



# THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 17 Number 5

September-October 2017

## Superintendent's Corner

**Division Coming Events**  
(See CSD Website for further details)

**Nov 11, 2017  
Division Monthly Meeting & Annual Swap Meet at Wade's Train Town**

**Other Events**

**The Susquehannock MER 2017 Annual Convention  
Harrisburg, PA**

**Jan 13-14, 2018  
World's Greatest Hobby Train Show  
Charlotte**

**Jan 27, 2018  
CSD's Annual RMU (Railroad Modelers University)**

September has arrived and that means it was time for the Carolina Southern Division annual picnic at Jack Parker's on the lake. We joined together on September 16<sup>th</sup> 1 to 5 p.m. for Food, Fun, Fellowship, and Trains on Jack's Piedmont and Western Railroad. This was a Members and family only event. Meat (burgers and hot dogs) and drinks were provided by the Division and side dishes and/or dessert were offered by the attendees. (See some pics later in this newsletter – Ed).

I hope everyone enjoyed our July and August outings. A big Thanks to Neal for having us over for an operation session on July 15<sup>th</sup>. My Conductor, Tim and I took a double headed steam train from staging across the entire layout and into staging at the other end. We made our set outs and pickups along the way and made money for the railroad. In August, we visited the Southeastern Narrow Gauge and Shortline Museum at the Newton Depot. We toured the Depot which has been restored and filled with railroad artifacts. Our tour also included the workshop where the restorations are made. They are currently working on passenger car from 1898. The covered display area sits behind the depot, across the former Carolina & North-western tracks. A building beside the depot houses model railroad layouts in N, HO, and O scales. Before lunch at the Boxcar Grill, one lucky CSD member got to ride on a locomotive. As you can see, it was great. (See Bob Hardee's article – Ed.)

We still have an opening for October. We can plan another layout visit and/or operation session or have another meeting with clinics. It's your division, let's hear from YOU.



## 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 our Annual Swap meet coming up in November. And the big event coming up is of course the Mid-Eastern Region Annual convention in Harrisburg, PA.

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. This year the convention isn't that far away – Harrisburg, PA. 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 27. Location -TBD



## A Visit to Railroad History

By Bob Halsey

Photos by Bob Halsey, Dick Bronson, Dave Manko, and Neal Anderson

On Saturday August 19, a fortunate group of Carolina Southern members and guests were privileged to visit the facilities of the Southeastern Narrow Gauge & Short Line Museum in Newton, NC, where we saw some ancient rolling stock, both restored, being restored, and awaiting restoration.

We assembled at the museum's restoration building, where Matt Baumgarner of the Alexander Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, showed us the projects they are currently working on: an 1898 wooden baggage car, to be followed by an



One of the restored boxcars, but without the trucks

early 1900's wooden box car (that looks like it would fall apart in a slight breeze, but is supposedly still solid), and then restoration of an old wooden Norfolk Southern cabooses, and when they have some spare time they will restore a 1937 Dodge REA delivery truck. Amazingly, they have found the actual plans for all of these! And they have already restored two old box cars (one former Tweetsie and one former Carolina & North Western), a log car, and the most magnificent of all – the original Newton Depot station!



Interior of old baggage car being restored

Matt said that one of their most difficult projects was restoring an original Southern RR baggage station wagon because it just



didn't exactly follow the plans! Matt is an author of books on narrow gauge railroads, including "A History of Railroad in Western North Carolina" (see TarHeelPress.com).



Old steam engine



Restored log car

After leaving the restoration workshop, we motored back to downtown Newton to see the results of their labors: the old boxcars, log car, old steam engine, and yet-to-be restored caboose, all of which are under the cover of a recently built open pavilion that has sturdy vertical beam pillars and roof. (The workshop will eventually be moved to a new building to be constructed next to the pavilion, along with additional display tracks). They also have an old, small "bench" car that used to belong to

the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina (the Tweetsie), and which will go back up to that wonderful amusement park in Blowing Rock/Boone for a short visit in October. Matt and his helpers have managed to get old trucks and couplers by purchasing some old cars from the Durango & Silverton in Colorado (did I mention that everything they have is old?). The restored log car is made up primarily of 3 lengths of 10"x10" timber, similar to what the Navy used for making sailing warships. One of the Museum's most valuable members is a very friendly, knowledgeable fellow named George Richie,



The caboose needs a bit of work!



Boxcar needs a lot of work, but will eventually look as good as the other two they restored!

who is their expert woodworker and without whom they would not have made as much progress as they have. We also met Robert





The Tweetsie "bench" car

Cline, one of their main assistants (it takes capable helpers like these to get the work done!).

From the pavilion it was just a short stroll across the (working) railroad track to the Newton Depot. This is a former busy passenger/freight station that was moved south from its former location and then restored as a joint effort by the City of Newton and the Newton Depot Authority (NDA). It is run by the NDA, a 501(c)3 organization governed by an 11-member Board of



Directors. The restored station was dedicated in a ceremony in 2005, and is open to the public Fridays and Saturdays from 10AM to 4PM. It serves as a museum for old railroad artifacts and photos. The original stationmaster's desk is still in it, including the two large lever handles that were used to change the positions of the semaphore

signals on the pole over the roof. The pole itself will be re-installed in the next year or two. Our very knowledgeable stationmaster/guide was James Glenn, who conducts regular tours of the building for groups like us, and was already taking charge of the next group as we were going out. There is also a very nice meeting room at the end of the building for civic events (or CSD meetings?) – even a baby shower was held there recently! You can learn more at [www.newtondepot.com](http://www.newtondepot.com).



The yet-to-be restored 1937 Dodge REA delivery truck

We then walked a few yards down the street to the next building, which is also part of the Museum complex, and half of which is currently in use as a church, but our interest was in the other half. This is the Model Railroad Center, which has more than enough room for the large 3-rail O gauge layout (Lionel & MTH), an HO layout, and two small N gauge layouts. The Center's supervisors are Rich Colton (who we met) and Vince Ferretti, who have obviously done an excellent job keeping the place in good shape! There is plenty of open space in there, and they get lots of visitors, which is why Gil Brauch considers this as a good future location for Wade's Train Town. After seeing it, I think most of us would agree! Also, Rich said the church in the other half is

not a permanent arrangement, so there is room for expansion of the Model RR Center. If you want to know more about the Center's schedule and activities, contact Rich at [rjcolton@centurylink.net](mailto:rjcolton@centurylink.net).

By now, it was time for a late lunch, so we proceeded to the Boxcar Grill at exit 135 on I-40, and had a leisurely, enjoyable meal (the menu offers many interesting and affordable selections).

It was a very satisfactory railroading day!



**Congratulation to our own Michelle in the  
2017 MER Elections  
(Elected to MER Director position)**

**Bob Charles MMR (new)  
Michele Chance (re-elected)  
Ken Montero (re-elected)**



### **A Few Great Susquehannock Convention Clinics**

Below are just a few of the 77 scheduled clinics being offered at our October 12-15 Susquehannock Convention to show the extensive quality and variety being presented. All of the clinics, their summaries, names of their clinicians, and short clinician bios can be found at the convention website: [mer2017.org](http://mer2017.org).

- Harris Tower – Then, Today, and the Future by Dan Rapak.
- Building the Colorado Model Railroad Museum by the layout's designer and Division member David Trussell.

- Building In Brass by award winning Division member Alan Mende.
- Down to the Sea In Trains and Modeling Railroads of the Civil War by nationally know civil war expert Bernard Kempinski.
- Layout Command & Control (LCC) – Future Worldwide Model Railroad Layout Control Standard, Get to Know WOWsound – Why It's the Best, and WOWkits Make Sound Better: all by John Forsythe President of TCS.



- Logging Railroads of Pennsylvania, a double clinic by Bruce DeYoung, MMR, and NMRA Education Department Manager.
- Improving Your Trucks & Trains and Scenery Along the Right Away by nationally known photographer, author, and Model Railroader Magazine Contributing Editor Lou Sassi.
- Time Table & Train Order (TT&TO) Operations, a two part clinic, and South Penn TT&TO Operations Lab (Friday evening restricted ops session) by nationally known



TT&TO expert, former NMRA Regional President, and former OPSIG President Steve King.

- Creating Photo Backdrops of Historical Scenes and Modeling Mt Union by nationally known expert on all things East Broad Top Railroad, President of the Friends of the EBT, and Division Director Lee Rainey.

Our convention will also present an all day Saturday Railroad Prototype Modeler (RPM) dedicated clinic room reserved for a series of 5 excellent RPM related clinics. Start your planning now for not only a great selection of clinics but also several superb prototype trips, contest and RPM displays, modular layouts, layout open houses, ops sessions, and many more great convention activities.

**Boarding Now the Susquehannock Convention Train on Track 1 - ALL ABOARD!**

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

## **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 14<sup>th</sup> to enjoy great picnic food and conversations.



**Jack Parker's backyard – site of the Annual Picnic**



**Railroad Conversation before the Eats**



**Chow down...**





**Time to Dig In**



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



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

**Next Issue  
Nov-Dec 2017**

**Submission Date  
Nov 1, 2017**

**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 ISSUE OF THE BRASS POUNDER WILL BE THE LAST FROM THIS EDITOR. IF ANYONE HAS A DESIRE TO FILL THE ROLE, CONTACT ALAN HARDEE, FRED MILLER OR ANY MEMBER OF THE BOARD**

NMRA National has started a new on-line publication called *TURNTABLE*. – check it out – it provides links to a bunch of interesting stuff.

And the eBULLETIN also provides timely news about what’s happening in the NMRA.

Both on-line publications are available free to all NMRA members.



### Division Brass

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