

THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 18 Number 10

December 2018

Railroad Modeling University Saturday January 19th 2019 9:00am – 4:00pm

Information at this link: [RMU INFORMATION](#)

Register at this link: [RMU REGISTRATION](#)

Division Coming Events

(See CSD Website for
further details)

**Wade's Train Town
Open House
Saturday Dec 8th
10:00am – 2:00pm
Brookford
Community Bldg
1700 S Center St.
Hickory, NC**

Superintendent's Corner

By Alan Hardee

Season's Greetings

The Holidays and model trains seem to go together perfectly. Just about everyone remembers getting their first train set. Some may have been for a birthday, but most were for Christmas. Waking up early and rushing out to the tree to find a train set running around underneath was instant enjoyment. I had a chance to reflect back to that happy childhood memory recently.

Most of you know that I am also a member of the Metrolina Model Railroaders club in Belmont. I served two terms as President, with the second term during the same period I started my first term as your division Superintendent. Wow, that was a lot of model railroading activities. I am Thankful and blessed to have a very understanding wife. The big event for Metrolina is displaying the modular layout during the 12 day Southern Christmas Show. THANK YOU to all of the division members who took time to help during the show. You probably heard some of the same comments that I did to take you back to that happy childhood time. Thousands of people visited the layout and if you had a chance to converse with them, they all had similar stories to share. The guys remembered getting their

first train set around the tree. The ladies remembered their dads and/or their brothers having trains and most still had the sets in storage. A few ladies told me that they were jealous of their bothers because they received trains and wished they had their own set. Most of these sets were Lionel and they had a pink set for girls for this very reason.

I received my first train set around the age of 7 or 8. It was an HO scale Tyco set with the Red and Silver war bonnet Santa Fe F unit. You know the one. That set expanded from a circle on a board to an oval on a larger board. This expanded set had a passing siding on one side and sidings for spotting cars on the other. I didn't know it then but that was basic operating. Scenery and buildings followed and that lasted a few years before going into storage. A move, marriage, and big snow storm later, the set came out of storage again to take me back and rekindle my interest into model trains. I awoke one morning after it had been snowing all night. Total for that storm was 13.5". Snowed in and looking for something to do with my time, I found an old box packed away. Upon opening it, my childhood memories came back. Inside were all my trains from years past. Nothing fancy, just some Tyco and Model Power Locomotives and freight cars, but that was enough to get me started again. Then came the 4 X 8 layout with Athearn Blue Box equipment. After the move to my current home in 1994, a new layout was started. An 18" around the wall shelf layout. Some of you may remember this as it was on the Layout Tour during Junction 98

Just think, if I hadn't received a model train for Christmas that year, I probably wouldn't be a model railroader today. I wish everyone a very HAPPY HOLIDAY.

A Special Note from Assistant Superintendent Jack Monette, MMR

RMU 2019 is rapidly approaching; it is time to be thinking about how you can get involved! You may not be teaching a class, but there are other ways you can help. We need volunteers to help set up and tear down, and some to help during the event. Please think about how you can step up and let me know what you can do as soon as possible.

We need;

- A. Three people for registration. This involves manning the table most of the day. With three or more people nobody has to miss out on a class he/she might wish to attend.
- B. Six people with strong backs to help set up on Jan. 18. 7:00 PM.
- C. Tear down. You will already be there, so why not sign up in advance?
- D. White elephant table. Two people to display and sell the donations for this fund raising event.

The event location is:
Christ the king Lutheran Church
13501 S. Tryon St.
Charlotte, NC 28278

Please contact me at jackmonette@windstream.net
Or 704-788-2856

Editor's Notes

By Ed Gumphrey

This edition closes out the first calendar year of my role as editor. I'm having fun! This time of year we're all busy, so this month's newsletter is a little shorter than usual in the hopes that you can fit in time to read all of it. Alan's opening message highlights a season of memories, and I'm pretty sure most of you started your interest in model railroading in a similar fashion.

The holiday season is also an appropriate time to focus on our friendships. Ed Smith's article about fellowship in the hobby, and CSD in particular, is timely.

This is also a time for helping others. Please lend a hand if you can for RMU in January. 2019 will mark the 13th annual RMU, and it has become a signature event for CSD. Speaking of conventions, I've included my next layout tour report as well as the latest advance press from the Philadelphia Division for the 2019 MER Convention.

Enjoy the issue. Enjoy the holiday season, and please keep your ideas and article submissions coming in the new year. I need to refill my backlog!

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

I target the 1st of each month for publication. Please submit articles for publication by the 27th of each month.

The preferred format is MS Word, but I can convert most other formats.

For questions and help, email me at editor@carolinasouthern.org

DIVISION AND REGIONAL NEWS

By Ed Gumphrey



LOOK SOUTH IN 2020

There will not be a Division Meeting during December. CSD's November meeting was held on Saturday, November 10th at Wade's Train Town in Brookford along with our Annual Swap Meet. Assistant Superintendent Jack Monette, MMR, opened the meeting shortly after 10:00am with the announcement that Superintendent Alan Hardee was ill with kidney stones. Shortly after the meeting, I talked with Alan, who was through the crisis and recovering.

Convention Chairman Neal Anderson opened discussions with progress points regarding CSD hosting of the 2020 MER Convention:

1. Neal is focusing on narrowing down location for the convention. Most feedback indicates desire to avoid being in the inner city of Charlotte. Possible areas are Concord Mills, Statesville and Mooresville.
2. Preliminary cost inquiries show room costs to be in the low \$80 range, opening the possibility that even adding cost of a banquet dinner could keep room costs at or near \$100.
3. Nearby attractions such as the Transportation Museum at Spencer, NASCAR Hall of Fame and Lionel Headquarters may be additional factors in favor of a particular location. For visitors flying into the area, the Carolinas Aviation Museum adjacent to the Charlotte airport are an obvious additional attraction.
4. The date is to be the third weekend in October of 2020 (Thursday 10/15/20 through Sunday 10/18/20). This is an open weekend without other competing major events in the Charlotte area.
5. Part of negotiations (to be conducted by MER officials) will be to set target number of visitors for rooms and meals. Feedback from the 2018 MER Convention in Rockville show that they missed their target of 150 rooms (only booked 122). This shortfall was offset some by additional meal sales. As of the meeting, the Potomac Division had still not determined if they had broken even on the convention or made a small profit.
6. Neal was optimistic that we could show a profit for the Division based on Raleigh's Tracks to Triangle MER Convention hosting in 2016, when they turned a comfortable profit.
7. Clerk Ed Gumphrey added comments repeating Layout Tour Chairman Tim Rumph's call for volunteers for layout tours. It doesn't need to be finished, nor does it need to be "completed." Jack Parker, MMR, noted that he was assisting Tim in recruiting layout tours, and that members could contact him as well.

Gil Brauch, MMR, made announcements about two topics:

1. Volunteers are needed to continue the Division's project of open house at Wade's Train Town in Brookford. Gil emphasized that with over 120 members in CSD, we could keep the event alive with members only needing to volunteer one weekend per year.
 - a. Two people are needed to host the event on the second Saturday of each month.
 - b. Gil cannot continue to staff the event by himself. If volunteers are not forthcoming, CSD will have to abandon the effort. One hopeful note – Ed Smith spent the afternoon with Gil learning how to operate the layout so he can assist in future open house events.



An overview of the layout at Wade's Train Town. In the background, a visiting couple reviews one of their photos while Ed Smith chats with MMR Fred Miller.

- c. Decision regarding future of this event will be based on discussions during the annual meeting in January.



The trolley display by MMR Fred Miller has long been a fixture at Brookford.

2. RMU registration is open. See the links on page one of this edition, or at the CSD website.

Larry Paffrath gave a brief description of the T-Track N scale modules on display for the meeting. Larry and other Carolina N Scalers pointed out the following differences between T-Track and N-Track modules:

1. T-Track modules have two mainlines as compared to N-Track's three.
2. Modules are smaller and lighter than N-Track.
3. There is freedom of track arrangements within the module as long as there is connection to uniformly placed main line trackage.
4. The ability to more easily transport modules (even in compact cars) is a significant benefit.
5. The two end modules on display were completed with scenery.



Discussion and set-up of the T-Track N scale modules just prior to the meeting.

Editor's note: I attempted in vain to get some closeup photos of the T-Track end modules. Between backlighting from one end and low light from the other, none of my pictures are worthy of publication.

Achievement Program Update

By Neal Anderson, AP Chairman

AP Chairman Neal Anderson and MER AP Manager Dave Chance made a presentation of Motive Power Achievement Award and Master Model Railroader (MMR) award to Gil Brauch during the November meeting. Congratulations again to Gil on his recognition as MMR #623.

Please let Neal know what AP goals you are working toward. Send him an email or give him a call.

apchair@carolinasouthern.org

704-775-2830



FELLOWSHIP

By Ed Smith

I became a member of the NMRA in the early 1990's. At the time, I was living in Akron, Ohio near the old Erie R.R. mainline. I was a member of the [Erie Lackawanna Historical Society](#) and was looking for something to blend the historical side and the modeling side of the hobby. The ELHS provided me the archival nuts and bolts of the Erie R.R. and the NMRA provided information on building a model railroad. Also, the NMRA membership provided me access to the National Conventions. Over the next decade, I spent my railroad time collecting volumes of Erie R.R. information (fortunately, the ELHS archives were located in my city), procuring a large quantity of HO equipment, and attending NMRA national conventions. All these things were beneficial, but something was lacking. There just didn't seem to be any personal interaction. I was a member of the Mid-Central region, but my division seemed to be dormant. I never had any personal contact with anyone in the 14 years I was a member. The ELHS was a little better, with the availability of the archives and correspondence through the mail. But with all types of railroad information around me, the lack of camaraderie only fortified my lone wolf modeling.

Change comes slowly. It began in 2006 with retirement, relocation to North Carolina, and building a new home. I now had the time and space to build my railroad. I had the railroad, the Erie, but needed area and era. The NMRA national convention in 2006 was in Philadelphia, PA sponsored by the MER, my new region. This convention not only solidified my modeling goals, but also gave me insight into what I had been missing for 15 years back in Ohio.

At the convention, I picked a layout tour to New Jersey that had Harold Werthwein's Erie R.R. Delaware division on it. As a bonus, Tony Koester's Allegheny Midland was also listed. Harold and I both belong to the ELHS and had corresponded several times on our interests in the Erie R.R. I was really anticipating our meeting, but had no idea how it would change my modeling aspirations. So on my 55th birthday I was off to New Jersey to visit Harold. To say this layout is an inspiration is understating the facts. The layout is large (26 x 80) and visually represents almost all 90 miles of the Erie R.R. Delaware Division, from Port Jervis, NY to Binghamton, NY along the Delaware River. Here I was, a 55 year-old, transported back to a kid at Christmas. What made it more special were Harold and his operating crew. They answered all my questions, not in a patronizing fashion, but with eagerness and interest. Here's where I realized what I was missing in the hobby, fellowship. In my 15 years of involvement, this was my first personal interaction in my hobby.



A scene from Harold Werthwein's Erie RR Delaware Division that inspired Ed Smith's modeling goals. Photo from oldmainline.blogspot Harold's railroad was also featured in *Great Model Railroads 1999*.

Upon returning home, with my modeling endorphins raging, I spent the next 10 years planning and building the Erie Delaware Division and attending the yearly national conventions. But, because I lived in an NMRA dead zone, no division affiliation, I regressed back into a lone wolf modeler. I still enjoyed the hobby immensely, but you can only talk to your dog for so long.

This changed around 2017. Our division incorporated several of these dead areas into their jurisdiction, one being mine. With that came an invitation from Superintendent Alan Hardee

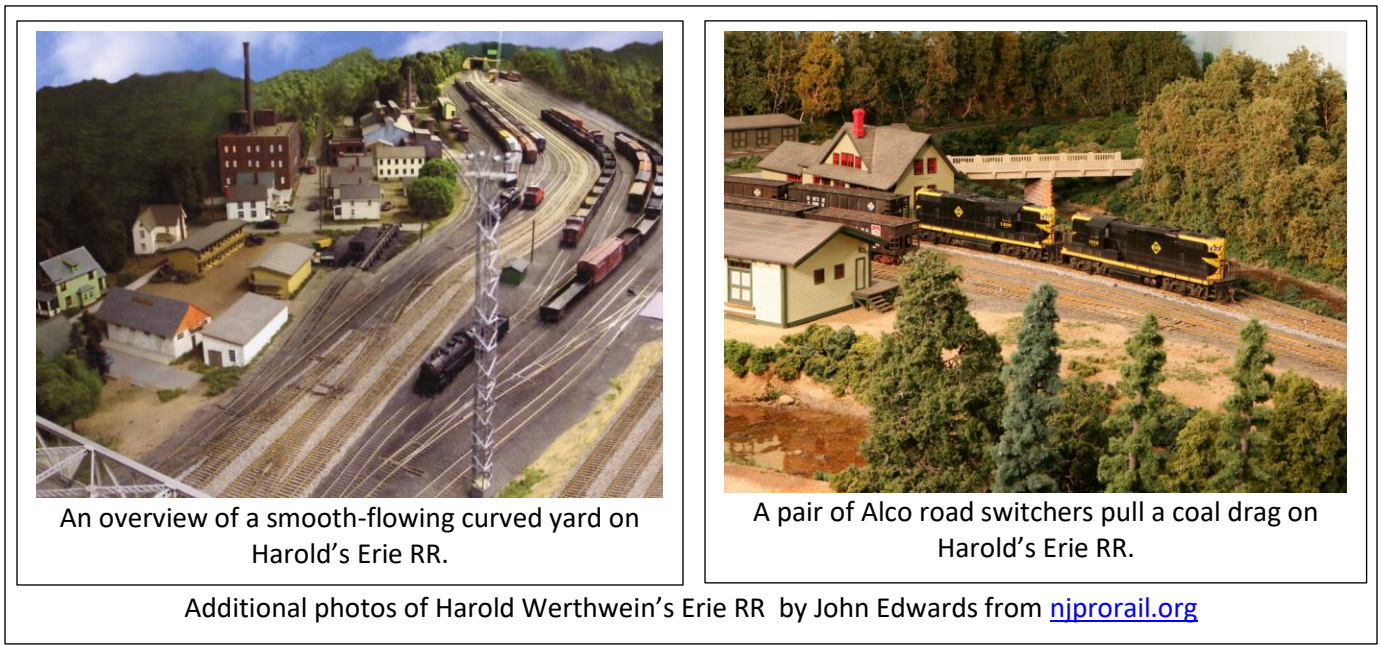
to attend division functions. I took advantage of the invitation. I'm trying to get more involved in our division. Nudging from Ed Gumphrey has me writing a monthly column in *The Brass Pounder*. I hope they don't bore the readers too much. Meeting Gil Brauch, MMR, has allowed me to get involved in Wade's Train Town. Gil's tireless dedication for over a decade has brought this layout back from near extinction to being the best kept secret jewel in our hobby. He would like more help. It would be a shame for this layout to go dormant again.

And I've been inspired to get involved in the A.P. program by the offers of support and assistance from people like Dave Chance, Neal Anderson, Gil Brauch, and many of our other division MMR's. What a gift to our division to have people like this.

Also, there's our commitment to the MER convention in 2020. There will be plenty to do, so I don't know what that will bring.

What I'm trying to say is, if you're interested, please get involved. A little or a lot, it doesn't take much. Attend a monthly meeting or, like me, step out of your comfort zone and do things you never thought you would do. What you'll find is a rewarding experience and a core group of remarkable, talented, and friendly people. Fellowship – that was my missing piece. Maybe it's yours. In looking back, I think I was part of my problem. Because I did not make a good effort to get involved, I lost over 20 years of camaraderie and friendship. Don't you do the same.

By the way, that division in Ohio that I thought was dormant, recently hosted the 2014 National Convention, a homecoming of sorts. A great convention week. I didn't know these people existed. I should have been more pro-active. Get involved, I think you'll enjoy yourself.



Finally, in keeping with this time of year, please remember the less fortunate around us and never forget our servicemen and women, at home and abroad, that sacrifice daily to provide the security we take for granted much too easily.

Happy Holidays from my family to yours.....

Until next time ED

MER 2018 CONVENTION LAYOUT TOUR #2



Bill Demas's Westmoreland Railroad

By Ed Gumphrey

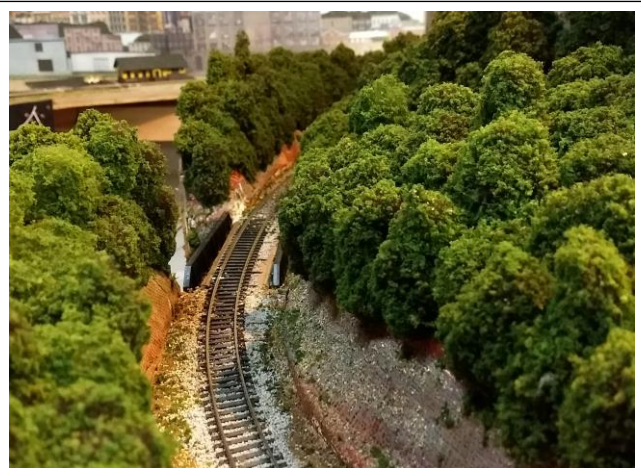


Although this is my second article about the layout tours I took during the MER 2018 Convention, Bill Demas's Westmoreland Railroad was actually the first of my three tours. Located in the basement of his Rockville home, the layout is roughly 16' x 24' overall. From his own description, the Westmoreland is a freelanced Class 1 bridge road, set during the transition era from steam to first generation diesels. The setting is eastern areas of Pennsylvania anthracite coal country. Inspiration is provided by PRR and P&W. The layout is usually operated in a point-to-point fashion, but a loop at one end provides flexibility for an out-and-back scheme as well. Industries abound, so there is plenty of local freight operation and lots of switching opportunities. Control is by Digitrax DCC. One innovation that impressed me was the use of a mirror on the ceiling that allows operators to view the hidden staging yards.

Bill enjoys the fellowship of fellow Potomac Division members for round-robin style operating sessions. He uses switch lists during his operating sessions and integrates them into a timetable and train-order structure. Both through and local freight trains have to be ready to clear the main when the timetable demands for the occasional passenger trains. There were five other visitors during the time I was there, so I didn't get to spend much time talking with Bill, but did enjoy looking at his well-executed railroad and watching the flawless operation of his trains. As usual, I'll let some photos tell the rest of the story.



A recently added industrial area provides for plenty of switching challenges.



The main line runs through a cut as it moves from one end of the railroad to another section.



Where a loop provides operational flexibility for out-and-back runs, it crosses over the main line from staging in a nice scene.



Along one wall, Bill has build a high density industrial area for switching cars. The backdrop provides more depth to the scene.



Trackside industries provide destinations for coal, petroleum and mixed goods.



Bill uses different levels to good visual advantage.



No corner is wasted on the Westmoreland.



An RDC runs along the main for local passengers.

Here's the next installment of advance publicity for the 2019 MER Convention.



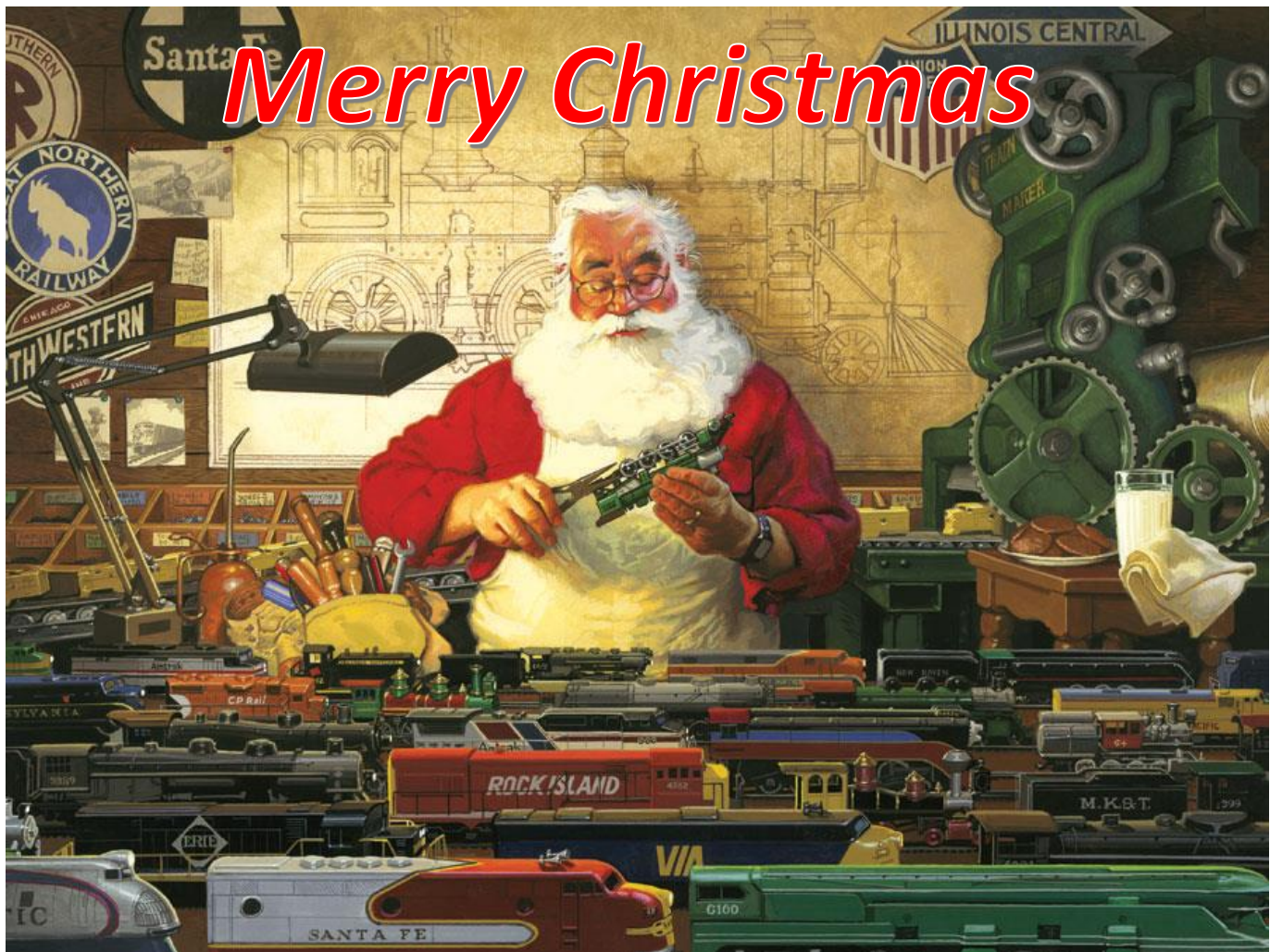
Liberty Bell Special
2019 MER Convention Sponsored by The
Philadelphia Division – NMRA
October 10-13, 2019
Come celebrate trains in the cradle of liberty!
Information provided by Chip Stevens of Philadelphia Division

Greetings from the Philly Division of the NMRA your hosts for the 2019 Mid-Eastern Regional Convention this coming October. We are very excited about what we have to offer, not only for you, the convention attendee, but your family as well.

Our dates run into the weekend of the official celebration of Columbus Day and in the spirit of this, the Crowne Plaza has extended their convention rate from October 7th through October 16th, 2019. With the wealth of activities in this area from Valley Forge National Park, the King of Prussia Mall/Plaza, historic Philadelphia, Steamtown National Park, Amish country, the Strasburg Railroad, and so much more, it just makes sense to bring your family. There is an activity for every member of your family.

To whet your appetite, we suggest you visit the following website for starters: www.valleyforge.org. This is the website for the area's tourism and vacation planning guide. You may also be interested in visiting historic Philadelphia, home of Independence Hall, the world-class Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Franklin Institute, America's oldest Zoo, and much more: www.discoverphl.com. If you have school age children studying the history of the United States, you won't want to miss the Constitution Center, home of the Liberty Bell, Betsy Ross House, and the new Museum of the American Revolution. Karen Confer, one of our volunteers and a local, has offered to clarify information or answer questions which you may have during your trip planning. Please feel free to contact her for that personal touch: rcths.kconfer@aol.com.

October will be here before you know it. We hope you will take advantage of our offers, bring your family, and make the convention weekend a family affair. We are looking forward to seeing you!



Merry Christmas

Division Brass

<u>Superintendent</u>	Alan Hardee	superintendent@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Asst. Superintendent</u>	Jack Monette	assistsuper@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Clerk</u>	Ed Gumphrey	clerk@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Paymaster</u>	John Stevens	Paymaster@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2019</u>	Blayne Olsen	director1@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2020</u>	Roy Becker	director2@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2021</u>	Larry Paffrath	director3@carolinasouthern.org
<u>AP Chairman</u>	Neal Anderson	Apchair@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Webmaster</u>	Gil Brauch	Webmaster@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Ed Gumphrey	editor@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Program Chair</u>	Scott Perry	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