

## THE ROONEY BIN

*'Joys' of hurricane season: Junk food, storm shutters and broken appliances*

Jackie Rooney

**I**f any event teaches you how to perform on no sleep, it's a hurricane." — David Muir, news anchor

Yikes! Hurricanes are scary. Although the Rooney Bin survived another major meteorological event, this one actually turned my hair white. (Admittedly, it could have been the fact that the storm delayed my monthly color and cut.)

I have a theory. If we spend two days in this heat — a snow storm is beginning to look good — sweating bullets wing-nutting 100 plus heavy metal storm shutters on Bin windows, we'll look silly, but Florida's First Coast will be spared. My spouse the Binmeister calls me Storm Queen. In turn, I call him a wing-nut. A little name calling



Larry Shughart gave Ethan Foster, 6, a close-up view of the trains running on the Atlantic Coast S Gaugers model train layout during the Beaches Museum's Pablo Beach Train Day. [PHOTOS BY JACKIE ROONEY/FOR SHORELINES]

attracted young and old train fans. The club was founded in 1993 as the Beaches Area Model Railroad Club by Richard Paul and Dave Henk. The portable On30 scale layout travels to the DeLand fairgrounds, Volusia County four times a year.

There also was an operating model train in the Florida East Coast Mayport Depot and a static display of historic model trains in the museum's 1903 Post Office. Operation Lifesaver was there to instruct folks about train safety; the volunteer organization travels to events and schools to teach people to be cautious when crossing railroad tracks. The museum's historic chapel featured a screening of Walt Disney's 1956 "The Great Locomotive Chase." Adding to the fun was a display of antique autos and refreshments sold by Boy Scout Troop #37.

**The final word**





Passengers boarded a trackless train for a ride at the Beaches Museum Pablo Beach Train Day.

## Pablo Beach Train Day

Dorian canceled or postponed a few social events

at the Beaches, but it didn't interfere with Riding the Rails: Pablo Beach Train Day at Beaches Museum and History Park. The museum's real 1911 steam locomotive, Florida East Coast Foreman's House and Mayport Depot are always a source of interest. However on Sept. 7, more than 350 "trainiacs" of all ages packed the museum and swarmed the park to see three operating model train layouts, ride a "trackless" train with real steam and whistle sounds, and take part in a "Train Robber" scavenger hunt.

Although he has six or more model trains in his garage at home, Ethan Foster, 6, was fascinated by the layout assembled by the Atlantic Coast S Gaugers. "I do like the model trains," he said.

"It is always our best show for the most children seeing the layout," said Larry Shughart, cofounder of Atlantic Coast S Gaugers. "This year we allowed a few of the kids to operate the trains."

The club takes its portable layout to a number of events each year, including the Southern Division of the Train

Collectors Association at the Morocco Shrine Auditorium coming up Saturday, Nov. 23. In June 2020, they will be at the National Toy Train convention at the Hyatt Regency in Jacksonville.

The spinning "sharknado," a tornado that appears to have sucked up sharks on the layout beach of the First Coast Model Railroad Society,

Upon returning from our hurricane adventure, we were greatly relieved to find little damage, some tree debris and no flooding ... until I did a load of laundry, and the washer flooded the laundry room with a half-inch of sudsy water. Back we went to the store where the Labor Day sale was still in effect. Dorian was a Bin appliance disaster.

"Laughter is like a hurricane, once it reaches a certain point, it becomes self-feeding, self-supporting. You laugh not because the jokes are funny, but because your own condition is funny," said author Stephen King.

Joking about our hurricane experience is a way to relieve stress. We feel fortunate to have escaped the storm's fury, and our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to all who lost property and lives in the storm.

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