

THE BRASS POUNDER

Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Div, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Assoc.
Volume 7, Number 4 November, 2007

Superintendent's Message

The January 19th meeting will start with a Model Railroad University at First Baptist Church in Uptown Charlotte. Registration will begin at 8:30 am with classes running from 9:00 to noon. Anyone wishing to present a clinic or presentation is encouraged to step forward! It would be good to gear the bulk of the presentations toward those who just received a train for Christmas, but no presenter will be turned away! We will be promoting the event heavily in the local train stores.

At the end of the MRU, we will be adjourning to a local restaurant (to be named at a later date...) for a Dutch treat lunch and business meeting. Then we'll walk to the local light rail stop, and take a ride on the South Line.

Everyone is invited to the November 17th meeting in Brookford (details, as always, on the website). There will be a short business meeting.

Rick Knight
DIV. 12 SUPERINTENDENT

Next Meeting

Date: November 17, 2007 10 am
Place: Brookford Town Center,
Brookford, NC
Division Business Meeting
Work projects on Train Town layout

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 Editor.....	Jack Haynes

Division Website:

www.bytedesign.com/CSDiv/

Submissions For Brass Pounder

Issue	Submission Date
January	January 1, 2008

The Editor
Jack Haynes: jbh108@earthlink.net

News and Events:

NMRA ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

DAVE CHANCE, DIV. 12 AP CHAIR

- November 10 10:00-4:00
Wade's Train Town
Monthly Open House
Brookford Town Center
Brookford, NC
- November 17
CS Division Meeting
Wade's Train Town
Brookford Town Center
Brookford, NC
- November 17 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Southbound Model Railroaders Annual
Holiday Train Show
Winston-Salem Fairgrounds
- November 8-18
Southern Christmas Show
Metrolina Center
- December 1 1:00-5:00
Piedmont & Western RR Open House
Jack Parkers House
12012 Abernathy Rd
Charlotte, NC
- December 7 & 8
Western NC Model Railroader &
Land 'O Sky Division 18th Annual
Train Show
Haywood County Fairgrounds,
Waynesville, NC
- January 19, 2008
8:30-Noon MRU II
First Baptist Church
300 S Davidson St.
Charlotte, NC
- Noon-2:00 (approx)
Annual Division Meeting
Election of officers, Director
(and lunch)
- 2:00-??
Ride the Charlotte Light rail line

The AP Program in 2007, while not doing as well as 2006 has awarded three members with four awards. We've had 1 Golden Spike award and 3 AP awards. Jack Parker earned the "Association Volunteer" award in February, and Rick Knight earned the "Author" award in March. New Division 12 member James Allen earned the "Golden Spike" award in September and the "Master Builder Structures" award in October. Jack Parker needs one more award to have earned the coveted "Master Model Railroader" award! Jack is currently working on the "Master Builder-Cars" which will complete his requirements. Rick needs either "Master Builder-Motive Power" or "Master Builder-Cars" and one other in any category, to complete his requirements for MMR. Congratulations to all three! Keep those achievements submissions coming!

At the "Model Railroad University" in September, member Frank Binder had 5 structures judged for "Merit" awards. Fred Miller and I completed the judging and informed Frank that he is getting "Merit" awards on all 5 structures! Fantastic job! Congratulations Frank! Frank is well on his way to earning the "Master Builder Structures" award.

Remember, I will talk with anyone who wants to participate or learn more about the AP program. Several other members are currently working on various projects for the Achievement Program and a few others have completed all the work except the paper work. I will help you with the paper work, if you will just let me know that you want my help. Give me a call at (704)933-4200, send me an email loconut@carolina.rr.com or just talk to me at a division meet, at the hobby shop or anywhere else you see me.

MER Regional Convention

Jack Haynes, Division 12 Clerk

The regional convention was held October 18-21 hosted in Lynchburg Virginia by the James River Division. At least five members of our division attended and enjoyed a full menu of activities and excellent facilities at the Kirkley Hotel and Conference Center.

I spent most of my time at the hotel attending clinics and wandering through other displays at the hotel. There were two clinics going on almost all the time and sometimes presented difficult choices. Several clinics were hands-on so you could come away with an actual product, or direct experience with the techniques discussed. Dick Bronson and I attended one of the “extra fare” clinics that guided us through working with a laser-cut craftsman kit. For the clinic fee, attendees received one of the MER milk station kits (at a significant discount). We both left with a (mostly) finished model. Dick just has to mount his shelter on the platform. I had a small mishap (yes I broke it) and still have some trim pieces to glue onto the shelter before I can build the platform and mount the shelter, but it was my first attempt at a laser-cut wood kit and it was a learning experience, as clinics are supposed to be (Fig 1).



Fig 1: Milk platform shelter

Another clinic led us through mounting paper signs on walls. Sheets of paper advertising signs were provided, along with small pieces of wood siding, sandpaper, and white glue (there was no fee for this one). The clinician led us through sanding both sides of the sign to give it a weathered look on the printed side and thin so it would look more to scale. We then glued it onto the siding. Here's the result from that clinic (Fig 2).



Fig 2: Paper sign on siding.

Other clinics offered the opportunity to build a laser kit billboard, a working roll-up loading door, or a wood flat car. There was also a hands-on session on working with CadRail. You could bring your own laptop, and demo software was provided to install. Participants could work along with the instructor as he created layout elements. Hands-on was a frequent theme and I think it enhanced the value of the clinics for everyone.

We caught up on the current state of sound systems with two clinics. Ron Gareis reviewed QSI, LokSound, SoundTraxx, and PCM Blueline systems. He has consulted for several of the system and model manufacturers. Our own wizard of special effects, Fred Miller, led the other clinic discussing the new Digitrax sound decoders and showed how to use their hardware/software system to program the

decoders with your own ~~tr~~ custom sound files.



Fig 3: Fred Miller's DCC sound clinic

Also in the DCC/electronics realm, Dick Bronson held a clinic on using JMRI/PanelPro software and layout interface hardware to create a CTC panel with detection of trains, turnout control, and signalling, on a computer display that functions very close to the actual railroad systems.



Fig 4: Dick Bronson's JMRI/PanelPro CTC clinic.

Another clinic I attended showed how to use photos and digital photo editing software to create realistic structures for your layout.

There were tours of area layouts Thursday and Friday nights, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons. Operations sessions were run Thursday and Friday nights and Saturday afternoon. In all, eighteen layouts were on display, including the Lynchburg N-Trak group

that was set up in the hotel. Their layout was set up with loops at each end that directed trains back on different tracks so that trains could make a continuous run that traversed all three mainlines and the high branch line before repeating. One of their corner modules contained ten bridges (Fig. 5 count'em):

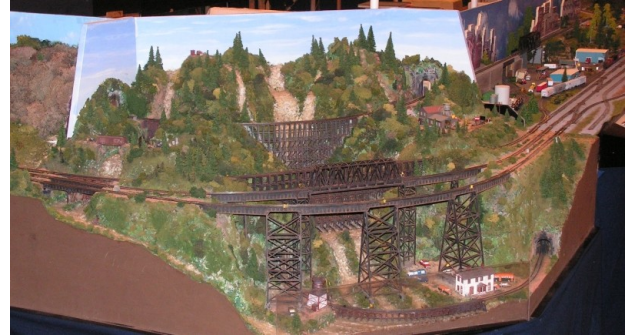


Fig 5: N Trak corner module.

There was a prototype tour all day Saturday that visited Freightcar America's car assembly operation in the Norfolk Southern shop in Roanoke, the NS locomotive shop, the Virginia Transportation Museum, and the O. Winston Link Museum. People who took the tour were very pleased, especially with the access they had at the car and loco shops where they got to see the work being done and had knowledgeable and personable guides to explain what was going on.

The banquet was a buffet provided by the hotel which offered a good selection of well prepared dishes in ample quantities. I didn't hear any complaints. After the banquet, the President of the Buckingham Branch RR made an interesting presentation on the history of his operation and the current state of rail transportation. His railroad has grown from a 17-mile short line to over 120 miles with segments that host traffic from a Class I railroad and Amtrak. After the speaker, awards were given for models and photos in the contest. Several entries are shown here (Fig 6), see the division website for more.



Fig 6 Sample of contest models.

There was also merchandise available in the MER store, a White Elephant sale, door prizes/raffle, and the Auction which was held after the banquet. Some good items were available at reasonable prices. I picked up a few car kits to fill out my roster. Athearn kits for \$2.00 looked reasonable to me. Locomotives were available for \$20-\$25, even for some Athearn Genesis models in excellent condition. There were several boxes of

magazines free for the taking and I found a couple of issues that had plans or articles that I could use. The auction had some good items in it, but none that fit my own prototype or scale (yes, Gil they had some N stuff) so I skipped the auction and made it an early night. Sunday morning, I found that I had won two door prizes: a package of wood siding and a book on how to build with styrene. I can use both, just have to remember, not together.

Next year's convention is October 16-19, 2008 in Reston, Virginia, near D.C., hosted by the Potomoc Division, hope to see you there.

Model Railroad University **Jack Haynes, Division 12 Clerk**

The division conducted a Model Railroad University (MRU) on September 15, 2007. It was well attended with 20 members and 16 guests. Most attended the MRR 101 session that went all morning and presented information on many basic concepts and techniques of model railroading. Other sessions included Model Railroading with Modules by Gil Brauch, Light Motion, and Sound Animation by Fred Miller, MMR, Using JMRI Panel Pro Software to develop a CTC Panel by Dick Bronson, Building Craftsman/Wooden Kits by Frank Binder, and Setting up a Layout for an Operating Session: Case Study: The Southern Exchange by Carl Wessel.

Many other Division members provided support for the event and helped to make it a success. We are hoping it can become a regular event and helps to recruit new members for the NMRA and the hobby.

Following the MRU, the Division members enjoyed the annual picnic, as always hosted most genially by Jack Parker. Of course, his P&W layout was open for viewing and some of the club regulars provided guided tours on

some of the newer features that are being added to the layout.

Presentations at MRU.



MR101- Rick Knight



Animation-Fred Miller



PanelPro-Dick Bronson



Modules-Gil Brauch



Operations-Carl Wessel



CraftKits-Frank Binder



Touring the P&W



Pleasant day by the lake



Soup's on

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