

Wade's Train Town Moving to the Newton Depot

The Newton Depot Authority and Southeastern Narrow Gauge and Shortline Museum are pleased to announce a major acquisition for their Model Railroad Center in cooperation with the Carolina Southern Division of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. The family of the late Wade Warren, creator of Wade's Train Town and longtime resident of the town of Brookford, has agreed to donate his substantial HO scale model railroad to the Newton Depot Authority for the enjoyment of future generations of Catawba County residents. The Carolina Southern Division has agreed to relocate the railroad layout from its current home for over 30 years in the Brookford Community Center to the Model Railroad Center over the coming months with a target date of re-opening in the early Fall. The Division will also continue to maintain and operate the layout on behalf of the Depot Authority.

Wade's Train Town is an HO Scale display layout originally built by Wade Warren between 1984 and 1995 in the Brookford Community Center. The layout represents Wade's interpretation of a town with over 280 structures, most with operating lights and other features, that has a residential area, downtown, a carnival park, light industry, and heavy industrial areas. Two main lines circle the layout and are operational and there is a respectable stock of locomotives and train cars. It has delighted hundreds of visitors over the years and the Depot Authority and Museum are pleased to be able to allow many hundreds more to view it as well as the four other layouts in their Model Railroad Center.

The Newton Depot Authority and the Alexander Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society jointly operate the Southeastern Narrow Gauge & Shortline Museum located at the Newton Depot, 1123 North Main Avenue, Newton, NC. This museum is the only railroad museum in the South with a concentration of narrow gauge railroading and houses a collection of vintage railroad equipment that dates as far back as the era of Reconstruction. This collection includes boxcars, log cars, passenger cars, cabooses, and a steam locomotive. It has the largest collection of vintage narrow gauge equipment in the South. Additionally, the museum operates several model railroads of N, HO, and O scale in its dedicated Model Railroad Center.

The Carolina Southern Division is a division of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. which advances the global scale model railroading community through education, advocacy, standards, and social interaction. The Division has members in the North Carolina counties of Alexander, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, and Union as well as the South Carolina counties of Chester, Lancaster, and York.