

# THE CALL BOARD



A 100% **NTRAK** CLUB

Celebrating Our 14th Year!

February 2005

Volume XIV

Number 2

## ANNUAL MEETING RESCHEDULED FEBRUARY 13TH!!

FRANCONIA FIRE HALL, 6309 BEULAH ST., ALEXANDRIA, VA

Hopefully, the third time will be the charm. One of the enduring nightmares of the **Board of Directors** is a couple members standing outside at *Prince of Peace* in the snow, wondering where everyone is. The calling tree seemed to work well and prevent that. Even though the storm didn't develop as expected, did you really mind staying at home and watching the playoff games?

After a lot of discussion, and then a lot more discussion about the impact of having the **Annual Meeting** while club members had a layout set up at a train show, the **BoD** decided to move the annual meeting to February 13th. (So, you don't have to worry about getting home in time for the Super Bowl Kick-Off.)

We are moving the **Annual Meeting** location a few miles east, to the *Franconia Fire Hall*. This location is where we park the trailers, just off of Franconia Road. (For those members who were around for the **1996 Convention**, the Fire Station is just behind the *Franconia Government Center*, where we met after the *Prince of Peace* fire.)

All the other events and schedules for the **Annual Meeting** are the same. (See page 7 for the *Annual Meeting Agenda* and page 8 for map and directions.)

### Newsletters/Call Board CDs

By Glenn McLain

At the **Annual Meeting**, CDs will be given to all members in good standing that want one. The CD contains all *Newsletters Call Boards* from Volume 1, Number 1 (March 1992) through Volume XIII, Number 12 (December 2004). The files are all in PDF format, which can be read using the free Acrobat Reader program.

CDs will be mailed to members who reside outside of the local area and were not in attendance. New members will receive a copy of this CD as part of the membership package.

Current Call Boards can be found on the NVNTRAK web site at <http://www.nvntrak.org/archives.php>. Updated indexes will periodically be sent to the web master for inclusion in the archives.

For those that did not get a CD and want one, please call me at 540-533-6231 or email me at [gmclain@avdp.org](mailto:gmclain@avdp.org).

### Have you renewed your membership yet?

If you have not renewed, this will be the last Call Board you receive.

Check your mailing label for the expiration date. Those who had not renewed by the date this issue was published have an expiration date in BOLD RED print on the mailing label.

Renew today. You don't want to miss all the interesting events for 2005.

**Remember, you have to renew to vote at the Annual Meeting.**

### The View from the Gap *Cotton Bowen, President*

Well, Mother Nature dealt us a curve ball. With typical fickleness, Mother Nature primed us for a "potent" storm. We were warned of a heavy snowfall on Saturday and bitter temperatures with heavy winds on Sunday. All we got was a light snowfall and the cold winds. At this point, I wish I stayed with the original schedule. Oh well, what to do now?

After much consideration and phone calls between members of the board, and even more discussion and phone calls, we have decided to keep things simple and have our **Annual Meeting on February 13, 2005**. The meeting will be held at a new location, the *Franconia Fire Hall*. (See page 8 for map and directions.) Our deliberations and inquiries did have beneficial side effect. **Brian Brendel** has determined that the *Franconia Fire Hall* will be available for our *Back Shops* in the future. One new item of business for the new **BoD** will be to determine if we change our venue to a new location or stay with the *Prince of Peace Church*. But, that is a mat-

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# R A I L E V E N T S T I M E T A B L E

**BOLD** Events are NTRAK module events.

Saturday/Sunday, February 5-6, 2005: *Great Scale Model Train Show* [Nn3 only]; The Cow Palace, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD 21094 (410) 252-0200; NVNTRAK Coordinator: Marc Sisk; Trailer: None; Show Hours: Sat. 0900 - 1600 Hrs.; Sun. 1000 - 1600 Hrs.; Set-up: 0700-0900 Hrs.; Clamp-down: 0800 Hrs.; Wear NVNTRAK ID. Layout Type: Nn3 layout, only

Sunday, Feb. 6, 2005, 1200-1700, February Back Shop; Fellowship Hall, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church; Contact: John Steitz; Trailer: NVX1 [Trailer hauler still needed]  
 Projects: 1) Track laying on new modules  
 2) Demo on setting up Lindsay control system  
 Use parking lot behind church complex

**Sunday, February 13, 2005 1300-1800 Hrs. NVNTRAK Annual Meeting. Franconia Fire Station Hall, 6309 Beulah Street, Alexandria, VA. Coordinator: Cotton Bowen, President, NVNTRAK. Non Module Event See page 7.**

**Sunday, Feb. 20, 2005, 1300-1600 Hrs. Museum Layout;** Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, P.O. Box 7, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 (703)425-9225; Coordinator: John Steitz; Trailer: NVX2 [Trailer Hauler still needed.]; 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 one line, run Caboose Layout

**Saturday/Sunday, Feb. 26-27, 2005: Greenberg Train Show;** Prince George's Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro, MD; Coordinator: Any takers? Trailer: NVX2 [Trailer Hauler still needed.] Show Hours: Sat. and Sun.: 1000 - 1600 Hrs.; Set-up: Fri. 1500-1930 Hrs.; Sat. 0730-1000 Hrs. Clamp-down: 0900 Hrs. Layout Type: Medium Oval with 45 degree corners; DCC on one line, OLI

Sunday, March 6, 2005, 1200-1700, March Back Shop; Fellowship Hall, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8403 Old Keene Mill Road Springfield, VA; Contact: John Steitz; Trailer: NVX1 [Trailer hauler still needed]  
 Projects: 1) Wiring of on new modules  
 2) Demo on setting up Aristo control system  
 Use parking lot behind church complex

**Sunday, March 20, 2005, 1300-1600 Hrs. Museum Layout;** Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, P.O. Box 7, Fairfax Station, VA 22039; Coordinator: John Steitz; Trailer: NVX2 [Trailer Hauler still needed.]; 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 one line, run Caboose Layout

**Thursday - Saturday, March 31-April 2, 2005: Hawk's Nest Layout,** C&O Historical Society Convention, Hawk's Nest State Park Lodge, P.O. Box 857, Ansted, WV 25812 (304) 658-5212 1-800-CALL WVA, <http://www.hawksnestsp.com/>; Coordinator: Matt Schaefer (703) 978-2946; Trailer: None?; Show Hours: T.B.D.; Set-up: Thurs. 1800-2300 Hrs.; Clamp-down: Thurs. 1800 Hrs.; Wear NVNTRAK ID; Layout Type: Serpentine medium-sized NTRAK layout with members of Lynchburg NTRAK; OLI.

**Saturday/Sunday, April 2-3, 2005: Boy Scout Troop 964 Train Show;** [http://www.troop964.org/index\\_files/Train\\_Show/trainshow.htm](http://www.troop964.org/index_files/Train_Show/trainshow.htm); Saunders Middle School, 13557 Spriggs Rd., Manassas, VA 20112 (703) 670-9188; Coordinator: A volunteer is needed. Any takers? Trailer: NVX2 [Trailer hauler still needed]; Show Hours: Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m.; Set-up: Sat. 0700-1000 Hrs.; Clamp-down: Sat. 0900 Hrs.; Wear NVNTRAK ID; Layout Type: Small-Medium Oval; OLI presentations

Sunday, April 3, 2005, 1200-1700 Hrs., *April Back Shop*; Fellowship Hall, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8403 Old Keene Mill Road Springfield, VA; Contact: John Steitz; Trailer: NVX1 [Trailer hauler still needed]  
 Projects: 1) Clinic on module scenery (landforms and rocks)  
 2) Scenery on new club modules  
 3) Demo on setting up Digitrax DCC control system  
 Use parking lot behind church complex

**Saturday/Sunday, April 9-10, 2005: Landmark Mall Layout** [Dates almost certain]; Center Court, Landmark Mall, 5801 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA (703) 354-8405; Coordinator: John Steitz; Trailer: NVX1 and NVX2 [Trailer Haulers still needed.]; Show Hours: Sat. 1000-2130 Hrs., Sun. 1100-1800 Hrs.; Set-up: Fri. 3/11/05: 2130-2330 Hrs.; Sat. 3/12/05: 0730-1000 Hrs.; Clamp-down: Sat. 3/12/05: 0800 Hrs. Unload in loading dock, or at entrance near Ruby Tuesday's; Wear NVNTRAK ID. Layout Type: Large, multi-oval layout; DCC on RLR; OLI

**Sunday, April 17, 2005, 1300-1600 Hrs. Museum Layout;** Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, P.O. Box 7, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 (703)425-9225; Coordinator: John Steitz; Trailer: NVX2 [Trailer Hauler still needed.]; 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 one line, run Caboose Layout

**View from Zoo Tower**  
*John Steitz, Superintendent*



Gumby has been folded, spindled and mutilated this month. But he's still runnin' trains!

We begin with the *February Back Shop*, our first of 2005. The focus this month is on track laying for modules. We'll have a clinic on that subject and will also be working to lay track on at least two of the new club *POFFs*. A second clinic will be on how to set-up the old *Lindsay* throttles, which we still use as testing circuits on our layouts before the more expensive *Aristo* and *Digitrax* systems are hooked up. If you have a module frame ready for track, please bring it out on the 6<sup>th</sup>! I promise to have everyone home before Super Bowl kick-off.

That same weekend, February 5-6, our **Nn3** crew will be setting up their narrow-gauge 1T layout at the *Great Scale Train Show* in Timonium, led by **Marc Sisk**. That will be our only layout at that *Timonium Show*. If you are up there shopping, please stop by the **Nn3** layout and admire their craftsmanship on display.

The following Sunday, February 13, is the re-scheduled **Annual Meeting** at *Fairfax (Franconia) Fire Station #5* on Beulah Street, just off of Franconia Road, where we store our trailers. Please pray for good weather!

One week after that, on Sunday, February 20, we return to *Fairfax Station* for our monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday layout in the freight house of that railroad museum. For those of you new to the club, our layout is usually 10-14 modules (including corners), *DCC* on one of the three lines, with 3 hours of train looping to entertain the many families who attend. Set-up starts at 11:30 AM, and we are usually out of the Station by 5 p.m. It's a great fundraiser for the *Station Museum* and an \*excellent\* venue for a module's public debut once scenery is finished. If you have any questions about this, or any subsequent layout at *Fairfax Station*, please contact me.

The last weekend in February, Feb. 26-27, we return to the *Prince George's Equestrian Center* in Upper Marlboro for a *Greenberg Train Show*. We are back in our former space, the trapezoidal-shaped room overlooking the show floor, so we will have room for a decent-sized layout. I am still looking for a Set-up Coordinator for Upper Marlboro. If anyone is interested, please contact me.

Also, we always appreciate Trailer Haulers. The smaller current trailer comes in at about 2200 lbs., and the larger current trailer weighs in at 2950 lbs. If you have a vehicle capable of hauling trailers that size and want to help us out, please contact Asst. Superintendent **Matthew Prentice** at 703-866-3036. Matthew can tell you what hardware you need and answer any questions you may have. Even if you can only haul a trailer once a month, or once every other month, that will still help us out.

My column has to go to press before the *Springfield Mall* layout, but thanks in to all who wound up helping with that layout, and all who brought out modules to it.

For those of you who haven't brought out a module recently,

**The View from the Gap**

*(Continued from page 1)*

ter for another time.

On another note, the *York Greenberg Show* went extremely well. We set in with quickly, trains ran well, with a number of new locomotives making their debuts. These included some **Maryland Midland GP-38s** owned by **Edd Braithwood**, and a pair of the new **Lifelike Berkshires** owned by **Leo Bicknell**, the new **Lifelike 2-6-6-2's** and the new **Con-Cor 2-10-2 Santa Fe**. All ran well, pulled long heavy trains and looked good.

Lastly, this will probably be my last *View from the Gap*. It has been an honor to serve the club as a member of the **BoD**. I wish the new **BoD** members and the club's general membership the best in the coming year.

**Call Board Author Rewards**

Rather than wait until the **Annual Meeting**, we will announce this program now. The **BoD** approved an incentive program, based on the **N Scale Collector** program, to encourage authors and photographers to contribute to the *Call Board*.

The **BoD** will commission a special car and design for the year, January through December. (This matches the Volume number on the *Call Board*.) Each member who provides an article or photograph that is published in the *Call Board* will receive the car at the following year's Annual Meeting. *(Sorry, only one car per person, no matter how many articles you write/photos you provide. The car probably won't be from Micro-Trains. This is not a retroactive program.)*

What kind of articles do we publish? What articles do you like to read? Many of the articles each month cover club events. But, modeling articles are always welcome. Share your weathering tips, how to airbrush, or how to model a particular scene. Stories about modules are normally published in the "Module of the Month" column (which does not appear this month due to a lack of unpublished articles.) If you are unsure about a topic, talk to the *Call Board* editor.

You don't have to be the best writer. Editorial assistance will be provided.

15 members have already qualified for the car. Start working on your article today and join them.

this spring is an excellent time to start. Please take a look at the Rail Events Timetable, and sign up for a layout at the next time you attend a club function. Still don't own a module? Well, talk to me at a *Back Shop*. We have plenty of ideas (and can offer plenty of assistance) for you to build your very own.

Thanks to everyone who is helping with our layouts during the "Spring Campaign" now underway. *Semper Gumby!*

## Checklist for Set-up Coordinators

*John Steitz, Superintendent*

So... you want the club to set-up in a new venue. Great! You can be the Set-up Coordinator, since you know that venue.

What's that? You don't know what a Set-up Coordinator is supposed to do?

Well, the Coordinator is the club's representative on the ground, the person most involved in making the layout happen successfully. Whether a new location or one where we have set-up for years, every show has a Set-Up Coordinator. He/she reports to the Superintendent and makes that person aware of any information the membership needs to know about that layout. He/she also takes care of all the little details involved in a successful layout – if not personally, then he/she at least makes sure they are covered.

What details are those? Let me list a few of them in checklist form, so the next time you're asked to be a Coordinator, or Assistant Coordinator, you can carry it with you:

### Way Before the Weekend of the Layout

- Where is the layout? What is the exact address and building name or location?
- Are there driving directions for the *Call Board* and/or web page?
- What building entrance and route can our members use to load-in and load-out?
- Where can our members park during load-in/load-out? Where can they park while the Show is operating?
- When is the layout? Set-up dates and times? Clamp-down time? Operating hours? Tear-down time? Must-be-out-of-the-venue-before time?
- What type of event is it? [Community festival, commercial show, fundraising event, etc.]
- How much space do we have for the layout? What are the dimensions? Are there any obstructions?
- Is your layout single loop? Multi-loops with junctions? Dogbone with return loops?
- Will you have a mountain line oval, or dogbone, in your layout?
- Would a **oNeTRAK**, **Nn3**, and/or **T-Trak** layout better serve the audience of the show or the needs of the club?
- Can we obtain tables and chairs for inside the layout?
- Does the venue have any special *requirements* about skirting or tables inside or outside the layout?
- Is the venue supplying ropes and stanchions or are we using our own (or both)?
- How are we getting electricity to the layout?
- Are there any "Fire Marshall" requirements about aisle widths or location?
- Do you have adequate space around the layout for the public to walk and observe the layout?
- Are we getting paid to put on a layout? Or do we have to pay fees (cleaning, etc.) to have a layout there?
- Do we have to cover insurance for the venue owner/operator? If so, does the Treasurer have all the details needed for our insurance agent to obtain a rider to our policy?
- Are we required to perform a clinic during show hours? Or would a clinic be beneficial?
- Are we permitted to sell club merchandise at a table outside the layout?
- Have you provided your contact info to the Superintendent so members can contact you to volunteer modules for the layout, and to ask you questions?

### The Week Before the Layout

- Do you have enough modules signed up to fill your space and/or compete a loop? Do you have any spares?
- If you need a trailer, which trailer is serving your layout? Who is scheduled to haul it out and haul it back?
- Do you have the cell phone numbers for all those contributing modules and/or hauling trailers?
- Do you have any members lined up as spare hands during set-up and tear-down?
- Do you have a layout diagram? Has the Superintendent signed off on that diagram?
- Have you verified that the venue will be unlocked and accessible at the start of set-up?
- Do you have the instruction sheets or do you know how to setup the throttles and related equipment?
- Do you have a contingency plan for foul weather?

### At the Time of Set-up

- Have all member-owned modules for the layout arrived by clamp-down time?
- Has the trailer arrived and is it accessible?
- Does any member need assistance unloading, hauling or setting up a module or equipment?
- Are spare hands assigned to set-up club-owned modules and club equipment?
- Are all modules pre-arranged in their approximate locations when set-up?
- Are all modules leveled to 40" from floor to the top of the roadbed?
- Are modules level from one to another or must height adjustments be made?
- Are all modules clamped together?

### Checklist for Set-up Coordinators

(Continued from page 4)

- Are all able bodies tasked with putting in connecting track?
- Are the any gaps in the track greater than 1/16"? If so, remove them.
- Are there any ski jumps, reverse curves, or other irregularities in the alignment and level of main line tracks? If so, remove them.
- Is electricity connected to the layout and around the layout?
- Are any wires that will be "walked over" securely taped to the floor?
- Are all **Cinch-Jones** plugs connected correctly (including those on reversible corners)?
- Has a test loco run totally around all main line tracks on *Lindsay* power?
- Have the *Aristo* throttles (if used) been set-up correctly, with no overlapping channels, and clear transmission around all parts of the layout?
- Has the *DCC* system (if used) been set-up, and powered-up, correctly? Are *DCC* and analog sections of the layout clearly delineated and marked?
- Is skirting up on the front of all modules?
- Are ropes and stanchions (if used) set-up around the layout?
- Is club signage properly displayed?
- Are club brochures set out on the layout or on a table in front of the layout?
- Are **OLI** signage and materials (if used) set-up and displayed for the public?

During Layout Operations

- Are trains running on all three main lines (and the mountain line, if used) during all show hours?
- Is there a sign-up sheet for all mainlines (if needed)?
- Do all members who brought modules have an opportunity to runs trains?
- Do all members who assisted with set-up have an opportunity to run trains, after the members who brought modules have signed up their slots?
- Do members need any assistance or training using *Aristo* or *DCC* throttles?
- Are there members interacting with the crowd (inside or outside the layout) and preventing *kidzilla* from wrecking the layout?
- Is there still club literature available to the public throughout the show?
- Are questions from the public answered correctly and helpfully?
- Is there any print or broadcast media in attendance?
- On multi-day shows, are all layout control systems (*Lindsay*, *Aristo* and/or *DCC*) powered-down correctly at night, and brought back up correctly the next morning?
- Are problems with control systems (blown fuses, etc.) promptly rectified?
- Are you getting pictures of the layout for the *Call Board* and/or web page?
- Are members having fun?

During Layout Tear-Down

- Is the layout area secure during tear-down?
- Do you need to retain electricity for power tools used for tear-down?
- Do any members need assistance taking down, hauling or loading their modules or equipment?
- Are spare hands assigned to tear down club-owned modules and properly secure club equipment?
- Is all club property returned to its proper storage container?
- Is all member-owned property returned to its owner?
- Is the trailer packed correctly?
- Does the trailer make it back to Franconia safely?
- Do any members need directions home, or assistance unloading at the other end of the trip?

After the Layout

- Did you write and send an article on the layout to the *Call Board* editor?
- Did you send any digital photos to the *Call Board* editor, the webmaster and/or the Yahoo files area?
- Are there any follow-up concerns with the venue that need to be resolved (such as payments)?
- Are there any "Thank you" letters needed?
- Is this a venue we would want to do again?

Thank you in advance for taking on these tasks. If we all share the burden of organizing layouts, we can have better layouts, and more fun with them, in 2005. *Semper Gumby!*



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 01/01/05 and is in RED, 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 2005, 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.

The club Roster is published twice a year and distributed to club members only.

Please check the appropriate box below:

- Membership renewal—\$45
New membership—\$45
Non-member Call Board subscription only—\$20

Name:

Address:

City:

State: ZIP:

Home Phone Work Phone

Cell 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 cell phone number on the NVNTRAK Roster.
Please do not publish my Email address on the NVNTRAK Roster.

**This is a new location and date for the Annual Meeting.  
Directions and a map appear on the reverse.**

**Annual Meeting Notice**



The Board of Directors of Northern Virginia NTRAK, Inc.  
Announce the

**2005 General Membership Meeting**

Sunday, February 13th, 2005; 1:00—6:00 p.m.

Business Meeting begins at 3:00 p.,.

**Franconia Fire Station Hall, 6309 Beulah St. Alexandria, 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 3:00 pm. There will be a 15% sellers premium that will go to the club. We will accept check 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**

**2004 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**

Four positions on the Board of Directors are to be elected. Cotton Bowen and Paul Diley have reached their term limits as provided in the bylaws and are not eligible for this election.

Running for reelection:  
Steve Jackson  
Marc Sisk

To date the following club members also have been nominated:  
Jim Altobello  
Ann Prentice  
Nick Sklias  
Leonard White

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

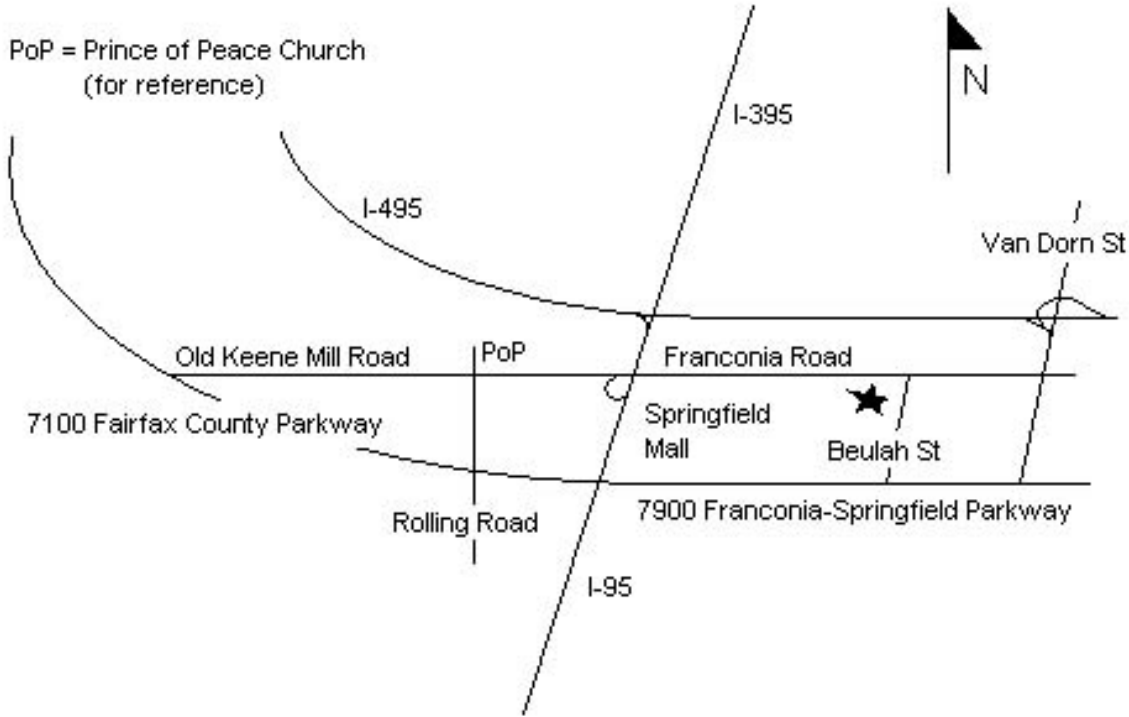
In accordance with the Bylaws, the Officers of the Corporation for 2005 will be selected by the new BOD after the elections

***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 2005 dues can vote and actively participate in the meeting. Guests are welcome and may observe.

Fairfax (Franconia) Fire Station #5   
 6300 Beulah Street [Beulah & Franconia Rd.]  
 Alexandria VA 22310  
 [Near Franconia Rd. and Van Dorn Street, east of Springfield Mall]



**>From I-495 Outer Loop of the Beltway, coming from I-66, Tyson's, and points North**

Take the Outer Loop South towards Richmond.  
 Exit 57A will take you South towards Richmond on I-95.  
 Move to the third lane from the right side and pass under Old Keene Mill Road (Rt 644).  
 You will then curl around to the right and up onto Franconia Road.  
 Move to the left so you pass up-and-over Loisdale and Frontier Roads at the Springfield Mall.  
 From I-95 you travel approximately 2 miles on Franconia Road. Beulah Street will be on your right, just past a small white church.  
 The entrance to the fire station parking lot is past the engine bays and flag pole.  
 Park behind the station and enter through the rear doors.

**>From I-495 Inner Loop of the Beltway, coming from Old Town Alexandria, over the Wilson Bridge, and points East. Also from I-495 Outer loop if you don't want to go through the Springfield Interchange.**

Take the Beltway to the Van Dorn Street exit.  
 On the exit ramp stay to the right two lanes to make the right turn and head South on Van Dorn Street.

Approximately 3/4 mile South of the exit turn right (West) onto Franconia Road.  
 Go approximately 3/4 mile and turn left onto Beulah Street, at the small white church.  
 The entrance to the fire station parking lot is past the engine bays and flag pole.  
 Park behind the station and enter through the rear doors.

**>From western points on the Fairfax County Parkway (7100) and the Franconia Springfield Parkway (7900).**

Follow the Fairfax County Parkway South/East past Rolling Road.  
 At Rolling Road Fairfax County Parkway becomes Franconia Springfield Parkway (7900).  
 Continue on the Franconia Springfield Parkway to the first stoplight (Beulah Road) past the Springfield Metro Station.  
 At Beulah Road turn left and proceed approximately 1.25 miles.  
 The fire station will be on your left side.  
 The entrance to the parking lot is before the flag pole and engine bays.  
 Park behind the station and enter through the rear doors.



**COMPANY STORE SUPER SALE**

By John Cook

The NVNTRAK Company Store will set up first at the Back Shop on February 6th. This will give members first crack at the merchandise and we are overstocked.

Very generous donations from our own **Bill Baldwin** and **Gene Aldridge**, another year-end donation from our anonymous donor, and several other nice donations have stocked the company store with a HUGE SELECTION of new and lightly used merchandise. We have as much stock as a lot of hobby shops and are running out of room.

There are:

- Over 1000 cars and locos,
- Lots of **Atlas** and **MDC/Roundhouse** cars,
- Dozens of **Deluxe Innovations** and **Micro Trains** runners,
- A few dozen **Altas**, **Riverossi**, **ConCor** passenger cars,
- A couple of this and a few of that, and
- Some foreign prototype rolling stock.

There is also a nice selection of buildings, signals, **Kato** track, road vehicles, wiring supplies and tools.

We still have some **Micro Trains** trucks with couplers and LOTS of **Micro Trains** Coupler conversion kits. A conversion index will be available.

If you want something, there is a good chance it will be for sale in the company store. You may find something you really need and didn't even know it – at a bargain price.

After the *Back Shop*, we will have a table at the *Greenberg Show* at the *Equestrian Center* in *Upper Marlboro* on Feb. 26-27th for a BIG OVERSTOCK SALE. We will sell to everyone there, but there will be discounts for club members.

Whatever is left will be for sale at the *March Back Shop*. Any thing left after that will put up for sale on **eBay**, so come to the *February Back Shop* or *Greenberg Upper Marlboro* on February 25-26th while the selection is AWESOME!.

Volunteers will be needed to staff the table and to unpack and display merchandise. Please let **John Cook**, [jcook@nvntrak.org](mailto:jcook@nvntrak.org) or 703-670-9700, if you can help.

**Convention Update**

The second run convention cars have been produced by Micro-Trains, shipped to the **N Scale Collector**, and are being delivered to those who have ordered pairs of cars already. (Several club members have already received theirs.) About half of the run of 150 pair has already been sold. With an advertisement in the January/February 2005 **N Scale** Collector magazine and on their web site, the run should sell out quickly. Order now if you haven't already.

The extra sets of the first run cars, which were produced to accommodate orders taken at the Convention, have also been produced. Delivery of them will occur in the next few weeks.

**Operation Lifesaver Crossing**

By Dave Freshwater, NVNTRAK OLI Coordinator

Last year, the **OLI** Presenters in the club devoted more than 480 hours to spreading the message of safety around trains to an estimated audience of slightly less than 56,500. (And we didn't count **Gil Brauch**, who does his own things down in North Carolina, to come up with these numbers.) About 75% of the audience was in Virginia last year. The convention numbers pushed Maryland down to about 23%. We had some presentations at Hawks Nest too.

In the coming 2 months, we will get 2005 off to a good start. A number of requests for presentations have come directly to the club or through state coordinators. On February 19th, we will make a presentation at the *Boy Scout Merit Badge Jamboree* at Mark Twain Middle School in Franconia. On March 5th, **John Cook** will be doing a presentation for the *Lorton Station Elementary School PTA*. **Matthew and Ann Prentice** are working on an opportunity for us at **Kyla's** school during the week of March 14th. John Cook and Brian Brendel are on tap for this. In April, we continue our association with *Boy Scout Troop 964* and their merit badge weekend in Manassas. Even if individuals are named for a presentation, let me know if you can help out.

This summer brings an even larger opportunity. *The National Boy Scout Jamboree* will be held down at Fort A.P. Hill from July 23-August 4. (There are 3 set-up days and a tear down day surrounding it.) At the last Jamboree, several of us helped with the presentation, with over 200 scouts passing through the merit badge each day.

Overlapping the Jamboree is the **OLI Regional Conference**. This biennial event will be held in Harrisburg, PA, this year. Besides learning new skills and approaches, it is a great opportunity to meet other presenters in the area.

Coming out of the convention, we have a good stock of hand-out materials. We also obtained 2 sets of the new presentation charts (replacing the slightly larger than 1 set of the old charts we split between both trailers.) And, many of you have seen the **OLI** booths we acquired and maintain for **VA OL** (although the first use of both was in Maryland.)

It has been a while since we have had any new Presenters trained. If you are interested, please contact me. There are some forms to fill out and a class to attend. Hopefully, we can have a class scheduled locally. It is one of the best presentation skills classes I have ever attended. You learn those skills as much as the **OLI** message.

The N Scale Collector Car for 2005 is an Micro-Trains troop sleeper decorated for Operation Lifesaver. I am sure that we will see many of them in trains in the near future.

There have been a couple of personnel changes among the people we work with during the past 12 months. Last year, Glenn Markley took over as MD Coordinator. Steve Eilert, the VA Coordinator and a good friend of the club, retires from his position at the end of the month. Steve will be missed. No word on his replacement yet.

*Always Expect a Train!!*

York Greenberg Show

By John Steitz

The York Greenberg layout was successful and fun for participants, by all accounts.

Our 30' x 18' layout featured modules from 6 members, plus one club POFF, 3 club corners, and 2 club bridge modules. All club modules were from NVX1.

We ran Aristo on Yellow, Blue, and on a 20' loop-to-loop section on Green all weekend long. We alternated between Aristo and DCC on the Red Line, with DCC on the majority of the time. Leo Bicknell brought the new DCC master control box (picture 2), incorporating the club Command Station and PM42, plus a new DCC amp meter from Tony's Trains and multiple CJ output cables, and a lead to a separate programming track that clamps to the back of a module. The DCC control box made it much easier to troubleshoot problems.

I conducted the "Module Construction" clinic in front of the OLI booth twice, once each on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Each time, it ran about 40 minutes, and had 5-10 attendees. As far as I could tell, it was the only clinic offered at that show.

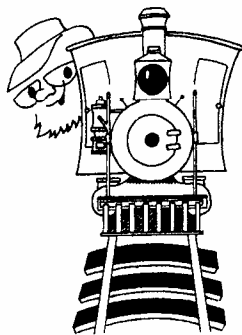
Many thanks to Cotton Bowen (Set-up Coordinator), Edd Braithwood, Leo (Trailer Hauler and DCC Guru), Leonard White, Nick Sklias, Matthew and Ann Prentice, Dave Davies, and Glenn McLain for helping out with this layout.

FEBRUARY PHOTO ALBUM



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### Northern Virginia NTRAK, Inc.

P.O. Box 523051; Springfield, VA 22152

Member Helpline: (703) 391-2941 (Ext 3)

<http://www.nvntrak.org/>

### Northern Virginia NTRAK 2004 Officers:

President: Cotton Bowen (703) 450-5857

<[cwbowen@earthlink.net](mailto:cwbowen@earthlink.net)>

Secretary: Marc Sisk (703) 280-5290 <[NPMRFAN@aol.com](mailto:NPMRFAN@aol.com)>

Treasurer: Steve Jackson (703) 323-5985

<[sjackson@nvntrak.org](mailto:sjackson@nvntrak.org)>

Superintendent: John Steitz (703) 371-5171

<[steitzj@georgetown.edu](mailto:steitzj@georgetown.edu)>

### NVNTRAK E-mail Lists

NVNTRAK maintains a list server in conjunction with the club web site. A message addressed to <[nvntrak@nvntrak.org](mailto:nvntrak@nvntrak.org)> reaches all club members who are subscribed to the list. To subscribe, or if your e-mail has recently changed, contact the Webmaster, **Matt Guey-Lee**, at <[matthew.gueylee@cox.net](mailto:matthew.gueylee@cox.net)>.

NVNTRAK also has a Yahoo Group. One advantage of the Yahoo Group is that files can be uploaded and shared. To join the Yahoo Group, if you are not already a member, go to: <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NVNtrak/>>. There will be a button there that allows you to join.

These entrepreneurs are NVNTRAK members, who offer benefits to all NVNTRAK members. Be sure to show membership card and ask about benefits before your purchases are rung up.

Editor—David Freshwater

The *Call Board* is produced monthly by and for the membership of NVNTRAK and selected supporters.

A subscription for continental USA residents is available for a \$20/year donation. Payment should be made to the club treasurer, at the address in the box to the left.

Items for publication should be submitted in MS Word or text format; either are acceptable. Send submissions to the Editor:

[david.freshwater@west-point.org](mailto:david.freshwater@west-point.org)

All submissions must contain clear text identification of the author to be accepted for publication. **Articles and other submissions for the March 2005 issue MUST be received by February 23, 2005.**

Northern Virginia NTRAK membership is \$45/year Dues are payable each January. Northern Virginia NTRAK membership includes NTRAK membership.

Northern Virginia NTRAK is a 501(c)(3) educational organization. Donations are accepted at any time and may be tax deductible. Send checks for membership or donations to: Treasurer; Northern Virginia NTRAK, Inc.; P.O. Box 523051; Springfield, Virginia 22152

**February 2005**

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*TRAIN WATCHING IN THE QUARRY AT YORK*

**ANNUAL MEETING RESET FOR FEB. 13TH!!!**