

THE BRASS POUNDER

Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Div, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Assoc
Volume 5, Number 1 February 2005

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Superintendents Notes

ALL ABOARD! Get a seat and settle in – we’re off! In 2005 we’ll visit a lot of new places and we’ll do a bunch of new things. It’s going to be an exciting ride.

A few short months from now the new NMRA organizational structure will officially be in place. Any NMRA member living in our nine county area will automatically be part of the Mid-Eastern Region and the Carolina Southern Division. For our part, the boundaries have already been erased and the welcome mat is out to all. Come to the meetings – come to the events – take a good look at who we are and what we are trying to accomplish. We can all profit by exchanging ideas and knowledge.

An important part of our mission needs to be outreach. How do we encourage more participation in The World’s Greatest Hobby? Being a model railroader in the Carolinas requires a certain dedication. Unlike areas to our north, most of our homes do not have large walk-up attics or roomy, dry basements. Carving out space for a layout is a challenge. Unlike many cities and towns in colder climates, we do not have several local train stores to supply our needs – and to fuel interest in the hobby by attracting new customers. And, at present, we have only a one day train show to look

forward to in 2005. On the bright side, all of the four Hobby Lobby stores reported excellent success with boxed “starter” train sets at Christmas 2004. Little Choo Choo and the three HobbyTown USA stores report similar stories. So there are a lot of new folks getting their feet wet in the hobby. To



Waxhaw Firehouse—Site of Divisions Annual Meetings

encourage their participation – and to help them over any rough spots – we have a small flyer in each of these stores, directing them to our website for help. We are pre-

The Division Brass

- Superintendent**Rick Knight
- Asst. Superintendent**Jack Parker
- Clerk.....**Fred Miller, MMR
- Paymaster**Dick Bronson
- Director 2005.....**Dave Chance
- Director 2006.....**Bill Jennings
- Director 2007.....**Michele Chance

- Membership Chair**Jack Parker
- Fund Raising Chair.....**Bob Johnson
- AP Chair**Fred Miller, MMR
- Newsletter/Web.....**Fred Miller, MMR

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pared to answer questions and to help the new folks find the resources they need. (As a side note – when you visit one of these stores, please check to see if the brochures are ‘in stock’ and let me know when they need more.)

Another outreach project is an 8 foot by 8 foot train table with four concentric circles of track. Each track is controlled by an independent transformer. This layout was apparently a commercial Christmas display. It will be donated by the current owner to a facility (like a hospital or an orphanage) where children can have access to it. Discussions are under way with several possible locations. When the time is right, members of the Carolina Southern Division will move the layout and do some repairs on it. Then, on a monthly basis, we’ll stop by and do regular maintenance – and have fun running trains with the kids. Tough duty, I know.

Once upon a time the Division built a portable 4 foot by 8 foot portable train table. It is now in the hands of the North Carolina Transportation Museum at Spencer, being used by their outreach folks. The layout will go to schools and assemblies to show the kids how much fun it is to play with trains. A plaque, noting the work and donation of the Carolina Southern Division, is attached to the fascia. The Museum also has a “fixed” four-by-eight layout that is being used for groups of school



Oldest known wood RR footbridge—Waxhaw, NC

kids that visit Spencer. This layout has a small model of each of the major buildings at Spencer – the Roundhouse, the Back Shop, etc. The educational folks at Spencer use the small layout to talk about what Spencer was and how it worked. There is an opportunity to add to this layout, if anyone has the time and the urge. And, last but not least, the large N scale diorama in the Roundhouse is in need of some cleaning and some repair – and any volunteers would be appreciated. Anyone interested in these tasks can contact me and I’ll pass your information up the food chain.

So there’s a lot going on – and more to come. In October, the MER will come to Raleigh for three days (28-29-30). It won’t get a lot closer than this! The host Carolina Piedmont Division will need help. There are clinics, layout tours, judging and a myriad of other details to handle. Once upon a time

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TIMETABLE FOR 2005 (See Web Site for details)	
•	CSDiv Meeting—March 19 at Fred Miller's house
•	Ashville Train Show March 4-5
•	GATs Train Show April 2-3, Columbia, SC
•	Railroad Historical Assn. Train Show, April 2 Hickory, NC
•	CSDiv Meeting—May 21 at Dick Bronson's house
•	GATs Train Show June 4-5, Raleigh, NC
•	Model Train and Railroadiana Show June 25, Concord, NC
•	Great Scale Model Train Show June 25-26, Timonium, MD
•	NMRA National Convention and Train Show July 3-9, Cincinnati, OH
•	CSDiv Meeting, July 16 at Martin Oakes house
•	CSDiv Meeting, September Annual Picnic at Jack Parker's house
•	Autumn Rails 2005 Oct 8, Hendersonville, NC
•	Great Scale Model Train Show October 8-9, Timonium, MD
•	MER Annual Convention October 28-30 Raleigh, NC
•	CSDiv Meeting, November TBD

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(a decade ago), the Carolina Southern Division hosted the MER, with a lot of help from the Carolina Piedmont members – it's time for us to return the favor! If you can spare the time, the CPD would really appreciate your help! Their website is the place to start.

Down the tracks, I've got a lot of things planned.....

There will be good clinics at our meetings – there's a whole bunch of things I don't know how to do (or could do better) but maybe some of the things I can do will help your layout – let's share and both learn something.

There will be 'extra' events in months when we are not meeting. Currently we meet six times a year, so we've got a bunch of 'dark' months. How about we set aside a Saturday during one of them to take a road trip to some of the large layouts nearby – like the one in Cherryville, or the one in Valdese or the one in Hendersonville? With the donation of the portable table to Spencer, I attached a few small strings – how about a cook's tour of the areas that the general public doesn't get to see? How about lunch (or dinner) aboard one of the private cars owned and operated by the Lancaster & Chester – and a tour of their facilities, including their excellent museum and

layout? How about a tour of the Alexander Railroad?



Congratulations to Rick Knight (bearded one)

Any of this sound interesting? Gee – I've only scratched the surface! I'm going to lay out the buffet – come and sample the things that look good to you. All of our meetings and events are open to all. Perfect attendance is not required (or expected) – even if only a handful of folks are in attendance it'll be OK, if all of them have a great time and learn something.

The bottom line is: What can we do for you? How can we help you in your enjoyment of the hobby? Please take the time to attend our meetings and events, and let's explore the possibilities and learn something together. And never be afraid to drop me a line with a suggestion or two! The cab door is always open!

Rick Knight



Minutes - CSDiv Annual meeting

Saturday, January 15, 2005

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by

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Pre-meeting train watching—Waxhaw Firehouse

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Larry Lau, Superintendent.

Eleven active paid up Division members were present along with three guests. The Clerk declared sufficient attendance to conduct the Annual Business Meeting.

Fred Miller, Clerk, presented the minutes from the last Annual Business meeting. The minutes were accepted as read.


Dick Bronson, Treasurer, presented the financial status for last year. The starting balance was \$196.15; income for the year was \$112.00; there were no expenditures; leaving a closing balance of \$308.15.

Larry Lau called for any additional nominations from the membership for the Officer and Director positions. None were presented and given that each position had only one nomination, Larry called for a single vote for all nominees. That motion was presented and seconded. The new officers and director are:


Rick Knight, Superintendent; Jack Parker, Assistant Superintendent; Dick Bronson, Treasurer; Fred Miller, Clerk; Michele Chance, Director – 2007.

Larry turned the meeting over to Rick who then presided for the rest of the meeting.

Old Business discussion

 The disposition of the Train Board was discussed. Rick described the possible interest on the part of the Spencer Museum group to be used for their “kids road shows.” Rick will test the interest on the part of the Spencer group. General feelings were that if they were interested but not willing to buy, we would donate it outright.

New Business discussions

 Fred Miller presented the proposed changes to the Division’s Bylaws. The changes were read and the rationale for those changes were discussed. The major change entails the redefinition of membership in line with the recently passed NMRA Regulations. Specifically, no dues will be charged at Region or Division level but

NEXT MEETING


Date: March 19th 2005, 10 AM


Place: Fred Miller’s House


Clinic: Using your Digital Camera in Model Railroading. (This is planned to be a jointly presented clinic coordinated by Michele Chance.)


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


membership is automatic for any NMRA member living in the prescribed boundaries for those organizations. A motion was presented and seconded so the proposed By-laws were accepted. From this point on (including calendar year 2005) no dues will be charged for Carolina Southern Division membership.

 Rick Knight presented a skeleton Calendar of Events for 2005. Several additional local train shows were added and specific dates decided on the Division meetings. These will be posted on the website and listed in The Brass Pounder.

 Rick indicated he is pursuing possible “group outings” to various railroad interest and museum locations for the interested membership. More will be presented as the discussions unfold.

 Rick presented a draft brochure describing a possible venture for the Division wherein the Division would offer help to model railroad “beginners.” The concept was readily accepted by the membership and Jack Haynes volunteered to be the project coordinator. Jack will work with Fred Miller and develop a page for our website which would contain an email link to Jack.

 Gil Rauch offered a number of handsome railroad calendars and an impromptu raffle was conducted for their distribution.

 Michelle Chance suggested and the membership endorsed a hearty “Thank You”

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to Larry Lau for his several years of dedicated leadership.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30AM. It should be pointed out that the meeting was not interrupted even once for a run to trackside for train-watching. However, those who came early were treated to a good run-by under the famous Waxhaw Wooden Pedestrian Bridge.



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Official Publication of the Carolina Southern Div, MER, NMRA

February 2005 – Volume 5, Number 1

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