

THE BRASS POUNDER



**Newsletter of the Carolina Southern Division 12, Mid-Eastern Region,
National Model Railroad Association**

Volume 25 Number 6

June 2025

Division Coming Events

Dreams Come True Railroad

Saturday, June 21st

**2164 Beaver Dam Road Cassatt,
SC 29032**

**REGISTER ON THE
WEBSITE ASAP**

Superintendent's Corner

By Andrew Stitt

Model railroad clubs are a very important part of our hobby. They invite commitment on the part of their members to participate in the club's activities. They provide an outlet for the exchange of ideas and experiences. They provide a social aspect which is very important to our lives. They can be local in nature (i.e. Metrolina Model Railroaders, Concore Area Modelers, Piedmont & Western, etc.) or more regional or national or international as the Carolina Southern Division belongs in the latter categories.

Our division has a long history, but to most, it is a newer experience. Most of us found the Division when we moved into this area from somewhere else. Thanks to the outreach of Division members or other forms of publicity we managed to find this group and decided to join. While it might not have been what was expected by some people, I think many of us have found membership in CSD to be a rewarding experience. We have found a circle of like-minded hobbyists who have become friends over time. We have come to share parts of our life stories with them as we have grown together as a group.

My point is this: Model railroading certainly is a solitary hobby. Just think of all the time you spend in the train room working on a locomotive, weathering a car, building a module, etc. Yet when we step out of that environment, we are able to find like-minded folks to share experiences, ideas, even jokes with. Where would we be without it. In my opinion, it is less fulfilled.

For the record, I want to announce a couple of things that have come up since last month. After discussion, there will not be a regular meeting in June. Our invitation to the Dreams Come True Railroad will serve as such. Secondly, John Yarbrough has arranged for a tour of the Lionel headquarters in Concord on Wednesday, August 13 @ 10:30. A sign up sheet will soon be posted on our website. Members as well as non-members are invited to attend. The tour will be limited by our host to 20 attendees, but a second tour can be arranged if needed.

Finally, there has been some discussion about holding a clinic to learn how to make turnouts. It will need to be an extra fare event to cover the cost of materials and is likely to be held in August. If you are interested, please contact me or Joe Skorch for more information and to let us know of your interest in attending. Seating will be limited for this clinic, I expect.

Editor's Notes

By Chad Barnette

Well you know by now how late the June issue came out. Sometimes life just gets in the way of our better intentions doesn't it. You can see where this is going, right? Yes, sometimes life also gets in the way of the hobby.

However, you'll be happy to know that I did make progress on my layout. I will issue an update on it in next month's Brass Pounder. What I like about getting back to doing a full layout is it is forcing me back into basics. Like couplers. Admittedly I didn't know much about the different types of couplers except for some common names I'd heard. Now I find myself strangely excited about something that seemed rather mundane before.

Here's what I know. If I can get even a little bit excited about couplers, there's tons more for me to get excited about as I get back into my first full layout in a long time. Join me as I continue on the journey. See you next month!



What is this? Find out in next month's edition!

Division and Regional News

Wade's Train Town

Wade's Train Town – May Stats

Contributed by Ed Smith, MMR

Open houses: 5

Attendance: 260

Volunteers: Ed Smith (4), Chad Barnette, Bob Halsey

A busy month at Wade's with National Train Day hitting on May 10th. A lot of great exposure for CSD and for the museum.

We are, once again, requesting members to step up and volunteer to spend one Saturday a month, at most, at the Legacy Train Exhibit at the Newton Narrow Gauge Museum. We just leveled out at 4 volunteers again, but proved how fragile these manning levels are by having an illness among us. We really need one or two more bodies to solidify our obligations. So if you can see fit to volunteer, it will be really appreciated

The AP Report from the Plywood RR Desk

Contributed by Neal Anderson, MMR

Just a heads up from the desk of The Plywood Railroad. You are instructed to use fillable PDF forms from National for the Achievement Program to improve formatting and reduce scanning for SOQ submissions, and to submit supports separately from the SOQs until further notice.

PS the structures PDF needs some work. The rest work.

Jet your notice in on going to Cassatt, SC to run trains and ride. To cover some of the food cost we ask for \$5.00 to cover the food per person.

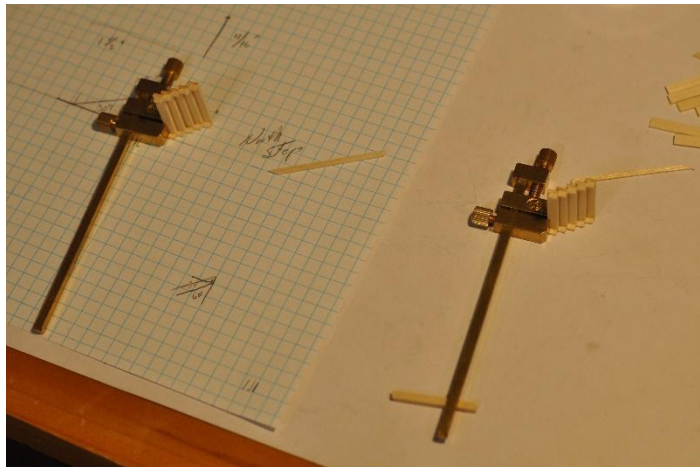
Scratch Building the Waxhaw Bridge, Part 3

Contributed by David Myers, Clerk



The last components of the bridge to be built are the stairways for access to the north and south ramps from street level. The north stairway has ten steps that go from the sidewalk straight to the north ramp. The south stairway has nine steps the go from the sidewalk to a small platform to make a ninety degree right turn to the south ramp. The steps are 4" x 12" x 6' wooden pieces like the planks on the center span and ramps.

When all the bridge components are assembled, the stairs will have handrails and safety rails matching the center span and ramps.



Stairways being assembled

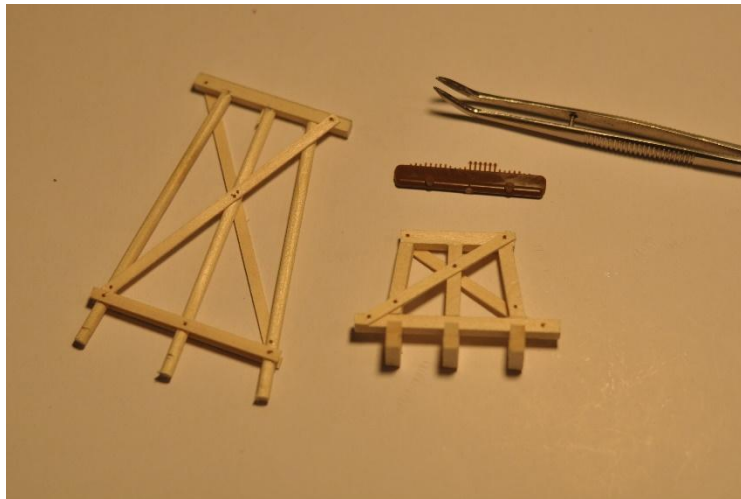


Completed stairway components

The bridge structural components are held together by large nuts, bolts, and washers (NBW). The best match I found for the bridge is the “Small NBW” set produced by Tichy Train Gorup. They recommend a #77 drill for the NBW pieces. My hands were not steady enough to place the pieces in that hole size. I could manage a #79 size hole, but the fit was not as snug. I used a very small drop of glue to ensure the pieces stayed in place.



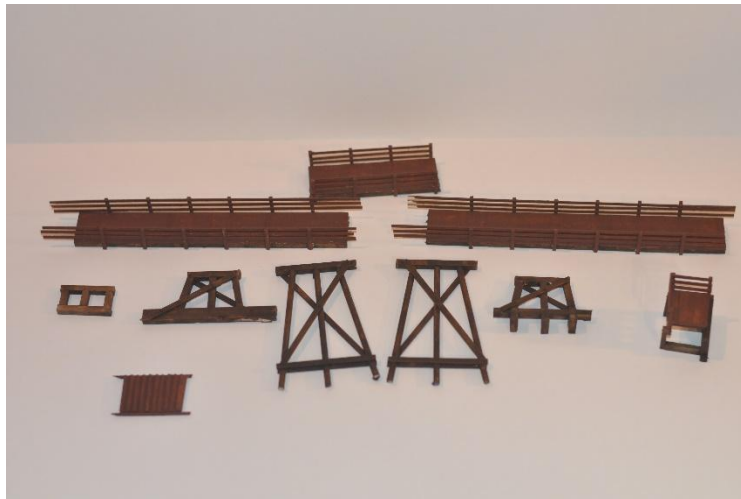
I drilled all the way through each location for a bolt to ensure each side would line up. Good tweezers are needed to handle the small NBW pieces. After each bolt was in the drilled hole, I set it in place with the flat side of an hobby knife.



Bridge piers with NBW in place

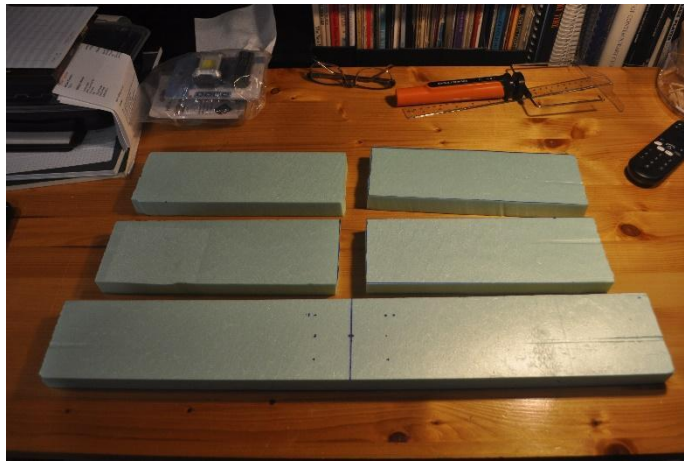
The balusters and handrails are connected to the center span and ramps with smaller bolts and nuts. I could not find any commercial parts small enough to replicate those on the handrails. This provided a convenient excuse not to model them. I am not certain I could stay sane installing 200+ of the smaller bolts.

To be to reach all the surfaces of the components of the bridge, I decided to paint all the components before final assembly of the bridge. The structural parts of the bridge are treated with creosote. The parts touched by people (stairs, decks, handrails, and balusters) are coated with brown paint. I used acrylic paints. "Raw Umber" diluted 50% with water makes a good representation of creosote. The color is a good match and the blotchy way it dries makes a good representation of creosote. "Coffee Bean" brown is a good match for the brown paint on the bridge.



The major components of the bridge after painting.

Before the bridge components can be assembled, the terrain at the site of the bridge must be built. I chose to build the terrain from foam blocks.



The foam blocks with the rough contour of the railroad right-of-way.

The next step is to assemble the bridge components and do the final contouring of the terrain to accommodate the bridge



Dreams Come True Railroad Invite

Contributed by Neal Anderson, MMR

Scott Davenport and myself will be hosting the meeting of the Carolina Southern Division 12 at the railroad on the 21st of June 2025.

Dreams Come True Railroad will be having an open house that same day. You can come early and ride the trains. We can even teach you to drive the trains. The meeting will be at 11:00 am and lunch will be after. The railroad will be open for you to ride on. We have 2 miles of track that is currently being expanded. It has two indoor bathrooms that are in the club house. We will be cooking up hamburgers and Hot dogs in the club house. Chips and drinks will be there.

There is a live powered steam engine on the railroad, gas powered diesel engines, electric powered steam engines, and electric powered diesel engines. Don't forget to do some car pooling to get there.

Come see what we have been doing as a Group of railroaders.

Thanks,

Neal Anderson

2164 Beaver Dam Rd.
Cassatt, SC
29032-9371

Coming Soon! A Trip to Lionel

Contributed by Chad Barnette, Editor



Who would've thunk? At least not me. I had no idea the Lionel headquarters was right in our backyard....right there in Concord, North Carolina.

Well, many thanks to John Yarbrough - he has arranged for the CSD to have a tour of the Concord Lionel factory in August. This tour is only available during the week so it will be on Wednesday 8/13/25.

Be sure to register as space is limited to the first 20 registrants.

See you there!

<http://www.carolinasouthern.org/Lionel%20Tour%20Registration.html>





MILEPOST 88: A look back in the Carolina Southern Division Archives. Please enjoy this blast from the past.

Erie Railroad - Delaware Division

Contributed by Ed Smith, (Now MMR 😊)



Let me introduce myself. My name is Ed Smith and I have been a NMRA member for 30 years. My wife, Cindy, and I live in Bethlehem, NC, which is across Lake Hickory from Hickory, NC. After early retirement, we moved down here from Northeast Ohio about 11 years ago. We built our house on a sloping, 1-acre lot on the lake, which afforded me a walk-out basement for my dream railroad layout.

Over the last 11 years, because of home construction, obligations of caretaking for both sets of parents, and living in an area with no division affiliation in NMRA, I have been a lone wolf modeler. This has all changed recently. My personal obligations are now gone and the Carolina Southern division has expanded to include my area. This has encouraged me to be more active in

the Division. I had the pleasure of meeting and talking to Alan Hardee and Ed Gumphrey at the Hickory Train Show. Ed informed me he was looking for modelers in the construction phase of their layouts, who may be interested in writing periodic updates in The Brass Pounder. The Brass Pounder Volume 18 No 3 Page 18 May 2018

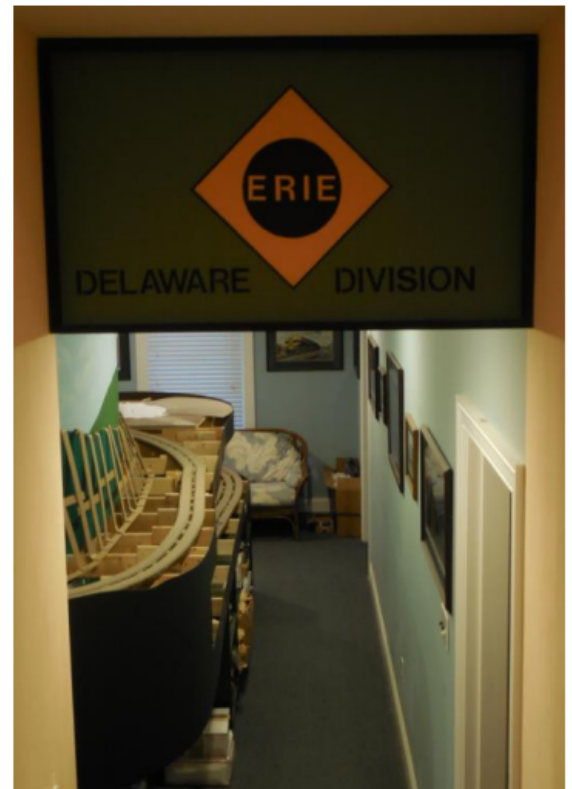
By no means am I an author, but the thought of doing something like this, which is outside my comfort zone, interested me for several reasons. First, it gives me incentive to accomplish construction in a more coordinated fashion; second, our Division will be hosting

the Regional Convention in the Fall of 2020, and a somewhat completed layout may be of some interest; and, finally, this may be the incentive I need to jump into the A.P. program. So, I've decided to give it a try.

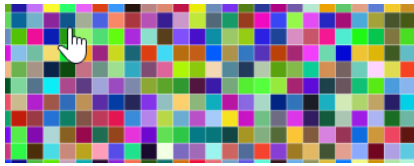
In this first installment (I hope Ed will permit more), I will give a quick overview of what I'm trying to accomplish. I am modeling the Erie RR, Delaware Division, circa 1947, in HO scale. This runs from Port Jervis, NY (on the NJ border) north to Binghamton, NY. I extended this west to Sayre, PA. This is approximately 110 actual miles.

The layout is a double track main, point to point, on double deck construction, with a helix connecting the 2 decks. This creates about a 700 foot main line run. There will be 3 major cities and yards, 2 interchanges, 2 division junctions, 9 small towns and assorted industries, all prototypical of the area and era. There will be open staging on each level. The layout in its entirety is about 1600 square feet. As of now, the basement is finished, all of the infrastructure is built, and the spline main line and roadbed is installed.

My first update will chronicle the basement and all building up to now, plus my pursuit of attaining the Golden Spike Award. Hopefully, you will at least find something entertaining in my musings and maybe you will find something that may help your endeavors, as I build my layout and pursue A.P. Certificates.



The enticing view entering Ed Smith's basement. There will be more in future updates.



Digital Distractions

A Look at our hobby online



Check out “RBP” Trains. In honor of our trip to Lionel coming up, here’s a Youtube channel all about O-scale. Here is the description from the channel.

Welcome to my channel! This channel is all about O-Gauge/O-Scale trains. I am an avid collector of Modern O-Scale (Lionel and MTH) as well as Vintage Lionel Pre and Post War-era trains. Sit back, relax and enjoy.

[RBP Trains](#)

Division Brass

<u>Superintendent</u>	Andrew Stitt	superintendent@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Asst. Superintendent</u>	Alan Hardee	assistsuper@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Clerk</u>	David Myers	clerk@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Paymaster</u>	David Thrams	Paymaster@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2028</u>	Tim Rumph	director1@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2026</u>	Joe Skorch	director2@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Director 2027</u>	Ed Smith, MMR	director3@carolinasouthern.org
<u>AP Chairman</u>	Neal Anderson, MMR	Apchair@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Webmaster</u>	Joe Skorch	Webmaster@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Chad Barnette	editor@carolinasouthern.org
<u>Program Chair</u>	Alan Mitchell	program@carolinasouthern.org
<u>RMU Chair</u>	Vacant	RMUchair@carolinasouthern.org