

Southside – West - Chesapeake, VA
Layout #7

2026 MER Convention – Tracks to Tidewater
Layout Tour Book & Operating Sessions Guide

Norfolk & Western (N&W)			Open for Viewing (free)		Operating Sessions (\$10.00 charge)	
Owner: Fred Humphrey			Date(s)	Time(s)	Date(s)	Time(s)
HO	14'x 24' with double deck	Trackwork & Electrical Main line 100% Siding trackwork & electrical 50%. Scenery 5%	Saturday	10a.m – 4p.m.	Friday	1p.m – 4p.m.
Accessibility: The layout is in a standalone structure in the back yard. Walk along side of the garage, through the gate to layout. One Step onto the porch enter structure.						
			12 Guest at a time around layout		6 Guest at a time around layout	

Description: This is a freelance layout set during the merger of the Wabash and Illinois Terminal Railroads into the Norfolk & Western in 1964. The merger was completed in 1982, incorporating both railroads. The layout also has interchange with Baltimore & Ohio, Illinois Central and Pennsylvania Railroads depicting the five original railroads coming in and out of Decatur, Il in 1964. The merger gave me the opportunity to utilize locomotive power and caboose from all three railroads to mix, and match locomotive power and caboose. There's a lot of industry switching with mixture of manifest trains, locals, one unit coal train for Oakley Power plant (loads in & empties out bound), two passenger trains (one in each direction) and a Serry Inspection Car running the rail. Have two staging yards located in another room feeding the lower and upper levels.



operations.

I look forward to guests passing through and reviewing my layout. Will have a question for the guest to help me decide which signal control system to use. I have available the Digitrax devices (PM42 power management to DBL168 for train detection to SE8C to provide signal control). Also available is Arduino Mega system with various mini boards and current detection devices using C++ Sketches to program the Train detection and signaling. Request your input on which system is easier to install and maintain? Plus any suggestions to improve layout