



THE BRASS POUNDER

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

Volume 14 Number 4

October 2014

Carolina Southern Division Events

CSD Swap Meet and Wade's Train Town Open House

Saturday November 8 10-4

Brookford Town Hall

see below or website at:

www.carolinasouthern.org/TrainShowGeneral.htm

Wade's Train Town Open House

Saturday 11/8 & 12/13 10:00 – 2:00

Restoration Sessions

Monthly 2nd and 4th Thursday 6:30 pm

Brookford Town Hall

www.carolinasouthern.org/TrainTown.htm

Railroad Modeling University Saturday January 17, 2015

Northside Baptist Church

www.carolinasouthern.org/RMUMain.htm

CSD Annual Business Meeting January 31, 2015

Time and Location TBD

MER Regional Convention October 16-19

Hagerstown, MD

www.smdnmra.org/hubcity.html

Calendar of Events

Autumn Rails 2014

Oct 11 10:00 -5 Oct 12 12-3

Fletcher, NC, just outside of Asheville

www.fdr-ntrak.com/train-show/

Piedmont Pilgrimage

Atlanta area tour of 80 Layouts

10-5 Saturday 11-5 Sunday

October 18th through November 29th.

<http://piedmontpilgrimage.com/>

TCA Toy Train Sale

Saturday Nov 22, 2014 10:00-3:00

Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church

1117 South Blvd, Charlotte

<http://www.se-tca.org/charlotteflyer2.htm>

P&W Open House

Sat Dec 6, 1:00-5:00

Jack Parker's

12012 Abernathy Rd, Charlotte

2015 NMRA National Convention

Portland OR

August 23 - August 30, 2015

<http://www.nmra2015portland.org/>

Asheville Model Train Show

WNC Ag Center

Fri Mar 6 12-7 Sat Mar 7 9-5

NC Hwy 280, Airport Rd

Exit 40 off I-26 Fletcher, NC

www.asheville-trainshow.com

CSD Elections for 2015 Board

by Larry Paffrath

According to the CSD bylaws, the election process is starting in the capable hands of the three directors on the current board. Board directors Roy Becker, Gil Brauch, and Jack Haynes are responsible for developing a slate of officers they will nominate to be elected at the CSD Annual Meeting on January 31, 2015.

There will be four board positions to be determined by the members. The superintendent and assistant superintendent positions will need to be elected, since both are currently appointed by the board to fill vacancies created by a resignation of the superintendent. The clerk position will be vacant due to the resignation of the current clerk,

who will serve until the annual meeting. One of the director positions will expire.

If you are interested in running for one of these positions, contact one of the three directors listed above. Contact information for these directors is on our website:

<http://www.carolinasouthern.org/Officers.htm>

A member can also find out the responsibilities of each board member by checking the bylaws (which are on the website at:

<http://www.carolinasouthern.org/images/ByLaws.pdf>

and/or by talking with members that have served on the board in the past. The nominating committee will help you identify and communicate with prior board members.

Meet the officers of the CSD

by Rusty Doss, Asst. Sup.



Larry Paffrath, CSD Superintendent standing by his N scale layout

Welcome back readers of the Brass Pounder to my series Meet the Officers of the Carolina Southern Division. The Carolina Southern Division is a division of the Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association (nmra.org) in and around the Charlotte North Carolina area. In the previous article (Brass Pounder Vol. 14 Number 3 August 2014) I introduced myself to the Brass Pounder readers as the new Assist Superintendent. In this series I'm going to the top! Larry Paffrath, our Division Superintendent has graciously agreed to

give me a few minutes of his time, after our August board meeting. Now don't all get tore up because I call Larry gracious for giving me a few minutes. He is gracious, in everything he does, but here, I was referring to him being gracious, for putting up with me!!! I'm new to interviewing people and if you could hear the audio of our time together, you would completely understand!

After wrapping up the board meeting, I thanked Larry for his time and asked my first question: Larry, most of us have some memory that has stayed with us, throughout our life, of either model trains or actual real railroads, that influenced us, what is your first memory of trains? The smile that crossed Larry's face before he spoke told me, he was about to recall a good one. "My first memory of trains, are steam locomotives pulling freight cars through our hometown in Pennsylvania." I asked what area of Pennsylvania and Larry replied "Freeport PA, along the Allegheny River near Pittsburgh." I followed up and asked "would it have been the ERIE Railroad?" Larry replied that it was the Pennsylvania Railroad. I smiled at that. One of our country's most iconic and historic railroads! And to have been able to see the PRR in all its glory, clouded by coal ash and steam! What a memory to own!

I moved on asking if Larry lived near the rails there? he replied "No, we would go down to watch them come through, with my Dad". So this was rail fanning in the beginning I asked and roughly what year was that, if you don't mind me asking? Larry said "In the 50's, mid 50's."

Big steam engines, mountain railroading

"Okay" I said, "take us from that memory too today and your interest in trains." With this question I received another smile. "Well I got a Lionel when I was in the 2nd grade and I just gave it to my grandsons last year, my two oldest grandsons. And I suppose, seriously, it was about middle school when I started to use my own money to buy kits. I couldn't afford built up cars so I started building kits. I got a 4x8 (layout) in the basement of our house, then from there it was HO for years and then in the 70's I think, I started with N scale and I have been off and on with that ever since." As someone returning to the hobby after many years, I was greatly interested in these kits, so I asked "The kits that you talk about, some body like me, when I think of a kit, I think of Walthers, who were the manufactures of the kits you just mentioned? Larry laughs before replying: "I believe Athearn was in business, Roundhouse." I follow-up with "Were they resin kits?" Resin kits, although I've never assembled one, intimidate me. Larry said they were plastic. You just had to assemble them, all the parts were there.

Knowing Larry was into N scale I had to ask the obvious question that any HO scale guy like me (Update: Since this interview I have had an opportunity to see N scale in action as well as seeing Larry's layout, N scale doesn't look so small anymore), has to ask: What made you go with N scale? Larry says more railroad for the buck and we both laugh as I stretch my hand as far apart as I can and say "and this is a scale mile?" After the laughter, I say, and you're still in N scale today, you have your own N scale layout? Larry said yes and we make plans for me to come by and have a look at it.

Now, knowing that Larry is originally from Pennsylvania, I wanted to know how he ended up in North Carolina. Larry, you are originally from Pennsylvania, when did you come to North

Carolina, I asked. Larry replied that he went to William Mary in Williamsburg VA in his college days, and after both his wife and he retired, they moved to North Carolina. Larry added that they've only been here about 9 years. Trying to find out more about his adult years with model railroading I asked: Were you a member of the NMRA when you came to NC? Larry replied no. He had been a member, off and on, over the years, but he had just let his membership lapse and last time he participated very heavily, was in south east Virginia. Larry added that he lived in Newport News VA for a time. Larry, when you came to North Carolina, I imagine you somehow got hooked up with the CSD, how did that happen? What was your first impression of that group, the local group of NMRA people? Larry replied "I saw the rail-run, the Ops Sessions and I signed up for it, and I was introduced to operating a railroad realistically through that event and just became real interested in that. Over the years I met Rick Knight, he lives near by, I have been a regular at his place and I go to several other railroads in the area too, many N scale and some HO." Wanting to find out more about his thoughts on the CSD and NMRA I asked: What has surprised you the most about working with the CSD since you have been a member of the board? Larry was quick to reply that he thinks that model railroading is alive and well in the whole Charlotte Region, not just Charlotte, not just the Charlotte Metro area, but "hither and yon around" There are some very good modelers in our area. One thing that speaks to that is when Lou Sassi, MMR, was here in Jan (Lou Sassi, MMR, was a Presenter at RMU in Jan 2014 of this year), he went out and photographed four railroads and all four of them were approved for Model Railroader (Magazine). That's the first time that ever happened for him, Larry excitedly adds!

Lou Sassi, MMR is highly recognized as one of our hobby's best of the best modelers and speakers. I wanted to hold off asking about Lou until later in the interview, but I just could not wait!

What was it like being around Lou I asked? Larry said Lou is very personable, they have actually talked three or four times since then and his wife was with him in January, and they both

enjoyed the visit, he is really, a regular guy. That he was very willing to share the hobby with him and with others as well. Larry said after having an opportunity to watch Lou work, that Lou is also very focused when he is working. While here in Jan 2014 for RMU, Larry had an opportunity to observe Lou photographing the layouts they visited, Larry remembered "he was very focused, he wasn't easily distracted from what he was doing and how he wanted to depict the railroad that he was photographing." Larry said this was what he most remembered about his time with Lou Sassi, MMR.

When someone's name is used in 'print' and they have earned the title of Master Model Railroader (MMR) by the National Model Railroad Association, they have the privilege of having "MMR" appended to the end of the name...

This seemed like a great time to ask a related question: Larry, tell me about some of the people that you have met, while working with the CSD, Lou Sassi, MMR, being one of them, is there anyone else that sticks out in your mind? Members, attendees or speakers of RMU or someone that just walked in out of the blue to operate trains? Larry says he has met all the presenters that have been guest at RMU, he then smiles as says "Rick Knight, probably was the first one that I met, that was seriously involved, he started RMU and got me involved with working with it and the division as well. And the people that are over at his place every Monday night. Bob Halsey, the past Superintendent of CSD and Jack Parker, MMR, is a, Jack is just a great fellow and has been very helpful every year and any time I've called him, to talk with him about doing a presentation, he has done it. I was really interested in Scott Teague presenting to us last year, Scott is not a member of NMRA, but he is an outstanding model railroader. He had a lot of reluctance to do a public talk, but we were successful in talking him into it. Fred Miller, MMR, Fred is a spectacular model railroader and is always inspiring when he does his presentation."

What is RMU? Railroad Model University is a place to discover the fun of model railroading. Master Model Railroaders and other talented model railroaders conduct clinics (short classes) and hold demonstrations (lab work) about the various aspects of model railroading. The mission is simple: To provide a venue where modelers, from beginners to experts, are introduced to new concepts and techniques, which will assist them in taking their layouts and models to a higher level, and fellow modelers who will become friends and mentors. Check the CSD website for more information about the yearly held RMU!!!

I mentioned that the caliber of people goes back to Larry talking about how many great people and how active the hobby is, in this area. However I had to ask what I had been hearing from some people. "Larry it is interesting, you said earlier that in your opinion, our hobby is growing, I've talked with some people that say model railroading seems to be waning, I take it, that you do not agree?" One thing about Larry, he has a great smile and it usually foretells a great memory or something funny, in this case, the latter: "I would start by saying that, I think it is becoming a hobby for guys like myself with white hair. (we both get a good laugh from that) But at the same time, just this last weekend, Gil Brauch and I setup in Chantilly with our N scale modules, at a huge show, Greenburg Train Show and that Northern Virginia Amtrak Club did fantastic job, they had televised coverage of the thing. On a Sunday afternoon I couldn't believe how many young families were there with their kids. We were on edge, there was only three of us working our modules and we were on edge, all afternoon trying to keep the kid's hands off the trains! (good laugh and another big smile from Larry) There were so many of them, it was, I had never seen anything like it. I think the interest is out there, it is just a matter of the model railroading establishment trying to tie into it.

Now I think our Superintendent nailed that answer and we all should spend time thinking about how to do just that! I was reminded of a conversation I had earlier in the year and wanted to share it with Larry. But it would have to wait, I

enjoyed where we were at in this interview and plunged ahead. "That's a great point and brings me to my next question: What do you find most challenging about being the Superintendent of the CSD? Larry laughs as he says: Most challenging? Membership. It has been waning and I think we need to be designing activities that will interest people and give them reason/s to belong. I couldn't help but to think, that's some heavy thinking right there. We all should spend some time thinking about this...

Larry you mentioned earlier that the hobby is big on guys with white hair like us, but then you saw a strong turn out of young families with kids at the Greenburg Train Show, it reminded me of a conversation I had earlier in the year. I was a guest operator for Metrolina Model Railroaders during the Streamliners Event at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer. While talking with one of their members, he mentioned that he felt, that bringing young people into the hobby, was the most important thing we could do. We discussed how most layouts have signs posted saying " DO NOT TOUCH" everywhere, he mentioned that on his former club's layout, they had created an area with signs that said "TOUCH THIS". It was model train cars and track, set up where kids could touch it and play with it. With that in mind, do you have any ideas how we could bring some youth into the hobby? I was hoping for a good answer here from Larry and honestly, the one he gave, knocked it out of the park!! "Well the only way, that we have to do it, is getting out there at all the train events, to make contact with them and get them interested. With the N scale group that I'm in, the Central Carolinas N Scalers, we have a built in way, because we are out there at the shows, during the year. I wish we had more members that weren't working so hard and could travel more with us. But, we are kind of limited, most of our member's work, and can not travel. I think being out there, that gives us more opportunities with the young people. I couldn't do anything but shake my head in agreement! Larry went on to say "One of the problems we have here is, we have so many people from different parts of the country, they are coming here with different experiences in model railroading. Some are coming from where Divisions have a place where

they go to run trains and we don't have that," "Like a club layout" I add. Yes Larry responds, we are split up into a lot of small club groups. Sometimes we will have them ask us where is the club layout? And we have to refer them to someone's home layout. When Larry had finished, I couldn't help but wonder, if someone shouldn't look into a club layout... back to the interview.

Larry if someone walked up to you and said "I love model trains and prototypical railroading, tell me why I should join the National Model Railroad Association", what would you say to them? Larry was quick here: "Well, that's the same argument I use with those that want to leave the NMRA" and he laughs!! I point to the standards for model railroading. To me, it's worth belonging to this national organization, just to support their working toward standards for each scale. I just had that same discussion recently with a guy who is a non-member, he wants to argue about reasons not to join, he is giving me all these fluff reasons and I just point to his layout. I said there it is, right there, HO scale. That scale is regulated by the NMRA and that is reason enough. With that, you will receive publications and can attend conventions where you can learn, ten local events within our division alone each year, we offer a wealth of opportunity for people to learn. I have to admit what Larry outlines is hard to argue with.

With time running away from us, I start to close the interview by asking: What do you do, when you are not operating trains and what other hobbies do you have? Again the smile. Larry says he has been a golfer all his life, but he has not played in over a year. He had a series of operations in the last two years and lost interest in it. Golf and Model railroading are both rough on the budgets he says and we both get a good loud laugh on that one!!

Larry, what can you tell me about yourself that someone might be surprised to know?

Our Superintendent is a quiet person by nature, this question gives him pause to think. I'm sure he is not comfortable answering. "I don't know, I don't know what they may be interested in" Larry replies. Roy Becker who is standing close by helps Larry out when I prompt him for a

suggestion and says photographer. This shouldn't surprise me. But I do ask if he was an amateur or professional? Larry gives up that he did sell quite a bit of his material.

Photography was a second career for Larry and he specialized in landscapes and architecture. I have a lot of model railroad pictures, real railroads pictures as well he says, we all laughed!!

And with that last laugh, we wrap up our time together. I leave with the impression that the Carolina Southern Division is in the very capable hands of a talented, experienced and caring man, who will do whatever the task requires, during his time as "Super" with the Carolina Southern Division. Thank you Larry for giving our readers some insight into you!



One of Larry's most popular shots

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**Carolina Southern Divisions
Swap Meet and Open House**
by Gil Brauch

We are once again sponsoring a celebration of National Model Railroading Month with a Train Show and Swap Meet in conjunction with our monthly open house at Wade's Train Town. The details are as follows:

Date: November 8, 2014
Time: 10 am until 2 pm
Location: Wade's Train Town
Brookford Community Center
1700 South Center Street
Hickory, NC

Swap Meet tables are available for **NMRA members only** (no dealers, please). Tables are free, but we request that you reserve one using the form on the website so we can plan the room setup. There will also be a CSD White Elephant Table available for members who would like to bring only one or two items to the swap meet.



The **CAROLINA SOUTHERN DIVISION**



of the
National Model Railroad Association

proudly celebrates National Model Railroading Month with our annual

Model



Railroad

Swap Meet & Open House

featuring

W a d e ' s T r a i n T o w n

along with

**Dozens of tables of model
railroading "goodies" in all
scales and all modeling eras
(Member tables only – No dealers)**

Saturday, November 8, 2014

10 am until 2 pm

Brookford Community Center

1700 S Center Street

Hickory, NC

Visit <http://carolinasouthern.org/TrainShowGeneral.htm> for more details.



RMU Extension Resistor Wheelsets September 20, 2014

by Jack Haynes

Dick Bronson presented a hands-on session for Division members on making wheelsets that create a path for low current between the rails. By sizing the resistor and other elements, the current draw can be made sufficient to trigger detection circuits without overloading the track power supply. This provides occupancy detection for signalling systems even when the block is occupied only by rolling stock, no locomotives.



Dick started with an overview of the process

First, Dick discussed various wheelsets and issues they presented in installing resistors and compatibility with sideframes. Athearn, for example are often plastic wheels with steel axles and are not suitable because the plastic wheels won't provide conductivity to the rail. Intermountain are very good because the wheels are machined, blackened brass with brass axles and one side insulated. Some blackening used on wheels is non-conductive and has to be cleaned off. If your car has plastic sideframes, it is best to use metal axles while metal sideframes call for plastic axles. This reduces friction between like materials.

Materials needed starts with the resistors. Dick's method uses Surface Mount (SMD) resistors. These are small (very!!) square blocks (~ 0.1") with small metal tabs on each side for connections. Dick had a strip of 10K resistors used in machines that attach SMD's to printed circuit boards. He cut of a couple of feet for each of us to use on our cars. There are about 6 resistors per inch on the strip.

Other materials include:

Conductive Paint GC Electronics 23 is best

Resistive Paint:

MG Chemical 838-340G (Carbon)

GC Electronics nickel paint

Wire wheel (for Dremel) to buff off any coating

Rubberized CA adhesive – IC 2000 Tire Glue (from model airplane shops) to attach resistor to wheel/axle.

Quick Dry Nail Glue (Sally Beauty Supply)

Bare Conductive Electro Paint (Radio Shack)

Brush-on Nail Glue (CA adhesive) Sally Beauty Supply)

First be sure that the wheelset is in gauge using an NMRA gauge and wheels are equidistant from axle points. Once resistor is installed, trying to change gauge will probably break the connections.

For wheelsets with a non-conducting black coating, use a wire brush in a Dremel to polish off the coating where the resistor will contact the wheel and axle and the wheel tread so it has good contact with the rails.



For wheelsets with an insulating collar between the wheel and axle, the gap should be filled with CA.



CA is applied to fill gap between axle and wheel

The Tire Glue is used to attach the resistor with the metal tabs near the wheel and axle. The glue **MUST** fill the space under the resistor so that at the next step, no conductive paint can seep under the resistor and create a short circuit.



A drop of "Tire Glue" holds the resistor in position.

Using tweezers, place the resistor on the Tire Glue so that the tabs on the resistor are close to the wheel and axle. Press and move the resistor around a bit so that the glue makes contact with back of the resistor completely, leaving no gap under the resistor.

After the Tire Glue has a chance to set up a bit, a thin coat of Conductive Paint is used to connect one tab on the resistor to the wheel and the other tab to the axle. After the conductive glue sets, check the resistance between the wheels with a meter. You should get just about 10K. If you get more, let the paint dry some more, its conductivity increases as it dries and shrinks (the conducting particles get closer together). If it is still too high, try adding a bit more paint. If you get less than 10K, look for a trail of paint along side the resistor, providing a path around it. Scrape off any you find.

Install the wheelset in your car, keeping all the insulated wheels on the same side of the car. If you have six wheel trucks (passenger cars), you may have to install two resistor wheelsets in the same truck to be sure at least one of them is in contact with the rails all the time.

For metal wheels with plastic axles, you can use this technique and paint a strip of conducting paint across the axle to the other wheel, or use resistance paint to paint a strip between the two wheels. Getting the right resistance may be tricky, but more paint can be added or some can be scraped off to make the strip narrower to raise or lower the resistance.

Thanks to Dick for helping us all make a couple of conducting wheelsets and preparing us with the skills (and about 200 resistors) to equip our fleet of rolling stock.

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Carolina Southern Division
Annual Picnic 2014
 by Rusty Doss, Asst. Sup.

WOW what a great day! If you missed this year's Annual CSD Picnic, you missed a real treat!

As mentioned in the latest edition of the Brass Pounder and CSD's Superintendent Larry Paffrath's email on September 17th, 2014, when Lou Sassi, MMR, presented in January 2014, he toured four local layouts and photographed them for possible submission in Model Railroader magazine. Larry announced that all four of the layouts had been accepted for publication!! The Carolina Southern Division has been trying to arrange visits to all four railroads exclusively for our members. Seth

Gartner and Jack Parker, MMR hosted the first of those visits before and after the picnic. Members were invited to Seth Gartner's New York Central RR, Piney Fork Branch at 11am with the picnic starting at 1:00pm and operations on the P&W Built by Jack Parker to follow afterwards.

Members were prompt at Seth's door, I can only imagine that like me, they had heard what a visually appealing railroad awaited them and were anxious to see it! And yea, we were not disappointed!



PICS BY FNGFASHA PRODUCTIONS/YOUT

Dave Chance and his wonderful wife, Michele arrived and began to judge several items that Seth had paperwork prepared for, for submission to the Achievement Program.



Fred Miller (left) could not wait to start running trains while Tim Rumph looks on.

When I heard that Seth's railroad would be open, I could not wait. I had heard that the two things I needed to see were the steel mill and his trees. Seth has a great reputation within the CSD

community for his trees and scenery. I was blown away!!



Lauren Steel Mill's. Gray building (on left) is open hearth furnace and brown building (on right) is blast furnace. Materials Transfer Vehicle is on trestle, scratch built by Seth.



Bob Halsey (Past Speriintendent CSD) is talking railroads and steel mills with these attentive young railroaders! Look at those hands move!!!

As the morning turned into afternoon, many, many people accepted the invitation to come over for a visit.



Looking South of Dillonvale, OH, we see an example of Seth's wonderful work.

Minerva, OH was Seth's home town and he remembers riding his bike all around the yard and riding with the engineers on locomotives. It was the start of his railroad back in 2000.



Engine fueling facility within Minerva yard.



The Minerva farm scene was created to fill the turn back. Seth couldn't find a good barn like those in Ohio, so he scratched it. Seth wanted a dying field of corn for autumn. The field with hay bales is removable to get to the underside of the steel mill and south staging yard above it.



Pig farm leaving town to the north of Minerva, going into Bergholz, OH, which was on a moderate climbing grade. Engineer friend of Seth's on the line, said if you weren't in notch 8 by the time you passed the pigs you wouldn't pull the hill with a loaded coal train. So naturally, Seth placed a small farm scene there.

It was a lot of fun operating on the New York Central RR, Piney Fork Branch, but timetables must be adhered too and before we knew it, our timetable said we needed to be at Mr. Parker's house for the Annual Picnic. Now let me just say this, the picnic is always great, but I don't think anyone wanted to leave Seth's house. Everything about his Railroad, lighting, scenery, how it is laid out, is awesome and I can see why it had been accepted for publication in Model Railroader Magazine.

As always the Picnic is a great time! Who doesn't like to eat and talk about trains?! This year was no different and the weather was AWESOME! Sunny with mild temperatures and what a turnout we had!



Everyone was encouraged to bring a lawn chair and a dish to share.

Anytime someone makes a plan, that ask people to attend, there is always anxiety. You plan, and send invites and hope that the weather will be nice and people will show up. The CSD Picnic is no different, but we never have to worry if people will show up. Mr. Jack Parker, MMR is the host of the event and has been for a number of years. No matter your skill level or years in the hobby, you will find yourself drawn to Mr. Parker.



As you can see, attendance for the picnic was great!

Morgan and Troy were the cooks again this year and prepared BBQ Chicken and Pulled Pork. The rest of us were asked to bring at least one side dish and from the looks of the food tables, it looked like some brought two! The picnic is a wonderful event that allows members to come together from all areas the CSD covers. Some drove from Waxhaw and Laurinburg NC, but all do try and attend the picnic. Its just a good time.



Morgan Feldon (blue shirt with towel) & Troy Cross (looking at Morgan) were the cooks.

Once food was served and everyone had at least one plate, I, with the help of two young men, Andrew Husein and his buddy Kaleb, started the process of raffling tickets for three hard covered books. These books are part of the now The Brass Pounder Volume 14 No 4

deactivated Larry Lau Lending Library. I had researched 11 or so books, of those, three were identified as being sold for \$100, some were selling for more than that. So we did a raffle for these three books and sat out the rest to sell for \$5 each. Members could buy raffle tickets for \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. The first winning ticket holder got their choice of the three books, second winning ticket holder, got choice of the two left and well, the last ticket holder got the last book. Everyone seemed happy and we raised well over \$110.00 for the CSD operating budget. According to the Super, that's the most ever raised at an event, so thank you to all that purchased tickets and books!!!



Many members could be seen grabbing second helpings of the delicious food that was provided.

Once again this year, Angie Husein with Queen City Pastry provided some fine deserts, find them online at www.queencitypastry.com or call: 704-660-5706.

Once we all had our fill, Mr. Parker announced that he and some of the members of the P&W were going to prepare the railroad for operations and anyone who would like a tour or to operate on the railroad were welcomed to head over in about 20 minutes. We all continued to swap stories and share ideas on modeling techniques until the 20 or so minutes had passed and then headed over. The one thing that Mr. Parker loves, is to see other people running trains on his layout, it gives him joy that is indescribable. This day was no different.



John Shefte (P&W Mbr) and Kaleb running a coal train into Oak Hill on the P&W.



Me and Andrew "bending the iron" preparing to depart Ashford on the P&W

the Picnic, without you, the CSD would not be as active as it is, so Thank You!! I would also like to thank Seth Gartner for opening his home and railroad for us to visit and get inspiration from, Great Job Seth!! Morgan and Troy, AWESOME JOB on the food gentlemen!!



And to Mr. Jack Parker, MMR, I, like many others, feel blessed to be in your company, thank you for all you do Sir!!!

In closing, as the Assistant Superintendent of the Carolina Southern Division, I want to personally thank all those members that came to

Railroad Modeling University

by Rusty Doss

Our next big event will be Railroad Model University, January 17, 2015. It will be held once again at Northside Baptist Church. We hope to have all Presenters confirmed by mid October or sooner and start promoting the event soon thereafter and signing people up for classes by November 1st. This is your event, so if you would like to present a topic, offer suggestions for a topic or mention someone you think would be a good presenter, contact Larry Paffrath at Superintendent@carolinasouthern.org

or call at 704-778-2745

or me at assistsuper@carolinasouthern.org

or call at 704-919-9791.

Robin Fry has been confirmed as the featured speaker, Robin was the Performance Coordinator for Ringling Brothers Circus and will talk about his career and time spent living on the Circus Train. Start making plans to attend now.

The Carolina Southern Division is in "Notch 8" getting ready for Railroad Model University 2015!

We have several Presenters confirmed, so mark January 17, 2015 on your calendar now so you will be able to attend. Then check the Carolina Southern Division website often for updates and the start of registration

<http://www.carolinasouthern.org/RMUmain.htm>

Presenters confirmed for this year are:

Jack Parker, MMR	Fred Miller, MMR
Neal Anderson	Rick Beam
Dick Beck	Roy Becker
Gil Brauch	Dick Bronson
Ty Brown	Alan Burdick
Michele Chance	Seth Gartner
Jack Haynes	Marcus Neubacher
Bob Wessmiller	

Topics for RMU sessions have included scenery, trackwork, weathering, electricity, DCC, operations, ...

The popular Train Doctor desk will return again this year.

We are still looking for anyone with experience in advertising and 3-D printing. If you or a family member have this experience and are willing to present or help with the advertising of RMU, please contact Larry Paffrath or myself. Our contact information is below.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to seeing you at RMU!!!

NC Rail Run 2014

By Rusty Doss, Assistant Superintendent, CSD
assistsuper@carolinasouther.org

What is NC Railrun? That is exactly what I wanted to know and I planned to find out over the Labor Day Holiday weekend this year. So after speaking with Marcus Neubacher, the Chairman of this year's event, this is what I discovered. NC RailRun began in 2006 under Mid-Eastern Region sponsorship. It was MER-sponsored until 2011, when one of the organizers of the event suggested that the Carolina Southern Division get involved due to the concentration of operating layouts around Charlotte. At that time, there were actually two operations events being held at roughly the same time, so it seemed logical to merge the efforts to create one event. Under the Carolina Southern banner in 2011 and 2012, the event was hosted much the same as it is now. The principal differences were that the CSD was able to handle online registration and website promotion of the event, whereas those functions were done independently by a registrar in the years that it was not being run through the CSD.

OpSIG and the NMRA are not completely separate groups. The OpSIG is a part of the NMRA as one of its Special Interest Groups, for people who focus on the operations part of the hobby. The OpSIG itself cannot sponsor events such as this, but its members can organize the events with the support and sponsorship of the NMRA. OpSIG is a group within the NMRA, that

has a special interest in prototypical operations of layouts, much like the Layout Design SIG's focus is on layout design.

The 2014 event was held Friday August 29 through Sunday August 31, 2014 and covered the Raleigh, Greensboro, Hickory and Charlotte areas of North Carolina. On each of these days, events were scheduled for morning sessions, afternoon sessions and all day sessions, in both the eastern and western parts of the area. The idea is to give participant operators of NC Railrun a chance to operate on many different layouts over the three days, in four to six hour operating sessions, thereby sampling many different layouts or all day events that were designed to give operators in-depth sessions on a few layouts.

Two of the layouts that I operate on regularly were scheduled for Friday and Saturday and since both of them were HO Scale, I worked my way into an N Scale layout on Sunday. Each layout had something the other two did not.

Hats off to all the owner's, regular crews and visitors who made NC Railrun a huge success again this year and allowed me to help, hinder or interlope. This three day weekend had me running all over the place, but it was well worth it. I saw three different railroad layouts, operated three different ways, some with clocks, some without. Dispatchers on telephones, dispatchers with two-way radios and no Dispatcher!!!! Car cards, switch list, steam engines and diesel locomotives, but most of all, what I saw at all three railroads,

was not the differences, but the one common thing:
fun

Look for articles in the next issues on my
Railrun experiences at these three layouts:

Chessie System: Thomas Subdivision, 1980's,
Andrew Stitt

P&W Built by Jack Parker

CR&E Railway, Marcus Neubacher

The Division Brass

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Submissions For Brass Pounder

Next Issue Submission Date
 January 2015 December 20, 2014

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

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