

# The Potomac Flyer



February – April 2004 The Quarterly Newsletter of Division 2 (“Potomac”), Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Spring Quarter

## Altoona Bound!!!!!!

By Mark Andersen

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Does the Clerk have your e-mail address? If you are not receiving reminders then probably not. Send it to [chyde@cox.net](mailto:chyde@cox.net) now!

**What: Our Spring ‘04 Convention**  
**When: Saturday, April 24, 2004**  
**Where: Altoona, Pennsylvania**

Question: Are you sitting, walking, and talking to friends about places you’d like to go? Do you want to travel with people of like mind, albeit somewhat possessed by train spirits? Well your opportunity is here!!

Saturday, April 24, 2004, the Potomac Division is organizing a bus trip to the Altoona Railroader’s Museum, Horseshoe Curve, Gallitzin Tunnels and the eastern approach to the Allegheny Mountains in Cresson. Words alone cannot describe the photographic opportunities, the historical perspectives, the rail fanning experiences and the new friendships one will witness! Our trip will start at St. Matthew’s Church, 8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, Va. at 6:30 am and Lake Forest Mall in Maryland at 7 am. We then proceed for 3 1/2 to 4 hours to Altoona....All Aboard!!! Planned return time is between 8 and 9 pm. at both starting points.

Our first stop will be at the *Altoona Railroader’s Museum*. Checking their website [www.railroadcity.com](http://www.railroadcity.com) will introduce you to life in Altoona from the mid 1800s to the present. On the museum property are several pieces of rail equipment for inspection from the caboose to the Queen Mary of all flat cars!!

The next stop is *Horseshoe Curve*, All Aboard!!! We’ll tour the lower museum and displays, and then ride the funicular up to the “Horseshoe.” On your own you’ll wander and watch the trains speed or lug along. Many opportunities for photography are here as well! Their website can be explored at [www.railroadcity.com/curve.htm](http://www.railroadcity.com/curve.htm) for further research.

The next stop is *Gallitzin and Tunnel Hill*, All Aboard!!! We’ll stop at the new viewing bridge in front of the tunnels. Have your cameras ready, there will be lots of action! Watching that tunnel to the east, you can

crouch down and see that “light” in the tunnel. Looking west, you’ll see an old tower. For further information, try these links:  
[www.trainweb.org/horseshoecurve-nrhs/gallit-cress\\_A.htm](http://www.trainweb.org/horseshoecurve-nrhs/gallit-cress_A.htm)  
[www.northeast.railfan.net/gallitzin.html](http://www.northeast.railfan.net/gallitzin.html)

The next and last stop is *Cresson*, All Aboard!!! On the western slope of the Allegheny Mountains, is Cresson. There is a helper station and servicing facility to see, no trespassing is the rule here. We’ll use the public viewing platform on the south side of the tracks. Have you ever seen westbound helpers at speed, disengage from the rear of the train and then slow down from the flick of the coupler uncoupling bar? There is a lot to see! For further interest is another link : <  
[http://www.trainweb.org/horseshoecurve-nrhs/gallit-cress\\_C.htm](http://www.trainweb.org/horseshoecurve-nrhs/gallit-cress_C.htm)>

A fee of \$45.00 will include roundtrip bus transportation to all sites and entrance fees. All seats are the same price. Your meals are not included, but time will be available. Our coach will be a 57 passenger bus, more if needed, vcr/dvd player on board(for those boring movies we all have) and a rail fan bus driver (the bus company says they have`em) We’ll depart from St. Matthew’s Church in Annandale, Va. at 6:30 am and depart from Lake Forest Mall in Maryland at 7:00 am. Remember not to miss the bus, it’s like the train, it leaves on schedule. Included in this current issue of the Flyer will be a form with all the required information. The booking for this trip ends on April 2, 2004. You may call for a waiting list or we’ll add a second bus if needed. Please call or email me, as this is our only way to communicate on short notice.

Additionally, we’ll have our annual meeting enroute. This will enable any and all to voice concerns, wants or needs! If you have questions or need any information, our phone numbers and email addresses are on page two of every Potomac Flyer.

Come on and Join Us!!!!!! We’re going to have fun!!!



## The Potomac Division

Division 2 ("Potomac"), Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

The Potomac Division includes: The District of Columbia; Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties in Maryland; Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, and Rappahannock Counties in Virginia, as well as all area independent cities.

### The Division Crew

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### The Potomac Flyer

Editor Potomac Division's quarterly newsletter © 2000

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<b>Submission Deadlines</b>	<b>Spring Issue</b>	<b>January 1</b>
	<b>Summer Issue</b>	<b>April 1</b>
	<b>Fall Issue</b>	<b>July 1</b>
	<b>Winter Issue</b>	<b>October 1</b>

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**Change of Address** Send a complete USPO COA form to:  
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For more local information, see the Potomac Division web site at:  
<http://members.cox.net/chvde/PotomacDivision/Potomac.html>  
(that's a Capital P and D)

## From the Business Car

by John Drye  
Division Superintendent  
[jdrye52@aol.com](mailto:jdrye52@aol.com)

Hope everyone had a great holiday and is on the way to a Happy New Year. Model Railroaders are among the few who don't mind coal in their stockings, if they get a locomotive to go with it.

2004 ought to be an exciting year for the Potomac Division. Now that we've had our turn hosting a regional convention, members get the chance to enjoy a couple of great conventions in our area. The first is the Mid Central Region's Three River's Transfer to be held in Pittsburgh May 13-16. Check out their website at:

[http://www.midcentral-region-nmra.org/Three\\_Rivers\\_Transfer.htm](http://www.midcentral-region-nmra.org/Three_Rivers_Transfer.htm)

Closer to home, in August, Northern Virginia NTRAK, our N Scale Modular partners will host the National N Scale convention in conjunction with Greenberg Shows and the N Scale Collectors. This one ought to be worth attending, just for the train show. Modelers in all scales are welcome to attend and clinics and layout tours will be offered in all scales. Their website is [www.ntrak2004.org](http://www.ntrak2004.org) AP judging for Potomac Division members will be available at both shows.

With all the convention activity, the Division Mini-con and annual meeting will take a slightly different form this year. Instead of another convention, the division is hosting a bus tour to Horseshoe Curve and Altoona, PA. See the article for details.

The other issue we'll wrestle with in 2004 is the NMRA Long Range Plan. A lot has been said on that subject, so I won't repeat that, but would like to focus on the impact to the Potomac Division and our members.

The Division will see little if any change as a result of the plan. Our Division Dues chiefly pay for this newsletter. The division will continue to publish the "Flyer" quarterly. Members who wish to continue to receive the "Flyer" by mail will continue to pay \$4 per year. We are planning on offering the "Flyer" by e-mail for free.

Other division activities, such as the Mini-Conventions and the upcoming bus trip are self-supporting. Admission covers our costs. The Division also receives funds from estate sales and donations, so we'll continue to be solvent.

Since we'll likely be called upon to vote on this issue soon, members can form their own judgment on what's best for the NMRA. Rest assured that the Potomac Division will continue to operate as it has. Please feel free to contact any of the Potomac Board of Directors if you have any questions or concerns.

## Achievement News

### Potomac Division Modeler Earns the Title of Master Model Railroader

By Marc Sisk

The Mid-Eastern Region has a new Master Model Railroader. Noll Horan recently completed all the requirements and has been recognized by the NMRA as Master Model Railroader # 326. Noll is a member and past president of the Northern Virginia NTRAK Club and currently serves as a Mid-Eastern Region Director. He models in both N and On30 scales.

Most NMRA members are familiar with the Achievement Program. Those of you not familiar with what it takes to earn the title “MMR” let me fill you in. You must receive Achievement Certificates in seven of eleven categories. The categories are:

- A. Railroad Equipment:
  - [Master Builder - Motive Power](#)
  - [Master Builder - Cars](#)
- B. Railroad Setting:
  - [Master Builder - Structures](#)
  - [Master Builder - Scenery](#)
  - [Master Builder - Prototype Models](#)
- C. Railroad Construction & Operation:
  - [Model Railroad Engineer - Civil](#)
  - [Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical](#)
  - [Chief Dispatcher](#)
- D. Service to the Hobby & NMRA Member
  - [Association Official](#)
  - [Association Volunteer](#)
  - [Model Railroad Author](#)

Noll has received Achievement Certificates in Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer- Civil, Association Volunteer and Model Railroad Author. Five of these seven require that a modeler’s work be judged at the Division, Regional or National level and earn merit awards. Noll has accomplished this in a little less than four years. According to Noll, he is not done yet as his goal is to obtain Achievement Certificates in all eleven categories. This is a feat achieved by only a handful of modelers.

Noll was formally recognized for his achievement at the Mid-Eastern Region’s fall convention, Potomac Junction 2003, held in Reston Virginia 10-



Noll and one of his award winning modules. Photo by Mark Sisk

13 October. Next time you see Noll, shake his hand and congratulate him on this outstanding accomplishment. The NMRA Achievement Program offers modelers a conduit to improve their skills while learning many useful tips that extend throughout the spectrum of model railroad activities.

### LOCAL SWEEPER

by Phil Irwin (Sweeperman)

**What is a Sweeper?** Back in the late 1940’s on the NYC Hudson Division, sidings would be swept (serviced) daily. Empty and new loads were hauled to a minor flat yard and then to Selkirk. The sweeper was usually an ancient DES-3; diesel, third rail and batteries in a rolling black box. So let’s stretch “sweeper” into another collection of less than carload observations (caboose?)

**Sweeping Carload** – Some other modelers swept up around the workbench and came up with enough stuff to load a gondola (way bill to Mt. Trashmore). I load gons with X2F couplers.

**Videotape Goodies** – Having determined that a videocassette is defective, it was destined for the landfill. The next morning (I had a dream), it was recovered and yielded the following potentially useful items: 5 screws, 4 springs, 3 rollers, 2 baggage carts, 1 flat spring, clear leaders for window material, clear plastic from reels and viewports, and even the case was embossed like a perfect brick wall. The actual recording tape went back into the trash, but it was no good anyway. (Continued next Quarter)

## Northern Virginia NTRAK News

By Marc Sisk

“The Call Board” is the Northern Virginia NTRAK’s monthly newsletter. It is what I use to prepare this column for you. Looking over the past four months, it is amazing how many activities we really do accomplish throughout the year. If you are an N Scaler with any thoughts about joining a first rate club, please consider the NVNTRAK. We are a modular club, meaning that each member participates by building a module (normally two feet wide by 4 feet long). This module is built to some basic specifications so that it can mate to other modules when we all come together to produce a layout. It is easy to get started and allows you to participate in model railroading without having to have a layout at home. Members are eager to help newcomers or those more advanced with any aspect of model railroading. Our website address is [www.nvntrak.org](http://www.nvntrak.org). Look us up and come out to see us in action. It is a lot of fun and friendships are yours for the making.

I left off the last column with August, so September is where we begin this fast-paced review. We started out with a small setup at the B&O Railroad Museum in Silver Spring, MD on September 6<sup>th</sup>. This club’s motto is Semper Gumby and Jeff Peck, the setup foreman for this event, is to be commended for putting a point to point layout together without the usual NVNTRAK trailer of equipment. The club has learned to provide more than one trailer hauler for each event. Next up was our usual small setup at the Fairfax Station Museum on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The club does this every third Sunday of each month with the exception of December and January. Rounding out the month, the 27<sup>th</sup> of September found our group at the Arlington Fire Department for the Annual Burn Camp for Kids. We setup the 22’ x 10’ oval layout and the kids run the trains. They like them one speed, FAST! They have fun and we appreciate doing it for them.

October, what a month! Seven events over four weekends. On October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, some members traveled to Horse Shoe Curve country and participated with a layout at the Altoona Railfest in Altoona, PA. Other scales, to include live steam were in action. The 4<sup>th</sup> also had us at another location, the Bethesda Chevy Chase Rescue Squad open house. This layout was done in conjunction with the Taste of Bethesda 2003. Our monthly Back Shop was on the 5<sup>th</sup> at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Springfield, VA. This is where you

go to work on, get advice about working on, or just to think about working on your module. October 10-12 had us participating in the NMRA’s Mid-East Regional Convention, *Potomac Junction 2003*. The NTRAK layout consisted of a two loop 3 track and One Trak layout. We had about 20’ of helper service from the good folks from Richmond Area NTRAK. If you have never participated in an NMRA convention at any level, I highly recommend it. Great place to see, learn and participate in our hobby. October 11<sup>th</sup> also had us at the Fairfax Franconia Fire Station Open House in Alexandria, VA. The 6’ x 18’ layout was in the capable hands of Jake Brendel most of the day. Chester Freedenthal’s Smokey Fire Prevention Train and Candy Train were hits with the kids. The following weekend had us at Fairfax Station for our monthly setup. The month was rounded out by a two day event at Spotsylvania Mall in Fredericksburg, VA on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. We usually do this event twice a year, in the Spring and Fall.

November got underway with our Back Shop on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Several members showed up to help recondition some of the club’s modules and also to re-pack the trailers from the busy month of October. The weekend of 15-16 November once again saw the Army of Northern Virginia spread out all over the area. One show was held at the Rockville Lions Club in Rockville, MD. It is NVNTRAK’s oldest continuous show having participated in it since 1992. Another part of our club was set up at the Damascus Railroad Days while a third set up was done at Fairfax Station Museum.

The holidays finally descend upon us and we enjoy a little slower pace in December. No Back Shop is held, but we do participate with the Caboose Layout at Fairfax Station Museum on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. About 850 folks came out over the weekend to see all scales of trains running from Z to G. The caboose was warm and busy as folks filed past to view a representation of Fairfax Station and the surrounding area in N Scale. The following Sunday, our annual holiday party was held at my house. Carol and I were happy to see 41 members brave their way through the new fallen snow to make it a great event. This event is worth the cost of annual dues alone, in my opinion. A great crowd, good food and a genuinely friendly atmosphere. We are looking forward to hosting it again next year. The final event for us this year is the Greenberg Train Show at the Chantilly Expo Center on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. I will fill you in on it next time. It is an important lead-up event for our Capitol Limited 2004 Convention next August. Until next time, have a happy holiday season.

## Around the Division

### Frank Winner's Open House by Nick Kalis

On Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, twenty-six (26) people attended Frank Winner's Open House in Severna Park. Attendees were treated to four (4) layouts. I suspect even more folks would have attended had Frank's home been closer to the Washington Beltway. The first layout visitors spied was Frank's DCC-controlled G Scale backyard layout. Next came Winner's N-Scale coffee table layout in his living room. Then it was on to an operating O Scale traction layout with overhead catenary. As a side line, retired Frank assembles powered O scale traction. Finally, we saw a well running HO scale layout lettered for the *Maryland N West RR*. Primary power was steam with a few diesels. Frank's HO layout featured a scratchbuilt turntable.

In retirement, Frank is a busy fellow as he volunteers with the Baltimore Streetcar Museum, the Baltimore Society of Mechanical Engineers (BSME), and with the Severna Park Model Railroad Club.

Frank provided nice snacks and treated those who stopped to socialize with a 54 minute VHS video entitled "Railway Memories.. Back to the 50s" (September 2001) which depicts the O scale *Aberfoyle Junction* set in 1950s Southern Ontario. Frank picked this tape up when he attended the 2003 National Convention in Toronto.

### December Layout Open House By John Drye

Several dozen hardy members braved the remnants of an early winter storm to attend Ed Maldonado's layout tour in December. Ed has a great HO layout, about 20 x 20, featuring Potomac area trains, structures and scenes. Ed was a little under the weather for the open house, so his son, Ed Jr., who helped with layout construction, hosted the show. Both Eds are in the process of upgrading the lighting in their version of Manassas and are adding sound to the layout. Great tour.

## Another Place to see a Layout

The Northern Virginia Model Railroaders, Inc. in Vienna, VA will host an open house on the following dates:

Saturday, February 14, 2004

Saturday, March 13, 2004

Saturday, April 17, 2004

Noon until 4:00pm each day

The club is located in the historic "Washington & Old Dominion Railroad" station, located at 231 Dominion Road (at the intersection with Ayr Hill Road) in Vienna, Virginia.

There is no admission charge, though donations are accepted. More information can be obtained by going to their web site at [www.nvmr.org](http://www.nvmr.org), by e-mail at [nvmrinc@hotmail.com](mailto:nvmrinc@hotmail.com) or by calling 703-938-5157 on the day of the open house. The club meets on Tuesday evenings.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Train Show & Railroading & Merit Badge Workshop Sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 964, Dale City, VA.

To be held Saturday, March 20, 2003, 10 AM to 5 PM and Sunday, March 21, 2003, 1 PM to 5 PM. Admission: Adults \$4.00, Students \$2.00, under 6 free. Location: Saunders Middle School, 13557 Spriggs Rd, Manassas, VA 20112.

Featuring trains G to Z: Railroading Merit Badge Workshop: so far we've awarded over 500 Railroading Merit Badges in the 5 years we've hosted the show. Largest DCC-controlled HO Modular Layout assembled in Prince William County Featuring: The Prince William County Model Railroad Club, Piedmont Model Railroaders, Potomac Module Crew, and Boy Scout Troop 964. Additional train layouts from G to Z provided by the National Capitol Trackers, Atlantic S Gaugers, and Northern VA NTRAK.

Other features include Lego Trains, Potomac Steam Industries, Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge Workshop, Operation Life Saver & Much More. Refreshments & Door Prizes.

Railroading Merit Badge Information and Registration or general information: (703) 730-1296, or email [TrainShow964@aol.com](mailto:TrainShow964@aol.com). Website: <http://www.troop964.org/>.

**\*\*Merit Badge Registration accepted beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004.**

## The Potomac Module Crew News

by Mark Andersen

Very Happy Holidays to All!!! Hoping everyone one had a safe and joyous holiday season? Again we welcome another year and opportunity to display trains in the Virginia, Washington DC, and Maryland areas. We are fortunate to continue to display our various regions and eras of railroads we each depict. Many times over we have overheard our viewing public enthusiastically say they can't wait for next year's layout and what it might bring. Many of our venues are static in design, but when we incorporate our wyes and loops, cut off corners and the like, the shapes do get interesting to plan and view.

Our fall of 2003 shows started with a trip to Virginia Beach. We continue to return as the invited guests of the Tidewater Division for a combined layout. Eight members, their spouses and their 19 modules arrived safely and setup as usual. Because the combined exhibit occurs during the Tidewater Fall Juried train show, many came home with more train paraphernalia then when they arrived. Unfortunately, on the way home a loose tire nailed the Matthew's pickup truck at 60 to 65 mph. We are thankful they survived this accident!

October brought the Potomac Division's sponsored MER Fall Convention. Arranging our twenty-two modules, Bruce Strickland coordinated the operations sessions. The operating sessions allowed several people the opportunity to earn Achievement Program points towards their certificates. This was a new venture started during this convention. Hopefully it will continue. October or November 2004 might bring us to Hagerstown, Maryland for the MER fall convention. Stay tuned!!

The Rockville Lion's Club Annual November Train Show presented us with an opportunity to set up our largest single club layout of the year. Using Bill Brandon's design, we continued the long running of the trains over the red in and the yellow out on the loop to loops using our wye modules. Utilizing fifty one modules as space limits allowed, our participation was well received. Debating new modules were Bob Sprague, Dennis Overcash, Julia Hardin, and Mark Andersen. Including Julia's farm module with three others, these were judged for AP Scenery, which she handily achieved. Bob's Swing Bridge modules are a breath of fresh air. Dennis's corner with a carved stone curved bridge is quite an accomplishment. Thinking of

sore knees and backs, I built a new hinged bridge walk through module. Continued fun was had by all, especially those eating the early morning donuts!!

December brought the Fairfax Freight Station Museum Annual Christmas Show. Many different clubs including the National Capital Trackers, N-Trak, the Potomac Module Crew, the American Flyer group, Monty and his Lego Railroad, the Washington-Maryland-Virginia Garden Rail Clubs all assisted the Friends of the Fairfax Station Museum with their annual fundraiser. Santa Claus continues to visit as well, entertaining all those wide children. A special Thanks goes to Joan Rodgers and Clem Clements for their hard work and continued invitation to this show!!

Our last show of the season presented us with the opportunity of running those special gifts we received over the holidays. Our inclusion in the winter Greenberg Show continued again with a twenty seven module rectangular layout with a "kink" in one side, located in the show's lobby area. Entertaining the ideas of members, I added a kink to the rectangular layout. This was a pleasant relief!!

Special "Thanks" goes out to all PMC members who continue to help, setup, tear down, maintain, troubleshoot and generally be the continued unsung heroes while helping our cause!! I cannot imagine what I would have missed had it not been for the many "teachers" in our club!! All of us always appreciate the insights and general help we each receive. My continued thanks to you all for enriching our hobby!

This spring 2004 our Mini-Convention is taking on another new format, a railfan road trip. Please support our organization, friendships, our support of these entities by going with us to Altoona in April 2004.

As we move forward into 2004, make it a personal goal to improve some aspect of your modeling. The AP program in our region encourages your achievement. Reward yourself with a "well done," for that modeling perfection. So many of us say we don't have the time, yet with a little effort it can be achieved. I hope to see your models in the judging room during the next convention. Continued on page 10.

## **TRY IT. YOU MIGHT LIKE IT.**

(Hosting a Division Home Layout Tour)

By Bob Rosenberg

One of the advantages of being part of a large NMRA division is the potential of a large number of home layouts within convenient travel range, and the Potomac Division certainly has an abundance of capable, talented modelers who have constructed some exceptionally realistic railroads. A few of them have even earned national reputations for their concepts and modeling skills, and have been featured in Model Railroader Magazine. Unfortunately, there are also dozens of additional layouts in our area that are not well known at all because they're only seen by the modeler's immediate family or a small circle of friends, and each of these "stealth" layouts represents a missed opportunity for all of us, hosts and visitors alike, to upgrade our model railroading knowledge and expertise.

I can understand why someone might be reluctant to make their home layout available for a scheduled tour. They may think that they have too small a layout, too small a room, or even too small a house to accommodate the number of people that might materialize on a Sunday afternoon - all legitimate considerations because there are many of us that really enjoy attending these events. But I wonder, sometimes, if there isn't also a more personal reason, a concern that our concepts or modeling skills might not be up to some mythical standard that we assume is expected by a group of serious and experienced contemporaries, and that our best efforts, no matter how hard we may have tried, will be seen by them as lacking or deficient in some way.

If that notion has discouraged anyone from hosting a tour, it would be a shame because in the 25 plus years that I've been the Potomac Division and its predecessor Dixie Division, I have never seen or heard negative comments expressed about the quality of anyone's work. Having been the position of both a host and a visitor, my feeling is that most of us view a home layout tour as a learning opportunity, a sort of continuing education course on the various aspects of model railroading presented in an informal, relaxed home setting. I have never visited a layout, regardless of the size, the scale, or the abilities of the modeler, where I didn't bring something home, one way or another, from the experience. Often I will see good ideas and, if they're appropriate for my setting, will try to incorporate them into my own railroad. Occasionally I will see something that doesn't quite work, and that can be useful too because I will, hopefully, not be inclined to repeat it. After visiting many home layouts and observing what other people had done, I was encouraged to get back to work my own railroad. Maybe, if I had visited your railroad (yes, you, the one who hasn't yet extended us an invitation), I might have seen an easier way to solve a problem, or avoided one of my major disasters. Multiply that by the number of members in the Potomac Division and you'd almost be performing a public service by having us come by and share your accomplishments.

So why not give it a try. In model railroading size is not important, and no elaborate preparations are necessary, either. All that you really need is some track, a train or two (preferably running), some soft drinks and a bowl of chips. A railroad video on the VCR might be nice, too. Sixty people came to my home in October on one of the Mid-East Region Convention tours, and I can say from personal experience that nothing makes your day like a room filled with admiring, appreciative model railroaders.

## **Call For Layout Hosts**

by Nick Kalis

The good news is that Division members have committed to hosting an open house for every month of 2004 (no layout tour in March because of the Altoona Trip/Convention). What's the bad news? None. Rather, we would like to start accepting reservations for hosting layouts in 2005. Layout tours are the life blood of the Division. It's where we come to see great or not so great layouts, socialize, reconnect with old friends, gather ideas for our layouts, gain inspiration, and down the odd cookie or chip washed down by a bit of soda or coffee.

However, rather than going back to the same great layouts we need to encourage new layout hosts. The BOD would like to try something different and set a theme for 2005. Our theme will focus on small layouts, even operating model railroad dioramas (Z scale to G scale). This does not preclude larger railroads, even some we have seen in the past. Though, we would especially like to see our schedule filled with layouts that have never been seen by our Division—better yet, layouts or dioramas that don't even exist as these words are being written. Everyone has room for an operating diorama --- all you need is to dust off the top of a bookshelf. If you say you do not have the room or the time, perhaps now is the occasion to shift to N or even Z scale and get going. Our Division members are not fussy and we haven't heard any nitpicking in years at an open house. For some of you a 2005 open house would give you almost two full years to get your bookshelf layout ready.

Remember, visitors don't come just for the layout. If your visitors (and old friends which many of your visitors will be) find a layout that runs to some extent, enjoy the camaraderie of fellow modelers, eat a cookie or two, and view a model railroad video in your family room, they will be content. If you don't have any model or prototype railroad videos, we can provide you with some. Please start the planning and contact your layout tour coordinator at 703 749-1820. NOW!

# Potomac Division

Division 2, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND INTEREST SURVEY

The **Potomac Division** provides various activities for all interested model railroaders, such as home layout tours, prototype tours, and a Mini-Convention every March. We publish a quarterly newsletter, the Potomac Flyer, detailing Division activities. We proudly boast one of the greatest concentrations of model railroading talent in the country with more than 10 NMRA Master Model Railroaders in our area, as well as hundreds of other outstanding modelers.

The Potomac Division includes: The District of Columbia; Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties in Maryland; Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, and Rappahannock Counties in Virginia, as well as all area independent cities. Local residence is not required for Division membership. Anyone interested in learning more about model railroading, improving their modeling skills, and enjoying the company of fellow model railroaders is invited to join the **Potomac Division**. Guests are always welcome at Division events.

**Potomac Division Members are required to be members of NMRA and MER. This did not used to be the case, now it is.**  
Please enter your numbers in the boxes, or indicate if you have forgotten (Clerk may be able to look them up).

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

<b>Name</b>	<b>Home phone</b>	<b>NMRA #</b>	<b>Exp. Date</b>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Street Address or PO Box</b>	<b>Work phone</b>	<b>MER #</b>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Additional Address</b>		<b>Birthdate</b>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>ZIP+4</b>	<b>Email</b>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**WEB-SITE:**  
[http://members.cox.net/chyde/Potomac Division/Potomac.html](http://members.cox.net/chyde/Potomac%20Division/Potomac.html)

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email (Acrobat file)?

## INTEREST SURVEY

<b>Primary Scale</b>	<b>Secondary Scale</b>	<b>Favorite Railroad(s) &amp; Prototype(s) Modeled:</b>	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Do you have</b>		Please list the NMRA Special Interest Group(s), model railroad clubs, and railroad historical societies to which you belong: <input type="text"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A layout?		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Narrow Gauge interest?		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Module interest?		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Traction interest?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you be willing to host a Home Layout Tour of your Layout?		<input type="checkbox"/>	

New and renewing members: please include a short paragraph or two describing yourself and your railroading interests for possible inclusion in upcoming Call Board columns.

## DUES CALCULATION

Please fill out this section completely, including whether you are new or renewing. Renewing NMRA and MER members, please supply your birthdate, membership numbers, and expiration dates in the Personal Information section above. *Incomplete information may delay your renewal.*

**Potomac Division:** Membership is \$4 per year. Members and subscribers receive the quarterly *Potomac Flyer*. **Note: You must be a member of the NMRA and MER to be a member of the Potomac Division.**

**Mid-Eastern Region:** Membership is \$8 per year. Members receive the bimonthly *MER Local*. You may also write MER directly at Mid-Eastern Region, Office Manager, 9 Roosevelt Ave., Wilmington, DE 19804-3044. **Note: You must be a member of the NMRA to be a member of MER.**

**National Model Railroad Association:** Membership is \$45 per year for full membership, or \$23 per year for an associate membership. Full Members receive the monthly *NMRA Bulletin*, associate members do not. You may also write the NMRA directly at: National Model Railroad Association, Inc., Headquarters Office, 4121 Cromwell Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421.

Please make your check payable to *Potomac Division*. Send check with your complete application to:  
**Clerk, Potomac Division, PO Box 223781, Chantilly, VA 20153-3781**  
*The Division will forward National and Regional dues. Allow 6-8 weeks for processing, none of us are fast.*

\$ <input type="text"/>	New	<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$ <input type="text"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
\$ <input type="text"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
\$ <input type="text"/>	<b>Total</b>			

# SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HOBBY SUPPLIERS!

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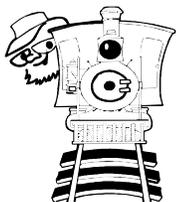


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## The Potomac Module Crew News

Continued from page 7

As always, our group is always looking for new members, come and join in the fun. You may visit us through our website courtesy of Webmaster Colin Weiner at <http://hometown.aol.com/pmchorr01/PMC-Frame.html>. Please feel free to contact me at 703-425-8997 or email me at [mvandersen@cox.net](mailto:mvandersen@cox.net). Again, many "Thanks" to you all for our continued model railroading efforts and the camaraderie it creates!

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## Bulletin Board

Have information of general interest? Send it in we will post it here.

### Call for articles:

The Flyer is always accepting submissions for publication – and you get NMRA AP Author points when things get published! Do not wait get your article in Now. Pictures count to.

Do not want to write an article? How bout sharing your modeling tips? Your stain formula or wiring technique may be old hat to you, but may be just what some one else needs to solve a problem.

### A Message From Granddad's

The following is a quote from a letter to MER from Granddad's Hobby shop.

“At the recent convention held in Reston, Virginia, we at Granddad's Hobby Shop made a special offer to conventioners of an additional 10% discount when they shopped at our store. We are aware of two instances we did not give the additional discount. It is totally our error. We are concerned that there may be others who were due, but did not receive, the discount. We apologize for any inconvenience our error may have caused.

Any conventioner who shopped at Granddad's Hobby Shop on the 10<sup>th</sup> thru the 13<sup>th</sup> of October and did NOT receive the discount is asked to send us a note with a copy of their receipt and we will immediately refund our error.”

### MCR/MER Convention

Joint MCR/MER Convention in Pittsburgh PA on May 13 - 16 2004. Program will consist of prototype tours, clinics, operating sessions, model and photo contests, non-rail activities, silent auction, layout tours and awards banquet.

Early bird registrations until Jan 312004 is \$50.00. After, \$55.00. (Banquet and extra fare tours must be selected later paid for at a later date).

Convention hotel is Sheraton Four Points in Cranberry Township PA. Intersection of I-79 and PA Route 19. Make room reservations directly with hotel at 724-776-6900. Rate is \$99.00 per night for 1-2 persons. Mention NMRA MCR convention. Address is 910 Sheraton Drive, Mars PA 16046.

Mail registration to: Convention Registrar, Susan Werner, 292 Salem Church Road, Belle Vernon PA 15012. Phone 724-379-8584. E-mail: [mehrt@sgi.net](mailto:mehrt@sgi.net).

Checks payable to: Division Two, MCR NMRA.

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## A Step in the Right Direction

By Nicholas Kalis

Admit it, you'll never get much money for your back issues of *Model Railroader* and assorted other hobby-related magazines. Your wife is right, they are probably a fire hazard and taking up too much room that you could devote to building a workbench or adding to your train layout. That they are a gathering place for dust, need not be repeated.

What to do? How about trying something that will help the hobby grow? Organize the articles you must save either by tearing them out or photocopying them. Then organize them into folders or binders. Distribute these back issues to your neighbors, nephews, nieces, grandchildren, or your own or children's friends. Think of how this will help advance the hobby. Remember that many of us got into scale model railroading by spying a copy of *Model Railroader* or *Railroad Model Craftsman* at the local news stand. How many suburban kids or even urban kids get to see a news stand? Without your generosity, these kids may never get exposed to the model railroading press.

If the thought of losing out on monetary gain rubs you the wrong way how about donating your back issues to your local library's *For Sale* section and taking a tax deduction for your contribution?

If you need any further prodding, face up to how many hours of manning a booth at your next swap meet you will need to unload your back issues. Be truthful with yourself, to move your back issues at a rapid clip you will need to price them at about 25 cents each. Back issues that are priced at one dollar or more move like molasses. Only the most dedicated modeler will pay you a buck or more for an issue he desperately needs.

The hobby of model railroading will grow stronger because of your generosity and your wife will thank you too.

### Another NMRA Benefit from Roger Hensley

Again this year, with permission, Doug Scott of Railfan Express, <http://www.scotware.net/> has made a screen saver from the NMRA calendar. Last year's screen saver is still available as well. This is free to all and may be accessed from a link at the top of the NMRA home page at: <http://www.nmra.org/>

### Next Quarter

- a look at the websites designed to serve you.
- more Sweeperman tips.
- who knows what else possibly your article.

## Potomac Division Calendar

√ Mark events now which you don't want to miss.

### February

- 15 NV NTrak at Fairfax Station, VA

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- 21-22 Potomac Module Crew at The Lyceum, Alexandria, VA

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- 22 Home Layout Tour, Bill Robertson's, Winchester and Strasburg RR

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- 28-29 NV NTrak at Greenburg Great train Show, Prince Georges Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro, MD.

### March

- 20-21 Potomac Module Crew and NV NTrak at Boy Scout Troop 964, Dale City, VA

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- 21 NV NTrak at Fairfax Station, VA

### April

- 16-17 Potomac Module Crew at National Capital Children's Museum, Washington, DC

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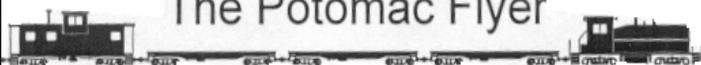
- 18 NV NTrak at Fairfax Station, VA.

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- 24 Potomac Division Convention to Altoona

### May

- 1 Home Layout Tour, Evert Beekman's, The Old Dominion RR in conjunction with the Apple Blossom Festival, Winchester, VA



The Quarterly Newsletter of  
Division 2 ("Potomac")— Mid Eastern Region  
National Model Railroad Association

PO Box 223781  
Chantilly, VA 20153-3781