

# March 31, 2012 Potomac Division Minicon



## **BOB REID, Photos by the author**

On Saturday March 31st the Potomac and Chesapeake Divisions held a joint minicon at the South Columbia Baptist Church in Columbia Maryland. The church is a wonderful facility. There is easy access from RT 32, and there is ample space for layouts, large clinic rooms and numerous smaller

locations to house other offerings like the model contest and white elephant rooms.

The Registration and White Elephant rooms were abuzz with folks early in the day.

## **Layouts**

Three N scale groups were represented in the layout room. All were of interest to the attendees and were in full operation for most of the day. The Meade Area Railroad Society operated their modular layout and had a functioning TV camera mounted to a specially constructed car that trains followed over the layout. Several large passenger trains were running and I was able to catch a shot of the SP "Daylight" as it crossed the viaduct at one end of the setup.

The T Track N scale group also had an operating layout set up for the attendees. T Track is unique





in that they use standard pre-manufactured track sections and have a standard that was developed in Japan whereby individual modules can be as small as about 10" x 12". This is ideal for modelers with very limited space and makes transport to shows a snap.



One such minimum module is shown at the lower left in the photo to the left.

Here is an overview of their very nicely done setup.

The Baltimore N track group had a large layout with numerous well modeled scenes. This is a well established club that is very active and is often seen at area events. They had a wonderful setup that ran the gamut from city to country with several industrial concentrations in between.

### Contest Models

Three cars and one example of a hand laid crossing were submitted for judging. As you can see from the following photos all were excellent



examples of modeler's craftsmanship. Bill Day submitted three scratch built cars for judging.

Jereon Gerritsen entered this fine example of some hand laid trackwork.

### Clinics

Clinics were offered throughout the day and were very well attended. Fred Lagno offered a wonderful photo essay with many detailed scenes on his home layout. John Teichmoeller presented an intriguing look at the car float operations in Baltimore harbor and David Vaughn presented a look at two-rail O scale and what he's learned preserving heritage layouts. Finally, Marty McGuirk presented a clinic showing how he built a river crossing scene on his Central Vermont layout.

I'm sure you will agree the 2012 Minicon was a fabulous success and we all look forward to the next one!