



THE BRASS POUNDER

Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Div, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Assoc.
Volume 9 Number 5 November 2009

Next Division Meeting

Date: November 7, 2009
Brookford Town Center
Brookford, NC

[www.carolinasouthern.org/
brookford.htm#directions](http://www.carolinasouthern.org/brookford.htm#directions)

**10:30 - 12:00 Special work session at
Train Town** -- we will have some projects
lined up for folks to do.

1 pm Division Business Meeting
Brookford Town Center
see agenda below

After meeting: Visit to P&W club layout in
Valdese.

Check web site for updated info:
www.carolinasouthern.org/timetable.htm

Directions:
US 321N from Gastonia, or US 321 S from
I40 (exit 123). Take Exit 42 (NC 127).
From the exit ramp turn on to NC 127
North. Go about 0.5 miles to the next
stoplight and turn right on to South Center
Street. Then travel about 0.4 miles to the
Brookford Town Center.

Calendar of Events

November 14 10:00 - 4:00
Wades Train Town Open House
Brookford Town Center
Brookford, NC

Nov 14 Turnout Clinic by Tony Sissons 8:30-3:00
Dave Ward's Mt. Pleasant, N.C.
Pre-registration required, see web site
www.carolinasouthern.org/timetable.htm#turnout
(see article Sep09 Brass Pounder)

December 5 1:00-5:00 Open Houses
Jack Parkers P&W Model Railroad
12012 Abermathy Road, Charlotte

Rick Knight's Knight Brothers & Dad RR
16631 Glenfurness Drive, Huntersville

Jim Allen's Southern Exchange
13301 Damson Dr, Huntersville

December 12 10:00 - 4:00
Wades Train Town Open House
Brookford Town Center
Brookford, NC

January 30, 2010
Railroad Modelling University IV
First Baptist Church
301 South Davidson Street
Charlotte NC (downtown)
followed by:
Carolina Southern Division
Annual Business Meeting
(details on web site and in next BP)

July 11-18, 2010 NMRA National Convention
Milwaukee WI
(75th anniversary of the NMRA.)
<http://www.nmra75.org>

Superintendent's Corner

Steve August – Superintendent

Hello Fellow Model Railroaders – as the seasons start to change and we change our schedules to a time of being more indoors, we look towards another Model Railroading season; a time when we can work more on our layouts and improve our modeling skills. The division has been very busy this year; with many different events and many more events still to come.

Sometime ago, I was approached by several members of the Palmetto Division of the Southeastern Region which is centered in Columbia, SC. These members live in York, Lancaster, Chester counties which are very close to the North Carolina border adjoining the Carolina Southern Division. I am please to update everyone on this issue that we have cleared 2 major hurdles, the approval of the move by Southeastern and Mid-Eastern Regions. Both boards approved the move at their respective board meetings last week. The final hurdle is to package all the information up and send it to the NMRA for their blessing which should be just a formality.



Carolina Southern Rail Ops 2009: Last month the Carolina Southern Division held its first of

what we hope will become an annual event in the Division. The Carolina Southern Division Rail Ops Weekend was held over the Columbus Day weekend. It was a complete and total success. For those who attended only good things were heard and everyone had a great time and are looking forward to next year's event.

We are hoping to add several more layouts to the weekend next year. I have received many positive emails and comments regarding the weekend. Overall I am very pleased with how the weekend turned out.

Carolina Southern Division Incorporates: At the recent Mid Eastern Region Convention, I attended several meetings at which an issue came up regarding the incorporation of divisions. In the past it has been suggested that the Divisions of the Mid Eastern Region of the NMRA were covered under the auspices' of the National Organization. I found out the division is not covered under the umbrella of the Mid-Eastern Region or the National Model Railroading Association Organization itself.

Over the next couple of months I will be asking questions about the process of becoming incorporated and also about obtaining 501c3 IRS status. I have many sources of information including the Carolina Piedmont Division located in Raleigh / Cary area which incorporated several years ago. The primary reason for doing this is to protect not only the Carolina Southern Division and its members but also the officers in case there should be a problem.

I am asking each of you as CS Division members to vote for this proposal when the time comes. In the meantime, if anyone has any helpful information or if you have any experience with this sort of thing please do not hesitate to contact me.

Division Annual Picnic September 19, 2009

Jack Haynes, Clerk

Jack Parker once again hosted the annual Division Picnic at his home on Mountain Island Lake. There was extensive discussion about what the Division should plan to do for future activities. Steve reported that the next activity will be the Ops Weekend October 9 - 11. Dave Ward will host a turnout building clinic November 14. The best time for the next Division meeting should be November 7 at Brookford. We might include a visit to the P&W at Valdez. Steve will look into it.

Gil Brauch has suggested to Steve that the Division should do something next year for the 75th anniversary of the NMRA; perhaps setting up an N-Scale Modular layout, a large display, working with local hobby shops.

Joe Howard reported that things are getting in line for the next RMU. It will be the morning of January 30 at First Baptist Church. The Annual Business Meeting for the Division will follow at Johnson & Wales.

Dave Chance suggested that more information should be sent out about Division meetings, especially the annual picnic. It has been a kind of anniversary of the Division founding and has always included a business meeting.

Dave Ward initiated discussion about what is the best source of information for members about Division events. Should we email more often, or should we use regular mail more, postcards, etc.

The effort required for Gil to update the web site appears to be an issue. Gil was not there but others suggested that it may be that a compatibility issue between Gil's web development tools and the tools available on the web server, or the configuration of one or both make it more

cumbersome than it has to be. Dick Bronson said that we could host the web site on the web server he uses for RR-Cirkit. He uses Macromedia web builder. He also has an email server that could provide email boxes for the carolinasouthern .org domain.

Steve reported that documents have been sent to SER and MER boards to transfer nearby South Carolina counties to the MER and our Division. Steve needs to get those board approvals back and forward them to the Eastern District Director to schedule with the National Board.

Steve pointed out that there will be elections for Division officers at the Annual Meeting on January 30. He directed anyone who has suggestions for officers to speak with the Directors who will be looking for candidates. Nominations can also be made at the Annual Meeting.

Dave Chance discussed the AP program and asked if everyone knew how to do the paperwork required. He said that in working with people on certificates, the modelling is often great, but they need lots of help with the paperwork. He suggested people use the NMRA website to get a checkoff list that helps them track progress.



We all get down to the serious business of finishing off the buffet

The rest of the day was devoted to food and fun, ending with operation of Jack's layout. We all

extend our thanks to Jack for once again providing a delightful setting, food, and fun for this enjoyable event.

DIVISION BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA NOVEMBER 7, 2009

OPEN – STEVE AUGUST

Accept the Minutes of Annual Meeting

NOMINATIONS – ROY BECKER

OP SESSION REVIEW – STEVE AUGUST

CLERKS REPORT – JACK HAYNES

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

PAYMASTER REPORT – DICK BRONSON

AP REPORT – DAVE CHANCE

BROOKFORD REPORT – GIL BRAUCH

OLD BUSINESS

Jim Teese Award

NEW BUSINESS

Incorporation of the Division

PLANS 2009

Turnout Clinic – David Ward

Layout Open House – Jack Parker, Rick Knight, Jim Allen

PLANS 2010

Ideas

Railroading Modelling University

ROY BECKER

JOE HOWARD

Operating Session Weekend -

ADJOURN

CAROLINA SOUTHERN DIVISION'S FIRST ANNUAL RAIL OPERATIONS WEEKEND

By Steven P August – Superintendent

The first annual Carolina Southern Rail Ops is now behind us. This was a 3-day event held in the Carolina Southern Division of the Mid Eastern Region of the NMRA. There were many months of preparation, meetings, and lots of time spent on many railroads. All the layout owners worked very hard to make their railroads available and to make this event the great success that it was.

We started with 9 HO scale layouts, at varying degrees of completion. A couple of the layouts dropped for personal reasons which left for 7 layouts and 51 slots available for operations. All but 1 of these layouts belonged to individual owners; the other belonged to a club. Only 1 layout eventually had to be dropped because not enough people requested that layout.



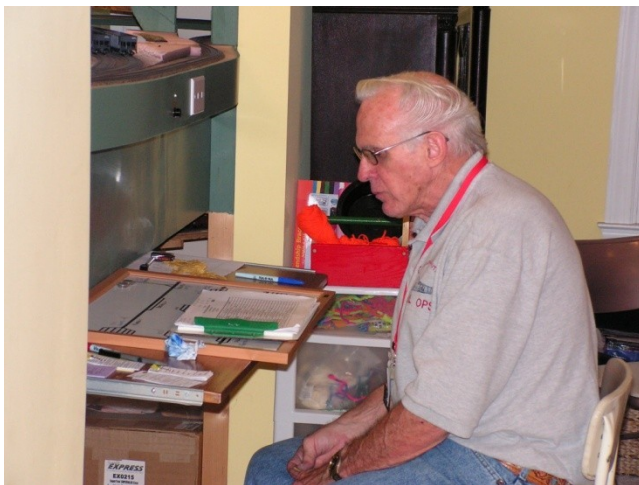
Cal Reynolds operates Oyama Yard at the KB&D Railroad

We had a total of 8 sessions over the entire weekend and we stopped long enough on Saturday evening to have some great Carolina Style Bar-B-Q and hear a great presentation on the operations

history of the LAWNDAL and SHELBY RAILROAD which was a narrow gauge railroad which ran in 1899-1943 North Carolina.

Just about everyone who signed up for the weekend to operate ran all three days with only a few operating on Saturday and Sunday, and only one person operating just Friday due to a previous commitment. Throughout all the planning sessions, we were able to sign-up 8 new NMRA members. Those who operated came primarily from the Mid Eastern and Southeastern Regions of the NMRA.

In order to get ready for the weekend all these layouts had many operations sessions to do many hours of testing. Problems were found, repaired and tested again. Many of layouts ran with car card systems and some ran with TT & TO. Following each session, a survey form was available for the operators to fill out in order to gauge what the reactions were. Most of the surveys were very positive with many asking when next year's session would be held. Overall, the weekend was a great success and we look forward to do this again next year with even more layouts.



Bob Johnson dispatches at the NY Central Piney Fork Branch

Finally I would thank all the layout owners for all the work they did in order to make this weekend the success it was: David Ward and his 'Denver, Boulder & Western Railroad', Jack Parker and his 'Piedmont and Western Railroad', Jim Allen's 'Southern Exchange', Neal Anderson and his 'K-K & L Railroad', Rick Knight and his 'Knight Brothers & Dad Railroad', and last but not least Seth Gardner and his New York Central PF Branch.

I would also like to give a special thanks to Joe Howard without whose help at times I would have thrown in the towel, and this event may not have happened; Roy Becker, Jim Rager, and Bob Halsey who were at various layouts as helpers to make the event a complete success, and for all those who attended. Looking forward to riding with all down the rails next year.

Ops Weekend Attendee Perspective Jack Haynes

I have generally enjoyed participating in operating session at individual layouts, so when the Division scheduled a full weekend of operating sessions, I decided to give it a try. I signed up for three layouts. I had operated a few times at one of them, but the other two would be new to me. I hoped for an interesting experience and to learn a few things. I wasn't disappointed.

One interesting observation was how the interests of the participants varied. Some wanted a yard master job, while others wanted to engineer a road job or a local switcher or way freight. The layouts also varied in several, sometimes subtle ways. All three used some variation of a car card/waybill scheme, but each was a little different, some using the two-card system, one for the car, the other for the movements, with others using a single card with both the car and the list of car movements.

Moves were marked off in some way when completed.



Rick Knight explains a point of operation to Mike Jensen and John Cox at Spencer on his KB&D RR

Dispatching was handled differently at each layout. One had a formal dispatcher position with a panel to keep track of trains on the layout and a schedule list of the trains to be run. At another the position was a little less formal, but the "dispatcher" kept track of trains to be run, assigned engineers as needed and walked around to see where things were and issue orders and clearances. At the third, the layout owner did the dispatching in an informal way, assigning engineers and sending trains out of the main yard as needed.



Jack Dziadul switches West Yard on Jim Allen's Southern Exchnage

On one layout, the road engineers did a lot of switching at industries along the way and some of the switching at the yards. At another, the local yard masters did most of the switching with the yard switcher or a local freight job. The road freights primarily served to pickup and set out cars at the yards.

Besides learning something about the different ways to operate a layout overall, I also got some helpful instruction from a yard master on how to switch cars in and out of my thru freight more efficiently after I tied up the whole layout making too many switching moves to break up a train that wasn't blocked well. By the time I finished my yard work, two other trains were being held at sidings waiting for me to clear out of town. There were some comments about my qualifications as an engineer, but it was all in good fun.



Under Seth Gartner's watchful eye, Jack Dziadul gets trains ready at Minerva for Dave Chance and Kenny Mann on Seth's Pine Fork Branch

And fun was the overall theme of the weekend. Everyone was there to have a good time. Everyone was accepted at whatever level of skill, knowledge, and experience. The arrangements for the event were well done and I compliment the organizers. Especially for the first effort, it seemed to go off well and all the attendees I talked with felt the same. The layout hosts were all very welcoming and had their layouts ready for work. I think I speak for all the other attendees in thanking them for their hospitality and hard work to prepare for us and make our time with them enjoyable.

The weekend was a great opportunity to meet other people interested in operation with other experiences and perspectives from which we could all learn something while having a lot of fun. I hope we do it again.

AP Report for 2009

Dave Chance

October 22, 2009

AP Chair, Carolina Southern, Division 12

During the third quarter this year, three CS Division members have earned Achievement Program Certificates. One Association Volunteer, One Model Railroad Engineer, Electrical, and one Model Builder, Scenery have been rewarded. I am very pleased by the progress that Division 12 has made in the Achievement Program. We also have two AP submissions approved at both the Division and Region level and sent on to National. These are sure to receive an award!

Seven awards have been earned in 2009 and are as follows:

1. Seth Gartner --- Golden Spike, February, 2009..... first award!
2. Jim Allen --- Chief Dispatcher AP, February 1, 2009..... fourth AP award!
3. David Ward --- Golden Spike, March, 2009..... first award!
4. Jerry Shepardson --- Golden Spike, March, 2009.....first award!
5. Gil Brauch -- Association Volunteer, April, 2009..... fourth AP award!
6. Gil Brauch -- Model Railroad Engineer, Electrical, April, 2009..... fifth AP award!
7. David Ward -- Model Builder, Scenery, May, 2009..... first AP award!
8. Steve August -- Golden Spike, September, 2009
9. Steve August -- Association Volunteer, (MER sent to National, Oct. 09)
10. Steve August - Model Railroad Engineer, Electrical, (MER sent to National, Oct. 09)

We have several members currently working on AP projects. If you are working on an AP project and not listed below, please let me know so I can add you to the list. Current projects include but are not limited to the following:

1. Dick Bronson -- Electrical Engineer and Civil Engineering.
2. Jim Allen -- MB Locomotives.
3. Steve August -- Association Official, MB Cars
4. Jack Parker -- MB Cars, working on his seventh AP.
5. Dave Chance -- MB Locomotives, MB Cars, MB Structures, and Civil Engineer.
6. Ed Locklin -- Association Volunteer and Electrical Engineer.
7. Carl Baumgart -- MB Structures
8. Michele Chance -- Electrical Engineering, MB Structures
9. Seth Gartner -- Chief Dispatcher, Association Volunteer
10. Jack Monette -- MB Cars
11. Carl Wessel - Chief Dispatcher
12. Jim Thomas - Chief Dispatcher
13. Jerry Shepardson -- Scenery and Electrical Engineering

Several others have told me they are working on at least one AP project. Let me know if you need help with your project, from understanding the requirements to assisting with the paper work. Send me an email or call me on the phone and we will schedule my help.

loconut@carolina.rr.com

704-933-4200

The Division Brass

Superintendent.....Steve August
Asst. Superintendent.....Joe Howard
Clerk.....Jack Haynes
Paymaster.....Dick Bronson
Director 2009.....Jack Monette
Director 2010.....Roy Becker
Director 2011.....Fred Miller

AP Chairman.....Dave Chance
Webmaster.....Gil Brauch
Newsletter Editor.....Jack Haynes

Division Website:

www.carolinasouthern.org

Submissions For Brass Pounder

Next Issue	Submission Date
December 2009	December 10, 2009

Articles are welcome on any railroad topic, model or prototype. Your editor is available to assist in preparing the materials.

Editor: Jack Haynes: jbh108@earthlink.net
704-296-2493

Page 8

THE BRASS POUNDER

Official Publication of the Carolina Southern Div, MER, NMRA
November 2009 – Volume 9, Number 5
7317 Easen Court
Charlotte, NC 28211