

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

NTRAK

Northern Virginia NTRAK

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### The President's Whistle

by Charles Greenacre

Recently elected (by a coin toss) to the position of president of this club, it behooved me to follow in another president's footsteps and give a "State of the Union" (or should it be "State of the club") address. Where's the video cameras when you want them? Hmm, let me call NBC, FOX, CNN, CBS, UPN, & ABC. So if I get too long winded and too much pressure built up, tell me let off on my safety valve.

Something Clinton didn't do in any of the his "State of the Union" addresses was to thank the previous president. Well, Dennis, thanks for being president!

Dennis was a charter member of the club. If I remember right, he was the one who put out publicity flyers in the various hobby stores that got the group started. About a year later, we officially formed a club and for all of Dennis's efforts, we rewarded him with the position of president.

This is an interesting club-the bylaws invest significant power in the Board of Directors, yet I don't think the seven of us control the club. My father was very frustrated when he attended our business meetings, he wanted a strong leader controlling the group. Well, that's impossible with this club. This club is more like a swarm of birds flitting around and occasionally coming to roost. There is no leader in a swarm, they just do. They fly in that direction, then in this direction. But somehow these migratory birds make it to their wintering grounds, covering thousands of miles in the process. At our business meetings everyone who wants to speak their mind, usually gets their two cents in. And our decisions are generally a consensus of the members.

When you take a step back and look at our club, it's amazing how we operate and get anything done at all. Yet what we have done in these few years is amazing. Matt did a nice job with his club history in the New Year's issue. In summary, we have participated in several charitable events giving of our time and getting to run trains to boot! We have participated in several train shows and

have been paid for our time. And we have been training till we drop at our mall shows. We do put on a good show! Finally, we have been asked to put on the 1996 Ntrak East convention. We have arrived! Not just at Union Station, but on track number 1 at Union Station.

And during this time Dennis was president. Dennis didn't do everything, no one could have! But his style of leadership worked with this club. If Dennis had been a strong leader, this club would not be where it is today. Strong leaders tend to make enemies, because of differences in personalities, not because of differences in ideas. A strong president would have driven current members out of the club. We all have had our differences with each other, yet we stick with each other because we enjoy trains. So here's a toast! Let's have many more years together, running trains!

I also want thank other members for their work over these years: Obie for working with Landmark mall management. John Cook for working out the incorporation issues. Gil for getting a large set up space. Matt for being setup coordinator (that's a thankless job!). Jackie, Leonard, and Bernie for the newsletter. Edd and Rodney for being treasurer. Phil for being the notetaker at our business meetings. And if I missed your contribution to the club, give yourself a pat on the back, then remind this engineer, who has a one track mind-----running trains!

Talk about giving me news. I do have an answering machine now. It's on my second phone line which is answered by my computer. The phone number is 703 620 0812. It's a metro number, so for most MD and all DC members it is a local call. Extension 4 on this line is for the 1996 convention. Extension 3 on this line is our Ntrak club. You can also send me a fax on this number. If you have any problems sending a fax, listen for my computer to pick up on the line, press zero(0) on your phone, then press the start button on your fax machine. I am leaving this computer up 24x7, so call any time. Please note, you must use a touch tone phone with this line--if you use a rotary or pulse phone, there is no way you can leave a message.

Gotta run, the engineer's position is vacant on the 611, and I want to blow her whistle. Charles

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# RunniN Trains IN '96 NTRAK East Convention

## CONVENTION CORNER

by Rodney Smith

Well we've been busy little beavers since last month's report was in the newsletter. We had a very busy January meeting with a follow-up session during the two-day module set-up at Prince of Peace over the MLK weekend. As a result, we have closed out the hotel selection action, toured the convention facility, decided on a convention name and a working logo, started our publicity campaign, and have prepared to solicit vendors and manufacturers.

We received bids from five area hotels, including the Radisson Plaza at Mark Center. To finalize the action, I prepared letters to the four non-selected hotels and thanked them for their submissions. We may decide to put on a regional convention in the future that won't require a facility as large as the Radisson and a little professional courtesy may pay dividends.

On the 9th of January the convention committee and other interested members met in the Ash Boardroom at the Radisson. We heard status reports from each committee and then toured the rooms we will be using for the convention. Measurements of the rooms were taken and space deconfliction between inside activities and commercial relations was accomplished. We did a little creative thinking and came up with a way to maximize dealer space without causing a negative impact on the convention activities.

One of the negative aspects we brought back from the 94 Portland convention was that they got greedy and cut back NTRAK activities in order to sell more \$50 tables. We were determined not to repeat that mistake and I think we worked out the best compromise available. We will still have space for an enormous layout, several smaller layouts, clinics, an auction, and a breakfast followed by manufacturers presentations.

The most important decision of the meeting though had to be the naming of the convention and selection of a working logo. Our convention will be known as RunniN' Trains in '96. Gil has worked out the logo that appears at the top of this article. We will use this as our initial logo until we can get a logo drawn up that looks more like a prototype drumhead. Have we got any

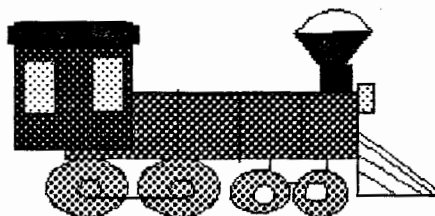
artists out there that would be willing to give it a try?

The publicity campaign is ready to take off. Our first action will be to design and print out flyers to be passed out at all the train shows in the area, starting with Timonium. We have been invited by the Atlanta NTRAK club to participate in the NMRA convention NTRAK layouts and are planning to send a large contingent of NV NTRAKers along with a long banner for the front of our modules advertising the convention. We have already replied back to the Atlanta NTRAK coordinators that we would be able to be an anchor club and run one of the several modular NTRAK layouts at the convention and trade show. See Brian if you are interested in attending.

We also have the opportunity to participate in the Nchantment '95 convention in Albuquerque, NM (did I spell that right?). I called AMTRAK and found out their rates for a round trip sleeper -- Washington to Albuquerque and return -- for two way \$1,030.00. My wife got real interested when she heard this, so there may be an opening for the Atlanta layout group. Maybe I can make both. The Train leaves Union Station at 4:05 p.m. and arrives in Albuquerque at 9:00 a.m. the next day. If anyone else is interested in riding AMTRAK to Nchantment '95 or representing NV NTRAK and the convention give me a call.

With the deconfliction of convention space, establishment of table and booth prices, discounts, and convention hours we are ready to go out and solicit participation by vendors and manufacturers. Obie will be sending out packets soon to all prospects on our list, if you have a favorite vendor (other than Obie, of course) or manufacturer you want invited get in touch with Obie. As it appears now our chances are good to excellent that we will have more space than we can offer.

Our next convention committee meeting will be at 7:00 p.m., February 13 at Prince of Peace Church. I ask that all committee members and interested parties show up as close to on time as possible so that we can finish no later than 9:00 p.m. Committee heads should be prepared for a brief -- 5 minute or less (less is better) -- status report on your areas at the start of the meeting. With the limited meeting time available we have to make the most of it. All committee heads should be concentrating on the phase two tasks in the milestone chart. Progress on these tasks and any recommended additions to the list will be discussed at the February meeting.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 13	Convention Committee Meeting, Prince of Peace, Springfield, VA, 7 p.m.
Feb. 17-20	Setup At Landmark Center, <b>OF</b>
Feb. 20	Setup - Prince of Peace, Lutheran Church, Springfield, VA, 1 p.m. WILL CALL WITH LOCATION INFORMATION
Mar 18&19	Greenberg Show-Timonium
Mar 19	NVNTrak setup at Springfield Lutheran church
Mar 26	Mid Maryland Train Show-Mount Airy
Apr 8&9	Great Scale Train Show-Timonium
Apr 16	no NVNTrak setup-Easter Sunday
May 21	NVNTrak setup at Springfield Lutheran church
June 3	Manassas Rail Fest
June 9-11	Fairfax County Fair (tentative Ntrak appearance)
June 18	NVNTrak setup at Springfield Lutheran church
July 29&30	Greenberg Show-Timonium
Sep 17	NVNTrak setup at Springfield Lutheran church
Sep 30-Oct 1	Brunswick Railroad Days
Oct 14&15	Great Scale Train Show-Timonium
Oct 15	NVNTrak setup at Springfield Lutheran church
Oct 28 & 29	Greenberg Show-Upper Marlboro
Nov 4 & 5	Great Scale Train Show-Richmond
Nov 11&12	Rockville Lions Club Train Show (tentative Ntrak appearance)



## A REMINDER

In order to get the lowest rate for registration at the Baltimore N Scale Collectors Convention, you **MUST** register by April 1.

**FOR  
SALE**

Shinnohara N Scale Double crossover, No. 6 curved Turn Out and 30 degree crossing. Price \$20. Call Bern Kempinski (703) 845-6929(w) or (703) 922-9137(h), bkempins@idaorg (email)

## NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TRAIN

### Clinton Turns on Train-Millions View Exhibit

*Reprint of Article from The Beltline, the official newsletter of the National Capital Trackers O Gauge Model Railroad Club.*

On the evening of December 7, 1994, an historic event in the history of model railroading occurred. President Clinton pressed the button to light the National Christmas Tree and at the same time start the National Christmas Train. At that instant, three trains placed on the grounds around the National Christmas Tree started up. One train circled the tree while the other two performed in front of the tree.

Attending the tree lighting was Mr. Louis Polk from Aristo-Craft Trains and along with several Trackers who worked on the exhibit, and their families. They were joined by Aristo-Craft personnel and a few members of the Washington Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society.

## Rumor Bin . . . .

We are happy to report that Chuck Obermeyer is out of the hospital and on the road to recovery after his bypass surgery.

Kato's Factory is ok. It is 300 miles from the quakes epicenter.

Kato's next N offering may be the EMD SD-45.

The Union Pacific has abandoned plans to merge with the Santa Fe.

The Northern Virginia N-TRAK Newsletter is produced for and by the members of Northern Virginia N-TRAK. Membership is \$30/year or a Newsletter subscription for continental USA residents is just \$10/year for twelve issues. Send check: Treasurer, Northern Virginia N-TRAK, P.O. Box 1951, Herndon, Virginia 22070.

Submissions should be sent to the editor, Jackie White, 137 Jasper Place, Alexandria, VA 22304, by electronic mail to PNUM72A@Prodigy.com or faxed to 703-370-4871 (call first).

Please send articles for the March 1995 Newsletter by February 25, 1995. Thanks.