

**Carolina Southern Division  
Annual Business Meeting  
Minutes  
Hunter Acres Baptist Church  
January 20, 2018**

Superintendent Alan Hardee called the meeting to order at 9:42AM. Clerk Fred Miller confirmed that the 15 attendees are NMRA members and the necessary quorum of 12 has been met.

Treasurer John Stevens was not able to attend due to illness. Superintendent Hardee reported that the Treasurer indicated by phone that the Division's ending balance for 2017 was approximately \$5,000.

Clerk Fred Miller reported the current Division membership is 121, a net gain of 15 members since last year. The Division's subsidized Rail Pass membership includes 14 Rail Pass members. The Clerk's report is attached.

Gil Brauch gave his report on the Brookford Project. Guest attendance was again lower this past year, down to 126. Costs for publicity for the monthly Open House is now prohibitive so no advertising has been available. Train Town hosted the annual CSD swap meet and open house for National Model Railroad Month in November. About 33 people attended but CSD membership participation in the swap meet was limited. Gil Brauch's annual report is attached.

Gil Brauch gave his report on the CarolinaSouthern.org website and the Division's Facebook page. No major changes have been made to the look and feel of the website. Gil reminded everyone to check the calendar page for date, time and location of upcoming events. A more detailed report is attached.

Editor Fred Miller reported that he edited and published 6 issues of the Brass Pounder this year, each with an average of 9 pages. Fred made the usual editor's appeal for material to publish and thanked the half-dozen members who contributed articles. Fred noted that the Nov-Dec issue was his last so a new Brass Pounder Editor will be needed. Further details can be found in Fred's attached Annual Report.

Dave Chance gave us his report on the NMRA Achievement program, copy attached. He indicated that the Division's performance in awards was better this year. Five AP Certificates were issued and four merit Awards were earned. Dave congratulated Neal Anderson for his achievements in AP certificates, with only two more necessary to gain his MMR.

The 2017 RMU was again held at The Christ the King Lutheran Church on South Tryon Street in Charlotte. The net profits were lower than the previous year due to lower attendance. However, the profits from the White Elephant table were great, primarily due to a generous donation of materials. Doug Algire reported that next Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> will be this year's RMU event with over 50 attendees already registered. It is anticipated a dozen more will sign up at the event. Doug indicated that next year's RMU (2019) will again be at the same venue on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

President Alan Hardee disclosed the material from the Division's Annual Report that he had prepared for the MER. This is a NMRA Region required report summarizing the activities of the division. A copy of that report is attached.

Roy Becker, representing the Nomination Committee, took leadership of the meeting for nominations for the one open Director-2020 position, the Superintendent, Assistance Superintendent, Treasurer and Clerk. Roy reported that Alan Hardee and John Stevens would again run for their positions of Superintendent and Treasurer. Jack Monette would run for Assistant Superintendent and Ed Gumphrey would run for Clerk and Larry Paffrath will run for the Director-2020 position. No nominations were offered from the floor. An election motion for accepting all of these members was presented by Gil Brauch and seconded by Jack Haynes. All members voted their approval.

Alan Hardee indicated that Scott Perry will continue in the appointed position of Program Coordinator. Ed Gumphrey indicated he would take on the Brass Pounder Editor role. Gil Brauch (Webmaster), Dave Chance (AP Chair), Doug Algire (RMU Chair) and Nancy Campbell (Membership) will continue their roles another year.

Dave Chance described a bit about his new responsibility as the AP Chair for the MER. He indicated that this would put significant demands on his time and suggested that another member might join him in fulfilling the division's AP Chair responsibilities. Neal Anderson offered his services to help Dave, and was appointed as AP Co-Chair,

Alan Hardee led a discussion on the Division potentially hosting the 2020 Mid-Eastern Region Annual Convention. The MER has extended an invitation to the Division since it has been twenty years since that hosting responsibility has fallen to CSD. Although Alan reported that he received a positive reaction to an informal poll, many members expressed concern about the ability of the division to muster the necessary participation in the many responsibilities of hosting a convention. There was a general consensus that a full delineation of all the committee and helper positions was needed along with a second attempt to reach out to the membership to establish actual volunteers. It was noted that help in developing an understanding of the various responsibilities would be available from the MER as well as former convention chairs of other divisions. Gil Brauch presented a motion (seconded by Neal Anderson) that the Board be given the responsibility to pursue the details of the division's convention hosting project and ascertain necessary participation. The members present voted in the affirmative to this motion.

At 11:54 Gil Brauch presented a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Fred Miller and the members approved.

After adjournment, Fred Miller, outgoing CSD Clerk, turned over CSD files, archives, templates and other material to the newly elected CSD Clerk.

Respectfully submitted by  
Fred Miller, MMR  
Former CSD Clerk, and  
Ed Gumphrey  
Newly elected CSD Clerk

Attachments: Annual Reports

## CSDiv Annual Meeting Jan 20, 2018

### **Clerk's Annual Report**

Current Active Membership is 121 (as of 1/2018) Last year it was 106 and the year before it was 95. So a gradual increase has been experienced over the last several years. Membership growth can be attributed club's 100% NMRA membership drive, annexed counties and Rail Pass initiatives.

The current membership of 121 includes 14 MER supported Rail Pass memberships. The CSD membership also includes 14 LIFE members.

The membership roster is maintained from the Regional files distributed to each Division each month. eMail lists are extracted to enable email contact with the membership for informational *eBlasts*, newsletter availability and other communication needs.

Submitted by Fred Miller, MMR  
CSD Clerk

### **Brass Pounder Editor's Annual Report**

The Nov-Dec 2017 issue of the Brass Pounder was the last to be published by Fred Miller so the CSD will need a volunteer to carry on the newsletter tradition.

Six issues of the Brass Pounder were again published in 2018 with an average of 9 pages each. Contribution for articles, announcements and other materials has been sparse. Special thanks to contributing authors: Dave Chance, Doug Algire, Scott Perry, Alan Hardee, Bob Halsey and Gil Brauch.

Clint Hyde, Editor of the MER Newsletter, started a new initiative to support the newsletter editors of each of the MER Divisions. He began a tradition of Editor's Breakfast meetings at the annual MER Convention. Last fall's meeting drew attendance from most of the divisions and conversations about experiences and publishing software have continued since then.

It is quite possible that provision will be made to purchase quality publishing/editing software for each Division.

Submitted by Fred Miller, MMR  
Brass Pounder Editor

## **Achievement Program Progress Report for 2017**

Dave Chance, CS Div. 12 AP Chair, MER AP Manager

January 20, 2018

The CS Division had a good year with five AP Certificates and four Merit Awards. The AP Certificates earned in 2017 are as follows:

1. Neal Anderson – MB Scenery – November 2017
2. Neal Anderson – Civil Engineering – November 2017
3. Neal Anderson – Electrical Engineering – November 2017
4. Neal Anderson – Chief Dispatcher – November 2017
5. Neal Anderson – Association Volunteer – November 2017

Congratulations to Neal Anderson for his excellent effort in earning these five AP Certificates. Only two more to earn the MMR Certificate. Keep up the good work Neal.

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. Several members listed below have only the paper work to complete. I can help with paper work but I can't do it for you. Current projects include but are not limited to the following:

1. Dick Bronson -- Electrical Engineer and Civil Engineering.
2. Jack Monette (6 AP)– Association Volunteer and Author
3. Dave Chance - MB Cars, MB Structures, Civil Engineer, Author, and MB Motive Power
4. Michele Chance – Electrical Engineer, Civil Engineer, MB Motive Power, and Author
5. Seth Gartner (4 AP) – Chief Dispatcher and Association Volunteer
6. Nancy Campbell - Author
7. Gil Brauch (5 AP)– MB Structures
8. Neal Anderson (5 AP)– MB Cars, MB Structures
9. Ed Locklin - Electrical Engineer.
10. Dave Draxler – Electrical Engineer
11. Jim Thomas -- Chief Dispatcher
12. Scott Perry -- MB Structures, MB Cars, Chief Dispatcher, Civil Engineer, & Electrical Engineer
13. Alan Hardee -- Association Volunteer, Chief Dispatcher, Electrical Engineer, & Scenery

Remember, I will be happy to help anyone who is working on an AP project, and anyone needing help getting started in the AP program. I will also be happy to come to your home to look at your layout for a Golden Spike, scenery, structures, etc. or to help with paperwork, etc. on an AP project. 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 visit.

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

704-933-4200





## **Annual Report on the Brookford Project** ***As of December 31, 2017***

We held 12 open houses entertaining a total of approximately 126 visitors.

- Attendance continues to drop. We only had about half of the year before.
- For National Model Railroad Month in November, we again hosted a swap meet in conjunction with our open house. Approximately 33 people attended during the day even though we had a 'news' notice in the Hickory Daily Record.
- We should continue holding swap meets during the November Open House even though member participation is lower than it should be.

A total of seven (7) CSD members contributed hours to the project this year. All of the hours were in hosting monthly open houses. Using Division members as hosts works out well and support from Division members essential to the continued viability of this project. That being said, the response for support in this has been underwhelming so far.

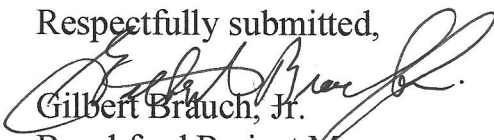
- Attached to this report is the certificate of service for those working on the project during calendar year 2017.

Cash donations have been approximately \$3,352 over the years we have held open houses. Our annual income for 2017 was \$85.

- 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 for the room.
- The project manager is holding a cash balance of approximately \$391 available for future materials and supplies.
- Project expenses were minimal 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 except for January when we closed because of the WGH Show in Charlotte.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gilbert Brauch, Jr.  
Brookford Project Manager




## CAROLINA SOUTHERN DIVISION, MER, NMRA




### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

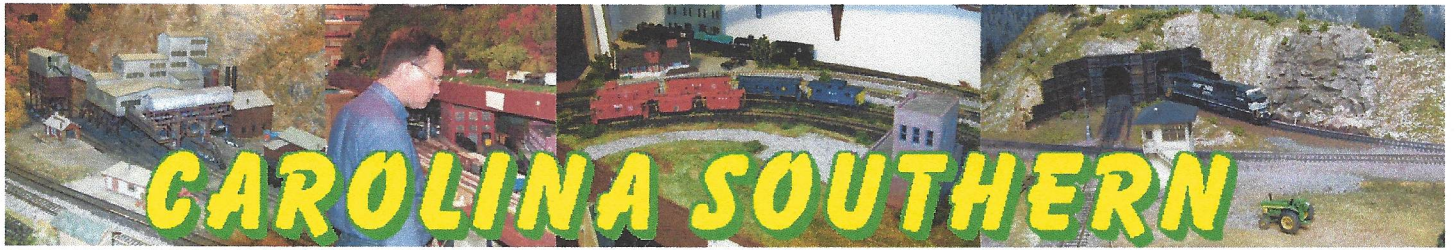
THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFY THAT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS HAVE SERVED AS MEMBERS OF THE BROOKFORD RESTORATION COMMITTEE OF THE CAROLINA SOUTHERN DIVISION, MID EASTERN REGION, NMRA DURING THE INDICATED NUMBER OF MONTHS DURING THE YEAR 2017.

GIL BRAUCH, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND PROJECT MANAGER	10 MONTHS
DAVE MANKO	1 MONTH
ALAN HARDEE	2 MONTHS
LARRY PAFFRATH	2 MONTHS
FRED MILLER	1 MONTH
MARTIN OAKES	2 MONTHS
MICHAEL LETHCOE	6 MONTHS

  
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Alan Hardee, Superintendent CSD

  
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Gil Brauch, Brookford Project Manager





## Annual Webmaster's Report

*As of December 31, 2017*

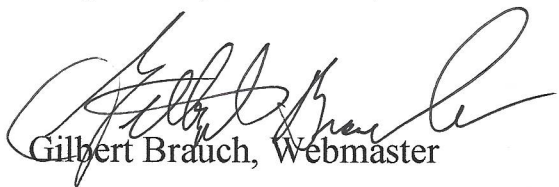
Once again, we made no major changes to the look and feel of our website. The registration service we started to use with RMU 2012 continues to work well and we continue to use it successfully for registration tables for the Swap Meet and other events for the Division. The PayPal account was once again successful for registration for RMU 2018.

Our Facebook presence continues on and makes for a good second information outlet for the Division. 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.

In closing, these reminders will be helpful to all:

1. The boxes just below the menu on the Home Page continue to be your best source pointing to late breaking news and information.
2. Each time you access the website, you should use the "Refresh" button on your browser to ensure you have the latest version. Some browsers will download a frequently visited page and use the downloaded version (which may not be current) the next time you call for the page. This is particularly true when you access the home page and the calendar.
3. Remain aware that calendar changes are made shortly after they are made known to the Webmaster without general notification made for each one, so you need to check it frequently.
4. The Division Clerk will continue to send out special announcements. We try to keep up with them on the website, too.

Respectfully submitted,



Gilbert Brauch, Webmaster

Yearly Division Report  
Reporting Period: 2017

Division: Carolina Southern Division 12, MER

Meeting Times and Places:

Regular member meeting third Saturday each month  
February 18th Annual Business Meeting;  
February Board Organizational and Planning Meeting  
July BOD Meeting

Change in Officers from last year (including AP Coordinator):  
No Change

Contact information:

Superintendent:

Curtis Alan Hardee	908 S. 9 <sup>th</sup> St. Bessemer City, NC 28016	704-868-6976 superintendent @carolinasouthern.org
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Asst

Superintendent:

Larry Paffrath	17815 Prescott Border Drive Cornelius, NC 28031	704-778-2745 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:

Fred Miller	333 W Trade St #2504 Charlotte, NC 28202- 1753	704-332-1753 Clerk @carolinasouthern.org
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Director 2017:



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

Director 2016:  
Blayne Olsen

4429 Wolf Pond Rd  
Monroe, NC 28112-7900

704-764-3377  
director1  
@carolinasouthern.org

Director 2018  
Gil Brauch  
4142 Wandering Lane NE 828-256-5708  
Hickory, NC 28601 director3  
@carolinasouthern.org

AP Chairman  
Dave Chance

5884 Circlewood Dr  
Kannapolis, NC 28081

704-933-4200  
apchair  
@carolinasouthern.org

### Achievement Program highlights:

### Activities from the past year:

"Brass Pounder" Division Newsletter; (6 editions)  
 Division promotion display with operating Timesavers at Train Shows  
     Hickory, NC, April  
     Spencer, NC, May  
 11<sup>th</sup> annual Railroad Modeling University (RMU), January  
 Division Picnic, September  
 Members Swap Meet, November  
 Wades Train Town Open House (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday monthly)  
 5 members and spouses attended MER Convention.

## Monthly activities

January, RMU, Railroad Modeling University.  
February, Annual Meeting. BOD Meeting

March, clinic, building a RR fusee by Fred Miller, MMR.  
April, clinic, Adventure in Scratchbuilding by Scott Perry  
May, Display at North Carolina Transportation Museum train Show,  
Clinics, How to give a clinic. Layout and Yard design  
June, 4 roundtable mini clinics/  
July, BOD Meeting, OP session at Neal Anderson  
August, Visit to Southeastern Narrow gauge Museum, Newton NC  
September, Annual Picnic and layout visit to Jack Parker's Piedmont &  
Western Railroad.  
October, Clinic, Using Arduinos for sounds and lighting for layouts and buildings  
by Fred Miller, MMR  
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 11 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.

Where in your opinion could the MER provide support to your division?

Superintendent's Name and Signature.