

THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 16 Number 5

September-October 2016

Division Coming Events

(See CSD
Website for
further details)

Oct 15, 2016
Division Monthly
event:
Mini-Op Session
(See Alan's
comments to the
right)

Other Events

Oct 20 - 23, 2016
Tracks to the
Triangle – MER
2016 Convention
Durham, NC

January 21, 2017
Annual Railroad
Modelers Univ
(RMU)
Christ the King
Lutheran Church
13501 South
Tryon Street,
Charlotte, NC
28278.

Superintendent's Corner

By Alan Hardee

In the May Superintendents Corner, I wrote about thinking beyond the layout and using the NMRA to reach out to new ideas and friends. Even the division is looking beyond its borders to check interest of fellow NMRA members in counties currently not associated with any divisions. We have great outreach opportunities in our Division. In the last month, we have used Wades Train Town and the North Carolina Transportation Museum at Spencer to spread the word about our division and activities to new members. The Division conducted mini clinics at the Spencer train show so visitors could watch, ask questions, and learn about the upcoming RMU. The clinics included building a set of modules, laying cork, track, basic wiring. Thanks to Rick Beam and Ty Brown for demonstrating TWO methods of making trees.

September and October are looking to be fun months for our members. The annual CSD picnic will be September 17th at Jack Parkers. The picnic always provides great food, fellowship with friends, and fun operating on Jacks layout. (Ed Note: see coverage in this issue) Plans are underway to have a few mini operating sessions for our meeting on October 15th. Please contact me at superintendent@carolinasouthern.org

if you would like to have your layout on the schedule for a session. The big event for October will be the MER Convention in Durham on Oct. 20-23. This event is hosted by our friends in Division 13. Some activities are selling out fast so go to mer2016.org to register today.

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Editor's Notes

By Fred Miller, MMR

The summer is over – signaled by our Annual Division Picnic – so now it's time to buckle down to some serious model railroading.

We've got some mini-operating sessions for our next CSD monthly meeting. And the big event coming up is of course the Mid-Eastern Region Annual convention in Durham.

NMRA Conventions are great places to learn, meet and have fun. Granted the National, scheduled in various parts of the country, is a bit expensive but our Regional convention offers a smaller, less expensive alternative. And this year the convention is really close – Durham, NC. Take a look at details elsewhere in this newsletter.

And it is not too early to early to start thinking about our very own Railroad Modelers University (RMU) now scheduled for January.



Operations

By Alan Hardee
Photos by Alan Hardee

I recently had the opportunity to visit Andrew Stitt's Ma & Pa layout for an operating session. It was a fun and relaxing no pressure session which was great for me since I was the rookie operator. My job was running the switcher at Glatfelter Paper. The day started with me picking up the inbound cars from the

interchange track. I spotted the loaded pulpwood racks and woodchip hoppers at their unloading spots and returned the empties to the interchange. Next up on the switch list was the paper mills power plant. I



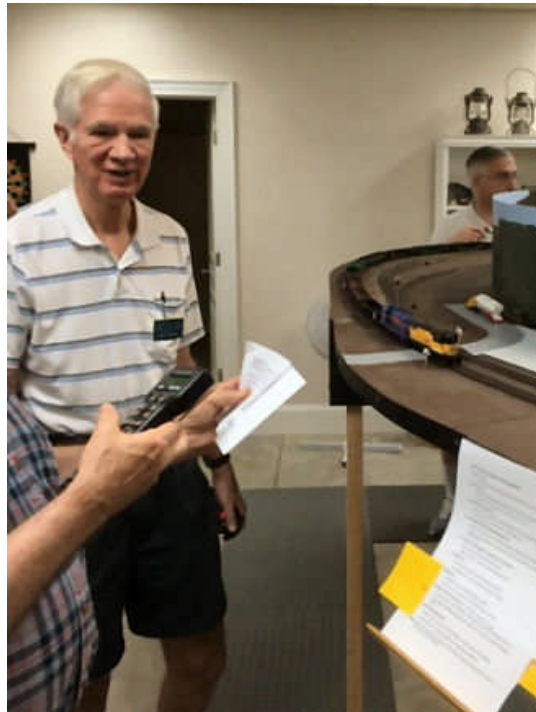
Andrew oversees operations

picked up the empty coal hoppers and headed for the interchange. After a short wait, the loaded coal train came into view and headed into the interchange. After exchanging cars with the road crew, I headed back to the plant to start unloading. Another run to the interchange tracks to pick up setouts from another road crew, it's back to the mill for switching the main loading spots in the plant. I will say it was worth the drive from Bessemer City to Badin Lake for this

opportunity. If all this sounds like fun to you, don't miss our October activities



Blane working in the yard



Jack issues Crew Orders

Division Event Notes Annual Picnic

By Fred Miller, MMR
Photos by Fred Miller

Our division's Annual Picnic event was again held at Jack Parker's wonderful residence. Fourteen Division members and some spouses gathered on Saturday, September 14th to enjoy great picnic food and conversations.



Jack Parker's backyard – site of the Annual Picnic



Railroad Conversation before the Eats



Waiting for the food...



Time to Dig In



**Enjoying the food and (railroad?)
conversations at a great location**



And then there was desert...

Here's a rogues gallery of a few of the past and present Carolina Southern Division principals who attended the picnic this year.



Bob Halsey



Jack Haynes



Alan Hardee

Fred Miller

And our gracious host, Jack Parker



And our host, Jack Parker

Division Website:
www.carolinasouthern.org

Railroad Modelers University

By Doug Algire

Our 11th Annual Railroad Modeling University will be held January 21, 2017 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Charlotte, 13501 South Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28278.

The Dean of the School is lining up an outstanding variety of clinicians to cover topics for modelers of all ages and skill levels. About 70 folks took advantage of this great opportunity to learn new skills to increase their enjoyment of the hobby last year. We will have even more classes available this session. Currently we are planning for 24 classes. We have about half of them confirmed and are working hard to fill the rest. Contact the Dean using the link above if you are willing to share your skills and knowledge with fellow modelers. Oh by the way, LUNCH IS BACK!, so we will be having clinics from 9 am until 4 pm in four sessions of six classes from which to choose.

The schedule looks like this:

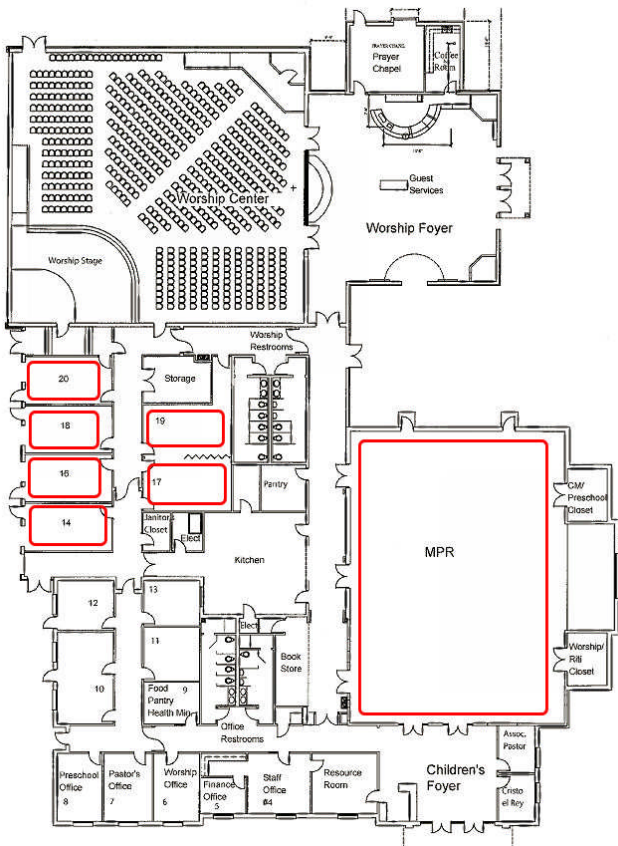
9:00 - 10:30 Classes

10:30 - 12:00 Classes

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
 1:00 - 2:30 Classes
 2:30 - 4:00 Classes

Each class period has room for seven (7) classes giving us a total of 28 classes for the day. This opens up the schedule to offer some new classes...hint...hint. We have the opportunity to offer a couple of the more popular classes twice during the day if needed.

We will use rooms 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and the MPR for classes as shown on the Floor Plan.



**CALL FOR ARTICLES,
 NOTICES OR WHAT-
 EVER.
 YOUR EDITOR CAN'T
 KEEP FILLING UP THE
 ISSUE WITH HIS OWN
 MATERIALS.**

Next Issue **Submission Date**
Nov-Dec 2016 **Nov 1, 2016**

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

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Next month, Tracks to the Triangle, the 2016 MER convention will offer attendees a variety of prototype tours and events that are certain to educate, entertain you and inspire your modeling.

Tour a 1911 Pullman sleeper, The Villa Real, undergoing restoration by her owner in downtown Raleigh next door to the restored Seaboard Coastline station.

Visit the New Hope Valley Railroad in historic Bonsal NC. NHRV operates restored prototype locomotives and rolling stock over 6.5 miles of track. Equipment includes General Electric and Whitcomb diesel-electric loco-

tives, a tank (0-4-0) steam locomotive, and passenger and freight cars. In addition to offering rides aboard the restored equipment, NHVR is also an open-air museum with a number of current and future restoration projects available for up-close inspection and photography. It also boasts a G-scale model garden railroad, with miniature trains that run on more than 1000 feet of track complete with tunnels, bridges, plants, trees, houses, churches and even its own engine house.

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The Tichy Train Group factory in nearby Burlington offers MER convention attendees a chance to get a behind the scenes look at a one of today's finest manufacturers of craftsman styrene rolling stock kits and detail parts for cars and structures.

All prototype tours are available for a nominal extra fare when you register for Tracks to The Triangle on the convention website, www.mer2016.org. The prototype section of the website includes additional information and more photos of each tour as well as links to other self-guided railfan attractions in The Triangle area. Plenty of tickets are still available for the Villa Real and New Hope Valley Railroad tours. Tichy Train Group tickets are

going fast, but limited tickets are still available.

This year's convention will feature a Railroad Prototype Modelers' (RPM) room which will have tables for model display and be an opportunity for attendees to share prototype information, modeling techniques and fellowship. It will be open throughout the convention. RPM coordinator Bill Hanley says the event will develop greater knowledge and understanding of both prototype and modeling information among convention participants.

Also, a unique addition this year will be an Author's Book Signing Table. Several renowned modeling and prototype authors will be featured as clinicians at Tracks to The Triangle and will offer signed copies of their books for sale during the convention, or if you already have a book, they will be happy to sign your copy! Authors include Bernard Kempinski, Lou Sassi, and Dr. Cary Poole.

Convention hosts Carolina Piedmont Division will display their annual Holiday Trains for Kids Raffle Layout at the convention hotel. This year's layout features a special one-of-a-kind theme based on Layout Design Elements of Edenton, North Carolina. The layout includes a cotton mill, peanut mill facility, passenger depot and a company town mill workers' village. The structures of the mill village are being scratch-built by CPD13 members. Tracks to The

Triangle attendees will have the opportunity to participate in the annual fund raiser to purchase train sets for needy children by buying raffle tickets to win the layout.

Don't miss it - Tracks to the Triangle, October 20-23 2016 being held at the Marriott at Research Triangle Park in Durham, NC!



Division Brass

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