

THE CALL BOARD



A 100% **NTRAK** CLUB

Celebrating Our 18th Year!

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HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Ohio N-Scale Weekend, 2009

By Dale Rinker

At 7:30 am on Friday, May 1, 2009, my wife **Arleen** and I began our 600 mile journey to the Franklin County Fairgrounds outside Columbus Ohio. Arriving about 9 hours latter, we joined **Edd Braithwood, Brenda Olson, Robert Parcels, Phil and Janice Poole** to participate in the inaugural "Ohio N-Scale Weekend 2009". Patterned after the Bedford N-Scale Weekend usually held in late August, the Central Ohio N-Trak club did an outstanding job of bringing together several clubs from the Ohio area as well as numerous vendors selling exclusively n-scale goods.

As one would expect from the N-scale crowd, the show grew much faster than the organizers anticipated. It became very apparent that Central Ohio soon discovered they needed to obtain a second building at the fairgrounds. Unfortunately, the second building wasn't available until after 8:30 Friday evening. It was also cold and rainy that evening. We were advised we could not drive into the building to unload. So one by one, we backed our vehicles/trailers to the door and began unloading modules and setting up like the troopers we are. With the use of three corner modules from NVX3, we had the makings of a pretty impressive 34 X 14 foot layout ready to clamp down by 10:30 PM.

On Saturday morning about 7:30 we again converged on the fairgrounds to complete the set-up and by 9:30 we had trains running. With only five members, three lines and 13 hours of time slots, we all had more than ample opportunities to run trains. Sometimes we ran for several hours at a clip. The show was open to the public from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm on Saturday and 9:00 am until 3:00 pm on Sunday. On those two days, the weather turned out to be quite nice.

Needless to say, not everything went as smooth as we would have liked. We did have one small electrical issue that **Edd** quickly resolved and several track issued that were also quickly corrected. We shared the building with three other clubs and two vendors. Coryville Station from Windsor II. and Full Steam Ahead of NJ. Central Ohio N-Trak also presented numerous clinics in our building throughout the weekend.

Saturday evening raffle prizes donated by the vendors were awarded to everyone who was registered for the show. A local German restaurant catered a wonderful buffet dinner consisting of a full range of German food, which was followed by a live auction.

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The View from the Cab

Dave Freshwater,
President



At last month's Back Shop, in addition to all the regular activities, we had all of the orders from the Haberdashery available for member pick up. This month, in addition to the Haberdashery, we also plan to have a "blow out" sale on materials that are in the Company Store. I don't believe that we have any powered locomotives left, but there are dummies, rolling stock, various kits, and Peco turn-outs on hand. Some items are from previous donations and have not been doing our treasury any good sitting in storage. So, bring your cash or checks and make a deal. It is hard to tell what you may find on hand.

June also marks the beginning of our annual "Summer Tent Series" layouts. At Manassas, we are not under a tent any more, but the roof of the ice skating rink is still pretty close. We also have the Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival layout and Movies Under the Moon.

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

Upcoming NVNtrak Events

Wear NVNtrak Member ID to all events—**BOLD** events indicate set-ups.

Saturday June 6th, 15th Manassas Railfest, Ice Rink Pavilion, 9201 Center St. Manassas, VA. Coordinator & Trailer: t.b.d. Show Hours: 1000 to 1700 Hrs. Set-up: 0730-0930 Hrs. Clamp-down: 0900 Hrs. Layout Type: Medium Oval; analog and DCC, OLI.

Sunday, June 7th, 1300-1700 Hrs.: *Back Shop*. Fairfax (Franconia) Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria VA 22310; (703) 971-5858. Education Clinic: Scenery – Jim Davis coordinates. Contact: Rod Bohlmann.

Tuesday, June 11th. ***NVNTRAK BOD MEETING CANCELLED!***

Sunday, June 14th: 1300-1600 Hrs.: Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039 (703) 425-9225. Coordinator: Cotton Bowen. Trailer: NVX-4; hauler t.b.d. Set-up: 1130 - 1300 Hrs; Clamp-down 12:30.

Saturday - Sunday, June 20-21 Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival Oronoco Bay Park Oronoco & N. Union streets, Alexandria, VA 22314. Coordinator: J.B. Weilepp. Trailer: t.b.d. Show Hours: Sat. 1000-2300 Hrs.; Sun. 1100-1900. Set-up: Sat.: 0730-1000 Hrs. Clamp-down: 0900 Hrs.

Wednesday - Sunday, June 24-28: Fairfax INOVA Movies Under the Moon, Van Dyck Park, 3730 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax VA 22030. Coordinator: Brian Brendel and JB Weilepp. Trailer: t.b.d. Set-up: Wed. 1530-1800; Clamp-down: 1800. Layout stays up until Sunday. Show Hours: 1830-2030 nightly, until movies start. Tear-down Sunday after movies start. Layout Type: Small Oval under tent, OLI.

Saturday –Sunday, June 27-28, TTRAK ONLY: Silver Spring History Days, Historic Silver Spring B&O Station, 8100 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD. Coordinator: Jeff Peck (410) 451-9639, jpec361@yahoo.com. Set-up on Saturday June 27th. *Contact Jeff for exact times.*

Sunday, July 5th – ***No Back Shop. Enjoy the Holiday Weekend!!***

Sunday, July 19th: 1300-1600 Hrs.: Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039 (703) 425-9225. Coordinator: Cotton Bowen. Trailer: NVX-4; hauler t.b.d. Set-up: 1130 - 1300 Hrs; Clamp-down 12:30.

Sunday, August 2nd, 1300-1700 Hrs.: *Back Shop*. Fairfax (Franconia) Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria VA 22310; (703) 971-5858. Contact: Rod Bohlmann.

Sunday, August 16th: 1300-1600 Hrs.: Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039 (703) 425-9225. Coordinator: Cotton Bowen. Trailer: NVX-4; hauler t.b.d. Set-up: 1130 - 1300 Hrs; Clamp-down 12:30.

Saturday and Sunday, August 22-23. Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly, VA. NTRAK Layout analog and DCC, and Clinic. Coordinator: Rod Bohlmann 240-744-6663, Trailer t.b.d. Set up Friday 4:00pm - 7:30pm, clamp down Saturday 9:00am, show time 10:00am to 4:00pm Sat and Sun.

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(Continued from page 1) *View From the Cab*

Brian and JB will be doing the “NO RAIN DANCE” for the latter. Each of these layouts bring different challenges for keeping trains running. However, they also bring some of the larger crowds each year, with the latter two events also exposing the hobby to non-traditional railroad crowds. I know that there are members who prefer not to bring their modules out to set-ups where we have a real chance of exposure to inclement weather. But, anyone can bring a train or two and come out to help entertain the crowds at these shows. Given the sheer number of hours available for running trains at these shows, everyone ought to be able to get their train running fix this month.

As this was written, late, I lost the bubble on whether the **TTRAKers** were going to be setting up at the Historic B&O Silver Spring Station on the weekend of June 27-28. If you are interested, contact **Jeff Peck** or **Nick Sklias** to confirm whether this event is taking place. It is a great place for running and watching trains (and Metro).

Not that it matters to most of you, but you should note that there will NOT be a BOD meeting this month. Business and personal conflicts caught enough of us that we decided not to do a BOD meeting. (We don't have to do one each month.) July will be another good month for chores since we have only one event, the regular Fairfax Station show. The calendar smiled on us this year in August. The Greenberg Chantilly show and the Bedford N Scale weekend are on different weekends this year. So, you can do both!! More on that next month.

and is finally defeated by the army. Since the film was made in the early 60's, the army is equipped with WWII era vehicles. I wasn't willing to trash a passenger car, so I took an old caboose from one of those southwestern lines, and crushed it between the pincers of the scorpion. The challenge was finding the scorpion. Fortunately, *Ertl* makes a 1/72 scale model of the scorpion, which is just about the right proportion for the scene. Of course, the army showed up to battle the scorpion so that he doesn't interfere with any of the scheduled runs on the Mountain Lone.



Module of the Month
The Black Scorpion
 By Kip Petrick

I have always been a big fan of the Classic B Horror Films. As a kid, I remember seeing one that not only had gigantic creatures, but one of my other favorites: trains. That film, *The Black Scorpion*, became the inspiration for one of the scenery modules for my POFFs. In the movie, the black scorpion attacks a passenger train and is seen picking up the cars and shaking the people out so he can have a snack. Later, the scorpion attacks Mexico City

NVNTRAK 2009 Long Range Calendar Tentative	
Sept. 6-7	Fairfax Station Train Show
September 20	Fairfax Station
September 27	National Burn Camp
October 3	Bethesda-Chevy Chase
October 4	Back Shop
October 10	Franconia VFD Open House
October 10-11	Great Scale Show, Timonium
October 15-18	MER Convention, Hagerstown, MD
October 18	Fairfax Station
November 1	Back Shop
November ?	Damascus
November 7-8	Rockville Lions
November ?	Gaithersburg Train Show
November 15	Fairfax Station
November 21-22???	Greenberg Chantilly
December 5-6	Fairfax Station Train Show
December 11-12	South Columbia Baptist (TTRAK)
December 12	Kena Temple (TTRAK)
December 12-13	Herndon
December 19-20	IKEA College Park



The Hostler's Shack

By Matt Schaefer

Matt will return soon.

Model & Real Railroadng at Winslow, AZ

By Charles Greenacre

[Editor's note: Charles is a member of both Sun N Sand Model RR club in Scottsdale, AZ and in NVNTrak]

SunNSand Model RR Club participated in a five club setup in Winslow, AZ over the weekend of April 25 & 26. Originally to be in the hanger at the airport, we actually had one loop of track inside the Amtrak depot and three more loops in the Snow Drift Art Gallery. SunNSand had four corners and three sides of the loop at the Amtrak depot where twenty feet of modules from Arizona Railroad Modeling Society (Adobe Mtn) joined us. The other three clubs at the art gallery were Tuscon, Prescott, and Las Vegas.

There were frequent calls of "Train Break!" as BNSF provided live entertainment just fifty feet from the door. We were always looking for something different in the many trains that went by. Occasionally there were foreign power such as N&S, KCS, and CSX. We didn't see any UP or other power. The Amtrak Southwest Chief was on time everytime we looked for it. It usually consisted of two diesels and seven cars. On Sunday a maintenance of way train parked itself in front of the depot to allow the track gang to reload its self propelled vehicles bank onto the flat cards, which were equipped with rail at the 4'8.5" spacing. It even had a unfolding ramp on the first flat that would allow the maintenance vehicles to drive themselves up onto the flat car. This ramp was in six sections and folded up like a box or a square at the end of the flat car. The depot is at the entrance to a small, mostly run through yard. It is not used for classification, but for a crew change point and the occasional fueling. Sometimes there could be four trains moving at slow speeds just in front of the station, two arriving from each direction and two leaving in each direction.

Otherwise, there were two or three trains an hour arriving or departing, with the exception of Saturday afternoon. Saturday afternoon we heard reports that I-40 had been closed to high wind between Winslow and Flagstaff. Supposedly, the wind had knocked over a truck & trailer on the interstate, and the accident was caught on a state trooper's video camera system, since he was just behind the trucker. From Winslow, looking west, the entire western horizon was tanish brown in color, but blue sky overhead. The wind was howling through town, and the forecast was 40mph winds with gusts to 60mph.

We saw the usual intermodal loads, double stacks, single stacks, TOFC's, etc. There were also mixed freights with tankers, grain cars, box cars, etc. No coal loads. We did see a flat car with two Caterpillar loads on it, so that factory is still working in this economy. We also saw flat car with very long I beams on it—there were an idler flat car on either side of it.

Without the train break interruptions, we would have been running trains by late Thursday evening. However, it was the first time the Adobe Mtn modules had power applied so they had to work through two or three wiring problems. By 10am Friday morning we had a single line running and by noon we had 3 lines running. We found some minor issues with Desert Y bridge and the Coal Mine Hollow corner module.

Another club member convinced us to take some extra electrical equipment, and it came in handy. We used a very large 10amp power supply for DCC on one line and for DC on the green line—we needed to tweak the external connectors, and we still have to make some minor modifications. The week before the show we also created five electrical Ys or splitters with power poles instead of cinch jones and those came in handy as well.

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(Continued from page 1) Ohio N-Scale Weekend

My wife and I skipped the auction and took the opportunity to visit the Norfolk Southern Buckeye Yard and the CSX Intermodel facility which just happened to be next to our hotel. Security was pretty tight at CSX, but the NS employees didn't seem to mind our taking a few pictures.

Since the show closed to the public at 3:00 pm on Sunday, we were all packed up and ready to roll by about 4:30 pm. My thanks to the Central Ohio N-Track Inc for allowing NVNTRAK to participate in this show. It not only gave us the opportunity to show the quality of our modules to visitors who ordinarily would not see it, but gave us the opportunity to meet and talk to other clubs we have not seen before.

Northern Virginia NTRAK Board of Directors Meeting April 09, 2009

The BOD meeting was convened at 7:10 pm at **JB Weilepp's** home. Board members were present: **Dave Freshwater, Matthew Prentice, Jim Anderson, JB Weilepp,** and **Jim Davis.** **Dave Freshwater** brought the meeting to order with quorum present.

Jim Anderson presented a draft of minutes from March 12. After review, a motion to adopt by Matthew and second by JB, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Matthew Prentice provided the mail received at the club box including a nice thank you from Kathleen Freshwater, Dave's mother, for the flowers provided at the funeral by the club. Mathew reported the treasury and membership was stable with near normal renewal level of 87 members. His financial report showed income and expenses. Income to date has been dues, company store and the annual meeting auction of donated items. Expenses included the Call Board and a renewal of NTRAK membership for all. Chester has gone to a new Call Board reproduction source which is less expense. Matthew indicated our insurance the bill for the first half is coming due. A large haberdashery bill has been received for the orders placed at the annual meeting. The club will try to get the haberdashery items to the next Backshop and collect money for the orders. This will get items into member's hands as quick as possible. **Matthew** provided a membership roster for the BOD. The club has a number of the older 1997 NTRAK module pamphlets and the 100 pg "How To" booklets. Both have since been updated and the new "How To" booklet is now 167 pages and \$16. The updates have not invalidated the older items. The BOD authorized Mathew to make the older pamphlets free at show with the updated version to new members. The older booklets are to be discounted at the shows also until they used up.

The BOD reviewed recent shows and areas needing attention. During past two big shows, we have used

(Continued from page 4) Greenacre

There are plans to do this again next year, so if anyone on the east coast wants to run trains on the west coast, there's nonstop flights between IAD and PHX. Be sure to bring your camera or video equipment. We will also have to stop at the Canyon Diablo bridge where the BSNF launches itself over the Little Colorado river.

DCC with some success once it is set up but it is still a learning curve. At Timonium, the number of other club's transmissions caused some frequency issues. Also, once setup, the setup coordinator should caution members not to add or make uncoordinated changes as that often disrupts the operation. The BOD discussed April through June schedules and known setup coordinators and trailer haulers. Note May's Fairfax Station roles reverse as FFX Station has changed their schedule for the May Show for the May 3rd NMRA field trip to NS shops, which had to be cancelled. Details on National Train Day arrived after the BOD meeting, and are included for the record. CIA (the folks who put on World's Greatest Hobbies) is handling the National Train Day Event again this year and wants NVNTRAK to be involved. They did approve the same layout size we had last year, i.e., 3 x 4 POFF oval. Rod was last year's coordinator and will be CIA POC as **Dave Freshwater** expects to be on travel then. Alexandria Waterfront will be a 10x20ft tent near last year's location. "Movies under the Moon" for INOVA Children Hospital is scheduled for late June.

JB Weilepp reported on the Spring Ravensworth Road cleanup set for April 18th and noted our commitment is spring and fall 2009. He presented a paper on five options for encouraging new trailer haulers. BOD discussed options and JB will firm up the paper.

Jim Davis updated his paper on the project to Standardize Trailer Configurations. Define content, modules, power cords, location, instructions, OLI literature, etc so that either trailer can be used at a show with known expectations. Technical limits of one trailer are to support roughly 30 modules and that would require more skirts and stanchions as present capacity is roughly 20 modules. Also the new club corners need wider skirts to wrap around the front of the corner modules. **Jim Anderson** indicated that Marg had sewn the last batch to bring the totals to roughly 20 ea trailer. **Jim Davis** also started to inventory club modules at shows with pictures and configuration data. The club has 7 junctions with five different configurations. Two are in NVX-1 and are not a matched pair.

Dave Freshwater noted the club had reordered OLI supplies.

A motion by JB, second by Matthew Prentice, to adjourn that was passed at 9:30 pm. Respectfully submitted, **Jim Anderson** NVNTRAK Secretary

(Continued from page 2 Rail Events Timetable)

Friday August 28 - Sunday August 30 “The N-Scale Weekend” for N Scalers by N Scalers; Bedford, PA, [Exit 146 on PA Turnpike]; Fairgrounds 4-H Building; Bedford, PA; Coordinator: & Trailer: t.b.d.; Set-up: Friday 1600-2200 Hrs., Saturday 0800 – 1000 Hrs.; Clamp-down: Saturday 0900 Hrs.; Layout Type: Medium oval. Show Hours: Saturday 1000-1700 Hrs., Sunday 0900-1500 Hrs. Tear-Down: Sunday 1500 Hrs. Other: Pig Roast + Silent Auction/Swap Meet Saturday evening. Cost: \$8.00 per participant, \$10.00 extra for pig roast dinner, \$10.00 extra for event t-shirt.

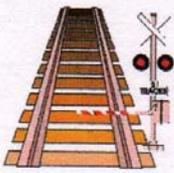
Sunday and Monday, September 6th and 7th. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Train Show. Run Caboose trains for two days. Labor Day Weekend. No trailer. Contact: Rod Bohlmann 240-744-6663.

May Photo Album Pictures by Nick Sklias, Dale Rinker and Jim Altobello



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Northern Virginia NTRAK, Inc.

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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, **Mathew 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. Photos should be in jpg format. Send submissions to the Editor:

callboard@nvntrak.org

All submissions must contain clear text identification of the author to be accepted for publication. **Articles and other submissions for the July 2009 issue MUST be received by June 26, 2009.**

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

June 2009



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