

April 2, 2011 Potomac Division Minicon

Brian W. Sheron



The Potomac Division held its MiniCon Saturday, April 2nd, and the model room was a fairly busy place. There was a total of 10 entries submitted for merit judging, including 8 cars and 2 structures. There was one panel of judges for the cars, and a second panel of judges for the structures. Two panels were necessary because one judge submitted a car for judging, and thus could not judge the cars category, and one judge submitted structures, and thus could not judge in the structures category.

There are 5 judging categories (construction, detail, conformity, finish and lettering, and scratchbuilding). Even with allotting only about 7 minutes of judging time per category, it took, on average, about 30 minutes to judge one car or structure. Thus, it took the judges about five hours to judge all of the entries, with a break only for lunch, the Division business meeting, and Andy Sperandeo's Clinic. Please take some time to look at

the photos of the models submitted that are in this issue.

In addition to the merit judging, there was also a contest with first, second, and third place awards for the models with the highest judging points. The first place winner was Bill Roman's HO scale Western Maryland #2101 Company Service Ice Car. Second place went to Bill Day's HO scale motorized Stahl Coal Tipple. And third place went to Mat Thompson's HO scale Northern Pacific #39538 Box car.

Finally, one of the real highlights of the Convention was when John Janosko, the Mid Eastern Region President awarded Andrew Dodge Master Model Railroader certificate #453. Please be sure to read the separate article on this elsewhere in this issue of "The Flyer. Also, articles will appear not only in "The LOCAL", but also in an upcoming issue of the NMRA magazine. If you see Andrew, be sure to congratulate him on this achievement.



Andrew Dodge (left), receives the plaque officially designating him as Master Model Railroader #453 from MER President John Janosko.

The pictures on this page show a few of the models from Annual Potomac Division MiniCon. Thanks to all who participated by bringing models, or by judging.



Martin Brechbiel showed these two scratchbuilt O scale Interurban work cars.



Bill Day's animated Hulett Unloader was displayed at the MiniCon but you can check it out in action on YouTube. Google "Hulett Unloader NMRA. At the annual NMRA contest in Milwaukee the model won first place, kit structures (judged) and first place, all structures (popular vote) and the Bar Mills Award for the favorite model in the contest."



Mat Thompson entered this HO scale 50-foot Northern Pacific boxcar with a nicely done lumber load.

Minicon 2011

April 2, 2011

St Matthew's United Methodist Church,
8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA
22003

Time	Activity
8:30	Registration
9:00	1st Clinic
10:15	Break
10:30	2nd Clinic
11:45	Lunch & Meeting
1:00	3rd Clinic
2:30	Break and Awards (if judging completed)
2:45	4th Clinic
4:00	Final Announcements

Registration

Registration At-The-Door on April 2

Registration Fee - \$10.00

Celebration of Modelling 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Models Judging, room 209 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Models Display, room 203

If you are bringing a model to be judged or for display,
please contact Brian Sheron at BWSheron@mac.com
or you can call him at 301 349 5754 in the evenings.

White Elephant

The White Elephant sale is an opportunity for members to sell model railroad materials, new and used.

The condition of rolling stock should be obvious. Motive power not in good working condition should be labeled.

The seller sets the price and Potomac Division does Not take a commission

Food Service

Coffee and Donuts will be available in the morning

A variety of Lunch choices will be available at 11:45

Each is being provided by the church Youth Group for a nominal fee

Main Auditorium Activities

8:30am - 4:00pm	Modular Layouts
11:45am - 1:00pm	Lunch & Business Meeting
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Andy Sperandeo - Building and Painting Resin Freight Car Kits
8:30am - 4:00pm	White Elephant Sales

Clinic Tracks

	Track 1 - Room 206	Track 2 - Room 204	Track 3 - Room 201
9:00am	<u>Resin Casting 101 - Part 1</u> (Brechbiel)	<u>Overview of Model Railroad Operations</u> (Abrams)	<u>A Country Boy Moves to the Big City</u> Planning and Building a New Layout (Dolkos)
10:30am	<u>Resin Casting 101 - (continued)</u> (Brechbiel)	<u>Overview of Model Railroad Operations (continued)</u>	<u>Victory Rode the Rails - An Introduction to modeling the</u>

		(Abrams)	<u>Railroads of the Civil War</u> (Kempinski)
1:00pm	<u>Scratchbuilding with Styrene</u> (Hyde)	<u>Andy Sperandeo in the Main Auditorium</u>	<u>Andy Sperandeo</u>
2:45pm	<u>Scratchbuilding with Styrene (continued)</u> (Hyde)	<u>Modeling the Central Vermont - Bridging Williamson Creek</u> (McGuirk)	<u>Designing and (re)building the HO RF&P Doswell Junction</u> (Wolf)

Resin Casting by Martin Brechbiel

A hands-on, take-away resin casting clinic. Okay, you wanted to try resin casting, but haven't gotten around to it, or maybe have been put off by the initial cost to just get started. Here's your chance to test this all out to see if it's something that you want to learn and try to do, and get started buying everything needed to routinely do resin casting.

After the Powerpoint overview presentation for all attendees, we will proceed through to the first part of this clinic with the registered attendees by preparing a mold of a master. I will provide masters of some suitable object in HO scale - participants may use their own master providing it that it will fit in the bottom of a 12 oz. paper cup with at least 1/4" clearance around it, not taller than 1/2", and have a totally flat back surface, and is their own work. The mold needs 24 hours to set up, so we will go through all of the steps to set up a mold for pouring RTV, pour the RTV, and then by the end of the day, you will be able to take your mold home with you. Part 2 of this clinic will be in June with a date and location to be announced.

Extra Fare \$10.00

Overview of Model Railroad Operations by Marshall Abrams

This clinic provides an overview of model railroad operations for those new to the idea of running a model railroad in a manner similar to the way a real railroad runs. It covers such topics as car forwarding systems, traffic control, signalling, operating methods, etc. It also provides a list of further resources that can be obtained. Opportunities to participate in

operating sessions will be arranged for those that complete the clinic.

A Country Boy Moves to The Big City-Planning and Building a New Layout by Paul Dolkos

After modeling rural New Hampshire for 20 years, Paul changed horses and is building a new layout based on Baltimore, MD. He will talk about the prototype basis of the railroad, adapting the sprawling prototype for limited space, present some construction techniques and show views of today's status and acenery.

Victory Rode the Rails - Introduction to Modeling the Railroad of the Civil War by Bernard Kempinski

An introduction to the history, technology, operations, and modeling of the railroads of the American Civil War. Profusely illustrated with maps, prototype, N, HO, O, and G scale model photos.

Scratchbuilding with Styrene by Clint Hyde

Tools, tips, Techniques, and making a small structure with styrene. Probably only in HO. Attendees need to bring their own tools to this session.

Extra Fare \$10.00

Building Resin Freight Car Kits by Andy Sperandeo

For prototypes you can't get in plastic, and for the fun of modeling, this Powerpoint presentation shows how to build a typical HO boxcar kit step by step. It covers tools, adhesives, and materials, and shows examples of several maker's cars.

Modeling the Central Vermont - Bridging Williamson Creek by Marty McGuirk

Starting with a few prototype photos, Marty models a three-span deck girder bridge using cast plaster abutments and piers (produced especially for this project by New England Brownstone). Clinic also covers setting the bridges in the scene, including modeling the landforms, ground covers, and trees.

From Roundy-Round to Proto Freelance: Creating the RF&P Doswell Junction by Norman Wolf

As a relative newbie in the hobby, Norm Wolf shares his journey from creating his first 4' x 8' layout to the current,

in-progress, prototype-based, "round the room" layout. He'll go through some pictures and lessons learned.