



Carolina Southern Division

Annual Meeting Minutes

2020

1. Meeting
 - a. The 2020 Annual Meeting for Carolina Southern Division 12 of the Mid East Region was held at the North Carolina Transportation Museum on Saturday, January 18, 2020.
 - b. Superintendent Alan Hardee Called the meeting to order approximately 9:35am.
 - c. There were 20 members present, well surpassing the quorum minimum of 12.

2. Superintendent's Report (included as attachment)
 - a. Alan Hardee provided copies of the Superintendent's Annual Report to the Clerk and briefly discussed highlights from his report.
 - b. Key events during 2019 included:
 - i. Three division displays of "Timesaver" switching layout.
 - ii. 13th annual Railroad Modeling University (RMU) held January 19th.
 - iii. Division Annual Picnic in September. The Picnic was held at the home of Jack Parker, MMR.
 - iv. Members Swap Meet and Wade's Train Town Open House in November.
 - v. Three hands-on clinics were conducted during monthly meetings covering airbrushing, decaling and weathering of freight car shells provided by the Division.
 - c. Activities to sponsor Boy Scout Model Railroad Merit Badge with multiple Councils.
 - d. 11 CSD members attended the MER annual convention, Liberty Bell Special.

3. Clerk's Report (included as attachment)
 - a. Clerk Ed Gumphrey provided copies of his Annual Report to all in attendance and briefly discussed highlights from his report.
 - b. The Clerk contacted all other MER Divisions with initial submission of an information banner for the hosting of the 2020 MER Convention in October.

4. Paymaster's Report
 - a. John Stevens provided a summary of his Annual Report, indicating that the Division is solvent for 2019.
 - b. The written report was provided to The Superintendent. To ensure financial confidentiality, it is not included in these minutes.

5. Newsletter Report (included as attachment)

- a. Editor Ed Gumphrey provided copies of his Annual Report to all in attendance and briefly discussed highlights from his report.
 - b. 12 editions of *The Brass Pounder* were published, averaging 19 pages.
6. Social Media Report (Facebook, Website) (included as attachment)
- a. Webmaster Gil Brauch, MMR provided copies of his Annual Report to all in attendance and briefly discussed highlights from his report.
 - b. The Webmaster has developed a dedicated set of web pages for the 2020 MER Convention that the Division is hosting.
 - i. Links are posted on the home page to the Convention pages.
 - ii. Registration for the Convention is active.
 - iii. A link to the Convention pages was provided to NMRA National Headquarters.
 - iv. The registration service the Division has been using for RMU since 2012 continues to work well and is being used for the Convention registration.
 - c. CSD's Facebook Page has remained active for members who opted to join the group page, but has been hampered by mysterious blocking of links, which indicate the website "violated community standards." Attempts to get this resolved with Facebook technical support have been unproductive.
7. Brookford Project Report (included as attachment)
- a. Brookford Project Manager Gil Brauch, MMR provided copies of his Annual Report to all in attendance and briefly discussed highlights from his report.
 - b. Twelve open house events were held during 2019.
 - c. Attendance at monthly open houses for Wade's Train Town was approximately 180, an increase of about 40 visitors from the prior year.
 - d. Four CSD members volunteered time to the project. More volunteers are needed.
 - e. The project will continue in 2020 on the second Saturday of each month from 10:00am to 2:00pm.
8. Convention Update
- a. Convention Chairman Neal Anderson provided highlights of planning steps for CSD hosting of the 2020 MER Convention
 - b. As noted during the Webmaster's Report, special web pages are operational, including registration.
 - c. Plans are being made for special convention shirts for those assisting.
 - d. Layout tours and operating sessions are still being solicited.
9. Election
- a. Alan Hardee was reelected as Superintendent for his third term.
 - b. Andrew Stitt was elected as Assistant Superintendent.

- c. Ed Gumphrey was reelected as Clerk for his second term.
- d. David Thrams was elected as Paymaster.
- e. Scott Perry was elected as Director 2023.

10. New Business

- a. AP Chairman Neal Anderson, MMR, made two AP presentations.
 - i. Joe Skorch received an Achievement Certificate and Merit Award for Scenery.
 - ii. Ed Smith received an Achievement Certificate for Civil Engineering.
- b. More AP awards were earned by members in 2019 than any previous year on record.

11. Superintendent Alan Hardee adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:30am.

Ed Gumphrey
CSD Clerk
Editor, CSD Brass Pounder

Yearly Division Report
Reporting Period: 2019

Division: Carolina Southern Division 12, MER

Meeting Times and Places:

Regular member meeting third Saturday each month
February 16th Annual Business Meeting;
February Board Organizational and Planning Meeting

Change in Officers from last year (including AP Coordinator):

Contact information:

Superintendent:

Curtis Alan Hardee	908 S. 9 th St. Bessemer City, NC 28016	704-868-6976 superintendent @carolinasouthern.org
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Asst Superintendent:

Jack Monette, MMR 613	174 Glenwood Drive Concord, NC 28025	704-788-2856 assistsuper @carolinasouthern.org
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Paymaster:

John Stevens	114 W Vista View Place Mooresville, NC 28117	704-663-5565 paymaster @carolinasouthern.org
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Clerk:

Edward Gumphrey	911 Pleasant Drive Shelby, NC 28152	757-353-8355 Clerk @carolinasouthern.org
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Director 2020:

Roy Becker	5112 Granite Creek Lane Charlotte, NC 28269	704-644-5555 director2 @carolinasouthern.org
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Director 2022:

Ed Smith

142 Williams Cove Ln.
Taylorsville, NC 28681

828-495-7441
director1
@carolinasouthern.org

Director 2021

Larry Paffrath

17815 Prescott Border
Drive
Cornelius, NC 28031

704-778-2745
director3
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AP Chairman

Neal Anderson

172 Woodfield Dr
Statesville, NC 28677

704-775-2830
apchair
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Achievement Program highlights: See Attached

Activities from the past year:

“Brass Pounder” Division Newsletter; (12 editions)

Division promotion display with operating Timesavers at Train Shows
Hickory, NC in April, Spencer, NC in May, Gastonia, NC July

13th annual Railroad Modeling University (RMU), January 19th.

Division Picnic, September- Jack Parker’s Piedmont and Western RR.

Members Swap Meet, November

Wades Train Town Open House (2nd Saturday monthly)

11 members and spouses attended MER Convention.

Monthly activities

January, RMU, Railroad Modeling University. 1/19/19

February, CSD Annual Business Meeting. Board Of Directors Meeting.

March, Monthly meeting “Show and Tell”

April, Tour of Tichy Train Group. Combined with Carolina Piedmont Division 13.

May, Display at North Carolina Transportation Museum train Show,
Clinics for train show attendees.

June, Cool Summer “How To Clinics” Part 1- Washing and painting NMRA
boxcar shells with Airbrush.

July, Cool Summer “How To Clinics” Part 2- Apply decals on the NMRA boxcar
shells using Micro-Sol and Micro-Set.

August, Cool Summer “How To Clinics” Part 3- Weathering NMRA boxcar shells.
Layout visit and tour of Neal Andersons KK&L Railroad. Continued class for
those working toward Chief Dispatcher.

September, Annual Picnic and layout visit to Jack Parker’s Piedmont &
Western Railroad.

October, Liberty Bell Special MER Convention.

Monthly Meeting and Layout visit to Southern Piedmont Live Steamers 7 ½”
gauge in Oakboro, NC

November, Monthly meeting. Annual swap meet and show. Hickory, NC

Special Projects or working with other organizations

Sponsor Boy Scout Model Railroad Merit Badge with multiple Councils
Maintain & repair model train display at Levine Museum of the New South.

Any successful or new ideas that your division has tried that might be
helpful to other divisions.

The Division has held a Railroad Modeling University for 13 years. This event
has been a half or full day collection of classes, clinics, demonstrations, and
hands on work sessions on many aspects of the hobby. It is scheduled for
January and always includes some classes targeting beginners. Some of the
beginner classes have been run every year and consistently get 8 to 12
attendees. We often have several people who had their first exposure to

model trains at Christmas and are curious about what more they can do with them. We typically have 4 to 6 concurrent one-hour classes at all levels of expertise, so anyone can learn something from the day. Attendance has been in the range of 60 to 80.

Superintendent's Name and Signature.

Curtis Alan Hardee, 1/14/2020



Carolina Southern Division

Annual Clerk's Report

2019

1. Term
 - a. I continued as CSD Clerk during the Division's for the second year since being elected January 20, 2018. I am willing to continue to serve as Clerk is reelected.

2. Activities
 - a. I missed two of the monthly meetings (May, September) due to illness. I attended all other monthly meetings, taking attendance, notes and photographs to provide input for *The Brass Pounder*. My thanks to Alan Hardee and Ed Smith for providing notes and pictures for the meetings I missed.
 - b. Produced and published official minutes for the 2019 Annual Meeting.
 - c. Answered multiple email queries addressed to helper@carolinasouthern.org
 - d. Contacted all other MER Divisions with initial submission of information banner for the 2020 Convention.

3. Future Plans
 - a. Continue basic duties during all meetings in 2020 if reelected.
 - b. Support Convention Chairman Neal Anderson, MMR in advance planning for hosting the 2020 MER Convention.
 - c. Provide additional support as may be requested by the BOD and other members.

Ed Gumphrey
CSD Clerk
Editor, CSD Brass Pounder



Carolina Southern Division

Annual Editor's Report

2019

1. I continued duties as newsletter editor concurrent with my duties as CSD Clerk for the second year since January 20, 2018. I'm having fun and am willing to continue in this role.
2. Activities
 - a. As reported last year, in April 2018 I attained my goal of growing *The Brass Pounder* to a monthly publication, and twelve issues were published in 2019.
 - b. A total of 226 pages and 528 photographs were published. The average issue is 19 pages and contains 44 photographs or illustrations.
 - c. I continued making layout tours to help generate articles for the newsletter. My thanks to Neal Anderson MMR, Gil Brauch MMR, Joe Skorch, Ed Smith, and Andrew Stitt for hosting my visits.
3. Submissions
 - a. Submissions have leveled off, and my only backlog consists of two articles of my own pending future publication.
 - b. I continue to solicit inputs with every edition, and would like to see more submissions, especially for "how to" or "current project" articles.
 - c. In addition to monthly "Superintendent's Corner" submissions by Alan Hardee, my sincere thanks to thirteen contributors; Doug Algire, MMR Neal Anderson, MMR Gil Brauch, Nancy Campbell, Dave Chance, Alan Hardee, MMR Jack Monette, Duncan Parker, Henry Reeves, Tim Rumph, Joe Skorch, Ed Smith, and Andrew Stitt for their submissions.
 - d. A special note of thanks to regular contributors Ed Smith and Tim Rumph who provide inputs almost every month.
4. Future Plans
 - a. Continue monthly publication in 2020.
 - b. Arrange additional layout tours and follow-up visits for article development.
 - c. Support Convention Chairman MMR Neal Anderson in advance planning for hosting the 2020 MER Convention, with particular emphasis on increasing interest in participation.
 - d. Provide additional support with publication of notices as may be requested by the BOD.

Ed Gumphrey
CSD Clerk
Editor, *The Brass Pounder*



Annual Webmaster's Report

As of December 31, 2019

Early in the year, the website was put back “on the air” in its slightly new format. There have been no complaints made known to the webmaster about the overall functionality of the site. Not all ‘legacy’ pages were re-formatted, since they essentially report on events that occurred between 5 and 10 or so years ago and will not be updated. They are retained for archival purposes only.

The major addition to the website was the opening of a whole set of pages for the 2020 MER Convention that the Division is hosting. Those pages went ‘live’ in early December of this year and will be continuously updated as more information is developed during the months leading up to the convention. A link to that section of the website has been provided to NMRA National and is available on their page listing regional conventions.

The registration service we started to use with RMU 2012 continued to work well and we will continue to use it for not only registrations, but also at other times when feedback from the membership is desired. The PayPal account also functioned successfully and we will continue to use it for payments except for ordering items from the haberdasher because the haberdasher deals directly with the vendor on a cash basis.

Our Facebook presence continues on and makes for a good second information outlet for the Division. However, in mid-November FaceBook decided that our website “violated community standards” and no longer allows direct link posting to FaceBook of links to the website. As of this report, several attempts have been made to find a human to talk to about his, since the decision seems to have been made by an algorithm. Even with this ‘glitch’, all members are encouraged to ‘join’ the page and keep up with the postings there. It is a ‘closed’ group as far as postings are concerned, although the general public can see what’s aboard. I will continue to ‘cross post’ events between the website and Facebook pages based on information provided by the Clerk in his announcement Email ‘blasts’ to the general membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Gilbert Brauch, MMR
Webmaster



Annual Report on the Brookford Project As of December 31, 2019

We held 12 open houses entertaining a total of approximately 180 visitors.

- Attendance was up about 40 visitors from the year prior.
- For National Model Railroad Month in November, we again hosted a swap meet in conjunction with our open house. Approximately 28 people attended during the day. We did have a 'news' notice in the Hickory Daily Record.
- We should continue holding swap meets during the November Open House. Member participation in the event was slightly less than last year.

A total of three (4) CSD members contributed hours to the project this year. All of the hours were in hosting monthly open houses. Using Division members as hosts is essential to the continued viability of this project. The response for support in this continues to be underwhelming.

- Attached to this report is the certificate of service for those working on the project during calendar year 2019.

Cash donations have been approximately \$3,585 over the years we have held open houses. Our annual income for 2019 was \$143.

- Most of this, except about \$5 currently in the donation jar, \$55.21 deposited in the CSD bank account, and the current cash on hand, has been expended on materials and supplies. Our continuing expense is the electric bill, which the Paymaster handles separately.
- The project manager is holding a cash balance of approximately \$589 available for future materials and supplies.
- There were no project material expenses for the year.

We will be continuing our open house schedule in the coming year on the second Saturday of each month from 10 am until 2 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gilbert Brauch, MMR
Brookford Project Manager