

**Southside – East – Virginia Beach, VA**  
*Layout #13*

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

<b>Jones Island, The Port of Milwaukee</b>			<i>Open for Viewing (free)</i>		<i>Operating Sessions (\$10.00 charge)</i>	
<b>Owner: Mark Nieting</b>			<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Time(s)</i>	<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Time(s)</i>
HO	23' x 13'	70% complete.	Friday	10a.m.–4p.m.		
<b>Accessibility:</b> There are 4 steps into the house, and another 9 to reach my “frog,” which also displays much of my Lionel pre and postwar collection and numerous railroad artifacts. Op sessions tend to run about 2 hours.			Saturday	10a.m.–2p.m.		
			8 Guests at a time around layout		6 Persons	

**Description:** The CJIB was created following the Penn-Central merger as the Milwaukee Line looked for a more direct connection to its Southeastern Line to Louisville. The route is not a true “belt line”, as it runs from north to south on Chicago’s West Side where it joins an Indiana Harbor Belt and B&OCT Line to the steel mill district of South Chicago. Visible connections on the layout occur with the PC (ex-PRR,) IC, BRC, EJ&E, and the Chicago Heights Terminal & Transfer. The layout is double deck, with a helix in the center peninsula connecting the decks and two staging yards, one on each level. Digitrax (duplex) throttles keep it all moving, and most locos are sound-equipped. There is also a “crew lounge” downstairs with a display of pre-war and post-war Lionel. Operating sessions require a crew of eight or nine. Operations are by car card, with a regular schedule of trains plus transfers. The dispatcher’s “office” is inside the helix

