

THE BRASS POUNDER

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

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January 2012

Carolina Southern Division Events

Railroad Modeling University January 14, 2012 9:00-4:00

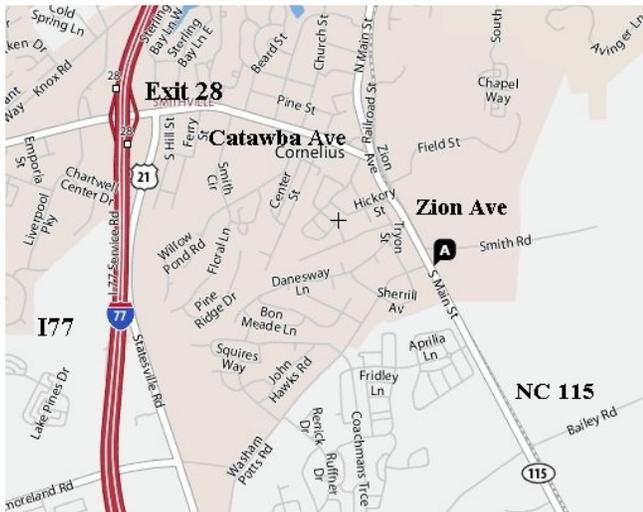
Northside Baptist Church, Charlotte
A full day of displays, classes, clinics, demos for
model railroaders of all ages and skill levels.

Registration Open

<http://www.carolinasouthern.org/RMUmain.htm>

Annual Division Business Meeting Saturday, January 21 10:00-12:00

Williams Lodge, 19416 Zion Ave, Cornelius, NC
Lunch afterward at Acropolis (optional)
See agenda and officer nominations below.



Division 1st Thursday Meetings

Feb 2 7:00 Wheel/Track cleaning roundtable
Mar 1 7:00 Track power tester by Fred Miller
Williams Lodge, 19416 Zion Ave, Cornelius, NC

Calendar of Events

Jan 14 9:00-4:00

Atlanta Model Train Show
North Atlanta Trade Center, 1700 Jeurgens Ct
Norcross, GA www.gserr.com

January 28-29, 2012

Palmetto Winterfest Layout Tours
See article below for contacts

January 28 – 29, 2012

Cape Fear Model Railroad Society
15th Annual Model Railroad Show and Sale
American Legion Post 10,702 Pine Grove Drive
Wilmington, North Carolina 28409
www.capefearmodelrailroadclub.org

February 4-5, 2012

Central Railway Model and Historical Assoc
Train Show
Bagwell Gymnasium - 111 Walkers Way
Easley, South Carolina 29642
<http://www.crmha.org/>

March 23-25

Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet-Valley Forge
Desmond Great Valley Hotel, Malvern, Pa
www.phillynmra.org

June 1 - June 3, 2012

South East Region Convention, Gatlinburg, TN
<http://www.ser-nmra.org>

July 29-Aug. 4, 2012 Grand Rails 2012

NMRA National Convention, Grand Rapids, MI

Oct 18-21, 2012

MER Convention, Suffolk, VA



Layouts in Progress

by Bob Halsey

Part of the fun of model railroading is seeing new layouts being developed, and helping newer railroaders with planning or constructing a layout. There are probably a number of them under construction right now, but let's take a look at two of these efforts.

First, as a result of seeing our CSD nameplate on the HO/O27 layout which we built in the front of the Mooresville HobbyTown, a lady called us wanting to know if we could help build a room-sized Lionel layout for her 9-year old son. We agreed to help design, develop a list of track pieces and material, and then help lay the track, but not actually build the benchwork (since we are not in the business of building layouts for non-members). The platform is now complete, so our Lionel expert ("Lionel Bob" Loehne) and his assistants will now lay the track and conduct test runs. A couple of side benefits for us: the lady (and her family, including husband, son, and daughter) will be attending our RMU, has offered to make a donation to CSD, and has already rewarded us with a couple of products from her bakery business! (They disappeared very quickly, especially the bourbon pecan pie!)

Second, our own member, "Builder Bob" Wessmiller is creating a modest room-size HO mini-empire (actually 6'x10'), on a Styrofoam base over well-constructed benchwork (Bob is a very proficient woodworker -- he has a complete shop next to the layout area) and using code 100 rail. There are some basic industries such as logging, a coal mine, a lumber yard ("Wessmiller Woodworks"), and a subsidiary of the Mustang Ranch. Eventually there will be a scratch-built grain mill and some others. There is a tunnel through a mountain that is part of the "Topless Mountains" (because one has no top). This entire layout (the "Wessmiller & Western"? -- name is yet TBD) is controlled by a Bachmann EZ Command system which allows operation of up to 9 DCC locomotives or one DC locomotive (but not at the same time!). The pride of Bob's not-so-vast fleet is an ancient Tyco Southern Pacific 0-4-0 switcher he has had since 1963. His main motive power is a Bachmann ConRail GP-35 that he recently acquired on Ebay. The rolling stock consists primarily of the rest of the train set that the 0-4-0 came from, plus a few others. Bob is still converting his rolling stock from horn-hook to Kadee couplers, and from plastic to metal wheel sets, and is adding weights to the cars. (He has only recently learned the essentials of what is taught in our RMU 101 class). This all sounds so very basic, but remember, we all started with something very simple, and learned and grew over time, while our enjoyment of the hobby continually increased!

First Thursday Division Meeting December

By: Jack Haynes

Don Cantema was Vice President of Operations for Lionel in the mid 90's. On December 1, he spoke to Division members about the history of Lionel and his experiences working



Don Cantema describes some of the history of Lionel to CSD members

there. He described the progress of the company from its early development at the beginning of the twentieth century. Along the way there were several ups and downs. It was saved from failure during the Depression by the Mickey & Minnie Mouse handcar. It reached its zenith in the fifties. From the sixties on, Don described the series of sales, mergers, and bankruptcies. In the nineties, a business owner in the Detroit area bought the company and established manufacturing there. Don discussed the processes involved in bringing products to market. Extensive research went into gathering prototype information. Planning and scheduling production so that products got to the wholesalers and dealers at the right times was often complex.

Don brought along several Lionel models from various eras and discussed their roles in the company's history.



Don had several significant Lionel products on display

The evening was very informative and many in the room had recollections of that first train around the tree, including some of us who had "real" trains from American Flyer.

Train Town Open House

by Jack Haynes

November 12, Train Town in Brookford held an open house and train show. Members of the Division set up several displays and demonstrations to show people visiting the layout various aspects of model railroading. There were tables set up for scenery, weighting cars, sound, scratchbuilding, and track laying and wiring. The Division had its display board set up to acquaint people with the NMRA and had one of its Timesaver layouts set up next to the display to let people try their hand at switching.



The Train Town layout puts on a good show for visitors.

There was a steady flow of visitors. Most were families who brought the children to see the layout which puts on a great show. A train runs around the outside track, while a trolley runs through the town three quarters of the way around the layout. It automatically stops at pickup locations and reverses when it reaches each end. Most of the buildings have lighting and there are many detailed scenes.

Gil Brauch had a display set up to demonstrate making water scenery on a module.

Carl Baumgart showed visitors how to construct buildings from basic materials like wood, styrene and cardstock.

Fred Miller had a table where he showed how to add sound to a layout and also showed recorded clinics he has given on animation, sound, and lighting.



A customer sizes up the Timesaver challenge

The Division table had many young visitors who tried their hand at running a train on the Timesaver. It took most of them a few false starts and sometimes a hint or two before they figured out (AHA!!) when and how they could get the locomotive on the right end of the car to set it out at its destination and still get the locomotive out to switch the other cars.

Bob Halsey and Ken Trent demonstrated how to take a blue box kit and get it into running shape making sure it rolls smoothly and has the NMRA recommended weight.



Bob Halsey and Ken Trent show how to get cars to the right weight and tune them up for running

The event was well received by the visitors and gave us a base to build on for next year. Perhaps we stirred up some interest in the hobby among our younger visitors.

Trains for the Cure

by Jack Haynes

Following the December 1st Thursday Division meeting, I stopped by the Trains for a Cure display layout. This is set up each December by the Montalbano family in their garage in Cornelius. They have put on this event for six years in conjunction with the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Charlotte Affiliate. They have received substantial support from Lionel in the form of rolling stock and accessories. Their two car garage is filled with (mostly) Lionel trains running on multiple levels from toddler eye level (Thomas the Tank Engine of course) to over my head (and I am not short).



The Drive-in is showing White Christmas

Straight ahead as you enter the garage is a model drive-in movie theater which is showing (really) White Christmas on a small LCD screen.



A load of presents is delivered by gondola while the Pink Engine circle overhead.

Areas between the tracks are filled with model houses and businesses all decked out for the holidays. Many figures form small scenes everywhere you look. Everything is lighted in bright holiday colors.



The town square is crowded with carolers and strollers celebrating the holidays.

John Montalbano has built several long bridges from scratch. Two are on the main level and another carries two tracks overhead. Also on the overhead level is a trolley line shuttling back and forth.



Part of the bridge carrying trains overhead.

This is a great display for a good cause. It is closed now, but look for it next year and stop there if you are near Cornelius. It is convenient to the Cornelius exit off I77. Check the web site for dates and times:

<http://trainsforacure.org/>

Palmetto Winterfest

Layout Tours

January 28-29, 2012

The first annual Palmetto Winterfest Layout Tour is only weeks away and it is shaping up to be a good one. On January 28, 2012 we will have 5 outstanding layouts open in the Upstate area and on Sunday January 29, 2012 we have a large club layout to see in the Columbia area.

We will be meeting at the Cracker Barrel on Woodruff Rd around 9:00 AM each morning. On Saturday the 29th we will divide into two groups. Each group will be assigned a specific route to view the assigned layouts. Hopefully this will reduce the number of members viewing any particular layout. We will meet at Mutt's BBQ in Greer for lunch and swap routes so everyone gets a good view of all layouts.

On Sunday morning we can meet and carpool to Columbia.

WE DO NEED A HEAD COUNT SO THAT WE CAN COMPLETE THE PLANS. PLEASE LET

MIKE HORNE (hornem@bellsouth.net),
JACK VARADI (jackvaradi@yahoo.com),
or MIKE JENSEN (mikejensen@earthlink.net)

**BY JANUARY 14, 2012 IF YOU
PLAN ON ATTENDING.**

NMRA Members and Guests only.

Woodland Scenics Fire

Dear all,

As you may have heard we have experienced a fire here at Woodland Scenics and there is good news and bad news. The good news is that no one was hurt during the fire or evacuation process. The bad news is that it took out a couple of our manufacturing buildings. However, and fortunately, there is more good news than bad.

We encompass multiple buildings that are spread out all over the town of Linn Creek. We only lost two of those buildings and those two contained just a small portion of our manufacturing facilities. Our shipping department, warehouse and corporate offices were spared any damage, as were most of our manufacturing buildings, so it is business as usual.

Thanks for all your concerns.

Respectfully,

Gale Cousins

Director of Sales & Customer Service
Woodland

CSD Annual Meeting Agenda

21 January 2012

(starting 10 AM at Williams Lodge, Cornelius)

- Welcome & introduction of any new members present
- Paymaster's report (Dick Bronson)
- Membership report (Jim Rager)
- 501(c)3 committee report (Neal Anderson & Joe Howard)
- Brookford & Webmaster report (Gil Brauch)
- Clerk & Newsletter report (Jack Haynes)
- AP program report (Dave Chance)
- Outline of Program/Fun committee proposals for 2012 (details TBD) (Rick Knight, Larry Paffrath, Marcus Neubacher)
- RMU results (Rick Knight)
- Next Board meeting (proposed for Feb 2 at start of CSD monthly meeting), to:
 - ensure new board members are familiar with the bylaws and their duties
 - review draft of Supt.'s annual report to MER
 - review any recommended changes to RMU, set date/location for next RMU, and designate next RMU committee chairman
 - authorize dates/schedule for Program/Fun proposals
 - review status of 501(c)3 application effort
- Nominating committee report (Jim Rager)
- Introduction of candidates for CSD Board of Directors, and any floor nominations
- Voting for Board positions
- Recognition for services rendered
- Other business?
- Adjourn (optional gathering for lunch at Acropolis restaurant)

Nominations for officers proposed by Directors and/or petition as of Jan 1, 2012:

Superintendent - Bob Halsey
Assistant Superintendent - Larry Paffrath
Clerk - Dave Draxler
Paymaster - Ken Trent
Director 2014 - Roy Becker
Director 2013 - Rick Knight

Additional nominations may be made by any three members before or at the meeting.

NOTE: All elected officers and voters must be members in good standing of the NMRA and reside in the counties included in the Carolina Southern Division (NC Counties: Cabarrus, Catawba, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, Union; SC Counties Chester, Lancaster & York)

The Division Brass

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Clerk Jack Haynes
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Paymaster Dick Bronson
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Newsletter Editor Jack Haynes
Fun Committee Chair Open
RMU Chair Rick Knight
rghkiii@roadrunner.com

Division Website:

www.carolinasouthern.org

Submissions For Brass Pounder

Next Issue Submission Date
March 2012 February 20, 2012

Articles are welcome on any railroad topic, model or prototype. Your editor is available to assist in preparing the materials.

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