

THE BRASS POUNDER



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

Volume 25 Number 12

December 2025

Division Coming Events

**CSD Annual Meeting
on January 17th, 2026**

**Newton Depot
starting at 11:00 am**

Superintendent's Corner

By Andrew Stitt

As the 2025 calendar year comes to an end, I hope that most of you have set aside some time to gather with family and friends. This can provide a time to visit and reminisce about the many (good) things that happened to us and others during the course of the year.

The Carolina Southern Division provided a number of activities to enjoy our hobby with those around us. We participated in the 2 major model train shows within our boundaries. We conducted (with the help of many of you) a very successful Railroad Model University. We went back to the Dreams Come True outdoor railroad for a festive day of train riding. A surprisingly large number of our members attended the NMRA National Convention in Novi, MI. We held our Annual Picnic again. And we had a number of meetings with well-presented clinics and/or demonstrations interspersed between these activities.

As is tradition for most of us, Christmas is a time of gathering and gift exchanges. I would be willing to bet that many of you received your first train set at this celebration. (Mine was already set up by Santa when I came downstairs that morning.) While other gifts have come and gone, somehow the train set stuck with us and guided us onto a lifetime interest and hobby. What a wonderful gift! As we age, it is delightful to see the twinkle in our children and grandchildren's eyes when they see the trains for the very first time. The questions that get asked always seem to amaze me. How does it run? Did you build this? How long did it take you to build this? Where did you get the idea to build this or that?

So, we bring 2025 to an end. I hope it was a good one for you! Keep dreaming, building, and the wheels turning for 2026.

Editor's Notes

By Chad Barnette

Looking back on the Brass Pounder archives just now a thought just occurred - it has been two years since my first edition in December of 2023. I think fondly of those times when I had a very few brief, but rewarding chats with Ed Gumphrey. It's always the people and the experiences that seem to be the most rewarding. I don't often find myself saying....remember the time you were in the basement by yourself working on stuff. Sounds kind of funny, but how true it is!

Well my 2023 self would probably not be too impressed by this year's edition. Life has gotten in the way this month and as a result the issue is not only late, but a very lite edition. I'm sure everyone can understand how that happens.

While I've got you here, I'll tell you a bit of the crazy that has been the past month or two. I put myself out there a year or so ago and finally contacted some local theaters. I had always wanted to do a bit of stagecraft and never had the opportunity to do it. Well this year was my year it turns out. I was called back after sending a request to get involved months earlier - I had nearly forgotten. I would end up being the sole designer for the set of It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play. It was a very rewarding experience and one that, believe it or not, has parallels for modeling. I was basically modeling but at a 1:1 scale. I got to do a lot of fun things, but had some very real deadlines. This process has really stoked the flames of excitement for all of my various modeling projects.

I am looking forward to what the new year has to bring! How about you?

Division and Regional News



Wade's Train Town

Wade's Train Town – November Stats

Contributed by Ed Smith, MMR

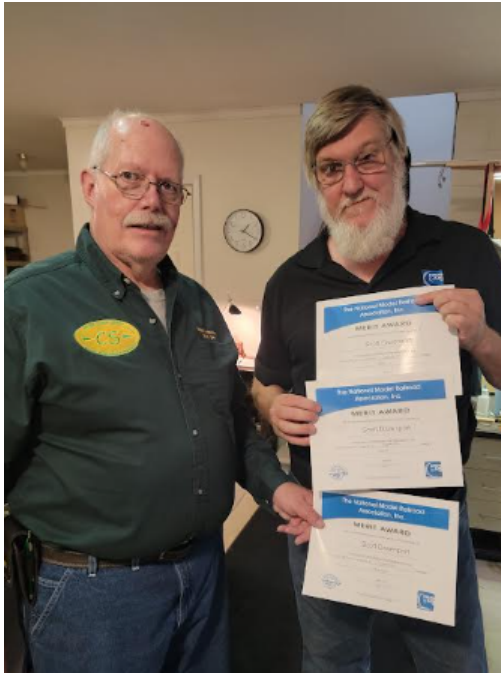
Open houses: 7

Attendance: 593

Volunteers: Ed Smith [2], Tim Rust [2], Chad Barnette, Danny Poole, and Andrew Thompson.

The AP Report from the Plywood RR Desk

Contributed by Neal Anderson, MMR



I visited several layouts, and I ended up awarding one Merit Award while I was traveling. That award will be presented at the January meeting.

I've also handed out three Merit Awards to Scott Davenport (pictured left)

For anyone interested in working toward the Chief Dispatcher AP Award, classes will start back up in January. Please email me if you'd like to be added to the list.

P.S. I put together a batch of Merit Awards that should last quite a while, so if you're looking for ones with the new logo, it may be a bit before those start showing up.

2025 CSD NMRA National Model Railroad Month Celebration

Contributed by Dave Thrams

Our second National Model Railroad Month celebration was a success, and it proved to be another great one! Eighteen layouts were open, and we extend a big thank-you to all the layout owners who welcomed us into your layouts and homes. We had a great time last year, and from what I hear, all the open houses were wonderful again.

We don't have many photos this year as folks were busy taking in the hard work of our hosts. However, here is just a peek at one of the fantastic layouts that was open. Below is a still shot of John Short's HOn3 layout. Thanks John for opening up your home this year. Everyone had a great time. Photo credit - Dylan Petro.



Help Wanted

Contributed by Andrew Stitt, Superintendant

CSD Program Chair – The Division needs someone to take on the responsibility of arranging for programs to be scheduled and presented at Division meetings. This can be accomplished by doing the presentation themselves, getting a commitment from someone else to make the presentation, or arrange for presentations to be conducted remotely (via Zoom). When the presentation has been established, the who, what, when, where needs to be sent to the editor of the Brass Pounder and the webmaster prior to the meeting so they let the members know about the upcoming program.

RMU Chair – The Division conducts Railroad Model University (RMU) annually to provide all model railroaders within our area the opportunity to attend a day-long event featuring clinics on a wide range of model railroad topics. The chair is responsible for recruiting member and non member clinician presenters as well as setting the schedule for these presentations. The chair also coordinates with other Division members to enable them to secure a location for the event, schedule and promote the event, and assist with any registration or A/V issues.

Please contact me (superintendent@carolinasouthern.org) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

CAROLINA TRAIN SHOWS

Upcoming Event



**Hilton Garden Inn
7831 Gateway Lane
Concord, NC 28027**



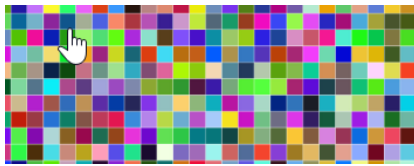
**Show Hours: 9am - 3pm
Admission: \$5**

CSD Annual Meeting

Contributed by Andrew Stitt, Superintendant

This is to announce that the Carolina Southern Division's Annual meeting will be held at the Newton Depot on Saturday, January 17, 2026. It will start at 10 AM in their meeting room. 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. Please click here to sign up. [Register](#)





Digital Distractions



No Christmas tree train? Layout in the basement? When guests come visit this year, just pop this bad boy on the living room TV for some much-needed train ambiance to compliment the beautiful decorations.

Check out their channel [here!](#)

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 2028</u>	Tim Rumph	director1@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2026</u>	Joe Skorch	director2@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2027</u>	Ed Smith, MMR	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>	Alan Mitchell	program@carolinasouthern.org
<u>RMU Chair</u>	Vacant	RMUchair@carolinasouthern.org