

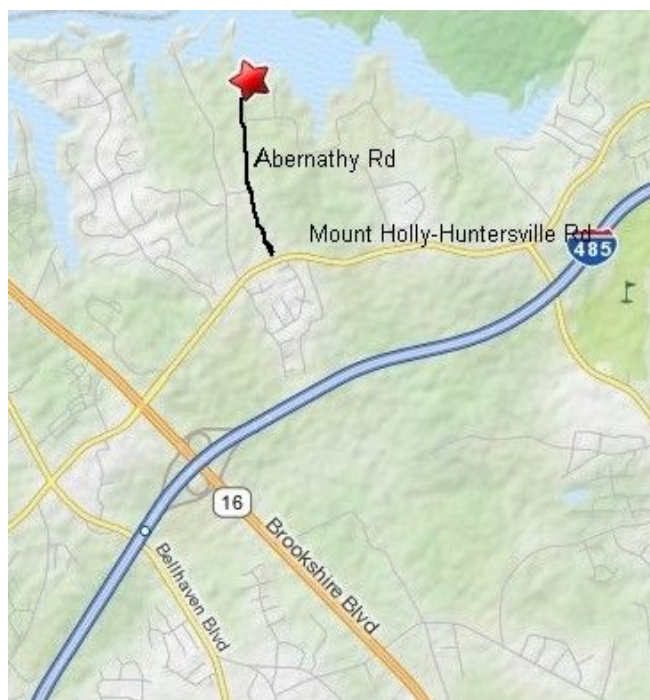


THE BRASS POUNDER

Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Div, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model
Railroad Assoc. Volume 10 Number 3
August 2010

Next Division Meeting

Date: Sat, September 18, 1pm – 6pm
Carolina Southern Division Picnic
Jack Parker's 12012 Abernathy Road, Charlotte



From I485 and the Brookshire Freeway, NC 16,
take NC 16 N to first right, Mount Holly-
Huntersville Rd.
Turn left on Abernathy Rd, go to end. Turn right
onto driveway.

Calendar of Events

September 11 – 12 2010
Great Train Expo
Metrolina Expo Center, Charlotte, NC
<http://www.trainexpoinc.com/index.html>

September 23-26 National NTRAK Gathering
Danville, VA
<http://trainweb.org/nrmrc/2010show/>

Sep 24 – 25 2010
Southeastern States RR Prototype Modelers Meet
236 East Washington Street, Greensboro, NC
<http://www.rpmcarolinasgreensboro.org/>

September 30-Oct 3, 2010
MER Convention
Princeton, NJ
<http://mer.nmra.org/MERConv/MERConv.html>

October 9, 10am – 4pm
Wade's Train Town Open House
Brookford Community Center,
1800 S Center Street, Hickory, NC
<http://CarolinaSouthern.org/brookford.htm>

October 15-17, 2010
**Carolina Southern Division
2nd Annual Rail Ops Weekend**
<http://CarolinaSouthern.org/Ops%20Weekend/Ops%20Weekend%20Main.htm>

October 30, 2010
Carolina Southern Division Train Show
Hickory Grove Methodist Church, Charlotte, NC

November 11 – 21 2010
Southern Christmas Show featuring the Metrolina
"French Broad & Catawba Railroad"
Metrolina Expo Trade Center, Charlotte, NC
http://www.southernshows.com/scs/index.php?show_exhib=1&exhibitor_id=17868&cat_id=all

Superintendent's Corner

Steven P August – Superintendent

Good afternoon fellow Model Railroaders. As I right this column from a very hot and steamy Carolina August day, it seems as though it has been a long time since I came to you last. Although it may seem that way it really has not been that long. However there has been lots of change in the Model Railroading community since my last column. In the coming few paragraphs I will let you read about only a few.

Change 1 – the old “Carolina Southern Division of the Mid Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association” is now gone. On 26 May 2010 we became the “Carolina Southern Division”, Inc. The incorporation of the Carolina Southern Division was completed in the State of North Carolina. There are still some changes yet to come such a new logo for the division. We are still accepting suggestions from anyone who would like to submit one. If you would like to submit a logo suggestion, please send me an email.

Change 2 – The next change is one I am beginning to think is not going to be completed due to delays of every shape and size. We have been working in the background on revamping the website. We have comments of late that have suggested that the website was in need of a facelift. Several months ago I started talking to the webmaster and several others about a new look for the division. We have been working behind the scenes to make this a reality. The new website should be coming online by the end of the month. (I hope!)



Change 3 – The next changes come from the National Model Railroad Association in Chattanooga with regards to a new updated logo and magazine, which will update the NMRA for the next 75 years of the organization. Change is not always something people deal with easily and I have heard many things about the logo change from “I really like it” to “Just who do they think are kidding”. The picture above is a picture of the old logo which is a steam locomotive driver with a coupler on top. The logo shown below is a picture of the new logo which is a wheel on a rail along with NMRA National website NMRA.org shown.



The other change as I am by now sure you have seen is the changing of the magazine from “Scale Rails” to “NMRA Magazine”. This change has not met with as much discord as the changing of the main organizational logo. I for one think that it is always good to change and adapt to new things. Send me your comments about logo changes or write an email to the NMRA Eastern Director or President. I am sure they would welcome your comments good or bad.

**Model Railroaders of the
Carolina Southern Division.**

David Ward

On October 15, 16, and 17th 2010 your Division will be hosting our annual **Rail Operations Weekend** event. This is a very special event for everyone to take part in no matter your skill level or scale you model.

Over the past several years, along with the onset of DCC, the ability to run or operate your trains like the big boys do has come of age allowing for a whole new level of fun in this great hobby.

More than anything I would like to invite, reach out, beg if I have to, to those modelers that are a bit scared or intimidated to come out and operate on a fellow modelers railroad. I can assure you that you are among friends that will be more than happy to show you, work with you to operate on any model railroad. Using DCC equipment these days is easier than ever before.

What is "operations"? Operations to me is a way to take control of a train and simulate the way the big boys run trains. It is a way to escape the daily grind and leave it all behind for a few hours. It is a way to become inspired by seeing what other folks have done up close and personal. It is a great way to meet new friends in this hobby that might just live up the road. It is a small way to give back to this great hobby, too.

Model railroad owners have invested a great deal of time and energy to building a railroad for others to enjoy. After a successful operating session there is great joy when operators thank you for a great time.

That is what many of us do it for. Feedback from folks helps owners improve the railroad for the next operating session. In a simple way we need each other. We all have so much talent to share in this hobby why not share it while running trains together? Agreed? OK, so come on out in October and let's highball!

How can I help you overcome your hesitations and sign up? How about a small "practice" operating session? If I hear from enough folks who would like to try their hand at running trains I will gladly hold a small operating session here a few weeks

before the October event so you can get a feel for what happens at an operating session. It would be my pleasure. I'll hire a dispatcher and have a personal mentor here for everyone to lean on and learn from. Recently a fellow modeler said he was scared of making a mistake operating. Understandable. This past Saturday he operated for the first time in his life on the Charleston Roanoke and Eastern and had such a great time that he has signed up for more operating sessions. Hook, line and sinker! Operating is a train load of fun! I promise it will be for you as well.

OK, so lets go! Take a step with me, let's break some ice and give it a try. You will not be disappointed.

The upcoming event will take better shape over the next few weeks. Keep checking back to the CSD website for updates. I'll try an email to everyone as time goes by.

We have also created a blog to keep everyone current on developments. Check in occasionally at: **<http://csd-railops.blogspot.com>**

This is a fundraiser for the CSD as we need a bit of money to keep events moving along. The 10 bucks is a small price to pay for this many hours of fun.

That is all for now. My goal for this event is to meet a few more modelers and make a few more friends while having a gondola full of fun!. I hope to see you trackside in October.

daviward@windstream.net 980-521-3532

How You Can Help The Carolina Southern Division

Bob Halsey
Assistant Superintendent

Here are two opportunities for you to contribute your efforts to promote model railroading in general and the CS Division in particular:

First, we are looking for a few volunteers to help assemble a 9'x 12' HO layout at the Mooresville HobbyTown Store, using a store-supplied train set, scenery kits & materials, and the platform & lumber. The objectives of this are to get more people (especially younger ones!) interested in the hobby, and do some CS Division recruiting, both of which benefit all of us. The store will order and pay for any other material needed, and will also pay for our lunch on the day we do the job! We are planning to get this done in late October/early November (after RailOps weekend), preferably on a Saturday. If you would like to help, please **contact Bob Halsey at (704) 660-9712 or send email to xnavman@adelphia.net**.

Second, we are looking for a few volunteers (actually, more than a few!) to serve on a committee that will plan and arrange our next Railroad Model University (RMU). This is currently being considered for a Saturday in late January 2011. RMU is one of Carolina Southern Division's most successful events. We are planning to make this event bigger and better than before. However, in order to do this, we need your help.

The task for the new RMU planning committee should be considerably easier, thanks to the efforts of the previous committee chaired by Joe Howard, who also wrote an excellent lessons-learned report with recommendations for the next RMU. Factors to be decided upon include RMU location, duration (all day or half day?), seminar period lengths & subjects, and not least importantly, What About Lunch? If you have been waiting for

a chance to help the CS Division, this is it!! Do not waste any time -- **call Bob Halsey** now (same info as above), because we need to get started by the end of this month if possible. We would like to hold the first meeting before Labor Day weekend.

AP Report for 2010 Through August

Dave Chance

August 9, 2010

AP Chair, Carolina Southern, Division 12

Special Announcement!

Our very own member, Jack Parker entered his first "scratch built" box car in the **NMRA National Contest and received Honorable Mention and a Merit Award** for his efforts. There were at least a dozen other entries in Jack's category, all of exceptional quality. Jack deserves a hearty congratulations from all of us. Congratulations Jack, well done!

In 2009, five CS Division members have earned seven Achievement Program Certificates. This year has not been as good, with only one certificate awarded. We currently have one application in process. I have hopes that this will accelerate before the end of the year.

One award has been earned in 2010:

1. Ed Locklin – Association Volunteer

January, 2010..... first AP award!

We have several members currently working on AP projects. Let me know if you need help with your project, from understanding the requirements to assisting with the paper work or judging for a Merit Award. Send me an email or call me on the phone and we will schedule my help.

loconut@carolina.rr.com 704-933-4200

NMRA 75th Anniversary National Convention, Milwaukee 2010

Milwaukee, Wisconsin -- July 11 – 18, 2010

Dave Chance

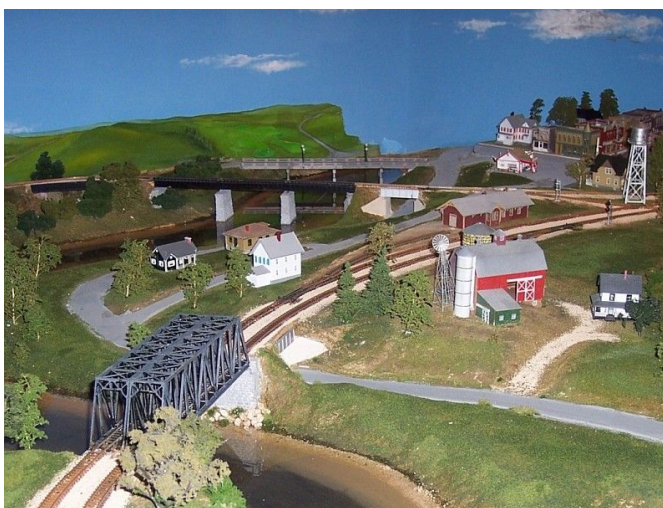
I just returned from Milwaukee, WI, after attending the NMRA National Convention and the National Train Show. Jack Parker, Bob Johnson, and I traveled together by car, which I will talk about in another article later. There were prototype tours, bussed layout tours, and clinics by many different experts, a silent auction, a model railroad contest, a photo contest, and a “My Favorite Train” contest. While I didn’t attend all events, I attended as many as I could fit into my schedule.

We arrived in Milwaukee on Sunday afternoon. After checking into our hotel rooms, we went across the street to the convention to get registered. We said hello to several friends we had met at earlier conventions, always a pleasure. During the Convention, we spoke with Steve August, Larry Lau, David Ward, Dick & Karen Bronson, and later with Roy Becker, all from our Carolina Southern Division. After completing registration and putting on our convention name badges, we went off to several clinics before heading back to the hotel for a good nights rest.

Monday Jack and I went on an all day layout tour. We almost missed the bus! It seems we misunderstood the times and the meeting place. When we finally got to the meeting place, we were informed that they had already left. A very nice lady took us down to the busses in hopes they hadn’t left yet. We just did get there in time to board the bus, whew! We saw nine layouts, from middle size to very large to gigantic to outdoor. (See photos) Most layouts were HO scale, with one N scale, and one G scale (the outdoor layout).



Dennis Blunt Layout



Bob Jarret's Layout

Tuesday was less hectic and we went to many clinics. First though, we had to get Jack’s model entered in the contest room. We got lucky and Bob Hamn, NMRA National Contest Chairman, treated Jack with tender care in getting his model entered and all the forms filled out. We thought we had those forms already filled out the night before. I made sure that Bob knew that this was Jack’s first contest entry. There were already lots of models and photos in the contest room. There were several exceptional models already entered in Jack’s category; it would be a tough contest for Jack. We didn’t stay long because we wanted to attend a clinic that was about to start.

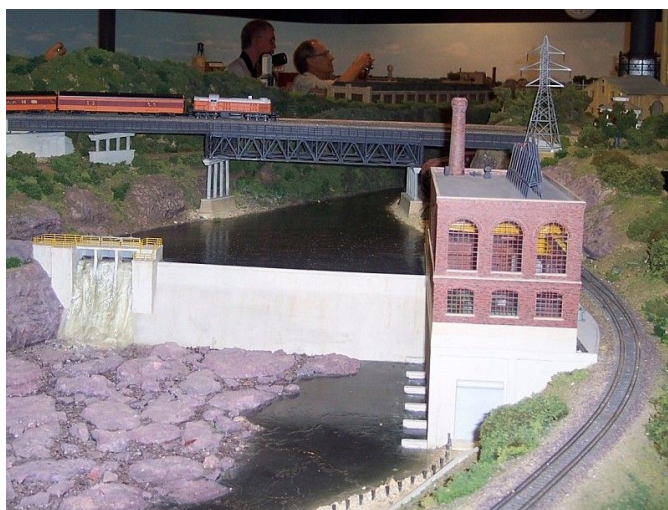
We spent Wednesday morning at the new Walthers Train Store. The new Train Store is much improved and larger than the now defunct “Terminal Hobby Shop”. I visited the Terminal Hobby Shop in 1997 during a tour to Walthers when I attended the National Convention in Madison, Wisconsin. The Train

Store was running a special sale for the NMRA National Convention attendees and boy did we take advantage of it. I bought 2 Proto H10-44 engines for \$20 each, a P2K GP30 for \$25, a P2K GP30 mechanism for \$20, a Proto GP15-1 and a Proto GP38-2 shell for \$10 each, an undecorated high hood P2K GP30 with a QSI DCC and sound decoder for \$100. They were giving away styrene industrial chimneys, so I tried to take only one but they insisted I take four, so I did. After lunch we spent the remainder of the day going to clinics and placing bids on items in the Silent Auction. Lots of model railroad items for auction but I saw very little I was interested in bidding on. This was very unusual for me; I usually bid on most everything! We went by the operation SIG and layout design SIG rooms. We also spent a lot of time in the contest room, looking at all the exceptional entries. I was told by one of the contest room volunteers that there were more than 70 entries this year all high quality models.

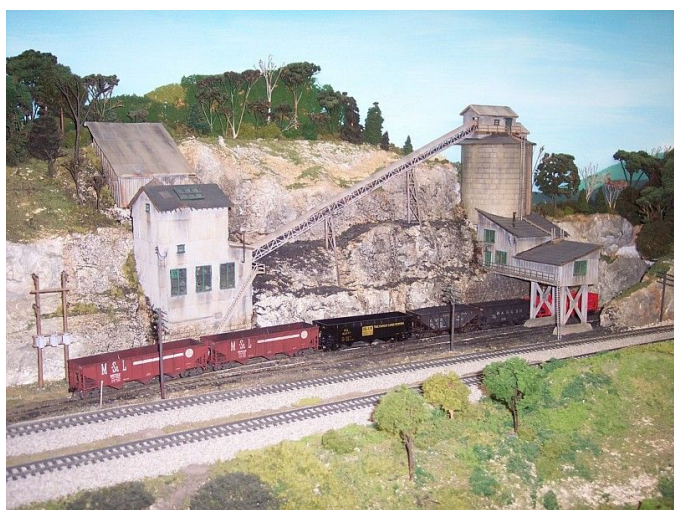
A couple more clinics Thursday morning and then Jack and I each went on different afternoon layout tours. I saw four layouts, two were 22' x 12' HO scale, one was 50' x 75' HO scale, and one was 255 sq. ft. S gauge American Flyer layout. (See photos)



Dennis Blunt Layout



Dennis Blunt Layout



NAPM Layout



Ron Schlict American Flyer Layout

After the tour was over, Jack and I met up and went to the contest room to see how Jack's entry did. He did great! Jack earned his Merit Award and received an Honorable Mention (essentially fourth place out of 13 entries). Yea Jack! Jack put a lot of work in that car, but I bet it was worth the effort. I was so excited for Jack that I can't remember much about the other entries except that there were several

very nice, well detailed structures including a working "Hulett Loader" by Bill Day. A young girl won third place in Display Models with a bandstand in a park complete with band and an audience listening to the music. After the contest room we checked the Silent Auction results to see if we won anything. Neither Jack nor I won anything, but Bob won several items. A few more clinics after dinner then back to the hotel.

We got to the National Train Show just as they opened at 9:00 am on Friday, for the convention registrants and trade only. We had until noon before they let the public in. All of us were like kids in a candy store! I mostly bought laser cut craftsman structure kits and resin craftsman car kits. I think I dropped about \$600 at the train show. There goes my modeling budget for a while!

It was back to the train show on Saturday morning after checking out of the hotel and meeting up with Bob. We stayed at the train show spending even more money until after lunch and then started our trip home. We had some problems fitting everything in the van but we managed.

Would I go again? You can bet on it! I plan to go to the MER Fall convention in Princeton, New Jersey in October this year. The next NMRA conventions will be in Sacramento, California in 2011, Grand Rapids, Michigan in 2012, and Atlanta, Georgia in 2013. Michele and I are already planning to go to the convention in Atlanta, Georgia in 2013, and maybe Grand Rapids in 2012, plus the MER Regional Conventions. Hope to see you there!



NAPM



NAPM

Layouts: (photos by Dave Chance)

NAPM = North American Prototype Modelers. They are in Napierville, Illinois in a large warehouse. The layout is 50 feet by 75 feet, around the walls with many peninsulas, lots of...well, everything!

Ron Schlicht's American Flyer layout is 255 square feet and has over 3200 people, S gauge.

Bob Jarret's N scale "Chicago Great Western/Milwaukee Road" layout is 30 feet by 15 feet with 1950s era.

Dennis Blunt's HO scale "Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha" is 36 feet by 20 feet. Era is 1956.

The Division Brass

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Superintendent | Steve August |
| Asst. Superintendent | Bob Halsey |
| Clerk | Jack Haynes |
| Paymaster | Dick Bronson |
| Director 2010 | Roy Becker |
| Director 2011 | Fred Miller |
| Director 2012 | Jim Rager |
| AP Chairman | Dave Chance |
| Webmaster | Gil Brauch |
| Newsletter Editor | Jack Haynes |

Division Website:
www.carolinasouthern.org

Submissions For Brass Pounder

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Next Issue | Submission Date |
| October 2010 | October 1, 2010 |

Articles are welcome on any railroad topic, model or prototype. Your editor is available to assist in preparing the materials.

Editor: Jack Haynes: jbh108@earthlink.net

704-296-2493

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