

# THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 24 Number 11

November 2024

## Division Coming Events

CSD Annual meeting will  
be held at the Newton  
Depot on Saturday,  
January 18, 2025.

10:30 – 12:00

## Superintendent's Corner

By Andrew Stitt

As you all know, November is Model Railroad month. As you have seen through the Brass Pounder, and on the Carolina Southern website, plans have been developed for our members to celebrate this event. We are doing (as far as I know) our first month long member layout open houses. Through the long work of Dave Thrums, Alan Hardee, and Joe Skorch this has been organized into a 4 Saturday event. I'm very pleased to see the number of members who have stepped forward to allow visitors into their homes to see their layouts. There's still time to register for the final three weekends. Register for one or for all three!

A side benefit of this, as I have been told by several members, is the efforts being put forth by them to finish some portion of the layout that "needed" to be done. Good! Self-imposed deadlines sometimes seem to be quietly extended! How about that backdrop you have been meaning to finish? How about repairing that engine that tends to act a little "squirrelly"? How about finishing some scenery you started to replace? While many of these things get ignored when one is by yourself in the train room, when visitors are coming, they suddenly rise to the top of the "to do" list.

My experience with having my layout open for model railroad knowledgeable visitors is that they spot something(s) that inspires them or makes them laugh. But it's all good fun and comradery amongst our fellow modelers is hard to beat. And isn't that one of the things we enjoy about sharing our hobby?

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## Editor's Notes

By Chad Barnette

Wow, I've now started off the Editor's comments with the word "wow" two months in a row. Anyhow, "wow" what a fun time I had at the Piedmont Junction. You may recall that this was my first ever NMRA convention of any kind. It did not disappoint. I truly felt more connected to the hobby than I ever have before. Most of all, it was a lot of fun!

Later in this issue, I share a few photos I collected while there. I hope you enjoy! This month's issue will be "succinct" let's say. We're a little light on content this month, but we'll offset that with the heaviness we feel when trying to stand up from the Thanksgiving Day table.



Chad



**DATE: October 17-20, 2024**

# Division and Regional News

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## Wade's Train Town

### Wade's Train Town – October Stats

Open houses: 4  
Attendance: 43  
Volunteers: Ed Smith [2], Gil Brauch, Tim Rust, and Bob Halsey



## AP Awards from the Plywood RR Desk

Contributed by Neal Anderson, MMR

At the Piedmont Junction, Neal presents Keith with his structures award for Barlow's BBQ, previously featured in the Brass Pounder. Great job Keith! If you haven't already seen

Keith's work, check out the prior issues.



# **CSD Annual Meeting**

Contributed by Andrew Stitt, Superintendent

This is to announce that the Carolina Southern Division's Annual meeting will be held at the Newton Depot on Saturday, January 18, 2025. It will start at 11 AM in their meeting room. On the agenda for the 2025 meeting are reviews of the Division's financial status, report of activities within the Division, updates from the various model railroad clubs within the Division, and the election to fill the director position being vacated by Ed Smith (who is term limited out).

Tim Rumph has agreed to run for election to the position, but if you wish to seek election to the position, or to nominate someone for the position, please let an officer or board member know so that we can prepare ballots ahead of time.

As has been our recent practice, the Division will provide lunch for those attending. The meeting will also be broadcast via Zoom for those not able to attend in person. That link will be sent out to all members the week prior to the meeting.

# **Help Wanted**

Contributed by Andrew Stitt, Superintendent

Railroad Model University has been a signature event for the Carolina Southern Division for some time now. It stimulates participation in learning about a number of subjects that are of interest to you. Earlier this year, our leader in this event resigned for personal reasons. We are now looking for someone (or several) within our division to step forward and take on a leadership role(s).

You will not be alone in this effort. Roy Becker remains as registrar for the event to help keep things organized. Our relationship with the West Concord Baptist Church is strong. In fact, they have proposed supporting the effort in 2025 by providing lunch for attendees. We have decided to move the event into March for this coming year to help capture members' free time before Spring begins, and family activities (youth sports, lawn care, etc.) start happening.

What the leader's responsibilities will include are reviewing the past events to see which clinics were the most popular or generated the most positive feedback. Using this information going forward, add new clinics to the clinic roster. Equally important is recruiting clinicians. We have a lot of experience within CSD that should be able to provide these. Finally, asking for feedback from the attendees is also important to help plan future events.

So, please consider helping CSD with this event. Contact me directly if you are interested or have more questions.

# CSD NMRA National Model Railroad Month Celebration

Contributed by Dave Thrams



The Celebration is on and what a celebration it will be! Twenty layouts are scheduled to be open as I write this update from last month's Brass Pounder article. Thank you to all the layout owners that are opening your layout and homes to us. To us visitors, I cannot stress enough, the importance of respecting these layouts and homes we will be visiting.

Most layouts are open from 10am – 3pm, but due to layout owner schedules, a couple layouts have different hours and are open from 10am – Noon and are annotated with \* next to their name.

To visit a layout, or many layouts, you need to register on the CSD website at [carolinasouthern.org](http://carolinasouthern.org). A couple days after registration ends, you'll receive the home addresses of the layouts and the owners will get a list of registered visitors. **Registration is still open for the remaining three weekends. Registration is open until the Sunday prior to the event.**

To help you plan your visits, see the layout list below and visit the CSD website at [CSD Member Layouts \(carolinasouthern.org\)](http://CSD Member Layouts (carolinasouthern.org)). This website shows several member layouts for us to view online anytime and not just for this event. So, most of the layouts below are on the CSD website, but not all of them yet. Also, not all the layouts on the website are open for this celebration event.

The registration page will list the layouts below and you can register for as many or as few layouts you want to visit. Planning ahead seems crucial if you want to see multiple layouts in 5 hours. Thank goodness for GPS mapping! Have a great time visiting these layouts and their owners. Enjoy their efforts and please thank them for allowing us to view their labor of love.

## **November 2 (REGISTRATION CLOSED) Hours: 10 am –3 pm (Southwest) Gaston County/West CLT area**

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>
Alan Hardee	Bessemer City
Dave Thrams	Stanley
Seth Gartner	Charlotte
Piedmont & Western Club	Charlotte
Cherryville MRR Club* (10am -Noon)	Cherryville

## **November 9: 10 am –3 pm Southeast CLT**

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>
Dave Myers	Waxhaw
Dick Bronson	Waxhaw

Tim Rumph	Lancaster
Gordon Miller	Matthews
James Thomas	Matthews
Chad Barnette	Fort Mill

**November 16: 10 am –3 pm (Northwest) Hickory/Statesville**

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>
Neal Anderson	Statesville
Ed Smith	Taylorsville
Wades Train Town	Newton
Keith Iritsky	Morganton
Gil Brauch	Hickory
John Short	Nebo

**November 23: 10 am –3 pm Northeast CLT**

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>
Joe Skorch	Kannapolis
Andrew Stitt	New London
Marcus Neubacher* (10am-noon)	China Grove

## **Carolina Southern Visits the Piedmont Junction**

Contributed by Chad Barnette, Editor

Well, I cannot say that I was a great photographer during the Piedmont Junction. My eyes took in all kinds of excitement that wasn't captured here. That's ok, because we have a new issue every month and I'm confident everyone will send me their pictures so we have an even better depiction of the events in the December issue. Meanwhile, take a look at a couple shots I got while I was there.



Our keynote speaker, Carl Hollowell, President of Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad, at the Saturday night banquet.





The gang's partially here! Here's just a few of the CSD folks getting ready for the BBQ spread that awaits them.





Flocking trees in a superb tree clinic I got to attend led by Jim Fisher.

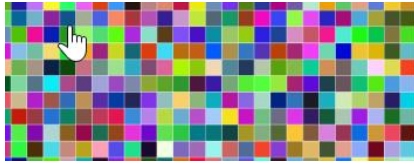








CSD's very own Ed Smith, MMR, awaits his award.



## Digital Distractions

A Look at our hobby online



Here's another favorite of mine. "it's My Railroad" hosted by Steve Brown.

[Click here](#) to check out Steve's collection of videos. He has, in a sense, "retired" from making weekly videos, but the fun thing about YouTube is being able to watch projects unfold, as if in real time. Steve approaches things with the "regular guy" method as he calls it. He strives to make his videos and techniques approachable by anybody.



### Division Brass

Superintendent  
Asst. Superintendent  
Clerk  
Paymaster  
Director 2025  
Director 2026  
Director 2024  
AP Chairman  
Webmaster  
Newsletter Editor  
Program Chair  
RMU Chair  
Membership Chair

Andrew Stitt  
Alan Hardee  
**NEW** David Myers  
David Thrams  
Ed Smith, MMR  
Joe Skorch  
**NEW** Keith Iritsky  
Neal Anderson, MMR  
Joe Skorch  
Chad Barnette  
Keith Iritsky  
Doug Algire  
Nancy Campbell

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