



THE BRASS POUNDER

Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Div, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Assoc.
Volume 7, Number 5 January 2008

Next Meeting

Date: January 19, 2008 8:30 am

08:30-12:00 Railroad Modelling Univ II
First Baptist Church
300 S Davidson St. Charlotte, NC
See page 2 for details

12:30-02:00 **Division Annual
Business Meeting and
Elections**
Jillian's
200 E Bland St
Charlotte, NC

Calendar of Events

January 12-13 Great Train Expo Train Show
Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Winston-Salem, NC

February 16 CSD Division Meeting

February 23-24 CRM&HA Train Show
Greenville-Pickens Speedway & Fairgrounds,
Greenville, SC

April 5 Train Show
Hickory Metro Center, Hickory, NC

May 22-25, 2008 NMRA SER 2008 Convention
Lake Junaluska, NC

July 13-19 National NMRA Convention
Anaheim, CA

NOTICE

Annual Division Business Meeting

The Annual Division Business Meeting will be held 12:30 pm, January 19, 2008 at Jillian's, 200 E Bland St, Charlotte, NC.

Agenda:

Elections of Officers: Superintendent, Asst Superintendent, Treasurer, Clerk, 1

Director.

Board of Directors Nominations:

Superintendent Rick Knight

Asst Sup. Steve August

Treasurer Dick Bronson

Clerk Jack Haynes

Director (1) Michele Chance
Ed Locklin
Roy Becker

Division members may make additional nominations at the meeting.

NOTE: All elected officers and voters must be members in good standing of the NMRA and reside in the counties included in the Carolina Southern Division (NC Counties: Cabarrus, Catawba, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, Union)

Railroad Modelling University II

Schedule (as of publication date)

The January Division meeting will feature a set of clinics on various topics in model railroading.

There is room on the schedule for additional clinics. Contact Rick Knight 704-996-6486, rghkiii@adelphia.net, to get on the schedule.

If you have a subject that you can talk about for an hour or so, contact the Superintendent, Rick Knight and get on the schedule. It will be just after Christmas when people get new train sets and many can use some help in getting started, so clinics can be addressed to all skill levels. You don't have to an MMR to help somebody with wiring a simple layout, or building and detailing a basic kit. Help someone get a good start in our hobby and get AP credits for doing it.

The current list of clinics is:

Model Railroading 201 by Rick Knight
 Model Railroading Basics (Planning and design, Benchwork, Track, Wiring, Scenery, Buildings, Weathering).

Model Railroading with Modules by Gil Brauch

Freight Car Enhancement by Jack Monette

The PC - a Model Railroading Tool
 by Fred Miller, MMR

A Train Set (or Layout) Tuneup by Jack Haynes
 Identifying and fixing common track/wheel/coupler problems.

Adding Light, Sound, and Motion to Your Layout
 by Fred Miller, MMR

Modeling a Railroad Crossing by Jim Allen

Time	Clinic A	Clinic B	Clinic C
8:30	Registration		
9:00	Model Railroading 201		Modeling a Railroad Crossing
9:30	Model Railroading 201	Model Railroading with Modules	
10:00	Model Railroading 201	Model Railroading with Modules	The PC - a Model Railroading Tool
10:30	Model Railroading 201	Model Railroading with Modules	The PC - a Model Railroading Tool
11:00	A Train Set (or Layout) Tuneup	Freight Car Enhancement	Adding Light, Sound, and Motion to Your Layout
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Night (and Days) at the Museum

Jack Haynes

Part I The Display

Well, actually we spent several days and nights at the Levine Museum of the New South. The Division has an email address on our web site that invites visitors to email us if they have questions or problems concerning model railroads. Last June, we received a request on behalf of the Levine Museum in uptown Charlotte. They have a display that includes a model train. It had been working fine for about six years but had recently quit running and they were looking for someone to investigate the problem and help them get it going again.

This article describes the display and how it works. The next article will detail what division members did to get it running smoothly again.

The train is part of an historical display about the cotton industry in the Charlotte area in the early twentieth century. It is a circular display divided into three sections. The first part that visitors see is a representation of a rural area with a cotton farm and a small country store and cotton gin.



Illustration 1: Country Scene with Farm and Country Store/Cotton Gin

The second section is a scene with a large cotton mill and nearby company housing for workers.



Illustration 2: Cotton Mill Scene

The modelling is excellent with a lot of detail and small scenes of people engaging in activities or gathered in groups. Farmers work in the fields; People stand around the country store; mill workers handle bales and barrels on the loading docks. The scenes continue seamlessly into the backdrops. See the photos below.



Illustration 3: Workers pick cotton on the farm while a wagon takes a load to the gin.



Illustration 4: Folks gather at the Country Store and Gin



Illustration 5: Company houses behind the mill

According to Dr. Tom Hanchett, staff historian, model railroading as a youth got him interested in historic preservation and museums. “The original layout was created by 'And That's the Way It Was,' a company based in Hickory that has done several outstanding museum dioramas in this region.”

Their website is:

<http://www.magweb.com/mallatmw/attwiw/index.html>

“The buildings were all kit-bashed from items I found in the Walthers catalog. For each of the buildings in the diorama, I gave the builders photos of very typical architectural examples specific to THIS part of the Carolina piedmont.

So it's a quite accurate 'slice of life' showing our area, not something generic”

For more information on the museum, see their web site: www.museumofthenewsouth.org.

The third section is behind the scenes and provides staff with access to the track and controls.

There are buttons beneath each scene for visitors to push to make the train run. There is a tape of a steam locomotive starting up, running and then slowing down and stopping, synchronized with the movement of the train. The track is a circle of about five foot radius with one turnout (which is locked in place) for a siding into the cotton mill.

The control system is an EasyDCC system with customized software. When the system console powers up, it ends up with the message “Runtime 50” on the LCD display. Pressing the N/+ or R/- buttons (normally used for throwing turnouts or other accessories) adds or subtracts one from the Runtime. The pushbuttons on the display are wired to the Accessory key on the console.



Illustration 6: The EasyDCC Console and Power Booster.

Pressing the Accessory key, or the pushbuttons on the display causes the train to accelerate up to the speed set by the Throttle A knob, continue for the Runtime seconds, then slow down a stop. The acceleration and deceleration are controlled by the CV's in the decoder.

The sound effect tape plays as the train runs. The tape runs for a fixed time and the Runtime is adjusted until the train starts and stops in time with the tape.

The locomotive used on the display is an Athearn Genesis 2-8-2 lettered for the Southern, of course.



Illustration 7: The Athearn Genesis Locomotive

The museum is frequently visited by school groups from the Charlotte area. The train is a favorite stop on the tour and gets a heavy workout with each group. Fortunately, with school out for the summer, there weren't as many groups coming through. There was time for us to work on the display and get the train running again. Next time, I will describe the issues we encountered with the train and how they were resolved.

***Clerk's Report - Carolina Southern
Division Meeting
Saturday, November 17, 2007
Jack Haynes***

On November 18, 2007 17 members gathered at the Brookford Town Center to review progress on Wade's Train Town. Led by Gil Brauch, several Division members have been at work restoring the operation and detailed scenes on the layout. Both main line tracks and the trolley track are now in operation. Work continues on the yard and sidings. Many of Wade's original scenes have been painstakingly restored based on photographs taken before the restoration work was started.



Illustration 8: Members inspect layout restoration



Illustration 9: The playground and ice rink scenes have lots of activity

After viewing the layout, we moved to a nearby conference room for a meeting.

AP Chair Dave Chance presented Jim Allen three awards, Golden Spike, a Merit Award - Structures, and the Structures AP Certificate



Illustration 10: Jim Allen receives Master Builder-Structures

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
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- 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

Next Issue	Submission Date
March	February 20, 2008

The Editor
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