

THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 21 Number 7

July 2021

Division Coming Events

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

Next Division meeting

**Saturday,
July 10th
10:00am –
1:00pm**

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

**Additional
sessions on July
17th, 24th & 31st.**

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

Superintendent's Corner

By Alan Hardee

I hope everyone had a safe and fun Fourth of July. Its that time of the year again where the outside temperature and humidity are raising to HOT conditions. So, stay inside and work on your layouts. Take plenty of photos for Ed to post in the Brass Pounder. We also have several Saturday work sessions inside the COOL Model Railroad Center at the Newton Depot. Gil and his crew have made great progress in re-assembly of Wades Train Town layout in its new home. It was great to see a good turn out for our June meeting to work on that project. The July Meeting will also be at Newton to continue our work. We are scheduled for an August completion to be ready when the Southeastern Narrow Gauge Museum will host the 2021 National Narrow Gauge Convention in September.

Don't forget about the October MER convention in the Baltimore area. The dates are October 21-24, 2021. See you there!!!

A bit of sad news from our June meeting. Jack Monette, MMR #613 passed away at home on June 18th. Our continued thoughts and prayers to Jack's family. Jack was a great scratch builder and had a wealth of knowledge to share with all fellow model railroaders. He will be missed around the CSD.

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 7.**

Editor's Notes

By Ed Gumphrey

In February of 2018 I published my first issue of *The Brass Pounder* as your editor. I also started a series of visits to Division member layouts. A month later, in March, I had the pleasure of visiting Jack Monette, MMR, to see his Delaware and Seneca Railroad. During my three hour visit I took some photos, talked about all things model railroading, and got to know Jack better. When I was done collecting notes, we adjourned for a pleasant lunch, where Jack introduced me to [Louis' Grille](#) on Highway 49 in Harrisburg – home of the best Philly Cheesesteak I've had since I moved to North Carolina.

I published an article on Jack's layout in the [June 2018](#) edition. That month also marked Jack's designation as MMR #613. A month after that was an article by Jack about his passion for [scratchbuilding](#). In the years since, our friendship grew as I saw Jack host Division meetings at his home, present clinics at RMU, provide experienced advice for Convention planning, and fill in as Assistant Superintendent when Alan Hardee wasn't available. He was always ready to help out with any task for the Division and its members.

I was saddened to hear of Jack's passing at his home on June 18th. He will be sorely missed in our Division. These pictures of Jack's model building desk and one of his scratchbuilt cars personify him in my mind. I also wish all the best to his family as they deal with their loss.



I'll close my comments for July by asking you to volunteer to help with the Division's project reassembling Wade's Train Town at its new location in Newton.

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

STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD RESTORATION

We held two official work sessions during June. The first was on our normal monthly meeting day and was well attended. Not only did we get some Division business done, we were able to assemble six of the nine tables and begin work on putting the new wiring on them. Topside we began repairing the scenery on the seams and re-attaching the trackwork. Thanks to the following guys for helping out: Ed Smith, Keith Iritsky, Gil Brauch, MMR, Danny Poole, Alan Hardee, Ken Riddick, Ed Gumphrey, Bob Halsey, Henry Reeves, Neal Anderson, MMR, David Myers, and John Yarborough. Ed got some photos, shown on the following pages.

Our second work session on June 26th consisted of six of our members. Danny Poole and Ed Smith continued with installing the wiring under the table, while Larry Paffrath and Ken Riddick concentrated on cleaning up loose material on the tables in preparation for repainting the roads and parking lots. Keith Iritsky continued with trackwork connections and began the project of adding cross braces to the legs. Gil Brauch worked on repairing the scenery 'at the seam' between the tables. We also were able to attach two more tables, leaving only "downtown" to be hooked up. We will make that last attachment after finishing up work in the middle of the layout.

WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE

After taking a break for the July 4th weekend, we will resume scheduled work sessions each Saturday for the rest of July. Sessions begin at 10 am and we generally stop work between noon and 1 pm. The focus for July 10th will be on repainting the roads and parking lots and starting to work on refreshing the structures. Ed Smith will be leading the work to complete the electrical systems. Keith Iritsky and those working with him will focus on completing the trackwork connections and refreshing the ballast. Gil Brauch will be working on scenery and will lead the team working on structures.

Task goals for the four working sessions during the month include making the last table connection, having all the electrical systems operating, and having trains running. We also should have all the buildings ready for installation and the ones in the 'hard to reach' areas installed.

There is plenty to be done, so helpers are more than welcome. 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. And remember that you get AP Volunteer points for each month you attend.



The group of members at the June 19th work session, from Left to Right: Keith Iritsky, Henry Reeves, Ed Smith, David Myers, John Yarborough, Ken Riddick, Alan Hardee, Danny Poole, and Gil Brauch, MMR. Ed Gumphrey was behind the camera, and Bob Halsey and Neal Anderson, MMR, who also helped out, had left just before the photo was taken.



Ken Riddick brushes up dust and debris on one of the tables.



Alan Hardee scrapes away some ballast that needs to be refreshed.



Ed Smith happily crawled around under the railroad running wires.



Danny Poole was the other half of the wire-running team.



I thought I knew some track-laying tricks until I watched Keith Iritiski – he's a PRO.



Speaking of PROs, Neal Anderson, MMR is an absolute master at ballasting.



Gil Brauch, MMR works at patching the gaps in table seams and roads.



David Myers vacuums up sawdust and wood chips behind the wire-running crew.



Henry Reeves and Gil Brauch, MMR discuss the plans for work going forward.



This view of the group at work shows how busy everybody was – a good day's work.

DIVISION AND REGIONAL NEWS

By Ed Gumphrey

The big story for June was our first two work sessions reassembling the sections of Wade's Train at 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, July 10th at the new location. There will also be work sessions on the remaining Saturdays, the 17th, 24th, and 31st. Hope to see you there.

Neal Anderson, MMR, is both the Division's AP Chairman and Convention Chairman. He provided some update on both topics. Here's Neal's reports.

Achievement Program:

The beginning of the year has been slow, but we have been working on the paperwork for Ed Smith to get his AP on Volunteer. Ed has 11 structures to be judged and working on the 12th one.

Henry Reeves has his time in on AP Chief Dispatcher, but just has to finish up on his paperwork.

Doug Algire is short 3 hours on Dispatching until he has all the time in to get his AP Chief Dispatcher.

Bob Halsey is working on his Golden Spike.

We have others that are working on different AP awards that haven't had the time to communicate to me.

Convention Status:

We have a contract with a Hotel in the University Area. The Dates are set up not to interfere with the Thomas event. The dates are October 20th to October 23rd of 2022.

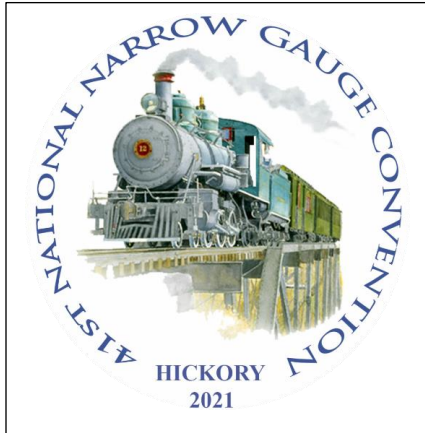
Some of the items that we will be doing will have to be added at a later time.

We will need helpers in many different areas. I will be making a list of the openings we have. I still have to talk to some of the people that were asked to cover areas last year.

More to come.

UPCOMING CONVENTION NEWS

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>



MILITARY LOADS

By Ed Smith

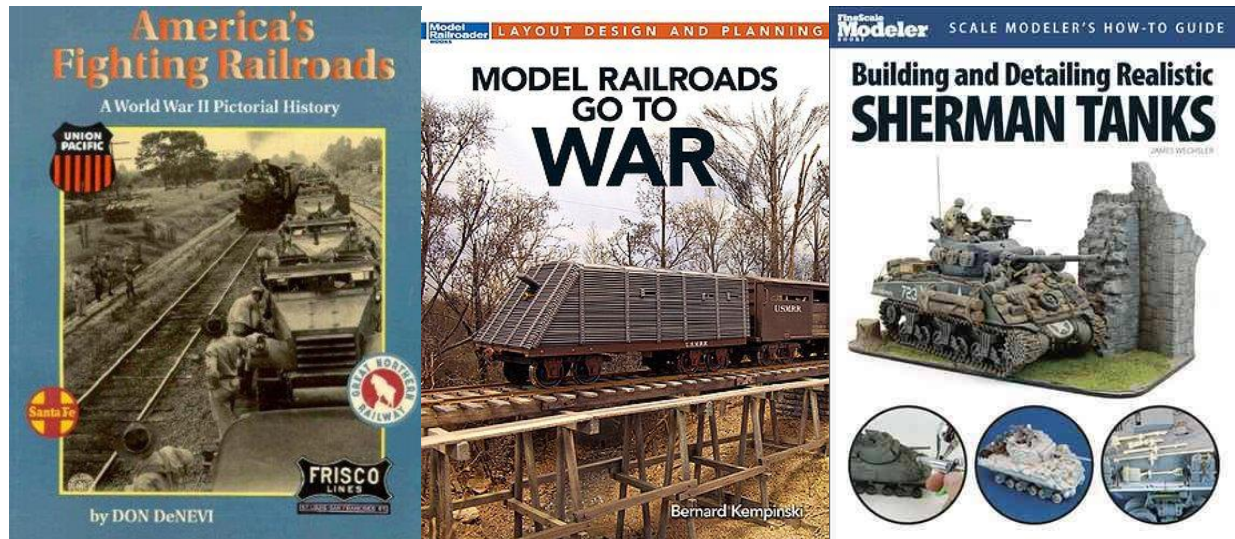
As I've said many times before, this hobby is blessed with many interesting facets. Although this last year has been detrimental to my modeling plans, due to Covid-19 and back ailments, I've been able to find different areas in the hobby to participate in. Because of this, I was able to complete the requirements for the Volunteer and Structures A.P.'s. I now wait for the evaluations that hopefully will allow me to attain my fourth and fifth A.P.'s. The process has been exhilarating for me. Not only do you constantly learn new things, but it is so diverse, you never get bored.

That said, this article is not about my quest. Since back surgery, I'm able once again to participate in the Wade's Train Town move to Newton, an adventure in itself. The move has occupied most of my modeling time, but I still want to work on my personal layout. This is where all those projects that we all have, but have been shelved, have a chance to see the light of day.

I've always been obsessed with World War II history. And I've looked for ways to couple that with my model railroading. I've come up with a solution. I model the Erie R.R., circa 1947, right after WW II. The Erie main ran from the Eastern Terminus on the Hudson River, Hoboken, NJ, to Chicago, IL in the west. Along this route is Ravenna, OH, home of the Ravenna Arsenal. So, although I've found no information of any military train movement, I've decided to use modeler's license to create a military armament train returning from the WW II European theatre, bound for the Ravenna Arsenal. In this article, I will lay out my plans, and hopefully, future articles will show my progress.

First, I did research on the type of rolling stock and equipment that would be in this type of train. I purchased 3 books, America's Fighting Railroads, Model Railroads Go to War, and Building and Detailing Sherman Tanks (pic 1 on next page). These books have a wealth of information, but more importantly, many pictures to visually help. All these books are still available from various vendors, as an internet search will show. Also, an article from Model Railroader, June, 2021, on wood decking will help improve the flat cars.

Like I said earlier, this is one of those projects that has sat idle for years. The good news is that the passage of time allowed me to accumulate a large quantity of military pieces. Also, by me dragging my feet, 3-D printing really elevated the availability of pieces. Roco And Walthers also contributed (pic 2-3 on next page). There is a wealth of products available for finishing the tanks, guns, planes, etc.. I've purchased military paints and air craft paints from MicroMark, weathering washes, pencils, and pigments from A K Weathering (pic 4 on page 10), and assorted small details from Tichy. These will all add realism to the equipment.



Pic 1: Three modeling books that helped in Ed Smith's research efforts. Sources include:

America's Fighting Railroads by Don DeNevi available used at [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com)

Model Railroads Go to War by Bernard Kempinski available at [Kalmbach Hobby Store](https://www.kalmbachhobby.com) and others.

Building and Detailing Realistic Sherman Tanks by James K. Wechsler is out of print from the publisher, but can be found used on internet searches, including [ebay](https://www.ebay.com).

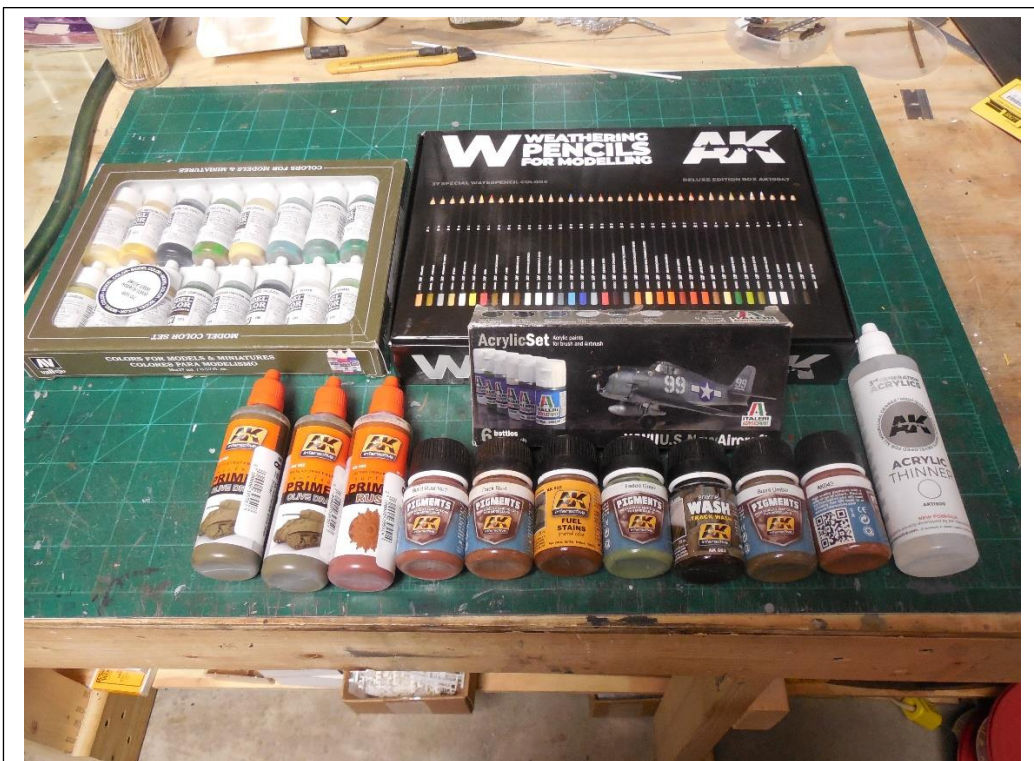


Pic 2: 3-D printed tanks from various sources.



Pic 3: Roco and Walther military vehicles.

Finally, the rolling stock. From all the info that I've gleaned, the majority of rolling stock was flat cars. Of course, there were also gondolas, tank cars, and boxcars. I'm still in the process of finalizing my roster but, Lord knows, I've accumulated more than enough for a good start (pic 5). I project the train to have around 25 pieces of rolling stock, one or two steam engines, and one caboose.



Pic 4: Assorted paints and weathering supplies.



Pic 5: Assorted freight cars await detailing, painting and weathering for their future service in a train bound for the Ravenna Arsenal in Ohio.

My plan is to super detail some, if not all, of the rolling stock. This is for visual effect, but also for compliance with the Master Builders – Cars A.P. I'll apply wood decking where needed, Tichy brake details, rings and chain tie-downs, and other details and weathering. Once again, I have a plan. Stick with me for the next couple of months and let's see what I can accomplish.

Until next time,

ED



Elway thinks the planning stage is okay, but he'd rather play ball.

CLOSING PAGE BONUS



Norfolk Southern #6920 provides a fitting tribute to our veterans on July 4th.

Photo from Norfolk Southern Railroad

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