



THE BRASS POUNDER

Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Div, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Assoc.
Volume 7, Number 1 March, 2007

Superintendent's Message

Where do I start? There's so much track to cover!

I hope you'll join us on Saturday, March 17th in Brookford. Wade's Train Town is coming along very well. We're attacking it block by block, cleaning the buildings on the exteriors (with rubbing alcohol and Q-tips), addressing any repair needs, painting the insides (so the illumination will not 'bleed' through the walls), re-doing the landscaping. With 310 structures, there's still a LOT to do. The citizens of Train Town (some 3100 of them) have to be repositioned. Their vehicles need to be cleaned. There are wires to solder. None of the track has been ballasted. But – the carnival has been refurbished and it's operating again. The light rail came in on budget and it's operating. The main lines are operational (but the sidings need to be wired and such).

We'll be at the layout from 9:00 am until late afternoon – come whenever you can and stay as long as you can. The Town of Brookford will celebrate its Centennial on April 21st and we'd like the layout to be in fine shape. For Saturday, I'll be making a large batch of chili – or you can eat at the Bo Peep diner is across the street.

The easiest way to get there is to take Highway 321 North to Highway 127. At the end of the ramp, turn RIGHT and about a

third of a mile later, turn RIGHT onto South Center Street. On the way up the hill, you'll see the Bo Peep on the right and the Town Building on the left (the old school). If you're planning to come, please let me know at 704-996-6486.

And be ready to drive back to Hickory two weeks later. The TRAIN SHOW at the Metro Center on March 31st is going to be a great event. Details, as always, are on the website – just click on the TIMETABLE.

Operating Sessions on the Piedmont & Western Railroad – Jack Parker's empire – have expanded from the traditional first Saturday night of the month to include the Friday immediately before it. Again, details are available on the website (<http://www.pandw.org/>). This is a Great Model Railroad right in our back yard and it's not a static display. It works! And the Operating Sessions are a hoot of a time!

We've been out and about almost every month, touring layouts and 1:1 sites. I hope you'll join us in the months to come. As you might have guessed, I delight in these events. I come away from every one of them with an idea or two. Maybe it's something I noticed on a layout that I need to apply to my own. Maybe it's a detail or two that I noticed alongside the 'real' tracks. And maybe it's just something that came up in a conversation. Some how, some way I learned something new. And that's a good thing. The camaraderie is frosting on the cake. It's a great time when

you can get together with folks that share a common interest.

So Let me know if you can join us next Saturday. And keep track of the TIMETABLE. I hope to see you sometime very soon along side of the tracks!

Rick

The Division Brass

Superintendent..... Rick Knight
Asst. Superintendent..... Jack Parker
Clerk..... Jack Haynes
Paymaster..... Dick Bronson
Director 2007..... Michele Chance
Director 2008..... Fred Miller
Director 2009..... Jack Monette
-
Membership Chairman.. Jack Parker
AP Chairman..... Dave Chance
Webmaster..... Gil Brauch
Newsletter Editors..... Frank Binder/
..... Jack Haynes

Website:

www.bytedesign.com/CSDiv/index.htm

Next Meeting

Date: March 17, 2007

Place: Wades Train Town at Brookford Town Hall

Clinic: Hands-on, expert-guided work on layout: electrical, track/ballast, structure and scenery cleaning and restoration

*Check website for further details, maps, lists of tools and supplies to bring, etc.

Clerk's Meeting Notes

We've had two meetings so far this year. Here are my observations about the meetings for those who were not able to attend, or who were there, but missed somethings I saw or heard, or who just plain forgot what happened:

January 20, 2007 Annual Business Meeting and Layout Tour:

Meeting was held at the Cherryville Depot Museum, Cherryville, NC. Before the formal meeting, we viewed the layouts the club has built at the Depot in multiple scales. Seventeen Division members were present along with two NMRA members from outside the division and three guests. Full minutes of the meeting are available on the Division web site.

Gil Brauch asked members to contribute items for the web site including photos of Division Activities, Where In CSD photos, and favorite prototype logos. He would also like any photos of personal layouts or links to websites with photos and other materials. Email them to him (csdweb@charter.net)

Jack Monette was elected for Director-2009.

Plans were made to have a judged model contest later this year, probably at the September Meeting.

Fred Miller reported on the Region Board meeting. First, they plan to begin a program to provide grants to Divisions to help fund projects like Train Town. Second, there are openings for Region Director. Nominations should be sent to J. J. Johnson. Third, the Region is offering to fund Rail Pass memberships for new

members. This is an NMRA program that provides 6 months membership to new members (without voting or officer eligibility) for \$9.95. The Division should contact the Region to arrange this (free) membership for anyone who is interested in joining the NMRA. The Rail Pass is available only to completely new members, not former members rejoining.

The afternoon was filled by a group tour of four great home layouts in the area. Our thanks to the tour hosts, Barry Fichter, Dick Schafer, Bill Robinson, and Bob Fanter (home layout and Cherryville Depot club) for welcoming us into their homes and having some great modeling on display.



What's your scale preference? The January meeting offered a wide selection (except N, sorry Gil).



Lunch at Hometown Diner in Cherryville followed the Annual Business Meeting.



February 22nd meeting:

The meeting began with a visit to the Valdese museum and the Piedmont and Western club layout located at the Museum. The Museum and layout are in the Old Rock School House in the downtown area of Valdese, NC. It houses both a large HO scale layout and prototype historical displays.

The layout is fully scenicked with rugged mountains, a large city, and several small towns and industries. It generally models the Southern S-line through Western North Carolina. Division members were kept busy finding the many small detailed scenes everywhere on the layout. There were several highly detailed and weathered structures.

Leaving the P&W, we visited the Hudson Depot Museum which is housed in the original railroad depot that has been moved to a small park behind the town hall. It has local railroad and historic materials and a 12" = 1' scale wooden caboose.

We thank our hosts from the P&W club, Ken Humphreys and Alan Coleman, and

Lucy Wagner from the Hudson Depot Museum for their hospitality and very interesting and informative tours.



CSD members inspect the P&W in Valdese.



The February meeting included a tour of the D&H caboose at the Hudson Transportation Museum.

Next Meeting March 17:

The March Division meeting will be a different kind of meeting. Consider it an open all-day hands-on clinic. Work with the “experts” (defined as average modeller more than ten miles from home), who have been restoring this fabulous display layout, in any of several areas of layout detailing.

We will be ballasting and wiring track, cleaning and detailing scenery, and installing and wiring structure lighting. Questions on other aspects of layout construction will also be entertained. Is it ever hard to get a model railroader to talk about layouts?

All skill levels are welcome, so pack up what tools and supplies you have (see web site for lists of recommended items for various tasks) and come on out. Work, observe, or just walk around and chat or ask questions. So stop in when you can and stay for whatever time you have and enjoy the company of fellow division members and maybe accidentally learn something along the way.

NMRA AP PROGRAM



Jack Parker receives his Association Volunteer AP certificate from AP Chairman Dave Chance at the February meeting in Valdese. That makes six AP's for Jack, one to go for MMR.

News and Events:

Jack Parker's P&W operating group has expanded to having monthly sessions on Friday and (first) Saturday nights. There is now room (physically) for new operators and he invited anyone who was interested to contact him or Jim Thomas.

March 31: 5th Annual NC Railroad Expo at the Hickory, North Carolina Metro Center Directly off I-40 and Exit 125 (Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard) 9:00am – 4:00 pm

April 14, 2007: CS Division Meeting - Albemarle Music Store (tentative)

Call for Articles

The Brass Pounder is back, but to be truly informative and useful for you and other members of the Carolina Southern Division it needs articles to publish. Anything relevant to the model railroading hobby is a welcome subject.

Have you found your own way to do something in building or maintaining your layout? Have you researched some prototype that others may be interested in knowing? Have you recently acquired a new piece of rolling stock or locomotive? Do you have any comments on how it looks or operates? Let the rest of us in on it! If you have something of interest, but have difficulty sitting down and writing about it, contact the Editors and we will find someone willing to work with you to do the writing, photography, or other drudgery involved.

Our requirements for submission are a little looser than the national publications. Any form of text or pictures is pretty much acceptable. Indecypherable and incoherent scribbles on bar napkins may be returned for some polishing, but just about anything else is a starting point. For computer formats, we use OpenOffice 2.0 which accepts most versions of MS/Word, WordPerfect, RTF, etc. If you have something else, challenge us and we'll find a way to use it.

As an additional incentive, if we are short of material, your editors will write articles of their own to fill some space. One of us is embarking on a layout construction project and is eager to dump all the trials and tribulations involved in that effort on you, ready or not. It promises to be a long, tedious, and boring project.

So strike first and protect yourself from an endless stream of drivel. Submit something at least equally interesting (that won't be hard). I know some of you have things to say. There is someone at just about every meeting ready to talk to me about something they are doing, have done, or plan to do; so get it down on paper or in your computer and send it in. If it is just an idea, or starting point for an article, contact us and we will work with you to develop it.

We also want to hear from anyone else who would be willing and interested to work with other members to develop articles. Publishing in the Brass Pounder may earn points toward the Author AP. The Editors' own selection of subjects and writing styles will provide limited variety. Different viewpoints and approaches will make this publication more interesting and useful for the membership.

The Editors

Jack Haynes: jbh108@earthlink.net

Frank Binder: franko2828@hotmail.com

Coming Soon!

Articles on layouts in progress. See what other modelers in the area are doing.

Next Up: Neal Anderson in Statesville

THE BRASS POUNDER



Official Publication of the Carolina Southern Div,
MER, NMRA
November 2007 – Volume 7, Number 1
7317 Easen Court
Charlotte, NC 28211