

The MIDI - Convention is here!

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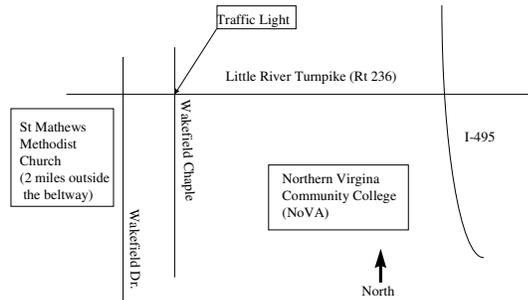
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Reminder : We need zip+four from everyone. Check your mailing label – We may have it.

Just as this gets to you we should be all set for the Potomac Division's Midi Convention.

Registration starts at four PM Friday October 18 at St. Matthews Methodist Church on Little River Turnpike in Annandale Virginia

Here is how to get there.



Friday evening is set up for both the NTRAK and HO modular layouts. It will also feature tours of two outstanding layouts in Maryland. These layouts are not to far away from the Church and only about a mile from each other so you can make both of them. (See Mark Andersen's notes on page 8 describing all the weekends layouts.) All of the layouts are some of the best and you can not appreciate how good they really are from the magazine coverage they have received. You owe it to yourself to see them in person. But to attend you must register at the Church first. If you do not register ,you do not get the map, so you do not know where to go.

I can hear the question now, I am coming from Maryland, why do I have to go to Virginia to register first? To

accommodate those in this situation, a flyer was sent earlier allowing pre-registration prior to 12 October. If you did not , well life is not always fair.

Saturday the activities are again centered at the Church. Clinics include - (see it done before you make a mess): making trees, car weathering, open loads, making water, straining wood and more. An AP and popular vote Contest (enter your latest model and show off your hard work, but get there early to enter) will be held. Trains will be running all day, see old friends and meet some new ones. Check out the white elephant table for those things you can not live without. Lunch will be pizza and soda, enough to fill you up if not out.

In the afternoon we have several more layout tours available or you may choose to go rail-fanning on your own (we have the places) Of course the clinics and contest judging will continue. For those interested there will be an informal get together at the restaurant and bar across the street.

Sunday the Church will be in use for another purpose (I am sure we will still be welcome if you choose to attend services). But the convention will not be over just de-centralized. In the afternoon there will be several more layout tours and the continuing opportunity for rail fanning before we all head home.

So come on out and have a great time!! This will be the best ever get together we have had and what a great way to start fall. For the latest Information go to

<http://members.cox.net/chyde/Potomac-Model-Rails.html>



The Potomac Division

Division 2 ("Potomac"), Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

The Potomac Division includes: The District of Columbia; Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties in Maryland; Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, and Rappahannock Counties in Virginia, as well as all area independent cities.

The Division Crew

Superintendent	Garret Nicholson (301) 593-7699 (garretnicholson@hotmail.com) 411 Kerwin Rd Silver Spring, MD 20901
Senior Asst. Supt.	Jim Stapleton (540) 882-3886 (jim.stapleton@mindspring.com)
Asst. Supt.	John Drye (703) 698-7148 (jdrye@spa-inc.net)
Paymaster	Mark Andersen (703) 425-8997 (mandersen@erols.com)
Clerk	Clint Hyde (703) 803-3068 (chyde@cox.net)
Achievement Prgrm Rep.	Ed Price (703) 670-2015 (Edmund.W.Price@USACE.ARMY.MIL)
HO Module Crew	Mark Andersen (703) 425-8997 (mandersen@erols.com)
Northern Virginia NTRAK	Noll Horan (703) 978-2946 (nhoran@mymailstation.com)
Layout Tour Coordinator	Ed McGill (703) 528-5419

The Potomac Flyer

Potomac Division's quarterly newsletter © 2000

Editor	John Griffith 6765 Blanche Drive Lorton, VA 22079-1320 (703)-339-3738 (jsgassoc@aol.com)
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Submission Deadlines	Spring Issue	January 1
	Summer Issue	April 1
	Fall Issue	July 1
	Winter Issue	October 1

Advertising rates:	1/8 page business card	\$25 per year
	1/4 page	\$10/issue
	1/2 page	\$20/issue
	full page	\$40/issue
	Back cover, half page	\$40/issue

Change of Address Send a complete USPO COA form to:
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PO Box 3204, Manassas, VA 20108

For more local information, see the Potomac Division web site at:
<http://members.cox.net/chyde/PotomacDivision/Potomac.html>
(that's a Capital P and D)

From the Business Car

by Garret Nicholson
Division Superintendent
garretnicholson @ hotmail.com

I have just returned from the latest MER convention in Cherry Hill, New Jersey where I was approached

by the MER President, Norm Garner about the Potomac Division hosting a regional convention in 2003. As you recall, last year we looked into sponsoring a convention and could not find a hotel in the area which would offer us facilities at a price that the membership could afford or the Region would approve. This time, Brian Kampschroer who has arranged hotel accommodations for National conventions will be responsible for the hotel and we will arrange the model railroading aspects of the convention. The Potomac Division members on the MER board all support this plan and I agreed for the Division.

At the convention, I signed up for an operations callboard. At an operations call board, four or five convention participants go to a home layout that has regular operating sessions. Then each person teams with a regular operator and runs a train over the layout. I had the pleasure to run a Soundtraxx equipped SP Daylight for about half an hour. The train glided over the layout complete with realistic sounds and made me think how nice it would be if I could do this on my layout. Is this the idea behind the operations callboards?

Speaking of layouts, Ed McGill, our home layout tour coordinator has written to me that he is having increasing difficulty filling our monthly calendar with layout tour hosts. He suggested that we offer certain inducements to encourage new hosts. Ed had some good ideas on what to offer and I will share his ideas with the Board. Layout tours are the most popular activity that the Division offers and we want to keep it going strong, so please support it by volunteering to show your layout and you never know what you might get in return.

Achievement News

by Bill Roman & Ed Price

NMRA Achievement Program Representatives
wroman@starpower.net,
edmund.w.price@ usace.army.mil

By the time you are reading this, the Potomac Division will have held our first Midi-Convention. Depending upon its success (however that is measured) and other model railroad events, we may try it again periodically. However, we are planning on holding our traditional one-day mini-convention during the Spring of '03. Plus, as it stands right now there are no MER conventions scheduled during next year, so the next mini may be your only opportunity to have your models judged in a formal environment for some time to come. As noted before, Ed Price and I will be glad to make "house calls" with a team of judges to evaluate your models, scenery, civil and electrical, etc. categories if that is more convenient. We will need to know what you want judged then we will work on scheduling a convenient time for you. Just as a reminder, please have all the necessary paperwork completed prior to either bringing models to the mini or midi, or before we come to your house. Does not have to be really elaborate and fancy, just complete and legible. If you decide sometime in the future to host a Potomac Division layout tour and you are interested in AP judging, we may be able to take care of the judging while attending the open house.

I recently heard a long-range weather forecast covering the upcoming Winter, and it sounds good for model building and layout construction. Forecast is for a colder and snowier Winter than we have had for several years, with perhaps 20-25 inches of snow. Sounds like a real incentive to stock up on parts, materials, plans and supplies for some serious inside work. Ordinarily I would be skeptical, but this fellow really nailed his Summer forecast.

Congratulations and thanks for all the work PD members have done in the past couple of years in building and displaying models at our meetings plus in receiving Golden Spike Awards for home layouts. Please keep up the good work.

Building Mockups

By Nicholas Kalis

I learned long ago from Doug Gurin and the Layout Design SIG that mockups are a wonderful planning tool for building a model railroad. These mockups also serve as great stand-ins until one finds the time to build detailed scratch-built models. By mockups, I mean representations of the finished scratch built or kitbashed structures that will eventually fill up the real estate of your model railroad. I like to use foam core while others use old cardboard or Illustration board for their mockups. I visited a web page where the author thought black-core foamcore worked best. After using this black-core, I tend to agree. When cut, the black core tends not to be as noticeable as a white core. I use a second layer made of illustration board to show the windows of the warehouses/factories I model.

Noted Model Railroader author Jonathan Jones was kind enough to drop by my home and share his thoughts with me on mock-ups and modeling permanent models of urban buildings. Here is what I learned:

- a.. Buy and use a 24 inch steel ruler to guide your X-acto knife in cutting the foam core – do not try to cut free hand;
- b.. before cutting draw on the visible side of the second layer of your mockup with a soft 2B or 4B pencil -- it should be possible to erase all of the lines once you are done providing you draw the lines softly;
- c.. draw and cut windows on the front of the illustration board you will use to laminate the window outlines to the foam core;
- d.. keep your mock-up simple -- if you want details leave them for the finished model;
- e.. if you are having trouble with the corners of your windows cut carefully on the back of your illustration board;
- f.. make several light cuts rather than one deep cut in your material;
- g.. use white glue – it should not warp your paper so long as you weight it down while drying;
- h.. rubber cement may not hold things together permanently;
- i.. Strathmore board is useful because it is white all the way through unlike mat board which has a colored back;
- j.. use Strathmore board that has a hard flat surface.

Northern Virginia NTRAK News

by Noll Horan

Though the summer months seem slow for us at NVNtrak (managing only one or two setups a month), the fall season is when we really get going. Looking at our schedule, it looks as though there are only three or four weekends between September and the end of December which tentatively are not planned for some type of display/setup. Of course, that is always subject to change as our folks just simply enjoy being with the public, promoting the hobby and running trains. Many times we have had three setups on a given weekend and probably will again this year.

The 'Narrow Minded Bunch' aka, 'The High LiNn3 Route™' took their Nn3 layout to Warwick, Rhode Island to participate in the 22nd Annual Narrow Gauge Convention. Along with modules from Richmond, VA, Atlanta, and California, we put on a 30x5 ft. display of narrow gauge railroading in N Scale. With approximately 70 linear feet of track, there was plenty of trains running using DCC and analog operations for the four day convention. This was all brought together over the internet with the 'Nn3 Alliance Group'. Eighteen of us from across the country enjoyed ourselves running with the 'Big Boys'. And our layout placed third in the popular voting. Hey, there was some stiff competition. But the highlight of the trip had to be visiting the Franklin and South Manchester RR. Yes, Mr. George Sellios was gracious enough to open his world renowned F&SM to those convention attendees. And it is everything you have seen in the book and magazine articles. But you had to be there!

Then it was out to Culpeper for the annual Culpeper Train Days celebration. It can not get much better than being setup in the old station twenty feet from the tracks. Of course, there were a few train breaks from running trains when the NS would rumble by!

That same weekend marked our return to the Fairfax Station Museum for our monthly display. Due to the Museum' s expansion during the summer,

the Station had been closed. Now they are back in business. And from the public turnout, none too soon. It was one of their busiest Sundays in quite some time.

And in between Culpeper and Fairfax Station, the club participated in the VDOT Adopt-A-Highway cleanup program. I adopted Ravensworth Road in Annandale two years ago in behalf of NVNtrak. We began our third year of 'branchline cleanup' with six bags of highway trash collected.

This is a small way of paying back the community for all their support. I urge any club and /or organization to join in with this project. It only takes a couple hours two times a year (though we do it six times) and really is worth the time and effort. If anyone would like information, feel free to contact me. Hey, it is kind of neat seeing your club affiliation posted on one of those big blue signs. Plus your everyday traveler gets exposed to your affiliation each time they travel your chosen route. Let me know.

Then it was on to Richmond, VA for the uNconvention-Part Deux. Located in the Science Museum, 4,000 sq.ft. of space was filled with modules from about thirteen clubs (I think). This was not just a huge loop, but rather TWO large loops with islands jutting off each loop. It took about an hour to complete a run around each loop. Now that is what modular railroading is all about!

That just about wraps up September' s activities. Just a normal month for NVNtrak. Of course the remainder of the year will be hectic but that is what it is all about. We look forward to joining the Potomac Division once again at St. Matthew' s for the **MIDI-con** in mid-October. This one promises to be bigger and better. So if I do not see you all at a local hobby shop or at one of our setups between now and then, I look forward to getting together at the **MIDI-con**.

Until next time, my time is up. I thank you for yours. You can check us out on the www for future shenanigans at:

<http://www.nvntrak.org/>

Home Layout Tour Hosts Needed

One of the activities that make the Potomac Division such a great organization is the opportunity to see other folks work. Most other Divisions have home layout tours only in support of conventions, we try to have one each month. The winter quarter's offerings are great examples of the Roads in the Potomac area.

At present we are contacting those who have hosted tours before. A fair number have agreed to host another. We are however, running out of layouts and need some new folks to step up.

We know that there are some great layouts out there. If you have one, share it with the rest of us. It does not make any difference what scale or that your empire is not complete. Its not that much trouble, you get to show off your hard work, and you may even get some ideas that help you. If you are interested in hosting a tour of your line contact Ed McGill at (703) 528-5419.

Another Place to see a Layout

The Northern Virginia Model Railroaders, Inc. in Vienna, VA will host an open house on the following dates:

Saturday, November 16, 2002

Saturday, December 14, 2002

Saturday, January 18, 2003

Noon until 4:00pm each day

The club is located in the historic "Washington & Old Dominion Railroad" station, located at 231 Dominion Road (at the intersection with Ayr Hill Road) in Vienna, Virginia.

There is no admission charge, though donations are accepted. More information can be obtained by going to their web site at 'www.nvmr.org', by e-mail at 'nvmrinc@hotmail.com' or by calling 703-938-5157 on the day of the open house. The club meets on Tuesday evenings.

Reminder: If you haven't been receiving division-related emails, it means we don't have your address in our database ---- send an email to the clerk (chyde@cox.net) in order to get added. You get a monthly notification about the next layout tour, about a week ahead. Or something interesting like the for sale lists...and you can also receive the Flyer electronically, as a file to read using adobe Acrobat Reader (a freebie); worth doing, photos are in color, and so are some other things.

Potomac Division Mail Address: Last issue we told you we were going to get a new Post Office Box number. It didn't happen. So continue to use the one we have. We will have a new one to announce in the next news letter

Flyer Gets New Editor

Clint Hyde, the long time editor of the Flyer, has passed the mantel to me. Clint is not giving up all his duties in the Division; in fact, he is taking on others. I will try to maintain the high standard he has set for the Flyer.

So who am I? My name is John Griffith. I have been modeling since the late fifties except for a 26-year break in the Army. Like many others, my introduction to trains came at Christmas time with a train set. However, I really fell in love with railroads because of my exposure to the Santa Fe where both of my parents worked. Getting to ride the turntable at the yards, ring the bell in a steam engine before it pulled out of the station, or ride in the caboose under the watchful eye of the conductor was heady stuff for a seven or eight year old.

Perhaps my early exposure preordained that I would model steam power. I am interested in steam at the turn of the century. I am not a rivet counter but I enjoy the history and research that goes along with modeling something I have never seen. I have a wonderful logging/mining layout in my mind. Actually it is a few buildings, cars, and a Shay. I am still negotiating the right of way with the other stakeholder in our house. Some day it will happen, however till then I continue to build items my empire will need and dream.

I have been an active participant in the Potomac Division for the last couple of years. I started

as a participant in a contest at the mini con to see how my modeling stacked up. Since then I have continued in the AP Program and have found that it is more fun that way. If you have not tried the AP program I highly recommend that you get involved. I found you do not need a layout to show your building skills and the paper work really is not hard. Besides you get out of this hobby what you put in. There are lots of folks who will help you out or at least give you an opinion and having a model entered in a contest is a great way to meet new people.

I have a couple of ideas for the Flyer that we will try out from time to time. If you want to see something, have an idea, an article, or do not like something let me know. My email is jsgassoc@aol.com. The phone is (703)-339-3738. The address is 6765 Blanche Drive, Lorton Virginia 22079 I look forward to meeting you.

Tips For Scratch building in wood

Have you ever wanted board and batten siding for a building that you were going to display at the front of your layout, but were not satisfied with the milled products available. I have found a simple way around the problem. Most board and batten was made up of 1" x 8", 10" or 12" boards with 1"x2" battens over the joints. If you want for example, a 8" wide board and batten use scale 1" x 6" boards butted up to scale 2"x2" battens. Most model structures walls are built up from a sub wall made of wood, cardboard, or styrene. If you pre-stress and pre-stain the strip wood and then glue it to your sub walls a very sharp detailed wall is possible. Start in the middle and work out to the edges. Cover windows, doors etc. then use masking tape over where the opening will be and cut them out after all is dry. To speed assembly cut your strips longer than the sub-wall and trim up after the wall is dry and ready for assembly.

Potomac HO Crew Module Notes

from Mark Andersen

Hello All!!! We have been a busy lot once again, idle hands only purchase more! After the July break, August started with a bang at the bi-annual Lyceum Show. Our 24 modules created a 40' by 16' layout. This presented quite a show for all, including those "Thomas" followers! We had a first time display of Bill Gellerman's modules, another fine addition to the collection of railroad trackage that we display as ambassadors to the model railroad hobby. We even had some visitors travel from Europe to see us!! Fortunate are we, to be invited back to display again next year. I do believe the "Shay" racing was the cause.....

Once again, we were invited to participate with the Piedmont Railroad Club at the summer Greenberg show. Our 15 modules added to the fray to create a 48' by 20' loop. Most interesting to several of the PMC crowd was Phil Irwin's lift bridge. This allows us to enter the railroad with out doing the "Limbo" or the New Year's Eve crawl under a module. To that end, we are always "Thankful" when Colin Weiner brings his narrow bridges for our entry. I know several left money behind at many vendors purchasing engines, cars and buildings. Now if those purchases make it from the closet to the building table is another story. A special "Thank You" to Ralph Douglas for asking the PMC group to participate.

September allowed us to setup two more times. It would have been three, but unforeseen construction difficulties prevented Fairfax Station from being occupied. We will be there in December 2002 in a somewhat larger facility. The Piedmont Railroad Club again asked for a few modules for the Culpeper Railroad Days on the 14th. Roger Boughton, Bill Dunn, and Mike Weiss were only too happy to oblige. After all, its not every show that is located on an active mainline. The Tidewater Group also asked us to help with their annual fundraiser show on the 14th and 15th. We provided 27 modules, including two wyes to their 40 modules. Continued "Thanks" to Bruce Strickland for his numerous revisions of their track work plan. Many of their modules are not the standard 48"by 24" variety like ours, but the 30" by 96" size, some 36" deep by 48". Renting a U-Haul helped them arrive and depart the show.

Its always interesting to see what others model. Not only do we share the idea of model railroading, but also it is how creative we are in displaying our ideas. Many of Tidewater's modules incorporate folding legs, which simplify setup, but do add weight. These modules are then stood up and bolted to

wheeled dollies, a benefit when loading a truck with a ramp.

One module that caught many an eye was a 4-foot corner with a railroad tribute to history. Besides the standard red/yellow mainlines, a railroad museum located inside the curve, displayed 6 different early railroad engines. The real treat was the Z scale rail excursion ride, including HO scale riders and an engineer sitting on the tender of the steam engine. It looped through Z scale tunnel portals under the mains and back through to the scale rail station. The genius of modeling is that everyone has his or her opportunity to self-expression, something that permits me to stay stimulated, learn and grow.

This presents the next opportunity for us to grow. Starting Friday evening on October 18th is our Midi Convention. There will be two rail visits including Dick Patton and Andrew Dodge's famous On3 layouts. These have been recently reviewed in Model Railroader. Saturday brings clinics, some new and tried and true. Rail visits will also occur from 1 to 5 pm. These include John Armstrong and J. D. Smith's layouts. The convention's formal St. Matthew's location will end around 5:30 pm with awards for achievement being presented anytime after 4 pm. Sunday will bring us several more layout visits including Pliny Holt and Paul Dolkos's layouts. We will have the opportunity to witness nationally renowned layouts during this weekend, do not miss them!!!!

On another note, volunteerism. I am the module coordinator and division paymaster for the Potomac Region of the MER. Did you also know, that Clint Hyde is our Clerk and the "New" MER vice president, Bob Minnis and Noll Horan are MER directors, Bill Roman is our Maryland Achievement representative and MER Secretary, Ed Price is our Virginia Achievement representative and a special "PMC Welcome" to John Griffith our new Potomac Flyer Editor. Every one of us has an expertise that can assist the organization, next time the opportunity presents itself, do not hesitate, we would love to have your company and help in adding to the communal joy of our hobby. Remember scale is not important, but sharing our Love of the Model Railroading Hobby is!!

Remember, that as NMRA members, you have an obligation to help and grow within yourself and the group. Start that achievement program for yourself. It is always rewarding to be patted on the back for a job well done and earn certification of achievement for those efforts. I enjoy judging when possible as it demonstrates other modeler's abilities and designs on their chosen road. These are all learning experiences that you can add to your repertoire.

Again, "Thanks" to you` all!

Potomac Division

Division 2, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND INTEREST SURVEY

The **Potomac Division** provides various activities for all interested model railroaders, such as home layout tours, prototype tours, and a Mini-Convention every March. We publish a quarterly newsletter, the Potomac Flyer, detailing Division activities. We proudly boast one of the greatest concentrations of model railroading talent in the country with more than 10 NMRA Master Model Railroaders in our area, as well as hundreds of other outstanding modelers.

The Potomac Division includes: The District of Columbia; Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties in Maryland; Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, and Rappahannock Counties in Virginia, as well as all area independent cities. Local residence is not required for Division membership. Anyone interested in learning more about model railroading, improving their modeling skills, and enjoying the company of fellow model railroaders is invited to join the **Potomac Division**. Guests are always welcome at Division events.

Potomac Division Members are required to be members of NMRA and MER. This did not used to be the case, now it is.
Please enter your numbers in the boxes, or indicate if you have forgotten (Clerk may be able to look them up).

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Name		Home phone		NMRA #	Exp. Date
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INTEREST SURVEY

Primary Scale	Secondary Scale	Favorite Railroad(s) & Prototype(s) Modeled:	
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Do you have		Please list the NMRA Special Interest Group(s), model railroad clubs, and railroad historical societies to which you belong: <input type="text"/>	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Traction interest?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you be willing to host a Home Layout Tour of your Layout?		<input type="checkbox"/>	
		New and renewing members: please include a short paragraph or two describing yourself and your railroading interests for possible inclusion in upcoming Call Board columns.	

DUES CALCULATION

Please fill out this section completely, including whether you are new or renewing. Renewing NMRA and MER members, please supply your birthdate, membership numbers, and expiration dates in the Personal Information section above. *Incomplete information may delay your renewal.*

Potomac Division: Membership is \$4 per year. Members and subscribers receive the quarterly *Potomac Flyer*. **Note: You must be a member of the NMRA and MER to be a member of the Potomac Division.**

Mid-Eastern Region: Membership is \$8 per year. Members receive the bimonthly *MER Local*. You may also write MER directly at Mid-Eastern Region, Office Manager, 9 Roosevelt Ave., Wilmington, DE 19804-3044. **Note: You must be a member of the NMRA to be a member of MER.**

National Model Railroad Association: Membership is \$45 per year for full membership, or \$23 per year for an associate membership. Full Members receive the monthly *NMRA Bulletin*, associate members do not. You may also write the NMRA directly at: National Model Railroad Association, Inc., Headquarters Office, 4121 Cromwell Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421.

Please make your check payable to *Potomac Division*. Send check with your complete application to:
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The Division will forward National and Regional dues. Allow 6-8 weeks for processing, none of us are fast.

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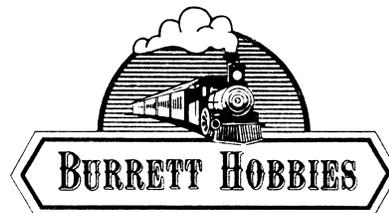
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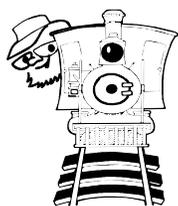
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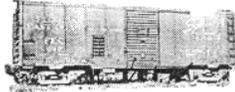
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Bulletin Board

Have information of general interest? Send it in we will post it here.

Potomac Module Crew display date:

Nov 9/10-Rockville Lions Club 13th Annual Train Show at the Rockville Senior Center.

Dec 7/8-Fairfax Station Model Train Show, Fairfax Station, Va. at the Fairfax. Freight Station.

Dec 28/29-Greenberg Train Show, Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, Va.

Feb. 15/16-The Lyceum, Old Towne Alexandria, Va.

Mar. 15/16-The Boy Scout Show, Saunders Middle School, Prince William County, Va.

Jun. 7-Manassas RailRoad Days, Old Towne Manassas, Manassas, Va.

Call for articles:

The Flyer is always accepting submissions for publication – and you get NMRA AP Author points when things get published! Do not wait get your article in Now.

Do not want to write an article? How bout sharing your modeling tips?. Your stain formula or wiring technique may be old hat to you, but may be just what some one else needs to solve a problem.

Potomac Division Calendar

√ Mark events now which you don't want to miss.

November

3, Home Layout Tour, Bill Day, page 5.

9-10 Rockville MD Senior Citizen Center Train Show

December

8 Home Layout Tour, Dale Latham see page 6.

14-15 The Great Scale Model Train Show
-Gettysburg PA

28-29 Greenburg's Train Show Chantilly, Va

January

12 Home Layout Tour, Bob Johnson, page 6.



The Quarterly Newsletter of
Division 2 ("Potomac") — Mid Eastern Region
National Model Railroad Association

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