

THE CALL BOARD

A 100% **NTRAK** CLUB



Celebrating Our 13th Year!

January 2004

VOLUME XIII NUMBER 1

Preliminary 2004 Calendar

John Steitz

- Jan. 4 Off-site back-shop at Cotton Bowen's workshop New
- Jan. 10/11 GATS Show/Kentucky N Scalers Show - Louisville, KY Publicity Road Trip for '04 (with NVX2)
- Jan. 10/11 Greenberg Show - York, PA Publicity Road Trip for '04 (with NVX1)
- Jan. 18 NVNTRAK Annual Meeting No layout
- Jan 24/25 Great Scale Model Train Show - Timonium, MD Layout with BANTRAK to publicize '04
- Feb. 1 Back Shop - Fellowship Hall, Prince of Peace Church Test layout [Super Bowl Sunday]
- Feb. 7/8 Amherst Railway Society's Big Railroad Hobby Show - West Springfield, MA Publicity Road Trip for '04
- Feb 14-16 [President's Day Holiday Weekend]
- Feb. 15 Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Layout Small oval, DCC option
- Feb. 28/29 Greenberg Show - Upper Marlboro Medium layout with 45 degree corners
- March 7 Back Shop - Fellowship Hall, Prince of Peace Church Test layout
- March 20-21 Boy Scout Troop 964 Train Show - Sanders Middle Sch. small layout
- March 21 Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Layout Small oval, DCC option
- April 3/4 Great Scale Model Train Show - Timonium, MD Layout with BANTRAK to publicize '04
- April 4 Back Shop - Fellowship Hall, Prince of Peace Church Test layout
- April 18 Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Layout Small oval, DCC option
- May 1-2 Fairfax Station Train Show operate caboose layout only
- May 2 Back Shop - Fellowship Hall, Prince of Peace Church Test layout
- May 13-16 Three Rivers Transfer (MER/MCR NMRA Regional Convention) - Pittsburgh, PA Road Trip to promote '04
- May 14-16 Narrow Gauge Meet - Kimberton, PA Nn3 layout
- May 16 Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Layout Small oval, DCC option

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The View from the Gap

Cotton Bowen, President

I hope everyone in the club had an enjoyable holiday season. At the time of this writing, the Greenberg Show has not yet taken place, so I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the show and hoping that we have had a speedy setup, good ruNNing and a enjoy admiring each other's new model railroad equipment. If that event is not enough, shortly after that setup, on 10, 11 January 2004, we are doing another set up in York, Pennsylvania's Fairgrounds, at another Greenberg Show. I hope that we have a strong turn out for that event. It will be a golden opportunity to spread the word about our Convention in August, and what a great experience it will be for our guests. Since York is a short drive from Chantilly, Virginia, we can't miss out on the opportunity to motivate the folks in southern Pennsylvania to take the time to drive down and visit our event. On the same track, but slightly different, I encourage all our members who have not yet signed up with the Convention

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BILL OF LADING

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HOST CLUB OF THE 2004 NTRAK EAST CONVENTION



RAIL EVENTS TIMETABLE

Sunday, January 4, 2004 1300-1700 "Off-Site Back Shop" #2 at Cotton and Judy Bowen's
401 Drew Court, Sterling, VA [Directions elsewhere in this Call Board.]

Coordinator: Cotton Bowen (703) 450-5857

No Trailer

Projects: **Frame Building for New Modules - bring your lumber and hardware, and have at it!**

Friday/Saturday/Sunday, Jan. 9-11, 2004, Road Trip - Louisville GATS Show/N Scale Convention

Louisville Commonwealth Convention Center, 221 Fourth Street, Louisville, KY 40202 1-800-701-5831

NVNTRAK Coordinator: Matt Schaefer (703) 978-2946

Overall Layout Coordinator: Frank Wethington (502) 609-9340

Trailer: NVX2 [Trailer hauler still needed]

Show Hours: Sat. and Sun. 1100-1700 Hrs.

Set-up: Friday, 0830 - 2200 Hrs.

Clamp-down: Friday, 1800 Hrs.

Layout Type: Add modules to large, multi-club NTRAK layout

Road Trip to promote Capitol Limited '04

Saturday/Sunday, Jan. 10-11, 2004, Road Trip - York Greenberg Show [Tentative]

York Expo Center, 334 Carlisle Avenue York, PA 17404 (717) 848-2596

Coordinator: Cotton Bowen (703) 450-5857

Trailer: NVX1 [Trailer hauler still needed]

Show Hours: Sat and Sun. 1000-1600 Hrs.

Set-up: Saturday 0700 - 1000 Hrs.

Clamp-down: 0900 Hrs.

Layout Type: Medium Oval

Road Trip to promote Capitol Limited '04

Sunday, January 18, 2004 1300-1700 Hrs. NVNTRAK Annual Meeting

Fellowship Hall, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8403 Old Keene Mill Road Springfield, VA

Coordinator: Cotton Bowen, President, NVNTRAK

1300 Hrs.: Live and Silent Auctions

1500 Hrs.: NVNTRAK Annual Meeting and Election of Directors

No NTRAK Layout

For more details, please see the insert in the January issue of The Call Board

Saturday/Sunday, Jan. 24-25, 2004: Great Scale Model Train Show
The Cow Palace, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD 21094 (410) 252-0200

NVNTRAK Coordinator: John Steitz (703) 371-5171

steitzj@georgetown.edu

Overall Layout Coordinator: Skip Hayes (410) 592-5733

Trailer: NVX2

Show Hours: Sat. 0900 - 1600 Hrs.; Sun. 1000 - 1600 Hrs.

Set-up: Fri. 1/23/04 1500-2000 Hrs., Sat. 12/27 0700-0900 Hrs.

Clamp-down: Sat. 0730 Hrs.

Wear NVNTRAK ID.

Layout Type: Adding modules to medium/large NTRAK layout

Road Trip to promote Capitol Limited '04

Sunday, Feb. 1, 2004, 1200-1700 Hrs. 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: John Steitz (703) 371-5171 steitzj@georgetown.edu

Trailer: NVX2

Projects: a) Track laying Clinic and continuing work on new modules

b) Last Chance to test new modules for layouts at Amherst Show, Fairfax Station - Feb. layout, Greenberg Upper Marlboro Show and Landmark Mall(?)
Use parking lot behind church complex

Friday - Sunday, February 6-8, 2004: Road Trip - Amherst Railway Society's Big Railroad Hobby Show

Better Living Center, Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA. 01089

NVNTRAK Coordinator: John Steitz (703) 371-5171

steitzj@georgetown.edu

Overall Layout Coordinator: John Dunne nanaburns@comcast.net [Robert A. Buck, Show Director, (413) 436-0242]

No Trailer

Show Hours: Saturday and Sunday 0900 - 1700 Hrs.

Set-up: Fri. 2/6/04 1500-2000 Hrs., Sat. 2/7/04 0700-0900 Hrs.

Clamp-down: Fri. 1900 Hrs.

Wear NVNTRAK ID.

Layout Type: Adding modules to large NTRAK layout

Road Trip to promote Capitol Limited '04

Sunday, Feb. 15, 2004, 1300-1600 Hrs. 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 Hrs.

Clamp-down: 1200 Hrs.

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 Hrs.

Set-up: Fri. 2/27/04 1500-1930 Hrs., Sat. 2/28/04 0730-1000 Hrs.

Clamp-down: Sat. 0900 Hrs.

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(?)

Sunday, March 7, 2004, 1200-1700 Hrs. March 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: John Steitz (703) 371-5171 steitzj@georgetown.edu

Trailer: NVX2

Projects: a) Wiring Clinic and continuing work on new modules

b) Last Chance to test new modules for layout at the

Boy Scout Train Show

Use parking lot behind church complex

Saturday/Sunday, March 20-21, 2004: Boy Scout Troop 964 Train Show
Saunders Middle School, 13557 Spriggs Rd., Manassas, VA 20112

(703) 670-9188

Coordinator: A volunteer is needed. Any takers?

Trailer: NVX1 [Trailer hauler still needed]

Show Hours: T.B.D..

Set-up: Sat. 0700-1000 Hrs. (?)

Clamp-down: Sat. 0900 Hrs. (?)

Wear NVNTRAK ID.

Layout Type: Small-Medium Oval; OLI presentations

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Committee to do so-soon!

We really need to put the finishing touches on our organization for the Convention; I know that it is still 8 months away, but since we are running the show, it is incumbent on us to know our roles and jobs before we report for work on the first day of the Convention. That means join in now, and get involved, become a master of your mission.

On another matter, although Chris Thayer was to be the new web-master, due to personal reasons, he has been unable to assume those duties. We need a new web-master. Anyone out there with a modicum of computer knowledge, like if you can turn one on ☺ is qualified to start the job. Bill Rutherford assures me that he can have the new web-master running it like a professional in a matter of a few days. Although Bill has been gracious enough to stay on for awhile, after four years of doing the job, its not fair to ask him to remain much longer. We need someone to summon up his or her courage and step to the plate. Is anyone in the club willing?

The club business meeting is fast approaching. On January 18 we will be electing three new club officers. On behalf of the club I thank Dave Davies, Bill Rutherford, and Jim LaBaugh for all their selfless and devoted efforts in behalf of the club over the last four years. To list their accomplishments and contributions would be grist for another column; all I can say is that they have made many important contributions, and the club is better off for their efforts. I will miss them on the board, but it is time to give someone else an opportunity to make their contributions. With that in mind we have four club members who have accepted nomination to date; John Steitz (our Acting Superintendent), Matt Guey-Lee, Jim Altobello, and Leonard White. All these members have already made significant contributions to the club in terms of volunteer work, and by just being there when someone needed a hand. Whoever they will be, I look forward to welcoming the new members to the board. Along with the business meeting, we will have the usual festivities of the silent auction, and the live auction, Brian Brendel-Auctioneer Extraordinaire, will again preside. Bring your spare cash and check books, there will be bargains to be had. Remaining on the Board from the previous year will be myself, Steve Jackson, Paul Diley, and Mark Sisk. Vacant Board officer positions will be filled by the Board members after the election. I hope that I will see you all there, it should be a great event. In the meantime I wish you all a Happy New Year!



View from Zoo Tower
John Steitz, Acting Superintendent



Happy New Year! And a busy year it will be for Northern Virginia NTRAK.

Enclosed (on Page 1) a Preliminary 2004 Calendar of Events. Most of these are repeat events in which the Club probably will participate again, but some are newer events which the Board of Directors will have to approve, formally, before they appear on the Rail Events Timetable.

Most notably missing from the list are Mall Shows, which typically are scheduled only 1-2 months out, at the insistence of mall management. The open weekends in the Preliminary Schedule are our most likely time to schedule them. We anticipate a large layout at Landmark Mall, sometime in the February to April time frame, and I will get information about that to you as soon as it is scheduled and approved by the Board of Directors.

Since we are a modular club, the best way for any member to participate in club activities, is for that member to build or adopt a module, and then to bring that module out to layouts, at least once every few months. To invite our newer members to become more involved during our Convention year, over the next five months, we are scheduling a series of targeted backshops on module construction. Each will have a clinic, and experts on hand, to concentrate on a particular facet of building a module.

January's Back Shop is actually the second of our "off-site" Back Shops, at Cotton Bowen's workshop in Sterling, for module frame-building. Many thanks to Cotton (and to Judy! ☺) for letting us use his workshop to measure, cut lumber, and build frames on Sunday, January 4th. You need to acquire your lumber and hardware beforehand, and bring them with you (as well as safety goggles, if you own them). Cotton has some really nice toys in his workshop, that make short work of many woodworking tasks. If you have any questions about frame design prior to this session, please let me know.

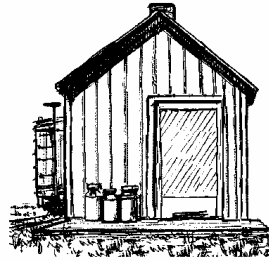
The following weekend, January 10-11, we have not one, but *two* road shows to promote Capitol Limited '04. Matt Schaefer is leading the charge down to Louisville, KY, for a large NTRAK layout at a GATS show. Module registration is closed for this show, but contact Matt if you have a last-minute entry, or just want to make the trip to see a neat layout.

On the same weekend, Cotton is marshaling the troops to set-up an NVNTRAK layout at the Greenberg show in York, PA, about 1.5 hrs. North of DC. This is a totally new venue for the club, but one that is close enough, that visitors there may very

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LOOK OUT, 2004 IS HERE – It is time to notch up the throttle. Register you modules early, and they will have guaranteed space. It will also give us a kick start to our database of member's modules in our Excel file, and then we can plan the great NVNtrak displays, yards, industries, bridges, flyovers, etc.. Bob Gattland, L.I. Ntrak, has made and tested a light weight lift out bridge, and we hope we can get lots of lift bridges in the layout. Check out our module registration survey form upgraded by Bill Rutherford. The shape of the overall layout will develop after we get plans from most of the clubs. Of course, we have had the plans from NJS for years!

RELIABILITY IS FIRST – We have received several masterpiece plans proposed to improve the reliability of the layout. One was presented by John Wallis, who is now an official member of NVNtrak. I have written and coordinated a one minute inspection of modules, to be used at the door, for modules not coming with clubs. John Wallis is feeding us lots of raw data, conclusions and recommendations to perfect our DCC system. He has submitted a professional 37 page draft of a DCC management plan to use with the Cap. Ltd. layout. The excellent quality of work going into this and other plans should be an indication of the quality of the layout.

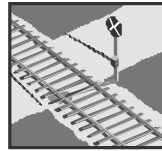


THE SURVEY – We are getting 50% more individuals registering to have their modules in the analog section instead of the DCC module section. Most clubs have held back on making that analog or DCC decision because, like us, they run both together, like we at NVNtrak do. So, an option has been added to the survey, asking if clubs want to run both DCC and DC, with permission of the digital chief. This mix is a good thing, because I do not want to see a big split in Ntrak between DC and DCC.

COLOR BROCHURE - Brian has distributed the N Scale Collectors and Cap. Ltd. combined color brochures to members for further dissemination. ALL the activities that draw people to the Washington area were included, like 80 wineries, Busch Gardens, white water rafting and even the C&O station in Staunton, VA. Also mentioned was a dude ranch near Dulles (the Greenacres?), so if any one of those activities triggers interest, we will have another visitor and his whole family headed our way. I had forgotten how much there is to do around here, in addition to Tim's Rail-side crab house. Even a New River Gorge picture was included (ops that was really a picture of Monroe's New River Gorge).

FAIRFAX CABOOSE ROCKS – Over 800 visitors went through the station and caboose Dec 6 – 7, which was enough weight to keep it rocking. No problems with the layout, as several years ago we screwed the layout to the wall, because it

was bouncing and throwing cars on the floor. Brian was in person to hawk the train show in front of Gil's large convention wall poster. Jake ran the trains. Live steam ran continuously for 2 days out in the snow, with refueling on alcohol every 20 minutes. It was a 6 ring circus around the station! We moved the water cooler, giving more room in front of the caboose layout. We moved houses and had a crews picking up trash all along the N tracks. I had some recent train and model magazines given to me, so I gave away about a foot of magazines. I believe that is the best use for them, and hopefully we will find these will trigger an interest and bring friends back to railroading.



This Side of the Tracks

Dave Davies, editor

Oh well, knew it was too good to be true ... that I was done putting together the Call Board.

Ken Allen has some serious software problems, that have yet to be ironed out. Although he has the Mac software to put together the Call Board, he can not accept input from PC users, including when you paste into an email from a word processor, kind of weird, really.

At Chantilly, the red line route was 4-block DC, since DCC was never set-up. What is really interesting, is that basically the same people ran on multiblock DC, as run on DCC. To me, it does not seem to be that the problem is the power system used, the basic difference is weather the operators are willing to follow their train, and make sure it does not run into someone else.

At one time, we had three trains running on a four block system, and everyone had to be aware of where their trains were, not only in relation to other trains, but to the block boundary.

With multi-block DC, as you cross a block boundary, you may enter a block that is reversed, where the train ahead is coming/going into a yard, or dealing with a derailment. At least with DCC, you only have to worry about the other trains, not block boundaries ☺

Matt's 36 foot yard is outstanding for red line route operations, having an orange line where the full juice train (~24 feet) can park, as it is passed by a passenger train, etc. This yard will really come into its own under DCC control, since it will allow a yard engine to help put together a long road train by pushing a cut of cars to the main, rather than having a road train backup into the yard ☺

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June 5 Manassas Railfest (tentative date) Medium oval under tent

June 6 Back Shop - Fellowship Hall, Prince of Peace Church Test layout

June 19/20 Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival Small oval under tent

June 20 Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Layout Small oval, DCC option

July 4-11 NMRA National Convention - Seattle, Washington Road show by members, sans trailers?

July 18 Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Layout Small oval, DCC option

August 1 Back Shop - Fellowship Hall, Prince of Peace Church Test layout

Aug. 5-8 Capitol Limited '04 Convention - Chantilly The mother of all N Scale Layouts!

August 15 Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Layout Small oval, DCC option

Sept. 5 Back Shop - Fellowship Hall, Prince of Peace Church Back shop on holiday weekend?

Sept. 5-6 Fairfax Station Train Show operate caboose layout only

Sept. 11 Silver Spring B&O Station Setup???? (precise date TBD) small oval or loop-to-loop?

Sept. 19 Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Layout Small oval, DCC option

Sept. 25 Burn Camp for Kids, Arlington (tentative date) medium oval - all day layout, public in PM

Oct. 2-3 Altoona Railfest (tentative date) Road show with trailer?

Oct. 2 BCC Rescue Squad Open House (tentative date) small oval or loop-to-loop

Oct. 3 Back Shop - Fellowship Hall, Prince of Peace Church Test layout

Oct. 9-11 [Columbus Day Holiday Weekend]

Oct. 9 Franconia Fire Prevention Day???? (precise date TBD) small oval

Oct. 17 Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Layout Small oval, DCC option

Nov. 7 Back Shop - Fellowship Hall, Prince of Peace Church Test layout

Nov. 13-14 Rockville Lion's Club Train Show (tentative dates) Medium oval

Nov. 13 Damascus Railroad Day (tentative date) small oval

Nov. 21 Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Layout Small oval, DCC option

Dec. 4-5 Fairfax Station Train Show operate caboose layout only

Dec. 12 NVNTRAK Holiday Party? (very tentative date)

Convention Update

John Drye

Have you registered for the convention yet?

It was hard not to notice all the empty space at Chantilly; space that will be filled with modules in August. Lots of folks came by the layout, and promised to come back to see how we fill up the room. They will certainly be amazed.

Next step, for most of us, is to get registered (the convention treasury needs replenishment after payments this month to Greenberg and Micro-Trains-more on that later) and to submit a module form to Matt so he can reserve room for your modules in the layout.

In December, we signed the contract with Micro-Trains, so we can get on their production schedule. We've ordered 250 two-packs, which you can now order on line (you can order one or two cars).

We also met with the folks from Greenberg to confirm plans for setting up the layout and vendors. Layout setup will start early Thursday morning and continue all day, as folks arrive. As in the past, the spine will go up first, and loops will be completed as clubs show up.

We also have about 100 tables reserved for N Scale vendors and manufacturers. These folks will be able to set up beginning Thursday afternoon, next to the layout. Vendors may offer "pre-show" sales to convention attendees beginning on Friday. There will also be some manufacturer display booths, so you can look at new products.

We also inquired to the Holiday Inn about "backup" hotels and shuttle bus service. They tell us they are close to selling out, but now offer the convention room rate as early as Wednesday, for early arrivals. We also confirmed space for the "Hotel YMCA layout" for 24 hour operations.

The hobby magazines are starting to feature the convention, with several articles published in the past few months, and more on the way. The excitement is building. This is going to be a fantastic show. With a huge Greenberg Show, the Collector's Convention, the record-setting Capitol Limited Layout and great convention activities, this will be one folks talk about for years.

So, have you registered yet?





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
Matt Guey-Lee
Jim Altobello
Leonard White

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.

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well drive to Chantilly for our show in August. If you'd like to join these road warriors, please call Cotton.

The next weekend we have no layouts, but an even more important event - the NVNTRAK Annual Meeting, on Sunday January 18th. At that meeting we have live and silent auctions of model railroad equipment and supplies, that have been donated to the club as a tax-exempt institution. By selling these at deep discount, the club realizes the monetary value of these donations, to use the funds for our activities during the year. Individual members also donate goods or services for the auction, so it's a Timonium-like shopping opportunity for all.

After the auctions, we have the very important task of electing three members to the NVNTRAK Board of Directors for two-year terms. And we'll have more information on the state of the Club, and about Capitol Limited '04 and what you can do to help us as we prepare for the Convention. Please note the *times* of these events so you don't miss them! [This year, I've confirmed use of Fellowship Hall that Sunday afternoon with Prince of Peace Church, so we hope to avoid the room shuffle of last year!]

Note: To participate in the auction or to vote, you have to renew your NVNTRAK Membership for 2004 in advance, or at that meeting.

Finally, the last weekend in January (the 24th and 25th), we're setting up a loop, or part of a loop, with Baltimore Area NTRAK (BANTRAK) at the Great Scale Model Train Show at the Maryland State Fair Grounds in Timonium, MD. Folks drive 3-4 hours to get to these shows, so it's another great venue to promote Capitol Limited. For those of you who've never been there, Howard Zane's Scale Show is the largest regular train show in this area, and almost always well worth a trip for bargain hunting. If you're planning on spending the day up there anyway, please consider an overnight stay, or a return trip Sunday, and set-up a module in the layout. If you're interested in participating, please contact yours truly by mid-January, at (703) 371-5171 or steitzj@georgetown.edu.

I'm still looking for set-up coordinators and trailer haulers for upcoming shows, particularly the Greenberg Upper Marlboro Show at the end of February, and the Boy Scout show in March. I'll have more details about what being a Set-up Coordinator requires in a future column.

Lastly, a word about inclement weather. We've been very fortunate in our history that all the major snow storms of the past eleven years have avoided our set-up weekends. But if it comes to pass this season that the roads are dangerous or impassable on the day of a set-up, please do not risk life, limb and property unnecessarily. If you and/or your modules can't make a layout, that's OK. Gumby will just get more of a

workout.

The Set-up Coordinator for each layout, and the Superintendent or Acting Superintendent [703-371-5171], should each have information about cancellations and delays of shows, so please call one of us if you have any questions before venturing outside, or if you have to stay home. Better safe than sorry!

[The foregoing is why I'd like each Set-up Coordinator, and Trailer Hauler, to carry a cell phone with them on set-up weekends, if at all possible.]

Well, my time is up, so I'll just look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting. Vote early and often! [Wait a minute....this is DC, not Chicago..... ☺]

Semper Gumby!

Caboose Layout Another Success for Holiday Train Show

John Steitz

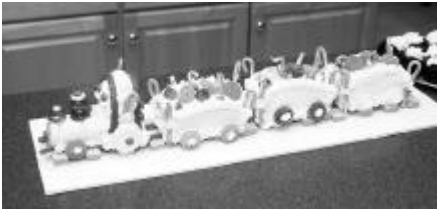
Members of NVNTRAK operated the N-Scale caboose layout during the two-day Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Train Show December 6-7. Our permanent layout in the caboose complemented modular layouts in HO, three-rail O, and two-rail standard gauge in the freight house, and portable S and Z scale layouts elsewhere in the station, along with the loco doctor and gift shop. A large scale (Gn3 and other scales) line ran outside, around the station, through the snow (and later, the mud).

Despite threatening winter weather, the train show started on time at 10:00 AM, and trains ran for eleven hours over the weekend. Over 800 people attended the Show, a major fund raiser for the Museum. A highlight for NVNTRAK was the debut of yet *more* publicity handouts and banners for Capitol Limited '04 on Sunday afternoon, courtesy of Brian and Jake Brendel. A banner for next Summer's convention now hangs behind and above the caboose layout, and many of the visitors to the layout expressed an interest in attending in August.

Many thanks to Brian and Jake, Matt Schaefer, Jim Altobello, Matt Guey-Lee, Marc Sisk, and Jim Tucci for helping us keep trains running and crowd entertained. We'll do it again every third Sunday of the month, between February and November, 2004.

JANUARY PHOTO ALBUM

2003 Holiday Party at the Sisk House—Dave Davies



Our gracious hosts, Mark and Carol Sisk



NVNtrak Holiday Party 2003



NVNTRAK BOD Meeting
December 14, 2003

A BOD meeting was convened during the holiday party at 2:30PM. All BOD members were present, with the exception of Paul Diley. The first topic discussed was to clarify who had been nominated to fill the three BOD positions that will be open next year. John Steitz, Matt Guey-Lee and Jim Altobello have been nominated and have accepted. Additionally, Cotton Bowen mentioned on the 16th that Leonard White had been nominated and accepted. So, as of now, there are four nominees to fill the three positions next year. Voting will take place at the Annual Meeting.

Cotton would like to have the monthly BOD meetings held at a central location, and not part of the monthly backshops. This would free up the directors to interact/assist more with the membership during the backshops. Marc Sisk volunteered to host the monthly BOD meetings at his house. A schedule will be established after the new BOD is on board.

Ken Allen joined the meeting. Ken is the new Call Board editor and wanted to share some thoughts with the BOD. He appreciates Dave Davies' work as the outgoing editor and thanked him. Ken uses a Macintosh instead of a PC, and he feels that this will be an asset in creating a new look for the Call Board. He indicated that he would be using an Adobe product called *In Design* (a layout software program) and is looking to create a 12 page, magazine format newsletter. Cost for this seems to be within reason and in line with what we currently pay. Ken mentioned that he has a catalog of articles for the BOD to see if desired. He also mentioned the idea of selling ad space in the Call Board. That discussion was tabled and will be taken up with the new BOD after the first of the year.

The BOD approved a reimbursement for John Steitz's reproduction of some 2004 convention flyers. The agenda for the January 18th Annual Meeting was mentioned. It has been established and distributed a part of the December Call Board. The silent and live auction details need to be worked between now and then.

The BOD meeting adjourned at 3:30PM.

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.





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: _____

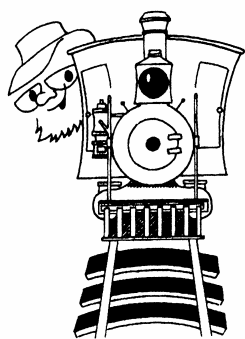
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ E-mail _____

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.

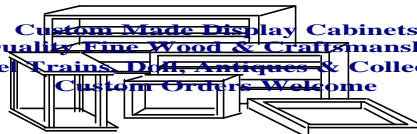
Articles and other submissions for the February 2004 issue must be received by January 25, 2004.

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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January '04

NV
NORTHERN
VIRGINIA **NTRAK**

P.O. Box 523051
Springfield, VA
22152

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NEWS FLASH

An Army chopper hovers over the remains of Edd's coal train at Indian Town Gap (December 27, Chantilly Show)