

The Potomac Flyer



February –April 2006 The Quarterly Newsletter of Division 2 ("Potomac"), Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Spring Quarter

Look Inside:

Minicon1

Events:

Feb 12

Layout Tour.. Insert

Mar 11

Minicon Schedule.
Insert

Apr 23

Layout Tour... Insert

DEPTS:

Business Car..... 2
NVNTRAK..... 6
Potomac HO Crew
Module Notes..... 7
Membership Form 9
Business Cards... 10
AP News..... 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 poto-mac_nmra@comcast.net

Spring Mincon

The Spring Minicon is scheduled for 11 March 2006 at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (EUMC) 10751 Scaggsville Road, Laurel MD 20723. This is a new location a few miles north of the beltway. See the insert for directions and map.

Clinic Summary:

#1. Intermediate Resin Casting by John Griffith.

This clinic will review how to make molds and then how to make resin castings from those molds. We will follow the process I used to model East Broad Top's Combine #14. We will discuss the trials and tribulations to produce adequate car sides and how to produce a clerestory roof with see through windows. During the clinic I will demonstrate how simple one sided molds are used to produce car sides and maybe a roof. A handout will be provided.



2. Painting and Staining Rock and/or StoneCastings by Noll Horan, MMR.

Using acrylic tube paints, you can duplicate any type of rock and/or stone surface. From sandstone to limestone, with four to

six paints and a brush, you can easily achieve that "look and feel" of rock and stone.

#3. Building Trees by Marc Sisk.

This clinic will show you how to construct various types of trees with low-cost and natural materials. Realistic pine trees made from plain brown rope, wire, and ground foam and deciduous trees made from dried flowers and other techniques that will help you forest your layout with great looking, inexpensive trees.

#4. Making Dwarf Signals by Marshall Abrams.

Learn how to make a dwarf signal with a LED (Light Emitting Diode) that's only .1 inch wide. The LEDs we use are nice because the light from the individual chips light up a whole circle. This means that in addition to green and red, they make a quite nice yellow if both the red and green are turned on. They also come in a green/yellow version, which can be used on the main line approach track and two red/green on the main and side tracks.



#5. Introduction to Steel Mill Modeling by John Glaab.

Many modelers are intimidated by the size and complexity of steel mills. This clinic *Continued 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.	John Griffith (703) 339-3738 (jsgassoc@aol.com)
Asst. Supt.	Marshall Abrams (301) 588-1005 (potomac_nmra@comcast.net)
Paymaster	Mark Andersen (703) 625-1272 (mvandersen@cox.net)
Clerk	Marc Sisk (703) 280-5290 (NPMRFAN@aol.com)
Achievement Prgrm Rep.	Ed Price (703) 670-2015 (ewprice@comcast.net) Bill Roman (301) 645-2035 (wroman@starpoerer.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

Potomac Division's quarterly newsletter © 2000

Editor	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	\$30 per year
	1/4 page	\$15/issue
	1/2 page	\$25/issue
	full page	\$45/issue
	Back cover, half page	\$45/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://home.comcast.net/~Potomac_NMRA/

From the Business Car

by John Drye
Division Superintendent
jdrye52@aol.com

I hope everyone had a great holiday Season and got lots of Model Railroad goodies. Maybe even some coal.

The New Year promises to be a great one for Model Railroaders in our area. The Division will hold its annual mini-convention in March. This time on the "other" side of the Potomac. We'll offer the usual slate of clinics (actually, a tremendous slate—Marshall has outdone himself this time), a couple of operating layouts, AP contest and judging, a preview of the Philadelphia National Convention (more on that in a moment), breakfast, lunch and our annual meeting and elections.

The election committee, consisting of Mark Andersen and Marc Sisk, has nominated the following slate of candidates for our five-member board: Marshall Abrams, Mark Andersen, William (Bill) Demas, John Drye, and John Griffith. If you would like to nominate others to this list, please contact Mark or Marc.

Marc Sisk is stepping down as Division Clerk in preparation for a move to Colorado (to be closer to his favorite Narrow Gauge prototypes, no doubt). The Division is indebted to his efforts and has been inspired by his magnificent modeling. Please join me in offering thanks and best wishes.

This summer, the NMRA National Convention is in nearby Philadelphia. If you have never been to a National Convention, this is a great opportunity. If you have been, then you know what is in store. The Convention offers dozens of local layout tours, literally hundreds of clinics by pretty much all of the prominent model railroaders from all over the world, an AP contest that is simply unmatched, prototype tours and an opportunity to share our great hobby with fellow modelers from around the country and around the world. The convention lasts a week, concluded by a weekend Train Show that includes everything and everyone in the industry. You can find more at: <http://www.nmra.org/2006/>, including a list of activities, registration and a volunteer form.

Please consider volunteering to help out in Philly. As those of us who have participated in Division and Region conventions, these things don't happen by themselves. There is a Volunteer Registration from on the website or you can e-mail the Volunteer Coordinator, Bill Palmer at wjp0268@comcast.net or snail mail to: IJ Volunteer, 818 George St. Norristown, PA 19401.

Happy New Year to all, and hope to see you at our upcoming small and LARGE conventions.

Spring Minicon *Continued from page 1*

will explain the basic elements of a steel mill, the importance of choosing the time period for the mill, and how to take existing kits to build a 1920's -30's era mill.



6. Cranes Around the Railroad by **Tom Brod-rick.**

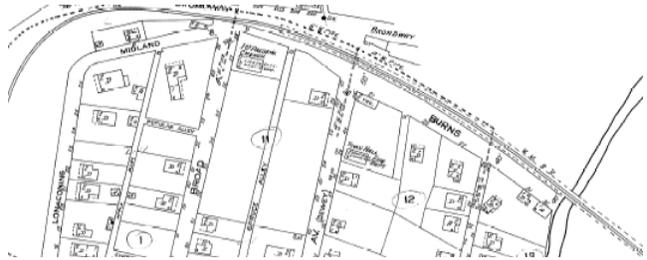
You just had that gigantic derailment on that pesky out of gauge switch. Who do you call? The crane crew of course. Will they need the small crane or the big boy. How do you decide what size you need? Come to the crane clinic and find out how size does make a difference and how you tell which crane is which. See what makes the crane go round and round and up and down. We will discuss the crane as a lifting device from the age of steam thru the present with photos and illustrations. Included will be how to set a scene and generate revenue. A CD with photos and some hand outs will be included.



7 Using Sanborn Fire Maps in Planning a Lay-out by **Ed Ovsenik.**

Whether an armchair model railroader, in the process of designing or building a dream layout, or have a fully functional model railroad empire, model railroaders are always seeking to better represent an actual area or the "look and feel" of an area. My talk on Using Maps to Plan Layouts will provide you with the means to obtain actual maps of towns and cities from the early 1900's through the 1945--50 time frame. I will present information on what these maps depict, how to obtain the maps for free, and how to then use them in planning your layout. Sam-

ple maps from Hamlet, NC will show how the railroad facilities in and around Hamlet developed over time. Come and learn how to get better information to better



plan and build your layout.

8 Hands On – Build An Animated Warehouse Roll-up Door by **Bill Day.**

Hands On -build an animated warehouse roll-up door. Following a slide presentation on a variety of animated structures, participants will build the "key mechanism" of a warehouse roll-up door, using two Design Preservation Module panels, styrene sheet, styrene rod and styrene H columns, all provided by me (hence, the clinic charge per participant of \$5.00). Cement will be provided. Time and cost preclude building the entire warehouse structure in the clinic — which could require between 6 and 18 DPM modules. Later, participants will need to complete the model at home and provide at that point a Tortoise switch to make it work. (However, a finished, working, powered, award-winning roll-up door model using a Tortoise switch, will be shown at the clinic as a teaching aid). No participant will need to bring a Tortoise switch to the clinic. Fee: \$5.00 Seats: 20 maximum.



9 Two Trains to Towanda by **Bill Cox.**

This clinic is "Two Trains to Towanda: The Williamsport and North Branch". The clinic handout will include some maps which are detailed *Continued on page 4*

Spring Minicon *Continued from page 3*

sufficiently to give the reader a basic understanding of the railroad's line. The history of the railroad (1875 to 1938) will be reviewed, then its operations will be described including industries along the line and engineering features. Finally, the locomotives and rolling stock will be discussed. At each section, modeling possibilities of the railroad will be suggested.

10 JMRI Software Projects: PanelPro Introduction & DecoderPro – A Tool for Programming Decoders by Dick Bronson

PanelPro is a computer based system for building CTC control panels. A discussion of supported systems and a demonstration of constructing a control panel for a passing siding will be included. PanelPro is part of the free software suite developed by the Java Model Railroad Interface (JMRI) Project. DecoderPro is a tool for programming decoders using a computer. This clinic is an introduction to programming with DecoderPro. An overview of supported DCC systems will also be included. DecoderPro is part of the free software suite developed by the Java Model Railroad Interface (JMRI) Project. 2 hours. More information about these projects, including download instructions, may be found at <http://www.jmri.info>.

11 Wood Trestle Bridge Building by Steven Wills

This hands-on clinic will cover the building of wood Trestle Bridges. Steve will include a discussion of scale vs. building to scale. Selection of material —

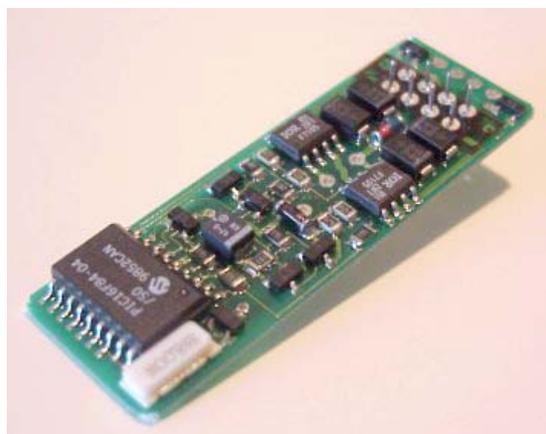


pros, cons and cost. Using a Balsa Stripper. The design of your bridge and the building of a jig. The assembly of a Trestle Bridge. You may build as many bents as time and materials permit. The Jig and any Bents/Bridges that you make will be yours

to keep. The provided jig can be modified so you can build the bridge you have been wanting for your layout. Materials that will be provided are: Glue, Jig, Building Material, Rule. Bring your own favorite hobby knife. Cost: \$5 per person Seating: maximum 15. 3 hours.

12 DCC Basics & Decoder Installation from Beginning to End by Charles Gregory

The world of DCC is wonderful but a bit confusing. Join Charles on a walk through the world of Basics of DCC and Decoder Installation from Beginning to End. This clinic will present some basic information when choosing a DCC system, a brief overview of setting up the system, a walk through in installing a decoder, some advice ideas that you can do with DCC (sound, milling, and computer operation), and a look at what you can do when it is done. Charles is a full time DCC specialist and



would love to help you discover the world of DCC.

13 CTC Machine Design & Operation by Mike Weber

You've seen CTC machines in the model railroad maga-



zines for years. Now is your opportunity to learn what all the levers and lights REALLY do. We'll cover the *Continued on page 5*

Spring Minicon *Continued from page 4*
layout of a typical machine and touch on a few railroad-specific details. Plus this interactive demonstration will use a reproduction US&S Type C office machine to illustrate the action of the relay code system. Make your CTC machine look, feel and SOUND like the real thing. The electronics and software used are all commercially available and ready for implementation on your layout. Take a "trick" in the hot seat and see if you have what it takes.

The Return of the Pale Pachyderm!

At the minicon, the Pale Pachyderm makes another appearance. Do you have any goodies that you aren't likely to make use of? Seriously, how many freight cars can you actually use at one time? How many structure kits do you have that you aren't going to build? Now's the time to turn those space-hogging boxes into some cash that you can spend on other goodies! I'll be hosting the White Elephant space again (except for my clinic time). The Division will take a 15% slice, helps pay for the venue. Bring stuff and sell! Bring cash and buy! Everyone's a winner!

Model Contest

There will be a model contest. The convention will open at 8:00 and the cut off for contest model entries will be 08:30. Categories for the model contest will be: Power Units: steam, diesel, and traction; Rolling Stock: passenger, freight, and caboose; Other: non-revenue car, structure, and display. The popular vote contest will include the previous categories plus Favorite Train and Favorite Module/display, and Favorite model by a young modeler (less than 14 years old). We still need volunteers to help with judging, if you are interested please contact Bill Roman or Ed Price. Even if you have not judged before we will train you.

You can enter the mini- to get acquainted with what's involved in a contest and enter again at the Regional or National level. Models entered into the contest can be judged for NMRA AP merit points, but this is not a requirement of the contest. AP requirements, SOQ's and forms can be downloaded from the NMRA web site (<http://www.nmra.org/achievement/>). This site includes all the awards available with descriptions and requirements plus contest forms.

Lunch

The church will be offering a lunch service of "homemade" sandwiches and other items, for purchase. Other fast food and sandwich shops are close by for those who would prefer to leave the premises. Morning coffee and muffins will be available for a nominal fee.

Board of Director Nominations. The nominating committee made up of Marc Sisk and Mark Andersen nominate the following slate for the 2006-2007 Potomac Division Board of Directors.

John Drye
John Griffith
Marshall Abrams
Mark Andersen
William (Bill) Demas

Others desiring to serve on the Board should contact Marc Sisk or Mark Andersen before 1 February 2006. Nominations from the floor are not authorized by the bylaws. Voting for the Board will be accomplished at the 2006 Potomac Division Minicon on 11 March 2006

Around The Division

Ben Hom Layout Tour by Nick Kalis
(photos by John Drye)

October offered a new and exciting avenue in terms of our monthly open house tour. This is the first time the Potomac Division has had an open house in an apartment in at least several years (maybe ever). In some ways this was no different than counterpart events held in private homes. Visitors enjoyed sodas, snacks, model railroad videotapes playing on Ben's television, and lively conversation. We were treated to seeing Ben's beautifully detailed and weathered rolling stock collection. At least one visitor took Ben up on his offer to tune-up some HO scale freight cars the visitor brought along. John had begun his benchwork and had a train running -- the basic requirements for a host.

Beyond the hospitality and the satisfied guests Ben helped us make two vital points: 1. this hobby can be enjoyed in a high quality way even in an apartment (dispelling the myth that the hobby requires a basement or at minimum, a single family home); 2. Layout tours can be hosted even in an apartment. Car pooling among friends does not hurt -- in fact, it makes the experience more enjoyable as Bob Rosenberg and I can attest.

Continued to page 10

Nothern Virginia NTRAK News

By Marc Sisk

By the time you read this, the hustle and bustle of the holiday season will have come and gone. We will be reflecting on the past year's accomplishments and focusing on the New Year ahead. Each of us has plans and goals that we would like to achieve during this New Year. For my family, this coming year will be exciting. We have two college graduations, two weddings, and a move to Colorado Springs coming up, all within a sixty day period this summer. Looks like modeling will have to wait for awhile. I hope your new year will be not quite so full (or expensive), but exciting none the less.

The fall continues to be a busy time for NVNTRAK. We had five layouts in the month of October. The first show, on October 1st was the annual *Bethesda Chevy Chase Rescue Squad Open House*. This small layout is done in conjunction with the *Taste of Bethesda*, so you not only get to run trains, but you get to sample all kinds of food. One thing special about the event this year was a cotton candy machine in the same room as the layout. This caused a pink nightmare for the layout as cotton candy whiffs were all over the room, to include the layout. The machine was taken outside and a suggestion of a "tongue cleaner" was provided as a way to clean the tracks. The following weekend had us at the *Great Scale Train Show* in Timonium, MD for a combined layout with *Keystone NTRAK*. NVNTRAK's T-TRAK division also participated with a layout over the weekend. On October 15, NVNTRAK participated with a layout at the *Franconia Volunteer Fire Station's Open House*. It is an easy commute for us since that is where our trailers are stored and also where we do our monthly backshops. An *Operation Lifesaver* presentation was done throughout the day for attendees. We held our monthly setup at *Fairfax Station Railroad Museum* on the 16th. We do this show every third Sunday of the month with the exception of December and January. We consider Fairfax Station our "home" layout. October ended for us with participation from our Southern contingent, **Gil Brauch**, who represented us in the NTRAK layout, held in conjunction with the *NMRA's Mid-Eastern Region Convention* in Raleigh, NC. Gil, by the way, took home the first and second place awards for best module in the model contest.

November, *Model Railroad Month*, started quickly

for us with the annual *Damascus Library Train Day* on November 5th. An *Operation Lifesaver* display was again set up for the public. The next weekend had us at the *Rockville Lions Club Train Show*. NVNTRAK has participated in this show for the past 15 years. The third weekend of November featured our first layout at *Dulles Expo Center* since *Capitol Limited '04* and our monthly setup at *Fairfax Station*. A busy weekend for sure and our Superintendent, **John Steitz**, pulled it off well making sure both layouts had what they needed to operate properly and efficiently. I believe that we did our part for Model Railroad Month showing off trains and making the public aware of real railroad hazards and safety.

December starts us winding down for the holidays, but also allows us to bring the hobby to kids, young and old. We participated in the *Annual Fairfax Station Railroad Museum's Holiday Train Show* over the weekend of December 3rd and 4th. We operated our layout in the caboose and the room inside the station is full of trains of other scales. A very good crowd of almost 1100 folks came out and enjoyed the trains. The same weekend, we setup a layout at the *Ikea* store in College Park, MD. The last layout for December was a T-TRAK setup at the *Train Collectors Association Toy and Train Show* on the 10th at the *Kena Temple* in Fairfax, VA. Our T-TRAKers got the opportunity to setup a large, L-shaped layout and entertained the crowds. The next day, we held our Annual Holiday Party at **Brian Brendel's** home. It is the highlight of a very busy year and a time to do that reflecting thing I talked about in the opening of this article.

Future events are listed on the back page of this *Flyer*, but I want to emphasize that NVNTRAK will be participating in the *World's Greatest Hobby Show* in February at the *Chantilly Expo Center*. There will be layouts in all scales along with vendors. We have been offered 10,000 square feet for an NTRAK layout. We will be inviting our NTRAK friends from other clubs to join us for a weekend of running trains. We will also have NVNTRAK's *Nn3* and *T-TRAK* Divisions setup and running.

That closes out what will probably be my last column of N Scale action. I hope that these columns have been interesting and informing. I am not sure who will be taking over for me, but rest assured that they will continue to provide you with all the past and future activities of NVNTRAK. As usual, I 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. Model railroading as a hobby is what you make of it. Do what makes you happy and enjoy it. Till next time, be safe, have a prosperous new year and run some trains.

The Potomac Module Crew

by Mark Andersen

As we begin cleaning up from the Holidays and taking decorations down, reorganizing their storage begins. Those model-railroading presents can now be set back out for planning and building. The paints will be sorted through, those brushes tracked down and replaced as needed, but work will commence.

The Module Crew finished one of its busiest seasons this past fall. We participated in three full weekend shows over four weekends. Our first included the Rockville, Maryland Lion's Club Holiday show. The Lion's Club raises funds benefiting those with vision, hearing and diabetes problems. Sponsoring youth organizations, additional funds contribute to the organizations involving scouting and three different little league teams in the Rockville City Youth League. Including NV-Ntrak, the National Capital Trackers, the Washington-Virginia-Maryland Garden Railway Society, two Z scale groups, a European Passenger train organization and the Potomac Module Crew, we aided the Lion's Club in raising close to four thousand dollars. One of our favorite shows, as well as the biggest, included thirty-nine modules filling the former elementary school cafeteria/auditorium. The shape, a unique letter "E," somewhat dictated by Bill Brandon's "Dundas Wye," had many members from near and far add to our collection of modules. These included members from Lake Anna, Fredericksburg, Hartwood, Warrenton, Manassas, Woodbridge and Dumfries. The rest of us commuted from nearby Virginia and Maryland communities.

Following this veteran's weekend show in November was the Greenberg fall vendor train show at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, Virginia. Thirty modules traveled to this show creating a large "C" shaped layout. These "paid" shows are important to our group, as these funds provide the means for DCC equipment repair and replacement as needed. Located far back in the north western back corner of the building, allowed us many opportunities to renew old friendships with the Prince William Railroad Club, NV-Ntrak, and several others groups. A special note of interest and answered prayers for a fellow model railroader was the presence of George Hughes of Springhaven Shops along with his wife Laura. George's progress and recovery from major

surgery is a blessing. We are all "Thankful" to small miracles!!

In the advent of Thanksgiving and family celebrations the following weekend, a well-deserved rest occurred. Next weekend, is the Friends of Fairfax Station Holiday Train Show. The annual first weekend of December Holiday Train show has a history of some 16 years; the Potomac Module Crew has participated in all of those. The standard fourteen feet square module arrangement, allows for the National Capital Trackers and the American Flyer Groups layout space within the confines of the station. Monty and his Lego Railroad along with NV-Ntrak setup in the caboose. As in years past, the Washington-Virginia-Maryland Garden Railway Society sets up outside, ringing the station twice with two loops of track and a serious yard/engine servicing facility. Under the guidance of Joan Rogers and Clem Clements, the weekend show was a success for the further preservation of the station, raising funds in excess of twenty four hundred dollars.

As members of the Potomac Module Crew, promoting the interest in our hobby and the organization we're supporting continues on through another year. In all twelve shows the PMC displays, ten layouts benefit a benevolent organization we so proudly support. March 11, 2006, we'll be displaying for the one-day Mini-Convention at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Laurel, Maryland, we hope we see you there?

As always, our group is always looking for a few new members. We charge no dues, but encourage you to join the NMRA. Come join in the fun of modular HO railroading. You may visit us through our website maintained by Colin Weiner at <http://homepage.mac.com/cjweiner/pmchorr01/Default.html> You may also contact me at mvandersen@cox.net or call at 703-625-1272. Remember, *We* can only grow, if *we* bring someone *NEW* into our hobby! Thanks for listening, until next time, adieu.

Layout Tour Time Changes

Our layout tour program is a great way to meet other members of the division, share modeling ideas and enjoy our area's layouts. We've noticed that the vast majority of attendees show up right at the outset, so in order to make life easier on the hosts and helpers, hours will be from 1-4 pm.

Around the Division

The Long Island RR in Long Island City by Mark Anderson

Many a commuter has coursed through parts of the L.I.C. yards on their respective journeys to the East River tunnels and on into Manhattan. Nick Kalis's efforts have created a city yard and switching layout nestled in the confines of Long Island City on the East River in Queens County, New York. Although primarily a commuter line, industries and consumers need raw materials, deliveries, shipping and the varied requirements only a railroad can provide.

The LIC was captured in all its run down brick and concrete glory. As yard life goes on, real life continues on the various bridges and promenades around his layout room. Set up along two sides and the back, a peninsula bringing continued industrial life directs itself from the back as well. This creates a large "E" shaped layout, allowing its operator's entry within the building lined tracks.

Ever the host, Nick had several friends operating switch jobs for those to see. Although his layout appears complete, with track and scenery, rebuilding several buildings and scenes is occupying his time. Several years ago, a trip to Long Island City and the yard areas occurred. Many pictures and cryptic notes were assembled for future endeavors. Buildings were drawn and annotated for future construction, although in a smaller 1/87 scale.

Operating on the layout, the engineer merely locates a Digitrax throttle and plugs in for a seamless operation schedule. Car cards, allow equipment to be picked up and redelivered as needed in the yard. Directing those early Alcos and Geeps, the Long Island delivers its freight!



A special "Thank You," goes to the Kalis family for opening their home and sharing their layout with us! (Nick ask that we add "Nick has been assisted by Ed Bjamason, Ted Tubbessing, Ed McGill, John Drye (box car weathering), and Ben Hom" Ed)

Charlie Young's Chesapeake Crossing Railroad

Bill Roman, photos by John Griffith

On Sunday December 18, twenty four visitors attended a layout tour on Charlie Young's Chesapeake Crossing RR, a large (17' X 23') N scale pike patterned after the Norfolk & Western in the diesel era. Visitors saw a fine model railroad on which several long trains ran without problems over the entire line, due to the excellent Micro-Engineering Code 55 track, and lots of work by Charlie to ensure smooth running. DCC controls the operation of all locomotives. Tortoise switch machines are used for all powered turnouts, and the wiring beneath the layout was extremely well organized and laid out. Scenery on the mountainsides is basically complete and very impressive in capturing the look of a heavy mountain railroad, along with much work accomplished on the urban and industrial areas. Charlie has been working on this layout for about 10 years and has a great operation to show for his hard work.

Structures either finished or in progress include scratchbuilt, Walther's Cornerstone, and others made from DPM wall sections with considerable detailing added. Many of the structures are notably larger than those typically found on model railroads, providing a more prototypical appearance. A large coal mine is supported by an extensive yard, and the area near the mine includes numerous company houses, a subject not often modeled. In another area, there is a substantial roundhouse and service facility. Another area depicts a corn field. It is about half done. Charlie must have already used every N scale packet of brass corn stocks in existence.

The Potomac Division thanks Charlie and his wife for the hospitality.



Potomac Division Division 2, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association
 PO Box 1653, Annandale, VA 22003-1653



Web page:
http://home.comcast.net/~Potomac_NMRA

Email :
Potomac_NMRA@comcast.net

The Potomac Division provides various activities for all interested model railroaders, such as home layout tours, prototype tours, and Mini-Conventions. 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. All members of the NMRA who reside in one of these areas are automatically members of the Potomac Division. Guests are always welcome at Division events.

Personal Information

First Name	Last Name	Work phone
Address	Birth date	Home phone
Address 2	NMRA #	NMRA expiration date
City	State	ZIP+4
Email		

Interest Survey

Primary Scale	Secondary Scale	Favorite Railroad(s) & Prototype(s) Modeled:	
Do you have in primary or secondary scale		Please list the NMRA Special Interest Group(s), model railroad clubs, and railroad historical societies to which you belong:	
<input type="radio"/>	A layout		<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Narrow Gauge interest?		<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Module interest		<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	Traction interest interest?		<input type="radio"/>
Would you be willing to host a Home Layout Tour of your Layout? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			

Newsletter Election

The quarterly *Potomac Flyer* is sent at no cost to the email address above (if one is present). If you don't want email delivery, please check here.

To receive the *Flyer* in hard copy delivered via the Postal Service at the above address, please check here and enclosed \$5.00 for a one year subscription. Please make your check payable to Potomac Division and mail with this form to the address at the top of the page.

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 *Scale Rails*, associate members do not. You may send your dues directly to the National Model Railroad Association, Inc., Headquarters Office, 4121 Cromwell Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421.

<http://www.rhistorical.com/NMRA/>

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.labcreations.com/kmajunction

OWNERS
STEVE FORTES
FRAN FORTES
(703) 257-9860



The Shelf Layouts Company

"Fine Scale"
CUSTOM LAYOUT BUILDING
Layout Design

Lance Mindheim
Owner/Builder

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

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

Rail Video 3448 Photos & Slides 3448

Railhead Video Productions

Richard W. Clark
607 McNeill Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4452
railheadvideo.com
301-565-5126

Achievement News

By Bill Roman

Plans for our 2006 mini-convention have become more firm since the last issue of the Flyer, as discussed elsewhere. Per our usual practice, we'll have both judged entries as well as popular voting for Favorite Train. Right now, it appears that we may be somewhat tight on space for the Contest Room, so if all possible, please let Ed Price or me know if you plan to bring models for judging, especially if you have large structures or long Favorite Train entries. We're not restricting entries, just trying to ensure that we have sufficient space for everything.

As has been mentioned in the Flyer as well as the MER Local and Scale Rails, paperwork is a "necessary evil" for AP and non-AP judging, since it is often difficult to determine just how a model was built, weathered, lettered, what its prototype is, etc. Long and extremely detailed write ups aren't required,

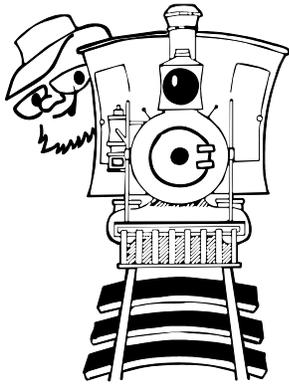
but please tell us the types of materials and techniques used, source of parts, prototype/freelanced design, and other related factors. Good paperwork is best done prior to Saturday morning, since we need to begin judging fairly early in order to wrap up the process in a timely fashion.

Looking forward to the mini!

Around the Division *Continued from page 5*

If you live in an apartment and have not gotten out of your arm-chair be inspired by all this and set up a date for your open house. We will all be the better for your efforts.





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:

Parts, paint, glue, wood, plastic, tools, motors, scenery products, books, & magazines.

And don't forget our catalog rack and reference library.

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.

New Potomac Division Web Site

Check out the "New" web site more info, more fun even some how to: http://home.comcast.net/~Potomac_NMRA/

Layout Help Needed

Ken Jones needs help replacing his track, wiring and so on. 12x23 layout is reasonably complete but he wants the track replaced. Pretty standard wiring, a few blocks. He has used and like some ez-track. He is willing to pay for the work, price negotiable. Gaithersburg location. Ken Jones, 301-216-5210, up to 11pm.

kjonesvim@comcast.net

Convention Room Mate Wanted

Looking for someone to share hotel room at the NMRA convention in Philadelphia this year. If interested please e-mail Paul at FF3HUTCH@AOL.COM

Sweeperman by Phil Irwin

CD disc drive Let's strip a dead computer's CD disc drive. Inside you'll find a worm drive and a sliding ladder drive, both driven by lovely can motors! These motors stall without heating, provide variable speed from 3 to 12 volts DC and draw minimal current. The assemblies are very powerful, enough to throw turnouts and contacts, Custom linkage will be required for adaptive uses. Maybe you can figure out how to make the disc turning motor do something useful.., please let us know

No-turnout Sidings Stub sidings usually mean a frog, points, guide rails, throwing mechanism and the however remote potential for mainline derailments. There are now seven exceptions on the Caledonia Central featuring none of the above. None of my guests have ever asked why there are no switches. Probably because they do not focus on both ends of the sidings at the same time. That's what modeling is all about... illusion. Make the eye see reality in miniature in perspective. No-turnout sidings can be a test track, a dummy second mainline track, an industry spur (if you don't mind spotting by hand) a showcase for your prized equipment, a rip track for sick equipment or just part of a diorama. A trolley can go back and forth on its own line. By design my mainline has a minimum of turnouts, a maximum diverging radius, trailing points, and takes the straight option where possible.

Potomac Division Calendar

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

Feburary

- 4-5 *Great Scale Model Train Show* - Timonium, MD
 - 11-12: NVNTrak and PD Module Crew at ***World's Greatest Hobby Show***, Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA.
 - 12 Layout tour at John Drye's, Alexandria, VA
 - 19 NVNTrak at *Fairfax Station Museum*, VA
 - 18-19, PD Module Crew at ***The Lyceum***, Alexandria, VA.
 - 25-26 NVNTrak at Upper Marlboro, MD
-

March

- 4 NVNTrak at *Lorton PTA Health and Safety Fair* Lorton, VA
 - 11 ***Potomac Div Minicon***, Laurel, MD
 - 18-19 NVNTrak and PD Module Crew at *Troop 964 Train Show* - Prince William Co, VA
 - 19 NVNTrak at Fairfax Station Museum, VA
-

April

- 1 *Great Scale Model Train Show* - Timonium , MD
- 16 NVNTrak at *Fairfax Station Museum*, VA
- 23 Layout tour at Wes Morgenstern's, Rockville, MD



The Quarterly Newsletter of

Division 2 ("Potomac") Mid Eastern Region

National Model Railroad Association

PO Box 1653
Annandale, VA 22003-1653

MINICON SCHEDULE

8:00	Registration					
8:30	<i>#10 JMRI Software Projects: PanelPro Introduction & DecoderPro – A Tool for Programming Decoders - Dick Bronson</i>	<i>#2 Painting and Staining Rock and/or StoneCastings - Noll Horan, MMR</i>	<i>#1 Intermediate Resin Casting - John Griffith</i>	White Elephant Sales	All models to be judged must be in place by 8:30	Modular layout operations Come run a train
9:30	Break					
9:45		<i>#3 Building Trees - Marc Sisk</i>	<i>#4 Making Dwarf Signals - Marshall Abrams</i>			
10:45	Break					
11:00	<i>#13 CTC Machine Design & Operation – Mike Weber</i>	<i>#7 Using Sanborn Fire Maps in Planning a Layout - Ed Ovsenik</i>	<i>#5 Introduction to Steel Mill Modeling - John Glaab</i>			
12:00	Lunch & Business Meeting					
1:15	<i>#11 Wood Trestle Bridge Building - Steven Wills</i>	<i>#9 Two Trains to Towanda - Bill Cox</i>	<i>#6 Cranes Around the Railroad - Tom Brodrick</i>			
2:15	Contest Awards (if judging complete)					
2:30		<i>#8 Hands On – Build An Animated Warehouse Roll-up Door - Bill Day</i>	<i>#12 DCC Basics & Decoder Installation from Beginning to End - Charles Gregory</i>			
4:15	Final announcements					

How to get there:

From Route 29: Take the route 216 exit toward Scaggsville (East). Follow 216 to the first light (Crest Rd.) Turn right onto Crest Rd. Go to the end and turn left onto Scaggsville Rd. Church is located on the right side.

From Interstate 95: Take the route 216 exit toward Scaggsville (West). You will come to a traffic light, turn left onto Leishear Rd. Go to the end, and turn right onto Scaggsville Rd. Church is located a half mile on the left.

