

# THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 18 Number 2

March - April 2018

## Division Coming Events

(See CSD Website for further details)

### **March 17th**

CSD Monthly Meeting & BOD Meeting  
9:30am at  
Hunter Acres Baptist Church, 4520 Heman Dr. Charlotte, NC 28269

## Other Events

### **Mar 23-25**

RPM Valley Forge [Convention](#)

### **May 12**

Historic Spencer Shops Train Show

### **May 16-19**

Norfolk & Western Historical Society [2018 Convention](#) in Spencer, NC

### **May 24-27**

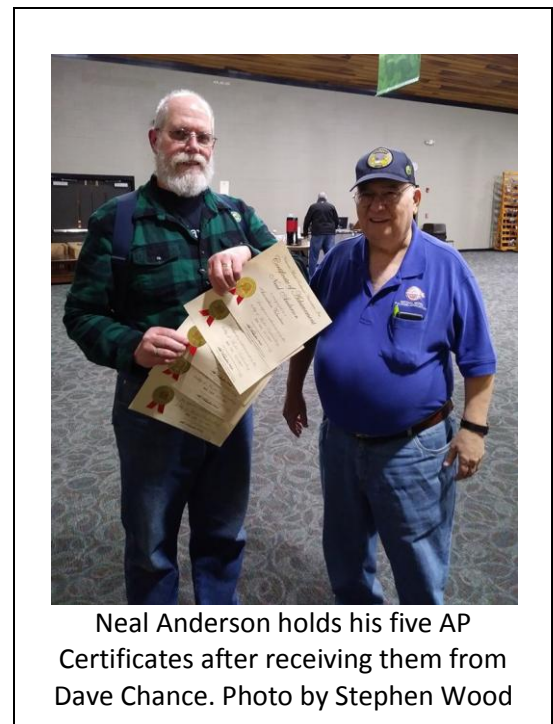
Southeast Region 2018 Convention [Blue Ridge Rails](#) Lake Junaluska, NC

## Superintendent's Corner

By Alan Hardee

Welcome to all of the new Carolina Southern Division 12 members. We added 128 new members from the World's Greatest Hobby Train Show in Charlotte in January. You are invited to attend our monthly meetings to see what the NMRA can offer you and of course meet some new modeling friends. The division also held Railroad Modeling University on Jan 27<sup>th</sup>. This all-day event consisted of how-to clinics ranging from Basic beginners to more involved details and electronics. I hope everyone learned something new. Thank You Doug Algire, RMU Dean, and all of the volunteers and clinicians for another great RMU.

Dave Chance is our division AP Chairman and has been appointed as the new MER AP Chairman as well. Congratulations and good luck Dave. During RMU, Dave, Michele, and Steven Wood from Div. 13 judged several models for AP Merit Awards. Gil Brauch received 7



Neal Anderson holds his five AP Certificates after receiving them from Dave Chance. Photo by Stephen Wood

Merit Awards towards finishing his remaining APs for MMR. Neal Anderson received 5 AP Certificates for Engineer Civil, Engineer Electrical, Volunteer, Chief Dispatcher, and Master Builder Scenery. Congratulations Neal and Gil. Hopefully this will inspire the rest of us to work on our own APs.

In February, we visited Seth Gartner and his New York Central, Cleveland Division, Piney Fork Branch which covers his hometown of Minerva, Ohio. The 3 level HO scale layout covers approximately 420 square feet of a large basement. During the visit, we ran an operating session using train orders and timetable. I dispatched during the session, gaining a few more hours for the Chief Dispatcher AP Certificate. Please see my photos taken of this wonderful layout later in this issue.

The Mid Eastern Region is still pushing us for the 2020 convention. I have gathered some information since our January meeting discussion. The division is responsible for the Convention Chairman / committee, audio visual liaison, Clinics, Layouts for tours and operating sessions, raffles/ company store/ and auction, Saturday Night Banquet, convention program and website. The division narrows down a list of suitable hotels and the MER handles the booking arrangements. The MER handles registration, Judges Lunch, Superintendents Breakfast, Editors Breakfast. I would like to have a Board of Directors meeting at the regular meeting in March to further discuss details of the convention.

The division is still in need of a Program Director to plan our monthly activities. Please let me know if you can help. I am always looking for ideas of what the members would like to see and do during our monthly meetings. Let's make our new members feel welcome when we see them at the meetings. You might find someone with the same modeling interest as yourself. But you will never know unless we all communicate with each other.

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## Editor's Notes

By Ed Gumphrey

This is my second edition of *The Brass Pounder* since being elected as Clerk and appointed as editor during the CSD Annual Meeting on January 20th. Thank you for the positive feedback I've received on my first edition, especially regarding the format changes. As I said in my introductory email to CSD members, an editor's dream is a six month backlog of submissions. The bin has a few articles for future issues, but I need more. If you have any ideas about articles, have developed a

modeling technique you'd like to share, or know of an event, let me know. As always, I welcome your feedback at [editor@carolinasouthern.org](mailto:editor@carolinasouthern.org) and encourage you to submit your ideas and articles for publication.

I'm pleased to announce that I've made the first appointment for a layout visit to work up a layout tour article. I hope this will be the first of many. I've also thought about doing a feature in each edition of works in progress. If you'd like to share information about a layout you have under construction on a regular basis, please let me know. I think readers would like to see what members are doing.

**UPCOMING  
AREA TRAIN SHOWS**

**Asheville Train Show**  
**[Fletcher, NC](#)**  
**March 2 & 3, 2018**

**Model Train & Vintage Toy Show**  
**[Columbia SC](#)**  
**March 24, 2018**

**NC Railroad Expo Train Show**  
**[Hickory, NC](#)**  
**April 7, 2018**

**Model Train & Vintage Toy Show**  
**[Greenville SC](#)**  
**May 19, 2018**

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## **DIVISION AND REGIONAL NEWS**

As Alan noted in Superintendent's Corner, CSD still needs a Program Director. Also, as I mentioned in the last edition, our regional organization needs help too.

The MER has reached out to the Divisions seeking nominations for key offices in preparation for the upcoming MER election this summer. Nominees are needed for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Please consider offering your name to the slate. Your support would not only be valuable to the Region, but could also help you qualify for the Association Official AP award. If you are unable to make a commitment for yourself, please encourage other members who might be interested. Give it serious consideration. For more specific information, and to submit nominations, contact Alan Hardee, our Superintendent [superintendent@carolinasouthern.org](mailto:superintendent@carolinasouthern.org) prior to May 30th.

Please take note on page 1 in the Coming Events billboard, our neighbor region, The Southeastern Region (SER) is holding their 2018 Convention Blue Ridge Rails in western North Carolina, at Lake Junaluska in May.

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## Railroad Modeling University 2018

by Doug Algire

Railroad Modeling University (RMU) 2018 is complete. This is our twelfth anniversary. The Carolina Southern Division of the NMRA is proud to continue this annual tradition.

The weather cooperated on January 27 no freezing rain and snow. We had over 60 people signed up for twenty-six classes. Classes ranged from **Basic Model Railroading** to **Light, Sound & Motion Animation for Model Railroads** to **Tips and Tricks from a MMR**.

We were actually one week later than normal (usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend) due to the Train Show in Charlotte earlier in January. We passed out RMU flyers at the show and nabbed a good number of attendees for RMU.

Here are a few excerpts from the welcome letter we included in each student packet:

*RMU is a place to discover the fun of model railroading. Master Model Railroaders (MMRs in the National Model Railroad Association) and other experienced model railroader's conduct clinics (short classes in 'university speak') and hold demonstrations (labwork in 'university speak') about the various aspects of model railroading.*

*Our mission is simple:*

*To provide a venue where modelers, from beginners to experts:*

- 1. Are introduced to new concepts and techniques which will assist them in taking their layouts and models to a higher level.*
- 2. Meet fellow modelers who will become friends and mentors. RMU is a great opportunity to learn something new and meet other model railroaders.*

*Twelve years ago The Carolina Southern Division of the NMRA had a dream to offer an opportunity for model railroader's to come together and share information, expertise and idea's. Without you this dream would never be successful.*

We continued to use Christ the King church in south Charlotte as the venue. With the increase in the number of classes we added four class periods in the Multi-Purpose room (MPR).

The rooms are more intimate than a regular classroom. Many attendees told me they were better able to see and hear the instructor. Since these were Sunday School rooms and not a high school classroom we did not have audio-visual equipment for use which is a drawback.

Speaking of instructors, a huge Thank You to each of our instructors. Without you Railroad Modeling University could not exist. The students were appreciative of the knowledge and expertise each instructor displayed. Our Division benefits from having the instructors volunteering their time and sharing their talents at Railroad Modeling University. The depth, breadth and variety of model and real railroading knowledge is truly exceptional in our Division.

Other comments from students are:

- Great audience engagement by going around the room.
- Very knowledgeable with lots of great tips.
- I appreciated that all the clinics I attended provided handouts. This made my note taking and recall of the topic much easier and more beneficial.
- Need more time.

Railroad Modeling University is a team effort. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make Railroad Modeling University 2018 a success.

Railroad Modeling University 2019 is scheduled for January 19, 2019. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to be part of the Railroad Modeling University 2019 team.



**Figure 1 Jack Parker teaching Tips & Tricks from an MMR**



**Figure 2 Michele Chance Teaching Model Railroading 101**



**Figure 3 Neal Anderson receiving his five AP Awards from Dave Chance**



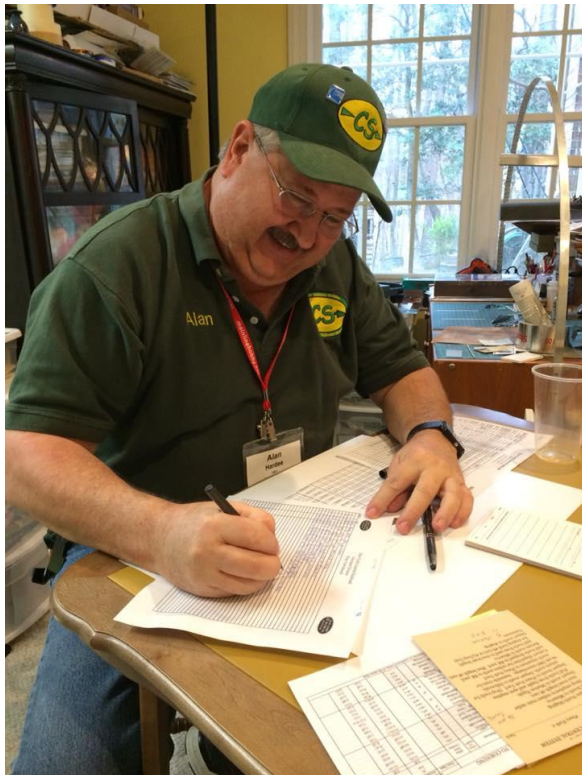
**Figure 4 Roy Becker's Reversing Loops Class**



## New York Central Cleveland Division Piney Fork Branch

By Ed Gumphrey  
Photos and captions by  
Alan Hardee

The February meeting of CSD was a real treat - a layout tour and operating session at Seth Gartner's New York Central Cleveland Division, Piney Fork Branch, a model railroad depicting Minerva, Ohio. Seth told the editor that he was delighted to host the event. He said those who chose to run trains enjoyed themselves, and provided Alan Hardee something to do as dispatcher. There were many more assignments that were not filled, so the full potential of his railroad was not seen. Seth would like to see even more operators during future sessions. He summed it up "Overall it was satisfying for me to see operators enjoying themselves using what I have created over the past years." Thanks to Seth for making a special monthly meeting possible. The editor is sorry he was under the weather and missed the event, but thankful for an open invitation from Seth to visit in the near future. Enjoy the pictures from Alan Hardee.



*Superintendent Alan Hardee writing up Train Orders as Dispatcher.*

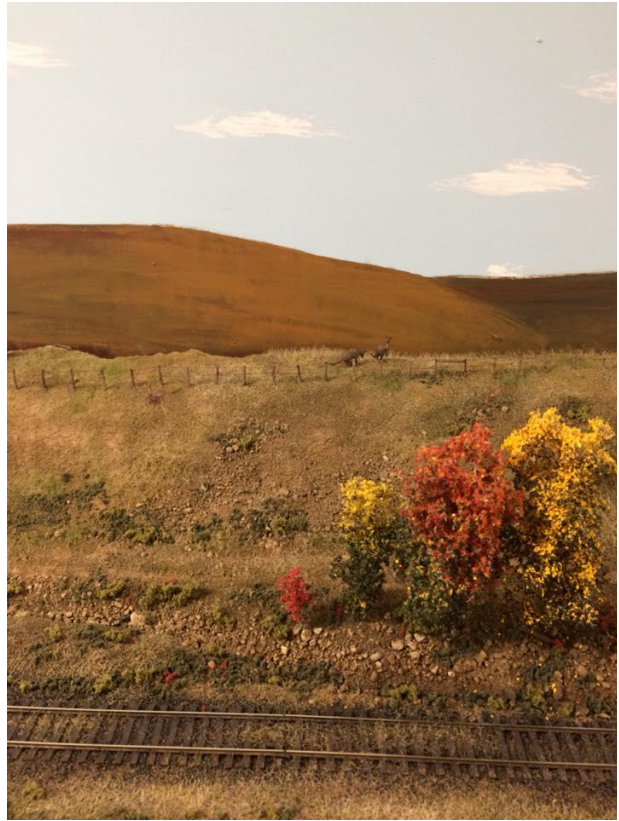


*Dispatcher Alan Hardee handing out the completed Train Order.*





*Almost completed the jump over the river.  
Could this be the Duke boys first attempt?*



*Kangaroos in Ohio?*



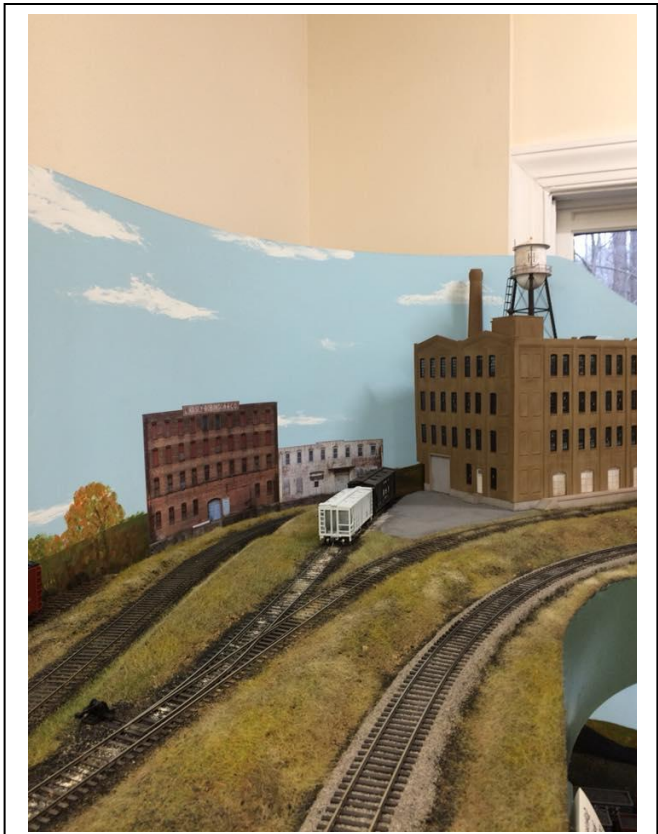
*Loading coal at Piney Fork. The large  
building is actually painted on the  
backdrop.*



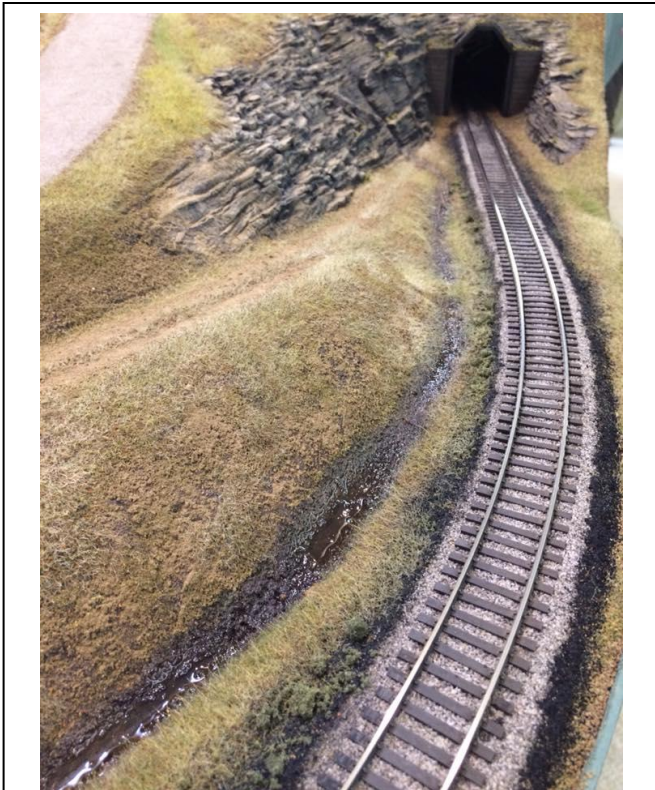
*The boys are thirsty in Dillonvale.*



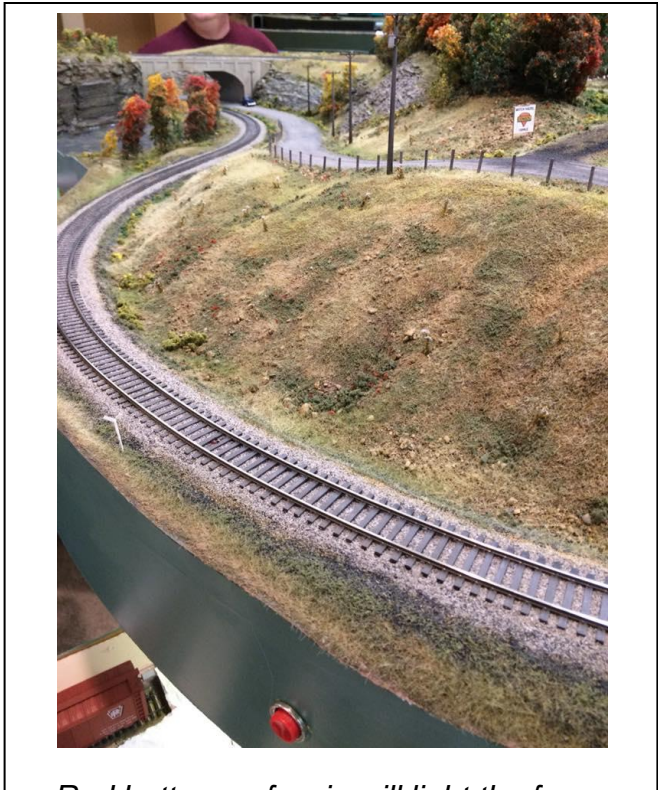
*More coal loading.*



*Dillonvale.*



*Drainage ditch showing signs of recent rains.*



*Red button on fascia will light the fusee between the rails to protect the rear of the train.*



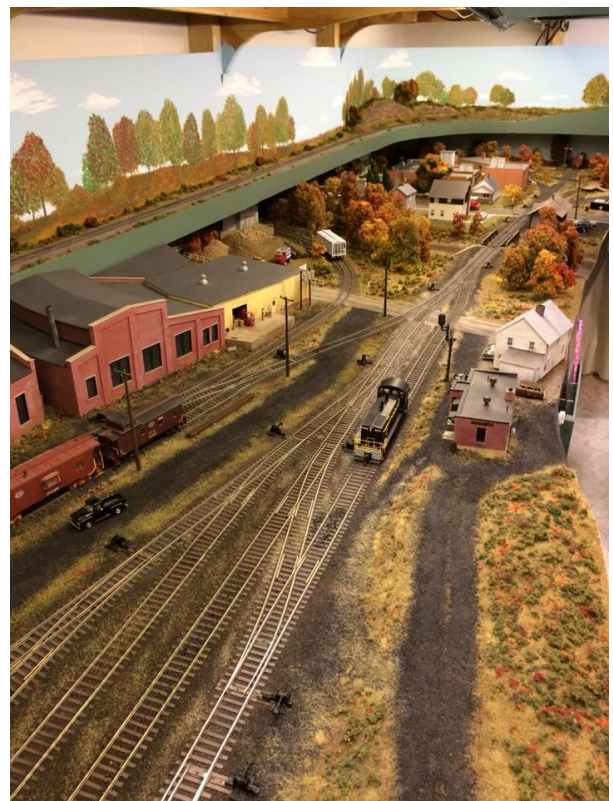
*Perfect water reflection.*



*Old hoppers used to form a wall. Based on prototype photos.*



*Passenger Service available.*



*Overhead view of Minerva, Ohio.*



*Steel Mill.*



*Another view of the steel mill. A mirror is used to expand the scene.*



*Small loadout on an incline. A hill brake must be used to hold the train cars on the main while switching.*



*1907 farm at Minerva, Ohio.*

### Division Brass

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