

# THE BRASS POUNDER

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

Volume 12 Number 1

March 2012

## Carolina Southern Division Events

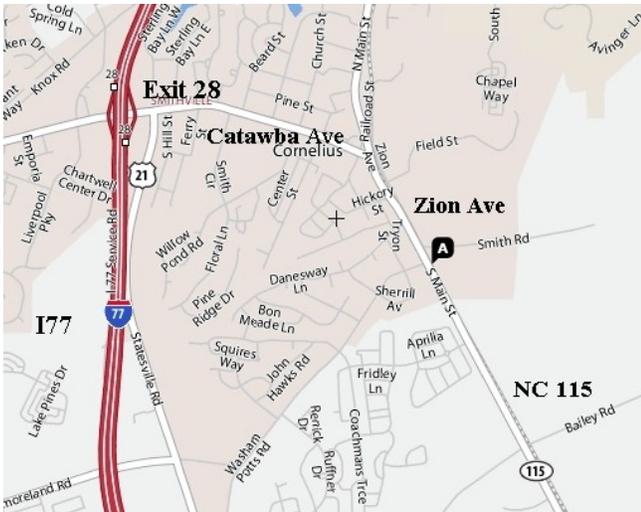
### March 24, 2012 Layout Tours

**8:30 am** Meet at Acropolis Grill in Cornelius for carpooling and directions. Members and guests only. Visit three large N-scale layouts in Greensboro, Lexington, and China Grove.

**RSVP:** See additional info below or at web:  
<http://www.carolinasouthern.org/>

### **\*\*NEW\*\* RMU Extension Seminar**

April 21 9-12 Basic Electricity for Model RR  
Jack Haynes and Roy Becker  
Williams Lodge, Cornelius  
See details below and/or on web site.



### Division 1st Thursday Meetings

Williams Lodge, 19416 Zion Ave, Cornelius, NC  
Apr 5 7:30 Fred Miller, MMR, layout wiring.  
May 3 7:30 Roy Becker, Layout wiring

Monday May 7 Tweetsie Backshop Tour  
**RSVP** See details below.

June 30 Visit to Denton Park (See details below)

## Calendar of Events

March 10 10-4 Wades Train Town Open House  
Brookford Community Center

1800 S Center Street, Hickory, NC

Mar 17 10-3 Carolina Model Railroaders  
Train Show and Swap Meet

Gaylon Depot (Old Southern Railway Depot)  
236 East Washington Street

Greensboro, North Carolina, 27401

Mar 17-18 Model Train Show Cobb Galleria  
2 Galleria Parkway Atlanta, GA 30339

www.cobb Galleria.com

Mar 31, Apr 1 Great Train Expo

Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Winston-Salem

http://www.trainexpoinc.com/info.html

March 23-25

Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet-Valley Forge  
Desmond Great Valley Hotel, Malvern, Pa

www.phillynmra.org

April 14 Wades Train Town Open House  
Brookford Community Center

1800 S Center Street, Hickory, NC

April 14, 9am – 4pm

NC Railroad Expo

Hickory Metro Center, Hickory, NC

http://www.tarheelpress.com/Trainshow/

June 1 - June 3, 2012

South East Region Convention, Gatlinburg, TN

http://www.ser-nmra.org

Jun 23, 2012 Golden Spike Train Show

Metrolina Expo, 7100 Statesville Road, Charlotte

July 29-Aug. 4, 2012 Grand Rails 2012

NMRA National Convention, Grand Rapids, MI

Oct 18-21, 2012 Milepost 40

MER Convention, Suffolk, VA

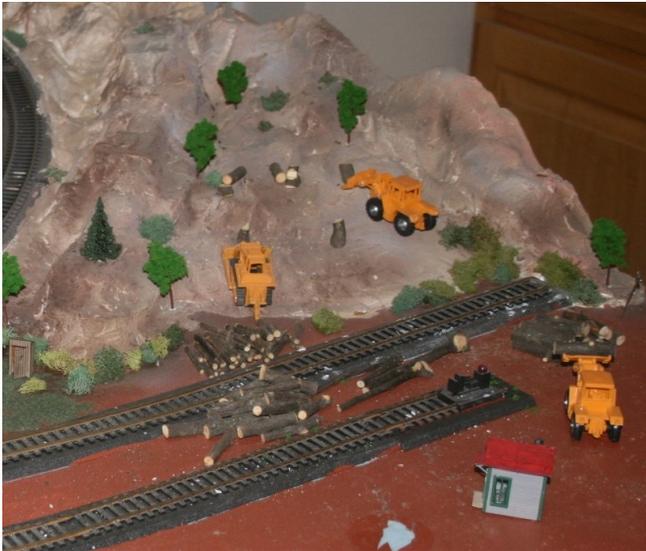
http://www.nmra-mer-tidewater.org



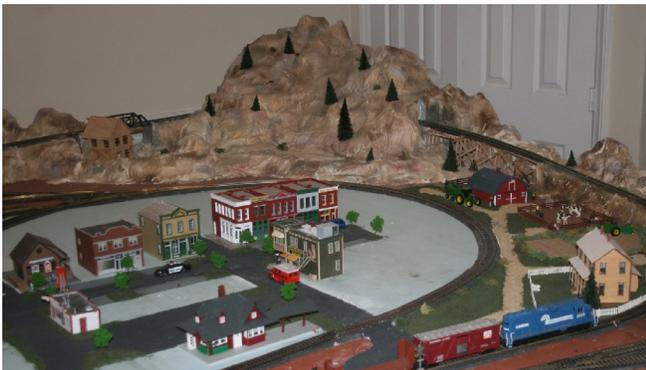
## Layout (Still) in Progress

by Bob Halsey

In a previous Brass Pounder edition, we reported on the early construction stage of Bob Wessmiller's yet-to-be-named HO layout. Bob has made considerable progress since then, primarily increasing the overall size of the layout, completing the trackwork, and adding more structures and industries.



The additions include a coal mine, a brewery, a combined logging/pulpwood/saw mill/lumberyard complex, a passenger station for future passenger operations (another one will be added later), a town, a farm, a gristmill for producing flour, and several miscellaneous scratch-built structures.



Bob plans to add a flour processing/shipping facility (in conjunction with the grist mill), a woodworking/cabinet shop, and several more engines and cars.



He will also add track ballast and automate some of the turnouts. Bob still hasn't decided on a name for his layout or whether it is an independent railroad or a subsidiary of one of the larger roads. In any case, he is obviously enjoying working on it, and we will do another update next year.



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### N Scale Layout Visits Sponsored by Carolina Southern Division March 24, 2012

Railroad Owners:

Michael Pennie, Kevin Beck, Marcus Neubacher

Meet: 8:30 AM

Acropolis Restaurant, Cornelius I77 Exit 28

Invitees: CSD Members and guests only

**Please RSVP** by Wednesday March 21

Sign up with Larry Paffrath

[larrypaffrath@bellsouth.net](mailto:larrypaffrath@bellsouth.net)

Itinerary:

- 8:30 AM Meet at Acropolis Restaurant
- 10:00 AM Arrive Michael Pennie's
- 12:30 PM Lunch at Cooks BBQ Lexington
- 1:30 PM Arrive Kevin Beck's
- 3:30 PM Arrive Marcus Neubacher's
- 5:30 PM Arrive Cornelius

Description of the Railroads:

Central Carolina Southbound (Beck) serves the areas of Central North Carolina for point to point, less than load, and dedicated road services. It is a double deck housed in 18' X 48' building and approx. 900' track.

Penn Central Railroad – Lehigh & Delaware Division (Pennie) set in the 1960-70s in 1100 s.f. basement point to point; single level and no duck unders. It features a fully automatic signaling and CTC panel for dispatching trains. Featured in Great Model Railroads 2007, Cover of NScale Magazine and NScale Railroading.

Charleston, Roanoke & Eastern Railway (Neubacher) is a coal hauling bridge route connecting the Midwest and the Southeast. It is fully operational in 22' X 36' space made up of two connected rooms. It is double deck without a helix and features Norfolk Southern and CSX operations in the late 80's-early 90's.

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**Upcoming trips in planning**

**A Visit to the Tweetsie Railroad Back Shop!**

By Bob Wessmiller

All CSD members are invited to join us for a trip back in time when men used their hands, brute force, and ingenuity to make steam engines come alive. Tweetsie's Back Shop is one of the best repair facilities in the eastern US for maintaining steam locomotives. Presently, they are making repairs to engines owned by Busch Gardens (Williamsburg) and Dollywood (Pigeon Forge, TN) along with their own engines.

We plan to tour the shop on a Monday morning, as this is when their Chief Mechanic is available to answer questions about everything involving steam power. The tentative date for this trip is **Monday, May 7**. We expect to arrive at Tweetsie

(near Boone) at 10 AM and spend 2 to 2 ½ hours there, then proceed to Blowing Rock for lunch at a local restaurant. There is no fee for this visit, but **reservations will be required NLT April 26**. For more information, contact Rick Knight (head of the Program/Fun committee) or his designated representative (TBD).

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**And Another Visit to Steam Power!**

By Bob Wessmiller

If you love steam power, don't miss our planned trip to Denton Park!

On Saturday, June 30, we will travel about 50 miles east of Charlotte to the small town of Denton. Once a year their private collection of steam memorabilia is open to the public at the annual Threshers Reunion. In addition to having a working steam engine that pulls open-air cars around the perimeter of the park, we will also see operating steam shovels, steam tractors, and a host of other tools and equipment run by jack shafts and large leather belts.

We have made special arrangements to meet with the train crew to learn more about this railroad. And if we are lucky, we might have an opportunity to ride in the steam engine's cab! Admission is \$10 per person for this all-day event. Picnic tables are available for our use, and we can purchase food and drink there.

Join us for this fun day of looking at how things ran in America 100 years ago!

**Reservations are required no later than**

**June 21**. For more information, contact Bob Halsey at (704)660-9712, or his designated representative (TBD).

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**Project Completed!**

By Bob Halsey

Recently, former CSD Superintendent Larry Lau donated his layout (including all structures & rolling stock) and a large number of model RR magazines, books, and VCR tapes & DVDs to the Division. We are therefore starting a lending library, and offering the structures & rolling stock

for sale (at very reasonable prices!) to our members and on Ebay. But the size of the library collection dictated the need for shelves to display the items.

So three of our members, led by Bob ‘the Builder’ Wessmiller, constructed three sets of 3-level shelves (46” wide by 42” high) on wheels, designed to fit under Rick Knight’s KB&D layout. Bob was assisted by Rick and Jim Rager. All of the donated items may be viewed on any Monday evening at Rick’s layout. “Well Done” to Bob W., and of course a big “Thank You” to Larry for his generous donation to CSD!

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## **RailRun 2012**

By Bob Halsey

The Carolina Southern Division has assumed primary responsibility for planning the 2012 RailRun weekend, with assistance from the OpSig group. This 3-day series of operating sessions at various major layouts has proven to be very popular.

Currently, we are considering whether to schedule this event for Labor Day weekend (Aug 30 – Sep 2) as with previous RailRuns, or conduct it on a later weekend such as Columbus Day weekend (Oct 12 -14) to possibly increase attendance from people who might otherwise take a vacation on Labor day weekend. OpSig representatives prefer to keep it on Labor Day because of potential conflict with other national events that may be scheduled elsewhere, and that their members have gotten used to having it on Labor Day weekend. We expect to make a decision on this by the end of this month, and whichever date is settled on, it will be a fun weekend!

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## **First Thursday Division Meeting February**

By: Jack Haynes

The February 1st Thursday meeting was an open discussion of approaches to track cleaning. There were many ideas contributed by members present. Gil showed a cleaning sponge abrasive

that is available at woodworking shops. It is abrasive, but soft so it won't scratch as much as the typical BrightBoy type track cleaner.



*Members discuss their ideas on track cleaning*

Members brought several track cleaning cars. The most common ones have a roller or disk with cleaning material and can be used dry or wet. Using a loop of dental floss helps fasten the cleaning material on the roller. Rick Knight uses two rollers, one wet with 90% rubbing alcohol and one dry to wipe the track off.

The Atlas track cleaning car has a motorized disc on the bottom and also has a suction nozzle to pick up dust and loose debris. It has a reservoir for cleaning fluid.

Harold Roth showed an older cleaning car he uses that has a tank for cleaning fluid and a needle valve to control the flow of fluid onto a cleaning pad. He uses acetone (laquer thinner) as the fluid because it is very good at dissolving anything stuck to the rail and evaporates quickly and completely leaving no residue of its own.

Rick also uses a boxcar with a magnet on the bottom to pick up metal debris that falls between the tracks and are hard to see such as track nails and couplers.

Miniatronics sells an electronic cleaner that sends an electrical signal through the rails between adjacent wheels. This is supposed to oxidize gunk on the rail, turning to dust that falls into the ballast.

Other suggestions were to apply No-Ox to the rails which may avoid cleaning for a long time. Controlling dust in the train room was also discussed with drop ceilings over basement layouts or powered air filters running while working in the room.

## First Thursday March

by Jack Haynes

At the March 1st Thursday meeting, Fred Miller led people through building a track power tester. Fred provided the kit of parts for a nominal fee and members brought their own tools to solder it together. Eight members took the challenge and assembled kits.



*With soldering irons hot, members tackle the tester kit*

Most tested good by the end with just a couple of minor glitches, disappointing the members who came to watch hoping for some amusement as someone fumbled the project.



*Completed (working) tester assembled by your Editor.*

Bring your tools to the next assembly clinic and take home something useful that you can tell everyone you did yourself.

## RMU Extension Seminar

By Jack Haynes

Watts an amp? Come to the new RMU Extension Campus and find out. You asked for it on your evaluations at the RMU, but we're doing this instead. Roy Becker and I are working on a full morning seminar about basic electrical concepts and techniques for model railroaders. We expect to cover basic principles of electric circuits, how to use a meter to measure electrical properties, planning layout wiring schemes, soldering track feeders, troubleshooting electrical problems, and much more (if that doesn't fill the morning). It will be a mix of lecture (in our best professorial style, a little respect please) and hands-on

If you have any particular favorites, let us know soon so we can include information on them (or play them as background music during the hands-on exercises). More complete information will be coming to the web site and in future announcements, but put April 21 on your calendar now.

We plan to use Williams Lodge in Cornelius, site of our monthly meetings where there is lots of table space to spread out and not endanger each other with hot soldering irons. So pack your iron and meter and come on out for an informative morning (or the entertainment of watching us embarrass ourselves by getting zapped).

The RMU committee is planning more Extension Seminars in the future with a target of one every three months. These are intended to extend the material presented at RMU which is limited by time available. Each will focus on a single subject and include individual hands on work to add real observation and results to the learning experience. Tentative plans are for one in July on Scratchbuilding by Carl Baumgart, and one in October by Gil Brauch on Scenery.

**Annual Division Business Meeting**  
**Summary Minutes**  
**January 21, 2012**  
Dave Draxler

Carolina Southern Division Annual Business Meeting was held at the Williams Lodge, Cornelius, NC, on January 21, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 10:05am by Superintendent Bob Halsey. There were 17 members and two visitors present.

John Janosko, MER President reported that the MER had a Board meeting last week. The regional convention in Cary had a net profit of approximately \$3000 which will be divided between the MER and the host Division. The 2013 convention will be in Maryland in the Columbia area and 2014 could be in the Hagerstown area. John suggested that if our Division had interest in hosting a convention soon, we should contact the MER Executive Convention Chair.

Annual reports were presented as follows:

- **Treasurer**, Dick Bronson: Our current balance is approximately \$3000. We had net income this year of about \$1500.

- **Clerk**, Jack Haynes: The Division gained 16 members last year to a total of 133.

- **501(c)3 Committee**, Bob Halsey: Information is being gathered for the application. They expect to complete the process in about 3 months. It is essential to show educational activity.

- **Brookford Activity**, Gil Brauch: Train Town held 12 open houses last year. There were also 7 special shows including 6 for children attending a summer camp with a total of 313 children. Restoration is complete on about ¾ of the layout. Since inception, Division members have put in 2438 hours over the five years. Work sessions are held the second and fourth Thursday at 6:30 and monthly open houses on the second Saturday.

- **CSD Web Site**, Gil Brauch: We are experimenting with several online event registration systems this year including a link to PayPal for registration fees. The only major change to the web site was a change in the color scheme to match the new green/yellow scheme of the new Division logo. Gil reminded everyone to use the Reload button on their browser each time they visit the calendar page to be sure they are getting the latest content and not older info cached on their local system.

- **Brass Pounder**, Jack Haynes: There were six issues of the Brass Pounder newsletter last year of 8 pages each. They are distributed by posting a PDF file to the web site and emailing the membership that it is available. Jack encouraged everyone to send in pictures and articles for publication.

- **AP Program**, Dave Chance: There were only two members receiving certificates this year with a total of 4 certificates (two Golden Spike awards, one Master Builder, Scenery and one Chief Dispatcher). We have two CSD members are close to the Master Model Railroader award with 6 and 7 certificates. 14 Division members attended the Piedmont Crossing Convention.

- **Programs Committee**, Rick Knight: The committee has put together the calendar for this year and it has been posted on the web site. Rick reported the RMU had 75 attendees this year. There was some discussion on who should be our target audience with RMU and other activities. MER is targeting clubs and social organizations for presentations to promote the hobby both as a personally satisfying activity and as a social contact activity.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that our CSD monthly division meeting begin at 7:30 pm to accommodate member travel. Bob Halsey stated that any member is welcome to attend board meetings, however, they would not be entitled to vote on board actions.

- **Nominating Committee**, Jim Rager: Nominations for 2012-13 are Bob Halsey,

Superintendent, Larry Paffrath, Assistant Superintendent, Ken Trent, Paymaster, Dave Draxler, Clerk, Roy Becker, Director-2014, Rick Knight, Director-2013. Gil Brauch moved to accept the committee report, second by Dick Beck. Motion accepted by unanimous vote. Bob Halsey then opened the floor for other nominations. None were offered. Bob asked for unanimous vote for the nominated officers. Vote was unanimous.

Bob Halsey presented service appreciation awards to several outgoing and former officers: Steve August (Super 2008-2011), Fred Miller Director (2009-2012), Dick (& Karen) Bronson (Paymaster 1999-2012), Jack Haynes (Clerk 2006-2012), and Rick Knight (Operating sessions, RMU, Super). Steve will receive his awards via USPS.

The Annual CSD Business Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

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### **DVR/VCR Alert**

Jack Haynes

While setting up a new HD tuner for my TV, I accidently came across an episode of Tracks Ahead. A little surfing located the following schedule on UNC-EX:

Tracks Ahead Saxony Narrow Gauge Railways

3/7 7:30 am

3/7 2:30 pm

3/8 12:30 am

Tracks Ahead The Flying Yankee

3/14 7:30 am

3/14 2:30 pm

3/15 12:30 am

Tracks Ahead Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad

3/21 7:30 am

3/21 2:30 pm

3/22 12:30 am

Tracks Ahead The Mollibahn

3/28 7:30 am

3/28 2:30 pm

3/29 12:30 am

All Aboard The Power, The Might, The Locomotive

3/7 7:00 am

3/7 2:00 pm

3/8 12:00 am

All Aboard Mail on the Fly, The Railroad Post Office

3/14 7:00 am

3/14 2:00 pm

3/15 12:00 am

All Aboard The Pullman Sleeper: Journey of the Towering Pine

3/21 7:00 am

3/21 2:00 pm

3/22 12:00 am

This is the schedule for March. The April schedule wasn't yet available. Check the full schedule at

[UNCTV.org](http://UNCTV.org)

There were a few dates where additional railroad related programs were shown following these two.

UNC-EX is on broadcast channel 58.3 in Charlotte, 17.1 from Linville, and 4.3 on Time Warner clear QAM, 173 on Time Warner Basic Cable.

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## Achievement Program Progress Report

Dave Chance, CS Div. 12 AP Chair

March 2, 2012

This year got off to a good start, with two Golden Spike awards earned in February. One member earned a Merit Award for scenery. The awards earned so far in 2012 are as follows:

1. Anthony Perkins – Golden Spike, February 7, 2012..... first award!
2. Curtis Alan Hardee – Golden Spike, February 7, 2012..... first award!
3. Anthony Perkins – Merit Award - Scenery, February 7, 2012

Congratulations to both Anthony Perkins of Belmont and to Alan Hardee of Bessemer City for their excellent work and in earning these Awards!

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. Jim Allen – Author and MB Locomotives.
3. Jack Parker -- MB Cars, received Merit Award for boxcar at Milwaukee '75 Convention.
4. Dave Chance -- MB Cars, MB Structures, Civil Engineer, Author, and MB Locomotives.
5. Ed Locklin -- Electrical Engineer.
6. Carl Baumgart – MB Structures
7. Michele Chance – Electrical Engineer and MB Structures
8. Seth Gartner – Chief Dispatcher and Association Volunteer
9. Jim Thomas - Chief Dispatcher
10. Jerry Shepardson – Scenery and Electrical Engineering
11. Neal Anderson – Scenery, Association Volunteer, and Electrical Engineering
12. Dave Draxler – Electrical Engineer
13. Tim Rumph (at large) – Chief Dispatcher

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

704-933-4200

## Coming Events

By Rick Knight

### MARCH 2012

10 = BROOKFORD OPEN HOUSE

17 = TRAIN SHOW @ GREENSBORO DEPOT

24 = TOUR OF N SCALE LAYOUTS = PENNE + BECK + NEUBACHER

31 + April 1 = GREAT TRAINEXPO @ WINSTON-SALEM

### APRIL 2012

5 = FIRST THURSDAY MEETING = FRED MILLER w/WIRING LAYOUTS

8 = EASTER

14 = NC RAILROAD EXPO @ HICKORY \*\*CSDiv booth

14 = BROOKFORD OPEN HOUSE

14 + 15 = TIMONIUM

### MAY 2012

3 = FIRST THURSDAY MEETING = ROY BECKER w/WIRING LAYOUTS

For details and directions related to the above events, check the Calendar on the website.

### **LARRY LAU MIGRATES TO CHICAGO**

Former Carolina Southern Division Superintendent Larry Lau has moved to Lake Barrington, one of the northern suburbs of Chicago. His daughter lives a short 15 minute drive away, so he will be close to family. And he'll be close to the sites of the Illinois Central/Illinois Central Gulf Railroad (now Canadian National). Larry is already planning a 4x8 layout at his new home.

Larry did a serious downsizing of his railroad collection and donated his "surplus" to the Division. Kits, rolling stock, power, detail parts, structures, tools and the like have been sold and the proceeds donated to the Carolina Southern Division treasury.

Parts of the "collection" have been used to create the basis of the Larry Lau Library. There are over a hundred books, many schedules and timetables, VHS tapes, magazines, photos and slides. These are currently being cataloged and lists will soon be posted on the Division website. The current thinking is to offer these materials on loan to NMRA members at a small donation to the Division.

The Division will also solicit additions to the Larry Lau Library. The first donation was made at RMU 2012. A gentleman donated eight large boxes of magazines (Model Railroader, Model Railroading, Railroad Model Craftsman, Mainline Modeler, and others) mostly from the 1990s. These will be posted to the website, listed by magazine title and month of issue.

### The Division Brass

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### Division Website:

www.carolinasouthern.org

### Submissions For Brass Pounder

Next Issue	Submission Date
May 2012	April 21, 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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