

Division Coming Events

March Meeting:

**Time: Saturday, March
16th 10:00am**

**Location: Davidson
Library - 119 S Main St,
Davidson, NC 28036**

Superintendent's Corner

By Andrew Stitt

It used to be for most of us that when your boss or someone higher up wanted to have a meeting, you would end up on a teleconference. I can recall those days when I worked for a national organization. Such a notice would require me to drop what I was doing, go to our company's closest location, go into a conference room, and talk (and listen) to a device in the middle of the table. Things to be discussed might (!) be waiting for you on the fax machine.

Then we moved into a more modern era with video conferencing. While it helped speed up the process, in the case of my employer, I still had to drop what I was doing, and go to a company site to use their hardware. The advent of the recent pandemic kind of kicked that aside to having such communications via one's own personal devices. While this is certainly more convenient than before, it still requires some effort on behalf of all parties involved.

As those of you who participated in the 2024 CSD annual meeting know, it was decided that the time has come for our Division to invest in such equipment. Much appreciation to Alan Hardee and David Myers for providing us with their knowledge and support in trying to make teleconferencing a reality. Nevertheless, it is appropriate for the Division to take over responsibility for ownership and proper use of the equipment necessary to provide this service to its members. As a result, the CSD BOD elected to purchase the necessary hardware to provide teleconferencing for future meetings (when appropriate – we don't plan to use it at train shows, outings, or the like). This equipment has arrived, and we hope to be using it starting at the March 2024 meeting.

So, our hope going forward is to learn how to make this videoconferencing a successful and positive experience for those members who cannot attend a meeting in person. Stay tuned!

Editor's Notes

By Chad Barnette



Wow, can you hardly believe it's March already? Pretty soon we'll be at the end of the first quarter of the year. I don't know about you, but this makes me reflect on what I have (or haven't in this case) done with my model railroading efforts.

Done a little bit? Check. Done what I wanted to do? No check. Here's what I've decided to do though – I would like to map out my entire year ahead to give myself a rough plan of what I'd like to accomplish. At least for me, this doesn't feel like I'm creating a list of chores. It makes it feel like I'm laying things out into easy-to-accomplish, smaller bite-sized pieces. Then when I see what all I can do in a year, it gets me pumped up for the year ahead.

You probably already noticed my use of the phrase "decided to do". So, no, I have not done this plan yet. I am determined though, at the risk of public humiliation, to have my list done for the April issue. At least I want to be able to share that I've done what I set out to do. How about you? Do you have a plan for what you'd like to do this year?

Area Train Shows

Carolina Train Show - April 13th at the Clarion Hotel, 3695 Foothills Way, Fort Mill, SC from 9am-3pm.

NC Railroad Expo – April 5-6th, Hickory, NC – The CSD will have a booth setup for this event.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

I target the 1st of each month for publication. Please submit articles for publication by the 25th 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 Chad Barnette

Train Town Update

Contributed by Ed Smith

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

Train Town Box Score

February 2024

Open Houses 4

Attendance 71

Hosts: Gil Brauch (3), Ed Smith, Keith Iritsky, Tim Rust, and Bob Halsey

To volunteer, go to:

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

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

AP Awards Update

Contributed by Neal Anderson, MMR

Neal Anderson, MMR is the AP chairman for the Carolina Southern Division. If you are not familiar with the AP awards, I would encourage you to check out the NMRA website for more details. It is a great way to get involved in the hobby and engage with our division. Following are the updates Neal has provided for current AP activity in the division. Thanks Neal!

AP Awards for the CSD12
From the Plywood RR Desk

- Doug Algire has turned in his Chief Dispatcher. MER sent to National level.
- Dave Chance has Received his Golden Spike.
- Roy Becker has turned in his Volunteer. MER sent to National level.

Official February Meeting Notes

Contributed by D. E. Meyers, Division Clerk

Carolina Southern Division, Mideast Region
National Model Railroad Association
Monthly Meeting
February 17, 2024

Mecklenburg County Library, Cornelius, NC

The meeting was called to order by the Superintendent at 10:05 AM.

The Superintendent reported that the Red Springs trip to ride the speeders is nearly full. A waiting list will be kept.

Ed Smith reported that Train Town at Newton is going well and was being manned while we met.

Neil Anderson reported on the Achievement Program and reviewed requirements, particularly for the "Golden Spike".

The superintendent announced that the March meeting is tentatively scheduled for the Recreation Center in Huntersville, however, arrangements must be confirmed. Roy Becker will conduct a clinic on soldering at that meeting.

A discussion on sales by the Division at train shows followed. Topics included:

1. Taxes. It was pointed out that as a not-for-profit organization, we are not required to collect NC sales tax. Federal regulations permit two sales per year without tax requirements.
2. Items to sell would be placed by members. Donations will be solicited in the "Brasspounder".

The Superintendent will inquire about a "meet and greet" room for the Division at the Hickory Train Show. Gil Brauch said he would help with the inquiries.

Ed Smith conducted a clinic on decaling and renumbering cars. He listed requirements for successfully decaling to be: good lighting; smooth work surface; sharp knife; Solvaset; a soft, clean pencil eraser; water; tweezers; Q-tips; Dullcote spray. He demonstrated use of these items on a boxcar kit. While discussing assembly of the kit, he recommended painting small parts while still on the sprue. He displayed and discussed use of his PanPastels for weathering.

Andrew Stitt discussed his experiences with layout planning. Points to be considered include:

- Size – space available and scale to be modeled, entire layout or modules
- Time – what is available and patience
- Finance – resources available
- Material availability and cost

Prototype or freelance
Control system – type and brand
Era
Get started with the existing plan, make changes if needed
Error avoidance – seek help, advice
Keep going
Persistence pays off

Gil Brauch added that experienced modelers need to be sensitive to helping those less experienced. Ask “What do you need?”, don’t give unsolicited advice. It was pointed out that Lil Choo Choo store in Spencer has a bulletin board used by those seeking help.

Joe Skorch, Webmaster, solicited photographs and descriptions of layouts to update the Division’s website.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

Submitted,

D. E. Myers, Division Clerk

Notes :

1. The correct dates for the Hickory Train Show are April 5-6, 2024.
2. For those who attempted to Zoom with us on Feb 17, apologies. We had difficulties staying connected the wi-fi link at the library. We will keep trying and hope for improvement at future meetings.

Riding a Bike

Contributed by Ed Smith, MMR

If you are building a layout, like I am, you are constantly introduced to new facets within the hobby. Carpentry, electricity, artistic creations, to name a few. Repetition allows us to become proficient in most areas. But like all model railroading, you finish one project and move on to the next. Well, when you re-visit a certain facet, if you’re like me, it takes a little time to re-acclimate my hands and brain to the task at hand. I’ve built over 100 turnouts using Fast Tracks products and I need more for three yards. It will take me a couple of turnout builds to regain my technique. The good news is that all these endeavors are like riding a bike, and things return quickly. This article is about one of these facets: scratch building. I’ve built my fair share of structures and I’m planning a large station to be completed for our Regional Convention. I haven’t scratch-built anything in a while, so I decided to build a smaller project to get my scratch-building juices flowing.

The project I picked was the Interlocking Tower JA, on the Erie mainline, which controlled the interchanges with the Jefferson Division, a substantial coal division. Since I model the late 1940s, and the tower is long gone, there were no pictures readily available. But I had a picture I took of the tower on a great layout built by Harold Werthwein

(pic 1). Using modeler's license, I made plans and dimensions close to what I thought the picture represented. Then, using basswood for the sides and balsa wood for the roof, I cut out the pieces (pic 2). Next, using Tichy windows and a door, I laid out the areas to be cut out (pic 3). Using Dulcote, I primed the windows and door. Then using acrylic Foliage Green and True Red, I painted the parts (pic 4). Tichy window glass and shades were added. The sides were painted with acrylic Titanium White and the windows and door were glued in place. The four sides were glued together (pic 5). Note the right-angle clamps and magnet board that were used for proper right angles. Dimensional wood, painted Green, was added to the corners, and Dimensional Clapboard was cut to highlight under the windows around the tower. This wood was painted White. The four roof sections were glued together and charcoal shingles were added. The stairs and platform were roughed in and an overall footprint was drawn for a foundation (pic 6).



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

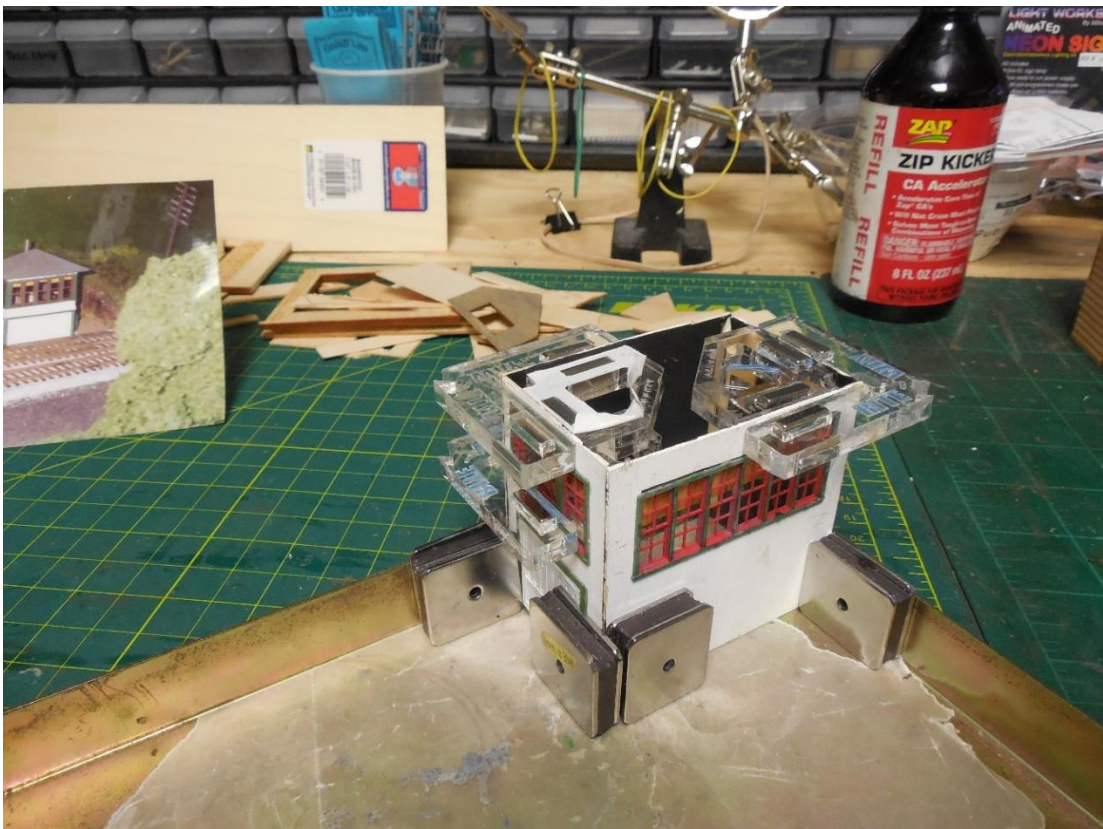


Photo 5

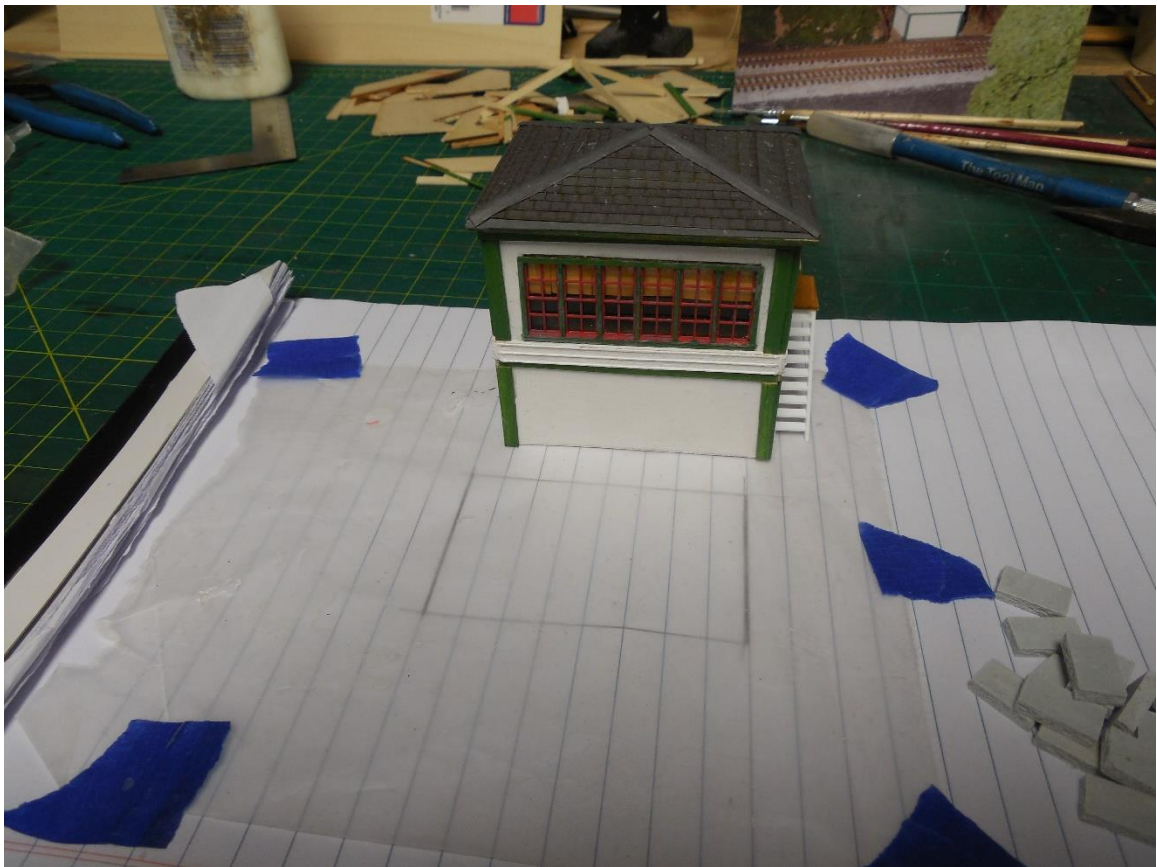


Photo 6

I placed wax paper over the footprint drawing, and using Dr. Ben's Building Blocks, built the foundation (pic 7). Note the opening in the foundation in the front. This was for the switch linkage mechanisms. Here's where I got sidetracked. It happens more than I like to admit. I never intended interior details, but after allocating an opening for switch linkage, I now needed the levers. That led to a long desk, a pot belly stove, the levers, a clock, a wood pile, and three employees (pic 8). The "landing" and stairs were completed and another employee added (pic 9). And here's the completed structure on the workbench next to my reference picture (pic 10).

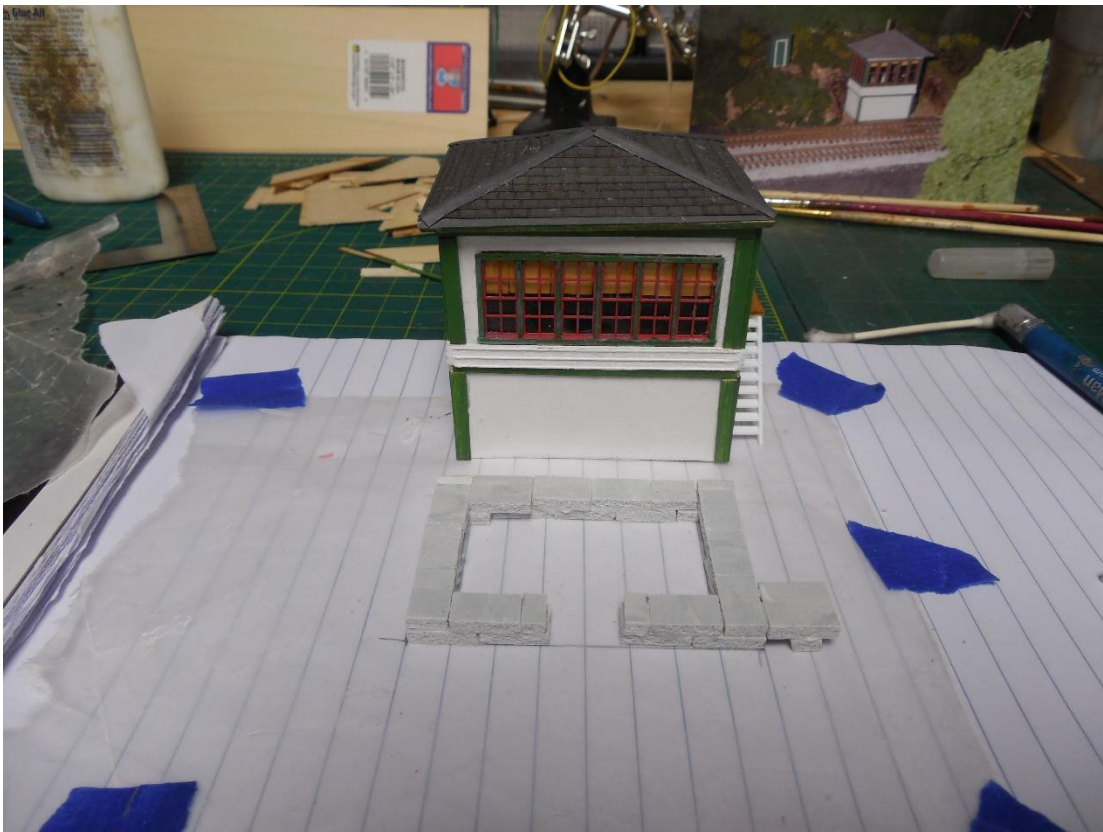


Photo 7



Photo 8

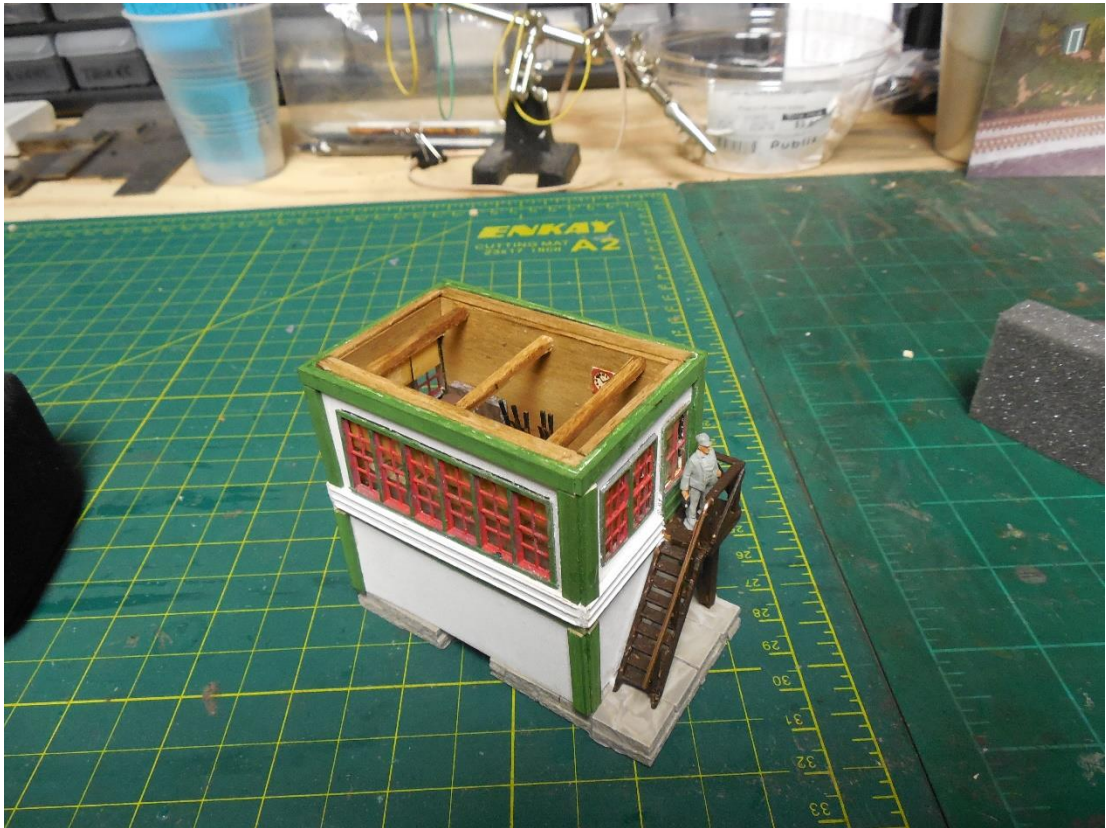


Photo 9



Photo 10

On the layout, I placed the tower so it could visually monitor all three turnouts and built the outhouse. Then using Central Valley Switch detail parts, .020 Phosphor Bronze wire, small Dimensional Styrene tubing, and Dimensional 6" x 6" wood, I built my facsimile of the Locking Mechanisms. Though not accurate, they create the visual I was looking for (pic 11, 12). Finally, I added an LED lamp inside the tower and a period light pole outside near the steps. The finished tower is (pic 13). In the future, a small push button will be added to the fascia to control the lights.



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13

Well, hopefully, this stimulated my scratch-building cells so I can tackle my next large project.

Until next timeED

The Workbench Wing

First off, thanks so much for all the submissions. I think I have at least two more waiting in the workbench wings for coming issues. This month is none other than Joe Skorch. Much like the CSD website he maintains, everything is neat and tidy here. We see below one of Joe's current projects – the Budweiser Brewery in Van Nuys California. Joe is utilizing, in part, his 3-D printer pictured on the right-hand side of the photo. I have to give kudos to Joe because he has taken his 3-D printer well beyond what mine is capable of. Nice work Joe!



And now for some bonus content from this week's Workbench Wing. Remember Joe's Budweiser Warehouse project from the previous page? I hope so because that was just a few moments ago. Joe was kind enough to send me an update on the warehouse. Behold the finished product! Nice work Joe!



Calling all members of the CSD – We need YOU! Yes, even you over there that we might not hear from much. We want everyone's projects, layouts, and workbenches to share each month in the Brasspounder! Please email the editor your submissions. I would like to highlight all projects great and small, so please don't be shy!

CLOSING PAGE BONUS

I thought to myself....I've never seen a locomotive's sandbox up close. So I satisfied my curiosity and provided the closing page bonus in one fell swoop. You're welcome!



Division Brass

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