

THE CALL BOARD



A 100% **NTRAK** CLUB

Celebrating Our 17th Year!

January 2008

Volume XVII

Number 01

Annual Meeting Changed to Jan 27th

South Columbia Baptist Church T-Trak Show

Article and Photos by Nick Sklias

This is our second year at South Columbia Baptist Church with a T-Trak layout that was larger than last year. Those that attended and contributed modules are Nick Sklias, Paul Diley, Robert Parcels, Jeff Peck, Christian Peck, and Philip Cook. We ran DCC on the red line and DC on the two inside loops (yellow line). At one point we had six trains running at one time, four on the red line and two on the yellow. Everything ran pretty smooth, although we did have a couple of glitches, one on DCC which Paul corrected and one on the DC side on one of my power modules, Paul again found and corrected the problem by replacing the faulty module with a spare that I had brought. Later at home I found the short in the wiring and it has been corrected.

You all must be wondering where I was when all this was happening. Unfortunately I missed the early part of the day due to getting Beth out of the hospital after hip surgery.



Overall, trains ran well throughout the day. Set up on Friday night went smoothly, using seven tables. The people from South Columbia Baptist Church enjoyed the show. Some asked a lot of questions about the T-Trak and N-Scale in particular.

The kids spent a lot of the time chasing the trains

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The Last Along the Orange and Alexandria

Brian Brendel, President

“The end of the journey, and a new beginning...”

Well, this is it. I’m outta here. See ya later. Toodle-oo. Hasta la vista, baby.

Ok, not exactly. Truth be told, I’m not going anywhere, just stepping down as the prez-dude, but keeping in touch as all the dead (okay, “former”) presidents seem to do. Can’t exactly go fishin’ just yet: there are modules to build, and conventions to get ready for!

Since we’ll have a new BOD in just a few short weeks, after thanking Jim and Marg for hosting the awesome Holiday Party (THANK YOU AGAIN, JIM and ESPECIALLY MARG!!), I can work now on my resolutions (which, if anyone checks, are pretty similar to *last* years...and no, I didn’t get any of those done either...)

I resolve to revamp my existing modules so that we don’t have so many ratty looking ancient modules out there (just ratty looking ancient members...like me...)

I resolve to attend more layouts, and talk more about trains and OLI (to the public, I mean. Not like I don’t talk enough already...)

I resolve to be more active in the really fun club

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

BOLDED dates indicate a set-up

Sunday, January 6, 2008 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. 12-13, 2008: 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.

[No 3rd Sunday Fairfax Station Layout in January.]

Sunday, January 27 2008 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 January issue of The Call Board

Sunday, February 3, 2008 1300-1800 Hrs.: Snow date (if needed) for NVNTRAK Annual Meeting Fairfax (Franconia) Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria VA 22310; (703) 971-5858 Coordinator: Brian Brendel, President, NVNTRAK.

Saturday - Sunday, February 2-3, 2008: Great Scale Model Train Show [Tentative - Nn3 layout, only ??????], The Cow Palace, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD 21094 (410) 252 0200 Coordinator: Noll Horan [tentative] (703) 426-0700, Trailer: None. Show Hours: Sat. 0900 1600 Hrs.; Sun. 1000 1600 Hrs. Set up: Fri. 2/1/08 1500 2000 Hrs., Sat. 2/2/08 0700 0900 Hrs., Clamp down: Sat. 0730 Hrs. Wear NVNTRAK ID. Layout Type: Nn3 layout only

Sunday, February 3, 2008, 1300-1700 Hrs.: *February Back Shop.* Fairfax (Franconia) Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria VA 22310; (703) 971-5858. Contact: New NVNTRAK Superintendent (whomever that may be). Trailer: N/A Projects: 1) Track laying on new modules 2) Power-pole conversions on modules 3) Certification of new

modules for Spring shows. [Note: If NVNTRAK Annual Meeting is postponed to 2/3/08 due to weather, it will replace this Back Shop on the NVNTRAK schedule.]

Sunday, February 17, 2008, 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. Trailer: NVX4 [J. Steitz, hauling] Set up: 1100 1300 Hrs., Clamp down: 1200 Hrs. Unload in parking lot, then move vehicle across street to overflow lot. Layout Type: Small Oval, run Caboose Layout

Tuesday, February 19, 2008, 2000-2200 Hrs. [tentative] NVNTRAK Board of Directors Meeting, Prentice Home, 7314 Briarcliff Drive, Springfield, VA 22153 Non-module event.

Saturday - Sunday, February 23-24, 2008: Great Train Expo Show (formerly Greenberg Train Show), Tack Room, Prince George's Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro, MD Coordinator: Edd Braithwood (703) 860-2899 Trailer: NVX3 [Trailer Hauler still needed.] Show Hours: Sat. and Sun.: 1000 1600 Hrs. Set up: Fri. 2/22/08: 1500 1930 Hrs.; Sat. 2/23/08: 0730 1000 Hrs. Clamp down: Sat. 2/24/08: 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, Company Store, OLI(?)

Sunday, March 2, 2008, 1300-1700 Hrs.: *March Back Shop.* Fairfax (Franconia) Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria VA 22310; (703) 971-5858. Contact: New NVNTRAK Superintendent (whomever that may be). Trailer: N/A Projects: 1) Soldering Clinic 2) Power pole conversions of modules 3) Certification of New Modules for Spring shows.

Saturday - Sunday, March 8-9, 2008: Great Train Expo Show (formerly Greenberg Train Show), Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center, 2371 Carl D. Silver Parkway, Fredericksburg, VA 22401 (540) 548-5555. Coordinator: t.b.d. (703) 860-2899 Trailer: NVX3 [Trailer Hauler still needed.] Show Hours: Sat. and Sun.: 1000 1600 Hrs. Set up: Fri. 2/22/08: 1500 1930 Hrs.; Sat. 2/23/08: 0730 - 1000 Hrs. Clamp down: Sat. 2/24/08: 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, Company Store, OLI(?)

Saturday, March 8, 2008, 0930-1230 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@nvntrak.org. Trailer: NVX4. Set up: 0730 - 0930 Hrs. Clamp down: 0800 Hrs. Layout Type: Small

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View from Zoo Tower

John Steitz, Superintendent

This is the final column from atop my perch at Zoo Tower, the legendary interlocking tower at the crossing of the North/South and East/West mainlines of the late great Pennsylvania Railroad. [cf. <http://www.signalbox.org/overseas/usa/zoo.htm> and numerous other publications.] On January 27th, my term on the NVNTRAK Board of Directors concludes, and the conclave of the new Board elected that day will choose my successor. I wish the new Superintendent all the best as he or she takes control at the interlocking of the largest, and quite possibly most active, NTRAK club in the world.

After a *very* busy December, our January schedule settles down a bit. Our only public layout is the York, PA GTE show the second weekend, along with our Annual Meeting two Sundays later. [Please note that the Annual Meeting is on the **4th Sunday** of January this year, **January 27**. Our venue is unavailable on the third Sunday, our traditional meeting date.]

On the first Sunday of the month, however, we continue our tradition of an "off-site," frame-building work session in the garage workshop of Cotton Bowen in Sterling. If you contemplate building a new module in 2008 – and all our new members should consider building a module to more fully participate in our activities – this is a great opportunity. A frame for any type of module (NTRAK, oNeTRAK, Nn3, T-TRAK, or a specialty module for your home layout) is fair game. Please contact Cotton in advance for directions and an overview of the days activities. Those activities generally start with a trip to the local Home Depot to purchase materials and supplies. Cotton has a fully-stocked garage workshop, and participants usually add their own favorite power tools. No matter what your skill level, you are welcome to dive in and take the first step in building your own module.

On the following weekend, the York Great Train Expo (nee Greenberg) Show is our second of four GTE shows in three months. [Chantilly was the first, and York is followed by Upper Marlboro at the end of February, and the new venue in Fredericksburg, VA, two weeks after that.] York is only 90 minutes to two hours away from most of the DC area, so if you feel like a day trip, please come up to runs trains, and to help set-up or tear-down the NTRAK layout.

Looking ahead, the stretch from February 15 through the end of March is our busiest period this Spring. June 2008 will be busy as well, with several local shows and a convention at the end of that month. Finally, the end of September through the third weekend in December will feature over a dozen public layouts.

Since I'm stepping down as Superintendent, I won't be planning and leading nearly as many NVNTRAK layouts in 2008 as I have in the past. I will continue to honcho the monthly Fairfax Station layouts on Sundays (hauling the trailer

to and from), and perhaps a few other layouts, if asked by my successor. I hope to do several OLI programs as a newly-minted presenter. And, of course, I will be coordinating our participation in the Derby City Express NTRAK layout at the National N Scale Convention in Louisville, KY in June. [For more information about that layout, please consult the short article in this Call Board and/or my presentation at the Annual Meeting.]

I'm also working on a new two-module NTRAK set of my own, and trying to finish up the scenery on my existing T-TRAK quad. The coal drag and the work train both need some rehab, and I do want to make more progress on the PRR express/baggage 2nd class varnish that is difficult to pull off in N Scale, but hopefully distinctive on the rails of any NTRAK layout. And maybe I'll get around to some of the other projects on my MRR to-do list from the past four years. <g>

But my Saturday mornings between now and May will be taken up coaching a beginning runner program in Arlington, so I won't be able to lead any set-ups on Saturdays until at least the Summer.

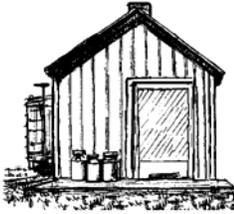
Therefore, to preserve the sanity of the new Superintendent, we need others to step up and coordinate many of the Spring and Summer shows, including GTE Fredericksburg, the Boy Scout Train Show, Manassas Railfest and Alexandria Waterfront. Also, we always need trailer haulers. If you are new to either role, please let my successor, or Matthew Prentice (for the trailers) know. And please don't forget to bring out your modules for our layouts in 2008 (including Louisville).

If you have any new venues for NTRAK, T-TRAK, oNeTRAK or Nn3 layouts this Spring, please provide me the details prior to January 15. Due to the late date of the Annual Meeting, I will prepare the Rail Events Timetable for the February Call Board [covering the February through April time frame] before the Annual Meeting, so the new Super just has to write a short, pithy column for that issue.

Finally, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as club Superintendent these 4.5 years. That's really the only club job I've ever wanted to do, and I hope you've enjoyed our layouts during that time. After Louisville, I hope to fade into the background, and once again plan modules and layouts with Matt Schaefer that will drive the Superintendent nuts. <vbg> Seriously, if I can ever help with planning a layout you are coordinating, or with designing or building you own module, please let me know. And I hope to see you around many of our layouts.

My fellow directors and club members have always supported me in all the layouts I've planned, and I hope that

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The Hostler's Shack

Matt Schaefer

Matt wishes everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year and will return next month

Annual Meeting Auction

One of the standard "entertainment" items at the annual meeting is a silent and live auction, which often seems to be a comedy routine. [Will Brian bid against himself again this year?] Logging items in for the auction is one of the time consuming aspects of the day. Since there is a church service at the Fire Station on Sunday evenings, the **BOD** decided to try and speed up things this year by starting auction registration early, before we get to the Fire Station.

Included in this *Call Board* is a form that is needed for each item in the silent auction (where the proceeds for each sale go to the member, less a small charge to the club) and the live auction. (Live auction items are donations with the entire benefit going to the club.) While filling out the form in advance will be of some help, the real challenge is typing the info into the auction program. So, while you can and should fill out forms for your items, we also need you to send information about the item to the *Auction Record Keeper*, **Dave Freshwater**, so he can start typing early. (Contact information for Dave is on the inside of the mailing wrapper for this issue.)

You can also assist the process by being brief in your item descriptions. This is not the time to provide all the information that rivet counters may desire about the item (particularly because someone has to type all that in – or figure out how to truncate it – and who knows what will happen to an item description if our “auctioneer” gets near it.). Most of us do not need a lot of details about a **Kato SD-40-2** to identify it. If the item is a custom paint job or otherwise is an item not in the hobby catalog, then a few more words of description may be in order.

Enter the Description and your Minimum Bid and bring the form to the Annual meeting. Email Dave (david.freshwater@west-point.org) the Description, Minimum Bid and Your Full name and 2008 Membership Number if you have it.

OL Presenters Class

By Dave Freshwater, NVNTRAK OL Coordinator

On Nov. 17th, **NVNTRAK** had its first special **OLI** Presenters class at *Fairfax Station*. Melvin Jones, the VA State Coordinator and a Presenter Trainer, along with Presenter Trainers Don Thomas (**FRA**) and Dave Farley (**CSX**), conducted the course for 13 candidate Presenters. Three of the attendees were a Winchester police officer, a **CSX** employee, and a recertifying Presenter who now works for the **Buckingham Branch RR**. The ten **NVNTRAK** members in the group were: **John Steitz, Keith Holzapfel, Philip Cook, Jim and Marg Anderson, J.B. and Josh Weillepp, Jake Brendel, Rod Bohlman, and Bob Tucci. Brian Brendel** and I were on hand throughout the day to handle logistics issues.

Any class that runs from 8 until nearly 5 - and requires all participants to make a graded presentation - makes for a long day. However, everyone enjoyed the learning process. Breakfast items were provided by **OLI** and the club and **OLI** provided lunch and door prizes.

Our ten candidates must now complete a public presentation by mid-February. Fortunately, upcoming train shows will provide lots of opportunities to complete this item. Once this final certification item is completed, this class will effectively double the number of club members who can make **OL** presentations at shows or to other groups.

Some of our members who previously volunteered for the training were unable to attend this presenter class. So I am working on a roster of candidates to begin working on scheduling a class for after the winter season. I am also building a roster for an Associates class. Associates are not expected to do public speaking. As a result, that class is not as long and is easier to coordinate because it can have a higher student-teacher ratio. If you are interested in a future class, let me know. Thanks to Melvin, Don and Dave for giving up a Saturday to conduct the course. When you have an opportunity, congratulate our new Presenters.

(Continued from page 3) View From the Zoo Tower

you will continue to support my successor and the BOD as we begin yet another busy, but fun, year. No other model railroad club I know of has the diversity of interests (prototype, era, gauge, module format and area of modeling expertise), and I believe that, plus our flexibility and the hard work and dedication of our members, is what has made NVNTRAK such a great organization.

For one last time, Semper Gumby!

(Continued from page 1) South Columbia

around the layout. Two boys as seen in one of the pictures were looking in the tunnel waiting for the trains to come through. This is a great venue and I look forward to next year and even a bigger T-Trak layout. My thanks go out to all those that helped to make this a successful show.



HERNDON'S HOLIDAY MODEL TRAIN SHOW
by Phil Poole

As part of the Herndon's Hometown Holidays celebration for 2007, model trains were on display at both the Herndon Train Depot Museum and the Herndon Municipal Center during the weekend of December 8th and 9th.

Northern Virginia NTRAK was invited to take part in this celebration through the efforts of Janice and Phil Poole coordinating with Richard F. Downer of the Herndon Downtown Alliance, Inc and the Herndon Historical Society. After a few visits during the year with Mr. Downer along with NVNTRAK Board of Directors approval it was decided that

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(Continued from page 1) The Last Orange and Alexandria

activities that I always seem to miss...oh wait...I haven't missed any really fun activities, not with this group. Ok, never mind.

I resolve to actually be done with the modules that Jake and I are going to be taking to Louisville, *before* the night before we leave for Louisville.

I resolve to set aside an hour a night just for train stuff. Just an hour. Really. And then actually...

I resolve to clean my workbench at some point during the first "set aside hour".

On a serious and last note, I resolve to participate more with our selected charities like Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children, getting layouts into the hospital for the kids at least twice a year. And with OLI, getting the safety message out to the public. And to help out at Fairfax Station. Since we're the train guys with a heart, and we always shine when it comes to giving back to the community, it's the least we can do to promote our hobby and try to enrich the lives of others, keep them safe and provide historical perspective for future generations. You guys have always done that, and that's why being a member of this club, and especially being your president, has been an honor and a privilege.

Our journey Along the Orange and Alexandria is drawing to a close. But the great thing about railroads is...they never really disappear from the scene. They just seem to change names and keep right on chugging along. Our railroad will change to a new railroad next month, and the chugging will continue. Thanks to all of you for your enthusiasm, participation and friendship over the years. Take care, and see you runniN' traiNs...

Town Hall Tune Times

Article and Photos By Jim Anderson

They trickled in as we started to run trains about 930. Adult men and few kids. The day's activities weren't officially open. Soon the men gathered in a corner of our room and we were serenaded by a men's coral group as they warmed up their harmony for the coming day's holiday songs. For the next half hour, we, the train runners, had a rare private session of trains and harmonized holiday carols. The Purcellville town parade was starting at 11 and families arrived at the festival opening at 1030 to see the model trains in the town hall. Many were amazed and had not seen that level of modeling before as evidenced by **Cotton Bowen's** Wallace, New York scene and **Mike Landgrover's** modules. They stayed until the parade started outside and

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(Continued from page 2) Rail Events Time Table
NTRAK oval with OLI

Saturday - Sunday, March 15-16, 2008: 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: t.b.d. 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 16, 2008, 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. Trailer: NVX4 [J. Steitz, hauling.] 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

Tuesday, March 18, 2008, 2000-2200 Hrs. [tentative] NVNTRAK Board of Directors Meeting, Prentice Home, 7314 Briarcliff Drive, Springfield, VA 22153 Non-module event.

Thursday - Saturday, March 27-29, 2008: 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).

Wednesday - Sunday, June 25-29, 2008: Derby City Express 2008 National N Scale Convention, in association with **World's Greatest Hobby on Tour**, Kentucky International Convention Center, 221 Fourth Street, Louisville, KY, 40202 NTRAK Layout Coordinator: Frank Wetherington (502) 499-5337, frank9w@bellsouth.net. NVNTRAK Oval Coordinqtor: John Steitz, 703-371-5171, steitzj@georgetown.edu Trailers: NVX1, NVX3 and/or NVX4 [Trailer mix and haulers to be determined] Show Hours: Friday, 6/27/08, Saturday 6/28/08 and Sunday, 6/29/08 Hours to be determined Set up: Wednesday 6/25/08 and Thursday, 6/26/08 Hours to be determined. Clamp down: Thursday, 6/26/08 PM Logistics to follow. 750-module record breaking NTRAK + 1T layout. Separate Large T-TRAK layout. Convention registration required to include module in layout. Wear

Convention ID and NVNTRAK club garb. Layout Type: Extremely large NTRAK/1T layout, DCC on Red Line, Aris-ton analog on Yellow, Blue and Green lines of NVNTRAK oval (70-100 modules). **400+ modules already registered for this layout - please register yourself and your modules ASAP and indicate participation in NVNTRAK oval of layout.** http://web.mac.com/pauljdowns/2008_N_Scale_Convention/NTRAK_Layout_Design.html

NVNTRAK welcomed the **Paradiso** family, **John and Zane**, to the club at the Ikea Holiday Show. They were at Ikea on Saturday and returned on Sunday to join the club. While they have trains in larger scales, they are just getting started with N Scale and NTRAK. However, we had them running borrowed trains on Sunday; Zane may have the record for the shortest ten-ured member attempting to win the *Gomez Adams Award*. And they stayed to help us tear down and load out.
Let's all extend a warm welcome to John and Zane. Please make a point of introducing yourselves to them at upcoming shows.



NV
NORTHERN
VIRGINIA **NTRAK**

(Continued from page 5) Herndon

NVNTRAK would have a small setup in the historic train depot.

Ideally, given the space available in the depot, a layout of two POFFs by one POFF with four corners was the best setup attainable. This gave adequate room for the visiting public to walk completely around the setup. Albeit small, this layout certainly conveyed the idea of what modular N-scale model railroading is all about.

The contingent of NVNTRAKers who contributed modules to the event were Howard Beall, Rodney Bohlmann, Edd Braithwood and the Pooles along with the four corners from NVX-3. Setup time was 8:00-10:00 AM Saturday. The show ran 10:00 AM-5:00 PM Saturday then Noon-4:00 PM Sunday followed by breakdown.

Edd hauled NVX-3 to the Herndon site Saturday morning. In addition Robert Parsells helped with the setup Saturday morning and had an opportunity to run a couple trains. On Sunday afternoon Jim Davis and Steven Graf came by to help run a few trains and assist with the break down of the layout. Superintendent John Steitz arrived later in the afternoon to aid in the break down. He then hauled NVX-3 back to Franconia.

Even though the layout was small, it displayed a well-modeled cross-section of Americana from a union station cityscape to a small town through the West Virginia countryside and then through an Illinois family farm complex.

The Herndon Train Depot has always been an important part of the history of the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad. This railroad existed from 1847 to 1968. During its heyday the W&OD ran from the Alexandria/Potomac Yard area and the Georgetown-Roslyn area to the town of Bluemont nestled against the east side of the Blue Ridge. The town of Herndon was one of many stops along the way. Fortunately, the Herndon Depot was preserved for future generations to enjoy. The depot has on display historic memorabilia of the former railroad and the town it serviced during its working life. However, the original right-of-way became the W&OD hike-bike trail, which runs from Alexandria to Purcellville.

If anyone wishes to read about or study the history of the W&OD, please refer to the publication entitled "Rails to the Blue Ridge" by Herbert H. Harwood, Jr. This soft cover book is one of many publications written about the railroad's history.

(Continued from page 5) Purcellville

most were gone for the next 45-50 minutes. The parade ended and they returned to see more. The group stayed heavy through lunch times but soon the need for naps and quiet time pulled many families with their 2 to 6 yr old kids back to their homes.

We shared space with the Purcellville Historic Society and thus gained an appreciation of town history including the trains that ran on what today is the bike trail on Washington and Old Dominion rail right of way into Arlington. The town is celebrating their 100th anniversary in May 2008 and we may have an opportunity to return and add to their celebration.



The Christmas Event to Remember in Town of Purcellville on Saturday December 8th was one of five events for the weekend

of December 8-9 supported by NVNTRAK members: Santa trains had OLI members on the Manassas and Burke runs. Kena Temple in Fairfax and South Columbia Baptist Church in MD had separate T-TRAK setups and Herndon Holiday Festival had a two day NTRAK set up in their Train Depot Museum. **John Steitz** hauled the trailer out Friday evening to Purcellville which is 7 miles west of Leesburg. He was met by **Mike Landgrover** and they were able to unload and get **Mike's** and the club modules on their feet. The show was set in the town hall with the chairs for the town hall forum stacked

to get us a working space slightly larger than Fairfax Station. Early Saturday morning **Cotton Bowen** and **Jim Anderson** brought their modules. **Jim Davis** joined in to set up and run trains. We had a 3 by 2 POFF rectangle with **Mike's** corner and two POFFs, **Jims** Doswell and Central VA, **Cotton's** three POFF New York set and drive-in theater corner, **John's** POFF and two club corners and two POFFs. Five members, three tracks and nearly six hours resulted on lots for running time. Setup, running and teardown went smooth and we packed up and left at 430



Northern Virginia NTRAK
Board of Directors Meeting
November 27, 2007

The **BOD** meeting was convened at 8:15 pm at the Prentice home. All board members were present: **Brian Brendel, Ann Prentice, Jim Anderson, John Steitz, Nick Sklias, Phil Poole** and **Dave Freshwater**. **Matt Prentice** also attended portions of the meeting. The meeting was one week later than normal due to the previous Thanksgiving week with several members not available.

Brian brought the meeting to order. **Brian** reviewed the just completed **OLI** training at Fairfax Station on Nov 17 with Melvin Jones, the Virginia State Coordinator as lead trainer. Ten NVNTRAK members completed training **JB** and **Josh Weilepp, Jake Brendel, John Steitz, Jim** and **Marg Anderson, Keith Holzapfel, Phil Cook, Rd Bohlmann** and **Bob Tucci** with several other Virginia area rail employees. **Dave Freshwater** and **Brian** assisted and Fairfax Station allowed us to use the building Saturday for Sunday's normal show.

The BOD briefly discussed the annual meeting and associated changes to the BOD. **Brian Brendel** and **John Steitz** complete a four year period and cannot be reelected to a third term **Dave Freshwater** and **Jim Anderson** complete initial two year terms and have indicated a willingness to serve for another two year term. **Ann Prentice, Nick Sklias,** and **Phil Poole** have continuing terms. Thus we will need to elect four positions including **Dave** and **Jim**, if re-elected. Candidate nominations will be announced in the January Call Board and may be nominated from the meeting's floor if that person has agreed to serve in advance. **Brian** noted the Annual Meeting will begin earlier and end earlier 1200-1700 to allow other users of the Franconia Fire Station early evening access. In response to a question on what Sundays we will use the Fire Station, **John Steitz** noted it's the first Sunday of the month January to December, except July 4th and September Labor Day weekends, unless Easter falls on the first Sunday in which there isn't a Backshop that month also.

John Steitz reviewed the schedule. Dec 1-2 **Ikea, College Park** led by **Paul Diley** and **Fairfax Station caboose** led by **John Steitz**. Dec 8-9 is the five event weekend as **Brambleton** is no longer planned, **Santa Trains** (Manassas, Burke and Woodbridge). **Herndon Depot Museum** led by **Phil Poole, Purcellville** Christmas festival led by **John Steitz, Kena Temple** Fairfax (TTRAK) led by **Steve Jackson** and **So Columbia Baptist Church** (TTRAK) led by **Nick Sklias**. Dec 16 is the Annual Holiday Party at **Jim** and **Marg Anderson**. Dec 29-30 is **Greenberg's Show at Dulles Expo**. Through March we have **York, the Annual Meeting, Upper Marlboro,** and a new **Greenberg show at Fredericksburg VA**.

Ann Prentice indicated the treasury is fine. Annual membership renewal was sent in latest Call Board and paid membership is the requirement Annual Meeting to vote. She had just mailed the December Call Board to members. The files are also being posted on the Yahoo site. She also recounted their family's recent Auto Train trip to Florida. Ann will issue donation checks as approved in previous meeting and only needed a POC at Children's Hospital.

Dave Freshwater said the OLI area meeting is Dec 4 and Santa Trains with VRE will again be held on Dec 8. He expected **John Cooke, Brian Brendel, Bill Rutherford** and himself as a minimum to work the trains. He noted the OLI training already discussed and OLI will receive a prominent role at Dulles Expo.

Jim Anderson noted that KMA Junction in Manassas was offering a 15% discount when members provided their club card initially to get on their roster.

Phil Poole reviewed the upcoming Herndon Train Museum show and folks agreed to meet at the nearby Anita on Sunday at 10.

Nick Sklias said he expected help from **Paul Diley** and **Robert Parsells** at So Columbia.

John Steitz reviewed the **Derby City Express (DCE)** in Louisville in late June 08. He agreed to act as club coordinator. The host is expecting 750-800 modules and we discussed hauling club modules. The BOD recommended that a truck be rented to assemble the full complement of modules rather than hauling several trailers and individual cars. Details were left for the next BOD. John did note the need to get registrations into the DCE organizers to get modules counted. Also need to work hotel accommodations.

At request of **John Cooke, John Steitz** led a discussion of past benefactor donations.

Motion to adjourn was passed at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, **Jim Anderson** NVNTRAK Secretary

Northern Virginia NTRAK

Annual Meeting

Sunday January 27th 2008
1:00 PM until 6:00 PM

Franconia Fire Station #5
6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria, VA 22310
(703) 971-5858

Registration of Auction Item	1:00-1:30
Pay membership Dues	1:00-3:30
Club Haberdashery Orders Taken	1:00-2:00
Silent Auction	1:30-5:30
Live Auction	2:00-3:00
Annual Meeting and Election of Board	3:30-5:30
Settling of Accounts for Auctions	5:30-6:00
First meeting of New BOD	5:30-5:45
Announcement of 2008 Club Officers & Wrap Up	5:45-6:00

Election of Board Members

- John Steitz and Brian Brendel have reached their four-year term limits and are retiring.
- Jim Anderson and Dave Freshwater are completing their two-year term and desire to be re-elected to a second two-year term.
- Ann, Nick and Phil continue to serve in the second year of their two-year term.
- Four Positions are up for election. Jim Anderson and Dave Freshwater are running for re-election. Club members desiring to serve on the Board should contact an existing Board member and let them know. Candidates must be current paid members and be present at the Annual Meeting.

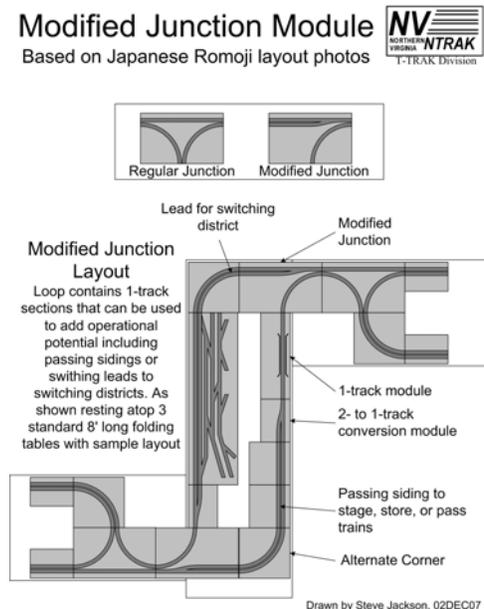
View from the Loo: T-TRAK Update
Article and Photos by Steven Jackson

Would a rose?

I participate in a yahoo group that is dedicated to **T-TRAK**. Some of the guys from the **Japan Rail Modelers of Washington DC** also participate on the list. One of their members, **Matthew Davis**, relocated to Japan and has posted some great info on what the Japanese are doing with the **T-TRAK** concept. The most interesting thing that he revealed is that they call their modules **"Romoji"**. This is short for **Romen Densha** (literally, street-surface electric car). I don't know any Japanese, so I asked Matthew how to pronounce the name. He reported that you pronounce it: **Ro** (like "Row Row Row Your Boat") **Mo** (as in one of the Three Stooges) and **Ji** (like "Gee, I sure which I could read Japanese"). I am not sure if **"Romoji Update"** really rolls off the tongue. In addition to another name, they are also playing with some variations on the 2-track theme. They have both the standard and alternate spacing, lots of different brands of track and even a 1-track variant.

One track mind

One of the cool things that Matthew did was provide some photos of a recent show (they call it a **"festa"**) that he attended. The folks in Japan have really been stretching the concept greatly and pushing their creativity. They mix and match anything that they like as long as the interface at the ends of the module is correct. To that end, they have developed a 1-track Romoji. They realized that they can do some interesting things with their scenery if they go to one track. In the sample that Matthew found, the modelers es-



entially took the two sides of a loop to create a boulevard-type arrangement so that the two tracks are separated for that loop. Several of us on the list have been talking about how we could get a 1-track section on **T-TRAK** to allow for

expect to see some of these ideas explored further between now and next summer for the **Derby City Express (DCE)** in Louisville.

Record setting layout

The idea of creating the World's Largest **T-TRAK** layout at the Louisville show has surfaced. The **DCE** folks already plan to take the World's Largest **NTRAK** title from us. It is interesting to note that when the idea of creating the title for **T-TRAK** first surfaced, the list posts were looking for anyone who had seen a **T-TRAK** layout larger than **NVNTRAK** has build at our **Ti-monium** shows. Noone posted a response. It may be that **NVNTRAK** holds the title for **T-TRAK** as well and just don't know it. In any case, they may try to make the title official at **DCE** next summer and the club just might loose two titles at once; one official and one un-official.

Kena Temple Show

The **T-TRAK Division** of **NVNTRAK** set up at the **Toy Train Collector Association's Annual Holiday Train Show** for the 3rd year in a row. This was one of the first venues for the **T-TRAK Division**. As happened last year, the event was a conflict with the **South Columbia Baptist Church Christmas Show** and the **T-TRAK Division** pulled a double-header. **Nick Sklias** headed up the Maryland contingent and has a write-up elsewhere in the *Callboard*.

Eight families of the **T-TRAK Division** descended upon the Kena temple in Fairfax early on Saturday morning. **Jim Altobello, Steve and Ben Jackson, Josh and JB Weilepp, Ed, Chris and Pat Hyland, Richard Hykes, and Jim Nickle** all contributed modules. We arrived to find out space set up and the tables in place so we got straight into setting up. We set up a simple L-shaped layout and ran DC on the outside loop and DCC on the inside loop. Jim Altobello brought out his new bridge module. This module is perhaps one of the smallest I have seen. It ran like a champ and looked great. Other member



stopped by during the day to help out with running trains and to spread good cheer. The organization that hosts the show is predominantly an O and S gauge organization, so the vendors usually have only a bit

of n scale, but there were a couple of interesting items located during the event and the other layouts are always interesting to see. There was a module on the O gauge layout that featured a

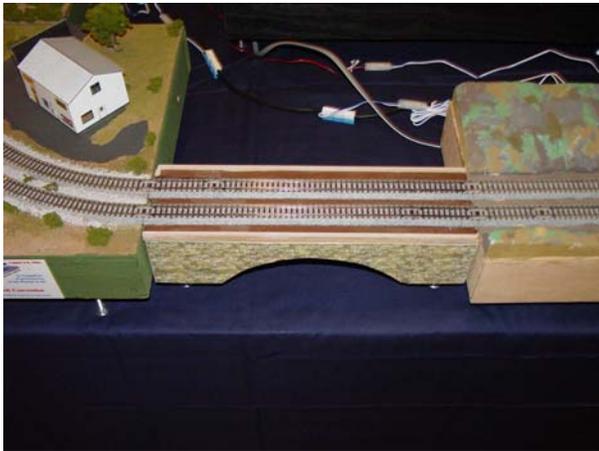
(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10) TTRAK

tilted disk on bearings. There was a loop of track on the tilted disk. When they ran the train on the loop of track, the disk rotated under the train (and powered by the train and the gravity of the tilted disk) and the scenery went past the train. It is really difficult to describe this module, but still worth mentioning because it was so entertaining to watch. The tilted disk was a neat new feature of the show, but a standard feature of the show is the food service. There are precious few places where you can buy a ham salad, egg salad, or tuna salad sandwich; but the nice ladies at the Kena temple sure have them and the prices are always reasonable.

Upcoming shows

The club set up at Fair City Mall in Fairfax back in Sept of 2006 and the show was a lot of fun. However, since that time, the mall has undergone renovations that resulted in the central corridor being filled in with retail space. However, the **Hobby Works** store now has an area in the back corner of the store where they can support a nice **T-TRAK** layout. I have been in contact with the store manager. He wanted to wait until after the holidays (and their remodeling) and pick a date for us to come and set up in their store. I will work with



the Su-

perintendent to get this show scheduled for early next year. The store has about 10 of the 6' folding tables and they sound eager to get us in there for either a 1- or 2-day show depending on what we would like to work out.

The **NVTRAK T-TRAK Division** has a mailing list. If you want to send a message to all of the **T-TRAKers**, you can send it to trak@nvtrak.org. If you are club member, but not on this list and would like to be, send a note to me or 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!

IKEA Layout

Article and Photos By Paul Diley



Our 4th layout at IKEA College Park was another great weekend in running trains for the public. Even the managers that stopped by to see the layout did not expect all of the detail in the scenery. I would like thank everyone that came out with modules or just came out to help.



December Photo Album



**Your Editor
Wishes Everyone
a Happy and
Healthy New Year**

**2007 Holiday Party Photos
by Jim Altobello**



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Dave Freshwater (301) 717-6501 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 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.

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:

cfreedenthal@cox.net

All submissions must contain clear text identification of the author to be accepted for publication. **Articles and other submissions for the February 2008 issue MUST be received by January 25, 2007.**

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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 2008



P.O. Box 523051
Springfield, VA
22152

Place
Postage
Here

Annual Meeting
Changed to Jan
27th. More Details
inside.

Northern Virginia NTRAK

Annual Meeting

New Date

Sunday January 27th 2008 1:00 PM

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

Annual Meeting, Election of Board Members, Live
Auction, Silent Auction, Club Haberdashery,
Socializing