

THE BRASS POUNDER

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

Volume 13 Number 4

November 2013

Carolina Southern Division Events

Saturday Monthly Meetings

Saturday November 16 10:30 AM

Model Contest

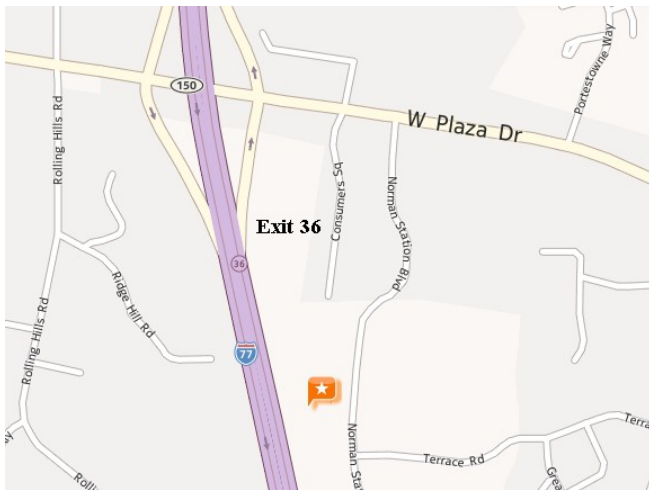
Judging and Prizes by HobbyTown

See details below or at carolinasouthern.org

**Note: Contest is open to the public
Judging will be by HobbyTown staff, not
using NMRA AP rules & practices**

Saturday December 21 10:30 Topic TBD

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

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

Wades Train Town display layout will also be
open during Swap Meet:

Wade's Train Town Open House

Saturday November 9 10:00 – 2:00

Saturday December 10:00 – 2:00

Brookford Town Hall

Railroad Modeling University (RMU)

Saturday January 25, 2014

Northside Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC

Carolina Southern Division Annual Business Meeting

Saturday January 18

Location and time TBD

Calendar of Events

Santa Train

Weekends November 29- December 22

North Carolina Transportation Museum

Spencer, NC

Details: nctrans.org

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Calendar of Events (cont'd)

Concord Club Swap Meet

November 16
Boiling Springs Volunteer Fire Dept

Thompson's Train Show

November 16 10:00 – 4:00
Sundance Plaza Hotel
3050 University Parkway
Winston-Salem, NC

Southern Christmas Show

November 13 – 24
Park Center
2500 Independence Blvd, Charlotte, NC

Piedmont & Western Open House

December 7 1:00 – 5:00
Jack Parker's 12012 Abernathy Rd, Charlotte

Division News

by Jack Haynes

Annual Business Meeting: Then Annual Business Meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2014. Details are still to be determined.

There will be elections for Director 2016 and Superintendent. If you are interested in either office, or wish to nominate someone, contact Bob Halsey at superintendent@carolinasouthern.org.

Also contact Bob if you have a suggestion for a location. We look for a restaurant with a separate meeting area sufficient for about 30 people.

NC Railrun 2014: Marcus Neubacher is planning the NC Railrun event for next year. He is scheduling it for Labor Day weekend. If you can help, or offer to have your layout available, contact Marcus at mneubacher@carolina.rr.com

Railroad Modeling University 2014: Larry Paffrath is well along in plans for the next RMU on January 25. There are a few open slots for sessions, so if you have a presentation contact him at larrypaffrath@bellsouth.net Also contact him if you can help out that day.

RMU 2014 Update

November 4, 2013

by Larry Paffrath

Railroad Modeling University 2014 is shaping up to be one of the best the Carolina Southern Division has ever offered. Several area clubs are represented by the 18 local model railroaders that will be clinicians this year. Three of them (Fred Miller, Jack Parker, and Stephen Wood are Master Model Railroaders).



Jack Parker demonstrates some of his weathering techniques while a close-up view is projected on closed circuit TV at 2013 RMU

For the first time a nationally recognized model railroad author, photographer, and clinician will be one of our presenters. **Lou Sassi** will deliver his featured presentation titled “My Two Most Memorable Layout Shoots” during lunch, so that all attendees have a chance to hear him speak. He will also provide a clinic on “Roadways For Your Railways”. He comes highly recommended as a clinician by some of our members that have heard him speak at other events. We hope everyone will welcome him and his wife Cheryl to our Charlotte area community of model railroaders. We have invited him to have some of his autographed books for sale during his visit with us.

Another guest speaker this year is **Don Canterna** a former Vice President for Operations at **Lionel Corporation**. Don served in this capacity during the 1990s, when Lionel was bought by Neil Young, the singer, and a couple

more investors. During some of that time Don led significant changes at the company because the investors were searching for a new CEO. He will share some of those stories of change and explain Lionel's manufacturing priorities to us. His talk during one of the regular monthly meetings of the CSD was very popular and generated many questions from the members attending. The CSD is happy he accepted our invitation to repeat his talk at RMU.



Roy Becker unravels some of the mysteries of DCC at the 2013 RMU

The CSD is adding a new feature at RMU 2014. Two of our members will be available all day to act as "Train Doctors". Bring equipment that is not running the way you expect it to, and they will do their best to help you determine what is wrong with it. If it is a simple repair (like cleaning) you may leave with properly operating equipment. Otherwise, they will do their best to provide guidance about what is wrong and how it can be repaired. They will also be able to show you how to replace/repair couplers, trucks, and wheelsets. Expect to pay for the cost of materials if you want to learn how to perform these tasks. The Train Doctors are most experienced with HO scale, but test tracks for N, S, and O will also be available. Choose "Train Doctor" as one of your classes if you want to take advantage of this offering. Registrants will receive priority over "walk ins".

Again this year, the CSD achievement program director (Dave Chance) will be available for NMRA Achievement Program judging. He will have three MMRs helping him. Contact Dave to schedule your model/s for judging.



Gil Brauch helps attendees create a water scene in his scenery workshop at the 2013 RMU.

The CSD webmaster (Gil Brauch); the registrar (Roy Becker), and the director of RMU (Larry Paffrath) will have **online registration ready to start by mid November 2013**. Monitor the carolinasouthern.org website to sign up.

The event is scheduled for January 25, 2014 starting 9 AM at Northside Baptist Church education facility.

RMU is the best bargain in model railroading anywhere! Still only \$10. See you there!

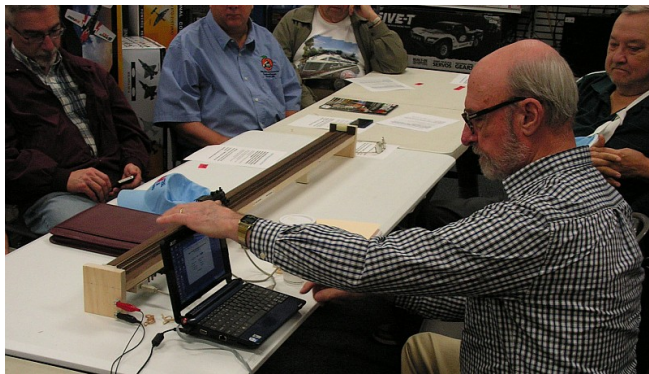
October Division Meeting

by Jack Haynes

The October Division meeting at the Mooresville HobbyTown featured Fred Miller showing how to set up a simple automated model railroad operation. Something like this could be used for a public display, operation of a commuter train or trolley repeating the same route constantly, or through trains running between staging areas as a background to other operations.

Several devices are available for DC operations like this, but Fred used DCC, a laptop computer, JMRI software with some simple custom scripts, and a Locobuffer to interface to the DCC system.

He used infrared detectors to sense where the train is and trigger actions in the scripts. Commercial boards are available for the detectors also, but Fred designed his own board that cost about \$12 in parts. To avoid interference from background light, the signal to the infrared transmitter is encoded and the receiver can distinguish it from background.



Fred has his demonstration track set up to run train back and forth automatically.

The detector outputs are connected to a DS64 stationary decoder which translates them to Loconet messages sent back to the JMRI system.

JMRI Panel Pro provides supporting tools for developing the system. The track schematic can be assembled with graphics of the devices. It can be told to run scripts in several ways and sample scripts are provided as a start to customize.



The **CAROLINA SOUTHERN DIVISION**

of the

National Model Railroad Association



proudly celebrates National Model Railroading Month with our annual

MODEL  **RAILROAD**
SWAP MEET & OPEN HOUSE

featuring

WADE'S TRAIN TOWN

along with

**DOZENS OF TABLES OF MODEL
RAILROADING "GOODIES" IN ALL
SCALES AND ALL MODELING ERAS**

(Member tables only – No dealers)

Saturday, November 9, 2013

10 am until 2 pm

**Brookford Community Center
1700 S Center Street
Hickory, NC**

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



*The Carolina Southern
Division, NMRA*

and

HobbyTown USA
Mooreville, NC

celebrate

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROADING MONTH

with a

Modeling Exhibition and Contest

on

Saturday, November 16, 2013 at 11 am

HobbyTown USA management will choose the best diorama or rolling stock model based on appearance and workmanship only. This is not an NMRA Achievement Program Event. Entry fee is \$5 for first model/diorama entry, \$3 for each additional. Only one entry per contestant in each category will compete for prizes. A brief description of the model listing, kit, modification, or scratch-built materials used should be included with each entry. Contest is open to the general public.

Prizes – furnished by HobbyTown USA management – are:

FIRST PRIZE

Two (2) Crown Classic tickets on the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad
(max value \$150, trip date determined by the winner)

SECOND PRIZE

One Great Smoky Mountain Railroad ticket
(max value \$60, trip date determined by the winner)

THIRD PRIZE

\$25 credit for HobbyTown USA merchandise

The Division Brass

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Division Website:
www.carolinasouthern.org

Submissions For Brass Pounder

Next Issue Submission Date
January 2014 January 5, 2014

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

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