

AUGUST 8TH DIVISION MEET

Article and Photos by Alex Belida MMR (except where noted)

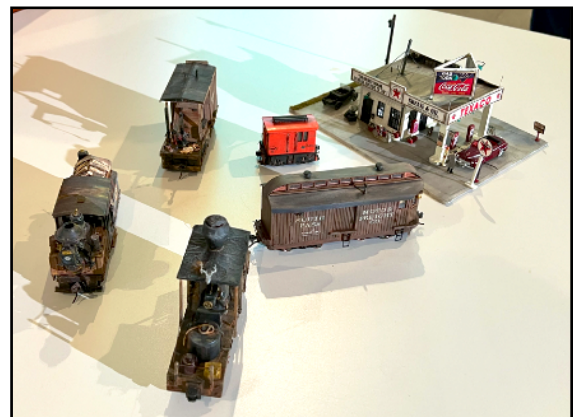
Summer vacations and related obligations led to a Potomac Division meet on August 8th with only a small group of members (photo right) in attendance at the Dranesville Government Center in McLean, Virginia. But the meet proved lively nonetheless with participants enthusiastic and engaged for the program of two more Achievement Program clinics plus a third clinic on the newly-popular topic of micro layouts.



Alex Belida MMR (photo left) led off with his clinic on the Motive Power AP category, asking the audience to examine the requirements closely and then discussing how he advanced from tinkering with an old Roundhouse Climax and making a small GE 23-ton boxcab kit to building the required three Merit Award winning HO scale engines, including a vertical boiler Climax that he scratchbuilt.

Alex displayed the engines so the attendees could examine them closely. (Next to the engines, Lee Stoermer also displayed a gas station he built from a kit but added extra details that enabled him to win a Structures Merit Award (photo below).

Superintendent Ernie Little MMR followed with his clinic on the AP Electrical certificate, outlining the requirements and stressing members should not overread them. He noted, for example, that many of the requirements can be met with commercial electrical components and do not have to be scratchbuilt (photo next page).





After a break for lunch and the distribution of door prizes (books), Senior Assistant Superintendent Greg Cassidy ([photo left](#)) presented his clinic on the making of an On18 micro layout built on a 2'x2' base of pink foam insulation.

The layout depicts an early New Mexico mine with characteristic Southwestern rock formations.

Greg noted various advantages of micro layouts, saying they are relatively inexpensive to make, they can be built more quickly than a full-size layout, and they are easily transportable to meets and shows.

The Dranesville meet included donuts, sandwiches, and other refreshments in the fee charged for attendance.

