

# THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 20 Number 12

December 2020

## **Division Coming Events**

(See [CSD Website](#) for  
further details)

**To avoid conflict  
with the Hickory  
Train Show on  
November 21<sup>st</sup> at  
the Hickory Metro  
Center, the  
Division will not  
hold a meeting in  
November.**

## **Superintendent's Corner**

By Alan Hardee

### **Season's Greetings**

The Holidays and model trains seem to go together perfectly. Just about everyone remembers getting their first train set. Some may have been for a birthday, but most were for Christmas. Waking up early and rushing out to the tree to find a train set running around underneath was instant enjoyment. I recently had a chance to reflect upon that happy childhood memory.

Most of you know that I am also a member of the Metrolina Model Railroaders club in Belmont. I served two terms as President, with the second term during the same period I started my first term as your division Superintendent. Wow, that was a lot of model railroading activities. I am thankful and blessed to have

a very understanding wife. The big event for Metrolina is displaying the modular layout during the 12 day Southern Christmas Show. Sadly, The 2020 Show was canceled due to COVID 19 restrictions. Metrolina is displaying a smaller layout through the end of the year at Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens Holiday Lights. Thousands of people visit the layout and as I converse with them, they all have similar stories to share. The guys remember getting their first train set around the tree. The ladies remember their dads and/or their brothers having trains and most still had the sets in storage. A few ladies told me that they were jealous of their brothers because they received trains and wished they had their own set. Most of these sets were Lionel and they had a pink set for girls for this very reason.

I received my first train set around the age of 7 or 8. It was an HO scale Tyco set with the Red and Silver war bonnet Santa Fe F unit. You know the one. That set expanded from a circle on a board to an oval on a larger board. This expanded set had a passing siding on one side and sidings for spotting cars on the other. I didn't know it then but that was basic operating. Scenery and buildings followed and that lasted a few years before going into storage. A move, marriage, and big snow storm later, the set came out of storage again to take me back and rekindle my interest into model trains. I awoke one morning after it had been snowing all night. Total for that storm was 13.5". Snowed in and looking for something to do with my time, I found an old box packed away. Upon opening it, my childhood memories came back. Inside were all my trains from years past. Nothing fancy, just some Tyco and Model Power Locomotives and freight cars, but

that was enough to get me started again. Then came the 4 X 8 layout with Athearn Blue Box Equipment. After the move to my current home in 1994, a new layout was started. An 18" around the wall shelf layout. Some of you may remember this as it was on the Layout Tour during Junction 98. That layout is now gone as my wife threw me out of the house. No, actually just my trains had to leave. But the good news was that they got to move into a brand new 16'X24' building. Several modifications later, I've settled on a double decked around the walls with two helixes for the connection to both levels. My layout will be on the Carolina Special 2022 layout tour so you can check out the difference.

Just think, if I hadn't received a model train for Christmas that year, I probably wouldn't be a model railroader today. I wish everyone a very HAPPY HOLIDAY and a better 2021.

### **UPCOMING AREA TRAIN EVENTS**

**31<sup>st</sup> Annual Asheville  
Model Train Show**  
**Western NC Agricultural  
Center**  
**761 Boylston Hwy  
Fletcher, NC 28732**  
**Friday, Feb 26, 2021**  
**Noon to 7:00pm**  
**Saturday Feb 27, 2021**  
**9:00am – 5:00pm**

**Other events will be  
announced when  
scheduled**

**STAY SAFE AND  
HEALTHY.**

### **Editor's Notes**

By Ed Gumphrey

As I finish my third year as your editor, I am saddened that I'm not including a big write-up about a coming Railroad Modeling University (RMU). I hope a year from now that I'll be writing about the return of this signature event for our Division.,

At least we've finally had a train show. A number of CSD members attended the Hickory Train Show last month. As you can see in the banner on the left, the Fletcher train show is on the calendar for early in the coming new year. Combined with encouraging news about the timeline for a coronavirus vaccine, maybe there's some light at the end of this virus tunnel. For once, we don't want it to be a train!

While the pursuit of our hobby is certainly secondary to countless more important aspects of our lives, I'm sure all of you are anxious for a return to normal activity in the Division. Hopefully regular meetings and activities will return within the next few months. For those looking further down the road, we'll get to restart our efforts for hosting a Regional Convention in October of 2022. As you'll see in this edition, the Mount Clare Junction is off to an impressive start planning next year's MER Convention in Baltimore.

In the meantime, enjoy the coming holidays and stay safe and healthy.

### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

**I target the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month for publication. Please submit articles for publication by the 27<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

**The preferred format is MS Word, but I can convert most other formats.**

**For questions and help, email me at [editor@carolinasouthern.org](mailto:editor@carolinasouthern.org)**

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## DIVISION AND REGIONAL NEWS

By Ed Gumphrey

The Carolina Southern Division didn't hold a meeting in November, which would have normally been our gathering at Brookford for a swap meet. However, on a positive note, a number of members attended the train show in Hickory. I haven't received any news about how the show went, but hope all that attended enjoyed the event and stayed safe.

Brookford was also opened for the first time since early spring. Ed Smith reports that there were only a few visitors who stopped by specifically to see the layout after attending the train show. But, there was a concurrent event at the center for a child beauty contest a lot of people who were attending that event stopped by to see the layout. Ed reported all the mothers wore masks, about half the children wore masks, and several fathers refused. Kinda scary.

Next train show is in Fletcher at the Western NC Agricultural Center on February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of 2021. Hopefully coronavirus surge will be behind us and the event can avoid being cancelled – and stay safe for those in attendance.

Email discussions are taking place to plan the next Division meeting. I'll send a notice to members when the decisions are made and plans are formulated.

**WNC MODEL RAILROADERS**  
ASHEVILLE, NC

**31<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Asheville Model Train Show**



**Western NC Agricultural Center**  
**Friday, Feb 26, 2021 Noon to 7:00pm**  
**Saturday Feb 27, 2021 9:00am – 5:00pm**

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## UPCOMING CONVENTION NEWS

By Ed Gumphrey

There are two relatively nearby NMRA Regional Conventions on the calendar for next year.

- The first is our neighboring Southeast Region (SER) Convention in Greenville, SC. Make your plans for June 10-13 and get more details at [www.swamprabbitexpress.org](http://www.swamprabbitexpress.org)
- The second is our own Mideast Region (MER) Convention in Baltimore, MD. Make your plans for next October 21-24 and get more details at <https://mtclarejct.com/>

### FIRST UP:



**Greenville, SC**  
**June 10-13, 2021**

*Information at:*

**[www.swamprabbitexpress.org](http://www.swamprabbitexpress.org)**



### FOLLOWED BY:



**MOUNT CLARE JUNCTION**  
**MER 2021 - BALTIMORE, MD**

*Information at:*

**<https://mtclarejct.com/>**

**OCTOBER 21-24, 2021**



The Mount Clare Junction Newsletter gives the first look at some of the layouts that will be open during the 2021 MER Convention. Here's an excerpt, with my thanks to Dave Chance for sharing this with me in an email.

This month we are highlighting three of the fantastic layouts which will be open to all attendees during the convention. Large or small, complete or works in progress, the convention will have layouts which appeal to all interests.



### **Bill Freeland's B&O Railroad:**

Bill's childhood enthusiasm for the Baltimore & Ohio has been manifested in his four-level, around the room HO-scale layout representing the line between the railroad's home town and Chicago. The mountains of the east, covered in the fall colors of more than 5,000 trees, transitions to the wintry skies of the Windy City. Much of the scenery spills over onto the fascia, creating an immersive environment.

Transition era fans will appreciate the mix of steam and diesel motive power hauling freight and passenger trains over the 1,100 feet of signaled mainline as

they climb and fall through the layout's various levels. Interspersed are the major yards at Cumberland and Brunswick and numerous industries, which make watching and conducting operations on Bill's layout a joy.



## **David Hughes' Western Maryland East Division Railroad:**

Western Maryland GP35 #3580 is on the point of a 4-unit EMD consist at Glen Morris on the East Subdivision of Dave Hughes's Western Maryland East End Division HO scale layout. The eastbound train is grinding up the twisting 2.5% Falls Hill grade at 11MPH, and is about to pass underneath the arched concrete Maryland Route 30 bridge just north of Reisterstown, MD.

Glen Morris is the first location point west of Emory Grove, which lies just ahead at this ruling grade's summit. The engineer receives a yellow-over-green Approach Diverging aspect at distant signal #203, indicating a crossover move at the interlocking plant at Emory Grove, where the East and Hanover Subdivisions merge. With the Reisterstown Lumber Company in the immediate



distance, Baltimore's Port Covington is the ultimate destination of this lash-up's assigned tonnage, 19 miles beyond.



### **Al Pugliese's Pugsburg Railroad:**

Based on the Appalachians in the 1950's, Al's freelance railroad pays tribute to his major influences, John Allen, Howard Zane, George Sellios and Harry Clark through thousands of Super Trees and similarly detailed large deciduous trees in summer foliage adorning floor to ceiling rock castings. The chest-high double track mainline runs around a 23' x 32' horseshoe featuring two 20-foot straights and has a 10' x 10' spur line running through vignettes of Ellicott City and Point of Rocks, MD.

Al proudly displays several terrific structures bequeathed to him for safe-keeping built by the late Harry Clark; those being the Saw mill at Cass and the two large Deer Park Hotels. Hundreds of hand-crafted wood kits, scratch-built structures and advanced skyscraper kits from CMR and Lunde Studios adorn the deeply sceniced layout. The Bromo Tower (CMR) and a nearly full size B&O Mount Royal station have recently been integrated into the layout.

Howard Zane has always said art is meaningless unless it can be shared with

others. Al's goal is to show model railroading is not only the greatest hobby but it is also *ART*.

Take some time to visit Al's and the other [layouts](#) open during the [Mount Clare Junction](#) convention.



## WOOD CHEMICAL PLANT A SCRATCH BUILD PART IV WOOD CHEMICAL PLANT DETAILS

By Ed Smith

First let me say that I hope everyone was able to have an enjoyable Thanksgiving during these crazy times we live in today. Maybe, just maybe, there's light at the end of the tunnel and next year will be a whole lot better.

Over the last 3 or 4 months, I've shared my scratch building endeavors as I try to re-create a Wood Chemical Facility that was prevalent in the area and era I model. As of now, all 8 structures, 7 buildings and 1 loading platform, are basically finished. All that remains is detailing each to fit the scene. So, this month's article will be an overview of detailing each unit. Normally this wouldn't be too labor intensive, because normally the majority of detailing is visible outside and around the structures, with little done internally. But since I plan on submitting all 8 units for A.P. awards in the Structure category, I found myself obsessing with details inside and outside the structures. While this can definitely be a benefit, it's also a curse. How much is enough? I have detailed 7 of the 8 structures and I will try to give you an overview of how I did this to each.

First, let me say that I model post WWII, circa 1947. So, the industries are ramshackled, well-worn, and show little upkeep. I try to heavily weather the structures with washes, stains, acrylics, and Pan Pastels. We'll start with the Loading Platform.

The Platform is 46" long and elevated 6 scale feet above the industry. This takes into consideration that the facility is slightly below track level and the height needed at boxcar door level. Approximately in the middle of the Platform, it is recessed 4 scale feet to accept



the switch blocks and switch stand for the tank farm lead. The missing boards are where the turnout fits (pic 1, 2). Dimensional wood was used to build the infrastructure, railings, steps, and floor planking. Tichy Lampshades, Rix Cross arms, Dimensional wood, and Berkshire Valley Elastic line was used for the pole line. Tichy nut and bolt castings were added along with a call box.



Pic 1 & 2: The platform is 46" long, with a depressed section for a switchstand when installed on the layout.

The Office/Warehouse is one of 3 buildings with basically the same dimensions. The other 2 are the Distilleries. On the outside of the building, Tichy lights, a call box, electrical service, and signage were added (pic 3, 4). The interior of each of these buildings is different, but each started the same (pic 5). The Office was added and the Warehouse has a charcoal bin and bag storage (pic 6).



Pic 3 & 4: Lights, a call box and other details on the two ends of a Distillery



Pic 5 & 6: Before and After pictures showing interior detailing.

The Processing building and Cooling Room are next (pic 7). The Processing building contains the retorts, ovens used to reduce wood to charcoal, steam lines, service track, and newly processed charcoal. (pic 8). The Cooling Room is where barrels of charcoal are cooled down by large wall-mounted cooling fans (pic 9).



Pic 7: Processing Building exterior



Pic 8: Details include retorts, ovens, piping, etc.



Pic 9: The cooling room with large fans on the wall.



Now, the buildings that make up the Power Plant of this industry. First is the Saw Shed. This is an open-air shanty that is very distressed. A Woodland Scenics rural steam-driven saw was installed, along with chain hoists at each opening. Raw trees and cut wood were added. This supplied product to the retorts and fuel to the boiler (pic 10, 11).



Pic 10: Open-air shanty with steam-driven saw.



Pic 11: Chain hoists, cut wood, etc.

For the Boiler Room, a motor driven roll-up door was added externally along with a small maintenance shanty. On the backside a pipe rack going to other buildings was also added (pic 12, 13). Inside, the Boiler has steam lines with insulation added and water supply lines installed (pic 14).



Pic 12: A roll-up door and shanty on the Boiler Room



Pic 13: Piping and a light pole on the backside.





Pic 14: Piping inside the Boiler Room.



Pic 15: An outside water tank and more piping.

For the Pump House, on the outside a water storage tank with piping, a diesel fuel tank, and the feedwater piping to the river were installed (pic 15, 16). Inside, the diesel engine, pump, and all piping are visible (pic 17).



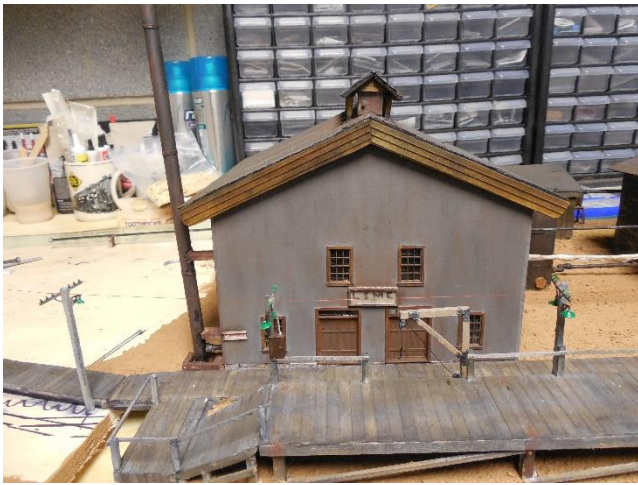
Pic 16: A fuel tank and piping for the diesel engine.



Pic 17: Diesel engine and pump are inside.

Finally, the 2 Distilleries: The acetate acid still is not piped or weathered yet. That leaves the lime still. On the outside, there is limited signage. I'm waiting on WWII posters. The piping services were added. You can also see the 2 distilleries next to each other. You can see a distinct difference between a complete building and the other lacking detail and weathering (pic 18, 19). Inside, the still piping and installation was taken from a piping schematic found on Google. Although the pieces used may not be prototypical, the schematic was followed closely and gives a good representation of the still (pic 20).





Pic 18: Outside of a distillery – awaiting more signs.



Pic 19: Backside of distilleries.



Pic 20: Interior layout and details of distillery follow schematic diagrams found during online research.



Last are 2 shots of the complex, an aerial view and a trackside view (pic 21, 22). At the far end, the acetate still and tank farm have yet to be built. One note: I'm adding Rix telephone poles throughout the complex. I've added Berkshire Valley Elastic lines on the Platform, but may not add them in the complex. They look great, but snag everything. Normally I wouldn't add the lines, but for the A.P., I may bite the bullet and string lines.



Pic 21: Aerial view of the complex ready for layout placement.



Pic 18: Trackside view while on the workbench.



Pic 23: Elway has his antlers on along with his mask – Merry Christmas and stay safe.

Next month, hopefully I'll wrap up this project. Until then, Merry Christmas from myself, Cindy, Elway, and my family. And may the New Year bring a better life for us all. Be safe! (pic 23)

ED



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# POTPOURRI, or IT'S ALL MODEL RAILROADING

By Ed Gumphrey

I've had this brief pictorial article in mind for almost two years. It's accompanied by a series of snapshots I took at the model train show in Fletcher back in February of 2019. When I first walked in to the show, I homed in on the Carolina Mountain Division's table for NMRA Southeast Region (SER) in the front right corner of the convention hall. SER had held its convention at Lake Junaluska a few months earlier, CSD had just committed to host the MER convention in October of 2020. I thought I could glean some insight into convention planning that I could pass along to Neal Anderson, MMR as he started his efforts as our Division's Convention Chairman. I spent about 25 minutes chatting with Superintendent Bill Raymond and his friend Ken O'Brien. They happily reported on the success of the convention. Our conversation quickly strayed to a number of different topics. From operations to scratchbuilding, and from prototype modeling to high rail, we talked a little bit about virtually every aspect of our hobby. After a very pleasant conversation I left their table to start my tour of the train show with a fresh thought on my mind – there are many different ways to enjoy model railroading.



Ken O'Brien and Bill Raymond at the Carolina Mountain Division table at Fletcher in 2019

Indeed, one of the most appealing aspects of the hobby is that there are so many aspects to the hobby. Even within the narrow focus of your chosen scale, era and prototype(s), there's a wide variety of activity. From operations to just running trains; from benchwork to trackwork; from scenery to wiring; and from kit building and kitbashing to scratchbuilding, when you're a little tired of one aspect, you can renew your interest by focusing on another.

Now, if you're like me, you go through a train show homing in on the things that most interest you, starting with your chosen scale. Whether you're looking for some bargains on used equipment or hoping to find a deal on that new locomotive that you missed out on when it was first released, you quickly stroll past the tables that don't fit your chosen targets. For me, that means not even slowing down as I pass the many tables of Lionel equipment, N scale models, and the ubiquitous collections of railroad lanterns. The pattern continues later after I've exhausted by budget and walk around to look at the various operating railroads. I usually only look at the HO layouts. But this time was different. With the fresh thought of the many approaches to model railroading, I spent more time looking at all the different layouts on display. I came away with not only a collection of photos, but also a new respect for how others approach their interest in trains.

Here are some pictures of the various interests represented at the show. If you're like me, I encourage you to shift gears the next time you're at a show, and take in some of the other interests in the potpourri of our hobby. After all, it's all model railroading.



WNC Modelers had a nice HO scale modular display.





Piedmont S Scalers had lots of action and interest. Plenty of discussion about early days with American Flyer. Also clear evidence of how many 1/64 scale vehicles are available.



# PIEDMONT 'N SOUTHERN

*Modular N Scale*

## MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

Upstate, SC • [www.piedmontnsouthern.com](http://www.piedmontnsouthern.com)



Piedmont 'N Southern showed some fine model building in N scale. And you've gotta love those long trains.



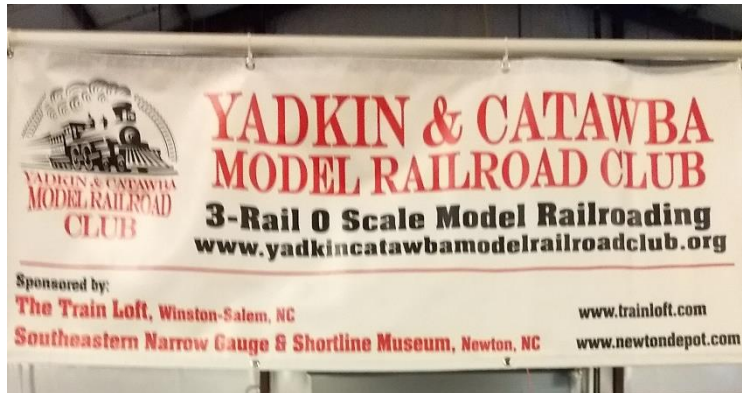


T-track N scale modelers were also supporting Eliada of Asheville. Some impressive modules built by children.



How about some Z scale? That's a lot of model railroad in a small space.





The high railers were there too. Lots of action and reminiscing about childhood starts in model railroading, not to mention a little UFO levity.

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## CLOSING PAGE BONUS



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Photo from web search

### Division Brass

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Asst. Superintendent  
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Paymaster  
Director 2022  
Director 2023  
Director 2021  
AP Chairman  
Webmaster  
Newsletter Editor  
Program Chair  
RMU Chair  
Publicity Chair  
Membership

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