

THE BRASS POUNDER

Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Div, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Assoc.
Volume 4, Number 2 June 2004



CSD members, the St. Johns and Chances, relax at Pittsburgh Convention

Superintendent's Message

Today is a very warm day in June as I write this letter. I had planned to sit on the porch and paint casting details for Bar Mills Feed Mill. Now I guess I had better set up in the family room, as the temp is too hot for the porch; and the basement, even with the humidifier running, is just a little damp.

There are some happenings in the MER and the National that you should be aware:

From the National: A new level of membership has been created. It is called the **Rail Pass** Membership. Any person interested in Model Railroading can become a six-month *Rail Pass* member for a single payment of \$9.95. This class of membership is only available to new or lapsed members, once in a lifetime. It is not renewable. This class of membership does include a subscription to the *Bulletin/Scale Rails* but members of this class may neither hold office or vote. *Rail Pass* will have a test sign up period from June 1, 2004 to August 31, 2004.

This was a MER region suggestion and the National Organization adopted the idea. The MER Board has also adopted the same class of membership. No dues will be charged for six months. Each Rail pass member will receive an electronic edition of the *Local*.

Each Division will have to decide how to handle rail pass members. This should be a discussion item for our July Meeting.

The second thing I want to alert you to is the next MER rail car for sale. It is a HO

Next Meeting

Date: July 17, 10 AM – 2 PM*

Place: Martin Oakes House

Clinic: Using your PC to program DCC decoders conducted by Dick Bronson.

Martin says "Spouses invited... lunch on the dock is included"

*Check website for further details, maps, etc.

scale 40' PS-1 RF&P boxcar in blue with aluminum-colored doors, custom painted by Accrual. The MER web site has pictures of this car and ordering directions will be in the *Local*.

I am sorry I have had other issues that have prevented my attendance at the last few meetings. Hopefully I will be able to make the July meeting. In addition I am hopeful that I will get to Hagerstown in October. If anyone else is going, maybe we can get some car pools together.

Have a nice summer.

Larry Lau

Editor's Notes

We've had lots of activity since the last Brass Pounder. Here are just a few notes about the various meetings for those folks who were not able to attend:

Our March 20th meeting at the Waxhaw Firehouse was chuck-full of hands-on clinics. Jack Parker, Assistant Superintendent, presided at the meeting with 10 Divi-

The Division Brass

Superintendent..... Larry Lau
Asst. Superintendent..... Jack Parker
Clerk..... Fred Miller
Paymaster..... Dick Bronson
Director 2004..... Michele Chance
Director 2005..... Dave Chance
Director 2006..... Bill Jennings

Membership Chairman.. Jack Parker
Fund Raising Chair Bob Johnson
AP Chairman..... Fred Miller
Newsletter/Webmaster.. Fred Miller

sion members present along with two spouse guests.

After reviewing the minutes from the previous meeting, Dick Bronson presented the current financial status as a balance of \$294.15. The Division currently has 15 paid members.

When Jack reported that there was some apparent interest in the Division's project layout, Michelle Chance offered a motion that was seconded and approved that "we should sell the layout for \$200 plus any shipping or moving expenses." It was reported that the layout, no longer at Trains Limited, is currently at Martin Oakes' home but Martin was not present to confirm.

Joe St. John spoke about the upcoming NC Rail Fair at the Cabarrus Arena & Events Center, Saturday, June 19th. He made available \$1 discount cards to those interested.

Gil Brauch described his role as an Operation Lifesaver Presenter. He has offered to

do a presentation at an upcoming Division Meeting. (Gil was going to do this at the next meeting but had to cancel. We will schedule for a later meeting. -ed)

Michelle Chance presented a hands-on clinic aimed at teaching good soldering techniques. After some introductory remarks, she presented a very informative video on soldering. We then all had the opportunity to practice soldering various components to a circuit board with materials provided by Michelle. Thanks to Michelle for a great hands-on clinic.

Fred Miller presented another hands-on clinic to build the DC/DCC Voltage Detector as described in a recent MER *Local* newsletter. All necessary components were provided and the members had a chance to practice their soldering techniques learned from Michelle's clinic.

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The May 22nd meeting was held at Fred Miller's house with seven Division members attending. Dick Bronson reported a treasury balance of \$301.15 with 16 folks in 2004 paid status.

Rick Knight led a discussion of his planning to date on the Scout Railroading Day Project. The tentative date for the special day is November 12th (which unfortunately coincides with the MER Hagerstown Convention. -ed) Rick reported that he has commitment from NS for their RR Exhibit car and will be seeking help as greeters. Rick has lined up a number of layouts that could be included on a "bus tour" for the kids. We'll hear more at the July 17th meeting as the plans are firmed up.

Fred presented a projected slide show of scenes from the May 13-16 Pittsburgh combined MER and MCR convention. (See article on that convention elsewhere) We were also able to screen project Bob Johnson's video taken from his convention layout tours.

NMRA AP PROGRAM

Our Division has been doing very well in the AP Program. Last year during one period, we surpassed all other Divisions within the MER for Certificates earned in that timeframe.

This year's progress has been somewhat slower. However, ***congratulations to Martin Oakes for achieving his Volunteer Certificate.*** We've got a few more Certificates in the "approval pipe-lines" so stay tuned.

Carolina Southern Division AP Holders

| Former and Current CSDiv Members | Gold Spike | Motive Power | Cars | Structures | Scenery | Prototype | Civil Eng | Elect Eng | Dispatcher | Official | Volunteer | Author | MMR | Total APC |
|----------------------------------|------------|--------------|------|------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----|-----------|
| Bostian, Phillip | | | | | | | | | | 92 | 89 | | | 2 |
| Chance, Dave | | | | | | | | 03 | | | | | | 1 |
| Chance, Michele | | | | | | | | 03 | | | | | | 1 |
| Lau, Larry | 01 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Miller, Fred | 98 | | | 03 | 03 | | 01 | 00 | | | 03 | 99 | | 6 |
| Oakes, Martin | | | | | | | | | 03 | | 03 | | | 2 |
| Parker, Jack | 97 | | | 03 | 03 | | 03 | 03 | 03 | | | | | 6 |
| Teese, Jim | 93 | 91 | 91 | | 91 | 91 | 91 | 91 | | | | 92 | 92 | 7 |

Hagerstown MER Convention

Don't pass up the opportunity to attend the fall MER Convention in Hagerstown, MD. Regional conventions can turn out to be a lot of fun with many activities and resources available for the attendees.

The Potomac Division hosts this fall's convention, called South Mountain Express. It will include the usual array of clinics, layout tours, silent and not-so-silent auctions, modeling contests, a banquet and a chance to say "hello" to old or new friends from all over the Mid Eastern Region.

More information can be found at the MER web site.

PITTSBURGH MER/MCR CONVENTION

By Fred Miller

At least a dozen CSD members found their way up to Pittsburgh for the May 13-16 *Three Rivers Transfer* spring convention.

Coming Events

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| June 19 Concord, NC | Model Train & Railroadiana Show – Cabarrus Arena |
| July 4-11 Seattle, WA | NMRA 2004 National Convention Puget Sound Express |
| July 17 Denver, NC | Division Meeting Martin Oakes house, 10 AM - 2 PM - Lunch |
| September 18 Charlotte, NC | Division Meeting Annual Picnic at Jack Parker's house |
| Nov 13-16 Hagerstown, MD | Annual MER Convention |
| November 20 Charlotte, NC | Division Meeting TBD |
| November 27-28 Charlotte, NC | GATS Train Show at the Cabarrus Arena |



Nice accommodations at Convention Hotel

The convention included a good array of clinics with some "notable" presenters including Dean Freytag and Paul Dolkos.



Model Contests

I was surprised to see photos of my Gotham City traction module show up in Paul Dolkos' clinic.



Silent Auction, Company Store & Raffle

The usual silent auction, company store and raffle tickets by-the-yard were available.

Model and Photo contests were nicely populated. (Your editor was happy to present three traction models that won some nice awards in the model contests.)

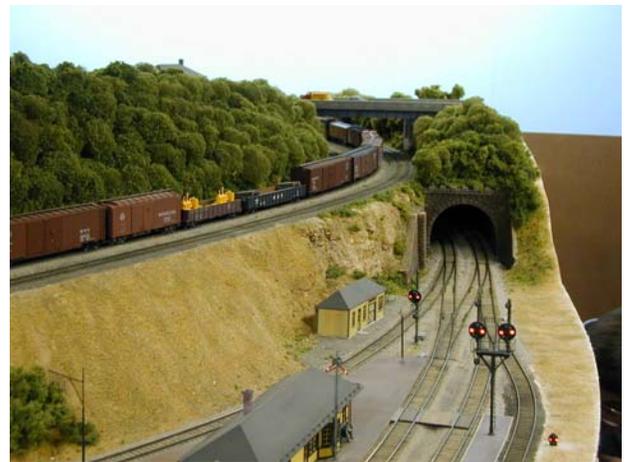


Don Cassler's M&K Division of B&O

A couple of Prototype Tours were offered including a Steel Mill operation and the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum.

The traditional banquet offered the usual awards presentations as well as an inter-

esting after dinner presentation by Paul Dolkos.



Another view of Don Cassler's layout

Over two and half dozen layout tours were available on Sunday. A book of maps enabled convention attendees to plot their visits on their way home. My favorite was Don Cassler's layout (M&K Div of B&O)



MER Brass, Hyde, Schmidt & Cason take a break

As usual, I thoroughly enjoyed the regional convention. I am looking forward to the fall MER convention in Hagerstown, MD. If you haven't attended a regional or national convention, do give it a try. Y'all like it!