



The Potomac Flyer

Formerly *The Dixie Flyer*

Spring Quarter

March to May 1995

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

Mini-Convention March 18th

MMRs, Clinics, Layouts, Contests, and the "Arm's Length Raffle"


The annual Potomac Division Mini-Convention takes place Saturday, March 18th, 1995, at the Fairfax County Fire Academy, 4600 West Ox Road, Fairfax, Virginia (see map below). The convention opens at 9 A.M. and runs until about 4 P.M. (see page 2 for a tentative schedule). Admission is \$3 a person, however, if you bring one or more models for the model contest, your admission is \$2. Events include clinics, modular model railroad displays provided by our own HO Module Team and Northern Virginia N-Trak, the Popular Vote Model Contest, and a short (very short!) business meeting. Lunch will be served for a nominal charge with benefits going to the Fairfax City Fire Department Auxiliary (you may certainly bring your own lunch if you wish—but their food was great last time). Following lunch several of our Division's own Master Model Railroaders will hold a panel discussion on the Achievement Program, the various certificates offered, and their own experiences becoming MMRs.

Clinic topics are still being worked out, and if you are interested in presenting a clinic, please let us know as soon as possible. As mentioned in the Winter *Potomac Flyer*, if you are looking for a place to try out a clinic you are preparing for an upcoming regional (York, Pennsylvania) meet or national (Atlanta) meet, here is a great opportunity. The crowd will be smaller and less intimidating, but also lively enough to give you valuable feedback as to how well your presentation goes.

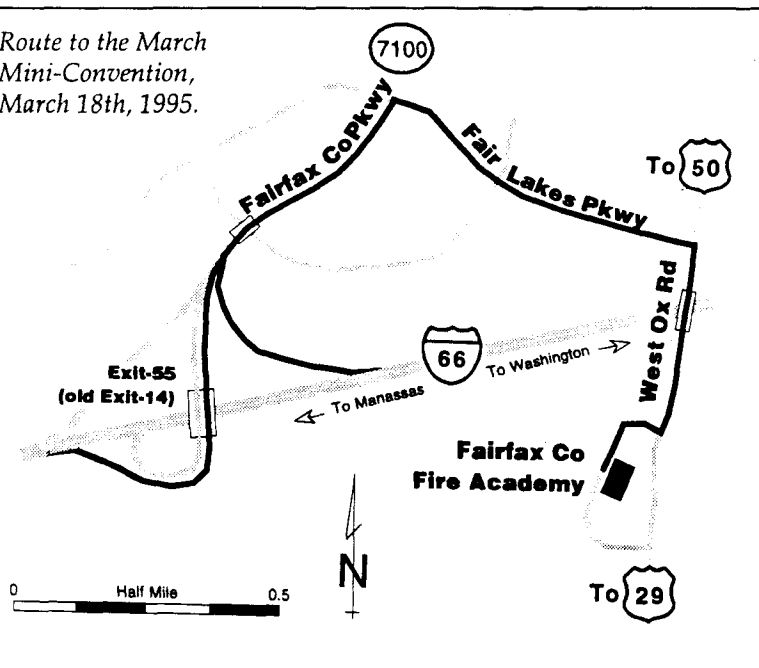
The Popular Vote Model Contest and Achievement Program merit judging are back this year. In the Popular Vote Model Contest, you the convention-goers vote for your favorite model in each of numerous categories (such as motive power—steam, motive power—diesel, motive power—other, passenger car, freight car, non-revenue car, on-line structure, off-line structure, diorama/display, and so on). We encourage everyone to submit any number of models for both the Popular Vote Contest and for merit judging. In fact, if you bring one or more models, your admission is reduced to \$2. Last year we had over 60 models! We hope to top that this year. Models will be accepted from 9:30 to 11 A.M., after which the contest room will be open for viewing and voting. Winners will be announced after the panel discussion at lunch.

Our popular "Arm's Length Raffle" is back, too, so named because you enter it by purchasing an arm's length worth of raffle tickets for \$3, or two-arms length, an arm's span, if you wish, for \$5 (whose arms you

use is up to you — note the Division Paymaster, Bob Minnis, is said to have nice long arms). You then place your tickets individually or en masse into boxes set before specific prizes. Prizes are donated by local hobby shops, distributors, division members, and the division itself. At the end of the day, the tickets will be drawn and the prizes awarded. Further rules will be explained at the raffle table.

Ask anyone who has attended past divisional meets — we have a great time. The March Mini-Convention ranks as one of our best attended, best received events. So, please plan to attend! Bring a model! Come, learn, and see! Who knows, you might win a neat prize! 

Route to the March
Mini-Convention,
March 18th, 1995.



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Mini-Convention Timetable

Spring Events

Winter Recap

Rockville Lions Club Report


Mini-Convention Tentative Timetable

Saturday, March 18th, 1995

Registration & Hospitality Hour	9 - 10 A.M.
Entries for Popular Vote Model Contest Accepted	9 - 10:30 A.M.
Clinics (two one-hour sessions)	10 A.M. - 12:05 P.M.
Model Contest Voting and AP Merit Judging	10:30 A.M. - 1:15 P.M.
Lunch* and MMR Panel Discussion	12:10 - 1 P.M.
Annual Business Meeting	1 P.M.
Contest & Merit Awards Presentation	1:15 P.M.
More Clinics (two one-hour sessions)	1:30 - 3:35 P.M.
Raffle Winners Posted	3:40 P.M.

* — Lunch will be provided by the Fairfax City Fire Department Auxiliary for a reasonable charge.

Spring Events

We have two divisional events planned this spring, one each in March and April, and defer to the Mid-Eastern Region in May. Our annual Mini-Convention, to be held March 18th, is described above. April 22nd, from 1 to 5 P.M., the Potomac Division will be hosted by the **Northern Virginia Model Railroaders** in Vienna, Virginia. This is a large club layout built in the vintage Washington & Old Dominion station, adjacent to W&OD Regional Park, at Ayr Hill and Dominion roads. See page 7 for more details. The weekend of May 18th-21st is the Spring MER meet, **White Rose '95**, in York, Pennsylvania. This event is described by Convention PR Chairman Don Yingling on page 8. 


Winter Events Recap

Late fall and winter events in the Potomac Division led off with a couple of now traditional public shows. November saw the Division represented by the **HO Module Team** at the Rockville Lions Club Benefit Train Show. Ell Geib, president of the Rockville Lions, presents a brief summary of the event below as does Bob Minnis on page 6 under the heading of HO Module Team News. The HO Module Team also was present at the Friends of Fairfax Station train show in early December, which drew a fine crowd.

This *Flyer* goes to press before both Winter home layout tours. **George Hughes** is scheduled to host the Division at his HO scale layout of the Norfolk & Western and Virginian railroads on January 28th, Super Bowl eve. His layout is a 37x14-foot model of West Virginia coal country. Featuring little on-layout switching, it instead emphasizes trains running through West Virginian hollows and valleys on their way to points beyond the layout. The N&W is represented by a double-track main whereas the Virginian is a single-track electrified line. Most of the Virginian's catenary poles are in place, but the wire has yet to be run. Locomotives are mostly diesels that George has highly detailed. In fact, the "loose" definition of the era (mid-Fifties to present) is an excuse for George to run his favorite models.

Strad Bushby will host the Potomac Division February 12th. His N-scale layout of the Northeastern Corridor models operations from Washington

to New York. Drawing on his experience with computers and automation, the layout features Amtrak, Conrail, and CSX trains running of realistic timetables. Trains depart New York, head into hidden staging tracks, then reappear to arrive in Washington on schedule and after the correct amount of elapsed time. Because the computers handle so much of the train running, you will have seen lots of train action even while Strad was busy being a great host and explaining all the facets of the operation to us visitors.

Thanks to both George Hughes and Strad Bushby for their hospitality and willingness to share their layouts, their experience, and their enthusiasm, and for giving us a place to meet. Next issue I will try to follow up with further details of these two layouts. 

Rockville Lions Model Train Show

— Ell "Lion Ell" Geib

The Rockville Lions Club held their Fourth Annual Model Train Show this past November 12 and 13. In spite of weather that was too nice, the Lions netted about \$1600 for our charitable work. Our attendance dropped somewhat this year to 568. We again had a good show with operating layouts from Z to G and some live steam outside. The Rockville Lions express their thanks to the volunteer exhibitors without which we have no show. The exhibitors were the Potomac Division's HO Module Team interconnecting with Dave Cooper's HO trolleys via Bruce Strickland's interchange modules; the Northern Virginia N-Trakkers with their marvelously scenicked modules; the Washington, Virginia, & Maryland Garden Railway Society with a G-scale layout and live steam; the National Capital Tinplate Trackers (a very busy Lionel group); and my Z-scale module (obtained from Monroe Stewart). We again had Locomotive Doctors to perform simple repairs or give advice if major repairs were needed. Clem Clement performed this service for the tinplate trains, Dave Greenacre for the N-scale equipment, and our own Superintendent Jeff Martello was the HO person for Saturday (Jeff actually spent most of his time building a car kit.). I filled in as the HO doctor on Sunday.

We also had Readie Cooper, Dave's wife, building structures on Saturday (she demonstrated tree

The Potomac Flyer

Is the Quarterly Newsletter of Division 2 ("Potomac")
of the Mid-Eastern Region
of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

Editor: Peter K. Matthews

Publisher: Bruce Strickland

The Potomac Division territory includes: the District of Columbia; Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties, Maryland; Prince William, Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, and Clarke Counties, Virginia, as well as the independent cities of the area.

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Upcoming Board meetings and locations:

Mar 8, Martello; Apr 12, Smoke; May 10, Minnis.

Advertising in the Potomac Flyer is available. Per-Issue rates are \$5 for a Business Card (eighth-page) block; Quarter page, \$10; Half page, \$20; Full page, \$40. The back page space above the mailer goes for \$25 and is reserved on a first-come-first-served basis. Special rates are available for multi-issue purchases. Make checks payable to "Potomac Division."

Submission Deadlines for all materials in each issue of the *Potomac Flyer* are: Spring issue, Jan 15; Summer issue, April 15 (with some allowance given for taxes); Fall issue, July 15; Winter issue, Oct 15. Mail all submissions to Pete Matthews, Editor, Potomac Flyer, at the above address. Unless special arrangements are made, no materials will be returned.

Change of Address (COA): Complete the enclosed Application/COA form and send it to Clerk, Potomac Division, P.O. Box 3204, Manassas, VA 22110.



Potomac Division Calendar

Mar 11

Winchester Model Railroading Club Spring Show and Sale
Winchester, VA (9)

Mar 18

Potomac Mini-Convention
Fire Academy, Fairfax, VA (1)
NVMR Open House
Vienna, VA (7)

Apr 22

Potomac Layout Tour
NVMR, Vienna, VA (2, 7)

Apr 30

Crabtown Model RR Club Open House
Annapolis, MD (9)

May 6-7

Severna Park Model RR Club
Annapolis, MD (9)

May 18-21

White Rose '95
Mid-Eastern Region Convention
York, PA (2, 8)

May 25

NVMR Open House
Vienna, VA (7)

June 3

Manassas Rail Festival
Manassas, VA (9)

(nn) — Details on page nn of this *Flyer*.

Potomac Events in **boldface**.

‡—Details in an upcoming *Potomac Flyer*.

Local model railroad clubs may have their events listed here if space permits. Please send a schedule of your activities to Pete Matthews, editor of the *Potomac Flyer* at the address given in the Division Staff Roster.

Calendar

Staff Roster

Have You Paid Your Dues Yet?

If your name was highlighted on the mailing label, it's time to pay your dues — there's still only \$2!

Rockville Lions Club Report, cont'd

Call for Nominations

Achievement Notes

construction last year), a representative from Operation Lifesaver with videos and handouts (this was especially good for the kids), and the 4-County Model Railroad Club from Mt. Airy, Maryland, selling chances on a nice brass loco for a later drawing. The Lions raffled off an HO Walthers starter set won by a lady from Suitland. There were video shows and tape/slide shows. Some of these were introductory, some were mildly technical, and some were layout tours. With the Lions' interest in sight preservation, we also had representatives from the Lions Eye Bank and Research Foundation providing free vision screening and glaucoma testing. Visitors were highly complimentary of the show itself and especially of the great willingness of the modelers to discuss virtually anything related to trains. The exhibitors also seem to enjoy the shows. One reason is we utilize several rooms at the Senior Center, a converted elementary school. This allows each group to be in its own room.

The G-scale group designs and sets up their display from scratch each year. The first year, cardboard boxes and sheets were used to create a winter display with trains going around the mountains. Another year they had a circus scene. This year there was an outer loop and an inner over and under loop with Thomas the Tank Engine. Spread throughout the area were stuffed animals in a mechanical swing, having a tea party, or just sitting. Scale purists might cringe, but it made a great display for the children. The Tinplate Trackers put on a number of public shows during the year and their modules are reminiscent of the department store window displays of the forties and fifties, except with much longer trains. Their modules are getting better decorated each time I see them. The HO Module Team is using command control to run as many as three trains on each track. Keeping them separated is quite a challenge. The modules are looking better each year. Dave Cooper's trolleys were a hit as usual. Most of the time people see train displays, they are not treated with an operating trolley system - with operational overhead wiring to boot. The N-Trakkers with their smaller size create impressive scenic displays on their modules

and run loooooong trains. Of course, some in the larger gauges say that's done so they can be seen. Jealousy??? Despite having four relatively large areas to set up the trains (about 5000 square feet total), only the HO Team has enough room to set up all of their modules. The Tinplate Trackers and the N-Trakkers can only set up about half of their modules. The Garden Railway Society also limits their display considerably. Those of you who haven't seen the set ups should really take the time.

For those not familiar with the Lions, they are a service organization. The various local clubs are individual groups operating under the umbrella of Lions International, a worldwide organization. Administrative costs are borne by the Lions themselves. All monies collected from the public are returned to the public. A major thrust of our efforts is in sight preservation, from the local level to the international level. In addition we support hearing conservation with such things as assistance in obtaining hearing aids and supporting a Camp for the Deaf in southern Maryland. Since Lions Clubs are local clubs, they support a wide variety of community needs, depending on the particular locale. The Rockville Club, for example, provides scholarships to Montgomery College each year, food baskets and eyeglasses for the needy, and runs a loan closet for medical equipment such as wheelchairs. This is not all we do, just a sample. ☞☞

Call for Nominations For Potomac Director

At the March Mini-Convention we will elect a new member of the Potomac Division Board of Directors. In order to do that, we need nominations. The requirements are that the nominee be a member in good-standing not only of the division but also of the MER and NMRA. Normally we also have a geographical requirement that the board be balanced south and north of the Potomac between Virginia (south) and Maryland and DC (north). However, because the board members continuing in office this year already split 2 to 2, we can accept nominees from anywhere within the Potomac Division.

[Continued on page 9]

Achievement Notes

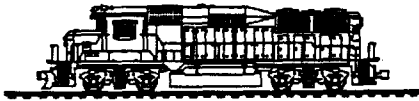
—Bruce Strickland

It is Mini-Convention time again. The Mini-Convention Model Contest again includes NMRA Achievement Program Merit Judging for any models you enter. So it is time to put the finishing touches on those models and getting them ready for judging. Start by preparing a Merit Judging Form for each model. To aid the judges in evaluating your model, help by including any photographs of the prototype as well as a written description of specific construction techniques you used. Note especially any scratchbuilt items. Also, note any unusual features that make your model stand out. Finally, include plans for the prototype you used. As you can tell, documentation is nearly as important as the quality of the model you build. Don't be put

off by this, after all, you had to accumulate all that information to build the model anyway. Why shouldn't that effort apply towards the judging of your work.

This coming May, the Mid-Eastern Region convention will be held in York, Pennsylvania. The convention affords yet another possibility to have your models judged for AP Merit Awards. All the advice I offered above also pertains to judging at the Regional level.

If you need copies of the necessary forms, I have all of them on hand. Also, if you have any questions about the Achievement Program, please feel free to call or write to me. My address and phone number are included on the Staff Roster on page 3. ☞☞




The Head End

—Pete Matthews
Potomac Flyer Editor

Those of you who read the *Potomac Flyer* closely will no doubt have noticed that I am now the Clerk of the Potomac Division in addition to being Editor of the *Potomac Flyer*. Bill O'Neill, who has ably held that position since last spring, has retired and is heading for points south. Very little time has elapsed since I was handed this job, so I haven't seen much change in my schedule or time commitment. Still it's a bit of a thrill. Jeff Martello has asked me to run for Clerk at the upcoming annual business meeting and I have accepted the nomination. It's up to you folks to say whether or not I continue in this role.

As an additional piece of information for the already overcrowded division database, we may soon start collecting e-mail addresses. They may well prove especially useful if we have a late-breaking schedule changes. If you can have it ready at upcoming meets, we will appreciate it.

Last issue I hinted that you could see your name in print. All you have to do is write a model railroading related article and submit it to me for consideration. You can even write about prototype railroading as it affects modeling or the Potomac Division itself. An example of the latter is found this month in Matt Schaefer's comments about Norfolk Southern's decision to discontinue rail excursions. If you have an article that you think would be of interest to the readership, please submit it for consideration. You can make submissions by e-mail to me at America Online. My AOL e-mail address is "pete22309" — that's "pete22309@aol.com" for you Internet users. To make a submission by fax, direct transfer (modem), or diskette, please call me for details.


Finally, I have received a good number of compliments on this newsletter. I have tried to thank you all personally, but if I haven't, please accept my heartfelt thanks here. The *Potomac Flyer* is fun to produce and I sure enjoy putting it together. 

The Business Car

—Jeff Martello
Division Superintendent

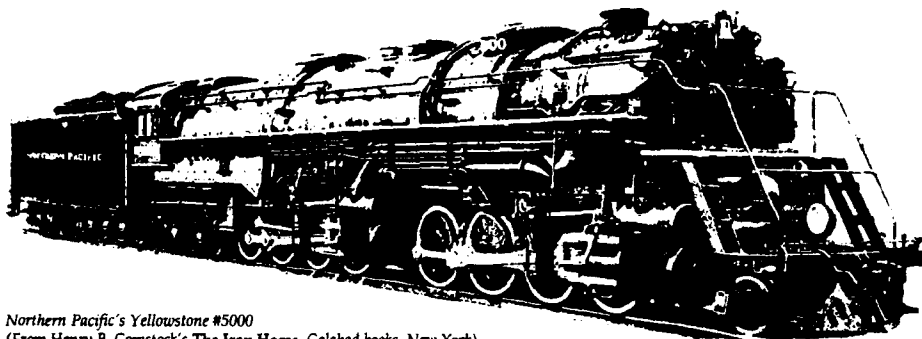
Since our Mini-Convention is coming up, I need to give you a quick State of the Division summary. Our finances are in good shape and we have a large and active membership. The Potomac Division is one of the largest divisions in the NMRA and is in fact larger than several regions. Our database includes over 680 names and we receive several more each month from the NMRA. This past year we have held several events. They included the Annual Mini-Convention last March in Olney, Maryland, the September Swap meet in Annandale, Virginia, and seven layout tours. Our layout tours were hosted by Bill Roman (N), Bill O'Neill (HO), Nick Kalis (HO), Ed Johnson (HO), Jim Chapman (O), the Chesapeake & Allegheny Steam Preservation Society (live steam), and Alex Pope (HO). In addition, the Division was represented by our HO Module Team at the November Rockville Lions Club show and the December Fairfax Station and Capital Children's Museum shows. All in all, we have had a wonderfully active year. To all who hosted us, to all who helped run events, and to all who participated in anyway, even as a visitor, we extend our thanks.

If you are looking for more places to contribute your time and promote the hobby, there are two events coming up in 1995. Mt. Clare Division will hold its first-ever Mini-Convention this June. If you can help with the latter, please call Kathy Farnsworth at (410) 461-3196. This Fall's MER meet will be held in the Hunt Valley area of Maryland and they need volunteer support, most notably as clinicians and volunteer staff. More information about their convention will appear in a later *Potomac Flyer*.

Finally, a bit of regional news: Nelson Garber has replaced Clyde Gerald as MER business manager. 

The Head End

The Business Car



Northern Pacific's Yellowstone #5000
(From Henry B. Comstock's *The Iron Horse*, Galahad books, New York)

**HO Module
Team Notes**

**Northern
Virginia NTrak
News**

HO Module Team Notes

—Bob Minnis

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope that your holidays were safe and healthy that you were able to share the warmth of the season with family and friends.

The Rockville Lions Show I mentioned in the last issue of the *Flyer* has come and gone. It seems like only yesterday rather than three months ago. The low attendance was a disappointment to the Lions and was probably due to the great weather. The Team assembled eighteen modules and eight trolley sections. Participating were C. Barna, T. Costello, J. Doggett, E. Geib, K. Heinen, J. Matthews, B. Minnis, B. Strickland, J. Smith, C. Weiner, and D. Cooper. Additional assistance was supplied by B. Ocain, B. Thomas, and L. Strickland.

Two weeks later, the Team converged on Fairfax Station for their fourth annual visit. The weather was a repeat of Rockville. Still, attendance exceeded 900 paying customers. As usual, the Friends of Fairfax Station were excellent hosts. Team members K. Berthoud, T. Costello, J. Matthews, B. Minnis, J. Smith, B. Strickland, and C. Weiner spent a busy day answering questions and testing engines that had visited the "Loco Doctor." Ell Geib supplied a working Z scale layout.

The weekend prior to Christmas, the Team gathered at the Capital Children's Museum in the shadow of Union Station for the fifth consecutive year. K. Heinen joined the group from the previous show. Additional help was provided by D. Cooper, E. Heinen, and L. Strickland.

The Module Team is actively recruiting new members. A few of the current members have been to every show that Team has participated in. Requests for participation at train shows and public events are increasing. With a limited membership, it is becoming more difficult to accept all these invitations. Twenty members each doing three shows a year (60 modules) is easier on any one member than only six people doing ten shows. It is enjoyable meeting the public. It is even more enjoyable when someone compliments something you've done or asks "How did you do that?" Regardless of what era, geographic location, or prototype you model, you can adapt it to a module (or two or three...). I urge you to get involved—you will be glad you did. Until set-up, enjoy, and have fun! 🚂



Northern Virginia NTrak News

— Matt Schaefer —

Late year, 1994, was a good year for Northern Virginia N-Trak. Membership has climbed to about 34 members and new members are signing up at about one a month. Member-owned modules now total over 168 linear feet with another 80 feet in preparation. We recently incorporated and have acquired liability coverage that so many local venues, like shopping malls, require before they will consider hosting a public train show. In addition to public shows, starting in January, we will be setting up club-only meets every third Sunday of the month from 1 to 6 pm at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Old Keene Mill Road and Rolling Road, in Springfield, Virginia.

We are looking forward to a major event. In late 1994 we voted to host the 1996 N-Trak East convention. This meet will be held August 14-19, 1996, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Alexandria. Their facilities include 20,000 square feet of convention space and foyers so there will be lots of room for plenty of local and visiting N-Trak modules as well as layouts in other scales.

We have so much space, in fact, that we are planning a public train show with manufacturers, vendors, and modular layouts of all scales. So remember the dates of August 14-19, 1996 for what promises to be a great convention. If you have any input regarding the up-coming convention or are interested in helping with any aspect of the show including contests, prototype tours, home layout tours, modular layout set-ups, or whatever, please contact Monroe Stewart at (301) 630-7565 or write to Northern Virginia N-Trak, P.O. Box 1951, Herndon, VA 22070. Our interesting monthly newsletter with all the inside info on our activities, convention updates, and ideas on modules and layouts, is available for the special rate of \$10/year (12 issues). Full membership is \$30/year. 🚂

Module Team Events

Mar 18	Mini-Convention, Fairfax, VA (HO&N)
Jun 3	Manassas Rail Festival, Manassas, VA (HO&N)
July TBA	Lyceum, Alexandria, VA (HO)

Northern Virginia Model Railroaders HO scale "Western North Carolina Railroad, Southern Railway, & Clinchfield Railroad"

**Dominion and Ayr Hill Roads • Vienna, Virginia
Saturday, April 22, 1995, 1 to 5 p.m.**

The Northern Virginia Model Railroaders, Inc., owns a multi-level HO scale layout which features dual DC & CTC-16 power systems and infrared remote throttles. The layout is directed by a prototypically isolated dispatcher, parked in an adjacent room. A considerable variety of member-owned power, mainline and logging operations, heavy grades and helper districts set in decidedly vertical scenery, and the operating "Blue Ridge Traction Power & Light" trolley system make this a highly visually appealing layout. The layout is located in the freight room of the former Washington & Old Dominion Railroad's Vienna Station.

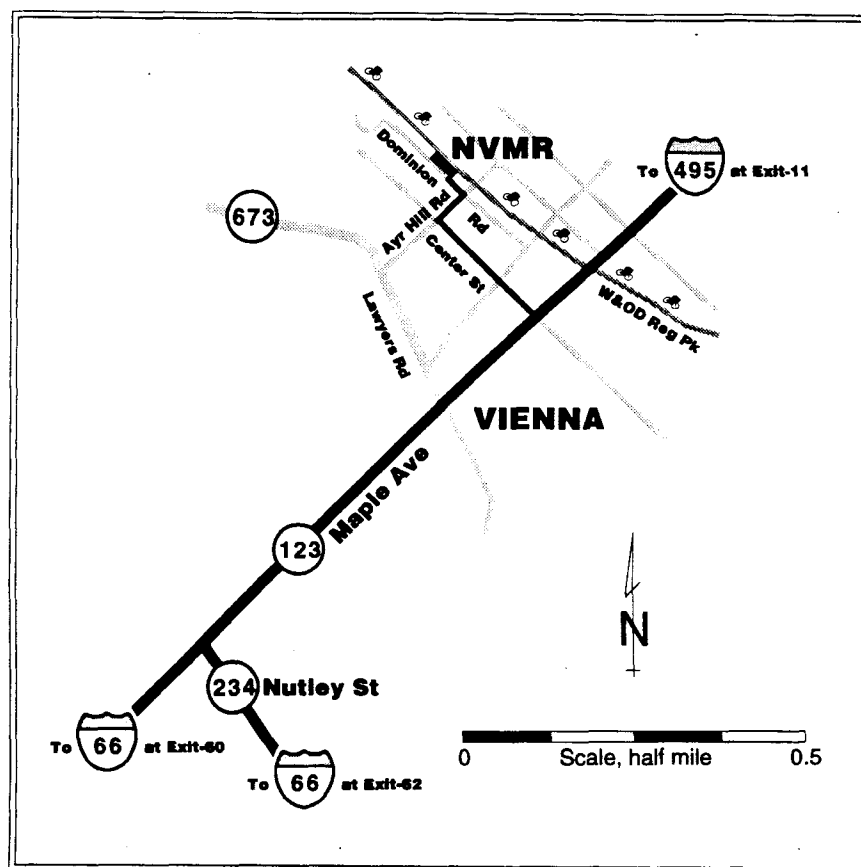
How to Get There

- Take I-66 or I-495 to Virginia SR 123, Chain Bridge Road, or SR 234, Nutley Street.
- Take 123 towards downtown Vienna (SR 123 becomes Maple Street).
- Turn onto Center Street.
- Turn right at Ayr Hill Road.
- Turn left onto Dominion Road.

Park where safe, legal, and convenient.

Spring Events

• April's Layout Tour



White Rose '95

Spring MER Convention, York, PA • May 18-21, 1995

Spring Events, cont'd

• White Rose '95 Spring MER Convention

Many years have passed since May 1978, the last time the MER was invited to York for a regional convention. Even though we had a little problem with the fan trip (a freight car rearranged some rail the night before) it was a good convention. So, once again we say, "Come to York!"

York is the home for two weekends a year to the Train Collectors Association's big meet. Once a year it also welcomes the Street Rod Nationals-East. It is growing in both size and in big activities. The MER and Division 11 will take over York and the Holiday Inn Holidome for four days in May. This will be the last convention of MER's first half century, and the first Spring MER meet in three years, and we plan on "packing a wallop."

White Rose '95 could prove to be your busiest MER convention. There will be fan trips, plant tours, and non-rail trips on Friday and Saturday. Home layouts to visit are so numerous they had to be broken down by geographic area.

Fan Trips

Our Friday trip will be something different — a rail car trip. You know rail cars, the little ones you see track crews riding. This trip will be limited to the first 45 that sign up. A mandatory Safety Clinic will be held on Thursday. The cars vary in passenger capacity from one to ten passengers. Photo run-bys and lunch are part of the trip. You may want to pack earplugs — the cars are noisy! Saturday will be the Middletown and Hummelstown fan trip, featuring a car pulled by a 44-tonner or, if available, steam. Also on Saturday is something you can bid on at the Friday night auction — 30 minutes in the cab operating an 0-6-0 at Williams Grove. This locomotive is the only Pennsy slope-back tender switcher operating in the U.S.

Plant Tour

Friday's plant tour will visit a train-load coal user, Pennsylvania Power and Light Company's Brunner's Island power generating station. This facility uses a rotary dumper and remotely controlled locomotives. Buy-Sell-Trade

First of all, dealers will be allowed to set-up and sell from their hotel rooms. A public train meet will be part of the convention, too. The meet will be open Friday afternoon and evening and Saturday morning and afternoon. The MER auction will be held Friday night.

Non-Rail Trip

Friday's trip will take non-rail participants to the Naylor Winery south of York. You can take a tour of the winery and relax while sampling some of their fine wine. We will also be stopping at the Indian Steps Museum. Saturday, you will be able to enjoy a walking tour of downtown York. York's downtown is ever-changing. It has become a fine

mix of historic landmarks, modern office buildings, and many buildings restored to their original 19th Century appearance.

Clinics

Over 30 live clinics are scheduled for the weekend. There will be something for everyone. Clinicians include well known modelers and authors, some Master Model Railroaders, as well as representatives from the major magazines. A panel discussion featuring several big names will be a forum on model railroad operations, a first for any MER convention. You will have the opportunity to ask the panel members any question you have!

Hotel

Holiday Inn Holidome at 2000 Loucks Road is near the intersection of US 30 and Pennsylvania Route 74 in York. The lounge is always a popular place — Friday is comedy night and Saturday a DJ will spin records of your choice. The hotel features a weight room, steam room, indoor-outdoor pool, nine-hole miniature golf course, and much more. Poolside rooms are available if desired. To reserve your room now, call 717-846-9500. The MER Convention room rate is \$59.95 per night.

I hope we have whetted your appetite for White Rose '95. See you in York in May.

— Don Yingling, PR Chairman

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Bill Miller, Clinic Chairman, (301) 371-7664

[Continued from page 4]

Beyond that, what does being a director entail? Directors are responsible for running the division month-to-month, setting up the mini-convention and swap meet, arranging home layout and prototype tours, managing Division finances, taking care of membership matters at local, regional, and national levels, and publishing our newsletter. Each member is expected to put in a couple hours a week attending to his or her duties. When major events are pending, such as the mini-convention, the time demands may increase somewhat. Rewards, as such, are minimal, this being a voluntary position. If elected the nominee can earn points towards the NMRA's Achievement Program Association Volunteer certificate. He or she will enjoy a monthly board meeting where not only the business of the month is discussed, but a dinner (usually pizza) is shared. He or she can expect some name recognition and will enjoy the enhanced sense of fellowship engendered.

If you know someone who has ever wanted to help run the Potomac Division, has great ideas for Divisional events, would like to serve his or her fellow hobbyists and the hobby itself, here's an opportunity. Before nominating a member, though, please check with him or her and find out if they are willing to take on the responsibility. Although not a significant drain on time, we still need someone who can attend to duties promptly.

With that said, let's have some names! Please phone your nominations to Jeff Martello at (301) 681-9862. If Jeff is not home, please leave your name and phone number and the name and number of your nominee. Jeff will try to get back to you to verify the information. ☐

Nearby and Upcoming Events

The Winchester Model Railroad Club Spring Train Show and Sale will be held Saturday, March 11th, 1995, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M., at the Clarke County Fair Grounds just west of Berryville, Vir-

ginia, on State Route 7. Admission for adults is \$3, children under 12 are free when accompanied by an adult. For further information, contact Craig Alderman by mail at 430 N. Cameron St., Winchester, VA 22601, or by phone at (703) 665-9898.

The Crabtown Model Railroad Club in Annapolis, Maryland, is hosting an open house on Sunday, April 30th, from 1 to 5 P.M. This is a free event to make-up for missing their Christmas open house. So if you thought you missed the Christmas Show, you haven't. This HO layout models single-mainline coal-hauling operations between Maryland and West Virginia and features an operating coal dock. Call Mike Tribeau at (410) 757-8343 for more information.

Severna Park's famous model railroad club will have its spring open house May 6th and 7th from NOON to 5 P.M. both days. The open house is a free event. This layout has been featured in several model railroading publications over the years. For more information, call Sam Shepherd at (410) 647-6077.

In June, the **Mt. Clare Division**, our sister division to the northeast, will hold its first-ever **Mini-Convention**. As of this writing they have 12 clinics lined up, are planning to have a white elephant table, and will host some modular model railroads. Look for more details in an insert to be included in the next issue of the *Potomac Flyer*. Persons interested in assisting with this meet are encouraged to call Kathy Farnsworth at (410) 461-3196.

Historic Manassas, Inc., in conjunction with several local model railroaders is organizing a rail festival in Manassas, Virginia, on June 3rd, 1995. We are currently looking for volunteers to clear out a local building to be used for modular layouts during the festival and, possibly, to be used as a location for a permanent model railroad club layout. Later we will need volunteers for the day of the festival. If you would like to help, please call Pablo Hammersly at (703) 369-5214 or Brian Brendel at (703) 257-0493. Submitted by Brian Brendel. ☐

**Call for
Nominations,
cont'd**

**Nearby and
Upcoming Events**

Bulletin Board

Bulletin Board

Want Ads, Help Wanted, etc.

Operating Group Forming: Pete Matthews is looking for additional operators to meet weekly to run his N-scale Great Northern Cascade Railway. Here's your chance to start earning points towards your AP Dispatcher Certificate. Call (703) 360-2313, days and most evenings

Rail-Marine Special Interest Group (SIG) is being formed and is seeking new members. Contact John Teichmoeller at (410) 461-3196.

Keller Tapes for Sale: Great Model Railroads, Volumes 3 and 4 for sale, \$19 ea. Call Nick Kalis at (703) 931-1772.

HO Layout for Sale. Oregon Pass Lines in Atlas King-Size Track Plan Book. No scenery. 12x8-foot L-shape. Can be broken down into two 4x8-foot sections for transport. \$300. Contact Bruce Strickland by mail at 10766 Tullamore Ct., Manassas, VA 22111, or by phone at (703) 361-5620 (home) or (703) 313-2050 (work/pager).

The Call Board

Potomac Division Members Sharing Their Interests with Fellow Members — Hosted by Carl Barna

The Call Board

Several members provided notes this quarter, including Monty Smith who has to be our youngest dues-paying member (actually his mom sent in the note). Most of them are seeking specific help which you "old times" may be able to provide. If you feel you can assist these new members, please do not hesitate to contact the Potomac Flyer by mail or phone.

Monty Smith

Monty Smith is a four-year-old, that's right, four-year-old train enthusiast! This makes Monty our youngest dues-paying member. At last count, Monty owns seventeen train engines or train sets. He's received his first electric train this past Christmas. Monty attends train shows so often that club members know him by sight; he goes home from these shows and imitates what he has seen at the train shows on his wooden and Lego train sets. His mother hopes that membership in the Potomac Division will help focus his interests so that the family does not end up with seventeen electric train sets, probably of every conceivable scale.

Hilary Smith

Mr. Smith describes himself as a middle-aged family man who works for the U. S. Department of Energy as an economist. He has been interested in model railroading for about a year, much of that time in 2-rail O scale. An Intermountain hopper is nearly complete. In 1995 he hopes to build a tiny switching layout (Apple Creek Junction, #7 in Lynn Wescott's 101 Track Plans). He would like to try his hand at handlaying track and turnouts using Old Pullman code 148 rail, ties, tieplates, and spikes. Diesel era B&O (1950-1970) is his prototype interest and once he has more experience, he would like to attempt to model the Cranberry Grade from M&K Junction to Terra Alta, West Virginia. His only regret is that he knows of no active O scale club in the Washington metro area that is open to new members.

Martin Brechbiel

Mr. Brechbiel is 37 years old, married, with two children. His interest in trains goes back nearly as far as he can remember, to his first Lionel set through a time period when his father and he collected both O27 and standard gauge trains. After multiple graduate schools, he finally started to find the time to switch to O scale and finds great satisfaction in scratchbuilding nearly everything. He's now in the process of tearing out walls and starting completely over with a small branch-line layout of a Cumberland Valley railroad that might have lived on into the Forties.

Stephen Phillips

Mr. Phillips works for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in the Automatic Train Control Department and is interested in railroad signaling. His goal is to construct a model railroad that demonstrates various types of railway signaling and operation. He wants to include operating replicas of Absolute Permissive Block, interlocking, Centralized Traffic Control, and highway grade crossing systems. He is currently developing software based on prototype signal circuit plans for use with the Bruce Chubb Computer/Model Railroad Interface which he will use when he eventually constructs his layout. He is looking for signal circuit plans that illustrate the signaling practices of various railroads including the B&O, Western Maryland, and Pennsylvania railroads. This information will enable him to accurately signal model railroads based on the prototypes.

David J. Shilling

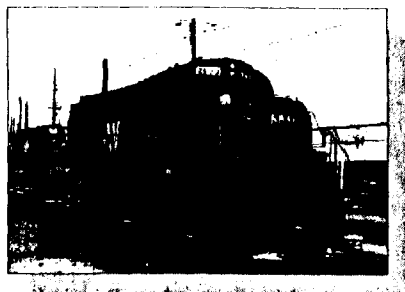
Mr. Shilling works for the Washington Metro also as a resident engineer. He builds full scale trains by day and HO scale by evenings and weekends. His principal interests are Pacific Northwest railroads, specifically the Great Northern Railway, the Spokane, Portland, & Seattle Railroad, and the British Columbia Railway.

Horace E. Oliver Jr.

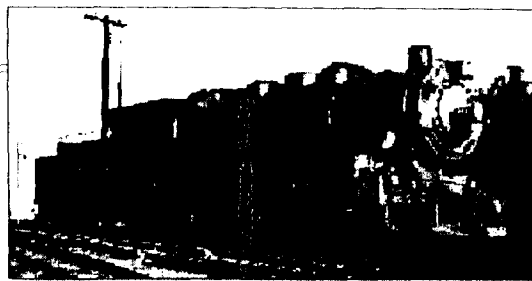
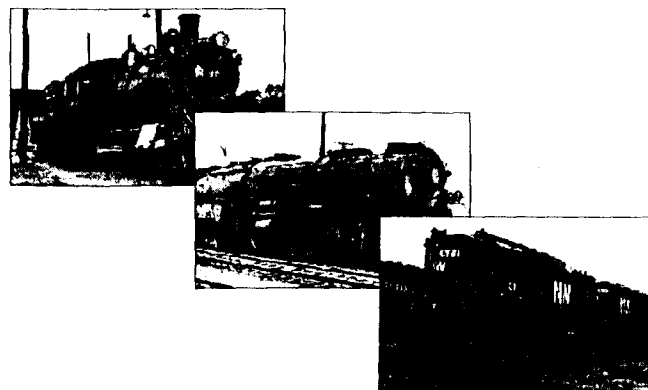
Mr. Oliver started in HO in 1954. He was a member of the MSME at Union Station in Washington, DC. He attended his first MER convention in 1958, the same year he first attended a National meet, in Pittsburgh. In the early '70's he fell in with the narrow gauge group and switch to On3. During this time he was MER contest chairman for about a year-and-a-half. His interest continued to narrow to On3 Shays. Soon he won first in steam, best of show, best of masters and the GATSME award with a three truck Shay. At the 1993 National meet he took third. Not bad for a 15 year old model! A two-truck Shay, the same age as the three-truck Shay, just took a third in Portland. He has been one certificate short of a Master Model Railroader award for the past 15 years. [Sounds like it's time to finish it!]

JOIN The Norfolk & Western Historical Society, TODAY!

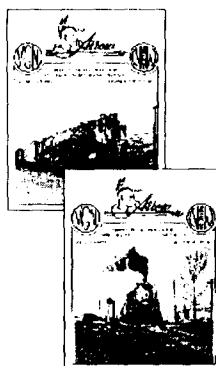
The Norfolk & Western Historical Society is devoted to members sharing a common interest in the Norfolk & Western and Virginian Railroads.



The N&W has a long and colorful history. As the last Class 1 railroad in the United States to operate steam power in regular service, the railroad has been a favorite of historians and railfans alike. Merged into the Norfolk Southern Corporation in June 1981, the preservation of N&W history is of growing importance as the railroad continues to change.



Society membership provides the opportunity to share information and news, learn facts about the history and development of the railroad and to help keep the memories of the N&W and Virginian alive. Through the Society, members get to know each other and share experiences. Little known facts, not available to individuals, are shared through the resources of the Society.



Membership allows you to receive our bi-monthly publication, "The Arrow." Each issue is filled with stories and photographs on the prototype, modeling information and current news. Copies of back issues are available.

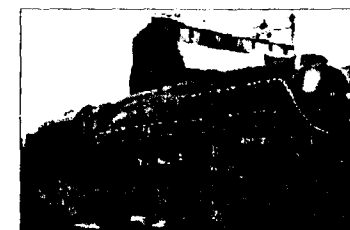
- * Each year, the Society publishes a calendar featuring previously unpublished photographs of the Norfolk & Western and Virginian.
- * The Society holds an annual membership meeting in an N&W city. Participants have the opportunity to tour N&W facilities, compete in modeling and photo contests and enjoy a weekend of talking railroading with fellow members and friends.
- * Each copy of "The Arrow" includes the member newsletter "Talk Among Friends," featuring items of interest and updates on Society business.

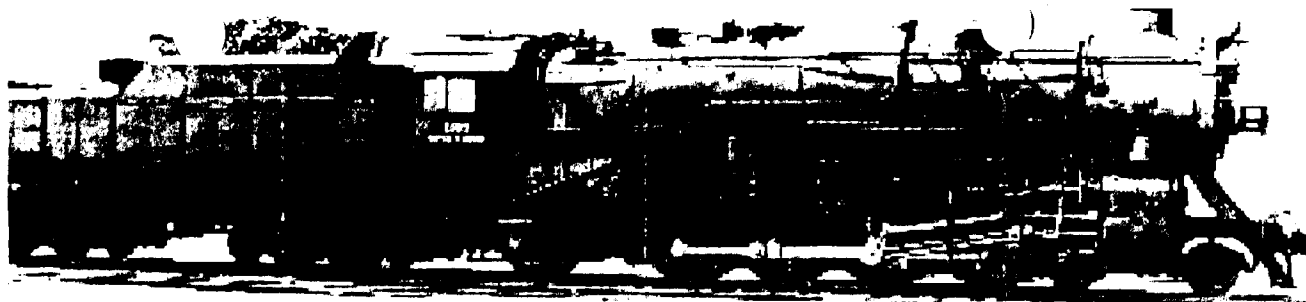


The Norfolk & Western Historical Society is a non-profit corporation, organized in Virginia in 1984. Members live in over 30 states and a number of foreign countries. Long term goals include the accumulation and preservation of available material on the Norfolk & Western and Virginian railroads for the benefit of everyone who is interested. Working in concert with the modeling industry, the Society seeks to encourage the development of products unique to the N&W.

Enjoy current events, expand your knowledge of N&W and Virginian history and get to know others sharing a common interest by joining the N&WHS today! Help to improve the Society by getting involved in the publication of stories, data and photographs.

Take a few minutes to complete the attached application and mail with your membership fee TODAY!





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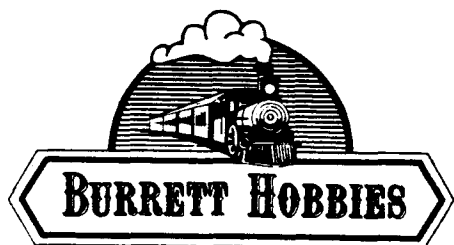
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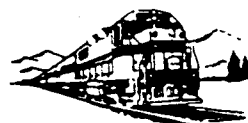
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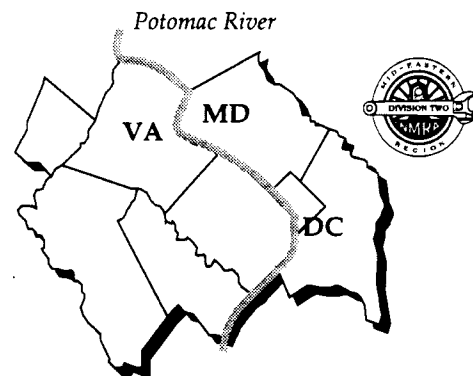
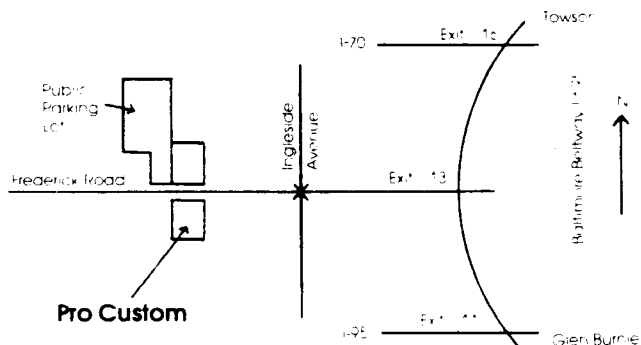
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Geographic extent of the Potomac Division,
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