

Club News

We held our business meeting at Obie's trains on the 15th of July. Neither Dennis nor Matt had received calls about the construction session scheduled for the 18th, so it was cancelled.

We will hold a module construction session to complete track laying for the five Club modules we started last month. The session is tentatively set for the 15th of August at the Franconia Government Center. Contact Matt Schaefer or Dennis Austin for more details.

Bernie Kempinski has offered his basement for biweekly setups on Thursdays. Bernie suggests that the use of a few select modules can provide a small operating layout for up to six people at a session. We would run the New River modules, Monroe Stewart's module, Matt's flyover module, M-K Junction, and Chase Marine for two separate loops. These modules could be left set up in Bernie's basement for continuing operating sessions. If interested, contact Matt Schaefer or Bernie Kempinski.

The Club will be attending the Greenberg Show in October. The Dave Frary PRR layout from *Model Railroader* magazine will be on exhibit. More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

Other N-Trak News

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.

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 New River Subdivision

Heat wave grips Northern Virginia. A week of record high temperatures drives people into air-conditioned homes and offices (at least the sane ones, a few fool hardy cyclists were spotted zooming around, but we all know if they had half a brain they wouldn't ride such silly contraptions.) Well now, what to do? Trapped in an air conditioned house, nothing good on the tube and the kids are in summer camp. "What's that you say, dear?..... Sure, I'll fold the laundry."

You head downstairs for the laundry room. You pass the workbench and can't help but notice the Concor coal hopper that has one body mounted Kadee and a missing truck, "Should really finish that car," you mumble to yourself as you open the door to the dryer. You start to fold the first towel when you spot two walls of a brick factory kit that would look great on your module. You glance down at the towel then back at the kit. The towel drops to the floor.

Does this scenario ring a bell? Sure, summer is the time to be outside and reduced attendance at NTRAK functions reflects that reality. But the heat wave trapping us in our houses is the perfect reason to start working on or, better yet, playing with trains. One night, in the above frame of mind, I called Matt Schaefer. "Yeah Matt, I'm moved in and guess what? I got a little space in the basement to set up a train layout."

"How big is the space?"

"It's about 15 by 21 but there's some furniture and exercise equipment..."

"Could you set up modules there?"

"Well I suppose so."

And so was formed the New River Subdivision of Northern Virginia N-Trak. The plan is to use Matt's acclaimed New River modules, his incomplete but functional flying crossover, Monroe's New River return loop, the Club's M&K Junction and the Chase Marine Terminal to make a small, by NTRAK standards, layout. The design would include two

separate loops with set-up tracks and a stub yard represented by the Chase Marine Terminal.

With the club concentrating this summer on construction projects, having a small layout like this could give some of the operations junkies enough of a fix to last them until the fall and winter show season.

We hope to have the layout up and running by August. Then we could devote a couple weekday nights to operating sessions. Without the need to set up the modules, we probably could get in quite a bit of operation in a night. We can also experiment with some new ideas to include running to a schedule, local freights picking up and setting out cars, through trains, and theme nights, for example Steam Night, Western Maryland Night etc. If you are interested in participating, give Matt or me a call. The house is located on Estates Drive, Alexandria VA. It's just off Van Dorn Street and the Beltway.

(Contributed by Bernard Kempinski)

Meeting Reminders

Aug 15 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. Module construction session. Tentatively set for the Franconia Government Center.

Sep 2 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. September business meeting at Obie's Trains in Alexandria.

Sep 19 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Setup session. Location to be determined.

Wanted

If anyone has information they could share concerning rail-to-ship coal loading piers, dumpers and conveyors I would appreciate it. I am looking for photos, plans, diagrams, track layouts etc. I am particularly interested in the Western Maryland facilities at Port Covington, but info on other railroad's facilities would be appreciated.

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