

# The Local

A PUBLICATION OF THE MID-EASTERN REGION OF THE NMRA



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Number 6

## What Are You Doing for Christmas?

*Story and photographs by David H. Lynam,  
Superintendent, Carolina Piedmont Division 13*

**H**ERE IN THE CAROLINA Piedmont Division 13 (CPD13), we recently had a tremendous improvement in our Christmas charity. We have a program that we call the Holiday Trains for Kids. We raise money throughout the year through sales of old donated magazines, excess trains, and extra parts. We also have a sign explaining the program with a donation jar on our club table at various events or shows. Each December we purchase train sets as Christmas presents for under-privileged kids. We try to give some sets to the Marine's Toys for Tots Program because they seldom get toys for the older kids. Other sets are given to families that are nominated by friends that know of a situation and tell us about the need.

In April 2002, the Board of Directors came up with an interesting idea to improve the program. It was suggested that the club build a small layout, easily transportable in a mini-van, to raise some more money for the Holiday Trains for Kids program. After all the discussion it was decided to build an N-scale layout using a hollow-core door as the base. We trimmed the length to six feet and added folding table legs. We opened up the construction to anyone who had the time or desire to help construct the layout. Additionally, it was a great opportunity for folks to try something new. If a person was apprehensive about electrical or scenery work, this was the opportunity to learn about it from someone who had experience in that area. This became a kind of member aid or tutoring opportunity.

The guys would meet weekly at a time convenient for all and work for about three to four hours. The layout was also transported

to the monthly club meetings for a progress report and even used in a program or two. For instance, a program was held on foam scenery techniques using the layout as a teaching tool. We worked with and cut different types of foam. We also tried our hands at plaster shell construction, rock castings and coloring, and more. The advantage here was that the Division membership got to be a part of the process and learn some skills as well.

The structures were another interesting part of the project. A list was made of the type of structures needed and members signed up to build, finish, and donate them for the layout. Each completed structure was brought to a designated monthly meeting and shown to the membership. After structures were received, the building crew arranged their placement on the layout for the town, businesses, and infrastructure. At the construction meeting the crew weathered the buildings and attached them to the layout.

We have one member who is very gifted at making trees. He donated a forest or two, and soon the layout was well on the way. A member who is an avid N-scale modeler donated the track, rolling stock, and a couple of engines. A member who taught construction skills at a local university donated the door. The hardware and a few incidentals needed for completion cost the Division only about \$75.

So how did we use the layout to raise money? We started a raffle. We are fortunate in our area to have two train shows a year. The Great American Train show is held in August, and the Neuse

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Sgt. Pekha receiving trains on behalf of Toys for Tots.

## MER LOCAL

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### *Editor*

Alan Mende  
526 Pine Hill Road  
Hummelstown, PA 17036-8020  
(717) 566-9956  
[afmende@amp.com](mailto:afmende@amp.com)

### *Associate Editor*

Roger L. Cason, MMR  
1125 Grinnell Road,  
Wilmington, DE 19803-5125  
(302) 478-2550  
[rogercason@juno.com](mailto:rogercason@juno.com)

### *Official Photographer* Ron Baile

24 Hampton Road  
Westmont, NJ 08108-2202  
(609) 858-6644  
[ronald.h.baile@verizon.com](mailto:ronald.h.baile@verizon.com)

### *Assistant Photographer*

Raymond Fisher  
1228 Kings Circle  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-7673  
(717) 732-4748

### *LOCAL Advertising Manager*

Richard Foley  
2021 Wallace Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19130-3221  
(215) 252-4926  
[tfoley1@ix.netcom.com](mailto:tfoley1@ix.netcom.com)

### *LOCAL Publisher*

Julianne H. Smith  
506 Adelman Circle, SW  
Vienna, VA 22180  
[dragonjuls@cox.net](mailto:dragonjuls@cox.net)

The *MER LOCAL* welcomes articles, photographs and model railroad related material as contributions to members' mutual enjoyment of the hobby. Materials should have a wide appeal. Editors will exercise all due care of submissions, but contributors should not send originals without having back-up copies of both articles and photographs. Editors, by definition, reserve the right—and have the responsibility—to make corrections, deletions and changes to accommodate space.

## Keeping In Touch...

*By Rita Lynam  
MER Business Manager*

WHAT A GREAT convention in Reston! Good friends to meet and great times were had! I met members whose names I knew only from the roster, signed up new ones, and renewed other members. That's the way I like convention weekends—keeping busy but adding a face with a name. I also met wives of members I knew and wives of members I just met – renewed acquaintances and made new ones. I teased my husband about not “reading from the script” and laughed heartily on many occasions. We definitely are the **Most Enthusiastic Region!** I know it is due to our members.

The Potomac Division sponsored a really good convention. Over the course of the weekend, the host organizers kept checking to make sure everything was working correctly and took care of whatever need we had. Great job!

The MER annual meeting was the best one I have seen for participation from the membership. It was good to have members asking questions of the Board and our Trustee. From that meeting the membership voiced its opinions that we need to take responsibility for being NMRA members. We need to make sure we all read the full proposal (bylaws and single dues issue) that the NMRA Board wants us to vote on this winter. Every vote counts, and we need to vote in order to be heard.

On our way home from the convention, we turned on the radio and found the announcing team of Sam Huff and Sonny Jurgenson. It had been many years since we had heard them announcing a Redskins game. It was great to listen to their banter and drive the beltway—it helped keep us smiling with all the traffic.

Be sure to send me any address changes so we make sure you can receive your copy of *The Local*.

Thanks for stopping by the contest room to say hello. It was good to see so many of you.

### Recently Deceased Member

**Eugene (Gene) W. Perry**, Adelphi, Maryland. Born December 1927, died September 18. Joined the NMRA in 1989 #081272. Joined the MER in 1989 #6112.

## MID EASTERN REGION

*Administrative Staff*

*President:* Norman W. Garner  
3408 Wilshire Road  
Portsmouth, VA 23703-3940  
(757) 484-0772  
[nwgrail@aol.com](mailto:nwgrail@aol.com)

*Vice President:* Clint Hyde  
13443 Brookfield Dr  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
(703) 803-3068  
[chyde@cox.net](mailto:chyde@cox.net)

*Secretary:* Bill Roman  
12569 Council Oak Drive  
Waldorf, MD 20601-4509  
(301) 645-2035  
[wroman@starpower.net](mailto:wroman@starpower.net)

*Treasurer:* Ron Schmidt  
7110 Riverdale Road  
Lanham, MD 20706-1130  
(301) 577-7899  
[rgschmidt@juno.com](mailto:rgschmidt@juno.com)

*Trustee:* Eric Dervinis  
632 Bobwhite Road  
Wayne, PA 19087-2305  
(610) 688-6113  
[ericdlw@aol.com](mailto:ericdlw@aol.com)

*Director:* Bob Minnis  
3016 Dower House Drive  
Oak Hill, VA 20171-2236  
(703) 391-0675  
[kahlualab@aol.com](mailto:kahlualab@aol.com)

*Director:* Roger Cason, MMR  
1125 Grinnell Road,  
Wilmington, DE 19803-5125  
(302) 478-2550  
[rogercason@juno.com](mailto:rogercason@juno.com)

*Director:* Noll Horan  
8316 Tobin Rd Apt 12  
Annandale, VA 22003-6835  
(703) 642-6568  
[nhoran@mymailstation.com](mailto:nhoran@mymailstation.com)

*Business Manager:* Rita Lynam  
9 Roosevelt Avenue  
Wilmington, DE 19804-3044  
(302) 636-0888  
[mgrmerbus@aol.com](mailto:mgrmerbus@aol.com)

Send change of address to Business Manager at [mgrmerbus@aol.com](mailto:mgrmerbus@aol.com) or at the address in the right column of this page.

# President's Column

*By Norman W. Garner*

**T**HE MER POTOMAC JUNCTION 2003 held in October was an outstanding convention. I have heard nothing but praise from everyone who attended the convention. The layout tours were as good as you could find at any NMRA convention. The guest speaker, John Armstrong, was such a delight to see and hear, a legend in model railroading. I want to thank Bob Minnis the Convention Chairman, John Drye, the Potomac Division Superintendent, Clint Hyde, and the entire convention staff for doing an outstanding job. I also want to thank the entire Potomac Division for their support and for hosting the convention.

The MER has two new chairpersons on board to help serve the region. Clint Hyde has stepped down as publisher, and the new publisher is Julianne Smith. Mrs. Smith is the Production Coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation Magazine. The new Auction chairman is Tom Buckingham.

The MER/BOD meeting, as well as the annual MER business, meeting focused on the proposed changes to the NMRA regulations and by-laws. The final proposed NMRA changes can be found on the NMRA website, <http://www.nmra.org/>. These changes are 29 pages in length. It is a shame that the NMRA/BOT is putting the members in a position to have to vote for all of the

changes in one vote. There are many proposed changes that are good and need to be changed, but we are not being given the option to vote on single changes. Although these changes will not have an impact on me (I am a lifetime member), but as your President, I do not support voting yes to the proposed NMRA/BOT regulations and by-laws changes. My rationale for this is as follows: The proposed changes will eliminate collection of dues at the division and region levels, and it is still unclear the amount that will be returned to the regions for the divisions. This, in turn, will create severe financial burdens on both the regions and divisions. Therefore, you will be asked to vote on the unknown. This unknown could present undue financial hardships on some members such as the NMRA members who, after 50 years of membership, can no longer afford the dues. How many more members will we lose?

I urge those of you with computers to go to the website and review the proposed NMRA/ BOT changes, especially pages nine thru eleven. If you don't have a computer and would like to see the changes, give me a call, and I will be glad to mail you a copy. Remember, your vote will make a difference. I will be contacting each division superintendent on this issue.

Norm



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## 50-Year Members

*By Eric Dervinis, Trustee*

**I**T IS MY PLEASURE to congratulate the following 11 members for 50 years of service to the hobby of model railroading. Each one joined the NMRA in 1953, and celebrates 50 continuous years of service to the hobby in 2003. Join me in thanking these dedicated members for their service to the hobby, and in wishing all of them many more years of model railroad fun.

Irving Bialick  
Norman K. Bithell  
Carlton J. Cook  
Jerome M. Crosson  
Allen B. Hanger, Jr.  
Robert E. Keyser

Charles J. Kokoski  
Richard A. Perry  
George Roland  
William R. Vivian  
Robert L. Warren

River Valley Model Railroad Club's show is held in November. CPD13 members started pre-selling raffle tickets at work and to friends in the fall, even before the layout was completed. During the shows, CPD13 uses a portable switching layout based on John Allen's Time Saver game. This switching layout draws kids and



Mrs. Laurie Brooks and her son received a train set from club members.

adults to our table. The kids are encouraged to run the engine back and forth (with guidance of course). While the kids are being entertained, club members can explain the Holiday Trains for Kids program and our raffle of the N-scale layout to the parents. After all it's hard to resist giving a dollar for a kid's Christmas project. Besides, our "Grandfather" members love to help the kids run the trains back and forth on the switching layout.

Last year's layout was a tremendous success. The completed layout was displayed at the November train show. Having the trains running on the layout caught the eye of many, young and



old. The result was that we made a bit over \$800, and it was all profit for the Holiday Trains for Kids program. The train sets were bought and distributed for Christmas and made a great holiday for some needy families. Additionally, there is one very happy North Carolina boy who, as the winner of the raffle, now has a super-tremendous N-scale model train layout to call his very own. This year the layout is a little different, but again it is N-scale and we anticipate that it will be just as successful. If you would like to help some kids this Christmas, perhaps this idea could work for your Division as well. Everybody wins and it gets another kid interested in trains, the world's greatest hobby!

That's what the Carolina Piedmont Division 13 is doing for Christmas!

## CALLBOARD

### Coming Events

**December 13, 2003, Noon to 4 PM.** Northern Virginia Model Railroaders, Inc. open house. Located in historic Washington & Old Dominion Railroad station, 231 Dominion Rd. (at the intersection with Ayr Hill Rd.), Vienna, VA. There is no admission charge, though donations are accepted. More information can be obtained by going to our Web site at <http://www.nvmr.org>, by e-mail at [nvmrinc@hotmail.com](mailto:nvmrinc@hotmail.com) or by calling (703)-938-5157 on the day of the open house. The club meets on Tuesday evenings.

**November 29 & 30, December 6 & 7, 2003, January 3 & 4, 2004 (Jan. 10 & 11 snow dates), Noon to 4 PM.** Cheltenham Model Railroad Club open house. Located at 8000 Old York Rd. (at railroad bridge) adjacent to Elkins Park Square, Elkins Park, PA 19027. There is no admission charge but donations will be gratefully accepted. For more information, call (215)-635-9747.

**December 6 & 7, 2003, 10 AM to 4 PM.** The Gateway Model RR Club annual open house 100 Browning Rd., Brooklawn, NJ (Browning & the railroad). \$ 3.00 donation, children under 12 free w/adult. For more information, contact Ron Baile 24 Hampton Rd., Westmont, NJ 08108-2202, (856)-858-6644 or [rbaile@aol.com](mailto:rbaile@aol.com).

**January 17, 2004, 9 AM to Noon.** New Jersey Division Meet 406 Memorial Dr., Haddon Twp., NJ. Clinics, contests and layouts. Free for first time attendees. Website: <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/njdivnmra>. Contact: Mike McNamara, Phone: (856)-824-0879.

**March 20, 2004, 9 AM to Noon.** New Jersey Division Meet. Walnut Street School, 411 Walnut St., Delanco, NJ. Clinics, contest and layouts. Free for first time attendees. Website: <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/njdivnmra>. Contact: Mike McNamara, Phone: (856)-824-0879.

**March 26 – 28, 2004.** Railroad Prototype Modelers Valley Forge. At the Desmond Great Valley Hotel and Convention Center, 1 Liberty Blvd., Malvern, PA. Prototype clinics, model displays, vendor's room, Sunday home layout tours. For additional information, [phillynmra.org](http://phillynmra.org) or SASE to: Paul Backenstose, 103 West Uwchlan Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335. Sponsored by the Philadelphia Division, MER, NMRA

# Potomac Division Modeler Earns the Title of Master Model Railroader

*By Marc Sisk  
Photographs by Clint Hyde*

**T**HE MID-EASTERN REGION has a new Master Model Railroader. Noll Horan recently completed all the requirements and has been recognized by the NMRA as Master Model Railroader #326. Noll is a member and past president of the Northern Virginia NTRAK Club and currently serves as a Mid-Eastern Region Director. He models in both N and On30 scales.



#### D. Service to the Hobby & NMRA Member

- Association Official
- Association Volunteer
- Model Railroad Author

Noll has received Achievement Certificates in Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer - Civil, Association Volunteer and Model Railroad Author. Five of these seven require that a modeler's work be judged at the Division, Regional or National level and earn merit awards. Noll has accomplished this in a little less than four years. According to Noll, he is not done yet as his goal is to obtain Achievement Certificates in all eleven categories. This is a feat achieved by only a handful of modelers.

Noll was formally recognized for his achievement at the Mid-Eastern Region's fall convention, Potomac Junction 2003, held in Reston Virginia October 10-13. Next time you see Noll, shake his hand and congratulate him on this outstanding accomplishment. The NMRA Achievement Program offers modelers a conduit to improve their skills while learning many useful tips that extend throughout the spectrum of model railroad activities.

Most NMRA members are familiar with the Achievement Program. For those of you not familiar with what it takes to earn the title "MMR" let me fill you in. You must receive Achievement Certificates in seven of eleven categories. The categories are:

#### A. Railroad Equipment:

- Master Builder - Motive Power
- Master Builder - Cars

#### B. Railroad Setting:

- Master Builder - Structures
- Master Builder - Scenery
- Master Builder - Prototype Models

#### C. Railroad Construction & Operation:

- Model Railroad Engineer - Civil
- Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical
- Chief Dispatcher



# Achievement Program

## Part 6

*By Charlie Flichman*

**I**N THIS ARTICLE we will look at the requirements for the Master Builder—Prototype Models Certificate. In some ways the requirements for this certificate aren't too much different from the Scenery Certificate. The difference between this certificate and the Scenery Certificate is that there isn't a minimum size requirement for the prototype scene. The scene has to be big enough to adequately display the required models. A full explanation of this certificate can be found at the NMRA website under [www.nmra.org/achievement/apc4a.html](http://www.nmra.org/achievement/apc4a.html). The requirements for this certificate are to:

1. Construct an animated or static model of a prototype scene containing at least six models of prototype equipment or structures.
2. Earn a Merit Award with the above scene.
3. Prepare a written description along with photographs, documented evidence, and/or maps that will verify the actual prototype scene.
4. Provide color photos or a video and a written description of the materials and methods used to build this scene.
5. Submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ).

At least four different types of models must be represented in the total of six models. The four different types are rolling stock, a railroad structure, a caboose or passenger car, and a model of motive power. Any two of the six models must be scratch-built; the remainder must be super detailed. The six models do not have to be Merit Award winners individually.

The scene as a whole with the six models in place is judged using the Prototype Modeler criteria. A module that has earned a Merit Award under the NMRA Module contest judging sheet would have to be re-judged using the Prototype Modeler rules.

The items under which the Prototype Modeler judging is conducted are the same as for the Scenery Certificate but vary in point value. They are as follows:

Terrain: 35 points (the same as Scenery),  
Structures: 35 points (15 points more),  
Background: 15 points (10 points less),  
Lighting: 5 points (15 points less), and  
Realism/Conformity: 35 points (10 points more).

These elements were discussed in the last article under the Scenery Certificate; so rather than repeat them here, please refer to that article for a complete description of each element. A bonus for this certificate is that the motive power, cars, and structures used in this scene may also qualify for each of those individual certificates.

After having served as an MER contest judge and having heard people complain about the amount of paper work required to submit a model for the contest, I hate to think about what the comments would be for the paper work for this certificate. A major item for this certificate is documented evidence. You must have plans, maps, and/or photos to document your scene. How much do you need? Enough so that the judges can verify that your model scene copies the prototype. One set of photographs should be of the prototype scene. Another set of photographs should be of the model scene. A videotape of each scene would suffice also. Photos must be taken of the six models as they appear on the scene, along with overall scenic shots. In addition, you must prepare a description of the methods and materials used to create the various features of terrain, structures, background, and lighting. This may sound like a lot of paper work, but with today's emphasis on prototype modeling in layout design, this certificate could be earned with the building of a part of your new layout. In copying a scene from a book or other reference for your layout, you are already on your way to providing for the requirements of this certificate.

The challenge has been set forth. Anyone ready to step up to the plate?

# Benefiting From Our Not-For-Profit Status

By Eric Dervinis,  
NMRA Trustee

**A**RICH STREAM OF BENEFITS flows to all model railroaders because the National Model Railroad Association and Mid-Eastern Region, are not-for-profit organizations. You may think to yourself, “So let’s look into the subject in some more depth.” First, read or reread “Standard or RP - What is a 501c3” in the July-August 2003 issue of *The Local*.

For those who cannot find their July-August issue of *The Local*, a brief summary first. Our state and federal legislatures have recognized the non-profit corporation. The laws were written and revised to ensure that non-profit corporations are truly that. The NMRA and MER are clearly educational in nature, and both continue to fulfill that purpose everyday.

There is more to this story, and one you should share with all of your model railroad friends—NMRA members or not. Because we have been able to incorporate as a non-profit, we have been able to advance the entire hobby. The NMRA and MER do not pay taxes and accept donations as tax deductible. Thus, the funding of our goals is done without the usual restraints (taxes, etc.) of a for-profit corporation.

For over 65 years, the NMRA has been a guiding force in the hobby, setting standards that lead to the compatible equipment of today. Yes, we take all of that for granted. However, without the NMRA and its members, the industry would stray away from standards, and our hobby would be a much smaller passion. Imagine having to scratchbuild everything you need for your railroad.

You may wonder why you do not hear more about this important work. It is mostly done behind the scenes. Dedicated members create and revise the standards. Other members test new model railroad offerings and provide feedback to the manufacturers. Our executive staff meets with the industry on a regular basis and lobbies quietly for continued adherence to standards. Without our non-profit status, we could never provide this benefit to every model railroader in the world.

Take the same story down to the regional level.

The MER could never provide *The Local*, the conventions, the AP, the contests, etc., at an extremely low cost without its non-profit status. Our government loses out on some taxable income, but an overriding social benefit is shared by all.

“There is one important legal point that I would like to close my article on, and that is the responsibility of a non-profit board. Companies like General Electric are for-profit corporations with boards of directors that “report” to the shareholders. These boards create committees of independent directors (not employees or those having direct ties) to serve as nominations committees. They accept candidates from the CEO, his or her executive officers, and other board members. They then propose a slate on which the shareholders vote. The process is a rubber stamp, as almost always the slate proposed is elected and there are seldom any real races. A non-profit corporation has to have in its bylaws a process for selecting board members. Both the NMRA and MER bylaws are available on line if you are curious about the board selection process for either group.”

The board of a not-for-profit organization is always required to meet a certain number of times a year, at which point they transact business. Interestingly, that is the only time the board, as a group has any power. They can change the policies of the organization within the parameters of the bylaws, Roberts Rules of Order, and local, state and federal law. And most important, unlike GE, the not-for-profit board is responsible to make decisions in the best interests of the organization. We do not have shareholders that own the corporation. We have members that join us as they believe in our goals.

As our organization works to move into the new century, please remember our rich past and our tremendous accomplishments. We have made this hobby great. The world is changing and we are adjusting to remain relevant. Your national board has written a new set of bylaws that are substantially different in many ways. I strongly believe they are the right thing to do. Please join me in voting for change, and continuing your support of the hobby by renewing your membership for many years to come.

# Potomac Junction Convention Contest Report

By Ray Bilodeau,  
MER General Contest Chairman  
Photographs by Clint Hyde,  
Mer Vice President



**O**K—NICE CONTESTS at the Potomac Junction Convention! Our host, the Potomac Division really out did themselves—thanks, Bob Minnis, John Drye and the entire convention staff for a fun convention and for making our contest experience almost painless and less stressful by providing us a spacious and more than adequately lighted “room with a view.”



Thanks Dick Landt and Pete Shatswell, our Model Contest and Photo Chairmen. Thanks Pauline Shatswell for helping administer the photo, arts and crafts and favorite train contests.

Keeping us all on track, on time and accurate, is my spouse, Rita Lynam—who wears several hats at these conventions—Business Manager, contest paperwork guru, Boss!?!)



Thanks also to those who judged the Model Contest: Dave Renard, MMR, Norm Garner, Bob Charles, Charlie Flichman, Larry Lau, Marc Sisk, Carl Haslett, and Dick Landt. We also want to thank John Johnson for his continual support of the contests—ordering the plaques and affixing them to the bases. Thanks Clint Hyde for taking the time to photograph the contest winners.

We had a good turnout for the Model Contest. There were 32 models in the judged contest and five models judged for AP only. From that number of 37 models, 29 received Achievement Merit Awards. There was at least one model in every category except traction and off-line displays. Great job! (*Editor's note: Italics identify the model shown in each category.*)

## SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

The MER has always prided itself on the special awards given out for the judged model contest. Potomac Junction's model contest produced one modeler from the division who managed to take a first place in structures, the Philadelphia New Modeler Award, and the Best-in-Show prize for building a single model. *Douglas Kirkpatrick*, an NMRA Life Member, had never entered a regional model contest, won for his HO scale entry *Southern Railway Salisbury, NC Passenger Station*.



Thank you, Doug, for bringing your model to this convention. It is an excellent piece of workmanship—a finely crafted model. At the Awards Banquet, Doug thanked everyone for their support and especially Noll Horan for encouraging him to “fill out the paperwork” and submit the model for the contest. Thanks Noll for encouraging a new modeler!

**The Clyde Gerald Kit-Bash Award** the best kitbashed model in the model contest:

*Ed Price HO Southern Pacific Maintenance of Way #151*

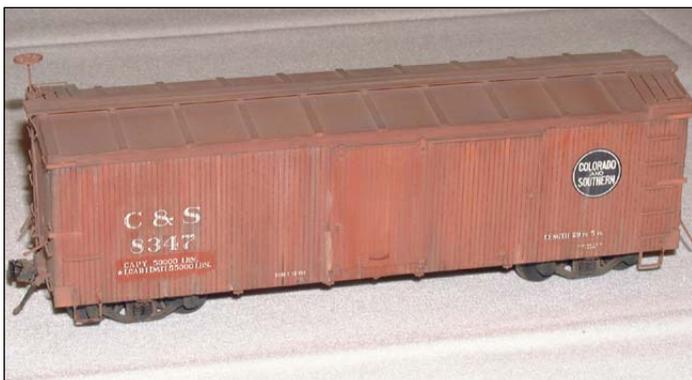


**The Philadelphia New Modeler Award** given to the first-time entrant in the model contest with the highest point score. (A cash prize as well as a plaque from the Philadelphia Division.):

*Douglas Kirkpatrick HO Southern Railway Salisbury, NC Passenger Station*

**The Blue Lantern Award** sponsored by the Narrow Gauge Car Shop and given to the model that best represents branch line or private line equipment or facility with no more than 40% commercial parts:

*Bill Miller On3 Colorado & Southern Box Car 8347*



**The President's Award** given to the best example of a maintenance-of-way model:

*Martin Brechbiel O Crane Derrick Car*



**The Marv Kershner Award** sponsored by the South Mountain Division and given for outstanding creativity in modeling:

*John Griffith HO Grist Mill*



**Favorite Train** sponsored by the Tidewater Division and chosen by popular vote:

1st *Martin Brechbiel Maintenance-of-Way in O scale*

2nd *Bob Malberti Penn Central Freight Train in HO scale*



3rd *Noll Horan Narrow Gauge Porter Passenger Train in On30*

### MODEL CONTEST WINNERS

Model Contest Chair, Dick Landt, wishes to thank and congratulate all those modelers who entered the judged model contest.

\* **Denotes AP Merit Award—scoring a minimum of 87.5 points.**

Diesel:

1st *Bob Malberti HO PRR F-3A #9502\**



Steam:

1st Noll Horan On30 HOn3 Truck Shay converted to 2 Truck On30 Shay\*

Freight Cars:

1st Bill Miller On3 Colorado & Southern "Gon" 4530\*

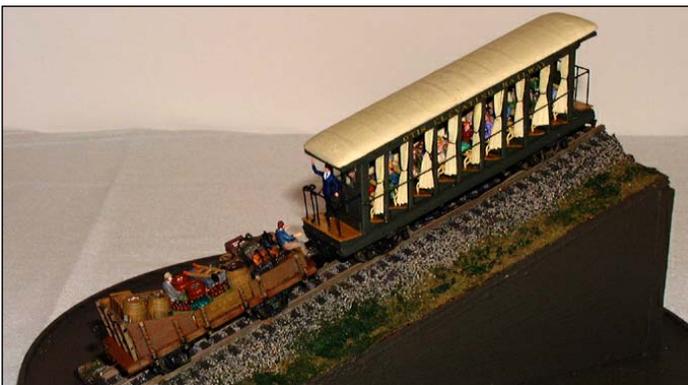


2nd Bill Miller On3 Colorado & Southern Box Car 8347\*  
3rd Bill Miller On3 Denver & Rio Grande Western Box Car



Passenger Cars:

1st Richard Genthner HOn3 Passenger Cable Car Otis #1\*



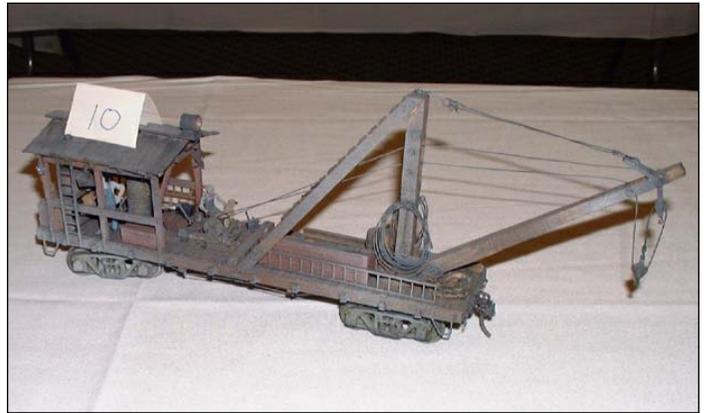
2nd Richard Genthner HOn3 Passenger Cable Car Otis #2\*  
3rd Richard Genthner HOn3 Baggage Car for Cable Railway Otis #4\*

Caboose or Cabin Car:

1st John Johnson HO RR N5 Cabin Car

Non-Revenue Cars:

1st Martin Brechbiel O Crane Derrick Car\*



2nd Martin Brechbiel O Crane Tender\*



3rd Ed Price - HO Southern Pacific Maintenance-of-Way #151\*

Structures On-Line:

1st Douglas Kirkpatrick HO Southern Railway Salisbury, NC Passenger Station\*

2nd Douglas Kirkpatrick HO Virginia & Western RR Signal Supply Shed\*

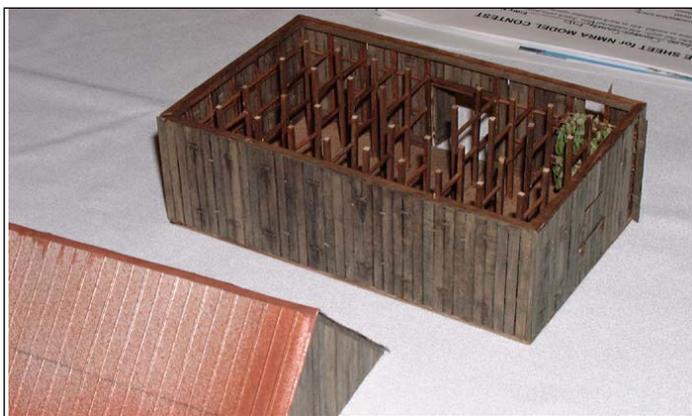


3rd Allan Phillips HO W S Engineering – Factory Group\*

Structures Off-Line:

1st John Griffith HO Grist Mill\*

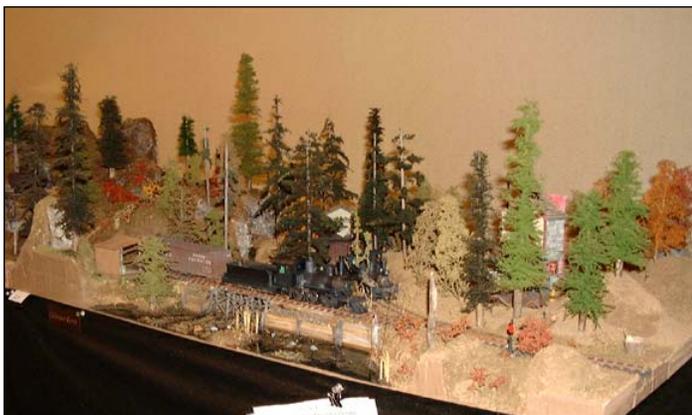
2nd Michael White HO Small Tobacco House\*



3rd Matt Bierl HO Block of Stores\*

Displays On-Line:

1st Noll Horan On30 Coldwater Creek\*



2nd Stanley Dworak HO Cartwright's Display\*

Modules:

1st Fred Miller HO 2' X 4' Traction—Gotham County



The following models were entered in the model contest and won AP Merit Awards:

John M. Johnson HO PRR X45b Box Car



Martin Brechbiel O A-Frame Side Door Gondola

Martin Brechbiel O Black Smith Car



Ed Price HO Southern Pacific Maintenance-of-Way #151 Wood

Richard Genthner HOn3 Baggage Car for Cable Railway Otis #3



The following modelers submitted entries for AP judging only  
Merit Awards received by:  
*Stanley Dworak HO Cartwright's Machine Shop*



- Fred Miller HO 1900 Farm Silo
- Fred Miller HO 1900 Road House
- Fred Miller HO Gotham County Module – Scenery
- Fred Miller HO 1920's Carousel

**PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS**

Pete Shatswell, our new Photo Contest Chairman, working with a revised set of photo rules introduced for the first time at this convention, is pleased, as I am, to see so many quality entries. The new photo contest rules introduce a Best-in-Show award. This award is given to the photo that receives the highest number of votes in this popular vote contest.



Best-in-Show:  
 David Arday Western Maryland Scenic Railroad,  
 January 2003 #2

Model:  
 1st Richard Newmiller Penn Marble & Granite  
 2nd Fred Miller Evening Interurban  
 3rd Fred Miller Cows, Interurbans & Autos

Prototype: Steam  
 1st David Arday Western Maryland Scenic RR  
 2nd Roger Cason Cleaning Things Out  
 3rd Ed Price A Rainy Day at Cass

Prototype: Non-Steam  
 1st Ed Price Western Maryland 1952  
 2nd Bill McMillan RR Crossing Sign

**ARTS & CRAFTS CONTEST WINNERS**

Our Arts & Crafts Chair, Rita Lynam, was delighted to see the well-crafted entries for the Arts & Crafts contest as well as one Railroad Pass.

Rail:  
 1st Carol Sisk - Three Dimensional Decorative Christmas Wreath



2nd Carol Sisk Hand-Sculpted Santa Doll with Train & Accessories  
 3rd Carol Sisk Christmas Tree Skirt—over 250 items sewn on the skirt



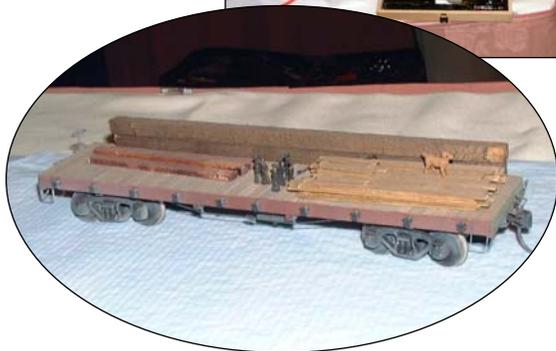
Railroad Pass:  
 1st Michael White 1936 Solomons & Patuxent RR Pass

Noll Horan, our newest MER Master Model Railroader, #526 received his MMR at this convention. Good job, Noll!



If you have any questions about NMRA or MER contest rules and regulations, NMRA judging of models, contest questions of any kind, complaints, suggestions, or whatever you might want to talk about, please contact me at: 302-636-0888, or [RaymondBilodeau@aol.com](mailto:RaymondBilodeau@aol.com).

### More Convention photos



# The Veep's Corner

By *Clint Hyde,*  
MER VP

**I** HOPE EVERYONE who attended enjoyed the convention. Most of the surveys I got back indicated they did. There were, of course, a few problems. I expect ALL conventions have some. Based on the surveys, we'll try to make sure next year's convention (Hagerstown, MD) does better. If you still have a survey in your hands, please finish it and send it along. If you didn't get a survey and want one, email me and I'll send it. (I think we'll do them again next year.)

For all the clinicians, make sure you get some sort of receipt for your clinic for your AP points (except Noll Horan, who doesn't need them any more). Same for those folks who did some Ops on one of the modular layouts; speaking of which, sorry they weren't set up sooner—we got stiffed by the hotel double-booking some of the space we thought we were going to get. A later read of a contract excerpt suggests we assumed something we shouldn't have, too.

There are four white elephant sold tickets left, if you didn't get paid for yours, you should still have your orange ticket stub. Email me with the number(s) and I'll arrange for you to get paid.

I hope you were all able to take advantage of the extra discount at Granddad's Hobby Shop during convention weekend. I did, on Monday, and the total was enough to cover my convention registration!

Rita told me we got six new members signed up during the convention! Hooray and welcome aboard!

Back in May, Norm Garner and Roger Cason and I went to Carolina Southern Division for an AP-judging visit—you've read about it before. I went back in September, and presented eight AP Certificates to Division members. EIGHT! Half of them were for Dispatcher, so they are doing some serious train running down there—excellent! The whole group appears pretty motivated (Fred Miller

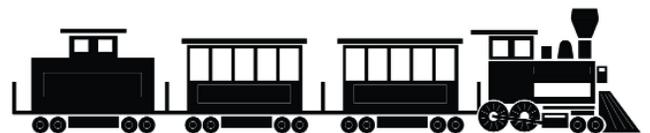
said he's got to get busy, since Jack Parker passed him on Certificates).

I still have a few divisions to visit in the next year...gotta do that campaign trail thing! I was "outed" at the convention: I will be running for President next year. Do need some other candidates for the other jobs: VP, Secretary, Treasurer. And someone else for Pres—no one should run unopposed in any election anywhere, including me. We may have a need to replace a Director next year, too, so think about it. I'll be talking to folks about this over the next six months (you need to get your name in by April 15, 2004).

The new bylaws (now called "regulations") have been posted on the NMRA website. We are all going to have to vote on them next year—they encompass some pretty substantial changes to the current bylaws, including the single-tier membership, and rearranging the Trustees territories. They will force changes on us in terms of how we do business, and how we do fundraising. Speaking of which, I'm interested in hearing your suggestions on fund-raising (and no, I don't mean bake sales).

Roger Sekera mentioned to me at the convention that he thinks the Potomac Division/MER should host a National Convention, which would necessarily be in downtown DC. The earliest available year is now 2009, which might be too soon after Philadelphia being so close by...Any interest?

At Timonium you can find me at the table with the MER banner. If you are willing to help out there, for an hour or so, let me know when you see me. If you are willing to come back the next day, and then take the banner home, I need to know that in advance (otherwise I'm only paying for a single day).



# New Arts & Crafts Contest Chair

By Roger Cason, MMR

Pete Shatswell has accepted the appointment as the new MER Arts and Crafts Contest Chair. This is in addition to his work as Photo Contest Chair. Thanks, Pete, for taking on this additional responsibility! Our additional thanks to Rita Lynam for serving as the Arts and Crafts Contest Chair for several years in addition to being the MER Business Manager and the de facto assistant to husband Ray Bilodeau in the convention contest rooms.

Pete and the MER Board of Directors are very interested in encouraging and increasing participation in this “for fun” contest. If you have any suggestions (mainstream, or “off-the-wall”), please pass them along to Pete at 12312 Catharpin Road, Spotsylvania VA 22553-5312, or at [pasowl@aol.com](mailto:pasowl@aol.com)).

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## Who's the new Publisher?

Hi there. My name is Julianne and I am very happy to be taking over the job as Publisher of *The Local* from Clint Hyde. My husband, Hilary Smith, has been a member of the NMRA for about 10 years and he saw the want ad for the Publisher in *The Local* and thought I might enjoy this job.

I have been working for the National Wildlife Federation for 14 years. And in my job as the Production Coordinator for *National Wildlife* magazine, I work with the editors and the art and photo directors to bring all the pieces of the magazine—text, photos and artwork—together to be shipped to the printer. I also design some of the magazine's in-house advertisements.

I live in Vienna, Virginia now, but I grew up in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where one of my childhood memories of trains was sitting in traffic watching very, very, very long lines of coal trains heading off to somewhere.

When I have some spare hobby time, I am building a very large Victorian style dollhouse in 1:12 scale. I also like needlecrafts and beading jewelry. I do have an N-scale steam train but no layout yet.

# JACKPOT!!

## MER MEMBERS EARN EIGHTEEN AP CERTIFICATES

By Roger Cason, MMR

Since the last report in *The Local*, the following Achievement Program certificates were earned and awarded. Many of the certificates were triggered by a weekend “AP visit” to the Carolina Southern Division by Norm Garner, Clint Hyde, and Roger Cason.

### Division 1 – New Jersey

Robert W. Price - Electrical  
Robert W. Price - Chief Dispatcher

### Division 2 – Potomac

Martin Brechbiel - Master Builder - Cars  
Noll L. Horan - Model Railroad Engineer - Civil  
Noll L. Horan - Master Model Railroader  
Noll L. Horan - Motive Power

### Division 12 – Carolina Southern

David J. Chance - Chief Dispatcher  
Michele J. Chance - Chief Dispatcher  
Martin Oakes - Chief Dispatcher  
Jack Parker - Chief Dispatcher  
Jack Parker - Electrical  
Jack Parker - Scenery  
Jack Parker - Structures  
Jack Parker - Civil

### Division 13 – Carolina Piedmont

Robert S. Gamble - Volunteer  
A. D. Huey - Chief Dispatcher  
David H. Lynam - Chief Dispatcher  
John H. White - Chief Dispatcher

In a perfect world, this information will appear in the NMRA Bulletin. This should not deter you from giving recognition locally. Normally you will be able to recognize AP accomplishments long before the names appear in the Bulletin.

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**MER N-Scale Special Car Order Form**



These 40' Western Maryland box cars are Micro-Train bodies custom painted by The Freight Yard. They are box car red with prominent white "speed lettering".

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TOTAL				\$_____
SHIPPING: _____ CARS @ \$2.50 FOR FIRST CAR, \$1.50 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL				\$_____
* My MER # IS _____		<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>		\$_____

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 YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION  
 TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MID-EASTERN REGION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip (+4) \_\_\_\_\_  
 email \_\_\_\_\_  
 NMRA # \_\_\_\_\_ Expire Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 MER # \_\_\_\_\_ Expire Date \_\_\_\_\_  
  
 Scale \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel # \_\_\_\_\_

**Remittance Enclosed for:**  
**NMRA Dues:**  New  Renewal \_\_\_\_\_  
 1 year: \$45.00  2 years: \$90.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Life membership cost is based on your age.  
 Send your Birth Date to the NMRA for a quotation.*  
  
**Region Dues:**  New  Renewal \_\_\_\_\_  
 1 year: \$8.00  2 years: \$16.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Life membership cost is based on your age. Send your Birth Date to the MER for a quotation. Only NMRA Life Members qualify for MER Life Membership*  
  
 MER Lapel Pin/Tie Tack @ \$6 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 MER Cloth Patch @ \$3 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to the Mid-Eastern Region**