

## Club News

We apologize for the short notice on cancellation of the May business meeting. The next business meeting will be in July on the first Thursday of the month.

The May setup session was not well-attended. A small group of about eight dedicated members configured a straight run with two end loops for an operating session. One of our club rules regarding operating sessions is that all members who plan to attend a session must contact the setup coordinator, Charles Greenacre, by the Wednesday preceding the setup so that we can plan the configuration of the layout. This information is also needed in order to be sure we have enough corner modules to complete a loop. The club assumes that if we do not hear from you by the preceding Wednesday, then we will not plan for your module to be included in the setup.

The May setup also brought to our attention that the Club only owns one corner module. All other corners are privately owned. Therefore, the President has declared that our next session on June 13 will be a module construction session. Rather than operating trains, we will build a couple corner modules. The club will provide the lumber and hardware, you provide a pair of hands and your tools. If you plan to help with the module construction session (Sunday, June 13, 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) please call Matt Schaefer or Dennis Austin to advise us that you will attend. Matt will tell you the location of the construction session when you call. For you new members who are still contemplating a module, this would be a great opportunity to learn how they are built and try your hand on someone else's module before you work on yours!

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

## Other N-Trak News

### Valley Forge Annual Convention

The 1993 NMRA Convention Headquarters is 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 that 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.*

## Railfan News

ATTENTION all cinder sniffers! The NS has scheduled a joy ride behind the 611

through the bowels of Virginia to delight all the senses. This is the Independence Limited Special, running indirectly from Knoxville, Tennessee to the NRHS convention in Chicago. The train consist features first class service on the C&O heavyweight diner, "Gadsby's Tavern", and the N&W round observation car, "Mardi Gras".

On the first day, Saturday July 17th, 611 runs the SR from Knoxville to Johnson City and from there takes the Clinchfield (CC&O) up Clinch Mountain to St. Paul, Virginia where it interchanges to the N&W to Richlands. The second day 611 takes the Dry Fork Branch at Cedar Bluff to Iaeger, of which the brochure says high bridges, curves, and spectacular scenery are featured. My kind of railroad! The third day is a flatlander's run from Portsmouth, Ohio to Ft. Wayne. The fourth day 611 is replaced by double-headed Nickel Plate steam #765 & #587 for the final leg to the NRHS Convention in Chicago. A nice ride!

Tickets for the full four days as well as any segment of the trip each day are available. The four day package is \$229 for an adult and \$129 for children 12 and under. Passengers are responsible for making their own lodging reservations. There is a limited number of first class tickets on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information write:

Roanoke Chapter NRHS  
P.O. Box 13222  
Roanoke, Virginia 24032-3222  
or call (703)366-0916  
(M-F, 10am - 7pm, EDT)

## News from the Superintendent

I do not know what course others may wish to take, but I liked the Snake Subdivision (SS) in the April Greenberg show; eight curvaceous modules in tandem. Five of the modules have at least a 90 degree curve plus the "S" curve through the New River Gorge and the "S" curve through Loop Mountain. (See the diagram.) Then when I got my pictures back and looked at them, I could hardly catch my breath! I

ran all the way from the store. As a diorama the curves are a thing of beauty, but with train movements this section really comes alive. These modules would really look good on videos.

To my knowledge, there has never been a lash up of NTRAK modules like this. I have seen non-NTRAK portable modules that all blend together. If the SS modules can be taken to the Valley Forge Convention (VFC) they should draw additional interest that the individual modules could not command alone. There are many facets to modeling such as micro-superdetailing which have been well developed but our SS concept is at the opposite

end of the spectrum which I believe has been largely neglected. This is the macro module concept or whole sections of modules that all go together with some common theme. We have now demonstrated the concept and have alleviated fears about running 100 car trains through this subdivision.

A great addition to the SS will be the 3x4 modified Club corner with super-scenery that should be ready for the VFC. To blend the modules together some of the modules need some bolt-on additions to match up the front and backdrops and maybe additional wiring. A jumper cable could be used around some reversed modules.

It is June and time to get serious about a Northern Virginia Subdivision at the VFC on Wednesday August 4 through Sunday the 8th. If you are interested in participating with modules, transportation, suggestions, or whatever, give me a call or leave a message on my recorder -- Matt Schaefer, 978-2946.

**Meeting Reminders**

**June 13** 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Club module construction session. Contact Matt Schaefer or Dennis Austin for details.

Northern Virginia NTRAK Officers:  
 President: Dennis Austin, 703-444-7198  
 Secretary: Chris Riddick, 703-437-9247  
 Treas.: Edd Braithwood, 703-860-2899  
 Sprntndnt: Matt Schaefer, 703-978-2946  
 Setups: Charles Greenacre, 703-620-4588

