

THE BRASS POUNDER

Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Div, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Assoc.
Volume 4, Number 3 August 2004

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Superintendent's Message

As you have all heard, the changed by-laws and corporation regulations passed. Fifteen percent of the membership participated. And thus, next year between August and December, the NMRA National will put into effect the one dues concept. What does this mean to the division: we cannot charge dues since if you are a member of the NMRA, you are automatically a member of the Region and the Division. We can charge for the paper copy of our newsletter, however, the majority of our members opt for the electronic copy.

It appears that there will be a number of things to iron out. I heard of one that would be perplexing. What if you are a life member of the region only, thus you have paid your dues to the region. Do you get credit of some number

to the national?

What is the state of our organization and Model Railroading? As I read the barometer in "Scale Rails" the membership continues to decline. As I read the signs in the windows, the Trains Limited LLC space is for rent. If I travel to Little Choo Choo, the stock is drastically down, new models are in short supply or not even there. I have been in the hobby for 54 years, and this will be the first time that I will not be able to visit a fully stocked Hobby Shop in the town that I live in and be able to touch, look, and critique a new model before buying. I am going to have to rely on advertising words on the Internet.

I do not know of one thing that can change this around unless we, one at a time, recruit the younger generation. They [because of the Modern Railroad's attitudes] are not able to experience the excitement, the sounds, and the smells of a high stepping steam engine or the groan of a diesel. Food for thought. (Check out Rick Knight's article later in this newsletter—ed)

Continue to have a nice summer. I am still working on my Bar Mills structures and am enjoying it immensely. See you at Jack's for hot dogs and fixens in September.

Larry Lau

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The Division Brass

Superintendent.....	Larry Lau
Asst. Superintendent...	Jack Parker
Clerk.....	Fred Miller, MMR
Paymaster	Dick Bronson
Director 2004.....	Michele Chance
Director 2005.....	Dave Chance
Director 2006.....	Bill Jennings
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Membership Chairman	Jack Parker
Fund Raising Chair.....	Bob Johnson
AP Chairman.....	Fred Miller, MMR
Newsletter/Web.....	Fred Miller, MMR

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Editor's Notes

We've had some Division activity since the last Brass Pounder. Here are a few notes about the July 17th meeting for those folks who were not able to attend:

The meeting was hosted by Martin Oakes. The turnout was light at only eight members plus two spouses but we were happy to see our Superintendent, Larry Lau, was able to attend. Most of the meeting, as well as a very generous and delicious Chicken Barbeque lunch was convened "on the dock."

Unfortunately Dick Bronson was not able to attend so his clinic "Using a PC to program decoders" was postponed to another meeting.

Larry reported on the status of the recent NMRA elections including the Long Range Plan. See elsewhere in the newsletter for details.

Martin gave us a capsule description of his adventures at the Seattle National NMRA convention. He was able to share with us some photographs of his tour train rides.

Rick Knight gave us the latest on the plans for *Scout Railroad Day*. He reported that the schedule has changed to November 6th so it does not now conflict with the MER convention in Hagerstown the following weekend. See Rick's article in this newsletter.

After lots of railroad chit-chat the meeting broke up and several members went to check out Martin's layout.

NMRA AP PROGRAM

As reported in the last *Brass Pounder*, our Division has been doing very well in the AP Pro-



gram. We just received a note from Roger Cason, our Regional AP Chair, indicating our Region also has been doing well. With his permission, here's Roger's Note:

Effective with the MER convention in Hagerstown in November, I will be stepping down as MER AP Manager. My replacement will be Charlie Flichman. Many of you know Charlie already. He is an enthusiastic and effective supporter of the AP program, and was the author of the series of articles on the program in The Local. He is well on his way to becoming an MMR

I have to say that this has been a fun job. I have enjoyed working with the Division AP Coordinators.

Together, I think we have accomplished a lot. For example, in the most recent full year for which

statistics are available, people in the MER earned 12% of the Golden Spikes, 16% of the AP certificates, and 15% of the MMR's in NMRA as a whole. You will remember that the MER includes about 10% of the people in NMRA. So, keep up the good work ! I'm sure you will find that working with Charlie will be a pleasure

Regards, Roger

I'm sure we all thank Roger for his contributions and we look forward to working with Charlie.

Congratulations to Rick Knight for achieving his GOLDEN SPIKE Award. Based on his layout achievements, I suspect Rick found the Golden Spike really easy to attain and is now working on several of the AP Certificates. Many of you could follow that path. I did!

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Following is the status on our Division's AP achievements. Yes, you will note that yours truly achieved the Motive Power AP a few months ago and that qualified me for the big

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
Rick Knight	04													
Lau, Larry	01													
Miller, Fred	98	04		03	03		01	00			03	99	04	7
Oakes, Martin									03		04			2
Parker, Jack	97			03	03		03	03	03					5
Teese, Jim	93	91	91		91	91	91	91				92	92	7

MMR. That tombstone of mine will now have a few extra characters to include.

Fred Miller, MMR
Division AP Chair



Scratch Building Project

By Fred Miller

I think one of the most satisfying model building activities for me is to scratch build something that I have researched and perhaps seen in the prototype. I needed a 1920s gas station for my traction layout so I researched on the Internet and learned



about the Pure Oil Gas company and their unique gas stations. I also learned that there are actually two such buildings in Charlotte: one on Monroe Rd (now a private

club) and the other (a Pizza parlor) on Central Ave. I took photos of both but the Monroe Rd example retains most of the original architecture.

The Prototype:

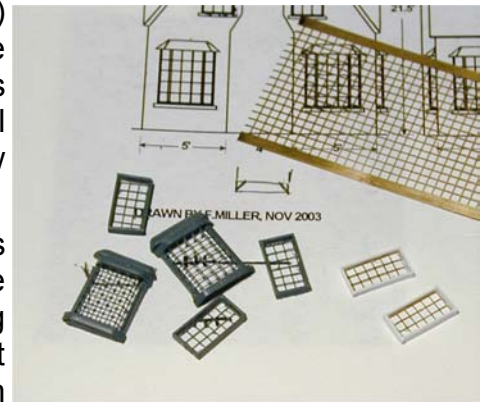
The Pure Oil Company started in Ohio in 1920. As they were standardizing their stations in 1925, they hired designer Carl A. Petersen who had come up with the English Cottage style. They were mostly prefabricated buildings, made of steel and faced with brick or stucco. Pure Oil used a consistent color scheme: a bright blue tiled gable roof with the rest of the building painted white with blue highlights. One or two chimneys were put to the side and an arched doorway and bay window were added to give it that homey look. Thousands were built but only a handful survive. Although at first glance they all look the same, experts believe that no two were identical.

The model:

My model was constructed using one of the existing Charlotte, NC buildings as a prototype. That building still stands but not as a gas station. The bay windows have been removed and over the years various extensions have been added. The building was photographed and plans were developed by computer using estimates of door height, etc.

The standard windows and bay windows were constructed from styrene strip framing around brass etched mesh (K&S Special Shapes) for the mullions cut into full window size.

The sides of the building were built up from

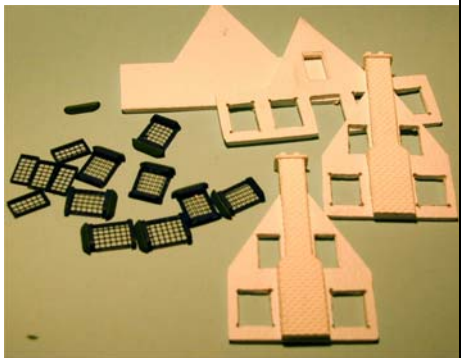


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<i>Coming Events</i>	
September 18 Charlotte, NC	Division Meeting Annual Picnic at Jack Parker's house
Nov 13-16 Hagerstown, MD	Annual MER Convention
November 20 Charlotte, NC	Division Meeting TBD
November 27-28 Charlotte, NC	GATS Train Show at the Cabarrus Arena

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styrene sheet covered by Plastruct stucco sheeting. Similarly the chimneys were constructed from several layers of styrene and then covered with Holgate & Reynolds brick sheeting. Miscellaneous details were made from bits of styrene. The roof was also constructed of styrene sheet and then covered with Plastruct Spanish Tile sheeting.



Original photo

computer
manipulation



Resulting graphic

The *PURE OIL* sign was created from a prototype photo found on the Internet. Using computer graphics, the photo was corrected for angle distortion and colored the Pure Oil bright blue. The graphics were printed on photo paper and mounted on a circle of styrene. Mounting brackets were constructed from brass rod.

The building was spray painted white (prior to mounting the roof). The pre-painted windows and door were mounted and the roof fitted in place. The roof was brush painted the Pure Oil color and then various dry



brush colors were applied. A final coat of Testor's Dullcote was sprayed on the completed model.

So now Pure Oil Company can have a 1920s presence on my traction layout. This was a fun project, not taking too long, and resulting in a reasonable representation of the "good old days."

I hope you had fun reading along.



NMRA Elections Results

President: John Roberts
 Vice President: Mike Brestel
 All standards passed
 Regulations passed

The Regs (Long Range Plan—ed) passed with over 80% of the vote. Turnout was over 15% of the membership, three times our normal response and outstanding for this type of organization.

Dave Liesse, NMRA Secretary

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Editors Note: Don't forget to vote in the upcoming MER election. Ballots should be in the mail to you shortly



JOIN THE FUTURE OF MODEL RAILROADING

By Rick Knight

Not a single one of us is getting a day younger! Where is the future of our hobby – The World's Greatest Hobby – coming from? Once upon a time, when many of us were young, there were massive Lionel layouts on display between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day at the "big store" downtown. We could stand for hours and watch the trains run round and round, and we went home with dreams of how we could transform the basement or attic into a railroad wonderland. But where does the young boy (or girl) of today go to get excited about our hobby? The local train stores don't even have a respectable layout.

Join us on Saturday, November 6th! I'm inviting Boy Scout Troops from Albemarle to Shelby to come to the Amtrak station in Charlotte in the morning. They can go up to Salisbury and ride the morning train into Charlotte – probably their first trip on a revenue railroad.

NEXT MEETING

Date: September 18th, 2 PM

Place: Jack Parker's

Clinic: (tent) Using your PC to program DCC decoders conducted by Dick Bronson

Remember: This is the Division's Annual Picnic. Train operation on the P&W will undoubtedly be included.

Check our website for further details, maps, etc. <http://www.bytedesign.com/CSDiv/>

At Charlotte, the Norfolk Southern Exhibit Car with all of its interactive simulators will be parked on the coach track. The Lancaster & Chester Railroad's two private

cars will be open for tours. An "Operation Lifesaver" locomotive has been requested and there will be an on-going Operation Lifesaver presentation.

Then the Scouts will be give a list of major model railroad layouts in their neighborhood, which will be open for tours in the afternoon. Already on the list are: the Charlotte Trolley Museum; the Belmont Museum; the Cherryville station; the Lancaster & Chester museum; the Metrolina Model Railroaders (who will be setting up their modules at the Southern Christmas Show that afternoon); the Piedmont & Western; the Knight Bros. & Dad. If you know of a model railroad, I would like to contact the Superintendent!

HELP IS NEEDED! I will need a contingent of folks to help with the Exhibit Car, the Lancaster & Chester cars, etc. at the station in the morning – and in the afternoon, when the general public and Cub Scout Packs are being invited.

I also need the Superintendents of model railroad to volunteer to open their layouts in the afternoon. The Scout groups are being asked to travel in their church vans or other multi-passenger vehicles, to minimize parking issues. Each Superintendent will need assistance with his/her layout, running trains, answering questions, etc.

Yes, it must be true. Rich of Trains Limited, LLC, said he is throwing in the towel. He'll be gone by mid August.

That means there will be no more exclusively MR shops in Charlotte.

On another sad note: We were just informed that John Armstrong passed away Wednesday July 28th.

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And I'm wide open to suggestions for additions and improvements!

Rick Knight
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MER Convention

The South Mountain Express Fall 2004 MER Convention will be held in Hagerstown, MD, November 11-14, 2004.

It looks like the South Mountain Division has a good meet scheduled. Currently on the agenda are:

- over 30 layout tours some available each day including Thursday night
- 30 clinics, many by some notable clinicians

- model, photo and craft contests
- live auction and White Elephant table
- module displays
- prototype tours
- Banquet, Awards & Guest Speaker.



If you haven't attended a Regional Meet, now is the time to join in the fun. The old timers already know it's a great opportunity to learn and see new things in our hobby and to meet old and new friends.

Check out the MER *Local* or the MER website: <http://members.cox.net/chyde/MER/MER.html> for details and registration forms.

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