

THE CALL BOARD



A 100% **NTRAK** CLUB

Celebrating Our 16th Year!

March 2007

Volume XVI

Number 3



Chantilly Continuous Clinic By Dave Freshwater

Throughout the club's existence, we have done clinics at train shows. Years ago, **Gil Brauch** and Rod Smith built *Kudzu Korner*, from a bunch of boards to complete module, in three days at what are now *Great Train Expos*. The *Grigg's Crossing* club *POFF* had most scenery done at Upper Marlboro. Fred Obermeyer stole an idea from Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. Fred taught a hands-on clinic, with audience participation doing the scenery work.

So, with this history and a number of club modules that were tracked and wired but needing scenery, I gathered everything we would need for a continuous clinic at train shows.



Our *Chantilly Great Train Expo* project was a club corner to replace a long suffering trailer dweller. Since trailer dwellers take a beating, the scenery plan was a simple farm scene. Farm buildings are **Model Power** built-ups that complement train sets. **Bill Rutherford** did some quick weathering, along with **Jeff Peck** improving the hay stack. They don't look like train set items any more!

The construction crew included Jeff, **Matt Guey-Lee**,

(Continued on page 4)

Along the Orange and Alexandria Brian Brendel, President

"The Adventures of the 3 Slobber-eers" or "How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Enjoy Being an SPF"

John Drye and Jake and I returned President's Day from a pilgrimage to "Train Mecca." The three of us spent two nights and days at the Station Inn in Cresson, PA, watching trains, taking pictures and eating way too much. Essentially, it was Nirvana. Incredible.

Readers of this column know of our visits to the Station Inn. They are legend in our group, because it is THE location for the truly train-bitten. Since Jake was old enough to stay there (eight years old is the minimum age) we've been traveling to the Inn, this being our sixth stay. We brought along John Drye again for his second visit, only because he said he "wasn't really sure" if he had fun the last time he went up there with us last February. Along about the second day I think, he finally remembered that he *did* have fun last time. Mind like a steel trap, that guy. Or maybe like steel, trapped. Anyway, I suppose he'll have amnesia again long about January of *next* year, too...

We were beyond hope of being able to explain to our families why, for Pete's sake, we were going, *on purpose*, to a place that was forecast to have the low be about three degrees on Monday morning, with well below zero wind chills, and we would be standing outside a perfectly good car, not skiing mind you, but taking *pictures!* Only you, dear readers, can understand what we

(Continued on page 7)

BILL OF LADING

Rail Events Timetable	2
View from Zoo Tower.....	3
View from the Loo.....	4
Hostler's Shack.....	5
OLI Presentation	6
Annual Meeting Minutes	8
BoD Meeting Minutes.....	10

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

Sunday, March 4, 2007, 1300-1700 Hrs.: *March 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 Trailer: N/A Projects: 1) Soldering Clinic 2) Power pole conversions of modules 3) Certification of New Modules for Spring shows.

Saturday, March 10, 2007, 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: Jim Anderson (703) 698-4043 Trailer: NVX3. Set up: 0700 0900 Hrs. Clamp down: 0800 Hrs. Layout Type: OLI with Small NTRAK oval or small Linear TTRAK.

Saturday - Sunday, March 17-18, 2007: *Boy Scout Troop 964 Train Show* Saunders Middle School, 13557 Spriggs Rd., Manassas, VA 20112 (703) 670- 9188 http://www.troop964.org/index_files/Train_Show/trainshow.htm Coordinator: John Steitz. (703) 371-5171, steitzj@georgetown.edu Trailer: NVX3 [Trailer hauler still needed] Show Hours: T.B.D. Set-up: Sat. 0700-1000 Hrs. Clamp-down: Sat. 0900 Hrs. Wear NVNTRAK ID. Layout Type: Small-Medium Oval; OLI presentations

Sunday, March 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: t.b.d. 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

Thursday - Saturday, March 22-24, 2007: *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: ??????. 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, March 24, 2007 , 0900-1600 Hrs. *NMRA Poto-mac Div. Mini-Con* [T-TRAK layout only] Location: St. Matthew's Methodist Church, 8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003 Coordinator: Steve Jackson (703) 323-5985 sjackson@nvtrak.org Trailer: none Set-up: Friday, 1800-2100 Hrs.; Sat. 0700-0900 Hrs. Click-together: Saturday, 0800 Hrs. Layout Type: T-TRAK point-to-point operations layout with DCC. Operations opportunities for

NMRA Chief Dispatcher AP Certificate

Sunday, April 1, 2007, 1300-1700 Hrs.: *April Back Shop.* [No foolin'!] Fairfax (Franconia) Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria VA 22310; (703) 971-5858. Contact: John Steitz (703) 371-5171, steitzj@georgetown.edu Trailer: N/A Projects: 1) Scenery of new Modules 2) Power pole conversions of modules 3) Certification of New Modules for Spring shows.

Saturday - Sunday, April 14-15, 2007: Great Scale Model Train Show , The Cow Palace, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD 21094 (410) 252 0200 Coordinator: : John Steitz (703) 371-5171, steitzj@georgetown.edu Trailer: NVX4. Show Hours: Sat. 0900 1600 Hrs.; Sun. 1000 1600 Hrs. Set up: Fri. 4/13/07 1500 2300 Hrs., Sat. 4/14/07 0700 0900 Hrs., Clamp down: Sat. 0730 Hrs. Wear NVNTRAK ID. Layout Type: Multi-club NTRAK layout + T-TRAK layout. Details to follow in April Call Board

Sunday, April 15, 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 Co-ordinator: T.B.D. 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

Sunday, May 6, 2007, 1300-1700 Hrs.: *May 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 Trailer: N/A Projects: 1) Scenery of new Modules 2) Power pole conversions of modules 3) Certification of New Modules for Summer shows.

Friday, May 18, 2007 through Sunday, May 20, 2007: *Mid-Atlantic Narrow Gauge Guild 24th Annual Module Meet* Kimberton Fair Grounds, Route 113, Chester County, PA, Contact Noll Horan, (703) 426-0700. Trailer: None Set-up: Friday, 1200 - 1800 Hrs. Clamp-down: Friday 1500 Hrs. Show Hours: Friday 1800-2200 Hrs.; Saturday 0800-2300 Hrs.; Sunday 0800-1200 Hrs. Layout Type: Nn3 layout only Details: <http://midatlanticng.railfan.net/modmeet.html>

Sunday, May 20, 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 Co-ordinator: T.B.D. 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

View from Zoo Tower

John Steitz, Superintendent

The Spring Campaign of "The Army of Northern Virginia" marches on! And our members in the Southern Virginia suburbs will find several layouts close to home.

We start on the first Saturday, with a return to the **Health and Safety Fair at Lorton Elementary School**. It's a small NTRAK layout, but we're the only model railroad at that fair, so we get lots of attention, and get to spread the word about Operation Lifesaver, and about safety around railroads. The following day, at our **Back Shop**, we'll have a clinic of soldering, one of the vital skills (still) in the wiring of our layouts and modules.

Two weekends later (March 17-18) we have our first double header of the year, and I need to ask for a few folks to help run the layouts. I have a work-related training session Sunday-Monday-Tuesday of that week, so while I'll be able to help set-up our NTRAK layout at the Scout Show, I'll have to miss not only the second day of that show, but also our March **Fairfax Station** layout. So I'd like to sign up two folks, one for each show, to shepherd the layout and run the set-up. If you can help out, please let me know.

The Troop 964 Boy Scout Train Show in Prince William County is a weekend-long deep immersion in model railroading for Boy Scouts from all over the DC area. Our NTRAK and T-TRAK layouts, and our 8 to 10 OLI presentations throughout the weekend, are integral parts of exposing young people to our hobby, and keeping them safe around railroads. [Other attractions include a 100+ module HO layout in the gymnasium, and a clinic where each scout assembles an HO-scale box car kit. At the end of the second day, the scouts assemble all their new box cars into one train that circles that HO layout.] This year, we're adding an N-scale twist to the festivities by introducing T-TRAK modules to the mix. Perhaps next year, the scouts can build a *module* instead of a single box car?

The following day will feature our first layout at **Fairfax Station** this year, since our February layout was iced-out. If you can't make it down to Prince William County, please consider bringing your module out to Fairfax Station.

The last weekend in March features another double-header, of sorts. From Thursday through Saturday (March 22-24) our C&O battalion will be heading out to **Hawk's Nest** W. Va. with their oNe-TRAK return loop set of single-track modules representing the eastern slope of the Alleghenies in Virginia, along with **Jeff Peck's** Coal River return loop, for a figure-8 shaped layout. The venue for that layout, the lodge at the Hawk's Nest State Park overlooking the New River Gorge, is one of the most stunning on our calendar, and the mix of prototype train chasing during the day, and model train running at night, is one that all members of the club

should experience at least once. If you're interested, please contact **Matt Schaefer, Brian Brendel, Jeff,** or **Bernie Kempinski** for more details.

Saturday of that same weekend also features the **NMRA Potomac Division Mini-Con** in Annandale. That's a one-day show where we traditionally have set-up an "operations" layout, one where we don't run trains in loops, but rather, try to mimic the operations of the prototype: meets and passes, switching, and the like. This year, **Steve Jackson** has an ingenious plan for a point-to-point T-TRAK layout that will form a single-tracked mainline with several yards, plenty of sidings, and multiple industrial sidings. So we can use every T-TRAK module in the club. The one distinction between this and other shows, is that every member of the club attending (bringing a module or not) is supposed to pay the admission fee for the show. This might seem like an annoyance, but it actually helps the Potomac Division meet its costs of putting on the show. The show is limited to Potomac Division members, not the general public, so the attendance is small, and the Division needs as much from the gate as it can. But the admission does let you sit in on any of the clinics (some of which are excellent) in addition to running trains on the layout, so you do get something for that admission price.

I'm still trying to nail down a mall show for the late spring, and more information about that will be forthcoming when the details are set. We're also trying to schedule another layout at **Silver Spring Station** in May or June.

But one interesting development has arisen already for the month of April. At the Spring **Great Scale Model Train Show** in Timonium (April 14-15), we will have not only a T-TRAK layout, but also a multi-club NTRAK layout led by our own **Edd Braithwood**, who has made contacts with our brethren NTRAKers in the central Pennsylvania area who will be joining us. You know **Howard Zane** will always give us as much space for a layout as we ask for, so this could be very interesting. Stay tuned for more details in the April Call Board.

Finally, one housekeeping note. While the auxiliary wheelsets now on all three club trailers make maneuvering the trailers while hitching and unhitching them much easier, they're not designed to hold the full tongue weight of any of the trailers for an extended period of time. The auxiliary wheels attach to the trailer frame at a slight angle, and they are not centered on the tongue. So while they are more than stable in maneuvering, if trailers are left on the auxiliary wheelsets for days or weeks at a time, there is a chance of structural deformity or failure of those wheelsets. Ergo, when parking the

(Continued on page 7)

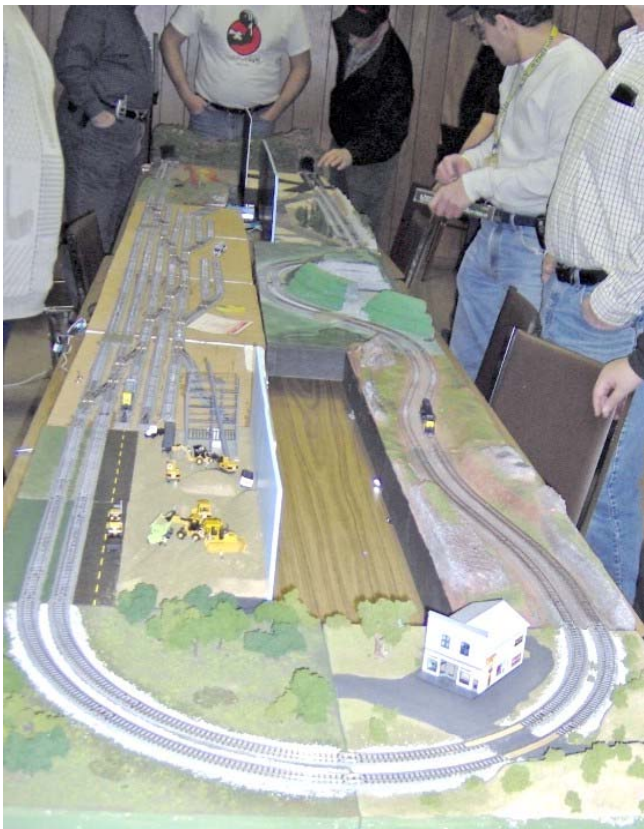
View from the Loo: T-TRAK Update

Steven Jackson

The NVNTRAK T-TRAK Division set up at the February backshop and had a lot of new modules out. **J.B. and Josh Weilepp** brought out their two new modules. **Glenn M. and Leonard White** both brought out offset modules that roll the mainlines from the front of the modules to the back. **Jim Nickle** brought out his new 8' long lumber facility. See that attached pics of the layout.

At the backshop, we also tried out the new PowerPoles-based buss wire. This is still a work in progress, but it is the direction we are headed. The **T-TRAK** community is looking for someone to step up and document a procedure for powering large layouts. Since NVNTRAK is the 500 pound gorilla in **T-TRAK**, we have been working up documentation on how we built our buss wire and it looks like others are eager to follow.

Since **T-TRAK** modules are so small, we decided not to have a modules page like the club does for **NTRAK**. Instead, we decided to create a photo gallery page with pictures of the members' modules. The page is on the NVNTRAK photo gallery. The URL is: http://www.nvntrak.org/g1/view_album.php?set_albumName=NVNTRAKTTRAKModulePhotos



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 1) **Chantilly Continuous Clinic Bob Tucci**, and a few other members who got too close while "sidewalk superintending," and we put to work. Unfortunately, we forgot to have someone photograph each stage of the project. But, a few photos did get taken.

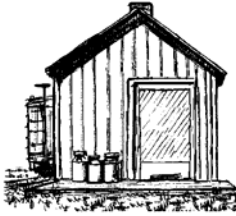


By the end of Saturday, we had accomplished everything up to the base scenery layer, which was applied to the wet "dirt brown" paint. Sunday, we put down another scenery layer, lifted the blue painters tape protecting the track, and did the ballasting. Even after trying to reverse flow the shop vac as a "scenery accelerator," we put a fairly wet module into a corner rack at the end of the show. That gave it a lot of curing time and a useable module. We still have the farm pond water to do - a quick project for another show.

Each time we began actively working on the project, a crowd began to gather and I began to imitate the Mad Clinician, who had work issues. Even when



(Continued on page 6)



The Hostler's Shack

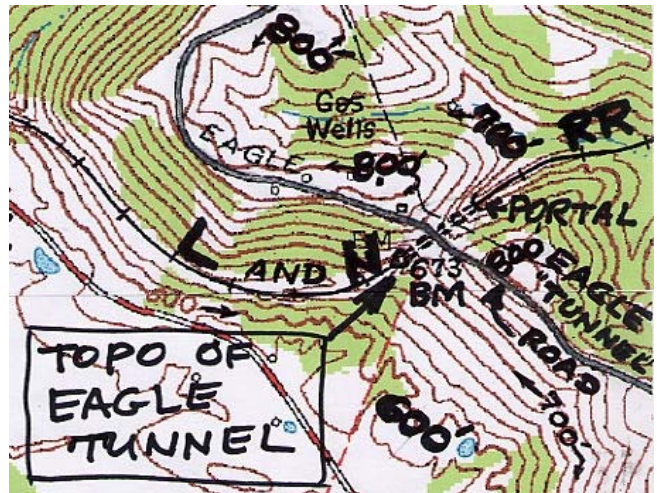
By Matt Schaefer

EAGLE TUNNEL – During last summers C&O convention we opted out of a dinner train ride and went looking for one of my favorite things, RR tunnels. We heard they were day lighting those rat holes on the L&N in northern KY so we hurried over to the L&N's main between Louisville and Cincy, OH. We didn't get there fast enough as they had just removed the top, see panorama marked up.



I have drawn where I thought the portals would have been. From that you can see they removed maybe 100 times more rock than originally was removed to bore the tunnel.

TOPO MAP - The old tunnel had cave in problems and needed more clearance. There was lots of shale in the rock strata. Therefore they slanted the sides of the cut back even more than if the hill was primarily solid limestone. I researched the topo maps to get the layout of the area and the grades up to the tunnel. For RR traffic the area generated lead ore, tobacco, bourbon and during the big wars, hemp ... all good stuff!



The wildwood flower still grows wild all across the bluegrass fields. Roots, KY is my stamping ground. My grandfather got his MD at Louisville Hospital and was a horseback riding country doctor in Owen Co. that bordered the L&N line. I still have my grandfather's glass syringe, which is a great tool for lubing my locos! My mother was born in Owen County and then they moved to Wilmore, KY on the CNO&TP (SRR) line. We would ride the local down from Cincy at Christmas and we would have to sit on our suitcases for 2 hours to Lexington before we got seats. During the big war gasoline was rationed and we couldn't drive much and standing room on trains was unlimited.

During the big war gasoline was rationed and we couldn't drive much and standing room on trains was unlimited.

FIRST CALL for HN - We are calling all track gangs and C&Es for the Hawks Nest Lodge RR March 22 through 24th. Take Amtrak to and back from Montgomery nearby! We run Chessie, C&O, CSX or any other flea bitten DCC or DC trains you bring. We will be running on the great single track Mountain Sub like shown at the Philly '06 NTS and Jeff's Coal River will be tying down the other end of that RR. There is room for more modules. Tear down will be Saturday evening for a Sunday Amtrak chasing return trip along the Mountain Sub. See you there.

(Continued from page 4) *Chantilly*

we took breaks to let something dry, get refreshment, or shop, people would stop to see what we were doing. Some folks came by multiple times throughout the weekend to learn about every phase or check on progress. Many were amazed that the module was completed in so little time.

Making this a complete public education effort, each day we included an **Operation Lifesaver** presentation as a "word from our partner". With a little work, we can probably do several **OL** presentations while we are doing the continuous clinics.

The weekend truly was a successful educational effort, while completing a club project. Thanks to everyone who helped at Chantilly.

Fairfax Station News By Ann Prentice

Upcoming Fairfax Station Railroad Museum event: The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will hold its annual meeting on March 26, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the station. In addition to the business meeting, the station will host a talk by Bill Arnold of the O. Winston Link Museum. Mr. Arnold was a friend of Mr. Link's and will talk about his life and the train photographs he took. For information about the O. Winston Link Museum go to www.linkmuseum.org.



National OL Presentation By Dave Freshwater

When the **Operation Lifesaver** shirts were made for the Presenters in the club, we had a shirt made for Gerri Hall, the **National OL** president. This was in recognition of our longstanding partnership with **National OL** and of Gerri's support and assistance to this part of our education program.

On January 11th, **Brian Brendel** and I met at **National OL** headquarters in Arlington to present Gerri with the shirt. It turned out that this was one of Gerri's last workdays at **OLI**, as she has decided to pursue other opportunities. However, this all gave us a chance to meet with Helen Sramek, the new National president. Brian and I were the first Presenters that Helen had the opportunity to meet since coming on board from a previous position at **AAA**.

Helen was very interested in our efforts. We can look forward to a continuing supportive relationship with National. And I am sure that we will see Gerri around to, since her husband, David Nickles, is a model railroader and helps with our **OL** efforts at a number of events.



Dave Freshwater and Brian Brendel present an NVNTRAK **OL** shirt to Gerri Hall, outgoing **National OL** President.



Dave Freshwater and Brian Brendel with the new **National OL** President, Helen Sramek



(Continued from page 1) **Orange**

were doing, and why. It all makes perfect sense to you, I'm sure; then again, you're all loony like we are. Don't tell anyone sane or they'll haul us away to the booby hatch.

It is seriously the perfect time of year to railfan. I imagine not many of you have stood in front of the gates of Horseshoe Curve near midnight, with two trains wrapping around you, and you being able to see nearly everything in either direction due to leafless trees and a bright blanket of snow that was white and beautiful. No other cars in sight, and just two other idiots just like you, gawking in silent wonder at the beauty and silence and power and muted noise of it all. Amazing.

Tom Davis is the proprietor of the Station Inn. His amenities are on par with no other railroad hotel in the world that I know of: hot and cold running trains, with over 74 seen over the course of two days and nights in the Cresson area. Both the experienced (JD) and the infrequent (Jake and I) Slobbering Pennsy Fanatics (SPF's) enjoyed the PRR suite at the inn (our first experience in the PRR.). We had previously stayed in the Western Maryland, Black River Western, and Reading rooms, and were not disappointed by the PRR, situated on the northwestern corner of the Inn, with windows facing the tracks, and the end window facing oncoming West Slope traffic.

In all, a fun time: Donuts, Michelle's cookies, and tons of trains. We brought along projects to work on, talked to folks at the inn. Basically I think we had no fun at all. Maybe you'll join us next time, so you can testify too. We can't seem to remember...

Callboard Author Cars

By Chester Freedenthal, Editor

If you would like your own Callboard Author Car all you have to do is write an article that is published in the Callboard. It can be about a setup, a rail fan trip, building your module, constructing a building or car, actually any topic of interest to members. You can also get a car by contributing pictures that are published in the Callboard. The 2005 Car was a 50 Athearn Box car in NVNTRAK Yellow with a Silver Roof numbered 2005 and lettered for NVNTRAK and Callboard Author.

(Continued from page 4) **View from the Loo**

The **T-TRAK** display will be at the **NMRA** minicon on March 24, 2007. We plan to have a point to point layout featuring all DCC and operations. The minicon will be the first time that we are going to use **T-TRAK** modules for operations and we are eager to see how it goes. If you have a module with a crossover, siding, or you want to come display your module or run trains, this will be a great show. I, for one, am looking forward to ruNNiN' some traiNs.

After the minicon, we will be setting up at the **Great Scale Model Train Show** (GSMTS) in Timonium, MD during the weekend of April 14-15. As of now, we are anticipating unveiling "T-TRAK Man" to the world. Since the folks at GSMTS continue to be supportive of our setups and giving us as much space as we want, we will be setting up a layout large enough to hold every module that shows up. This is a rare **T-TRAK** two day show and provides us the opportunity to really stretch out and run some really long trains. Last year's layout at this show featured 86 feet of straight modules, 6 junctions, 10 outside corners, 2 inside corners, and 1 offset. That show was perhaps the largest collection of **T-TRAK** modules ever assembled. We anticipate that the layout in April will be as large as the last one and should be a sight to see. **Eric**, from **New Jersey Southern NTRAK**, was impressed by the layout and wanted to run a train around the whole thing.

The club has a **T-TRAK**-specific mailing list. If you want to send a message to all of the **T-TRAK**ers, you can send it to ttrak@nvtrak.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!

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

trailers, please use the original wheel, foot, or simply the post as the structure supporting the weight of the tongue, as soon as you've maneuvered the trailer off of your hitch. Thank you!

Hopefully, we will soon see the last of the snow, sleet and ice for this season, and get back to warmer weather. Keep working on those modeling projects indoors as the wind howls, but when we start setting up outside, bring out those new modules, trains, and projects for all to see. [Please make sure you have any new modules tested and certified first, of course. That's what Back Shops are for!]

See you at one of our many March layouts. Semper Gumby!

Annual Meeting
January 21, 2007

The NVNTRAK Annual Business Meeting was convened at 3:45pm at **Franconia Fire Station #5**. The 2006 president, **Brian Brendel** presided over the meeting. All seven 2005 Board of Directors were present and approximately 45 club members. Brian opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the members who passed on in 2006. He then noted the charities that benefit from our efforts, INOVA Hospital for Children, Fairfax Station, and Operation Lifesaver, Inc (OLI). **Ann Prentice** from our Board is on the Fairfax Station board. Brian thanked everyone for the generous donations for the silent and live auction, especially former secretary **Marc Sisk** who provide a wonderful train wall display which brought in the largest live auction amount in the clubs history.

He then introduced the sitting Board of Directors and mentioned that **Steve Jackson** our Treasurer will be leaving the board. **Dave Freshwater**, our OLI coordinator, **Ann Prentice**, representative to Fairfax Station and developer of the "Junior Engineer" buttons used to recognize kids who visit our shows. **Nick Sklias** is Maryland and T-TRAK coordinator. **Jim Anderson** is our Secretary and dispenser of greeting-get well cards to members. **John Steitz** is Superintendent and he was given a hardy round of applause for his leadership in that role for the past year. He "makes our shows". Several other members were recognized. **Chester Freedenthal** again took the **Call Board** editorship mid year from **Dave Freshwater**. We get a lot of support from **Robert Doc Thatcher** of **Granddad's Hobbies**. He made available copies of the **2007 Walter's N and Z Scale Catalog** for each member at the holiday party and anyone who missed it can take their 2007 membership card and he will give you one. Finally, **John Cook** serves two special roles, as country store and as the direct source for NTRAK material. The country store recycles many of the donations received by the club in the larger venue of the hobby.

Brian provided a month by month recap, with the highlights or special events noted below. January – March included York, World Greatest Hobbies at Expo Center, Upper Marlboro and closing with Hawk's Nest. April-June saw the start of Power-Poles conversion, Landmark Mall, T-TRAK at Timonium, Silver Spring, Manassas Railfest, Alexandria Waterfront Festival, and Movies under the Moon (aka Monsoon) which benefits INOVA Hospital for Children. This later was true washout but the hospital still made out ok. July – September saw the club members venture to Philadelphia for Independence Junction. August saw our 15th Anniversary luncheon, and Bedford PA and Chantilly Dulles Expo on the same weekend (a typical dual header). The club had its usual layout at the National Burn Camp, went to Rowlesberg WV, and opened a new mall venue at Fair City Mall. October - December; T-TRAK at Timonium, Bethesda Chevy Chase, Damascus Railfest, Rockville Lyons Club (our longest continuous show). December ended with OLI Santa Trains, back to back T-TRAK shows, and IKEA in College Park. We ended the year with the annual holiday party at Jim and Marg Andersons, where we had both NTRAK and T-TRAK setups. We had ten setups at Fairfax Station and support to the caboose setup. In addition we setup for communities days and several schools and conducted backshops.

John Steitz provided the Superintendent's report. His summary noted

2	Nn3 Setups
9	T-TRAK
42	NTRAK
8	Backshops
3	Fairfax Station caboose
4	Trips-socials

John asked folks to look at the January Call Board for the current schedule of activities. He mentioned that we are still going to schedule mall shows as it provides a place to run larger layouts and expose the hobby to those who otherwise would not see it. Fair City Mall, and IKEA are two reasonable venues, Springfield remains a possibility but Landmarks changing back to an open court John noted the next big show is July 2007 NMRA in Detroit and 2008 Louisville is being set up to break our record. We also received an invite to Aug 17 in Hartford, Conn. As for equipment, one of the two trailers has been converted to power poles (PP) and the club will provide free supplies for member PP conversion until April 16th. Thanks to **Howard Beall** for assembling a second DCC control box so that each trailer will have a unit. John thanked the trailer haulers and encouraged anyone able to handle the 2200 lb trailers to contact **Matt Prentice** and get involved in hauling. Finally, John will go off Superintendent next Winter. He would like a replacement to mentor this Summer and Fall to make the transition easier.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Steve Jackson provided the treasurer's report. The club is in excellent financial condition. The club ended the year with more money in the bank than when the year started. The jump is the receipt of closeout funds from Capital Limited, with seed money for the next big show. We ended the year with 89 members and already have 72 members signed up so far this year. The Company Store generated equal income for the club and NTRAK national. The Call Board remains a big expenditure and we expended \$545 for insurance.

Ann Prentice showed a sample of the Southern Truck which is being sold by Fairfax Station. While not a N-Scale, it replicates a unique period of local railroad history. Many members had indicated they would buy one of the models and she urged them to contact her or the Fairfax Station.

Dave Freshwater gave the OLI report, we have 9 presenters. In 2005 we did 56 events reaching 54,000 and in 2006 we had 57 presentation events reaching 71,500. Nick Sklias and John Drye were recognized for their presentation roles. Nick received a briefcase, Dave Freshwater received a knife, and Jeff Peck a pen for their roles in OLI. Additionally, the club made contact with OLI national headquarters and was recognized by Jerry Hall the former national OLI president. **Dave** urged all club members to get at least Associate training to be legit in handing out literature. The Associate training is 4-5 hours and will be scheduled for a morning training session so member can qualify. Presenters require the full 10 hr course.

Dave also passed out the author cars for 2005. Each author of one or more articles in the Call Board received a yellow At-Hearn 50 ft box car decorated with the NVNTRAK logo and marked as a Call Board author for 2005. Similar author cars for 2006 are being made.

Chester Freedenthal, the Call Board Editor, said that our publication and reproduction cost are up. But, his principal request is that articles come in on time and that folks sending picture files, sign their name on the file and indicate what the pictures are intended to show.

Member Forum – No items discussed

Elections – **Steve Jackson's** term expires and is stepping down this year. **Ann Prentice** and **Nick Sklias** are running for re-election. Two additional candidates were nominated before the meeting for three total open slots. They were **Phil Poole** and **JB Weilepp**. There were no nominations from the floor. The results were tabulated by a committee of former club presidents and, in another close vote (45 ballots counted); the three members elected to the *Board of Directors for 2007* were **Ann Prentice**, **Nick Sklias** and **Phil Poole**.

The new Board adjourned for a short session to select board positions. **Brian Brendel** remains the *President*, **Ann Prentice** was selected by the BoD to become the *Treasurer*, **Jim Anderson** continues as *Secretary* and **John Steitz** remains the *Superintendent*. **Phil Poole**, **Nick Sklias** and **Dave Freshwater** are *Directors at Large*. The next BoD meeting is third Tues in February (20th) at the Prentice's, 8 pm.

Brian thanked all the members and especially the board for an outstanding job and promised "Black Hats" to those departing board members. The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Anderson, Secretary, NVNTRAK

Annual Meeting and January 2007 BOD Meeting minutes approved by a motion by Anderson, second by Steitz at 20 February 2007 BOD meeting with Anderson, Brendel, Prentice, Poole, Steitz and Sklias voting in the affirmative.



Northern Virginia NTRAK
Board of Directors Meeting
February 20, 2007

The February 20th BOD meeting was convened at 8.20 pm at the **Prentice** home. Six board members were present: **Brendel, Prentice, Anderson, Steitz, Poole and Sklias**. (**Freshwater** was on travel) along with **Matt Prentice** and **Jim Altobello**. **Brian Brendel** brought the meeting to order. Brian passed out the latest shirt orders to BOD members who had ordered them at the Annual Meeting in January and modeled the new jacket. He noted we received an honorarium from the GTE at York, PA. He and **Ann Prentice** are working to get check signing privileges for **Ann** and that should happen once the Annual Meeting and BOD minutes are approved.

Ann Prentice said the club has 80 members. Also, **Chester Freedenthal** had put forth some suggestions for future Junior Engineer buttons. The BOD will consider them when we get ready to reorder. We received the VDOT forms for cleaning up Ravensworth Road and that will be passed to **JB Weilepp**.

John Steitz reviewed the coming schedule, noting we cancelled the Fairfax Station due to the snow and ice. This weekend is the Equestrian Center in **Upper Marlboro** with **Edd Braithwood** leading. **Edd Braithwood** will be doing a soldering clinic at March 4 backshop. March 3rd (later corrected to 10th) is the **Lorton School** in morning. John will check with **John Cook** as he led it last year, **Jim Anderson** will coordinate and trailer to the school. For weekend of March 17-18, we have two events. We will do the **Boy Scout 964 Train Show** at Saunders Middle School in Dale City, Saturday and Sunday and the second event is **Fairfax Station** on 18th. That following weekend March 22-24 is **NMRA Potomac Division Minicon** in Annandale on Saturday with an operations oriented T-TRAK layout using DCC by **Steve Jackson** and the C&O Historical Society convention Thursday to Saturday at **Hawks Nest, WV** with a one track branch similar to last summers Philly layout (**Brian, Jeff Peck, Bernie K** and **Matt Schaefer's** modules are planning to participate). April 14-15th is Timonium for NTRAK and T-TRAK. For the following quarter, John is looking for a mall venue and **Dave Freshwater** has a mid-week OLI and Quantico Safety fair at the base on May 23. John has **Silver Springs, Manassas Rail-fest, Alexandria Waterfront Festival**, and **Movies under the Moon** (It wouldn't rain two years in a row) coming in May- June.

John reviewed equipment. We waterlogged three DCC throttles, two which can have batteries replaced. But the units were mounted on a plastic case which accumulated water. BOD discussed acquiring Pelican cases or something similar to allow DCC in each of the two travel trailers. Adding height to Mount Footlocker was deemed unsafe. There is need for minor trailer and rack maintenance. The rack wheels need to be switched as there are three lockable wheels on one and only one on the other. Floor cleats need to be added and the ratchet straps used to tie the racks down. These are on the backshop list.

Jim Anderson presented the Annual Meeting and BOD minutes for approval. The minutes were approved by a motion by Anderson, second by Steitz with Anderson, Brendel, Prentice, Poole, Steitz and Sklias voting in the affirmative. **Ann Prentice** can have the bank account signature transferred. Jim is updated the emergency telephone call roster for the BOD and will need latest membership list.

Phil Poole asked why the **Minicon** T-TRAK layout was DCC exclusively. Not every T-TRAKER has DCC operating stock. **Jim Altobello** mentioned that the T-TRAK layout at the Holiday Party was all DCC. **John Steitz** and **Brian** said that the request was for an operations based layout which has sidings, couplings, backing, etc and not just an oval. DCC is the practical way to do operations. It is not NVNTRAK standard practice to do exclusive DCC in our loop layouts but rather to have one or two loops analog and one DCC. This was an exception for these modelers at the **Minicon**. John said DCC channel "0" can be used to operate analog. **Phil** and **Jim** said they would relay to the T-TRAK community.

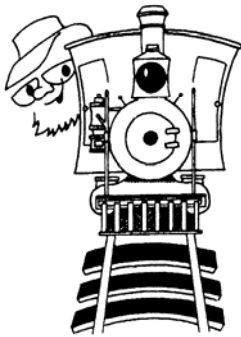
Matt Prentice discussed the Web site. He hopes to try a new Web site layout on his home server and get BOD approval before a switch over.

Dave Freshwater provided **Brian** items to bring up as he was on travel. He is looking an education chair to pull together the various demos, etc to educate our membership and the public where appropriate. The chair would be the scheduler, not the doer. Second, he wanted approval for the **Quantico Safety Day**. BOD concurred and suggested those military or ex-military with stickers, assist Dave.

With a motion by Sklias, second by Steitz, and approved, the BOD meeting adjourned at 945 PM.

Respectfully submitted, **Jim Anderson** NVNTRAK Secretary

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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, **Matthew Prentice** 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.

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Callboard@cox.net

All submissions must contain clear text identification of the author to be accepted for publication. **Articles and other submissions for the April 2007 issue MUST be received by March 25, 2007.**

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March 2007

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