



Carolina Southern Division

Annual Meeting Minutes

2019

1. Meeting
 - a. The 2019 Annual Meeting for Carolina Southern Division 12 of the Mid East Region was held at West Concord Baptist Church, 225 Warren C. Coleman Blvd., Concord NC on Saturday, February 16, 2019.
 - b. Superintendent Alan Hardee Called the meeting to order approximately 9:35am.
 - c. There were 22 members present, well surpassing the quorum minimum of 12.
2. Superintendent's Report (included as attachment)
 - a. Alan Hardee provided copies of the Superintendent's Annual Report to all in attendance and briefly discussed highlights from his report.
 - b. Key events during 2018 included:
 - i. Three division displays of "Timesaver" switching layout.
 - ii. 12th annual Railroad Modeling University (RNU) held in January.
 - iii. Division Annual Picnic in October, after postponement due to a hurricane threat in September. The Picnic was held at the home of Jack Parker, MMR.
 - iv. Members Swap Meet and Wade's Train Town Open House in November.
 - c. Activities to sponsor Boy Scout Model Railroad Merit Badge with multiple Councils.
 - d. Emphasis in the Superintendent's Report was on the success of RMU, which consistently draws 60 to 80 attendees.
3. Assistant Superintendent's Report
 - a. Jack Monette, MMR, added his emphasis on the success of RMU, not only during 2018, but also with the recently completed 13th annual RMU in January 2019.
4. Clerk's Report (included as attachment)
 - a. Clerk Ed Gumphrey provided copies of his Annual Report to all in attendance and briefly discussed highlights from his report.
 - b. The most significant Clerk's action was updating registration with the NC Department of State.
 - c. Responses to helper@carolinasouthern.org
5. Paymaster's Report

- a. John Stevens provided a summary of his Annual Report, indicating that the Division is solvent for 2018.
 - b. The written report was provided to The Superintendent. To ensure financial confidentiality, it is not included in these minutes.
6. Newsletter Report (included as attachment)
- a. Editor Ed Gumphrey provided copies of his Annual Report to all in attendance and briefly discussed highlights from his report.
 - b. 10 editions of *The Brass Pounder* were published, averaging 18 pages.
 - c. The newsletter was graduated to monthly publication after two bi-monthly issues.
 - d. The editor expressed thanks to those who had submitted articles and solicited continuing contributions to the newsletter.
7. Social Media Report (Facebook, Website) (included as attachment)
- a. Webmaster Gil Brauch, MMR provided copies of his Annual Report to all in attendance and briefly discussed highlights from his report.
 - b. Due to computer failure, the CSD website has not been updated since November. After computer repairs, the software for maintaining the web could was found to be obsolete.
 - c. The Webmaster has procured new software and is nearing completion of creating a new website.
 - i. Links are posted on the home page to legacy pages of the website.
 - ii. The new website will be similar to the old site, with updated menu options.
 - iii. The calendar has been updated and is accessible through a link on the home page.
 - d. CSD's Facebook Page has remained active for members who opted to join the group page.
8. Brookford Project Report (included as attachment)
- a. Brookford Project Manager Gil Brauch, MMR provided copies of his Annual Report to all in attendance and briefly discussed highlights from his report.
 - b. Attendance at monthly open houses for Wade's Train Town was 133 for the year, during 10 events.
 - c. Six CSD members volunteered time to the project. More volunteers are needed.
 - d. Donations and attendance are about the same as last year. The project will continue in 2019 on the second Saturday of each month from 10:00am to 2:00pm.
9. Convention Update
- a. Convention Chairman Neal Anderson provided highlights of planning steps for CSD hosting of the 2020 MER Convention

- b. Site location has been narrowed to two Hilton properties, one in Concord and one in the University area. MER Convention Manager will continue with negotiations on site selection.
- c. Consideration is being given to several events in conjunction with the Convention.
 - i. 7 ½” gauge tour may be included.
 - ii. Special tours of the NC Transportation Museum in Spencer, possibly as a lead-in event all day on the Thursday before the Convention.
 - iii. Layout tours and operating sessions are still being solicited.

10. Election

- a. The only opening position was for a Director with term until 2022.
- b. Ed Smith had volunteered to be considered. There were no nominations from the floor.
- c. Ed Smith was unanimously elected by voice vote as Director 2022.

11. New Business

- a. AP Chairman Neal Anderson made two AP presentations.
 - i. Michele Chance received an Achievement Award for Association Official.
 - ii. Ed Smith received a Golden Spike Award.
Continue basic duties during all meetings in 2019.
- b. Neal Anderson and MER AP Manager Dave Chance discussed activities in the Division and emphasized that many members may be much closer to achieving awards than they may be aware.

12. Superintendent Alan Hardee adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:30am.

Ed Gumphrey
CSD Clerk
Editor, CSD Brass Pounder

Yearly Division Report
Reporting Period: 2018

Division: Carolina Southern Division 12, MER

Meeting Times and Places:

Regular member meeting third Saturday each month
February 17th Annual Business Meeting;
February Board Organizational and Planning Meeting

Change in Officers from last year (including AP Coordinator):

Contact information:

Superintendent:

Curtis Alan Hardee	908 S. 9 th St. Bessemer City, NC 28016	704-868-6976 superintendent @carolinasouthern.org
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Asst Superintendent:

Jack Monette, MMR 613	174 Glenwood Drive Concord, NC 28025	704-788-2856 assistsuper @carolinasouthern.org
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Paymaster:

John Stevens	114 W Vista View Place Mooresville, NC 28117	704-663-5565 paymaster @carolinasouthern.org
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Clerk:

Edward Gumphrey	911 Pleasant Drive Shelby, NC 28152	757-353-8355 Clerk @carolinasouthern.org
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Director 2020:

Roy Becker	5112 Granite Creek Lane	704-644-5555
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Charlotte, NC 28269 director2
@carolinasouthern.org

Director 2019:
Blayne Olsen 4429 Wolf Pond Rd 704-764-3377
Monroe, NC 28112-7900 director1
@carolinasouthern.org

Director 2021
Larry Paffrath 17815 Prescott Border 704-778-2745
Drive director3
Cornelius, NC 28031 @carolinasouthern.org

AP Chairman
Neal Anderson 172 Woodfield Dr 704-775-2830
Statesville, NC 28677 apchair
@carolinasouthern.org

Achievement Program highlights: See Attached

Activities from the past year:

“Brass Pounder” Division Newsletter; (10 editions)

Division promotion display with operating Timesavers at Train Shows
Hickory, NC in April, Spencer, NC in May, Gastonia, NC July

12th annual Railroad Modeling University (RMU), January

Division Picnic, September- Postponed to October due to Hurricane.

Members Swap Meet, November
Wades Train Town Open House (2nd Saturday monthly)

11 members and spouses attended MER Convention.

Monthly activities

January, Worlds Greatest Hobby, Charlotte, NC 1/13/18
Annual Meeting. BOD Meeting 1/20/18
RMU, Railroad Modeling University. 1/27/18

February, Layout visit and Op session at Seth Gartner

March, Monthly meeting with Guest Speaker, Todd Arnette, NWHS
Director talking about the convention. BOD Meeting, approved 2020 MER
Convention.

April, Layout visit and Op session at Superintendents Alan Hardee,s home

May, Display at North Carolina Transportation Museum train Show,
Clinics for train show attendees. Display at NWHS convention at NC
Transportation Museum in Spencer

June, Layout visit to Jack Monette, MMR 613

July, Layout visit and OP session at Neal Anderson

August, Visit to NC Transportation Museum, Spencer NC for Guided tour
and
Layout visit to Marcus Neubacher.

September, Postponed due to Hurricane weather.

October, Annual Picnic and layout visit to Jack Parker's Piedmont &
Western Railroad.

November, Monthly meeting. Annual swap meet and show. Hickory, NC

Special Projects or working with other organizations

Sponsor Boy Scout Model Railroad Merit Badge with multiple Councils
Maintain & repair model train display at Levine Museum of the New South.

Any successful or new ideas that your division has tried that might be
helpful to other divisions.

The Division has held a Railroad Modeling University for 12 years. This event has been a half or full day collection of classes, clinics, demonstrations, and hands on work sessions on many aspects of the hobby. It is scheduled for January and always includes some classes targeting beginners. Some of the beginner classes have been run every year and consistently get 8 to 12 attendees. We often have several people who had their first exposure to model trains at Christmas and are curious about what more they can do with them. We typically have 4 to 6 concurrent one-hour classes at all levels of expertise, so anyone can learn something from the day. Attendance has been in the range of 60 to 80.

Superintendent's Name and Signature.

Curtis Alan Hardee, 1/15/19



Carolina Southern Division

Annual Clerk's Report

2018

13. Election

- a. I was elected as CSD Clerk during the Division's annual meeting on January 20, 2018.

14. Turnover

- a. The outgoing Clerk, Fred Miller, MMR, turned over all files, including CD files, membership roster, and newsletter templates at the conclusion of the meeting.
- b. Fred Miller, MMR, also provided me with additional guidance via emails to answer various questions. My thanks to Fred for his thorough turnover of duties.

15. Activities

- a. With the exception of the February 2018 meeting at Seth Gartner's, I attended all monthly meetings, taking attendance and notes to provide input for The Brass Pounder. My thanks to Alan Hardee in providing notes and pictures for the meeting I missed.
- b. Answered multiple email queries addressed to helper@carolinasouthern.org
- c. Mailed 26 letters to various members to clarify correct email addresses that were found to be in error in HQ/Regional data bases.
- d. Through a series of three submissions, I provided updated registration information to the North Carolina Secretary of State.

16. Future Plans

- a. Continue basic duties during all meetings in 2019.
- b. Support Convention Chairman Neal Anderson in advance planning for hosting the 2020 MER Convention.
- c. Provide additional support as may be requested by the BOD and other members.

Ed Gumphrey
CSD Clerk
Editor, CSD Brass Pounder



Carolina Southern Division

Annual Editor's Report

2018

17. Selection as Editor of *The Brass Pounder*

- a. I volunteered to assume duties as newsletter editor concurrent with my election as CSD Clerk during the Division's annual meeting on January 20, 2018. I'm having fun.

18. Turnover

- a. The outgoing Editor, Fred Miller, MMR, turned over all files, including CD files, membership roster, and newsletter templates at the conclusion of the meeting.
- b. Fred Miller, MMR, also provided me with additional guidance via emails to answer various questions. My thanks to Fred for his thorough turnover of duties.

19. Activities

- a. I published my first edition of *The Brass Pounder* as a bi-monthly newsletter in February 2018. In the absence of any backlog of submissions, I wrote a railfan article about my cab ride at the Cass Scenic Railroad. In response to feedback from members, I changed the format to single column, and began including hyperlinks where appropriate.
- b. In the wake of CSD's 12th annual RMU, I received input from Doug Algire about the event. At the same time, I began to receive article submissions from various members in response to my request in the newsletter. I published my second edition as another bi-monthly newsletter in April 2018.
- c. By the end of April, I had accumulated a modest backlog of articles, and decided to transition to monthly publication.
 - i. I was particularly interested in providing more timely reports about Division meetings. With a monthly publication, members who missed a meeting can read about the event within two weeks.
 - ii. I continue to hope that monthly publication will act in a somewhat self-fulfilling mode. The more interesting news and articles I can publish, the more members will feel encouraged to submit their ideas and news about their railroads.
- d. By May of 2018 I was scheduling layout visits with other Division members to work with them to produce articles about their railroads. I have visited nine members so far, and plan on more. Several will be follow-up visits.
- e. By the end of 2018 I had published 10 editions of *The Brass Pounder*, averaging 18 pages.

20. Submissions

- a. Submissions peaked during the summer months, to the point where I had to delay publication of some articles in the interest of not letting the newsletter get “too long.”
- b. I continue to solicit inputs with every edition.
- c. My sincere thanks to Alan Hardee, Neal Anderson, Doug Algire, Ed Smith, Andrew Stitt, Tim Rumph, Michele and Dave Chance, Bob Halsey, MMR Fred Miller, MMR Jack Monette, Glen Romb, and MMR Gil Brauch for their submissions.

21. Future Plans

- a. Continue monthly publication in 2019.
- b. Arrange additional layout tours and follow-up visits for article development.
- c. Support Convention Chairman Neal Anderson in advance planning for hosting the 2020 MER Convention with particular emphasis on increasing interest in participation.
- d. Provide additional support with publication of notices as may be requested by the BOD.

Ed Gumphrey

CSD Clerk

Editor, *The Brass Pounder*



Annual Webmaster's Report

As of December 31, 2018

In December the Webmaster lost functionality of the program used to maintain the website. As a result, the page has not been updated since about December 9, 2018 and the site was essentially taken down for rebuilding. However, our FaceBook page is being used for announcements and updates. After our Annual Meeting, the Webmaster will meet with the Board to preview and approve the rebuilt website. There are no major changes to the content, but the look and feel of our website will change just a little. The major change you will see is in the menu arrangements. Also, we have removed some of the outdated material and hope the changes made will streamline the site and make it more useful to both the leadership and the members. Complete redesign of all 100+ pages that comprise the site is not complete and will continue incrementally throughout the coming weeks. However, 34 of the the most important pages of current interest should be available by the end of the February. The Clerk will issue an email to the membership announcing the reactivation.

The registration service we started to use with RMU 2012 continued to work well and we will continue to use it for not only registrations, but also at other times when feedback from the membership is desired. The PayPal account also functioned successfully and we will continue to use it for payments except for ordering shirts, hats, and other items from the haberdasher because it is simpler for the haberdasher to deal directly with the vendor on a cash basis rather than on an invoice basis through the Division Paymaster.

Our Facebook presence continues on and makes for a good second information outlet for the Division. All members are encouraged to 'join' the page and keep up with the postings there. It is a 'closed' group as far as postings are concerned, although the general public can see what's aboard. I will continue to 'cross post' events between the website and Facebook pages based on information provided by the Clerk in his announcement Email 'blasts' to the general membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Gilbert Brauch, MMR
Webmaster



Annual Report on the Brookford Project As of December 31, 2018

We held 10 open houses entertaining a total of approximately 133 visitors.

- Attendance was about the same as the year prior.
- For National Model Railroad Month in November, we again hosted a swap meet in conjunction with our open house. Approximately 35 people attended during the day. We did have a 'news' notice in the Hickory Daily Record.
- We should continue holding swap meets during the November Open House. Member participation in the event was better than last year.
- Central Carolina N Scalers brought their T-Trak modules to display.

A total of six (6) CSD members contributed hours to the project this year. All of the hours were in hosting monthly open houses. Using Division members as hosts works out well and support from Division members essential to the continued viability of this project. That being said, the response for support in this continues to be underwhelming.

- Attached to this report is the certificate of service for those working on the project during calendar year 2018.

Cash donations have been approximately \$3,442 over the years we have held open houses. Our annual income for 2018 was \$90.

- Most of this, except about \$5 currently in the donation jar, \$55.21 deposited in the CSD bank account, and the current cash on hand, has been expended on materials and supplies. Our continuing expense is the electric bill, which the Paymaster handles separately.
- The project manager is holding a cash balance of approximately \$481 available for future materials and supplies.
- There were no project material expenses for the year.

We will be continuing our open house schedule in the coming year on the second Saturday of each month from 10 am until 2 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gilbert Brauch, MMR
Brookford Project Manager