

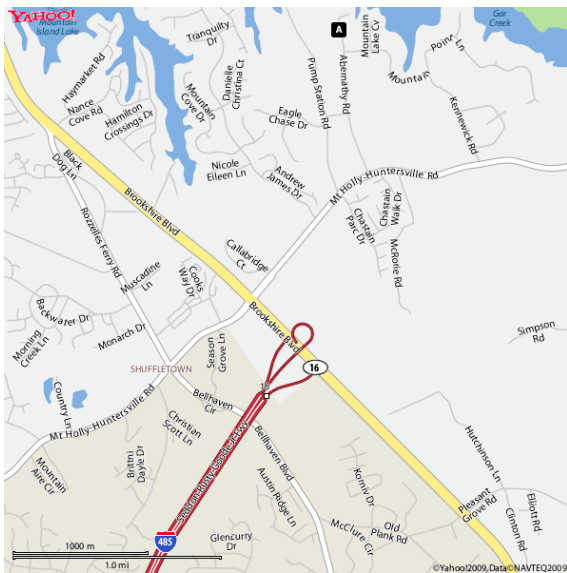
THE BRASS POUNDER

Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Div, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Assoc.
Volume 9 Number 4 September 2009

Next Division Meeting

Date: September 19, 2009

1:00 - ??:00 Picnic & Operations
Picnic at Jack Parker's
12012 Abernathy Rd
Charlotte, NC 28216
Hot dogs and hamburgers provided,
bring dish to pass
Layout operation follows picnic



Calendar of Events

Sept 12 Wade's Train Town Monthly Open House
Brookford Town Hall
Brookford, NC
(also Oct 10, Nov 14)

Sept 19 1:00 to ??:00 Division Meeting and
Picnic at Jack Parker's

Sept 19 -20 10:00-4:00 Great Train Expo
Metrolina Tradesho Expo
7100 Statesville Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28269
www.greattrainexpo.com

Oct 9-11 Carolina Southern RailOps Weekend
Operations at many layouts in Charlotte
vicinity.
<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
<http://mer.nmra.org/MERConv/MERConv.html>

Oct/Nov 2009 Atlanta, GA
7th Annual Piedmont Pilgrimage
<http://www.piedmont-div.org/pilgrimage/>

Oct 31, Nov 1 Fall Excursions
Spencer, NC (See article below)

Nov 14 Turnout Clinic by Tony Sissons 8:30-3:00
Mt. Pleasant, N.C. (see article below)

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

Superintendent's Corner

Steve August – Superintendent

Hello Fellow Model Railroaders – as the seasons start to change and we change our schedules to a time of being more indoors, we look towards another Model Railroading season; a time when we can work more on our layouts and improve our modeling skills. The division has been very busy this year; with many different events and many more events still to come.

Sometime ago, I was approached by several members of the Palmetto Division of the Southeastern Region which is centered in Columbia, SC. These members live in York, Lancaster, Chester counties which are very close to the North Carolina border about joining the Carolina Southern Division. I did some checking with NMRA and found out that if a majority of the members in the affected counties vote to move to the CS Division, then we can annex this territory. I am happy to say that after a lot of emails, and phone calls, the letters of annex went out to these members. When the letters return I hope we will have 14 new members in the Carolina Southern Division.

Carolina Southern Rail Ops 2009: Early last month the Carolina Southern Division announced our first of what we hope would become an annual event in the Division. Even though registrations are going well and operating slots are filling up fast, in order to make this event a total success we need **YOU!** Columbus Day Weekend is October 9, 10, & 11, 2009. The weekend is designed to promote Model Railroad Operations. We will have 7 layouts available for operations.

A lot of information is available on the website including descriptions of the layouts available; fees for OpSession include a Bar-B-Q dinner. The dinner will be held at Cook Memorial Church on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at 6:30 PM. 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 Carolina Southern Division even has very nice golf shirts available to commemorate the event. The registration form along with all the information is available on the Carolina Southern Division Website.

Mid-Eastern Regional Elections: The Mid Eastern Regional Elections are currently being held. The elections are for 3 Director Positions within the Region.

The directors play a very important role in the Region. They help to manage events in the Divisions plan the convention; manage the Achievement Program and many other things. They also assist the President and Vice President of the Region in the day to day operation of Region. 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 help shape how things are being done in the Mid Eastern Region. If you would like to see some changes made in the Region, then make your voice known by exercising your right to vote. All Regional NMRA members received a ballot last month, so please read the information presented and return your ballot by the due date. I decided some time ago to run for Regional Director in hopes that I could help make the Mid Eastern Region one of the best in the NMRA.

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.

There are many other great events coming up in not only our Division, but also in the Region.

Rail Operations Weekend

By Steve August

Many of us involved in Model Railroading are involved for many different reasons. Some for the modeling, because they love to build models, some for building a display layout because they had a train set when they were kids, and some just like having a layout around the Christmas Tree. However, some others like to operate model railroads as the real thing. If you fit into this category, I have just the weekend you need. The Carolina Southern Division is planning an Rail Operations Weekend just for you.

What is a "Rail Operations Weekend"?

If you like to operate model railroads, so that trains do more than just run around loops on a layout, then you are in for a treat during the Carolina Southern Rail Operations Weekend. Layout owners from around the area are opening up their pikes to participants for operating sessions all on the same weekend. Registered participants then rotate through the layouts on a set schedule and serve as dispatchers, yardmasters, and train crews to keep things humming along the rails. This is not an "Open House" weekend. Participation is limited to those who specifically register to participate. And if you are a participant, you are expected to work your 'shift' according to the schedule -- not be a rail fan, standing trackside watching the trains go by.

What layouts are included?

Seven layouts are included in this inaugural event for the Carolina Southern Division. Click on the links below for a brief description of the layout and a listing of the operating positions available.

[David Ward's Denver, Boulder & Western Railway](#)

[Steve August's Green Meadows Railway](#)

[Rick Knight's Knight Bros & Dad Railroad](#)

[Neal Anderson's KK & L Railroad](#)

[Seth Gartner's Piney Fork Branch of the New York](#)

[Central Railroad](#)

[Jack Parker's P&W Railroad](#)

[Jim Allen's Southern Exchange Railroad](#)

How can I get in on the fun?

The fun begins on Friday, 9 October and runs through Sunday 11 October 2009, with a group social event on Saturday evening. There are only **51** operations slots available, so you need to act soon.

You can register by using the form on our website <http://www.carolinasouthern.org> and mailing it, along with your registration fee, to:

Carolina Southern Rail Ops
Attn: Steve August
6321 Royal Celadon Way
Charlotte, NC 28269-7327

Registration closes on 26 September 2009, or when all the operations 'slots' are filled. Sign up now to lock in your slot.

Your registration fee will include a

Bar B Q Dinner

(spouses are welcome to attend the dinner, see the registration for information) on Saturday. The Bar B Q will be held at Cooks Memorial Church located at 3413 Mt. Holly – Huntersville Road at 6:30 pm. The keynote speaker will be Matt Baumgartner, who will be speaking on the

“History of the LAWNSDALE & SHELBY RAILWAY”. Also, available for extra fare will be embroidered golf shirts with Carolina Southern Rail Ops Weekend logo. The prices are listed on registration form which can be found on the division website.

Model University. CS Div bylaws state the annual meeting must be held in January. Dates available, Jan 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.

Dave Chance made a motion that RMU be held on January 30 along with Annual Business Meeting. Second Roy Becker – motion carried.

Minutes Division Meeting

August 3, 2009

Steve August

In Attendance – Jim Rager, Martin Oakes, Steve August, Dave Ward, Dave Chance, Michele Chance, Jack Parker, Dick Bronson, Roy Becker, Bob Halsey, Alan Buseman, Fred Miller, Jim Thomas.

Meeting brought to order at 11:31 AM

Steve welcomed everyone and thanked Martin for hosting the picnic.

First topic: OpSession Weekend – 9 – 11 October 2009

- Layout Owners MUST be NMRA members in good standing. 7 layouts in the session.
- BBQ dinner is part of the registration fee. Place is still to be determined.
- Matt Bumgartner will be the keynote speaker, on the history of Lawndale & Shelby Railroad.
- Layout owners will each contact their helpers and advise Steve of final selections. Should not need more than 2 per railroad.
- 3 Sessions – Friday 7PM – 10PM, Saturday 1PM – 5 PM and Sunday 1 PM to 5 PM.
- Helpers asked to take photos and email to Steve

Shirts available for a small fee with the OpSession Logo embroidered on the shirt.

Three counties in SC may be annexed to Carolina Southern Division. Roy Becker has been calling potential transfers.

Steve brought up 2 more items: Tony Sissons to do a hand laid clinic on building turnouts. David Ward volunteered his place to do the clinic on 11-14-2009. David to send out details at later date.

Signage needed for OpSession Weekend. Martin Oakes will get 25 blank signs and David offered to help paint them up and stencil.

Dick Bronson gave financial update on division and we currently have - \$656.01 in the bank.

Jack Parker – brought rail cleaning article from Scale Rails, general discussion of rail cleaning and best practices. Should not use a bright boy, LaBelle 101 was not problem. Alcohol worked well also.

David Ward made a motion to close meeting at 12:40PM Motion Seconded and carried.

NMRA National Convention

Hartford, Connecticut -- July 5 – 11, 2009

Dave Chance

I just returned from Hartford, CT, after attending the NMRA National Convention and the National Train Show. There were prototype tours, self guided layout tours, bussed layout tours, and clinics by many different experts, a silent auction, a model railroad contest, a photo contest, and a “My Favorite Train” contest. While I didn’t attend all events, I attended as many as I could fit into the schedule.

I left Kannapolis around 7:00 am on

Thursday, July 2 for Jack Parker's home in Charlotte. There I met Steve August, Roy Becker's wife, Roxanna, and Jack. The four of us left around 8:15 after packing all our luggage and goodies. We drove to Ebensburg, PA, where we stayed the first night. After checking in at the hotel, we all went to dinner at Roxanna's folks home about 34 miles away. The lasagna dinner and the hospitality were wonderful.

checking in the hotel, we headed off to the convention for registration, followed by clinics. Jack and I went on two self guided layout tours, one on Monday and the second on Wednesday. We saw HO layouts by Dennis Fennessy, Bert Sacco, Earl Smallshaw, Tom Compton, Bill Evans, Al Mayo, and Bill Schneider. The level of detail and craftsmanship was unbelievable.



NS 6305 blasting out of the Gallitzin Tunnel after climbing the grade at Horseshoe Curve. Photo by D Chance



A scene on Earl Smallshaw's HO Middletown & Mystic Mines Railroad. Structures are scratch-built. Photo by D Chance

Early on Friday, we went to The Allegheny Portage Railroad Park, Gallitzin Tunnels Park, then to Horseshoe Curve Park, and then to Altoona. In Altoona we went to the RR Museum, two model railroad hobby shops, and a hotdog shop. After hotdogs, we headed off to Scranton and checked into the hotel. We spent Saturday at Steamtown National Park. We started off the day taking many photos of the static displays and the tourist steam trains. We then went on a train ride to Moscow, PA, about 26 miles each way. Great ride! We had just enough time after the ride to go on a tour of the shops.



Scene on B&M New Hampshire Division. Photo by S August

We left Scranton early Sunday and headed toward Hartford, CT. We stopped in Durham, CT for a visit with Fred Wunsch, and a tour off his HO layout. Nice work Fred! Fred joins us in the winter for operation on Jack Parker's P&W. After

Jack and I attended many great clinics, some by local modelers and some by the hobbies best known modelers. We learned how to hand lay track, how to build a turnout for under \$5.00. We

learned how to make front row buildings from inexpensive plastic kits, how to scratch build with styrene, and with wood. We found out how to build CTC panels from free JMRI PanelPro software, how mail was delivered by rail, how to animate for operation, tips and tricks for scratch building. We learned how to kitbash buildings and how to make our own castings in resin. We attended clinics on judging the model contest, had a first hand discussion on the “Judging Code of Conduct”, and how to fill out those pesky contest/AP forms. We had an introduction to SoundTrax, and how to get big sound from little trains, and advanced tsunami programming. We attended the Digitrax Users Forum and heard from AJ and Zana Ireland. We attended clinics on modular structures, plaster casting rocks & walls, design and construction of steel mills, home brew scenery, modeling the prototype, speakers, building craftsman structures, planning a more realistic operating session, modeling tips, painting and weathering. One of my favorites was titled “Numbers? You don’t Need No Car Numbers!”. It was a novel car forwarding scheme that doesn’t need or use car numbers.



National Train Show. Photo by F Miller

We met lots of friends, some from our division, like Dick and Karen Bronson, Fred Miller, and Tom Warlick. We also met some old friends like Tony Koester, Sam Swanson, Earl

Smallshaw, Miles and Fran Hale, Dennis Vaccaro, and Terry Thompson. I’m sure there were others that I can’t recall and still others that I didn’t see.

We all spent most of Wednesday afternoon at the “silent auction” placing bids on the items we wanted most. At the conclusion, everybody got pretty much what they wanted. Jack got 43 freight cars, I got two brass Alco diesels and a few other items, Steve got some steam engines, and Roy got what he bid on. The National Train show started on Friday and ran through Sunday. Wow! What a train show! Besides hundreds of manufacturers and vendors, there were at least 20 different layouts in every scale from “Z” to “O”. Steve bought tons of steel mills cars for David Ward, Jack and I both bought lots of laser cut structure kits and craftsman car kits and way too much to list here!

All four of us went to extra fare clinics called “Modeling with the Masters”. Steve and Roy went to “Building a Laser Structure Kit”, Steve also went to “Scratch-Building a Styrene Structure”, Roy went to “Building a Turnout Using a Commercial Fixture”, and Jack and I went to “Building Plastic Walthers Modular Buildings”. All of the clinicians were MMR’s.

Would I go again? You betcha! I plan to go to the MER Fall convention in Hagerstown, Maryland in October this year. I may even go to the NMRA convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 2010. I am already planning to go to the NMRA convention in Atlanta, Georgia in 2013.

Turnout Building Clinic

On Saturday, November 14, 2009 I will be hosting a turnout/switch building clinic here at my home with the great model builder Tony Sissons. In this 6 hour clinic all participants will be schooled on the techniques Tony uses to build great operating turnouts. Each person will build

an HO scale #8 code 83 turnout to take home with them at the end of the day. All materials and tools will be provided for you. However, if you have favorite tools you like to use please bring them along.

The start time for this clinic will be at 8:30am sharp. Coffee and donuts will be available and a full lunch will be served at noon.

You can reserve your seat for only 15 dollars. There are only 12 seats available for this clinic so sign up early!

To reserve your seat please mail a check for \$15 to the address below.

Please make your check out to the "Carolina Southern Division."

David Ward
2642 Dutch Road
Mt. Pleasant, N.C. 28124

**Fall Excursion Day Trips
North Carolina Transportation Museum
Spencer, NC**

The N.C. Transportation Museum Foundation and the Watauga Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society offer a chance to see the beautiful fall foliage, experience a great destination and enjoy the romance of riding the rails this fall. The museum is again hosting fall train excursions. In addition to our traditional Charlottesville, Va. day trip, the museum will also offer a day trip to Asheville NC.

The "Virginia Autumn Special" will travel to Charlottesville, Va., Oct. 31, while the "Blue Ridge Special" will travel to Asheville, Nov. 1. Each day's trip will include spectacular views of fall foliage.

Departing Spencer at 7 a.m., Saturday's "Virginia Autumn Special" will again offer a second passenger pick-up at the Greensboro Amtrak Station at 8 a.m., allowing those living in the Triad a more convenient boarding opportunity.



During Sunday's trip, the "Blue Ridge Special" will travel through the western Piedmont into the foothills and on to the Blue Ridge Mountains. Departing Spencer at 7 a.m., the train will roll through the cities of Statesville, Hickory, Morganton, Marion, Black Mountain and Swannanoa. The train will climb the famed "loops" of the Blue Ridge Mountains passing the famous Andrews Geysers and through several tunnels before arriving in Asheville at noon. Passengers will have nearly three hours for an outing at Biltmore Village.

Tickets are available online at www.nctrans.org or by calling 704-636-2889 ext. 232.

Additional information online at:

www.nctrans.org

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

Local news item:

Division member and Director, Fred Miller, MMR, has an article in the August issue of Railroad Model Craftsman. He describes installing a Digitrax sound decoder and programming it to use recorded sounds of a specific prototype. Could you guess that the prototype would be a Peter Witt trolley? He also includes web links to the software he developed to run the sounds in the decoder. Congratulations, Fred, and thanks for another contribution to the hobby.

Division Website:

www.CarolinaSouthern.org

Submissions For Brass Pounder

Next Issue	Submission Date
November 2009	November 1, 2009

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
704-296-2493



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