

THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 17 Number 2

March-April 2017

Division Coming Events

(See CSD Web-
site for further
details)

**Apr 22, 2017
Monthly Div Meet
Hunters Baptist
Church**

Other Events

**15th Annual NC
Railroad Expo
Hickory Metro
Center
Apr 8th – 2017**

**June 9-11
Sipping and
Switching Society
of NC
Salem United
Methodist Church
Denver NC**

**NMRA-MER Re-
gional conven-
tion will be in
Harrisburg, PA, in
October 2017**

Superintendent's Corner

By Alan Hardee

Wow, it's March already. Spring is in the air and that means spring cleaning. Not just the home and yard either. Model Railroads need spring cleaning as well after sitting with little activity over the winter. Dust off the layout and put your new skills from Railroad Modeling University to work. RMU had something for everyone to improve your skills, scenery, track work, ballasting, wiring, and electronics. Now, let's get busy so we can keep our AP Chairman, Dave Chance busy going around checking out everyone's new projects. I would like to see some AP Certificates awarded to CSD members in 2017.

Our next step in the division expansion process is a formal letter to the MER Board requesting a vote of the board members. A copy of the letter will appear here in The Brass Pounder and in The Local. MER may poll the members involved for their input. CSD has already polled those members and received 100% positive responses. In fact, our March 18th meeting took place in Granite Falls at the layout of one of the perspective new CSD members. event.

Scott Perry has recently moved to our area and has jumped in to help the CSD. Scott is a southern boy coming home after a stint in Utah where he helped revive the local division. He will serve as Program Chairman where he will be tasked

to keep our monthly meeting entertaining and informative. Scott tells me that he has about 30 clinics that he can keep us busy with.

Have a wonderful Spring

Editor's Notes

By Fred Miller, MMR

This issue of The Brass Pounder has been delayed because frankly, no one stepped up to submit articles. That is until Scott Perry joined our ranks and offered a number of articles and tips for our enjoyment. Scott has also offered to conduct some clinics (see notices elsewhere in this newsletter.)

I hope many of you will be attending the Hickory train show April 8th. The Division will of course have a table, and drop around and see me at my table.

**CALL FOR ARTICLES,
NOTICES OR WHAT-EVER.
YOUR EDITOR CAN'T
KEEP FILLING UP THE IS-
SUE WITH HIS OWN MA-
TERIALS.**

**Next Issue
May-June 2017**

**Submission Date
May 1, 2017**

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

Editor: Fred Miller, MMR

**333 W Trade St #2504
Charlotte, NC 28202
704-332-1753**

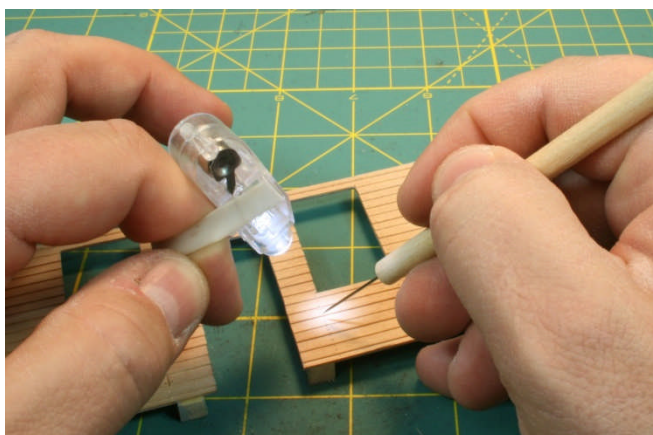
I'm selling off a number of HO items which will not be appropriate for my planned new mostly trolley layout. More on that transition later.

The Division held its Annual Business Meeting on February 18th. The minutes from that meeting are included later in this newsletter.

Finger Lights Tip

By Scott Perry

Detail work requires good eyesight and the best way to see better is to have good lighting. Often I struggled to get light on a small section of a model, only to find myself moving to another area almost immediately. My two girls were playing with finger lights which are colorful, small LED lights that attach to your fingers with rubber bands. They



got them from Santa Clause, but you can buy them on Amazon. I borrowed the white light and found that having it on my finger gave me a perfect way to

add light wherever I need, and it moves with me from workbench to the layout. I used it while spiking track and it works great!



**Carolina Southern Division
Annual Business Meeting
Minutes
Hunter Acres Baptist
Church
February 18, 2017**

Superintendent Alan Hardee called the meeting to order at 9:30AM. Clerk Fred Miller confirmed that the 20 attendees are NMRA members and the necessary quorum of 12 has been met.

Treasurer John Stevens gave his paymasters financial report for CSD, listing income and expenses for the past year. The Division's ending balance of \$3,804 includes income from RMU registration fees, NMRA/MER dues sharing, and expenses from RMU, electric bill for Brookford and the web-site hosting expenses giving a net gain of \$256 for the year.

Clerk Fred Miller reported the current Division membership is 106. The additions during the year won over the losses with a net gain of 11. The Division's current subsidized RailPass membership includes 6 RailPass members.

Gil Brauch gave his report on the Brookford Project. Guest attendance was slightly lower than the previous year. Train Town hosted the annual CSD swap meet and open house for National Model Railroad Month in November. About 63 people attended but CSD membership participation in the swap meet was limited. 8 CSD members helped in open house hosting during the year, but Gil noted more participation is needed if the project is to continue.

Gil Brauch gave his report on the CarolinaSouthern.org website. The site continued successful offering of Registration Services as well as payment processing using Paypal for events like RMU and Swap Meet tables. No major changes have been made to the look and feel of the website.

Editor Fred Miller reported that he edited and published 6 issues of the Brass Pounder this year, each with an average of 8 pages. Fred made the usual editor's appeal for material to publish. Layout and project articles from the membership are always welcome.

Dave Chance gave us his report on the NMRA Achievement program. He indicated that the Division's performance in awards was better this year. Three AP Certificates were issued and several merit Awards were earned. Dave congratulated Jack Monette's achieve-

ments in AP certificates, with only one more necessary to gain his MMR.

The 2017 RMU was again held at The Christ the King Lutheran Church on South Tryon Street in Charlotte. Treasurer John Stevens reported that this year's RMU the net profits of \$371 was lower than last year due to lower attendance. However, the profits from the White Elephant table were great (\$1052), primarily due to a generous donation of materials.

President Alan Hardee distributed copies of the Division' Annual Report that he had prepared for the MER. This is a NMRA Region required report summarizing the activities of the division

Roy Becker, representing the Nomination Committee, took leadership of the meeting for nominations to the one open Director position (2019). Blayne Olsen was presented for the position of Director – 2019. No nominations were offered from the floor . An election motion for Blayne was presented by Gil Brauch and seconded by Dave Chance. All members voted their approval.

Division Website:
www.carolinasouthern.org

Alan Hardee indicated that Andrew Stitt had not wanted to continue in the appointed position of Program Coordina-

tor. However, new member Scott Perry had expressed interest in taking on that position.

Alan Hardee discussed the progress on extending the division's boundaries into additional counties to the west. A survey conducted with the current "orphaned" NMRA membership in those counties indicated that they would indeed like to join this division. The request will be forwarded to the Region.

Michelle Chance described a bit about her activities as a board member of the MER. She indicated that she would be offering to take another term in the upcoming MER board elections and asked for the division membership's support in that election.

Fred Miller, MMR
CSD Clerk



Clinics You'd Love to See!

By Scott Perry, Program Chairman

Think back to a Division or Region event where you saw a clinic that really made you think. A presentation that made you take action. A forty five minute experience that made you go home to the layout and build something. Isn't that what we'd all like to experience? I'd even be willing to argue that we pay to belong to the NMRA and we deserve good events. But just

what is it that makes for good clinics and inspiring events? Believe it or not the answers are simple and the results can be amazing.

I'm Scott Perry your new Program Chairman for the Carolina Southern Division. Having been an NMRA member since I was a teenager, I've spent a great deal of time giving clinics, watching clinics and studying how to make a good clinic great. The NMRA even granted me the privilege of developing the NMRA's official "How to Give a Clinic" presentation that you can find on the NMRA website. So what did I learn over all these years? There is just one little secret. EVERYONE can give a great presentation; they just need a little training and practice.

Over the next few months I'm going to present some clinics to make you think. Some that will test your creativity. Some which are just to figure out what you like and don't like. We'll also take a poll to find out what kinds of clinics you'd love to see, and which ones you never want to see again, like the history of cabooses on the Live Oak, Lu-
raville and Deadman's Bay Railroad. We want to know what skills you want to build, what techniques you want to try, and problems you want to solve. This is your division and we want to help you be a better model railroader.

Here's where you have to do your part. You need to tell me what you want. Send me an email at scottgper-

ry@comporium.net or call me at 980-205-0526 and let me know what you are thinking. Give me a list of future clinics. Maybe you are an aspiring clinician and want to present but are afraid to try. I'm here to help and coach you. Maybe you've given clinics before and have a great idea for the next one and want to run it by me or you need supplies or another place to present it. We're here to help, but you need to talk to us!

I'm a firm believer that model railroad-
ing should be fun! So come to the next Division Event with an open mind and readiness to have fun! Oh, and bring your notepad



Rail-a-holics Anonymous

By Scott Perry

[In a dark alley, in the snow, by the trash dumpster is a door...]

Knock, knock.

A small peep-hole in the door angrily slides open.

"Who's there?" a gruff voice orders.

"Just me, Felix," whispers the nervously shivering gentleman.

"What's the codeword!" the angry voice snaps.

"Your dealer can get it from Walthers."

“Ok...come in, but be quiet as the session is just starting.”

The large steel door creaks open and the frightened fellow stumbles in. It's a small and cramped pit of a basement, full of the smells of mold and stale cigars. One metal-shrouded lamp hanging from the ceiling supplied the only source of illumination. Toward the front of the room stood an older gentleman who spoke in a breathless voice.

“The meeting is called to order. Who will be first to speak?”

His glazed eyes slowly scanned the damp room and finally his skeleton-like index finger lurched out toward the fat man sitting against the wall.

“You! You'll be first...say what ya have ta say!”

The fat man slowly stood up and nervously fumbled with the change in his pocket.

“Well, my name is Fred. I'm a model railroader.”

In unison the group of sad men sang out “Welcome, Fred!”

Staring at his shoes, Fred said “I've been a model railroader for ten years now and its been very hard to stay on the wagon. But this week I'm very proud of myself. The new Railroad Model Craftsman magazine accidentally found its way to my mailbox. I quickly took it back to the Post Office and asked them to shred it.”

“Good going, Fred!” said a husky voice in the back.

“You da man!” cried another.

“Who else would like to talk about their addiction tonight?” the moderator croaked. How about you, Lester?”

Lester was white as a sheet. The collar of his shirt was bathed in sweat and his fingernails were now only nubs. Lester knew he had been bad. It was a rough week with the new Kato SD70's coming out, and to make matters worse they were in his favorite road name.

“Come on lad, speak up.”

Lester stood up quietly and broke down. His tears stained the sleeves of his blue denim shirt.

“I'm weak, I tell you! Weak! I couldn't help myself! They were there...out in the open in front of the Train Shop. So shiny, so green...and DCC ready! All I wanted was to just touch one. Just hold it...”

One of the members gently embraced him and held him while he sobbed.

“There, there, brother Lester. We all understand your pain. But we must be strong! We can't give in to the evil train shop owner.”

As Bill arose and gently patted brother Lester on the arm, the alert sounded.

“Plaster! There is plaster and....paint! Train paint on brother Archie's hands! There is even some ACC glue residue!”

Archie panicked...he didn't know what to do. Caught by his peers, he leaped for the door, scrambling over the myriad of folding chairs.

"Let me out!" he cried.

"Hold him! Tie him down!"

He knew what he was in for. He had to be cleansed. It was a violation of the code to be building scenery, and he knew it. Why, oh, why had he not washed his hands?

"Brother Archie...you stand accused of scenery in the first degree! How do you plead?"

"It was just a small hill...just a hill! Not even enough for a tunnel!"

"Bring out North West Shortline Chopper and the rail nippers!"

"NO! NOT THE CHOPPER!"

"You know the penalty for building scenery, brother Archie. Hold him still."

Several large men grabbed him and held him at the table. The light gently swayed over his head.

"Your sentence, brother Archie, for failing to restrain yourself from model railroading is..."

All eyes focused on the leader as he glared downed at Archie. Beads of sweat rolled off the poor criminal's face.

"You must hand-lay a dual gauge turnout...in N-scale!"

"AAARRGGGHHHH!"

"Wow...don't you think that is a little harsh? And in N-scale! Ouch!" said brother Egbert.

"We must enforce the rules. If we are ever to break ourselves of this all consuming habit of model trains, we must live up to our creed. Everyone, recite the creed with me!"

Never shall I touch a rail,
I'll shy away from H-O-scale,
And revel not with plastic kits,
Or Tyco stuff, which is the pits.
Instead I'll lead a happy life,
And shun the dreaded hobby knife,
And be the man I want to be,
Free of bench work and DCC.
A rail-a-holic I'll always be,
A basement layout I'll never see,
And if a collection I do amass,
May you kick me in the brass.

"Meeting adjourned!" as the moderator bangs the gavel.

They all wrapped themselves up in their overcoats and headed home, careful not to stray. Little did they all know that Willie's Train Shop is having a sale.

Division Website:
www.carolinasouthern.org

It's In The Bag!

A Gear Bag For Operations

By Scott Perry

Traveling for work can be fun if you belong to the Operations Special Interest Group (OPSIG). Now that I'm on the Call Board, an electronic forum for openings on layout operating sessions in the US, I can often pick up a "job" in the evenings when I'm away. In order to do this more effectively, I've decided to put together what operators call a Gear Bag.

My gear bag is a simple affair. Any old bag will do. I actually bought a small, nylon tool bag that is brightly colored so that I can find it and remember to take it home with me. Once you get your bag be sure to write your name and phone number on or inside the bag so that when you do forget it the finder can get it back to you. Believe me, this will happen.

The list and photo below show what I've chosen for my bag. Your bag may differ in contents depending on where and how you operate. I've put the list in order of priority for my personal needs, but feel free to change your list order or the contents. This list is just a starting point for you.

High priority items are mandatory for an operating session. The throttle you choose will reflect the railroads that you run on. Since most everyone I know

here in the Atlanta area uses Digitrax, I carry a UT4R throttle. Digitrax is still fairly regional so often when I travel in the northeast I have to use one of the host's throttles. Batteries are a necessity and you should always have a fresh set of any size for the equipment you use, and some extra. I keep fresh, new batteries in a battery box, and used batteries in a bag. Be careful not to allow batteries to short out in your bag, or you may have to call the fire department. A small roll of electrical tape will help. Pencils and pens are required to handle the abundant paperwork and are often hard to find on the railroad. Uncoupling tools are especially important and I still prefer the bamboo skewer. On most railroads, FRS type walkie talkies are a very important piece of equipment and are always in short supply, so I bring my own.

The next items are very handy to have at the operating session. Reading the small writing on train cars can be difficult and often the lighting is not as good as we need it to be. I carry a small flashlight with a belt case and my reading glasses so that I can make out the numbers. A small note pad and clipboard are great for making my own mini switch lists when I'm in the yard, or for making "bad order" notes for the layout owner. The pad & clipboard make a handy surface for filling out paperwork as well. A "nail" apron or waiter's apron is a great tool for holding pens, radios or even car cards. You

can pick one of these up at Home Depot. To reduce noise in the layout room you might want to carry an ear bud or head phones for your radio.



Some less important tools that help me are often received at a prior operating session. Be sure to keep Timetables, Rule Books, Operations Manuals and your notes from previous sessions. Review them before you get to the session and pray that they don't give you a new assignment! I have a handy battery box that keeps my new and used batteries separate and free from shorting out. A name badge is a big help to those on the railroad that don't know you and keep forgetting who you are. You'll find that they are more willing to talk to you when they can call you by name. A good host should provide refreshments, but sometimes things are busy and you don't know where the water fountain is, or you may just be a little behind getting the local out and need a drink. A spare bottle of water is always a big help. Be sure to leave the bottle next to the track like the real engineers do! Lastly, I keep a

red ink pen for marking important notes on waybills and other forms so that it can catch my eye later on.

A few optional items that just make my life more comfortable are also included. I like RIX uncoupling magnet tools when I'm operating in N scale. Often I'm required to help clean the track and instead of looking everywhere for a Brite Boy track cleaning block, I just use my own. A friend recommended that I carry a spare Micro Mark car card box for use in areas where I need to do some extra sorting, so I've added one to try. Many times I carry a locomotive or railcar from my own collection, so I'm responsible for its maintenance. Therefore, I carry a "tweaker" which is a computer geek's screwdriver tool. I also carry a spare set of Kadee couplers just in case one breaks or a spring is lost. Many layout owners do not allow McHenry or other brands, so I stick with Kadees. I use a highlighter marker to mark special instructions or waybill notes. I also keep a pack of crackers just to tide me over on long sessions.

So print out this list and make your gear bag! Maybe I'll see you at the next operating session!

Operations Bag

- DCC Throttle
- Bamboo Skewers for uncoupling
- Uncoupling pick
- Uncoupling magnet tool
- Fresh batteries

- New Battery box, 9V, AA, AAA (used and new)
- Rules for the railroads book
- Clipboard
- Pencils
- Pens – Black
- Pens - Red
- Small note pad
- Small flashlight with belt clip
- Utility pocket apron for car cards/such
- Spare couplers
- Pocket screwdriver (Tweaker)
- Brite Boy
- FRS radio/walkie talkie
- Ear bud for walkie talkie
- Name badge
- Bottled water
- Money
- Ops Handbook for the layout
- Rule Book for the layout
- Timetable for railroad
- Snacks
- Reading glasses
- Highlighter



Scott Perry

Editors Note: So now you have read some of Scott's tips and humor. Don't miss his first clinic for our Division coming up April 22.

ANNOUNCEMENT!

Carolina Southern Division Monthly Meeting

9:30 on the 22nd of April at Hunter Acres Church. This is our usual meeting location but see website for directions, if needed.

This is our regular monthly meeting and clinic but please note the new date -- it is the 4th Saturday this month so as not to conflict with Easter weekend.

- Our new Program Chairman for the Division is Scott Perry, and he's ready to hit the ground running. Scott has given well over 100 clinics at NMRA events, both Divisional and Regional.

- This month we are going to have an "Adventure in Scratchbuilding". Now, before you experts grab your toolboxes and the amateurs break out into a cold sweat, listen! This is an event for everyone. You do not have to have any skills at all, but if you have skills we're going to push them to the limit. Curious? You should be!

- Bring nothing but yourselves as all the tools and supplies will be provided. You only need to bring your imagina-

tion. Come see what all the fun's about!

•We'll also be taking a poll on what clinics you want to see this year, and next!



Scott and team teach a hand's on clinic on airbrush techniques

Division Brass

<u>Superintendent</u>	Alan Hardee	superintendent@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Asst. Superintendent</u>	Larry Paffrath	assistsuper@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Clerk</u>	Fred Miller	clerk@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Paymaster</u>	John Stevens	Paymaster@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2017</u>	Roy Becker	director1@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2018</u>	Gil Brauch	director2@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2019</u>	Blayne Olsen	director3@carolinasouthern.org
<u>AP Chairman</u>	Dave Chance	Apchair@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Webmaster</u>	Gil Brauch	Webmaster@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Fred Miller, MMR	editor@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Program Chair</u>	Scott Perry	program@carolinasouthern.org
<u>RMU Chair</u>	Doug Algire	RMUchair@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Publicity Chair</u>	Marcus Neubacher	publicity@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Membership</u>	Nancy Campbell	membership@carolinasouthern.org