

# The Potomac Flyer

**August-Sept. 2022**

**The Newsletter of the Potomac Division, MER, NMRA**



## **Inside This Issue: The Hometown Challenge**

**Plus A Visit to "North" Lemasters, Rescuing An Old Kit, Cars Workshops Report and "H0swap" Explained**

## **All Inside So Read On...**

**Upcoming Event: Saturday August 20<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Clinic 9 AM**

**In Person – Kurt Thompson, MMR, AP Master Builder-Structures-Bridges Workshop, Knights of Columbus Hall, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, Va.**

# Bill of Lading:

- P 3 From the Business Car**
- P 5 Structures Workshop: Midget Trestle**
- P 7 Cars Workshops Report**
- P 9 MER Convention Registration OPEN!**
- P 10 Potomac Division Challenges**
- P 12 The Hometown Challenge**
- P 26 Visiting Martin Brechbiel's "North" Lemasters**
- P 30 Resurrecting An Old Kit**
- P 33 HOswap: What Is It?**
- P 35 Achievement Program Report**
- P 37 Photo Visit to John Berg's Layout**
- P 40 Paymaster's Report**
- P 42 Calendar of Coming Events**
- P 43 NMRA Partnership Discount Program**
- P 44 Hobby Shop Business Cards**



---

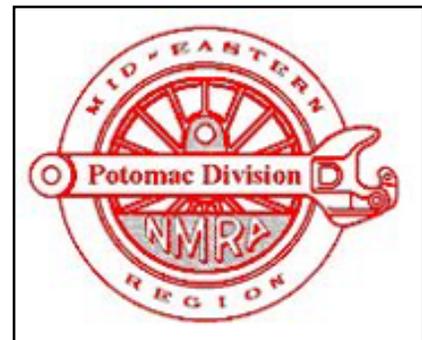
**Cover: An ED1618 from Japan augments the electrified lines on Martin Brechbiel's CVRR**

---

## The Potomac Flyer

### Submission Deadlines – Issue

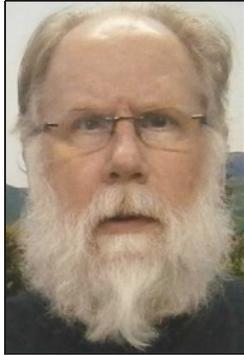
- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Nov. 1 for Dec.-Jan.</b>  | <b>Jan. 1 for Feb.-Mar.</b>  |
| <b>March 1 for April-May</b> | <b>May 1 for June-July</b>   |
| <b>July 1 for Aug.-Sept.</b> | <b>Sept. 1 for Oct.-Nov.</b> |



\*\*\*\*\*

# From the Business Car

by Martin Brechbiel, MMR, Potomac Division Superintendent



It’s hot, and humid, and miserable outside, and those dog days of August are still looming large. I was at my house in Pennsylvania on a Sunday morning in June and it was 78 degrees at 9 AM with 75% humidity - yuck! I understand that some people pay good money for steam baths, but I’m not one of them. So, for me, this is prime model building weather. Some believe that model train season is late fall into winter, but I think it is a true year-round activity. As such, I’m spending a lot of time in my shop when not in the home office. Home office... retirement? As my son has noted to me repeatedly, “You’re doing it wrong!”

2022 marches on. Wait! It’s half over. You did notice that, right? The Division still has clinics, both virtual and hands-on, nearly every month. Check your email and the calendar on our web site. Of special note, the next event at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairfax is on August 20<sup>th</sup> and will address building a small trestle bridge. **Kurt Thompson**, MMR (MER President), will be presenting this hands-on in-person clinic directly addressing the Master Builder-Structures certificate. Why? Because to get this certificate, one of the 12 required structures must be a bridge. Building this small trestle bridge will fulfill this requirement! More information and the list of supplies to bring to the clinic to build your small trestle bridge is on [page 5](#) of this issue of *The Flyer*. You’ll also be able to partake of a critical component of a Saturday morning clinic - yup, donuts. And even if you don’t care about Achievement Program structures, come on out and have some fun with your fellow members of the Division. We hope to see you there.

The 2023 Elections also loom in the not-so-distant future. More information on this will be in the next issue of *The Flyer*. But someone – yes, one of you – will have to step up and run for office. In fact, several of you should step forward. I state that since I am the lamest of ducks and not running for re-election. I technically may not be term limited since at least one of my terms as Superintendent was prior to the institution of term limits. However, I am choosing to set an example and fully

embrace term limits as something critical to keep the Board membership fresh and forward looking. So, start looking in the mirror and give serious thought to serving on the Board of the Potomac Division.

Of note, **Mat Thompson** is looking to next March (2023) to re-start and schedule an Ops weekend event. If

**Welcome New Members!**

**April:**

William Broadus	Cheverly, MD
Charles Kaltwasser	Solomons, MD
David Strohmeyer	Gainesville, VA

**May:**

Paul Bastek	Silver Spring, MD
Michael Zelaska	Woodbridge, VA

The Potomac Division, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association includes the District of Columbia; Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's and St Mary's Counties in Maryland; Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, and Rappahannock Counties in Virginia, as well as all area independent cities.

**The Division Crew:**

Superintendent Martin Brechbiel, MMR  
703-309-3082 [Superintendent@potomac-nmra.org](mailto:Superintendent@potomac-nmra.org)

Sr-Asst-Super Alex Belida, MMR 301-424-8164  
[Sr-Asst-Super@potomac-nmra.org](mailto:Sr-Asst-Super@potomac-nmra.org)

Assistant Superintendent Ernie Little, MMR  
571-383-7316 [Asst-Super@potomac-nmra.org](mailto:Asst-Super@potomac-nmra.org)

Paymaster Jerry Stanley 540-364-1815  
[Paymaster@potomac-nmra.org](mailto:Paymaster@potomac-nmra.org)

Clerk Lee Stoermer 928-580-3209  
[Clerk@potomac-nmra.org](mailto:Clerk@potomac-nmra.org)

Achievement Program Coordinator Mat  
Thompson, MMR 703-743-1895 [Achievement-Program@potomac-nmra.org](mailto:Achievement-Program@potomac-nmra.org)

Webmaster Ernie Little 571-383-7316  
[Webmaster@potomac-nmra.org](mailto:Webmaster@potomac-nmra.org)

Potomac Flyer Editor & Publisher Alex  
Belida 301-424-8164 [Potomac-Flyer@potomac-nmra.org](mailto:Potomac-Flyer@potomac-nmra.org)

Flyer Proofreaders: Dan Ebert, Bob Sprague

this is something of interest to you either as a host or just a participant, you might consider dropping Mat an email communicating that interest. Setting up this event takes time and effort to put this together, so getting involved early is to your advantage.

Lastly, we're looking forward to having our joint meet with the James River Division out at the Battlefield Baptist Church in November. Members and representatives of other Divisions are looking to attend as we plan to expand this event to include more clinics and other activities. If you are interested in presenting a clinic or just volunteering to help out, please contact Jerry Stanley as planning proceeds.

More lastly – there's always more – we are looking to start having open houses this year, but this is really up to the hosts that we had lined up prior to the start of the pandemic. We also need an Open House Coordinator ([see page 6](#)). If you are interested in hosting an open house and/or are interested in being the Open House Coordinator, please contact me directly as soon as possible.

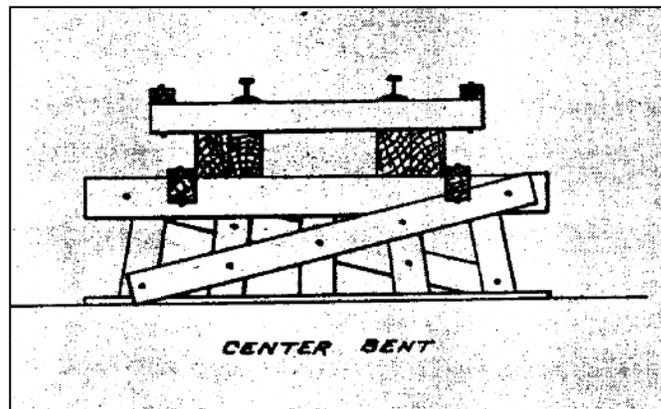
And if you like the heat, enjoy it. If not, find a cool corner and build a model!

**Model Builder's Tip:** Wear shoes when soldering. (Ask me how I know... *ouch!*)



## Master Builder Workshop Structures -- “Midget Trestle”

The first Potomac Division Achievement Program Workshop for the Master Builder-Structures certificate will be held at 9AM on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. We’ll be building the “Midget Trestle” from the September 1962 *Railroad Model Craftsman*. The clinician, **Kurt Thompson**, MMR, has actually built two of these: one each in HO and O scale. This is particularly valuable since one of the 12 structures needed for the Master Builder-Structures certificate must be a bridge! Here’s your chance to build and check off this required element. This trestle will count in two ways, first as a scratchbuilt structure, and second, as a bridge. Don’t think you have to build some sort of super bridge. This simple trestle meets the requirement.



For the clinic, please pre-cut and pre-stain your construction materials of choice. Kurt built both of his from scale lumber. (Lumber list is in prototype sizes.)

### Midget Trestle --- Bill of Materials

Center beams	4	21.5 ft., 12 x 18 inches
Retaining wall planks	4 each end	9 x 18 inches, various lengths to suit
Bridge ties	17	10.5 ft., 12 x 12 inches
Trestle bents	3	
For each bent:		
Cap	1	14.5 ft., 12 x 12 inches
Legs	5	2.5 to 3 ft., 12 x12 inches
Diagonal	2	12.5 ft., 2 x 12 inches
Guard timbers	2	23.5 ft., 4 x 8 inches

Trestle longitudinal braces	4	9 ft., 12 x 12 inches
Brace retainers	4	2.5 ft., 2 x 12 inches
	2	3 ft., 2 x 12 inches

Lots of nut-bolt-washer (NBW) castings, rails, spikes, tie plates if desired!

**Suggested Tools**

Scalpel or X-Acto with #11 blade(s), razor saw, straight-edge, 90 degree inside corner angle

Sandpaper and/or sanding block, small spring clamps (clothes pins)

Cyanoacrylate adhesive, wood glue, styrene solvent glue

Gluing weights, tweezers, pin vise & drill bits, Dremel tools

**Where:** Knights of Columbus Hall, 3702 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax, Virginia. Come around back of the church; your GPS may take you to the front of the church. So make sure you look. More on our website, including a map and the original trestle article: <http://potomac-nmra.org/PDnewsite/Clinics/AP%20Structures%20Aug%2020,%202022%20Midget%20trestle.pdf>

**Wanted Urgently: Layout Open House Coordinator(s)**

While this position might be just one person as in the past, the Board is also open to the possibility of this being two persons working together to recruit volunteers to host open house visits of their model railroad layouts. The coordinator(s) will work to schedule these events in conjunction with the Editor of the *Potomac Flyer* and the Webmaster to ensure advance promotion of the dates and locations to maximize attendance.

Also required is close coordination with the Board of Directors as it develops in-person clinics to try and schedule open houses after clinics to provide a good day's value to our members.

For further information or to volunteer, please contact any member of the Potomac Division Board of Directors.

**This is essential for our planned resumption of open houses!**

## Report: Master Builder-Cars Workshop at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Fairfax, Virginia

Article by Martin Brechbiel, MMR, Photos by Jerry Stanley

Members met at the Knights of Columbus Hall for two workshop sessions focusing on the Achievement Program Master Builder-Cars certificate. While there was no expectation that anyone would actually build and complete a car during these two sessions, what was expected was that members would be gathering to have some fun building their projects in a collective, social environment. Furthermore, the consumption of donuts was involved and for some a prerequisite. (The identities of the guilty are being kept secret.) This was not only a new activity for the Potomac Division, but also a new venue that was brought to us by **Tim Tilson** to whom we express our sincere thanks. This meeting hall is everything that an NMRA division could ask for in just about every dimension.

The first session was held on May 14 and we had a small group of enthusiastic model builders attend. **Ernie Little**, MMR, was on hand to address questions pertaining to construction with styrene. **Martin Brechbiel**, MMR, (photo below) was there with a storage



tub of tools and supplies to address construction with wood and other materials, and promptly, after fortification, started construction of two wood cars. **Jerry Stanley** was working on a styrene passenger car.



**Ken Wilson** (photo above right) set up and worked on a specific prototype styrene reefer car. He had extensive research and plans and was looking for input on how to address various details. This was a complex build! Also on hand was **John Berg**. He brought another car kit for which he was looking for guidance on building. While there, John also offered to share his layout with the Division and noted that he lived a very short trek down the road from the Knights of Columbus Hall. We made note of that lovely offer and planned to coordinate that visit with the second session of these two workshops.

Our second session was held on a rainy June 11 and was slightly better attended. Again, we were properly fortified with donuts to inspire outstanding building practices. As at the first session, **Martin Brechbiel** brought a storage tub of tools and supplies and one

finished car that he had started during the session on May 14 (to be a subject of a future article in *The Flyer*). He also brought the nearly completed second car. Rather than spend the morning finishing that car, he promptly started another car frame. **Jerry Stanley** returned and was again working on the styrene passenger car, making good progress. **Ken Wilson** was driving forward on his styrene scratchbuild of that



specific prototype reefer car. He made a very important point regarding thinking ahead in planning out the order of the build so as to not get boxed into a corner by structure and details. He also noted that the high-end brass model that he was **not** investing in actually lacked some critical details and that others were simply incorrect compared to prototype photos. Those prototype photos will get you every time! **Michael Fleming (photo left)** joined us as well with another passenger car project that involved considerable kit-bashing to create a specific prototype. **John Berg and son (photo above right)** were also at a table working through that same kit from May 14. The polite consensus on this day was that the instructions were “lacking” in clarity.

After lunch, we all trundled up the road to John’s home and visited his layout ([photos on page 36.](#)) Overall, these were two very good days, working and conversing with like-minded modelers while building model trains. A third session on August 20 is shifting to the Achievement Program for Master Builder-

Structures to address the required element for a bridge. **Kurt Thompson, MMR**, is going to present a hands-on, build-along clinic for a small trestle bridge that will meet the AP requirement. More on this, including a list of supplies, can be found in *The Flyer* ([see page 5](#)). Plan now to be there!

\*\*\*\*\*



## **MER Convention Oct. 20-23 Registration Now Open**

Online registration for the **CAROLINA SPECIAL** in Charlotte, North Carolina is now open. Note that early registration closes August 31, 2022 (saves you \$10). Online registration closes October 6, 2022 (saves you \$5). Registration at the door is \$60. For all of the above, if you are not an NMRA member, you may register and attend for an additional \$20. The registration page is also where you register for 'extra fare' options for the convention.

To register online, use the following link: [MER 2022 Online Registration](#) .

When you complete your registration information, you will be directed to the payment page. Please read carefully the instructions about completely filling out the registration information and payment. Questions or issues should be directed to the MER Convention Registrar ([mer-registrar@mer-nmra.com](mailto:mer-registrar@mer-nmra.com)). Once you have completed payment, you should be directed back to the registration form. From there you can go back to our convention home page.

Note that if you need to make an addition to your registration, use the link above and be sure to check the box that indicates that this is a change to the previously submitted registration.

For those of you who wish to register by mail, please download the [registration form at this link](#) and follow the submission instructions contained in it.

\*\*\*\*\*

# The Potomac Division Challenges: Looking Forward and Looking Back

by Alex Belida, MMR, Senior Assistant Superintendent & *Flyer* Editor

I'm gratified with the response our membership has had to showcasing their modeling skills and talents in our Potomac Division Challenges.

Since we launched these just over a year ago, over 50 individual members have participated in one or more of the seven Challenges held. The largest participation was for **Layouts**, spread out over two issues, with 25 members sharing detailed descriptions and compelling photos.

The next most popular, not surprisingly, was our **Motive Power** Challenge, which drew 22 participants, some with more than one engine.

Favorite **Rolling Stock** brought in 15 submissions, **Water Features** 14, **Trackside Structures** 13 and **Landscape Features** (non-water) yielded 12. This issue's **Hometown** Challenge ([starting on page 12](#)) has received 12 submissions, which is still satisfying considering the start of summer, with vacation travel and increased outdoor (non-modeling) activity as well as the easing of COVID concerns.

I want to personally thank all those members who have contributed and all those who are maybe just waiting for the right category. Remember: You don't have to be an Master Model Railroader to take part. We'd like to hear from all our members. Be bold. Share. (And if you're not a member, submit anyway and think about joining!)

With that in mind, let me announce our next two Challenges.

For our **October-November** issue, we want to see your favorite **Passenger Car, Combine or RPO**. The deadline for sending in your photos and a short text describing the car (including scale) is September 10th.

For the **December 2022-January 2023** *Flyer*, send in photos and texts about your favorite **Maintenance of Way (MoW) cars or Cabooses**. Deadline: November 10th.

Send your submissions to: [Potomac-Flyer@potomac-nmra.org](mailto:Potomac-Flyer@potomac-nmra.org)

Those next two Challenges are locked in. If you have a suggestion for a future Challenge, please send it to the *Flyer*. Possible future topics that have already been suggested for 2023 include:

- Scene with a crane, a loading dock or engine facilities
- Mini-scenes with people and/or animals, or any scene that tells a story
- Favorite building sign or billboard

- Favorite station, passenger or freight
- Non-railroad scene: field, barn, store, forest, road, etc.

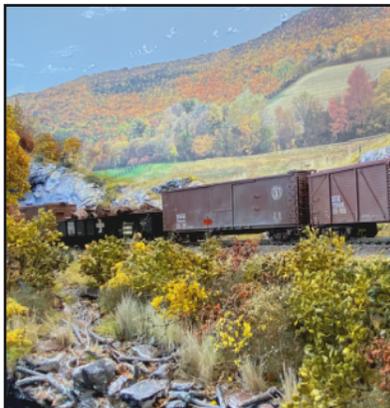
Send your suggestions to the *Flyer* email address noted above. You can also send in “votes” for your favorite entry in any of the Challenges. Your previous favorites are shown here:



Martin Brechbiel’s Pickle Car, Bernie Kempinski’s Conductor Car (photo above right) and Ernie Little’s Tobacco Car shared favorite honors in our Rolling Stock Challenge.

The undisputed winner of our Motive Power Challenge was Douglas Kirkpatrick’s W&OD Freight Motor #26. (Photo above left)

The favorite choice of members for our Landscape Features Challenge was Lee Stoermer’s Amish Countryside. (Photo right)



And Mark Gionet took favorite honors for his *Not All Water Is Open* submission in the Water Features Challenge in our last issue. (Photo left)

Thanks to all for sharing.

P.S. You can view all previous Challenge submissions at:

<http://potomac-nmra.org/PDnewsite/Main/Potomac%20Division%20Challenges.php>



# The Hometown Challenge

*Editor's Note: In our last issue, we asked members of the Potomac Division to share images and stories of how they incorporated memories of their hometowns into their layouts. Here is how they responded. The items appear in the order received. Texts and photos are by the authors unless otherwise noted.*

## 1. John Paganoni's Montville, Connecticut



Here is one of my favorite hometown scenes. It shows three places in Montville, Connecticut: Radgowski's grocery, Pistol Pete's Tavern, and Vic's restaurant. These are all scratch built from styrene. Photos were used to draw plans. Pistol Pete's and Vic's have lighting and interior detail. Vic's was a favorite place on Friday evenings in the 1950's for a gathering of the gang for the best "grinders" ever made ("grinders" are called "subs" elsewhere in the nation, but the oddity here is that a U.S. Navy Submarine Base is just seven miles down the river. I'll never know why they weren't

called "subs" in the local area). After a "grinder and a coke" we'd all head out for the "hop" at the Salem Firehouse.

Most of the structures and scenes on my layout were built from my fondest memories of the late 1940's and 1950's. Previous issues of the *Flyer* have included photos of Joe Perringer's Garage, Doyle Sand & Gravel and the Montville station.



Here is a picture of a scratch built model of our house on Maple Avenue in Montville. I could see the end of the Central Vermont Palmertown Branch from our yard. the Branch ended at the Robertson Paper Box Co.

Sadly, the house is now gone with just about every other house in the area. Also, the Palmertown Branch was abandoned in the early 1980's due to a trestle washout. So all of this is now a memory and I'm glad I modeled these treasures from the past and have photos that were a great help in the modeling process--plus pleasant prototype memories of all that I have modeled. I recently sent some photos to my older sister who lives in Florida so she can also let her mind wander back to yesteryear. The poor lady is suffering from cancer, so these photos have brought her some happiness.

**John Paganoni, MMR**

## 2. Nicholas Kalis' Queens, New York



These photos depict Queens in the 1960s. With my first real job, I would drive past this industrial/warehouse corridor in Long Island City in the 1970s. I also recall Mr. Peknic taking me and my best friend Chris for his driving lessons in those deserted streets on Sundays.

The scenes are from my HO scale Long Island Rail Road Lower Montauk Branch that was on the cover of the September 2007 *Railroad Model Craftsman*.





This area is now sprouting gleaming high rise glass shrouded residential buildings.  
*Nick Kalis*



### 3. Alex Belida's Newsroom



As a journalist who grew up in a mobile Air Force family, and then in my adult life lived on three continents, moving regularly, I'd say I was most at home in a newsroom. So once I retired and started building a late 1890s Nevada layout for my fictional Eureka and South Pass Railroad, I had to have some sort of a news presence. The photo above shows the original small office of the *Eureka Gazette* on the right (a Rusty Rails resin casting) and its future home under construction on the left (a Wild West Scale Models kit). In the fictional history I have written about my layout, my wife Pat, another retired journalist, is the Editor and Publisher of the *Gazette* and I am one of her minions. (I have enough work handling *The Flyer*. And I'm still looking for an eventual successor! [Contact me.](#)) **Alex Belida, MMR**

## 4. Mat Thompson's Farmhouse & Bakery



I grew up in farm and ranch country in Oregon. Farmhouses like this were typical. The model is HO scale, scratchbuilt, inspired by an article in *Mainline Modeler*. I think the prototype was in Illinois but I have seen houses like it all across the nation.

Fred Meyer is a chain of stores in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska. Started in 1931, they were the Walmart of small towns across the area long before Walmart was ever known. It was the place to buy groceries, nails, blue jeans, and records (remember them?) The chain merged with Kroger in the 1990s but stores are still branded as Fred Meyer. My building is an imagined company bakery where products would be prepared and wrapped and then shipped out to area stores around Portland, Oregon.

**Mat Thompson, MMR**



## 5. John Swanson's Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania



*It's just after 10:30 on a clear February 2<sup>nd</sup> as the northbound Train 6604 led by K4s 5366 pulls into the Punxsutawney, PA station. The groundhog has already had his "time in the spotlight" so to speak, and the locals are taking advantage of a rare sunny winter day.*

The above is a totally fictitious scene on John Swanson's Pennsylvania Railroad Cresson Branch. John was born and raised in Punxsutawney, PA and graduated high school with his wife, sweetheart at the time, Connie. The Cresson Branch ran between Cresson, PA and Punxsutawney during the early to mid-twentieth century, and although primarily a coal hauler, John has built his version of the branch to be more freight diverse. Thanks to some friends, this version of Punxsy has a monument to the world-famous rodent! **John Swanson**

**No joke. It's here. Digital**

But you must be registered  
on the [nmra.org](http://nmra.org) website

**nmra**  
magazine 

## 6. Brian Sheron's Greenlawn, New York Station



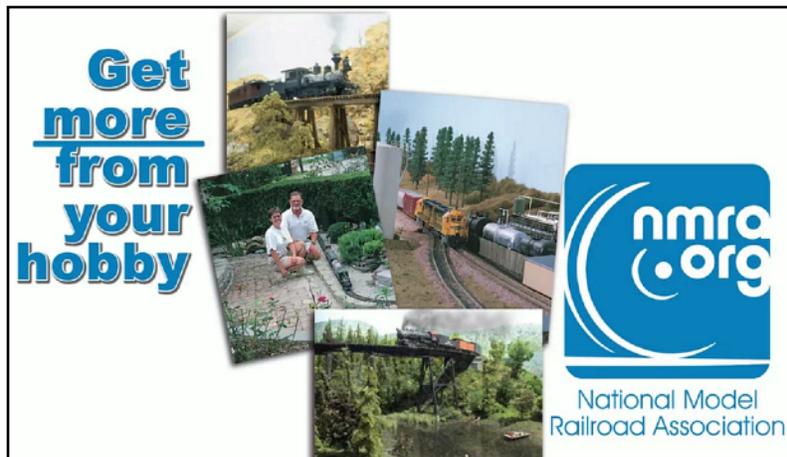
I grew up about two miles from the village of Greenlawn, New York (on the north shore of Long Island). The station there was the one we always took whenever we went into New York City, and I would pass it every day on my way to and from high school. I model Greenlawn on my layout. For the longest time, the station I used there was simply the standard plastic Atlas train station. A few years ago, I came across a kit of a train station that was a dead ringer for the station in Greenlawn. I bought and built it and upgraded the entire station area for the new Greenlawn station. The station looked pretty much the same in the 1960's when I was in high school, and looks about the same today, except they put raised passenger platforms on each side of the tracks. *Brian Sheron, MMR*



## 7. Doug Kirkpatrick's Ice Cream Truck



This photo captures the moment when the ice cream truck came down the street with bells ringing. 25 cents could buy you almost anything on the truck. The only problem was if the truck came too close to dinner time, I could not talk mom into any money. I grew up outside of Annapolis on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. But later in life our family spent summer vacations in both West Virginia and the hills of Virginia. That's why a N&W J-Class is running behind my Vacation house. *Doug Kirkpatrick, MMR*

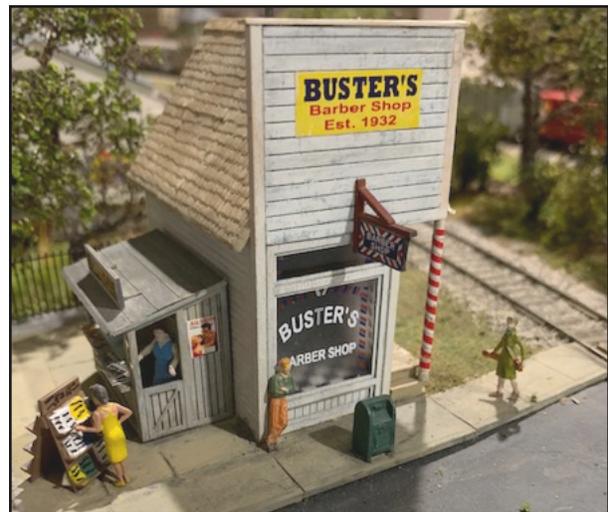


## 8. Frank Benenati's Church & Barber Shop



My hometown is Medford, Massachusetts. There was a Medford siding on the Western Maryland Railroad so I named a town on my Maryland Junction Railroad Medford. I attended St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church and my boyhood nickname was Buster. The church is a BTS kit. I added an interior to it.

Buster's barber shop ([photo below](#)) is part of a Bar Mills kit. *Frank Benenati*



## 9. Brian Kelly's West Virginia Mining Communities



Here are two mining communities on my HO scale C&O Kanawha Sub-Division layout. Neither is my hometown, but they are someone's hometowns. The photo (left) is of the miner's houses at Leewood, WV. These were built from Keystone Locomotive Works kits. The photo (bottom left) is an overhead shot of the mining community at Red Warrior, WV. The larger supervisor's house was built from a BTS kit.



The other miners' houses were built from Blair Line kits. **Brian Kelly**

*Editor's Note: Brian's layout is featured in Great Model Railroads 2023. Old photos of his layout can be seen at: <http://newriversub.8m.net/pages/BKelly.html>*

## 10. Bob Rodriguez's Sheppardsfield, Pennsylvania



Sheppardsfield is a small town situated 12 miles west of Karthaus, Pennsylvania on Bob Rodriguez's free-lance Nickel City Line Railroad. The town is built along three curved tracks in the Alleghany Mountains and is a great spot for rail fans to see lots of train action in both directions. Numerous freight, coal, and passenger trains frequent Sheppardsfield daily. Several small industries are served off the main line. The town was inspired by the real town of Saluda, North Carolina which sits at the top of the famous Saluda Grade and is also built along a curved rail line which was part of Norfolk Southern but has now been abandoned. **Bob Rodriguez**



## 11. Martin Brechbiel's Lemasters



The south end of Lemasters on my layout is where the grain elevator is located. While not accurate, the model serves to capture the spirit of a prominent structure. And while I never lived in Lemasters, the number of times I've been through this town over the past 60 years is a very large number. When I was young, the train still came up this branch to serve the grain elevator. So, to connect this further to living in the area, I found a photo of an actual sign for crop insurance from an insurance company in Greencastle, a nearby town that I had lived in on and off, where my grandparents and other family lived as well. The train also came into the end of Greencastle where I lived and the remains of the Cumberland Valley Railroad line that at one time passed through town could still be seen then. It's all gone now, but the grain elevator in Lemasters continues on in business. **Martin Brechbiel, MMR**

*Editor's Note: There's more on Lemasters on [Page 26!](#)*

## 12. Chris Jones' Neighborhood



This is a small neighborhood on my layout, containing about 10 houses, adjacent to the downtown area. One of the main rail lines runs around the neighborhood. This was inspired by the small town I grew up in, Havre de Grace, MD. **Chris Jones**

## A Visit to “North” Lemasters

Photo Essay by Martin Brechbiel, MMR

We’ll make a brief visit to “North” Lemasters. It’s termed “north” out of convenience, as Lemasters, Pennsylvania is little more than a good-sized village that once was served by the South Mountain branch of the Cumberland Valley Railroad. A large grain elevator still exists. A century ago, it was served by at least three tracks, with a through track to the industrious town of Mercersburg, before proceeding north to the end of the line in Richmond Furnace. It’s almost all gone now, but on my layout, a version of Lemasters lives on. We’ll look in first on the opposite end from the grain elevator.



A very large ornate house dominates the scene ([photo above](#)). No doubt this is owned by one of the more successful residents of Lemasters. There seems to be something taking place at the church, and yes, the iceman cometh with a delivery for the icobox. We need to look in a little closer here. Mind the crows!

Yes, there is action going on over by the church, where the church ladies are supervising the minister on the delivery of the new piano. Gamble’s Supplies does

look to be having a busy day, with deliveries going towards the grain elevator in the distance. There's also something of a hubbub at that extravagant large house. Looks like the mayor is in a bit of a meeting with the owner who, judging by the trunks out by the street, has just returned from a long journey (photo below).



As we discretely swing our point of view about a bit, we find that this large home is, in fact, The Grace L. Ferguson Home for Wayward Girls and Finishing School (Photo bottom). Right behind the sign on the wall, a purple martin birdhouse rests on a post. Such birdhouses were common at one time in this part of the state. The lady of the house

does seem to have a rather nice car as well!



Moving in a bit (don't spook those horses!), we see that this is indeed the lady of the house, Grace L. Ferguson, who might seem to be, at minimum, a bit of an eccentric, or more that that if one is inclined to speculate. She seems to be quite engaged in a philosophical debate with the mayor, who seems to have been graced with donations from several low

flying crows! (I did note that you were to mind the crows!) Apparently she has just returned from a lengthy trip touring Europe and she has apparently acquired a white poodle. The iceman seems to have paused in his delivery to capture some of the



conversation ([Photo left](#)).

As we pan back and move down the street a bit, we can see the lady of the house's maid, Collette. She is patiently waiting on the porch for the conversation to end before coming to the aid of her mistress and her luggage. It seems from this angle that the iceman is, perhaps, more taken with her than that conversation ([Photo bottom](#)).



And as we begin to depart Lemasters, by rail of course, we find ourselves coming around to the back of the school. Here we are greeted, from the small rail-closed back porch ([Photo next page](#)), by one of the students, Abigail. Another student can be seen under the large tree in the back gardens. The coal boxes and

stacks of wood provide fuel for the kitchen addition to the back of this house.

Lastly, as we pull back to our aerial vantage point, we can see Jeeves on the back step entrance to the kitchen. Some of the already-delivered ice is waiting to be

carried in to the ice box, as well as the last block of ice that has been delayed at the front of the house. And now we can better see another finishing school student, Susanne, apparently a naturalist, standing under the large tree in the back gardens. (Photo below).



At this point we conclude our brief visit to Lemasters and take our leave until the next time we visit another part of the village.

-----

**Martin Brechbiel**, MMR, is the Potomac Division Superintendent. His O scale layout models the South Mountain Branch of the Cumberland Valley Railroad.

# Resurrecting An Old Kit

Article and Photos by Alex Belida, MMR



Many, many years ago, when Ambroid models were still made and sold in hobby shops, I picked up their version of a B&M snow plow. I was simply enamored with the shape of the car and the challenge of building my first wooden car kit.

I assembled most of the body, even adding hand grabs and painting parts of it. But that's where I abandoned the project. Try as I might, I couldn't handle the part where you had to use an odd-shaped paper template to cut some fragile scribed stripwood to form the main front plow blade. I just couldn't do it. And so it was that the kit was stored away as I moved on with my life, plow-less.

This year, decades later, I decide to resurrect the model (photo right). It was in the basement in a cabinet holding my childhood trains. When I opened the box, I could see that it had started to come apart as the ancient glue holding together the portions I had assembled failed, which was OK by me as I needed a new approach to making that main plow.



I had an idea. Rather than use that old stripwood, I had an empty soft metal tube of French hand cream I'd try. I cut the tube open, flattened it and then cut small pieces to fit it in the space for the plow (photo left). I used my fingers to push and mold the pieces into place, leaving extra material extending beyond the sides and the front. Once I was satisfied that they fit the way they were supposed to, I snipped off the excess metal.



To cover the center where the two halves of the new metal blades met and rested on a solid wooden form, I cut yet another

long, narrow piece from the metal tube, bent it in half and glued it over the joint.

Although I had flattened the metal, there were still some small irregularities which gave the plow a well-used look. I painted the whole car, including the plow, with Brunswick Green (Scalecoat), which appears almost black ([photo below](#)). I added some rust streaks on the new blade as well as on other parts of the car.



In re-assembling the model, I discovered the original cupola had fallen apart and was broken in several places. Fortunately I had an old plastic caboosé dating back to one of my first childhood model train sets. I removed the cupola from that car, did some trimming, added window glazing and installed it in place on the Ambroid plow.

Having admired **Jim Novaco's** Ambroid snow plow in *The Flyer's* Rolling Stock Challenge issue [Oct.-Nov. 2021, p. 21], I decided I, too, needed a headlight up top in front of the new cupola. I ordered a Cal Scale "Old Style" Steam Loco Headlight (#190-203), painted it rust brown, drilled a small hole in the roof of the plow for the lamp's post and installed it ([photo next page](#)).



The final touches were applying decals for my Eureka and South Pass Railroad and putting an arch bar truck (TMW-103) in the visible rear truck position. (The front truck is completely shielded by the sides of the plow.)

Then I did some additional weathering with Pan Pastels and Doc O'Brien's powders and placed it in my layout's rail yard with a couple other Maintenance of Way (MoW) cars.

Unlike Jim, I haven't installed an extended front coupler. But Jim kindly sent me instructions on how to do it – a project for a future day.

—

Alex Belida, MMR, is the Editor and Publisher of *The Potomac Flyer* and Senior Assistant Superintendent of the Potomac Division. His HO scale Eureka and South Pass Railroad is a mining and logging operation based in Nevada in the 1890s.

## **The Potomac Division Website: Did You Know?**

The Potomac Division website is loaded with useful information. Members should check it often for the latest news as well as updates on events like our clinics, workshops and layout open houses. There's also a whole archive of past clinics, a list of NMRA modeling resources and a library of previous issues of *The Potomac Flyer*. Bookmark this link if you haven't done so already:

<http://potomac-nmra.org/PDnewsite/Main/Home.php>

# HOSwap

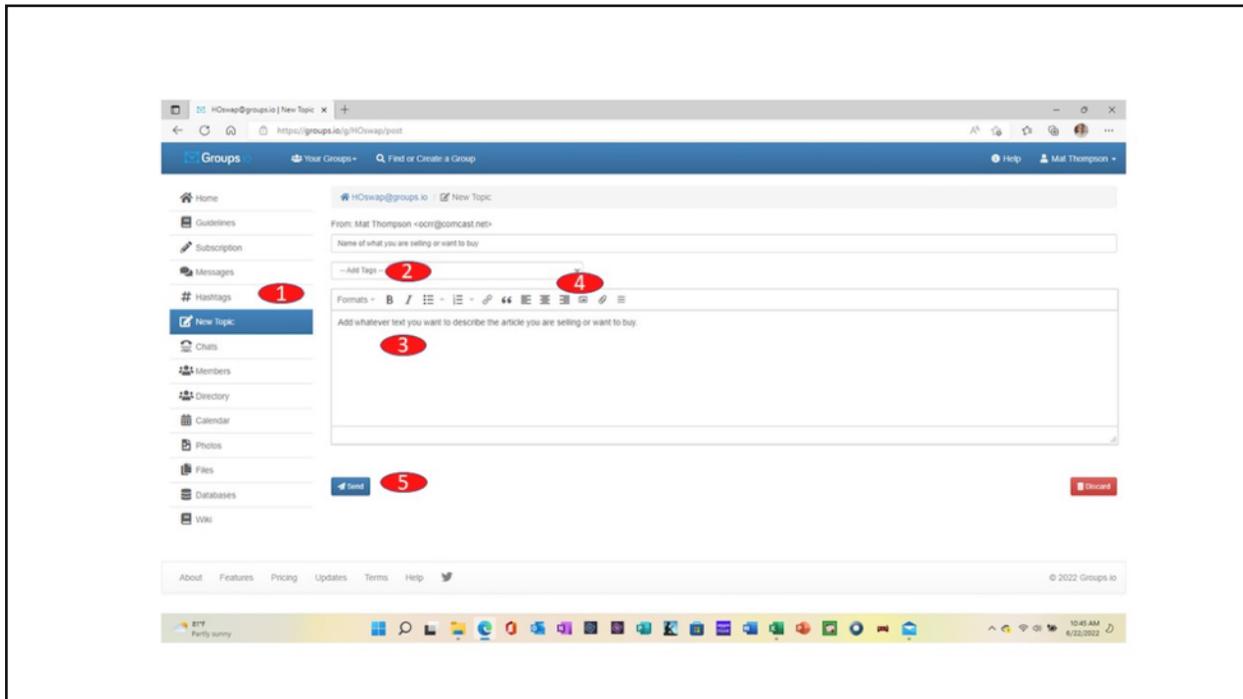
by Mat Thompson, MMR



If you are an HO modeler and have items you want to sell or buy, <https://groups.io/g/HOSwap> may be the site for you. While the title is HOswap, the site does allow postings of electronics, DCC equipment, books, and other model railroading items, so modelers in other scales may also find it useful.

HOSwap is free. Go to the site and sign up. Within a day or two you will receive a notice confirming that you are now a group member and can both reply to messages on the site and post your own.

Posting is easy.



- Step 1: Select **New Topic** and you will see the screen above.
- Step 2: Add a title for the item or items you want to sell or buy.
- Step 3: Describe the items as fully as you wish. If you are selling items, be sure to add the price and shipping charges.

- Step 4: If you have pictures, you can insert them by selecting the picture icon and following the simple instructions.
- Step 5: When you are satisfied with your message, select **Send**. You will get a new message saying that your message will be posted after a moderator's review, which normally happens within a few hours.

If you want to buy an item or have questions, that's also simple. Below the item listing select **Reply**. You will have a choice of **Reply to Author** or **Reply to Group**. Normally, you will reply to the author.

Once the author replies, everything is between the two of you - price, payment method, shipping, and any negotiations. Think of it as an internet garage sale. The moderators are not involved and HOswap does not charge fees. That's good but that also means it is up to you to exercise the diligence you think is needed.

Like all groups.io sites, you have a subscription choice of receiving messages as they are posted or as a daily summary. You can also choose not to receive messages and only read them when you go to the site. My experience is that many subscribers do choose to get messages as they are posted because things can go rapidly, often within minutes of being posted. So, if you are seriously looking for something you may want to choose the immediate message option.

## Railroad Photographs



Decorate your layout room with color prints of  
engines and other railroad equipment!

3 sizes available  
See the selection at:

<https://positivepix.net/photos/>

For more information, contact Norman Reid

[cobblermtnpres@gmail.com](mailto:cobblermtnpres@gmail.com)

## Achievement Program Report

by Mat Thompson, MMR, Potomac Division AP Coordinator

No certificates to announce in this issue, but several Potomac members are working on various Achievement Program tasks.

Martin Brechbiel, with Ernie Little's help, has hosted car building sessions in Fairfax.



Another group consisting of **Pete LaGuardia**, **Bob Rodriguez**, and **Rich Steinmann** has been working together to scratchbuild cars. Bob and Pete ([photo above](#)) are using the instructions written for a craftsman wood kit to build their versions in styrene. Here are the underbodies of the two cars Rich is building ([photo left](#)).

On another topic, you don't need a layout to earn Master Model Railroader recognition.

The requirement is to earn certificates in at least seven categories to include at least one from each of the four areas shown below. None of the categories highlighted in **green** need to be judged on your model railroad. **Red** can be done on your layout or a club or a friend's layout

**Chief Dispatcher** credit can be earned on your own layout if others sign off on the hours and tasks. However, most people earn credit on other layouts because it is hard to both host and operate during sessions on your own layout.

For **Prototype Models** you build a model scene based on a prototype photograph. The scene can be built on a layout, but it is common and fully acceptable that the scene be built as a diorama.

**Scenery, Civil, and Electrical** certificates can be earned for work on a club layout or on a friend's railroad. The key point is that you must be the one who performs the required tasks. For instance, for Civil, in HO scale, you, the individual modeler, must build 50 linear feet of track with at least six specific features. It can't be a team effort, but other than that, it makes no difference where you do the work.

#### **MODEL RAILROAD EQUIPMENT:**

**Master Builder - Motive Power**

**Master Builder - Cars**

#### **SETTINGS:**

**Master Builder - Structures**

**Master Builder - Scenery**

**Master Builder - Prototype Models**

#### **ENGINEERING AND OPERATION:**

**Model Railroad Engineer - Civil**

**Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical**

**Chief Dispatcher**

#### **SERVICE TO THE HOBBY:**

**Association Official**

**Association Volunteer**

**Model Railroad Author**

\*\*\*\*\*

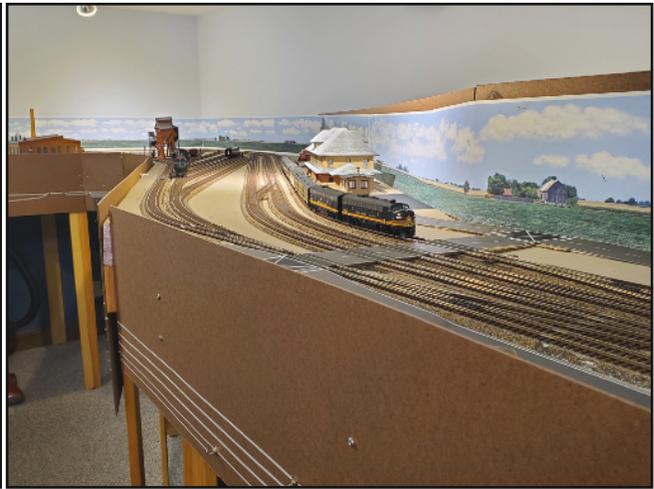
# Visiting John Berg's Layout

Photos by Jerry Stanley



What an entry to the railroad room! Tracks on the floor!







\*\*\*\*\*



# Paymaster's Report

by Jerry Stanley, Potomac Division Paymaster

1. Checking account (beginning balance)	\$5792.17
2. Cash on Hand \$25 coffee	\$25.00
3. Total assets as of 6/30/2022 (end balance)	<u>\$5817.17</u>
4. Deposits by date	
a) no deposits made	
5. Total Deposits	\$422.00
6. Individual Deposits	
a) 6.01.22 - \$238.00	
b) 6.13.22 - \$84.00	
c) 6.13.22 - \$100.00	
7. Total Deposits	<u>\$422.00</u>
8. Total payouts	
a) #746 - \$150. KoC Rent	
b) #747 - \$150. KoC Rent	
c) Service charge \$2.00	
9. Total Payouts	<u>\$302.00</u>
10. Checking account balance as of 1/31/2022 (Lines [1+5]-9) =	\$5912.17
11. Total Cash on hand 5/23/2022	\$25.00
12. Total Assets (lines 10+11)	<b>\$5937.17</b>



### **Business Ads:**

If you are interested in advertising in *The Flyer*, please contact the editor at: [Potomac-Flyer@potomac-nmra.org](mailto:Potomac-Flyer@potomac-nmra.org)

Advertising rates for one year (6 issues) are as follows, and must include camera ready art (text, doc/docx, jpeg, pdf, bmp, tiff formats):

Business Card size .....Free for Local Hobby Shops

Quarter Page ad.....\$65

Half Page ad .....\$115

### **Donations?**

If anyone is interested in making a donation to support the activities of the Potomac Division, you can always send a check made out to “Potomac Division NMRA” and mail it to our paymaster, Jerry Stanley, 11552 Hereford Court, Hume Va 22639

### **Have Something to Sell?**

*The Potomac Flyer* will publish brief “for sale” ads from members of the Potomac Division selling items from their personal model railroad layouts or collections at no charge. These will be limited to three lines only, no photographs will be allowed and those using the service must provide a contact email (or phone number) for prospective buyers to contact sellers for full details.

*The Flyer* and the Potomac Division will accept no responsibility for the contents of these ads or any transactions. If you want to post an ad, please send your text to [Potomac-Flyer@potomac-nmra.org](mailto:Potomac-Flyer@potomac-nmra.org) (Please note that any ad texts that exceed the line limit will be subject to editing.)

Remember: This is only for members of the Potomac Division and is not to be used for any commercial ventures, only for model materials from personal layouts that are for sale.

## Calendar of Coming Events

**Saturday August 20<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Clinic 9 AM**

**In Person** - Kurt Thompson, MMR, AP Master Builder-Structures-Bridges Workshop, Knights of Columbus Hall, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, Va.

**Sunday August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Virtual Clinic 3 PM**

Bob Sprague - Deconstructing a Track Plan

**Saturday Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Make and Take Clinic 10 AM**

**In Person** - Nicholas Kalis, Gary Eames - Turning Plastic into Wood in All Scales Inexpensively, Jerry Stanleys Hobby Barn, Hume, Va.

**Sunday Sept. 18, 2022, Virtual Clinic 3 PM - To Be Determined**

**Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Make and Take Clinic 10 AM**

**In Person** - Kate Kalis - Painting a back drop in a train room  
Jerry Stanleys Hobby Barn, Hume, Va.

**Sunday October. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Virtual Clinic 3 PM**

Bob Sprague - The Ma & Pa in HO, design of my layout related to the prototype

**November (5<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>), 2022, Joint MiniCon with James River and Tidewater Divisions; Battlefield Baptist, Warrenton, Va.**

**Sunday December. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Virtual clinic 3 PM**

George Gaige - Adding working headlights to HO scale vehicles

**Need a ride to a clinic? Help with a layout or model? Join a team in your area**

### **Potomac Division Teams:**

#### **Virginia:**

**Arlington County: VACANT** (Please volunteer, contact Jerry Stanley)

Fauquier: Jerry Stanley, 703-595-8081,

Loudoun: Lee Stoermer, 928-580-3209, [leetrains@yahoo.com](mailto:leetrains@yahoo.com)

Prince William: John Paganoni, 703-791-5055, [john.paganoni@comcast.net](mailto:john.paganoni@comcast.net)

Fairfax: Bill Mosteller, 703-272-8190, [wsm@greatdecals.com](mailto:wsm@greatdecals.com)

#### **Maryland:**

Charles County: Dale Latham, 301-645-3055, [dale.latham@verizon.net](mailto:dale.latham@verizon.net)

**Montgomery: VACANT** (Please volunteer, contact Alex Belida, [Sr-Asst-Super@potomac-nmra.org](mailto:Sr-Asst-Super@potomac-nmra.org))

## NMRA Partnership Program!

Model railroad manufacturers are partnering with the NMRA to offer EXCLUSIVE discounts to NMRA members. Current members can log in to [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). At the Member Menu, go to Member Benefits, then the NMRA Partnership Program Page to see who's on the list, discounts offered, and how to order. New Partners are coming on board every month, so check back often.

Here are the current partners:

Bear Creek Model Railroad  
CatzPaw Innovations  
Clever Models LLC  
CMR Products  
Daylight Sales  
Deepwoods Software  
Deluxe Materials  
Digikeijs  
**Dwarvin**  
East Coast Circuits  
**Feight Studios**  
Gatorfoam  
Great Decals!  
Green Frog Productions  
Hot Wire Foam Factory  
K.I.S.S. Method  
LaBelle Woodworking  
LARC Products  
Logic Rail Technologies  
**MAC Rail**  
Micro-Mark  
Mine Mount Models  
Miniprints  
MinuteMan Scale Models  
Model Railroad Benchwork  
Model Train Catalogue  
Modelers Decals & Paint

Motrak Models  
MRC (Model Rectifier Corp)  
Nick and Nora Designs  
**Northlandz**  
NScaleWorks  
Old West Scenery  
Ram Track  
RR-CirKits  
Rusty Stumps  
Scale Model Plans  
Scalecoat Paint  
Scenery Solutions  
Showcase Miniatures  
Team Track Models  
The N Scale Architect  
The Old Depot Gallery  
Tichy Train Group  
Touch of the Brush  
Train Installations  
Train Show, Inc.  
**TRAINZ**  
Trainmasters TV/MRH Store  
TSG Multimedia  
UGEARS  
Unreal Details  
USA Airbrush Supply  
WiFi Model Railroad



# Hobby Shop Business Cards

**Warrenton Hobby Shoppe**



540.347.9212  
 warrentonhobby@gmail.com  
 Find us on Facebook  
 www.warrentonhobby.com

**David Strohmeier**  
 4014 Shady Hollow Ln  
 Gainesville, VA 20155  
 715-790-6639  
 bnso318@icloud.com

Train repairing for over 20 years.  
 MTH trained tech.  
 Repairing many makes and models.

**Toy Trains & Collectibles**



7216 New Market Court  
 Manassas VA 20109  
 toytrainsandcollectibles.com  
 571-379-5497

**Hope & Dan Danielson**  
 dandhtrains@comcast.net

**BUY - SELL - PARTS - SERVICE**

**Blue Mountain Trains**  
 Model Train Sales, Custom Model Railroads & Consulting

**Patrick Bentz**  
 Conductor



7708 Battery Bend Way  
 Montgomery Village,  
 MD 20886

bluemtrains@gmail.com  
 stores.ebay.com/bluemountaintrains 541-792-0411

**Train Depot**  
 ALL SCALES SALES & SERVICE

Trains Bought & Sold  
 New & Used Trains



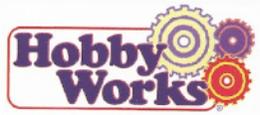
13944 Willard Rd.  
 Suite I  
 Chantilly, VA 20151  
 www.traindepot.biz  
 EBAY STORE: traindepotonline 703-953-3767

**Engine House Hobbies**  
 enginehousehobbies.net

Trains and more serving your creative needs  
 A Releasing Your Unlimited Creativity Application

301-590-0816 ken@enginehousehobbies.net  
 I-A East Diamond Ave Gaithersburg, MD 20877

**Hobby Works**



www.HobbyWorks.com  
 info@hobbyworks.com

**Hobby Works**  
 Federal Plaza  
 12274 G Rockville Pike  
 Rockville, MD 20852  
 (301) 468-6330



**The End of the Line!**