

# THE BRASS POUNDER

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

Volume 12 Number 4

November 2012

## Carolina Southern Division Events

### Division Swap Meet & Train Show

Saturday November 10 10:00-2:00  
Wade's Train Town  
Brookford Town Hall

See details below and on web site.

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

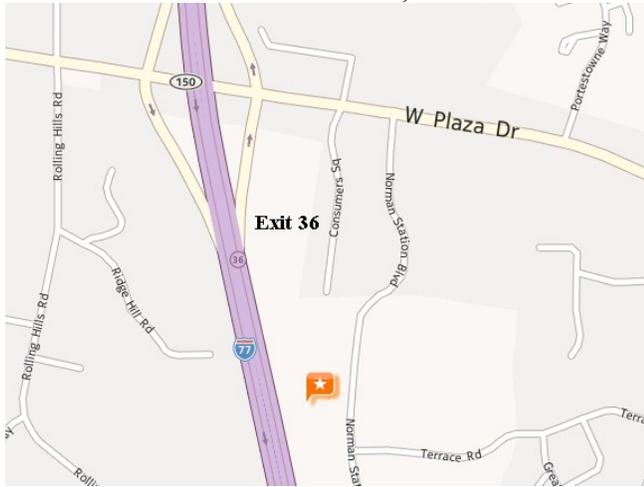
**Sign up for your table!!**

[www.carolinasouthern.org/TrainShowTable.htm](http://www.carolinasouthern.org/TrainShowTable.htm)

### Division 1st Thursday Meetings

\*\*\* NEW (Permanent) LOCATION!!\*\*\*

HobbyTown USA,  
168-W Norman Station Blvd., Mooresville



North on I 77 to exit 36  
Right at end of ramp  
Right at Wal-Mart sign

### November meeting November 1 7:00

Brief Division business meeting  
See web site for program details.

### December meeting December 6 7:00

See web site for program details.

### Saturday November 10 10:00 - 4:00

Wade's Train Town Open House  
together with Division Swap Meet  
Brookford Town Hall

### Saturday December 8 10:00 - 4:00

Wade's Train Town Open House  
Brookford Town Hall

### January 19, 2013 9:00 - 4:00

Railroad Modeling University  
Northside Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC

### January 26, 2013

Annual Division Business Meeting  
Location TBD

## Calendar of Events

### Spencer Museum Autumn Train Excursions

Nov 3 Appomattox, Va Nov 4 Toccoa, Ga.  
704-636-2889 ext. 237 or [www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org)

### Saturday, November 17 9:00-4:00

Model Railroad Swap Meet  
Concord Area Model RR Club  
Boiling Springs Fire and Rescue  
Main Street  
Boiling Springs, NC

### Southern Christmas Show

November 7 thru November 18  
Park Expo and Conference Center  
Off Independence Blvd (US 74)  
Charlotte, NC



## **2012 Mid-Eastern Region Convention (Milepost 40) hosted by the Tidewater Division**

By Bob Halsey

A very well-run convention, this year's version (Oct 18-29) featured many interesting classes and hands-on clinics, excellent models to be judged (although not as many as last year), many layout tours all over the Tidewater area and Williamsburg. Of course, there was also the "white elephant" sale of members' items, and the usual auction of donated items. There was a great after-dinner briefing (with vu-graphs) by a former Norfolk Southern executive who discussed his impressions of various former east coast railroads taken over by NS, including which ones were real losers and which would have been viable survivors even if they hadn't become part of NS.

From CSD, Dave Chance again served as a contest judge under the leadership of Martin Brechbiel, and Dick Bronson presented "Signaling Your Layout" and "Aspect-based Signaling Using JMRI Masts". If you knew what that title means, you probably didn't need to take it!

Two of the most interesting contest models were an HO gauge Western Maryland ice-breaker car modified from a pulpwood flat with a scratch-built breaker frame, and a "passenger car" modified from what looked like a stretched caboose (but with no cupola). There was also a MoW Penn Central caboose, an old-time D&RGW car, a scratch-built stock car, and a collection of beautiful railroad photographs. Probably the most unusual item present, although not a contest item, was a large quilt featuring rows of rail freight cars!

The hands-on clinics included several different ways of making trees, how to use the "Grassmaster" for planting "static grass", and how to repair split gears and axle shafts on locomotives.

All-in-all, a very informative two days, at a superb location (the Hilton Garden Inn in Suffolk,

Virginia) where they serve outstanding breakfasts! "Well Done" to the Tidewater Division!

The 2013 MER convention will be in Rockville, Maryland, October 10-13, hosted by the C&P Junction. See their website at <http://home.comcast.net/~CandP2013/>

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## **2012 NC RailRun**

By Marcus Neubacher  
Photos by Kenny Mann

Thanks to all of you for opening your homes and your layouts to our visitors for NC RailRun 2012. We had a great event and I heard a lot of compliments from the attendees.

I believe we had a lot of variety to offer our guests. We had a good mix of scales, locales, and operating schemes to share with them. In one weekend they could do everything from narrow-gauge railroading to modern-day operations. Though I'm sure each operator had his own favorite, most who attend events like these appreciate the differences and opportunities to participate in very different operating settings.

One specific comment that was made was how impressed the visitors were with the number and quality of N scale operating layouts in our group. I had several visitors tell me that we have the largest concentration of operating N layouts that they know of anywhere in the country. They were also, of course, very pleased with the HO layouts and the On39 layout that they operated on. I'm sure some of our attendees will share, or have already shared, their impressions with each of you.



*Operators take a lunch break with Michael Pennie*

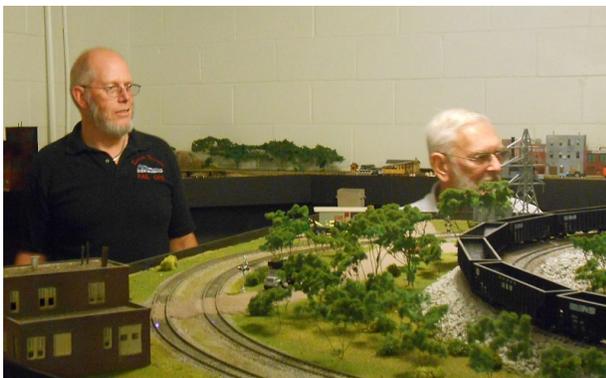
Several of you went above-and-beyond by providing meals for attendees at your sessions, some at your own expense. That was very much appreciated by the attendees. The hospitality of everyone at each operating session made this as much a social event as an operating event, and I believe we pulled that off well as a group.



*Chuck Batherson oversees yard switching at Brunswick*

Our geographical groupings into eastern and western tours seemed to work well. Some visitors bounced between both regions, while others stayed in one region to reduce the travel time between layouts.

Please pass along our thanks to your assistants during the operating sessions. Your preparation and the participation of some of your regular crew members ensured that the event would be a success.



*Neal Anderson watches the RailRun action on his layout*

I welcome your feedback as layout owners and I will pass it on to the leadership of the Carolina Southern Division as well. Without your dedication and willingness to invite people into your homes, this event would not have been possible.

I'm already looking forward to the next national-level NC RailRun in 2014. I imagine that the Carolina Southern Division will put together a regional version for the Charlotte area in 2013 as well.

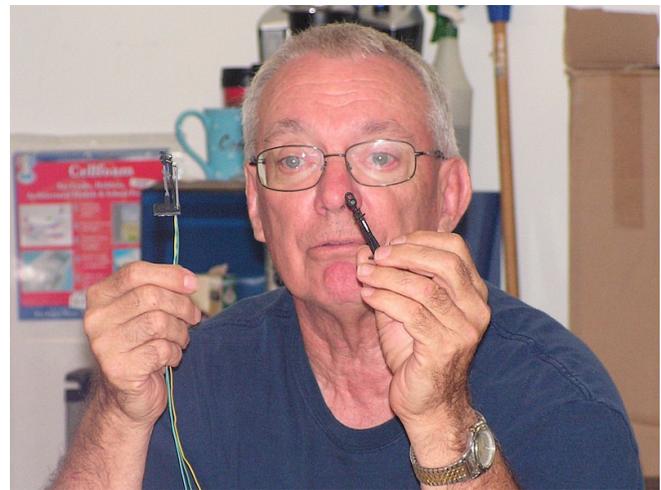
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## **First Thursday Meeting September 6, 2012**

by Jack Haynes

The First Thursday meeting for the Division featured two demonstrations.

First, Dick Beck showed how he wired LEDs into signal heads. He used plastic signal heads that he found he could buy in bulk on eBay.

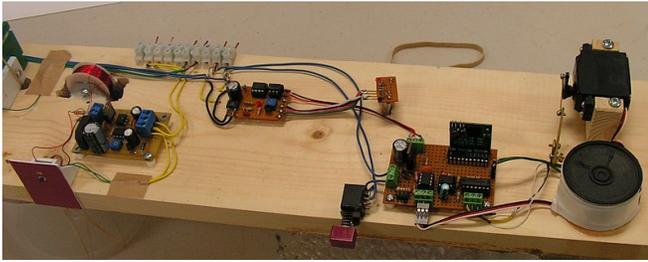


*Dick shows the results from his demonstration*

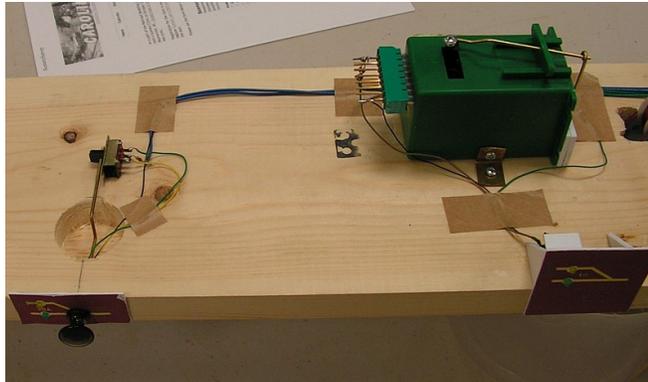
Then Fred Miller showed us a test track he had built to try out controls for turnouts and uncoupling for his layout.



*Fred demonstrates how the electromagnetic uncoupler and turnout controls work on his test track*



*The business side of Fred's test track showing the uncoupler coil, sound system and control circuitry.*



*Controls for the Tortoise turnout motor and indicator lights.*

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**First Thursday Meeting  
October 4, 2012**  
by Jack Haynes

For the October Division meeting, Bob Wesmiller demonstrated making scenery with plaster cloth over foam landforms. Bob pinned together some sheets of foam and taped on some wadded up newspaper to make the basic contour.



*Bob starts to add plaster cloth over the base of foam and newspaper.*

When the plaster had set, he added a smooth layer of light weight joint compound to fill the open spaces in the gauze fabric and worked it to the finished surface.



*Strips of cloth are applied and overlapped to cover the surface.*



*When the plaster has set, light weight joint compound is added to fill the cloth and leave a smooth surface*

# DIVISION PICNIC & RUNNING THE P&W RAILROAD

By: Stephen C. Wood

This past weekend I made one of my many trips from Durham to Charlotte. Usually I show up on Friday night and run operations at Jack Parkers outstanding layout, the P&W. Well this time was



*Looking over his domain!*

different. I had been invited as I had for many years to attend the annual picnic and operation session. In the past I had something always holding me down with three girls at the house. Well one is away, another in college and my five year old went with mom to her soccer game and arts festival as I made the trip.

First off I would like to thank Jack Parker for



*Hard at work!*

allowing me not only to attend the picnic and his home but also the many years of opening his home

to allow me to operate on this masterpiece. In addition, I would like to thank the members of Division 12 for allowing me to participate as well.

The picnic spot was at the front of Jack's home overlooking the waterway. The divisional members and guests starting arriving around 12:30pm and we started setting everything up. By 1:00pm we were in the train room ready to take our assignments on the P&W for the afternoon.



*Looking good. Glad to have the women helping us!*

The day was ideal for this event with bright sunshine all around. Everyone was in a festive mood and operations took hold.

There were trains in and out of the yards, passenger trains speeding by. There was activity all over the place. No one was standing around and as your run ended you were sure to find a new job on the railroad. As for myself, I ran an express passenger and when it arrived at its final destination, it was off to be the assistant yard master for Big Laurel for the next two hours.



*The chef*

Dinner was ready around 4:30pm. We all sat around talking about various subjects and all were in a festive mood. There was a fantastic fruit salad to be had by all, along with hot dogs, hamburgers and brats. If you missed it there were also some outstanding devil eggs and all the trimmings you could ask for. There were even two types of cakes if you wanted. Truly no one left hungry.



*After a hard day's work on the rails! Where's the grub?*

The memorable operating session and picnic came to an end with all the members and friends sitting around and talking.

I didn't realize how quickly time had gone by. Here it was already 6:00pm and it was time for me to make the long trip home. In the end all the friends who had gathered departed from Jack's with a happy smile and with words of "Thank you to all who had made it a happy day". As for me it was one of the most exciting and lively picnics and operating sessions I had ever attended.

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## Fall train excursions set for November

SPENCER - One of the N.C. Transportation Museum's most popular offerings combines the romance of rail travel, a great destination and the convenience of a day trip.

This year's Autumn Train Excursions will travel to Appomattox, Va. on Nov. 3 and Toccoa, Ga. on Nov. 4.

These excursions provide the opportunity to take a daylight train trip on vintage rail cars through beautiful countryside during the autumn leaf-peeping season.

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These one-day trips are presented by the N.C. Transportation Museum Foundation and the Watauga Valley Chapter Railroad Historical Society and Museum and act as fundraisers for both organizations.

Travelers on both trips will experience the thrill of a daytime journey by rail, enjoying the beauty of the southeastern countryside in the fall. The trains will be powered by Amtrak Engines but feature restored first-class seating, lounge cars, a commissary car and the comfort of Amtrak's regular passenger rail cars.

Civil War history will be all around for those traveling to Appomattox. Departing from the museum grounds in Spencer with additional passenger pick-up in Greensboro, passengers will arrive in one of the nation's most historic towns around noon.

Passengers will disembark at the restored Appomattox Station, once a stop for the South Side Railroad in the late 1800s and now home to the Appomattox Visitor Information Center. This charming small town holds claim to one of the most significant moments in U.S. history - the surrender of General Robert E. Lee to end the Civil War and reunite a divided nation.

Virginia Autumn Special passengers can enjoy the historic shops and restaurants of Appomattox's quaint downtown or for a nominal additional fee, explore either the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, or the Museum of the Confederacy's newly-opened Appomattox site. Shuttle buses will provide transportation to both sites.

The Georgia Autumn Special will depart from Spencer with additional passenger pick-up at the Spartanburg Amtrak Station. Nestled into the foothills of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, the historic town will be bustling with activity during the 30th annual Harvest Festival.

Passengers will have about three hours to enjoy the festival, which features handmade, handcrafted and home-grown items from more than 200 vendors, as well as regional foods, entertainment on two stages, children and youth activities, buggy rides and more.

Toccoa Falls, named for the Cherokee word "Toccoah" meaning beautiful, is a must-see. Located on the campus of Toccoa College, the

186-foot falls are 26 feet taller than Niagara Falls. Shuttle buses will be making a continuous loop between downtown Toccoa and Toccoa Falls.

Some seating options have already sold out, but seating remains for the following two options:

- Tourist Class features the convenience and comforts of modern Amtrak cars. Each car has a center aisle with two adjustable seats and a wide window on each side. This seating area provides convenient access to the Souvenir and Cafe cars. Tourist class seating is \$150 per person.

- Premium First Class seating is still available for travelers to Toccoa, offering travel in restored, vintage lounge or parlor cars. Each car is configured differently with a variety of seating options.

Compartment seating is also available for small groups (only available with phone orders). Fare includes continental breakfast, newspapers, light snacks and dinner. Premium first class seating is \$260 per person.

Inquire about lunch options when ordering tickets.

A commemorative T-shirt is also available for \$20.

Tickets are available by calling Sara Gettys at 704-636-2889 ext. 237 or visiting [www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org).

## RMU 2013

The date and the facility have been confirmed. The 2013 RMU will be at the Northside Baptist Church, the same location as last year, on January 19, 2013.

SAVE THE DATE!

Larry Paffrath is scheduling presentations now, so if you are interested in giving a presentation, either one of your own, or one of our regular old standards, or helping out, please contact him at:

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



# CAROLINA SOUTHERN DIVISION



The

of the

## National Model Railroad Association

proudly presents our first annual

# Model Railroad Swap Meet & Open House



featuring

## Wade's Train Town

and the

## Central Carolina NScalers



along with

Dozens of tables of model railroading "goodies" in all scales and all modeling eras

(Member tables only – No dealers)

**Brookford Community Center**

**1700 S Center Street**

**Hickory, NC**

**Saturday, November 10, 2012**

**10 am until 2 pm**

Visit <http://carolinasouthern.org/TrainShowGeneral.htm> for more details.

# Model Railroad SWAP MEET

Saturday, November 17, 2012

9:00 am-4:00pm



**Operating HO Layout**

**TABLES PROVIDED @ \$10/table**

Limit 2 tables for individuals

**Trains and train related items only, any scale**

**Food Available**

**Free parking**

Location: Boiling Springs Fire and Rescue

Main Street

Boiling Springs, NC

Sign-up/Info: 704-434-6881

**Sponsored by Concord Area Model Railroad Club**

### The Division Brass

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### Division Website:

www.carolinasouthern.org

### Submissions For Brass Pounder

Next Issue Submission Date  
January 2013 December 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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