

## What does the NMRA do for me?

The National Model Railroad Association has a great library, a great website, and represents you, the member, to the industry. The NMRA is made up of Divisions and Regions. The Potomac Division has no match for our layout tours (monthly), our Mini Conventions, and our tours. And it's all in a 50 mile radius of the Washington Monument.

The Division gives access, though our layout tours, to layouts of the quality that otherwise people can only see in the magazines and then only in small parts. The guest can ask "how did you do that" of the great, the not so great, and those who struggle. All have something to offer, even if it's "I don't want to do it that way." Participate and you get a resource and a friend.

At least once a year we assemble and provide info on a wide range of subjects. You may not care this year, but next year you may be ready to hear what the instructor was trying to say. He/she may not be giving that clinic this year, but they are probably there and will be willing to answer all your questions. All you have to do is ask. Participate and you get a resource and a friend.

Our tours put those who are experienced with those who have never seen, say, a steam locomotive except in a western movie. What a great way to learn. Standing at Horseshoe Curve and watching trains go by is an exhilarating experience. To have someone tell you about the train going by or the history is priceless. Or going to places you can't get into

on your own like the shops at Strasburg, PA. Participate and you get a resource and a friend.

Another benefit is friends. I have a lot of friends that I didn't have seven years ago when I went to my first Mini Convention. Some have left and some are still close. The NMRA is graying just like the rest of the population and trains are no longer as visible as when we grew up. The NMRA, however, allows us to introduce a new generation to the pleasures of sharing history, our accomplishments, and a love of railroading.

I started with the question "what's the NMRA do for me?" I believe the answer may be nothing. It's what you put into the NMRA that you get back. If you don't participate, the NMRA can't do much for you. Just a thought.

John Griffith

## How you can join the fun

The Potomac Division welcomes visitors at all events. Check the schedule on the web page [http://home.comcast.net/~Potomac\\_NMRA](http://home.comcast.net/~Potomac_NMRA). If you would like to talk to a member who lives near you, send an email request to [Potomac\\_NMRA@comcast.net](mailto:Potomac_NMRA@comcast.net) or write us at 4604 Bel Pre Road, Rockville, MD 20853.

There are periodic special membership promotions that enable you to join the NMRA; the current offer is RailPass, a 6-month trial NMRA membership. You'll get the magazine and all non-voting membership rights for \$10. Try it, you'll like it! When you join the NMRA you automatically become a member of Potomac Division.

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# Join the Fun Model Railroading



## John Armstrong's Canandaigua Southern

Model railroading is fun. You learn new skills, have the pride of accomplishment and get to meet a lot of nice people happy to share their passion for this hobby.

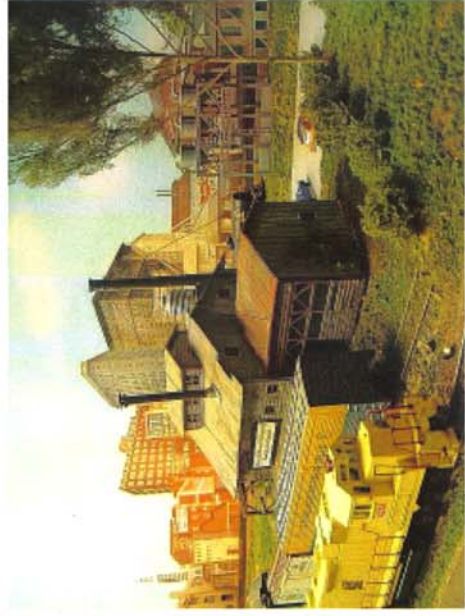
- Skills that combine to build a model railroad:
  - Woodworking
  - Electrical & electronics
  - Mechanics
  - Photography
  - Art
  - History
  - Computers
  - Model building

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



## Benefits and opportunities abound when you join the Potomac Division:

- Strengthen the Family–intergenerational bonding while sharing a common interest
- Recreate a (animated) slice of history
- Join a club
- Join a “round robin” group that meets at multiple layouts
- Build new friendships and earn peer recognition
- Build a module and join with others to set up a large public exhibition
- Discover the chance to develop skills you may not have known you had in ways you have not yet considered – with friends you have not yet made.



Marshall Abrams’ Abrams Railroad Empire



Monroe Stewart’s Hooch Junction

## Potomac Division of the NMRA

The Potomac Division covers Northern Virginia (Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William and Rappahannock counties), Washington DC, and Maryland (Calvert, Charles, Howard, Montgomery, Prince Georges and St. Mary’s counties), suburbs of DC. We have members farther away (and who have hosted layout tours!), but we are centered around DC and the Potomac River (hence the name).

We have a sub-group, the Potomac Module Crew, an HO modular-layout group. We also have a discussion group on Yahoo named PD\_NMRA.

Experience the fun of model railroading! Our primary activity is the monthly layout tour, where members hold an open house to display their layouts. Our spring Mini Convention is our major annual gathering.

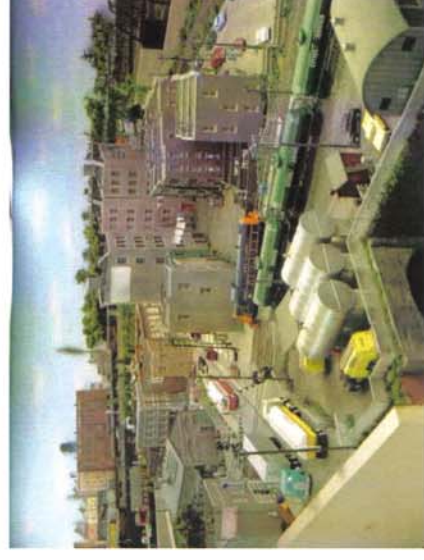
We are the best resource for information and friendship concerned with all aspects of model railroading. Information about our

activities and the other interests below are on our website:

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

## Other nearby model railroading groups

- Potomac Module Crew (PMC)— HO scale
- Northern Virginia NTRAK
- Northern Virginia Model Railroaders (NVMR)
- Washington, Virginia, & Maryland Garden Railway Society
- Crescent Model Railroaders
- National Capital Trackers
- Prince William County Model Railroad Club
- Four County Society of Model Engineers
- Rockville Model Railroad Society
- Severna Park Model Railroad Club
- Harford Associates for Railroad Modeling
- Japan Rail Modelers



Brian Sheron’s Long Island Railroad