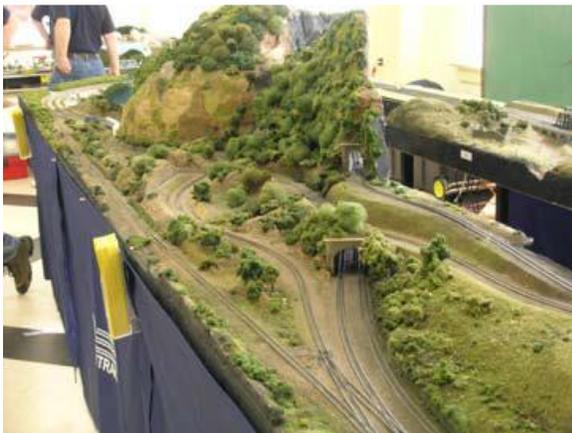


## 2006 Potomac Division Mini Convention

Reported by Marshall Abrams

Eighty-four model railroaders attended the Potomac Division mini-convention on a balmy 68° day, March 11, 2006 at the Emanuel United Methodist Church, Scaggsville, MD. It turned out to be a great day for all.

This was Potomac Division's first attempt at a Minicon in Maryland in quite a few years. Since we have about half of the members living in Maryland it seemed like an appropriate idea. Despite the Board's worries that they would be the only ones in attendance, the attendance was fantastic. Many of the attendees were from the old Mt Clare Division and enjoyed an opportunity to join in.



The layout built by John Glaab complemented his Introduction to Steel Mill Modeling clinic.

There were 11 well-attended clinics:  
Intermediate Resin Casting by John Griffith,  
Painting and Staining Rock and/or Stone Castings by MMR Noll Horan,

Building Trees by Marc Sisk, Operating

Dwarf Signals by Marshall Abrams, Introduction to Steel Mill Modeling by John Glaab, Cranes Around the Railroad by Tom Brodrick, Hands On- Build An Animated Warehouse Roll-Up Door by Bill Day, Two Trains to Towanda by Bill Cox, MRI Software Projects: Panelpro Introduction and DecoderPro - A Tool for Programming Decoders by Dick Bronson, Trestle Bridge Building by

NVNTrack turned out in force. They set up a regular modular layout as well as a TT or Table top layout for the participants enjoyment. During breaks they also conducted mini scenery clinics. Another layout present, the Magarac Steel & Iron, depicted in great detail the workings of a Steel Mill.



Steve Wills, and Basics of DCC and Decoder Installation from Beginning to End by Charles Gregory.

Along the way There was plenty of other activity. The church women made sure there was plenty of good food for us. Six Boy Scouts attended a Railroading Merit Badge class led by David Arday, a registered Railroading Merit Badge counselor. John Drye, Potomac Division Superintendent, gave the boys the Operation Life Saver briefing. Clint Hyde ran a white elephant table. We had our normal model contest and AP judging along the way. Bill Day's model of a Working Coaling Dock with moving chutes, conveyor belt, and sound won the model contest. Bill also won the popular vote contest and received a NMRA Merit Award.

If you missed this years Minicon mark your calendar for next year when we will be back in Virginia. This is one hobby were you get out of it what you put into it. Have fun!

#### **Achievement News from the Minicon** Reported by Ed Price

I would like to thank Bill Roman, for helping to judge the Mini-Con this year. We had one entry this year in the model contest.



Congratulations to Bill Day for winning the Mini-Con model contest this year. His entry of a working Coaling Dock was complete with moving chutes, conveyor belt, and sound. He also won the popular vote contest and received a NMRA Merit Award.