

# The Potomac Flyer



May - July 2007 The Quarterly Newsletter of Division 2 ("Potomac"), Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Summer Quarter

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Does the Clerk have your e-mail address? If you are not receiving reminders then probably not. Send it to [potomac\\_nmra@comcast.net](mailto:potomac_nmra@comcast.net) now!

## Potomac Division Minicon by John Griffith

On 24 March 2007 the Potomac Division held its annual Mini-convention at St Mathews United Methodist Church in Annandale, Virginia. It turned out to be another great event with plenty to keep everyone occupied. The weather wasn't as good as we had last year in Maryland. It was cool and rainy but that meant we had no competition from other out door events. In other words, we had a good day for model railroading. At least the 72 members of the Potomac Division who came out thought so. We were back in Virginia this year for our Minicon. Since we have about half of our members living in Maryland, we will try to go back there next year.

Both the Potomac Module Crew and Northern Virginia NVNTRAK turned out in force. Both set up extensive modular layouts. NVNTRAK's T-TRAK Division set up T-TRAK modules on folding tables to create a layout for the participants enjoyment.



Potomac Module Crew Layout

While PMC set up a conventional layout of modules. During breaks both groups also conducted mini clinics and helped our new members run trains.

Clinics ranged the gamut with something for everyone. Clinicians were mostly local folks this year. That didn't stop us from presenting headliners however. Paul Dolkos is one of our members and shared a clinic on the many railroads he has had the pleasure of photographing over the years. He also provided tips on photography to all who asked. Other clinics presented were make it and take it cars/freight station/milk station (look for a repeat of this one at Lynchburg), producing backgrounds using the computer, how to obtain your authors certificate, making rocks from ceiling tile, creating brass stencils for your logo, and making pine and cypress trees.



Paul Dolkos Clinic

Along the way there was plenty of other activity. We had a healthy lunch of pizza and soft drinks. *Continued on Page 8*



## 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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Potomac Division web site at:

[http://home.comcast.net/~Potomac\\_NMRA/](http://home.comcast.net/~Potomac_NMRA/)

## From the Business Car

by John Drye  
Division Superintendent  
[jdrye52@aol.com](mailto:jdrye52@aol.com)

Hope everyone enjoyed the Division mini-Con. These continue to be great "bite-size" get togethers where folks can meet old friends, run a train or two, attend and participate in some great clinics, enter and admire some spectacular models in the AP contest and generally hang out with fellow model railroaders.

Thanks to the folks who organized the event and put it on: the BoD who organized everything from clinics to lunch, the modular railroaders who provide a place to run and watch trains, the clinicians, the great modelers and judges and all the members who came out and created another success.

Hopefully, the mini provided an incentive for folks to make it to either the NMRA National Convention July 22-28 in Detroit: <http://www.nmra.org/2007/> or the MER convention this Oct 18-21 in Lynchburg, hosted by the James River Division: <http://www.trainweb.org/MER2007/> Both of these great events provide a slightly larger taste of our great hobby.

The Division is committed to hosting the MER convention in the Fall of 2008, so we'll have the opportunity to provide this larger slice close to home. As those who attended the Mini also heard, the NMRA has asked the Potomac Division to consider hosting the National NMRA Convention in the DC Area in 2013, possibly in conjunction with other Model Railroad Organizations in the area.

There is plenty of convention experience here in the Division area. The Division has hosted several Regional conventions over the past dozen or so years, and other organizations have hosted national level conventions in both O and N scale. Certainly an interesting opportunity.

In the meantime, please check the schedule for upcoming Division Open houses. Attending one of these can supply incentive to get your own modeling going.

## Achievement News by Ed Price

I would like to thank Bill Roman, and Dick Higgins for helping to judge the Mini-Con this year. We had 12 entries this year in the model contest and popular vote categories.

Congratulations to the following three NMRA members for winning Merit Awards for models having more than the required 87 ½ points:

Entry No.	Name	Description
1	John Griffith	EB&T Caboose #27
2	John Griffith	EB&T Combine #14
3	Bill Day	T.W. Snow Coaling Tower (working model)
10	Martin Brechbiel	Clugston's Store

Winners of the popular vote contest are:

Category	Place	Entry No.	Name	Description of Entry
Motive Power	1st	5	Matthew Reddell	UP SD 60M
Motive Power	2nd	9	Martin Brechbiel	CSRR MU Cars
Cars	1st	2	John Griffith	EBT Combine #14
Cars	2nd	7	Doug Kirkpatrick	N&W Passenger Car
Cars	3rd	1	John Griffith	EBT Caboose #27
Structures	1st	10	Martin Brechbiel	Clugston's Store
Structures	2nd	6	Greg Kujawa	Texaco Gas Station
Structures	3rd	3	Charles Day	T.W. Snow Coaling Tower
Favorite Train	1st	8	Martin Brechbiel	H&BT Coal Train
Display/Module	1st	11	Carl Gardner	Swimming Hole at Old Rock

I would like to encourage every NMRA member to participate in the AP. Remember you don't have to enter a contest to participate. All you have to do is contact, me or Bill Roman and we will come to your house and judge your models for the program. This is a good idea especially if you don't want to transport your models or want to have your layout track work judged.

The judges overlooked the rule that structures should have a "plain base", that is one with no ground foam or landscaping. But, participants are reminded that, to be placed in the NMRA contest structures category, a structure attached to a base with completed scenery should be placed in the contest display category.

The Potomac Division achievement program continues to be very active. I would like to congratulate Doug Kirkpatrick for earning this Master Model Railroad certificate. He was honored with a plaque at the Division Meeting.

Remember the Mini-Convention was just a warm-up for the much larger MER Convention coming up this fall at Lynchburg. Don't get discouraged, keep building those models

## Northern Virginia NTRAK News

By Steve Jackson

NVNTRAK T-TRAK Division was in action at the NMRA Potomac Division Minicon. NVNTRAK has a small, but active T-TRAK Division and we were pleased to be allowed to set up at the Potomac Division minicon in March. Unfortunately, due to a death in the family, I was called out of town last minute. I was supposed to have been the layout coordinator for the show, but had to bow out with less than a week's notice, so I called up another member and he said he would take the wheel. He stopped by the house the week before the show and I handed him layout diagrams, wires, throttles, and a few other items. I was a little concerned that he might not be ready to head up the show, but after I ran through all of the instructions I had, he responded with "Hooah". You can take the man out of the Army... I knew things would be just fine and they were. I have heard from several folks that the show was a great time and I look forward to a possible return in the future to expand on what we started. I heard that the hosts were great and the gang enjoyed having the opportunity to experiment with switching trains on the layout that we set up.

The same weekend as the minicon, several members of the oNeTRAK C&O Mountain Subdivision headed out to "Wild and Wonderful" West Virginia for the C&O Historical Society Convention at Hawk's Nest. They have a really beautiful layout featuring several prototype locations along the C&O line along the New River. The guys spent lots of evenings hiding in garages getting modules ready for the big show and even had a laser cutter fired up to build a few custom buildings to make the scenes complete. The modules probably still smelled of burned wood at the start of the show since they were working up until the very end. However, I hear the end result was worth all of the effort. I was unable to make the show, but am looking forward to seeing some pictures of how it all

turned out.

In mid-April, we will assemble an NTRAK layout at our monthly Fairfax station show. This is usually one of our smaller layouts, but the crowds are wonderful and there is something really great about sharing the hobby of model railroading in an actual train station. That same weekend as the FFX Station Show, we will have multi-club NTRAK and T-TRAK layouts at the Great Scale Model Train Show in Timonium, MD. This is a two-day show, which is rare for our T-TRAK group so we usually try to bring out all the modules we can muster just to see what it all looks like. The NTRAK gang has recruits coming down from Pennsylvania to set up with us creating a really nice layout for a weekend of great running. After the busy middle of the month, the rest of April is free or train running events for us, but not entirely free of stuff to be done.

We hope to take advantage of a lull in our schedule allow some of our members to become certified to present and/or hand out materials in support of Operation Lifesaver International. We have several members currently who hold this certification, but we are looking to swell the ranks a little bit during an otherwise slow month. OLI does a lot to teach the public, children in particular, about enjoying trains. Our members are able to get to a broad audience through our various shows throughout the year and have been recognized by OLI for their efforts. In addition to the OLI training, the club is going to have our spring trash pickup for our section of Ravensworth Road on the last weekend of April. We have been supporters of the Virginia Adopt-a-highway program for several years, but the task of cleaning up our road had fallen largely to 1 or 2 members of the club for the last couple of years and we all want a chance to wear those sporty orange vest. Therefore, this past winter another member of the club took over responsibility for the club's participation in the program and we will be more vocal about getting members involved to ensure that more of us have the opportunity to wear bright colors, hang out, and pick up trash. OLI and Adopt-a-Highway are both great ways for the club to give

*Continued on page 6*



**Popular Vote Contest Winners** Photos  
by Ed Price



Martin Brechbiel's Clugstons Store



Matthew Reddell's UP SD 60M



John Griffith's EBT Combine #14



Martin Brechbiel's H&BT Coal Train



Carl Gardner's Swimming Hole at Old Rock



Martin Brechbiel's CSRR MU Cars Photo by John Griffith



Doug Kirkpatrick's N&W Passenger Car Photo by John Griffith



Greg Kujawa's Texaco Gas Station

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## Winners Continued From Page 6



Charles Day's T.W. Snow Coaling Tower



John Griffith's EBT Caboose #27

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### ***NVNTRAK Continued From page 4***

back to the community and to do stuff together that isn't exactly model railroading. We are fortunate to have a gap in the spring schedule to make some progress with these efforts.

May, like April, is another relatively slow month for our club with only 2 public shows on the schedule. The Nn3 Division will be headed up to Chester

County, PA for the Mid-Atlantic Narrow Gauge Guild 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Meet. If you haven't had the chance to see this layout, you really should! These guys do great work and all in Nn3. You have undoubtedly seen the work of some of these individuals through their involvement with NMRA, but the group as a whole really is talented. The same weekend, will find us at our monthly Fairfax Station setup with our NTRAK modules.

June will mark the firing up of the NVNTRAK summer schedule and the "tent series" of shows. We will have 5 shows during the month of June. We will attend the Manassas Railroad Festival during the first weekend of the month kicking off both June and the "tent series" with a moderately sized NTRAK layout. The next day will see our monthly backshop where we have the opportunity to work on modules, tell stories, fix stuff, and generally hang out. In the middle of the month, we will have the second in our "tent series" following up on the Railroad Festival with a layout at the Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival. This layout always features lots of running time, breezes off the water (some times strong enough to blow the trains off the track!) good food and amazing grades around the layout. You have to bring plenty of motive power to this show if you hope to get a train around the layout. The same weekend as the Waterfront festival, we will set up at the Fairfax Station. The following weekend will see us return to the Silver Spring, MD station. This is a great venue. The museum loves to have model trains set up and the location features real trains just outside the door. Add in the nice restaurants within walking distance and you have the ingredients for a pretty great show.

NVNTRAK continues to have plenty to do for everyone. In addition to NTRAK, which is our namesake and our bread and butter; we have active divisions that feature oNeTRAK, Nn3, and T-TRAK modeling. No matter what you like in n-scale, we have a little bit for everyone.

If you want any information about any of our past shows or upcoming shows, you can find it on our web site at [www.nvntrak.org](http://www.nvntrak.org). We have an events link that accesses our calendar and a photo gallery that hosts photos of past shows. Our newsletter (The Callboard) is also posted on the site, although this usually lags the publication of the paper copy.

Thanks for your time. Talk at you again soon.

## The Potomac Module Crew

by Mark Andersen

Spring is making herself known, but there are those wintry like days that still remind us that warming weather is still not quite here! Is your RIP track growing? Are those car and building kits just piling up from Great Scale Model Train Show and Ebay buys? Don't fret, even though spring yard work is around the corner, that folding table or workbench space can be renegotiated. Your efforts and planning can include model railroading or railroading in general.

We are so fortunate when thinking about our hobby and the possibilities one has before them. The internet can and does provide us with the research opportunities needed for our hobby, let alone interest in model railroading our favorite road. Is your interest road specific? Maybe structures, rolling stock, engines or just a regional stretch of track that not only captures our interest, but has some ties to our past.

A good friend has fond memories of the Norfolk and Western, but his heart lies with the Virginian and his Grandfather that was an engineer on that road. Although he was a branch line engineer, still it's that memory of someone loved and held dear for a hobby we all love. Discussions have ensued between us describing in detail how he'd go to work in the morning and then come home after a long day, only to be greeted by a curious and loving grandson down home. The memories are still ripe some 30 years later. This is but one of the ways railroads impact us and allows for stories to be retold.

For me, it was listening to the Long Island railroad off in the distance as it roared along from station to station on the south shore Babylon Line. My even earlier remembrances in Pennsylvania include the Reading railroad as it ran from Reading west to Sinking Spring, Lebanon, Hershey and Harrisburg. Back on Long Island, if the train sounds didn't echo loudly through our town, then it was the ever changing landing approaches to Kennedy airport, for those from

Long Island, we still know it as Ildewild. I still have memories of fishing the back bay near the airport for flounder as a child, if not being put on a train by myself at 7 years old and traveling from Reading, Pennsylvania to New York City's Penn Station to meet my Nana.

So many of us in our group, the Potomac Module Crew, enjoy not only modeling, but real trains as well. We continue to share our interests and joys for model railroading with the parents and those adoring children that visit the venues we display. Occasionally, we add new members as a result. These include Peter Schlaf and Tim Barr, both of which add to our "section gang" of model railroaders.

January is generally non setup month for us, but February did bring us back to the Lyceum Museum. Many families attended this weekend event for the City of Alexandria museum. Again another fundraiser that serves the community and us. After all, we do get to run trains, but most importantly, the museum generates more traffic through their displays on period history of the City of Alexandria. This event is always an entertaining time for all, with the restaurants, shops and all available not only to the "crew," but to any one else visiting the museum show. We display there twice a year, come, bring your spouse and enjoy yourself in what Olde Towne Alexandria can offer one on an outing.

This brings us to our largest multi-club layout culminating in the Dale City Boy Scout Troop 964 Annual Train Show. The main purpose allows local Boy Scouts the opportunities to earn their railroading merit badge over a two day weekend. The "Crew" is invited to participate with the combined HO module layout of the Prince William Model Railroaders, the Piedmont Model Railroaders and the Boy Scouts them. Our 120 module layout, pales in comparison to the large NV-NTrak module layouts choreographed and set up around the country, but fun we do have! The Boy Scouts benefit individually as well as the Troop. Helping with other displays are NV-NTrak, National Capital Trackers, the local American Flyer group, and a Z scale lay

*Continued on Page 8*



### ***PMC Continued From Page 7***

out or two. We're always glad to assist an organization with supporting their efforts for fundraising and getting the word out on model railroading.

Our Mini Convention brought us to St. Matthews once again for a display on March 24, 2007. While many enjoyed the clinics and lectures related to our hobby, several members did enjoy running trains and maintaining our presence at the Mini Con. Remember the Fall of 2008; our division is sponsoring the MER convention. Although the location is still an unknown as of now, we will represent the division with a layout and offer operations as a clinic event at this show. We look forward to your participation.

The next two months will be dry concerning displaying, but the Annual Manassas Festival is scheduled for June 2, 2007. Maybe you can join the throngs and enjoy the displays by the many clubs setup under the pavilion or tents. Maybe you're interested in a roundtrip ride on VRE to Clifton and back? How about bringing your children or grandchildren for a fun day? We hope to see many of you joining in with the joys of railroading?

Our summer hiatus in July will once again lead us to our August displays at the Lyceum, Greenburg and Friends of Fairfax Station shows. Many will have vacation stories, model purchases or even new modules to debut, but we will be there. Come join us and run a train!!!!

Yes, another quarter has passed! We continue to support the NMRA, Operation Lifesaver, the numerous historical societies that each different member supports Model Railroading and most importantly the camaraderie we as "big kids" display for our hobby with the general public!

As always, our group is always looking for a few new members. We charge no dues, but encourage you to join the NMRA. Come join in the fun of modular HO railroading. You may

visit us through our website maintained by Colin Weiner at <http://homepage.mac.com/cjweiner/pmchorr01/DEFault.html>. You may also contact me at [andersmd@cox.net](mailto:andersmd@cox.net) or call at 703-625-1272. Remember, *We* can only grow, if *we* bring someone *NEW* into our hobby! Thanks for listening, until next time, adieu-Mark

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### ***Minicon Continued from Page 1***

Clint Hyde ran an extensive white elephant table. We had our normal model contest and AP judging along with a popular vote contest. We had a good number of entries this year with 4 of them earning merit awards for their builder. Bill Day brought his display and discussed animation with the members. Using his coaling towers and industrial buildings he explained "how he did that." He had a steady flow of folks at his table all afternoon.



Bill Day at work

At noon we held the annual business meeting. We led off with Clint Hyde President of the MER presenting Doug Kirkpatrick, MMR #384, with his plaque and certificate. Doug had been wondering where those items were, after all he was wearing the shirt already. Clint also gave us a run down on the MER Convention planned for this fall in Lynchburg, Virginia. After the usual reports we elected the new  
***Continued on Page 10***



**Potomac Division** Division 2, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association  
4604 Bel Pre Road Rockville, MD 20853-2208



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Email :  
[Potomac\\_NMRA@comcast.net](mailto:Potomac_NMRA@comcast.net)

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

### Personal Information

First Name	Last Name	Work phone
Address	Birth date	Home phone
Address 2	NMRA #	NMRA expiration date
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Email		

### Interest Survey

Primary Scale	Secondary Scale	Favorite Railroad(s) & Prototype(s) Modeled:	
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"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Narrow Gauge interest?		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Module interest		<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Traction interest interest?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Would you be willing to host a Home Layout Tour of your Layout? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			

### Newsletter Election

The quarterly *Potomac Flyer* is sent at no cost to the email address above (if one is present). If you don't want email delivery, please check here.

To receive the *Flyer* in hard copy delivered via the Postal Service at the above address, please check here  and enclosed \$5.00 for a one year subscription. Please make your check payable to Potomac Division and mail with this form to the address at the top of the page.

National Model Railroad Association membership is \$45 per year for full membership including the monthly *Scale Rail*, or \$33 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. <http://www.rhistorical.com/NMRA/>

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### Minicon Continued from Page 8

Board of Directors for the next year. The following were elected John Drye, Bill Day, Marshall Abrams, Mark Andersen, and Bill Demas.



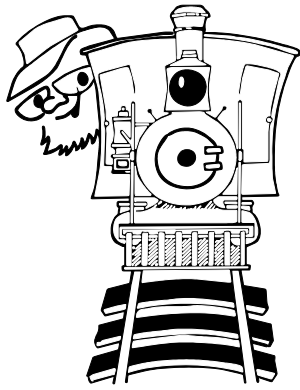
Clint presents Doug his MMR certificate and Plaque

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If you missed this years Minicon mark your calendar for next year! The new board is already working on it and the MER 2008 convention.



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## Bulletin Board

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

## Potomac Division Web Site

Check out the web site more info, more fun even some how to: [http://home.comcast.net/~Potomac\\_NMRA/](http://home.comcast.net/~Potomac_NMRA/)

**Roommate Wanted** looking for roommate to share room at the NMRA Convention 7/23 thru 7/28 2007 in Detroit, Michigan. Please contact Paul e-mail [ff3hutch@aol.com](mailto:ff3hutch@aol.com) or cell 240-299-9963.

## NMRA Convention 2013

The Board has been approached regarding sponsoring the 2013 National NMRA in the National Capital Area. This is no small undertaking. The Board is still gathering facts and will be looking for membership input. There was a short discussion regarding this at the Minicon. In the next Flyer we will attempt to layout the requirements for volunteers etc that will be

needed. Following that we will be asking for your thoughts and ideas regarding the possible sponsorship. If we wish to submit a proposal to the NMRA it will be at the 2008 Convention. At this time no decision has been made.

## Potomac Division Calendar

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

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### MAY

- 5-6 PD Module Crew at Fairfax Station Train Show, VA
  - 5 Prince William Model Railroad Club, **Quantico VA**
  - 20 NVNTrak at Fairfax Station Museum, VA
  - 20 Layout tour at **Monroe Stewart's Oxon Hill, MD**
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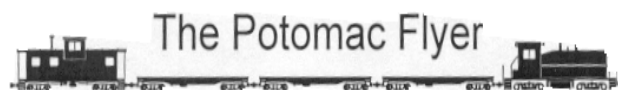
### JUNE

- 2 PD Module Crew at Manassas Heritage Show, Manassas, VA.
- 17 Layout tour at Mat Thompson's, Gainesville, VA

- 23-24 Timonium Great Scale Model Train Show

### JULY

- 22-28 National NMRA Convention, Detroit, MI
- 29 Layout tour at Robert Burroughs', Laurel MD



The Quarterly Newsletter of

Division 2 ("Potomac") Mid Eastern Region

National Model Railroad Association

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