Summer Quarter

May to July 1998

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

The "Heartland Express '98" Set to Roll into Kansas City in July

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It's as annual as the summer crop of corn and tomatoes — this year's NMRA National Convention, the "Heartland Express," is scheduled for the week of July 20 - 26, to be held at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown in Kansas City, MO.

In the planning for several years, the convention will offer a various assortment of clinics, contests, and tours — layout and prototype, industrial and non-rail. In short, as is always the case with an NMRA National, there's something for every member of the family.

Owing to their timeliness and availability, clinics have not yet been formally announced. It is expected that they will, as in years past, cover nearly every known model railroading aspect, from basics to advanced, from generic to specific, presented in most cases by the experts that we've come to recognize in the hobby.

Several prototype, industrial, and railfan tours *have* been published, and have, in many cases, already been sold out to those NMRA members who registered very early — it wasn't too soon, for example, to have registered for the '98 convention while attending the '97 conven-

tion!

It's always a good thing to register early for an event like this, and we suggest you do just that. You can call the Heartland Express registration Hotline at (913) 894-1255, or find a registration form on their website at http://

www.tfs.net/~jashaw/nmra/n98/kcmo.html

Reservations must be made with the Convention Hotel registrar, and <u>NOT</u> with the Marriott Hotel directly.

Transportation discounts are being offered to get you to Kansas City. Delta Air Lines is offering discounted fares, and Amtrak is offering a 10% discount on round-trip fares to Kansas City for travel between July 14th and the 29th. Contact Delta at (1-800) 241-6760, and refer to File Number 105938A. Contact Amtrak at (1-800) USA-RAIL (872-7245) and give the agent Fare Code X-29R-961.

Watch for your NMRA *Bulletin* in the next month or so, which will have up-to-the-minute listings of activities and of vendors at the NMRA National Train Show. Register as early as you can, and let's make a strong Potomac Division showing in Kansas City!

HOME LAYOUT TOURS ARE BACK, AND WE'VE GOT 'EM!

You'll see in this *Flyer* that this quarter, we have four — yes, *four* — Home Layout Tours scheduled for this quarter!

With a million thanks to the single-handed organizational efforts of Potomac Division member Nick Kalis, there will be at least one layout tour offered each month until the rest of the year. In June, we're lucky enough to have two (the second one a week after the first), and as we go to press, there are *three* layouts scheduled for De-

cember!

In fact, Nick has been so devoted to the concept of members hosting members, he's got pledges from Division members to host tours clear through the end of 1999!

You'll find descriptions and maps on pages 2, 7, 8 and 9 of this *Flyer*. Be sure to thank your hosts when attending. (And, when you run in to Nick Kalis at these events, be sure to thank him, too!)

Help Wanted

Editor — for Division publication with small but loyal following. Current Editor must relinquish post. Call (703) 391-0675, or see Page 4 of this Flyer.

POTOMAC DIVISION'S MAY HOME LAYOUT TOUR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 2 AND 3, 1998 JIM AND JOANNE STAPLETON'S IE&W RAILWAY 38200-CHARLES TOWN PIKE, PURCELLVILLE, VA / 540-882-3886

The IE&W Railway is a Gauge 1 outdoor layout. The mainline is 526 feet (1/10 mile) of double track with multiple passing tracks. Operation is live steam or battery power. Although using a common track gauge, typical meets include operation of 1:13, 1:20, 1:22.5, 1:30 and 1:32 scale equipment.

Highlights of the Railway include an elevated ballasted deck, 20 ft. minimum radius curves, about 1700 feet of Code 215 nickel silver track, and a 14 x 30 foot covered steaming bay. Yards are still under construction.

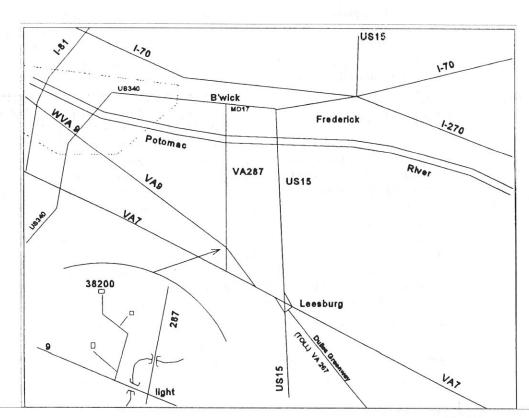
Jim and Joanne traditionally host a cookout on Saturday in the early evening. If you wish to participate, please RSVP as soon as possible to the above phone number. A donation can is part of the food line.

DIRECTIONS (From Washington):

From Maryland, take I-270 to Frederick, then take Rte 340 west to Rte 15 south to Leesburg. From Virginia, take Rte 7 west to Leesburg.

Once you get to Leesburg:

Take Rte 7 west to Rte 9, exit right. Turn right at the bottom of the ramp. It is five miles to the light at Va. 287 (at the bottom of a hill). Go through the light and cross the bridge. The driveway is at the end of the bridge, about 200 feet from the light. Turn right and go to the blue house at the end of the driveway.



The Potomac Division

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

The Potomac Division territory includes: the District of Columbia; Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert Counties in Maryland; Prince William, Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, and Rappahannock Counties in Virginia, as well as the independent cities of the area.

Division Staff Roster ●●●

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THE POTOMAC FLYER

is the quarterly newsletter of the Potomac Division

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Advertising in the Potomac Flyer is available. Per-issue rates are: \$5 for a Business Card (one-eighth page) block; one-fourth page, \$10; one-half page, \$20; full page, \$40. The back cover half-page rate is \$25 and is available on a first come, first served basis. Special rates are available for multi-issue purchases. Contact the editor for rate details and bulk discounts.

Please note new deadline dates!! Submission deadlines for all materials in each issue of the Potomac Flyer are: Spring issue, January 15; Summer issue, April 1; Fall issue, July 1; Winter issue, October 1. Mail all submissions to: Laura Hughes • Editor, Potomac Flyer • 25998 Rose Lane • South Riding, VA 20152-1764. Unless special arrangements are made, no materials will be returned.

Change of Address: Complete the enclosed Application/Change of Address form and send it to: Clerk, Potomac Division • P. O. Box 3204 • Manassas, VA 20108.

Ротомас DIVISION CALENDAR

MAY

2 & 3 - Potomac Division Home Layout Tour Jim & Joanne Stapleton's IE&W Railway (see Page 2)

Purcellville, VA / Call (540) 882-3886 for information

17 - NVNTrak Monthly Setup/Open House

Fairfax Station, VA/Call (703) 978-2946 for information

18 - Northern Virginia Model Railroaders, Inc., Open House W&OD Railroad Station, Vienna, VA

1 pm - 5 pm/Call (703) 938-5157 for information

JUNE

6 - Manassas Railway Festival

Old Town Manassas, VA / 10 am - 4 pm

Call (703) 361-6599 for information

7 - Potomac Division Home Layout Tour

Rick & Melly Wright's Beantown & Buffville Railroad (see Page 7)

Burke, VA / Call (703) 503-3168 for information

13 - Potomac Division Home Layout Tour

Peter & Carol Jobusch's East Serendipity Railway (see Page 8)

Rockville, MD/Call (301) 424-4933 for information

20 - 21 - Great Scale Model Train Show

Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD

9 am - 4 pm Sat, 10 am - 4 pm Sun / Call (410) 730-1036 for info

JULY

11 - Potomac Division Home Layout Tour Evert Beekmann, Jr.'s B & O Railroad (see Page 9)

Winchester, VA / Call (540) 662-6395 for information

11 - 12 - Great American Train Show

Showplace Arena, Upper Marlboro, MD

11 am - 5 pm/call (630) 834-0652 for information

18 - Northern Virginia Model Railroaders, Inc., Open House W&OD Railroad Station, Vienna, VA

1 pm - 5 pm/Call (703) 938-5157 for information

18 - 19 - Greenberg's Great Train, Dollhouse & Toy Show Chantilly Expo Center, Chantilly, VA

11 am - 5 pm Sat, 11 am - 4 pm Sun/call (410)795-7447 for info

20 - 26 - NMRA 1998 National Convention (see Page 1) "Heartland Express," Kansas City, MO

Call (913) 894-1255 for information

Local model railroad clubs may have their events listed here as space permits. Please send a schedule of your activities to Editor, Potomac Flyer, at the address shown at left.

The View from the Keyboard

—Laura Hughes Potomac Flyer Editor

Things change.

Owing to the pressures of my *real* job — you know, the one that puts food on the table and disks in my computer — I've let Superintendent Minnis know that I'm forced to surrender my editorship of the *Potomac Flyer*.

I've never been much of a volunteer, and almost never for something I've never tackled before. When Pete Matthews approached me almost two years ago to take over editorial duties from him, I figured, "Hey, here's my chance to give something back to the hobby." Like everyone who's trying to exit gracefully says, "I've learned a lot." And I'm continuing to learn a lot — mainly, that I can't work a 60-hour, sometimes 6-day, week and still devote adequate time to this publication.

To those of you with whom I've been fortunate enough to meet and correspond, who have offered words of encouragement and congratulation, a very heartfelt "thank you" for that support. To those of you who I may have offended by sins of omission — and you know who you are — please know that I meant nothing personal by not including more of the articles you thought should be in this newsletter.

This is all by way of asking one or more of you to please step forward and volunteer your time, effort and knowledge to help keep the Flyer alive. It's a position that gives you access to both the Division Board of Directors and the membership, and it gives you AP points too (for both Volunteer AND Author awards, I believe)! You can get in touch with ANY of the Board members shown on the masthead on Page 3 — or call me up! I'd be willing and grateful to share what I've learned in the last couple of years, and hopefully this transition can be a smooth and painless one.

So thanks, gentlemen — and ladies, too, I know you're out there — for allowing me the opportunity to give the *Potomac Flyer* my best shot.

That was all I could do

Laura

usiness Car

—Bob Minnis Division Superintendent

The Division's annual meeting/mini-convention was held on March 14. I want to thank the following clinicians who volunteered their time and knowledge: Bill Mosteller, Jim Stapleton, Harvey Heyser, Mat Chibbaro, Paul Morehead and Colin Weiner. An untimely accident (no injuries) prevented Bill Gruber from attending. Twenty-one entries competed in the popular vote contest. See Ken Berthoud's column for more details.

During the business meeting, Clinton Hyde was elected as the Division Clerk. He replaces Pete Matthews who, by now, is unpacking in his new home in Colorado. The other Board members were re-elected. The membership approved the new Bylaws, which now requires Division members to be members of both MER *and* NMRA.

Any one of the three NMRA membership levels (regular, associate or family) is acceptable. Individuals who do not become members can still attend Division activities, but can neither hold office nor vote on business matters. I realize that not everyone will agree with this tri-level membership requirement. What we can agree on is that this hobby is "fun" and we should share the knowledge and enjoy its many facets. Lastly, we need to ensure that America's railroad heritage is passed on to future generations.

As has been mentioned in my past columns and by others in this FLYER, if your organization, club, group, etc. has an event that is of interest to other Division members, please pass this information on to the Editor or Clerk. The more widespread the information, the larger the attendance at your event. Additionally, it lessens the chance of two or more major railroad-related events being scheduled on the same date(s). Such was the case for the Mini-Convention, the NTRAK show at Landmark, and the Winchester show. The limited number of weekends in a year (still only 52) will not allow most events to have exclusive use of any given weekend. At least those making the decisions on schedules will make them with the knowledge of what other events are planned.

In closing, I again want to thank Pete Matthews for his time and dedication to the Division over the past seven-plus years. Pete served as the *Flyer* Editor for over five years and then took on the duties of Division Clerk. The successes of the Division during this time are a direct result of his hard work, railroad knowledge and experience. He will be missed. GOOD LUCK in Colorado and wherever the tracks of life lead you in the future.

chievement Notes

— Ken Berthoud NMRA Achievement Program Representative

Congratulations and a special thanks to all the entrants and judges participating in our Division's Model Contest and merit judging at our Mini-convention in March. We had 21 entries from a different mix of entrants. The overall craftsmanship was excellent, with six models earning merit awards.

Our merit judges and contest officials were Monroe Stewart. Mat Chibbaro, Bill Roman, John Paganoni and Jeff Martello. Many thanks for your fine efforts.

The merit awards were given for the following models: Dick Kafka, Basalt Eating House / Railroad Hotel and Basalt Station; Roy Gurnham, Estep & Sons Lumber Building and Estep & Sons Coal Trestle; Don Watson, Freelance Water Tank and Bobber Caboose.

The popular vote contest is a peer vote where modelers attending the Mini-convention for their favorite models in each of the categories. The results were:

Superintendent's Award — Don Watson for his Freelance Water Tank

Structures — 1st Don Watson -Freelance Water Tank; 2nd Jeff Martello -Backwoods Shack; 3rd Roy Gurnham -Estep & Sons Coal Trestle

Cars — 1st Ken Heinen -Hot Metal Car; 2nd Bill Cox -EBT Wood Boxcar; 3rd Pete Matthews -50' Ribbed Boxcar

Caboose — 1st Don Watson -Bobber Car, 2nd Harry Bacas -B&O Caboose

Favorite Train — 1st Bill Cox -Hon3 Train

Steam Locomotive — 1st Ken Jones -B&O 2-10-2; 2nd Bill Cox -HOn3 Locomotive

Passenger Car — 1st Bill Cox -Hon3 Passenger Car

Diorama — 1st Roy Gurnham -Estep & Sons Diorama: 2nd Evert Beekmann -Access Hatch Cover

Excerpts From the National AP Staff Newsletter

Kitbash Awards

The AP Department is again awarding plaques in the (national) model contest which we call the "AP Kitbash Award" for the highest scoring Merit award winner in passenger cars, freight cars, locomotives, on-line structures. and off-line structures. The rules are few and simple:

- 1. Build a Merit Award-winning model using 40% kit or commercial parts.
- 2. Trucks, couplers, and driving mechanism do not count towards the 40% content of the kit or commercial parts.
- 3. List all the kit or commercial parts and where they are used on the model.
- 4. The model will be judged as part of the regular model contest.
- 5. The highest scoring eligible model in each category will be the winner.

Judging Seminar

A seminar will be conducted at the Kansas City Convention on judging models for contests. The seminar will be open to all potential judges and interested modelers.

ulletin Board

Things for sale, Help Wanted, etc.

Got Something to Sell/Trade? — Just send a brief description of your item(s), along with your name, address, and phone number to: **Bulletin Board,** c/o Laura Hughes, 25998 Rose Lane, South Riding, VA 20152-1764. Or phone in your ad copy to 703-327-2665. Let's get that stuff movin'!

Asbury Model RR Club, Gaithersburg, is looking for a Good Samaritan (who works cheap!) to paint one of our locomotives in CSX Worktrain Orange. We supply decals; no super-detailing required. Also need a painter for a MARC loco in black/silver/red. We supply decals. Amateur work okay — we just don't have anyone who knows how to airbrush! Visit us any Monday night, then decide if you'd like to help. Call Ken Jones, Senior Superintendent, Potomac Division, at (301) 216-5210.

NOTE: Due to space restrictions, we regret that the NVNTrak News and Potomac HO Crew News columns will not appear in this issue. They will return in next quarter's issue.

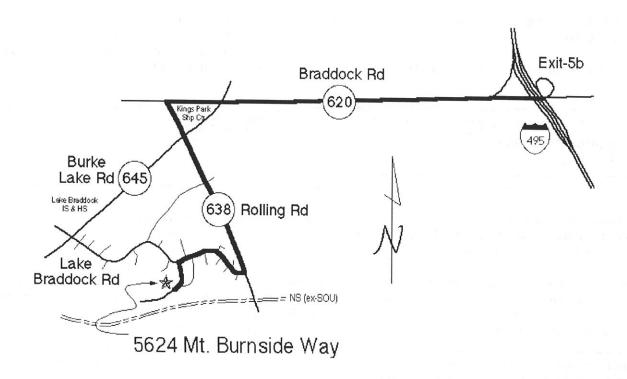
POTOMAC DIVISION'S JUNE HOME LAYOUT TOUR #1 SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1998, 1 P.M. - 5 P.M. RICK & MELLY WRIGHT'S O SCALE BEANTOWN & BUFFVILLE RAILROAD 5624 MT. BURNSIDE WAY, BURKE, VA / 703-503-3168

First visited in February 1997, the Beantown & Buffville (B&B) Railroad is Rick and Melly Wright's freelance O-gauge Hi-Rail layout. Combining the historic legacy of Lionel with today's emphasis on prototype realism and electronic sound systems from a number of manufacturers, the fully-scenicked 22' x 34' layout is designed specifically to handle all O gauge trains manufactured between 1919 and 1998. The track plan features a 112-foot double-track mainline with a 4' x 12' yard and deepwater port facility, and — new for 1998! — 2' x 12' logging railroad switchback based on the prototype at Cass, West Virginia

DIRECTIONS:

From the Beltway (Rte 495), take Exit 5B in Virginia and go west on Braddock Road. Make a soft left turn at Va Rte 645, Burke Lake Road (on the right will then be the Kings Park Shopping Center). Then turn left at light onto Va Rte 638, Rolling Road.

Continue to Lake Braddock Road (next light), where you turn right. Go down five streets to Mt. Burnside Way, and turn left. 5624 is on the right. (A "Bennington '76" battle flag will be flying in front of the house, weather permitting!)



POTOMAC DIVISION'S JUNE HOME LAYOUT TOUR #2 SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1998, 1 P.M. - 5 P.M. PETE & CAROL JOBUSCH'S EAST SERENDIPITY RAILWAY 1097 LARKSPUR TERRACE, ROCKVILLE, MD / 301-424-4933

Pete and Carol Jobusch's East Serendipity garden railway had its roots (no pun intended) in the "Tweetsie"—
the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina narrow-gauge railroad (which is North Carolina's first and oldest theme park). The East Serendipity was dug by hand, and its track has a minimum radius of eleven feet.

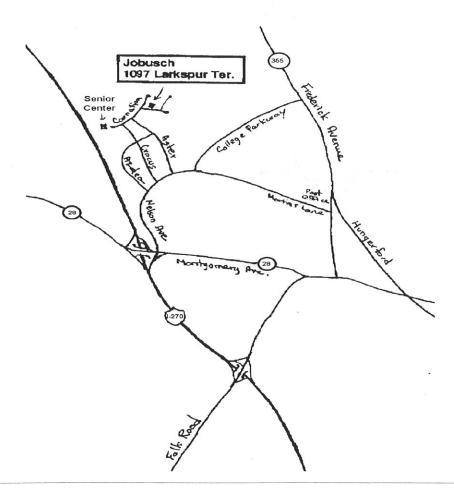
Among its notable points are its 6-foot tunnel at Mount Ajuga, a second loop of track with a bridge crossing a
fishpond, and the collection of original steel sculptures throughout the garden railway itself.

This is, from Pete's description, a multi-scale railroad — capable of G scale and live steam, and variations of
those scales. This will be a "rain-or-shine" home layout tour — if the weather doesn't cooperate, the outdoor
trains can be watched from inside the basement, where the Jobusches also have an HO layout of Märklin trains,
done up as a tinplate layout!

DIRECTIONS:

Go north on I-270 to Exit 6A — Montgomery Avenue, but it really exits onto Nelson Street. Get into the left lane on the exit ramp. DO NOT turn onto Montgomery Avenue at the traffic light — stay on Nelson Street until you reach the first STOP sign at Crocus Drive.

Turn left onto Crocus. Drive to end. Turn right onto Carnation Drive. Drive two blocks. Turn right onto Larkspur Terrace, to the second house on the left (red brick tri-level with almond and black trim).

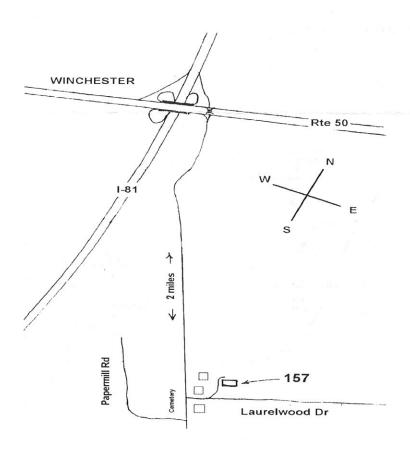


POTOMAC DIVISION'S JULY HOME LAYOUT TOUR SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1998, 1 P.M. - 5 P.M. EVERT BEEKMANN'S FREELANCE HO LAYOUT 157 LAURELWOOD DR., WINCHESTER, VA 22602 / 540-662-6395

Evert Beekmann's HO layout is, by his own admission, freelance, but he says it "leans toward the B&O in the '40s and '50s." It's in the shape of a "C"; the main is dogbone-shaped, with a city and yard at each end. Except for one branchline, all the track is laid and the layout itself is about 50% scenicked. The layout is 11-1/2 feet at its widest, and is 20 feet long.

DIRECTIONS:

Go west on Va. Rte. 50 to Winchester, and make a left at Rte. 522 (before you come to I-81). Go for about two miles to a left turn at Laurelwood Drive (across from a cemetery). The driveway for 157 Laurelwood is on the left, almost immediately after making the turn onto Laurelwood.



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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 Mini-Convention 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 over 10 NMRA Master Model Railroaders in our area, as well as hundreds of other outstanding modelers.

The **Potomac Division** encompasses: Washington, DC; Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties in Maryland; and Arlington. Fairfax. Fauquier. Loudoun, Prince William, and Rappahannock Counties in Virginia, as well as local independent cities. Local residence and MER or NMRA membership are not required for Division membership. Anyone interested in learning more about model railroading, improving their modeling skills, and enjoying the company of fellow model railroaders is invited to join the **Potomac Division**.

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goard columns. (See the current is	ssue of the Potomac Flyer	for examples.)	escribing yourself and your railroading inter	ests for possible inclusio	n in upcoming
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Potomac Division: Dues are \$2 per year. Members receive the quarterly <i>Potomac Flyer.</i> Membership expires on December 31 of the current year. New members joining after November 30 will be enrolled through the end of the following year.		\$			
Iid-Eastern Region: Dues are \$	8 ner vear. Members rec	ceive the himonthly MFI	R Local Renewing members		
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The Division will forward National and Regional dues. Allow 6 - 8 weeks for processing.

Websites of Interest to Potomac Division Members



Just a few new websites this time, of local modeling interest.

Our own Potomac HO Module Crew is going through some changes for the better. Come visit them on-line at: http://members.aol.com/pmchorr01/PMC-Frame.html

We've heard from our friends at **NVNTrak**, who have a brand new website! They now live at: http://www.nvntrak.org

The Prince William Model Railroad Club has also weighed in with a new site. Find them at: http://www.pwmrc.org/

The Gaithersburg Model Railroad Society can be found at: http://mmm.mbhs.edu/~mney/gmrs/index.html

The Northern Virginia Model Railroaders, Inc., has their own website at: http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/6120

And the Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society — hosts of last year's annual Garden Railway Convention in Crystal City — look forward to your visit at: http://gramercy.ios.com/~btolgb/wvmgrs.html

If you stumble on a website that you think would be of interest to your fellow Division members, please share it with us! Send e-mail to: MERPotomac@aol.com

IF YOUR LABEL'S HIGHLIGHTED — THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE!!! Please renew your Potomac Division membership today — at \$2 a year, it's still the best bargain in model railroading!

P. O. Box 3204 • Manassas, VA 20108

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

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