

THE CALL BOARD

A 100% **NTRAK** CLUB



Celebrating Our 12th Year!

December 2003

VOLUME XII NUMBER 12

Hit the Road!

John Steitz, Acting Superintendent

One of the most fun ways we can promote our upcoming convention, Capitol Limited 2004, is by spreading the word in person at various train shows, both local, and out of town.

So far, members of NVNTRAK have hit The 2003 N Scale Convention in Houston, the 2003 N Scale Collector's Convention in Tulsa, the Maple Leaf Train Show at the 2003 NMRA National Convention in Toronto, and smaller public train shows in Danville, VA, Altoona, PA., and Syracuse, NY

Since we have a lot more shows between now and August, 2004, three members of the '04 Publicity Committee, John Drye, Karl Cooke and yours truly, have tried to organize our efforts to get the most publicity bang for the buck, and to best use our publicity materials to reach the largest number of people. Brian Brendel and Mark Franke have worked behind the scenes, drawing up publicity materials that we can distribute as part of that effort. Between now and late Spring, we're concentrating our efforts on model railroaders, in general, and NTRAKers, in particular. Next Summer, we'll be getting the word out to the public at large.

We've decided on three shorthand names for our road trips to train shows between now and next August: First Class, Second Class, and Third Class.

First Class Trips are full-blown road trips of NVNTRAK. We bring one or both trailers, several members bring their own modules, and we do a full publicity blitz. We usually contribute a loop, or at least a sizeable section, to an NTRAK layout. The 800 pound gorilla hits the road, as it were.

Because First Class Trips use club resources, the NVNTRAK Board of Directors must approve the course of action. So, if you'd like to lead a big charge to your favorite out-of-town train show, please give the BOD plenty of notice. Try to get to yours truly, in advance, as many details as possible, so the BOD can sign off on them. Once the BOD approves, that road trip gets a listing in the Rail Events Timetable, a set-up coordinator, and the coveted 2004 convention banner and

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A View From the Gap

Cotton Bowen, President

First and foremost, I hope the membership had a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving! For those who fried their turkey, I especially hope the procedure was done without incident. The pictures on television of fryers overflowing and burning are scary! Almost like one of our esteemed members doing the fire dance when the module he was working on shorted and gave him a surprise. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Mark Sisk's house for the annual Christmas Party on 14 December. Likewise, we have the Greenberg Show on 27/28 December and the Annual Business meeting on January 18, 2004. For those who have extra rolling stock or other items the Annual Meeting is the best opportunity to sell it off. I hope all will attend.

There is another and more serious matter. This

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BILL OF LADING

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HOST CLUB OF THE 2004 NTRAK EAST CONVENTION



RAIL EVENTS TIMETABLE

Saturday/Sunday, Dec. 6-7, 2003: Holiday Model Train Show
Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, P.O.
Box 7, Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039 (703) 425-9225
Show Hours: Sat. 1000-1700, Sun. 1200-1600
No NTRAK Layout - operate Caboose layout only
Contact: John Steitz (703) 371-5171
No Trailer
Park on street, or in overflow lot across street from station.
There is no Back Shop this Sunday (but see below).

Sunday, Dec. 7, 2003 1300-1700 "Off-Site Back Shop" #1 at
Cotton and Judy Bowen's
401 Drew Court, Sterling, VA
Coordinator: Cotton Bowen (703) 450-5857
Projects: a) Scenery repair and facia painting for modules going
to Greenberg Chantilly
b) Final testing and scenery work for new club junctions
going to Greenberg Chantilly

Sunday, Dec. 14, 2003, 1300-1830 NVNTRAK Holiday Party
Marc Sisk's House, 4020 Kloman Street, Annandale, VA
No NTRAK Layout - just good food, drink and camaraderie!
1530: Gift Exchange
See elsewhere in this Call Board for directions and other details

There is no Museum Set-up at Fairfax Station on Sunday Dec. 21.
(but see above).

Saturday/Sunday, Dec. 27-28, 2003: Greenberg Train Show
Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Center, Chantilly, VA 20153,
(703) 378-0910
Coordinator: Paul Diley (703) 585-8583
Trailer: NVX1 and NVX2
Show Hours: Sat. and Sun.: 1000 - 1600
Set-up: Fri. 12/26 1500-1930, Sat. 12/27 0730-1000
Clamp-down: Sat. 0900
Unload inside building, then park in vendor/exhibitor lot behind
building.
Layout Type: Multi-oval; DCC: Mountain Div.; 1T(?), OLI(?)

Sunday, January 4, 2004 1300-1700 "Off-Site Back Shop" #2 at
Cotton and Judy Bowen's
401 Drew Court, Sterling, VA
Coordinator: Cotton Bowen (703) 450-5857
Projects: Frame Building for New Modules - bring your lumber and
hardware, and have at it!

Sunday, January 18, 2004 1300-1700 NVNTRAK Annual Meeting
Fellowship Hall, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8403 Old Keene
Mill Road Springfield, VA
Coordinator: Cotton Bowen, President, NVNTRAK
1300: Live and Silent Auctions
1500: NVNTRAK Annual Meeting and Election of Directors
No NTRAK Layout
For more details, please see the insert in the December and
January issues of The Call Board

Sunday, Feb. 1, 2004, 1200-1700 February Back Shop
Fellowship Hall, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8403 Old Keene
Mill Road Springfield, VA
1400: NVNTRAK Board of Directors Meeting
1500: Capitol Limited Convention Committee Meeting
Contact: Cotton Bowen (703) 450-5857
Trailer: NVX1
Projects: a) Track laying Clinic and continuing work on new
modules
b) Re-packing a leaner NVX1 with new junctions.
c) Last Chance to test new modules for layout at
Greenberg Upper Marlboro Show
Use parking lot behind church complex

Sunday, Feb. 15, 2004, 1300-1600 Museum Layout
Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, P.O.
Box 7, Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039 (703) 425-9225
Coordinator: Cotton Bowen (703) 450-5857
Trailer: NVX2
Set-up: 1130 - 1300
Clamp-down: 1200
Unload in parking lot, then move vehicle across street to overflow
lot.
Layout Type: Small Oval, DCC option, run Caboose Layout

Saturday/Sunday, Feb. 28-29, 2004: Greenberg Train Show
Prince George's Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro, MD
Coordinator: A volunteer is needed. Any takers?
Trailer: NVX1
Show Hours: Sat. and Sun.: 1000 - 1600
Set-up: Fri. 12/26 1500-1930, Sat. 12/27 0730-1000
Clamp-down: Sat. 0900
Unload inside building or in back. Park in Vendor/Exhibitor lots in
back or on the side. Wear NVNTRAK ID.
Layout Type: Medium Oval with 45 degree corners; DCC option,
OLI(?)

Special note, directions to Cotton's house for the backshop:

To get to Cotton's house: Take Route 7 west to Countryside Blvd
(across from the entrance to Dulles Town Center) turn right go
approx 300 yds to a right on to Cromwell Rd. Go to the end of
Cromwell Rd. take a left on to Triple 7 road (Rt. 777) go to Heather
Glen Dr. and turn right on to Heather Glen Dr. Turn left on to Prima
Vera Circle and another left on to Drew Ct. I am on the corner of
Prima Vera Cir. and Drew Ct. at 401 Drew Ct.

If you are on Rt. 28 go north and east on Rt. 7 to a left on to
Country Side Blvd. and then follow instructions as above.

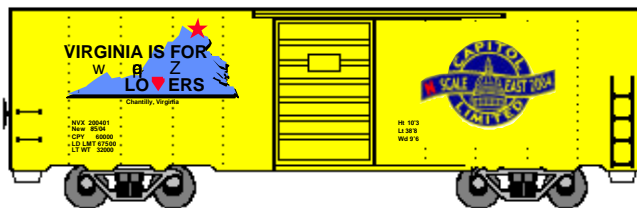


club is an incorporated organization under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and is accorded 501c3 status by a Federal Revenue Service determination. That means that as an educational organization we don't pay taxes on our operating funds. Like it or not, although our major business is RuNNiNg TraiNs (fun), we still are a formal organization that is bound by law and the regulations of various governments.

In the past we have had members "borrow" club equipment for various setups that were not sanctioned by the Board of Directors (BoD). This practice must stop, now! The BoD must authorize all functions in which club equipment is used. To do otherwise exposes the club to liability issues. Also of concern, is the fact that our insurance will not cover an incident, and the BoD will not be able to support the member who borrowed the equipment. To make the matter worse, in order to protect the club and its members, the BoD may be compelled to seek appropriate action against a member. Obviously this is an extreme case and definitely a sad, distasteful prospect, but the BoD must protect the club's interests. Like it or not, we are a small cog in a much larger legal and insurance system. We must abide by the rules.

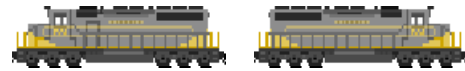
Speaking of insurance, we are covered for a certain number of special events each year (Malls, Waterfront, and the Manassas Rail Fest). The BoD welcomes additional special events, but these events must be planned well in advance. If you are contemplating such an event, please start well in advance so that all the arrangements can be made in a deliberate environment. Rush jobs may leave important issues unaddressed.

Now that I have addressed the serious business, please accept my heartfelt wish for the membership to have happy holidays and I will see you all next year at the Annual Meeting if not before, remember we have three new BoD members to elect.



View from Zoo Tower

John Steitz, Acting Superintendent



Running a marathon this past Sunday, I had the opportunity to run right by the *real* Zoo Interlocking in West Philadelphia. Years after its heyday, Zoo is *still* an impressive plant - yards full of tracks, catenary over multiple, diverging mainline tracks on different grades, and in the middle, a huge electrical substation.

Impressive, too, was the old PRR bridge over the Schuylkill River, just northeast of Zoo. In a ten-minute period, I saw no fewer than three trains crossing that bridge. On a Sunday afternoon, mind you. I wasn't exactly in a railfanning mood - by mile 24 in a marathon, the senses tend to be dulled....significantly. Nonetheless, that railroad bridge over the river has to be one of the most photogenic scenes anywhere on the former PRR right of way.

Seeing the heart of PRR reminded me of the past few months of *model* railroading. In nine weeks, beginning in the middle of September, we set up layouts in ten local public shows, three-out-of-town shows, and two Back Shops. On behalf of the Club, I have to thank all the set-up coordinators, trailer haulers, and members who either brought out modules, or assisted with set-up, tear-down or crowd control during all those layouts. New modules debuted, old modules returned, and I must be getting old, because one day I see Brian handing out cigars, and the next day his son is old enough to help set-up a layout!

December will be a little bit quieter, at least until the end of the month. We start out December 6-7 with the annual Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Holiday Train Show. We let other modular clubs take over the Freight House, where we usually set-up our own layouts, but we get to operate our caboose layout all weekend long. That layout depicts the area between Fairfax Station and Manassas, and is the brain child of none other than our own pizza-box architect, Matt Schaefer. So is it any surprise that hidden within the double track show loops is a return loop for an NTRAK peninsula?

If you've never seen that layout, please stop by that weekend and take a look. Better yet, please help us keep trains running on that layout, which we'll want to do all day long both days. [Bring consists which work well on tighter-radius curves.] The Holiday Train Show provides major funding for maintenance and upkeep of the museum, and is one of the ways the Club gives back to our community. If a bunch of us can each spend an hour or two staffing the caboose layout, no one person will be burdened. Please call me at (703) 371-5171 if you'd like to sign up for a particular time.

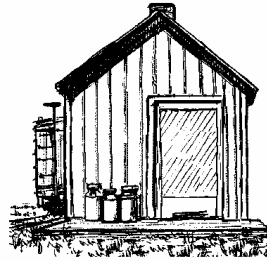
The Sunday of that same weekend features our first of
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THE HOSTLER'S SHACK

Matt Schaefer

FAIRFAX STATION – The caboose was rocking again Nov 16th and just full of spectators. Announcements were in all the papers, and some thought it was for the big annual show. So NVNtrak had the caboose and the station center stage, which NVNtrak will not have for their big Holiday Train Show that is held Dec. 5-6. We also had the interesting Leggo Block layout in the station, and over 200 attendees were reported. We have asked that both doors of the caboose be unlocked Dec. 5-6, because we had a caboose traffic jam with the one door, but it was a good show and a nice day. We will need lots of caboose operators for the long 2 day Holiday show to talk to all the visitors and to clear the way for everyone to see the layout.

IMPROVING RELIABILITY – We continually have little problems with DCC, regardless of how many lessons learned are written as we seem not to learn from lessons learned, etc.. John Wallis of N Raleigh Ntrak has extensive plans to test variations of DCC and wiring at all their shows leading up to the '04 convention. I had plans to go to the N. Raleigh show Nov. 15-16 and run tests with John, but the wind storms knocking our power out for two days. I canceled my Raleigh trip, and set up some test procedures with John Steitz for the November's Fairfax Station show, using just a digital V/ Ameter and a 10 ohm resistor. Conclusions were:



1. Next time we need to be ready to go with the right CJ adapter plugs. Data should be taken when trains are not running, but lots of data can be gathered also as the trains run uninterrupted.
2. John ran the heaviest train d'jour, drawing 0.5 Amps, which is what one would expect running 3 old clunker units. We measured a big 3 volt drop at the dead end of 12 modules or 72 feet of 2 conductor wire, 144 feet for the total circuit (estimating 6 feet of wire per module). I was expecting to get a drop more like 0.5 V and we did not have time to do further troubleshooting to see if there was a dirty CJ plug or what caused the big drop.
3. Note that this 3 volt drop did not cause a problem, the way we run the Fairfax layout. We were running on Aristo power and it probably would not be a problem even using DCC, in my opinion, but we plan more testing to be sure.
4. We are waiting for results from the Raleigh testing. We can do some of our own testing on layouts, and particularly the large Landmark layout and after the mall closes.

MODULES IN PROGRESS– Module work is planned for Cotton's erection shop and all around. For an extra touch of scenery, if you like tunnels, just add some. The reason I say this, is that in the caboose there was lots of interest and questions about the tunnels and where they went And I like 'em too. So Steve Jackson and I are fixing up an old club junction with 3 tunnels, one that is abandoned and would make a great rail to bike trail!

TRIGGS YARD - Matthew Prentice brought all 36 feet of his Triggs Yard to the November back shop and it was set up and all main tracks tested successfully. It was good to see the old yard running again and everyone helping out. It will be another one of our features of the convention layout. Triggs Yard is already registered for the convention. Is your module registered for the convention? Are you registered?

Special Message to the Membership

(actually an e-mail from November 26, 2003)

Cotton Bowen, President

Recently, the BoD has had to decide on whether to support a show, or to postpone the show and await further development of the requirements for the conduct of the show. A number of issues have had to be addressed by the Board that need to be shared with the membership. Although I have written about the topic in the December Call Board, I also believe it to be necessary to address these issues in the e-mail.

1. The show in question was to be at the College Park IKEA. Although the Board is generally in favor of doing such a show, the issue of insurance was never adequately addressed until the decision point was reached, and the Board believed that we had better fish or cut bait. To make a decision based on a letter, that was not available to all the Board members, that I have been informed still specified a requirement for insurance coverage, which the club may have had to cover, was just not appropriate. Therefore, the BoD opted for a safe response and voted *no* to this particular proposal and date. If the issue of insurance can be ironed out a later date, to the satisfaction of the Board, I am sure that the show can take place. But under the situation at hand, and with a 4 day weekend intervening between last Friday and the proposed show date, things just were not going to work out.

2. Now that the topic of insurance is surfaced, we are an incorporated club that works within the laws and regulations of the state of Virginia and the Federal government. For us to do shows in public venues, we must have insurance coverage, a certain number of shows are provided for by our insurance policy, others are covered by the inviting organization, e.g. Greenberg's or FFX Museum, more shows can be covered by additional coverage - at an extra price. Others provide no coverage and it is up to us to pay for the extra coverage or designate that particular show as one of our automatic coverage's provided by the policy. As of November we had no move free coverage, any additional shows would have to be paid for by the club treasury or by someone else. Obviously our use of the automatic coverage must be done judiciously. We have normally used this type coverage for Mall shows. In the past Club members have "borrowed" equipment for shows that the BoD has not sanctioned. This is a dangerous practice. The BoD is in agreement that this practice must end as of now. All shows in which any club equipment is used

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Northern Virginia NTRAK Modeler Earns the Title of *Master Model Railroader*

Those of you familiar with the National Model Railroad Association's (NMRA) Achievement Program understand what it takes to earn the distinction of becoming a Master Model Railroader (MMR). Our past NVNTRAK president, Noll Horan, recently completed all the requirements, and has been recognized by the NMRA as Master Model Railroader #326. When you realize that we are talking about only 326 modelers of the thousands of NMRA members over the entire history of the NMRA having the skills, dedication and determination to complete the requirements, this is indeed a significant event for Noll and a definite asset to our club.

Those of you not familiar with what it takes to earn the title "MMR," let me fill you in. You must receive Achievement Certificates in seven of eleven categories. The categories are:

- **A. Railroad Equipment:**
 - Master Builder - Motive Power
 - Master Builder - Cars
- **B. Railroad Setting:**
 - Master Builder - Structures
 - Master Builder - Scenery
 - Master Builder - Prototype Models
- **C. Railroad Construction & Operation:**
 - Model Railroad Engineer - Civil
 - Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical
 - Chief Dispatcher
- **D. Service to the Hobby & NMRA Member**
 - Association Official
 - Association Volunteer
 - Model Railroad Author



Noll has received Achievement Certificates in Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer-Civil, Association Volunteer and Model Railroad Author.

Five of these seven require that work be judged at the Division, Regional or National level, and earn merit awards. Noll has accomplished this in about three and a half years. He is not done yet, as his goal is to obtain Achievement Certificates in all eleven categories, a feat achieved by only a handful of modelers.

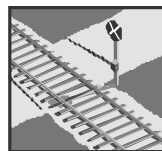
Next time you see Noll, shake his hand and congratulate him on this outstanding accomplishment. The NMRA Achievement Program offers modelers a conduit to improve their skills, while learning many useful tips that extend throughout the spectrum of model railroad activities. If you are not a member of the NMRA, consider joining. It is a lot of fun and the folks you meet quickly become friends that are more than willing to help you have fun enjoying this hobby of ours.

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must be approved by the BoD and of course, the BoD will be examining the issue of insurance as part of the decision. We may have to purchase extra coverage for more setups, that remains an issue for another time and venue. Bottom line-no ad hoc shows with club equipment, the sponsor/club contact must make a presentation to BoD so the BoD can make an informed decision. Nothing fancy is required but we do need to know about it. I am about to task a BoD member to develop a worksheet to support this effort.

4. I cannot stop club members from going to shows to participate on their own, with their own private equipment. I do not want to do so either, but I do feel compelled to point out that if a group puts together an unsanctioned setup with non-club equipment, they are obviously on their own if any issues of liability or accidents come up. Enough said.

I am available to discuss these issues either on e-mail or at the Backshops.



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

Well, with all the official stuff for this month, there isn't much room to say good-bye. Thanks to all those who have contributed to the Call Board in the last two (and beyond). Special thanks are owed to Dave Freshwater, who while not an officer any longer, has supplied me with a wealth of material.

Please continue to give Ken material, so he may put out a newsletter worthy of our club. Ken will need articles on model railroading and some railfanning, along with module of the month, and all the regular band of columnists, like Matt, the Pres and the Super. (*Please submit in **TEXT** format (not word attachments, since Ken is a Mac user)*)

Thank you.



Annual Meeting Notice

The Board of Directors of Northern Virginia NTRAK, Inc.

announce the

2004 General Membership Meeting

Sunday January 18, 2004 1:00-6:00 pm

Business Meeting begins at 3:00 pm

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA

Agenda Items

Auctions 1:00 pm

The two auctions will be held again this year, in conjunction with the annual meeting. Auction set up will begin at 1:00 pm. The "live" auction will begin at 2:00 pm - Donated items will be in the live auction. You may donate: services, tools, locos, rolling stock, modules or anything related to model RR. If there is any time left over, personal items may appear in the live auction. The silent auction will conclude at 5:00 pm. There will be a 15% sellers premium that will go to the club. We will accept checks or cash, so bring you wallets.

This was a great fund raiser for the club last year. Please consider putting something in the live auction, as you know where the money will go. Donating a service of any kind is also encouraged, this can be anything from wiring a module, to custom painting or repairing a loco, installing couplers or photography. So clean out that shop of all of your junk (prized possessions) and contribute to the auction. See you at the auction!

President's Report 3:00pm

2003 In Review

Superintendent's Report

Treasurer's Report

2004 Convention Report

Future Club Activities

New Business

Other items for decision may be properly brought before the meeting in accordance with the Bylaws by any member in good standing.

Member Forum

Any member in good standing may bring up other items for discussion that are related to the conduct of club business and operations. If possible, items should be made known to the President prior to the meeting, so that adequate time may be scheduled for them.

Election of the Board of Directors

Three positions on the Board of Directors are to be elected. Dave Davies, Jim LaBaugh, and Bill Rutherford have reached their term limits, as provided in the bylaws and are not eligible for this election.

Running for reelection: None

To date, the following club members also have been nominated:

John Steitz
Chris Thayer
?????

Seconds for these nominations, as well as additional nominations and seconds will be accepted from the floor.

In accordance with the Bylaws, the Officers of the Corporation for 2004 will be selected by the new BOD after the elections

Adjournment

Important Reminder

In order to participate in this meeting you must be a member in good standing. Since the annual dues year runs from January to December, only those members who have paid their 2004 dues can vote and actively participate in the meeting. Guests are welcome and may observe.

two off-site Back Shops this Winter, at Cotton Bowen's workshop in Sterling (directions elsewhere in this *Call Board*). Please note, this off-site session was rescheduled from December 21st to December 7th, to avoid holiday conflicts. The goal of this session is to electrically certify all of the new club junctions, so if you have one of these in your possession, please either try to bring it on the 7th, or get it to Cotton sometime prior to that date. It's also the very last opportunity to test any new module destined for the layout in Chantilly at the end of the month.

[Please note: The NVNTRAK layout at the College Park IKEA store originally scheduled for this same weekend has been postponed indefinitely. If it is rescheduled in 2004, it will be listed in this *Call Board* as soon as a date is approved by the Board of Directors.]

A week later, on December 14, is the annual NVNTRAK Holiday Party at Marc Sisk's house. This is a non-module event, through all railroad-related creativity is encouraged for the infamous gift exchange. Inexpensive gifts for the exchange can be operating models, services, reference materials, or merely ornamental railroadiana.

Two weeks after the Holiday Party, on the weekend after Christmas (Dec. 27-28), is our layout at the Greenberg Train Show in the Dulles Expo center in Chantilly. Since this is our last Chantilly show before our convention in August, I don't need to say what an important show this is. Tentatively, we are planning a two-loop layout in a 20' by 80' space, using the two new "dedicated" Club junctions. [The "dedicated" junctions contain no turnouts. On what would otherwise be just a 3-foot NTRAK corner, the Red Line continues straight onto the spine, without any option to stay local.] Paul Diley is coordinating this layout, so if you'd like your module included, please call him at 703-585-8583.

Looking ahead, there is another off-site Back Shop the first Sunday in January, a woodworking, module-building session back at Cotton's workshop. Instead of a Fairfax Station set-up on January 18th, there is the NVNTRAK Annual Meeting, Election of Directors, and Auction. The rest of the calendar is in the Rail Events Timetable. But please note that there is a *chance* we will have a Mall show sometime in February. I'll let you know as soon as a date is set.

If there are any NVNTRAK Directors or Trailer Haulers without his or her own trailer key, please contact me. I have come across a few extra keys, which will function until such time as the locks are replaced. I can give one to you at a December function to tide you over.

Lots of N-Scale trains can fit in your average stocking, so I hope you're all on Santa's "nice" list. ☺ Have a very safe, restful and enjoyable Holiday season. And take a deep breath, because next up is 2004! Semper Gumby!

publicity materials. In other word, the whole nine yards.

Houston and Altoona are examples of recent First Class Trips the club has undertaken to promote Capitol Limited '04.

Second Class Trips involve one or more of members of the club visiting an out-of-town NTRAK layout with their modules, the '04 banner, and the '04 publicity materials.

As the owner of a module compliant with NTRAK standards, you can take that module to any NTRAK layout in the world, on your own (so long as you clear it with the coordinators of that layout, of course). You need no "clearance" from the NVNTRAK BOD, or anyone else in the club, to do that.

However, because we have only one '04 banner, and a limited supply of publicity materials, we would prefer that you coordinate your use of the banner and materials with the '04 publicity committee. Where two or more shows conflict in the same weekend, the committee will try to figure out where the banner and materials would best be used. And, of course, we'd like to fill you in on the details of Capitol Limited publicly released to-date, so you can better talk up the convention with other NTRAKers whom you meet.

Tulsa, Toronto, Danville, and Syracuse are examples of recent second-class trips members have taken to promote Capitol Limited '04. That banner already has several thousand miles on it!

Third Class Trips include any other trip to spread publicity about Capitol Limited.

When you don't bring a module to an NTRAK layout, it's hard to display the '04 banner. Not only might you have nothing to hang it from, but contributing a module to a layout is kind of a quid-pro-quo folks expect for letting you publicize something. We don't want to crash an event with our publicity, without contributing to the success of that event in some way. And for most NTRAK layouts, bringing a module for the layout is a good way of contributing.

Nonetheless, on non-module trips, you can still leave flyers on general publicity tables, hand out '04 passes to NTRAKers and vendors, and/or talk up the convention with any interested party. As always, please try to stay positive and helpful, and if you can't answer a question, please at least get a name and phone number so that someone with the answer can follow up.

The three of us trying to organize the publicity road trips have come up with a non-exhaustive list of train shows within a 1000 mile radius of Washington DC, between now and August, that *might* be worth Road Trips. If any of these catch your interest, please let John, Karl or myself know, and we'll see if we can loan you the banner and materials for your own '04 Publicity Road Trip. (*Ed—Sorry, but John used up all the space already, the list will have to appear in next month's Call Board.*)

NOVEMBER PHOTO ALBUM

Rockville Lions, Nov. Backshop and Fairfax Station—James Altobello



Rockville Lions



Fairfax Station



November Backshop



NVNTRAK BOD Meeting
November 2, 2003

The BOD meeting convened at 2PM. All BOD members were present with the exception of Bill Rutherford Paul Diley. Jim LaBaugh mentioned that he was going to place another Cinch Jones order and purchase fuses for the Aristos. (Note: The Cinch Jones connectors are in. See Jim with your requirements) Jim provided me with a check for the Holiday Party and another check for the club's annual donation to Fairfax Station. Cotton Bowen will prepare a letter and present the letter and check to Joan Rogers with me at the next earliest convenient time. Joan is the president of the Fairfax Station BOD.

Ken Allen has agreed to take over as the new Call Board editor effective in January. This is great news. We appreciate all that Dave Davies has done for us and look forward to Ken's touch at the helm of our newsletter. Thanks Dave!

A couple of upcoming shows were discussed that required BOD approval to take the club's trailers to. Those shows are Hawk's Nest 26-28 March and the GATS Louisville show January 10-11. The small trailer is authorized for Hawk's Nest as long as it does not interfere with other NVNTRAK commitments. The small trailer is also authorized to take to the Louisville show. This trailer has recently been serviced and is ready to go.

There will be no backshop in December as we are having the NVNTRAK Holiday Party on the 14th. Again, it is being hosted by Marc and Carol Sisk. A flyer with all the information should be provided for you in this issue. As a friendly reminder for the party, please only park in the Cul-de-Sac or along the street, but please do not park on the Pipestem Roads. My neighbors and I will appreciate it.

John Drye asked if the Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA could sell their special run N Scale cars on the NVNTRAK Website in the Company Store. There was no objection as long as the funds go to the correct source and that NVNTRAK can reciprocate and sell our special run convention cars on the MER Web Site.

The BOD meeting adjourned at 3PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Sisk
NVNTRAK Secretary



Membership renewal reminder for 2004

It is that time of year again. Time to renew your dues for 2004. This issue of the CALL BOARD contains a membership renewal form. Please read it and follow instructions to renew. Either mail the form and your check or money order in the amount of \$45.00 to Northern Virginia NTRAK, Inc., P.O. Box 523051, Springfield, VA 22152 or deliver your form and \$45.00 to the Treasurer, Jim LaBaugh.

So just what are your dues used for? The club is a corporation in the State of Virginia and pays a corporation fee each year to the State. The club maintains a P.O. Box. We have insurance as a practical necessity. As a 100% NTRAK club, your dues to NTRAK are paid from your annual club dues. The club maintains an Internet domain, which aids in communication of our activities and events to the public and members. Our primary means of regular communication to members is the CALL BOARD and its printing and postage is covered by your membership. The club uses part of the dues to defray the cost of our annual Holiday party.

The remainder is used for supplies, such as batteries for club throttles etc. A list is provided below to show how the funds collected from membership dues were used this year.

Membership dues	\$45.00
State Corporation Fee	0.30
P.O. Box Fee	0.85
Insurance	8.04
NTRAK, Inc. dues	6.50
Internet domain	0.43
CALL BOARD	23.07
Holiday Party	4.87
Supplies	0.94

Thus, your dues pay for the basic costs of running the club.

Yes, the CALL BOARD is available in electronic form at the beginning of the month, thanks to Dave Davies' work as editor. No, we are not going to eliminate the paper copy that arrives in your mailbox courtesy of the finest postal system in the world. Sending you a paper copy makes sure that you will be able to read club news and the calendar of upcoming events each month, even if you forget or don't want to get online.

Mark's Mom

Mark Franke's mother passed away late Sunday evening after a short illness. Funeral arrangements have been made for this week. For details, please contact John Drye.

Please keep Mark and his family in your thoughts.



Annual Membership Renewal Form

It is that time of year again. It is Membership Renewal Time!!!

Please complete the information below so that our records of your membership are current. If your mailing label shows an expiration date of 01/01/04 or earlier, you need to renew. If you wish to vote at the Annual Membership Meeting, you must renew before the meeting. Non-members wishing to continue receiving The Call Board for 2004, must renew by January 31st. Membership dues are \$45.00 per year. Non-member Call Board Renewals are \$20.00 per year.

? Please make checks payable to Northern Virginia NTRAK, Inc. and send your check or money order and this completed form to:

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

NOTE: The policy of NVNTRAK is that we do not furnish names and addresses to any person or organization outside the club, with the exception of NTRAK, Inc. Membership in NTRAK, Inc. is automatic and included in the annual membership fee for all regular members of NVNTRAK.

Please check the appropriate box below:

? Membership renewal ? New membership ? Non-member Call Board subscription only

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

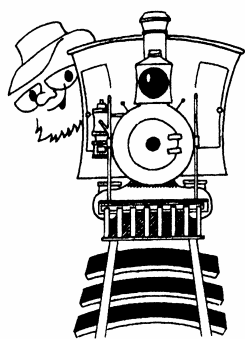
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name you prefer to have shown on your club Name Tag _____
(many club members prefer first name or nicknames)

I request that you (check all applicable blocks below):

- ? Please **do not** publish my home phone number on the NVNTRAK Roster.
- ? Please **do not** publish my work phone number on the NVNTRAK Roster.
- ? Please **do not** publish my Email address on the NVNTRAK club homepage.

The club Roster is published twice a year and distributed to club members only. The list of members' email addresses is posted on the club homepage.



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

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 in **TEXT** format (no word attachment please, Ken has a Mac) to:

kennrallen@aol.com

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

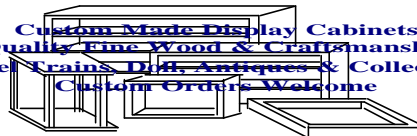
Articles and other submissions for the January 2004 issue must be received by **December 23, 2003.**

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
Act Super: John Steitz..... (703) 371-5171

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December '03

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Noll earns Master Modeler Award—story on page 5