

THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 25 Number 1

January 2025

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

A new year dawns brightly for us in 2025. One of the things I always like about the new year (and I hope you do too) is for a fresh beginning to things and what the future year might hold for us. Yes, I know many sad happenings occurred in 2024 but try as best one can to leave those feelings behind and focus on what positive things could happen this year.

New projects come to mind. What about that move to complete the old ones and start some new ones. Have you planned what you would like to do? Completing some track installations or benchwork? Learning about new technology for train control? Exploring your options to improve operations? Painting a backdrop? Building (or completing) a structure that will help make a scene look better? Finding that one (or more) piece of rolling stock you've been searching for, for some time? So many possibilities to ponder.

As part of the Carolina Southern Division's leadership, I look forward to a new year of activities to better serve you, our members. We completed 2024 with November serving as National Model Railroad month and asking members to open their home layouts for everyone to visit and enjoy. I think that was a great success and look forward to repeating the activity again this coming November. What else would you like to see or do? Work will soon begin to organize our Railroad Model University (RMU). Is this something that you are still interested in having CSD organize? Are you willing to give a clinic? Speaking of clinics, with the passing of Keith Iritsky in late 2024, CSD has an opening for someone to step forward and help organize clinics for our monthly meetings. Is that something you might be interested in doing? Neal Anderson is offering another trip to the Dreams Come True live steam railroad in South Carolina for 2025. We did that several years ago, and those of us who attended certainly were greeted with hospitality by the owner. All of us who attended had a fun time. Want to do that again?

So, the new year brings many things for us to think about and plan for. What are your interests? What are you expecting to do? What would you like to see CSD do? Have fun, I hope!

Editor's Notes

By Chad Barnette



Well, happy New Year y'all! I am so excited for the New Year. I will echo what Andrew said in his comments - there were a lot of sad things that happened in 2024, but I think it was a great year overall.

I would like to reflect briefly on the passing of Keith Iritsky. Keith was one of the friendliest faces for me as I started to attend CSD events. He always made me feel welcome with a smile on his face. I think I will try and do the same for others to carry on just a small part of Keith's legacy.

There are so many new things to do this year. One thing I would love to do this year is to get at least one of the seven required categories for Master Model Railroader (plug for Andrew and the AP program!). The key will be to work towards the goal continuously, learning from mistakes along the way. And here's something all of you can help me out with. I would LOVE to expand the list of content writers for the Brass Pounder. For now, we only have a handful of folks that submit content with any regularity. We are missing the knowledge and skills of a vast majority of our membership. I look forward to hearing from you this year at editor@carolinasouthern.org.

Quick Reminder! Don't forget to sign up for your FREE LUNCH that will be served at the upcoming annual meeting. Please click below and sign up by January 10th!

<http://carolinasouthern.org/Annual%20Meeting%20Register.html>

Division and Regional News

Wade's Train Town

Wade's Train Town – December Stats

Open houses: 8

Attendance: 154

Volunteers: Ed Smith (5), Gil Brauch (2), Tim Rust, Bob Halsey



AP Awards from the Plywood RR Desk

Contributed by Neal Anderson, MMR

It seems that the holidays have slowed down the paperwork that's been turned in. I'm hopeful that the Awards will start moving a little quicker now in the new year!

- Neal

Layout Liquidation - December 2024

Contributed by Ed Smith, MMR

Unfortunately, our friend Keith Iritsky passed away unexpectedly in November. He was in the process of building a layout that depicted the New England area in the early 1900s, with an emphasis on the New Haven Railroad. As he was a close friend, his wife, Cindi, has entrusted me with the liquidation of his layout and collection. Although the pricing will be at super-value levels, I will be trying to get a decent monetary return for the family. I plan on being at the Hickory Train Show in early April to sell his collection. But first, I would like to offer these values to our CSD members. Keith was a prolific modeler and collector (almost bordering on hoarding) so it is an extensive collection. You might have read about several of his projects in the Brass Pounder. So here is a condensed overview of what it contains. If you are interested, you can email me at cindylouwhotoo51@gmail.com, or call my landline at 828-495-7441. We'll be home after the holidays in the second week of January. If you contact me, I can give you a better description of any items you may be interested in.

Here's a condensed list (Most items are HO scale):

Rolling Stock

- Approximately 80 pieces were removed from the layout. Generally, 1940s era or earlier, most with metal wheels and Kadees. In good shape, not in boxes.
- Approximately 100 kits and boxed units.

Motive Power

- 2 Diesel units – 1 E unit – New Haven DCC & sound. 1 switcher New Haven
- 6 steam pieces: 0-6-0, 4-4-0, 0-4-0, 2-6-0, 4-6-0, most DCC

ON-30 Pieces

- Bachmann DCC 2-4-4-2, 14 ton Heisler, 0-4-2 Porter, new in boxes
- 6 pieces of rolling stock
- 4 #5 turnouts
- Several buildings

HO Buildings, etc.

- Buildings and flats removed from the layout
- Many kits, various degrees of quality
- Many DPM kits, new in bags, plus many DPM building pieces
- 3-track Bascule Bridge, scratch-built, featured in Brass Pounder
- The diorama has not yet been removed from the layout
- A multitude of building materials – new and still unopened, dimensional wood pieces, styrene pieces, and detail parts
- Many unopened Jordan Vehicle kits, Woodland Scenic kits & more – early 1900-era
- Badger air compressor, airbrush, and many Floquil and Poly Scale bottles of paint
- Many acrylic craft paint bottles
- NCE DCC system – removed from layout
- Assorted modeling tools – belt sander, table saw, scroll saw, chop saw, foam cutters, soldering station, and irons
- Assorted hand tools, and much more
- May have a 3-D printer and Laser Engraver – not found yet

As I said, there is a large quantity of model railroading items that can be bought for very low prices. If you're interested, please contact me for more information. Also, I'll have some items at our January 18th Annual meeting at the Newton Museum. If you attend and plan on buying something, please bring cash. This is your chance to restock your model supplies and help the Iritsky family.

Thanks,
.... ED

In Memory of Keith Iritsky

Contributed by Gil Brauch, MMR

In memory of our dear friend and fellow model railroader, the locomotives at Wade's Train Town will display black flags until our annual meeting in January.





Welcome to Tools, Tips, & Tricks. A periodic column of the Brass Pounder that features...you guessed it! Tools, tips, and/or tricks to help modelers give each other practical advice on how to address techniques or issues in a more efficient manner.

Grooves & Welds

Contributed by Andrew Stitt

I stumbled onto an idea I thought might be pretty neat to share with the group. I needed to make a jig for cutting and gluing some basswood together. I discovered I had a lone piece of Evergreen Products styrene sidewalk. It is grooved to 3/16" squares. This will provide me with a square, accurate means of making the jig(s) Also, Joe Skorch told me about a UV curable glue made by JB Weld now being sold at Lowe's. I haven't used it yet, but he tells me it works very well.



Bricks Ahoy!

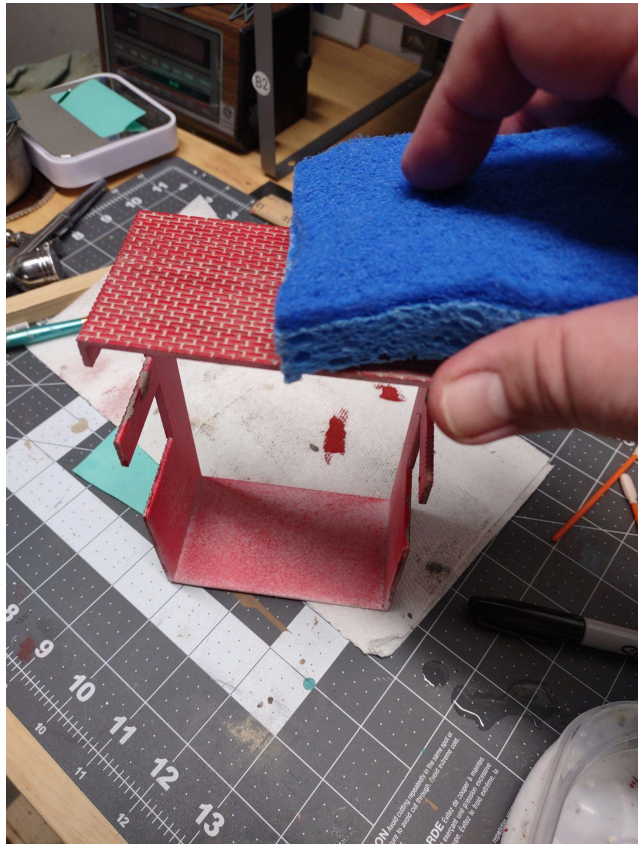
Contributed by Chad Barnette

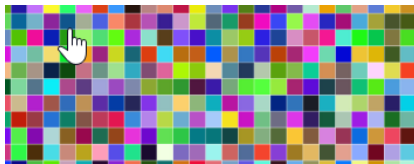
There's nothing behind the title besides the bricks. Just thought it was fun to say! Although I have just realized that I may have done this subconsciously. You see, I learned via Keith's obituary that he loved to do theater and, in particular, pirates. Interesting connection there.

So bricks have been something I've wanted to tackle for a while. It will come as no surprise that my approach is via 3D printing. The task that I struggled with wasn't the design or printing of the bricks however...it was painting the bricks to look "right".

My first attempt was to try to paint the mortar first. I selected my mortar color and painted the entire surface, grooves and all, with the paint. Next I applied the brick-colored paint to the surface of the brick faces. In this way I would not disturb the mortar. Except....I did disturb the mortar very much so. No matter how much I tried to only apply the paint to the brick surfaces, I was getting red paint where the mortar lines should be. So I decided to reverse the process and paint the entire thing red first (after a full reprint mind you). Next I applied the mortar (I actually am using a mortar mix that I turn into a slurry).

The result? Close. One more thing - it needed an additional sponging just like if we were doing actual tile work. The result is just what I wanted!





Digital Distractions

A Look at our hobby online

SECOND SECTION PODCAST

YOUR HOSTS -

MIKE OSTERTAG
ANDY DORSCH

SECOND SECTION PODCAST

LIVE STREAMS
EVERY OTHER
THURSDAY 7PM!

REGULAR FOLKS TALKING MODEL RAILROADING

The Second Section Podcast, hosted by Mike Ostertag (Locomotive Engineer for the Canadian National out of Green Bay) and Andy Dorsch. I haven't listened much yet, but I love the regularity you get with a podcast. Youtubers often get burned out, but editing can sometimes be easier with a taped broadcast. Check them out on their website -

<https://secondsectionpodcast.com/>

Division Brass

<u>Superintendent</u>	Andrew Stitt	superintendent@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Asst. Superintendent</u>	Alan Hardee	assistsuper@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Clerk</u>	David Myers	clerk@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Paymaster</u>	David Thrams	Paymaster@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2025</u>	Ed Smith, MMR	director1@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2026</u>	Joe Skorch	director2@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2024</u>	TBD	director3@carolinasouthern.org
<u>AP Chairman</u>	Neal Anderson, MMR	Apchair@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Webmaster</u>	Joe Skorch	Webmaster@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Chad Barnette	editor@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Program Chair</u>	TBD	program@carolinasouthern.org
<u>RMU Chair</u>	Doug Algire	RMUchair@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Membership Chair</u>	Nancy Campbell	membership@carolinasouthern.org