membership!

I have appointed Richard Webster to fill the remaining term on the SSR Board as at large director.

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Welcome aboard! Speaking about the Sunshine Region Board it is hard to believe the Sunshine Region NMRA Biannual elections are nearly upon us. Have you ever thought about running for office region? All offices are up for election every two years which includes: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Region Director At Large, Division Superintendent and Division Secretary/Treasurer. Each of these "jobs" are very exciting and we are looking for you! If you interested in running for office should submit a candidate statement to Dan Frolich our nomination chair by April 30, 2018. We will be holding the Sunshine Region Board Meeting on January 7, 2018 at the Cocoa Beach Hilton at 9:00 am. This would be a great time to talk to the officers and superintendents. I hope you take the time to attend.

This upcoming year is going to be an exciting one in our Region. I hope to see everyone at Prototype Rails 2018 in Cocoa Beach Jan 4-6. Mike Brock and crew have been hosting this event for 15 years and each year gets a little better. If you have never been, you should give it a try with over 80 different clinics, great models to view and several model manufactures to give your "two cents" to for a mere \$35 it will be some of your best modeling money you could spend. Fasten your seatbelts and hold on 2018 is going to be an exciting year ahead!

Gilbert

ED. This is the Winter column edited.



WESTERN DIVISION

JIM ROBERTSON

SUPERINTENDENT

Well it's been a couple of months since the 2017 National Convention, the dust has settled and we should be back to our regular routines. (Maybe Not). I'm not sure in what capacity I'm writing this article but I just want to say that despite a few glitches along the way the 2017 National Convention was the best Convention that I have ever attended, and I'm not alone in saying it was the best. Charlie Getz in his remarks at the banquet also said it was the greatest convention that he had attended. I talked to a lot of people during the Convention and they all said that despite the problems that cropped up the Sunshine Region stood tall and pulled together to provide the best convention they have ever attended, and some of them were 20 and 25-year convention veterans.

Congratulations to all who worked on the Convention from the Convention Staff to the volunteers. It took all of us to put on this Convention. I'm especially proud of the members of the Western Division who stepped up and opened their home layouts for tours. Thus making it impractical for some of them to attend the Convention, but without their contribution the Convention would not have been the success that it was.

Also to those of you who volunteered to be tour guides. Thanks for a job well done. When a tour returned we asked those getting off the bus one question - How did the tour go? And the overwhelming response was that the tour went well,

and the bus captain kept everything running smoothly and all busses returned on time and with the proper number of passengers.

To those of you who gave a clinic or two or three or more, it was amazing to look in on a clinic and see not the usual 15 or 20 people but to see 30 or 40 people attending clinic is a real tribute to the subject matter that you chose to talk about but to your talents as model railroaders. Congratulations to all of you for a job well done.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the ladies who are members of the Western Division and to the wives of Western Division Members without who's help a great big hole would have not been filled. We have some very talented ladies in the Western Division and they should not be ignored when it comes to Division projects in the future.

As I said earlier, I'm not sure in what capacity I'm writing this article. The Sunshine Region is in a transition period regarding Board Members, Staff and Division Officers. As of this writing I have not been notified of any definite decision.

So, for now this article is from Jim Robertson SSR Western Division Sec/Tres & prospective Superintendent.

ED. This the Fall Article as presented.

Winter News

Way back in by-gone days, a young man by the name of Gilbert Thomas told me that to be an officer of the Sunshine Region you needed to not only think of what you are doing today, this week or this month, but to think about what you want to do six months from now. Sounds reasonable, but not easy to do. It will take practice. So, I'm writing this article for the Journal Box talking about what we have done and what we would like to do in the future..

It has been a busy year for the Western Division, many of you have worked long and hard to produce a fantastic National Convention, and were probably glad when it was over, but for some of us the work has not stopped. We are still closing out the Convention and planning for the things that need to be done for the upcoming year.

John Collins, the new Western District Sec/Treas and I are working on updating the Roster of members so that we can better communicate with you as to what is happening in the Division and the Region. So, look forward to some upcoming emails regarding activities in the division..

Last October we had a good meeting hosted by the H.B. Plant Historical Society. The four clinics that were given were very informative. Participation in the meet was not what I consider good, but those of us that were there had a great time.

I hear a lot of people saying they don't go to the meets because they know how to do that, so the clinics don't hold any appeal, so why go? Even if you are knowledgeable in a subject that is being presented, I am sure you can come away with a new idea on how to do something or a new product that you never used before, or where to find a product. Many new ways of doing something don't necessarily come from the clinic, but from the discussions that occur between the clinic and lunch

There wasn't a lot of activity this year in the Division due to the National Convention. We were allowed to hold the Winter Workshop last February at the Citrus Model Railroad Club in Inverness, Florida, and the H.B. Plant Historical Society meet in October. We are working on an aggressive program for the

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upcoming year and will announce new and existing events as they are developed.

If you have any questions regarding the Division and our activities, or have an idea for a new activity, please contact me at JNR@TAMPABAY.RR.COM or phone me at 352-249-6862.

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Zitnik Trains
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H&R Trains
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We are looking into possibly including a list of the Model Railroad Clubs in the Region. On line searching is not yielding good results. IF you are a Club Member or know of a Club in your area, please submit any contact information you may have to Daniel Frolich

Editor Journal Box,
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New Members by Division

NORTHERN DIVISION

Larry Meyer
Greg Parsons
John Morey
Paul Schneider
Steven Holloway
Steven Wease
Fred McGullam
Larry Hiss
Aenchbacher
Family
David Dickens

EASTERN DIVISION

John Bond
Ryan Grider
Steve Leermakers
Rolf Meinert
Gary Roth
Martin Yost
Terry Breese
George Chessum
John DePetrillo
Ron Ruggles
Rick Croteau
Jim Young
Scott Wilson
Chan Wilson
Josh Wilner
William Ward
Ben Wagner
Nick Vinirito
Paul Viau
Doug Tolman
J. Sutton
Richard Sumner
Robert Spencer
Douglas Robbins

Jayden Reid
Lou Reents
Peter Pisano
Doug Peterson
Linda Peebles
Steve Pavignano
Merl Nachtrab
Wolfgang Langer
Paul Kimbrough
Tommy Keyes
Matthew Johnston
Gary Hall
Nathaniel Foster
Bill Fields
Rocky Easter
Mark Drake
Matt Dinger
Hap Aziz

WESTERN DIVISION

John Hively
Robert Lager
Ron Wolfenden
Walter Langston
Ron Mehtala Jr.
Chris Ward
Jack Williams
Julius Zsshau
Michael Zebrowski
Matt Wilshire
Irshass Weston
Paul Ward
Eric Troop
Dave Stockton
Darwin Steger
Stevev Schultz
David Robinson
James Reetes
William Pavela

Clifford Newman
Deto Mueller
Richard Menera
Chris Kofler
Gary Kasper
David Hughes
Larry Hardesty
Paul Griffin
Lester Greenup
Rodney Gallagher
Michele Frank
Rick Christoph
David Brown
Nate Bregenzer
Kirsten Blair
Eric Baxter
Kristen Adams
Jeff Lucas
Ryan Liker
James Carnicelli

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Dennis Lowe
Kathy Kenworthy
Wesley Kenworthy
Don Paulsen
Greg Smith
Gilda Smith
Andrew Crawford
Winston Wells
Paul Tisevich
Heather Lockerbie
John Leemon
Mark Gerwig
John Fleming
Robert Dolfi
Fred Ackermann

Final Departures

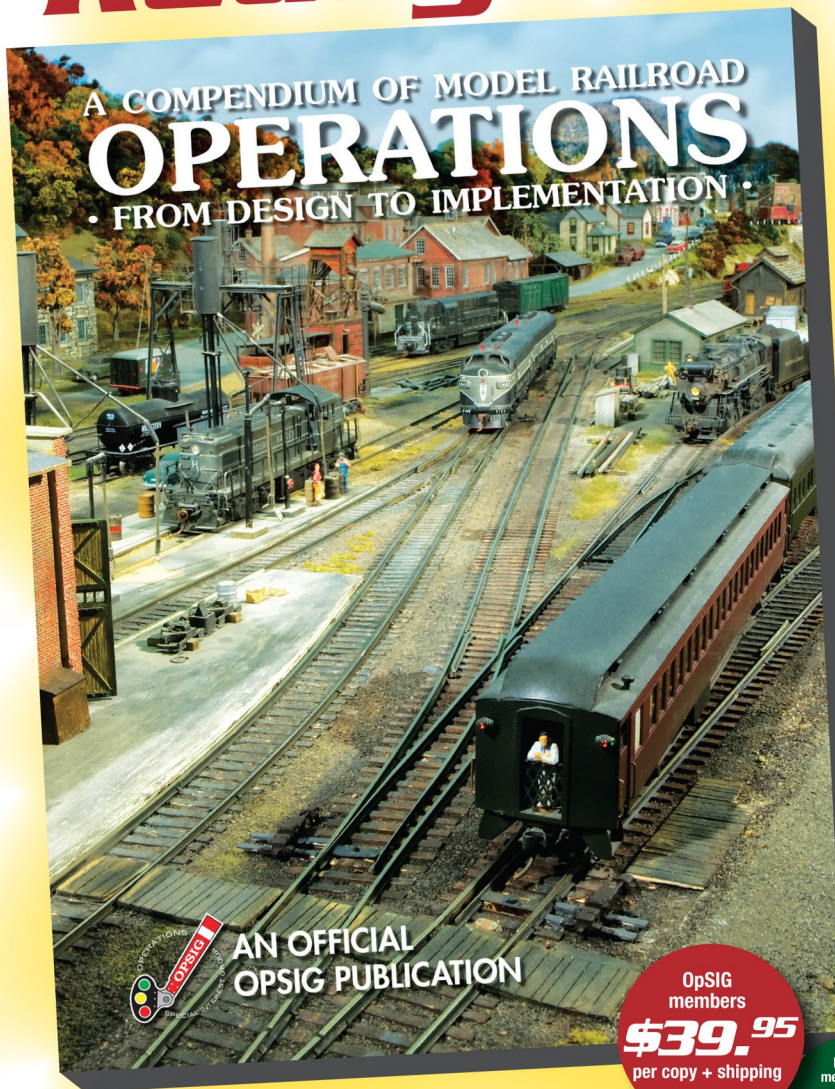
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Robert Stewart

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Carl Hussey
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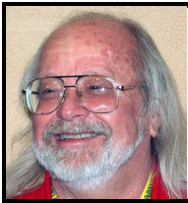
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SKI'S SCRIBBLES

By Jeff Guzowski

Hope you made it to the NMRA 2017 Orlando National Convention Train Show. The National had over 835 registered attendees and 11,241 attendees at the Train Show. I could only make the Train Show for a half a day on Saturday and a full day on Sunday and had a great time. I got to talk to a lot of old and new acquaintances, some I have not seen since Atlanta 2013 and Portland 2015 conventions. Everyone I talked to had a great time, a few complaints, but please remember what it takes to put on a big event like the National because things will happen, oh, and don't forget a hurricane, a small one, but still a hurricane. We missed Broadway Limited not being at the Train Show, hope all is well with them. Thanks goes out to all that made 2017 Orlando a success.

Echoes Train Club from Miami brought their HO modular layout along with 15 members to exhibit at the Train Show. They had 50 modules with a 65' x 50' footprint, with their new 3 track turn back loops (36-38-40' radius's) and (2) 5'6" Tropicana Plant modules with their own staging. The layout had an 18 ft T staging yard, 18 ft classification yard with 28 ft long arrival and departure tracks.

You can find more info and videos of the layout, go to YouTube -Echoes Train Club and FaceBook at ECHOES (all caps, then in small case) East Coast HO Exhibitors Society. Also you can email President Rick Diaz at RickDiaz@ATT.net .

Congratulations go out to Al Sohl MMR for all the rewards he won at the celebration for Models Contest at the National. His 1/24th scale Denver and Rio Grande Way Car (caboose) got 123 pts. out of 125 for best in show Gold Award. First place in the Caboose category, Peoples Choice Award and a Hunter Line Stain Award. His 2nd entry the 1/20th scale, New Mexico Line/Lumber with working breaks got 119 pts out of 125, won 1st Place Scratch Built Freight Category, Judge's Award and the Mt. Alberts (scale lumber) Award. Al's 3rd entry, an O scale Marion Shovel took 1st Place in MOW Category. And Al's last entry, a Victor Scratch Built Gondola, took 3rd Place in the Scratch Built Category.

The next big event for the SSR, will be Prototype Rails(.com) in Cocoa Beach Jan. 4th, 5th and 6th, 2018. Info usually comes out in late October or first of November. Prototype Rails is like a mini National but over 2 ½ days with over 84 clinics, with vendors, layouts, and model displays. You can bring a model to display or get judged for the Achievement Program by some SSR judges. You do not have to be an NMRA member to attend Prototype Rails, so put the dates on your calendar. See my article on 2018 Prototype Rails in this issue.

Our Annual SSR Board meeting will be held Sunday, Jan. 7th, 2018 at Prototype Rail Convention, meeting time will be 9AM in one of the Clinic Rooms, opposite the Vendor room.

Add these dates to your calendar, Sunday, Aug 5th, to Sunday, Aug 12th, 2018 for the NMRA Kansas City National Convention and Train Show. Go to NMRA.org for more details.

Some of this article was written this past September for the Fall issue Journal Box, but there was a delay due to Hurricane Irma, so this is a double issue to include Fall/Winter together.

Happy Holidays to all and hope to see you at Prototype Rails in January.

That's all I have and you can reach me at the contact info below.

Jeff "Ski" Guzowski

JGuzowski@Bellsouth.net

Cell – 954-401-0804

PROTOTYPE RAILS 2018

January 4th to January 7th

The first week of January, means one thing, Road Trip Time, to Cocoa Beach, FL, for the Annual Prototype Rails meet. Mike Brock and his crew put on one of the best meets offered in the United States.

There are over 80 clinics and most clinics repeat themselves. The CLINIC SCHEDULE will be out by the time you are reading this. Check the WEBSITE for a list of clinician and clinic topics. There are 6 clinic tracks running every 1hr 1/2. Thursday CLINICS START AT 7PM TO 11PM AND FRIDAY AND SATURDAY FROM 9am to 10pm. The clinics cover almost every aspect of Model Railroading and Last year we had 263 attendees. Clinicians come in from all over the US because in January they are usually Knee deep in snow. There will be clinicians from Model Railroader, Railroad Model Craftsman, NMRA Magazine, Rapido, Atlas and InterMountain to name a few. **There is no DINNER BANQUET OR OTHER EXTRA FARE ITEMS.** REGISTRATION COST is only \$35 dollars and covers everything at the convention. If you attend the Intermountain Clinics they give you a free \$10 gift Certificate. There are plenty of places close by to eat. We get a special room rate at the Hilton for attendees. (see Flyer for CODE) There is a vendor Hall with Model displays, Vendors (see List on Flyer) FEC NTRAK Layout and Manufacture display.

THIS YEAR YOU CAN BRING MODELS TO BE DISPLAYED AND JUDGED FOR THE NMRA ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM. THE REGION WILL HAVE JUDGES THERE. SEE WEBSITE FOR CLINIC SCHEDULE AND MORE DETAILS. CLINIC SCHEDULE STILL NOT UP AS OF NOVEMBER 25, 2017.

Thanks Ski

Jeff Guzowski

JGuzowski@Bellsouth.net

954-401-0804

Railroad Trivia
Are you as smart as
A Sixth Grader?
Will be back
In the next issue!

PROTOTYPE RAILS 2018

COCOA BEACH, FL, JAN 4-6, 2018

An NMRA Sanctioned Event
A Prototype Modeling Meet Featuring Modular Layouts in O, HO and N Scale
1000 Models on Display—Please Bring Models!

Hotel

COCOA BEACH HILTON OCEANFRONT
1550 N. Atlantic Ave. [Highway A1A], COCOA BEACH, FL.
Phone: 800-526-2609 or 321-799-0003.
Refer to Prototype Rails or Code NMR18 for \$110 Room Rate.
(Parking and internet access complementary)

Registration

Early registration \$35, Please make your check payable to "Prototype Rails" and send to:
Marty Megregian, 480 Gails Way, Merritt Island, FL 32953.

REGISTER EARLY: The cutoff date for early registration is January 1, 2018.
Registration received after that date is \$45.

Over 80 Clinics

Mark Amfahr, Frank Angstead, Mike Boland, Al Brown, Andy Carlson, Jeff Cauthen, Bill Darnaby, Jim Dick, George Eichelberger, Stuart Forsyth, Steve Funaro, Andy Harman, Matt Herman, Steve Hile, Roger Hinman, Charles Hostetler, Tony Koester, Gail Komar, Jim Langston, David Leider, Tom Madden, Carl Marchand, Greg Martin, Marty McGuirk, Marty Megregian, Lance Mindheim, Jim Murrie, Bill Neale, Joe Oates, David Orr, Steve Orth, Jeff Otto, Bob Prehoda, Cinthia Priest, Steve Priest, Bill Schafer, Bill Schaumburg, Bill Schneider, Jim Singer, Bruce Smith, Al Sohl, Mont Switzer, Gil Thomas, Tony Thompson, Bill Welch, Fenton Wells

Organizations, Manufacturers & Dealers, Including:

ACL/SAL Historical Society, Atlas Models, Bob's Photos, Bob the Train Guy, Broadway Limited Imports, DCC Install Sales, 5th Avenue Shops, Funaro & Camerlengo, Intermountain, Jay Williams Photos, John C. La Rue Photos, Mainline Photos, Motrak, Palace Car Co., Rapido, Scale Trains.com, Inc. Southern Car & Foundry, SRHA, Sunshine Region NRMA

The meet begins on Thursday, January 4th, 8 PM with video, slide shows and clinics.

Spouses/Guests not attending presentations do not have to pay registration.

There will be a **Friends of the Freight Car lunch at noon on Saturday at the hotel.**

We are planning a dinner at **Florida's Fresh Grill** on Saturday evening; more on the dinner later.

Meet ends with raffles and door prizes, 10 pm Saturday, Jan. 6th.

For More Information

<http://www.prototype Rails.com>

(We will update the website as information becomes available.)

Contact Mike Brock at: brockm@cfl.rr.com or 4140-453-321

If you want to be added to our email list, please send your email address to
Scott.Dam@comcast.net.

Please provide your name for your badge and guest name for a guest badge. If you would like to provide your contact information to be included on our mailing/e-mail list and for any follow up, please include the additional information with your registration payment:

Name (for YOUR badge); address; phone number; e-mail; Spouse or Guest name (if attending)



NORTHERN DIVISION

RICHARD SEGAL
SUPERINTENDENT

In the last issue Eric Peterson bid us farewell as he and Pat moved to Carmel Indiana to be closer to grandchildren. Most of us suspect that having a large basement again also influenced his decision. The move went well, and looking at the August NMRA magazine, you can see that he left having earned two achievement awards before taking his layout down.

Gil has promoted me to the Northern Division Superintendent to complete Eric's term. I am fortunate to step into the role with a meeting structure in place and a solid core of modelers who have made the Northern Division a good place to be socially as well as supportive of the hobby.

Our division was well represented at the NMRA 2017 National Convention in Orlando. At least seven of our regular attendees were there. Paul Newton displayed his CSX module in the Celebration Room to excellent reviews. The First Coast Model Railroad Society took advantage of the large conventions space to display almost all of it HOn3 modules. It was great to see some of the modules that have been in storage for too long as well as having the opportunity to appreciate the canyon module (displayed at our meeting last year) connected with others and watching trains use both levels.

The next Northern Division meeting will be Saturday, October 28, at Island View Baptist Church in Orange Park starting at 9:30 am (ending about 2:30). Our learning topic will be hand laying track. We will continue the Show and Tell/Tips and Trick sessions which have emerged as high point of every meeting, so bring something to share. We will also hear from people who attended the NMRA 2017 Convention.

A big shout out to the SSR officers and volunteers who made the Orlando convention a good investment in the hobby. Excellent clinics, fantastic tours, engaged operations sessions, and the opportunity to interact with really nice people and excellent modelers.

(originally slated for the Fall Issue. Ed.)

The Northern Division experienced good times and some rough ones in 2017.

On the difficult side was the passing of Steve Reddin after a battle with cancer. Steve was one of the go-to people in the Division for finding and collecting information. We also lost Arthur Ross, assistant superintendent, due to a job change and major increase in work demands. And, in June, Eric Peterson, Superintendent purchased a basement in Carmel, Indiana, to expand his layout and to be closer to grandchildren. As a result new leadership is emerging in the Division.

During the year the Division held three meetings around the NMRA Convention blackout period. In each we were able to find modelers to provide how-to sessions and full-blown clinics. All of these were by members of the Division. Attendance at the meetings averaged 18 NMRA members.

The convention black-out did hinder attendance and participation at the Division level and had no apparent benefit to increasing convention attendance. Asked if the blackout of Division meetings encouraged them to attend the National

Convention, the answer was a resounding "NO." They felt that the purposes were different as was the level of engagement.

Our meetings have become a show place for modelers' work. The non-competitive environment has given members a chance to share their projects without the structure of the AP program or a contest. This has worked well and, as Eric and I predicted, has led to an increased interest in the AP program. While our initial effort to arrange an AP assessment day drew only one response, subsequent conversations with members have shown high interest. We know of at least five members who are working on AP certificates, up from one a year ago, and have had a couple of requests to do merit judging.

The Division made an extensive effort to support Operations this year. We were limited by the availability of layouts near our population center that could handle more than six people. We did have people attend operation sessions outside of their normal circle, but the available sites suggested that this is not an area the Division will keep as priority; instead we will attempt to serve as an information source.

The division also held two railfanning events in Folkston, GA. Both had a dozen or more members attending. In both we had an "expert" provide viewers with information about the trains and what to look and listen for. Members brought radios and computers to take advantage of these information sources.

The Division ended the year with a bank balance of \$963.74. Income came from donations at meetings to cover the rental cost for the event and the sale of materials donated to the division by individuals leaving the hobby. Only one event failed to cover the full cost of the event (\$5 short fall) and that was made up from other meetings.

At the last meeting of the year, the attendees set the calendar for 2018, established a priority for hands-on learning opportunities, expressed the desire to end meetings earlier to allow more layout visits, and agreed to having one meeting outside of the Division's population center (Jacksonville). That meeting will be a joint activity with a club, yet to be determined. Our website posting in January will contain the meeting schedule for the year and locations.

Richard Segal, Northern Division Superintendent

(This was a follow-up story. Ed.)

Northern Division Winter Report

The Division ended programs for the year with a hands-on session on scratch building track. Attendees experienced the



joys and frustrations of building frogs and laying track.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

At the end, members could make an informed choice to gain skills in this specialty or rest assured that they can survive with manufactured pieces. Best of all, the session opened members minds to the possibilities of the Civil Engineering AP Certificate. The instructor, Ken Hoot, offered to bring the jigs to future sessions so an individual could work with the jigs rather than buying them.



Rich Paul describes scratch built structure.

Members shared their experiences at the NMRA Convention in Orlando, both good and bad. The first time attendees expressed frustration of having to learn how to attend while the program was in process resulting in missed opportunities and dealing with second and third choices. This suggested that national needs to have a program on-line well before the convention to help people make the early decisions (they information needs to be available!) and then a session to help them at the convention itself. Some of the clinics received excellent reviews, but some problems left a very bitter impression that may deter members from attending another national convention. The strongest suggestions involved quality control and providing accurate schedules with clinic content matching the presentation.

Rich Paul reported on the experience, and net cost for a club displaying at the National Train Show. The First Coast Model Railroaders had its full complement of modules on display with members present for set-up, two days of showing, and the tear down. The experience was great and they met a lot of wonderful people, but the out of pocket costs for the display was higher than they anticipated when signing up. The lack of compensation for the display became a breaking point in thinking about doing it again.

The meeting concluded with decisions for 2018. The group prioritized hands-on activities, altered the time for the meetings, and requested a layout visit available after each session. While the division membership is heavily concentrated around Jacksonville, the group felt that one of the meetings should be held in another location to foster service to NMRA members.

2018 Meeting Schedule and Topics

January 27th in Orange Park with the basics of soldering as the hands on clinic

March 14th in Alachua County with the North Central Model Railroad Club as the host, topic to be determined

June 23rd in Orange Park with "Invisible Gluing" as the focus topic;

October 13th in Orange Park with the tentative hands on topic "Air brushing."

The division is pleased to note the appointment of John Booth of Saint Johns as the secretary/treasurer.

NMRA – SUNSHINE REGION WESTERN DIVISION 2018 MODEL RAILROAD WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY

CITRUS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

Saturday Feb 24, 2018 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Horticulture Building
Citrus County Fairgrounds
3600 S. Florida Ave
Inverness FL

Admission \$ 15.00

INCLUDES:

Meet & Greet with Coffee & Donuts

4 Clinics

Lunch

Operating Layouts to view

Operation on the Club's HO A&LE LAYOUT

Raffle

CLINICS

9:30 TBA

10:30 TBA

11:30 Lunch

12:30 TBA

1:30 TBA

2:30 Raffle

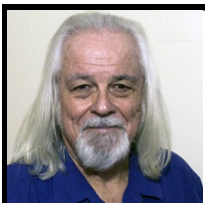
MODELS

Bring a favorite building, diorama, train car, or locomotive for display and to share your model railroading talents with others. If you have a model you want judged for AP Certification let us know so that we can have judges on hand at the workshop,

NON-MEMBERS WELCOME

INFORMATION – PHONE (352) 746-4039

EMAIL: conductor@citrusmodelrrclub.org



EASTERN DIVISION

KEN FARNHAM
SUPERINTENDENT

My name is Ken Farnham and I will be assuming the position of Eastern Division Superintendent for Gene Jameson who will move to the position as Board Member at large for the qualifications of the 501C Corporation. When Gene asked me to assume his position for the remainder of his term, I was grateful to agree. In August 2015 I retired and became more involved with the NMRA to advance the hobby for myself and the enjoyment of others in the hobby. Since early this year I have waited for the official call to duty which was given by our President Gilbert Thomas this month.

Many of you may know me from the 20 years I attended train shows as a vendor. I have since closed the business and now devote my time to the hobby and travels.

I live in Palm Bay FL, a Brevard county town just south of Melbourne. My model railroad is HO Scale with the foot print representing the Florida East Coast Railway in the Brevard County areas. I have been a member for so long in the NMRA that my original membership certificate is not on record with NMRA. Now I am able to participate continually and look forward to more involvement with the NMRA Sunshine Region.

Since my retirement I have joined the Florida East Coast Railway Society who support the history of FEC and current Railroad operations.

The Eastern Division covers more counties than what I expected. From South Volusia, Eastern Lake county, Seminole, Orange, Brevard, Osceola, Eastern Polk County, to Indian River, St. Lucie, and North Martin counties. With over 170 NMRA members spread across these counties the challenge will be to reach out to all in the Eastern Division. If you don't attend or host a regular group or club, and you have a layout that I could visit, please let me know.

With the holidays approaching Beverly and I would like to wish everyone the best of the season. Since I have just assumed this position I have not had a chance to visit members in the area. I know that Prototyperrails will have the annual meet in January 4 – 8, 2018 (<http://prototyperrails.com/>), and I may have a chance to meet you there.

I am looking forward to filling the position of Eastern Division Superintendent of the Sunshine Region of the NMRA. Ken Farnham

e-mail hobbygauge@bellsouth.net.

BOY SCOUT MERIT BADGE PROGRAM

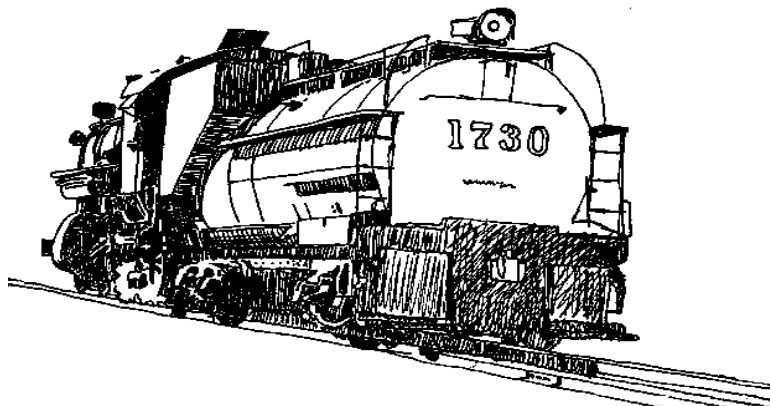
BARRET JOHNSON

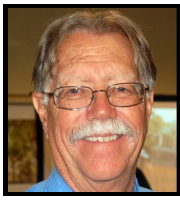
(Editor's Note: I sent an email to Barrett and asked if he could explain the workings of the Merit Badge Program. Having a long history with the Scouting Movement, I thought it might be a way to involve more of our members.)

I am the Vice Chair or the NMRA national Boy Scout RR merit badge committee and the Chair--unless Gilbert has appointed someone else and nobody told me, which I doubt--of the SSR RR merit badge committee. Your question is a simple one that does not have a simple answer. Over the past 10-15 years I have

repeatedly urged SSR members to reach out to Scouting (I am also a past President of the local 14 county Scout Council) with little or no apparent success. Primarily inertia, I think. I have outlined how we teach the RR merit badge here, which is essentially the same way it is taught in the Atlanta area, where NMRA Secretary John Stevens lives, (he is Chair of the NMRA committee) and at National Jamborees. I have also, repeatedly and in writing, offered to share the written material I have developed over the years. No takers. This surprises me in one way because counseling Scouts for the RR merit badge is the easiest way to earn one of the 7 Achievement awards required for MMR. The NMRA member who does this gets credit for every month served and for every Scout counseled. Our Council is based in Tallahassee and serves 9 counties in Florida and the 5 SW counties of Georgia. About 35 years ago another Scoutmaster and I thought up the idea of Winter Camp, which we do between Christmas and New Year's. We did it because some of the merit badges required for Eagle are relatively easy to earn in camp but difficult to earn otherwise. Railroading is not one of those, but it is highly requested so we teach it most of the time.

Our standard format is to require the Scouts to buy the merit badge book. Typically, on a Saturday we will have the Scouts assemble at 1:00, which allows for Saturday morning stuff. We do 10-15 minutes of Q&A to be sure they have read the book, then split them into two groups. While one is learning to operate the Timesaver--a switching layout our local club built on a hollow core door so it is light and easily portable--the other is building and weathering a car from an Athearn blue box kit, although these getting harder to find. I have a stash of several hundred. which helps. It takes about one experienced and PATIENT modeler for every 3 Scouts, as kids these days have never built anything from a kit and most do not know a Phillips from a slotted screwdriver. Sears, Home Depot and Lowe's are very good at donating small screwdriver kits. I furnish the weathering supplies as well as the tools. One thing you learn is NEVER to take a new can of Dulcote to a weathering. A Scout's idea of giving the model a whiff of Dulcote to glue on the rust lasts about 15 seconds so that the Dulcote washes the rust off the car. Then we switch groups. That gives the Scouts something to take home. We give the Scouts info on NMRA and our local club--family dues \$20 a year--and sometimes get a new member out of it. I ask for \$10 a kit as it costs at least that to replace them when I can find unbuilt kits, which is getting harder. Typically, we are finished by about 4 in the afternoon. Our largest RR merit badge class here came from the several local Mormon churches that charter troops and totaled almost 30 Scouts. A more typical class is 10-15. I would think The Villages would be a great place to do this as they have layouts, etc.



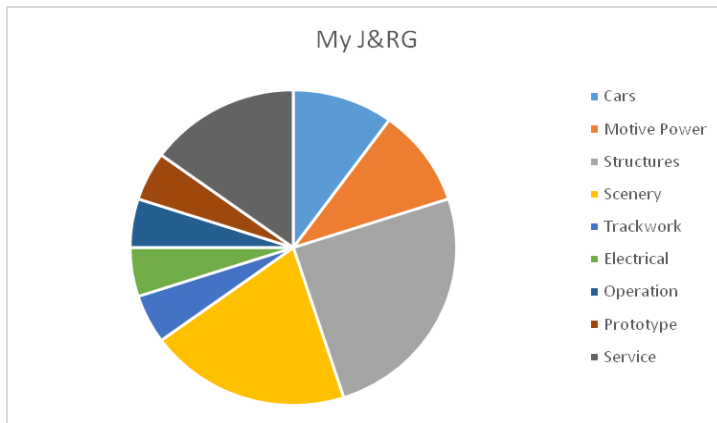


There's A Reason For Everything Thoughts on Prototype Freelancing

Jim Gore MMR

At the recent Orlando national, I gave a clinic where I described my layout, the On30 Jemez & Rio Grande, a fictional line that, based upon a rumor, could have existed but never did. My layout explores the “what if ..” scenario. I don’t think that I said anything particularly earth-shaking but after the convention several people asked me to repeat the message. Indeed several of my colleagues who offered their layouts for layout tours had the unpleasant task of dealing with “rivet counters” who spent most of their visit criticizing the layout from a “prototype” perspective. So ... I have been contemplating a response and offering some of my clinic to all.

First let me say that this is opinion only. You may or may not agree. I say, either way, “Go for it!” What I am about to describe is *my* hobby; unique to me, just as yours is to you. Last time I looked, Webster defined *hobby* as an activity that provides a relaxing respite from the toils and troubles of the day; that is, something that gives you pleasure and restores balance to your world. How much more personal can that be? So, we all have varying degrees of interest and ability in each of the primary areas of model railroading. If we take the lead of the AP program, a pie diagram of *my* hobby looks like this:



I would be willing to bet that every model railroader would have a very different chart. Where they overlap is where we have grand discussions and learn from each other. Where there is not much overlap, one of us walks away mystified! The objective, overall, of the NMRA and its members is to demystify some of those areas. Maybe, since I am a retired professor of biology, whose life was filled with teaching and learning, this aspect of the hobby particularly pleases me. It may also be part of an admonition given to me by my father that I should always respect every person I meet because that person, ultimately, has something to teach me.

I have been noticing many modelers tell the model railroading community that you can't be a *real* model railroader unless you follow a prototype, build a mega-layout (with little or no significant selective compression), and operate it following the *exact* operating protocols of that prototype. So ... you see ... you are reading something from somebody who is not a *real* model railroader. Take that into consideration. My pie chart is way off

from those criteria. Never the less, I am quite happy with *my* hobby and get great enjoyment from model railroading every day. So, we are, at one level or another, model railroaders and few of us have the room [or abilities] to follow the prototype to the rivet. We are on a spectrum from the absolute prototype modeler [like Jack Burgess' *Yosemite Valley Line* or Tony Koester's *Nickel Plate*] to fanciful versions of modeling the world [like George Sellios' *Franklin and South Manchester*] to almost whimsical [like John Allen's *Gorre&Daphetid*]. I think that these model railroaders [and others like them] are those that we admire so I reckon we all fit in that spectrum and we all have a lot to learn and a lot to teach.

Why choose something along the middle of that spectrum and freelance? Because our “pie chart” tells us to make allowances because of restrictions on time, money, room, and the desire to use the hobby to maintain just a bit of sanity in this world! Some of us choose the end of the spectrum towards the freelancing end because it allows us to create a unique and pleasing world. Others follow their favorite prototype, more or less, but don't have the option to create an empire that *duplicates* the prototype. How much we want to dedicate to the prototype is up to us but, in a sense, it also allows us to avoid the rivet counters [but we will never avoid them entirely].

An example: I model a “what if the Chili Line persisted into the 1950's instead of being abandoned in 1941” railroad. I have only one anchor prototype, if you will; the station in Espanola, New Mexico. The rest is a branch line: my version of an imaginary railroad as it might have existed during the first week in October, 1951. I have made up a long history about how the railroad came into being but that's not important. My layout was on a tour some years ago and I knew that I would be hosting many narrow gauge aficionados [some of the most famous in the hobby]. With the exception of one rivet counter, they all enjoyed the layout and complimented my work and asked questions as appropriate. But one fellow came up to me [with nose firmly planted on the ceiling] and said, “You know, the water tower was much farther away from the station in Espanola.” I said, “Really? In 1951?” He said, “Well, the line was abandoned and torn down in 1941.” So, I said, “Really? Here is how it looked in 1951.” He insisted it couldn't have but he couldn't say why. Eventually, I concluded, “Well, it's *my* railroad and that's how it was.” Turns out, he doesn't have a model railroad (never has) but he IS an expert.

That's what I really like about proto-freelancing, management can purchase and use equipment that pleases ownership and never has to justify anything. Now, I admit to my biases on my own railroad: I want it to look like the high desert of New Mexico with the appropriate vegetation (there's that darn biologist in me who has to be satisfied), there has to be a wealth of adobe structures (with chili *ristras* by the door), and rolling stock that should be appropriate to what might have been salvaged when the real D&RGW Santa Fe Division was abandoned in 1941. But every once in a while, the President does something that makes no sense. He loves articulated engines and purchased one for helper service. There's absolutely no reason for the J&RG to have a 2-6-6-2 in New Mexico but it sure looks great! Now, the President also spent some time in South Africa some 20 years ago and saw Garratt locomotives in action ... if I could find one in On30 ... the J&RG would probably add one ! Yes, I know that such additions drive the purists mad but 99% of the time, I operate by myself and I have never criticized the management for their decisions. So, I do follow the prototype, for the most part, and try

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

to give the “feel” of high desert railroading and the New Mexico environment, I grew up in but freelancing also allows me to fudge a little now and then.

Other than the one “water tower” critic, I have shuffled hundreds of people through my layout and have received nothing but compliments, smiles, and “how did you do” To me, that demonstrates that the vast majority of model railroaders are interested in your work not in criticizing your work. I have had a couple of fellows, who grew up in the same town I did, drive over a thousand miles to see my layout just because they wanted to see a little bit of “home” [although nothing is an exact representation]. I suspect that the “rivet counters” are not satisfied with any railroad they have ever visited and that same critical sense has moved them into complete inertia. The easiest thing to say is, “well, my railroad did it this way and, you know what, it sure gives me a lot of pleasure!”

You can even be a MMR and a freelance modeler at the same time! Prototype freelancing gives you the chance to follow prototype when you have to [for those *conformance* points] but the latitude to make things look just a little different. Probably, one of the greatest MMRs, Allen McLelland, is a prototype freelancer. His Virginian & Ohio is world-famous and his “good enough” philosophy yielded a remarkable layout; to the point that there is now a group of devoted followers who created a V&O Historical Society. I will bet that there is at least one “rivet counter” who is looking at somebody’s homage to the V&O and saying, “Well, you know that Allen would have done it differently”



The J&RG bought this 2-6-0 from the RGS (who bought it from Bachman) and use it as a yard-goat. I modified it a little here and there and I think it came out pretty nice! Still has the RGS look but it weathered up pretty well and serves the railroad pretty well (Jim Gore photo).

So ... to the 95% of us who fall on that gradient from absolute prototype to absolute fantasy, try to have a wonderful time in *our* hobby [when time permits] but *always* have a great time in *your* hobby.



Jacksonville 2018

Re: Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Coast Line and Seaboard Air Line Historical Society – Jacksonville, FL February 8th, 9th and 10th, 2018

- Invitation to the CSX Transportation Historical Society and Sunshine Region of the NMRA to attend.

Dear CSXT HS and SSR-NMRA Members,

I am pleased to extend to you an invitation to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Coast Line and Seaboard Air Line Historical Society in Jacksonville, FL on February 8th, 9th and 10th.

We extend this invitation in the spirit of railway camaraderie given our mutual interests in history and modelling railways in the southeast and which were also a part of the CSX family tree. Joining the ACL & SAL HS is not a requirement for you to attend, but we will do our best to sell you on that!

The ACL & SAL HS has had a long tradition of holding an annual meeting in Jacksonville, FL in February coinciding with the annual Saturday only Jacksonville Rail Fair, which is one of the best model train and railroad artifact shows in the southeast. Jacksonville is of course the headquarters of the Atlantic Coast Line from 1960, the Seaboard Coast Line from 1967 and successors Seaboard System and CSX Transportation.

Our “Lines South” quarterly does on occasion dabble in articles on the Seaboard System and CSX Transportation (and even Auto-Train Corp), and has always included Seaboard Coast Line as a part of the core focus since our founding in 1983.

For our event you have the option of a package deal for both the Thursday/Friday presentations along with our Saturday Night Banquet Program, or you can just attend one or the other. You may also make use of our hotel block at the Crowne Plaza.

At this event we will mark the 50th anniversary of the merger of the Atlantic Coast Line and Seaboard Air Line on July 1, 1967 which created the Seaboard Coast Line. Some of our presentations will revolve around that merger, while others will focus on elements of the 50 years since that event. Our banquet speaker’s railroad career spanned most of those 50 years and we hope he will have some interesting comments and insights to share with us.

For our presentations program on Thursday and Friday we hope CSXT HS and SSR members can make some contributions (some from the SSR are already scheduled). The presentations will cover ACL/SAL/SCL/CSXT and modeling topics.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Summary of the Event:

Thursday/Friday:

- All presentations are in the “Capitol Rooms” in the base of Tower 2 at the Crowne.
- Three rooms will be for our presentations program.
- The fourth will be our base for operations: registration and ACL & SAL HS store (note, not all items may be unpacked here, but will be at the show on Saturday). Our board meeting may be held there and if we can afford any refreshments/snacks they will be made available here.

Thursday:

- Registration will begin Thursday about 3:00 PM.
 - o We will have an info pack for all registrants
- At 4:00 PM we will have the first of three presentation sessions for this day (9 presentations to choose from). These should be repeated on Friday for those who cannot make it on Thursday.

Friday:

- At 8:30 AM we will gather in one room for a brief joint welcome.
- At 9:00 AM the first of our seven Friday presentation sessions will begin, for a total of 21 presentations.
- At 10:15 PM we will wrap up with a brief joint meeting to thank everyone for attending and provide any updates for Saturday.
- Overall, for these two days, we hope to have 15 different presentations for you to choose from, with each presented twice. With 10 sessions you could see 10 different presentations! Of course, presentations, presentation totals and repetition may change; we will post updates online as we can.

Saturday - Day:

- The 40th Annual Jacksonville Rail Fair will be held at the Prime F. Osborn, III Convention Center which is 11.6 miles south of the Crowne Plaza on the west side of downtown Jacksonville, less than 20 minutes.
 - o This one-day event runs from about 9 AM to 5 PM.
 - o You are on your own for transportation and admission.
 - o The full ACL & SAL HS store will be at the show.
- The convention center is on the site of Jacksonville Terminal, which was the railway passenger gateway to Florida up to 1974. We encourage all attendees to check out the original head house at the east end, recently restored ACL 4-6-2 Pacific 1504 in the west end of the parking lot and a former Pullman sleeper masquerading as an open platform observation on the northeast side of the center.

- CSX headquarters at 500 Water Street is four long blocks to the east, as is the FEC bridge spanning the St. Johns River.
- Some elect to go to Folkston, GA for train watching part of this day.

Saturday – Night:

- We will begin our Banquet Program with a reception starting at 6:00 PM, followed by our buffet dinner and banquet speaker, Clarence Gooden, President CSX Transportation, retired, March 2017.
- I have known Clarence for most of my 32 ½ year career at CSX. He is an engaging speaker and “saw it all” from the early 1970’s through 2017; it should be an interesting evening!
- After a break we will resume with a presentation by “Uncle” Joe Oates, one of the founders of our society. A long time Seaboard and CSX employee in mechanical (car shops), Joe will present an updated, expanded edition of his presentation on Jacksonville Terminal.
- We will then wrap up with any volunteers who want to show some slides (please volunteer before the banquet – call me).
- We hope to adjourn before last call at the Crowne’s Rainforest Lounge; many us have chatted there well into the early hours of Sunday with such notables as Doug Riddell, “The Doc”, Uncle Joe and others.

Sunday:

- Several members often engage in train watching at Folkston, GA, a 38 mile, 48-minute drive north from the Crowne Plaza. Noted for its 50-60 trains per day and well-arranged viewing platform, Folkston is close enough to see in the morning before an afternoon departure by air or Amtrak, or on your way back north by road.
- There will be no official Society event planned for there at present, but we may have an information table for anyone from the Jacksonville Rail Fair or railfans passing by.

We hope some of your members will partake in all or part of our annual meeting and have an enjoyable time. The Crowne Plaza is just off I-95 by Jacksonville International Airport, and is a 12.7-mile, 20-minute drive from Amtrak’s Jacksonville Clifford Lane station.

Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

W. James (Jim) Langston – JAX 2018 Meeting Chair

Please call me if you have any questions or suggestions - 727-365-4077



ACL & SAL HS Annual Meeting

Jacksonville, FL - February 8th through 10th 2018

Marking the 50th Anniversary of the ACL & SAL Merger
Open to All and members of the ACL & SAL HS, CSX Transportation
HS and Sunshine Region of the NMRA

HOTEL INFORMATION - Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Airport/I95N, 14670 Duval Road, Jacksonville, FL 32218-9429, (I-95 at Airport Road). We have a special room block price of \$119 per night, single or double – call 1-877-559-0015 (Code: “ACL”) to reserve

****THE DEADLINE FOR OUR SPECIAL ROOM PRICE IS TUESDAY JANUARY 9th****

****THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE BANQUET IS FRIDAY JANUARY 19th****

This also includes all-inclusive registration for all presentations and banquet!

We have a capacity limit for the Banquet, registration is first come first served and will determine dining room priority (see web site). We must commit dinner head count shortly after January 19th.

Banquet and all-inclusive registrations after deadline may be accepted on a space available basis.

We will have a special prize drawing for those who meet each of the above deadlines!

New and Improved Program and Format!!!

Up to 15 presentations to choose from (history, prototype, modeling) each presented twice on Thursday thru Friday plus store and expanded traditional Saturday Banquet. Banquet speaker: Clarence

Gooden, President CSX Transportation (retired-2017)

More Details on Other Side and at www.aclsal.org

Event Pricing: *Please register online using PayPal at www.aclsal.org,*
or by mail to: Jim Langston JAX 2018

P.O. Box 16235

Clearwater, FL 33766

Make checks or money orders payable to ACL & SAL HS, or use Visa/MasterCard/Discover:

Card No. _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. date: _____ - _____

3-digit security code on back _____ Signature: _____

YOUR NAME _____

GUEST NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____ Phone (_____) _____

E mail _____

1 - Registration for all presentations and banquet, all-inclusive price: _____ @ \$85.00

1B - Banquet only, for spouse / children of all-inclusive registrant: _____ @ \$55.00

2 - Registration for Thursday/Friday Presentations Only: _____ @ \$30.00

3 - Banquet only, other than spouse / children of full registrants _____ @ \$70.00

All charges are per person Total: \$ _____

Please check affiliation: _____ ACL & SAL HS _____ CSXT HS _____ SSR NMRA _____ Other or None

We must have your contact information to advise you if banquet is sold out

Refunds and refund deadline: Because of advance guarantees we cannot honor refund requests received after Friday, January 19th, 2018.

2018 Meeting Schedule

Details and schedule will be posted at www.aclsal.org and updated as needed with any changes

Thursday and Friday Sessions are in the "Capitol Rooms" in the base of Tower 2

Thursday February 8th - Presentation Sessions - Preliminary Schedule

| Session | Room > | | Montgomery | Atlanta | Columbia | Raleigh |
|---------|---------|----------|------------------------|---------|----------|---------|
| | 3:00 PM | 4:00 PM | Registration and Store | Set Up | | |
| 1 | 4:00 PM | 5:00 PM | Registration and Store | CSX 1 | ACLSAL 1 | SSR 1 |
| Dinner | 5:00 PM | 7:00 PM | On Your Own | | | |
| 2 | 7:00 PM | 8:00 PM | Registration and Store | CSX 2 | ACLSAL 2 | SSR 2 |
| 3 | 8:30 PM | 10:00 PM | Registration and Store | CSX 3 | ACLSAL 3 | SSR 3 |

Friday February 9th - Presentation Sessions - Preliminary Schedule

| Session | Room > | | Montgomery | Atlanta | Columbia | Raleigh |
|---------|----------|----------|------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|
| | 8:30 AM | 9:00 AM | Registration and Store | Joint Welcome | | |
| 4 | 9:00 AM | 10:00 AM | Registration and Store | CSX 4 | ACLSAL 4 | SSR 4 |
| 5 | 10:30 AM | 11:30 AM | Registration and Store | CSX 5 | ACLSAL 5 | SSR 5 |
| Lunch | 11:30 AM | 1:00 PM | On Your Own | | | |
| 6 | 1:00 PM | 2:00 PM | Registration and Store | CSX 6 | ACLSAL 6 | SSR 6 |
| 7 | 2:30 PM | 3:30 PM | Registration and Store | CSX 7 | ACLSAL 7 | SSR 7 |
| 8 | 4:00 PM | 5:00 PM | Board Meeting | CSX 8 | ACLSAL 8 | SSR 8 |
| Dinner | 5:00 PM | 7:00 PM | On Your Own | | | |
| 9 | 7:00 PM | 8:00 PM | Registration and Store | CSX 9 | ACLSAL 9 | SSR 9 |
| 10 | 8:30 PM | 10:00 PM | Closed | CSX 10 | ACLSAL 10 | SSR 10 |
| | 10:15 PM | 10:30 PM | | Joint Wrap up | | |

Saturday February 10th

| | | |
|----------|----------|---|
| 9:00 AM | 5:00 PM | 40th Annual Jacksonville Rail Fair - Prime F. Osborn, III Convention Center - ACL & SAL HS Store Open at the Show |
| 6:00 PM | 6:30 PM | Reception - Cash Bar - Sago Room (and Canary, if needed) |
| 6:30 PM | 7:30 PM | Buffet Dinner - Sago Room - the traditional quality Crowne buffet we all know well |
| 7:30 PM | 8:30 PM | Guest Speaker - Clarence Gooden, Chairman / President CSX Transportation, retired |
| 8:30 PM | 8:45 PM | Break |
| 8:45 PM | 10:00 PM | Joe Oates- Jacksonville Terminal Revisited - Expanded and Remastered |
| 10:00 PM | 11:00 PM | Open for Slides - any volunteers? Call Jim Langston at 727-365-4077 |

Note - Saturday night events are in the Sago Room in the rear block, not the Garden Ballroom as in past years. To save time we will dispense with the old time door prizes but will announce the winners for the registration incentives.

Sunday February 11th

| | | |
|---------|---------|--|
| 9:00 AM | 7:00PM? | Train watching at Folkston, GA - ACL & SAL HS Information Table at Platform from 10 AM through 7:00 PM, perhaps other events |
|---------|---------|--|

Planned Thursday and Friday Presentations (subject to change) include:

ACL/SAL/SCL Oriented: Larry Goolsby: "ACL & SAL passenger Trains mid-60's"; Paul Faulk: "SCL locos and cars"; Jim Langston: "The Florida Special – The Last 10 Seasons (ACL/SCL/Amtrak)"; "Jacksonville Passenger Consists 1968-1970 – Update on Digitizing Project"; Joe Oates: "Night Trains"

CSX Oriented: Ryan Higgins (CSX Director Rockport): "The Bone Valley in the 21st Century"; Doug Riddell (retired SCL/Amtrak engineer): "35 Years From the Cab – Maryland, D.C., Virginia, and the Carolinas"; Gilbert Thomas: "Tropicana Juice Train"; Danny Harmon: "Railfanning CSX in the Southeast"

Modeling Oriented: Paul Newton: "Weathering Scenes and Modern Freight Cars"; Gilbert Thomas: "Spotting Freight Car Eras"; Jim Langston: "Modeling SCL Passenger Cars"; others pending

For Event Information Call Jim Langston at 727-365-4077

10/31/17

SSR WINNERS IN ORLANDO 2017

JUDGED MODEL CONTEST

SCRATCH BUILT CLASS

Freight Cars

1st Place: Al Sohl *New Mexico Log Car*
 4th Place: Ken Farnham *CSX Hot Steel Slab Car*

KIT BUILT CLASS

Non-Revenue

1st Place: Al Sohl *Marion Shovel O Scale*

Caboose

1st Place: Michael Collins *Logging Caboose #1*

Structures

1st Place: Michael Collins *Modified Covered RR Bridge*
 3rd Place: Michael Collins *Mary's Barber Shop*

DIORAMA

1st Place: Paul Newton
HO Scale "Ridgecrest" Modular Layout
 2nd Place: Michael Collins
The Bronx Mott Haven Neighborhood

PASS CONTEST

1st Place: Lewis Harris
Paradise & Enfurnough Railroad Company
 2nd Place: Jim Zientara *Florida Coast Railroad*
 3rd Place: Michael Collins *New York Harbor Railroad*

JUDGED PHOTO CONTEST

B&W Prototype

3rd Place: Michael Collins *Presidential Pullman*

Color Model

2nd Place: Michael Collins *I Remember*

Color Prototype

1st Place: Jon Lolha
Bunch of Old Bags Hanging out at the Station

Chairman's Award

Best Special Effects

Michael Collins *I Remember*

BEST OF SHOW

Jon Lolha
Bunch of Old Bags Hanging out at the Station

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

Favorite Train

1st Place: Carl Smeigh *D&RGW Passenger Train*

Rolling Stock

1st Place: Michael Collins *Private Car-Pennsylvania*

Caboose

1st Place: Al Sohl *DSP&P Way Car*

Photo Match

1st Place: Michael Collins *Western Union Material Car*

2nd Place: Michael Collins *Floating Subway Cars*

Thumbs 1

1st Place: Michael Collins
PanAm Train in a Bag...an Odd Load

Model Print

1st Place: Michael Collins
149th St. Platform-Grand Concourse Subway Station

Proto Print

1st Place: Michael Collins *Bridge Over Icy Waters at Sunset*

A&C GENERAL

1st Place: Dee Bigelow *Waterfall Wallhanging*

3rd Place: Nathan Oxhandler *Train Table Top*

SPECIAL AWARDS

Fun and Games Award Michael Collins

Best use of Figures

Yard Café Sign Repair

Hunterline Award

Al Sohl

Best Wooden Scratch Built Model

Victor Gold Mine Gondola

Mt. Albert Scale Lumber Co. Award Al Sohl

Best Use Of Scale Lumber

New Mexico Lumber Car

National Contest Judge's Award Al Sohl

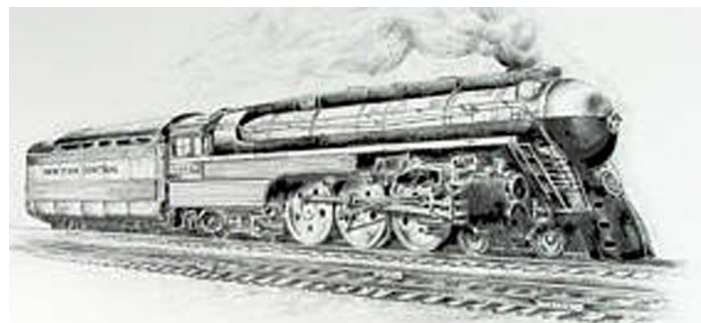
Judge's Choice

Marion Shovel O Scale

GOLD AWARD

Best of Show Al Sohl

DS&P Way Car



It's never too early to tout a good thing, so mark your calendars.

February 24, 2018

The SSR Western Division will have their annual Model Railroad Workshop hosted by the Citrus Model Railroad Club on February 24, 2018.

The workshop registration will start at 9:00am with meet & greet including coffee & donuts.

For those of you who have attended in the past you know to expect great clinics, a fantastic lunch along with a huge raffle followed by a great OP session on the now infamous A&LE layout.

I challenge you to bring a friend who has never attended this event to show them what a great time can be had. Perhaps learning a new technique on how to do what you have been doing for years the old tried & true way. These workshops are a great way to meet new people and make new friend.

So be sure to mark your calendar for **February 24, 2018**

For additional information contact Jim Robertson (352-746-4039)
or email the CMRC at conductor@citrusmodelrrclub.org



This is about the most active season of the year in the Southern Division, and there certainly has been plenty going on.

Members of the South Florida Railway Museum (sfrm.org) held their fall Swap Meet in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Boca Raton in November. The tables were sold out and a lot of goods changed hands that day. This is a pretty ideal location with very reasonable food. Look for their next Swap Meet in February. Work on rebuilding their very large HO layout continues, with substantial recent progress. The museum is located in the Deerfield Beach Amtrak Station and is open to visitors Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons 12 -4 PM. All are welcome, come and meet the members there!

At this time the Palm Beach Model Railroaders (palmbeachmodelrailroaders.org) is in the final stages of getting their immense highly developed HO layout ready for exhibit at the South Florida Fair in the Palm Beach County Fairgrounds on Southern Blvd.. The fair runs from January 12 to Jan. 28, 2018. The layout is located in Building 8. This is a very active group with weekly meetings and bi-monthly running sessions at the fairgrounds. Weekly meetings are on Tuesday evenings starting at 6:30 PM. Work sessions take place most Wed. evenings at the same time. All are welcome. For info check the website.

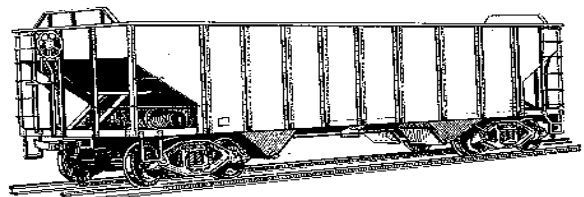
Echoes (East Coast HO Exhibitors Society), an active HO gauge modular layout group, is back safe and sound from setting up and exhibiting their largest modular layout ever at the National Train Show, part of the 2017 NMRA annual convention in Orlando this past August. Rumor has it that they have been

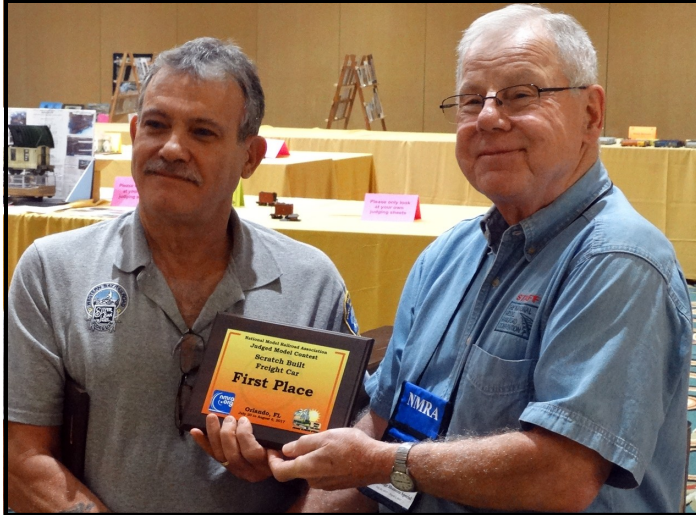
invited to exhibit at the 2018 NMRA convention in Kansas City. ECHOES set up and exhibited running trains at the 2017 Harvest Festival November 18-19 at Tamiami Fairgrounds in Miami. The next running exhibit will be at Pinecrest Gardens Holiday Festival November 17 - 19. The club sets up weekend running sessions from time to time throughout the year, in the vicinity of Perrine / Cutler Bay, south of Miami, open to one and all. See their Facebook page for info.

Florida Citrus Model Train Society (FCMTS.org) also had a Fall Swap Meet on October 14th at the Pembroke Pines Charter School, with similar good traffic and all tables sold out. Next swap meet is Feb. 24th. The group presented 4 large operating layouts as the major part of a lengthy transportation exhibit at the Plantation Historical Museum February 18 to October 7, 2017. The membership greeted many visitors over that time. Right now FCMTS is set up for a holiday model train display at the Southwest Regional Library in Pembroke Pines with 5 operating layouts running from November 25 through January 6, 2018. Polar Express Day is Wednesday December 14th there. Last year this event drew 1,800 kids and their families. The group sets up and exhibits operating layouts in G, O, S, HO, N and Z up to 40 feet in length.

Look for a division meeting in the new year, watch for details.

Gary Hendrickson
Southern Division Superintendent

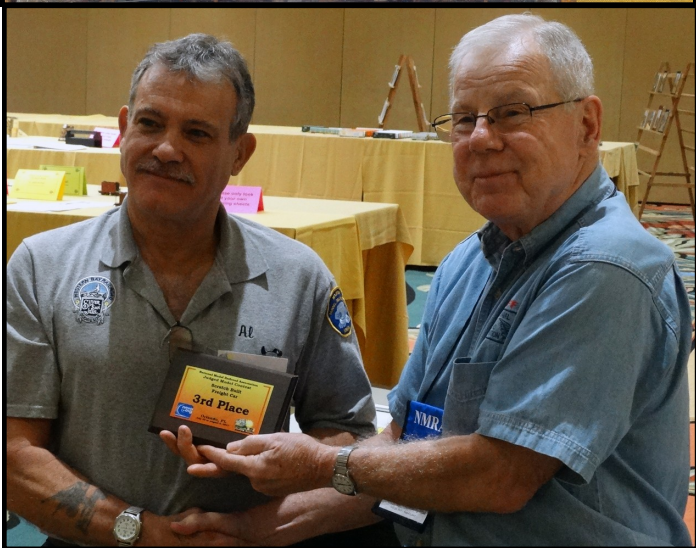




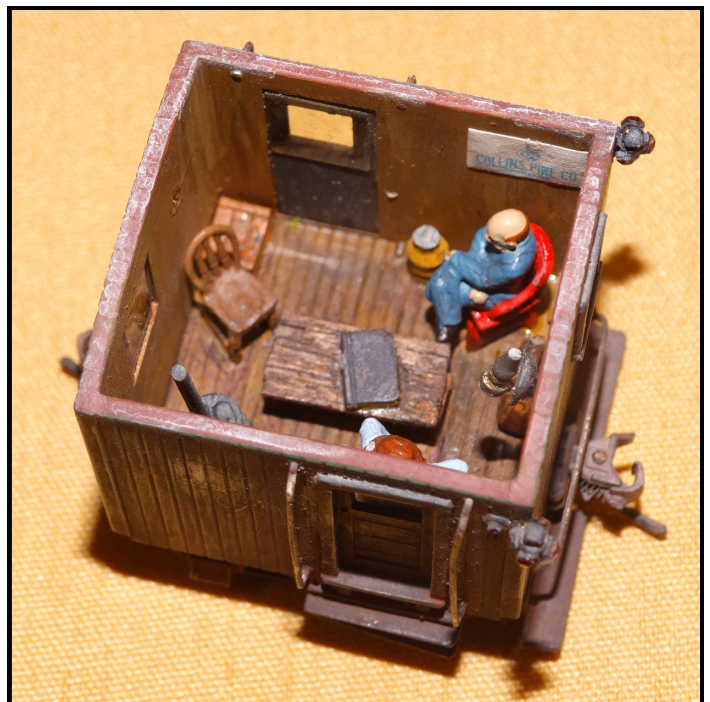
Al Sohl wins First Place with his New Mexico Log Car
Scratch Built Class



Charlie Getz awards Al Sohl with the Gold Award-Best In Show
DSP&P Way Car # 73 Scratch Built Class



Al Sohl takes Third Place with Victor Gold Mine Gondola
Scratch Built Class



Michael Collins won First Place in Caboose Contest
Logging Caboose #1 Kit Built Class

Award Data and photos supplied by Paul Voelker



Michael Collins accepting his award

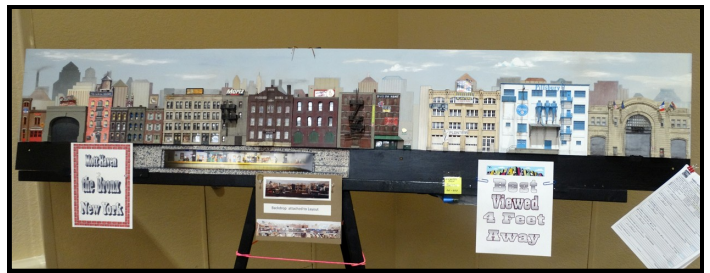


Michael Collins Mary's Barber Shop took 3rd Place in Kits

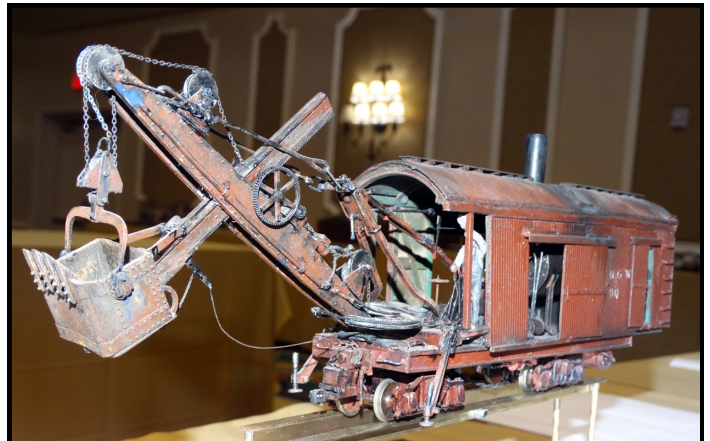


First Place in Structures-Kit built—Modified Covered Barge
Awarded to Micheal Collins

Award Data and photos supplied by Paul Voelker



2nd Place in Dioramas went to Michael Collins



The Marion Shovel in O Scale was awarded First Place
In Kit Built Non-Revenue Class
Al Sohl accepts the Award



Paul Newton grabbed First Place in Dioramas
With his HO Scale "Ridgecrest" modular layout



Thumbz Award goes to Michael Collins for Train in a Bag



Carl Smeigh accept his Award for Favorite Train
In People's Choice Catagory



People's Choice Award—Rolling Stock Award
Went to Michael Collins for his
Private Car— Pennsylvania Overton Observation



2nd Place People's Choice Photo Match Award
Floating Subway Cars by Michael Collins

At right– Michael Collins receives the First Place
People's Choice Award for Photo Match
Western Union Material Car



NMRA PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The NMRA Partnership Program was announced at the October Convention in Orlando, and followed up with a "Special Edition" NMRA eBulletin to all NMRA Members.

The Partnership Program gives manufacturer partners exposure on our dedicated web-page, in return for which the partners will offer NMRA members savings on orders placed with them.

Current Partners include:

- CatzPaw Innovations
- Green Frog Productions
- Jason's Brass Poles
- LARC Products
- Logic Rail Technologies
- Micro-Mark
- MinuteMan Scale Models
- Model Railroad Benchwork
- Modelers Decals and Paint
- Monster Modelworks
- Motrak Models
- MRC
- RR-CirKits
- Rusty Stumps
- Scalecoat Paint
- Scale Model Plans
- Scenery Solutions
- Showcase Miniatures
- Train Installations, LLC
- TeamTrack Models

Trainmasters TV
Unreal Details(Magic Water)
USA Airbrush Products

The Partnership Program webpage can be found at:
<https://www.nmra.org/members/partnership-programor> by logging into the Members Only page of www.nmra.org and clicking on "Benefits" and "NMRA Partnership Program". Please check this page often for new partners and for updated discount codes..

DISCOUNTS AT HOBBY SHOPS,MUSEUMS AND RAILROADS

All across the country, tourist railroads and museums are offering NMRA members discounts. But now, we've begun adding hobby shops who give discounts to NMRA members.

For an up-to-date list visit the Member Discount Program Page at <https://www.nmra.org/members/member-discount-program> or log into www.nmra.org as a member, click on "Benefits" then click on "Member Discount Program".

If you are a hobby sho or know of one that offers discounts to NMRA members, please contact Bob Weinheimer at rmweinheimer@gmail.com

(The above was asked to be included, space permitting, by the Marketing Consultant of the NMRA)



Sunshine Region
National Model Railroad Association
The Journal Box
2526 Carambola Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406



Jon Lohla takes Best In Show
in the
Photo Contest at Orlando
2017
With photo entitled
“Bunch of Old Bags Hanging
Out at the Station”