

## Division Coming Events

**OUR APRIL  
MEETING IS  
RMU**

**Saturday,  
April 15<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00am – 3:30pm**

**West Concord  
Baptist Church**

**225 Warren C  
Coleman Blvd,  
Concord NC 29027**

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

## Superintendent's Corner

By Andrew Stitt

April is going to be a big month for our Division. Railroad Model University is finally going to reappear after a hiatus for the pandemic. To me, this is a symbolic thing, as it can become a turning point for us as members to join with other model railroaders to celebrate our hobby by sharing ideas and experiences.

It is also significant for what it is. An opportunity for us to either demonstrate some aspect of the hobby we are comfortable enough with to share with fellow modelers, or to want to learn more about. If you haven't looked at the CSD website lately, I encourage you to do so. There is a very nice line up of clinics scheduled. Kudos to Doug Algire and Roy Becker for organizing this event, and Joe Skorch for keeping the website up to date. Also, thank you to those who are planning to help assist in setting up the class rooms, manning the registration desk, assisting with the sales room as well as the contest room, and helping to reset the class rooms when we are done.

I witnessed a neat thing in March regarding sharing knowledge and experiences. I was contacted by an individual from Pennsylvania who is associated with a model train club there. They

are doing an update to their control system. While doing research on it, he came across an article in the Brass Pounder written by member Duncan Parker. With Ed Gumphrey's help, Duncan and this individual were connected. Through a series of emails, Duncan was able to answer this person's questions. So, the importance of sharing proved valuable, not just in clinics, but also by writing about them for the Brass Pounder. These articles may well be picked up by the MER as well as referenced by the NMRA!

One more thing about sharing knowledge. At the March meeting, I started a discussion about cutting instruments we use to help with modeling. I mentioned that I couldn't find a listing for all of the X-ACTO® knives on the market. After the meeting was over Roy Becker and Neal Anderson, MMR, sent me emails with links to websites that provide such lists. Attached are those links in case you would like to download them as reference material. Again, this is an example of what I would like to see more of at our meetings – sharing things that we “assume” everyone knows about or has access to. To me, this provides value in attending CSD meetings and events.

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## Links to available X-ACTO knife blades

X-ACTO Company Website at

<https://www.xacto.com/knives-blades.html>

Blade selection table via third party Industrial Electronics by Ross LLC at

[X-acto Tools - Blade Selection \(industrialelectronics.biz\)](http://industrialelectronics.biz)

X-ACTO and X-ACTO compatible brands via Alibaba.com at

[ALIBABA LINK TO HOBBY KNIFE BLADES](#)



**Railroad Modeling University (RMU)**  
**Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – 3:30pm**  
**West Concord Baptist Church**  
**225 Warren C Coleman Blvd,**  
**Concord, NC 29027**

**UPCOMING  
AREA TRAIN EVENTS**

**Railroad Modeling  
University (RMU)**

Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>  
9:00am – 4:00pm  
West Concord Baptist  
Church, 225 Warren C.  
Coleman Blvd., Concord, NC  
28027

[See Registration here](#)

**Fort Mill Train Show**

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am – 3:00pm  
Clarion Hotel, 3695 Foothills  
Way, Fort Mill, SC 29708

[See map here](#)

**NCTM Train Show**

Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00am –  
5:00pm

Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>  
10:00am – 4:00pm

May 20-21<sup>st</sup>  
NC Transportation Museum,  
Spencer NC

[See map here](#)

**Editor's Notes**

By Ed Gumphrey

During the March Division meeting, Andrew Stitt outlined the general path of our upcoming activities:

- April brings the return of RMU
- May meeting will coincide with the Spencer Train Show and will be held there.
- June will be a field trip meeting for some 7½” gauge fun at Cassatt, SC.
- July is tentatively scheduled for Doug Algire’s church in SC.
- August is still undetermined.
- September will be our annual picnic.
- Fall planning is still in progress.

As if those plans weren’t enough reason to be optimistic, the latest data show our membership is growing. Our Division gained six new members in the month of March. Unless they’ve been perusing our website, this may well be the first newsletter they receive. I hope they enjoy it, and I look forward to a chance to meet them at a future Division meeting or event.,

As Andrew mentioned, I also enjoyed facilitating some information exchange between one of our Division members and another model railroader from the Susquehanna Division of MER. That’s one of the biggest reasons I joined NMRA – to meet model railroaders from all over.

**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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## RMU IS ALMOST HERE !

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. Our 2023 session is on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at West Concord Baptist Church, 225 Warren C. Coleman Blvd., Concord, NC 28027

If you're not already registered for RMU and signed up for your favorite clinics, remember that each class is limited in size, so don't wait too long to get signed up. Check out our website at this link to see the clinic schedule

[CSD RMU 2023 Classes \(carolinasouthern.org\)](https://carolinasouthern.org/rmu2023classes)

To register for RMU, use this link.

[CSD RMU 2023 Register \(carolinasouthern.org\)](https://carolinasouthern.org/rmu2023register)

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## DIVISION AND REGIONAL NEWS

By Ed Gumphrey

### March Meeting

As Andrew Stitt mentioned in Superintendent's Corner, the Division's March Meeting was held on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Mooresville Public Library. This was the second Division meeting held at this venue. There was also an active Zoom link during the meeting. Various members provided updates on the projects they lead. Highlights include:

Doug Algire, RMU Chair provided the latest status of RMU plans:

- 23 Clinics have been scheduled, with only one slot left open
- Projectors and/or flatscreen TVs are available in classrooms
- Clinic presenters using a laptop must have HDMI output capability

- Volunteers are still needed for registration and white elephant tables as well as for setup and takedown
- Contact Doug at [rmuchair@carolinasouthern.org](mailto:rmuchair@carolinasouthern.org) to volunteer

Neal Anderson, MMR gave an update on Achievement Program activities

- Dave and Michele Chance have both earned Certificates for Author (paperwork has been submitted)
- Model evaluations for AP will be available in Room 5 during RMU
- Golden Spike award can be conducted by submitting email pictures to Neal

Neal also announced the possibility that the June meeting would be held at Dreams Come True Railroad in Cassatt, SC. After the meeting, he confirmed that arrangements have been made, and the meeting will be at Cassatt on June 17<sup>th</sup>. More details will be provided next month.

After the business discussions, Andrew led a discussion about hobby knives. There are lots of choices – see the links on page 2. P.S. My favorite is still single edge razor blades.

## Train Town Update

Contributed by Ed Smith

Here's the March update on Wade's Legacy Room at the Newton Train Museum:

**Train Town Box Score**  
February 2023

Open Houses	4	
Attendance	116	
Hosts: Ed Smith (2), Keith Iritsky (2), Gil Brauch, MMR, Fred Brooks		

**To volunteer, go to:**

<http://carolinasouthern.org/ttvolunteerrequest.html>  
(#)=frequency (r)=first time host

We are still searching for a member or two to step up and join our monthly crew at Wade's. Any help would alleviate the scheduling problems on Saturdays. So, if you're interested in dedicating one Saturday a month (10 am to 4 pm) please contact us using the contact info on the website. We're not desperate, but could use a helping hand. As usual, the necessary information is on our [website](#).

# Division Table at Hickory Train Show

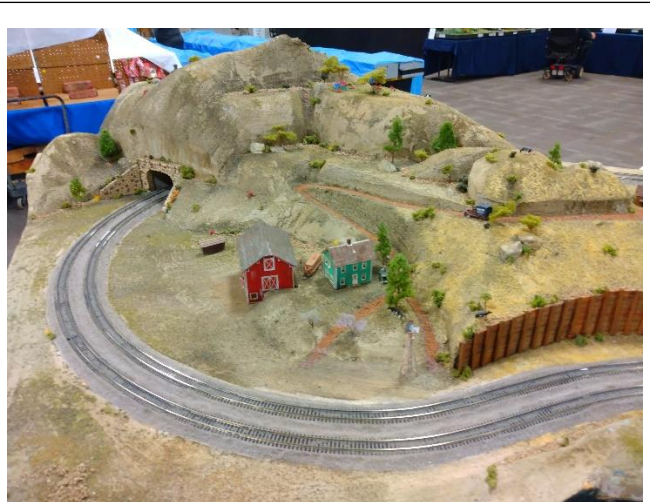
Our Division had two tables at the Hickory train show to promote our activities and benefits for members, and to recruit new members. The Division thanks Cindi Iritsky, who volunteered to be our hostess at the tables. Meanwhile, Keith Iritsky roamed the show, and provided a nice collection of snapshots of the show – a little bit of everything. Thanks.



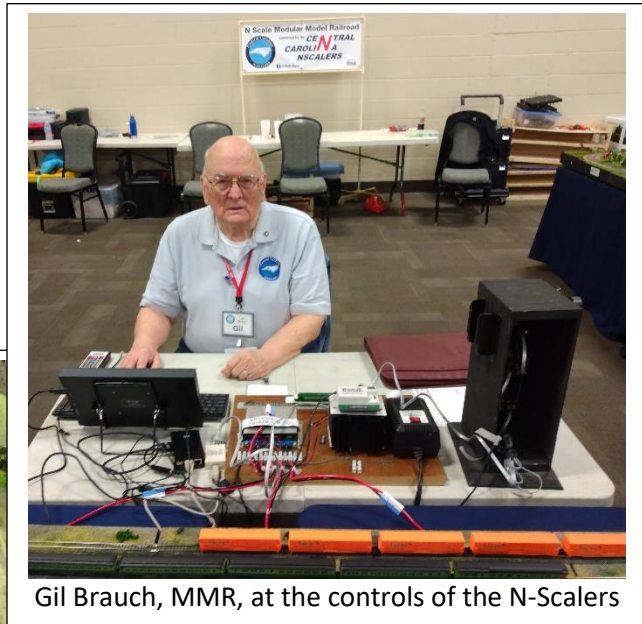
Cindi Iritsky setting up the Division tables.



Carolina Southern information display.



Want small? Choose Z scale.



Gil Brauch, MMR, at the controls of the N-Scalers



Central Carolina N Scalers T-Track modular display.



Our friends at Newton Depot had an O scale high rail display layout on display.

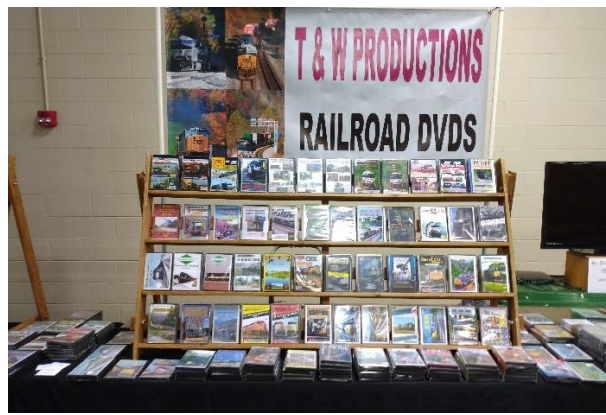


HO Scale displays featured everything from great scenery to intricate dual gauge trackwork.



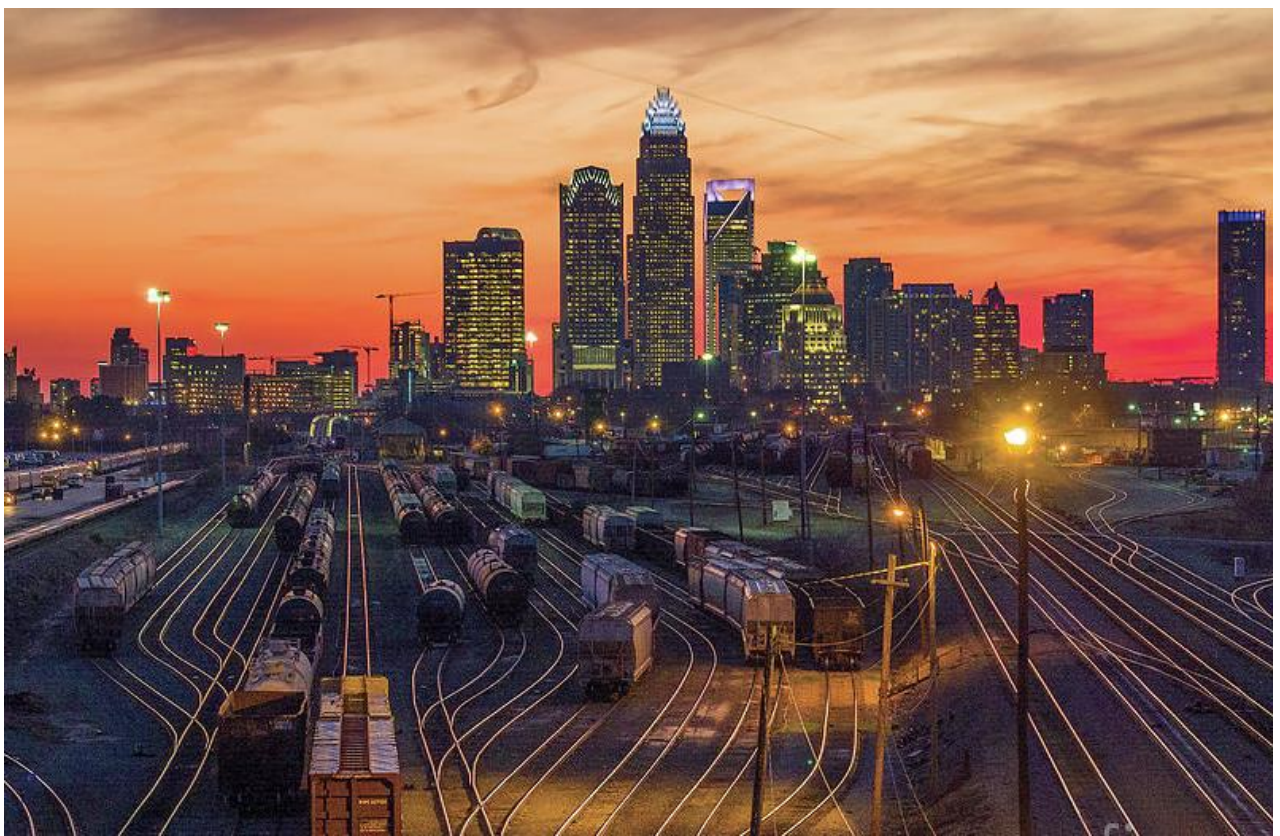
American Flyer equipment represented S Scale.





With the wide selection of vendors, you could find anything from railfan items, book and videos to equipment (even vintage tinplate), railroad paraphernalia and clothing. At our table, there wasn't much left at the end of the show.

## CLOSING PAGE BONUS



Norfolk Southern yard tracks in the foreground of a colorful sunset in Charlotte.

### Division Brass

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