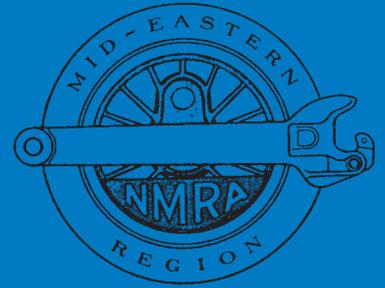


The Local

A PUBLICATION OF THE MID-EASTERN REGION OF THE NMRA



Volume 60

JANUARY — FEBRUARY 2005

Number 1

**MADE IN
THE MER**

KingMill Enterprises

*By Brian J. Rowland
Advertising Manager*

HOW MANY OF US remember falling in love with railroading by peering down over the side of a bridge to watch an engine pulling its line of cars right from under us and all the way around a distant curve?

Experiences like that got many of us hitched to railroading for life. Well, that's pretty much how Chris Jessee describes watching the Norfolk & Western and Southern diesels near the Bristol yard some years ago as the spark that started his interest. Chris has done what so many of us wish we could do—combining his talents and love of railroading and turning them into a successful business. Chris has taken his obsession with minute detail and an education and career in architecture and combined them into producing fine crafted model railroad laser-cut structure kits. Chris owns and operates KingMill Enterprises in Charlottesville, VA, a model railroad manufacturer located in our Mid-Eastern Region.

KingMill's first product entered the market a year ago. It's a laser-cut, HO-scale model of the 1912 Green Cove Station on the

Abington Branch of the Norfolk & Western Railway. The limited run kit has been a success for KingMill that's available in quick assembly and ultimate craftsman editions. More success for KingMill includes the second place victory of Chris's Nella Country Store & Post Office at the James River Division's recent competition.



Green Cove Station

Abington Branch of the Norfolk & Western Railway. The limited run kit has been a success for KingMill that's available in quick assembly and ultimate craftsman editions. More success for KingMill includes the second place victory of Chris's Nella Country Store & Post Office at the James River Division's recent competition. KingMill can easily be found on the Internet at www.KingMill.com where you will find the entire product line. Currently the kits available are HO-scale only. However, Chris has told me that the requests at shows for N- and O-scale kits are driving him to produce products in those scales as well. Some N- and O-scale products will be available in December of this year.

When you're at the KingMill website, you will find entire galleries of photographs for each product showing the attention to detail that Chris puts into his work. There is also a bit of history available for most of the kits, giving you a little extra insight into the inspiration of each kit. The KingMill website has everything a web purchaser expects, includ-

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MER LOCAL

Official Publication of the
Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
A Tax-Exempt Organization

The **MER LOCAL** is published six times a year. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of MER elected officials. Commercial suppliers, supplies and materials addressed in **The LOCAL** in no way constitute an endorsement by the MER. Copyright material that appears in **The LOCAL** is used for educational and historical benefit only, and does not constitute infringement of the copyright holder.

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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 backup 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 Fred Miller, MMR
MER Business Manager

You will notice that I am one of the several new kids on the block. Perhaps we have met at one of the Regional Conventions up and down the coast. I'm the guy with the Trolleys who kept moving to different Divisions, but don't hold that against me. If we haven't met, I look forward to doing just that at some upcoming meet.

Starting this month I will be taking over the reins of *MER Business Manager* from Rita Lynam. I only hope I can provide the same level of service that Rita gave you over the past four years. Rita has already passed on tips about the multitude of different tasks she performed.

This year all of the NMRA including our *Most Enthusiastic Region* and your Divisions will undergo a significant change in process. You've already read about the MER dues diminishing down to zero by September and the start of a subscription charge for printed copies of this **LOCAL**. These and other changes may challenge us all as we phase into the new NMRA. I pledge to help you and the Region as we make the transition. If you have questions of what we are doing with the renewal dues and related issues, please be *IN TOUCH*. You can reach me through the telephone and email address in the masthead to the right. 

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or at the address in the
right column of this page.

MER web page URL is <http://members.cox.net/chyde/MER/MER.html>

President's Column

By Clint Hyde

THE BEST THING about this job is going to our Division gatherings and getting to meet other members and see their models. (Maybe the worst is when you forget your camera on one of those visits.)

Just before Thanksgiving, I went to Raleigh, NC, to meet with the 2005 convention committee. I got to see the host's model railroad, which was very nice—Dick Genthner, MMR, Arpee & Western, which will be an open house during the convention; he's working on a new area for it. After lunch, he took me off to see two other railroads, which will also be open during the convention. One of them is all outdoors, on a 50-acre lot, a ride-on 1/8 scale. There's a 10-stall roundhouse with doors big enough to walk through, a car shed with gondolas, boxcars, caboose, two turntables (one decommissioned), several half-acre ponds with turtles, one with fish, a couple of trestles, about 20 scale miles of track. Fabulous! Handlaid track, of course, on homemade ties—he has his own sawmill, powered by steam (and now diesel, too, for winter work); cuts his own ties, apparently it's a three-year process beginning with cutting down the tree. Engines include a British-outline steamer, and an RGS Goose. You do NOT want to miss this one. I need someone to get this one on video.

The third one I visited is all controllable via touch-screens—this guy has designed all the custom electronics, and written all the software (including controller microcode). Completely scenicked, and his train room is spotless—there isn't a single room in my house that's that uncluttered. Terry Bacus at **Scale Rails** would buy a story on these layouts—money in addition to Author points.

And I didn't remember my camera. Well, be sure to check the convention website for details and photos.

This issue of **The Local** is going to all the NMRA members within MER's boundaries. This is about 1250 people more than usual—on September 1st this year, all these folks are going to officially be members of MER, per the change of the definition of membership in the new NMRA bylaws.

This issue is early outreach to let you all know about what goes on in the MER, and in the Division nearest you! There is convention coverage from 2004, including contest model photos. We have the Division reports, focusing on Division activities during the year. There is the very first page of 2005 convention advertising—watch the website for additional details over time, join MER now to get ongoing print coverage.

If you're reading this and aren't an MER member at the moment, you are of course welcome to join in advance of Sept 1. You'll get all the issues of **The Local** via paper until Sept 1, the opportunity to subscribe to a paper copy beyond that point, and to get **The Local** electronically right away, including this year's convention advertising in advance, and voting ballots for this year (no ballots planned in 2005 for after Sept 1).

In the next issue of **The Local**, we will print the proposed

new bylaws. In April, MER members will receive a ballot to vote for or against these new bylaws. The changes include clarifications of previous inconsistencies, changes regarding the Trustee position and its relationship to the Region (which basically will be zilch), changes about the definition of membership. You can read these new proposed bylaws on the website now, if you want to download the Acrobat file, along with the current bylaws. I can also print and mail a copy. I am always interested in your thoughts on anything in there, especially if you think there's something missing.

The first bunch of Bunn's Seed/Feed structure kits sold out at the convention in November, so more are in production. You can order them via the order form elsewhere in this issue.

If someone is interesting in taking over the special-run/custom-paint freight car effort, let me know. Otherwise we are going to let this slide. Roger Cason (stepping down from that role) says it was getting really hard to find a car that someone else wasn't doing already. While this is unfortunate for MER, it also means that there are a lot of commercial providers of a lot of cars, which is a good sign for the hobby so long as they don't cannibalize each other's customers.

In 2005 MER will be holding Director elections again for three positions. Please consider running for this position for us. I would like to have Directors spread across the Region, one up north (currently Brian Brandt, of PA), one in the central area (currently Bob Minnis of northern VA), and one down south (currently Chuck Hladik, southern VA).

Elections went really well this year with nearly 400 ballots returned. Thanks for voting; please do so again next time. Your new officers are: Clint Hyde, President; Noll Horan, MMR, Vice-President; Ron Schmidt, Treasurer; and Dick Foley, Secretary. Roger Cason is now the Trustee, and Brian Brandt was appointed to fill out his term as Director. Since Noll Horan is now the VP, Chuck Hladik was appointed to fill out his term as Director. 📧

A Request

During Kathy Renninger's clinic on weathering stone and brick structures at the South Mountain Express Convention in Hagerstown, someone took several photographs. Kathy didn't get a chance to find out the person's identity but would like to contact them to see if she could obtain copies of the photos. Any help would be appreciated. Kathy's e-mail address is kathy@bxwhite.com. 📧



Green Cove kit



KingMill Studio

ing simple purchasing procedures that make it easy to buy and have everything shipped to your door.

As I talked with Chris about what's in KingMill's future, he shared that his first interest is in expanding his production staff so that he can have more time to return to design and development of new products. He would like to have 100 kits available in various scales in the next five years for those eager enthusiasts who demand his attention to detail and craftsmanship.

KingMill Enterprises
 203 Camellia Drive
 Charlottesville, VA 22903-4208
 (434)-970-7280
 Email: webmaster@kingmill.com

KINGMILL™

ENTERPRISES

Tell the Story™ with KingMill Structure Kits

send \$1 for catalog
 203 Camellia Dr. - Charlottesville, VA 22903-4208
WWW.KINGMILL.COM - 434.979.7280
MADE IN THE USA

NOTE: "Made in the MER" will be a regular feature profiling model railroad manufacturers located in the Mid-Eastern Region. To be included in a future issue, contact: Brian J. Rowland, Advertising Manager, 1801 Pine Street, Norristown, PA, 19401, (610) 272-0303, brian5963@hotmail.com.

MER N-Scale Special Car Order Form

Car	QUANTITY	MEMBER PRICE *	NON-MEMBER PRICE	TOTAL
#29290	_____	\$19.95	\$23.95	\$_____
#29299	_____	\$19.95	\$23.95	\$_____
Subtotal				\$_____
Total				\$_____
Shipping: _____ CARS @ \$2.50 for first car,				
+ \$1.50 for each additional car				\$_____
* MY MER # is _____		TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED		\$_____

Ship to: NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
 MID EASTERN REGION

MAIL TO:
 THE MID-EASTERN REGION, INC.
 9 Roosevelt Avenue
 Wilmington, DE 19804-3044



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".

Achievement Program Part 11

By Charlie Flichman
MER AP Manager

THIS ISSUE we will discuss the requirements for the last certificate—Model Railroad Author. The complete set of requirements can be found at the NMRA website www.nmra.org/achievement/apc10.html. These pages were updated last June, so a visit may be worth it to make sure you have the latest information.

To qualify for the Model Railroad Author certificate, you must earn 42 points from a combination of material in the following areas:

1. Prepare and submit material on any of the following subjects:

- A.** Model Railroading.
- B.** Prototype Railroading, applicable to modeling.
- C.** NMRA Administration (e.g. Officers or Committee Reports).

The material being claimed must be the work of the author, photographer, etc. applying for the certificate. Again, the key point is that YOU personally create the material—i.e. write the words and/or take the picture. Being editor of a publication doesn't count toward Author unless you actually write something. (Being an editor counts toward the Association Volunteer certificate.)

A. Published Articles: This is material that appears in the printed media, (magazines, newsletters) and may include text, photos, drawings, etc. Material accepted for publication, but not yet printed, may be claimed. A copy of the published article or of the acceptance receipt must be submitted as proof. The following is a chart giving the points that can be earned.

POINTS EARNED PER FULL PAGE

Item	National Publication	NMRA National	NMRA Region	NMRA Div & SIGs
Article or Column	3	3	2	1
Photos or Art Work	3	3	2	1
Scale Drawing of Prototype	6	6	4	2
Scale Drawing of Track Plan	3	3	2	1
NMRA Data/RP Sheet – One Subject	–	6	–	–

A page is approximately 1200 words. Credit can be claimed for partial pages down to a quarter of a page. Photos in an article taken by others can not be included in your page count. NMRA publications, including SIG publications with a circulation of more than 2000 may be considered National Publications; those with more than 1000 may be considered Region Publications. Material published in 100% NMRA Club publications earn half the number of points as for an NMRA Division publication. No more than half of the total required points (21) may be claimed for Division or 100% NMRA Club publications.

B. Live Clinics: These are live presentations given at conventions, division meetings, etc. To earn these points, the clinic must be prepared and presented by the member applying for the certificate. It must be at least 30 minutes duration and include a handout. A copy of the handout must be included with the certificate application.

POINTS EARNED FOR LIVE CLINICS

Item	National	Region	Division
Given at NMRA Sponsored Events	6	4	2
Given at NON-NMRA Sponsored Events	3	2	1

As mentioned in the last article, a live clinic can only be claimed for Model Railroader Author points once. Additional presentations of the same live clinic can earn points toward the Association Volunteer certificate.

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POINTS EARNED FOR LIVE CLINICS FOR ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

Item	National	Region	Division
Association Volunteer Points	3	2	1

C. Instructional Video Tapes and Multi-Media: These are presentations that are specifically created by the member applying for the certificate. This would be making a tape for the Kalmbach Memorial Library that members can view. Simply having a live clinic video taped is not acceptable for this category. If the presentation is not interactive, then it earns credit at the rate of 1/2 point per minute of the presentation. If the presentation is interactive, requiring input from the viewer, then it earns credit as an Electronic Publication, described below.

D. Electronic Publications: This is material published on a public electronic forum, such as the Internet. This material earns points at the same rate as Published Articles in Region publications (See above). All photos and drawings are treated as 1/3 of a page. Material published in more than one place, that is a magazine and electronically, can only earn points once. The address (URL) of the material must be included. If published on a non-publicly accessible (a private BBS), it is not eligible for credit. Here again, no more than half of the total points required (21) may be claimed for Electronic Publications.

2. Submit a completed Statement of Qualifications (SOQ)

After all of the above, the final determination of what material is acceptable for credit and how much credit it earns, lies with the AP Department Executive Vice Manager. When more than one person is involved in a piece of work, each person may claim 1/2 of the applicable points, provided that they did at least 40% of the work involved.

So we come to the end of our series of articles investigating the requirements of the certificates for the Achievement Program. I will do one more article on the Statement of Qualifications that appears in every certificate. I hope that these articles have whetted your appetite to try and qualify for one or more of these certificates. Once you try for the first one, the second will be easier, in that you will know the process. Get seven certificates (with at least one in each of the four categories) and you qualify for MASTER MODEL RAILROADER. There are a couple of people who have ten or more certificates! Maybe you would like to join this elite group. But, first let's get that first certificate under your belt. Roger Cason and I, to a lesser degree, stand by to help anyone in any way we can. Just contact us. 

More on Transition: Elections and Bylaws

*By Roger L. Cason, MMR
MER Trustee*

THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ISSUE of **The Local** included some information on the transition to the newly passed NMRA Regulations (a.k.a. Bylaws). Here's some more information of possible interest to you.

ELECTIONS

The February issue of **Scale Rails** will include the ballot for the initial group of nine NMRA Directors. As an NMRA member living within the MER, you will vote on three of these: one from the Eastern District (roughly the Eastern third of the U.S.), one North America at large, and one worldwide at large.

Long range, the intention is to elect one-third of the Board of Directors each year for a three-year term. To get the process started, one-third of the initial batch of Directors will be elected for a one-year term, one-third for a two-year term, and one-third for a three-year term. Lots will be drawn at the Board of Trustees meeting in January 2005 to determine the initial term for each Director position—one, two, or three years.

Stated another way, the NMRA election in 2006 (i.e. one plus

years from now) will be to fill the three Director positions whose initial term was only one year (i.e. starting in 2005). Because of publication leads times, you will start to see "nomination and election activity" for the 2006 election in **Scale Rails** starting early in 2005.

BYLAWS

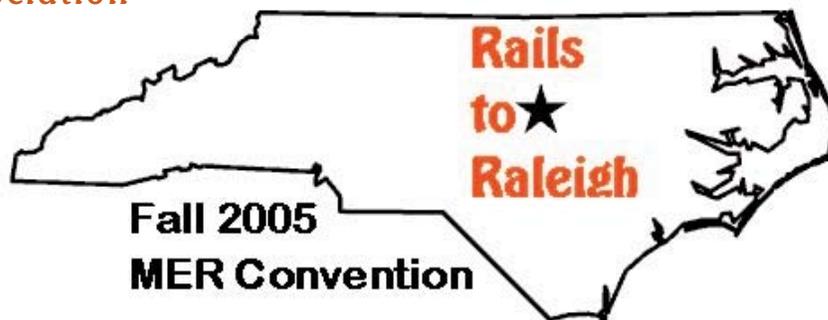
Bylaws are a little like the foundation of a house – largely invisible, and possibly not very interesting, but very necessary. Because of passage of the new NMRA Regulations, changes must be made in regional and divisional bylaws.

Thanks largely to MER President Clint Hyde, work on revised regional bylaws is essentially complete. Within a few months, you will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed changes.

Each MER division also has bylaws, which must be modified to be in line with the new NMRA Regulations. Information has been sent to division superintendents on this matter. If you are interested and haven't received any information, please contact me, Roger Cason, 1125 Grinnell Road, Wilmington, DE 19803, 302-478-2550, rogercason@juno.com. 

**National Model Railroad Association
Mid-Eastern Region
2005 Annual Convention**

October 27 – 30, 2005
Embassy Suites Hotel,
Cary, North Carolina



Hosted by the Carolina Piedmont Division

Make plans to join us in North Carolina for a fantastic model railroading weekend!

Visit area model railroad layouts

- More than 25 layouts will be open for self guided tours over three days – from Friday morning through Sunday afternoon
- Most scales represented – N, HO, O, G, live steam and garden railway

Increase your knowledge and skills

- Three days of clinics on various topics and “how to” presented by experienced model railroaders
- Extra fare clinics planned – DCC, scratch building, weathering

Enter a contest

- NMRA sanctioned model and photo contests with awards presented at the Saturday evening banquet

Tour the North Carolina Transportation Museum

- Ride on “The Piedmont”, a passenger train operated by the North Carolina DOT, to Salisbury, NC
- Visit the North Carolina Transportation Museum at the Southern Railway’s Historic Spencer Shops

Go on a prototype tour (tentative opportunities – subject to availability)

- New Hope Valley Railway – Eastern NC Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society
- North Carolina DOT rail yard or the Norfolk Southern Glenwood Yard

Attend a special event

- Saturday evening night banquet and awards presentation
- Operating sessions on layouts
- Model train show on Saturday and Sunday

Go here for convention information

- Website: www.trainweb.org/cpd13/mer05

Hotel information

Embassy Suites Hotel
Raleigh-Durham-Research Triangle East
201 Harrison Oaks Boulevard
Cary, North Carolina 27513
Phone: 919-677-1840
Toll-Free: 1-800-EMBASSY
www.embassysuitesraleighdurham.com

Convention rate: \$ 89.00

MER Division Annual Reports, 2004

This year's Division Reports emphasize local activities, so that all the new folks receiving this issue can find out what the nearby divisions do during the year, and get on board early!

NEW JERSEY DIVISION



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John Swift, (732) 349-7592

DIVISION WEBSITE ADDRESSES:

<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/njdivnmra/>

Division e-mail list:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NJDivNMRA/>

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership was 107 on September 1, 2003, and 130 on September 1, 2004.

In an effort to recruit new members, we mail our newsletters and an invitation letter to new NMRA members using the list supplied monthly by the MER. This has brought in a few members. We also post our Division meetings in RMC and MR. This has brought in some walk-ups. We also allow anyone wishing to do so to subscribe to our newsletter. This helps people learn what we are about, what we offer and help bring them on board.

DIVISION EVENTS:

September 2003 – Division Meet in Deptford, clinics on Foam Core Backdrops and a review of the NMRA National Convention in Toronto, model and prototype photo contest, layout tours

November 2003 – Division Meet in Hamilton Twp., clinics on model railroad detection and signaling, favorite train contest, layout tours

January 2004 – Division Meet in Haddon Twp., clinics on scratchbuilding methods and techniques, weathered cars contest, Friday night and Saturday afternoon layout tours

March 2004 – Division Meet in Delanco, Classic New Jersey Slides and Films presentation, maintenance-of-way cars contest, layout tours (including 3 new layouts)

April 2004 – Railfan outing to the Wilmington & Western Railroad in Bridgeton, NJ

May 2004 – Division Meet in Eatontown (Monmouth County), clinics on milk car operations, NY Harbor operations and molding/casting with clay, trackside structures contest, annual business meeting, layout tours

June 2004 – Division Garden Layout Tour, self-guided maps to many layouts throughout the Division area

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM:

During the past year, Division members received 8 AP awards/certificates.

MER CONVENTION ACTIVITY:

The NJ Division last hosted the MER Convention in 2002. A number of members are involved with the National Convention in Philadelphia in 2006.

CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

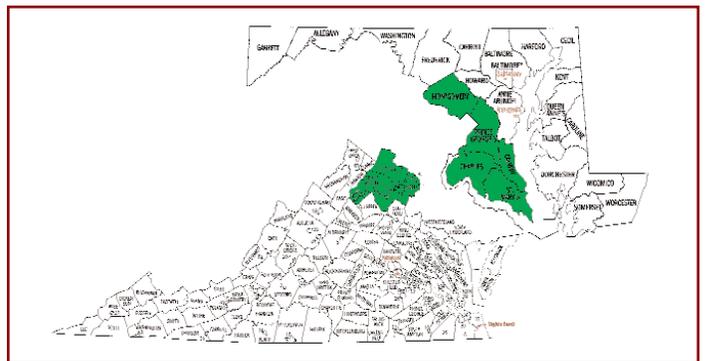
Continued regular video-taping of our clinic presentations as a source of educational materials available to all members

FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

The Division has plans to conduct 5 one day Meets throughout our Geographic area, including Vineland, Haddon Twp., Hamilton Twp. and Deptford. One Meet will be a joint Meet with the Philadelphia Division. In addition, a one day Meet at the Cape May Seashore Lines tourist railroad is being planned.

The Division will continue to help coordinate the annual one day Garden Railroad tour in June.

POTOMAC DIVISION



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Senior Assistant Superintendent:

John Griffith, (703) 339-3738, jsgassoc@aol.com

Assistant Superintendent:

Marshall Abrams, (301) 588-1005,

potomac_nmra@comcast.net



SOUTH MOUNTAIN EXPRESS CONVENTION CONTEST REPORT

By Dick Landt,
MER Model Contest Chairman

ONCE AGAIN, the South Mountain Convention staff provided a well-lighted room with plenty of space for models, photos, trains and the many visitors who stopped by to view the contest entries and participate in the popular vote contests. The contest crew, headed by MER General Contest Chairman, Ray Bilodeau, consisted of newly appointed Photo Contest Chairman, Roger Ossman, Arts and Crafts Chair, Rita Lynam, and myself.

Special thanks go to Bob Johnson, who planned the Power-Point photo presentation of winning models for the awards presentation and to Clint Hyde for handling the photographing duties. Thanks also to John Johnson for ordering and preparing the award plaques.

Those serving as contest judges included Dave Messer, Dick Genthner, Norm Garner, Marc Sisk, Bob Charles, Dick Landt, Alan Frame, Charlie Flichman, and Chuck Hladik. John Johnson served as a Judge for modules. We were also pleased to have FOUR apprentice judges: Dennis Vaccaro, Bob Alvis, Vic Bitleris and Ron Fry. We greatly appreciate those who gave up a morning of the convention activities to help us do the judging. We welcome those who want to learn about the judging process. If you would like to become an apprentice judge, please contact Ray before our next convention.

Now for the contest news. We had a great turnout for the model contest. There were 42 models entered in the judged model contest and 10 models judged for AP only. From that number of 52 models, 17 received Achievement Merit Awards. We had at least one model entered in each of the 12 categories.

SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

The MER is known for providing a number of special awards, and the South Mountain contests witnessed the inauguration of two new awards: the MER Narrow Gauge Award and the Ma & Pa Award. The contests produced one modeler, Richard Newmiller, who took multiple honors. His First Place HO off-line structure, *EBT Yard Office*, scored a record 124 points, and was awarded the Best in Show (Judged), Best in Show (Popular vote), Blue Lantern and Narrow Gauge Awards. The Blue Lantern award is awarded by the Narrow Gauge Car Shop for a contest model containing not more than 40% commercial parts which best represents branch line, short line, or private line operating equipment or facilities. Another of Richard's models, his *HO Caterpillar Open Load on Flat Car* was awarded the President's award (Open Load) and the Marv Kershner Creativity in Modeling Award. Congratulations to Richard for his achievements.

OTHER SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS WERE:

- Robert Thomas** – Philadelphia Division New Modeler Award for his HO *CSL X201 Crane Car*
- Roger Cason** – Clyde Gerald Kit Bash Award for his HO *54' Flat Car with Process Industry Loads*
- Richard Bradley** – Ma & Pa Award for his HO *Ma & Pa Box Car 727* and
- Martin Brechbiel** – Favorite Train (Popular Vote) *CURR Passenger Train*.

MODEL CONTEST WINNERS

- * Denotes AP Merit Award – scoring a minimum of 87.5 points.
- ** Denotes AP Merit Award was awarded at a prior judging.

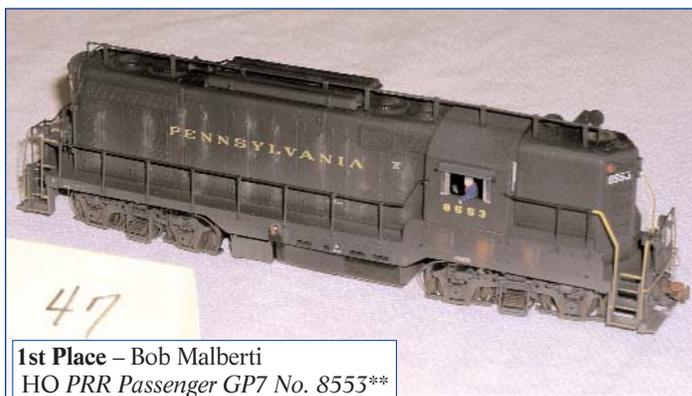
STEAM:



1st Place – Bob Malberti – HO PRR J1a No. 6438

2nd Place – Chuck Davis – HO PRR L-1 2-8-2 No. 931

DIESELS:

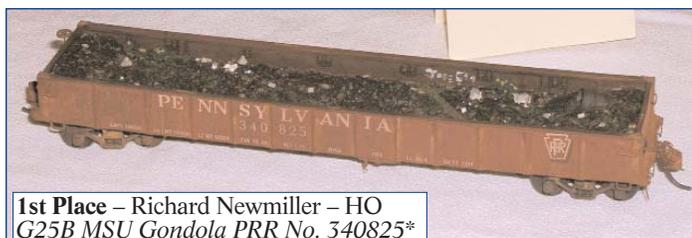


1st Place – Bob Malberti
HO PRR Passenger GP7 No. 8553**

2nd Place – Bob Malberti – HO PRR SD-45 No. 6197*

3rd Place – Chuck Davis – HO Lehigh Valley Alco S-2 No. 152

FREIGHT CARS:

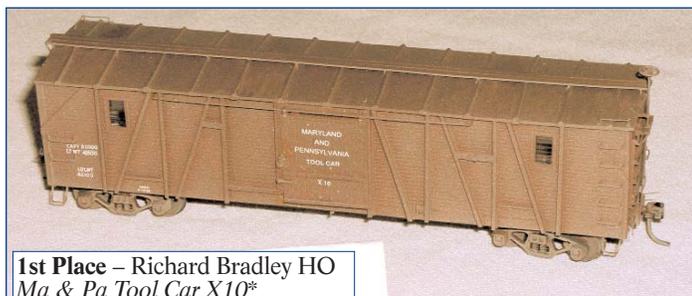


1st Place – Richard Newmiller – HO G25B MSU Gondola PRR No. 340825*

2nd Place – Richard Newmiller – HO KF Stock Car Pennsylvania Lines No. 630439*

3rd Place – Richard Bradley – HO Ma & Pa Box Car 727*

NON-REVENUE CARS:

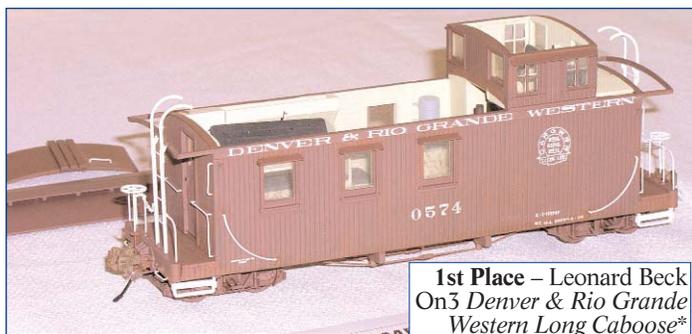


1st Place – Richard Bradley HO Ma & Pa Tool Car X10*

2nd Place – Frederick Willis – HO Union Pacific Side Chute Hopper Car*

3rd Place – Richard Bradley – HO Ma & Pa Tool Car X11*

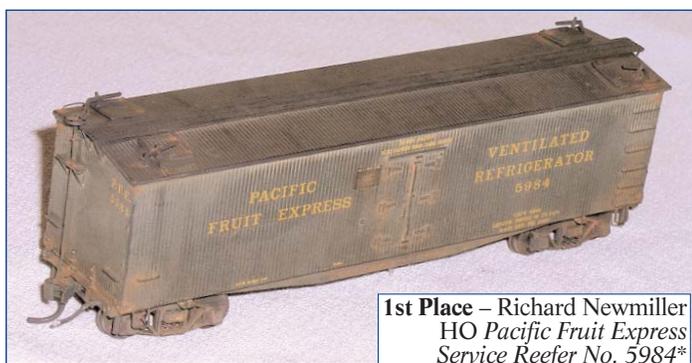
CABOOSE:



1st Place – Leonard Beck On3 Denver & Rio Grande Western Long Caboose*

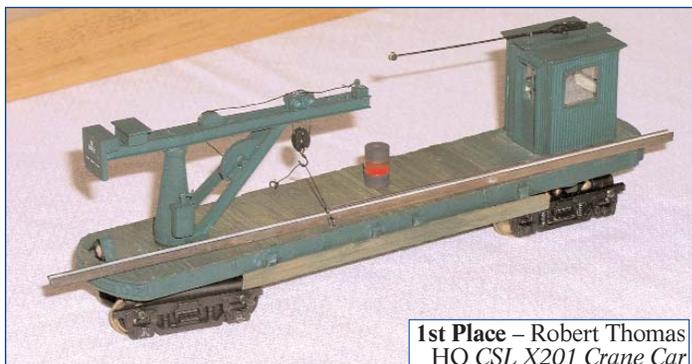
2nd Place – Leonard Beck – O Baltimore & Ohio I-5D Caboose

PASSENGER CARS:



1st Place – Richard Newmiller HO Pacific Fruit Express Service Reefer No. 5984*

TRACTION:



1st Place – Robert Thomas HO CSL X201 Crane Car

2nd Place – Robert Thomas – HO CSL/CTA AA98 Slat Car

ON-LINE STRUCTURE:

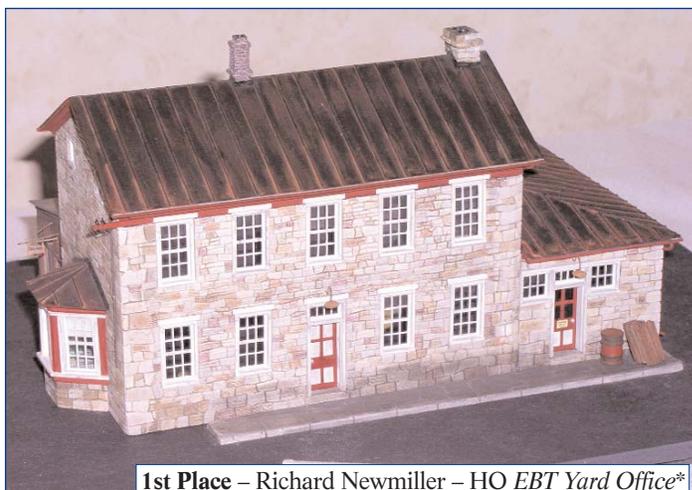


1st Place – Richard Bradley HO Ma & Pa Standard Waiting Shed Type W33*

2nd Place – Douglas Kirkpatrick – HO Southern Railway Passenger Station, Old Fort, NC*

2nd Place – (tie) Douglas Kirkpatrick – HO Southern Railway Passenger Station, Statesville, NC*

OFF-LINE STRUCTURE:



1st Place – Richard Newmiller – HO EBT Yard Office*

2nd Place – Stan Dworak – HO Utility Barge

3rd Place – Franklin Schwenk – HO Lumber Mill Pump House

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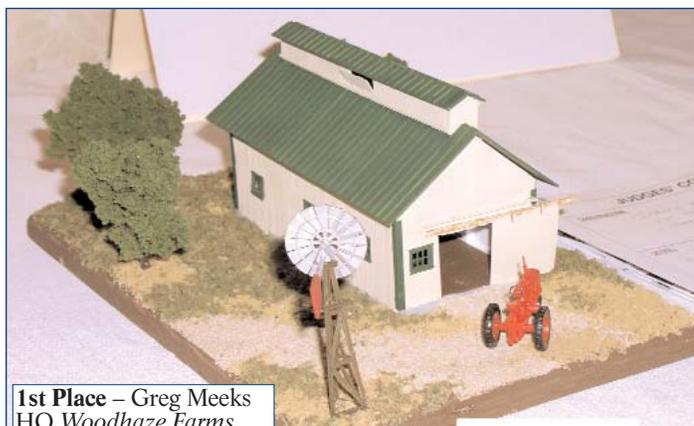
ON-LINE DISPLAY:



1st Place –
Bernard Kempinski
N Handley Coal Dock

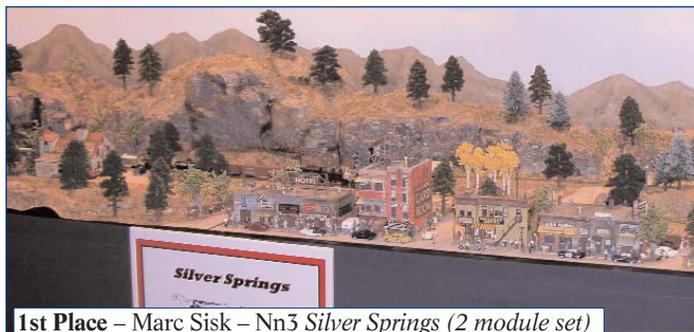
2nd Place – Bernard Kempinski – N Jackson River Bridge
2nd Place – (tie) John Griffith – HO Engine House

OFF-LINE DISPLAY:



1st Place – Greg Meeks
HO Woodhaze Farms

MODULES:



1st Place – Marc Sisk – Nn3 Silver Springs (2 module set)

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS:

Roger Ossman, our new Photo Contest Chairman, was pleased with the number of entries, as well as the brand new photo racks built by Bob Minnis. The new racks simplified the task of displaying the photos. The photo contest is decided by popular vote, but there is also a judged Best in Show Award. This award went to Roger Cason for *Steam and Smoke Rounding the Curve*.

OTHER POPULAR VOTE PHOTO ENTRY WINNERS WERE MODEL PHOTOS:

- 1st Place –** Rick Spano – *Great Northern Coal Tipple*
- 2nd Place –** John Johnson – *The Driftwood Local*
- 3rd Place –** Fred Miller – *Weekend Fun by Trolley*

PROTOTYPE STEAM PHOTOS:

- 1st Place –** Roger Cason – *The Light at the End of the Tunnel*
- 2nd Place –** Roger Cason – *Steam and Smoke Rounding the Curve*
- 3rd Place –** Taff Lawton – *Steam at Strasburg*

PROTOTYPE PHOTOS:

- 1st Place –** Roger Cason – *Out of the Fog and Across the Bridge*
- 2nd Place –** Dick Flock – *Milford Bennington RR No. 901*
- 3rd Place –** Dick Flock – *Norfolk & Southern 9267 Winter*

ARTS & CRAFTS WINNERS

The lone entry in Arts & Crafts was Dave Messer's *Gardens and Kindness* in the non-rail category. There were no Rail Pass entries; however, there is plenty of time to work on something for our next convention!

If you have any questions about NMRA or MER contest rules and judging, or have suggestions for improving our contests, please contact Ray Bilodeau at: 302-636-0888, or raybilodeau@comcast.net. 

N-Scale at South Mountain Express

By Marc Sisk

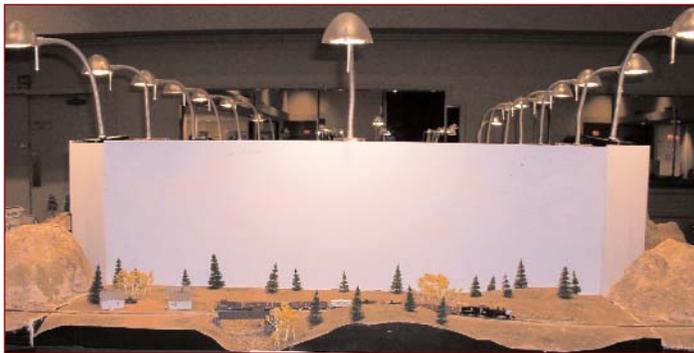
NORTHERN VIRGINIA NTRAK was asked to participate with modular layouts in the Mid Eastern Region's fall convention, the South Mountain Express. Fresh from our record-setting NTRAK layout at Chantilly, VA in August, we agreed to provide a one-trak layout for operations and an N-Scale Narrow Gauge, or Nn3, layout. We narrow gauge folks were eager to show off the layout again since Chantilly was its debut.

On Thursday, we loaded up most of the Nn3 layout and some of the one-trak modules into two vehicles and headed north to Hagerstown. A double stack arrangement was tried in my van and we actually got eight of the twelve modules into the van along with other odds and ends. After arriving, we set up what we could of both layouts. The rest of the layout arrived Friday, and we quickly inserted modules and had both layouts up and operating.

The NVNTRAK Nn3 team consisted of four members, Noll Horan, Jim LaBaugh, John Drye, and me. The one-trak layout was made up with contributions from Brian Brendel and his son, Jake, Bernie Kempinski, Jay Keese, Jim LaBaugh, and John Drye. Together, the layouts took up the back part of the main convention

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room. The room was ideally centered between the clinic rooms and really allowed convention attendees easy access to view the layouts. The room was rather dark so it was good that we had lights for the Nn3 layout. I had purchased 35 watt, 110 volt halogen lights (below) that clip onto blocks on the back of each sky board.



It really made the modules and the scenery look good. The one-trak layout did not have lights, but it was fun to watch the locomotive headlights do their job. One of Bernie's modules had a river (below) on it and the available lighting made it appear like moonlight glimmering off the water. Good effects on both layouts.

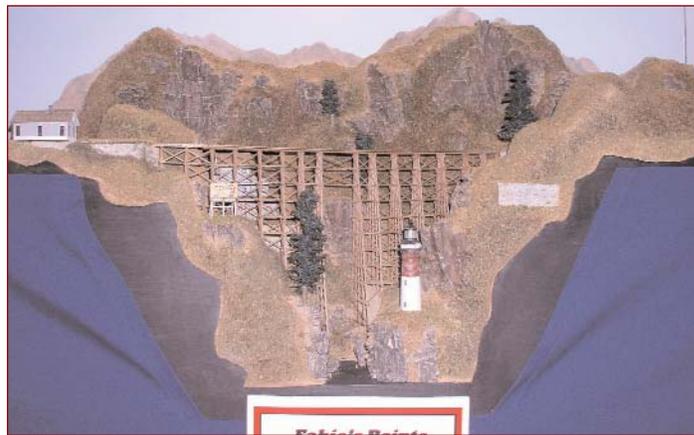
We had a steady flow of visitors at both layouts. It appeared



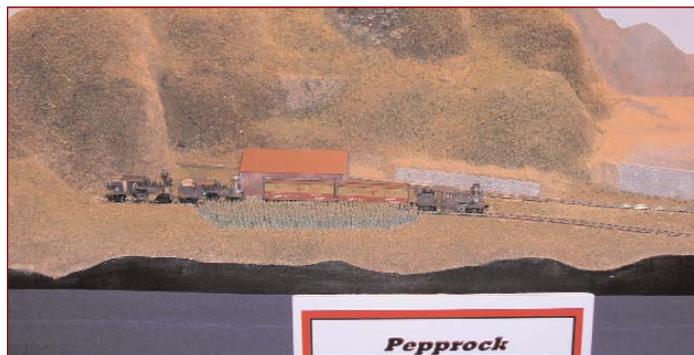
that folks were really glad that we were there and liked the layouts. One teenage fellow named Gregory took the throttle on the one-trak layout for hours on Saturday and had a great time. When his mom came for him late in the afternoon, he was reluctant to stop, and mom was not really a happy camper. We thought we might have to protect the layouts with our lives as she was



threatening to do harm to his trains if he did not come along. A dedicated person indeed who hopefully will keep some interest in trains as he gets older. Part of NVNTRAK's mission is to educate folks about railroading and model railroad activities. I believe we did right with this young man that day.

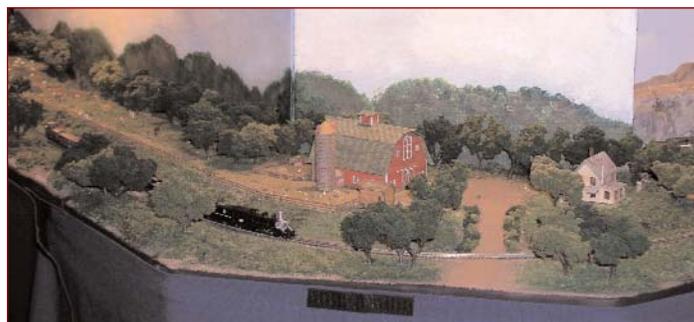


NVNTRAK members contributed in other ways to the success of the convention. Bernie, Noll, and I gave several clinics. I participated as a judge in the model contest. Clint Hyde, also an NVNTRAK member, is now the MER President and Noll is the Vice-President. NVNTRAK is really represented well in the region. We also made an impact in the contest room. Bernie took a first and a second with his coaling dock and bridge; Noll took



third with his favorite train entry (above), and I took first in the module competition.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Ray Price and all the convention staff for allowing NVNTRAK to participate in the convention. As usual, it was a great event. We really had a good



time taking in the clinics, layout tours, and other convention activities. NVNTRAK sets up over 40 times each year in different locations throughout Northern Virginia and Maryland. You are all certainly invited to come to one of the layouts, take the throttle like Gregory, and have fun running some trains! For more information about our club, please go to www.nvntrak.org on the Internet. 📧

event is well underway under the able leadership of John Nawn.

In other events of note, Rich Newmiller had nearly a clean sweep in the contest at the recent MER Convention in Hagerstown. I think Dick Foley told me he thought he saw a broom tied to the antenna of Rich's car on the way home.

TIDEWATER DIVISION



OFFICERS:

Superintendent:

Jim Keiper, 757-548-3234-9334, keiper1@cox.net

Assistant Superintendent:

Jim Curth, 757-853-2802, jimcurt@juno.com

Ticket Master:

Rick Uglum, 757-587-5512, SD9E4315@cox.net

Paymaster:

Len Broucher, 757-420-7879, lenbroucher@aol.com

DIRECTORS:

Bill Fay, 757-432-1746, gpsfa1@aol.com

Richard Hudson, 757-483-0641, Rhudson102@aol.com

Celeste Robbins, 757-855-4167, calamity1@cox.net

DIVISION WEBSITE ADDRESSES:

<http://groups.hamptonroads.com/TDWDMER/>

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership was 69 on 1 Dec 2003 and 78 on 1 Dec 2004.

Of particular interest is the number of youth who have joined. We have realized the addition of youths ages 7, 8, 9, 12, and 13. We also had two families join.

DIVISION EVENTS:

Conducted 6 Division meetings which included the following:

Clinics – (track wiring, airbrushing, decaling, DCC operation/decoder installation, and modeling and detailing on a budget)

Workshop – (2-day opportunity to run, work on modules, and just talk trains)

Home layout tours

Competitions – Conducted our Annual Model Train Show and Sale in September attended by approximately 1300 people. The Show included the following:

USMC Reserve “Toys For Tots” – over \$1500 of Division contributions which included 75 train sets (50 electric and 25 wooden) and barrels of donations from the public.

Crime Busters Display

Operation Lifesaver Display

Multi-scale layouts to include Z, N, HO (in combination with the Potomac Division), S, O, G, and static displays of live steam
38 Boy Scouts earned their Railroad Merit Badges.

40 vendors attended utilizing 181 tables.

Visit and tour by the Mayor of Virginia Beach. She also enjoys running trains!

The Division HO Module Group conducted 14 shows during the year at various facilities such as the malls, a public library, nursing center, learning center and other shows.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM:

8 Golden Spike Awards were earned.

Dan Tabor earned AP Volunteer.

J.J. Johnson earned AP Civil Engineer, Prototype Modeler, Author and Master Model Railroader

Norm Garner earned AP Author and Structures.

Mentoring of 3 youth members in their pursuit of the Golden Spike Award

CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

CHARITABLE:

USMC Reserve “Toys For Tots” – over \$1500 of Division contributions which included 75 train sets (50 electric and 25 wooden).

Continued our once-a-month workshop at the Children's Museum of Virginia in Portsmouth, VA. Tasks included repair and overhaul of layout scenery, trackwork, electrical, and trains of the G, O, and HO scales.

Division members have accumulated over 790 hours of volunteer work at the museum.

Our HO Module Group provided 3 days of operation at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Nursing Center. This organization specializes in care for folks having Alzheimer's disease. It also included an open house during the 3 days where numerous kids had the opportunity to run the trains using analog and DCC controls.

EDUCATIONAL:

Conducted a 2-day workshop for the public and Division members.

Conducted a Multi-Scale Train Show at the Pembroke Mall

The Division HO Module Group participated in the “Portsmouth Night Out” at the NSU/ODU Educational Facility. Activities included 2 nights of operation/familiarization of model railroading for the public.

Unofficial mentoring to 3 youth concerning the building of modules and equipment.

The Division has sponsored the construction of three HO modules (2-6' and 1-4') in memory of Mr. Earl Geister who died 6 years ago. Earl's widow, Beth Geister donated an impressive collection of 35 steam engines, 2 diesels, numerous rolling stock items, buildings, and track. Her main objective is to provide the equipment as a learning experience for other people, especially kids. The module project manager, Robert Doss, has chosen and is approximately 80% complete.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

In the course of the next year the officers and directors of the

Tidewater Division plan to:

Publish six issues of the **Callboard** newsletter.

Hold six one-day meets.

Investigate the possibility of holding a joint meet with the James River Division.

Continue to include clinics, workshops, contests, and home layout tours in our Division meets. Investigate the inclusion of prototype railroading at the Norfolk Southern Portlock Yards, the NS Diesel Maintenance Facility, and the Giant Cement Company Distribution Center.

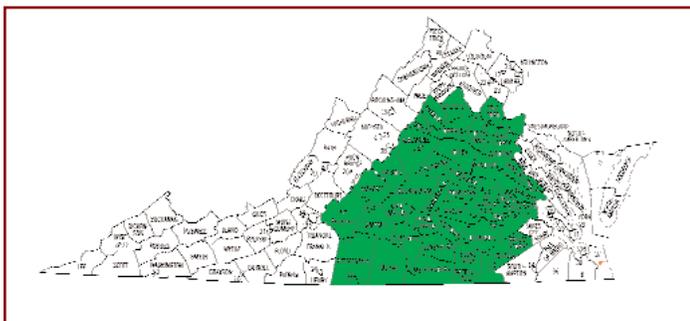
Continue our proactive publicity and recruitment effort. Continue to focus efforts to reach youngsters and "disenfranchised" former members. Also a continuance of our efforts to bring together different scale groups at mutual shows.

Appointment of a Communication/Publicity Chairman who will continue the publication of our advertising brochure and business cards.

Work on implementing the results of a Division-wide survey that was conducted approximately 4 years ago. This survey provided events/activities to which the Division may participate.

Continue to develop our e-mail and mail lists to members and non-members.

JAMES RIVER DIVISION



OFFICERS:

Superintendent:

Bill McMillan, 804-379-7904, wamcm@erols.com

Assistant Superintendent:

Derek Wimberly

Clerk:

Jerry Jarvis

Paymaster:

Chris Jessee

DIVISION WEB SITE ADDRESSES:

Division web page – www.JamesRiverDiv.homestead.com

Crossties Annex – www.crossties.homestead.com

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership was shown as 70 on 30 June 2003 and 58 on 30 June 2004.

DIVISION EVENTS:

During the course of the year the James River Division held four

of its customary one-day meets (Danville – 09/27/03, Midlothian – 01/17/04, Lynchburg – 04/17/04) and a layout tour in Richmond – 07/31/04 and will meet in Charlottesville on 23 October. While we anticipated a larger attendance in Danville as our meet was in conjunction with that city's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the wreck of Old 97 we did, in fact, have about 20 attendees, of whom several were guests from outside the division. The average attendance at the other meets was 25 members and guests. All of these meets, except the second Richmond meet, included clinics, contests and member white elephant sales plus any necessary business in the morning and two or more layout or other tours after lunch. The Richmond meet on 31 July was a tour of three different types of layouts in the area – an HO club layout, a private N-scale layout and a G-scale outdoor layout. The annual business meeting was conducted during the April meet in Lynchburg. Officers elected for the 2004 – 2006 term were as listed above.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM:

During the year covered, The AP award for prototype Modeler was awarded to Bill McMillan.

NEWSLETTER:

The division newsletter **Crossties** was published four times during the year and will be published again in September 2004.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

Revise the Bylaws and other operating procedures as necessary to conform to the recently passed Regulations of the NMRA.

Hold four, one-day meets of which two will be in the Richmond area, one in Lynchburg and one in Charlottesville. This will serve to hold meets in the membership centers of the Division.

Pursue the possibility of holding joint meets with contiguous divisions (Tidewater and Potomac).

Study the modification of the content of some meets to include; if possible, some form of prototype railroading activity or a layout tour in either the Lynchburg or Charlottesville area.

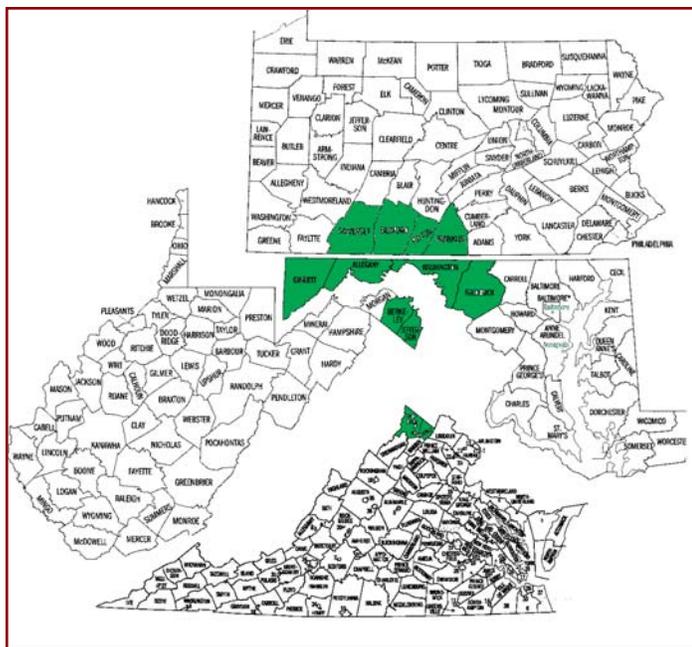
Continue to be more proactive in our publicity and recruitment effort. This is particularly important in view of the upcoming revision in NMRA membership rules.

CONCLUSION:

As the treasury is expected to continue to show fiscal strength, the Division is confident that it can adjust to the revised Regulations without losing sight of its routine goal of making model railroading more enjoyable and interesting to all members. Efforts to be more responsive to the desires of the membership have proven to be fruitful. In the future, the officers plan efforts to extend these benefits to more model railroaders, NMRA members and non-members alike, in the James River Division area.

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SOUTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION



OFFICERS: (as of 04/04)

Superintendent:

Raymond F. Price, Jr., (301)845-6465

rayswesternmarylandrr@erols.com

Assistant Superintendent:

Bob Johnson, (301)371-9129, rcyrilj@aol.com

Clerk/Paymaster:

Larry Snook, (301)797-0608, JASNOOK@aol.com

DIRECTORS:

Harvey H. Heyser III. (304)876-6637

hheyser@bfmarchitects.com

Bob Van Zant, (304)229-5976

rvanzant2@alleganyinternet.net

DIVISION WEBSITE ADDRESSES:

Division web page – www.fred.net/richardb/smd.html

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership is currently at 87.

DIVISION EVENTS:

We have held 8 meetings this year, each at a different member's home. Sometimes we have a clinic combined with operating on the member's layout. In the past we have also visited neighboring Divisions to tour some of their members layouts, or have on occasion visited a prototype site, such as our visit to the CSX facility in Cumberland during 2002. For 2005 I hope to have the Division arrange some out-of-area visits.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM:

This area has been dormant for the past several years, but we have plans to get it revived during 2005. Stay tuned.

MER CONVENTION ACTIVITY:

Just hosted the Fall '04 convention: South Mountain Express '04

FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

Publish three issues of the **Wheel Report** newsletter vice the present two.

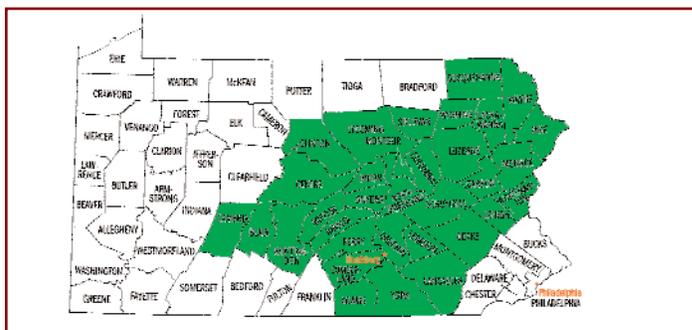
Investigate the possibility of holding joint meets with contiguous divisions (Tidewater and Potomac).

Investigate the modification of the content of some meets to include, if possible, some form of prototype railroading or include clinics.

CONCLUSION:

This has been a very busy year for the Division with its hosting of the Fall MER Convention. We hope to now take some of the enthusiasm we had during the convention and get back to our regular meetings and doing some new and different activities, such as getting into the Achievement program.

SUSQUEHANNA DIVISION



OFFICERS: (as of 7/1/2004)

Superintendent:

Scott Turner, 717-486-4189, scottturner@comcast.net

Assistant Superintendent:

Brian Brandt, 717-560-9542, brianbrandt3@comcast.net

Chief Clerk:

Paul F. Tice, 717-843-9572

DIRECTORS:

Howard Oakes, 717-632-5990, horrnut@netzero.net

Alan Frame, 717-767-4998, aframe@gettle.com

Bob Martin, 717-848-3640, cprrboss@aol.com

DIVISION WEBSITE ADDRESSES:

Division web page – <http://moosevalley.org/nmra/index.htm>

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership was 56 as of 30 November 2004. This has stayed about the same over the last year. Only about 10 to 20 show for events.

DIVISION EVENTS:

January 2004 – The division visited the Miniature Railroad Club of York where we had a tour of their 30 foot by 80 foot HO scale railroad. Division member Bruce Allison gave a clinic on modeling trees using real flowers and plants. He also gave

some great tips for improving commercial trees.

May 2004 – In the morning, Jim Clay and Ray Fisher opened their home layouts for the division to visit, Jim's in HO and Ray's in N scale. Then in the afternoon, we visited the home layout of Steve Mallery, son of the late Paul Mallery. Steve is a Norfolk Southern dispatcher on their Buffalo line, which he also models in HO. The members were then treated to an operation session.

July 2004 – The division spent the afternoon at the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad Preservation Society's Muddy Creek Forks, PA station. Division member Alan Frame give us a personalized tour of their station/general store, their small yard, and roller mill. We even had a ride on their train over part of the old Ma & Pa tracks.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM:

Alan Frame has taken over as division AP chair. Only one AP certificate was awarded in the last year and that was to Scott Turner for Association Volunteer. This is one area that Alan really wants to improve for the upcoming year.

MER CONVENTION ACTIVITY:

Several of the division members attended the MER Fall 2004 convention in Hagerstown, MD. Of those in attendance, some gave clinics, helped judge models in the model contest room, and was the auctioneer for the auction.

There are currently no plans to host a MER convention, but look forward to do this once again in the future after other divisions have had the chance to host one.

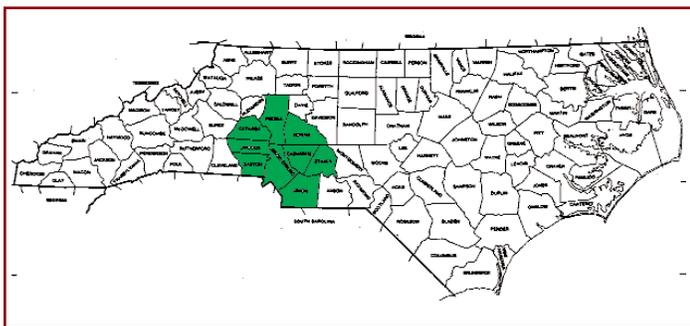
FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

Investigate the possibility of holding joint meets with contiguous divisions (South Mountain and Philadelphia).

To improve the turnout at our division events and to have more meets.

To get the members of the division more involved in the division events and AP.

CAROLINA SOUTHERN DIVISION



OFFICERS: Elected Positions

Superintendent:

Larry Lau, 704-373-1498, llau@carolina.rr.com

Assistant Superintendent:

Jack Parker, 704-399-1722

Clerk:

Fred Miller, 704-752-5138, tractionfan@aol.com

Paymaster:

Dick Bronson, 704-843-3769, dick_bronson@sil.org

DIRECTOR 2004:

Michele Chance, 704-933-4200, michelejc@carolina.rr.com

DIRECTOR 2005:

Dave Chance, 704-933-4200, loconut@carolina.rr.com

DIRECTOR 2006:

Bill Jennings, 704-364-3083, jjccclt@mindsprint.com

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

Membership Chairman:

Jack Parker, 704-399-1722

Fund Raising Chairman:

Bob Johnson, 803-802-0091, jean_bob@comporium.net

AP Chairman, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor:

Fred Miller

DIVISION WEBSITE ADDRESSES:

The Division maintains a website at <http://www.bytedesign.com/CSDiv/>. The divisions activities, newsletters and AP progress is displayed along with other information helpful to the division membership.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership has increased by one to a total of 16 during the year.

DIVISION EVENTS:

The Division continues to meet, mostly at member's homes, on an every other month basis. Each meeting includes some planned program. During the 2004-year, clinics were presented on Soldering Techniques, Using PCs to program DCC Decoders and Switching Operations. A do-it-yourself clinic was presented on the DC/DCC Tester as described in the **MER Local** last year. We had a video/slide report on the MCR/MER joint convention.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM:

Our Division has been making good progress in the AP program. This past year we awarded one each of Golden Spike, Scenery, Volunteer and Motive Power Achievement certificates. An MMR, second for the Division, was awarded.

MER CONVENTION ACTIVITY:

A good contingent from the Division attended the Spring Joint MCR/MER convention in Pittsburgh and the Fall MER convention in Hagerstown.

CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

The Division had planned on supporting a Boy Scouts Railroad day, complete with prototype equipment displays and layout visits. Unfortunately response from the Boy Scout community was small so the event was cancelled.

NEWSLETTER:

Each year, the Division publishes 4-5 issues of the **Brass Pounder**, our newsletter. Almost all distribution to members and friends is

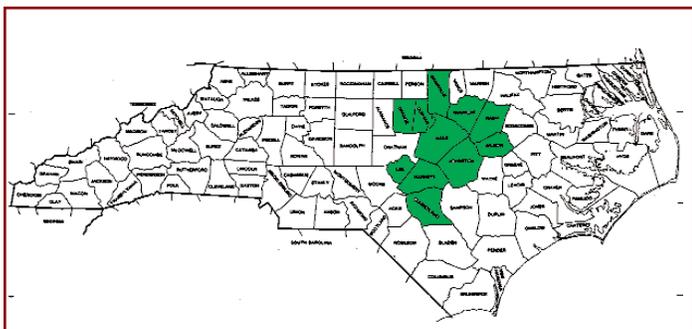
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through electronic email of an Adobe .pdf format file. The newsletter currently has a distribution of about 130. The **Brass Pounder** contains reports of previous meetings and other pertinent news and occasional modeling articles.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

The Division has planned to continue meetings with clinics and other presentations on a 6 times per year basis. The Division membership as well as modelers in the community attend a number of other model railroad group functions in the area. Additional Division activity has not proved to be practical.

CAROLINA PIEDMONT DIVISION



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

Superintendent:

David H. Lynam, 919-639-4644, lynam1937@msn.com

Assistant Superintendent:

Richard Buchan, 919-676-9207, trolley400@man.com

Clerk:

Andrew Stitt, 919-552-6419

astitt@brooksbuidingproducts.com

Paymaster:

David Derway, 910-245-3348, dsd@pinehurst.net

DIRECTORS:

Thomas Cook, 919-929-3416, tcook1@nc.rr.com

Edmund Dougherty, 919-732-1729

edougherty@mindspring.com

John Rudisill, 919-544-2871, jrudi123@aol.com

DIVISION WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13>

MEMBERSHIP:

As of September 1, 2003 – 43

As of September 1, 2004 – 43

Net increase of 1 member and passing of 1

DIVISION EVENTS:

The Division holds our scheduled monthly meeting in the Apex, NC train station on the fourth Tuesday of each month starting at 7 p.m. Each meeting includes an educational clinic and a popular vote contest. Over the past year the subjects of the clinics and contests were as follows:

September 2003 – Resin Castings – Swap Night

October – Layout Design – Orange and Black Paint Schemes

November – DCC Part 2 – Favorite Train Item

December – Cancelled due to Scheduling Conflict

January 2004 – Cancelled due to weather

February – Plaster Castings – Annual Meeting

March – Prototype Research – Articulated Locomotives

April – Cable Cars – Circus Trains

May – Freight Car Tune ups – Water Towers

June – Maintaining you Motive Power – Scratch Built Cars

July – Coal mines and Coal Trains – Scratch Built Locomotives

August – Trouble Shooting Switches – Home Track Plans

In addition to the monthly meetings the division has participated in the following activities over the past year:

In November 2003 – we participated in the Neuse River Valley Train Show. This was an opportunity to promote the hobby, the Division and the NMRA. The Division built another N scale portable layout and raffled it off at the NRV Train Show netting around \$750 to purchase train sets. This year the purchased starter layouts for our Holiday Trains for Kids Program have been distributed thru the Marines Toys for Tots Program

In April of 2004 – the Division participated in the Great American Train Show. This was another opportunity to promote the hobby, the Division and the NMRA. We displayed our portable switching layout and sold donated magazines and equipment for the Divisions' charity.

CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Over the past year the Division conducted educational clinics as listed above.

In addition, the Division's charity, The Holiday Trains for Kids program, distributed 12 train sets. Also, two division members Constructed a railroad for a man home bound with

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITY:

During the past year Jerry Mersch earned a Golden Spike Award. David Lynam earned Electrical Eng., Civil Eng. Assoc. Vol., Author, and Chief Disp. Dick Genthner earned Cars and our Divisions first MMR # 330! Richard Mathews earned Chief Disp.

CONVENTION ACTIVITY:

The CPD13 has agreed to sponsor the 2005 MER Convention in Raleigh, NC. Plans are on going at this time and will be posted on our website. 

Positions Available

MER has two positions open:

- **Official Photographer** – (primarily you shoot model contest photos) and
- **Webmaster.**

Please contact Clint Hyde to apply, chyde@cox.net.

CALLBOARD

Coming Events

January 8-9 and 22-23, 2005 (snow dates January 29-30, 2005). Noon to 4 PM. Cheltenham Model Railroad Club Open House. 8000 Old York Road (at railroad bridge) adjacent to Elkins Park Square, Elkins Park, PA 19027. No admission cost; donations gratefully accepted. For information, call (215)-635-9747 or go to <http://www.cheltenhammrr.org/pages/595161/index.htm>.

January 29, 2005. 9 AM to 4 PM. Philadelphia Division meet. Clinics in the AM, layouts open in the PM. Location: GATSME Model RR club, Prospect and Madison Aves, Fort Washington, PA. See www.gatsme.org for map. Contact: Jim Dalberg 610-648-0089

March 11-12, 2005, 1 PM Friday through 11 PM Saturday. Railroad Prototype Modelers Seminar – East. Sponsored by Division 2, MCR-NMRA. Holiday Inn, Monroeville (Pittsburgh), PA (Exit 57, PA Turnpike). Registration fee: \$30. Hotel: \$69/night – (412)-372-1022; mention “Prototype Modeler’s Meet.” For more information, contact Dick Flock at (724)-850-8882, rflock@worldnet.att.net or Larry Kline at (412)-422-0678, Indkline@verizon.net.

Calling All MER Members!

Don't forget about Independence Junction (<http://www.ij2006.org/>), the NMRA's 2006 National Convention. The Mid-Eastern Region will host it July 2 to July 9, 2006 in Philadelphia, PA. There is a great need for volunteers to help at the convention. If you would like to help out, go to <http://www.ij2006.org/volunteer.html> and fill out the volunteer survey form. Be a part of this amazing event! It could get better with your help! Not only will you get great satisfaction from participating, you'll also qualify for AP Volunteer points. 

New MER Achievement Program (AP) Manager

*By Roger L. Cason, MMR
(AP Manager – retired)*

I'D LIKE TO WELCOME Charlie Flichman to his new job a MER AP manager. Charlie is an enthusiastic On3 modeler, and has (by my count) 5 and 11/12 AP certificates – i.e. he is well on his way to Master Model Railroader certification. Charlie is the author of the series of articles in **The Local** on the individual AP certificates. His contact information is: 6909 Crandall Court, Clemmons, NC 27012-9056, phone 336-766-8383, cwflich@aol.com.

A Regional AP manager issues Golden Spike certificates, and processes AP other paperwork before forwarding it to the appropriate people in the national organization. Golden Spike applications and AP paperwork normally go to the Regional AP Manager from a Divisional AP Coordinator. Most individual members will deal with and be helped by their Division AP Coordinator. However, if questions or problems rise, anyone should feel free to contact Charlie directly. 

Achievement Program Update

*By Charlie Flichman
MER AP Manager*

Since the last report in **The Local**, the following Achievement Program certificates were earned and awarded:

Division 3 - Philadelphia

Joseph Lofland – Electrical
Joseph Lofland – Civil
Joseph Lofland – Scenery

Division 4 - Tidewater

G. William Fay – Gold Spike
Norman Garner – Gold Spike
Norman Garner – Structures
Sharon K. Prescott – Gold Spike

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

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These 40' RF&P PS-1 box cars are Accurail bodies, custom painted by Accurail. They are blue with aluminum-colored doors, and feature prominent white lettering.

MER Special HO-Scale Box Car Order Form

Car	Quantity	Member Price*	Non-Member Price	TOTAL
#2836	_____	\$11.95	\$14.95	\$_____
#2874	_____	\$11.95	\$14.95	\$_____
SUBTOTAL				\$_____
SHIPPING: \$2.00 for each car (not for each order)				\$_____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED				\$_____

* My MER # is _____

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/DUES RENEWAL NOTICE
 YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
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 Send your Birth Date to the NMRA for a quotation.*

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