



THE BRASS POUNDER

Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Div, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Assoc
 Volume 5, Number 3 June 2005

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Superintendents Notes

It's summertime – time to take a break and get out of the train room – time to do some fun stuff. Several years (decades, actually) ago, Tom Peters popularized the concept of “management by walking around.” This summer try adapting that principle to our hobby – try ‘railroading by getting around.’ If we keep doing the same old thing the same old way, we’re going to get the same old results. Time to break the mold and see what bursts of inspiration will do for us.

How about a visit to the ANDREWS GEYSER? It's a great spot for a day trip for the whole family! Go West on I-40 to Old Fort. Stop in downtown Old Fort and check out the old train station. You can ask for directions there, or just follow the signs. Several miles of narrow, winding country roads will suddenly open into a large open park. There's a load of picnic tables under the tall shade trees, with a cold mountain stream running right along side. In the center there's a large, shallow pool around the geyser, a column of water pushing 250 feet into the air. From the park you'll see the Norfolk Southern “S” line wind all around you on “The Loops.”

The GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS RAILROAD has a long list of train rides through the Nantahala. Their website has something for everyone – short rides, long rides, dinner trips, murder mystery dinner trips – even trips where you ride the rails out and take a raft back down the river!



Great Smoky Mountain Railroad

Spend a Saturday morning in Cherryville at the Depot. The folks are there from 9:00 to mid afternoon. The depot is a remarkably well-preserved door to the past. It was a depot on the Seaboard Air Line and was

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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boarded up after the last passenger trip in the very early 1950s. Until four years ago, it remained untouched. There's a small museum inside, in one of the passenger waiting rooms. The stationmaster's office is open. And, in the baggage shed, there are several layouts under construction. But the real hoot is when a train runs by – stand next to the rails on Depot Street or stand on the old loading platform and enjoy the 'rush.'

Take a ride over East and visit the Albemarle Music Store. Follow NC 73 and look to the right when you cross the tracks as you approach downtown Albemarle. Stop and take a walk around the restored train station. On the right, just up the hill, is the music store. I'd plan on at least an hour if you'd like to glance quickly around – there's that much to see. It's a collection of trains of all scales – and model ships, cars, planes, boats.... there's a lot of sound and lights – lots of trains running everywhere. Kids of all ages will love it! It's open Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 5:00 and Saturdays 9:00 to noon.

If you're looking to stay closer to home, a visit to the new station at Kannapolis could be just the ticket. There's a ton of shopping within a block, so others in the family can stay busy while you're doing the serious business of watching the traffic pass by on the rails.

What are you going to learn by visiting one – or some – or all of these spots? Gee – I don't know – I don't see things through your eyes at the moment you're

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Meeting Notes

(As reported by Rick Knight)

- The May 21st meeting at Dick Bronson's home (and factory floor) had 12 members present.
- Gil Brauch was congratulated for earning his AP Author designation.
- We talked for a bit about the AP program

and the consensus was that we need to have a meeting / clinic devoted to AP requirements and how to fill out the paperwork. The paperwork aspect seems to be a major roadblock with many folks. (See Rick Knight's article elsewhere in this issue for more details on the plans for the meeting at Jack Parker's in September.)

- Regarding membership, Rick noted that Carl Baumgart had joined the NMRA - he's a member of the Concord club and a very fine modeler - he's had some medical problems so he wasn't at the meeting.

- We talked about Rails to Raleigh needing folks to volunteer to help - talked about details on the Cincinnati festivities - talked about the Model Train & Railroadiana Show in Concord and asked for volunteers to help staff our World's Greatest Hobby/NMRA table at the Concord layout.

- Rick asked for ideas for events/clinics/ whatever that the Division could do in November to promote National Model Railroad Month - not much input so far. Let's get the thinking hat on and plan for a fun and informative November.

TIMETABLE FOR 2005 (See Web Site for details)

- 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 12 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

Some Summer-time Exploring

By Fred Miller

While visiting my daughter and her family in Maine earlier this month, I had the opportunity to witness, first hand, *Maine two-footers*. Two operating sites were within easy reach of our Augusta home base.

The Wiscasset, Waterville, and Farmington Railway was a two-foot gauge common carrier railroad that operated in the early part of the 1900's, up until 1933 when the railroad ceased operations. The line ran from Wiscasset in the south, to Albion and Winslow in the north. The Museum is located at the



Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Locomotive

site of the old Sheepscot station in Wiscasset, with mainline track running north from Cross Road, on the original roadbed. The operation is on 1.2 miles of that roadbed. A fun and very rocky ride. Further information can be found at their website at: www.wwfry.org

The Boothbay Railway Village, located in Boothbay, Maine, is a non-profit organization that operates coal fired steam trains in a re-created historic village composed of locally significant historic structures. The operating locomotives were mostly imported from England and bear the typical design of British motive power. Best part of the museum exhibits was one of the finest presentations of antique vehicles in New England. The Village is a non-profit organization



Boothbay Village Locomotive

whose mission includes the preservation, operation and exhibition of various historical artifacts from New England and the State of Maine. Further info at: www.railwayvillage.org.



Some of Boothbay Antique Automobiles



Superintendents Notes

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there. Inspiration will hit each of us in a unique way. Looking at the stations in Cherryville, or Albemarle, or Old Fort, or Dillsboro could inspire us to scratch build a duplicate. Seeing a long train, with a six engine consist made up of six different paint schemes, struggle up The Loops could motivate us to add some "leased power" to our layout. Tak-

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ing notes – and maybe pictures – of the freight rolling past Kannapolis might inspire us to weather our own rolling stock. It's all in the details.

So take some time this summer to do some 'serious' research! Railroading by getting around!

And make some plans for a weekend in Raleigh in October. The MER will be gathering on October 28-29-30. There will be a LOT of productive things to see and do – clinics and



Meeting at Martin's—July 2003

seminars; outstanding layouts to tour; and an NMRA model contest. The latter might be one of the most productive learning experiences. We'll talk more, in a minute, about the NMRA AP program. Several of the component parts of the AP require producing models that have to be judged – and have to earn more than 87.5 points. For many of us – myself, included – this is a new experience. What kinds of detail do we really need to include? How exacting are the standards? What do the judges look for? We'll have an excellent opportunity to get the low-down on all of these questions in Raleigh. We'll be able to see it up close and personal, and have an opportunity to talk with the modelers – and the judges. We can improve our railroading – by getting around!

The next meeting of the Carolina Southern

NEXT MEETING

Date: July 16th 2005, 10:30 AM

Place: Martin Oakes' House

Clinics: NMRA AP Paperwork

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

Division will be on July 16th at Martin Oakes' home on the shores of Lake Norman. There are directions on the website. This will be a decidedly laid back meeting – more friendship and fellowship than anything else. It's just a nice afternoon, relaxing by the lake chatting with friends. You'll want to bring a folding chair – and some sunscreen. Send Martin an e-mail to let him know you're coming.

In September, we'll be at Jack Parker's on the shores of Mountain Island Lake – but this time it's business (mostly). We're going to go through all of the component parts of the AP program, and we'll talk about the paperwork required for each component. The paperwork can seem intimidating – and somewhat confusing. We'll sort it all out. In preparation, I'd encourage everyone to get onto the Carolina



Meeting at Jack's—September 2004

Southern website, click on the link to the AP and then click on each of the component parts. Print out the entire explanation. At the bottom of the page there are links to the required forms – print them out, too. Also at the bottom of the page there are links to one or

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two relevant articles – click and print them out too.

Depending on how you work, you might want to start a three ring binder, with a section for each of the component parts. Or maybe a system of file folders will work for you. One way or the other, it pays dividends to be organized. Most of the component parts will require you to keep notes over a period of time – things you've done; articles you've written; models you've built - being organized and having one "spot" for all of the AP paperwork will really help.

Aside from the printouts, you'll need a pen/pencil, maybe a note pad – and an open mind. We'll take care of the details!

Following the AP session we'll have a bit to eat, and then the Piedmont & Western Railroad will be waiting for us. If you have a Digitrax throttle, please bring it.

So – enjoy the summer! Get out and look around – see you at Martin's in July!

- - - Rick Knight

Division AP Progress

Your super already noted at the last Division meeting that Gil Brauch attained his Author AP Certificate.

Now we have another to announce: Congratulations to Rick Knight for attaining his Volunteer AP Certificate. (Word has it that he already has it hanging on his wall).

Here's the Carolina Southern Division Scorecard:

Name	GS	MP	CR	ST	SC	PR	CE	EE	DP	OF	VO	AU	MMR	APC	Total
Bostian, Phil *										'92	'89				2
Brauch, Gill	'02											'05			1
Chance, Dave									'03						1
Chance, Michele									'03						1
Knight, Rick	'04				'04			'05			05				3
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

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