



# THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 15 Number 5

November – December 2015

## Coming Events

(See CSD Website for  
further details)

**Open House at  
JackParker's  
Piedmont & Western  
December 5, 1-5 PM**

Next big event...

## RAILROAD MODELING UNIVERSITY

- Become a Better Modeler
- Get answers to your questions
- Meet other "Train Nuts"
- Classes for all skill levels

**JANUARY 23, 2016  
CHRIST THE KING  
13501 S. TRYON ST  
CHARLOTTE, NC  
28278  
9:00 – 1:00**

**DETAILS,  
REGISTRATION ON:**

**Division  
Website:  
www.carolina  
southern.org**

## Superintendent's Corner

By Jack Haynes

RMU has a new home. Thanks to Doug Algire, the RMU Dean this year, we have Christ The King church available for the 2016 RMU on January 23, 2016. It is located on S Tryon St in the Steele Creek area of Charlotte. Doug is working out the day's schedule now. So mark your calendars and watch the Division web site for details on clinics available and registration.

We currently plan to have the Annual Business Meeting in the afternoon after the RMU either at the church or at a nearby restaurant. That will save people an extra trip. A formal announcement and notice will be sent out later before the meeting.

The Directors are putting together their proposed slate of nominations for Division officers next year. All officers and one Director position are up for election at the Annual Meeting. Please consider serving the Division in some capacity and contact one of the Directors to let them know you are interested. Other nominations can be made at the meeting, of course, but it helps if the Directors know they have all the positions covered.

Division activities slow down a little during the holiday season. Jack Parker's Piedmont & Western will have its annual Open House December 5, from 1 to 5. Bring the kids to see a great model railroad.

Set up your trains around the tree and enjoy them with the family through the holidays. See you next year.

## Editor's Notes

By Fred Miller, MMR

Happy Holidays and Happy Model Railroad Month from your **Brass Pounder** editor. The months of October and November have been chock-full of model railroading activities for our Division. In October we of course had the CSD sponsored semi-annual North Carolina Rail Ops Run followed by a





**Joe Silien's world, right hand side**

populated with industrial areas, downtown areas, quaint little towns, and farmland, all in Hi-Rail O-Gauge. He runs Amtrak passenger trains and freight trains, and intermittently, a cute little trolley!



**View of the center of Joe's layout, showing the controls**



**Joe's world, left hand side**



**Back view of center section**



**An Amtrak Superliner rounds a curve**

TRAIN NO.	FROM	TO	DUE	WILL RECEIVE
107	Savannah	Atlanta	11:05	OT
	"Nancy Hanks II"			AM
18	Cincinnati	Jacksonville	12:30	1:15
	Flamingo			PM
17	Jacksonville	Cincinnati	3:20	OT
	Flamingo			PM
108	Atlanta	Savannah	8:05	OT
	"Nancy Hanks II"			PM

1-2-62

**Joe keeps his railroad on time with this schedule board**

Next, we visited Frank de Paola's delightful N scale layout. Before the move to Carolina Lakes, Frank had a massive layout that took up most of his basement. When he downsized, he contented himself with a charming little railroad that nestles in one corner of his garage.



**Frank de Paola's miniature world**



**Another view of Frank's work**

Finally, we climbed back into our cars and made a caravan to Tom Hoot's house. The first thing one notices at Tom's place is the spectacular backdrops, hand painted by a very talented friend of Tom's.

Also, Tom has incorporated favorite places from his past locations into the layout. Sometimes they are finished (like the vineyard) and sometimes he has a cardboard "placeholder" to remind himself that he wants to put something in a certain spot (like his Alma mater, Tamalpais High School.)



**A trestle carries the trains past a lovely waterfall**



**Three trestles span the river here. Note the gorgeous hand painted backdrop, complete with a suspension bridge**

Tom's scenery is amazing. The rock work looks so real that you would swear Tom has simply glued in real rocks. His trees segue nicely into the trees painted by his friend.



**A small town by the railroad tracks**



***This vineyard is actually part of the painted backdrop!***



***Placeholders tell us of features that Tom plans to add to his layout later***

All in all, this was a totally delightful trip! The Carolina Lakes members were friendly, the lunch was well timed, and the visits to the layouts gave me lots of new ideas for my future layout. Many thanks to the Carolina Lakes Rail Road Club!



**Wade's Train World - Brookford, NC**  
 --by Nancy Campbell

Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> held a special treat for members and friends of the Carolinas Southern Division of the NMRA – our annual swap meet held at Wade's Train World near Hickory, NC.

The day began with a Board Meeting to discuss the upcoming elections, the calendar for 2016, and final plans for the RMU to be held at Christ the King Church, 13501 South Tryon Street in Charlotte (28278) on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.

Then the swap meet began, and there were bargains galore – locomotives for \$50, hoppers for \$2 - \$3 each, and coffee-table-worthy books (with \$49.99 original price tags) for \$10 each.



***Jack Parker, MMR, displays swap items for P & W***

Simultaneous with the swap was the main event – the monthly Open House for Wade's Train World. The “Wade” here is Wade W. Warren. Back in the 1980s, Wade asked his wife for a train set for Christmas, something he had yearned for as a boy, but his family could not afford it. He had so much fun setting that train up that when he retired in the mid-1980s he began to expand his miniature world full time. Soon Wade's empire grew enough that it was



***The downtown area***

moved to the Brookford Community Center, where a generation of children watched, fascinated, as he hand-painted figurines, crafted tiny trees, and built structures for his layout. Wade worked on his empire right up

until his death in 1995. His family has graciously allowed the layout to stay in the Brookford Center, where it can be enjoyed by the community every second Saturday, 10 AM-2PM.

Wade's Train World is divided into neighborhoods. The downtown area features office buildings, fast food, shops, some construction, even a burning building. Wade really had a sense of humor – the burning building is the IRS office!



*Suburbia*



*Farmland*

The farmland area has a roadside produce stand, barns and silos, a greenhouse, vegetable gardens, and – a nice touch on a model railroad layout – a raised ramp to load cattle bound for the stock yards, with a stock car on the siding. These farmers are green conscious, too. Notice the windmill!

Wade obviously had fun with this project. Many of his businesses have local names, like the Bo Peep Grill, Bill and Ray's

Grocery, Hair of Hickory, Abernethy's Garage, Shuford Mills #3, and Ann Brittain's



*Industrial area*

School of Dance. He frequently used incidents in the news, too, like when he added Tonya Harding to his skating rink after all the controversy surrounding her.

Wade died in 1995, and for several years the layout went unattended, gathering dust. Then, a group of model railroad fans from the Carolinas Southern Division of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) headed up by Gil Brauch, adopted it. They spent hundreds of hours renovating and cleaning and rewiring the layout to modernize it, and now Gil Brauch coordinates volunteers to keep the display open every second Saturday so everyone can enjoy Wade's work.

“Before” pictures fill one wall of the room, and newspaper clippings about Wade's Train World adorn another. There is a trolley diorama crafted by Fred Miller, MMR, as well as a Christmas display and examples of handmade trees.

**Division Website:**  
[www.carolinasouthern.org](http://www.carolinasouthern.org)



*Fred Miller's Trolley Diorama*



*The layout fills the entire third-grade classroom at the old elementary school. This is the right hand side.*

The finished product is an 18 foot by 24 foot layout with more than 280 buildings and, according to Wade as quoted in a newspaper article, more than 3,100 figures of people and animals. Jack didn't believe in having the people just sitting around. On his layout, they are skating, running, buying produce at the farmer's market – doing real activities like in real life.



*Overview of the left hand side of the layout.*

The level of detail in Wade's Train World is fantastic. In the downtown areas of the layout, the streets are paved; in the farm areas, the roads are gravel. The tiny marquee's on the movie theaters are advertising actual movies. The trolley stops at each trolley stop, waits 15 seconds, then continues. I think I could visit five times, and see something different every time!

There is a good deal of animation of the layout, too. In the amusement park alone, there are several different moving features – a working Ferris wheel, the carousel, the rising tower, and another ride.



### Visit to Lionel Headquarters By Andrew Stitt

On October 17, 2016, the Carolina Southern Division sponsored a visit to the world headquarters of Lionel. Lionel, who is famous for manufacturing model trains for 115 years graciously agreed to host our event with guided tours of their facility. Over 30 pre-registrations were received. On the



day of the tour, our contact, Roger Musser, and his co-workers divided our attendees into two groups to better provide everyone with a personal feel to the tour. Tour stops included their sales offices where they shared information about the other main part of Lionel's business model – diecast

replicas of NASCAR racing cars, and the main conference room which had a large



display depicting all of the components that makes up a single locomotive. This was followed up with a visit to their product testing area where members of the tour groups were encouraged to test out Lionel's newly developed personal command system. Following a walk through their archive room, and shipping department, the tour concluded by walking through their promotions and marketing area on the way to their onsite company store where members of the tour were offered discounts on merchandise sales.



Shipping Warehouse

We are thankful to Mr. Musser, and his co-workers for taking some of their own time that Saturday to give our attendees from Raleigh to Spartanburg the opportunity to see how the trains that formed the

foundation for many of us to enter into the hobby of model railroading are made and sold.



Archives



Testing Layout



Mr. Haynes, Mr. Musser & Mr. Stitt



# Southern Christmas Show - Charlotte

November 11 - 22, 2015

THE PARK EXPO AND CONFERENCE CENTER  
CHARLOTTE, NC

By Fred Miller

The Christmas Show is one of the hallmarks of the season in Charlotte. And one part of that show is the wonderful train exhibit put on by Metrolina Model Railroaders Club.

The Metrolina Model Railroaders Club is a group of modelers that built, maintain and have lots of fun operating a modular (and somewhat portable) HO Scale model railroad layout. They are modeling the fictitious "French Broad and Catawba Railroad" which is set in the Piedmont, NC area during the mid-1950's.

MMRC has been active for over 30 years in the Charlotte, NC area. The two primary events where the Metrolina Model Railroaders Club showcase the layout are the "Southern Christmas Show" held in November in Charlotte, N.C. and the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden "Holiday Lights at The Garden" presentation held in December in Belmont, NC.

A group of Carolina Southern Div members lend assistance in the operation of the layout. Yours truly puts in three days each year and finds it a great opportunity to not only run trains but to watch the visitors, especially the kids.

**Division Website:**  
[www.carolinasouthern.org](http://www.carolinasouthern.org)





### Submissions For Brass Pounder

Next Issue      Submission Date  
 Jan 2016      December 31, 2015

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

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