

Bill Palmer  
Dudley Ross  
November 2006

# ALL BOARD



A NTRAK CLUB

Celebrating Our 15th Year!

December

Volume XV

Number 12



### Damascus Railroad Day

By Mat Chibbaro

Stanchions? Who needs stanchions? With the B-CC experience under our belts, we were able to tackle this stanchion-less setup with more confidence. Actually, for some reason, the little spectators that we see at Damascus seem to be much better behaved than those at Bethesda. There was some discussion as to the possible reasons, which I will omit here.

Members bringing modules were **Janice & Phil Poole, Howard Beall, Nick Sklias**, and myself. **Dave Freshwater** handled trailer and **OLI** duties in addition to coordinating this layout. Thanks to the straightforward (translation: non-DCC) approach to this small oval layout, it was nice to be set up and running trains a half hour before show opening time. **Jeff & Christian Peck** helped all day long but could not contribute modules due to damage suffered from a water leak.

We shared space in our room with a Lego layout and three separate large scale layouts, all of which had smoking engines running all day long. The smoke built up to the point where the public complained to the sponsors, who asked the large scalers to chill with the smoke. Also, the two retired firefighters among us pooled our ventilation experience to strategically place the single fan we had available. All of these efforts were too little, too late, prompting the sponsor to tell us that she would prohibit smoke next year. None of us will miss it I am sure.

For those who have never been to this setup, it is in a multi-room community center/library. Many small layouts of various scales and themes share space in three rooms. The sponsor gives us coupons for lunch, which is served in the community center cafeteria. They also take care of us in the morning with coffee and snacks. Live country music, often with a train theme, is provided in the center court. Yes, this setup is unlike any others the club does. At least 1,500 people attended the event. Many return every year to see our trains.

We had a lot of fun, especially those members who kept reminding me that Stephanie was absent due to her first date (Arrrrrrggggg.....!!)

### Along the Orange and Alexandria

Brian Brendel, President

*"They just don't make 'em like they used to..."*

I made the huge mistake of trying to clean off my layout the other day, in order to do some work on it.

Now, this is usually a good thing, clearing the decks for action. How else are we going to make any progress, without having the layout cleared? However, when one is cleaning up cars and the odd old engine or two or six that were out on the layout ostensibly for "testing", and one suddenly remembers that there is a mate to the engine in your hand *somewhere*, maybe "in the garage", and "wouldn't it be cool to see those two run together?"... well, that causes all tidying to come to a screeching halt. "I gotta find that engine!" is your sudden battle cry.

Of course, you'd think I would be disciplined

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Members—See the Special Inserts for the Holiday Party in December, the General Membership Meeting in January and your Membership Renewal — If your Mailing label has a date Highlighted in Yellow it is time to renew.



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

**BOLDED dates indicate a set-up**

**[No Back Shop in the month of December.]**

**Saturday - Sunday, Dec. 2-3, 2006: Holiday Train Layout**, IKEA College Park, 10100 Baltimore Ave., College Park, MD 20740 (301)-345-6552 Coordinator: Edd Braithwood (703) 966-6472 Trailer: NVX4 [Trailer Hauler still needed.] Set-up: Friday (12/1): 2100 -2300 Hrs.; Saturday: 0700-0900 Hrs. Clamp-down: Saturday, 0800 Hrs. Show Hours: Sat. 0900-2100 Hrs., Sun. 1000-2000 Hrs. Layout Type: 30' X 10' oval. Please check with Edd or Paul Diley about the location of the layout within the IKEA store. We may be downstairs near the checkout registers this year.

**Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2-3, 2006 Holiday Model Train Show [Caboose Layout Only]** Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, P.O. Box 7, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 (703) 425-9225 Coordinator: John Steitz (703) 371-5171, [steitzj@georgetown.edu](mailto:steitzj@georgetown.edu). No Trailer. Show Hrs 1000-1700 St and 1200-1600 Sun. No Ntrak Layout, operate Caboose Layout only. Park on street or in overflow lot across the street.

**Sunday, Dec. 3, 2006: 1000-1400 Hrs. : Brambleton Community Holiday Party**, Ahrens Institute, 22377 Belmont Ridge Rd, Ashburn, VA 20148. Coordinator: John Steitz (703) 371-5171, [steitzj@georgetown.edu](mailto:steitzj@georgetown.edu). Trailer: NVX3 [J. Steitz, hauling] Set-up: Sunday 0800-1000 Hrs.; Clamp-down 0900 Hrs. Small NTRAK layout for community holiday celebration. New venue.

**Friday, - Saturday, Dec. 8-9, 2006: South Columbia Baptist Church Christmas Show [T-TRAK only]** South Columbia Baptist Church, 8814 Guilford Rd., Columbia, MD 21046. Coordinator: Nick Sklias (301) 325-8293 Set-up: Friday, 1800-1900 Hrs. Click-together: 1830 Hrs. Display Friday evening, 1900-2100 Hrs, Saturday, 1500-2130 Hrs. T-TRAK layout only. No trailer. It would be good for one or two members to help out Nick at this show.

**Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006 0900-1430 Hrs.: Train Collectors Association Toy and Train Show [T-TRAK only]** Kena Temple, 9001 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, VA Coordinator: Steve Jackson (703) 323-5985 Set-up: 0700- 0900 Hrs. Click-together: 0830 Hrs. T-TRAK layout only. No trailer.

**Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006: VRE Operation Lifesaver Santa Trains [Non-module event].** Please contact Dave Freshwater, (301) 717-6501 for more information. Certified OLI presenters are encouraged to participate.

**Sunday, Dec. 17, 2006 1330-1830 Hrs.:** NVNTRAK Holiday Party Location: Marge and Jim Anderson's Home, 9599 Tay Creek Dr., Bristow, VA 703-368-1440. More

information and directions elsewhere in this *Call Board*. Club members and their immediate families are invited. Small NTRAK and T-TRAK layouts at the holiday party – 6 member-owned NTRAK POFFS and 10-12 member-owned T-TRAK modules are needed. NTRAK modules will be kept set-up at the Andersons' Dec. 17-30, and then taken to Chantilly for GTE Show, Dec. 30-31. Please contact Jim, or John Steitz (703) 371-5171, for more information about the layouts.

**[No 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Fairfax Station Layout in December.]**

**Saturday - Sunday, Dec. 30-31, 2006: Great Train Expo (Greenberg) Train Show** Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA Coordinator: John Steitz 703-371-5171 [steitzj@georgetown.edu](mailto:steitzj@georgetown.edu) Trailers: NVX3, NVX4 and junctions from NVX1. Set-up: Fri.: 1200-2000 Hrs.; Sat.: 0700-1000 Hrs. Clamp-down: Sat. 0900 Hrs. Show Hours: Sat. and Sun.: 1000-1600 Hrs. Drive-in unloading Friday only. Layout type: Large 2-oval layout with DCC and multiple Aristo blocks.

**Sunday, January 7, 2007 0830-1700 Hrs.:** "Off-Site Back Shop" at Cotton and Judith Bowen's, 401 Drew Court, Sterling, VA [Directions in the January Call Board.] Coordinator: Cotton Bowen (703) 450-5857 No Trailer. Projects: Frame Building for New Modules - bring your plans, and have at it! Crew will buy materials in the AM, and build frames the rest of the day. Please contact Cotton in advance if you want to build a frame.

**Saturday - Sunday, Jan. 13-14, 2007: Road Trip – Great Train Expo Show (formerly Greenberg Show)** Toyota Arena, York Expo Center, 334 Carlisle Avenue York, PA 17404 (717) 848-2596 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 21, 2007 1300-1800 Hrs.:** NVNTRAK Annual Meeting Fairfax (Franconia) Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria VA 22310; (703) 971-5858 Coordinator: Brian Brendel, President, NVNTRAK 1300 Hrs.: Live and Silent Auctions 1500 Hrs.: NVNTRAK Annual Meeting and Election of Directors 1700 Hrs.: Silent Auction Closes 1700 Hrs.: First Meeting of New Board of Directors Non Module Event For more details, please see the insert in the December and January issues of The Call Board

**[No 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Fairfax Station Layout in January.]**

**Sunday, January 28, 2007 1300-1800 Hrs.:** Snow date (if needed) for NVNTRAK Annual Meeting Fairfax (Franconia) Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alex-

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## View from Zoo Tower

John Steitz, Superintendent

Over the past few years I've noticed a steady increase in the number of community organizations which seek out model train displays for their celebrations during the holiday season. This year, the club had to turn down two requests from distant parts of our suburbs, because we already had (and still have) a very busy month of December to wind down 2006.

The first weekend in December features a triple-header: a two-day NTRAK layout at the **College Park Ikea**, two-days of running the caboose layout for the **Fairfax Station Holiday Train Show**, and a Sunday-only NTRAK layout for a holiday celebration of the **Brambleton Community** in Ashburn, VA.

The **IKEA** show is one of only two layouts we do in P.G. County all year (the other is **Greenberg** Upper Marlboro). That show is the equivalent of a mall show, due to the number of people who come to that store. But unlike a conventional mall, we get into this venue during the busy Christmas season, where our club (and our hobby) is exposed to hundreds or thousands of people who weren't looking for it – the same exposure we get at mall shows. This year, we may be setting up on the main level of the store, near the checkout registers – please touch base with **Edd** or **Paul** at set-up to be sure. The layout should be about the same size as previous years – unless **Edd's** yard has grown since I last saw it. <g>

That same weekend, we operate our **Fairfax Station** caboose layout during the Station's annual **Holiday Train Show**. Modular groups from other scales will set-up inside a very crowded station, and the Garden Railroaders will loop track outside \*around\* the station. [They claim to have maintenance of way equipment to handle any snowfall.] Antique cars will park outside, and supposedly, a gentleman in Red from the terminus of the Polar Express will be holding court on a sleigh somewhere near the caboose. The **Holiday Train Show** is an important fundraiser for **Fairfax Station**, one of the club's adopted charities. For our part, we need to keep trains running on the caboose layout all day Saturday and Sunday. Four-axle power and short-wheelbase rolling stock are recommended. **Ann and Matthew Prentice** are taking the lead in organizing engineers for the caboose layout, so if you can spare an hour or two for this worthy cause, please contact **Ann** by Dec. 1. Thank you!

And on Sunday morning, Dec. 3, I'm towing a trailer out to the **Ahrens Center** in Ashburn, a new venue for us. It will be a small NTRAK layout, but I could still use a few members to give a hand – especially those who live in our western-most suburbs. After the Call Board goes to press, I will be making a site visit to check out the logistics. If you're interested in contributing a module, or in helping with set-up or tear-down, please contact me the week after Thanksgiving. Much obliged.

The second weekend in December features a **T-TRAK double-header**, and the **OLI Santa Trains**.

On the **Santa Trains**, our members serve as "elves" assisting Santa on several different trains, from both Fredericksburg and Manassas. All OLI presenters are encouraged to participate, and please contact **Dave Freshwater** (our Club OLI coordinator) for all the details. This is a chance to help out kids during the holiday season, and to try to keep them safe. What's better than that?

At the same time, **Nick Sklias** will be setting up a T-TRAK layout at the **South Columbia Baptist Church** for that church's Christmas Fair. Nick has plenty of T-TRAK modules (they breed when left alone in the dark in his trailer <g>), but he really could use a hand setting up the layout and keeping it running on Friday evening, and all day Saturday. This is another new venue for us, and a great exposure to folks in **Howard County**.

At the very same time, **Steve Jackson** and other T-TRAKers will be clear on the other side of the DC suburbs at the *Train Collectors Association Toy and Train Show* at the Kena Temple Hall on Route 50 in Fairfax, just outside the Beltway. This is our second appearance at this fundraiser for children's charities. To participate, please contact **Steve Jackson** (703-323-5985, sjackson@nvntrak.org). If you wonder what all the T-TRAK fuss is about, come out to one of the two T-TRAK layouts that weekend, and see what a great way T-TRAK is for getting N Scale and our club into the public eye.

The **NVNTRAK Annual Holiday Party** on December 17 is at a new venue this year, the new home of **Marge and Jim Anderson** in Bristow, VA (just the other side of Manassas). It will have all the good food, fun and camaraderie of prior editions, including the infamous gift exchange. <g> But one new twist, is that we will be using NTRAK and T-TRAK modules in the basement to provide the operating model trains that are a staple of each club holiday party.

The **T-TRAK layout** will be as most T-TRAK layouts are – a simple one day click-together, where all the modules go home at the end of the evening.

But the **NTRAK layout** will be a bit more unusual. Jim plans to combine his own modules, with the contents of one of the trailers, and with up to six member-owned POFFs, to form a layout roughly the size of a thin Fairfax Station layout. But that layout will remain in the basement Dec. 17 through 29, so Jim can use it to test and refine some modules he is working on. Jim promises to get the trailer contents, and all the member-owned POFFs,

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andria VA 22310; (703) 971-5858

Coordinator: Brian Brendel, President, NVNTRAK

**Saturday - Sunday, February 3-4, 2007: Great Scale Model Train Show** [Nn3 layout, only], The Cow Palace, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD 21094 (410) 252 0200 Coordinator: Noll Horan (703) 426-0700. Trailer: None. Show Hours: Sat. 0900 1600 Hrs.; Sun. 1000 1600 Hrs. Set up: Fri. 2/2/07 1500 2000 Hrs., Sat. 2/3/07 0700 0900 Hrs., Clamp down: Sat. 0730 Hrs. Wear NVNTRAK ID. Layout Type: Nn3 layout only

**Sunday, February 4, 2007, 1300-1700 Hrs.: February Back Shop.** Fairfax (Franconia) Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria VA 22310; (703) 971-5858. Contact: John Steitz (703) 371-5171, [steitzj@georgetown.edu](mailto:steitzj@georgetown.edu) Trailer: N/A Projects: 1) Track-laying on new modules; 2) Power-pole conversions on modules; 3) Certification of new modules for Spring Shows.

**Sunday, Feb. 18, 2007, 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 (703) 371-5171, [steitzj@georgetown.edu](mailto:steitzj@georgetown.edu) 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. 24 25, 2007: Great Train Expo Show (formerly Greenberg Train Show)** Prince George's Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro, MD Trailer: NVX3 [Coordinator and Trailer Hauler still needed.] Show Hours: Sat. and Sun.: 1000 1600 Hrs. Set up: Fri. 2/23/07: 1500 1930 Hrs.; Sat. 2/24/07: 0730 1000 Hrs. Clamp down: Sat. 2/25/06: 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, DCC on one line, OLI(?), Company Store.

**NVNTRAK mourns the loss of Bill Palmer, a good friend and long time member of our club and Dudley Ross a good friend of NVNTRAK and the C&O. May their memory be for a blessing.**

(Continued from page 3) *View from the Zoo Tower*

out to **Chantilly for the GTE Show** the weekend of Dec. 30-31, where they will be reunited with their owners.

I, for one, will not be using Portage those two weeks, so I'll be leaving it at the Andersons'. If you have a POFF you were thinking of using at Chantilly, and you'd be willing to bring it out early to the Holiday Party, please contact Jim and let him know. It's a slightly unusually arrangement, but then again, our club motto is "Semper Gumby."

But the reason I'm willing to part with Portage for those two weeks, is that we have nothing on the calendar between the Holiday Party and the Chantilly Show. Please enjoy the break with your friends and family. The pace of the holiday season is why we also skip the 1<sup>st</sup>-Sunday Backshop, and the Third-Sunday Fairfax Station layout, in the Month of December.

The **GTE (nee Greenberg) Show** that has been in November the past two years, is now back in its original slot on the weekend between Christmas and New Year's. But otherwise, the arrangement is the same as at prior Greenberg/GTE shows. We have a combined 80' x 20' space for a large NTRAK layout, plus a T-TRAK layout. On the NTRAK side, we will have at least two ovals connected by junctions, and a Red Line powered by the new DCC box with **Howard** recently built for the club. If you want your module in the Chantilly layout, please let me know before Christmas. Thank you!

The current thinking is we will tow all three club trailers to Chantilly that Friday (12/29), since we'll need all club Aristo throttles, all of the club corners, all of the skirting, ropes and stanchions, and at least two junctions out of NVX1 (the old, large trailer) for that NTRAK layout. But during tear-down on Sunday, while we have all three trailers side by side inside the hall (and out of the elements), we can do a thorough cross-loading and inventory of contents in those trailers. So as we head into 2007, we'll be ready for even more layouts in the new year.

And shortly into that new year, we return to **York, PA**, followed by our **Annual Meeting**, resumption of **Back Shops**, and in February, a return to **Fairfax Station** and to the **P.G. Equestrian Center** in Upper Marlboro.

But before all that, I wish everyone in the club a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukah, or a Blessed Day in any other faith or cultural tradition, and to all, a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year! It has been a good year for NVNTRAK, and there's more and better on the horizon.

Semper Gumby!

## The Hostler's Shack

By Matt Schaefer



DUDLEY ROSS- We have been saddened by the passing of Dudley, one of our C&O crew. Last year Dud had trouble with his vocal cords and had several operations. This year a tumor developed on his neck that got out of control. Dud and I lived and ran Lionel stuff in Ft. Thomas, KY that was a streetcar ride from Cincinnati. See our picture taken in late '40s. His grandfather was a superintendent on the L&N and had his own business car. In my basement I had a long dog-bone layout and one day we decided to imitate the 600 mile run from Cincinnati to DC counting each lap as one mile. Well my steam engine burned out before we got to change engines in Hinton but with Dudley's engines we finally made the 600 miles. Dudley loved to tell that story about our 'operations'.



B&O LAYOUT- Every Christmas we visited the O Gage B&O layout downtown. I had always been impressed by this large three track oval in the Ntrak style in snow scenes and with B&O color position signals that separated the trains. I always thought automatic block signals should be on our Ntrak layouts and maybe they will someday ... even if 50 years later. In 1949 my father was transferred to the C&O offices in Richmond, VA. Dud rode the Gorge trains 1 & 2 over for a visit but that was the last I saw of him. Forty years later Dud tracked me down through the C&OHS and surprise, we had both gone into N gauge.

GET TOGETHERS - Dud and wife Carolyn lived in Montgomery, AL and we had many reunions at our Hawks Nest conventions, our '94 Running Trains Convention and also in Cincinnati to revisit the B&O layout. Together we chased trains in WV and hung out at Allegheny Tunnel. See picture of railfans at Allegheny. Dud ranked with the best of the modelers and was an enthusiastic train buff.



AOE - In 1999 he called me and said he and Carolyn had reserved a bed-

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enough to finish what I was doing before I put my efforts elsewhere. Nahhh! Not me. "I gotta find that engine!"

So away to the garage, I flew like a flash, tore open the, uh, door. And threw up...hey, wait a minute. This wasn't the Night Before Christmas! This was two weeks before Thanksgiving! Okay, so I went to the garage, and waded through all the NVNTRAK stuff that is out there (stuff for the auction next month, Aristos waiting to get sent out for repair, boxes of shirts and hats, wood, Styrofoam, tools.) And yes, I practically did get sick, because I realized that I'd have to rent a bulldozer and clean the garage soon too. But *first*, "I gotta find that engine!"

So I started digging. And digging some more. Trying to stay on track. Trying to not be lured by some other model railroad goody that I had bought eons ago, that I suddenly had rediscovered. Trying to find... "that engine!"

After an hour of hard searching, and after rejecting the idea of having my friends on the Urban Search and Rescue Team come over and hold a practice exercise in the debris pile that used to be my garage...SUCCESS!! I found that engine!

Now, I won't say what kind it was, or how I should have known better...but I think you already know what happened. I put it on the track, and *viola!* That thing was stone dead. A rock with wheels would move further. Then I remembered what had happened years ago: I bought one. Ran great. Then another. And a third, on super sale. But only one ran. But darn it, they were so cool; someday, I was going to fix them. Riiiiight.....

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## View from the Loo: T-TRAK Update

Steve Jackson

**Errata:** In my **T-TRAK Update** article in the November Callboard, I talked about the mammoth layout that the T-TRAK Division assembled at the October **Great Scale Model Train Show**. It has been brought to my attention that I neglected to include **Nick Sklias** in my list of module providers for the show. Anyone who has been to one of our shows and/or seen Nick's trailer recently knows that no "mammoth" T-TRAK layout could be constructed without heavy contributions by Nick. He provided every module that he owns and basically one of the 4 loops that were there. Nick, I am sorry for the oversight.

Also, I stated in the article that the T-TRAK crowd would be meeting at the December Backshop when in reality there

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**Northern Virginia NTRAK**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Oct 17, 2006

The **BOD** meeting was convened at 8.00 pm at the **Prentice** home. Five board members **Jim Anderson, John Steitz, Dave Freshwater, Ann Prentice** and **Nick Sklias** were present along with **Matt Prentice**. Secretary **Jim Anderson** brought the meeting to order. **Brian Brendel** and **Steve Jackson** were on vacation.

**Jim** said he had a donated module and a donated mini layout which needs scenery. **Jim** is prepared to buy the module. The layout, if not bought at annual meeting, might make a nice small layout for Children's Hospital visits.

**Nick Sklias** noted T-TRAK is doing the **So Columbia Baptist Church (12/9)** and potentially would participate in **Fairfax Station**. At **Timonium (10/14-15)**, the T-TRAK layout was one of the largest the club has assembled with **Nick Sklias, Steve Jackson, Jim Nickles, Phil** and **Jan Poole, Glenn McLean** and **Ed Hyland** offering modules. **Nick** received a 3 car Micro-train set which will be added to the annual meeting auction. **Ann Prentice**, as our rep to **Fairfax Station Board**, noted the need to work the **Fairfax Station Holiday Show weekend (12/2-3)** and given the small space available we could man the caboose and/or add a T-TRAK in the caboose rear section. BOD discussion noted the challenge of monitoring kids and others in the narrow space in the caboose rear section and the N-scale setup up front at the same time and declined to add a T-TRAK there for this weekend.

**John Steitz** presented the Superintendents report. The **Oct Backshop (10/1)** focused on scenery and certification of modules. **John** indicated the need to address three general issues, 1) aux wheels for trailers need to be installed; 2) how do we handle request of members to pay for PP installation; and 3) potential donation of a 3 x 7 ft diorama. **BOD** discussed the diorama but could not envision how to add a three NTRAK rail system to the hotel diorama and declined. The **BOD** said we would offer PP supplies to members for their module but any actual assembly is between willing members. The trailers will be hauled to **Prentice's** house and **Matt Prentice** and **John** will do a sample install of the aux wheels to asses the difficulty. **John** reviewed the calendar (covered elsewhere in Callboard) and noted the season which was somewhat sparse has been filling up quickly with opportunities. BOD discussed the **Brambleton Community Assoc** request and given its brief need and train emphasis, agreed to support it provided there were no unusual insurance requirements. Our next big show is the **Great Train Expo** at **Dulles Expo** immediately after Christmas on Dec 30/31.

**Dave Freshwater** noted the loss of **Bill Baldwin** made the **Operation Lifesaver** news. Work is con-

tinuing on 2008 convention in Louisville and the reports suggest they have used our lessons to their advantage.

The BOD meeting adjourned at 930 PM.

Respectfully submitted, **Jim Anderson NVNTRAK**

Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting  
Nov 21, 2006

The **BOD** meeting was convened at 8.00 pm at the **Prentice** home. Six board members, **Jim Anderson, John Steitz, Nick Sklias, Ann Prentice, Dave Freshwater** and **Brian Brendel** were present along with **Matt Prentice** and **Dave Davies**. Secretary **Jim Anderson** brought the meeting to order. **Brian Brendel** joined the meeting in progress and **Steve Jackson** had family commitments.

**Jim** reviewed plans for the **Holiday Party on Sunday Dec 17 (130 - 7pm)** at the **Andersons**. Directions to **Andersons** are found in **December Callboard**. There is space to assemble a **Fairfax Station** size layout, 6-8 POFFs. **Jim** asked the BOD for use of **NVX3** from Dec 15 to 28 and he will trailer it to **Dulles Expo** on the 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> for GTE setup. **Jim** and **NVX3** have the first 4 POFFs for the layout. Others wanting their POFFs) at party (and for 11 days over Christmas) should contact **Jim**. Setup is Saturday morning Dec 16. **T-TRAKers** can bring their modules Sat or to the party and two 3 x 6 tables are available for their layout. **Jim** noted the club will rent chairs and is providing food and beverages, as in the past. **Jim** and **Glenn McLain** checked Power pole supplies at the **Dec Backshop**. The club has wire and suitcase connectors but we are particularly low on the colored covers, and the BOD agreed to order more.

**John Steitz** reviewed the coming schedule. On Dec 2-3, we have the **Fairfax Station** caboose which **Ann Prentice** is coordinating), and **IKEA** was added (**Edd Braithwood, Paul Dilley, Nick Sklias** and others will set up a number of yards in the layout). **Brambleton Community Association** is small oval using the other trailer. (**John** is coordinating). Dec 9-10 has two **T-TRAK** layouts, with **Nick** doing a one-man show at **So Columbia Baptist Church**. Dec 16-17 is party setup and Party. Dec 29-30 is **Great Train Expo at Dulles Expo Center** with a 20 x 80ft space for NTRAK and T-TRAK. As of the BOD meeting, **John** had not been told if it's one space or two separate areas. Jan 7<sup>th</sup> is off-site Backshop at **Cotton Bowens**. Jan 13-14 is **GTE** at **York PA** and **Edd Braithwood** will coordinate. Jan 21 is **Annual Meeting at Franconia Firehouse**. **John** will contact **Noll Horan** to determine the **Nm3** groups' plans now that **Mark Sisk** has moved. **John** demonstrated the new DCC control station build by **Howard Beale** as a second unit in addition to the DCC yellow box. **Howard** included the electronic components needed for the station. The station's construction has the meticulous details typical of **Howard's** past work and the BOD expressed its deep gratitude for his efforts. **Steve Jackson** will reimburse **Howard**.

**Ann Prentice**, as the BOD member on the **Fairfax Sta-**

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will be no December Backshop, so our next T-TRAK get-together will be at the Feb Backshop... unless there isn't one then either and I will owe the club another update... man I really need more [or is it less] coffee!

The month of December will feature 2 layouts on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, and will also have a setup at the Chantilly show on Dec 30-31. Check out the calendar of events in the front of this issue for the specifics.

The December shows will be conveniently timed for **Paul O'Hegy** and **Matthew Reddell** since both of them got new T-TRAK modules certified this month. We hope they have a chance to get some scenery on their new modules before the shows so they can come have some fun at the December shows too!

The club has a T-TRAK-specific mailing list. If you want to send a message to all of the T-TRAKers, you can send it to [trak@nvnttrak.org](mailto:trak@nvnttrak.org). If you are club member, but not on this list and would like to be, send a note to the list and we will get you on. Finally, if you are interested in seeing T-TRAK, come out to any even-month Backshop (and the occasional odd-month Backshop), or watch the schedule for one of the T-TRAK shows. If you want to set up at one of the shows, then come out to a Backshop to get your module checked out and then come to a setup. The more the merrier!

### Orphanage is Found! By Jim Anderson.

Our **Back shop** on November 5th was very successful. A limited number of members gathered on Sunday afternoon at **Franconia Fire Station** while two club layouts at shows the same weekend in Maryland were also drawing other members to support their operation. The Back shop was intended to do some landscape repairs on the NVX4 trailer modules. **John Steitz, Howard Beall, Phil and Jan Poole, JB Weilepp, Paul O'Hegy, Jim Nickle, Jim Anderson, and Glenn McLain** were a few of the hardy soles. Later **Brian Brendel** and **Steve Jackson** showed up. The modules were setup in a small oval and John brought in a large stash of paint and scenery supplies. But, he still needed to forage into Springfield for more paint and glue. Members started the painting but noted that Orphan Corner was missing the Orphanage. Soon thereafter, our exalted President arrived at the Firehouse and immediately pointed to the cardboard box containing the Orphanage sitting on the module rack. Now how did he know that? Modules were painted and scenery touch up was completed. Howard Beall had been commissioned by the BOD to build another DCC control box for the other trailer when we need two. His creation is super and contains the typical details (fancy hinge points, inserts, extensions, etc) for which Howard is well known. It will serve the club well. Glenn McLain and Jim Anderson downloaded

### ROCKVILLE LIONS CLUB

By Dale C. Rinker

In 1991, the **Rockville Lions Club** sponsored a train show at the **Rockville Senior Citizens Center**. Northern Virginia Ntrak participated in that show as its first public venue. How appropriate is it that on "Veterans Day" 2006 NVNtrak came back to the same site for the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our first public appearance. I don't know how many members participated in the 1991 show, but in 2006, almost 20 members showed up with modules, to run trains, provide OLI information and assist with set-up and/or tear down the layout. Not to mention that at 42 by 14 feet, it was one of the largest layouts we have had at that venue.

The Senior Citizens Center is a great venue and the show is a great opportunity for our club to give something back to the community since it is a fund raising event for the Lions Club. No dealers, just clubs of all sizes and scales running trains for the public to see and enjoy.

A special thanks to everyone who came to help with set up and/or take down, many of whom did get to run a train or two. **Ed, Chris and Pat Hyland, Jim Altobello, John Steitz, Steve Jackson, Howard Beal, Brian and Jake Brendel, Nick Sklias, Phil and Jan Poole and Dave Freshwater**. While any help is greatly appreciated, it became all the more important on Sunday evening when the temperature dropped dramatically and the rains came just as we started to pack up.

Modules for the show were provided by **Edd Braithwood**, (32 feet) hauled the trailer up to Rockville, **Leonard White** (8 feet), **John Cook** (8 feet), **Robert Parsals** (4 feet), **Dave Greenacre** (8 feet), hauled the trailer back to Franconia and **Dale Rinker** (20 feet) in addition to one club POFF and 4 club corners.

I also want to offer a special thanks to **Kendall**. I don't know Kendall's last name, but he is about 10 years old and loves trains. His very patient mother has brought him to this show, both days, all day, every year for the past several years. Those of us who have participated in this show on a regular basis, not only know Kendall, but he knows us. While he does go to see the other layouts, maybe I'm bias but it appears that he spends most of his time in the fitness room where NVNtrak have set up for many years.

the demo module from NVX1 which needs PP wiring, leg repair, and landscape attention in addition to cleanup of the Plexiglas deck. Jim took it home to fix. He and Glenn also did some PP wire harnesses while the scenery repair was underway. In the end, all the modules were safely tucked away and the trailer rolled back to its parking spot.

October PHOTO ALBUM

*(Continued from page 6) BOD Minutes*

tion Board, asked that we be careful to turn off all switches and lights when leaving the station. The BOD discussion indicated need for a checklist with light switch locations so they are all turned off. Next visit to the station will be used to gather switch data and build a checklist. **Ann**, in her FFX Station board role, arranged for food and drinks which FFX Station is providing to layout participants and volunteers. **Nick Sklias** did the **Fairfax Station** setup coordination last weekend with a 14 x 14 layout. (8 POFFs). **Nick** and **Dave Davies** noted the caboose layout needs quick attention if we are using it on Dec 2-3. Track alignment is off and we got a lot of de-rails last weekend. BOD agreed to fix on Sat Nov 25<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. Need to fix the plexi-glass front also. **Ann Prentice** has key to building and caboose.

**Dave Freshwater** said he purchased power cords with 8ft power tap spacing, 8 outlet octopus bar and GFI units for each trailer as previously authorized. These meet the specs of the recent **NTRAK** newsletter for fire codes. He also restocked fuses. BOD discussed stanchion bases. **Brian Brendel** asked Ann to get 2x12s and have Home Depot cut 12x12 inch blocks. **Fresh** identified the hole size after the meeting as 33 mm/ 1-5/16 inches and a standard Forstner bit of 35mm / 1-3/8 inches should work and it has been ordered. In discussions of the **Rockville Lions** show, it was our club's first show in 1991, where it was "expected that 8 NTRAK modules would come and the club had 16 modules show up". **Fresh** will check on author cars, 2005 cars are complete and **Chester** will be asked to id the quantities for 2005 and 2006 authors. Will try to use GTE event to clean out and repack all three trailers if we are allowed to bring them in the hall.

**Matt Prentice** asked about a two day Backshop for work on large yards, Two days or more allows them to remain up repairs. BOD and club members were asked to identify possible venues for a Friday to Sunday Backshop with access and enough floor space, heat, light and security. The BOD meeting adjourned at 10 PM. Respectfully submitted, **Jim Anderson** NVNTRAK Secretary

*(Continued from page 5) Orange and Alexandria*

Yup, they don't make 'em like they used to. They stopped when the things didn't work!

Of course, these kinds of gems, along with other nice presents, would be GREAT for the Gift Exchange at the **Holiday Party** on the 17<sup>th</sup> at **Jim** and **Marg's**. And remember the other setup opportunities we have this month, including running the caboose layout at **Fairfax Station** this weekend. Happy Holidays, and see you there!

*(Continued from page 5) Hostler's Shack*

room in the restored C&O sleeper on the American Orient Express from LA to Seattle and there was one (1) bedroom left in the C&O sleeper. It didn't take me long to get a reservation too for a great ride parking overnight along the ocean and at Keddie Wye and in the snow blocked by a fire in an SP tunnel. Dud went to W&L and put many a mile on C&O sleepers between Cincinnati and Charlottesville thus gaining his knowledge of the C&O. He was so proud of his pictures that are in the latest Walther's Catalog and the big article in Kirk Reddie's N Scale Magazine. The September/October 2006 issue did a large spread on his beautiful layout, The Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Appalachian Division. We have lost a good friend and a super-railroader and the good times with him will be remembered forever.

**FAIRFAX STATION REPORT**  
By **Nick Sklias**

We had a great time at **Fairfax Station** on Sunday the 19th. **Nick Sklias** was the set up coordinator. We had eleven members show up during the day. Nine of those members came early with modules or to help set up, which went like clockwork. Those that brought modules were **Howard Beall** a POFF and corner, **Phil & Janice Poole** 2 POFFs, **Richard Hykes** a POFF, **Edd Braithwood** 2 POFFs, **Jim Nickle** a POFF, and **Steven Gaff** a POFF and 3 corners from the trailer. That gave us a 14x14 layout that was up and running by 12:30 P.M. **Glen McLain** also came in early to help with the set up. **Dave Davies** came in to work the caboose layout. There were some track issues with the caboose layout that were brought up in the BOD meeting on the following Tuesday and were to be corrected on Sat the 25th for the FF Station show on Dec 2nd & 3rd. **Dave Freshwater** was present also and gave out OLI material to the kids that were there. The attendance wasn't as great as other FF Station shows, but those that came were very thrilled and excited with the trains and the layout. Tear down went as quickly as the set up and Dave Freshwater returned the trailer to the Franconia Firehouse.



November PHOTO ALBUM



**Photo Credits**  
Glenn McClain, Jeff Peck, Jim Altobello, Mat Chibbaro





# Holiday Party



Sunday, December 17, 2006

1:30 PM-7PM

At

**Jim and Marg Anderson's in Bristow VA, 6 mi west of Manassas in Dunbarton. Dunbarton is near the intersection of Linton Hall Rd (619) and Sudley Manor Dr. See insert for directions.**

**There will be lots of Food, a Gift Exchange, a T-Trak and an N-Trak layout. Bring your family for a fun afternoon and evening !**

**Bring a wrapped gift under \$10 value (or a White Elephant) for the world famous NVNTRAK Gift Exchange!**



## ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

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

### 2007 General Membership Meeting

Sunday, January 21, 2007; 1:00-6:00 pm

Business Meeting begins at 3:00 pm

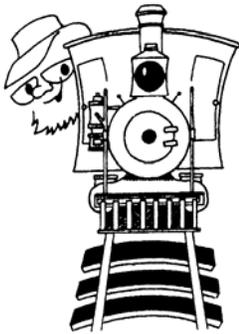
Franconia Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah St, Alexandria, VA 22310

**President, Superintendent and Treasurer will Report the State of the Club and Board of Director Elections will be held.**

As always, a silent auction will be conducted to allow members to buy and sell items.  
A live auction of items donated to benefit the club will also be held.

Snow day: January 28th, 2007

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](http://granddadshobbyshop.com) or EMail at: [granddads@starpower.net](mailto:granddads@starpower.net)

### **Northern Virginia NTRAK, Inc.**

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

### **Northern Virginia NTRAK 2006 Officers:**

President: Brian Brendel, 703.815.2601 <[nvntrak@yahoo.com](mailto:nvntrak@yahoo.com)>  
Secretary: Jim Anderson 703-866-9565 <[jama7927@yahoo.com](mailto:jama7927@yahoo.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)>

#### **Directors-at-Large**

Ann Prentice, (703) 866-3036 <[prentice@comcor.net](mailto:prentice@comcor.net)>  
Nick Sklias, (410) 290-6637 <[nicksklias@hotmail.com](mailto:nicksklias@hotmail.com)>  
Dave Freshwater, (301) 717-6501 <[david.freshwater@west-point.org](mailto:david.freshwater@west-point.org)>

### **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, **Matthew Prentice** <[webmaster@nvntrak.org](mailto:webmaster@nvntrak.org)>.

NVNTRAK also has a Yahoo Group. This list is maintained by **Dave Davies**. 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—Chester Freedenthal

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:

**Call Board@nvntrak.org**

All submissions must contain clear text identification of the author to be accepted for publication. **Articles and other submissions for the January 2007 issue MUST be received by December 23, 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

December 2006



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