

THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 22 Number 12

December 2022

Division Coming Events

No DEC Meeting

**OUR JANUARY
ANNUAL
MEETING**

**Saturday,
January 21st**

11:00am – 2:00pm

Newton Depot

**1123 North Main Ave
Newton, NC 28658**

**We'll have some
special activities
in January.**

STAY TUNED!

Superintendent's Corner

By Andrew Stitt

The other day, I saw a report on the TV nightly news about a fellow that gets out a number of train sets each Christmas season and sets them up to run around the floor. He said he enjoys seeing them run, and welcomes any visitors to the house to come and see them.

From what I saw, it was mostly Lionel with one American Flyer set thrown into the mix. Once the New Year is past, he said he dutifully packs everything up, and looks forward to the next holiday season.

I wonder how many of us can relate the start of our interest in model trains to a Christmas gift? I know I can. Although the gift was from Santa, it didn't take me long to figure out that my dad had a hand in the decision. My American Flyer set ran very well around the base of our Christmas tree. I found out much later that my dad was fascinated by the Lionel set my mother's brother got many years earlier. Even though he never had any trains of his own, my dad was very supportive of my growing interest in model trains as well as trains in general. We went on father/son trips to

Cass, and the East Broad Top. He took me to my first visit to a model train shop (MB Klein in downtown Baltimore).

I bet many of you have similar experiences with that first exposure to the world of model trains. A Christmas gift from Santa, or some family member. As with me, I imagine these memories hold a special placement in your heart and mind. Model railroading is a special hobby. Not only does it involve one's imagination and creative development, but it also associates with many times in our life. I think we are fortunate to belong to that group of people. As we go through the holiday season, please take time not only to remember many hobby-related memories, but also consider taking time to share them with family and friends.

You never know when the spark might land and light someone else's creative juices to start flowing.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**UPCOMING
AREA TRAIN EVENTS**

Fort Mill Train Show
and Sale
Saturday,
December 17th
9:00am – 3:00pm
Free Admission
Clarion Hotel
3695 Foothills Way
Fort Mill, SC

Editor's Notes

By Ed Gumphrey

I don't have much to say this month. The November swap meet saw a pretty good turnout. From what I hear, there wasn't a lot of equipment (or money) changing hands, but the fellowship was enjoyable. As for I'm still recovering from carpal tunnel after assembling the big edition last month, not to mention the recovery from a huge Thanksgiving meal. The aftermath is satisfying – I just finished up the last of the turkey sandwiches this past week.

Speaking of aftermath, our neighboring Piedmont Division published some great coverage of the Convention we hosted in October. I strongly encourage you to see the November edition of their newsletter, *The Herald* at the link below,. Convention coverage starts on page twenty. You won't be disappointed – it's really good coverage.

[November 2022 Edition of The Herald](#)

In additional aftermath coverage, I urge you to look closely at Doug Algire's article about the clinics that were conducted during the convention. The 6-plus page table of clinic descriptions illustrates the attention to detail that Doug devoted to successfully schedule fifty-one clinics. My thanks to Doug for providing me with the details.

I'll close by calling your attention to the news about Dave Chance's retirement from his position as MER's Achievement Program Manager. Those of you who have worked with Dave toward your own achievements know first hand how supportive and dedicated he was in his roles, first at the Division level and then moving up the Region. I wish the best of luck to Kurt Thompson, MMR, as he takes up the role from Dave.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

DIVISION AND REGIONAL NEWS

By Ed Gumphrey

Division November Meeting & Swap Meet

The November meeting and swap meet was held on Saturday, November 19th, at the David B Waymer Recreation Center. There were 13 members in attendance.

Upcoming Annual Meeting

The Division's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 21st at Newton Depot, 1123 North Main Ave, Newton, NC 28658 from 11:00am – 2:00pm. For our annual elections, there is one position open; Joe Skorch's BOD position. Nominations will be accepted up to, and at the meeting should anyone wish to submit a nominee. Stay tuned for more details, because there will be some surprise activities for this meeting. More information will be published in the January newsletter and by separate email. Note the start time is different from our usual 10:00am

RMU needs a “home”

We started Railroad Modeling University (RMU) 2004, and it has been a signature event for the Division until interrupted by Covid restrictions. RMU is an excellent opportunity to present or attend interesting clinics in all aspects of model railroading. It's also open to the public, giving us a chance to recruit new members to NMRA and the Division. We want to start again in January of 2023, but we need to identify a suitable location. A private or church run school would likely be the best due to a potential lower (donation) cost. Perhaps someone in the division has a connection to such a facility. If you know of a venue that would meet our needs, please pass along that information to our Superintendent Andrew Stitt superintendent@carolinasouthern.org and RMU Chairman Doug Algire RMUchair@carolinasouthern.org

Metrolina Christmas Display

As usual, Metrolina's display for the 2022 Southern Christmas Show was a resounding success. Held at The Park Expo and Conference Center, the display drew lots of attention. It is noteworthy that the Metrolina Model Railroaders has a 100% NMRA membership, so their efforts are not only an example of the club's dedicated efforts and modeling skills, but a positive reflection on the Division. If you'd like more information, contact Assistant Superintendent Alan Hardee alanhardee@gmail.com

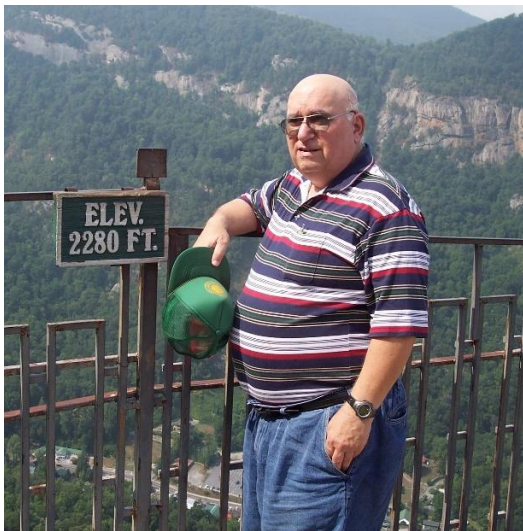
Below is a photo montage from various Facebook posts of this year's display.



Dave Chance retires as MER AP Manager

Dave Chance recently retired from his position as the Region's Achievement Program Manager. Back in 2017 when I first joined the Division, Dave was the AP Chairman of our Division. I quickly recognized Dave to be the best ambassador of this program that I had ever met since first joining the NMRA in the mid 70s. Listening to Dave talk about AP during some of the Division's meetings, took away the ominous mystery which often surrounds the program. As Clerk and newsletter editor, I witnessed and published numerous certificate presentations as well as seeing three Division members reach their goal as Master Model Railroaders. Dave handed the Division torch over to then-newly-minted MMR Neal Anderson and took up the position as Regional AP Manager.

I recently received some email lauding Dave's closing efforts as he facilitated delivery of certificates and plaques for three new MMRs in the Region. Mat Thompson, the AP Coordinator for our neighboring Potomac Division, writes his thanks for *"how quickly all the documents were processed for MMR's for three of our Potomac Division members. From the day I mailed everything until the day I had plaques was about three weeks. That's phenomenal and it really set up an event for us.... We took advantage of it to have our Assistant Superintendent, Ernie Little, present plaques to Pete LaGuardia (716), Bob Rodriguez (718) and Rich Steinmann (719)"*. These were the last three MMRs that Dave processed. Thank you, Dave, for all your support through the years. Drawing on the phrase I used last month, Bravo Zulu.



Dave Chance in the left photo, recently retired from his position as AP Manager for the MER. These three recipients in the right photo were the last MMR awards that Dave Chance processed before retiring from that position. Thank you, Dave, for all your support through the years.

Train Town Update

Contributed by Ed Smith

Train Town Box Score

November 2022

Open Houses 5

Attendance 63

Hosts: Gil Brauch, Keith Iritsky (2), Ed Smith (2)

To volunteer, go to:

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

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

It's hard to believe the year is almost over. Our division has had a busy year. At Wade's, our part of the Model Center is really taking shape. It is not just Wade's great display, but it's turning into a diverse collection of model railroading. That said, our attendance for the year is over 1000, with a month to go. That's a great response in our first year.

We will be having the "Toys for Tots" campaign on the first 3 weekends of December. Fridays (Dec. 2, 9, & 16) noon to 5 pm; Saturdays (Dec 3, 10, & 17) 10 am to 4 pm; Sundays (Dec 4, 11, & 18) 1 pm to 4 pm. If you can, please drop by and donate a small gift to help some children have a Merry Christmas.

The one thing we need is more volunteers. Specifically, we would like to add at least one to our core group which includes Gil Brauch, Keith Iritsky, and myself, Ed Smith. The three of us are stretched pretty thin filling all these Saturday dates. So, if you can spare a Saturday a month, or even once in a while, please go to our website and sign up. The learning curve at Wade's is fairly short, and you may be surprised and delighted if you volunteer because the Model Center improves monthly.

Finally, Gil, Keith, and I want to wish all our CSD members and your families a wonderful Holiday.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

.... ED

Division Member Activities

In other news, I noticed a number of interesting posts from Division members showing a bit of their activities.

This post on the right from Alan Hardee highlights how Metrolina pays tribute to local businesses with some of the models on their modular displays. Wilkerson Moravian Bakery, Estd. 1925 was in the booth beside us at the show, hence the billboard showing our love of their tasty sweets.



This post on the left from Seth Gartner shows a touch of his activity sprucing up the NYC Piney Fork Branch in preparation for the Convention layout tour he hosted.



The post below from Neal Anderson, MMR, shows his recent acquisition of a 4-4-0 in 7 1/2" gauge. The left photo as he picks it up, the right photo shows he's already dismantled it for its planned overhaul.





CONVENTION CLINICS

By Doug Algire

The MER 2022 Convention was a huge success thanks to everyone who volunteered. Neal Anderson and his team of merry conductors were crucial and worked hard to bring the convention into the station on time and on budget.

My role was Clinic Coordinator. It was an interesting journey but we ended up with a nice number of clinics to satisfy anyone.

Clinics by the Numbers:

1. 51 clinics
 - a. 5 Make & Take clinics
2. 25 clinicians
3. Three clinic rooms
 - a. Walden 42 seats
 - b. Harris – 50 seats
 - c. Burnham (Make & Take) – 38 seats

Here is the list of clinics, descriptions and clinician name:

Title	Description	Clinician
A discussion on Dead Rail	Based on experience with using dead rail on the layout for a couple of years. Aspects to be presented include defining what dead rail is, how it works, and installations involved. Experiences including effects on pulling power, and running time considerations will be included.	Andrew Stitt
Judging Models and The Model Contest	The clinic is for anyone who has not judged before at a regional level. It is also helpful for anyone at the Division level who judges or would like to judge Division models. It is also quite and surprisingly useful for modelers who wish to enter a model contest, either at the Division, Regional or National level, as there are many pointers on what judges look for. It will help them in their judging and will help speed things along in the contest room.	Brian Kempschroer

How to Market & Grow Your Division/Region	Gain new ideas on how to better market and promote your, Division or Region and improve member experiences. Topics include the benefits of membership, welcoming new members, incorporating a mentorship/buddy system, monitoring reports, doing more with social media/online presence, proper communication, working with local media, proper booth management, and overcoming special circumstances such as geography, aging members and periods of less face-to-face interaction.	Christina Zambri NMRA Marketing
What the Judges are Looking For	The clinic is about evaluating (judging) your models. It is filled with tips for building your models to get a Merit Award in the NMRA Achievement Program.	Dave Chance
LCC: What is it and who is it for?	Dick Bronson is the owner of RR-CirKits, Inc. In this clinic he discusses what LCC is and what it is not. He shows examples of who and what LCC is for. He discusses why use LCC with DCC. Then moves into the basic concepts of LCC and LCC terminology, configuration of LCC nodes and LCC configuration tools.	Dick Bronson
LCC: Applications and the future	In this follow-on to LCC: What is it and who is it for? Clinic Dick discusses LCC applications, creating an LCC network and what hardware you need. He includes JMRI preferences and signal control, block detector examples, signaling requirements, signal lamp drivers, lamp special effects, signal logic.	Dick Bronson
Selecting and Using Your First Airbrush	How to choose an airbrush that fits your needs is the first step. Now how do I use it? We cover all the questions in this clinic including what paint to use, how to get the best finish and how to clean up and prep for your next painting session.	Eric Schrowang
Model Railroading in a limited space - Downsizing to a shelf layout	Many model railroaders hesitate building a layout because of limited space. When Fred Miller moved to a high-rise condo, he was faced with either “arm-chair” model railroading, or continuing his life-long hobby of building model railroads. This clinic is about how he designed and constructed “shelf layouts” to meet that desire for building an operating railroad. One of his shelf layouts was shown in Great Model Railroads – 2019 and another can be seen on a Layout Tour during this convention.	Fred Miller, MMR
Tips for Construction Electronic Projects for Model Railroads	This clinic presents a number of design and construction steps which have proved useful in electronic projects for model railroads. A simple micro-controlled blinking LEDs project (e.g., crossing signals) will be used to demonstrate the various tips and techniques.	Fred Miller, MMR

Section House or Crossing Shanty make/take	<p>Maximum twenty (20) participants.</p> <p>Choice of two kits: 1) Section house 2) crossing shanty</p> <p>Both HO and N scale available.</p>	Jack Dziadul
Prototype Structures for Your Layout	Most of us try to model what we remember. This clinic will offer some tips, guidance and encouragement to modelers to recreate that childhood home, or that signature structure that establishes the era and place that your layout represents.	Jack Dziadul
Modeling the Central Pennsylvania Scotia Iron Ore Works in the 19th Century	In the early 1800's rich iron ore deposits were mined in the Nittany Valley of central Pennsylvania, particularly in the area known as the Barrens; pig iron was produced locally. In 1881-82, Andrew Carnegie purchased the Barrens and built the Scotia Iron Works. Over 200 tons of ore were mined and washed per day by the 250+ employees who lived in the company town of Scotia. Ore was transported on the Lewisburg & Tyrone RR to Tyrone where it continued on to the Pittsburgh steel factories on the PRR main line. The Centre County Historical Society has a crew of model railroaders building a recreation of the Scotia Iron Works in HO scale. I have been assigned the building of two Otis-designed steam shovels. This clinic describes this undertaking.	Jerry Lauchle, MMR
Building the B&M Passenger Station in Holyoke	This lifetime build model is based on research, measurements, photographs, and original drawings of the Holyoke, Massachusetts station designed by architect H. H. Richardson in 1887. The clinic covers designing, resin casting, painting, finishing, lighting and detailing to accurately match the prototype. I'll show all the techniques used on the exterior and interior of this classic station. The model is the first-place finisher, Structures contest.	Jim Murphy
The 200-ton Diesel Wreck Crane	<p>Derricks, wreck cranes, "the big hook,"—when railroads have a major derailment causing delays, they call for the big machinery. These cranes were expensive, involving labor, locomotives, and train crews. They traveled at low speeds and took up track time.</p> <p>In the early days of railroading, locomotives and rolling stock were light and easy to re-rail with jacks, wrench and blocking, and hand labor. As locomotives and rolling stock started being made out of steel, their weight became an issue. The search was on to find a way to tackle the problem. Enter the wreck crane.</p> <p>All cranes are the same in basic design and function. The railroad just mounted a crane on a heavy-duty flatcar to transport the crane to the job site. The crane is only one of many pieces of retired equipment that make up the wreck</p>	Joe Walters, MMR

	<p>train—a kitchen car, sleeper car, block car, and tool car make up a typical wreck train.</p> <p>All early cranes were powered by steam; then around the 1940s, diesels were starting to be used as a power source that was far cheaper to operate and maintain. Not having to maintain a boiler was a big cost savings.</p> <p>In today's world, most railroads prefer to use outside sources to clean up derailments and rights of way. These contractors move in all of their equipment on flatbed trucks so as not to tie up track time, which the transportation people like.</p> <p>Joe personally worked the 30th Street wreck train as a car repairman for about five years before becoming a supervisor. He has many good stories and memories of those years—very dangerous, but the overtime was great!</p> <p>Joe will show and describe how he scratch built a 200-ton diesel wreck crane using styrene and styrene shapes.</p>	
Building the UP Rotary Snow Plow	Joe will discuss how he built the Union Pacific's rotary snow plow #076. The prototype was constructed in 1950 and was last used in 1977. It is unknown whether it is still in service. The model was constructed with sheet styrene and resin cast parts using photos of the right and left sides. It has a working blade that operates off a 9-volt battery and a slow-motion motor, and has a completed underside. The plow was an entry in the contest at the 2019 Liberty Bell Special MER Convention.	Joe Walters, MMR
The Lehigh and Hudson River Railroad: A Perfectly Proto-Lance-able Pike	The LHR was a short bridge line in north western NJ just outside of MER territory – this clinic is about a specific railroad, and also how to look at a historical railroad and develop ideas about a prototype or Protolance based modeling option.	John Doehring
Lend Me Your Ears: A Ten Point Manifesto for Building a New, 21st Century NMRA	This clinic is all new and presented at the Indy Junction Tri-Regional and the 2022 National. Part of this presentation is about our new idea for the NMRA at 10X – ten times bigger, bolder, and better. It has been well received so far, and is also providing a pathway for others to comment, share, and contribute to our thoughts and plans for the future.	John Doehring
The State of Z: Yes, We Can Do That, too.	General overview of the history of Z-scale, manufacturers, technologies, standards, and practices. Discussion and Q&A to answer all of your questions and curiosities about the "scale to end all scales."	John Duino
Scratchbuilding With the Cricut Maker	The Cricut Maker is a cutting tool used by modelers to increase the accuracy of designing and efficiency in cutting parts to scratchbuild structures. Once dimensions are entered into the design program, the Maker efficiently arranges and cuts the components from common scratchbuilding materials, such as	John Short

	cardstock, sheet wood, and styrene. The clinic will begin with an overview of the Cricut Maker and Maker 3; the software, Design Space; and system requirements. Creating a digital plan, and the ease of editing a plan to incorporate corrections, or other changes, and matching the program settings to specific modeling materials will be emphasized. The presenter will use examples from his HOn3 Rio Grande Southern layout, ranging from small sheds to complex structures. The value of creating a simple mockup from inexpensive materials prior to finalizing the design will be shown. A major advantage of working digitally is the ease of converting plans in one scale to another scale. Lessons learned regarding the use of the Maker, and materials and settings suitable for use with the Maker will be shared. The clinic will end with a demonstration of the cutting tool producing the parts for a structure. Participants will leave with a simple building kit created using the Maker, offering them the opportunity to build for themselves a structure created using this tool.	
Marketing and Selling Your Model Railroad Items	This clinic covers marketing and selling your model railroad items. It covers Why Sell?, Infrastructure needed such as tables & chairs, How to stay positive, Do's and Don'ts, Props, Presentation and Pricing.	John Taylor-Hall
Getting a Freight Car Kit Ready for Your layout	Maximum twenty (20) participants. This make and take clinic focuses on getting that kit you just picked up at the last train show, swap meet, purchased on eBay or was gifted ready to run on your layout. A short presentation will be followed by each participant receiving either an Ahearn, Accurail, or Roundhouse HO scale of boxcar either a 40' or 50'. When the clinic is completed, the boxcar will meet your requirements to run on your layout.	Kevin O'Connor
How to Hide Your Railroad	You said you do not have room for a railroad, come and get some ideas of places you have not thought about. You could hook it in the sky, hide it under the bed, and find space in more than just basements, and attics.	Michele Chance
Scenicking a Farm on the Cheap	This session will show you have to use common household items to recreate a farm on your layout.	Nancy Campbell

Making Wire Trees	<p>Participants will walk through the simple steps of making wire trees for a layout, including, shaping the wire armature including root system and adding static grass details; texturing the trunk and limbs using liquid latex; base coating and dry brushing the bark to create depth and texture; and flocking foliage to add color and fullness. The presenter will share strategies used to streamline production of these model railroad works of art. Clinic attendees will be afforded the opportunity to create their own masterpieces during the clinic!</p> <p>Clinic should be limited to 25 participants Cost: \$5:00</p>	Patty Short
The Southern Railway's Murphy Branch in the Late 1970s	The Southern Railway's Murphy Branch in the Late 1970s was an action-packed line that has something for nearly every modeler and every space. We will take an extensive tour of the line, recreating as much as possible of how it appeared in the 1970s, and discuss modeling ideas including layouts and equipment.	Paul Spilman
Southern Railway's Saluda Grade	Take a tour of the steepest mainline railroad grade in the US and how Southern Railway operated it in the late 1970s. We will cover the features of the line, basic prototypical operations for the time period, and ideas on how to model it.	Paul Spilman
Protecting Your Digital Railroad Collection	How to Back Up and Protect Your Data: As more of our lives go digital, how do you keep your data safe? We will cover how to ensure your digital collection is protected for the future from the most common threats.	Paul Spilman
2022 - 100th Anniversary of Electro-Motive, EMD and Diesel Basics	2022 is the 100th anniversary of Electro-Motive (EMD), the leading diesel locomotive builder from the 1930's to the 1980's. The August program will discuss the history of EMD, including legendary persons associated with EMD, its various names and owners, its worldwide production and marketing, and its major competitors. The program will also discuss its various engines, models, and trucks, including gear ratios and associated speeds. The program will present a brief discussion on how a diesel electric locomotive works, various diesel locomotive types, alternative diesel propulsion systems, diesel locomotives trucks, including the nomenclature. The program will also have a brief discussion on how dynamic braking functions.	Randy Foulke
Storage Tanks 101 for Model Railroaders	A new 60-minute presentation that deals with the various kinds of storage tanks found in industry for solids, liquids and gases. Atmospheric tanks, low pressure tanks, high pressure tanks, corrosive tanks, cryogenic tanks, etc., loading and unloading racks and the tank cars that can be found servicing them.	Rich Mahaney
Tank Cars 101 for Model Railroaders	This 60 plus minute presentation looks at the different types of tanks cars that are used today, older style tank cars, tank car features, tank car models, how to increase tank car traffic on a	Rich Mahaney

	model railroad layout, industries that use tank cars, and loading and unloading platforms/facilities.	
Interesting Flat Car Loads	This presentation looks at a variety of “stuff” that is transported on flat cars by railroads. It answers the question, “do they really transport that “stuff” on flat cars for real”? It will give the modeler some ideas for their own flat car loads to build.	Rich Mahaney
Selecting Industries for Your Model Railroad	This 60-minute presentation is designed to help model railroaders select industries and community businesses for their model railroad through a systematic approach and by answering a series of questions, thinking about how railroads service their customers, increasing railroad traffic by thinking about the types of railroad cars that are used to service the needs of different types of industries. Examples of real facilities and model railroad examples are used to make the points.	Rich Mahaney
"Quick Industries" for Your Model Railroad	This 60-minute presentation is designed give model railroader's industry ideas for their model railroad that can be assembled in several evenings (or days) of work. These industries can quickly increase railroad traffic and new customers. Examples of real facilities and model railroad examples are used to make the points. Also, other details involving industries such as track work, loading docks, industry placement along the tracks and industry building concepts will be looked at. This is part 2 of Selecting Industries for Your Model Railroad.	Rich Mahaney
Junctions, Interchanges and Diamonds for Your Model Railroad	This 60-minute presentation looks at real railroad junctions, interchanges and diamonds and how they can be modeled by model railroaders. Their use can allow more rail traffic, the use of other railroad equipment and can some interesting operations. If a modeler likes a number of railroads, this is the solution to allow the many of different railroads to operate on a layout. A variety of examples from different model railroads are shown as part of this presentation.	Rich Mahaney
Airbrushing	This is a basic class. Discussion will include the types of Air Brushes, the air source types, paint types, and model preparation. There will be hands on painting of a boxcar. This will be only a shell, not a complete piece of rolling stock. There will be 3 workstations for painting. We will be using Badger (water-based paint) so there will be no harmful chemicals. Gloves will be supplied in several sizes. Decaling information will be included, again with hands on or a sheet that you can take to apply later.	Roy Becker
Off the Beaten Trail	Scott shares pictures, stories and information of his travels up and down the East coast. He went into rarely seen areas where he discovered an amazing amount of prototype railroad scenes and items the general public is unaware of their existence.	Scott Davenport

Basic JMRI Operations with NO paper!	Starting from nothing, show how to set up simple railroad operations on your layout using JMRI, including use of mobile devices to replace printed switch lists and car cards	Steve Todd
Need More Signs!	Steve will describe the need to add more printed material to our layouts, and describe methods, tools, and tips for making your signs, roads, parking lots, etc. and printing them on a color printer.	Steve Todd



Figure 1 – Clinic room setup – tables were covered with paper or plastic. The carpet was covered with paper, but it wrinkled and created a trip hazard. It was noisy to walk on. The host committee set up the screen, projector and computer. My Power Point presentation was loaded into the computer in advance. I just had to plug my laser pointer into the USB port. Photo by Jack Dziadul



Figure 1 - Jack Dziadul Make & Take. Photo by Doug Algire.

As Jack says in the previous photo the brown paper on the floor wrinkled and created a trip hazard. On Thursday when setting up the Make & Take clinic room we tried our best to get the wrinkles out. No matter where we cut and taped another wrinkle popped up somewhere else. In the end the paper floor got the best of us.



Figure 2- Dave Thrums trying to get the wrinkles out during Thursday setup.

Photo by Doug Algire



Figure 3- Dave Thrums having way too much fun tearing up the floor Friday night.

Photo by Doug Algire.

So, we had an immense amount of fun tearing up the paper floor Friday night. I am sure the hotel staff wondered where that mountain of brown paper came from.

After the convention ended, we met to review what worked and what did not. Below are the items for clinics:

Recommendations:

- Clinics end at 9:30 pm.
- Sunday clinics start at 8am. This so the convention staff can clear clinic rooms and get to the Annual Business Meeting on time.
- Lock clinic rooms for lunch and dinner. We did this and it reduced stress that something would come up missing.
- After the last clinic gather the laptops and projectors and store in a secure room. We did this for same reason as above.

- For Make & Take room need a standard on what to place on the floor to protect it from over spray, glue, etc. Brown paper did NOT work.
- Using projectors that support HDMI and sound allows clinicians to embed sound in the presentation. This removes the need for them to bring their own sound equipment. The two Epson projectors Carolina Southern Division owns support this.
- Have form the clinicians sign up front when scheduling where they can check off Allow/Not Allow their files to be shared on the MER/Division website.
- Include the Extra-Fare Reimbursement form in the Make & Take clinician's packet.

If you were unable to attend, you missed a nicely put together convention that spotlighted the Charlotte metro area. Congratulations Carolina Southern Division 12!



The Convention Through our Neighbor's Eyes

Compiled by Ed Gumphrey

Our neighboring Division, The Carolina Piedmont Division has some superb coverage of the MER Convention that we hosted in October. Don Roback provides a narrative of his experiences in the November edition of their newsletter, *The Herald*. Following Don's impressions, Jack Dziadul dedicates seventeen pages of pictures and comments. His well-organized article covers everything from the registration process to the the banquet. Jack captured some excellent photos of the layout tours he visited. To see his impressions of Marcus Neubacher's Charleston, Roanoke & Eastern (N scale), Joe Skorch's Southern Pacific (HO), Seth Gartner's NYC Piney Fork Branch (HO), Steve Mersch's Baltimore & Ohio (HO), and Andrew Stitt's East Tennessee & Western North Carolina (On30), see the newsletter at

[Herald-Nov2022.pdf](#)

I promise you won't be disappointed. Here's some screen shots to whet your appetite



CLOSING PAGE BONUS



Like Superintendent Andrew Stitt said, a lot of us started in this hobby after Santa delivered a train set before eating his snack. Photo from internet.

Division Brass

Superintendent
Asst. Superintendent
Clerk
Paymaster
Director 2025
Director 2023
Director 2024
AP Chairman
Webmaster
Newsletter Editor
Program Chair
RMU Chair
Publicity Chair
Membership Chair

Andrew Stitt
Alan Hardee
Ed Gumphrey
David Thrans
Ed Smith
Joe Skorch
Larry Paffrath
Neal Anderson, MMR
Joe Skorch
Ed Gumphrey
Keith Iritsky
Doug Algire
-
Nancy Campbell

superintendent@carolinasouthern.org
assistsuper@carolinasouthern.org
clerk@carolinasouthern.org
Paymaster@carolinasouthern.org
director1@carolinasouthern.org
director2@carolinasouthern.org
director3@carolinasouthern.org
Apchair@carolinasouthern.org
Webmaster@carolinasouthern.org
editor@carolinasouthern.org
program@carolinasouthern.org
RMUchair@carolinasouthern.org
publicity@carolinasouthern.org
membership@carolinasouthern.org