

# ***THE BRASS POUNDER***



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

**Volume 23 Number 1**

**January 2023**

## **Division Coming Events**

### **OUR JANUARY ANNUAL MEETING**

**Saturday,  
January 21<sup>st</sup>  
11:00am – 2:00pm  
Newton Depot  
1123 North Main Ave  
Newton, NC 28658**

**We'll have some  
special activities  
and you can enjoy a  
free box lunch at the  
meeting.  
See Page 2 for  
details.**

## **Superintendent's Corner**

By Andrew Stitt

Well, a new year is upon us. I hope everyone has stayed healthy and active since we last met. No doubt, 2022 was a very eventful year for the Carolina Southern Division. We started to emerge from our safety zones as the pandemic seemed to ease. Face to face meetings, along with distance communication via Zoom brought a number of familiar and new faces together.

Then, of course, the elephant in the room appeared with the MER convention took over. I think everybody who stepped forward to help out in some form or another deserves our applause and thanks. On behalf of the board of directors, it was suggested, and approved that we recognize those folks for their efforts with a lunch at no charge at the Annual Meeting to be held on January 21 at the Southeastern Narrow Gauge Museum in Newton. The meeting will be held in the meeting room in the depot. Further details are listed below.

The Railroad Model University (RMU) is in jeopardy for 2023. A suitable centrally located economical facility hasn't been located yet. Time for advertising and promotion for a RMU to be held in February (the month it has traditionally been held) is drawing very close. I ask every member to look about their circle to see if somewhere can be found. If not for this winter, perhaps another time later this year?

I foresee 2023 being a year of much activity within the division. I welcome Keith Iritsky as our new program chairman. He tells me that he has several different ideas for clinics/programs. I have secured the library in Mooresville for us to have our meetings from March till May. Neal Anderson, MMR, has offered to host us at the live steam layout he operates at in Cassatt, SC. Our fellow NMRA members in the nearby divisions in SC have invited us to attend some of their meetings. And of course, I expect there will be nearby train shows for everyone to attend.

And beyond these things, I expect many of us have projects to work on with our own modeling efforts. Perhaps we will see some achievement awards being handed out this year. Maybe even a MMR or two?

## Happy New Year!

### ANNUAL MEETING FREE BOX LUNCH

As a reward for the dedicated work of all the volunteers who helped to make the MER 2022 "LOOK SOUTH" Convention a huge success, our leadership has decided that the Division will provide a FREE BOX LUNCH individually customized by the Depot Deli for all attendees at our Annual Meeting on January 21, 2023 at the Newton Depot, 1123 North Main Avenue, Newton, NC. In order to claim your FREE BOX LUNCH, go to our website, fill out and submit the form at:

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

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you do not register for your FREE BOX LUNCH by midnight on January 18, 2023 you will be 'on your own' for lunch. We are not ordering any extras and you will not be reimbursed for anything you order on your own.

**UPCOMING  
AREA TRAIN EVENTS**

No scheduled train events within the Division until April when the next Fort Mill Train Show will be held.

**Editor's Notes**

By Ed Gumphrey

For a second month in a row, I don't have much to say. Like all of you, I've been focused on family visits and holiday celebrations. The Gumphrey household enjoyed a quiet celebration at home and in our church. I hope you all had an equally enjoyable Christmas.

I'm looking forward to our annual meeting in January. Come join in at the Newton Depot and help salute the efforts of our Convention Team and enjoy a free box lunch. I join Thomas and Friends in wishing you all a Happy New Year.



**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

I target the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month for publication. Please submit articles for publication by the 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:editor@carolinasouthern.org)

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## DIVISION AND REGIONAL NEWS

By Ed Gumphrey

### Upcoming Annual Meeting

The Division's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

Please note the banner on page two with details and don't miss out on your free box lunch when you join in for the meeting. 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](mailto:superintendent@carolinasouthern.org) and RMU Chairman Doug Algire [RMUchair@carolinasouthern.org](mailto:RMUchair@carolinasouthern.org)

### Train Town Update

Contributed by Ed Smith

Well, another year has flown by. The good news is that our first full year of Wade's Train Town at the Southeastern Narrow Gauge and Shortline Museum in Newton has been an overwhelming success. We saw the venue grow exponentially throughout the year. With added animation, planned replacements of some animation, and minor layout upgrades, we were able to improve the display while maintaining Wade's creation. This, with added room displays and future planned room improvements, makes the museum's future bright.

That said, here are the totals for the year 2022. They reflect added dates in December supporting the museum's "Toys for Tots" campaign.

## Train Town Box Score

December 2022

Open Houses 9

Attendance 183

Hosts: Core group members are Gil Brauch, MMR, Keith Iritsky, and Ed Smith. More volunteers are needed.

## Total 2022 Train Town Box Score

Open Houses 62

Attendance 1,361

Hosts: In addition to the three core group hosts, 11 Division members volunteered to help. Our thanks for their efforts. We need more.

**To volunteer, go to:**

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

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

Also, donations have allowed us to afford improvements and still be in the black financially. We appreciate the volunteers and support, but we really need a few members to become part of our core group. As of now, we have 3 core members handling all the Saturdays. We've been able to cover all Saturdays, but it puts a strain on scheduling. We would like to balance the Saturday schedule by adding one or more members to our group. So, if anybody is interested and has one Saturday a month free, go to our link and sign up:

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

Thanks,  
.... ED

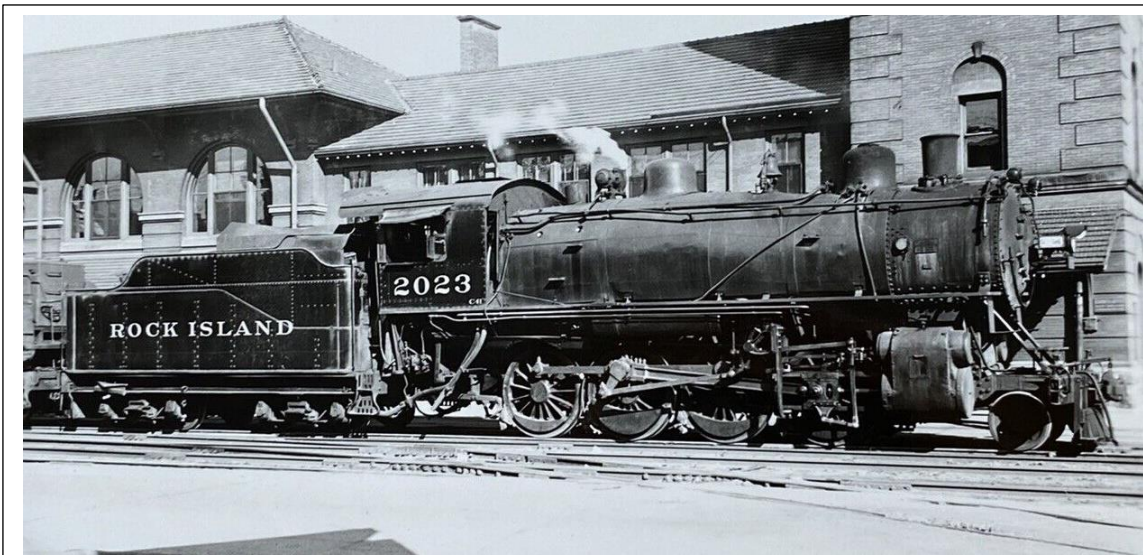


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## A Photo Tour of Previous 2023s

By Ed Gumphrey  
All photos from internet searches.

As we ring in 2023, I thought it might be fun to look at some 2023s from the past. Please forgive my blatant efforts to fill out this month's newsletter, and enjoy the voyage.



An early 1900s locomotive – Rock Island 2-8-0 #2023

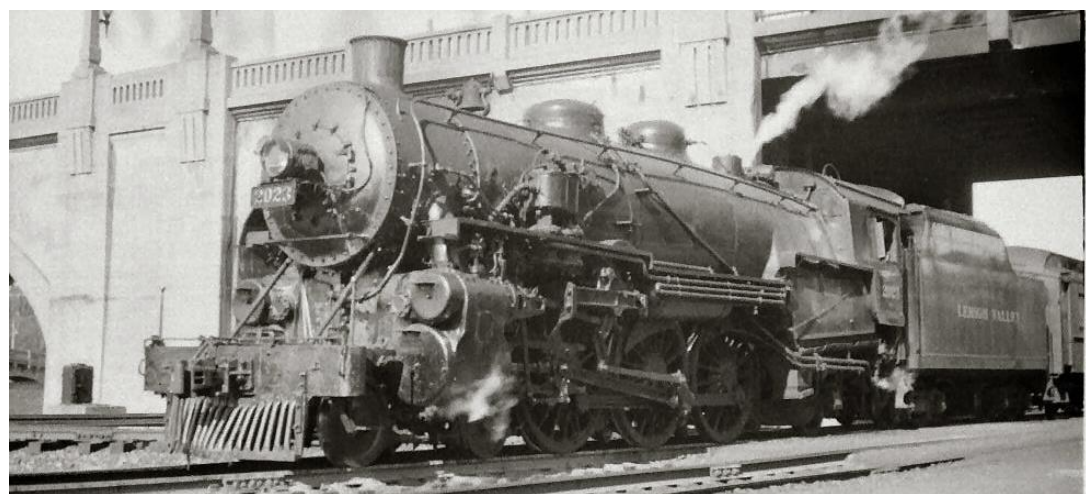


This one is dedicated to Ed Smith. Erie 2-8-0 #2023



On top, New Haven FL-9 #2023. The colorful McGinnis paint scheme shows the grime of hard work. In the Center, the locomotive is now on display at the Eastern Connecticut Railroad Museum, including a stairway for a look inside the cab. On the bottom, oddly enough, a Lionel model railroader custom painted #2023, oddly applying the number to a pair of Alco locomotives. This group of photos is for Keith Iritsky.





Lehigh Valley class K-3 4-6-2 Pacific #2023 is shown on top in the 1940s, and on the bottom after a shop overhaul in 1952 deleted the fairings on the walkway and pilot.



Milwaukee GP-40 #2023 leads a three-unit lash-up. All 3 look freshly shopped.





The best-preserved steam locomotive bearing #2023 is this 0-6-0 in CP Rail livery. The locomotive is at the Heritage Park in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. As seen on top, the locomotive occasionally pulls a few early passenger cars around the 217-acre park. As seen on the bottom, it also makes a nice background in one of the park's popular wedding venues.



The Reading Railroad also had a #2023 in its steam roster, this one a Baldwin 2-8-0.



Back to model trains, Lionel offered Alco FA locomotives numbered #2023. For variety, they offered it in both silver and yellow. The silver scheme made for a good match on their passenger cars, but I was unable to find any confirmation of the prototype locomotives in any scheme other than the familiar Armour Yellow and Harbormist Gray.



B&O GP-38 #2023. From the faint lettering under the cab window, this photo was taken after the CSX merger. It's surprising that the locomotive survived the Chessie era in its original livery.



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## CLOSING PAGE BONUS



Keeping my #2023 theme alive, I suppose it's appropriate to close this issue out with a caboose. From my favorite railroad, here's B&O class I-5 caboose C-2023. It's nicely preserved for its home in a park in Indianapolis, but the handrails and ladders were originally yellow.

### Division Brass

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