

THE CALL BOARD



A 100% **NTRAK** CLUB

Celebrating Our 15th Year!

January 2006

Volume XV

Number 1

A House Full of Fun

A little snow on the ground helped bring holiday spirits to the fore as **NVNTRAK**ers gathered at the **Brendel** estate for the annual club Holiday Party on December 10th. I don't think anyone kept track of exactly how many **NVNTRAK**ers were present, which is probably a good thing that the fire marshal never discovers. The addition of the tent on the back deck enabled all to escape the chill and enjoy the good food and fellowship, as well as the traditional events at the party.

What traditional events? Well, there were a number of running trains. There was the downstairs train layout, with its restriction on train cameras since it passes through the downstairs half bath. There was the outside, terribly-oversized trains running, with real grades for **Matt Schaffer**. Our resident rivet counters, or *SPFs* (*Slobbering Pennsy Freaks*) or both sent **Jake** out to reverse the *GP-9* to run prototypically correct long hood forward. And there were Holiday train videos running on various TVs and DVD players (including in baths so you never escaped trains). With the return of the party to **Brian's**, **John Cook** got to revive a tradition of bringing at least one bag of ice. And then, there was the annual comedy show, otherwise known as the White Elephant gift exchange.

In keeping with traditions, a number of gifts return from year to year. Only one copy of the "Funeral for a Friend" Canadian video (which everyone at the *1997 N Scale East Convention* received from the FRA speaker) made a return appearance, in a still shrink-wrapped condition at that. Much disappointment was expressed that the old **Model Power** prison kit didn't reappear. (Maybe someone finally built it.) One wonders if the automotive spotlight (what does that have to do with trains?) will show up again next year. As always, the highlight of the returning gifts was the "Grand Prize," the giant Christmas ornament with the battery-powered train inside. And, after a frenzied search, because no one remembered who took home the Grand Prize last year (does anyone remember who got it this year), an alternate "grand prize" was obtained. That **Fisher-Price** train sound effects toy (or was that the **MRC Mod 0** system?) even got stolen. (Sorry, **JD**, you should have stayed.)

But, poor **Phil Poole** set a record of futility that may never be broken. While we have rules on how many times that a gift can be stolen before there is a permanent owner, there have been no rules on how many gifts someone can lose. Phil returned to the gift pile 8 times, only to see the gift claimed by someone else.

A party that is this much fun doesn't come off without a lot of work. Thanks got to **Mat Chibbaro** and **Jim Altobello**, who arranged to transport **Bill Baldwin** to and from the party. There is always a shifting crew of members who help out the day before or early on the day of the party and would be embarrassed by having their names listed. They know that a great deal of thanks is due to **Brian** and **Jake** for all their efforts in getting things set for the party. But, by far, the person who deserves the greatest credit for another fantastic party is **Michelle Brendel**.

Michelle, on behalf of the Board and the club, thanks for all your efforts and patience in dealing with what likely seemed like lunacy at times. We all had a great time.

Along the Orange and Alexandria

Brian Brendel, President

Resolutions and Ruminations

Amazing. It's simply amazing that 2005 is history already. As always, time flies.

The holidays had a "steam theme" this Christmas, as the Brendel Family spent time in Utah with Michelle's folks, and rode the **Heber Valley Railroad** to the Soldier Hollow Olympic Venue and went snow tubing. The excursion was titled the "Tubin' Train", and was everything we hoped for. Ex-**UP 2-8-0 618** headed up the train. And it was glorious in the cold and snow, our first experience with winter steam. Michelle and Jake and I even got to ride in the cupola of the caboose, **UP's** first steel "cabin" constructed in 1943. It was awesome!

Meanwhile, **NVNTRAK** had already enjoyed a joyous holiday season of trains and charitable opportunities. We not only reveled at the Holiday Tent Party during the month of December, (though I'm sure everyone will agree it was a blast—thanks again, Michelle!!!) We also helped out several great causes at different events.

Fairfax Station and the *Shriner's Holiday Train Shows* had **NVNTRAK** participation as always. We once again showcased what the "little train" guys can do, showing simultaneously that we can educate the public about N-Scale, assist a charity, and have a lot of fun in the process.

In addition to runnin' trains, we were ridin' them, too. Our **Operation Lifesaver** Presenters, along with assistance from other club members,

(Continued on page 4)

BILL OF LADING

Rail Events Timetable.....	2
View from Zoo Tower.....	3
A Crystal Anniversary	3
Hostler's Shack.....	4
View from the Loo—Kena Temple	5
Module Construction Backshop.....	5
New Member	5
IKEA College Park.....	6
Santa Trains	6
December Pictures.....	7
2006 Preliminary Calendar	8
NVNTRAK Membership Renewal.....	9
Annual Meeting Announcement.....	10
Member Retailers.....	11

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.

[No Back Shop in the month of January.]

Saturday, January 7, 2006 1400-1700 Hrs. T-TRAK and Crash-Cart Layouts at Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children, 3300 Gallows Road, Falls Church, VA 22042, 703-776-6551. Click-together at 2 p.m.; click-apart at 5 p.m. Coordinator: Steve Jackson. **T-TRAK layout only.** No trailer.

Sunday, January 8, 2006 0900-1500 Hrs.: "Off-Site Back Shop" 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! [See page 5].

Sunday, January 15, 2006; 1300-1800 Hrs.: **NVNTRAK Annual Meeting**; Fairfax (Franconia) Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria VA 22310. [See page 10].

Saturday/Sunday, Jan. 21-22, 2006: Road Trip - York Great Train Expo Show; York Expo Center, 334 Carlisle Avenue York, PA 17404 (717) 848-2596. Coordinator: Dale Rinker 757-564-8048. Trailer: NVX4 - 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. A fun out-of-town show in a nice venue.

Sunday, January 29, 2006, 1300-1800 Hrs.: Snow date (if needed) for NVNTRAK Annual Meeting

Saturday - Sunday, February 4-5, 2006: Great Scale Model Train Show [Nn3 layout only], The Cow Palace, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD 21094, (410) 252-0200. Coordinator: Marc Sisk. Trailer: None. Show Hours: Sat. 0900 - 1600 Hrs.; Sun. 1000 - 1600 Hrs. Set-up: Fri. 1500-2000 Hrs., Sat. 0700-0900 Hrs., Clamp-down: Sat. 0730 Hrs. Layout Type: Nn3 layout only

Sunday, February 5, 2006, 1300-1700 Hrs.: *February Back Shop.* Fairfax (Franconia) Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria VA 22310; (703) 971-5858. Contact: John Steitz. Projects: 1) Final check of, and repairs to, all modules for WGH Layout the following weekend
2) Test set-up of multi-loop layout with all club junctions.

Saturday - Sunday, Feb. 11-12, 2006: World's Greatest Hobby Train Show Dulles Expo Center, North Hall, Chantilly, VA. Coordinator: Matt Schaefer (703) 978-2946, cando.matt@verizon.net. Trailers: All [Trailer Haulers Still Needed]. Set-up: Fri.: 1200-2000 Hrs.; Sat.: 0700-1000 Hrs. Clamp-down: Fri. 1500 Hrs. [Friday set-up mandatory for NVNTRAK modules.] Show Hours: Sat. and Sun.: 1000-1600 Hrs. Drive-in unloading Friday only. Layout type: Large multi-club, multi-loop layout in a 50' x 200' space. DCC Red Line and multiple Aristo blocks on each interior line. OLI. More details to follow.

Sunday, Feb. 19, 2006, 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: NVX4 [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. 25-26, 2006: Great Train Expo Show Prince George's Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro, MD Coordinator: A volunteer is needed. Trailer: NVX3 [Trailer Hauler still needed.] Show Hours: Sat. and Sun.: 1000 - 1600 Hrs. Set-up: Fri. 2/24/06: 1500-1930 Hrs.; Sat. 2/25/06: 0730-1000 Hrs. Clamp-down: Sat. 2/25/06: 0900 Hrs. Layout Type: Medium Oval (with 45 degree corners?); DCC on one line, OLI.

Saturday, March 4, 2006, 0900-1300 Hrs. *Lorton Station Elementary School PTA Health and Safety Fair,* Lorton Station Elementary School, 9298 Lewis Chapel Road, Lorton, VA 22079 571-642-6000 Coordinator: John Cook (703-670-9700), jcook@nvnttrak.org. Trailer: NVX3. Set-up: 0700-0900 Hrs. Clamp-down: 0800 Hrs. Layout Type: Small NTRAK oval with OLI.

Sunday, March 5, 2006, 1300-1700 Hrs.: *March Back Shop.* Fairfax (Franconia) Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria VA 22310; (703) 971-5858. Contact: John Steitz. Projects: 1) Track Laying on New Modules
2) Club corner module scenery

Saturday, March 11, 2006 , 0900-1600 Hrs. *NMRA Potomac Div. Mini-Con* Location: Laurel, MD (more details to follow). Coordinators: John Steitz and John Drye (703) 922-8131 Trailer: NVX3 [Trailer Hauler still needed.] Set-up: Friday, 1800-2100 Hrs.; Sat. 0700-0900 Hrs. Clamp-down: Saturday, 0800 Hrs. Layout Type: oNeTRAK + 3T operations layout with DCC Operations opportunities for NMRA Chief Dispatcher AP Certificate

Thursday - Saturday, March 16-18, 2006: 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, cando.matt@verizon.net. Trailer: None. Set-up: Thursday 1800-2300 Hrs.; Clamp-down: Thursday 1800 Hrs. Show Hours: Friday: all day and evening; Saturday: all day until 2000 Hrs. Layout Type: Serpentine medium-sized NTRAK layout with members of Lynchburg NTRAK (DCC)

Saturday - Sunday, March 18-19, 2006: Boy Scout Troop 964 Train Show Saunders Middle School, 13557 Spriggs Rd., Manassas, VA 20112 (703) 670- 9188; Coordinator: T.B.D.. Trailer: NVX3 [Trailer hauler still needed] Show Hours: Sat. 1000-1700; Sun. 1300-1700. Set-up: Sat. 0700-1000 Hrs. Clamp-down: Sat. 0900 Hrs. Layout Type: Small-Medium Oval; OLI presentations

Sunday, March. 19, 2006, 1300-1600 Hrs.: **Museum Lay-out,** Fairfax Station Railroad Museum

View from Zoo Tower
John Steitz, Superintendent



Happy New Year! 2006 presents a very busy calendar for our club, with a little bit of everything.

We start of this month (and the 2006 calendar) with a **T-TRAK** layout at Fairfax Hospital for Children on the afternoon of Saturday, January 7. All interested **T-TRAKers** should contact Steve Jackson, (703) 323-5985, because there are a few ground rules for any event inside the Hospital with which we need to abide.

The very next day, we have our third-annual "Off-Site" Back Shop at **Cotton and Judith Bowen's** home in Sterling. If you're interested in participating in this workshop-session, please contact Cotton ahead of time, (703) 450-5857. [See page 5 for details.]

Two weekends after that (Jan. 21-22), we return to the Toyota Arena in the York, PA County Fairgrounds, a new and very pleasant arena not all that far away for most of us.

A major event for the year comes early, in February. We have the World's Greatest Hobby Show at the Dulles Expo Center. We have a 50x200-foot space and will be joined by clubs from throughout the East. All new or re-habilitated modules for this show must be certified at Back Shop on February 5.

Of course, there is one major event in January, the **NVNTRAK** Annual Meeting on January 15th, with a snow-date two weeks later (Jan. 29), in case our troublesome Winter continues its icy vexations into January. See page 8 for the complete schedule.

One topic always discussed at the Annual Meeting is the preliminary schedule for the year. Elsewhere in this Call Board you should find the 2006 Planning Calendar, listing most events with confirmed dates. Note that Greenberg Shows has changed its name to the "Great Train Expo," but the venues remain the same: York, Upper Marlboro and Chantilly. Other events may be added to the calendar once their dates are set. If you have a suggestion for a venue, please contact me.

Another topic will be opportunities to assist the club pull off our ambitious schedule. By having many members help with hauling trailers, coordinating set-ups and ensure club property is well-maintained, shows are easier to accomplish and no members become burnt out.

A final topic in the Superintendent's Report will be the two new Recommended Practices (RPs) approved by National **NTRAK**. The RPs recommend that bus wiring be 12 gauge (rather than the current 18 gauge for track busses and 16 gauge for the White Line) and that **Anderson PowerPole** connectors be used on that 12 gauge wire in lieu of **Cinch-Jones** plugs. Other details of the RPs can be found in the National **NTRAK Newsletter**, which all receive since we are a 100% **NTRAK** club.

Some other **NTRAK** clubs are diving into the new wiring headfirst, with wholesale wiring conversions. At the Annual Meeting, we will discuss what, if any, change in current practice they will mean for our club. This will serve as an advisory

opinion to the BOD in considering various options.

So, from where I sit in Zoo Tower, 2006 promises to be a fun year but, also, a very interesting one. As usual, we have a lot of layouts, some very big, some very small. We will build more modules, run more trains, and draw on bigger pizza boxes. We will do more to support our charities. We will continue to see our ideas and efforts develop and ricochet off the rest of our hobby. We, as a club, will continue to grow and improve.

And we start it all off with a layout to improve the spirits of kids stuck in a hospital and with a work session to build module frames, the very first step in creating new modules. Not bad, eh?

Semper Gumby!

A Crystal Anniversary
An Old Curmudgeon

Did you notice the banner on Page 1, that we are starting our 15th year? It is remarkable what we have accomplished since that small group got together on a deck in Reston in 1991.

We attempt things that few other clubs contemplate. Every year, we open our "doors" to the public and put on a show at least 40 times. What makes this more amazing is - there is no layout there when we walk in the door. If you have been outside the ropes at a show, you know that a common question is, "How long is there here?" and "How long did it take to set-up?" While the answers are routine to us, think about what they actually mean.

We come together quickly. We understand what has to be done. We organize ourselves and do it. Whether the event is the monthly *Fairfax Station* show or a convention that serves as a model for others, it is your ability to do these things that have allowed **NVNTRAK** to accomplish all the things it has.

As we move through this anniversary year, the **Call Board** will include items that look back at our history. For the newer folks, these may help explain the inside jokes that you hear. For those who have been around for a while, even back to that deck in Reston, these should trigger some introspection - how did we come together to accomplish the task or event?

For all, hopefully, this introspection will cause us to collectively apply our talents to improve things within the club and the displays that we put on for the public. Our accomplishments as a club are less the results of individual expertise than a collective effort to learn and do what has to be done.

Just think what, if we recapture and apply that spirit from Reston, what we will accomplish in the next 15 years.

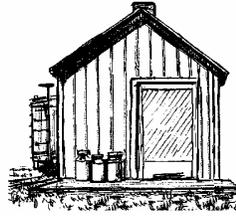


The Hostler's Shack

By Matt Schaefer

HOME LAYOUTS FOR WGH

SHOW - We are rolling on down the line toward Chantilly and the *World's Greatest Hobby* (WGH) show, February 11th. We will have hand-outs to self guide to N scale layouts Saturday evening, Feb. 11th. The fine layouts include **Monroe Stewart's** 40 X 40' *Houch Junction*. Monroe's neighbor will open his layout that "runs like a Swiss watch," making a fine double header. **John Drye's** layout will be up and running on **Bernie Kempinski's** famous bench work and may be with some new **Alkem PRR (N&W)** 7 light position signals! Then, there is our President Brian's layout with a run-by treat for the spectator sitting on his com-mode! The pause that entertains. This feature was premiered at the fabulous **Brendel's** Holiday party. We are grateful to them for the memories.



FLEXIBLE LAYOUT - At Chantilly, we will have a 50 x 200 foot space that can hold maybe 150 modules allowing space for **Nn3** and **T-TRAK** layouts and clinics on the side. Our Super, **John Steitz**, says we usually have 75 modules at Landmark. So, the Chantilly layout will be much bigger. The shape will be similar to our other large layouts with some planned improvements. More details on the layout will be forthcoming after we get more input on the modules coming and on set up times for our space. Set up at Chantilly will be easier than Landmark if we can drive right to the layout and start setting up early Friday. We will have a very flexible set up schedule in case of snow and we plan to close some loops early and start wiring. Some loops will be able to add on modules arriving later Friday and early Saturday. Other clubs will need our help in loading up first for their trip home.

GUEST MODULES - The **Lynchburg Area Modelers Club** has planned to bring 30 running feet of modules including an inside and outside corner. **RANTRAK** is planning to bring their latest state of the art modules to put in the layout. They will have air controlled switches and diverging routes up to *Green* for us to run our grunged up trains on. **BANTRAK** is making plans to bring modules, too. We welcome any configuration including **oNeTrak**, **T-TRAK**, **Nn3**, **2-Trak**, **4T**, etc. I am always anxious to hang out with other club members and kick around new ideas. The manufacturers are also featured at the **WGH** shows. This will be a great meeting of the **NTRAK** clans, not to be missed.

ROOM AND BOARD FEATURES - We have the local boarding house reserved for the road crews at *HI* next door. **Dr. Mark Franke** got us a \$75 rate for those that ask for the "Northern Virginia NT rate". Next door, we can get good grub at *Applebee's* and breakfast at *McDonald's*, just like real hoggers! [And don't forget Anita's!]

WILMORE - Last month, I mentioned steam is being brought back and my experiences hanging out in Wilmore, KY. Back then, the highlight of the day was the streamlined *Royal Palm* flying through to Miami down the **CNO&TP (SRR)** line. The *Royal Palm* was always 2 to 4 hours late waiting at Cincy for

the late **PRR** *Buckeye* connection from Chicago. I appreciate **Dave Davies'** cold job of getting pictures in the snow when trains are running late. See my 1950's picture of the **Southern's** *Royal Palm* flying through Wilmore, KY on a Christmas holiday.

Happy New Year everyone!



Along the Orange and Alexandria

(Continued from page 1)

were instrumental in making the **VRE** *Operation Lifesaver* *Santa Trains* a rousing success. Now in their ninth year of operation, every train was a sellout and were filled with "elves" distributing good holiday cheer, along with our safety message about exercising care around trains and tracks.

So what's on tap for '06? Many, many setups for us. Many opportunities to educate and to enjoy our hobby. Hey, here's an opportunity for a few resolutions, model-railroad-style?

1. **I resolve to spend at least an hour a day on train stuff.** Though it seems ridiculous to have to "push" oneself into hobby-time, anyone who is long on work-time and short on free-time needs to schedule some downtime. Turn off the TV. Work on something, ANYTHING. Make some trees. Build a building. Lay some yard track on the *WVC*. Change out some couplers. Shoot, just about anything qualifies, "just do it."
2. **I resolve to FINISH a module.** Jeez, do I need this resolution to actually materialize! Right now, I have FOUR unfinished modules, which I have been keeping at bay by convincing myself that it is "good" to have some unfinished things, in order to inspire my fellow modelers.
3. **I resolve to do more for our charities.** Luckily, we can all make this resolution come true. All we need do is just attend more **NVNTRAK** setups, as many of our events are benefits for charities such as our monthly setup at **Fairfax Station Railroad Museum**, or our special events like the **Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children's** *Movies Under the Moon*, or the **Bethesda-Chevy Chase** "Rescue Day".

It doesn't take much to get into the spirit of the New Year. Get inspired, and get to work!

See you all at the Annual Meeting!

**View from the Loo:
Train Collectors Association Toy and Train
Show – Kena Temple**

By Steve Jackson

The **T-TRAK Subdivision** of **NVNTRAK** was in attendance at the 4th annual train show at the Kena Temple in Fairfax, VA on Dec 10, 2005. The show is one that the club has not been able to do in the past due to scheduling conflicts. In addition, the show didn't have a great appeal to the club because it is a one-day show with limited hours (9:00 – 2:30) and it is dominated by O-gauge activities. Luckily, one-day short-hour shows are perfect for **T-TRAK**.

We arrived to find that the 3 tables we were supposed to use were actually folding sections of the stage and that they were 4' x 8'. So, implementing our *Semper Gumby* techniques, we were able to rearrange the layout pretty quickly and begin our setup. Since we had not let the weather deter us, the tables would not either. [Diagram on page 6.]

In addition to the change with the tables, we also had a couple of extra modules that pleasantly showed up so we were actually at full capacity on our 3 tables and had a couple of modules in reserve. Based on the number of **T-TRAK** modules that are currently under construction, we estimate that we will need 5 tables by spring 2006 and that doesn't include any closet **T-TRAK**ers. I suspect that our club is rapidly going to become the largest collection of **T-TRAK** in the world.

Janice and **Phil Poole** brought their new modules out for their public debut. They have created a wonderful winter scene that was a huge hit at the show. Also new to the show were **Jim Nickle** and his son, **Joey Lanza**. They brought out two new modules that they have been working on. They feature a city scene including battery-powered lighted buildings. The **Hylands (Ed, Pat, and Chris)**, **Glenn McLain**, **Nick Sklias**, **Jim Altobello**, **Matt Guey-Lee** and the **Jacksons (Ben and I)** also contributed modules to the layout, although Jim stayed only long enough to get his module in place and then ran off to assist **Dave Freshwater** with the **VRE Operation Lifesaver Santa train**. **John Steitz** was there for the whole show but didn't have a module... yet. **Howard Beall** even stopped by to see what the commotion was all about.

We were one of three layouts at the show, the other two being O-gauge and Lego. We had a lot of positive feedback for such a short show, especially one that traditionally focuses on the larger scales. The show coordinators asked us back again for next year and I recommend that you look out for this one. We had lots of kids of all ages that really enjoyed the show. Next year, maybe they will have some N-scale stuff at the vendor tables.

Module Construction Backshop

By Cotton Bowen

Next Sunday, January 8th, 2006, will be the bench-work workshop. It will be held at my home, 401 Drew Court, Sterling, VA.

There are two ways to get here. If coming from the vicinity of Tysons Corner, take Route 7 to Countryside Blvd., in Sterling. (For a reference, Countryside Blvd. is directly across from Dulles Town Center.) Make a right turn on Countryside Blvd., and then turn right at Cromwell Road. Take Cromwell to the end, and at stop sign turn left at Rt. 777. Take the second right on Heather Glen Dr. and then the first left at Primavera Circle. My home is at the top of the hill on the left.

If you are coming in from Route 66, take Route 28 north to Route 7 and turn east toward Tysons Corner. You will arrive at Countryside Blvd., which will then be on your left, about a mile. Proceed as above.

If you need to call - 703-450-5857.

Although the December **Call Board** and web site say the *Backshop* starts at 1:00 pm., that is not correct. [Ed. – *Correct times in the Rail Events Timetable on Page 2.*] Unless you have made other arrangements with me, plan on arriving between 0830-0900 in the morning.

Schedule of events: (Just so you know what to expect)

0900 - Rally participants in the garage/workshop.

0915 - Go to **Home Depot** and buy supplies for each participant. (Lessons learned from the past - we all need to buy uniform building supplies.) Although the **Call Board** and web site say to bring your own, I recommend that you plan on purchasing the materials needed at **Home Depot** when we make our run its only a mile away. Experience from the past is that personally procured materials are not standard, are often warped and do not readily conform to the production line that we will be setting up. Expense - I have not added up the cost, but plan on about \$20 to \$30, depending on what you buy.

1000 - Return to 401 Drew Ct. and set up a production line.

1015 - Production operations begin.

1200 - Call out for lunch or BYOL.

1245 - Continue production.

1500 - We should be about done. Clean up, pack up, and hit the road around this time.

If anyone attending has a power driver, please bring it. We always need more than what I have here.

Hope to see you on Sunday.

Last new member of the year

By Steve Jackson

NVNTRAK ended the year strong with 95 members. The 95th is **George Hack**. George is new to N-scale, although he has a basic HO-scale set that he uses at home during the holiday season. His wife purchased that set for him a few years back since he didn't have one growing up. George met some

of our folks (specifically **Cotton Bowen**) in Rockville and thought that joining a club would be both fun and educational. He hit it on the head.

Please make a point of introducing yourself to George at one of the upcoming meets and be prepared to lend a helping hand as he learns more about N-scale trains and what a great club this is.

**IKEA College Park—
December 3-4, 2005**

The first weekend in December found the club on opposite sides of the Beltway and the Potomac. While the Caboose layout ran at *Fairfax Station*, we made our second annual visit to *IKEA College Park*.

The **Chibbaro's, Nick Sklias, Paul Diley, Howard Beall, and Edd Braithwood** provided the modules to construct a



10x30 layout, just off the cafeteria on the second floor. Now there is a concept -

running trains and eating - definitely favorite **NVNTRAK** activities. And we didn't have to wait for the *Holiday Party* to get a Swedish meatball fix. **John Steitz** split time on both sides of the Beltway/river during the weekend and **Robert Parsells, Philip Cooke** and **Dave Freshwater** also helped run trains and get the layout up and down.



With our spot right at the top of the es-

**VRE Santa Trains—
December 10, 2005**

As mentioned in the President's column, club members and **OLI** presenters again turned out to help make **VRE's Operation Lifesaver Santa Trains** an overwhelming success.

VRE takes two of their normal commuter consists and mates them to make up these trains, with a central car designated as the "*North Pole*". They then run 1 train from Woodbridge to Alexandria and return; 2 trains from Burke Center to Manassas; 3 trains from Fredericksburg to Woodbridge; and 4 trains for Manassas to Burke. How successful? Most seats were sold out within 2 days of going on sale after Thanksgiving and every seat was sold out days before the trains ran on Dec. 10th. Proceeds from the sales go to **Operation Lifesaver**. In addition, the **Marine Corps** collected "*Toys for Tots*" at each station and on the train.

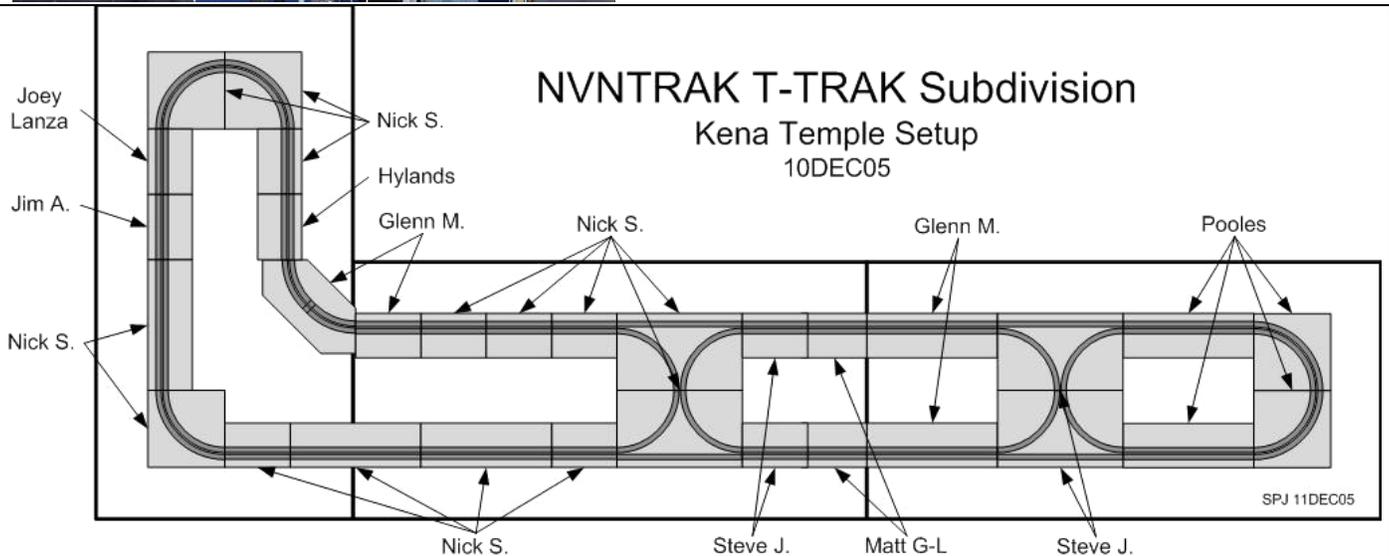
Our members covered all the trains but those from Fredericksburg. Thanks from both **VRE** and the club go to **John Cook**; John Cook's recruited elves, **Kaylynn Cook** (granddaughter) and **Amber Koenig** (Kaylynn's friend); **Brian and Jake Brendel**; and **Bill Rutherford** on the Manassas trains; **Mitch Mitchell, Cliff Enz** and **Dave Davies** on the Burke trains; and **Jim Altobello** and **Dave Freshwater** (Dave also organizes our participation) on the Woodbridge train.

calculator into **IKEA**, we had arriving traffic and those using the cafeteria to keep some member of the public viewing the layout throughout the weekend. While you couldn't buy electric trains at the store, there was a bin of wooden trains between the layout and the store entrance. I am sure that a few *Kidzillas* got a present from there.

Thanks to Paul Diley for arranging our last **NTRAK** event of the year. If you haven't attended this show before, look for it on next year's calendar. It is a fun show for a crowd that doesn't normally see trains.

NVNTRAK T-TRAK Subdivision

**Kena Temple Setup
10DEC05**



SPJ 11DEC05

DECEMBER PHOTO ALBUM

Kena Temple T-TRAK



Holiday Party



Phil Poole loses another gift



L—The Alternate "Grand Prize"; R—Selling those gifts already selected



Photo Credits

Jim Altobello—Rockville; John Steitz—Kena Temple 2-3; Matt Schaefer—SRR at Wilmer, page 6; Dave Freshwater—IKEA; Dave Davies—Holiday party; Mailing Wrapper

NVNTRAK 2006 Preliminary Calendar

Day	Date	Event	Day	Date	Event
Sunday	January 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY	Saturday	May 6	FF Station Train Show (caboose layout only)
Saturday	January 7	T-TRAK at FF Hospital for Children	Sunday	May 7	FF Station Train Show (caboose layout only)
Sunday	January 8	Off-site Backshop at Bowens'			Back Shop - Franconia
Saturday	January 14		Saturday	May 13	Kimberton Meet (Nn3 only)
Sunday	January 15	Annual Meeting	Sunday	May 14	Kimberton Meet (Nn3 only)
Saturday	January 21	York Great Train Expo Show	Saturday	May 20	MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
Sunday	January 22	York Great Train Expo Show	Sunday	May 21	MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
Saturday	January 28	Big Railroad Hobby Show - Amherst, MA			
Sunday	January 29	Big Railroad Hobby Show - Amherst, MA [Snow date for Annual Meeting]	Saturday	May 27	Great Scale Model Train Show - Timonium (no layouts)
			Sunday	May 28	Great Scale Model Train Show - Timonium (no layouts)
Saturday	February 4	Great Scale Model Train Show - Timonium (Nn3 layout)	Saturday	June 3	INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND
Sunday	February 5	Great Scale Model Train Show - Timonium (Nn3 layout)	Sunday	June 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND
		Back Shop			Back Shop
Saturday	February 11	WGH - Chantilly	Saturday	June 10	Manassas Train Rec
Sunday	February 12	WGH - Chantilly	Sunday	June 11	Manassas Train Rec
Saturday	February 18		Saturday	June 17	Alexandria Waterfront Festival
Sunday	February 19		Sunday	June 18	Alexandria Waterfront Festival
		FF Station			FF Station
Saturday	February 25	Upper Marlboro Great Train Expo Show			
Sunday	February 26	Upper Marlboro Great Train Expo Show			
Saturday	March 4	Lorton PTA Health and Safety Fair			
Sunday	March 5	Back Shop			
Saturday	March 11	"- Potomac Div. Mini Con - Laurel, MD"			
Sunday	March 12				
Thursday	March 16	Hawk's Nest, W.VA. Layout			
Friday	March 17	Hawk's Nest, W.VA. Layout			
Saturday	March 18	Hawk's Nest, W.VA. Layout			
		- Troop 964 Train Show - Prince William			
Sunday	March 19	- Troop 964 Train Show - Prince William			
		FF Station			
Saturday	March 25				
Sunday	March 26				
Saturday	April 1	Great Scale Model Train Show - Timonium			
Sunday	April 2	Great Scale Model Train Show - Timonium			
		Back Shop			
Saturday	April 8				
Sunday	April 9				
Saturday	April 15	EASTER SUNDAY			
Sunday	April 16	FF Station			
Saturday	April 22				
Sunday	April 23				
Saturday	April 29				
Sunday	April 30				

(Continued on page 9)



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 01/01/06 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 2006, 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, P.O. Box 523051, Springfield, VA 22152

Please renew my membership. My \$45 annual dues are enclosed. < OR > \$20 contribution - newsletter only

Name _____

Name you want on your name tag _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-mail Address _____ OK to publish to members? YES NO

Evening Phone _____ OK to publish to members? YES NO

Daytime Phone _____ OK to publish to members? YES NO

Cell Phone _____ OK to publish to members? YES NO

NVNTRAK 2006 Preliminary Calendar

(Continued from page 8)

Day	Date	Event
Saturday	September 9	
Sunday	September 10	
Saturday	September 16	FF Station
Sunday	September 17	National Burn Camp, Arlington?
Saturday	September 23	
Sunday	September 24	
Saturday	September 30	Back Shop
Sunday	October 1	
Saturday	October 7, 2006	B-CC Rescue Squad
Sunday	October 8, 2006	
Saturday	October 14	Great Scale Model Train Show - Timonium
Sunday	October 15	Great Scale Model Train Show - Timonium
Saturday	October 21	FF Station
Sunday	October 22	
Saturday	October 28	
Sunday	October 29	
Saturday	November 4	Damascus Railroad Day
Sunday	November 5	Back Shop
Saturday	November 11	Rockville Lion's Club
Sunday	November 12	Rockville Lion's Club
Saturday	November 18	Great Train Expo Chantilly
Sunday	November 19	Great Train Expo Chantilly
Saturday	November 25	FF Station
Sunday	November 26	THANKSGIVING
Saturday	December 2	THANKSGIVING
Sunday	December 3	IKEA Layout
Saturday	December 9	FF Station Train Show (caboose layout only)
Sunday	December 10	IKEA Layout
Saturday	December 16	FF Station Train Show (caboose layout only)
Sunday	December 17	Kena Temple Train Show (T-TRAK only)
Saturday	December 23	Holiday Party
Sunday	December 24	
Saturday	December 30	CHRISTMAS
Sunday	December 31	CHRISTMAS
		NEW YEAR'S
		NEW YEAR'S



Annual Meeting Notice



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

2006 General Membership Meeting

Sunday, January 15, 2006; 1:00-6:00 pm
Business Meeting begins at 3:00 pm
Franconia Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah St, Alexandria, VA 22310

Snow day: January 29th, 2006.

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 12:00 pm. The “live” auction will begin at 1:30 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% seller’s 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!

Annual Meeting—3:00 pm

President’s Report/2005 in Review – Brian Brendel

Superintendent’s Report – John Steitz

Treasurer’s Report – Steve Jackson

New Business – Brian Brendel

Member Forum – Brian Brendel

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.

Nominations for the BOD – Brian Brendel

Four positions on the Board of Directors are to be elected. Marc Sisk is withdrawing from the Board due to a pending move. Matt Guey-Lee has decide not to seek a second term.

Running for reelection:
Brian Brendel
John Steitz

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

Jim Anderson
Dave Freshwater
Jeff Peck

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

Election of the Board of Directors – Members (Emeriti tallies the votes)

Announcement of the new board members - Emeriti

Selection of NVNTRAK Officers for 2006/short BOD meeting – New BOD (behind closed doors)

Announcement of NVNTRAK BOD for 2006 – New President

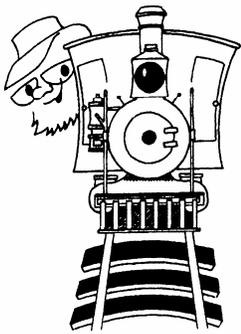
Recognition of Departing BOD members/others – New President/Dave Freshwater

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 2006 dues can vote and actively participate in the meeting. Guests are welcome and may observe.

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.



Granddad's Hobby Shop.

We have trains - we have lots of trains.

N scale of course!!

But also HO, O, G, S and Z scales
and the requisite tools and supplies to support them.

For those with yet broader interests, we stock ships, planes, automobiles,
military, rockets and figures.

Mon - Fri: 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Sat and Sun: 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

5260-A Port Royal Road Springfield (703) 426-0700

Visit our website: granddadshobbyshop.com or EMail at: granddads@starpower.net

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 2005 Officers:

President: Brian Brendel, 703.815.2601

<nvntrak@yahoo.com>

Secretary: Marc Sisk, (703) 280-5290

<NPMRFAN@aol.com>

Treasurer: Steve Jackson, (703) 323-5985

<sjackson@nvntrak.org>

Superintendent: John Steitz, (703) 371-5171

<steitzj@georgetown.edu >

Directors-at-Large

Matt Guey-Lee, (703) 256-3623 <matthew.gueylee@cox.net>

Ann Prentice, (703) 866-3036 <prentice@comcor.net>

Nick Sklias, (410) 290-6637 <nicksklias@hotmail.com>

NVNTRAK E-mail Lists

NVNTRAK maintains a list server in conjunction with the club web site. A message addressed to <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>.

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.

THE CALL BOARD

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

All submissions must contain clear text identification of the author to be accepted for publication. **Articles and other submissions for the February 2006 issue MUST be received by January 25, 2006.**

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

January 2006

NV
NORTHERN
VIRGINIA **NTRAK**

P.O. Box 523051
Springfield, VA
22152

Place
Postage
Here



*Club Holiday Party
Story—page 1; More Photos—page 7*