



THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 22 Number 10

October 2022

Division Coming Events

**OUR
DIVISION
HOSTS THE
2022 MER
CONVENTION
CAROLINA
SPECIAL
LOOK SOUTH
IN 2022**

**OCTOBER
20-23**

**See
[Convention Website](#)
for further details**

Superintendent's Corner

By Andrew Stitt

While taking my walk this morning, I couldn't help but notice the cooler air temperature. It was that reminder that we entered Autumn just a few days ago. Soon, the leaves will have fallen and most of us will be heading indoors after a full season of raking and yard maintenance.

For those of you who like to operate, and/or host operating sessions, you know about layout maintenance. Just this week I discovered a wire had come loose from one of the Tortoise machines rendering it useless. A quick (careful) touch with the soldering iron resolved the issue, so not much time was lost. For non-operators, getting back to the layout might provide similar issues. Somehow, trees in the scale world also have the ability to drop their foliage too. Turnouts somehow become problematic. Locomotives become balky. How do these things happen? I'm not sure. Now some of you are muttering to yourself the problems are either poor workmanship, or poor attention to detail. I certainly plead guilty to both.

But I will suggest another cause. Neglect caused by not enough time spent in the train room! With colder weather approaching, we will soon have more time to enjoy one of our favorite hobbies. Sure, there will still be plenty of things to take our attention - family, social & church activities, the holidays, etc. What I'm suggesting to you is this time of year should afford you some extra time to enjoy model railroading. Make/take the time to enjoy those moments.

By the way, I hope to see many of you at the convention coming up this month. There will certainly be something for everyone to enjoy - clinics, layout open houses, the general store, meeting other modelers. I hope you are registered and are participating.

IT'S FINALLY HERE THIS MONTH !



LOOK SOUTH IN 2022

REGISTER NOW FOR THE MER CONVENTION IN OCTOBER.
REGISTER AT: https://mer-nmra.com/mer_convention_2022/

DIVISION AND REGIONAL NEWS

Contributed by Ed Smith and Joe Skorch

Train Town Box Score

September 2022

Open Houses 4

Attendance 63

Hosts: Ed Smith (3), Keith Iritsky (1)

To volunteer, go to:

<http://carolinasouthern.org/ttvolunteerrequest.html>

(#)=frequency (r)=first time host

Attendance was down in September, probably due to people refocusing on school and other post-summer activities. With new displays being planned, the future continues to be bright. We can always use more volunteers. If you are interested in joining us on a Saturday, please go to the following website to volunteer:

<http://carolinasouthern.org/ttvolunteerrequest.html>

ED Smith

MEETING (aka picnic)

The Division's September meeting and annual picnic was held Saturday, September 17th at Village Park in Kannapolis. There was a good turnout with 22 attending. Your editor was unable to attend. I thank Joe Skorch and Michele Chance for the following blended summary of the meeting and accompanying snapshots:

*The picnic went really well. There were 22 people in attendance. The picnic started with Andrew conducting a brief meeting, bringing the members up to date on some key items coming up in the next few months. Of course, the convention was discussed. Neal talked with us about the upcoming convention in October, and lots of managers were checking in and making sure every detail gets covered. We also discussed the next meeting place in Huntersville where our **annual swap meet will take place in November**. RMU was brought up for February, but we were informed that at this point there is not a place secured that would*

work to hold it. Hopefully we can identify a suitable location to start RMU back up. It's certainly a signature event for the Division.

The view from the tables was amazing, with the train circling around, but we tried to listen attentively to our speakers. Andrew encouraged us to volunteer, and spots for helping are still available. He also thanked Joe Skorch for getting our picnic together, and securing the park for the event. We all thanked Jack Parker, MMR, for the many years of hosting the annual event, and we all acknowledged that the virus is still in our lives and something to be cautious about. Each member has to take care of themselves and their families as they see fit.

Many wives found time to share in our outing. Did we mention, great food, burgers, hot dogs, BBQ and sides? And the train continued to provide entertainment as we ate. Everyone contributed to the picnic and nobody went away hungry. As the saying goes – a good time was had by all.

Joe Skorch and Michele Chance



Andrew Stitt started things off with a brief meeting about the Convention and other upcoming activities.



Neal's final Convention update



It can be hard to concentrate on speakers when there's a training running by.



One way to get this group focused – FOOD, DRINK and FELLOWSHIP.

And the final bit of Division news....Joe Skorch didn't like the way his double crossover was working, so he ripped it out and made his own. I snagged the picture of his work from his Facebook page. When you operate regularly like Joe does, this becomes the kind of project you are willing to take on to keep things running smoothly. If you're not operating, this might appear to be too much like work....



Overall view of Joe's double crossover.



A closeup view of the diamond.

**YOU GOTTA LOVE
SOME GOOD LOOKING
TRACKWORK.**



Trains 'n Such at Village Park

By Michele Chance

The train has some tight curves and steep grades, but 'round and 'round it circled our picnic shelter, in Kannapolis Village Park. This train was purchased and brought to Kannapolis Village Park the week before Katrina came ashore. The train and track would have been lost due to that hurricane but was rescued by taking up new residence in Kannapolis. I saw the men working on it at the old post office, and everything was painted and brought to tip top shape. The year the tracks were laid, it became apparent that double fence and gates at the path walkways would be needed to keep visitors off the track.

The Kannapolis Rotary group built a building long enough and wide enough for 4 passenger cars and one steam engine to fit inside, cowcatcher to observation platform. Departure is from the building. Our ride had an engineer and apprentice engineer. It really was fun to see the smiling faces riding by and sometimes young people waving. Park trains are for the young at heart. A walking trail going up into Rowan County Park, passes through the cluster of shelters, and the miniature model train, brings a smile as visitors walk through the circle of track. It's bigger than G scale, and fun to ride, but still a model.



As the Division enjoyed a picnic, passengers waved on each pass.



After the picnic, I decided to take a ride. The train leaves from its storage building.



Crepe Myrtles frame the station doors.



And we're off.



Crossing gates help protect park visitors as they stroll along the sidewalks.

Also at the park we walked around after the day's events to a double decker carousel from Italy. Horses, clam shells, and swings all gave motion as the music played and the carousel moved in a circle. I was surprised how the very small riders all wanted to go to the top, and parents and grandparents indulged them. I myself road the traditional horse, but no brass rings were available. The carousel is housed in an octagonal building and cared for by volunteers and park maintenance staff.



After the train ride, a building on top of the hill caught my interest and I went to explore.



It was well worth my walk up the hill to see the double-decker Italian carousel. The ride was pretty fun too.

I hope you get a chance to visit, I think most week ends the train runs. Maybe we will have another Carolina Southern outing at the park.

Michele Chance

CLOSING PAGE BONUS

IT'S FALL AGAIN.



A bit of NS trivia. The picturesque Princeton-Deepwater District was closed in 2015, and most believed it would stay mothballed forever. But in April of 2020, the railroad reinstalled some removed rail and temporarily reactivated the former Virginian trackage to store 150 bottom dump hoppers at Clark's Gap. Photo from internet.

Division Brass

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