

# 2007 Potomac Division Mini Convention

Reported by John Griffith

On March 24, 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 outdoor 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 TTRAK Division set up T-TRAK modules on folding tables to create a layout for the participants enjoyment.



*Potomac Module Crew Layout 1*

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 gambit 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 Dolkas Clinic 1*

Along the way there was plenty of other activity. We had a healthy lunch of pizza and soft drinks.

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.



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

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. Bill

**Achievement News from the Minicon** Reported 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 81 ½ points:

Entry Number	Name	Description
1	John Griffith	EB&T Caboose #27
2	John Griffith	EB&R Combine #14
3	Bill Day	T. W. Snow Coaling Tower (working model)
10	Martin Brechbiel	Clugston's Store

Winners of the popular vote contest were:

<b>Category/ Place</b>	<b>Entry Number</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
Motive Power 1 <sup>st</sup>	5	Matthew Reddell	UP SD 60M
Motive Power 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9	Matthew Brechbiel	CSRR MU Cars
Cars 1 <sup>st</sup>	2	John Griffith	EBT Combine #14
Cars 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7	Doug Kirkpatrick	N&W passenger car
Cars 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1	John Griffith	EBT Caboose #27
Structures 1 <sup>st</sup>	10	Martin Brechbiel	Clugston's Store
Structures 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6	Greg Kujawa	Texaco Gas Station
Structures 3 <sup>rd</sup>	3	Charles Day	T. W. Snow Coaling Tower
Favorite Train 1 <sup>st</sup>	8	Martin Brechbiel	H&BT Coal Train
Display/Module 1st	11	Carl Gardner	Swimming Hole at Old Rock