

NMRA



THE BRASS POUNDER

Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Division 12, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association

Superintendent's Corner

By Chad Barnette

Division Coming Events

Join us for National Model Railroad Month. Each weekend starting October 24th through November 14th.

Fall is here! Let that sink in, haha! Now is the time for everyone to enjoy one of our last major events of the year. But before I get to that, I want to thank everyone who had any part in making the Carolina Southern Division Annual Picnic a success. Of course we owe it to Joe and Alan for bringing the main course - great job guys! I think everyone loved the food, and if you brought some food to share, thank you so much for contributing! From what I could tell everyone had a great time. The weather cooperated and there was a lot of good talks and story telling that went on.

Now, for the next thing. That's right...it's National Model Railroad Month. Technically that's November, but we are starting early! Beginning October 24th we will have our first of four open houses for everyone to sign up for and enjoy. Check out the division news section for more details. Hope to see you there!



Editor's Notes

By Chad Barnette

Last month I did a little blurb about using Mod Podge as a way to create a type of scenic cement for ground foam. It's always nice to get feedback on techniques like this one. This time, I received great feedback from Fred Miller, MMR. Always wonderful to get input from a Master Model Railroader!

Fred was kind enough to send me an article to share with you about his ground foam application techniques and what adhesive and processes are involved. Thanks Fred!

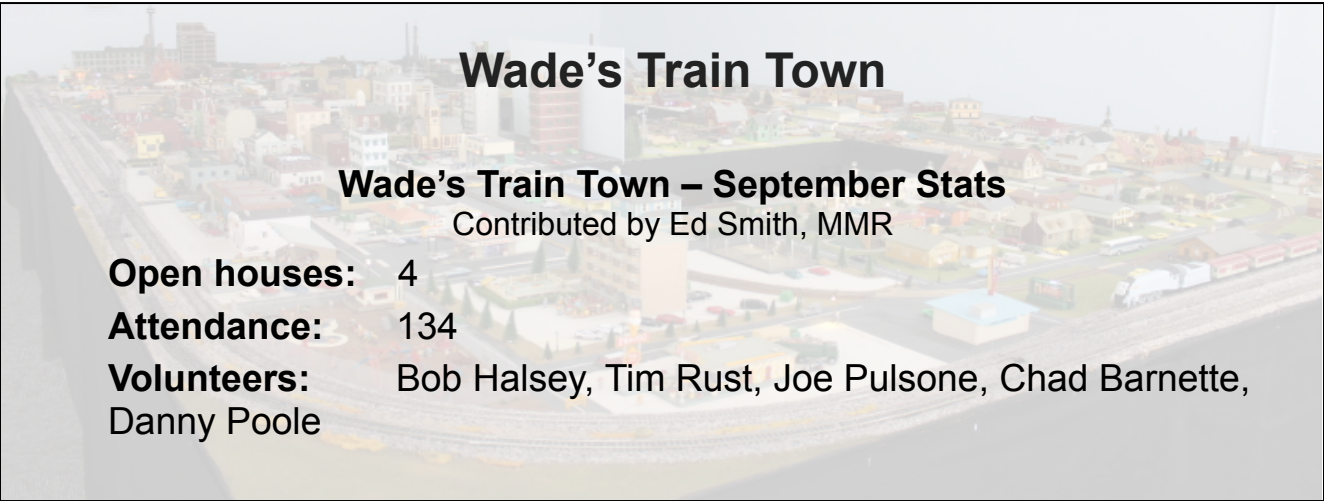
I think this is the type of thing I would love to see each month. Someone reads something in the Brass Pounder and it reminds them of an experience that had or perhaps something they tried that didn't work out. Sharing that experience, whether it's an article, or just a couple of sentences sent to the editor, can really make for a really well-rounded newsletter and it combines the depth of knowledge of the division as a whole.

If that's you...if you have something to share - a sentence, a thought, a shared article from the internet, or even a full article (AP Points!), please send it my way via the email address below. Thanks!

Click the link to email me articles & ideas:

editor@carolinasouthern.org

Division and Regional News



Wade's Train Town

Wade's Train Town – September Stats

Contributed by Ed Smith, MMR

Open houses: 4

Attendance: 134

Volunteers: Bob Halsey, Tim Rust, Joe Pulsone, Chad Barnette, Danny Poole

Annual CSD Picnic

Contributed by Chad Barnette



Thanks again to everyone who contributed and attended the annual CSD picnic. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed some amazing culinary sensations! We'll do it again next year!

Oh, and by the way, the two-foot gauge train was a lot of fun if you haven't tried it before. Make sure to do it next time!

AP Updates from the Plywood RR Desk

Contributed by Neal Anderson, MMR

October Rail Movements

Now that the temp outside has cooled down a little. It's time to work on the railroads that are sometimes hard to work on when it's hot. I'm going to help out by filling out the form for evaluating train cars, to help on getting a merit award on them. This will help take the scary papertrail out of the forms. The form is the 902 that has been worked on just last month.



Please see the next page for the guide to the National Contest Evaluation Form



NATIONAL CONTEST EVALUATION FORM

Form 902 (Revised 9/2026)

Please Print Name and Information

Entry No.

Entry Name Name Here

1. CONSTRUCTION (Maximum 40 points)

Points Awarded

Model Basis – Select the description that best applies to your model

☐ Scratch Built – Complete (>90%)

Mark what it is

☐ Kit Bash – Multiple kits not per kit plans

☐ Scratch Built – Partial (<90%)

☐ Kit Built – Per kit plan (> 90%)

Name of kit or major parts and manufacturer list the car kit you are working on

 Say like a Blue Box

Construction Techniques – Select all methods and materials that apply to your model

☐ Drew own plans

☐ Followed construction article

☐ Cut and fit wood

☐ Soldered metal

☐ Used commercial plans

☐ Cut and fit metal

☐ Cut and fit cardstock

☐ Made patterns

☐ Used kit plans

☐ Cut and fit plastic

☐ Cut and fit glass

☐ Made molds

Describe in detail how model was built, its complexity and the methods used. Under Construction mark what was added and how you went about on assembly of the build. List parts you built or added on to the car. Add pictures as you go. Tell why you added parts the way you did, because the picture showed it on a real car that way. Not all cars are the same. Are there parts that are 3D printed.

 It could be that you just like it built to your own plans.

2. DETAIL (Maximum 20 points)

Points Awarded

Describe complexity, difficulty, refinement and quantity of detail parts added. Identify all commercial parts. How many parts did you add to the car? How many did you build for it? How many are Commercial parts?

 Explain the brake rigging that was added. The ladders that were added. The grab rails. Nuts / Bolts / Rivets that have been added.

 The type of lettering and weathering that was added.

3. CONFORMITY (Maximum 25 points)

Points Awarded

Describe prototype design. Include prototype documentation (beyond what was supplied in kit).

 Tell the evaluation group, how the car fits into the railroad operations. Show pictures of a real car that backs up what you did.

4. FINISH & LETTERING (Maximum 25 points)

Points Awarded

☐ Weathered ☐ Hand Lettered ☐ Decals ☐ Dry Transfers ☐ Spray ☐ Airbrush ☐ Dry brush ☐ Stain

☐ Non-Weathered - Describe methods and materials

 List what type of decals that were used. What amount of weathering is added, heavy or lite. Picture to back it up or say that's what you like.

5. SCRATCH BUILT (Maximum 15 points)

☐ Kit Built Classification

Points Awarded

List all parts scratch built; note special refinements

 If the car is scratch built list out all the parts, or take a picture of it before you start. If you build two cars, one kit and scratch the second one.

 show the two piles of parts. One of the kit and the scratch parts together. If you build parts for both of them list it.

Model Railroad Ground Cover Techniques

Contributed by Fred Miller, MMR

Over the years in my modeling experience in both HO scale and N scale I have developed a simple technique for applying ground cover. For overall ground cover I use an application of full strength white glue, generally Titebond Original Wood Glue. The glue is spread evenly over the surface with a stick or old paint brush, pushing the glue into all areas like near buildings. I then sprinkle on various ground foam, cinders or ballast in the desired locations. I particularly like Woodland Scenics Blended Turf and JTT Autumn Blended, but other fine grain materials also work. The area is liberally flooded in 70% Alcohol which pulls the glue up through the ground foam. It is then left to dry. This generally takes a day to fully dry out leaving a very solid ground cover application.

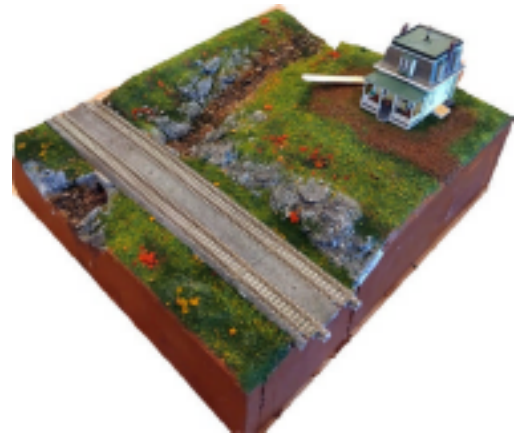


Figure 1 shows the initial application of ground covering on one of my T-Trak modules.



Figure 2 is a close up of the finished application on that module after some details have been added.

I use a related technique to fasten other scenic items such as ground foam clumps representing bushes. I dip the bottom of the foam clump into the same full strength white glue and place it on the layout. I then again fully flood the item with 70% alcohol. I then drip diluted white glue onto the clump and let dry. The glue is drawn up into the foam and the diluted glue provides a very stable mounting. I typically use a water diluted mixture about milk consistency. Figure 3 shows a sample of that technique on another T-Trak module.

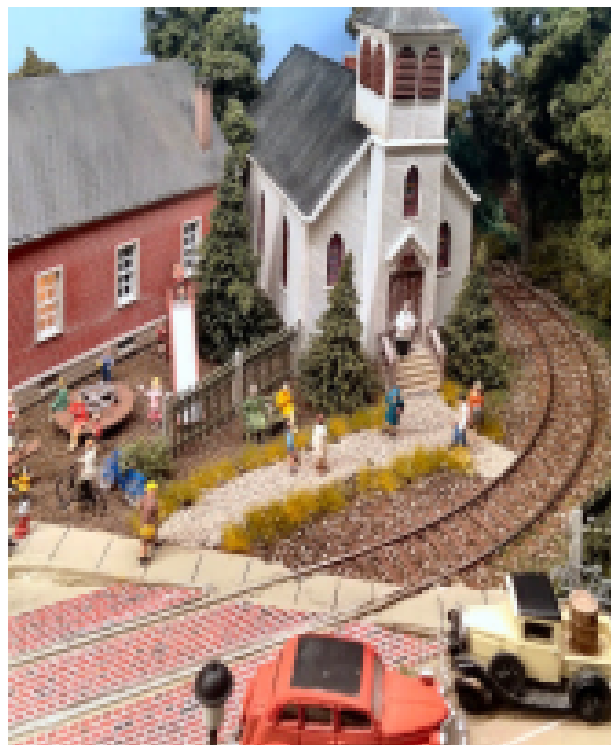


I use a similar technique to apply ballast. If the ballast will be on a sloped track base I apply the full strength glue to the slope. Ballast is then sprinkled to the area and appropriately adjusted to the desired location around the ties, etc. The area is flooded with the 70% alcohol and the diluted white glue is dripped over the area.

Figure 4 shows an example of ballast applied using this technique on one of my HO Trolley dioramas.

All the references to white glue in my case is the Titebond Original Wood Glue. I find that product works great for these applications.

The 'flooding' of the alcohol can be accomplished with either a fine spray or with an eye dropper. In both cases care is needed to prevent shifting of the materials.



2026 CSD National Model Railroad Month Celebration

Contributed by Dave Thrams

Hi Carolina Southern Division members!

This is a friendly reminder to register on the CSD website to view our fellow members home layouts, fellowship with other members, and just have a good time visiting fellow model railroaders! Go to CSD website, click on this link or copy and paste to browser:

[National Railroad Month Schedule](#)

There have been a few changes to the schedule. Please note the changes if you've signed up already. If you haven't signed up yet, now is the time. Registration deadlines are approaching and after the deadline passes, layout addresses will be sent out to registered visitors.

Registration ends Sunday October 18

Addresses will be sent a day or two after the deadline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>
24-Oct	Neubacher	Marcus	China Grove	NC
24-Oct	Stitt	Andrew	New London	NC
24-Oct	Colby	Steve	Denver	NC

Registration ends Sunday October 25

Addresses will be sent a day or two after the deadline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>
31-Oct	Club	Cherryville	Cherryville	NC
	Note: Hours open are 10am - Noon			
			Bessemer	
31-Oct	Hardee	Alan	City	NC
31-Oct	Thrums	David	Stanley	NC
31-Oct	Gartner	Seth	W. Charlotte	NC

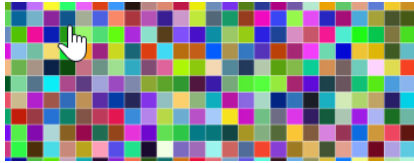
Registration ends Sunday November 1
Addresses will be sent a day or two after the deadline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>
7-Nov	Miller	Fred	Charlotte	NC
7-Nov	Petro	Dylan	Fort Mill	SC
7-Nov	Barnette	Chad	Fort Mill	SC
7-Nov	Miller	Gordon	Matthews	NC
7-Nov	Myers	David	Waxhaw	NC
7-Nov	Bronson	Dick	Waxhaw	NC

Registration ends Sunday November 8
Addresses will be sent a day or two after the deadline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>
		Wades Train		
14-Nov	Club	Town	Newton	NC
14-Nov	Short	John	Nebo	NC
	Anderson			
14-Nov	MMR	Neal	Statesville	NC
14-Nov	Pulsone	Joe	Statesville	NC

Happy Model Railroading!!



Digital Distractions

Here's a fun one for you. Miles in Transit - this quirky channel on Youtube is very relaxed and laid back. Miles goes on all kinds of transit adventures including Amtrak, cable car rides, and everything in between.

MILES IN TRANSIT

[Miles In Transit Youtube](#)

Division Brass

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