

THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 16 Number 6

November-December 2016

Division Coming Events

(See CSD Web-
site for further
details)

Nov 12, 2016
Division Monthly
event:
Swap Meet &
Show
Wade's Train
Town
Hickory, NC

Other Events

Metrolina Model
RR Club display –
Southern Christ-
mas show
Nov 10th – 20th

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

It's hard to believe that it's November already. Let's take a look back at Division 12 activities for September and October. Jack Parker, MMR once again hosted the annual picnic at his home on Mountain Island Lake. Mother Nature played her part and provided us with a warm and sunny afternoon. Division members enjoyed great food and fellowship and even got to meet some of our newest members. Thanks to Jack's son for cooking the hot dogs and burgers for us. Seth Gartner hosted an operation session on his HO scale New York Central layout for our October meeting. Everyone had wonderful time learning about operations with train orders from a dispatcher. You can view a few photos of Seth's layout on the Carolina Southern Facebook page. (Ed Note: see later in this Newsletter.) Speaking of Jack and Seth. Lou Sassi came down to photograph both layouts for future publication in Model Railroader Magazine. No word on when they will appear, but we look forward to seeing our member's layouts on the national level.

Our next big event was the Mid-Eastern Regional Convention hosted by our sister division, Carolina Piedmont Division 13 in Durham RTP October 20 -23. The convention had something for everyone, contest room, silent auction room, clinics, layout tours and operation sessions. We had a good showing of members from Div. 12 attending. 13 members including Neal Anderson, Dick Bronson, Dave Chance, Michele Chance, Seth Gartner, Bob Halsey, Alan Hardee

Jack Haynes, Fred Miller, Jack Monette, Jack Parker, Tim Rump . I Hope I didn't miss anyone. Neal, Dick and Fred presented clinics that were well attended and received positive comments. You can catch these again during our RMU in January.

The next Div.12 activity will be a swap meet and meeting at Brookford Community Center in Hickory on November 12.

November and December brings a lot of holiday train displays to our area. Metrolina Model Railroaders will have their HO scale French Broad and Catawba modular layout on display at the Southern Christmas Show in Charlotte at The Park. The 10 day show opens on Nov. 10 and runs through the 20th. Metrolina needs help manning the layout for the long schedule. Slots are still available if you would like to volunteer for a few shifts. Contact me at alan-hardee@att.net to sign up. Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens offers a fantastic holiday light display from Thanksgiving through Jan 2nd. Several different trains, including a smaller Metrolina layout, are on display at DSBG during this time. The Holidays and model railroading share a magical bond. As you enjoy the Holidays, be sure to include some model railroading to keep those holiday memories alive. Happy Holidays from my family to yours.

Editor's Notes

By Fred Miller, MMR

Carolina Southern division was well represented at the *Tracks to the Triangle* MER convention last month in Durham, NC. It was a good meet in a very accommodating facility (and close by). See Bob Halsey's report of his experiences at the convention, in the article below.

Next year's MER convention will be in Harrisburg, PA, in October 2017 Do try to make it – the MER conventions are a lot of fun - certainly closer and cheaper than the National Annual conventions.

Don't forget our Swap Meet coming up as the November division meet – see Gil's report later in this issue.

Best wishes for your upcoming holidays



We Went to the 2016 MER Convention!

By Bob Halsey

And those of us from the Carolina Southern Division who went (14 total) were very glad we did! Neal Anderson and I car-pooled and shared a room,

which is the best way to keep your expenses down, along with bringing some of your own survival food!

On the way to the Marriott, we visited Mike Pennie's fantastic N gauge Penn Central/Lehigh Valley layout in Greensboro, and then dropped in on Chuck Batherson's Blue Ridge & White Mountain HO layout, also in Greensboro just a few miles away. The BR&WM represents northern New England's Bangor & Aroostook and Boston & Maine. It is undergoing a major expansion and computerization of the dispatching function, along with some additional scenery and track ballasting. So the BR&WM will be even better in 2017, although it is already a great layout! Both Chuck and Mike are giving up hand-held radios in favor of telephone contact with the dispatcher. They are also installing small TV cameras to allow the dispatcher to see hidden and remote areas, with the images shown on small screens (the type that are in auto dashboards).

As with all such conventions, there just isn't enough time to visit all the layouts, or attend all the tours and clinics. And there were plenty of them – a total of 58 different clinics, all conducted by experts in each subject. CSD presenters included Fred Miller (3 clinics) and Dick Bronson (2 clinics) on various electrical and electronic topics, and Neal Anderson (2 clinics – track ballasting, and a simple but effective way to improve layout room lighting. There

were many other very informative presentations, including scenery classes by Lou Sassi, historical backgrounds of B&O and Southern rolling stock, Pennsy steam locomotives, Long Island Rail Road car float operations, and Pullman car operations. There were also sessions on waterfront ships/boats, making unusual/realistic freight car loads, and how to match locomotive speeds.

Of course, there were the usual extremely well-detailed contest models, with Dave and Michele Chance again serving on the judging committee, along with new judge Neal Anderson. There was also an area for attendees to display their favorite models (not for judging), and Neal brought his C&NW/KK&L ore train – only 70 ore cars, although he could have brought several hundred more!

There was a room for silent auction items that we could bid on – everything from brass locomotives down to \$2 boxcars, plus various structure and scenery details. Many of these were donated by Seth Gartner. This room was constantly busy all day long and well into the evening! Many items were donated to be raffled off. You bought

Division Website:
www.carolinasouthern.org

your tickets and then put one or more of them in the box corresponding to the item(s) that you hoped to win. The Carolina Piedmont Division did a great job hosting this entire event!

There was a small HO layout being raffled off by the CPD to support the "Holiday Trains for Kids" program, and there was another layout set up and operated by the Piedmont Railroad Museum & Library. The Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM) shared a room with the N-Trak folks, who were operating an excellent N-gauge layout. The RPM members showed some really detailed models! Many MER attendees went on the Tichy Group tour, and visited the local area layouts.

At the Saturday evening banquet, we heard author/photographer Bernie Kempinski discuss the problems he has had in getting technical articles and books published (the keys are having an interesting subject and at least ten especially good photographs!). Bernie's hobby is Civil War railroading (he has an O-gauge 1863 Civil War layout) and has written several books, including the recent Kalmbach book "Model Railroads Go To War".

The annual MER membership meeting was held on Sunday morning. They discussed upcoming regional conventions: MER's next will be in Harrisburg, PA, in October 2017, followed by Rockwell, MD, a year later, then Philadelphia in 2019. Our neighbor region

to the north is having theirs in Louisville, KY, in May 2017, and then Cincinnati, OH, in 2018. Minutes of this meeting will be out soon.

So then it was time to leave, but we still visited two more layouts. First was Jim Murphy's Connecticut/Massachusetts area Boston & Maine/ New Haven steam/diesel era extremely well-detailed HO layout in Cary. Much of the detail is thanks to his friend Bill Davis, who won several of the contest prizes, and his wife who painted his backdrops, made the tobacco leaves hanging in the barn, and makes very tasty locomotive shaped cookies! Jim and Bill made a unique door to the back staging area involving pulleys and a sandbag counterweight that opens and closes the door while lifting a section of track and then sets it back in position perfectly! This door arrangement is the subject of a February 2016 article in Model Railroader magazine.

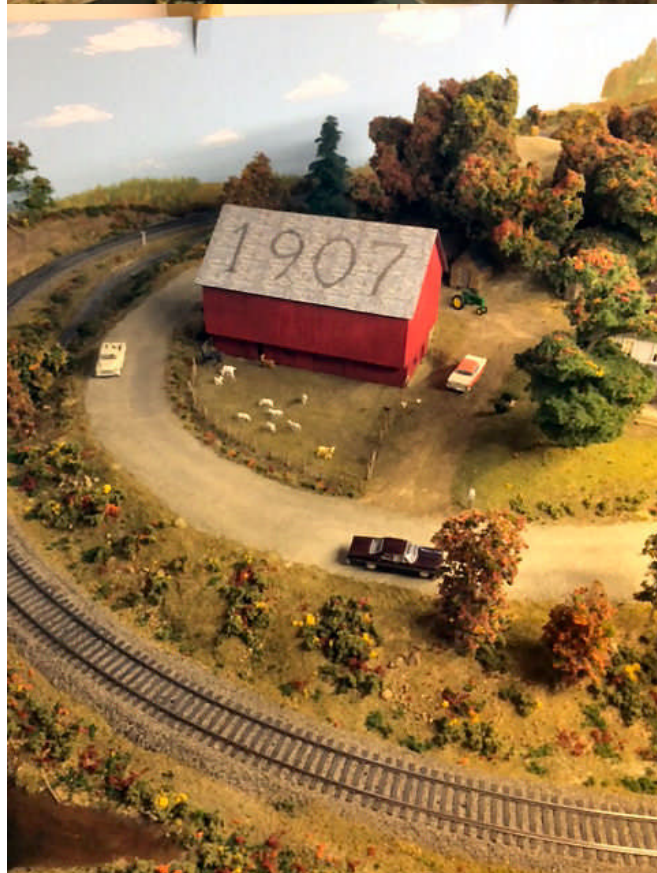
From there we went to Greensboro again to visit the layouts of the Carolina Modelers – the HO model is of all the lines in the city and it is huge (at least a hundred feet long) and is being constructed based on aerial photographs. They also have a very well done separate large N gauge layout and a small Thomas HO set for small visitors. The big HO layout still has a lot of work to be done, but it will be very impressive when it is finally completed, and definitely worth a CSD group tour!

Finally we got back to Neal's house late in the day, where his wife showed us photos of the hot air balloons that passed overhead all day from the Statesville Balloonfest, which we were too busy railroading to go see!



Seth Gartner's layout at the recent OPS session

Photos by Alan Hardee





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

**Next Issue
Jan-Feb 2017**

**Submission Date
January 1, 2017**

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

Editor: Fred Miller, MMR editor@carolinasouthern.org

333 W Trade St #2504
Charlotte, NC 28202



Celebrate National Model Railroad Month at Wade's Train Town

Come out and help celebrate National Model Railroad Month with your modeling friends in the Carolina Southern Division, NMRA at Wade's Train Town in the Brookford Community Center, 1700 South Center Street, Hickory, NC. We are holding the celebration in conjunction with our monthly open house on Saturday, November 12th, 10 am – 2 pm. Not only will it be an opportunity to swap modeling stories with your friends, but you can also participate in our annual Swap Meet, which will be held at the same time.

If you have any 'excess' items cluttering up your modeling space, you can bring them with you to swap, sell, or trade with your friends and neighbors. If you would like to do this, please let the Train Town Project Manager know so he can reserve free table space for you. You can do this on the CSD website by going to:

<http://carolinasouthern.org/TrainShowGeneral.htm>

If you don't have enough stuff for a table, we will have a White Elephant Table available for those with only one or two items. We have invited the surrounding community to join us, so there should be plenty of opportunities to share your knowledge and enthusiasm for the "World's Greatest Hobby" with them.

The CSD Board of Directors will also be holding a meeting during the event and you are welcome to come and participate in that open meeting as well. If you need more information about Wade's Train Town, you can take a look at in on the CSD website at: <http://carolinasouthern.org/TrainTown.htm>.

We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Wade's Train Town layout:



Carnival Area





HOBO CAMP



***** NOTICE *****

The RMU team needs your help.

The 2017 R.M.U. is scheduled for Jan. 21, 2017 with a snow date of Jan. 28. We need volunteer help in staffing this event. Please consider helping in the following areas:

1. We need three or more persons to man the registration desk. This is an all-day assignment that can be split into

shifts so that no one person will be at the desk all day. The duties include handing out registration packets, registering new-comers, answering questions, and making new people feel welcome.

2. Friday night set up. Six people are needed here. Duties include, setting up tables and chairs in the various locations and generally doing grunt work for Doug. Setup starts at 7 pm Friday the 20th.

3. White elephant table. One or more persons to man the table, this involves handling money.

4. Six persons are needed to help tear down on Saturday after the R.M.U.

To volunteer please contact Jack Monette at jackmonette@windstream.net or call 704-788-2856. Let's work together to make this the best R.M.U. ever!



What is RMU (Railroad Moderer's University)?

It is a place to discover the fun of model railroading. You do not have to be an NMRA member to attend; the event is open to the public, but registration is required. Master Model Railroaders and just 'Plain Ole Modelers' conduct clinics (short classes in 'model railroad speak') and hold demonstrations (lab-work in 'university speak') about the

various aspects of model railroading. The mission is simple: To provide a venue where modelers, from beginners to experts, are introduced to:

- (1) New concepts and techniques which will assist them in taking their layouts and models to a higher level, and;
- (2) Fellow modelers who will become friends and mentors.

The January 2017 RMU is again shaping up to be an enjoyable and informative event



Class conducted by Jack Haynes at the 2015 RMU

23 classes are planned. Here's the schedule as it stands now:

9:00 AM	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM
Basic Model RR 14-1 Doug Algire	Track & Wheels 14-2 Jack Haynes	Lunch Kevin Hunter 3D Printers Use in Modelling	Metering 14-3 Jack Haynes	Scratchbuilding Cars 14-4 Jack Monette
Soldering Section 1 16-1 Alan Burdick	Soldering Section 2 16-2 Alan Burdick		Getting Started in Operations 16-3 Bob Weinheimer, MMR	Open 16-4
Track & Ballast 17-1 Neal Anderson	Lighting the Layout 17-2 Neal Anderson		Manufacturing Models 17-3 Ryan Kunkle	Open 17-4
Molding & Casting 18-1 Ty Brown	Backdrops Sec 1 18-2 Ty Brown		Backdrops Sec 2 18-3 Ty Brown	Animals on the Layout 18-4 Michele Chance
LED Lighting 19-1 Joe Burden	LCC 101 19-2 Dick Bronson		Installing Decoders 19-3 Roy Becker	Speed Matching 19-4 Roy Becker
Background Sound 20-1 Fred Miller, MMR	Microcontrollers 20-2 Fred Miller, MMR		Module/Sectional 20-3 Gil Brauch	Tips & Tricks 20-4 Jack Parker, MMR

Some Photos from RMUs of the past



Rick Beam and Joe Burden help us learn how to spruce up building interiors.



Division Brass

<u>Superintendent</u>	Alan Hardee	superintendent@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Asst. Superintendent</u>	Larry Paffrath	assistsuper@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Clerk</u>	Fred Miller	clerk@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Paymaster</u>	John Stevens	Paymaster@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2016</u>	Blayne Olsen	director1@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2017</u>	Roy Becker	director2@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2018</u>	Gil Brauch	director3@carolinasouthern.org
<u>AP Chairman</u>	Dave Chance	Apchair@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Webmaster</u>	Gil Brauch	Webmaster@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Fred Miller, MMR	editor@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Program Chair</u>	Andrew Stitt	program@carolinasouthern.org
<u>RMU Chair</u>	Doug Algire	RMUchair@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Publicity Chair</u>	Marcus Neubacher	publicity@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Membership</u>	Nancy Campbell	membership@carolinasouthern.org