



Nov. 5th Joint Meet and Layout Tours Report

Text and Photos by Alex Belida, MMR, Flyer Editor

Close to 80 members, mainly from the Potomac and James River Divisions, attended the 2022 Joint Meet at Battlefield Baptist Church in Warrenton, Virginia on an unseasonably warm and sunny November 5th. There were also a handful of visitors from the Tidewater Division (including Greg Warth, editor of the Mid East Region newsletter *The Local*), from the Chesapeake Division and even a guest all the way from the Lakeshores Division in Rochester, New York.



Superintendents **Martin Brechbiel** (Potomac) and **Phil Taylor** (James River) opened the assembly (after all indulged in coffee and donuts). They were joined by Battlefield's Pastor Greg Corcoran who welcomed NMRA participants for what has become a regular November feature event. The Church charges no fee for use of its facilities for the meet. But as in the past, before the clinics portion of the meet got

under way, KFC buckets were passed to raise money for Battlefield's South Sudan mission. A record \$1043 was raised!

Six clinics were held. **Ken Wilson (photo right)** discussed rolling stock brake systems before an attentive audience.



Brian Sheron, MMR, discussed making an operational grade crossing signal, demonstrating a model he built especially for clinic purposes **(photo left)**.

Another clinic was led by author **Norm Reid** on model railroad photography. It was heavily attended. **(Photo below right)**

Phil Taylor discussed the new Soundtraxx Blunami digital sound decoders. **(Photo below left)**





George Gaige, MMR, led his clinic on building an operating water tank (photo left). He also bought along a demonstration model.

The sixth clinic was offered by Ernie Little, MMR, Potomac's Assistant Superintendent. Ernie (photo below right) discussed the intricacies of using Decoder Pro.



Besides clinics, there were White Elephant sales tables (photo below), model judging, a popular vote model contest with the theme of Maintenance of Way cars and a



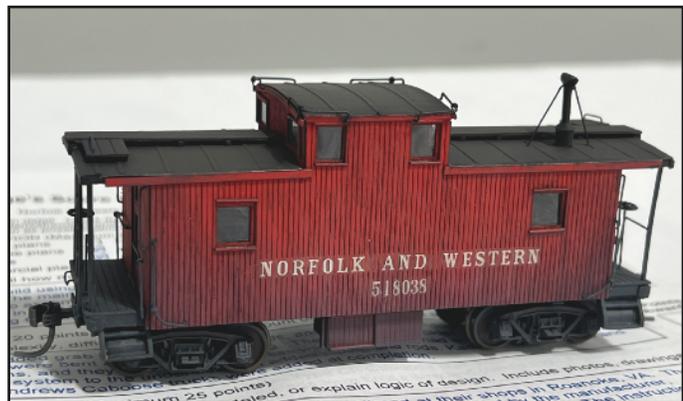
gigantic giveaway of door prizes to just about everyone who attended the Joint Meet. Martin Brechbiel, MMR (photos below left and right) took both 1st and 2nd place in the popular vote model contest with his MoW cars.



George Gaige, MMR, won the raffle drawing and was presented with a South River Model Works "Millett Creamery" that had been previously built (photo below left). The prize included several unused parts plus the original model box. He is required to integrate it into his layout and assured questioners he had room for the model.



One Merit Award was handed out by judges during the meet to Jeff Burch of Chesapeake for his caboose model (photo below right).



At the conclusion of the Joint Meet, participants broke for lunch before heading off to three layout open houses in the near vicinity. These were hosted by Potomac's Jim Rogers, Paul Buzby and Marty McGuirk.

Paul Buzby Open House

Text and Photos by Ernie Little, MMR

Paul had something a little different to offer those attending in that he has both HO and O scale set up in separate rooms in his basement. His HO scale layout is 15' by 19' and has two separate levels that are not connected. The upper level is a continuous



loop around the perimeter of the room and about seven feet in the air with no scenery. The lower level is the main layout and a work in progress. Paul has completed some scenery and buildings but is still working on other details. Some of the ground cover material he used is a dark brown sawdust that came from a woodworking project he did some time back. He applied it to the bench of the layout using the usual white glue and water which appears to have worked very well for what he needed as a cover material. The lower level has operator locations that are reached by ducking, well, really creeping, under the layout. One thing of note is his use of a mirror at

the back end of his layout which makes it appear much deeper.

Paul models the Pennsylvania Reading/Seashore Line, the Pennsylvania RR, the Reading RR, and the Central Railroad of New Jersey (CNJ). The layout includes a 17-stall roundhouse with turntable, prototypical track layout of the Camden passenger yard with kitbash of Allen Tower, a scratch-built tower of Newfield, and a kitbash tower of Winslow, and a scratch-built tower in Tuckahoe.



His O-gauge layout is two separate loops on different levels where he runs some vintage equipment, including an antique Lionel Train. This layout is 8' by 15' in size with no scenery.

Both of his layouts run by use of the Digitrax operations system.

Paul is new to the Potomac Division and lives in Gainesville, Virginia. He relocated from up north where he started as an NMRA member.

Jim Rogers Open House

Text and Photos by Lee Stoermer



Jim Roger's layout is a proto-freelance version of the B&O Railroad from Cincinnati, OH to Baltimore, MD. At Grafton there is a branch to a major paper mil industry and a branch to Charleston, WV., which is serviced by the B&O and the NYC.



Model railroad operations currently schedules 11 trains, split between mainline through trains, locals and a dedicated mine run. It is built for operations. Between 6 and 12 operators can be kept busy for 3 hours easily on anything from dispatching to yard ops to mainline run throughs. Car

cards and switch lists are used to facilitate operations which follow a schedule of trains to run during a session.

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Jim moved to the area near South Riding, Virginia from Georgia into a smaller house, and subsequent a much smaller basement. The basement was unfinished as to drywall installation, but all the creature comforts needed for railroad model operations are in place. I can attest that once you get involved into the operations, your attention is on the layout, and you don't notice any distractions of the framing. Jim reports this is a benefit at times as it allows finding a stud to be really easy! Except for some ballasting and repair of scenes damaged in the move, he reports the railroad survived the transport fairly well.

The photos are overviews of various portions of his layout I took a few months back. Jim has been actively improving scenery and trackwork to improve operations for quarterly events that he holds.



Marty McGuirk Open House

Text by Lee Stoermer, Photos by Marty McGuirk



[Autumn scene on Marty McGuirk's layout](#)

Marty McGuirk opened his Central Vermont Railway Richford Branch as one of the 2022 Mini-Con layout tours.

Marty's layout has been featured in several model railway articles. His layout design style is set with an autumn theme. Marty has an extensive website that documents construction of his current layout, as well as his previous layout that was based on a different portion of the CV.

While the photos provided here by Marty look nice, the layout is even better in person.

Numerous comments received afterwards by attendees expressed their thanks to him for allowing them to view his layout. We at the Potomac Division do as well and look



Above: CV 472 powers this local traveling past a creamery on Marty's layout

Below: Overview of Marty's layout room. The sky blue painted walls help form the layout area as does the fascia color.



forward to the next opportunity to view his layout, as well as website and article updates.

More information can be found at his extensive blog on his layout construction progress at this link:

<http://centralvermontrailway.blogspot.com/p/basement.html>

Additional Photos of Marty McGuirk Layout by Tom Patterson (left) and Nicholas Kalis (right)

