

The Potomac Flyer



November 2004 - January 2005 The Quarterly Newsletter of Division 2 ("Potomac"), Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Winter Quarter

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2004 PSX NMRA Convention By Nick Kalis

Those of our members who missed the 2004 PSX NMRA Convention in Seattle missed out on a great deal of fun. Bill Day, Doug Gurin, Ken M, Carl Barna (Emeritus), myself, and others represented the Potomac Division. The layout tours were fabulous. Everything was well organized. No complaints ever reached my ears. The buses and drivers were first rate. I only wished that I could have met there more of my Potomac Division friends. Not to be missed was Dr. Nicholas S. Muff's Kansas City HO scale layout. Muff built a basement that accommodates a full size locomotive cab into this space. Muff's layout was paired with a visit to the Mount Vernon Terminal Railway, a 1:1 switching railroad.

One clinician called summers in Seattle as the mildest winter you will ever encounter.

You never know what you will encounter at a convention. One modeler, a Mr. Sornsin, who opened his under-construction layout to us also treated us to seeing a pair of nesting bald eagles on his property. The modeler I refer to had just built a separate partially-underground layout to house his layout. If you guessed that Sornsin had made his money with Microsoft you would be right. This separate building is topped by a basketball court and features commercial quality construction.

A big hit were the layouts of Paul Scoles and Elerbee's layout. The owner of Evergreen also showed off his great layout depicting a free-lanced Alaskan pike. I

enjoyed clinics by both Allen McClelland and Tony Koester on the status of their layouts. I attended Al Carter's Clinic entitled: "Realistic Streets, Roads, and Highways." Another popular clinic that I caught a bit of was "Modeling Winter Scenes" by Dave Connery and Brad Lloyd. A neat clinic was that by Bragdon Enterprises which focused on the clinician's weathering products. I enjoyed the clinic by C.C. Crow on "The Fine Art of Hydrocal Modeling". You might wish to write to Clint Crow at P.O. Box 1427 Mukilteo WA 98275 with a SASE to obtain a copy of his clinic handout. I also attended Dale G. Kraus's, MMR clinic on "Stonework the Easy Way". Dale explained his imaginative uses of printed stone sheets to construct model stonework. One of the more memorable aspects of the convention was the tour of Chooch Enterprises, Inc. All visitors were given a \$10.00 off coupon to be used at the train show at Chooch's booth. The owner of Chooch is building a spectacular O scale layout which visitors were treated to.

A word about the national train show (an exclusive free admittance [before the general public] was available to registered conventioners). It was grand but it made me appreciate the fact that our beloved probably surpasses it by many measures. Moral of the story: appreciate the fact that we are fortunate to have Howard Zane's show so close at hand some four times a year.

I recommend that each of our members attend a national convention at least once in their lives. I bet that they will have so much fun that they will want to repeat the experience if not attend every year.



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.

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The Potomac Flyer

Potomac Division's quarterly newsletter © 2000

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Submission Deadlines	Spring Issue	January 1
	Summer Issue	April 1
	Fall Issue	July 1
	Winter Issue	October 1
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	1/4 page	\$10/issue
	1/2 page	\$20/issue
	full page	\$40/issue
	Back cover, half page	\$40/issue

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<http://members.cox.net/chvde/PotomacDivision/Potomac.html>
(that's a Capital P and D)

From the Business Car

by John Drye
Division Superintendent
jdrye52@aol.com

Well, it's certainly been quite a summer here in the Potomac Division. We hosted two great conventions, one in O Scale and one in N. Both featured great layouts, tours, contests and fun. The "sequel" in Philadelphia in 2006 ought to be even bigger and better! Since Philly is so close, the Potomac Division will certainly provide some help to our friends to the north as they host the NMRA National in August 2006. Our help can come in the form of presentation of clinics, volunteering to help out with convention activities, module setup and all the many convention activities we've had so much practice at the past year. Ought to be fun. More info as we get closer.

Despite the cancellation of the bus tour to the East Broad Top, a few hardy members made the trip to Orbisonia anyway. The Board of Directors cancelled the trip when it was obvious that we wouldn't sign up enough participants to break even on the trip. Bus tours are great fun, as the trip to Altoona and Horseshoe Curve proved, but the Division cannot afford to lose money in the process. We will try again, perhaps next spring or summer, with a little more advanced notice.

The participants in the EBV "van trip" came back with quite a bit of enthusiasm for the East Broad Top. The EBT was one of the most successful narrow gauge operations east of the Rockies, and is amazingly well preserved for a railroad that ceased operations nearly 60 years ago. It's a great railroad to model, with unique 2-8-0 Mikados, home-built steel hopper cars, mixed trains with wood combines, a narrow-gauge doodlebug and standard-gauge freight cars on narrow gauge trucks. Much of this equipment is still operating, and models exist in most scales. A few division members are in the process of building equipment and modules in HO_n3. Might be a pretty interesting addition to our great HO module crew. If you are interested, please contact me.

As discussed elsewhere, the division is planning a "mini-convention" next spring, at a location to be determined. Our objective is to hold the minicon in Maryland, to make it convenient for our north-of-the-river members, since our last several have been in Virginia. Time to start working on that contest model or to do some proto or model photography. Details to be published, as they are determined.

Don't forget that November is Model Railroading Month. Share our great hobby with family, friends and co-workers.

The Potomac Division lost a treasured member when John Armstrong passed away this summer. His Canadaigua Southern hosted a final tour at the O Scale Convention in July. John was a great modeler and wonderful friend. He will be missed. Our deepest sympathies go to his family and friends.

Achievement News by Bill Roman

Roger Cason, who has served so effectively as the MER AP Chair, has resigned effective with the Hagerstown Convention in November. His successor is Charlie Flichmann of Clemmons, NC. Charlie has been in charge of AP publicity for the MER and has prepared several articles in the LOCAL covering various categories of the program. We certainly thank Roger for his efforts in expediting the processing of award paperwork, and welcome the opportunity to work with Charlie in his new role.

As a reminder, The MER Fall 2004 Convention, November 11-14, is in Hagerstown, MD. Potomac Division is planning on a mini convention in early or mid March, most likely in the Silver Spring, MD area. The next MER convention will be Raleigh, NC in the Fall of 2005. We expect to have AP and popular vote arrangements in the Spring, and of course there is always AP judging and contests at regional conventions.

Around The Division

Pennsy's Port Road: Bob Cook's Home Layout by Noll Horan, MMR

The last weekend of this past July gave way to some incredible layout tours. With the National O Scale Convention in town, there were at least a dozen quarter inch scale layouts open for inspection. Hopefully some of our members were able to visit them.

However, O Scale weren't the only layouts open. Our Division's Layout Tour Coordinator, Mr. Nick Kalis, successfully arranged for Bob Cook to graciously open up his home for a tour of Port Road Railroad, Bob' home layout. His railroad, filling a 45' x 15' space of the basement, is inspired by the Pennsy's Port Road. It's a good sized layout which is set in South Eastern Pennsylvania. The track plan allows for single track point to point or continuous running. Bob likes to model the transition era, steam to

diesel, with emphasis on steam. Scenery is well on it's way with some very nice scenes depicted. The scenery that is complete is easily recognized as that part of Pennsylvania.

Some fifty plus Division members stopped by during the afternoon and all had very favorable comments.

Although I was manning the 'welcome table' along with Nick, I did manage to go downstairs in time to see some of what seemed to be serious operations going on. I knew I was heading in the right direction when I heard the Broadway Limited GG-1 signaling a grade crossing!

On behalf of the Potomac Division, I would like to thank Bob and his lovely wife, Carol, for allowing us to get a close look at how flawlessly a layout can be run on superb trackwork. Thanks to the Cook's.



Bob Cook explaining operations Photo by John Griffith

As an aside Clint Hyde and Noll left Bob's layout and visited Ed Rappe's, layout which was open for the O Scale convention. They had the privilege of seeing the layout a few weeks before he tore it down...

Northern Virginia NTRAK News

By Marc Sisk

Are you now one of those folks that can say they have witnessed, or better yet, operated on, the largest NTRAK layout ever constructed? If you are into N Scale, and have been reading the railroading press over the past several months, you probably heard about the little shindig we recently hosted here in Virginia. The *2004 Capitol Limited N Scale Convention* took place 5-8 August at the *Expo Center and Holiday Inn* in Chantilly, Virginia. Was it a success? Well, between us and the N Scale Collectors Society, we had about 1200 combined N Scale registrants. Participants came from all over the country and Japan. There were well over 15,000 folks at the Greenberg Train Show over the weekend. We had 500+ modules in the big layout under both DC and DCC control. Yes, that is the record and knowing what it took to coordinate this convention, I believe it will be for quite awhile. In addition to the large NTRAK layout, we had separate T-TRAK and N Scale Narrow Gauge (Nn3) layouts. We even had a separate layout in the lobby of the hotel for those wanting to run trains all night. We had over 150 contest entries, clinics on a wide variety of modeling topics and the most N Scale dealers assembled under one roof that I have ever seen.

Since most of our focus over the past several months was preparation for the convention, I thought I would relate to you some of the effort involved in getting to the point of hosting one of these conventions. Planning for this event started several years ago. Deliberate planning, the assignment of committees for each area and regular meetings began over a year out. NVNTRAK has almost 100 members, with a vast diversity of expertise not only in running trains, but in the civilian workplace as well. Understanding people's strengths and leveraging that expertise is what it takes to coordinate all the tasks required to bring a large number of train fanatics and the general public into a central location for a few days of managed chaos. Through the dedicated work of my fellow NVNTRAK members, I really believe that we collectively provided the environment over those four days that enabled participants to have a great time, run trains, spend some money, meet old and new friends, and create some lasting bonds. Judging from the very positive response we have received over the past month or so since the convention, the folks who attended seem to

agree with me.

Besides gearing up for and running the convention, we have had some time to run trains for the public, and our own enjoyment. My last column ended with our annual setup at the Manassas Railway Festival.

The Nn3 contingent from NVNTRAK traveled to Kimberton, PA 14-16 May to participate in the Narrow Gauge Module Meet. We used this time to make significant progress on one of the modules that made its debut at the Capitol Limited Convention. This event is a low-key affair and the local diner is second to none.

Over the 19-20 June weekend, NVNTRAK set up at the second of our two outdoor events each year. The Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival provides the opportunity for our group to remain proficient at setting up the layout on grades. Even though the terrain is not level, folks have a great time running trains, educating the public on model railroading, and safety related to real trains via the Operation Lifesaver program.

During the period covered by this report, NVNTRAK also participated in our monthly setups at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. We set up there the third Sunday of each month with the exception of December and January. It is a small layout, but it draws steady crowds and produces a good source of income for the museum. Additionally, we operated the Caboose Layout there over May 1st and 2nd in support of one of two special model train weekends at the museum.

We host Backshops most every month on the first Sunday. I mentioned in one of my columns that these sessions are for club members to work on their railroad projects (modules, wiring, structures, etc) and to coordinate club activities. This is an excellent opportunity for those curious about joining the club to get a first hand view into what we do and the great folks that make up NVNTRAK. Visitors are very welcome. I came to a Backshop in August of 1999 as my first experience and have been a member ever since!

That wraps up another fast-paced three months worth of N Scale action. I hope that these columns are interesting and informing. I also hope that if you are inclined to join us, that you do so. You can check us out on the web at www.nvntrak.org. That will provide you with information about the club, what we do, and most importantly, give you contact information and places where we will be set up in the future. Model railroading as a hobby is what you make of it. Till next time, take care.

Around the Division

Brian Sherron's Port Jefferson Branch by
Mark Andersen

5:11 to Port Jefferson, Track 3,
All Aboard!!!!

You're just getting to your seat on the 5:11 pm. local to Port Jefferson. It's about to depart from Jamaica Queens, N.Y. Long Island Railroad Station. Your Fairbanks Morse diesel engine motored train is powering up waiting for the all clear from the head conductor.

As your Fairbanks Morse brings life and movement to your train, you are propelled into that daily return trip home. Brian Sherron has caught the nostalgic eye from his child/adulthood that he and many other ex-Long Islander's experienced.

Continued on Page 7

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 13, 2004 1-5 PM
Saturday, December 11, 2004 1-5 PM

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.

The Potomac Module Crew

by Mark Andersen

Hello All! Another three months has passed us by watching trains from the sidelines. Many of us have worked on our modules, making changes to our modules, sprucing up rolling stock, priming engines, building structures and repairing track work. Several of us have made life changing decisions, and happy ones at that. First, John Gellerman was married on September 5, to his new wife Vicki. We all wish you both the best that life can offer in sharing your lives together. May Vicki learn of the fun of model railroading. On another note Jerry McCrory is retiring from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters office in Washington, D.C. He and Julia Harden, who recently was awarded an AP certificate for scenery, are moving to Hot Spring, Arkansas. Julia and Jerry's four Western Maryland modules will be missed in our shows, as will their friendship. Please wish them well!

July brought vacation for most, but planning continued for our continuing 2004 show season. Our first endeavor returned us to Alexandria's Lyceum City museum. We setup on the second floor in their general meeting room and displayed for Saturday and Sunday. The Lyceum benefits from our showing with more walk-in traffic. This helps them raise funds in both their donation box and the museum store. We are always happy to help, either planning long term or on short notice as with our October 9, 2004 co-setup with the Piedmont RR group at Remington, Va., town celebration.

This same weekend we shared the schedule of railroad happenings with N-Trak's N Scale Convention East 2004. Their website galleries show many pictures of convention happenings and railroad pictures http://www.ntrak2004.org/caplimited2004_galleries.php. The world's largest layout was created, using 500 train modules, needless to say creativity was overwhelming, definitely inspiring for this HO modeler!

Next stop, Fairfax Station Museum, ALL ABOARD!! September 5/6, 2004, Labor Day Sunday and Monday, found the tried, the true and the addicted running trains with Monty and his Lego Land layout in the freight room. We had the museum to ourselves and N-Trak had the caboose. Our combined efforts added to the coffers of the museum. We show three times a year helping with raising funds, educating the public about railroading, modeling and entertaining the children with Thomas, Percy, Annibel, Claribel and Troublesome Trucks with their antics. We also had Shay Racing! Look for the upcoming Shay Racing race wear on a PMC member at a show near you!

Our annual trek to Virginia Beach was next over the weekend of September 17-19, 2004. We generously par-

ticipate in the annual Virginia Beach Tidewater Train and Vendor show. It's always fun to setup trains, run trains and shop for trains all under the same roof. Needless to say some of us left with those model railroad trinkets we couldn't live without!

Last Stop, Culpepper, ALL ABOARD!! Our last show is Culpepper Days, a two day celebration of the history of Culpepper over October 2 and 3, 2004. Some of us set up with our hosts the Piedmont Railroad club in the restored Culpepper Amtrak station freight room. Besides running trains, exchanging pleasantries with patrons and entertaining children that were in abundance, was the occasional REAL train that went by just outside. Talk about foaming at the mouth and excessive drooling, fun was had by all! We're always happy to assist the Piedmont Railroad group when asked. Additionally, on October 9, 2004, courtesy of the town of Remington town committee, space was found to setup for the one day Remington Towne Celebration.

As always, our group is looking for a few good members. We charge no dues, but encourage you to join the MER and NMRA. Come and join in the fun of modular railroading. You may visit us through our website, <http://homepage.mac.com/cjweiner/pmchorr01/Default.html>, thanks to Colin Weiner Please feel free to visit us at our public shows, contact me at (703) 425-8997 or email mvandersen@cox.net. Remember, WE can only grow, if WE bring someone NEW into OUR hobby. Thanks for listening, until next time

Around the Division Continued from Page 5

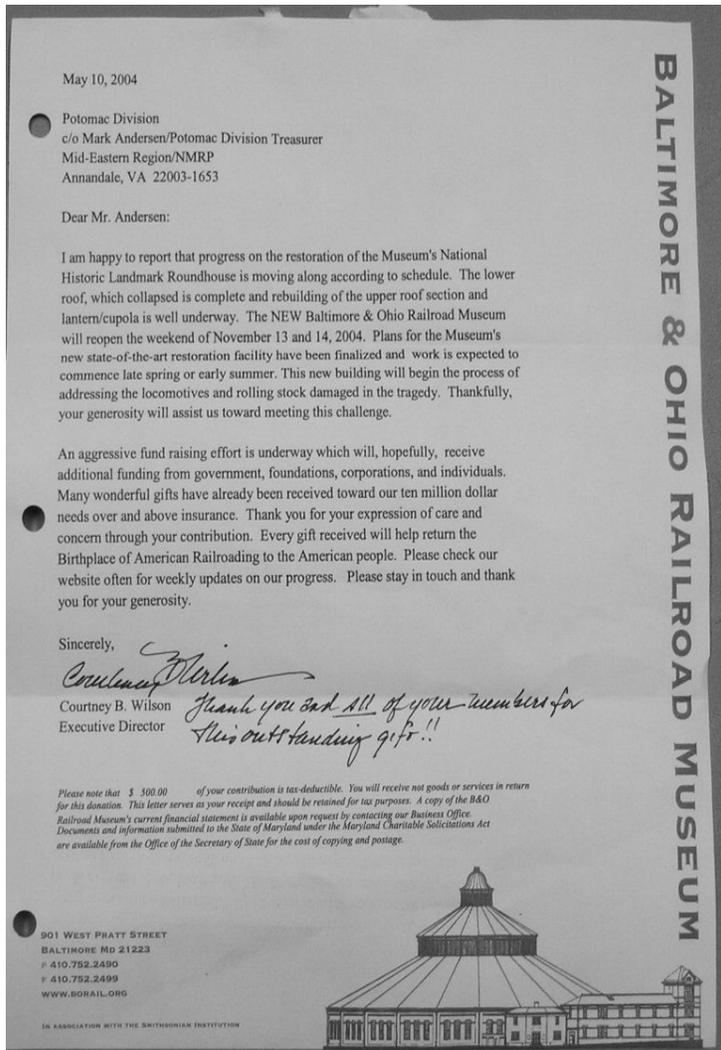
On Sunday, September 26, 2004, Brian hosted a Potomac Division Layout tour that 28 railroaders had the privilege to visit. Brian has modeled the 1964 World's Fair era incorporating his former home in Huntington, New York on the Port Jefferson Branch of Long Island Rail Road from Jamaica Queens to Port Jefferson on the north shore of Long Island New York.

Previously, your train was serviced and assembled in the Jamaica yard's service facilities before being assigned to the Jamaica-Port Jefferson run. Brian's models expertly recreate the LIRR commuter consists of diesel powered, non-electrified trains. Many brass and custom painted plastic models have been built to recreate the LIRR's look. Working within the confines of his shop area, numerous tools, materials, air brush and paints have been used to build the scenery of inner city building, wall hiding flats and structures he has used to achieve that look of realism.

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Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum Thanks Potomac Division

As you all know the B&O Museum suffered major damage last winter. The Board of Directors voted to contribute \$500 to the reconstruction. Here is the museum's thank you.



Around The Division

Jim Hellwege s Canadian Roads by John Griffith

On August 15, Jim Hellwege treated the Potomac Division to a layout tour at his home in Alexandria, Virginia. The turn out was a little light, only about 30, but that was probably because Jim had hosted a tour for the National NTrak convention the week before and many Potomac Division folks stopped by then. All those who did stop by agreed that Jim has a smooth running empire that really gives the feel of northeaster Canada and Maine. The youngest visitors had a great time trying to find all the features on the list Jim provided.

Jim says he has been working on the layout for about 14 years, but says that most of the work was done in the first five. This is a pretty complete model railroad if there is such a thing. The scenery is done, the structures are in place, and the track work is superb. Jim has three independent loops that allow operation of multiple trains at different elevations. Since he had all the prep done for us and the national, Jim says he will share the layout with his son's Scout group in September. Who knows he may round up some new model railroaders with this fine layout.



Sample of Jim Hellwege's Canadian Roads Photo by John Griffith

Potomac Division

Division 2, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association
NEWSLETTER ELECTION AND INTEREST SURVEY

The **Potomac Division** provides various activities for all interested model railroaders, such as home layout tours, prototype tours, and Mini-Conventions. 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

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. All members of the MER and NMRA who reside in one of these areas are automatically members of the Potomac Division. Guests are always welcome at Division events.

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Primary Scale	Secondary Scale	Favorite Railroad(s) & Prototype(s) Modeled:	
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Do you have in primary or secondary scale		Please list the NMRA Special Interest Group(s), model railroad clubs, and railroad historical societies to which you belong:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A layout?		<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Module interest?		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Traction interest?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Would you be willing to host a Home Layout Tour of your Layout? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <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.	

NEWSLETTER ELECTION - THERE ARE NO DUES IN THE POTOMAC DIVISION

Potomac Division: Members may receive the quarterly *Potomac Flyer* via the Postal Service and/or electronically to the email address above (if one is present).

- I elect to receive the *Flyer* in hard copy delivered via the Postal Service at the above address. Enclosed is **\$4.00** for a one year subscription. Please make your check payable to *Potomac Division*.
- Do Do not email the *Flyer* to me as a PDF file at no cost at the above email address. (The pictures are in color)

Note: You must be a member of the NMRA and MER to be a member of the Potomac Division. NMRA and MER # must be provided (we check). The Potomac Division DOES NOT collect dues for these organizations. You may join them by sending your application to:

Mid-Eastern Region: Membership is \$8 per year. Members receive the bimonthly *MER Local*. You may send your dues directly to the 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 *Scale Rails*, associate members do not. You may send your dues directly to the National Model Railroad Association, Inc., Headquarters Office, 4121 Cromwell Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421.

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Around the Division

 Continued from page 7

The right of way his railroad achieves the warehouse backs to countrified scenery of trees, homes, farms and quaint towns. Port Jefferson that quaint little town on the Long Island sound, has numerous details bringing it to life. In 1996, Brian's layout graced the pages of Rail Model Journal His article pictured the fine work of our host and the story of the Port Jeff line, some worthwhile reading.

If you haven't made the effort to learn from others, by attending our layout tours, you should. Several members brought there wives on the way to or from a drive and lunch out on a Sunday. Make a concerted effort and join us in our host's homes, you will be pleasantly motivated to do more modeling. A sample of Brian's work is at the right

The LIRR Station and yards Photo by John Griffith

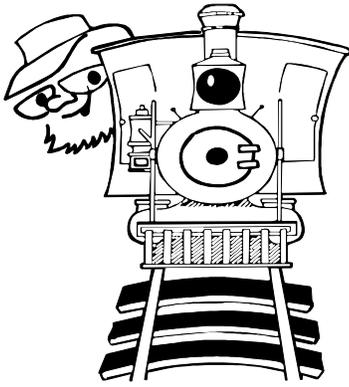
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Bulletin Board

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Painting "rust" on rail

by Marshall Abrams

Some time back there was a thread on painting the sides of rail to simulate rust. This note is a follow-up describing my experience. One recommended product was DecoColor paint marker, available at craft stores like Michaels. It is an instant dry paint with a Xylene solvent. The packing is very much like a Magic Marker. To get it off the top of the rails and the ties, I had to use paint thinner on a rag. The color is not too convincing. I decided not to use it.

Instead, I decided to paint with water-soluble acrylic paint. This is also much more economi-

cal, costing about a dollar for 2 oz. The color is named brown iron oxide (sometime only one of the first two words is used). Different brands have slightly different colors. I prefer Delta Ceramcoat. I used a piece of corrugated cardboard to clean up the excess paint. Using the flat surface on the rail tops, I could clean both rails, even if the paint had dried. I used the edge to clean up the pain from the times. On flextrack I slid the cardboard along the ties just outside the simulated spikes and tie plates.

One caution, don't use paint where it will get into the pivot points of turnouts. In addition to gumming up the joint so that it may no swivel, it may also insulate the point rails. On some of my Atlas turnouts, I had to solder jumpers from the point rails to the pivot point to get them electricity.

I did learn! Around the pivot points I used permanent markers. I found a brown in Sharpie fine point permanent markers. These will color the rail. It's not a very good rust color, but there isn't a large area where it has to be used. I did the turnouts first with Sharpie, then came back the next day with acrylic.

Potomac Division Calendar

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

November

- 6** NV-NTrak at Silver Spring Station, Silver Spring, MD.
- 7** Ken Nesper's Potomac & Patuxent Railroad Layout Tour, Washington DC
- 13** NV-NTrak at Damascus Railroad Day, Damascus, MD.
- 11-14** MER Fall Convention, Hagerstown, MD.
- 13-14** PMC & NV-NTrak at Rockville Lions Club Train Show, Rockville, MD.
- 20** NVNTRAK layout to benefit Fairfax Hospital at Centerville Multiplex Theater, Centerville, VA.
- 20** PMC at Greenburg Train Show, Chantilly, VA.

- 21** NV-NTrak at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, Fairfax Station, VA

December

- 4-5** PMC & NV-NTrak at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, Fairfax Station, VA
- 5** Edwin S. Maldonado's Colorado & Maryland Layout Tour, Adamstown, MD

January

- 9** Bob Conley's Pennsylvania Railroad Layout Tour, Alexandria Va.



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