

THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 23 Number 6

June 2023

Division Coming Events

**OUR JUNE Meeting
and Activity is at
Dreams Come True
Railroad
2164 Beaver Dam
Road
Cassatt, SC 29032
Saturday, June 17th
11:00 am**

Superintendent's Corner

By Andrew Stitt

The Carolina Southern Division lost a very important person in May when founding member Gerry Adelman passed away. He helped organize the very first meeting in the mid 1990's that became CSD. While I never knew the man, Dave Chance relayed some insight about Gerry and those events. It seems that an attempt or two had been made previously to organize local model railroaders. Gerry persevered and got 35 modelers to attend the initial meeting! Not surprisingly, he was elected president! Gerry also helped to establish the Concord Area Model RR Club.

I recently lost a good friend when Phil DeChiene passed away after a lingering illness. He was an excellent modeler who modeled in both On30 and HO. He was a member of the Carolina Model Railroaders in Greensboro, as well as a volunteer on the revitalization of the 2 foot gauge Wasscasset,

Waterville & Farmington in (his) native Maine. I enjoyed his company and the times we spent together operating on a friend's layout. He also shared a number of modeling techniques with me for making a layout look more complete as well as adding fine details to structures and figures.

The passing of these men reminds me that our time enjoying and sharing our favorite hobby are important, but fleeting. The acquaintances and friendships that develop may well be as important as the model we work on to complete (perhaps more). Our association with each other through division activities allows us the opportunity to grow not only our modeling skills, but also to expand our horizons with other similarly inclined. While I think model railroading is a solitary hobby for the most part, it does enable us to do these joint activities. Years from now, what will people remember you for?

**Division monthly meeting and activity for June will be at
Dreams Come True Railroad.**



Dreams Come True Railroad
2164 Beaver Dam Rd.
Cassatt, SC 29032-9371

I will be hosting the meeting of the Carolina Southern Division 12 at the railroad. Scott Davenport and the Dreams Club will be helping. Come see what we have been doing as a Group of railroaders.

The railroad will be open for you to ride on. You can come early and ride the trains. We have 2 miles of track that is currently being expanded. It has two indoor bathrooms that are in the club house. We can even teach you to drive the trains. There is live steam powered engine on the railroad, gas powered diesel engines, and electric powered diesels engines.

The meeting will be at 11:00 am and lunch will be after. We will be cooking up hamburgers and Hot dogs in the club house. Chips and drinks will be there.

Don't forget to do some car pooling to get there.

Neal Anderson, MMR

UPCOMING
AREA TRAIN EVENTS

There are no train shows or other train events scheduled in the nearby area in the next three months.

Editor's Notes

By Ed Gumphrey

I don't have much to say this month. Our June meeting and activity will be at Dreams Come True Railroad in Cassatt, SC on Saturday the 17th starting at 11:00. I know it's a bit of a trek but I hope you'll choose to make the drive (or better yet, ride with another member). It'll be a lot of fun.

Please take Andrew Stitt's thoughts about sharing the hobby with friends to heart. As Andrew said, the time is fleeting. As editor, I can't help but reflect on the fact that a large portion of this month's newsletter consists of tributes to members and friends we have lost. I guess that kind of speaks for itself.

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

Train Town Box Score

May 2023

Open Houses 4
Attendance 163
Hosts: Ed Smith (3), Keith Iritsky, Tim Rust

To volunteer, go to:

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

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

Even with one less open house than April, May attendance was up. My thanks to Tim Rust for volunteering to be the fourth "regular" host, which helps take the pressure off of our schedules. We'd still like to see volunteers to help. See the link in the score box above or on the CSD website.

May Activity

The Division's meeting and activity for May was held in conjunction with the Annual Train Show at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer. The show was active both Saturday and Sunday, May 20th and 21st. During the meeting, AP Chairman Neal Anderson, MMR, presented Achievement Awards for Model Railroad Author to both Dave and Michele Chance. Congratulations.

The Division was represented at the show with a couple of tables with an information banner and two operating "Timesaver" layouts. There were other layouts on display as the pictures show.

Thanks to Andrew Stitt for the photos of the event on the next two pages. Also a big THANK YOU to Joe Skorch who reconditioned and tuned up the locomotives so that both layouts operated smoothly.



Dave Chance received his AP Certificate for Author. Congratulations.



Michele Chance received her AP Certificate for Author. Congratulations.



Setting up a Z scale modular layout at the show. Notice the Opti-Visor that John Duino is wearing – a necessity with that small scale.



Don Zufall has a display of items for sale at the show. With two tables in action, he probably made a lot of buyers happy.



Our Division tables with information banner and two TIMESAVER layouts.



Alan Mitchell operates one of the TIMESAVER layouts while staffing our tables.



Concord Area Model Railroad Club (above) and Metrolina Club (right) both had layouts on display.



Tributes

As Andrew mentioned in his Superintendent's comments, our Division lost one of its founding members, Gerry Adelman, who passed away on May 12th at Beth Shalom Village in Virginia Beach, VA. General information is available in his [obituary](#). Fellow CSD member Dave Chance provided a more personal tribute to Gerry, which follows this news section. Along with Dave and Michele Chance, Doug Algire was also a close friend. In an email from Doug I learned that in addition to helping establish the Carolina Southern Division, Gerry also was a founding member of the Concord Area Model Railroad Club. Doug added, *"He was gracious and kind when taking new members under his wing.*

"My favorite memory is my first club meeting at Gerry's house. He enjoyed showing me his layout with all that track. All I can say is Gerry built his layout to withstand an atomic bomb.

"Gerry was instrumental in creating a place for model railroaders in the Charlotte area. We miss having him in our midst. Rest in peace, Gerry."

Our Division also lost fellow member Jack Haynes who passed away May 27th. I had the pleasure of operating on Joe Skorch's railroad, and he was a regular participant in those sessions. Jack exhibited a quiet, gentlemanly manner, and he was a meticulous operator. Joe Skorch said he learned a great deal from Jack about planning switching moves ahead and other secrets to smooth operation. A Delaware and Lackawanna fan, he had an HO scale layout in a spare bedroom. Everyone I talked to about Jack agreed he was detail-oriented and quietly expert as an operator. But Jack didn't talk about himself much, so his background in physics and advance studies at Johns Hopkins was a bit of a surprise. More new insights include his enjoyment of other hobbies as mentioned in his [obituary](#).

Those who have been in the Division a long time knew Jack was very active in the Division. If you take some time to browse through back issues of The Brass Pounder, you'll see that Jack was one of my predecessors as Editor. As the saying goes, "And that ain't all." Through the years, Jack filled positions as Clerk, Editor of the Brass Pounder, Director on the Board, and by 2015 he was Superintendent. He also shared his expertise in digital electronics as an instructor at RMU. Jack will be missed in the Division.



On the left, it's 2013 and Jack Haynes is teaching electronics at RMU. Fast forward to 2020, on the right Jack tends to operations on Joe Skorch's layout.

A Tribute to Gerald (Gerry) Adelman September 11, 1929, to May 12, 2023

By Dave Chance

Gerry was born in Yazoo City, Mississippi on Sept. 11, 1929. He and his brother grew up in the apartment above the grocery store owned and operated by his father and mother. Gerry went to the University of Chicago, where he met and courted his future wife, Evelyn.

The Illinois Central RRs mainline from Chicago to New Orleans came through Yazoo City which spurred Gerry's interest in trains, especially passenger. He rode various trains all over the U.S. His Business Management degree led him into managing several toy stores across the South. He built many layouts over the years, never lasting long as he moved to different stores due to promotions. Gerry moved to Concord, NC from Atlanta, GA around 1990. He immediately went about finding a hobby store. He found Ed Brasefield's "Ready To Run" hobby shop in Concord. He asked Ed about local train clubs and was told about Jack Monette's effort to start a club. Gerry contacted Jack and together they formed the "Concord Area Model RR Club".

After going to an NMRA National Convention, Gerry became extremely interested in forming a local division of the NMRA. He was told that James Teese had tried unsuccessfully to start a division several times but had failed to get enough names on the petition. Gerry called the President of the MER to find out how to start a division and the requirements. He was told that if he could get 10 names on the petition, he would have his division.

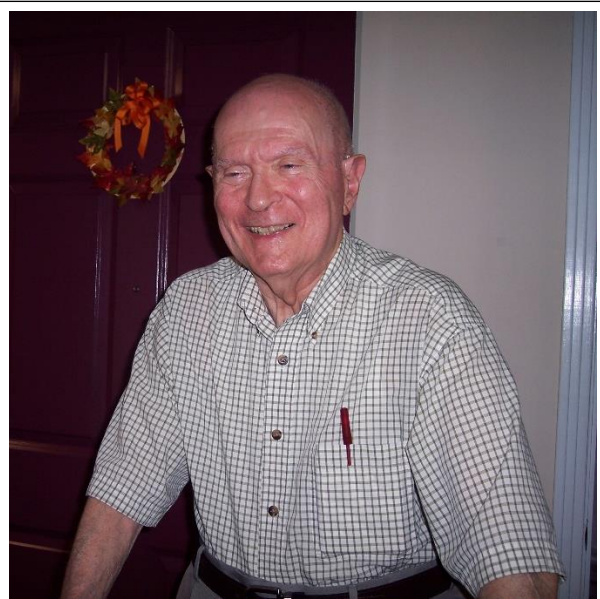
Gerry and I began to talk "Division" to every model railroader we knew. The interest was growing. The MER decided that Gerry needed a committee to help so they assigned Paul Rivers and Phillip Bostian to work with Gerry. This slowed Gerry's progress some but by mid-year we were ready to have our formation meeting. We expected 15 to 20 people to show up at the meeting and were surprised by the 35 plus attendees. We collected 20 membership applications and \$100 in dues. Gerry was ecstatic! Carolina Southern, division 12, of MER, was formed 1996. Gerry went on to assist Div.13's formation.

I'm sure there's lots more to tell about Gerry and his modelling abilities. Gerry liked to take "toy" engines and make them perform. He liked to build, and super detail freight and especially passenger cars. He liked to encourage others to do their best, take on new positions, and make room for all the other modelers. Gerry did clinics, helped the Carolina Junction MER regional convention in 1998, and served as superintendent for several terms. One of Michele's favorite events was the day Alan Hardee let her borrow 6 passenger cars, because she needed horn hooks to pull with her new switcher engine, Alan sent her to the main line around a turn, waiting to see what Gerry would say when he saw the little switcher pulling the passengers, Gerry said, "that is not right", and then began to laugh. He liked us to have fun. He was building his basement dream layout when his wife's health deteriorated,

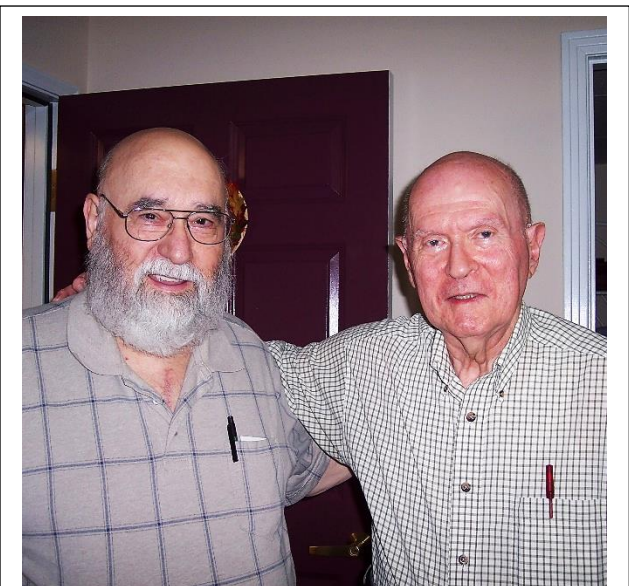
and she passed away. Gerry's son, David, talked Gerry into moving to Portsmouth, VA, so Gerry would not be alone. His layout was dismantled before he left the area. Two years later, Gerry moved into a rest home where he could get care for Parkinson's Disease. He was talking with the facility about forming a train club and dedicating a room to trains. Gerry thought modeling trains was the best hobby ever. We visited and shared phone calls, and Gerry passed away at age 94, still encouraging us to model.



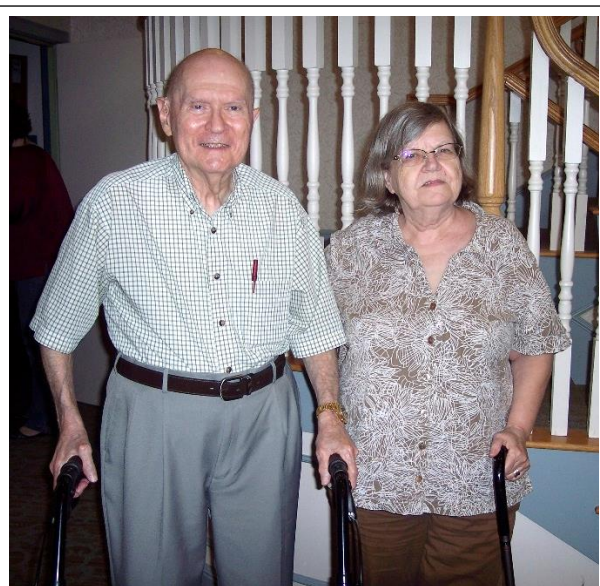
Doug Algire (L) with Gerry (R) looking at Gerry's last layout, April 2007



Gerry Adelman at his retirement home in 2016. He was always smiling.



Dave Chance (L) and Gerry (R) – friends for over 15 years at his retirement home in 2016.



Gerry with Michele Chance at his retirement home in 2016.

CLOSING PAGE BONUS



On June 9, 1832, Pennsylvania governor Wolf signed legislation to incorporate the Strasburg Railroad. After all the years of rising and falling fortune, it's now a popular spot for rail fans of all ages.

Division Brass

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