



THE BRASS POUNDER

Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Division 12, Mid-Eastern Region,
National Model Railroad Association

Volume 10 Number 4

October 2010

Upcoming Division Events

November 13, 10am – 12 noon

Division Meeting

Wade's Train Town
Brookford Community Center,
1800 S Center Street, Hickory, NC
<http://www.carolinasouthern.org/TrainTown.htm>

Directions:

From US 321 take exit 42 (just south of I40).
Follow NC 127 North 1 mile, turn right at light
onto S Center St.

October 9, 10am – 4pm

Wade's Train Town Open House

Brookford Community Center,
1800 S Center Street, Hickory, NC
<http://www.carolinasouthern.org/TrainTown.htm>

October 15-17, 2010

Carolina Southern Division 2nd Annual Rail Ops Weekend CANCELLED

October 30, 2010 10am - 4pm

Carolina Southern Division Train Show

Hickory Grove Methodist Church
6401 Hickory Grove Road
Charlotte, NC
<http://www.CarolinaSouthern.org/Train%20Show%20General.htm>

Directions:

Take NC 24, WT Harris Blvd, North from
Albemarle Rd, or South from I85. Turn East on
Hickory Grove Rd

Calendar of Events

Sat, November 13, 10am – 4pm

Wade's Train Town Open House

Brookford Community Center,
1800 S Center Street, Hickory, NC
<http://www.carolinasouthern.org/TrainTown.htm>

November 11 – 21 2010

Southern Christmas Show

featuring the Metrolina "French Broad & Catawba
Railroad"

Metrolina Expo Trade Center, Charlotte, NC
www.southernshows.com/scs/

January 22, 2011 8:30-4:00

Carolina Southern Division Railroad Modeling University (RMU)

Northside Baptist Church,
333 Jeremiah Blvd.
Charlotte, NC
<http://www.carolinasouthern.org/RMU%20main.htm>

Website News:

The new redesigned Division website is now
active. Check out the new look at:

www.carolinasouthern.org.

If you have bookmarks or favorites for some
pages on the old site, they may not work or may
provide outdated information.

Please go to the new homepage above and
recreate the links you want.

Layouts in Progress

Bob Halsey

One of the most amazing model railroad layouts in the Carolina Southern Division area takes up the entire basement at the home of David B. Ward in Cabarrus County. The Denver, Boulder & Western is a prototypical HO-scale model of modern-day Union Pacific & BNSF operations on their joint line in Colorado. This layout has been under construction for seven years, and still has several more to go before it is completed! With two major freight yards, two huge staging yards (staging sidings are all at least 20 feet to accommodate numerous unit trains), inter-modal facilities, and many industries, the entire layout is controlled by a dispatcher and utility dispatcher via a computer, NCE DCC system, prototypical operating overhead light signals, a dozen TV cameras at strategic points, and computer-controlled turnouts using JMRI Panel Pro.



David Ward works on the intermodal facility on his modern era DB&W

It takes 10 to 12 crew members (including 3 yardmasters) to operate the DB&W, and they all wear belt-mounted radios with earpiece & microphone headsets, so all communications are via standard voice radio procedures with the dispatcher in Omaha, Nebraska. A typical operating session includes mixed freights, several unit trains (coal, iron ore, limestone, sulfur, ethanol tanks, containers, auto racks, etc., using from two to four diesels per train, sometimes with two helpers at the rear) and on occasion, a passenger train (the 15-car California Zephyr pulled by an A-B-A set)!



Tony Sissons builds some complex trackwork at Denver. Photo backdrops create a sense of place in the Rockies. Traffic flow is controlled by working signals.

All DB&W turnouts are custom-built; all hoppers and gondolas carry “live loads” (pulverized quantities of the actual material) including machine shop shavings and weathered old watch parts as scrap metal loads! The bridges, high wooden trestles, tunnels, and detailed industries all enhance the realism of this fabulous layout!

Another great layout in progress!

By Bob Halsey

Larry Paffrath of Huntersville is a long-time model railroader, having started when he was in second grade and his dad bought him a Lionel set for \$25. While in middle school, he switched to an HO-scale layout using the then-standard DC transformer, wiring, toggle switches, and separate layout blocks. But Larry has been into N-scale for at least 15 years now, and has started construction of his latest, and what will obviously be his best, creation – an N-scale layout of the Norfolk Southern S line from Asheville eastward, including the line from Charlotte north to Statesville.

Larry adapted his plan from the design shown on p.44 of the August 2010 issue of Model Railroader, except that instead of 16'x 16', it will be 10'x 21' so it will fit in one half of his 2-car garage (the other half will actually have a car in it!). The benchwork is essentially complete except for the long rise from Oyama yard (in Hickory) to Asheville yard. Larry's woodworking skills are very evident (he learned from his father and by personal experience) because his structure is both solid & perfectly level, and attractive to look at (see photos)!



The main bus wires are installed, and his next step will be to put down the Styrofoam base. This layout is intended to be run by 5 to 7 crew members: the Charlotte staging yardmaster, Oyama and Asheville yardmasters, a yardmaster to switch all the industries between Charlotte and Statesville, a dispatcher, and two train engineers. There will be approximately 135 feet of main line, minimum 15" radius curves, #5 and #7 turnouts, and code 55 rail. Using code 55 rail means that Larry has had to replace most of the trucks on his older rolling stock to ensure the wheel flanges clear the ties. He will install a Digitrax system covering 4 districts. The layout will have a turning wye in the Statesville area, and a reversing loop. Although the current-day S line is a single-track main line freight operation (with passing sidings) using primarily SD70M diesels, Larry plans to run some limited passenger trains, with stations at various points.



As preparations before starting construction, Larry had to replace the garage doors with insulated ones, add insulation above the ceiling panels, and spread a resin-based coating over the concrete floor. Before commencing operations, he will add some carpeting sections or mats at the yardmaster positions, and have a portable A/C unit, dehumidifier, or space heater depending on the season.

Larry expects to be ready for operations before the 2012 RailOps weekend, and this will certainly be a layout worth visiting!

Railroad Modeling University

by Bob Halsey

Planning for our 5th annual RMU is now well underway. Although we are still awaiting confirmation of the location (expect it to again be at Northside Baptist Church, Charlotte), the official date is now set for January 22, 2011. The major difference from previous RMUs is that, due to popular demand, this time it will be an all-day event! Six seminar periods will start at 9 AM and continue to 4 PM, with a break for lunch. As before, subjects will include the basics for new modelers, and more advanced topics such as weathering, scenery, structures, wiring, detailing kits, scratch-building, DCC, and some electronic applications, etc., applicable to all model scales. The most desired topics will be scheduled for both the morning and afternoon, to allow everyone a chance to attend them.

We would like as many attendees as possible to register via the form that will be on the CSD website starting in November, although we will be able to accept walk-in attendees on the day of the event. The curriculum (including seminar presenters) is still under development, so advance registration (listing attendee seminar selection) won't start until November. Because we are offering twice as much, the admission fee will be \$10 per family.

In addition to attending the seminars, we are going to encourage attendees to bring their favorite model to display (locomotive, car, or structure) whether it is detailed and/or weathered or straight out of the box. This is to show newer modelers the different levels they can aspire to achieve.

So you can look forward to an RMU that is both bigger and better than ever before, and is more interesting and educational!

If you would like to get in on the planning and contribute your ideas and help, then contact Bob Halsey at (704) 660-9712 or at xnavman@adelphia.net. Our next meeting will be held October 21 at 7 PM at Rick Knight's home. Come join us!

The Brass Pounder Volume 10 No 4

Division Picnic

Jack Haynes

The annual Division Picnic was held at Jack Parker's home by Mountain Island Lake on September 18. Thirteen members and three spouses enjoyed Jack's legendary hospitality.



The food was plentiful and delicious. The fellowship was relaxed and enjoyable.



I gave a clinic demonstrating how to make a jig and use it to make brass hand railings. Dave Chance followed with a clinic on the judging guidelines used by judges in NMRA model contests. He showed what factors judges must consider and what gets (or loses) points. There was a lot of discussion about what parts, materials

and techniques could be used to qualify under the various criteria.

Jack had his layout prepared for operation and also had a sort of scavenger hunt prepared. A list of questions was provided that could only be answered by finding specific details on the layout. The tow buildings were crowded with people trying to find the town and industry or other feature listed next on their sheet.

At the end of the day, everyone went home refreshed and satisfied.

A down note to the event was that Jack's wife, Harriet was not there; she was in the hospital with some medical issues. She and Jack are in our thoughts and prayers.

Scanning of the KML photos begins

By Gerry Leone, MMR
NMRA Communications Director

If you're a subscriber to NMRA Magazine (formerly Scale Rails) you've seen the "Timeframes" series of photographs printed on the magazine's last page. Those are all shots taken from the Kalmbach Memorial Library (KML) archives. The fact is, our NMRA Library has over 100,000 images, negatives, slides, plans and drawings, and only a handful have ever been seen by NMRA members because it would have entailed making a personal trip to Headquarters in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to flip through the files.

Soon that will all change, thanks to the NMRA's Diamond Club. The Diamond Club is a fundraiser specifically designed to support adding enhanced content to our website at www.nmra.org. The first item on the list of is scanning those 100,000 images and making them available for download.

The good news is that scanning of the photographs has begun! In August of 2010, Historical Archives Services (HAS), the firm the NMRA Board of Directors hired to do the scans and

design the photo website, began receiving and cataloging shipments of photographs from KML. HAS estimates that the first batch of photographs will be available for viewing online sometime in the first quarter of 2011, after a short period of beta testing late this year.

Putting the entire library online will be a costly, time consuming task, since each photo's listing will also contain highly detailed, searchable metadata, which is being added by the railroad experts at HAS. This detailed metadata will make it easier and faster for users to find exactly the photograph they're looking for. Current plans are to make the low-resolution thumbnails of the photographs available to everyone via the website around the clock. Users will be able to download high-resolution files, and NMRA members will receive a substantial discount. Proceeds from the scans will help fund the remainder of the project and future Diamond Club web projects.

As promising as this sounds, it's important to remember that the Diamond Club still hasn't reached its projected goal of \$75,000. If you haven't contributed to this worthy cause, please send your donation now to:

The Diamond Club, NMRA,
4121 Cromwell Road,
Chattanooga, TN 376421

or do it online at:

www.nmra.org/diamondclub.

Railroading experts at HAS begin the daunting task of scanning the Kalmbach Library's massive collection of photographs, drawings, slides, and plans. The first photos should be available online in early 2011.

Each of the 100,000 photos in the Kalmbach Library must be digitized, and important metadata added to each scan to aid in fast, efficient user searches. It's a time consuming process that will be an invaluable resource to members.

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
December 2010	December 10, 2010

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

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