



THE BRASS POUNDER

Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Div, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Assoc.
Volume 10 Number 1 March 2010

Next Division Meeting

Date: March 20, 2010 Cherryville Depot
109 N Depot Street, Cherryville, NC

10:00 a.m. Depot opens for visitors.

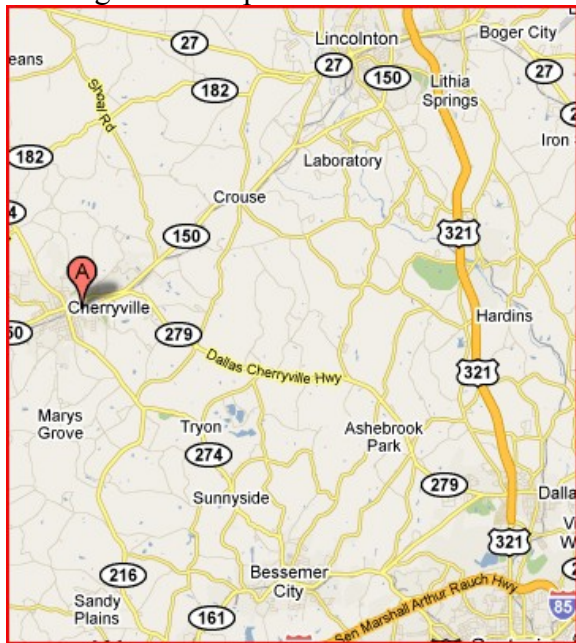
1:00 Division Business Meeting - approve final version of bylaws to be submitted to full membership for a vote.

2:00 Robin Fry of Shelby will discuss scratch building a Ringling Brothers - Barnum & Bailey circus train in O scale

www.carolinasouthern.org/timetable.htm

Directions:

From I85, Exit 17, take US 321 N 2.2 mi
Exit on NC 275 W/NC 279 W 12.7 mi
Turn right at N Depot St



Calendar of Events

March 13 10-3 Carolina Model RRs Train Show
300 East Washington Street, Greensboro, NC
<http://www.carolinamodelrr.org/>

Mar 27-28 Great Train Expo
Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Winston-Salem, NC
<http://www.trainexpoinc.com/schedule.html>

March 27 10-4 Kids Day Train Show
Finley Park, Columbia, SC
<http://www.amroc.org/#shows>

April 10 9-4 5th Annual NC Rail Fair
Metro Center, Hickory, NC
<http://www.tarheelpress.com/Trainshow/>

April 11 1-3 CS Division Meeting
Gibsonville Garden Railroad, Main & Burke Sts

April 24 Spring Rails Train Show
Whitmire Activity Center, Hendersonville, NC
<http://www.fbe-ntrak.com/autumnrails.htm>

May 1, 2010 Free Model Railroaders Swap Meet
1500 Lentz Harness Shop Rd N at Highway 49
NE Cabarrus VFD, Mt. Pleasant, NC
see below or
<http://www.southernexchange.net/swapmeet.htm>

May 15 9:30- 1:30 CD Division Meeting
Sandhills Central Railroad Layout tours (2)
Southern Pines & Aberdeen NC

(Continued on last page)

Superintendent's Corner

Steven P August – Superintendent

In the most recent March 2010 issue of Scale Rails there was an article by the Piedmont Division Superintendent which talked about how the “Division IS the NMRA”. If you have not read this, I would encourage you to do so, and then ask yourself a simple question, “How can I help the Carolina Southern Division”? If you can answer that question, I would welcome your thoughts and ideas. There seem to be only a few who help to plan events, clinics or a lot of things within the Carolina Southern Division. But let's remember that you are the Division also, without you we don't have one.

Every organization that prospers must serve a useful purpose and the Carolina Southern Division has done surprisingly well since it was organized some fourteen years ago. I think we can do better. I think of this Division as a service organization for model railroading. However, the organization needs your input on what you would like to see, do or learn.

With a bit of organization and a little bit of effort by the members, this Division can inspire the veterans to new activities which will help the new members and possibly convince new members in the area to join in the fun of model railroading. The veterans have a wealth of knowledge to offer the hobby, they may be able to help a newcomer solve a vexing problem they have on their railroad.

We need all of our members to get back into the swing of things within the Carolina Southern Division, don't be a wall flower or one who says “I wish I knew how to do xxx”, get involved, offer ideas of things to do, places to go see or do. Let us know about a layout to visit or a train show that you found that is not listed on the websites calendar.

So everyone can get involved, talk to a friend about the Carolina Southern Division, invite someone over to see your layout, let someone know if you have an idea of something to do. There are a lot of great

things happening with this division, but only you can make this a better division by getting involved. You'll be surprised how many new members and even old timers you can inspire this way, and remember, it's good for them and you will thoroughly enjoy the experience.

How can model railroading be called a selfish hobby when YOU share it with others?

REPORT

On The

FOURTH ANNUAL RMU

Joe Howard

After a delay of one week due to weather, the Railroad Modeling University (RMU) was held on February 6th at the Northside Baptist Church. The weather delay was taken in stride and over 80 people attended the classes, reviewed the models presented for viewing and judging and took advantage of the very reasonable prices on model train rolling stock, landscaping items, books and videos that had been donated by two members.

The attendance at the RMU this year was more than double the attendance in prior years. The Railroad 101 and 102 classes and the class comparing DCC to DC were very popular with every chair in the room filled. These classes were designed for people new to the hobby of model railroading. Following these classes several of those attending elected to become members of the NMRA.

The feedback on all of the classes was extremely favorable. The key suggestion was to extend the RMU beyond the 3 hours schedule used this year. There were also suggestions that periods longer than 1 hour be considered to allow more time for questions and discussions.

We want to thank the team that planned the conference, the presenters and those people that assisted in the conference. Their commitment and hard work helped make the RMU successful.

Click the shutter and win a steam cab ride!



Gerry Leone, MMR Deputy Chair

Jan Wescott Department Manager
Membership Services & Promotion
Department

With the single click of a shutter, you could find yourself riding for a full day in the cab of an historic mainline steam locomotive operated by the Union Pacific! It can happen if your photo is the winner of the National Model Railroad Association's 75th Anniversary Photo Contest.

Your day-long cab ride will begin in Cheyenne, WY in May, 2010, behind some mighty big steam power on its first leg of an excursion. And we'll make sure you're there when the conductor yells "All aboard!" because the winner will also receive airfare (up to \$500), two nights in a hotel, plus transportation to and from the excursion.

If you're an NMRA member in good standing, all you have to do is submit a photograph depicting one or more **models of UP equipment and/or structures** in a realistic scene. Your photo will be judged for prototype fidelity of both the modeling and the scene, as well as for photographic art. You can submit color prints, color slides, or digital files on CD.

To be eligible, your photo must be postmarked by **April 15, 2010** (or originated in transit by a third party service such as FedEx or UPS), and received no later than April 20. Only one photograph may be submitted per envelope, but there's no limit to the number of photos you can submit. All photos become the property of the NMRA, which may use the photo in any manner it chooses. In addition, participants agree to provide the NMRA with the original medium of the photo (negative, transparency, or digital file) if requested. (see www.nmra.org for details)

Send your entries to: Robert J. Amsler, Jr., 514 Dover Place, St. Louis, MO 63111. And if you send a print, be sure to protect it from bending!

So get modeling and shooting right away. This May you may be behind a few horses in Wyoming!

MODEL RAILROADERS SWAP MEET

Saturday, May 1, 2010. 10am to 2pm

Northeast Cabarrus V.F.D

1500 Lentz Harness Shop Rd North at Highway 49
MT Pleasant NC

This is a **free** Model Railroaders event for all modelers and scales.

Tables will be available for modelers to use to sell or trade all things model railroading.

Contact David Ward to reserve your table or call 980-521-3532.

Free Parking, free admission, free set up.

There will be day-long demonstrations and classes on "weathering with oils" with Tony Sissons.

Steve Johnson will be demonstrating turnout building with "Fast Tracks" equipment. Read More

Dick and Karen Bronson of RR Cir-Kits will be here to answer questions on model railroad signaling and track detection.

Roy Becker of "ACL DCC Installations" will be available to help you or answer questions regarding DCC and sound decoder installations.

Steve Coffman will demonstrate craftsman kit building techniques.

HOT DOGS and DRINKS for will be available for lunch!

Steven Johnson: from Huntersville, North Carolina will be demonstrating how modelers can hand lay turnouts using the Fast Tracks method.

At the swap meet will be demonstrations of the Fast Tracks tools, turnouts in various stages of completion on display, and comparisons of Fast Tracks constructed turnouts vs. stock turnouts. Stop by and learn just how easy the Fast Tracks method is to learn. With little instruction and some practice a modeler can take the basic concepts to build an endless number of custom turnouts that work flawlessly every time.

Building a Plowed Field

in an afternoon with whatever is laying around.

By Jim Allen

You can find several articles on how to build a plowed or farm field on the internet. I have not spent a lot of time researching this subject, so my advice would be to pick what works for your skill level and material on hand.

I had a narrow section beside a branch line that needed some scenery. The background image had corn fields in it from rural western Virginia. For the past three years that section had only a few shrubs and green paint. I decided to build a section of field that was plowed and or just planted.

Step 1

I began by clearing what little shrubbery that was in place. Next I cut a piece cardboard to fit into the narrow strip of land. This was glued into place using hot glue.



Step 2

Using brown twine spaced 4ft apart(to scale) each end was spiked down using rail spikes. To help secure the twine tightly, each piece was then hot glued in the middle and end of each run. The excess was then trimmed off of each end.

Step 3

The entire piece of cardboard and string were covered in plaster cloth. You will have to run your fingers down each row a few times to hold the shape. The fewer seams that you create with the plaster cloth the better this will look. Not to mention you will have less blending to do in the next step.

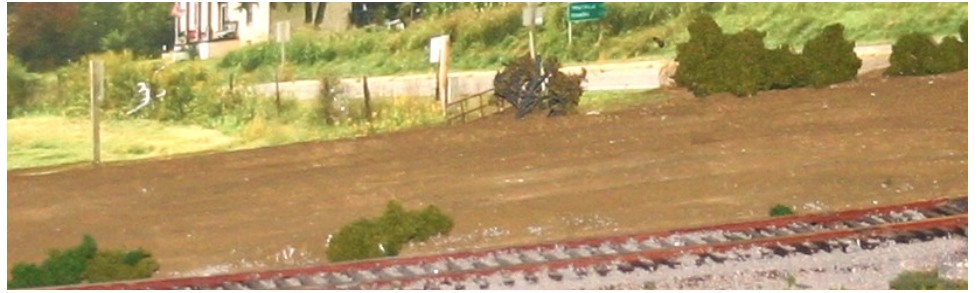


Step 4

To coat over the plaster cloth, I diluted Hydrocal Light with enough water to give it a milk shake constancy (not too thick). Then liberally paint down each row filling in any holes and/or cracks. At the bottom of the bowl there will be a thicker mixer of hydrocal light. I used this to blend in the edges of the cardboard. You can add water to wet down your mixture to prolong the drying time if you need to add a second coat. If you don't have hydrocal light on hand you can also use plaster of paris in the same fashion.

Step 5

Using Woodland Scenic's earth tone paint, the entire area was given two heavy coats. Some places where the paint is on thicker than other places gives the earth a natural look.

**Step 6**

Next you will need to blend in the edges of the field with the surrounding scenery. In my case I had the branch line running along the back of the entire field, while each of the ends butted up to a field. I used different colored scenic clumps to simulate wild bushes and or shrubbery. Assortments of grasses were also used to further make the transition from the farm field to the open field. Finally using the tiny mixed clumps in the bottom of my tree bin I sprinkled these along the edges to simulate smaller weeds. All of this was glued into place either using a 50/50 white glue water solution or hot glue. The weeds and grasses were misted with hair spray to help keep them in place.

You can see more images regarding this on the web at <http://www.southernexchange.net/plowedfield.html>

Materials List:

- I piece of scrap cardboard 2ft by 8inches.
- 4ft of brown twine
- Approx 20 inches by 8 inches worth of casting cloth.
- A half cup of hydrocal light (could substitute plaster of paris)
- Earth Tone paint.
- A few rail road spikes (to help hold the twine in place before glueing)
- Assorted clump shrubbery.
- Ballast, assorted grasses to blend in transition from field to surrounding area.

Tools List:

- Razor knife
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Small brush for hydrocal mixture
- Small wire cutters.
- Small mixing bowl

CLINICS AT NMRA '75 LOOK FORWARD AND BACK

Scale Rails columnist Jim Zinser



Would you like to learn how to create a modern CTC panel for your layout using CATS? Or maybe you'd like to find out more about building kits made from brass etched parts, or increase your knowledge about chapel cars. Did you even know there were such things as chapel cars?

You can learn about these topics and many more by attending the clinics at NMRA 75, the National Model Railroad Association convention for 2010. This year the NMRA celebrates its 75th anniversary, so its altogether fitting that our national convention be held in Milwaukee Wisconsin, the city where it all began. The dates are July 11th through the 18th.

While NMRA 75 will take an affectionate look back at our hobby's days of old, it will also be looking ahead to the fresh and new. This year's clinic program reflects that idea very well. Of the 163 clinics scheduled to be presented, 123 are brand new and never before presented at an NMRA national convention. These new clinics will cover everything from scenery to structures to the newest trends in Digital Command Control. So if you're looking for fresh new ideas to enhance your modeling, NMRA 75 is the convention you must not miss!

But not all the new clinics at NMRA 75 are about fresh new ideas. You can look forward to a couple of them that look back. Clinician Paul Hobbs will present Seventy-Five Years Of Development And Achievement In Model Railroading. Paul will review events, processes, inventions, companies and individuals that have made significant contributions to the hobby over the past 75 years. You might also want to see Steve Stewart's new clinic, Seventy-Five Years Of Railroading. Steve examines prototype railroading from what was in 1934 to what will be in 2011. And what could be more appropriate to bring the list of new clinics to an end than one about the history of Milwaukee Road Cabooses?

As an added bonus, many of the new clinics at NMRA 75 will be presented by some of the best-known names in model railroading. Names like Jack Burgess, Bruce Chubb, Chuck Hitchcock, Tony Koester, Sam Swanson, Bill Schaumburg, Andy Sperandio, Tony Thompson and Wayne Wesolowski.

Of course NMRA 75 is about much more than clinics. To find out everything you need to know, visit our website at www.nmra75.org. You can even register online. Come celebrate 75 years of model railroading this summer in Milwaukee!

Oh and in case you were wondering, no actual cats were harmed in the making of that CTC clinic.

Carolina Southern Division Annual Business Meeting

Summary

February 6, 2010

The Annual Business Meeting was originally scheduled for January 30. Due to hazardous driving conditions that day, the meeting was recessed until February 6. The meeting was held at the Texas Ranch Steak House located on Sugar Creek Road, Charlotte, NC. Twenty members were in attendance with several visitors.

Dick Bronson, Treasurer, reported that the Division has a current balance of \$961.93. This does not include \$150.00 advanced to the RMU or any of the registration fees received for RMU.

Jack Haynes, Clerk reported that Division membership increased by 5 over last year from 84 to 89. There are also 8 NMRA members from outside the Division area who are frequent attendees at Division events. Five of these live in the counties that will join the Division if the transfer is approved by National. The transfer will also add 7 more NMRA members from South Carolina to the Division.

There were 5 issues of the newsletter, the Brass Pounder, published in 2009. The newsletter currently has a distribution of about 150.

Steve noted that there were 6 RailPass applications collected at the RMU. He also stated that the National Board is scheduled to vote on the transfer of SC counties to the Division at a meeting February 19.

Dave Chance, AP Chair, reported that 2009 was the best year ever for the Division with five members earning seven AP Certificates. He presented the Association Volunteer Certificate to Jack Haynes, his first.

Steve reported that Gil Brauch is working on an updated web site.

Officers election results were:

Steve August, Superintendent

Bob Halsey, Assistant Superintendent

Dick Bronson, Treasurer

Jack Haynes, Clerk

Jim Rager, Director 2012

For the remainder of 2010, Steve intends to have a meeting every other month. The Ops Weekend 2010 has been rescheduled for October 15-17 as there was a potential conflict with the MER convention on the previous date.

A motion was approved that the Jim Teese Award will be continued as a Division award with the parameters to be determined by the Division Board of Directors to be submitted to the membership for approval at a future meeting.

Motions were approved to authorize the Board of Directors to incorporate the Division under the laws of North Carolina and to pay the \$60.00 filing fee, and to authorize the Board of Directors seek approval from the IRS as a 501(c)3 corporation and to pay related legal or other fees the Board deems reasonable and prudent up to \$500.00.

Chuck Hladik addressed the meeting. He is a candidate for MER President and was looking for feedback on what the Region could do for the Divisions to better support them. Several issues were discussed on this topic.

Complete minutes are available on the Division web site:

http://www.bytedesign.com/CSDiv/Div%20Meetings/10%20notes_minutes.htm

Jack Haynes

Division Clerk

The Division Brass

Superintendent.....Steve August
 Asst. Superintendent.....Bob Halsey
 Clerk.....Jack Haynes
 Paymaster.....Dick Bronson
 Director 2010.....Roy Becker
 Director 2011.....Fred Miller
 Director 2012.....Jim Rager

AP Chairman.....Dave Chance
 Webmaster.....Gil Brauch
 Newsletter Editor.....Jack Haynes

Division Website:

www.carolinasouthern.org

Submissions For Brass Pounder

Next Issue	Submission Date
May 2010	April 23, 2010

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

Calendar (Cont'd)

May 13 - 16, 2010 MCR Convention
The Coalfield Express 2010, Charleston, WV
http://www.coaldivision.org/coalfield_express.html

May 21-23 SER Convention
Bessemer, Alabama
http://www.ser-nmra.org/2010_SER_Conv.htm

June 26 Train Show
Metrolina Center, Charlotte, NC

July 11-18 75th Anniversary NMRA Convention
Milwaukee, WI
<http://www.nmra75.org/>

September 23-26 National NTRAK Gathering
Danville, VA
<http://trainweb.org/nrmrc/2010show/>

Sept 30-Oct 3, 2010 MER Convention
Princeton, NJ
<http://mer.nmra.org/MERConv/MERConv.html>

October 15-17, 2010 Carolina Southern Division
2nd Annual Rail Ops Weekend



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