



# THE BRASS POUNDER

Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Div, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Assoc.  
Volume 8 Number 3 August 2008

## *Next Division Meeting*

Date: September 20, 2008

8:30 Schedule is tentative at publication time, see website for up-to-date info

RMU III  
First Baptist Church  
Uptown Charlotte

Afternoon:

Carolina Southern Division  
Picnic at Jack Parker's

See web site for start time.

Bring salad or dessert to pass

[www.bytedesign.com/CSDiv/timetable.htm](http://www.bytedesign.com/CSDiv/timetable.htm)

## **Calendar of Events**

September 13 Hickory Train Show  
Hickory Metro Center  
Hickory, NC

September 13 Wades Train Town Open House  
Brookford Town Center  
Brookford, NC

September 20 CS Division RMU 3rd Semester  
and Annual Picnic  
(see above)

October 3 & 4 Autumn Rails 2008  
Bonclarken Center  
Flat Rock, NC

October 4 & 5 Great Train Show  
Cabarrus Center  
Concord, NC

October 11 Wades Train Town Open House  
Brookford Town Center  
Brookford, NC

October 16 - 19, Potomac Junction  
NMRA MER 2008 Convention  
Sheraton Reston Hotel  
Reston, VA

[//home.comcast.net/~potomac\\_nmra/MER2008/](http://home.comcast.net/~potomac_nmra/MER2008/)

October 25 CS Division Meeting  
TBD

November 8 Wades Train Town Open House  
Brookford Town Center  
Brookford, NC

November 15 CS Division Meeting  
Brookford Town Center  
Brookford, NC

## Railfanning the Yadkin Valley RR By Rick Knight

Are you looking for an interesting day trip? Try a visit to Rural Hall – just north of Winston-Salem on Highway 66. It's the HQ for the Yadkin Valley Railroad, a subsidiary of Gulf & Ohio Railways. The YVRR office sits right beside Highway 66, in the middle of a small yard. There are a lot of piles of "stuff" around – and an unloading facility for ethanol tank cars. There's the old station – needing a darned good coat of paint. Beside it is a N&W caboose. About a block and a half south there are two more N&W cabooses behind a fence on private property.



Just south of the old station, there is a spur that used to connect Rural Hall and Walnut Cove on the Piedmont & Atlantic. It's now a parking lot for a whole fleet of covered hopper cars.

Just north of the station there is a Y. The left branch runs over to North Wilkesboro, generally following the Surry County – Yadkin County line which apparently was laid out by someone who immediately prior had found a working still. One of the key spots is a grain elevator and mill at Roaring River.



The line runs through Downtown Elkin and there often is a lot of switching activity there, often using four or five EMD GP40-2 units. The tracks wind up at the station in North Wilkesboro.



The right branch of the Y leads up to Mt. Airy (and probably was laid out by the same inebriated surveyor). The route does parallel Old Highway 52 through King and Dalton and Pilot Mountain. Then it takes off through the country up to Mt. Airy, where it terminates at the Flat Rock Quarry.

So – grab your road atlas, your railroad atlas, and your camera!

### Preserved rail depot bought by NCDOT Submitted by Rick Knight

Aug. 4 - Statesville: The historic Statesville Depot has been purchased by the N.C. Department of Transportation Rail Division. The landmark building was relocated and preserved with the help of Historic Statesville and the Downtown Statesville Development Corp. A purchase price was not disclosed but the building had been listed at \$385,000 with Lake Norman Realty. "We are pleased to have the opportunity to secure the station property in Statesville. This action is consistent with our long-range plans to extend intercity passenger service to Western North Carolina," said N.C. Department of Transportation Rail Division Director Patrick B. Simmons. The DSDC, which was housed in the depot, is expected to move to offices in the center of downtown. Historic Statesville and DSDC will begin investigating ways to use the proceeds from the sale of the depot to assist in future downtown redevelopment project.

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### Scale Rails Price Change Letter from National NMRA

Hi, Editors –

The 2008 National convention is over, and several important decisions came out of the Board meeting there. You'll be hearing about most of those decisions in "Scale Rails."

However, one decision that may directly impact you is the new decision to raise the annual subscription rate of "Scale Rails.". If you're currently running an NMRA subscription or renewal form in your newsletter, as of October 1, 2008 you'll have to adjust the rates for memberships that include the magazine. Here's the official word from the Board:

"In order to keep up with rapidly escalating costs for printing and distribution, the Board approved a new rate of \$19 (US members) per annual subscription of 'Scale Rails.'"

Remember, this is still quite a value, considering "Scale Rails" is typically 72 pages and full-color. In fact, a subscription comes to less than \$2 per month.

So, bottom line: after October 1, the new annual NMRA dues rate with a "Scale Rails" subscription will be \$55. Please adjust your subscription or renewal form!

Thanks,

- Gerry Leone, MMR  
Deputy Chair

- Jan Wescott  
Department Manager  
Membership Services & Promotion Department

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**Meeting Minutes  
July 26, 2008  
Submitted by Steve August**

The meeting was called to order by Rick Knight – Superintendent. There were 12 members in attendance.

**Department Reports:**

Clerk – Jack Haynes	No report / Could not attend
Paymaster – Dick Bronson	No report / Could not attend
Webmaster – Gil Brauch	No report / Could not attend
Newsletter -	No report / Could not attend
Achievement Program – Dave Chance	No report / Could not attend

➤ Request received from HOBBYTOWN USA in Mooresville to do a clinic on railroading. The shop will provide everything. All we have to do is build the layout, and explain how we did what we did and what we are doing. These clinics will be held 01 & 08 November at the HOBBYTOWN USA in Mooresville, NC. Please contact Rick Knight if you can help. A planning session to build the frame work will be held at Jim Rager’s in Mooresville on October 26.

November 2008 Division Meeting – Brookford Town Center???

Meeting adjourned.

There were several announcement made regarding upcoming events. These are also available on the website.

- 13 September – Hickory Train Show
- 20 September – Railroad Modeling University –  
First Baptist Church  
Picnic at Jack Parkers
- 3 & 4 October – Autumn Rails at Flat Rock (Show – Near Hendersonville, NC)
- 4 & 5 October – Train Show @ Cabarrus Arena
- 16 – 19 October – MER Convention (Reston, VA)

**New Business –**

- Received call through website from Davidson County Historical Society – regarding some problems with a diorama. We were able to help, this shows the website is working.
- Proposal to move to the 18 October Division Meeting to 25 October due to several attending the MER Convention.  
APPROVED

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Visit [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) to see what you're missing!

## Sign me up!

Fill out this form and include your payment.

**U.S.:** Send \$9.95 (U.S.) to NMRA-Rail Pass Membership, 4121 Cromwell Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119.

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\*Rail Pass offer is for new members and those who have not been NMRA members for two years or more. Individuals can join at Rail Pass rates only once; membership renewal will be at the regular membership rate. Rail Pass members can attend conventions and participate in contests, but cannot vote or hold office and will not receive a New Member Pak.

**So much bang.  
So few bucks.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****June 6, 2008****NMRA Patent Challenge Update: Real Rail Effects fails to respond to NMRA DCC-sound patent challenge**

The deadline for Real Rail Effects, Ltd. (RRE) to respond to an NMRA patent challenge has passed, with no response from RRE.

RRE was granted a patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) based upon a claim that the technology for using sound with DCC was invented by RRE. The NMRA, with the technical and financial support of a number of DCC manufacturers and hobbyists around the world, filed a challenge to the RRE patent.

The NMRA filed the challenge because we believe that the claims in the RRE patent application were not supported by the facts. The NMRA was aware that prior art and other evidence existed which negated RRE's patent.

The NMRA felt that, should it remain in force, the RRE patent posed a threat to modelers and manufacturers of DCC equipment because it would both increase the costs to modelers and unfairly restrict manufacturers who provide decoders with sound. Therefore, the NMRA coordinated an industry- and hobby-wide effort to have the patent overturned. The NMRA submitted evidence from a number of sources raising substantial questions about the validity of the patent.

On February 11, 2008, the USPTO issued a ruling granting the NMRA's patent re-examination request. The examiner stated in the ruling that there was a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider the prior art important in determining the patentability of the application of RRE.

After the examiner at the USPTO determined that the position of the NMRA had merit and compelled a new analysis of the patent, RRE had two months to respond to the re-examination request. The deadline for a response has come and gone, and RRE made no reply. The NMRA is now very hopeful that a favorable decision will be announced and that the position of the NMRA and its supporters will be vindicated.

The NMRA considers this a clear triumph for the modeler and the model railroad industry. We are proud to have led the challenge team that has made this victory possible.

[www.NMRA.org](http://www.NMRA.org)

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***The Division Brass***

Superintendent.....Rick Knight  
 Asst. Superintendent.....Steve August  
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 Director 2010.....Roy Becker

AP Chairman.....Dave Chance  
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***Division Website:***

[www.bytedesign.com/CSDiv/](http://www.bytedesign.com/CSDiv/)

***Submissions For Brass Pounder***

Next Issue	Submission Date
November	October 15, 2008

Articles are welcome on any railroad topic, model or prototype. Your editor is available to assist in preparing the materials.

Editor: Jack Haynes: [jbh108@earthlink.net](mailto:jbh108@earthlink.net)  
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