

THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 21 Number 6

June 2021

Division Coming Events

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

Next Division meeting

**Saturday,
June 19th
10:00am –
1:00pm**

**Newton Depot
Model Railroad
Center
1115 North Main
Avenue,
Newton, NC**

**Come help out
with reassembly
of Wade's Train
Town at its new
home.**

Superintendent's Corner

By Alan Hardee

It was great seeing everyone during our May meeting. We met at Brookford and moved Wade's Traintown layout to its new home at the Model Railroad Center at the Southeastern Narrow Gauge and Shortline Museum. A big Thank You to Metrolina Model Railroaders for the use of their two 20-foot trailers for the move. That made packing everything for fewer trips easier. NC eased the restrictions just in time for the NC Transportation Museum train show. Seemed to be a good crowd enjoying getting together and looking for great deals on model trains.

For our June meeting on the 19th, we will again meet at the Newton Depot to begin putting Humpty Dumpty (Gil's nickname for the layout) back together again. A lot of work ahead but hopefully we will have it completed by August for the grand opening.

I hope to see everyone on the 19th.

UPCOMING AREA TRAIN EVENTS

**There are no train shows
within the Division until
fall.**

**The National Narrow
Gauge Convention starts
things off in September.
See the Upcoming
Convention news
starting on Page 8.**

Editor's Notes

By Ed Gumphrey

Another month as we creep slowly back to normal. I had planned on being at Brookford to join in the efforts to move Wade's Train World to its new location. But life intervened, and I was admitted for overnight observation following a visit to the ER. I'm doing okay, but have a number of follow-up appointments over the next couple of weeks. Two of my friends who are also CSD members are dealing with some medical issues accompanied by chronic pain as well. Why do I mention that? It's no secret that the average age of NMRA members is increasing. It's often frustrating to realize we can't accomplish things at the same pace we used to maintain. But this hobby can be uplifting and therapeutic. Your many years of model railroading have honed your skills and built decades of knowledge. Use it to good advantage. After my brief scare last week, I found my involvement as your newsletter editor to be uplifting. Being able to focus on the interesting projects ahead of us as a Division is a breath of fresh air. I encourage you to take a deep breath of it and help out over the next few months to meet our deadline reassembling "Humpty Dumpty."

I'll close my comments for June with a notation about my favorite railroad, the Baltimore & Ohio. In January of this year, the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore completed the cosmetic restoration of #51. The first EA unit produced by Electro-Motive Corporation (EMC would later become EMD when it was designated as a separate division of General Motors), #51 was delivered in May, 1937.

It was the first streamlined diesel not coupled to a dedicated trainset (like the Zephyrs or UP's M-10000). It was assigned to the flagship trains such as the Royal Blue, Capitol Limited, and National Limited.



B&O #51 after cosmetic restoration by the B&O Railroad Museum in January of 2021

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

WE HAVE BEEN MOVED!

Train Town has a new home! Thanks to the efforts of 14 members of the Division, we moved Train Town from the Brookford Community Center to its new home at the Model Railroad Center of the Newton Depot, which is located at 1115 North Main Avenue, Newton, NC. Rick Beam and Gil Harris pulled the Metrolina Club's trailers for us. Thanks to them and their club, the move went smoothly and relatively quickly. We were able to move everything in about 3 hours. In addition to these two, Neal Anderson, MMR; Gil Brauch, MMR; Bob Halsey, Alan Hardee, Keith Iritsky, Fred Miller, MMR; Larry Paffrath, Daniel Poole, Chuck Redmond, Ken Riddick, Ed Smith, and Dave Thrams provided the manpower to load and unload the trailers as well as carrying assorted odds and ends in their vehicles to the new home. Enjoy the pictures of the moving activities.

Dave Thrums accomplished the most important task of the day by picking up and delivering the celebratory pizza for us.

RELOCATION PROGRESS REPORT

What is now ahead is putting the layout back together and restoring it to its former 'glory' as a faithful representation of the work of Wade Warren. We have a 'hard date' for our Grand Re-opening of August 28 and there is much work to be done. We are scheduling Saturday work sessions during the summer months to get this task accomplished. We need folks who like to do just about everything involved in our hobby -- trackwork, electrical, scenery, structures, mechanical animation, electrical animation, you name it, we need it. We will not be doing sign-up and urge our members to just show up and we are pretty much guaranteed to have work for you. Our work schedule is posted on the Calendar page of our website. Check it out at <http://carolinasouthern.org/calendar.html> and pick a day or two to come help out.





"... uuhh... How do we get this 10 pounds through that 5 pound door?..."



Eventually, clean as a whistle...



"... Bye now..."



"... We gone now..."



"Welcome to your new home!!"



"Nice space, but we've got a ton of work left to do! Come and join in on the fun of putting Humpty Dumpty back together again..."

DIVISION AND REGIONAL NEWS

By Ed Gumphrey

The big story for May was moving the sections of Wade's Train World along with all the boxes of structures, accessories and trains from Brookford to its new home in the Model Railroad Center at Newton Depot. That event was well documented in the preceding article from Gil Brauch, MMR. As Alan noted, our next meeting is Saturday, June 19th at the new location. Hope to see you there.

Don't miss the deadline for getting Wade's Train World back up and running in time for the National Narrow Gauge Convention at Newton Depot coming in September. That's a good segue to the coming conventions in the nearby area.....

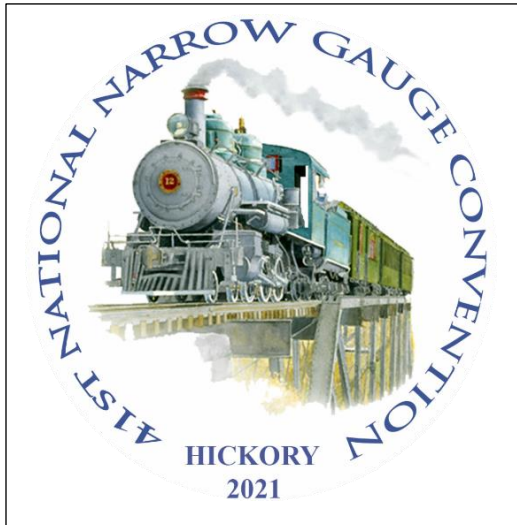
UPCOMING CONVENTION NEWS

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>

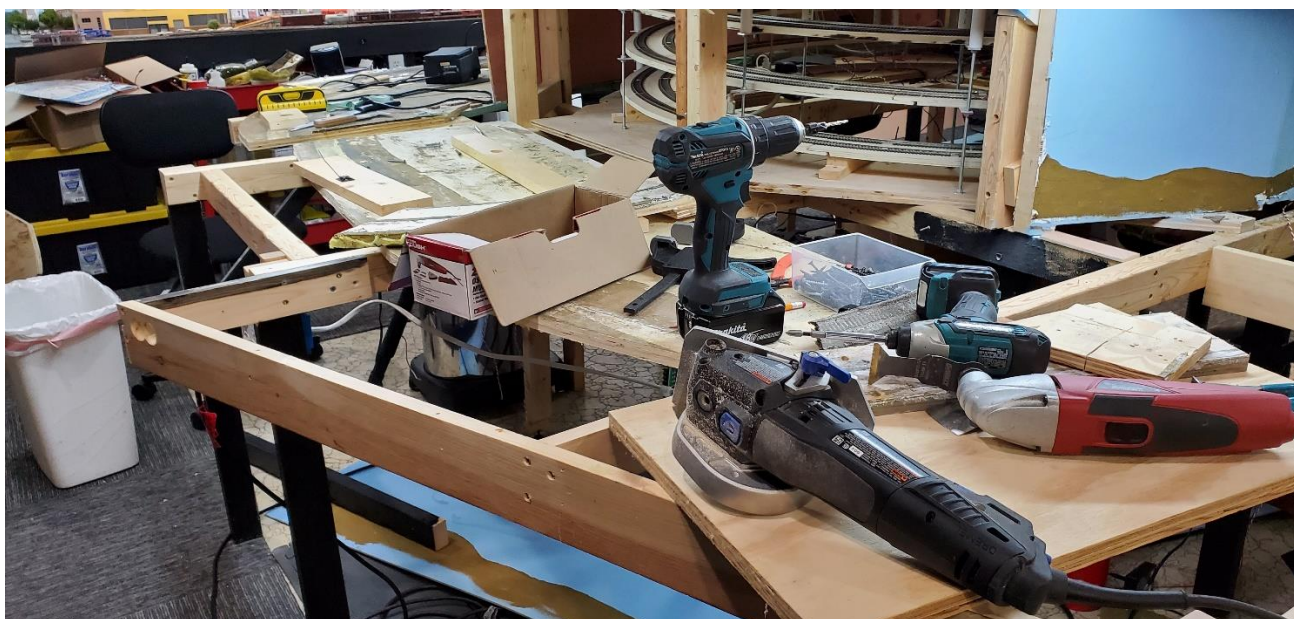


Reworking Part of a Layout

By Ed Gumphrey
Photos by Joe Skorch

During downtime avoiding Covid 19, fellow CSD member Joe Skorch decided to tear up a couple of areas on his layout. He relocated completely ripped out the previous location of Santa Maria to start building a more prototypical rendition of Betteravia. When I first saw that name, I thought it was a fictional town, but quickly learned otherwise. It was the home of a large sugar beet plant served by the Southern Pacific. By relocating his sugar beet plant on the layout, it now occupies a more prototypical geographic relationship to other towns on Joe's railroad. When the relocation work is completed,

Joe also relocated his Union Station scene to another are of the room, and started work on an oil refinery. This new industry will provide for plenty of operating interest in an area that previously served primarily as a display spot for passenger equipment. I'll let Joe's photos tell the story, but don't miss the point. Don't be afraid to take something down to improve your railroad.



The former location of Santa Maria on Joe Skorch's Southern Pacific layout.



The backdrop is back in place hiding the helix, and Holly Sugar is at its new location in Betteravia. The new location is a more geographically accurate relationship on Joe's layout. Note the urban area on the upper level above. You'll see a drastic change on the next page.



Looking around the corner from the previous photo, Peterson Oil Distributing awaits traffic. Note the short track at the end of the runaround – another switching challenge for operating sessions.



The upper level above Betteravia used to be the location of Joe Skorch's Union Station scene. It is now the location of a Chevron refinery. In the background to the right, you can see the structures from the previous scene awaiting transplanting to their future location on the layout.



This view of the Chevron refinery is a forecast for some interesting switching during operating sessions. I'll be glad to get back to regular operating sessions with Joe.

My sincere thanks to Joe Skorch for keeping me up to date on his progress.

Snap Track?

By Ed Gumphrey
Inspired by Michele Chance

I got another email from Michele Chance. She was pleased to have inspired the impromptu article last month on hidden and unusual track locations. She commented on how hard it is to see some of the most interesting railroad engineering triumphs. She also made a comment that inspired me to do some more internet searching. She said “...*On the way back from Washington state, beside the train tracks were turn outs and straights that looked like our 9 inch HO version, but were full size. I laughed and laughed when I saw the gondola holding sectional track.*” So, here’s a few interesting photos I found.



Prefabricated turnouts loaded onto specialized flat cars and ready for installation.



Prefabricated track sections along the right of way.
Note the partially prefabricated turnout.



Workers preparing a section of track on concrete ties for lifting into place.

CLOSING PAGE BONUS



Fellow CSD member Seth Gartner stopped by the NC Transportation Museum in Spencer on May 22nd and captured this picture of N&W 611 getting a bath. The following week the locomotive made its trek to Strasburg, PA.

Division Brass

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