

Division Coming Events

**OUR MAY MEETING
IS THE TRAIN
SHOW AT NC
TRANSPORTATION
MUSEUM IN
SPENCER**

Saturday, May 20th

9:00am – 5:00pm

Sunday, May 21st

10:00am – 4:00pm

**1 Samuel Spencer Dr.
Spencer, NC 28159**

Superintendent's Corner

By Andrew Stitt

You will read about the recently completed Railroad Model University elsewhere within this issue of the Brass Pounder. From my view, it was a great success. First and foremost, it was great to see the event happen again after the pandemic. I'm sure I'm not alone when I wondered early on when time would allow each of us would feel comfortable enough to have such a gathering. Equally impressive was seeing members of our division coming together to organize RMU, bring it up to previous years standards, and appreciating the results. I enjoyed presenting my clinic. Even though attendance was small for it, those attending participated in the presentation and seemed to enjoy (and learn from) it. The clinics I attended as part of the audience were very informational.

Moving into Spring and Summer, we are going to venture out a little from the "traditional" type of meeting. In May the Division will be at the model train show at the NC Transportation Museum in Spencer. CSD will have two tables. At one we will have our traditional display, and items relating to the NMRA and what we do. At the other table, the Time Saver layout will be making an appearance

(after a few years hiatus). Joe Skorch has assisted in bringing the engines back to life. I have been working on the rolling stock and track. I do need to ask all reading this to help with staffing the tables. I will have a sales table for selling some of my left-over HO equipment elsewhere at the show, so I will not be available to man the tables. Please consider donating a few hours or so to help represent CSD, and man the Time Saver. Your help will be greatly appreciated!!

June will find CSD heading to South Carolina for visiting a large live steam operation. Neal Anderson will have more information as we get closer to that day. Some of you have already visited the property. I'm told it is quite impressive! We will return to South Carolina in July for a meeting in the more traditional style. Details will be offered as we get closer to the date. So, Springtime is upon us. Let's find a little time to share our fun hobby together!

**Division monthly meeting
and activity for May will be
in conjunction with the
Train Show at the Historic
Spencer Shops at the NC
Transportation Museum
1 Samuel Spencer Dr.
Spencer, NC 28159**



Come enjoy the train show, help staff the Division tables, test your operating skills on one of our Timesaver layouts, and take in the museum displays and maybe even enjoy a train ride.

Saturday, May 20

Museum Open with Train Show 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Train rides at 10 & 11 a.m. and 1, 2 & 3 p.m.

Sunday, May 21

Museum Open 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Train Show open 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Train rides at 1, 2 & 3 p.m.

**UPCOMING
AREA TRAIN EVENTS**

NCTM Train Show

Saturday May 20th 9:00am –
5:00pm

Sunday May 21st
10:00am – 4:00pm

May 20-21st

NC Transportation Museum,
Spencer NC

[See map here](#)

**Plan ahead for the
Division's June
meeting and activity.
On Saturday June
17th We'll be at**

**Dreams Come True
Railroad
2164 Beaver Dam Road
Cassatt, SC 29032**

**Here's their Facebook
Page:**

[Dreams Come True
Railroad | Facebook](#)

Editor's Notes

By Ed Gumphrey

I'm going to repeat last month's summary of upcoming activities in the Division.

- 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.

Those plans are a good reason to be optimistic, and I hope more members of the Division will participate in our activities. Along with all the elected officers and Board of Director members, I realize that the sheer size of the Division's geographic spread can make it harder to participate. Depending on where a particular activity's venue is located, if traffic doesn't cooperate, some members can face as much as a two hour drive to participate. That's a significant investment of time and effort. June's visit to the Dreams Come True Railroad in Cassatt, SC will be a similar challenge for the entire Division. Based on my previous experiences with 7½" gauge railroads, the event will be well worth the effort. Check out their [Facebook page](#) for a preview of what you can expect to see. I hope to see you there.

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

Train Town Update

Contributed by Ed Smith

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

Train Town Box Score

April 2023

Open Houses 5

Attendance 92

Hosts: Ed Smith (2), Gil Brauch (2), Keith Iritsky, Larry Paffrath, and Bob Halsey

To volunteer, go to:

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

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

We had a busy April, with the Hickory Train Show and RMU, and this put some limitations on the Legacy Room's Open Houses. This is the reason we are looking for more help on Saturdays, so we can manage all the scheduled days. So, as usual, we are appealing for volunteers to step up.

April Activity

To state the obvious, the headline story for the Division in April was the re-emergence of Railroad Modeling University (RMU). All the feedback I have received has been positive. My thanks to Ed Smith and Joe Skorch for their stories about RMU. In his story, Joe mentions some key contributors to the event's success. I'll add to his list. As the Division's webmaster, Joe invested a good deal of time and effort to continually update our website. As the event planning evolved and the full clinic schedule was developed, Joe kept things up-to-date as well as facilitating the on-line registration. Joe also contributed more pictures than those in his article. I've included them here in the news section along with a couple of photos that Alan Hardee posted on Facebook. That completes the dedication of most of this newsletter to the success of RMU. Enjoy.



In case his article doesn't highlight Ed Smith's joy over participating in RMU, his pleasure as he gets set up for his clinic is plain to see.



Ed Smith displayed over 70 pieces of rolling stock as samples and focus for discussion during his clinic on military and industrial car loads.



Tim Rust watches as fellow member Henry Reeves sets out some sale items from his hobby business <https://showmyhobby.com/>



Neal Anderson, MMR, talks to students about his inexpensive but effective method of using LEDs for layout lighting .



John Short leads the discussion in his clinic about using a [Cricut](#) machine to make parts for scratchbuilding.



RMU attendees at Ryan Kunkle's clinic introduction to craftsman kits.



Alan Hardee posted a couple of pictures on the Division's Facebook page showing one of the trees he made at RMU during Patty Short's popular hands-on clinic about making trees.

My sincere thanks to Ed Smith, Joe Skorch, and Alan Hardee for the articles, photos and comments from them. I couldn't have reported on our successful RMU without them.

RMU – IT’S GOOD TO HAVE IT BACK

By Ed Smith

Well, as RMU for this year is in the rear-view mirror, it was definitely good to have it back after the Covid hiatus. This day of clinics is what the NMRA is all about. Clinicians teaching and demonstrating the many facets of our hobby help enhance the hobby and hopefully open doors to new members. I believe this event can be said to be our Carolina Southern Division signature event. Now, this year we may not have reached the attendance level we hoped for, but returning from the Covid years, I think it was a success. Now, we must continue to build on this in the years ahead.

We had over 30 clinicians, demonstrations, and techniques covering everything from scenery to electronics. I was privileged to take part and give two clinics. My morning clinic was on model train loads, both military and industrial, circa 1945-1955. This clinic showed ways to prepare rolling stock, flatcars, gondolas, and boxcars, from basics to details, if desired. Military loads were displayed (Pics 1 & 2). Also, the same was done for open industrial loads (Pic 3). There were over 70 pieces of rolling stock displayed and discussed.



Pic 1: Some of the military equipment loads used in my clinic.



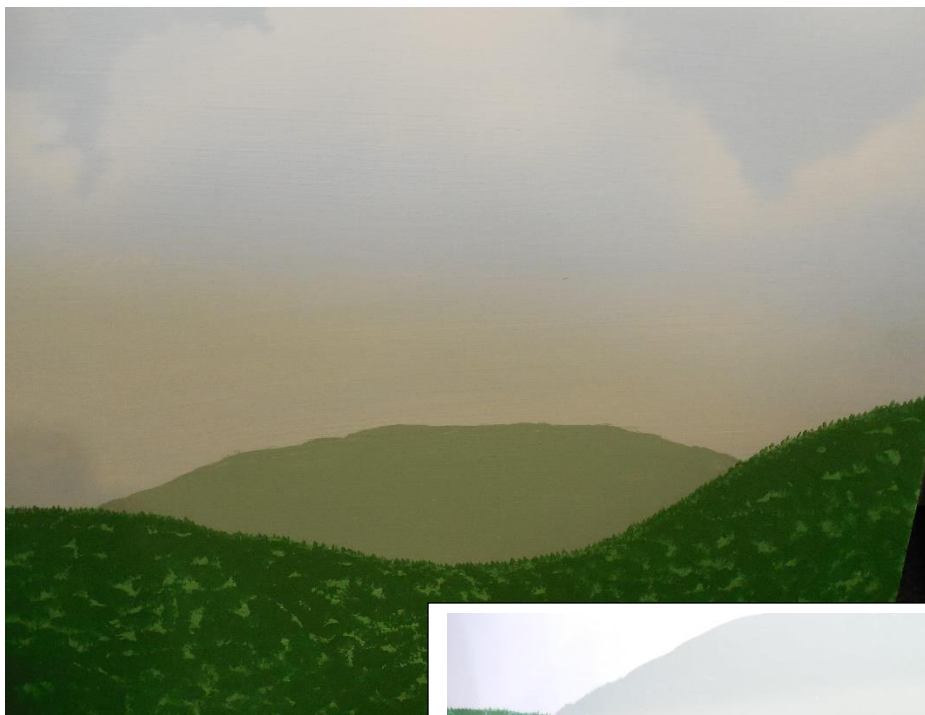
Pic 2: A closer look at some military equipment loads.



Pic 3: The clinic also displayed sample industrial loads.

In the afternoon, I closed the day with a clinic on scenery I called "Scenery from the Backdrop to the Fascia". I started by describing how I paint the backdrop (Pic 4). Next, I showed how I move from a 2-dimensional, flat, backdrop to a 3-dimensional foreground (Pics 5 & 8). Finally, I described how I do water effects (pic 7). I used a four-part diorama to demonstrate these steps.

I was only one of many interesting clinicians. So, if you attended, I hope you look forward to returning, and if you missed it, plan on attending next year. It's a great day filled with all facets of model railroading. Thanks to all the clinicians and attendees.



Pic 4: Backdrop Step 1 consists of painting distant hills and clouds.



Pic 5: The next step adds puffball trees and 3-D trees to transition into the foreground



Pic 6: The next section of the diorama adds a structure, some track, and details, completing the transition from background.



Pic 7: The fourth section of the diorama adds more scenery and a creek to show how water effects are created.

A Different view of RMU 2023

By Joe Skorch

Now that RMU 2023 is over and now that I have had a chance to think about what took place, I have to say that I thought that the event really went well, especially in the time frame that it was put together in.

After a lot of coaxing, I decided that I would present a clinic myself even though I had never done one before. I chose to do one on JMRI Decoder Pro and Operations Pro, programs which I use a lot. I decided to call it an introduction to JMRI as the program has so many sub-programs that it would be impossible to do a complete in-depth analysis of the program in just one hour.

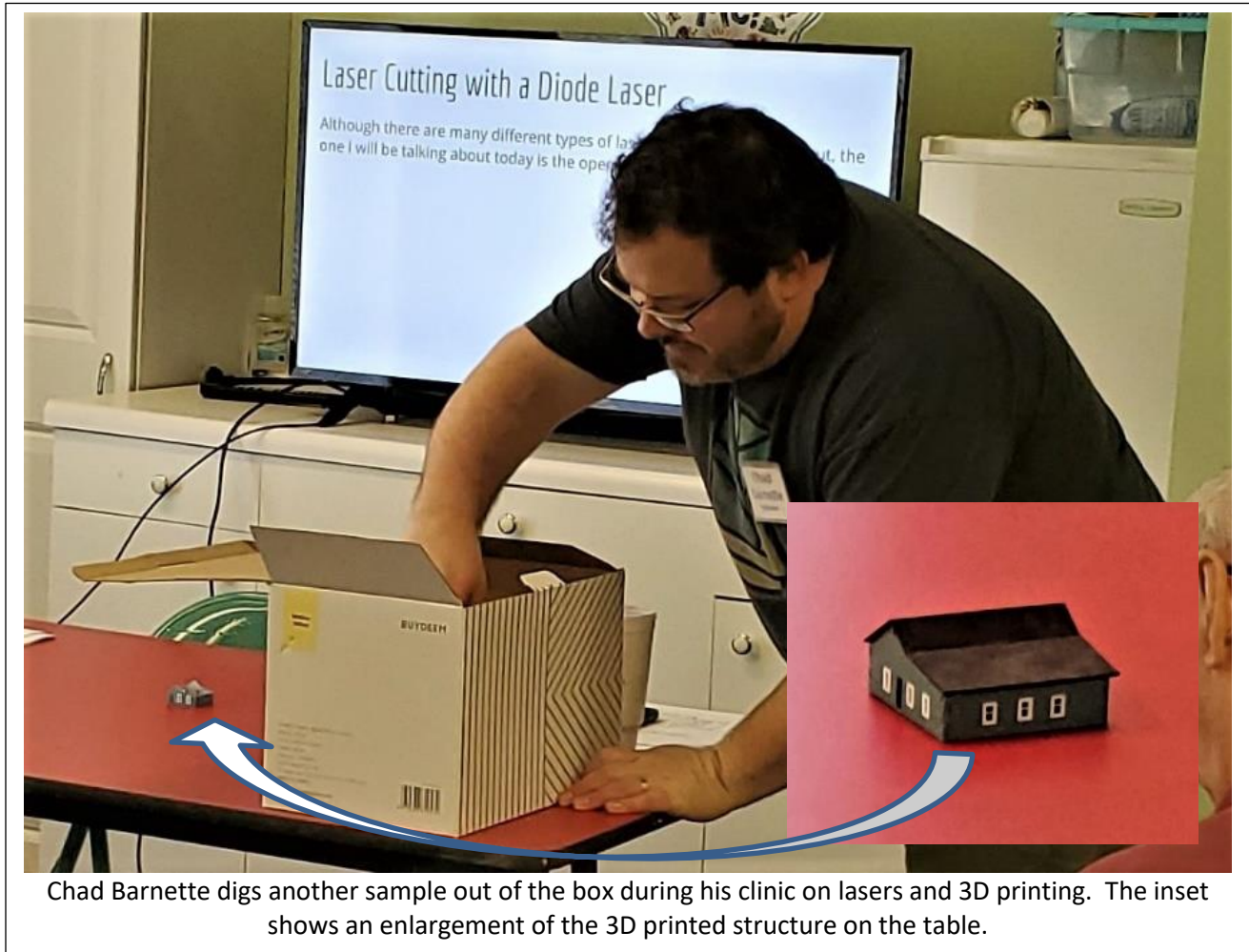
I did not expect to get the turnout that I did with many attendees being accomplished model railroaders, which really made it easier for me as I could skim over some parts and concentrate more heavily on the fun part of JMRI, running operations! I can see that this subject could be brought up in future classes as I know that as fast as I had to go through it, I am sure that some people would have a hard time retaining what was said.

Because I was using a time slot for my presentation, I was limited to choosing three remaining clinics which was a real dilemma since there were so many good clinics to choose from. The first one that I chose was Ryan Kunkle's class on making plastic models look fantastic, and fantastic it was. I was able to learn how to make details really pop and look like they were removed from a real location, shrunk to scale and then placed on your layout. I would recommend this to anyone who builds plastic models.



Ryan Kunkle presented an excellent clinic on improving plastic models.

My next choice for the 10:30 slot was a late entry which really got my attention. Chad Barnett presented a clinic on 3D printing and lasers. The laser part of the clinic was not of interest to me as I do not think that I will ever get into that aspect of the hobby. However, the 3D printing was of extreme interest since I have a 3d printer sitting in my basement bathroom and storage room waiting to be used! If I only knew how to use it.



Chad Barnette digs another sample out of the box during his clinic on lasers and 3D printing. The inset shows an enlargement of the 3D printed structure on the table.

After lunch It was time for my clinic and boy, was I surprised at the turnout. I already went into the details so there is no need to repeat; you'll just need to attend next year. Since I was conducting the clinic, I didn't have the opportunity to take any pictures, maybe someone else did but I will tell you that the room was full!

My final class of the day was supposed to be Roy Becker's speed matching DCC locomotives, however I chose to roam the hallways popping into other classes to take as many pictures as I could.



Andrew Stitt -Model Railroading 101



Patty Short instructing an attentive class on tree making

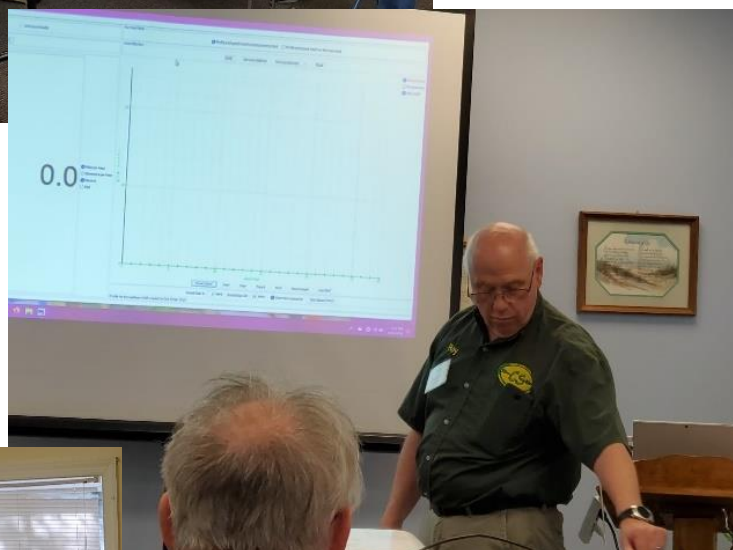


Tree Builders at work





Dave Thrans LCC Turnout tutorial



Roy Becker showing us how to speed match with DCC



Storekeeper Tim Rust

As successful as this was there were three key players in the production of this year's Railroad Modeling University:

- Larry Lackey, who helped us secure the location to hold the event
- Doug Algire, who arranged all the clinician scheduling
- Roy Becker who took care of the registration duties.



Larry Lackey



Roy Becker



Doug Algire

I apologize to anybody that I failed to mention in this write up but rest assured that everyone involved did an excellent job either presenting clinics or helping out assisting others during this 2023 RMU.

Joe Skorch, CSD Webmaster

CLOSING PAGE BONUS



As train fans, we don't like graffiti, but this 10th anniversary picture of a CSX boxcar tagged for Mother's Day first appeared in 2013.

Division Brass

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