

### Club News

We held our January business meeting on the 7th at Obie's Trains. Four new members were added to the Board of Directors to give us a full Board of seven. They were: Edd Braithwood (Treasurer), Dave Greenacre, Charles Greenacre, and Gil Brauch. Thanks to these members for offering their time to assist the Club in its management.

Other business conducted on the 7th included deciding that the Superintendent will share duties with a Deputy. Deputy Superintendent position was assigned by unanimous vote of the members to Charles Greenacre. The Club asked the Secretary to write a letter to New Jersey N-Trak to see what they think of the Lindsey throttles. Will it handle 4 amp loads? Do do any mall setups and get paid? These are issues under discussion in the Club and we are looking to other clubs for advice.

The following items were identified as needed by the Club. If any member wishes to construct or donate any item, please call Charles Greenacre (Deputy Superintendent) to let him know. We need a donation box clearly labeled with the Club logo and our nonprofit purpose. We could use a set of foldup sandwich board street signs for directing the public into our shows. A bulletin board for displaying our Club photos and awards (yes, we have several first place awards!).

Fred Obermeyer (a.k.a, Obie's Trains) is going to look into decal sets for cars using our new logo. Gil Brauch will be putting together names tags and membership cards. Bernie Kempinski and John Cook are going to design module signs and outdoor signs for our layout.

Everyone is reminded that if you plan to attend the monthly setup, please call the Club Superintendent Matt Schaefer (703-978-2946) by the Wednesday preceding the setup. Matt needs to know who will be there to plan the module arrangement. We need this information to speed up the assembly.

Future events include the Dixie Division of the NMRA Mini Convention in March 1993 in Olney, MD, and a proposed Tri-Division meet in Richmond late in April 1993. The Club will be doing the Greenberg Show in Burke, Virginia on April 3-4.

### Other N-Trak News

#### Dixie Mini Convention:

We have been invited to the Dixie Mini convention, Saturday, March 13 in the Emory Church, Olney, Maryland. This is about 20 miles from Tysons Corner. Set up time is not critical and running would be from about 10-4PM. Entrance fee is \$3, or \$2 with a module. Lunches will be sold. Those interested should contact Matt Schaefer at 703-978-2946 as soon as possible for a head count.

#### Valley Forge Annual Convention:

The 1993 NMRA Convention Headquarters are in the Valley Forge Sheraton Plaza, from August 1 through August 8. Although rooms are \$81 plus 8% tax, there are benefits in roosting in the convention hotel. The Valley Forge NTRAK and NMRA Conventions have a combined \$65 basic registration fee which is much less than previous conventions. Separate daily rates are \$25 for one day and \$50 for two days.

Anyone can bring modules for anyone else and they will be included if there is room. At this time 700 feet of modules have registered and there is only room for 1200 feet. They prefer three foot corners and request that a module description form be sent in as early as possible. They really need inside corners. It is estimated that a single trip around the layout will take 1-1/4 hour. On Saturday, they plan to run 12 simultaneous 100-car trains. They expect to run 20-car passenger trains, too. 24 operators are needed for the simultaneous session.

If Northern Virginia N-Trak members want to have modules that stand out, some integration of scenery, industry, separate loop, or operation between flyovers should be considered. Contact Matt Schaefer if you have any recommendations. The Point of Contact for information and module registration is Dave Savage, Coordinator, 220 S. Bishop

Ave., Secane, PA 19018.

*For those of you who were not aware, there is a national NTRAK organization. A bimonthly newsletter is published with lots of info on N-Scale activities. There are also NTRAK resource booklets covering everything from module construction to throttles. You can join by sending \$5.00 to: NTRAK Publishing, 2424 Alturas Rd., Atascadero, CA 93422, (805)466-1758. Jim FitzGerald runs the organization and handles the newsletter.*

### News from the Superintendent

*(Matt Schaefer)*

In the July 1992 issue of the *Northern Virginia N-Trak* there was an article on end modules. At the January 24, 1993 operating session I tested a hybrid version that can be used in various layouts. It is a 41"x53" flyover corner module, but is basically a 3'x4' NTRAK module with 5" added on two sides for scenery and the 14" radius of the flyover. I compromised on the 3x4 because it has more length for grades and curves than the 3x3, and the 3x4 is much easier to transport than a 4x4. If used in pairs, no bridge modules are needed.

With two matching modules, a small NTRAK layout of two, three, or more modules can be made giving a two loop operation instead of three. Monroe Stewart has an end module that can be operated as a mate to this module. The 1" x 4" end board is equipped with a 0.125" shim so that when removed, the module is tilted and the flyover loops become level for continuous running. Community tracks become a stub yard on a 4% down grade.

When used with a larger NTRAK layout, the shim is added to level the three community tracks and the flyover grade is then about 4.8%. Helpers can be added if necessary to get long trains into the set up yard. The flyover connects to eight feet of standard NTRAK set up tracks or a yard fastened to the backs of adjacent modules. Additional 4' or 8' set up boards can be added as desired to provide a switching lead for the set up yard or to complete a loop with the orange track, an optional

fourth NTRAK located 1.5" in front of the red track.

The flyover corner makes a nice track arrangement for several themes. One would be a watering and turning facility for steam pusher engines. The N&W had one just west of Christiansburg Mountain, Virginia, just over the top of the grade. The module could also be used for a passenger terminal where the passenger trains arrive from different railroads on several levels and where the cars could be turned on the loop. A subway could be added on a lower level. The set up tracks could be used as a coach yard like Ivy City Yard to hold passenger trains. Switching possibilities are extensive as well as prototypical.

Some observers may ask about the reliability of the 30 degree crossing track. It has been trouble-free so far. Much

more work is needed. We'll just have to see what comes out of this fine mess!

### Meeting Reminders

**Feb 21** Monthly setup at the Fairfax Fire Training Academy (tentative location, call Club officer the week before for verification) on West Ox Road between Rts 29 and 50, 2:00PM to 8:00PM.

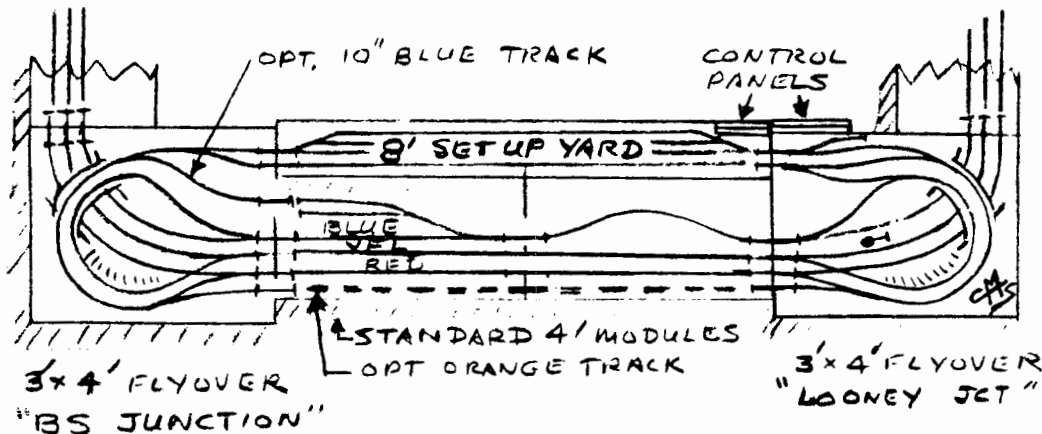
**Mar 4** March business meeting at Pete Matthews' house 7:00PM to 9:00PM. Pete & Terri Matthews live at 4416 Longworthe Square, Alexandria, VA. (703)360-2313. Please call Pete if you plan to attend.

**Mar 13** Dixie Division mini convention in Olney, MD. \$3 registration fee. Hours from 9 AM to 4 PM at the Oakdale-Emory United Methodist Church on 3425 Emory Church Rd. (the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Emory Church Rd.)

### Northern Virginia NTRAK Officers:

President: Dennis Austin, 703-444-7198  
Secretary: Chris Riddick, 703-437-9247  
Treas.: Edd Braithwood, 703-860-2899  
Spmtrndnt: Matt Schaefer, 703-978-2946

*Deadline for article and announcement submissions for newsletter is the 15th of the preceding month. Newsletter is mailed last week of the preceding month.*



The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is selling several items of interest to W&OD fans. These items can be ordered direct from the Park Authority:

- W&OD T-Shirts** (\$11.50; shipping is \$2.50 for 1-3 shirts, \$1 for each additional shirt) These are 100% cotton shirts, black, light blue, or white, in adult size S, M, L, XL.
- W&OD Trail Guides** (\$3.50; shipping is \$1 per guide)
- W&OD Railroad History Books** (\$15; shipping is \$2 per book)
- W&OD Lapel Pins** (\$2.50; shipping is \$.50 per pin)

**Make checks payable to:** Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, 5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039