

# The Potomac Flyer



October 2008-January 2009 The Quarterly Newsletter of Division 2 ("Potomac"), Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Winter Quarter

## Look Inside: MER Convention .1

### Events:

**December 14**  
Layout Tour Insert

**January 25**  
Layout Tour Insert

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

## ALL ABOARD by Bob Minnis

As you have read in this and possibly other publications, the Potomac Division will be hosting the annual MER convention at the Reston Sheraton between October 16 and 19. Have you registered yet? If not, you still have time. Full registration is \$50.00. Daily registration is available if you can not devote the full three days to the proceedings. Do plan to come and support your Division and Region.

There is a full slate of clinics covering a wide range of railroad topics. I guarantee you will learn something new. You still have a short time to gather up all those kits and cars you will never use and turn them into cash at the white elephant table or the auction.

Want to learn more about the Achievement Program? Six (6) of the Region's Master Model Railroaders (MMRs) will answer any and all of your questions in a panel discussion following the banquet on Saturday.

If you have never attended a convention, this is a great time to give it a try. You will never get one scheduled any closer than this. Use the experience as a 'dry run' for the national (MNRA) convention that will be held just up the coast in Hartford, CT next July.

Hope to see you in Reston.

### Clinics Scheduled

An Alternative Approach to Layout Design in Modest Spaces by Brian Scace

AP Judging by Charlie Flichman

Avoiding Minefields and Pitfalls on Your Nonprofit Board by Roger Cason

The Art of Decaling by William Mosteller

Basic Techniques for Scratch Building in Styrene by David Renard, MMR

A Brief History of Model Train Control Systems by John Glaab and Gill Fuchs

Building and Coloring Masonry Buildings by David Emery

Building In Wood - the Post Office by Martin Brechbiel and Clint Hyde

CadRail Update by Dennis Vaccaro

Ceiling Tile Rock Building by Mark Andersen

Cheap and easy trees by Chuck Hladik

Computer Modeling Structures by Chris Jessee

Constructing the Sheafe Warehouse by Fred Willis

*Continued on page 5*



## 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, Howard, 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	<b>John Drye</b> (703) 922-8131 ( <a href="mailto:jdrye52@aol.com">jdrye52@aol.com</a> ) 6056 Estates Drive Alexandria, VA 22311
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### The Potomac Flyer

Potomac Division's quarterly newsletter © 2008  
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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 o</b>	<b>October 1</b>

<b>Advertising rates:</b>	<b>1/8 page business card</b>	<b>\$30 per year</b>
	<b>¼ page</b>	<b>\$15/issue</b>
	<b>½ page</b>	<b>\$25/issue</b>
	<b>full page</b>	<b>\$45/issue</b>
	<b>Back cover, half page</b>	<b>\$45/issue</b>

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Potomac Division web site at:

[http://home.comcast.net/~Potomac\\_NMRA/](http://home.comcast.net/~Potomac_NMRA/)

## From the Business Car

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

The Division continues to be in excellent shape, thanks to the efforts of many who step forward; to organize and host layout tours, organize and manage conventions large and small, build and display modular layouts to show the hobby and NMRA flag to the public, assist with the achievement program and to keep the wheels well-oiled and turning smoothly.

This is a great time for our hobby. There is tremendous variety of products available in a multitude of scales. Even a long-time N Scaler (such as yours truly) can't help but admire the superb quality of DCC and sound-equipped locomotives in the larger scales. These smooth-running, great-sounding locomotives are pretty tempting. Going in the other direction, Z Scale is already past the point, more than ten years ago, where the increased quality and variety in N Scale pulled many of us out of our armchairs. Just as in the other scales, N Scale offers prototypically accurate, RR-specific items from a PRR X-29 boxcar to the latest repaints of Coalporters. There are no bad choices.

The end of summer often portends a move from the picnic table to the layout room (or workbench). The small switching layout that has grown cobwebs in my basement over the summer is soon to get some attention. While this layout is in N Scale, the larger and smaller temptations are still making the decisions on how to replace the full-basement layout difficult (HO Scale 1950's PRR Branch line?; N Scale 2008 CSX Washington-Richmond Racetrack?; HOn3 East Broad Top?; N Scale PRR Buffalo Line?).

The switching layout, hopefully, will make a public appearance at this fall's MER Convention (see article for more information). Hopefully, there will be some structures included in order to make some progress on an AP Certificate. The convention will surely help motivate all of us to get going again as the weather cools. There will be a variety of clinics to polish our existing skills and maybe teach us a few new ones;

*Continued on page 3*

## Achievement News by Bill Roman

As I close out my time as one of the Potomac Division's Achievement Program coordinators, I want to thank all of the members who have supported the program. I've had the opportunity to see many great models and layouts over the past eight years, and hope to see many more in the future, just in a more unofficial capacity. In general, we've had very good numbers of models at our mini-conventions, sometimes rivaling the number entered at MER regional conventions. Brian Sheron will be the new AP coordinator living in Maryland, but of course will be glad to provide assistance throughout the PD area. Please keep up the great work – you have all winter to get entries ready for the next mini-con, if you don't have anything ready yet for the MER convention in Reston this October.

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### From The NMRA National's by Marshall Abrams

A rather excited Bill Day called from Anaheim to report his success. He wanted to claim it was a group effort because of the advice we gave him, but I wouldn't let him get away with that!

He received 6 awards:

- 1st place on-line structure.
- People's choice favorite structure.
- People's choice creativity.
- People's choice Bar Mills favorite model.
- Carstens Publications originality in craftsmanship
- Scale Rails most photogenic model.

Bill Day's Award Winning Model Photo by Ed Price



## Election Committee Report

The Potomac Division Bylaws provide for election of five board members each year, for one-year terms. Elections are held at the Division Annual Meeting. This year, the annual meeting will be held at the MER Convention hosted by the division.

Four of the five incumbent board members; Marshall Abrams, Mark Anderson, Bill Day, and Bill Demas have agreed to run for re-election. The fifth, John Drye, is stepping down from the board.

One nomination for the vacancy has been received to date: Tom Brodrick (who is currently serving as the division's layout tour coordinator). Additional nominations may be made up to 30 days in advance of the division's annual meeting by contacting the election committee:

John Drye at-- [jdrye52@aol.com](mailto:jdrye52@aol.com) or 703 922 8131  
Marshall Abrams at-- [Potomac NMRA@comcast.net](mailto:Potomac NMRA@comcast.net)  
or 301-588-1005

The newly-elected board members will select officers at the first meeting after the election.

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### *Continued from page 2 Business Car*

layout tours to inspire us; contests and displays to do the same; and the chance to renew friendships.

This is my last report as I am stepping down from the board. I'm honored to have had the chance to pay something back to this organization. It has been a truly enjoyable and educational experience. The friends we make in this hobby are a treasure we'll value as long as we're still making steam.

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**Your Article Could Have Started  
Here  
Send it to the Editor**

## Northern Virginia NTRAK News

By Steve Jackson

Where does the summer go? While I am sure that my wife will be thrilled to have kids go back to school, I have to say that my summer flew by in a wink. Luckily, the cooler weather will mean that I should have less to do in the yard and hopefully more time to spend with my trains in the basement

For this issue, I am going to try providing the NVNTRAK schedule in a tabular format. In general, our events are supported by members with their NTRAK modules. However, we do have a couple of divisions that have n –scale modules in other formats. If the events will be supported by one of our divisions, then the events will be noted by the name of the division.

If you want additional information about any of our past shows or upcoming shows, you can find it on our web site at [www.nvntrak.org](http://www.nvntrak.org). We have an events link that accesses our calendar and an events pictures page that hosts photos of past shows. Our newsletter (The Callboard) is also posted on the site, although this usually lags the publication of the paper copy.

I hope to see y'all at one of the events

NVNTrak 2008 Schedule	
September 21	Fairfax Station, Fairfax, VA
September 28	National Burn Camp, Arlington, VA
October 4	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad (TTRAK), Bethesda, MD
October 5	Back Shop, Franconia, VA
October 11-12	Great Scale Model Train Show, Timonium, MD
October 16-19	NMRA MER, Reston, VA
October 19	Fairfax Station, Fairfax, VA
November 2	Back Shop, Franconia, VA
November 2	31 <sup>st</sup> Gaithersburg Model Railroad Club Show, Gaithersburg, MD
November 8	Damascus Railroad Days, Damascus, MD
November 8-9	Rockville Lions Club Train Show, Rockville, MD
November 16	Fairfax Station, Fairfax, VA
December 6-7	Fairfax Station Train Show, Fairfax, VA
December 6-7	IKEA, College Park, MD
December 12-13	South Columbia Baptist, Columbia, MD (TTRAK)
December 13	OLI Santa Train
December 13	Herndon Train Show, Herndon, VA
December 13	Model Train Collector's Assn., Kena Temple, Fairfax, VA (TTRAK)
December 13	Christmas Event To Remember, Purcellville, VA
December 27-28	Greenberg, Chantilly, VA



Monroe Stewarts Hooch Junction

## 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/](http://home.comcast.net/~Potomac_NMRA/)

## *Continued from page 1 Clinics*

Creating a Stencil for Your Logo by Gil Fuchs

Designing Industries for Your Model Railroad by Rich Mahaney

Fine Scale Animation by Bill Day

Getting your MMR Authors Achievement by Martin Brechbiel

Grits ain't just for breakfast anymore by Chuck Hladik

Helix Design Considerations, and Building the Behemoth Helix by Mark Brunton

Improving Rolling Stock Operations Using Proper Maintenance and Car Weights by George Bogart

Intermodal 101 by Rich Mahaney

Intro to Decoder Programming with JMRI/DecoderPro by Dick Bronson

Introduction to Layout Control with JMRI/PanelPro by Dick Bronson

Introduction to Steel Mill Modeling by John Glaab

Kit-Bashing HO Freight cars by John Johnson

Making Dwarf Signals by Marshall Abrams

Modeling Newport News, VA C&O in O Scale by John Roberts

Operations Switchlist Software by Marshall Abrams

New Board Q. & A. with the Incoming MER Officers

Rags, Q-Tips, Steel Wool and Alcohol by George Wiley

Red Iron as Scenery and Destinations by Tom Brodrick

Retooling 3 control panels into 2 redundant panels by John Swanson

Sawdust Scenery by Noll Horan, MMR

Start-up OPS using car cards and waybills by Roger Sekera

Tank Cars 101 by Rich Mahaney

Timetable and Train Order Operation by Steve King

Using the PC as a modeling tool by Fred Miller, MMR

Weathering Rolling Stock by John Drye

What to Do With That "Old Era" Railroad Equipment by Rich Mahaney

Wood Trestle Bridge Building by Steven Willis



Matt Thompson's Oregon Coast Railroad

## The Potomac Module Crew

by Mark Andersen

How far does our creative dollar go? Do we desire the latest in laser cut structures or are our creative juices flowing studying a picture or plan? Are the engine and car manufacturers creating the products we want? I had the opportunity to go through a collection of Mainline Modeler magazines dating back through the 1990's. While perusing so many railroad's structures and equipment, I discovered an opportunity to create something new for my yet to be built On30 modeling interest.

Several PMC members have railroad interests outside of our HO module displays. Colin Weiner has a deep interest in Great Britain's railways. Aside from an interest in steam, the electric and diesel locomotives that coursed English railways has made their presence known during several module meets over the years. Tim Barr shares a love of the narrow gauge Denver and Rio Grande. His corner module exhibiting narrow gauge engines and equipment, has an operating rail fan train rides at this outdoor museum. Yet another module member, Jack Elder, allows his love of the circus to come alive through a three module display of three circus tents, including the big top and all supporting equipment for the show that must go on.....

Recently at our Fairfax Station display during Labor Day weekend, Bruce Strickland displayed a new module pair that allows a track to loop around back from the inside main through to the outside main. This module and its right-hand twin will allow us to run point to point, turning our consisted trains in the process and allow our viewers a different opportunity to see modular railroading from the inside when we display. As a collective group, our members are always dreaming of new and different ways we can display for show attendees.

This August was a busy time for the module crew, as we displayed at Lyceum (August 2 & 3, 2008), at Dulles Expo Center for Greenburg Shows (August 23 & 24, 2008) and then Fairfax Station (August 31 and September 1, 2008.)

The Lyceum show set all kinds of records not only for the module crew, but the City of Alexandria Museum < <http://oha.alexandriava.gov/lyceum/>>. They estimated some 2700 people, grand parents, parents

and their children visited our layout upstairs from the museum. We had created a narrower layout, allowing for more visitor floor space, but who would of thought this plan would have paid off?? They look forward to our return in February 2009.

As always, we are most fortunate to display for Greenburg three times a year. This show at the Dulles Expo Center < <http://www.dullesexpo.com/>> as always, our display at the front door, we created a large layout of 20 modules. Our modular display included many members who have been absent from previous shows during this past year. As always, many plastic bags filled with railroad stuff came back into the layout as usual, who knows what structures and rail equipment we will be seeing over the next few months?

Labor Day weekend brought us to Fairfax Station along the Norfolk Southern mainline in Fairfax Station, Virginia again. Sharing the freight room with us included Monty Smith and his Lego Train railways display and the illustrator of "Train to Maine" by Jaime Spencer, and illustrator Rebecca Reed. Mrs. Reed signed over 50 copies of the children's book she illustrated < [https://secure.downeast.com/store/product.php?product\\_id=1879&cat=715&page=2](https://secure.downeast.com/store/product.php?product_id=1879&cat=715&page=2)>. A very happy time for children visiting the station for a scheduled book signing and watching the running of the trains. We debuted Bruce Strickland's return loop module. This permitted the stations guests the opportunity not only to go around the layout but into it as well. A great testing effort on our part for our upcoming Lion's Club show in November.

September brings the Tidewater Show for those going whose efforts are orchestrated by Bruce Strickland. Next comes the MER convention in Reston, "we" hope to see you there? This is followed by the Rockville Lions Club annual Holiday Show on November 8 and 9, then the Friends of Fairfax Station Holiday show on December 6 and 7, then the Herndon Holiday show on December 13 and 14 and finally the Greenburg Train show on December 26 and 27, 2008.

As always, "We're always looking for a few more members!!" Our website, <http://homepage.mac.com/cjweiner/pmchorr01/PMC-Frame00.html> is professionally maintained by Colin Weiner, who is in the process of converting us over to an easier domain name. If there are any questions, any member can answer these, but if you need an immediate or more personal answer, please contact me at [andersmd@cox.net](mailto:andersmd@cox.net) or call 703-625-1272. Again Thank You for your time-Mark

## The O’Ryan and Webb Railway by Mark Andersen Photo by author

A western United States railway hauling freight, minerals and lumber during the late 1800s, Ed Stone has captured the narrow gauge look using On30 equipment. Located in their former family room, is a multi tiered railroad that climbs several steep grades in narrow gauge style. Sharing in today’s operations was Ed’s son Randy. He was driving a Climax locomotive hauling logs and bogies down a steep mountain grade from the highest level. Meanwhile, Ed piloted a Mason style early 4-4-0 locomotive pulling a loan passenger car chugging along while making its run.

Combining the locations of an arid mountainous climate, our host included California and Oregon logging themes and Colorado mining in the operations of the O & W. Happy Camp provides the miners and loggers the opportunities for rest, relaxation, and living it up at the saloon. Sounds emulating from the saloon were quieted by the sounds of steam locomotives coursing their ways through town, up and down grades. Sitting peacefully, was a large stamp mill, temporarily idled by the lack of ore. While Ed’s layout is in its infancy regarding scenery, the towns and industries are well represented around the layout.

Suspending the track supports from the walls, the O & W takes on a light and less complicated look compared to that of a heavier L girder constructed layout. Although yards are built framed in the L girder or module box style, the home-made wall brackets stand out as further examples of Ed’s cabinetmaking skills. Designed to be disassembled, one would never know. Several of the electronically controlled yards and switching areas, had their control panels located in sliding drawers. This facilitates out of sight out of mind neatness in look and function for controlling switches. Many switches are of Peco design, making hand switching mistake free. The track work was flawless in operation.

We look forward to the next phase of growth and a future layout tour. Especially our hostess Ann, who kept us well fed while visiting her home and the O & W.



O&W #7

## Arthur Boyd’s Clear Creek and Caldwell Mining and Railway Company by Tom Brodrick

The CC&CMRC is an N gauge layout that fits very nicely in a 14’x14’ room while the staging is on the outside of the room. Aisle space is abundant for a layout of this size and I am sure that the operations call board that Arthur is hosting for the convention will be quite interesting.

As with other N and Z scale layouts we have visited the one thing that stands out on the CC & CMRC to me is that the railroad (track) is part of the scenery and does not overwhelm the scene. The gorge on the CC & CMRC is a good example of this. Arthur has achieved a very nice balance between the gorge, the bridge over the gorge and the rest of the scene. One can feel as if the scene is properly proportioned without the “scale down “effect you sometimes get with the larger scales.

Arthur is using a card order system for operations so if you would like to operate on a nicely running N gauge layout then be sure to sign up for his call board on Sunday morning during the convention.

Another interesting thing that Arthur does is he uses the MRC sound system (not DCC) in conjunction with the Digitrax DCC to put out a very nice sound without the expense and work of installing sound decoders.

Arthur’s open house was planned on the same Sunday as the small steamers were running in Leakin Park with the hope of a 2 for 1 deal. Some visitors stopped at Leakin Park on their way to Arthur’s but most seemed to be planning stopping there on their way home. I would be interested in hearing from anyone on their experience at the steamers and if they feel it would be worth an other trip.

Arthur will be open on Sunday afternoon for a layout tour during the convention. Please see your convention booklet for time and directions.



CC & CMRC Photo by Marshall Abrams

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4604 Bel Pre Road Rockville, MD 20853-2208



Web page:  
[http://home.comcast.net/~Potomac\\_NMRA](http://home.comcast.net/~Potomac_NMRA)

Email :  
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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, Howard, 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="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 interest?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you be willing to host a Home Layout Tour of your Layout? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			

### Newsletter Election

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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 \$55 per year for full membership including the monthly *Scale Rails*, or \$36 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/>



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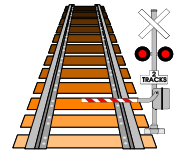
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EBT # 14 for real

## Potomac Division Calendar

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

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### OCTOBER

- 4 NVNtrak at Bethesda-Chevy Chase
  - 11-12 Great Train Show, Timonium MD
  - 16-19 MER Convention Reston, VA
  - 19 NVNtrak at Fairfax Station
- 

### NOVEMBER

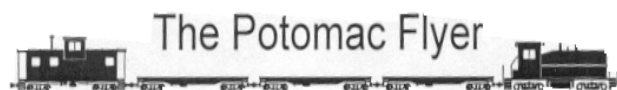
- 8 NVNtrak at Damascus
- 8-9 NVNTrak and PMC at Rockville Lions
- 16 NVNtrak at Fairfax Station

### DECEMBER

- 6-7 NVNtrak and PMC at Fairfax Station Train Show
  - 6-7 NVNTrak at IKEA College Park
  - 12-13 NVNTrak at South Columbia Baptist (TTRAK)
  - 13 NVNTrak at Herndon
  - 13 NVNTrak at Kena Temple (TTRAK)
  - 13 NVNTrak at Purcellville
  - 14 Layout tour at Dean Ripple's Gaithersburg, MD
  - 27-28 NVNTrak and PMC at Greenberg Chantilly
- 

### JANUARY

- 25 Layout tour at Tom Brodrick's, Damascus MD



The Quarterly Newsletter of

Division 2 ("Potomac") Mid Eastern Region

National Model Railroad Association

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