



May - July 2003 The Quarterly Newsletter of Division 2 ("Potomac"), Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Summer Quarter

## Potomac Division to Sponsor Regional Convention

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

Potomac Division is hosting the Fall 2003 Mid Eastern Region convention this year (finally!). The selected weekend is Columbus Day weekend in October. We'll have an extra day, be a little less pressed for time ... We do know that is Timonium weekend, there are really only a few available weekends, no matter which one we picked there was going to be a conflict.

Your Board of Directors have chosen the name "Potomac Junction." The venue will be at the Sheraton Reston, in Reston, Virginia. We will have plenty of space for all of the usual convention fair plus two large modular layouts. One sponsored by the Potomac Module Crew, the other by NVNTRAK.

The convention committee headed by Bob Minnis is already hard at work. They plan to emphasize hands-on "make-it-and-take-it" clinics, as Potomac Division usually does. There will be some exceptional home layout tours-many from the covers of National Model Railroad Magazines. The infamous Bob Charles Auction Team will be on hand, for items over \$20, and credit cards will be available for those folks with PayPal accounts, cash or check otherwise. Of course there will be a white elephant table for folks who want to sell something under \$20—this way we avoid having \$2 items in the auction. Work is under way for some interesting Proto tours, despite the difficulty of this post 9-11. There will be a map of Railfanning locations. The banquet will be a little different from usual, probably Sunday afternoon.

The Preliminary clinic list includes:

Making signs – Jon Percy  
Wood scratchbuilding -- Martin Brechbiel  
Brass structure kit assembly – Bernie Kempinski  
Engine tuning – Mitch Brown  
Meet the Trustee -- Eric Dervinis  
How AP judging is done -- Ray Bilodeau  
Scratch-build with styrene – Garret Nicholson  
Freight-car weathering  
Painting backdrops  
Making trees (up to four different techniques)  
Making open loads  
Resistance soldering  
Hot wire foam cutting

Registration is \$40 prior to September 1st, \$45 afterwards. We plan to have online registration available soon, using PayPal, so you can pay with a credit card if you wish.

The room rate is \$89 a day. If you want to get your reservations in early contact the Sheraton Reston Hotel 11810 Sunrise Valley Dr. Reston, Virginia 20191 Telephone: (703) 620-9000 Facsimile: 703-860-1594.

By the way this is your convention. It is our opportunity to show the other Divisions what GREAT Division we are. It will take a lot of volunteers to make this happen, not just the usual suspects. Bob says he can find something for everyone to do. Call him today at (703) 391-0675 and get involved



## 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

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### The Potomac Flyer

Potomac Division's quarterly newsletter © 2000

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<b>Submission Deadlines</b>	<b>Spring Issue</b>	<b>January 1</b>
	<b>Summer Issue</b>	<b>April 1</b>
	<b>Fall Issue</b>	<b>July 1</b>
	<b>Winter Issue</b>	<b>October 1</b>

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

**Change of Address** Send a complete USPO COA form to:  
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PO Box 223781, Chantilly VA 20153-3781

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

## From the Business Car

by John Drye  
Division Superintendent  
jdrye52@aol.com

Some of you may notice Garret's name is no longer on this Column. Garret has decided to step down as Superintendent after serving for three years on the Board of Directors. Garret's last accomplishment as Superintendent was to coordinate the Spring Mini-Convention in Brunswick last month. This was a new concept for the Division: a get-together including layout tours, rail fanning, a museum visit, plus the usual white elephant table and other division business. About 50 members showed up and enjoyed the great weather. Garret also arranged an impressive sequence of CSX and Amtrak trains to keep folks entertained pretty much all day.

The Division owes Garret a huge 'thank-you' for organizing this event along with all the other effort he's put in over the years. Class Acts are always hard to follow and Garret is no exception. Fortunately, he'll be staying around to help with other upcoming Division Activities.

Replacing Garret on the Board of Directors is John Griffith and as Super, yours truly. John G has been editor of the newsletter for several months and I've been a member for about five years and on the board for two. Fortunately, the rest of the board agreed to stay on, which will hopefully keep both of us out of too much trouble.

Coming up in June is another new and unique division event: a combination layout tour and division picnic, hosted by Jim Stapeleton. One of the things that makes this event unique (besides Jim himself) is the size of his layout and the trains he runs.

The track is Ga 1 (45mm / 1.75'); generically called "G". Jim and several dozen of his friends operate live steam in a number of scales: 1:32 (#1), 1:20.3 (Fn3), 1:24 (H) and 1:22.5 (G). The locomotives represent American, British and German prototypes. Engines vary in size from the B&O Atlantic of 1832 (Grasshopper) at about 6 inches long and 2 pounds to a D&RGW K-27 2-8-2 in Fn3 that is about 38 inches long and weighs 34 pounds. The double track mainline is 560 feet long with four passing sidings. Minimum radius is 24 feet, turnouts #8 and #10 and the maximum grade is 0.6 percent. The layout is between 16 and 55 inches above the ground and occupies a significant fraction of an acre in his back yard.

Jim hosts this 'Steam Up' every June and has invited the Division to join him for a tour and picnic on Saturday, June 14. The Layout Tour starts at 1:00 pm and food will be served between 6:00 and 6:30pm.

If you plan to come for the picnic please call Jim (540-882-3886) by Thursday June 12 so we make sure we have enough main course food. Jo Anne (Jim's wife and co-host) will advise what kind of side dish folks can bring. We will set out a donation can for those who don't want to hassle with bringing food. Beverages will be provided. If you have a favorite comfortable folding lawn chair, bring it. These guys run in the rain, so there is no rain date. Page 6 for directions

## Achievement News

by Bill Roman & Ed Price

NMRA Achievement Program Representatives  
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One of the Achievement Program categories in which many people can earn credits is that of Association Volunteer. This category requires 60 certified **Time Units** (TU's)for receipt of the award. These TU's are earned through work at the Division, Region or National levels, and the higher the organizational level, the higher point value for work performed. As an example, serving on a Region committee, a person earns 1 TU for each month of satisfactory service; serving on a Division committee, that person would earn  $\frac{1}{2}$  TU per month. In regard to types of committees or functions, basically everything that isn't considered an Association Official can probably be counted. Judges, individuals who open their layouts for conventions, modular layout participants, Division officers, and lots of other similar jobs, are all eligible for accumulating TUs and count toward this certificate. Many of these functions don't really require huge amounts of work – but the intent of this category is that people actually do perform the function for which they have volunteered. ‘Just showing up’ doesn’t count! As with all other categories of the AP, volunteers need to keep accurate and current records of time served on various activities/functions. It’s much easier to keep these records as you perform the work rather than try much later to reconstruct them.

Our upcoming Fall MER Convention (**Potomac Junction '03**) offers numerous possibilities for Potomac Division members to earn credit towards the Association Volunteer award. While a good number of people have already signed up, there are still many functions for which more manpower will be needed, both leading up to the convention and during the time it is actually being held. We need layout hosts, people to serve at registration, contest and white elephant rooms, clinicians, tour bus guides, etc. to really make the convention a success. Contact Bob Minnis, the Convention Chairman, if

you are interested. We'd like to have you, and you can earn some TU's toward this award.

Mark Andersen started volunteering only a short time ago. He was presented his Association Volunteer Certificate by Ed Price NMRA Achievement Program Representative at the Mini Con in March.



Photo by Bill Roman

## Members Honored at Mini Con.

The following long time members were honored at the Mini Con in March.

Receiving 25 year Certificates were G. D. Cullison, James F. Matthews, James S. Wood, Jr., Robert J. Stewart, Jr., James J. McTigue, Clark E. Thorp, and Frank Pearsall.

Receiving 50 year Certificates were Pliny Holt, William T. Seabrook.

**From the Clerk:** I need everyone to verify their email address with me (for the database) if they did NOT receive the April 2 email about the April Home Layout Tour. I am working this in a new and more efficient (less error-prone, and possibly automatable) way, but I got back a number of bounces. Especially important here if you are receiving the electronic Flyer.

## Northern Virginia NTRAK News

by Noll Horan

Having finished 2002 with our setup at the Greenberg's Show in Chantilly, NVNtrak took a few weeks off. We need that much time to get ready for our Annual Business Meeting which is the third Sunday in January at The Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Springfield, Virginia. This is when the club has their general election of officers, takes care of new and old business. It is the one time of year when we all can get together to discuss the direction the club is heading, get the all important feedback from it's membership. And there is also the silent and live auction which can get rather rowdy at times!

However, all didn't go as planned. Seems there was a schedule conflict with the Church. Though I had scheduled the said Sunday for our meeting in September, we stepped aside for a memorial service for a member of Prince of Peace. This was brought to our attention just as we were about to begin. Seemed like a natural thing to do. But our bylaws state that we have the elections that third Sunday in January.

As my final act as President, (my term was up), I and the Board of Directors voted to have the required election as stated in the bylaws. And move the Annual Meeting up two weeks along with our regularly scheduled Back Shop.

With some 60 plus members in attendance, a quorum was had and the elections held. Mr. Cotton Bowen was elected President of NVNtrak. I wish Cotton well and have no doubt he will do a most excellent job at the helm of the Ntrak club we all know and have come to respect in the model railroading community. I would personally like to thank the membership for allowing me to hold that position the past two years, an experience to remember.

Having the elections behind us, the Annual Meeting did take place as planned during our Back Shop. Most discussions concerned our little

convention in 2004. Though the attendance wasn't as high as before, we took care of business and the auctions did take place.

With required politics taken care of, it was time to get serious and run some trains this winter! The Narrow Gauge Bunch had their NVNtrak branchline at The Great Scale Show in Timonium. This stand alone 5'x24'ayout received some very positive remarks and possibly had some folks considering getting BACK in the hobby. And after all, isn't this part of model railroading, promoting the hobby?

Then came February. Some how we managed to sandwich in three setups between the snows of '03. Only our Fairfax Station setup was snowed out on February 16th. (Couldn't find the trailers.)

Landmark Mall was by far our largest display. I didn't get a chance to get by there due to work, but I understand all went well with even an operations loop. This will be essential for our '04 convention.

In March we joined the Potomac Module Crew and others at the Boy Scout Train Show. This is one opportunity where a modelrailroader can make an impact on youngsters. If this hobby is to grow, then it is up to us to put an Aristo or DCC throttle in their hand. Get that PC mouse out of their hand and let them run some trains. Who knows what the results will be if we don't try? I have expressed my views on this before, so I won't go on. But trust me, let a kid run a train and something clicks inside that body. Maybe not for long, but it clicked.

NVNtrak has right much on their calendar for this spring. So we'll be busy as usual. Some of us will be helping with Potomac Junction and seeing that it will be the convention we know it can be. So until next time, run some trains, build something, get a kid interested. And above all, remember, this is just a hobby.

My time is up. I thank you for yours. And remember to check us out 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.

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 & Sunday, May 24-25 (Viva Vienna Days), 2003

Saturday, July 12, 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](http://www.nvmr.org), by e-mail at [nvmrinc@hotmail.com](mailto:nvmrinc@hotmail.com) or by calling 703-938-5157 on the day of the open house. The club meets on Tuesday evenings.

## Potomac HO Crew Module Notes

from Mark Andersen

Hello All! Welcome back to another season of springtime model railroading. The Module Crew has participated in two module shows since the December Fairfax Freight Station Show. These include The Greenberg Show in Chantilly and the Boy Scout Troop 964 Merit Badge Show. Many of us have been busy with the "snow days," building, creating, and re-building our numerous modules. Jerry McCrory and Bill Brandon continue exercising their creative talents respectively with new modules and modifications to old. Only a true Shay owner can appreciate the 10 % starting grade of the McCrory Mountain Branch line of the Western Maryland RR. (see pictures page 8) Bill's corner /wye module has evolved into quite the piece of "track artwork." It functions as a wye, allowing us old folks a no bend-over approach to getting in the railroad. Adding a stem, it becomes an inside curve with a yard or an outside curve using the same yard again. Quite the creative effort, has Bill utilized in this track work. We have so many learning opportunities presented to us, we all need to take some time and learn!!

The Greenberg Show left us all a little poorer. I know my wallet was a little lighter! Assuming over time that Greenberg's new owner GATS, makes changes towards an HO scale show, we'll be poorer still!! This last show of 2002, allowed us the opportunity to use the "wyes" in our setup. As usual, we were in the lobby running trains on our portable layout. This show allowed us the opportunities to run those train related gifts from the holiday gift-giving season. I know I saw a new Bachman Shay being run. Several of our members have started a Shay racing group at our shows. I know this wreaks havoc on those engineers with express freights and passenger trains, but it does make good use of those passing sidings some of us have incorporated on our modules.

As the snowy months of January and February blew by, we were canceled at our

bi-annual February Lyceum Show. Saturday the 15th, the snowfall was pitiful, but Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> .....WOW!!!! It sure did pile up its twenty-four inches!!! I know many of us were disappointed in not being able to run, but we are on for next August 9/10, 2003.

March 15/16, 2003 brought us the Dale City Boy Scout Show for Troop 964. This is the largest layout we have participated in to date. This year was exceptional because very few "DCC Demons" reared their ugly heads. It's always a logistical nightmare for the DCC people of our groups, but the Prince William County Railroad Club organized all four clubs into a homogeneous group. The Boy Scouts, the Prince William County Railroad Club, the Piedmont Club and the Potomac Module Crew all contributed to the 112 modules used in filling the gymnasium letter "E" shaped layout. All that navigated those red and yellow mains had long running times. Many of us that run the 20 to 25 car length consists were impressed with the 50 car length trains. It goes to show you that properly adjusted cars and engines do add to the consistency of your operating. Also successful was Bruce Strickland's continued program of operations. He has shown us another way to "play" trains and it's catching on! Bruce has shown his patience with us as we learn why, what, and the how of operations... Thank You!!

Our Spring Mini Convention was more of a Rail Fan Convention. Garret Nicholson's final arrangement as Superintendent, included many interesting engine consists on those passing freights. We even listened to the yearly memorial service for those railroad personnel lost on the Marc Train accident several years ago. Our layout hosts had two "inspiring" railroads. The first was a free lanced narrow gauge On 30 layout that snaked in and out of its building. Our other Western Maryland first generation diesel layout stretches across his basement following the walls. From mining, quarrying, lumbering and the usual small towns, both of these layouts inspired me to organize my thoughts better and work harder at creating

Continued on page 8

## Potomac HO Crew Module Notes Continued

space to model in. This Mini-Convention was an enjoyable change from what we have grown accustomed to. Plans are afoot to have another similar to this in 2004. We'll see you there!!

Our next show is at the Children's Museum in Washington, DC, then, Fairfax Station on May 3 & 4, followed by the Manassas Days show on June 7, 2003. We hope to see you there??

On a closing note, as always, we are always looking for new members, come and join in on the fun! We can show you what it takes to create a module and join us. Simple or complex, its your piece of the railroad pie. You may visit us through the Potomac Division website or the Potomac Module Crew website courtesy of our Webmaster Colin Weiner at <http://hometown.aol.com/pmchorr01/PMC-Frame.html>. Please feel free to contact me at 703-425-8997 or email me at [mandersen@erols.com](mailto:mandersen@erols.com)

Again, 'Many Thanks" for furthering each other's enjoyment with trains!!!

### The Paymaster's Corner

Hello All! I am Mark Andersen your paymaster for the Potomac Division. I make every effort to process all methods of payment for renewals on its way to the Region office and then on to National. Processing your records, your payment, other incoming funds, issuing checks and issuing monthly financial reports to our board encompasses most of my duties for the Potomac Division. Photocopying your forms and checks verifies your compliance with membership renewals. If you are sending cash money or a check, please include a membership form. This tells us where the money and credit need to be given.

From time to time, we make mistakes; after all, we're only human. Thanks to email, the effort to rectify the problem is easy. If there are any problems that I can help with, my phone number and email address are in the front cover of our Potomac Flyer.  
Thank you for your support!!!

## Around the Division

Ed Price's Heisler climbing Shay Hill on Jerry McCrory's McCrory Mountain Branch line of the Western Maryland RR. at a Potomac Module Crew event photos by Jim Connal.



## 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).

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name

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WEB-SITE:

[http://members.cox.net/chyde/Potomac Division/Potomac.html](http://members.cox.net/chyde/Potomac%20Division/Potomac.html)

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email (Acrobat file)?

### INTEREST SURVEY

Primary Scale

Secondary Scale

Favorite Railroad(s) & Prototype(s) Modeled:

Do you have

A layout?

Narrow Gauge interest?

Module interest?

Traction interest?

Would you be willing to host a Home Layout Tour of your Layout?

Please list the NMRA Special Interest Group(s), model railroad clubs, and railroad historical societies to which you belong:

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:

**Clerk, Potomac Division, PO Box 223781, Chantilly, VA 20153-3781**

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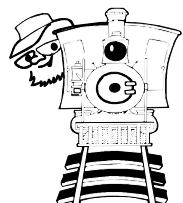


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## Bulletin Board

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

### 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. Pictures count to.

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 Mail Address:** Last issue we told you we were going to get a new Post Office Box number. The new address is:

**Potomac Division of NMRA  
PO Box 223781  
Chantilly, VA 20153-3781**

**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](mailto: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.

## Modeling Waterfront Scenes With EnviroTex

By Nick Kalis

Sooner or later you will run across a reference to EnviroTex in a published article on modeling water. Since so much has already been written on this product, I will spare our readers another exposition of how to use it. Instead I will focus on — How does one find it? While it is possible you will find it at your hobby shop, I would call first before making the trip out only to be disappointed. You will find more luck by trying an arts and crafts store. I found mine at Color Wheel in McLean, Virginia.

I learned a few things from the very thorough leaflet enclosed with the product. First, furniture polish will prolong the life of this surface. Second, if scratches occur that cannot be polished out, clean with acetone and then recoat with EnviroTex Lite®.

This product is made by Environmental Technology, Inc. of Fields Landing, California 95537 at 707 443-9323. I used their EnviroTex Lite® which they call a pour-on High Gloss Finish. A kit for a small job is their 8 fluid ounce kit which retails at Color Wheel for \$8.99. This kit includes a four ounce bottle of resin and a four ounce bottle of hardener. The box says that this kit covers two square feet. Should you wish to learn more about this product and its uses, the EnviroTex people even have a book on their product they sell for \$4.50 which includes postage and handling.

Color Wheel can be contacted at Langley Shopping Center, 1374 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia 22101 703 356-8477. Call first to be sure they have EnviroTex Lite® in stock before traveling out there.

## Potomac Division Calendar

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

## May

- 4 Home Layout Tour, Marshal Abrams; page 5.

- 3-4 Potomac Module Crew at Fairfax Freight Station Spring Show, Fairfax Station VA.

- 18 NVNTRAK at Fairfax Freight Station, Fairfax Station VA.

## June

- 7 Potomac Module Crew and NVNTRAK at Manassas Railway Festival, Old Towne Manassas, VA

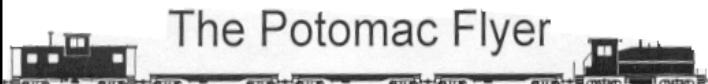
- 14 Home Layout Tour, Jim Stapleton's Steamup and Potomac Division Picnic pages 2 & 6

- 14-15 NVNTRAK at Alexandria Red Cross Water Front Festival

- 15 NVNTRAK at Fairfax Freight Station, Fairfax Station VA.

## July

- 13 Home Layout Tour, Phil Irwin, page 6.



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