

# THE BRASS POUNDER

Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Div, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Assoc.  
Volume 9 Number 3 August 2009

## *Next Division Meeting*

Date: August 8, 2009

10:30 - 12:00 Short Business meeting  
followed by Picnic.  
Martin Oakes  
8057 Lucky Creek Lane  
Denver, NC 28037

Dock on Lake Norman available.  
Grilled chicken provided  
Bring dish to pass (enough for 6-8)  
Check web site for updated info:  
[www.CarolinaSouthern.org/timetable.htm](http://www.CarolinaSouthern.org/timetable.htm)  
Please RSVP to Martin:  
[martinoakes@charter.net](mailto:martinoakes@charter.net)

## **Calendar of Events**

August 8 Wade's Train Town Monthly Open House  
(also Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 14)

September 19 1:00 to ??:00 Division Meeting and  
Picnic at Jack Parker's  
Hot dogs and hamburgers provided, bring  
dish to pass  
Layout operation follows picnic

October 9-11 Carolina Southern RailOps  
Weekend  
Operations at many layouts in Charlotte  
vicinity.  
See web site:  
<http://www.CarolinaSouthern.org/timetable.htm>

October 10 10:00-4:00 Autumn Rails Train Show  
Whitmire Auditorium, Hendersonville, NC  
<http://www.fbe-ntrak.com/autumnrails.htm>

October 15-18, 2009 MER-NMRA Convention  
Hagerstown, MD  
See Web site:  
<http://mer.nmra.org/MERConv/MERConv.html>

July 11-18, 2010 2010 NMRA National  
Convention  
Milwaukee WI - (75th anniversary of the NMRA.)  
<http://www.nmra75.org>

## **NMRA National Convention**

The National Convention was held July 5-11 in  
Hartford, CT. The next issue of Brass Pounder  
will feature articles on the experiences of Division  
members who attended. If you were there please  
send anything you would like to share with other  
members to the newsletter editor (see below). No  
need for a full article, we'll put it all together in  
our own thoroughly disorganized way. Photos,  
reviews of layout or prototype tours, clinics, items  
of interest at the Train Show, whatever stands out  
in your recollection of the Convention, will all be  
of interest to other members.

## **New Model Railroad Magazine**

There is a new magazine available. It is published  
online and is free to download. Subscribing gets  
you an email notice when new issues come out:  
<http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/>

## Superintendent's Corner

Steve August – Superintendent

Another summer is upon us, the hot and humid time in our area that usually comes without much relief. The division has been very busy this year, we have had 2 major make –n- take clinics. The first one was the Tester Project where we made a track tester which is very helpful on any layout. The second was a small structure that could have been used as a Post Office, General Store, Barber Shop or any number of other establishments on your layout. All these clinics, were very well attended by the members of the division and all seemed to really enjoy them.

Now as move a little further, into the summer we keep looking forward to things that are upcoming for the us to enjoy. Martin Oakes will be holding his annual picnic on Lake Norman on August 8th. All are welcome, please email Martin and let him know you are coming and bring a side dish. Directions are up on the website <http://www.carolinasouthern.org>.

### **Carolina Southern Rail Ops 2009:**

Announcing for the first time, the Carolina Southern Division will be hosting an OpSession Weekend. The weekend will be October 9, 10, & 11, 2009. The weekend is designed to promote Model Railroad Operations. We will have 7 layouts for sure, and possibly 8 layouts available for operations.

A lot of information is available on the website including descriptions of the layouts available, pricing, times, and cost for the weekend. There are only a couple rules to the weekend. The number one rule is to have fun and enjoy yourself. The only other thing we ask, is that if you are local to a certain layout, we ask that you do not operate at that layout. Try another one. This is also a time to learn about operations, everyone is welcome. Registrations will be accepted on a first come first

serve basis. There are 51 spots available for the weekend. Come and learn about operations, see some great layouts. The registration form will be posted online by the end of July.

**Mid-Eastern Regional Elections:** The Mid Eastern Region will holding annual elections in the next couple months. The elections are for 3 director positions within the Region.

The directors play a very important role in the Region. They help to manage the Divisions, plan the convention, manage the Achievement Program and many other things. They also assist the President and Vice President of the Region make good decisions. There are 3 directors positions on the ballot this year. However due to term limits only 1 is eligible to run for re-election.

I have heard many people in NMRA complain about how things are run, not only the Region Level but also at the National Level. This is your opportunity to try and do something about the things you think are done correctly. I decided some time ago to run for Regional Director in hopes that I could do something about some of things that are wrong in this organization.

Do your part, get involved just a little bit, do some research and elect a Board of Directors that you think will help bring some change to the NMRA. This may be a long incline to making things better, but we have to start somewhere.

## James L. Teese Memorial New Modeler Award

By Steve August, Superintendent

Sometime ago, during one of our division meetings, the subject of James L. Teese New Modeler Award was brought up. This award is given in honor of James L. Teese who was a member of the

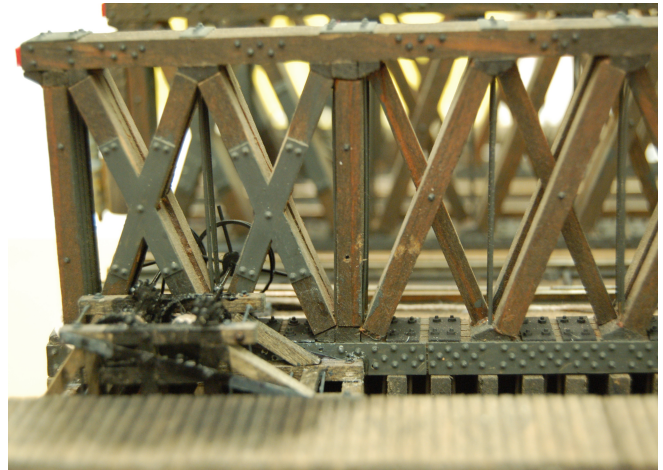


Carolina Southern Division and a Master Model Railroader. Mr. Teese passed away in the early 90's. This award is given at the National Convention to a modeler who is an NMRA member in good standing, who has never entered a model in either a regional or National model contest.

The modeler whose work qualifies for this award, and receives the highest score among first time entrants, will be given the James L. Teese Memorial New Modeler Award. The award consists of an engraved plaque and a twenty-five dollar gift certificate presented by the award's sponsor -- the Carolina Southern Division of the Mid-Eastern region of the NMRA.

The James L. Teese Memorial New Modeler Award will be presented to the winner at the National contests awards ceremony of the NMRA National convention. The Teese Award will be given to the winner by the NMRA Contest Manager, and, if feasible, a representative from the Carolina Southern Division and the Mid-Eastern Region.

Last month at the NMRA National Convention held in Hartford, CT the award was presented to Tom Griffiths. Tom is a modeler from the New Jersey Division of Mid Eastern Region, which makes this award a little nicer because it was given to a modeler from our region.



Tom's model is closely based on a B&O float bridge that was located at St. George, Staten Island, New York. The B&O yard at St. George was located adjacent to, and west of the much more famous Staten Island Ferry Terminal. The float bridge was about 1/4 mile from the ferry terminal. He was able to visit the yard in 1976. The first time to take photos, and a few weeks later, when he spent a long, hot Saturday measuring the thing with a six foot folding rule! He spent about two years of his spare time making drawings of the structure. Both to document it, but more importantly, to understand just how it was built.

## AP Report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2009

Dave Chance

AP Chair, Carolina Southern, Division 12

During the second quarter this year, three CS Division members have earned Achievement Program Certificates. One Association Volunteer, One Model Railroad Engineer, Electrical, and one Model Builder, Scenery have been rewarded. I am very pleased by the progress that Division 12 has made in the Achievement Program.

Seven awards have been earned in 2009 and are as follows:

1. Seth Gartner --- Golden Spike, February, first award!
2. Jim Allen --- Chief Dispatcher AP, February fourth award!
3. David Ward --- Golden Spike, March first award!
4. Jerry Shepardson --- Golden Spike, March first award!
5. Gil Brauch – Association Volunteer, April fourth award!
6. Gil Brauch -- Model Railroad Engineer, Electrical, April fifth award!
7. David Ward – Model Builder, Scenery, May first AP award!

Gil's Electrical Engineer AP has been approved, printed and lost twice. We are currently awaiting the third attempt!

We have several members currently working on AP projects. If you are working on an AP project and not listed below, please let me know so I can add you to the list. Current projects include but are not limited to the following:

Dick Bronson -- Electrical and Civil Engineering APs.

Jim Allen -- MB Locomotives AP.

Steve August -- Golden Spike, Electrical Engineer,

Civil Engineer, and Volunteer.

Jack Parker is working on his seventh AP, MB Cars.

Dave Chance -- MB Locomotives, MB Cars, MB Structures, and Civil Engineer.

Ed Locklin -- Association Volunteer and Electrical Engineer.

Carl Baumgart – MB Structures

Frank Binder – MB Structures

Michele Chance – Electrical Engineering

Seth Gartner – Chief Dispatcher

Jack Haynes – Association Volunteer

Jack Monette – MB Cars

Carl Wessel - Chief Dispatcher

Jim Thomas - Chief Dispatcher

Jerry Shepardson – Scenery and Electrical Engineering

Several others have told me they are working on at least one AP project. A good many of these projects are a matter of doing the paper work! Let me know if you need help with your project, from understanding the requirements to assisting with the paper work. Send me an email or call me on the phone and we will schedule my help.

[loconut@carolina.rr.com](mailto:loconut@carolina.rr.com)

704-933-4200

Note: Subsequent to the date of this report, Gil's missing certificate arrived and I mailed it to him right away.

## Does Size Matter

by Jim Gulnac

I wanted to set-up a small HO scale layout, for my twin grandchildren to enjoy. My wife and I set out to purchase a small train set that we could set-up for the grand kids. We had decided on a Bachmann Commander set, and we also purchased the “Your First Railroad Track Pack” from Bachmann as well, for some additional trackage, from a local hobby store.

After watching the video that came with the “track pack”, I decided the “Madison Central” would be a neat layout to set-up for the twins. After completing the bench work, I laid the tracks down, and we were off and running. Well it did not take long for my interest level to change from wanting to set-up a small layout for the grand kids, to something that my grand kids would enjoy, and something that I could also “get into the hobby” with.

I have since decided to construct a freelance model railroad using the Madison Central as a starting template, if you will (I call it the “New Madison Central”) modeled in Western Pennsylvania. Growing up, Penn Central, and later Conrail were the railroads in my hometown in Pennsylvania, so I thought I would model Conrail in my freelance layout.



The short story is, I now find myself with limited space in the basement (although it comfortably fits my 4' x 8' layout with room for one 2' x 4' expansion at one end or the other) and wondering how I can expand on my original layout. Joe Howard's article, in the previous issue of “The Brass Pounder” provides me with a possible answer, layout tours. Visiting other layouts, as well as having other model railroaders visit my layout would certainly provide me with a plethora of ideas.

After looking through some photos of other layouts on the CSD website, I realized that, my layout is much smaller than those featured on the CSD site. Certainly, I could gain a great deal of knowledge and new ideas by visiting the layouts of others, but what could anyone possibly gain by viewing my much smaller 4' x 8' layout? This is when I asked myself, does the size of your layout matter?

The advances in this hobby have come a long way, since my last layout as a teenager (over twenty years ago) and there seems so much to learn. I am looking forward to my continued new found membership in the CSD and NMRA (Thanks to the Rail Pass program), to expand my knowledge of model railroading, and to network with the many others that share the love of model railroading. I would welcome any comments at [jamesgulnac@charter.net](mailto:jamesgulnac@charter.net).

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### Summary Minutes Carolina Southern Division Officers Meeting Saturday, June 27, 2009

The meeting was held at the Metrolina Expo Center, Charlotte, NC. Coincidentally there was also a train show going on at that location that day.

Attendees:

Steve August, Superintendent  
Jack Haynes, Clerk  
Fred Miller, Director  
Jack Monette, Director  
Dave Chance, AP Chair

The Jim Teese Award was ready. Steve will be taking it to the National Convention in Hartford.

Operating Weekend is scheduled for October 9-11, 2009. It should raise some money for the Division. Operators will pay a fee to participate. Seven layouts are committed now, and up to 3 more may be added. Could have about 60 operators.

Steve is trying to schedule a dinner for Saturday night. To be assured of NMRA insurance for the event, checks should be made out to MER and the MER would then just send a check back to the Division for all the collected fees. Steve is making sure each layout host is an NMRA member so the insurance covers them.

There will be a shirt with "RailOps Carolina Southern" on it that will be sold for \$15-\$20 each.

The Division has had two meetings with make and take sessions.

Most of the meetings are set for the rest of the year. The next meeting will be Martin Oakes cookout on August 8.

A question has been raised that the bylaws may require the Division to have two business meetings per year every six months.

Officers will check the approved bylaws and the Division records to get the exact wording. If necessary, we will schedule a short business meeting at Oakes in August.

(It was subsequently determined that the bylaws require "two meetings, no more than six months apart". These do not have to be business meetings. Only the one Annual Business Meeting is required.)

Joe Howard and Roy Becker are willing to organize the RMU again. There was general feeling that February was a better time than the Annual Meeting in January so people had more time to get organized and prepare clinics after the holidays.

In January we will need one Director nominee for the position now held by Jack Monette. Also Joe Howard indicated that he does not want to continue as Asst Superintendent so we will need someone for that position.

There was discussion on adopting the Levine Museum display layout as a Division project so that members working on it could get AP Volunteer points. Dave said that we would need to get it "approved" through Charlie Flichman (MER AP Chair). Steve and Dave will work to get this done. The museum has approved having a plaque on the exhibit crediting the NMRA Division for the work done maintaining it and he will arrange for one to be made.

Steve contacted Bob Beaty, President of SER to discuss adding some adjoining counties in South Carolina to the MER and our Division. There are three counties in SC that are being considered, Lancaster, Chester, and York.

There are also five counties adjacent to us in North Carolina. Adding them can be done through MER. Steve will get a list and send out inquiries/survey to see if there is interest in these areas.

Fred will get names and addresses of SER members in the three SC counties so Steve can continue effort.

Action Items:

Dave and Jack will check versions of bylaws.

Dave and Steve will work on getting Levine Museum approved for AP

Fred will get list of SER members in SC counties.

Op session weekend fee will be \$10.00 plus a charge for the dinner.

Privacy Policy:

Any member of the Division may request a copy of the membership list from the Superintendent. They must sign a non-disclosure statement stating that they will comply with the MER Privacy Policy and use the information for Division business only. All distributions of membership information will include a reference to the MER Privacy Policy.

Jack will continue sending updated membership information to all Division officers (elected and appointed) since they all have responsibilities that require them to contact members. He will include reference to MER Privacy Policy in each distribution.

Everyone was reminded that when sending emails to a list of members, they must use the blind carbon copy (bcc) address so that the full list of addressees is not disclosed to every recipient.

Jack Haynes  
Division Clerk

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**Division Meeting  
June 20, 2009**

Jack Haynes

A Division meeting was held June 20, 2009. It was hosted by David Ward in Mount Pleasant. In the first part of the meeting, there was a brief business meeting then attendees worked on assembling a laser cut wood kit with the guidance and occasional assistance of some “experts”.



Gil Brauch and Dave Ward receive AP Awards



Everyone appeared to make excellent progress building the kits and picked up some useful techniques.



Joe Howard and Roy Becker have the walls up.

For the second part of the meeting, Dave had prepared his layout for an operating session. Everyone got an opportunity to run a train on his layout as Dave split his time between dispatching, instructing people on how to use his DCC system, and answering questions about features of his layout (yes he was busy).



Division members examine some of Dave's modelling.

***The Division Brass***

Superintendent.....	Steve August
Asst. Superintendent.....	Joe Howard
Clerk.....	Jack Haynes
Paymaster.....	Dick Bronson
Director 2009.....	Jack Monette
Director 2010.....	Roy Becker
Director 2011.....	Fred Miller
AP Chairman.....	Dave Chance
Webmaster.....	Gil Brauch
Newsletter Editor.....	Jack Haynes

**IN MEMORY OF:**

We have been informed of the recent passing of two local modellers:

Tom Peterson was an excellent modeller and was also an avid and expert target shooter.

Don Smith was the original builder of the layout in an office trailer that became part of Jack Parker's Piedmont and Western.

If anyone knows of Division members or other area modellers who pass away or are experiencing serious difficulties and might appreciate hearing from other members, please pass the information along to the editor or one of the Division officers so we can keep the membership informed.

***Division Website:***

**[www.CarolinaSouthern.org](http://www.CarolinaSouthern.org)**

***Submissions For Brass Pounder***

Next Issue	Submission Date
October 2009	September 12, 2009

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

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