

# THE BRASS POUNDER

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

Volume 13 Number 3

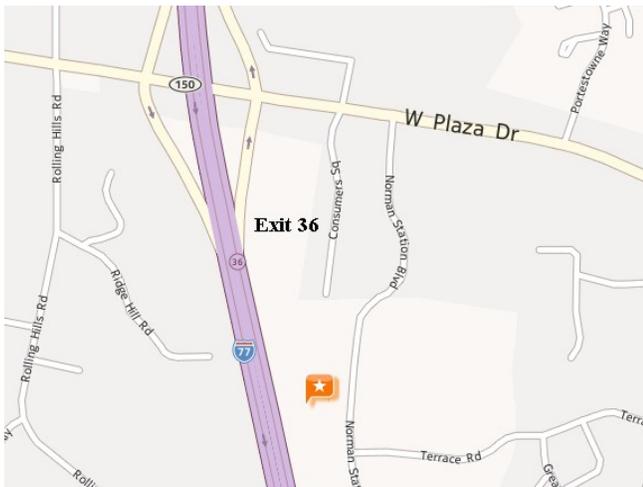
September 2013

## *Carolina Southern Division Events*

**Division Picnic**  
**Saturday September 21**  
**1:00 - ??? (lunch at 1:30)**

Jack Parker's  
12012 Abernathy Road, Charlotte, NC  
From I77, I85, or I485 in Charlotte, take NC 16 N  
R on Mt Holly-Huntersville Rd, L on Abernathy  
Bring Drinks, salad, side dish, or dessert to share.  
Bring lawn chairs  
Layout operation available after eats.  
See Calendar on Division web site:  
[www.carolinasouthern.org/Calendar.htm#divmtg](http://www.carolinasouthern.org/Calendar.htm#divmtg)

## **Saturday Monthly Meetings**



**October 19 10:30 AM**

See [carolinasouthern.org](http://carolinasouthern.org) for program details.

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

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**Division Swap Meet**  
**Saturday November 9 10:00 – 2:00**  
**Brookford Town Hall**

**1700 South Center Street, Hickory, NC**  
Tables available for Division members. Also a  
White Elephant Table if you just have a few items  
See web site for details and to reserve a table:  
[carolinasouthern.org/TrainShowGeneral.htm](http://carolinasouthern.org/TrainShowGeneral.htm)

## **Wade's Train Town Open House**

**Saturday September 14 10:00 – 2:00**  
**Saturday October 12 10:00 – 2:00**  
Brookford Town Hall

**Railroad Modeling University (RMU)**  
**Saturday January 25, 2014**  
**Northside Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC**

## *Calendar of Events*

**C & P Junction, MER Convention**  
**October 10-13, 2013**

Rockville Crowne Plaza  
Rockville, MD  
<http://mer.nmra.org/MERConv/MERConv.html>

**Sept 28-29 Great Train Expo**  
Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, Winston-Salem  
<http://www.greattrainexpo.com/info.html>

**October 12-13 Autumn Rails Train Show**  
WNC Agricultural Center, Fletcher, NC 28732  
<http://fbe-ntrak.com/autumnrails/>

## Railroad Modeling University 2014

By Larry Paffrath

The Carolina Southern Division will sponsor its annual Railroading Modeling University again on January 25, 2014 at the Northside Baptist Church. Each year RMU features many of the best model railroaders in the Charlotte, NC region presenting classes in different aspects of the "World's Greatest Hobby".



Neal Anderson shows how to ballast track quickly and easily at 2013 RMU

The Division is pleased to announce some new offerings for the next event. For the first time a noted model railroading author and photographer will be the featured presenter. We are privileged to announce Lou Sassi as the 2014 featured speaker. He will present a program on famous model railroads he has photographed.



Attendees work at the tree workstation of Gil Brauch's Scenery class at 2013 RMU.

In addition, the former VP of Operations at Lionel Corporation will talk with us about the history and manufacturing priorities of Lionel. Don Cantema previously visited with the CSD at a regular monthly club meeting, and his talk generated interesting questions and discussion about one of the hobby's steadfast manufacturers.



Don Cantema talks about some classic Lionel models at CSD meeting in 2011.

There will be train doctors available to help you learn how to clean and/or repair your equipment.

Want to submit a model for the NMRA Achievement judging? Yes, judges will be available. Not one (Jack Parker), but three (Fred Miller and Steve Wood).

Master Model Railroaders will teach classes this year. All of this for the same small fee of \$10.

## Peachtree Express 2013

by Jack Haynes

The 2013 NMRA National Convention was held in Atlanta this past July. I had never been to a National, and thought it unlikely I would get a better chance with this one so nearby so I went for the full week. It was a very full week.

There was an extensive selection of clinics, layout, prototype, and local history tours. I focused on the layouts and clinics and returned to my hotel room just about brain dead after being saturated with new ideas non-stop all day.

I was concerned about what I would get from the layout tours. During the week, they were all bus tours so you had less than an hour to get a look at a layout along with 35-40 other people so it was a little hurried. But I was pleasantly surprised at how well it went. The convention organizers and layout hosts were all prepared and each visit was handled smoothly. Most modelers on the tours were also considerate of each other and didn't waste time in the train room while others were waiting a turn to get in.



Most train rooms were big enough to let the crowd spread out and have a turn to see the whole thing.

The clinics I attended were well prepared. I got some helpful information from all of them. There were several times when I had to choose between two that were both interesting. In a couple of cases, the event planners must have anticipated demand so there were two sessions scheduled for several clinics and I ended up seeing the ones I wanted most.

The National Train Show was held along with the Convention at the same host hotel. It was a bit overwhelming. Most of the major manufacturers had booths set up with new or upcoming products on display. There were operating layouts in just about any scale you can imagine, one of the largest being the Lego layout.



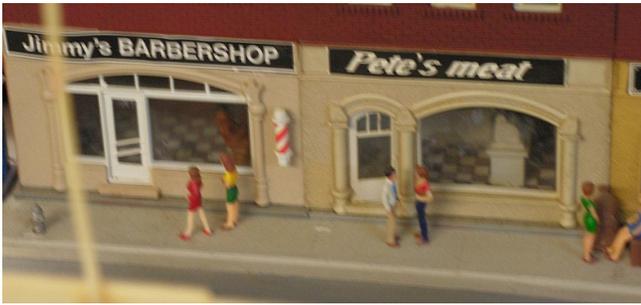
Part of the Lego Layout at Train Show

There was too much to write about in one article so I will concentrate on one aspect of the week that struck me: the level of detailed scenes on many of the layouts.

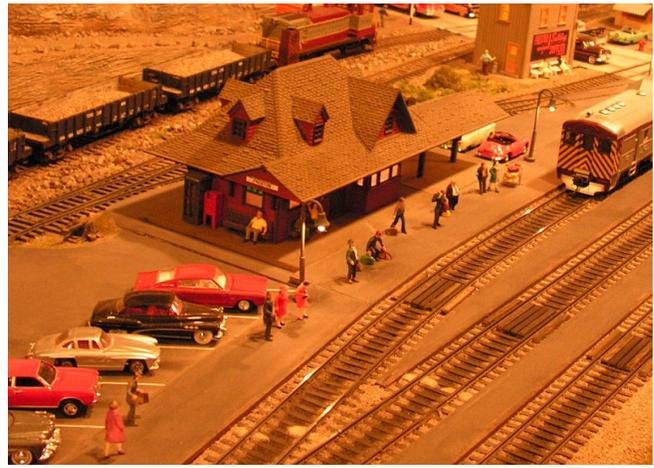


Here's a scene with dense overhead electrical wiring which is common in urban areas. Details include a transformer on one of the poles, an enclosed riser on one pole with a cable going down to an underground connection, risers extending above the roof line on two buildings

with the service wires coming from the pole and going down the riser. There are groups of people on the street, route signs at the road intersection, rooftop details, a fire hydrant, and a newspaper vending box. Lots of separate details packed into a small area helping to bring it to life.



Another street scene with people in three pairs doing different things. Details here include another fire hydrant, a barber shop post, checker board tile floors in the shops, a cash register, barber chair, and two different doors, slightly ajar.



This station scene includes cars parked in the lot with various models from the era, people waiting for the train in various poses carrying luggage or picking some up and some lampposts. Under the station eaves are a couple more people, a bench, mailbox and telephone booth (remember them?).



Here's a building found on many layouts, but some details make it different. There is a loading dock added with a few boards missing, two workers moving crates, crates and barrels ready to be loaded, electrical conduits and a meter box on the wall, a small awning over one door, shades on the windows, a window fan, two kinds of roof top ventilators, and a through the wall vent.



This river scene has a mostly dried up creek with several small pools and some optimistic fishermen. In clusters along the stream bed are piles of debris left by the last high water flow with some logs partly submerged or embedded in the mud.

One more street scene with two shops. Details here include a mailbox, a business name on the vehicle, interior lights, a woman at a table, a pot belly stove, patterned wall paper, wainscoting, people on the street conversing, a store promotion written on the window, a lighted advertising sign, street address number on the window over the

door, doors moved to an angle to the street. The upstairs windows have drapes and shades.



That's just a few of the detailing ideas I collected along the way on the layout tours. The Atlanta area has some excellent layouts. They have had local events where several layouts have open houses. It may be worth your time to go and see these for yourself. You will probably see many things that I missed. So take some photos and send them in for a future BP.

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## March Division Meeting

By Jack Haynes & Gil Brauch

At the monthly Division meeting at Mooresville, in March, Gil Brauch talked about various methods for simulating water on a layout. After discussing the advantages and disadvantages of different materials, he went on to demonstrate how to prepare the scenery base and beds for streams and ponds.



Bob Halsey brings the group up to date on planned events before Gil begins his presentation.



Steps to prepare scenery for water and building up layers of water.



Pouring some water with green tint to produce murky water.

He also demonstrated how to mix and pour his material of choice, *Envirotex Lite*. He showed how to tint the mixture to achieve the effect of murky water. Woodland Scenics' *Water Effects* is his material of choice to simulate the effect of moving water. He showed how to add waves and ripples to a smooth water surface and how to make a realistic looking waterfall using this material.

## May Division Meeting

By Jack Haynes

At the monthly Division meeting at Mooresville, in May, Bob Halsey showed how to add details to a common station kit to make a unique scene.



Atlas station kit with details added.

Some details came with the kit, such as benches, but then Bob also added a mailbox, fire hydrant, and vending machine (all appropriate to the period).



Weathering chalks set from MicroMark

To tone down the gloss of the plastic kit, Bob used weathering chalks; he didn't add DullCote spray because that tends to hide the chalk.

He then created the scene around the station.



Details around the station set the scene.

The parking lots are paved with very fine (800 grit) wet/dry sandpaper and lined with a light colored pencil. A utility pole provides wires for signals and telegraph. He uses the thread sold for ship rigging for wires or very thin real wire. Vehicles include taxis, a bus, REA truck or mail truck. For a flag pole, he used 1/16 brass tubing with the ball from a straight pin for the top. Flag should not stick straight out. Use photo or address label with flag waving in the wind. Only need one side facing the viewer.

Some other details that can be added include pot holes, manhole covers, stove chimney, newspaper stand. A station name sign can be made with dry transfer lettering.

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## August Division Meeting

By Jack Haynes

At the monthly Division meeting at Mooresville, in August, Bob Halsey showed how to use various materials for weathering freight cars. He invited members to bring along a model or two to practice on.

The materials available included acrylic paints and alcohol to make thin washes, self-adhesive powders (Bragdon Enterprises) and spray clear coatings to seal the work.



Weathering materials set out on table to choose from.



A thin wash is mixed in a paper cup and applied with a small brush



A group works together applying rust colored powder



My hopper came to the meeting in fresh from the shop condition. After some black powder (and a little alcohol to help it spread out) it has been to the mine a few times.

## The Division Brass

Superintendent Bob Halsey  
superintendent@carolinasouthern.org  
Asst. Superintendent Larry Paffrath  
assistsuper@carolinasouthern.org  
Clerk Dave Draxler  
clerk@carolinasouthern.org  
Paymaster John Stevens  
Paymaster@carolinasouthern.org  
Director 2013 Rick Knight  
director1@carolinasouthern.org  
Director 2014 Roy Becker  
[director2@carolinasouthern.org](mailto:director2@carolinasouthern.org)  
Director 2015 Gil Brauch  
director3@carolinasouthern.org  
AP Chairman Dave Chance  
Apchair@carolinasouthern.org  
Webmaster Gil Brauch  
Webmaster@carolinasouthern.org  
Newsletter Editor Jack Haynes  
editor@carolinasouthern.org  
Fun Committee program@carolinasouthern.org  
RMU Chair Larry Paffrath  
RMUchair@carolinasouthern.org

**Division Website:**  
[www.carolinasouthern.org](http://www.carolinasouthern.org)

## Submissions For Brass Pounder

Next Issue Submission Date  
November 2013 November 1, 2013

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

Editor: Jack Haynes  
[editor@carolina](mailto:editor@carolinasouthern.org)southern.org  
7317 Easen Ct, Charlotte, NC 28211  
704-296-2493

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