



# The Potomac Flyer

Formerly *The Dixie Flyer*

Summer Quarter

June to August 1995

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

## Summer Along the Potomac

We have two events scheduled this summer, one in June and another in August, with July off for the National Model Railroad Association meeting in Atlanta.

In keeping with the good ol' summertime, we'll have a picnic in June. And what better place to spend the afternoon than in the presence of trains! On June 25th, the Sunday after Father's Day, we will gather at the National Capital Trolley Museum in Colesville, Maryland, for a bring-your-own picnic. Enjoy an afternoon of fun with friends and family and take a ride on a restored trolley. See page 6 for further details.

On August 20th, we plan a doubleheader. For the first time since 1991, we will visit the layouts of Paul Dolkos and Hal Davidson. Both are "Yankee" modelers, Paul modeling the Boston & Maine and Hal the freelanced Susquehanna & Jersey Railway. Come out and see what changes have been wrought to these two fine layouts. Page 7 further details the layouts and provides a map. 🗺️

## Spring Quarter and Before

The Spring Quarter was marked by divisional and regional conventions and a club layout tour. The first event was our annual Mini-Convention, this year held at the Fairfax Fire & Rescue Academy in Fairfax, Virginia. April saw us at the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders, Inc., layout at Vienna, Virginia. Finally, May's event was the Mid-Eastern Region's convention in York, Pennsylvania.

The Mini-Convention was well attended, although not as well as in past years, partly due to the fine weather. Early springs are nearly as bad for attendance as late winters, but not so bad as full-fledged blizzards as we had three years ago. Over 90 model railroaders turned out. Both the HO Module Team and Northern Virginia NTRAK had layouts up and running (see page 6). Nearly 30 models were presented for the Popular Vote Model Contest, with most also undergoing Achievement Program Merit Judging. A fine lunch was provided by the Fairfax City Fire Department Auxiliary (Mmm...Thanks!). The Arm's-Length Raffle continued its popular success with scores of prizes won. The most important contribution came from our clinicians. Special thanks to Stan Knotts (Modeling a Foundry), Mat Chibbaro (Modeling in Small Spaces), Dave Cooper (Detection Circuits), George Hughes (Weathering N&W Locomotives), Clem Clement (History of Tin-Plate), Matt Schaefer and Bernie Kempinski (NTRAK—A Slide Tour), Nick Kalis (Getting Published in the Hobby Press), and Ken Heinen (Railroad Photography). The clinics were universally praised and very well attended. All who attended enjoyed the day greatly.

April's visit to Northern Virginia Model Railroaders was a lightly attended as well. The fine spring weather is definitely drawing folks away. NVMR owns a multi-level HO scale layout in the freight room of the Vienna's former Washington & Old Dominion Railroad station. The layout features both DC and CTC-16 controls and infrared remote throttles. A dispatcher located in a separate room controls train movements. NVMR is quite visually appealing with a variety of member-owned motive power, both mainline and logging railroad operations, heavy grades with helper districts, and an operating trolley system, the "Blue Ridge Traction Power & Light." If you missed this tour, NVMR will host it's next public open house on Saturday, July 15, 1 to 5 P.M., Dominion and Ayr Hill roads, Vienna, Virginia. Call (703) 938-5157 for more information.

As of this writing, the MER convention is still a month away. Hope many of you made the trip to York, Pennsylvania. Look to your *MER Local* for a full reporting of the events there.

Finally, the Potomac Division again wishes to thank George Hughes and Strad Bushby for hosting home layout tours in January and February. Both of these events occurred after the Spring issue of the *Flyer* went to press. George's layout featured finely detailed and weathered Norfolk & Western locomotives (the many comments and questions about them prompted his clinic at the Mini-Convention). George graciously allowed many of us to try running trains

### MER Application Change

The Office Manager of the Mid-Eastern Region has informed us that the way that we collect dues no longer integrates with new MER procedures. Regretably this means that we can no longer provide our one-check-for-all application and renewal service for your MER membership. Those of you who want to join or renew with MER should write to: Mid-Eastern Region, Inc., NMRA • Office Manager • 13212 Bellevue Street • Silver Spring, MD 20904. Sorry for the inconvenience but you will be better served this way. MER can and will handle your NMRA application or renewal, too.

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## Spring Recap, cont'd

## State of the Membership

using the his Innovator walk-around throttles. Lots of fun. The layout's scenery is coming along and when next we visit, we expect to see the verdant hills and valleys of western Maryland and West Virginia. Thanks again for the show, George!

Strad Bushby's layout also has a lot of scenery work pending, but his operations are well advanced. A combination of digital command control, computer-controlled staging, and over-the-road running presented the visitors with an incredibly busy layout. Strad models the Northeastern Corridor with real-time schedules and lots of trains! It seemed that there were trains running everywhere! (The number of locomotives was the matter of some friendly one-upsmanship between Strad and Monroe Stewart, our former superintendent, himself a mainline eastern railroad modeler. Ell Geib, our assistant superintendent noted that Strad said he had about 268 locomotives. Sure enough, shortly after arriving home, Ell received a phone call from Monroe saying that he had 264, but he had 8 more on order!) Strad's layout was certainly impressive and we look forward to revisiting it in a few years to see the progress made on scenery and operations. Thanks, Strad! 🚂

## State of the Membership

Pete Matthews, Division Clerk

One of the advantages of being a Mr. Mom is that once in a while I get a lazy afternoon. To fill such an afternoon, I decided to do some statistics based upon our membership interest survey. It's the survey all of you fill out as part of your Potomac Division application and renewal form. You have filled one out recently, haven't you? If not, or if you haven't filled out one recently, please see the companion article "New Application and Interest Survey" immediately following.

Anyway, we have 661 members at the time of this writing. Of those 196 are about to be dropped because their dues are more than 18 months out of date. Another 164 have yet to renew from last year. Please check your mailing label. If your label says "Last Issue" you had better renew! (For more on determining member status see The Head End on page 5.)

I thought I would present a summary of member interests so as to give you a feeling for the diversity represented within our division. Two simple tables encompass most of the results. Table 1 shows our modeling scale preferences. In it are shown the percent of members who model in each scale. Fifty-three (8%) members stated no scale preference. Not surprisingly, the largest fraction is HO scale (440 out of 608), with N and O a distant second and third. G, S, and Z are an another order of magnitude further back, and TT just manages to register. Clearly HO, N, and O are still the favored scales. It will be interesting to see how these numbers change in the future.

The secondary scale preference table represents only 200 respondents, about 33% of all members. The first conclusion is obvious. Most of us model in only one scale. I imagine this is for a variety of rea-

Table 1 — Modeling Scale Preferences

Scale	Primary*		Secondary†	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
G	11	1.8%	34	17.0%
O	54	8.9	33	16.5
S	10	1.6	19	9.5
OO	0	0.0	4	2.0
HO	440	72.4	43	21.5
TT	1	<1.0	2	1.0
N	84	13.8	52	26.0
Z	6	1.0	10	5.0
Other	2	<1.0	3	1.5

\* — 608 responses

† — 200 responses

Table 2 — Summary of Other Interests  
(in Primary Scale of Interest only)

Scale	Narrow			
	Gauge	Module	Traction	Layout
G	3	2	2	6
O	10	17	12	23
S	4	5	0	3
OO	0	0	0	0
HO	36	153	89	181
TT	0	0	0	0
N	3	41	8	34
Z	0	2	1	2
Other	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	57	220	113	249

sons, most important of which are money, time, and space. HO, N, and O still dominate, but G joins the group. Are many of you getting into G scale to involve your spouse or children, or is it because the garden is the only room left for trains?

Shown on the mailer is an overly complicated chart correlating primary and secondary scale preferences. This chart proves quite interesting. HO is obviously our middle ground. Folks favoring G, O, or S as their primary scale tend not to go below HO scale in their second choice, whereas N and Z scalers mostly top out at HO. HO scalers are most diverse in their secondary interests, being well represented from G to Z. N scalers prefer HO as a second choice by a wide margin, although a good fraction of them list G scale. I guess every now and then they like to give their eyes a rest! Z scalers tend to stay in the smaller scales, N and HO.

What about our other interests? We ask you to show whether you have interests in narrow gauge railroading, modular modeling, and traction railroading. Table 2 presents a summary of these interests. Clearly modular model railroading holds fascination for many of us (33%). Traction modeling is also represented well (17%). Narrow gauge has a narrower (sorry) but dedicated following (9%) and, I might add, some spectacular layouts locally. Thirty-eight percent of us state that we have layouts or modules, although this is a fairly recent ad-

## 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

Calendar

Staff Roster

### June 3

Manassas Rail Festival

Manassas, VA

Mt. Clare Division Mini-Convention

Howard Co. Center, MD (inside mailer)

### June 25

Potomac Division Picnic

National Capital Trolley Museum, Colesville, MD (1, 7)

### July 15

NVMR Open House

Vienna, VA (below)

### July 16-23

NMRA National Convention

Atlanta, GA

### August 20

Potomac Home Layout Tour

Alexandria, VA (1, 8)

### September 16

Potomac Division Swap Meet

Annandale, VA ‡

(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.

**Northern Virginia Model Railroaders, Inc.**

(NVMR) Open House will be held at the former Vienna station of the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad, Dominion and Ayr Hill roads, Vienna, VA. Please call (703) 938-5157 for more information. Upcoming open houses are scheduled for July 15, Sept. 16, October 21, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16.


**State of the  
Membership,  
cont'd**

**New Application  
Form**

**Achievement  
Notes**

dition to the interest survey and thus probably under-represents the amount of modeling out there. Nonetheless, we show 249 layouts out there. So where are all you home layout hosts?

That's it for now. The survey is largely incomplete and based upon old information. Despite needing updating, the survey data still give us a good feel for our interests as a whole. So what about finding others who, for instance, share an interest in N scale narrow-gauge modular railroad-ing? Well, you can write me, the division clerk, and request a listing of members who share such interests. Just include a self-addressed, stamped envelope along with your search criteria (be specific) and I will send you back a name and address list of members meeting your interests.

What about updating the database. That's up to you. Starting with this issue of the *Flyer*, you will see a new Interest Survey. Please take a moment to fill it in (don't forget your name and address) and return it to me. By this time next year we can present a fuller, more current survey of our interests. 

**New Application &  
Interest Survey**


This issue of the *Potomac Flyer* includes a revised Membership Application and Interest Survey. It more clearly delineates the three areas that were included on the previous version and also adds some new items. Because of these changes, we ask that all current members take a few minutes to update their membership information, especially the interest survey questions. Thanks. So what changes have been made?

In addition to the usual name, address, and phone number information, the Personal Information section now has space for your NMRA and MER numbers and expiration dates. With an eye turned towards future electronic advances, we have also requested your e-mail address. Please enter the

address or two you use most frequently. Also, because of a decision taken at the Annual Meeting in March where we will soon make our database available to interested hobby-related companies, we now have a box you may check if you do not want your address distributed.

The Interest Survey has a couple new items. In the never ending quest for new layouts to visit, we now ask if you would be willing to host a home layout tour and how soon you feel you would be ready to have us over. My own experience showed that given about six months lead time my layout presentable. Some of you may feel that more time is necessary. Either way, we are very accommodating. Remember, we don't expect finished work, or even much more than track on plywood. The reason for home layout tours is not just to watch other modelers' trains run, but to provide a location where we call all meet and have some fellowship with other model railroad enthusiasts.

Many of you have asked if there was a way to find out who models a specific railroad. We haven't tracked that before but it seems like a natural. That's what the Favorite Railroad & Prototype Modeled entry gives us. Before, all we could do was look through the SIGs & Railroad Historical Society list. By saying Favorite Railroad, I hope to include those of you who have not yet built a layout. After all, most of us acquire fairly impressive libraries before we apply saw to wood or lay a foot of track. Such reference volumes may be just what a fellow modeler is seeking.

The last section is Dues Calculation. This is the bread and butter of the application form. It elaborates (some might say belabors) the dues structure, what you need to pay, for each the Potomac Division and the NMRA. Recent changes in the way MER does things requires that you apply directly with them. See the sidebar on page 1. Sorry for the inconvenience, but you will be better served in this way. 

**Achievement Notes**

—Bruce Strickland

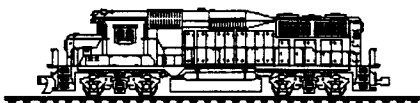
At the Mini-Convention last March, we had ten models presented for Merit Judging. This was about one-third of what we had last year in Olney. I was glad to see several first time entrants. I hope these persons were encouraged and will pursue more Merit Awards as well as continue to participate in the Achievement Program. We had five Merit Award winners at Fairfax. They were:

John Paganoni  
PAG RR #39 Combine-caboose (HO)  
Bernie Kempinski  
Paceco 30-ton Gantry Crane (N)  
Wilson Felder  
BA #901 36' Wood Gondola (HO)  
Frank Winner  
PRR #147106 30' Flat Car  
Mat Chibbaro  
Wood Truss Bridge (N)

Congratulations to all the entrants and good luck in future contests.

Our neighboring division, Mount Clare, will be having their first-ever Mini-Convention on June 3rd. So you will have another chance to enter your models for Merit Judging if you missed us in Fairfax.

Now I want to introduce you to the Potomac Division's new AP coordinator. His name is Ken Berthoud and he will be taking over for me. In order to smooth Ken's transition, we will be share coordinator duties for awhile. Next issue of the *Flyer*, Ken will introduce himself. I however will still be involved with the AP as a member of the National AP Steering Committee — so I want to hear your ideas for the future of the Achievement Program. If you need copies of necessary AP forms, I have all of them on hand. Also, if you have any other questions about the AP, please feel free to call or write. My phone number and address are listed in the Staff Roster on page 3. C



## The Head End

—Pete Matthews  
Potomac Flyer Editor

### So, Am I a Potomac Member or Not?


Many of you are aware that we send the *Potomac Flyer* to all NMRA members within our geographic confines, regardless of Potomac Division membership. This inevitably leads to confusion when someone shows up at division event and is hit up for membership dues ("But I get the *Potomac Flyer*..." is the frequent protest). This confusion stems from the way in which we address the *Potomac Flyer*. The *Potomac Flyer* is addressed with two sets of mailing labels, one bought from NMRA and one printed by the Division Clerk (me). To get some idea of your membership status, look at your mailing label.

One set labels is bought each quarter from the NMRA office. These labels are distinguished by two features. They are printed with a dot matrix printer and they include your NMRA member number, the division code (the "3002"), and your NMRA renewal date. We buy these labels for active NMRA members within the boundaries of the Potomac Division only.

The other mailing labels are laser printed. They show either a Potomac Division expiration date if you are current or say "Last Issue" if your membership has lapsed. These labels are printed for folks who are either division-members only (i.e., not NMRA members) or for all Potomac members who reside outside the geographic boundaries of the division itself (regardless of NMRA member status).

Thus you can only be certain of your Potomac membership a couple ways. One way is that you have a laser-printed label showing a future expiration date. The other and more reliable way is to attend a division event and check that your name is on our member list. The latter is a lot more fun, too.

There is one other benefit of joining. Whenever we have to make a late schedule change, and it does happen every now and then, we have to rely on our own roster. The roster only lists Potomac Division members, not all NMRA members in our area. By joining you might save yourself a pointless trip across the division.

Remember: If your mailing label says "Last Issue," please send us your dues right away! After this issue is mailed we will have our first mailing list cleaning in several years. Hope to hear from you tardy folks soon! 




## The Business Car

—Jeff Martello  
Division Superintendent

### Home Layouts and E-Mail

Just a couple quick notes to round out the theme of this newsletter, membership and member interests.

I noticed that 249 of our members say they have layouts. Not to belittle our past and future tour hosts, but we have become a bit repetitious in our meets and could definitely benefit from finding other folks in the Division to act as hosts. How about it? Let us know how much lead time you need to get ready and we will be happy to put you on the schedule. (Doug Gurin, how long before your layout is ready? — hint, hint— The track plan is impressive [see *Model Railroad Planning 1995*].)

We are also beginning to explore the possibility of using e-mail as an avenue of alerting members to last minute Division schedule changes. This has always been a dilemma for us considering that we only maintain part of our mailing list (see Pete's column to the left). With e-mail addresses, we could even send out reminders of monthly events. Wouldn't that be helpful? Of course, not everyone is wired yet, but it would help get the word out quickly. 

## The Head End

## The Business Car

### Authentic Miniatures of the american scene P.O.Box 5, Burtonsville, MD 20866-0005

Specializing in HO & N scale vehicles from all eras, as seen on American highways (1908-present). Say you saw it in *The Potomac Flyer*.

We carry over 700 HO and 300 N vehicles; autos, busses, circus, construction, farm equipment & tractors, fire equipment, military, pickups, semis, trucks, etc., from over 30 lines. Kits to custom built & painted, \$1.00 to \$60.00 and up.

We attend over 20 local and national toy car and scale train shows (Sunday only).

SSAE for list, or pick up a list at any show.

Main business CLOSED, July 13-29, 1995.

See you in Atlanta at NMRA National Convention. 😊

\$3 shipping on orders less than \$25. MD customers include 5% sales tax. We have no catalog but send #10 envelope with 52¢ postage for lists of specific vehicle categories and/or scales, or better yet, call us to discuss your wishes: 301-384-6299, Sunday-Thursday, 9 AM-9 PM.

### DEALERS • DEALERS

We distribute Burt, C&S, Cars-N-Scale and Wilbur Trucking N scale vehicles and American Precision busses, ASB (the old Ulrich line), Gregs Garage, Monarch (WWI tanks), and Vulcan Hobbies (cast resin) HO scale vehicles.

Write for dealers catalog.

**HO Module  
Crew Notes**

**Northern  
Virginia  
NTRAK News**

**HO Module Crew Notes**

—Bob Minnis

Webster defines the word "crew" as an "assemblage" or "...a company of people working on one job or under one foreman." Beginning with this Potomac Flyer, our column will be changed to HO Module Crew News. The word crew better describes our organization and activities and is more closely associated with railroading than the word team.

The Mini-Convention set-up marked a first for the HO Module Team—the use of an inside corner built by yours truly. Thirteen members joined a total of twenty-five modules together to form an "L" configuration. Train operations were delayed about 30 minutes by an electrical gremlin. Once the problem was isolated, trains ran smoothly until the convention closed. Dave Traudt is the newest member to display his modeling efforts in the form of the four-foot exterior corner.

This set-up was the final one for Jim Smith. Jim has been a steady participant for the past three years, and his skills will be missed. He leaves us for St. Louis under government orders. His modules have been transferred to other team members and will continue to appear at our events. Bon Voyage and best of luck, Jim, from all the Team.

Data compiled from the interest survey you fill out when you join the Potomac Division show that 153 of Potomac Division HO modelers have an interest in modular model railroading. Less than 10% actively pursue this track. Where are the remaining 90% of you?

This summer we look forward to two traditional events. First up, perhaps as you read this *Flyer*, is the Manassas Railway Festival, June 3. In July, we will return to the Alexandria Lyceum for their railroad celebration. The date for this show has yet to be announced, but has traditionally been the first or second weekend in July.

As I have stated in the past, if you are interested in becoming involved with the HO Module Crew, please don't hesitate to give me a call. My address and phone number are in the Staff Roster on page 3. ☎

**Module Team Events**

June 3	Manassas Rail Festival, Manassas, VA (HO&N)
July TBA (Call Bob)	Lyceum, Alexandria, VA (HO)

**Northern Virginia NTRAK News**

— Matt Schaefer

Northern Virginia NTRAK is continuing to run trains in all directions at once, a good sign I hope. In February we had another big show at Landmark Mall in Alexandria. In March we did three small shows in two weeks, one of which was at the Southern Maryland Railroad Association's first show held in the Upper Marlboro Equestrian Center. It was very well attended and a big success.

Another March show was the Potomac Division's Mini-Convention in Fairfax. I hope you missed the great train race there. It was like the one between Union Pacific and Central Pacific: the race between the HO Module Team and NV NTRAK to get set up. Both clubs had electrical problems for starters. In addition, NTRAK started with only three corners. I'm not sure who got running first or who cared. They never said life on the railroad was easy, just fun.

April 22nd and 23rd will have been our first show at Springfield Mall's Center Court, a 30x40-foot layout! The boys really get excited by these big layouts. Brian Brendel has a new toy: the Aristocraft radio train control. It is not a command control system that does away with blocking but remote control that is very handy if you are way down the line switching or checking out a problem (read "wreck"). You have a radio control throttle and therefore don't have to communicate over voice radio to a tower on the other side of the layout where some operator is asleep or otherwise engaged. [Editor's Note: In addition to a new throttle, Brian has a new boy, Jake — Congratulations!]

We are looking for ideas for our big NTRAK convention next year. HO groups have John Allen's famous Timesaver switching module. Since N takes up less space, NTRAK should be able to have a similar contest but instead of having too many cars for not enough tracks, N could have too many trains. Give us your ideas for an operation contest layout, say 10 to 15 feet long perhaps with 180-degree end modules.

We also invite anyone of any scale or gauge to drop by and visit Northern Virginia NTRAK: at the Manassas Railway Festival, June 3rd; at the Fairfax Government Center for the Fairfax County Fair, June 9th & 10th (tentative); or at one of our third-Sunday-of-the-month club-only meets. They latter are held, from 1 to 6 P.M. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, just northeast of the intersection of Old Keene Mill and Rolling roads in Springfield, Virginia. Call me, Matt Schaefer, at (703) 978-2946 for more information. Go N Class! ☎

# Prototype Tour and Picnic National Capital Trolley Museum

1313 Bonifant Road • Colesville, Maryland

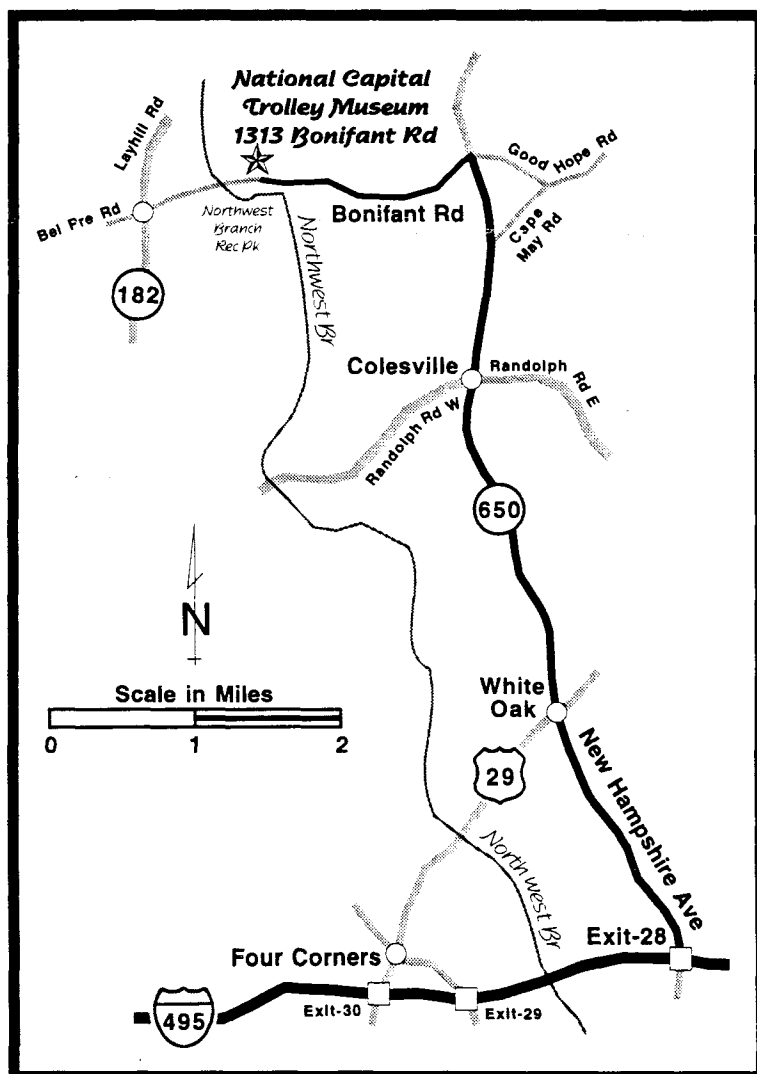
Sunday, June 25, 1995, 1 to 5 P.M.

Join fellow Potomac Division members and their families for a relaxing day of picnicking and trolley riding at the National Capital Trolley Museum. Pack your own picnic lunch and bring money for trolley fares. Trolley rides are \$2 per adult and \$1.50 per youngster, 2-17. The Museum features fourteen trolleys from both sides of the Atlantic including former DC trolleys. Four trolleys carry passengers, running from Noon to 4:30 P.M. Hope to see you there.

## How to Get There

Follow the map below and these directions.

- Take the Capital Beltway, I-495 to Exit-28 in Maryland, New Hampshire Avenue.
- Proceed north on New Hampshire through Colesville to Bonifant Road, about 5.5 miles.
- Turn left onto Bonifant Road.
- Proceed ahead about 1.6 miles to Northwest Branch Recreational Park.
- The Museum will be the second right after you enter the park.



## Summer Events

### • June's Trolley Tour & Picnic

# An HO Doubleheader Hal Davidson's Susquehanna & Jersey Paul Dolkos' Boston & Maine

**5732 Biscayne Drive, Alexandria, VA • (703) 960-5516**  
**420 So. Royal Street, Alexandria, VA • (703) 548-5577**  
**Sunday, August 20, 1995, 1 - 5 p.m.**

**Summer Events,  
cont'd**

## • August Double Layout Tour

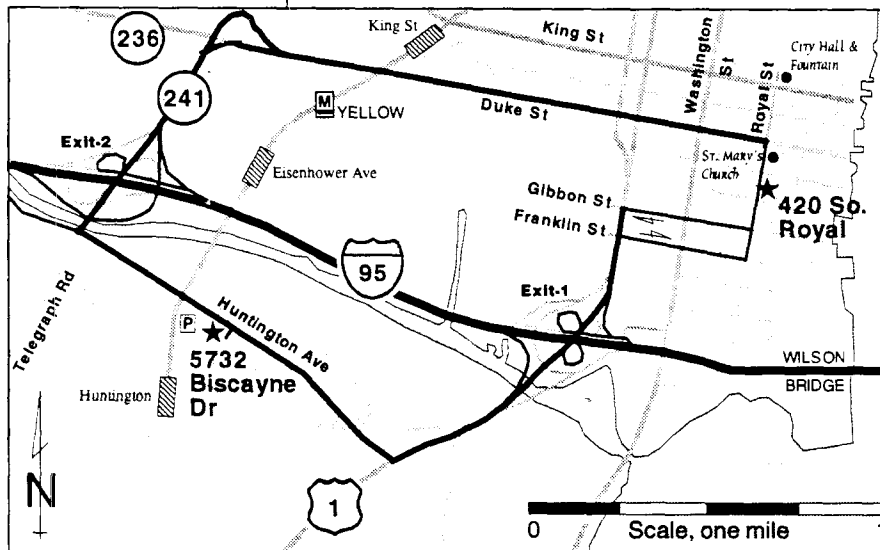
You may recall at his last open house four and a half years ago, Hal Davidson's layout focused on the Reading Railroad in early Conrail days. Two years ago, Hal moved the setting 100 miles southeast and formed the Susquehanna & Jersey Railway Company. The point-to-point HO S&J, "The Determined Shortline," is a contemporary southeastern Pennsylvania shortline. The S&J took over Conrail's operations along the historic Wilmington & North Branch of the ex-Reading. Today, the S&J relies on leased Conrail diesels, with cabooses for rear protection. Sunday service includes a tourist steam excursion and a regularly scheduled Amtrak long-distance train out of Wilmington. Daily, though, the S&J serves freight customers between Reading, Pennsylvania, and Wilmington, Delaware, in addition to acting as a good proving ground for GE six axles and demonstrators.

One third of the Hal's layout is staging; three-quarters of the visible remainder is scenicked. It is unique in compressing carefully portrayed city, rural, and transitional scenery within a confined basement. However the layout also includes a 7x12-foot test track for brass overhaul and construction work.

Paul Dolkos' 20x30-foot layout models the Boston & Maine's Hampshire Division where it leaves the Connecticut Valley for the paper mills in Berlin and Groveton, New Hampshire in HO scale. The time is November 1952 and Paul's now-famous scenery depicts autumn when most of the leaves have fallen and the early frosts have turned the grass yellow. The center of railroad action is Woodsriver, a mountain junction town that is the turnaround point for the passenger runs from Boston and Concord. The point-to-point layout features plenty of staging and a Keeler Rail Specialties CTC-80 command control system. This layout has been well represented in the hobby press with the most recent honor being the cover of Kalmbach's premier railroad planning annual, Model Railroad Planning 1995, and the November 1993 cover of Model Railroader.

## Directions

Hal Davidson and Paul Dolkos live less than two miles apart. As shown on the map, two easy-to-follow routes connect them. One route follows Duke Street to Telegraph Road, the other US 1 (Henry Street) to Huntington Avenue.



### Paul Dolkos:

- Enter Old Town Alexandria and get onto South Royal Street.
- Paul's house, 420 South Royal, is one block south of St. Mary's Catholic Church.
- Park wherever convenient along the street. This is Old Town Alexandria, so you may have to park a few blocks away.
- Enter through the gate at the side of the house and come back to the basement steps.

### Hal Davidson:

- Take Huntington Avenue to Biscayne Drive, just east of Metro's Huntington Station.
- Park on Biscayne or at Metro's Huntington Station garage (no charge on Sunday).
- Hal's house, 5732, is the first residence on the right. It is surrounded by a chain-link fence. Enter the front gate and go around to the back door.

## Mobility Alert:

Stair climbing is necessary to view both layouts.



# The Call Board

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

We continue to receive updates from fellow Potomac Division members. Thanks for all the kind complements favorable comments about this column. We will continue to share member biographies as long as supply and space permit.

## Stephen Altheim

Steve built his first 4x8 (Lionel) layout as a teenager. Now as an international economist working on Central and Eastern Europe at the U.S. Treasury, Steve has had the opportunity to travel several times to the region, and has acquired samples of former Czechoslovak and former East German model trains in O, HO, and TT scales. It has been quite interesting obtaining information and negotiating prices in hobby shops when not speaking the local language. He gets inspiration from monthly meetings of an informal and raucous model railroad group meeting in various members homes in Northern Virginia. Steve recently purchased CADRAIL for Windows computer software and plans to design an HO basement layout over the next year, with construction to follow in due course.

## Roman Rusynko

Roman became interested in model railroading when he retired from the Air Force in 1991. Presently he has a 16x18-foot HO home layout which is still under construction. He enjoys scenicking and running trains.

## Robert E. Mecklenburg

Robert's interest in model railroading has been suspended two or three or more years pending retirement. He has plans for a layout at that time. It will be his fourth.

## John M. Cook

Fifty years ago I started model railroading with my father on a 4x8-foot layout with an 4-foot shelf siding in HO. My model railroading was suspended (except for unscenicked garage HO layouts for my kids) for 25 years of college and a Navy career. When I retired to a fixed address I restarted in N scale and have now focused my railroading energy on modular N-scale railroading. I model the RF&P right-of-way and my modules depict the area of Possum Point and Quantico Creek on about Labor Day, 1988.

## Dave Rausch

Dave has had layouts in some of the thirteen houses where he's lived. The computer repair business took him to a lot of different areas in the eastern half of the U.S. He moved to Virginia in early 1992 and is still setting up his basement with thoughts of staying here for a long time. Dave has been collecting kits since 1972, at which time he had been a member of the NMRA for a few years. He has many railroad car kits to be built yet, along with buildings, etc., etc. His main railroad interests are the Milwaukee Road, Thunder Lakes, Wisconsin, narrow gauge logging railroads, and traction of the North Shore Line and the Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Co.

## Mike Cassidy

My primary interest is pre-1920s interurban railroads. I have no layout at this time, but I am remodeling my home.

## The Call Board

## Bulletin Board

### Bulletin Board

#### Want Ads, Help Wanted, etc.

**Operating Group:** Pete Matthews is looking for a 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 Pete, (703) 360-2313, days and most evenings, or leave message (also listen for schedule update — trains run most Fridays, 7 to 11 P.M.)

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

**Clark Keene:** I'd like to have an address, phone number, or even just the state where I can contact Clark Keene (previous owner of Keene's Model Railroad Shop). Call Roger, (301) 384-6299, or Pete, (703) 360-2313.

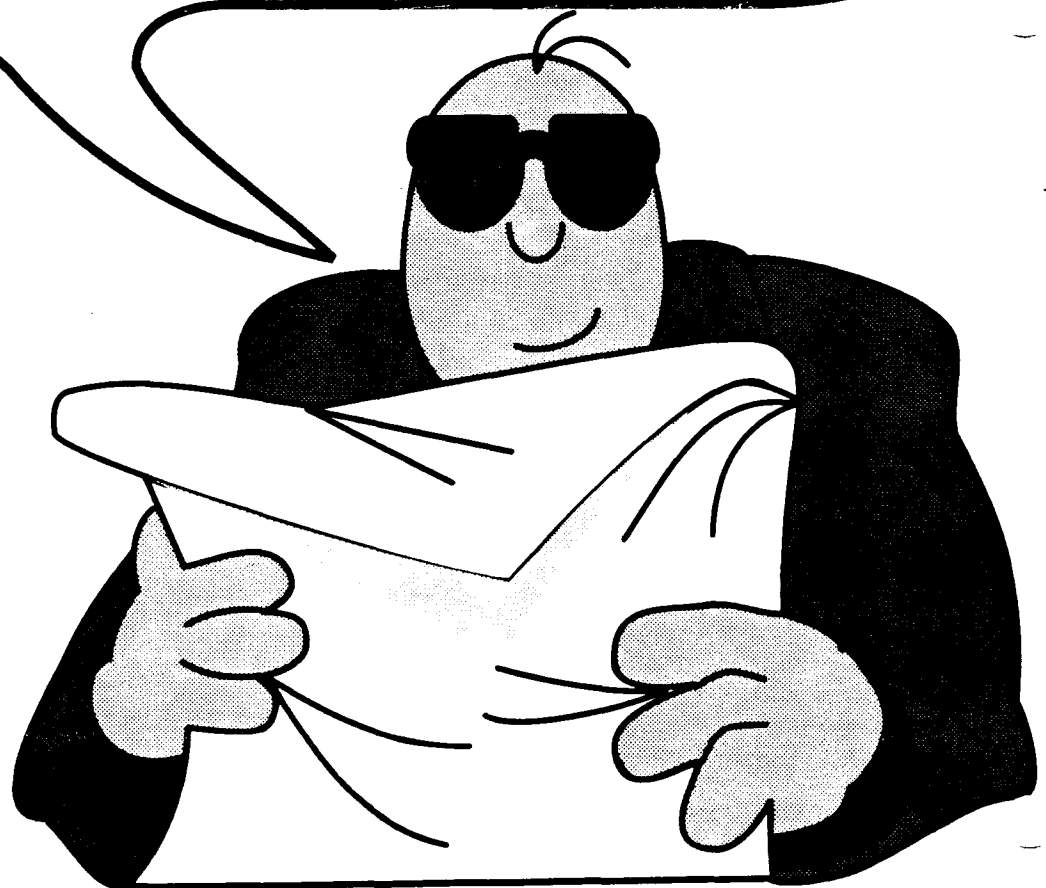
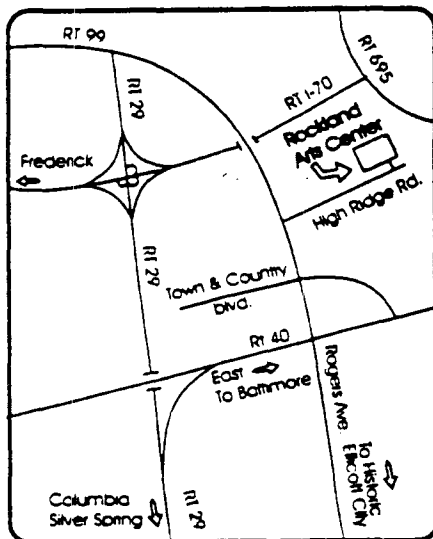
**HO Layout for Sale.** Oregon Pass Lines in Atlas King-Size Track Plan Book. No scenery. 12x8-foot L-shape. Can be broken down into two 4x8-foot sections for transport. \$300. Contact Bruce Strickland by mail at 10766 Tullamore Ct., Manassas, VA 22111, or by phone at (703) 361-5620 (home) or (703) 313-2050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

**For Sale:** Throttle-Up! SoundTraxx Remote IR Throttle and Diesel Sound System. Several diesel types included, also has multiple horns and bells. \$200 or best offer. Call Pete, (703) 360-2313.

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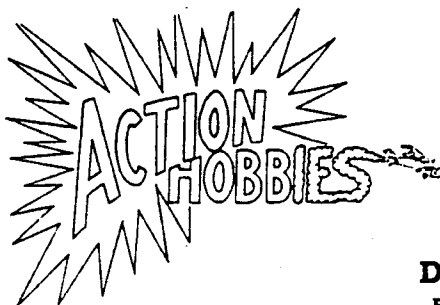
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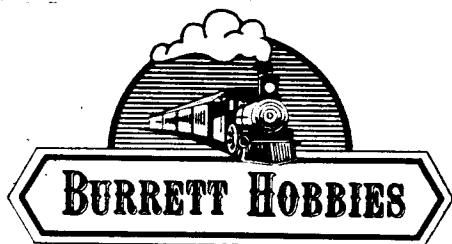
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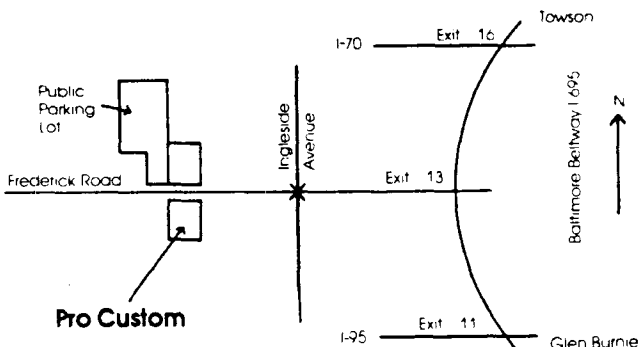
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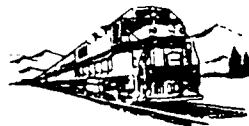
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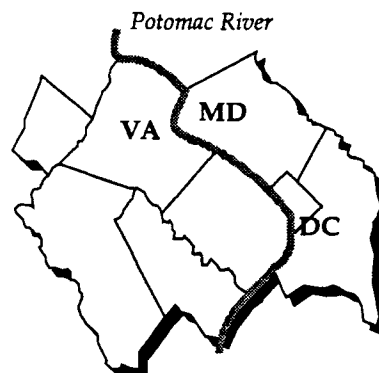


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Geographic extent of the  
Potomac Division,  
Mid-Eastern Region,  
NMRA



# Potomac Division

Division 2, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

## Membership Application and Interest Survey

The Potomac Division provides various activities for all interested model railroaders, such as home layout tours, prototype tours, and a MiniConvention every March. We publish a quarterly newsletter, the *Potomac Flyer*, detailing division activities. We proudly boast one of the greatest concentrations of model railroading talent in the country with no less than 10 NMRA Master Model Railroaders in our area as well as several other outstanding modelers.

The Potomac Division encompasses Washington, D.C., Montgomery and Prince Georges counties in Maryland, and Clarke, Loudoun, Fauquier, Fairfax, and Prince William counties and the independent cities in Northern Virginia. Local residence and MER or NMRA membership is not a required for division membership, although most of our members are local MER and NMRA members. Anyone interested in learning more about model railroading, improving their modeling skills, and enjoying the company of fellow modelers is invited to join the Potomac Division.

### Personal Information

Name <input type="text"/>		Check here to indicate a change of address: <input type="checkbox"/>		Home Phone <input type="text"/>	NMRA Mbr. No. <input type="text"/>	Exp. Date <input type="text"/>
Street Address or P.O. Box <input type="text"/>				Work Phone <input type="text"/>	MER Mbr. No. <input type="text"/>	Exp. Date <input type="text"/>
Additional Address <input type="text"/>				E-Mail Address (one or two most frequently used) <input type="text"/>		
City <input type="text"/>	ST <input type="text"/>	ZIP + 4 <input type="text"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally we make our mailing list available to carefully selected model railroading related companies. If you do not wish to have your name included, please check here.		

### Interest Survey

<b>Primary Scale</b> <input type="text"/>	<b>Secondary Scale</b> <input type="text"/>	<b>Favorite Railroad(s) &amp; Prototype(s) Modeled</b> <input type="text"/>
(Check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Have Layout or Module? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Narrow Gauge Interest? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Module Interest? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Traction Interest? <input type="checkbox"/>		Please list NMRA Special Interest Groups (SIGs), model railroad clubs, and railroad historical societies to which you belong <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Would you host a Home Layout Tour? If so, may we visit within: <input type="checkbox"/> 6 mo. <input type="checkbox"/> 12 mo. <input type="checkbox"/> 18 mo.		
<b>New and Renewing Members:</b> Please include a short paragraph or two describing yourself and your railroading interests for possible inclusion in upcoming <i>Call Board</i> columns. (See the current <i>Call Board</i> for examples.)		

### Dues Calculation

Please fill out this section completely including whether you are new or renewing. Renewing NMRA members, please supply your member number and expiration date in the Personal Information section above to expedite the renewal process.

**Potomac Division:** Dues are **\$2 per year**. Members receive the quarterly *Potomac Flyer*. Membership expires on December 31st of the current year. New members joining after August 31st will be enrolled through the end of the following year.

\$ <input type="text"/>	New <input type="checkbox"/>	Renew <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Mid-Eastern Region:** MER has instituted new application procedures. Regretfully, we can no longer accept MER applications or renewals. To apply or renew with MER, please write: The Mid-Eastern Region, Inc. • Office Manager • 13212 Bellevue St. • Silver Spring, MD 20904.

X
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**National Model Railroad Association:** Dues are **\$30 per year**. Members receive the monthly *NMRA Bulletin*. Renewing members, please supply your *NMRA membership number and expiration date* in the Personal Information section above. You may also write NMRA directly at: National Model Railroad Association, Inc. • Headquarters Office • 4121 Cromwell Rd. • Chattanooga, TN 37421.

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Please make your check payable to *Potomac Division*. Send check with your completed application to:

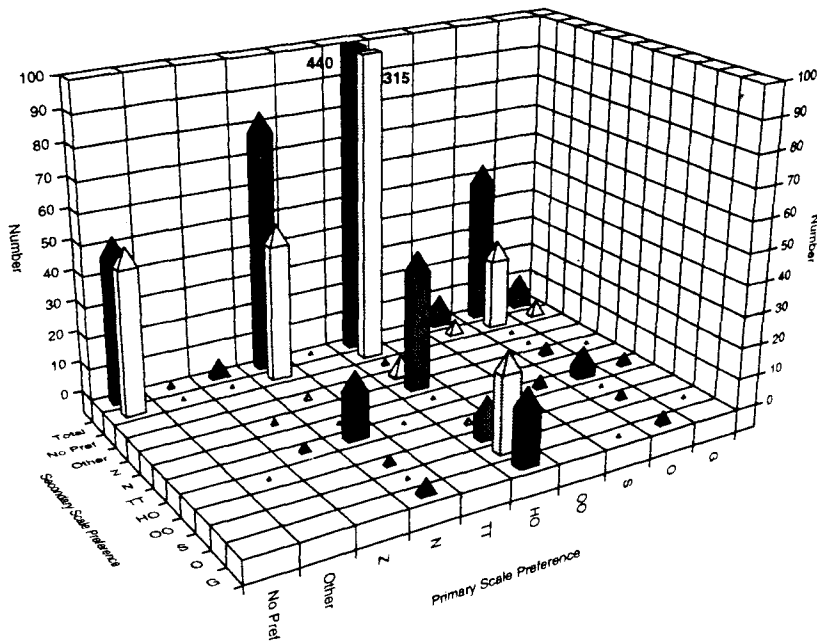
**Clerk, Potomac Division • P.O. Box 3204 • Manassas, VA 22110**

*The Division will forward National dues.*

\$ <input type="text"/>	<b>TOTAL</b>
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### Correlation of Primary and Secondary Scale Preferences

Height of monuments is proportional to number of responses. A brief summary of the State of the Membership and this chart begins on page 2 of this Potomac Flyer.



# The Potomac Flyer

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

P.O. Box 3204 • Manassas, VA 22110

Summer Quarter Issue • June–August 1995

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