

The Potomac Flyer



May - July 2004 The Quarterly Newsletter of Division 2 ("Potomac"), Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Summer Quarter

Judging the 'Virginia & Western'

by Noll Horan

Look Inside:

Events:

May 30
Layout Tour..... 5

June 27
Layout Tour..... 6

July 25
Layout Tour..... 6

DEPTS:

Business Car..... 2
AP News..... 3
NVNTRAK..... 4
Potomac HO Crew
Module Notes..... 7
Membership Form 9
Business Cards... 10
Bulletin Board ... 11
Calendar Back

Does the Clerk have your e-mail address? If you are not receiving reminders then probably not. Send it to potomac_nmra@comcast.net now!

Even though the ground was covered with snow which had a coating of ice, Mark Andersen, Ed Price, Bill Roman and I gathered at Granddad's Hobby Shop. (Commercial plug) on Saturday, January 17th. We had been invited by Doug Kirkpatrick to do some AP judging of his layout.

For those of you who attended the brunch at the MER Fall Convention in Reston back in October, Doug won First Place-Structures and New Modeler Award for his scratchbuilt 'Asheville Station'. This inspired him to really get into the Achievement Program. Along with some coaxing from yours truly. He wanted his 'Virginia & Western' layout judged for Scenery, Engineer-Civil and Engineer-Electrical.

Instead of boring you with details of our judging, let me tell you a little bit about Doug's layout. There are some amazing facts associated with this HO scale, double tracked layout. The V&W is set in Almost Heaven West Virginia, occupying a 24'x25'x37' U-shaped space in his basement. The era is steam and follows the Norfolk & Western prototype, though the layout is freelance. The V&W is about 50% scenicked, plus or minus.

Now for some of those facts I mentioned: ALL trackwork is handlaid. That's all mainlines, yards and turnouts. If it's rails on ties, it was handlaid. Minimum radius is 34 inches, with code 83 for the mains, code 100 in the tunnels and code 70 in the yards. This amounts to 1200 feet of rail, 38,000 ties. I forgot to ask how many spikes. Darn!

As mentioned, Doug handlaid all the turnouts, some 80 plus in all. I would guess 90% of them are curved. This gives him more room for trackwork as curved ones don't require as much real estate. Works for me! I have been to Doug's previously and his trackwork is flawless. This makes for enjoyable operations. At the time of judging, the layout was cab-control. Since then, the V&W is going digital, using Digitrax.

Some other statistics include over 600 pounds of hydrocal used, so far. Over 5000 trees, so

far. Remember, we're talking some 50% more scenery to go! I'm sure there's more bags of hydrocal needed to be lugged down those basement steps.

All the bridges were scratchbuilt. And there are lots of them. Buildings and structures are either scratchbuilt or are craftsman kits. Regardless, all are superdetailed, many with lights. You'll see quite a few Finescale Miniatures kits on the layout. (You'll see a whole lot more FSM kits in boxes on the shelves in Doug's workshop!)

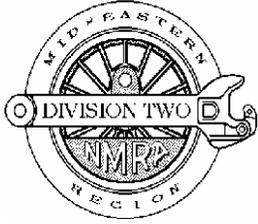
We were impressed with the trackwork. But the way Doug has incorporated mirrors is incredible. You'll just have to see it to believe it. I don't think we sometimes realized we were looking at mirrored scenes at times.

With the influences of the late John Allen, Tony Koester, and George Selios, the Virginia & Western has been 22 years in the making. And the best is yet to come I'm sure. As we were walking downstairs to begin judging, and first saw the layout, one judge was over heard commenting, "This won't take long". That should pretty much give you an idea of Doug's modeling skills.

I suppose I should mention something about the judging since, after all, that was the title of this article. First off, Doug's paperwork was some of the best us judges had seen. Each category judged had its own booklet. Guess he has a good teacher. Another reference to the Reston convention. (You had to be there!!!). Though it has been a couple of months since we did the judging, I believe Doug received NO less than 115 points in each of the categories. I could be wrong. But not by more than a couple points. So he indeed receive his achievement Certificates in Master Builder-Scenery, Engineer-Civil and Engineer-Electrical.

Thanks Doug, for an enjoyable experience and sharing your layout with us. Now, if we can just get you to have an open house for the Potomac Division.....

(Related photo on page 3)



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

Superintendent	John Drye (703) 922-8131 (jdrye52@aol.com) 6056 Estates Drive Alexandria, VA 22311
Senior Asst. Supt.	Jim Stapleton (540) 882-3886 (jim.stapleton@mindspring.com)
Asst. Supt.	John Griffith (703) 339-3738 (jsgassoc@aol.com)
Paymaster	Mark Andersen (703) 425-8997 (mvandersen@cox.net)
Clerk	Marc Sisk (703) 280-5290 (NPMRFAN@aol.com)
Achievement Prgrm Rep.	Ed Price (703) 670-2015 (ewprice@comcast.net)
HO Module Crew	Mark Andersen (703) 425-8997 (mvandersen@cox.net)
Northern Virginia NTRAK	Marc Sisk (703) 280-5290 (NPMRFAN@aol.com)
Layout Tour Coordinator	Nick Kalis (703) 917-6632 (nkalis@verizon.net)
Database Administrator	Marshall Abrams (301) 588-1005 (potomac_nmra@comcast.net)

The Potomac Flyer

Editor Potomac Division's quarterly newsletter © 2000

John Griffith
6765 Blanche Drive
Lorton, VA 22079-1320
(703)-339-3738 (jsgassoc@aol.com)

Submission Deadlines	Spring Issue	January 1
	Summer Issue	April 1
	Fall Issue	July 1
	Winter Issue	October 1
Advertising rates:	1/8 page business card	\$25 per year
	¼ page	\$10/issue
	½ page	\$20/issue
	full page	\$40/issue
	Back cover, half page	\$40/issue

Change of Address Send a complete USPO COA form to:
Clerk, Potomac Division
PO Box 1653, Annandale, VA 22003-1653

For more local information, see the
Potomac Division web site at:

<http://members.cox.net/chyde/PotomacDivision/Potomac.html>
(that's a Capital P and D)

From the Business Car

by John Drye
Division Superintendent
jdrye52@aol.com

Our annual meeting will be at a new venue this year, as part of our railfanning trip to Horseshoe Curve and the Railroaders Memorial Museum in Altoona, PA on April 24. Weather permitting, we'll convene the meeting at Horseshoe Curve (between trains) and continue on the bus as necessary. If you are not able to attend, please contact any of the division board members if you would like to add specific business to the agenda.

In March, the Potomac Module Crew set up a huge layout, along with other area HO Modular Clubs at Saunders Middle School for the Spring Boy Scout Show. Wow, 100 modules are impressive in ANY scale. Quite a few new modules showed up, expanding the frontiers of great HO modular railroading. One of the highlights was the 50+car train of boxcars built by the scouts as part of the Railroading Merit Badge Program. Great show, also supported by modular groups in other scales, and Operation Lifesaver presenters from Northern Virginia NTRAK. Placing our great hobby in front of these scouts and their families is a great way to recruit new members, young and old.

Long time board member Clint Hyde has stepped down from his Division Clerk position to focus on his MER responsibilities. Please join the Board of Directors in thanking Clint for his tremendous efforts on behalf of both the Division and Region.

Our division is fortunate that whenever a need arises, members are willing to step up to help. Marc Sisk will take over Clint's "Clerk" duties (incoming mail/distribution, taking minutes at meetings, and helping out with layout tour hosting). Marshall Abrams will work with the Division's database and all other computer related activities (membership list, printing mailing labels, layout host certificates, etc.). Thanks to both Marc and Marshall for stepping up.

The Division has decided to donate \$500 of the proceeds from the Potomac Junction convention to the B&O Museum restoration fund. Even after this donation, the division remains firmly in the black for 2003.

At the last meeting, the division board discussed ongoing schedule conflicts between the Division's layout tours and other model railroad events (such as the Potomac HO and Northern Virginia NTRAK event dates). It was recommended that if a conflict arises, we contact the layout host to see if the date can be adjusted. Our layout tours remain one of the division's most popular events. Nick Kalis continues to line up great layouts for these tours. We'll continue to try to make sure all members have a chance to see them.

Continued on Page 10

Achievement News by Ed Price

The Model That Took 39 Years to Complete

Yes, that's right; it took me 39 years to complete a model. Let me tell you the story. When I was a teenager I was an active HO modeler and rail fan. One day a friend and I went down to the siding in our little California town to take pictures. While we were there I took some photographs and made a field drawing of an interesting maintenance-of-way car. I had built some wood style craftsman car kits, so I thought I was ready to scratch build the MOW car I had seen. Well, I wasn't as skilled as I thought and only got as far as building a superstructure on a wooden deck with an underbody from an old plastic model. I carried the car, photo, and field drawing around with me for all those years. Then in 2003 when it was announced that my NMRA region, the Mid Eastern Region, was going to have a model contest featuring MOW cars. I thought this would be the perfect time to see if I could complete that MOW car I started when I was a teenager. Now that I am older and have more resources I was able to do some research. I discovered that the car was a crane tool car and was made from a single sheathed boxcar. This knowledge enabled me to fine some plans of a similar class boxcar showing underbody and end details that I had missed on my field drawing and photo. I completed the model and entered a contest for the first time, knowing that I could at least get achievement program (AP) credit for the car.

I want to encourage other modelers to enter NMRA contests, whether at the division, region, or national level. They are a good place to meet friends and other modelers. You shouldn't be afraid to enter a contest. You should do the best you can with the skills you have because you will always learn from your experience. I learned so many skills in my determination to finish the model on time for the show that all the projects I have on my workbench (because I didn't know how to do something) will now be a piece of cake to complete. At the convention I attended there were several hands-on clinics in which participants learned how to model in styrene and wood as well as how to make scenery. I also was able to talk to many other modelers. The whole convention experience enhanced my skills and enthusiasm even further.

The NMRA's achievement program encourages the individual to obtain a high level of achievement in various aspects of our hobby. The AP will help you master a number of skills that are found in model railroading. The main reason I like the hobby so much is that there are so many interesting facets of it to learn. The AP provides you the incentive, in the form of an achievement award, and encouragement by other AP certificate holders, to master the skills and crafts necessary to become a better model railroader. I like to think of the AP as a learn-as-you-go program to becoming a better modeler.

Working toward an AP award does not necessary mean that you have to enter a model contest and have your work publicly displayed. You may arrange with your local AP coordinator

to have your work judged privately. This way you are only working on improving you individual skills without competing with others in a contest. You will receive the same NMRA Merit Award if you receive the minimum number of points as you would in a contest. The judge will provide you with constructive comments to help you make you model better to help in the next model you build.

I hope every model railroader will consider working toward an AP award. By the way, I did get a NMRA merit award and my Division's Clyde Barrow award for highest point kit bash model (remember I started with a plastic model's underframe). I now have my first model to count towards the AP master builders-cars award.



Photo by Author

Judging the 'Virginia & Western'

From Page 1

Doug Kirkpatrick receives his 'Golden Spike Award' from Noll Horan, MMR



Photo by Ed Price

**Start your journey in the NMRA's
achievement program today**

Northern Virginia NTRAK News

By Marc Sisk

August 5-8 are the dates for Northern Virginia NTRAK's 2004 Capitol Limited N Scale Convention. The word is out that Chantilly Virginia is the place to be in early August for N Scale enthusiasts. The N Scale Collector folks have partnered with us so that you will have the unique opportunity to buy collector quality (factory air and all) rolling stock and immediately open it up and run it on the world's largest NTRAK layout. For those that want to go even further, you can attend a weathering clinic, really increase the value of your new purchase, and then run it on the layout. What a deal!

Aside from all the convention planning, we have been a bit busy doing what we like most, running trains. My last column ended just prior to our December setup at the Greenberg Train Show at the Chantilly Expo Center. December 27th and 28th were the dates. The club had a two-loop layout that provided the opportunity to test out a new junction or two. Also, this show was the debut for Matthew Prentice's video camera mounted onto a flat car. Interesting to watch the train make its way around the loops with a trackside view of the scenery.

The new year started with a module bench work building session at Cotton Bowen's house. The weather was gorgeous on the 4th of January and we were able to get about 5 new module frames done. This is important to help new members and those who do not have access to the proper equipment get started on their modules.

The following weekend saw NVNTRAK in Louisville, Kentucky as well as York, Pennsylvania. Louisville was an opportunity to reach out to many folks and foster enthusiasm for the August Convention. Matt Shaefer, our layout coordinator for Capitol Limited, led the charge with Brian and Jake Brendel. Matt used the show to review the typical problems associated with a larger layout and to flush out some ideas with those who will be bringing modules. One of the highlights of the show was the banquet held in the Louisville Union Station. NVNTRAK had a layout at the Greenberg Train Show in York. The county fairgrounds venue was great with a good turnout.

NVNTRAK's Annual Meeting was held on January 18th. This event is important to the club's operation as we vote for new board members, go over the preceding year's highlights and plan for the future. Another activity is the silent and live auctions that are always

fun and entertaining and bring some income into the club's coffers.

January 24th and 25th saw us set up at the Great Scale Model Train show at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. NVNTRAK set up next to the Baltimore Area NTRAK club in the center hall. About 3,000 folks came through the gate on Saturday alone. This scale show really brings out the die-hard modelers and is a great opportunity for us. Although we had a modest crew, the layout was a success and a good advertisement for our convention.

February started out with our Backshop on the 1st. I mentioned in one of my columns that these sessions are for club members to work on their railroad projects (modules, wiring, structures, etc). Continuing with February, we had a good setup at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum on the 15th. This is a setup that we do on the third Sunday of each month with the exception of December and January. It is a small layout, but it draws steady crowds and produces a good source of income for the museum.

The first Sunday in March saw us at another Backshop. John Steitz had a layout assembled for those that needed to test out new modules. Edd Braithwood gave a clinic on wiring modules. These clinics are a good learning source for all members and increase the enjoyment of modeling.

The last show for this report is our annual layout at center court in Landmark Mall in Alexandria Virginia. This year's show fell on March 13th and 14th. John Seitz, our Superintendent, came up with a 75+ module layout that used the junction modules we will need for the convention this August. It was a good shake out run for them. The red line route was all DCC with the inner yellow, blue and green lines running DC. Good crowds all weekend.

That wraps up another fast-paced three months worth of N Scale action. I hope that these columns are interesting and informing. I also hope that if you are inclined to join us, that you do so. You can check us out on the web at www.nvntrak.org. That will provide you with information about the club, what we do, and most importantly, give you contact information and places where we will be set up in the future. Model railroading as a hobby is what you make of it. Collectively, we have a lot of fun running trains and the opportunity to learn and see new things is what keeps me going. Till next time, take care and run some trains.

Around the Division

Rosenberg's Berkshire Air Line Railroad

by Nick Kalis

On Sunday, January 18th 2004, Robert and Ingrid Rosenberg opened their McLean home to the MER's Potomac Division. Forty-three (43) visitors braved the day's sometimes icy conditions to see Bob's HO scale basement layout. Included among the visitors was perhaps our youngest ever visitor who came in a basinet. Visitors were treated to quite a few improvements since the last time Bob opened his home. We were also treated to some neat prototype railroad videos running in the living room as well as some neat snacks and soft drinks. You may recall that Bob wrote in the last issue of the *Flyer* of the benefits of hosting a Potomac Division Open House. Doc Rosenberg's layout was open the usual hours of 1- 5 PM. Helping Bob was his daughter and son-in-law. The Division was fortunate to find a few of Bob's visitors were interested in returning the favor and hosting an open house of their own in 2005.

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 & Sunday May 29 & 30, 2004 1-5 PM

Saturday, July 17, 2004 1-5 PM

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, by e-mail at nvmrinc@hotmail.com or by calling 703-938-5157 on the day of the open house. The club meets on Tuesday evenings.

The Potomac Module Crew

by Mark Andersen

Hello All!! As I write, the trees are springing forth, budding, and flowering....Oh no, hay fever and yard work season is upon us again! After an interesting snowy winter, we're looking forward to fair weather and outdoor shows. As a recruiting arm of the Potomac Division, we discuss, answer questions and promote model railroading at every show, we run trains too! Would you like to play trains, punch in our website address and find out who we are?

The start of 2004 provided the PMC all with a long six week hiatus from module shows. Our first effort was our bi-annual Lyceum display on February 21 and 22 in Old Towne Alexandria. Our 24 module layout was well received, including our spot on WTOP radio, a visit by the Alexandria Mayor and some City Council members and the pictorial essays in the Washington Times and the Alexandria Gazette. Even our own Mr. Pessoa was on hand to display his Alexandria City themed modules. Many new and improved modules were shown. It was obvious that many members had taken the initiative to rework and refine their great work. Several of us have found inspiration from these new designs adding to the refinement of some of our older modules as well.

Our next endeavor allowed our Maryland members to come and setup at our first Greenburg show at the Showplace Arena in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Our 22 module layout on the main floor was well received as always. We were serenaded by train sounds all weekend from one of the vendors. Also several members serenaded us with steam and diesel sounds from sound decoders. William Moscati, one of our newest members, even made a showing running his Amtrak Acela.

The March 20 and 21, 2004, Dale City Boy Scout Show is our largest multi-club layout that we participate in annually. Many "Thanks" goes to the perseverance of the Prince William Model Railroad group for their continued efforts organizing this 120 module layout. It's shaped like

the letter "E" occupying an entire Middle School gymnasium. The DCC worked flawlessly thanks to the planning of John Draper, Bob Rodriguez and many others. The opportunity to run trains, claimed many a tired foot at the end of the weekend. The longest train of 137 coal hoppers being pulled by two steam engines operated perfectly, our compliments to the engineers at precision modeling.

Our next three shows include the Children's Museum on April 17 and 18, Fairfax Station Museum on May 1 and 2, Manassas Days on June 5 and then tentatively the Alexandria Waterfront festival on June 19 and 20. We then are on a vacation break until August.

As always, our group is looking for a few good members. Come and join in the fun of modular railroading. You may visit us through our website, courtesy of Colin Weiner at it's new address <http://homepage.mac.com/cjweiner/pmchorr01/Default.html> Please feel free to visit us at our public shows, contact me at (703) 425-8997 or email mvandersen@cox.net Remember, our model railroading hobby can only grow if we bring someone new into our hobby, so get out there!! Again "Thanks" for your time.

Altoona Updates

Hello All!!! We will be contacting everyone who has paid with a phone call and/or mailing a map locating the pick up points in Maryland and Virginia. The Board would like "Thank You" all for showing so much interest to sell out a bus for this trip. If you have any questions, Mark Andersen at 703-425-8997 or mvandersen@cox.net is our contact person, please contact him.

The NMRA Web Site

By John Griffith

Have you been to the NMRA web site lately? If not you are missing out on one of the great sources of information about this hobby. It's free, so come along for an overview.

The site may be reached at www.nmra.org. When you enter you will find the usual stuff, links to the NMRA store, renewal on line, The world's Greatest Hobby web site, why you should join, and what's new in the NMRA.

But there is so much more. There is even a place for beginners to start (or old timers to refresh) there knowledge. Let's take a look. Click on the Beginners Page Project.

The introduction sets the stage to build a 4x8 foot railroad. First, through is some background on why a person should want to participate in model railroading in the first place. There are some real benefits for both young and old and you'd be surprised at some of the folks who over the years were model railroaders.

The introduction is followed by sections on track, on wiring, scenery and structures, and where to purchase model railroad equipment. Each section provides in-depth coverage of the topic. They are designed to give the new comer confidence and plenty of information to get started.

The remainder of the site takes the reader through the building of a simple to more complex layout. Starting with the bench work the reader is guided through laying track and wiring it, building scenery, building structures to completion of a great small layout. Once the layout is built the information doesn't stop. There is a large section on improving the rolling stock, with information on subjects like troubleshooting, couplers, and weathering.

For those ready to continue there adventure a section has been added on DCC and an introduction to the Achievement program. A great glossary is also included.

The Beginners Page Project is but one of the sources of information on the NMRA site. As with the rest of the web site, it is an all volunteer effort. Since its introduction it has received many visitors who are interested in model railroading. Take a look, you may find something new or recognize something that missing. If the later, why not write it up and send it in for inclusion.

Around the Division

Bill Robertson's Winchester and Strasburg Railroad
By John Griffith

Fifty Four Potomac Division members assembled at the Robertson's Maryland home on 22 February to see another great layout. Bill started this layout 13 years ago with his son. The son is grown and is fulfilling his dream since age 8 as an engineer on the CSX, but the layout lives on. Bill has produced many fine scenes based on the southern portion of B&O's Harper Ferry to Strasburg branch. His structures are all first rate. The railroad's operation is flawless. Come join us for the next layout tour.



A view of Bill Robertson's Railroad. Photo by author

LOCAL SWEEPER

by Phil Irwin (Sweeperman)

Reverse EMF kills white LEDs

We may be the first to discover that white LEDs (Blue or golden) will burn out in a circuit with a standard DC motor unless protected with an extra diode. According to the supplier, Richmond Controls, DCC decoders protect the LED from back EMF. Even the article in RMC (Jan 2004) did not mention the LED hazard of straight DC motors. Having learned the hard way, we used another LED for a reverse headlight directly connected back to back with one or more front lights. It was wired in parallel and shared a common resistor in series. Sweeperman's suggestion that a warning accompany retail sales may now be adopted. Meanwhile: free to the lowest bidder – eight dead LEDs.

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

Name

Street Address or PO Box

Additional Address

City

State

ZIP+4

NMRA #

Exp. Date

MER #

Birthdate

Email

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

Primary Scale

Secondary Scale

Favorite Railroad(s) & Prototype(s) Modeled:

Do you have

A layout?

Narrow Gauge interest?

Module interest?

Traction interest?

Would you be willing to host a Home Layout Tour of your Layout?

Please list the NMRA Special Interest Group(s), model railroad clubs, and railroad historical societies to which you belong:

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 1653, Annandale, VA 22003-1653 *The Division will forward National and Regional dues. Allow 6-8 weeks for processing, none of us are fast.*

\$ New Renewal

\$

\$

\$ Total

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HOBBY SUPPLIERS!

And tell them you saw their ad in *The Potomac Flyer*!

- LIONEL AUTHORIZED VALUE ADDED DEALER
- LIONEL AUTHORIZED SERVICE STATION
- MTH ELECTRIC TRAINS

KMA JUNCTION

MODEL TRAIN SUPPLIES & SERVICE

CAVALRY VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER
9786 CENTER STREET
MANASSAS, VIRGINIA 20110
www.labcollections.com/kmajunction

OWNERS
STEVE FORTES
FRAN FORTES
(703) 257-9880

PHONE 410-539-6207 EST. 1913	TOLL FREE 888-TRAINS-5 (888-872-4675)	FAX 410-685-1357
 <p>M. B. Klein, Inc. MODEL TRAIN HEADQUARTERS www.modeltrainstuff.com mb.klein@verizon.net</p>		
TED KLEIN President	162 N. GAY STREET Baltimore, MD 21202	

From the Business Car

Continued from Page 2

There was some discussion in the last BOD meeting about the NMRA's long-range plan vote that is currently taking place. The effect it would have on the Division is that NMRA dues would be \$48.00 per year (\$45.00 for dues to National and \$3.00 to the Region). No funds would be sent to the Division. So, there would be no dues at the Division Level and in essence, all NMRA members within the Division boundaries would be Division members. If a member would like to receive a paper copy of the Flyer, he/she would have to pay \$4.00. Otherwise, he/she would get it via Email for free. It was decided that even if the NMRA vote were turned down, the Division would implement this policy on July 1st.

Don't forget 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 and more information on page 11.



The Shelf Layouts Company

"Fine Scale"

CUSTOM LAYOUT BUILDING

Lance Mindheim
Owner/Builder

3204 Verona Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906
Telephone: 301-404-8164 Email: lmindheim@shelflayouts.com
www.shelflayouts.com

IE&W Railway Supply



Jim Stapleton

Exclusive US agent for
Finescale Locomotive Co.
of Marlborough, England

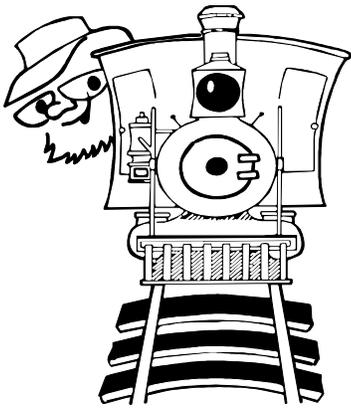
38200 Charles Town Pike
Purcellville, VA 20132-2927
540.882.3886 / fax 540.882.9870
jim.stapleton@mindspring.com

Rail Video	Photos & Slides
<h1>Railhead Video Productions</h1>	
Richard W. Clark 607 McNeill Road Silver Spring, MD 20910-4452	railheadvideo.com 301-565-5126

A Simple Tip for Painting Your Structures

By Nicholas Kalis

When painting my structures I often choose to paint them outside in the backyard using a piece of cardboard to keep from making a mess of the pebbled area behind my home. Often this is late at night and perhaps I will only paint part of the structure. To insure that when I go back to paint part I may have missed either intentionally or unintentionally, that I get my colors correct, I have developed a simple technique. I use a nice black magic marker to write what color paint I used on the structure. Indicate brand, color name, color number and whether the paint is a spray can or from a bottle. While this information may seem easy to recall, it can be a nightmare when you get back to a structure days or weeks later.



Granddad's Hobby Shop.

5260-A Port Royal Road
Springfield, Virginia

703 426-0700 (local) 877 426-0700 (long distance)

We have trains — we have lots of trains.

And we don't stock just trains; we have all the other things you need.

Mon – Fri: 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Sat and Sun: 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Visit our website: granddadshobbyshop.com E-Mail: granddads@starpower.com

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.

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.

Registration is \$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. Checks payable to: Division Two, MCR NMRA.

Next Quarter

- more Sweepman tips.
- who knows what else, possibly your article.

New Address for the Potomac Division

New mail address effective immediately is:
Potomac Division
PO Box 1653
Annandale, VA 22003-1653

HELP!

I need help hooking up my electric trains. I have the track laid out but can not get continuity and power to all sections of the track. HO, small layout (Atlas Super Pretzel). I have too little time to do it myself. Is there anyone in the Potomac/Rockville MD area who would like to make some money helping me? (Ed note: Mickey has volunteered his layout for a tour in 2005 perhaps someone could help for free)

Mickey Greenblatt
(301) 983-3255
mg840@columbia.edu

Potomac Division Calendar

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

May

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

- 1-2 PMC & NV NTrak at Fairfax Station Train Show, Fairfax Station, VA

- 1 NV NTrak Silver Spring Station Layout

- 3-16 Three Rivers Transfer MER/MCR NMRA Regional Convention, Pittsburg, PA.

- 16 1 NV NTrak at Fairfax Station, Fairfax Station, VA

- 30 Home layout tour Larry Nyce's Rio Grande Southern, Potomac Maryland

June

- 5 Potomac Module Crew and NV NTrak at Manassas Railway Festival Manassas, VA

- 19-20 PMC & NV NTrak at Alexandria Red Cross Water Front Festival, Alexandria, VA.

- 20 NVNTrak at Fairfax Station, Fairfax Station, VA

- 27 Home layout tour Bill Day's, Day and Dean Railroad, Sterling, VA

July

- 4-11 NMRA National Convention, Seattle, WA

- 18 NVNTrak at Fairfax Station, VA.

- 25 Home layout tour, Bob Cook's, Port Road Railroad, Burke, VA



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

PO Box 1653
Annandale, VA 22003-1653