

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

Volume 21 Number 5

May 2021

Division Coming Events

(See <u>CSD Website</u> for further details)

Next Division meeting

Saturday, May 15th 10:00am Brookford Community Center 1700 South Center Street, Hickory, NC

Come help out with moving Wade's Train Town to its new home at Newton Depot.

Pizza lunch when the work is done!

Superintendent's Corner

By Alan Hardee

FINALLY!!! Carolina Southern Division held an in person in April at the North Carolina Transportation Museum. A big Thanks to Marcus for the space and to the Central Carolina N Scalers for running their layout for us. It was great to see the members again and catch up with everyone's activities during the past year. Another positive note, everyone in attendance had been vaccinated for COVID.

The next Carolina Southern Division meeting will be 10:00am on May 15th at Brookford Community Center, 1700 S. Center St. Hickory, NC. This will be a hands-on work session as we will be moving Wade's Train Town layout from Brookford to the Model Railroad Center at the Newton Depot of the Southeastern Narrow Gauge & Shortline Museum. Pizza will be served after the move. A big Thanks to Metrolina Model Railroaders for volunteering the use of their trailers for the move.

I also want to remind everyone about using the NMRA Partnership program. This program is available for your use when you buy products from the supporting vendors. Discounts available to you range between 5% to 25%. The more you participate, the more you save. You can save enough to cover the cost of your NMRA annual membership. Please see the current list on the next two pages of this issue of the Brass Pounder.

Hope to see ALL of you on May 15th.

NMRA PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Last Edited on 4/21/2021

Partner	Website
Bear Creek Model Railroad LLC	http://www.bearcreekmodelrr.com
CatzPaw Innovations	http://www.catzpaw.com
Clever Models LLC	http://www.clevermodels.net
CMR Products LLC	https://www.cmrproducts.com/store/
Daylight Sales	https://www.daylightsales.com/
Deepwoods Software	http://www.deepsoft.com
Deluxe Materials	http://www.deluxematerials.com
Digikeijs	http://www.digikeijs.us
East Coast Circuits	http://www.eastcoastcircuits.com/nmra
Gatorfoam	https://www.gator-board.com/
Great Decals!	http://www.greatdecals.com
Green Frog Productions	http://www.greenfrog.com
HobbyWorx	https://hobby-worx.ca/
Hot Wire Foam Factory	http://www.hotwirefoamfactory.com
K.I.S.S. Method Inc.	http://www.kissmethodinc.com
LaBelle Woodworking Co.	https://www.labellemodels.com/
LARC Products	http://www.larcproducts.com
Logic Rail Tech	http://www.logicrailtech.com
MAC Rail, LLC.	https://macrailproducts.com/
Micro-Mark	https://www.micromark.com/
Mine Mount Models, LLC	http://www.minemountmodels.com
Miniprints	http://www.miniprints.ca
Minute Man Scale Models	http://www.minutemanscalemodels.com
Model Railroad Benchwork	http://www.modelrailroadbenchwork.com
Model Train Catalogue	http://www.modeltraincatalogue.com
Modelers Decals & Paint	http://www.modelersdp.com
Motrak Models	http://www.motrakmodelsusa.com
Model Rectifier Corp. (MRC)	http://www.modelrectifier.com
Nick & Nora Designs	http://www.nickandnoradesigns.com
Northlandz	https://northlandz.com/
NScaleWorks by Mike Holly	http://www.nscaleworks.com
Old West Scenery	http://www.oldwestscenery.com
Ram Track	http://www.ramrcandramtrack.com
RR-CirKits	http://www.rr-cirkits.com
Rusty Stumps Scale Models	https://www.rustystumps.com/index.php
Scale Model Plans	https://www.scalemodelplans.com/
Scale Model Plans	https://www.scalemodelplans.com/nmra2/order_form.html
Scalecoat Paint	http://www.minutemanscalemodels.com
Scenery Solutions	http://www.scenerymadeeasy.com
Showcase Miniatures	http://www.showcaseminiatures.net
Team Track Models	http://teamtrackmodels.com
The N Scale Architect	http://www.thenarch.com
The Old Depot Gallery	https://www.olddepotgallery.com
Tichy Train Group	http://www.tichytraingroup.com

Touch of the Brush Model Weathering	http://www.facebook.com/totbmodelweathering www.instagram.com/totbmodelweathering https://www.youtube.com/c/TouchoftheBrushModelWeathering
Train Installations LLC	http://www.traininstallations.com
Train Show, Inc.	http://www.trainshow.com
Trainmasters TV/Model	
Railroad	https://trainmasters.tv
Hobbyist Store	
TSG Multimedia	http://www.tsgmultimedia.com
UGEARS	http://www.ugearsmodels.com
Unreal Details	http://www.unrealdetails.com
USA Airbrush Supply/Badger Airbrush	http://www.USAAirbrushSupply.com
WiFi Model Railroad LLC	http://www.wifimodelrailroad.com

UPCOMING AREA TRAIN EVENTS

Historic Spencer Shops
Train Show
N.C. Transportation
Museum
1 Samuel Spencer Dr.
Spencer, NC 28159
Saturday May 22
9:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday May 23
10:00am – 3:00pm

COVID-19
PRECAUTIONS IN
EFFECT AT ALL EVENTS.
STAY SAFE AND
HEALTHY.

Editor's Notes

By Ed Gumphrey

I don't have much to say this month. It was great to have a Division Meeting last month and I'm looking forward to our next activity in May as well as the next train show in Spencer.

At the close of last month's meeting, I said a few words soliciting inputs. I hope you'll take it to heart and share your projects. Like I said, if you take the time to submit something, I'll gladly take the time to put it in our newsletter. The operative word here is "newsletter." I'm not trying to compete with any of the much higher quality periodicals in our hobby, but instead am focused on letting our Division see what's going on.

A related issue – if any of you have submitted something (even if it's just comments) to the "editor" address shown below and haven't gotten a reply from me, please re-submit directly to: edgumphrey@gmail.com

We have discovered that the email redirection routines are not working properly. The service we use for that function is working on the problem. Thanks, and I hope you enjoy this edition.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

I target the 1st of each month for publication. Please submit articles for publication by the 27th 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

Train Town Relocation Progress

Gil Brauch, MMR - Project Manager

MOVING DAY!

The folks at the Model Railroad Center report that the space for Train Town will be available to us on or about May 15, 2021. We are READY TO MOVE! We have scheduled the May CSD Monthly Meeting for May 15 at the Brookford Community Center. The focus of the meeting is to load up and move the contents of the Train Town room to the Newton Model Railroad Center (MRC). The Metrolina club has offered the use of their two large trailers to move the tables, which are the largest items involved, plus anything else. Some of the smaller items can be carried in personal vehicles. Once we get the items moved to Newton, we will have some pizza for all our helpers over there.

And that's the key item we need for the day – VOLUNTEER HELPERS (not the pizza). The more who show up, the easier it will be. As mentioned above the tables are the largest items. Most are larger than the door openings in the Brookford Community Center. So, we will need several folks to maneuver them through those doors and get them into the trailers. After we are all loaded up we will 'convoy' over to the MRC and unload. It may take more than one trip for at least one of the trailers, but with enough helpers, we should be able to complete the move in 2-3 hours.

So, what are we asking you to do? Simply show up and lend a hand. The more we have to help, the easier it will be on all of us, and the sooner we can get to the really important part of the day – the pizza!

Seriously, mark your calendars, set your GPS for the Brookford Community Center, 1700 South Center Street, Hickory, NC, set your alarm so that you can be there by 10 am, and c'mon over to help out. We look forward to seeing you there.

RELOCATION PROGRESS REPORT

April has been a fairly quiet month for our Division relocation work as we wait for the space at the MRC to be readied. Ed Smith and Keith Iritsky worked on finishing up the new legs for the tables. Ed has been working on a way to replace the incandescent lighting with LEDs along with some other projects. When I went by the MRC after our Division meeting in April Rich Colton and Vince Ferretti were finishing up removing the 'stage' and preparing to refinish the floor in the new layout space. They have already installed new LED overhead lighting and painted the walls. It is going to be a really neat space. We are looking forward to moving on May 15 so we can begin to put "Humpty Dumpty" back together again.

DIVISION AND REGIONAL NEWS

By Ed Gumphrey

Well, we finally had a meeting in April. As noted in other comments, it was good to see fellow members in person after over a year. Covid safety protocols presided at the meeting, which was held in Warehouse #3 at the NC Transportation Museum in Spencer. The room was also graced with the modular layout setup of the Central Carolina N Scalers. Turnout was strong, with twenty members present.

Superintendent Alan Hardee opened the meeting with a warm welcome and thanks to those who had helped with preparations for moving Wade's Train World from Brookford to its new home at Newton Depot. Thanks to the Southeast Narrow Gauge and Shortline Museum for the space. Alan then turned the meeting over to AP Chairman Neal Anderson, MMR for a presentation. Congratulations again to David Myers who finally received the certificate for his Golden Spike Award that he earned back in November of 2020. recovering from a bout with Covid, Neal, our Convention Chairman, also gave a brief update about progress on reviewing possible sites for the 2022 MER Convention that our Division will host next year.

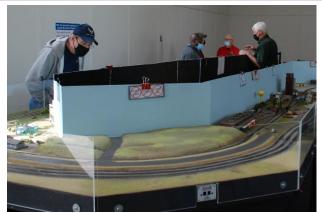


Neal Anderson, MMR, presented David Myers with his Golden Spike Award

Other presenters at the meeting included Gil Brauch, MMR, and Ed Smith. Gil gave a rundown on the Division's project to prepare Wade's Train World for its upcoming move in May, which will be the focus of next month's meeting on Saturday the 15th. Additionally, refurbishment of the layout will be a focus of Division activity over the summer. We have to have things ready for the Narrow Gauge Convention in September. Gil provides more detail in the previous page.

Ed Smith recounted his experience along with Alan Hardee in manning the Division's tables at the train show in Hickory. There's more from Ed starting on page nine.

I closed with a plea for more submissions for our newsletter. Please let me know what you've been working on so we can share it with all the members. I'll let photos and captions tell the rest of the meeting news on the next page. I only included a couple of pictures of the N Scalers' layout because snapshots don't really do justice to their fine work and I wasn't prepared for a dedicated photo session. I'm looking forward seeing you again in May.



Friendly chat and layout viewing as members gathered for our first meeting in 2021.



Social distancing and masks were the norm as members assembled for the meeting .



Gil Brauch, MMR, gives a status report on the Division's project to move Wades Train Town.



Ed Smith was amazed at the train show success, which returned over \$2300 for the Division.



I enjoyed the puns in some of the scenes on the N Scalers modular layout. This "Tanks a Lot" scene of a military surplus dealer is typical.



The precision of the trackwork on this yard area would be impressive in O or HO scales. It is even more so considering that it's N scale.

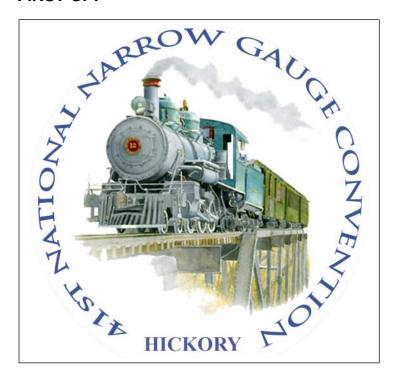
UPCOMING CONVENTION NEWS

By Ed Gumphrey

There are THREE relatively nearby Conventions on the calendar for 2021.

- First up is the 41st National Narrow Gauge Convention to be held at Newton Depot September 1-4. Although not affiliated with the NMRA, this convention promises a lot of interesting activities for model railroaders. Their website is up and being updated as plans become firm.
- The second is our neighboring Southeast Region (SER) Convention in Greenville, SC and has been rescheduled from June to September. Their website has been updated with clinic information and photos of the layouts on tour and for operating sessions. Make your plans for September 9-12 and get more details at www.swamprabbitexpress.org
- The third 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:



The 41st National Narrow Gauge Convention is being hosted by the Southeastern Narrow Gauge & Shortline Museum at Newton Depot September 1 – 4, 2021

Information at:

https://41nngc.com

FOLLOWED BY:



The SER Convention is being hosted by the Palmetto Division at The Hilton Hotel in Greenville, SC September 9 – 12, 2021

Information at: https://swamprabbitexpress.org

Download their overview

THIRD UP:



The MER Convention is being hosted by the Mount Clare Division at The Delta Hunt Valley
October 21 - 24, 2021

Information at: https://mtclarejct.com



SHOW TIME

By Ed Smith

For over a year now, we have suffered through the Covid-19 experience. I believe our last inperson meeting was in February of 2020. But now there seems to be movement toward a more normal life style. With the progress that is being made on the medical front, there may be a light at the end of the tunnel.

The first sign of this was the 2-day Hickory Train Show in early April. Although Covid-19 policies were followed, there were still over 200 tables and great attendance. Our division benefitted from its new alliance with the Newton Narrow Gauge and Shortline Museum and was able to attain space that grew from one table to five, all of which were needed to display the massive number of items which had been donated to us.

Alan Hardee had a large collection of donated items. John Corry, an inactive member, donated a large collection, and Scott Perry donated books and a large collection of Narrow Gauge Gazette magazines. I even got involved and donated a large quantity of Plastic buildings and kits which I had stored and will never use. In all, we had over 30 boxes and containers filled with train stuff. At the beginning of the show, I was amazed and a little overwhelmed by the amount of product we had. At the end of the 2-day show, Alan and I had nothing left. Everything was sold. Nothing had to be re-boxed. The turnout was great and as a result, we were able to make some money for our upcoming Wade's move and give our Division Treasury a substantial donation. Thanks to all who were involved and those who donated items.

Next, we actually had an in-person monthly meeting on Saturday, April 17th at the Spencer NC Transportation Museum. With Covid-19 policies in place; spacing, masks, etc., the turnout was actually pretty good. It was nice to see familiar faces again, even if masked, after this long period of seclusion. In particular, it was good to see Neal Anderson, MMR, in attendance, still recovering from a long bout with Covid-19. Whether it was "Covid Cabin Fever" or our obsession with model railroading, it was good to have the fellowship again.

Finally, the big move is right around the corner. Gil Brauch, MMR, has been working diligently these past months and, under his guidance, we will be moving Wade's Train Town from Brookford on May 15th to its new permanent home at the Newton Narrow Gauge Museum. Volunteers will be needed to help in this move, so if any of you can set aside a little time on May 15th, it will be appreciated. Rumor has it, pizza may be involved at the end.

While we prepare for the move, I've been accumulating LEDs, power supplies, and other necessities for replacing and re-wiring the 200 plus buildings with LEDs. Also, the majority of these structures have been removed from the tables and will be refurbished before re-installation. Over the last few weeks, I've been working on several of these.

First, our large Shell Refinery. This three-segment structure needed cleaning, attaching loose parts, weathering, and the LED upgrade. Also, simulated flames were added to the vent towers (pic 1).



Pic 1: The Shell refinery from Wade's undergoing some refurbishment on Ed Smith's workbench.

Next, The "IRS is Burning" building was replaced with an identical Kit, but with updates. Outside detail was added and LED Campfire Kits were installed to give the illusion of the building on fire (pic 2 on next page).



Pic 2: The "IRS is burning" replacement structure after assembly and updates.

One building won't be making the trip to the new location. Gil has decided to donate the "Ann Britain School of Dance" building to Brookford. Mr. Warren built this structure and named it after a long-time employee of Brookford. So we will leave the original at Brookford, but this doesn't mean we have a vacancy on the display. Alan Hardee was able to find the exact Building Kit online and Gil supplied me with a handful of pictures, interior and exterior, of the original building. The School of Dance live again (pics 3 and 4 on next page). A side bar to this project is the replacement of the 10 figures at the studio. After finding figures that closely represent the originals, I hand-painted each to resemble the originals. This was the most tedious part of the project. The amazing part of this is you have to multiply these figures by more than 100 to get to the number of hand-painted figures Mr. Warren installed.



Pics 3 & 4: On left is a view of the front of the refurbished Ann Brittain School of Dance structure, with the interior details shown on the right. Ed Smith selected and hand painted the replacement figures.

Finally, we are replacing the Sears House. This last original structure will have a new home. It will be displayed by itself to show the original building techniques Mr. Warren used. All the other structures have been re-furbished in one way or another, and this display will give visitors a visual concept of early building techniques. Once again, an exact copy of the Sears House was purchased and built (pic 5). It will be installed in the original footprint.



Pic 5: The new Sears House is ready for placement on the original footprint board.

Well, like I said, it's good to be able to meet again. So, get your vaccine shots so you can get rid of the masks and, hopefully, other Covid-19 restrictions. Hope to see you on May 15th.

In closing, I'll give you a quick updated on my buddy, Elway. He seems to have fully recovered from his surgery and is active as ever (pic 6). Soon, I'll be 70 years old and he'll be 13. I wonder which one of us will teach the other to slow down some.



Pic 6: Elway has recovered from his surgery and is returning his favorite rubber ball to the patio for another toss into the yard.

Until next time,

ED

Unusual and Hidden Track Locations

By Ed Gumphrey Inspired by Michele Chance

I recently got an email from fellow member Michele Chance. She was responding to the photo on the closing page of the March edition, which featured a Norfolk Southern train passing underneath a taxiway from runway 18R at the Charlotte airport. In her email, Michele said:

"I had no idea, the trains run under the Charlotte runway, or should I say runway runs over the trains. It was almost as good as the day I discovered the balloon track at Marshal Steam Plant for the coal loads, I thought it was a model technique, did not know full size used balloon tracks. Did you know that steam plants have buried tracks under the roads going into the building where heavy generators are located, so if they ever have to move in a new one, or maybe take out the original, they have a way to move the weighty equipment? We could fill pages with where tracks are located."

Her email inspired me to do some internet browsing research. Naturally, the starting point was the balloon track at the Marshall Steam Plant. The image below is from a screen shot on Google Earth of the plant. You can see the balloon track path around the coal storage area. No automatic reverser or special wiring needed for this prototype reversing loop!



Marshall Steam Station balloon track enters from bottom center of photo and circles the coal storage pit. Image from Google Earth.

I continued my search, initially focusing on "hidden tracks." As an old B&O fan, one of the first places I thought of was the Howard Street Tunnel in Baltimore. It tunnels under the streets of the city for 1.7 miles. Officially, the tunnel was originally owned by the seven mile Baltimore Belt Railroad that was chartered in 1888. Construction began in 1890 and on May 1, 1895 the first passenger train passed through it. This tunnel is the primary obstacle to double-stack service along this corridor. Even if you're not a B&O (or Chessie or CSX) fan, you may have heard of this tunnel because of the fire in July of 2001. 11 cars of a 60 car train derailed inside the tunnel and a ruptured tank car with flammable liquid started the fire. Others followed, as well as a water main break from heat deformation that dumped some 14 million gallons of water into the mess. The fire burned for five days and reached temperatures over 1800 degrees. The south portal is adjacent to the beautiful Camden Station, and the north portal is near the Mount Royal station. The Howard Street Tunnel Project plans to increase clearance in the tunnel and 22 other locations on the CSX main line through Baltimore. The project just finished its public comment period at the end of March. Assuming the final environmental studies and permitting go as planned, work could start this year and finish as early as 2024.



This vintage aerial photo shows Camden Station in the foreground, with the huge Camden Warehouse to the right. To the left of the tracks leading to the station, you can see the "pit" where track descends to the south portal of the Howard Street Tunnel. For baseball fans, where the industrial buildings are in the top right corner of the photo is now the location of Camden Park, home field for the Baltimore Orioles. Photo from internet search.



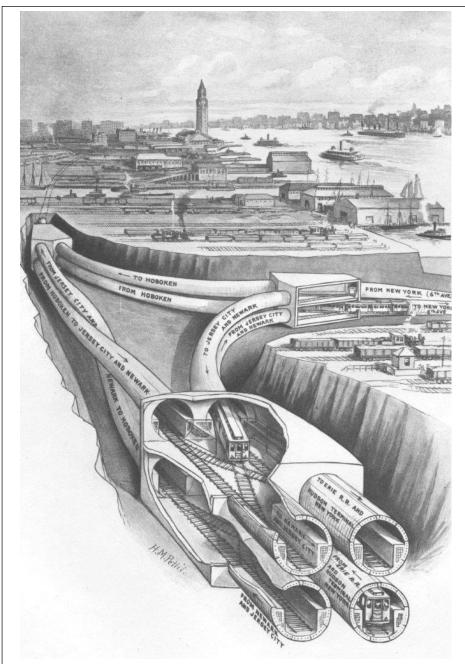
CSX 5380 leads a train out of the north portal of the Howard Street Tunnel.

Continuing in my search for "hidden tracks" showed some interesting history of significan tunnel projects. An interesting early 20th century project was in London, England, where 6 ½ miles of tunnel was constructed with 2' narrow gauge tracks to move mail between sorting stations. It opened in 1927 and with branches and multiple tracks, contained almost 22 miles of trackage. The system was closed in 2003 and is now part of a museum.



Opening in 1927, Mail Rail in London featured narrow gauge driverless trains to move mail between sorting stations. Image from internet search.

In densly developed areas, such as those around New York City, most tunnel entrances are obscured by surrounding structures. In addition to subway systems, the area has significant hidden trackage for rail service. A vintage illustration during planning for the Uptown Hudson River Tubes shows the complexity of this huge tunnel project. Construction proceeded from 1874 until 1906. The engineering challenges proved too much for some – there were three different failed attempts to successfully tunnel under the Hudson during the construction period.



This early illustration shows the complexity of the Uptown Hudson River Tubes, constructed from 1874 to 1906. Image from internet search.

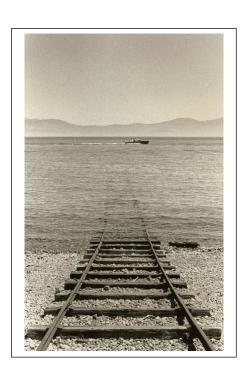
Of course I had to include one of modern engineering's most famous examples of hidden trackage. The blurred image of the fast-moving trains entering and exiting "The Chunnel" says it all....



Train traffic entering and exiting the Euro Tunnel between England and France under the English Channel. Image from internet search.

Speaking of hidden tracks, what's up with this track disappearing into Lake Tahoe? Further research shows it was once used for launching boats from a vintage boat builder.





As you may deduce from the previous two pictures, my search had morphed from "hidden" to "unusual." I'll let the captions provide the background. I hope you can see the fun that can be yours as you do some internet browsing around the hobby and its prototype. One thing is for sure – Michele was right, "We could fill pages with where tracks are located."

Thanks, Michele.



Gisborne Airport is a small regional airport that is located on the western outskirts of Gisborne, the East Coast of the North Island of New Zealand. The airport is one of the very few airports in the world that has a railway line intersecting the runway.



Santa Fe 3751 making a round trip excursion run from Los Angeles Union Station to San Bernardino for the special "San Bernardino Railroad Days Celebration" in 2014. The trackage is in the median of I-210.

CLOSING PAGE BONUS



Southern Railway 6133 rumbles along the track between the backshop and Warehouse #3 just before the start of CSD's first in-person meeting at the NC Transportation Museum on April 17th.

Division Brass

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