



THE BRASS POUNDER

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

Volume 14 Number 1

March 2014

Carolina Southern Division Events

Monthly Meetings

Sat, March 15, 10am – 12pm
Division Visit to Cherryville Depot
105 North Depot Street, Cherryville, NC

Saturday April 19 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

Wade's Train Town Open House

Saturday March 8 10:00 – 2:00
Saturday April 12 10:00 – 2:00
Brookford Town Hall

NMRA National Convention
July 13-19, 2014
Cleveland, Ohio
<http://www.2014cleveland.org/>

MER Regional Convention
October 16-19
Hagerstown, MD
<http://www.smdnmra.org/hubcity.html>

Calendar of Events

Sat, March 8, 10am – 3pm
Train Group of Mebane Train Show
298 East Jackson Street, Mebane, NC
<http://www.themebanetrainlayout.com/about.html>

Sat, March 22, 10am – 3pm
Carolina Model RR Train Show
Amtrak Station-GRO
East Washington Street, Greensboro, NC
<http://www.carolinamodelrr.org/>

April 12, 10am – 4pm
Hickory Train Show
Hickory Metro Convention Center,
Hickory, NC
<http://www.tarheelpress.com/Trainshow/>

May 29 – June 1
Streamliners At Spencer
NC Transportation Museum
Spencer, NC
<http://nctrans.org>

Saturday, Jun 21, 2014
11th Annual NC Rail Fair
Metrolina Expo Center, Charlotte, NC
<http://www.gserr.com/shows.htm>

2014 Railroad Modeling University

Larry Paffrath, RMU Chairman

On Sunday, February 9 a group of some CSD Board members and key participants in 2014 RMU met at my house to review this year's event. Present were Rick Knight, Gil Brauch, Jack Haynes, Bob Wessmiller, Dick Beck, Jim Rager, Bob Halsey, and myself. This group discussed the reasons for increased attendance at the event, John Stevens financial report, the venue, the evaluations returned by the participants, and recommendations for future RMUs.

Attendance at RMU 2014 was more than double the participation in 2013. Approximately 90 attended. Increased attendance was attributed to the following: Lou Sassi's presentations; "Train doctor" provided by Dick Beck and Bob Wessmiller with help from a couple others; outstanding presentations by the clinicians; increased promotions targeting the railroad modeling community through the CSD website, flyers in hobby shops, direct communication to the area clubs, The Brass Pounder, and email blasts. Although it happened by a conflict with a church event, scheduling away from Martin Luther King holiday weekend was also mentioned (that holiday is now a four day holiday weekend with several area schools, and therefore a conflict with family travel).



Lou Sassi answers questions following one of his presentations.

Total revenue for the event was \$888.71. Total costs to date were \$708.07. The paymaster reported the to date profit is \$180.64.

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All agreed that the Northside Baptist Church venue is very favorable for our annual RMU event. We recommend the CSD Superintendent write a letter of thanks to the church. We further recommend that Roy Becker ask permission for the CSD to hold the 2015 RMU at the church. Hopefully, we can get on their schedule as early as possible.

Since I read all of the evaluations prior to the meeting, I reported that all of the clinicians received praise for their presentations. Most were complimented at least twice. Many participants praised and thanked the CSD for Lou Sassi's presentations this year. His clinic on "Roadways For Your Railroad" received the highest praise. Many evaluations thanked the clinicians for the Powerpoint style and visuals used during the clinicians presentations. Handouts were also mentioned as a worthwhile effort. I also reported the evaluations revealed that the most frequent sources of how the attendees heard about RMU were from the website, The Brass Pounder, email blasts, handouts at hobby shops, and "word of mouth". We had a general discussion of our reactions to the evaluations. Some of the things we discussed were: Many participants asked for more "hands on" opportunities (possible topics were soldering, building modules, electronics, JMRI for newbies, road building, weathering, using airbrush); some of the clinicians rushed because of time constraints; the building was cold.



Lou Sassi brought along a diorama showing some of the techniques he spoke about.

The recommendations for the 2015 RMU were the following:

1. Larry Paffrath continue as the RMU chairperson.
 2. Ask Northside Baptist Church to use their education classrooms on a Sat. at the end of January.
 3. Either consider raising the registration fee to help defray the cost of paying the expenses of a nationally recognized model railroader such as Lou Sassi, or pursue a speaker that will pay their own expenses. Possibilities discussed were a staff member from Model Railroader or a model railroad equipment manufacturer such as Tichy.
 4. Include more "hands on" clinics next year selected from the list suggested earlier.
 5. Continue with the extension classes to explore more in depth instruction in certain clinics. We suggest the CSD schedule these once each quarter of the year, starting with the second quarter. Some possible extension courses discussed were electronics, scenery, weathering, scratchbuilding, and module building.
 6. The CSD needs to appoint a person to improve the promotions for scheduled events such as RMU. Ideally this person should have experience and interest in promotions. This task should not reside with the coordinators of the CSD events. We suggest continued use of the methods listed earlier that target the CSD area model railroaders and add effort to use the printed and possibly broadcasting news media (model railroad publications, local newspapers, radio, tv, and community activity and attractions websites).
 7. The CSD should continue to use Paypal for our events like RMU that require a registration fee.
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Board of Directors meeting

18 January 2014

Bob Halsey, CSD Superintendent

1. Subj. meeting was held this date at Pomodoro's Restaurant in Mooresville, and attended by Bob Halsey, Larry Paffrath, John Stevens, Rick Knight, and Gil Brauch.
2. Discussions were held regarding various items on the agenda for the CSD Annual meeting to be held Saturday 1 February. Recommendations and clarifications include:

Next MER Convention will be 16-19 Oct 2014 in Hagerstown, MD.

Brookford Project needs a few more volunteers to help complete the restoration and to continue operations.

RMU wrap-up meeting will be held Sunday 9 February starting 2 PM at Larry Paffrath's residence.

The Program/Calendar Coordinator must be supplemented with a Publicity Coordinator to implement ways for increasing attendance at CSD events. The Board of Directors will handle this at subsequent meetings.

Swap Meet is scheduled for Saturday 8 November at Brookford. (Need more publicity)

Upcoming model train shows include: Feb 1-2 Easley, SC; Apr 12 Hickory; and June 21 at Metrolina.

Gil B. has again offered to present Operation Lifesaver briefing at the Merit Badge Day.

The modeling contests should be preceded by 2 training sessions (March/April for the rolling stock contest in May, and Sept/Oct for the diorama contest in November).

Elections will include voting for Superintendent, Asst. Superintendent,

Clerk, Paymaster, and one new Director. Bob Halsey will issue a separate email listing the current nominees.

Other business will include discussion on disposition of the Larry Lau library, and a proposed member survey (similar to the last one in 2010).

3. Meeting adjourned.

CSD Annual Meeting

1 February 2014

- Superintendent Bob Halsey opened the meeting at 11:08 am and introduced our guests from the Mid-Eastern Region, Jack Dziadul and John Porter. 17 members signed in to the meeting.



Division members assemble for the Annual Business Meeting

- An announcement of upcoming 2014 regional and national conventions given:

MER Convention: October 16-19
Hagerstown, MD (2015 in New Jersey)

NMRA Convention: July 13-19
Cleveland, Ohio

- Reports:

-- Paymaster (John Stevens):

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Our current balance on hand is \$3,166.64. Income from RMU was \$888.71. Not all the RMU expenses have been accounted for yet, so we won't realize all of that income.

-- Membership (Dave Draxler): Membership is declining, at 95 (year-end 2013) from 127 year-end 2012. 9 are Railpass members and 1 listing for an NMRA member from outside the Division's geographic area.

-- Brookford Project and CSD Website (Gil Brauch):

Brookford – Restoration is about 90% complete with 3 volunteers contributed the bulk of 227 hours with 572 visits to the layout. Total hours since project inception are approximately 2,909. Brookford has adjusted operating hours to 10am to 2pm. Discussion took place regarding volunteers taking home projects for restoration. National Model Railroad Month in November, 2013 hosted about 55 visitors.

CSD Website – The homepage direct links to current activities, calendar and publication list



Committee and Project reports get everyone's close attention.

-- Newsletters (Jack Haynes): There were 5 issues of the Brass Pounder newsletter published during 2014. CSD Members and friends receive the Brass Pounder as an Adobe .pdf format file on the Division website and a notification email with the web link when it is available. The newsletter has also been

producing a single page copy with just the first page (the calendar) and last page (Division Officer Contact information) that is mailed to CSD members for whom we have no email address.

Rick Knight continues to publish the Carolina Southern Division "E-News" newsletter to all members. It contains information on upcoming events to serve as a reminder. This eNewsletter is also included on the CSD web site.

-- Achievement Program (Dave Chance): No achievement awards completed during 2013

-- Railroad Modeling University (Larry Paffrath):

Larry gave a brief summary. He will have a more complete report after a review meeting scheduled for February 9. (see article above. ed.)

--- 501(c)3 Designation (Bob Halsey: Waiting on decision by NMRA HQ as to national status and how it will affect the Carolina Southern Division.

• Plans and Announcements for 2014: (Rick Knight, in-coming Superintendent)

-- Needs for 2014 staff: Program Committee and Calendar CoOrdinator (to assist the Superintendent)

-- A short discussion took place regarding a CSD Member Survey Form to be published on our website to include questions on modeling interests, scales, experience level and activities suggestions.

--A reminder about our monthly meetings which continue to include modeling training sessions. The next business meeting will be in April.

-- CSD Activities in 2014 will include:

• The CSD Annual Swap meet to be held the 2nd Saturday in November at the Brookford Museum.

• Railfan trips: NC Transportation Museum in Spencer the last weekend in May, others?

• RailRun weekend (Labor Day weekend) – we need a volunteer to work with Marcus Neubacher on this event.

• Boy Scout Merit Badge Day at Rick Knight's layout (May 10th) lead by Bob Halsey.

• Modeling contests (2 divisions – rolling stock in May, dioramas in November).

• Charlotte Area Train Shows for 2014 include the Hickory Train Show April 12, 2014 and the Metrolina Expo June 21, 2014, along with our Swap Meet on November 8, 2014 in Brookford.

• November is National Model Railroad Month and we need to help publicize this activity.

-- An update on the CSD White Elephant Table – our stock of items is extremely low – any donations would be appreciated.

-- Other topics briefly reviewed by Rick included status of Railpass Members, Investigating small group (area) meetings, a better focus on the Achievement Program, more layout tours and expansion of "gauge" membership.

• Election for Director:

Nominations:

Superintendent: Rick Knight

Asst Superintendent: Larry Paffrath

Paymaster: John Stevens

Clerk: Morgan Feldon

Director: Jack Haynes

No nominations from the floor – nominees unanimously voted into office

Division BOD Meeting for RailRun

February 27, 2014

Morgan Feldon, Clerk

- Recognition for services rendered

Service recognitions included Rick Knight, Director; Dave and Michelle Chance, Achievement Program Chairs; Larry Paffrath, RMU Director



Larry Paffrath receives a recognition award for organizing our latest and greatest RMU.

On February 27, 2014, the Carolina Southern had a Director's meeting to discuss an invitation by Marcus Neubacher to manage this year's Rail Run event, including registration, fee collection, and updates to the website.

We discussed possible dates for the popular event, including Labor Day weekend (its usual slot) and October (as it was in 2012).

Thus far, eleven layout owners have expressed interest in hosting for Rail Run. We discussed the importance of each layout owner to be a full NMRA member to fall under the umbrella of NMRA's event insurance.

Rail Run has typically cost \$20 for the weekend. OPSIG would promote the event. Full meeting notes are available on the website.

- Member suggestions and other business

- Discussion about including additional North Carolina counties in the Carolina Southern Division including Scotland, Stanly and Montgomery. This discussion will be moved to the Board of Directors to discuss with the Mid-Eastern Region and NMRA officials.

- Adjourned by Superintendent Bob Halsey at 12:45pm

Respectfully Submitted:

David Draxler, Clerk

Carolina Southern Division

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Division Website:
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Submissions For Brass Pounder

Next Issue Submission Date
 May 2014 May 2, 2014

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

Editor: Jack Haynes
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