

James River and Potomac Division Joint Meet November, 6, 2021

Article by Potomac's Jerry Stanley, Photos by Rod Vance of James River

In the midst of COVID in 2020, we started looking to the future and hopefully better times. The very first email sent out to start planning the James River & Potomac Division Joint meet, or MiniCon as some called it, went out on the 23rd of February. With a positive vision, countless hours of hard work and planning, and a whole bunch of volunteers, the James River and the Potomac Divisions held our



Jerry Stanley Speaks to Attendees at Meet



second annual joint meet on November 6th at Battlefield Baptist Church in Warrenton, Va. We had four clinics, two layout tours, an open house at a historically renovated N&W Caboose, with door prizes from NMRA "Partners" and items donated by the James River crew. We also added White Elephant tables. Considering this is our Division's first major event since the start of COVID, the attendance was rather good. We had around fifty members attend the event. Given current climate and health concerns, we counted this as a victory.

The four clinics given this year were by: Ken Wilson on the "N&W Caboose Acquisition and Restoration" project which covered the restoration of the N&W caboose donated by Norfolk Southern in 1995; Marty McGuirk (photo left) on "Modeling an October Scene" which discussed techniques to model a fall scene using color, blending static grass, trees and other scenic materials; John Vogler on "What are Railroad Signals" which reviewed the various methods of signal used by different railroads, signalling history and prototypical practices; and Ed Fischer whose clinic was titled "A Railroad that Never Was and One that Ain't No Mo" which discussed how two railroads ended up in his basement and their history.

Door Prizes

At the conclusion of the clinics, the door prizes were awarded. As each member signed in they were given two tickets with the same number. One ticket went into a can and the other was kept by the attendee. Potomac's Martin Brechbiel, MMR, (not having a ticket in the can) drew the tickets ([photo below](#)) with James River's Jerry Ritter reading the number. Everyone who stayed to the end was able to receive a door prize provided by the James River and our NMRA member partners.

We are so thankful to the NMRA "Partners" who sponsored this event! They are:

Broadway Limited
Scale Trains
Show case miniatures
TSG Multimedia
Bowser
Logic Rail
Team track Models
Don freight Studios
Rix Products
Micro Trains
Lionel
Min Prints
Digikeijs
RR Cirkits Inc
TSG Media
Woodland Scenics



At the conclusion of the joint meet, we passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers for upcoming events in the two divisions. We had 10 people sign up for Zoom clinics, Hobby Barn clinics, layout tours, help with our websites, and writing articles for the Division newsletters. After the arm twisting for volunteers was concluded, Jerry Ritter (stepping in for James River Superintendent Phil Taylor who was recovering from surgery) and Martin Brechbiel spoke before sending attendees off to lunch (on their own) or to visit layouts.

Layout tours

This year we had two layout tours; one by Cam Green and his "Maine central Railroad"; the other layout tour was hosted by John Swanson and his "Cresson Branch RR." ([Photos next page](#))

Please join us at the next event. These have been FREE events with no entry fee. We have taken up donations for the church providing the space and this year members donated train items toward the churches Awana program. This has been a win, win for all parties with the children getting trains and the Division introducing kids to model railroading.



Cam Green Layout

The James River and the Potomac Divisions are already looking to the 2022 Joint meet and have started planning for that event. In addition to our yearly event activities we are looking to add two more clinics, model judging for AP certificates and popular vote model judging. We would also like to invite our surrounding divisions to join in

the fun. Once we have the location nailed down we will start advertising the date on our websites, newsletters and in the NMRA magazine in the club car section.



John Swanson Layout

Hope to see you there at the next meet in 2022!