

THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 23 Number 2

February 2023

Division Coming Events

**OUR FEBRUARY
MEETING**
Saturday,
February 18th
10:00am – noon
**Mooresville Public
Library**
304 S Main St,
Mooresville, NC 28115
In the Selma Burke Room
on the main floor.

Superintendent's Corner

By Andrew Stitt

At the Annual Meeting in January, it was decided, due to the anticipated larger than normal attendance to poll those attending on several issues related to their interest in model railroading. So, at the end of the meeting, prior to having lunch, a questionnaire was handed to all who were present so that they could take a few minutes to fill it out. This was intended to be an optional thing to do. I am pleased to report that most of those attending did indeed respond. This included some guests that are not members of the Carolina Southern Division.

The very common question revealed that most respondents modeled in HO scale, followed by N scale (about half of the HO number). Nearly every other scale/gauge was mentioned. Interest in era preferred to model reflected a near tie between the transition period of steam to diesel (early diesel) vs. the present-day time frame. The rest were scattered from the American Civil War through 1900 into the early 2000's. Most respondents do have a place to run trains, and are members of some sort of model related club or organization besides CSD. All of the model railroad groups that I know of in this area were represented. When asked to name their favorite railroad, there was more variety than I expected! Clearly, NS, CSX, N&W, and Southern were the favorites (surprise?). Yet many others were listed including NKP, Erie, PRR, NYC, Interstate, B&LE, SP, RGS, and ET&WNC(?).

Next, the questionnaire asked what do you like most about model railroading? Here, the answers were rather diverse. I will take the liberty to summarize a bit. Scenery was the most popular answer, followed closely by operating. Building a layout, followed by electronic projects, and scratch building rounded out the topics. When asked slightly differently, electronics (including learning more about DCC and LCC as well as basic layout wiring) was the preferred answer followed by various aspects of scenery building. 3D printing was also mentioned. A few respondents didn't answer this question.

The final question was: Would you be willing to help others? The overwhelming answer was Yes! That is very pleasing for me to hear because I think it is true. When I have been part of a discussion within any gathering of modelers, seldom have I heard a question that does not receive an answer. (Might not always be the best answer, but it is a response).

So, let me close with this. I learned from looking at these questionnaires that those responding to the questions had a variety of answers. Yet, we as a group are mutually interested in the same thing, and are willing to help each other if needed. We need to develop a way to harness that spirit. It will help us all become better modelers, and closer together.

RMU IS BACK !

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 will start again on Saturday, April 15th, 2023 at West Concord Baptist Church, 225 Warren C. Coleman Blvd., Concord, NC 28027

Read Doug Algire's article beginning on page five for more information. Want to teach a clinic? How about helping with registration? Maybe you'd enjoy interacting with visitors at the white elephant sale table. Don't forget that we need help with set-up and take-down.

More details will soon follow as the full schedule is determined. Anyhow, send an email to RMUchair@carolinasouthern.org and let Doug know how you can help make the return of RMU a successful event.

Editor's Notes

By Ed Gumphrey

UPCOMING AREA TRAIN EVENTS

Asheville (Fletcher) Train Show

February 24th & 25th
Friday Noon – 7:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm
WNC Agricultural Center
Expo Building
761 Boylston Hwy,
Fletcher, NC 28732

Hickory Train Show

Saturday, April 1st
Hickory Metro
Convention Center
More details will be
posted when available

NCTM Train Show

Saturday – Sunday
May 20-21st
More details will be
posted when available

I don't exactly get inundated with feedback about this newsletter. An occasional encouraging word keeps me going, and I do enjoy the task of keeping our Division informed as to what's been happening, and what's next.

So, perhaps you'll understand my surprise over the feedback I received about the January 2023 edition. To ring in the New Year, I had a bit of internet surfing fun, and included a number of pictures, both model and prototype, of locomotives (and a caboose) with the number 2023. The theme proved to be very popular, and I received more feedback about that "story" than I have any other article in the five years I've been editing *The Brass Pounder*. I'm delighted that so many of you enjoyed the theme and I thank you for your kind words. I'll try to come up with some other ideas from time to time.

The big news is RMU. Please check out Doug Algire's article about it. Details are still being planned, but it's a really big deal for the Division to be re-activating RMU after the Covid shutdown. I've given a couple of clinics during past RMUs and I can promise you'll have fun.

If you don't have a topic you want to teach, help out with administrative and logistical tasks. Doug spells out a lot of options for you in his article.

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

Annual Meeting

The Division's Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, January 21st at Newton Depot, 1123 North Main Ave, Newton, NC 28658 from 11:00am – 2:00pm. Thirty-five members attended (a great turnout).



Superintendent Andrew Stitt talked about the year past, and plans for the upcoming year. He spoke on my behalf asking for members to contribute more articles for publication in the newsletter. Dave Thrans gave a brief treasurer's report, and Ed Smith talked about Train Town attendance and asked for volunteer help. Martin Oakes talked about the current status of things at the P&W.

For our annual elections, there was one position open; Joe Skorch's BOD position. Joe was reelected for another term. Thank you, Joe, for your willingness to continue serving on the BOD.

Neal Anderson, MMR, handed out Certificates of Appreciation to the volunteers who helped with the Convention in October. He also presented Achievement Program awards to those attending. I took the extras - will get mailed out what to those I can find. I have a few I haven't identified the person (not members), so if I can't find them in February, I will ask you to post their names in next month's newsletter. The ledger indicated 35 people attended which was extraordinary.



Ed Smith (left) received Achievement Certificates for Structures and Electrical. Henry Reeves (right) received his achievement certificate for Dispatcher. Photos by Alan Hardee.

Train Town Update

Contributed by Ed Smith

After a setback in early January because of a broken water line, causing the loss of one open house, we rebounded well and had a successful month. With the added displays, Wade's Train Town is now just one facet of the Legacy Room of model railroading. With the possibility of adding an S-gauge layout, the room is constantly upgrading and improving the history of model railroading. Here's the update:.

Train Town Box Score

January 2023

Open Houses 4

Attendance 170

Hosts: Gil Brauch, MMR, (2), Ed Smith (2), Keith Iritsky, Fred Brooks, and Larry Paffrath

To volunteer, go to:

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

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

Once again, I'm asking our members to commit to our core group, now 3, to serve once a month on a Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. This addition would allow once-a-month scheduling and flexibility in coverage. The Legacy Room's constant improvements have created a vibrant venue for model railroad enthusiasts, which we all are. So, if you have a Saturday you can devote, please sign up on the links available and participate.

Tributes to Matt Bumgarner

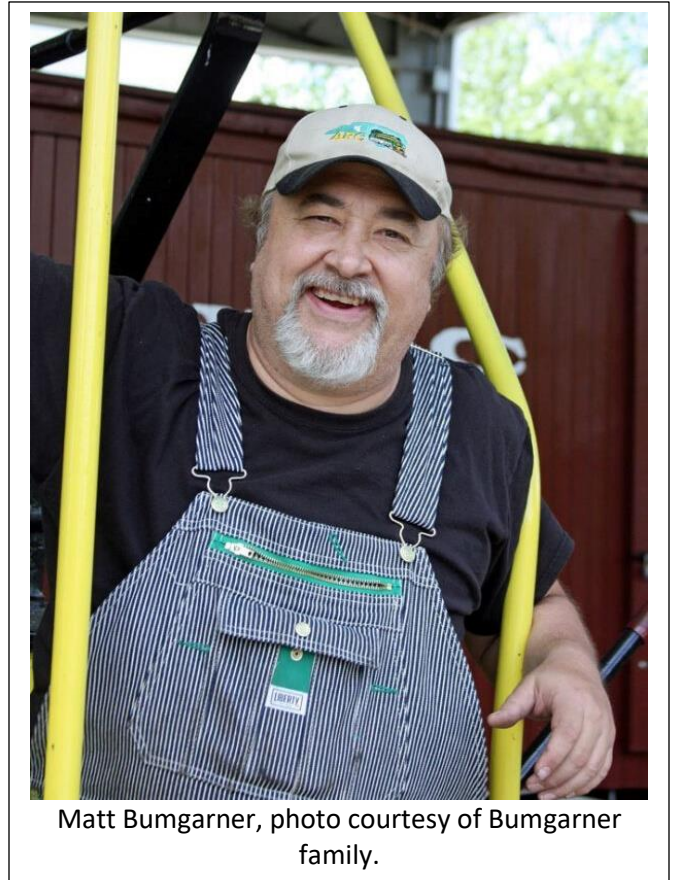
By Ed Smith and Curtis Brookshire

On a very sad note, on January 26th we lost a major influence at the Newton Museum when Matt Bumgarner passed away unexpectedly from a rare cancer. Matt's knowledge, experience, and ambition at the Newton Train Museum and many other railroad historical venues was a gift for all those involved. He will be missed by everyone and his shoes will be hard to fill. Without his leadership and involvement, Wade's Train Town and its legacy might not exist. We send out sincere condolences to his wife, Dawn, and family and friends.

Rest in peace, Matt.


Among Matt's many contributions:

- Was instrumental in preserving Southern Railway's Newton NC depot, as well as founding the adjacent Southeast Narrow Gauge and Short Line Museum.
- Was an active member of the Alexander Chapter of the NRHS.
- Matt, along with Johnny Graybeal chaired the 31st and 41st National Narrow Gauge Conventions (2011 and 2021) in Hickory.
- Saw to the preservation and restoration of several pieces of ET&WNC including boxcar 434 that was recovered from Allaire State Park in NJ where it had been stored for many years; and was working on ET&WNC motor cars 1 and 2 working to have them restored to operating condition and returning motor car 1 to narrow gauge.
- Also preserved equipment from the Lawndale RR.



- Ran Tar Heel Press, publishing all of Johnny Graybeal's "Along the ET&WNC" series of books and Railroads of Johnson City, along with volumes on the Watauga RR, Lawndale, Carolina and North Western, and Saluda Grade.
- Published Johnny's magazine for the ET&WNCRRHS, "Every Time with No Complaint".
- Worked the coach 5 ticket table at Tweetsie's Heritage Weekend for many years. I've had the pleasure of working with him on several occasions.
- Hosted the train (and "dancing girl") shows in Hickory.


I was very pleased to hear that the Life's Celebration held yesterday at the Museum in Matt's honor was well attended and proved to be a fitting tribute to his contributions. Our condolences to Matt's wife Dawn and his family members. He'll be sorely missed by all of us who knew him. As Ken Riddle is fond of saying, "He's caught the Westbound".



**RAILROAD
MODELING
UNIVERSITY**

BECOME A BETTER MODELER
GET ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS
MEET OTHER "TRAIN NUTS"
CLASSES FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS

APRIL 15, 2023
West Concord Baptist Church
225 Warren C. Coleman Blvd.
Concord, NC 28027
Cost: \$10 for the Day
DETAILS / REGISTRATION:
WWW.CAROLINASOUTHERN.ORG



**CAROLINA SOUTHERN DIVISION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSN**

We Need You for RMU 2023

by Doug Algire

Planning is now under way for RMU 2023 on April 15, 2023. This will be our fifteenth Railroad Modeling University. The Carolina Southern Division of the NMRA is proud to continue this annual tradition.

This year RMU is at:

West Concord Baptist Church
225 Warren C. Coleman Blvd.
Concord, NC 28027

More information on the rooms, size and other items to come in a later update.

One thing for sure: RMU will be a lot more fun than filing income taxes on April 15th.

Comments from previous RMU students are:

- Great audience engagement by going around the room.
- Very knowledgeable with lots of great tips.
- I appreciated that all the clinics I attended provided handouts. This made my note taking and recall of the topic much easier and more beneficial.
- Need more time.

How can you help? Railroad Modeling University is a team effort. We need volunteers.

- RMU Dean. I currently fill this role. RMU Dean has overall responsibility for RMU.
- Volunteer Coordinator. This is open. Primary asking and getting volunteers to help with registration, setup and tear down.
- People for the White Elephant sale table.
- People for the Division sale table. This could be the same people watching the White Elephant table. Could be more than one person and they can rotate shifts.
- At least two people for the Registration table.
- Four to six people to help setup the night before and teardown at the end of RMU.
- Instructors for each class period.

Without instructors Railroad Modeling University could not exist. The students are appreciative of the knowledge and expertise each instructor displays. Our Division benefits from having instructors volunteering their time and sharing their talents at Railroad Modeling University. The depth, breadth and variety of model and real railroading knowledge is truly exceptional in our Division.

Please consider teaching at Railroad Modeling University 2023. We have members that took a break from teaching. We would love to have you back. Some of you I have spoken to at the monthly Division meeting about coming back to teach. Others gave clinics at the MER 2022 Convention last October in Charlotte.

Our classes in the past included:

Basic Model Railroading
Scratch building Cars
Documenting Your Railroad
Soldering
Track & Ballast
Making Scenery
Scenicking a Farm
Light, Sound & Motion
Tips and Tricks from a Master Model Railroader
AP Program & Judging

Planting Buildings
Open Car Loads
Tracks and Wheels
Lighting the Layout
Advanced Ballasting
LED Lighting
Reversing Loops
Background Sound
Multi-Function Animation Decoder
Module/Sectional building



Fred Miller, MMR, teaching his RMU class on Light, Sound and Motion

Instructors that taught the same class a number of years may think that they no longer need to teach, but you'd be surprised. All of the classes are popular. Of course, some are more popular than others. But hey, who enjoyed all of their high school and college courses?

Recently prior to the start of a work meeting on the phone the discussion came around to hobbies. I was the only one who said that model trains, is one of my hobbies. One the men on the call said, "You PLAY with model trains?" Notice the word play is in capital letters. That is how he said it. My reply was "No I do not PLAY with model trains. I enjoy and operate model trains as close to reality as the full-size trains." His comeback was that it still sounded like playing to him. I proceeded to give him a quick overview of what operation means in the model railroad world.

Our hobby supports whatever we want to do with our model trains. If we want to watch them run in circles we can do that. If we want to move freight and passengers like the full-size version we can do that. Whatever floats your boat as the saying goes.

I am sure many of you have run into someone that may have said something similar to you as the man in my meeting. Maybe you took issue with it and maybe not. Typically,

the person making the comment has not had the chance to see a layout that supports operation. Now you have an opportunity to let someone in on the fun we have.

The education should not be heavy handed nor should we take on a superior attitude. Instead, it is a wonderful opportunity to help someone understand what we do and why. Hint, Hint, think RMU. They might become a convert to model railroading or support someone in their family that is a model railroader.

There seems to be three type of model railroaders. Let us take a look at each of them. These are my general observations so feel free to disagree.

The Arm Chair. The arm chair model railroader typically does not have any room at all for a layout or even a shelf layout. They support the hobby by subscribing to magazines, purchases books, memorabilia, and other related items. They attend local train shows but usually do not travel out of their local area. They usually do not join a club or the NMRA. For them this enough. They enjoy model railroading.

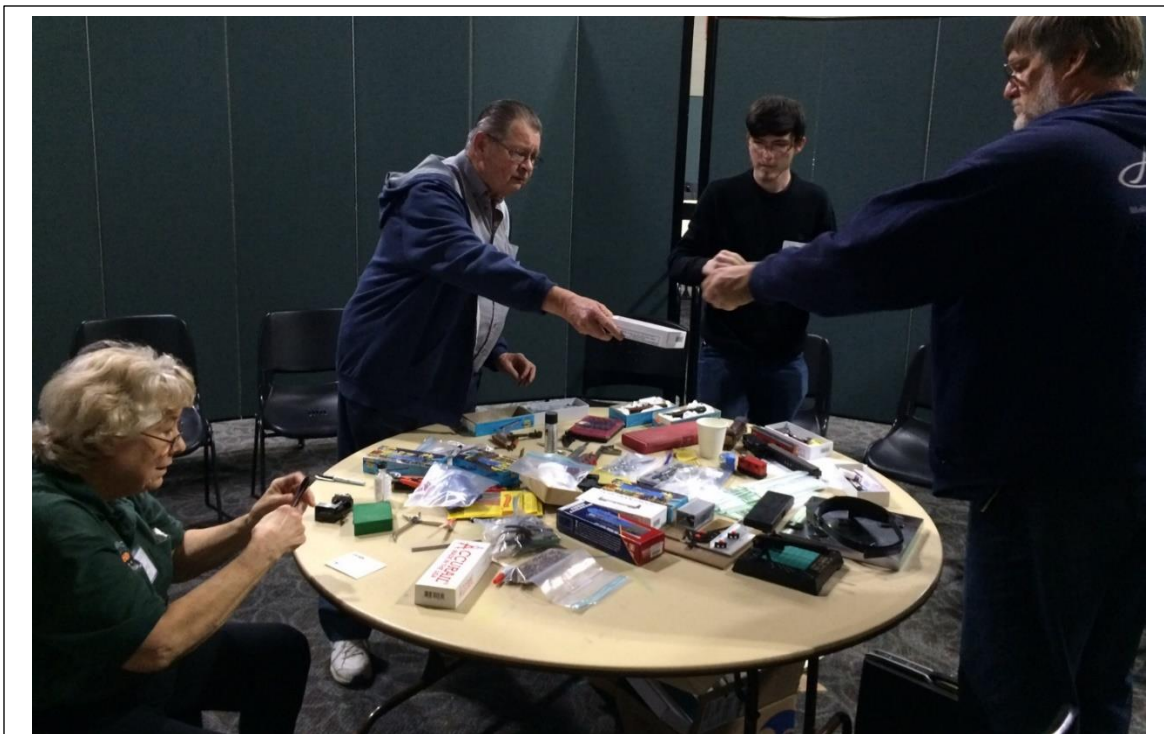
The Involver. The Involver is the largest segment. They support the hobby by subscribing to magazines, purchases books, memorabilia, rolling stock, locomotives, structures and other related items. They usually have a layout, shelf layout and/or modules. Their layouts/modules are well detailed, look nice and operate well. They attend local train shows and on occasion travel out of their local area to other shows and events. They may join a club, the NMRA or both. When they do join they are active and participate in the club or NMRA activities. They might give a clinic at their club or local NMRA Division. They may run for an office. They enjoy model railroading.

The Rivet Counter. The Rivet Counter is just what the name means. They examine every model, structure, and layout for 100% faithful reproduction of the real world. They are sticklers for details on everything. And I mean everything. They do not know the meaning of "just enough is ok". They support the hobby by subscribing to magazines, purchasing books, memorabilia, rolling stock, locomotives, structures and other related items. Many have layouts that are finely detailed. They usually join a club, the NMRA or both. When they do join they are very active and participate in the club or NMRA activities. They usually give a clinic at their club, local NMRA Division or national show. Many run for an office both locally and within the NMRA. They enjoy model railroading.

Please remember these are generalities from my personal observations. You may see yourself a little in each type. Most people will have one type that dominates their model railroading style. None of them are better than the others as each type benefits our hobby.

Sometimes, The Rivet Counter frustrates The Arm Chair. Sometimes, The Involver frustrates The Rivet Counter, etc. You see where I am going with this? If you are an Arm Chair type embrace The Involver and The Rivet Counter and vice versa. All is good!

The bottom line is our hobby has room for everyone no matter what type of model railroader they are. Welcome all of them with open arms. Embrace them, nurture them and you and they will carry our hobby forward. We all enjoy model railroading.



The late Jack Monette, MMR, teaches his popular class on scratch-building freight cars.

These are the people, young and old, male and female that attend Railroad Modeling University. Mark your smart phone calendar now for Saturday April 15, 2023.

Once again, please consider teaching at Railroad Modeling University 2023. We have members that took a break from teaching. We would love to have you back!

We would like to have as many class periods filled by February 17, 2023. This will allow the Division to start advertising at train shows, hobby shops and on-line.

Please contact me at <mailto:dalgire@comporium.net> if you would like to continue teaching or have a new class idea.

Happy Railroading!

CLOSING PAGE BONUS



How about a romantic train ride to celebrate Valentine's Day this year? Take your love on the Wine & Dine ride at North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer.

HURRY - Three of the four scheduled runs are already sold out. As of Sunday February 5th, there were **only six seats still available** for next Sunday, the 12th.

For more info and tickets see:

[Wine & Dine on the Rails | NC Transportation Museum](#)

Division Brass

<u>Superintendent</u>	Andrew Stitt	superintendent@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Asst. Superintendent</u>	Alan Hardee	assistsuper@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Clerk</u>	Ed Gumphrey	clerk@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Paymaster</u>	David Thrams	Paymaster@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2025</u>	Ed Smith	director1@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2026</u>	Joe Skorch	director2@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2024</u>	Larry Paffrath	director3@carolinasouthern.org
<u>AP Chairman</u>	Neal Anderson, MMR	Apchair@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Webmaster</u>	Joe Skorch	Webmaster@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Ed Gumphrey	editor@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Program Chair</u>	Keith Iritsky	program@carolinasouthern.org
<u>RMU Chair</u>	Doug Algire	RMUchair@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Membership Chair</u>	Nancy Campbell	membership@carolinasouthern.org