

# THE CALL BOARD



A 100% **NTRAK** CLUB

Celebrating Our 12th Year!

July 2003

VOLUME XII NUMBER 7

## Fantastic Foley

*Dave Davies*

Half-way up the B&O (CSX) Sandpatch grade is the location of Foley Tower and crossovers. When the tower was removed some years ago, the crossovers were left in place, but not automated, so are seldom used. Just east of the tangent track where Foley is located, the railroad turns close to 90 degrees to the north. Between the town of Glencoe, to the north about 2 miles, and Fairhope 2 miles to the south, the only access in this rugged area is Tooland Road, an unimproved dirt road that loosely follows the tracks from one town to the other.

Tooland Road features VERY steep grades and VERY rough going. Although I crawled along its length the first time in a Corolla, this route is better suited to 4x4s, and in the winter time, is off limits to all but the largest vehicles.



*Orange pumpkin CSX 9730 leads a CSX work train down Sandpatch. The last 20 cars feature 90 foot flats with rails that allow track vehicles to ride on the car.*

Half way between the two towns is Foley. From Tooland Road, you can see the tracks in the scene at the right. If you follow the path, you will come to the Foley Railfan Overlook, scenes of which are pictured on page 6. The overlook was cleared some years ago and a observation deck built, but after the lands changed hands, the new owner tossed the

*Continued on page 6*

## The View from the Gap

*Cotton Bowen, President*

Well, it's been a wet month(s) and I'm starting to identify with the Lackawanna Railroad when Hurricane Agnes put them out of operation. In their case, it was permanently, in our case, it was just one show—the Manassas Rail fest, now known to all as the "Rain fest". Judging by the e-mail I've been reading, a lot of our members have ideas on how many, where and when to run the set-ups and shows. I am gratified to see that our membership is paying attention to what is going on, but let's keep things in focus "this isn't Burger King, you don't always get it your way". To keep things in perspective, we do two outdoor shows a year. That's not much in the out-door mode, and although we are a model train club, our 501c(3) status makes us a service organization. As such, we have obligations to meet in educating our public, and not all our set-ups are going to be to everyone's

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# WWW.BIGTRAINLAYOUT.ORG

August 5-8, 2004 Chantilly, VA



MODULE OF THE MONTH

This space for rent - free

**YOUR CALL BOARD NEEDS YOU**

Each month we have about five pages that need articles and pictures in addition to the three taken up by regular features. We really need modules of the month. Your editor's backlog of stories is zero. Please send in your articles and pictures so we can keep this newsletter interesting and informative. If you have an idea and need help in getting in down on paper, give the editor a call. We can work it out.

**RAIL EVENTS TIMETABLE**

July	6	NO Backshop	Sept'ber	7	Backshop Prince of Peace Church, Springfield, VA
	13-19	NMRA National Convention Toronto, Canada		14	Culpepper Railroad Days Culpepper, VA
	20	Fairfax Station Museum Setup Picnic outside after teardown of layout inside		21	Fairfax Museum Setup Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax, VA
	26-27	Springfield Mall Public Show Springfield, VA Setup Foreman: Paul Diley	October	4	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad Show Rescue Squad #1 Station, Old Georgetown Road & Battery Lane, Bethesda, MD
August	3	Backshop Prince of Peace Church, Springfield, VA		5	Backshop Prince of Peace Church, Springfield, VA
	16-17	GATS/Greenberg Great Train Show Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA		4-5	Altoona Railfest Altoona, PA (no contact yet)
	17	Fairfax Museum Setup Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax, VA		10-13	NMRA Mid East Region Convention Reston, VA

liking. We do four Mall shows a year, more if we can arrange for them. At that point the challenge becomes, can we get enough membership out to make the shows worthwhile. Too few people, and the show becomes a test of endurance, and at times patience. Frankly, I've never seen so many members show up that we had to draw lots to get running time. As with all good ideas, resources are a primary concern in making it happen.

My advice to all, keep things in perspective. Before you start getting agitated and complain, think about it. How many shows have you attended lately, how many shows have you helped to set up and tear down. If you didn't attend, why not? Was it personal convenience, or was there compelling reason for not coming. Of course, no one is obligated to attend, but my point is, that if you're not attending, then be careful about what you propose. Experience and knowledge lends to a mature perspective that may not otherwise exist. Keep in mind that the Superintendent and Mall Coordinator do a good job of arranging for events and getting them organized. When we have run a set-up of late, they've been running well. Setups have been smooth and tear downs quick and efficient. Edd Braithwood has modified the Aristos so they are working better than ever, Thank You Edd!! It took us 25 minutes to clear the Fairfax Station last Sunday. It doesn't get much better. Additionally, I do have to thank the members who ran the Red Cross Alexandria Set up. The Super informed me that the club membership turnout was a bit thin and the tear down was a tough one. Thanks guys, sorry I didn't make it, but I know you put on a good show.

Looking forward, I see a Mall set-up and the Fairfax Station in July and August. The July Fairfax Station set-up will be accompanied by a picnic. All are invited to attend, we have lots of food and drinks to eat, and maybe by then the rains will have stopped. Also, keep in mind, if you're looking for a really active summer of set-ups-its vacation time! The Washington area goes into slow down mode during July and August; although we have activities scheduled, it still isn't a break neck pace. That comes this fall, and I hope I see all of you at the fall set-ups when the pace picks up after Labor Day. Until then, have a good summer!



**From the Super's Desk**  
*Paul Diley, Superintendent*



Hello Club Members,

I'm still in the middle of updating the club module list. I have talked to many members about their modules, but still need to see and talk to many other members. If you have not e-mailed or talked to me about your modules, please send me the following info about your module or modules (the name, size, track work (ORYBG), even if you have not bought it out for some time. That includes oNeTRAK modules. All this info that I am putting together will help to get our web site updated and info needed for the upcoming convention. I thank you for your time in helping me getting this all done. If you are working on a new module, please send me the info on those modules also.

June has come and gone with a lot of rain. The Manassas Railfest was rained out, but we did do a two-day show at the Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival on the 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>. This was a great two-day show for the club members that did come out. I would like to thank the members that did come out with their modules. Only four members brought modules out: Fresh with OLI Tower, Matt with Bikini Bottom, Brian with Cruisin', and me with WV Wilderness and Kilgour Yard. We set up a nice 14' x 18' layout. A big thank you to everyone who came out to help with the setup or the tear down of the layout. We all had fun running trains for the public at the show. We did get a bad rain storm on Saturday that came through, but only lasted for about 20 min. We had the layout covered up with big tarps that members brought. Two long, but great days at the Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival. Cotton headed up the Fairfax Station show on Sunday for me. Thank you to Karl Cooke for taking the big trailer to the show.

There is also two conventions coming up, one is the 20<sup>th</sup> N Scale Convention in Houston, TX on June 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> and NMRA National Convention in Toronto, Canada on July 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>. We have members that are planning to go to both conventions. Watch the events calendar for more events so you can plan your calendar.

In July, we have another mall show, back at Springfield Mall on the 26-27. The layout space is about 20x50. We'll have a good size layout to run trains for the public. Please call me at 703-585-8583 if you would like to attend and bring a module out.

Thank you for your time, and lets all work together to make NVNTRAK a better club, and lets all have fun running trains for the public.

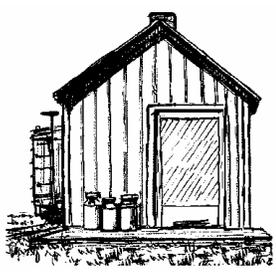
RADIO EQUIPPED      **THE HOSTLER'S SHACK**      RADIO EQUIPPED

*Matt Schaefer*

PASSES – We now have 3,000 beautiful yellow 2004 passes made up by Don Jackson, and good on all trains on the Chantilly & Great Ntrak East RR. We are only handing them out at national shows till things are squared away. Coming by Lorton Sunday after Tim's, I met a Jay Kivowitz, now with the National Transportation Board, previously road foreman, then trainmaster with E-L and then CR. He will stop by FF Station sometime and help us plan certification cards for all engineers that pass our training course at the '04 convention.

MEMBERS MODULES - With 40,000+ sq. ft. for layouts, we plan to have room for a set of modules from every NVNtrak member. One limiting factor is, members will need time to help get the layout going and carry out their convention duties. When things get squared away, we plan to ask

members to register modules they would like to put in the '04 layouts, and there are different areas to consider. Many of the member's modules can be set up late in the NorthWest Wall Subdiv., located back from the grommet food bar. We plan to connect it to the big layout at times to raise the layout size by the additional 60 modules in the NW Wall. This is free space, because it does not require another aisle. Many members modules and corners will be needed to fill in the big layout and be ambassadors.



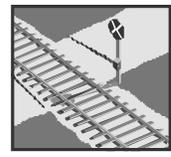
LOBBY Subdiv. – Another opportunity for those with switching features, lots of sidings or other games is the small HI Lobby Subdivision. We plan to set up and have this running sometime Wednesday afternoon, leaving Thursday free to help with the big layout. Anyone or club can sign to run their trains on the Lobby Division. Notice - the bar next to the layout will not be open all night like the RR will!

GUESTS - Lee FitzGerald says there is a 12' Ntrak bridge coming from Japan and other modules, particularly T-Trak. Also, Orlando has informed us they have 30' committed to our layout and more modules to decide on. Tony of Rantrak has asked for 40' x 80', and of course, Raleigh and NJS already each plan to do a loop. The Peninsula Model RR Club, in Lee Hall, Newport News, VA., has told us they have 20+ modules to pick from. Our module sign-up forms will be distributed to all when we get things lined up.

THE TITANIC MODULE - Charles Greenacre said their crew is bringing to the '04 convention their 23' x 4' Titanic module they call the Normandy. It is now in Phoenix, Arizona, and Charles is going to move to Phoenix and finish the 23' of modules. We will miss Charles, but we will still have Dave to do our fire dance entertainment.

DANVILLE SHOW – There will be a 54 x 24 Ntrak layout in

Danville, VA on Sept. 26 – 28th. Attendees at this time include NJS, Rantrak (5 members), Raleigh (11 members), Lynchburg (4), South Hampton Roads (John Czarny) and our road crew with Gil and myself and probably John Cook to network with those coming to our convention. John Wallis will be the DCC Trainmaster, and says there are a number of things of concern for Capitol Limited 2004 that he wants to try out and check in Danville ... and he doesn't only mean how much beer Richmond members can hold either! Danville motels are sold out, but Tony DeMasi <rantrak@comcast.net> is holding eighteen rooms at the moment or call Tom Fredenberg, VP North Raleigh Club, (919) 771-0747.



**This Side  
of the Tracks**  
Dave Davies, editor

Well, it's the beginning of summer, people's vacations have started, and material for the Call Board has really tailed off :-(-

As you can see, there is no Module of the Month (John Steitz has an article ready, but didn't have a good picture that showed the whole Brendel Yard). The CB is also only 10 pages, for the first time that I have been doing it (except when shortened because of an insert like the club roster).

I need material for anyone who has built, or is building modules, and that includes club modules. Also of interest are modeling how-to projects or railfan trips.

Notice the PICNIC later this month at the Fairfax Station layout, I think it is mentioned about 4 times in the newsletter.

I plan on preparing a "Employee's" Timetable for 2004 much the same as the one I did for '96 and '99. The TT will list all club modules by subdivision (mountain, piedmont, New River, and oNe track. I need all "railroad" features, such as the lines available, industries, passing sidings, terminal facilities, passenger stations, etc. I plan on using the information that Paul is collecting, so make sure you give him any information concerning your module (s).



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## Northern Virginia NTRAK BOD Meeting

June 1, 2003

The BoD meeting convened at 2pm. Another check for \$100.00 will be sent to the B&O Museum, to help in their restoration of the museum after the February roof collapse. The total donation for this effort from NVNTRAK is \$200.00. Some of the DCC equipment remains on back order. It was determined that the club has enough DC equipment at the present time. The Cinch Jones order has arrived. There are approximately 120 pairs available to club members at \$3.25 a pair. See Jim LaBaugh if interested.

The annual calendar of events will be maintained by the Superintendent and published on the NVNTRAK Website. There will be a picnic at Fairfax Station on July 20th as part of the regular setup.

The new junction modules are coming along well. Steve Triggs took one home and completed the scenic work on it (Thanks Steve!). Paul Diley has one to scenic, and there are two others needing that scenic touch. Paul suggested that a new trailer rack be built for the junction modules. This will be part of a session at a future backshop, once the junctions are completed. He will be looking for help to complete this project

The secretary was paid \$80.00 for the eight module skirts produced and delivered. The club has 81 members to date. Paul will bring instructions for the care and feeding of the club trailers to the next backshop. The *Riptrack* has asked if club members would be interested in providing clinics at the store. This could be an avenue for module renovation. Bill Rutherford will follow-up with the *Riptrack*.

Advertising by club members on the NVNTRAK Website was discussed. It was determined that the Website is not the proper place, and that the *Call Board* has been, and should be the place to advertise. Email is another option.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07pm

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Sisk  
NVNTRAK Secretary

## Convention Update

John Drye

By the time you read this, our roving ambassador, John Cook, will have returned from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and his second excursion to wave the 2004 Flag.

Earlier, John, along with Gil Brauch and Clint Hyde, traveled to sunny Houston and the 2003 NTRAK Convention. They took along our new "BIGTRAIN-LAYOUT.ORG" banner, 2004 "un-passes", flyers, ad trains, ad modules and a LOT of enthusiasm.

To no one's surprise, they found a lot of enthusiasm in return. Potential vendors, attendees and NTRAKers from all over are anxious to learn more about 2004 and sign up. When they hear all that we'll have to offer, including an interesting announcement upcoming from Tulsa, we'll begin to see a tidal wave of activity.

Bill Rutherford has started on the Convention Website: [www.bigtrainlayout.org](http://www.bigtrainlayout.org) or [www.ntrak2004.org](http://www.ntrak2004.org). It has a lot of placeholders at the moment, but offers a glimpse of all the activities we'll offer. Please forward thoughts and suggestions to Bill.

Matt Schaefer and Steve Jackson are continuing to look at layout ideas and operating schemes: we're sure we'll have a BUNCH of modules, provision for DC and DCC running, room for operations, loooong trains, fast trains and everything else.

The MER Convention this October will be a great chance for us to try out some of the ideas we want to use in 2004. We have a 60 x 60 space dedicated to an NTRAK layout; enough for at least a couple of loops and two of our new junctions, plus room for some oNeTRAK modules and a shot at some ops. Further details to follow.

We now have a draft contract from GATS. The BoD is in the process of reviewing it and as soon as we can reach agreement with our Train Show partners, we'll get it signed, sealed and delivered. Once that happens, we'll open registration to all NTRAKers.

The rest of the convention activities are beginning to take shape, but we still are looking for volunteers. Come to the Fairfax Station Setup/Picnic to learn more and sign up!





UP4200 leads a westbound at Foley, PA, in full fall colors.

Continued from Page 1

deck down the hill. The land has changed hands again, and is now owned by a hunting lodge in Somerset, PA. I have talked to a couple people who were hunting on the property (lodge members, I guess) and they did not feel there was any problem with railfans photographing at the location.

At the right time of day, late morning, you can shoot both east and westbound trains from the same location and have light on the nose of both trains, a real rarity.

The site is well known to railfans on the east coast, after being featured on the cover of *Railpace* a couple of years ago. Most weekends there will be several railfans in the area. During fall foliage or special runs down the mountain (like the Pennsy E8s last year), the area is often teeming with fans.

Traffic levels are problematic on Sandpatch, with trackwork common in the summer, trains tend to travel at night. Normally, Amtrak 30, the eastbound Capitol Limited passes the area about 9-9:30 AM. A number eastbounds travel shortly before or after the Capitol. Westbounds feature trailer trains Q133, Q135 and Q137 between 6 AM and about noon. Traffic will be light to none from noon until about 4 PM, then Q375 and Q217 head west, and a number of eastbounds pass.

Although Foley is at its best from 10 AM until about 1 PM, Sandpatch features numerous other locations for photography during other times.

The view from the Foley Overlook.



## DO YOU KNOW WHO TO CALL???

**SCENARIO:** You are railfanning (safely, of course) and observe a hazardous situation that can endanger life and property on the railroad right of way. **WHO DO YOU CALL???**

**ANSWER:** **CSX Emergency Response**  
**1-800-232-0144**  
**NS Emergency Line**  
**1-800-453-2530**

Clip this coupon and carry it with you. You never know when it will be useful.

## NVNTRAK GEAR AVAILABLE

[NOTE: These items available only to members in good standing]  
**NVNTRAK "Army of Northern Virginia"** Confederate gray long or short sleeve shirt, with Navy **NVNTRAK** logo on left chest to match our great new 50' club car. Your name is embroidered on right chest, just like our "**Yankee Blue**" shirt below. Just \$23, 2X \$26, 3X \$29 for short sleeve. Long sleeves are \$26, 2X \$29, 3X \$32.  
**NVNTRAK "Yankee Blue"** shirts (short and long sleeve). Shirts are 100% cotton, button down variety. Silver-gray logo embroidered on left chest. Your name goes on the right chest. [With your name on the shirt, you don't have to wear a nametag!!!]. Short sleeve \$23, 2X \$26, 3X \$29; long sleeve \$26, 2X \$29, 3X \$32.  
**NVNTRAK Warm-up-style Jackets** — Poplin baseball-style. These come in "**Yankee Blue**" only. Our logo on left chest, your name on right chest. Lots of sizes. \$33, 2X, \$36, 3X \$40  
**NVNTRAK Hats** — One size fits all. (Does yours need an oil change?) Blue baseball style with logo embroidered on front. Price and availability TBD.  
**NVNTRAK Sweatshirts** — Just the thing for cool Spring and Fall setups or on a windy day railfanning. These are blue, too. Only \$18, 2X \$20, 3X \$22.  
 You can also have our haberdashery put your name (\$3) or the NVNTRAK Logo and your name (\$6) on a shirt you provide.

**JULY PHOTO ALBUM**



Manassas "Rain fest"  
*Bill Rutherford*



Alexandria Waterfront  
*James Altobello*



## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary NTRAK Convention N to the Future

*Gil Brauch and John Cook*

Who else but a couple of old guys would drive 1,500 miles over three days to run trains? Well, I guess we were touched by a senior moment when we agreed to go to Houston as **NVNTRAK** Ambassadors to kick off the publicity campaign for the **2004 N Scale East Convention, Capitol Limited 2004**. We took four modules with us: John's *Possum Point/Quantico Creek* pair, Gil's *Hickory Crossing*, and *Capitol Junction*, a 2004 advertising module that we developed (Photo 1). We joined about 200 other convention participants, who were hosted royally by the **Houston N Crowd**, to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first national **NTRAK** convention. Oh, the usual suspects were there, including Fitz and Lee, Canadians, Daytonians, Baltimore Yankees, Floridians, Tar Heels, Southwesterners, real Yankees from New Jersey, Californians, Washingtonians, and – yes – **TEXANS!!** A large contingent from the **N Scale Collector Society** was also there.

True to our mission, we put a banner at the entrance to the exhibit area (Photo 2), and then proceeded to regale everybody for the next four days about the joys of Chantilly, VA, in August (2004, of course). We experienced a great deal of enthusiasm and got a lot of promises from folks to be there. Some of the southwestern and far western vendors were receptive to giving it a try, despite the distance. Promises are easy, we'll see what develops. What we did get was a lot of interest from the major manufacturers, particularly when they found out that there was a joint **N Scale East** and **N Scale Collector Society** convention in the offing. Yes, the Collector's broke their own rule and did a preemptive announcement of the joint convention during the Manufacturer's Breakfast. Of course, by the time you get the newsletter, the official announcement will have been made in Tulsa, so we won't have to shoot everybody who reads this...

The centerpiece of the convention, as usual, was the 78 module layout. It was two loops connected by a spine. They ran **Easy DCC** on the Red Line around both loops. The Yellow Line was analog on both loops. The Blue Line was split between **Easy DCC** on one loop and **Digitrax DCC** on the other. John didn't run any trains, but Gil got to run steam and the **NVNTRAK** Advertising Train (Photo 3) a couple of times. We had seen Russell Straw's *Sugarland* before, but there were a lot of local modules we hadn't seen, that were equally outstanding. One fellow from New Mexico brought 24 feet of *Disneyland*, that had more animation that we have ever seen on one module. Some of

you may have seen it in Kansas City or St Louis. Then, there was the 30 feet of desert southwest that included a neat rendition of Jurassic Park that Chester would have loved.

The part that John liked best was talking with everybody – and we mean EVERYBODY! And Gil did his share too. There isn't a vendor, manufacturer, or conventioneer (including Collectors) who left without hearing about what a great time they could have in Chantilly in 2004. Most expressed great interest, which only encouraged us to talk it up more. At the manufacturers breakfast, each attendee had a "non-pass" on the table that invited them all to check us out on [WWW.BIGTRAINLAYOUT.ORG](http://WWW.BIGTRAINLAYOUT.ORG) and come have some real fun with us in 2004, just like they had in Houston this year, and in Alexandria in 1996.

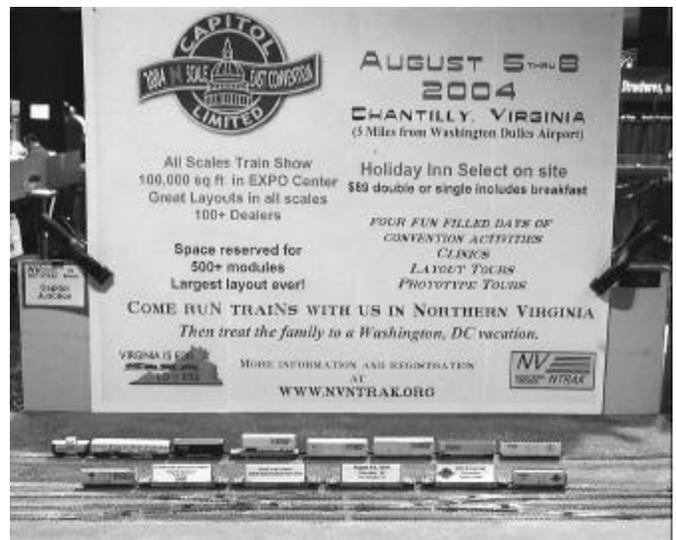


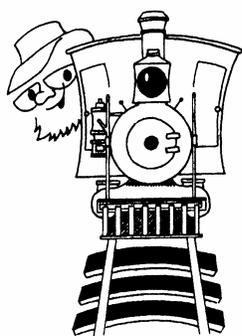
Photo 1—Convention Ad Module



Photo 2—Bigtrainlayout.org banner.



Photo 3—Convention Ad train.



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**These entrepreneurs are NVNTRAK members and offers benefits to all NVNTRAK members. Be sure to show them your membership card and ask them about these benefits before your purchases are rung up.**

## Northern Virginia NTRAK, Inc.

P.O. Box 523051  
Springfield, VA 22152  
Member Helpline: (703) 391-2941 (Ext 3)  
<http://www.nvntrak.org/>

The **Call Board** is produced by and for the membership of **NVNTRAK** and selected supporters. Membership is \$45/year or a subscription for continental USA residents is available for a \$20/year donation. Dues are payable each January. Donations are accepted at any time and may be tax deductible. Send checks to:

Treasurer  
**Northern Virginia NTRAK, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 523051  
Springfield, Virginia 22152

Items for publication should be submitted to the editor. Send submissions to:

[dbdavies@cox.net](mailto:dbdavies@cox.net)

All submissions must contain clear text identification of the author to be accepted for publication.

Articles and other submissions for the August 2003 issue must be received by July 25, 2003.

### Northern Virginia NTRAK 2003 Officers:

President: Cotton Bowen..... (703) 450-5857  
Secretary: Marc Sisk ..... (703) 280-5290  
Treasurer: Jim LaBaugh ..... (703) 573-9285  
Superintendent: Paul Diley..... (703) 585-8583

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July '03

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Place  
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*CSX 7059 leads a eastbound manifest at Foley, PA, down the Sandpatch grade. Article and more pics starting on Page 1*