

THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 23 Number 9

September 2023

Division Coming Events

**OUR SEPTEMBER
Meeting and Activity is
our ANNUAL PICNIC at
Jack Parker's house:**

**12012 Abernathy Rd
Charlotte, NC
28216-9738**

**Saturday, September 9th
starting at NOON**

**JOIN US FOR FOOD,
FUN AND NEW
FRIENDS.**

**Stick around to run
trains on the P&W.**

Superintendent's Corner

By Andrew Stitt

One of the benefits of belonging to the Carolina Southern Division is the opportunity to participate in our Annual Picnic each September. This provides us with an opportunity to socialize with each other and share stories about things related to our favorite hobby. Often at meetings, club activities, or train shows we get to meet and greet each other while participating (working, selling, demonstrating, etc.) at these gatherings, but we don't really get time to visit. The picnic is purely for fun – having conversations with folks we already know or getting the opportunity to meet and learn about others we don't know as well. BTW, the food is pretty good too! The division will be providing the meat, but (if you are attending) you are asked to provide a side item or a dessert. BYOB.

Another benefit of the picnic this year is that we are privileged to be able to return to Jack Parker's. We've missed Jack the last several years due to the pandemic, so it will be good to return and see him and the P&W again. I hear that things have not stayed still on the P&W during this time. Subtle improvements to the operating system have been made to allow the operators to enjoy the layout more than before. Please take time to look at the layout if you haven't seen it in a while.

As mentioned previously, the picnic has been moved to the second Saturday in September, the 9th, to accommodate members planning on

attending the SER convention in Cartersville, Ga the following week. Similarly, our CSD meeting for October will be moved to the 14th to permit any member to attend the MER convention in Altoona, Pa. A meeting place for the October division meeting hasn't been determined yet, but it will be announced soon.

Restoring a long tradition, our ANNUAL PICNIC is returning to Jack Parker's beautiful lakefront property.

Join us Saturday, September 9th starting at noon. Enjoy the food and fellowship. Stick around to see and operate trains on Jack's Piedmont & Western. Please plan on bringing a side dish or dessert. The last day to register has been extended to Tuesday the 5th. Register now so we can get enough food.

[EmailMe Form - 2023 Annual Picnic Registration](#)

This fabulous model railroad was featured as the cover story on the May, 2018 edition of Model Railroader magazine.

**The address is
12012 Abernathy Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28216-9738**

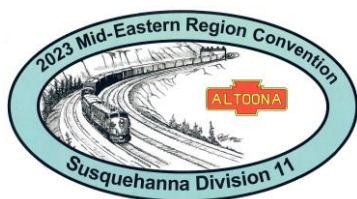


Superintendent Andrew Stitt mentioned two conventions that prompted us to change our September and October meetings to the second Saturday of the month. Here's some information on those events.



[Cartersville Express – 2023 SER Convention](#)

Thursday Sept 14 thru Sunday Sept 17
Cartersville, GA



**[Round the Curve to Altoona 2023](#)
MER Convention**

October 19 – 22 Altoona, PA

If you can't make it down to Georgia for the SER Convention,

next weekend there's an opportunity to see some real trains on Friday the 15th. We have been invited by Jack Dziadul to attend an upcoming tour of the Aberdeen, Carolina and Western Railway located at 967 NC Highway 211 East, Candor NC 27229 on Friday, September 15th, 2023

from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. We will tour their facility and get a close look at rolling stock. If you are a NMRA member and would like to attend, pre-register to



Jackdziadul@gmail.com

**UPCOMING
AREA TRAIN EVENTS**

Fort Mill Train Show;
Saturday, Sept 16th
9:00am – 3:00pm
Clarion Hotel, 3695
Foothills Way
Fort Mill, SC 29708

**Autumn Rails All Scale
Train Show**
September 29-30
Fri 12:00pm – 6:00pm
Sat 10:00am – 4:00pm
NC Agricultural Center
1301 Boylston Highway
Fletcher, NC 29732

Editor's Notes

By Ed Gumphrey

In addition to the activities discussed elsewhere in this newsletter, don't miss the train shows on the horizon. They're listed in the banner to the left.

A couple of comments about the picnic at Jack Parker's. First off, I am personally delighted that we're able to go back to the long-held tradition of having the event at Jack's house. Our thanks to Jack in advance for hosting this popular event. A bit of nostalgia. After our previous superintendent Alan Hardee expanded the Division into other NC counties (including Cleveland), our picnic was the first CSD event that I attended. It was when I first met so many of our active members. I enjoyed it tremendously. Most of you have noticed that I haven't been able to attend a Division event in a long time. My last event was the grand opening of Wade's after we moved it to Newton, almost two years ago., As you might imagine, I'm really looking forward to the picnic.

If you've been sitting on the fence trying to decide, you still have time to register for the picnic. The deadline to register has been extended to Tuesday, the 5th. Register at:

<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/aB8GzR1s75q9ri3POU>

SEE YOU AT THE PICNIC

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

Train Town Box Score

August 2023

Open Houses 4

Attendance 69

Hosts: Ed Smith, Gil Brauch, Keith Iritsky, and Bob Halsey

To volunteer, go to:

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

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

Attendance was down during August, probably due to competition from other summer activities. Nevertheless, we continue to have far more visitors each month since our move to Newton. I want to thank all our volunteers. We could always use more volunteers, so if you're interested, we'd welcome you. See the link in the score box above or on the CSD website.

August Activity

August's Division meeting was held at Rick Beam's house in Shelby. Our thanks to member Rick for hosting us. It was a great venue. Turnout was good, and those who attended enjoyed the presentations.

Although I had planned to make it to this nearby event (I also live in Shelby), life intervened and I missed it. So, you can imagine my delight when I got an email from fellow member David Myers with his SUPERB write-up about the meeting. I've included it below without any editing. I commended David. I think his write-up represents a perfect example of what meeting minutes should look like. I confess I'm not nearly as good at trying to take notes. Also, my thanks to Joe Skorch for the pictures.

The August meeting of the Carolina Southern Division

By David Myers

The August meeting of the Carolina Southern Division was held at the home of Rick Beam both in-person and online.

Andrew Stitt called the meeting to order at 1035.

Andrew made the following announcements:

1. Tim Short was manning Train Town that Saturday.
2. The annual Division picnic will once again be held at Jack Parker's home on Saturday, September 9. The Division will provide hotdogs, burgers, and buns. BYO sides and drinks. RSVP no later than Sunday, September 3 to allow for purchasing the appropriate amount of supplies. *{editor's note, registration deadline has been extended to Tuesday, September 5th.}*
3. The October Division meeting will be held on the second Saturday to not conflict with the MER convention. Location TBD.
4. The November meeting will be on the third Saturday at a location TBD, possibly the Huntersville Library.
5. December will be a holiday break.
6. The "Annual Meeting" will be in January. Probably the Newton Depot.
7. The Carolina Piedmont Division (www.cpd13.org) has arranged a tour of the Aberdeen, Carolina & Western Railroad (acwr.com) shops on September 15. Spots may still be available.

Rick Beam conducted a very informative clinic on LED lighting. He emphasized:

1. The importance of polarity
2. Range of sizes and colors that are available
3. Using a 12 volt power bus, 1.1 kohm resistors work well with 3.5 volt LED's.
4. Connect LED's in parallel, not series.
5. Using shrink tubing over solder joints

Rick displayed a sample of his use of LED's.

Keith Iritsky conducted a interesting clinic on constructing a craftsman building kit. As an example, he used his in-progress construction of a Fine Scale Miniatures small factory building that he intends to use on his layout as an iron and steel works from his hometown. He discussed:

1. Materials contained in the kit
2. The instruction manual for construction
3. Techniques he has used in the process
4. Paints and adhesives and how he used them

Keith's attention to detail and craftsmanship were on display.

The meeting concluded at 11:50.



Host Rick Beam. Thanks, Rick.



Keith Iritsky ready for his presentation.



A good turnout to a great venue. How about that well-organized model railroad library in the background!



Keith Iritsky used his Fine Scale Miniatures "Cartwright's Machine Shop" kit to illustrate his clinic on materials and techniques for craftsman kits. Keith will use the kit on his railroad as an iron and steel works.

Finally, from my perspective, it's worth repeating. In case you missed the news last month.....

CONGRATULATIONS TO ED SMITH

The NMRA approved Neal Anderson's submission of the paperwork after Ed Smith's evaluations – Ed has been awarded MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #742.

Recently a new hobby shop carrying model railroad stuff opened in the area. Berkshire Station opened in Iron Station, NC. The opening prompted some discussion among several members about other locations within Carolina Southern Division. The consensus is that there are five shops. Here's information and links to all four. If you know of others, please let me know at editor@carolinasouthern.org

Probably the best known. Across the street from the NC Transportation Museum:

Little Choo Choo Shop Inc
500 Salisbury Ave, Spencer, NC 28159
(855) 545-2466
<https://www.littlechoochooshop.com/>

Newly opened. Don't drive by too fast on NC-27 or you'll miss it:

Berkshire Station
4866 NC-27, Iron Station, NC 28080
(704) 240-9339
<https://berkshirstation.com/>

Near Kannapolis. Not just trains, but a lot of other stuff too:

Chuck's Trains & Hobby Depot
131 S Central Ave, Landis, NC 28088
<https://www.chuckstrains.com/>
(704) 855-7245

For you "High Rail" modelers, located in Concord Mills Mall:

Lionel Retail Store
8111 Concord Mills Boulevard #675, Concord, NC 28027
(704) 886-2735
<https://concord.lionel.com/>

Carrying some new items, but specializing in used and estate sales:

Rusty Rails of Kannapolis
1100 S Main St, Kannapolis, NC 28081
(704) 267-5656
<https://www.facebook.com/RustyRailsOfKannapolis/>

CLOSING PAGE BONUS



Amtrak news for September 1st:
**\$1 billion in rail yard upgrades to prep for new trains
in Amtrak's 51 acre rail yard near Union Station in
Washington, DC.**

Division Brass

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