

# ***THE BRASS POUNDER***

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROADERS ASSOCIATION  
MID – EAST REGION, DIVISION 12, CAROLINA SOUTHERN

Special Edition

June 2002

## ***Reason.....***

Dave and Michele Chance have changed their model railroading layout space. With the hustle and bustle involved in the move, Dave has not had any free time to allow him to publish the ***BRASS POUNDER***.

In an attempt to keep all of you up to date, I am publishing this issue. It is being mailed to everyone listed on a roster who I believe is current. Please review your information and let me know by e-mail if the information is not correct. Those who do not have access to a computer can also use snail mail.

## ***Activities.....***

We had a very successful ***Slide Show*** at the March Meeting hosted by Ed Locklin. Ed's slide collection of the southeastern railroads gave everyone a chance to enjoy Ed's photographic skills. Of course the highlight of the morning was his slides of the "***Mainline of Mid-America***", Illinois Central and Illinois Central Gulf.

## ***Activities, con't.....***

I was not able to attend the Clinic on making trees at Jack Parker's home in May 27<sup>th</sup>. I was attending the SER convention in Greenville, S.C. I have not heard any comments, but I am sure that it was a good day. I have seen Jack's tree building and scenery skills while working on the Module, so I know what he can do.

We were originally scheduled for Martin Oaks in July, but because of some conflicts we are now on for August 3<sup>rd</sup>. He will be presenting a clinic on control panel building, opening his new layout for the first time, and has offered to spring for hamburgers and hot dogs at his place, which by the way is on Lake Norman.

Dick Bronson will host us in September and Jerry Adleman in November. They will be in touch with you with the particulars, i.e., the date, time, topic, and transportation map.

Mark your calendars to attend and show your support for the division.

## ***Dues.....***

There was a mix-up at our annual meeting and we neglected to collect **dues**. If each of you would send your dues to Dick Bronson, Paymaster, 7918 Royal Court, Waxhaw, N.C. 28173. Please include your NMRA and MER membership numbers with your checks. Your seven dollars will really help the division coffers. If for some reason you are not planning to continue your membership, would you please be so kind as to either e-mail me those intentions, or snail mail me if email is not available to you...

## ***By-Laws***

Martin Oaks and his committee have done a fantastic job in reviewing and revising our by-laws to bring them within the guidelines of the NMRA and the MER. Copies of the by-laws are available from the Clerk, Dave Chance. Please make sure that if you have not gotten a copy by email, that you check with Dave and have him mail you a copy. We would like to vote on their adoption at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting at Martin's home.

## ***Elections.....***

It is not too early to start thinking. The following officers come up for election at our next annual meeting, January 2003. Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Clerk, Paymaster and one Director (position currently held by Joe St. John.} In this newsletter, I am asking Jack Parker, Assistant Superintendent, Dave Chance, Clerk, and Ed Locklin BoD member, to serve as the nominating committee to produce a slate of officers for the years 2003 and 2004. If any of you would like to serve in any position or know of anyone who is willing to serve, please contact one of the committee members. We cannot be a viable division without everyone participating and serving the division.

## ***Achievement Program.....***

Phil Bostian, Achievement Program Chair, will be contacting you on the next program project. This time we are looking to build a resin car. You know, those cars that come in flat pieces and that no ordinary glue will stick to..... You are to select, purchase, and bring the car to our first session

Phil has advised me that due to family and business obligations he will be resigning as the Achievement Chair, the end of 2002. The Achievement Chair is appointed by Jim Kellow the regional Vice President, not yours truly. Jim can be reached at 104 Elizabeth Page, Williamsburg, VA 23185 757-258-4973, or [JIMKELLOW@WORLDNET.ATT.NET](mailto:JIMKELLOW@WORLDNET.ATT.NET)

If anyone is interested in the position, would you let Jim know, just keep me in the loop.

We have three members who have earned some type of achievement award: Phil Bostian, Jack Parker, and myself. If you think about it, all of you that operate at Jack Parker's, probably qualify for the Chief Dispatcher award. Seeing some of the members layouts, I suggest checking the Master Builder Structures, Scenery, and Cars awards. I bet a lot of you may qualify for these awards. Take a few minutes, visit the NMRA web site, and read the requirements. You might be amazed at the talents you possess. If you think you are qualified or have any questions, contact Phil. He can help you get some of those plaques on the wall in the train room and the pride of recognition by your peers for your accomplishments.

## ***BoD Meeting....***

In accordance with our by-laws there will be a Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday, August 22, 2002 7:30 p.m. at my house. All board members should attend and all other members are welcome to attend. Location is 1431 Queens Road West, Charlotte. Phone

is 704-373-1498. (If you need directions, please call me, as I know the Queens Road area of Myers Park is confusing). We can park about six cars in my driveway, but no parking is allowed on Queens Road West. If the driveway is full you can park on either of two side streets, Radcliffe and Sherwood.

The agenda will include:

1. Treasury report
2. Membership report (who paid dues)
3. By-Laws
4. Elections
5. Train Show
6. All other matters of importance.

### ***Superintendent's Report***

I was able to attend the SER convention in Greenville the end of May, but was unable to attend the MER convention in Richmond in June due to prior commitments. The SER convention was well attended, from what I could see. MER members who were there included Tom Warlick, Bob Johnson, Phil Bostain and three or four others I recognized but cannot remember names (CRS). The MER trustee, Eric Dervinis was also in attendance. There were some heated exchanges about his plan for a unified dues structure for the NMRA. One only has to read Norm Garner's editorial to be aware that this is a "hot button" topic with all of the board and superintendents of the MER division.

The train show was good. Clinics were good but some were not as advertised (the resin car building clinic turned into a styrene car building clinic), The prototype tour that ended with a speeder ride contained a good deal of information of the four railroads that served Greenville and what is left now. The speeder ride was "hot and neat". On word of complaint, they need a sign maker. Trying to find the clinics was difficult, but trying to finding the registration desk!!!

I will be attending the National in Fort Lauderdale in July. Two prototype tours,

five layout tours, and a number of clinics are on the schedule. This time, I am taking slides rather than prints. (Thanks Ed Locklin for the inspiration). Hopefully I will have them back from the processor by the time we meet in August and I can share them with you.

After over 53 years in or on the fringe of this hobby, the last seven have become the most enjoyable. I became active in the division, attended and participated in MER region activities, and attended all of the National Conventions since Atlanta. The knowledge gained from that participation cannot be measured in dollars and cents. The biggest benefit, though, is the fellowship. I have been able, with a lot of help from some division friends, swat the DCC bugs, and increase the track work reliability, locomotive operation, car tracking on the Illinois Central Iowa Division to a stage that we can run the layout like a railroad. [It is the first layout in nine that has actually run well and was not being torn up in disgust. This is not to say some changes are in the planning stage and will be made as time allows.] Train orders, train makeup and operations have become a monthly performance for our operations group. All of the hard work of preparing for the session (car cards are in the works) is well worth it. I will be looking at the National for the latest in fast clocks, communications, and computer generated switch lists. I have some ideas, but lets see what we find...

Larry

### ***Postscript.....***

Model Railroading is Fun. Let's keep it a hobby, not an overriding political and power passion.

