

THE CALL BOARD



A 100% **NTRAK** CLUB

Celebrating Our 19th Year!

January 2010

Volume XIX

Number 01

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

Annual Meeting Notice

The Board of Directors of Northern Virginia NTRAK, Inc.

announce the

2010 General Membership Meeting

Sunday, January 17, 2010

Noon to 5 pm

Business Meeting begins at 3:00 pm

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

Two members of the Board of Directors, Rodney Bohlmann and JB Weilepp, are eligible to, and plan to seek, re-election.

There will be three vacancies on the Board of Directors to be filled at this meeting.

As always, there will be a silent auction to allow members to buy and sell items.

A live auction of items donated to benefit the club, will also be held.

Snow day: February 7th, 2010.

The View from the Cab

Dave Freshwater,
President



And now for the busiest January ever. Two train shows at Chantilly, the Greenberg show in York, PA, for those who like making a road trip, and the annual meeting. Let's hope that the weather doesn't make us make any more hard choices.

As I write this, I am not sure what we will do about the Holiday party. A large portion of the food was perishable and was donated to a couple of Fairfax County Fire Stations. I am sure that some food will show up at the Annual Meeting. We will let you know if we decide to add to the events at the Annual Meeting and do the gift exchange (so that someone doesn't end up with the Grand Prize for 2 years in a row.)

However, we have to be careful about how many things we try and do at the Annual Meeting and the time that we devote to the various activities. As we did last year, the annual meeting will start early and we need to be clearing out of the Fire Station at 5; there is a church service in the hall behind us. We've managed to register all the items for the silent and live auctions, as well as pay everyone, before we cleared out. But we have to leave enough time to conduct the Annual Meeting itself and elect Board members for the next

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"A Fairfax Station Winter"	Back Cover

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 - Sunday, January 2-3, 2010: Greenberg Train Show Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA. Coordinator: Rod Bohlmann. Trailer: Jim Anderson and Jim Davis. Set-up: Fri.: 1200-2000 Hrs.; Sat.: 0700-1000 Hrs. Clamp-down: Sat. 0900 Hrs. Show Hours: Sat. and Sun.: 1000-1600 Hrs. Drive-in unloading Friday only.

Saturday – Sunday , Jan. 9-10, 2010: Road Trip – Greenberg Train Show, Toyota Arena, York Expo Center, 334 Carlisle Avenue, York, PA 17404; (717) 848-2596. Coordinator: Edd Braithwood, 304-329-3695. Trailer hauler: Brian Brendel. Show Hours: Sat and Sun. 1000-1600 Hrs. Set-up: Saturday 0700 - 1000 Hrs. Clamp-down: 0900 Hrs. Layout Type: Medium Oval.

Sunday, Jan. 17th, 2010, 1200-1700 Hrs.: **NVNTRAK Annual Meeting**. Franconia Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria, VA 22310; (703) 971-5858. Live and Silent Auctions. NVNTRAK Annual Meeting and Election of Directors. First Meeting of New Board of Directors. Non Module Event

Saturday - Sunday, January 23-24, 2010: Worlds Greatest Hobby Train Show Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA. Coordinator: Rod Bohlmann. Trailer, and layout: t.b.d. Set-up: Fri.: 1200-2000 Hrs.; Sat.: 0700-1000 Hrs. Clamp-down: Sat. 0900 Hrs. Show Hours: Sat. and Sun.: 1000-1600 Hrs. Drive-in unloading Friday only.

Sunday, Feb. 7th, 1300-1630 Hrs.: *Back Shop*. Contact: Rod Bohlmann. Trailer: N/A. (Snow Day for Annual Meeting).

Sunday, Feb. 21st, 1300-1600 Hrs.: Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039 (703) 425-9225. Coordinator: Cotton Bowen. Trailer: t.b.d. Set-up: 1130 - 1300 Hrs; Clamp-down 12:30.

Sunday, March 7th 1300-1700 Hrs.: *March Back Shop*. Fairfax (Franconia) Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria VA 22310; (703) 971-5858. Contact: Rod Bohlmann.

Saturday, March 13 Lorton Station Elementary School PTA Health and Safety Fair TTRAK. Lorton Station Elementary School, 9298 Lewis Chapel Road, Lorton, VA 22079 571-642-6000. *Tentative*

Saturday - Sunday, March 13-14: Boy Scout Troop 964 Train Show, Saunders Middle School. 13557 Spriggs Rd., Manassas, VA 20112 (703) 670- 9188, Multiple OL presentations to Scouts earning the Railroading Merit Badge. http://www.troop964.org/index_files/Train_Show/trainshow.htm. Coordinator and Trailer: t.b.d. Set-up Friday 4-9pm; Saturday 7-10am; Clamp Down – 9:00. Show hours Saturday 10am-5pm; Club Play Time Sunday 9am-1pm; Show Hours Sunday 1pm-5pm. Layout is currently full after AM signups.

Sunday, March 21st: 1300-1600 Hrs.: Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039 (703) 425-9225. Coordinator: Cotton Bowen. Trailer: t.b.d. Set-up: 1130 - 1300 Hrs; Clamp-down 12:30.

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

year. That is the most important thing we have to do on January 17th. We have three candidates for the three open slots on the Board of Directors for next year: **James Altobello, Matt Guey-Lee** and **Wayne Rash**.

Snow willing, this should be the last President's column that I write for the **Call Board**. This marks the completion of 8 non-consecutive years on the Board of Directors for me, as well as three years as President. I wrote my last, "last" article 9 years ago. Those years sure did pass quickly, with planning for and conducting the 2004 Convention. And then there was that unofficial meeting of past and current **BOD** members, and others, on the shoulder of I-495 one Sunday evening in February.

There are many things that we accomplish in this club. More than 40 times each year, we are out in public sharing our knowledge of the hobby, about the real railroads, and about railroad safety. And while the **BOD** coordinates things, the true reason that we are out there so much and that our events are successful is because of you, the members. You have never failed to show up and accomplish what we needed to get done – and to run some trains. Sure, there are times that we have had to ask a few times. And there are some projects that seem to continue on. Eventually, though, someone steps forward to lead things, or you all show up to support a session that the **BOD** has organized. That effort allows us to accomplish our mission, educating the public – as well as running some trains.

So, as I conclude my term, let me offer my thanks to each of you. **Northern Virginia NTRAK** would not be what it is without your support and efforts. You have made us successful in the past and will make us successful in the future.

I wonder if I remember how to do any modeling? See you at a layout.

Plainly Complex

By **Rodney J. Bohlmann, Superintendent**

Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

That is how the holidays go. The snow that fell took a while to remove from the driveway. Shoveled the first snow fall on Saturday and then the rest on Sunday afternoon. No time to go to church or anywhere else this weekend. The club holiday party was canceled too.

Maybe the best time to party is in the summer time. For now we can all stay home and work on things.

The only thing to think about is how to make other people think about becoming train fans or model railroaders like we are.

One time we had snow in April on the farm. We actually had 24 inches in mid April in Illinois. The wind swept over the fields and the drifts were six to ten feet deep. Here on the East Coast the snow melts quickly. Being in the city the drifts don't have much of a chance either.

When the cows were in the barn they made the barn warm. So we would dress warm to get to the barn and then hang up our jackets while milking. Winter is always a time to take care of each of the things we need to care about. Cows, chickens, pigs and all had to be care for. So did our family and friends. Clearing snow sometimes took days because of the wind and drifting.

Maybe we can all go to town and watch the snow plows pass by piling up snow at the end of the driveway. Or maybe we should live in the country where the snow plows come infrequently.

Wait a week and the snow will all be gone. Then get ready for the shows in January. Don't forget that we will be setting up on New Year's Day at 12:30 at Chantilly. That should be a good afternoon. Think about going to York and hope it doesn't snow you in or out. Finally the World's Greatest Hobby returns to the DC area and we can enjoy the show with other N scale clubs who will be there with us. Hope you all are ready for a busy January.

Final note, don't get alarmed at threats of fire hoses and chainsaws. We will all have our day when some fixing needs done. Just use the right tools. Being your Superintendent is just plainly complex and keeping things going is fun.

NV
NORTHERN VIRGINIA **NTRAK**

NVNTRAK Nn3 Division Report
Article and Photos by Jim LaBaugh

Railroad Trip! The annual pilgrimage to the 29th National Narrow Gauge convention in Colorado Springs, CO in mid-September included a reunion with Marc Sisk and a ride on the Cumbres and Toltec RR. This section of the narrow-gauge part of the Denver and Rio Grande Western includes a section of high desert in the San Luis Valley beginning in Antonito, CO, something not encountered at the more popular Durango and Silverton.



The train we rode on was a special, including baggage car, hauling railfans from Antonito to Chama, NM, stopping multiple times along the way to let us off to form a photo line for a run-by of a freight hauled by Engine 315, a 2-8-0 recently restored by the Durango Historical Society.

We left Antonito at dawn so the photo train and the freight could stay ahead of the regularly scheduled tourist passenger train, which runs daily from May through October. The 315 was late leaving Antonito as the crew forgot to fill the tender the night before. The result was falling behind schedule. So, our train got up some serious steam (25 mph!) as it pulled through the Toltec Gorge, with 800 plus feet of cliff on one side of the rails, so of course, the car we were riding in derailed. A quick-working crew had us on the frog and back on the rails in about 20 minutes. The lunch stop in Osier allowed all trains to meet, including the one coming from Chama going to Antonito. The remainder of the trip included more spectacular high-country scenery and run-bys before the train arrived in Chama around 5 pm, just in time for dinner at the station before buses took us to a series of local motels for the night. The next day we journeyed in the opposite direction, this time accompanied by noted photographer Sam Furakawa in the helicopter he chartered to take photos of the trains as they climbed to Toltec Gorge. We arrived back in Antonito just as the sun was setting through a passing rainstorm producing double rainbows that punctuated a truly memorable railroad road trip.

Another sign of Narrow-minded activity was a special run of one of the RGS geese at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden, CO the next day. We managed to arrive just as the museum was open at 9am, and even though the first run of the Goose was supposed to be at 10, the crew let us on early and we rode several times around the loop of track on the museum grounds. Many of you may have seen the N-Scale Con-Cor goose released a couple of years ago. A fair number of the Nn3ers have narrowed this product since then and Paul Sturtz was running his conversion on his Nn3 layout that was in the company of many other layouts in the convention hotel lobby at the start of the festivities in the Springs. Paul's layout was featured in the March/April issue of N-Scale Railroading and he received the Short Rails

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Northern Virginia NTRAK

Board of Directors Meeting
Oct 13, 2009

The BOD meeting was convened at 7:15 pm at **JB Weilepp's** home. Board members present included: **David Freshwater, Matthew Prentice, Jim Anderson, Rod Bohlmann, JB Weilepp, Chris Hyland, and Jim Davis.** **Ed Hyland** was also present. **Dave Freshwater** brought the meeting to order with a quorum.

Matthew indicated the treasury remains solid. Stipends from several recent shows have been deposited. Major expenses were the cost of printing and mailing the Call Board and donation to **Matt Schaefer's** church in his memory.

Jim Anderson presented the minutes from September 10th meeting. **Jim Davis's** motion to accept minutes with **Rodney's** second. Board approved.

Rodney Bohlmann recapped the forth coming schedule; Backshop and Gaithersburg, Nov 1; Damascus, Nov 7; Rockville Lions, Nov 7-8; and the Lutheran Church of St Andrew on Nov 14-15. Fairfax Station on Sunday Nov 15 will be a T-TRAK layout. The next Backshop will focus on trees and the club module with R-Y-B crossover. BOD also discussed an "Innovation Award" for individuals. This included a possible NTRAK article.

Jim Davis explained the cross-over issues in greater detail. While possible, the cross-over R-Y-B is essentially manual and requires control of all three tracks but does allow transition to and from an inside setup track. The BOD agreed to let him resolve the issues. Jim is also planning on further repairs to club modules and replacement of legs. Rodney will get "Velcro" for the modules for skirt installation.

Chris Hyland reported the Bethesda-Chevy Chase show went well with lots of train running.

JB cited the forthcoming Ravensworth Rd cleanup (subsequently rained out on both days). Fairfax Station Board took note of funds received from mutual split of sales of benefactor donations. NVNTRAK and Fairfax Station share proceeds. **Jeff Peck** is doing repairs on the caboose layout. Fairfax Station is also getting new sign. **JB** said the Franconia Fire Station Open House show went well.

Dave Freshwater reminded all that the Board of Directors will have three open positions at the January 2010 election and in seeking candidates. He noted we could do scenery clinic at the next Greenberg (Jan 1-3) show and finish up several modules. BOD affirmed annual party as December 20th at Fairfax Station similar to last year. (A subsequent offer by **Brian and Michelle Brendel** to host on that date was later accepted by the BOD in lieu of Fairfax Station.) **JB** has offered to orchestrate details with hosts. Dave led a discussion on the possibility of using a digital Call Board. **Matthew** said we were reproducing and mailing 111 copies including those we send to other clubs. We currently have no Call Board only subscriptions.

Next BOD meetings will be Nov 16 (Mon), and Dec 14 (Mon).

A motion to adjourn by **Chris Hyland** and second by **Rodney Bohlmann** was passed at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, **Jim Anderson** NVNTRAK Secretary

**South Columbia Baptist Church
December 11-12**

Article & Photos By Nick Sklias

Another year has gone by and this was our fourth show at *South Columbia Baptist Church*. It was the largest and the best by far. For me, it started on Thursday, Dec. 10, around noon, when I went to SCBC to see if I could get in early after their women's conference. By getting there early I was able to get the choice tables for the layout (9 to be exact). I started setting them up and covering them with the blue sheets. After setting up the tables, I began to set the T-Trak modules in place, which gave me a head start for Friday. At about 1:00 on Friday afternoon, I set out the buss wires and the power drops to my power modules. This year we had plenty of power drops, so everything ran well.

Jeff and Christian Peck and John Steitz showed up with their modules. **Dave Balderston** and **Robert Parsells** arrived to assist in setting up. The modules were put in place, wiring hooked up and powered up with the Zephyr for DCC and two DC throttles. We started running trains at 5:00 in the evening. The red line ran on DCC and the two inside loops ran on DC using my junctions.

We averaged three trains on the red line and one each on the loops for a total of five trains running most of the time. A few people came in for the evening to see the trains run.

MARRS RR Club was also there with two layouts, one in N-scale and one in HO, both modular. Bob Burroughs of SCBC was my contact person for



the last four years and I'm grateful to him and his church for inviting us. Bob is also a member of the MARRS

RR Club.

On Saturday morning I was at SCBC at 10:00. **Philip Cook** came in shortly afterward, set his modules in place and reconfigured the layout from

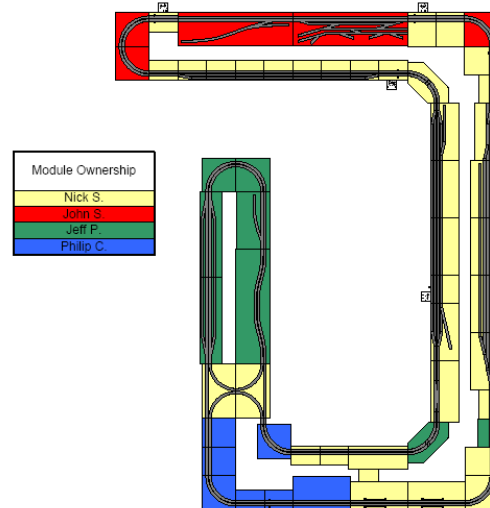
Friday to the original diagram.

The one problem we didn't consider was that we were short one inside corner, so we used an extra regular corner that Philip brought.



This created another problem that wasn't anticipated. We had a space approximately 64 mm between the corner and the junction. I remembered what happened at FF Station when there were no power drops on the DC layout and they used 62 Kato track with power. Since my house was less than two miles from the church, I went home and got the needed track and the rest is history.

South Columbia Baptist Church
December 11, 2009



Drawn by Steve J., 05DEC09

Jeff, Christian, Dave, Philip and I ran trains the

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Preview the 2010 National NTRAK Show in Chantilly, VA on January 23-24, 2010.

By John Wallis

The 2010 NTRAK National Show will be held as part of the Danville Old 97 Rail Days in Danville, Virginia, September 24-26, 2010. The Eastern N Lines Partnership Clubs, along with the Danville Parks, Recreation & Tourism Dept., and the Danville Science Center are pleased to host this event and welcome you to Danville.



The DCC Layout (The Danville Layout) is the show centerpiece and the accomplishment of several NTRAK milestones over a period of eight years of development — a well conceived, dynamic, freshly scenic, proven NTRAK layout that combines the best qualities of DCC with loosely-structured prototype operations. Loaded with crossovers, rise-and-falls, freight and passenger destinations, long sidings, and reliable turnouts, the layout will offer operators a full roster of prototype operational chores, gently directed by a Dispatcher, without the presence of cards and fast clocks.

Want to see a preview? The Eastern N Lines Partnership clubs will feature a Danville-concept layout at the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour Show at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, Virginia January 23–24, 2010. Come and see this exciting new concept for NTRAK layouts.

In Danville there will also be a second NTRAK layout (The Community Layout) with the Red Line Route being predominantly powered using AristoCraft wireless throttles, and other tracks being analog or DCC as desired by attendees. A T-TRAK layout will be part of the show, as will model railroad vendors and one or two other layouts.

Registration for the 2010 NTRAK National Train Show and Danville Old 97 Rail Days will begin on January 1, 2010. Registration is free. Your only cost will be for travel, food and lodging. We will offer a Friday night dinner and Saturday night Banquet for which there will be a charge. Registration forms and module application forms will be available at the layout in Chantilly.

For more information go to the Show's web site at: <http://trainweb.org/nrmrc/2010show/>. The official hotel for the Show is the Holiday Inn Express. Room rate is \$82 per night including breakfast and a reception for attendees on Thursday night September 23. The booking code will be available in January on the web site.

Mark your calendars for Danville 2010. (Ed.— John Wallis is the Chairman of the Eastern N Lines Partnership)

(Continued from page 6) South Columbia

rest of the day and night. John Steitz came later in the evening with OL material, did a presentation and also ran trains till closing.

Although the Christmas Pageant was not scheduled for Saturday night and therefore didn't bring in those additional fans, there were 120 Girl Scouts in the building wrapping Christmas presents. They paid us visits throughout the rest of the day and enjoyed the trains. We had quite a few families come in during the evening to see the model trains.

My fire scene module with police and fire engine lights flashing as well as the simulated fire in the building were a big hit with the kids and adults.

My thanks go out to Jeff, Christian, John, Philip, Dave and Robert.

Hope to see you all next year at SCBC with some more T-Trakers. The more the merrier.

RUN TRAINS. That's the name of the game, and give pleasure to those that come to see trains.



IT IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Please complete the information below so that our records of your membership are current. If your mailing label shows an **expiration date of 01/01/10** or earlier, you need to renew.

If you wish to vote at the Annual Membership Meeting, you must renew before the meeting. Membership dues are \$45.00 per year.

Please make checks payable to Northern Virginia NTRAK, Inc. and send your check or money order and this completed form to: **Northern Virginia NTRAK, P.O. Box 523051, Springfield, VA 22152**

Name _____

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

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Our 2010 Membership Drive is underway!

Don't you still want to support our museum and be on the mailing list?

Dues are a major income source for the station. Your support will help preserve local history.

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_____ 2010 Renewal _____ New Member

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All contributions are tax deductible. In accordance with the new Federal Tax laws, the Friends will provide the donor with a written acknowledgement of any receipts of \$250 or more.

(Continued from page 4) *Narrow Gauge*

magazine award for best mini-layout at the end of the convention, along with third place for his Nn3 work train - a remarkable feat among voters who mainly are HOn3ers or On30/3ers.

About 30 Nn3ers from around the country and the globe were in attendance, along with about 2,000 narrow-minded folk representing all scales. Mornings and evenings were devoted to clinics, vendors, and watching trains run at all the layouts at the hotel, with afternoons spent visiting 5-6 layouts between Pueblo and Denver each day. Nearly all the layouts were narrow-gauge, fully scened, and many were designed for operation. One of the rare layouts that was bare wood on L-girders was redeemed by the fact the host's backyard in Colorado Springs proper included not only the layout building, but two authentic 1:1 narrow gauge freight cars - a box car and a stock car!



Vendor highlights for N-Scale were some more western buildings from Wild West Models (www.wildwestmodels.com) multiple kits of rolling stock, buildings, and wagons from Rslaserkits (www.Rslaserkits.com), and the Ophir, CO depot from Banta model works. In addition, Jim Mooney from Bar Mills showed us a prototype small factory/business building they are doing in N that had lots of character.

It was great to see Marc and Carol Sisk again and their hospitality was wonderful. The week ended with the presentation of awards on Saturday night,

along with the usual roast delivered by Charlie Getz. The MC for the evening was Tweetsie (ET&WNC) author Johnny Graybeal, who could give any network talk show host a run for the money. He is the main organizer of the 2011 convention to be held in Hickory, NC. So if you would like to see what this narrow-minded business is all about beyond Nn3, and can't get to the St. Louis MO convention in 2010, why not combine a visit to the NVNTRAK branch campus in NC with a ride on the narrow rails in 2011? Y'all come.



Kena Temple



Photos by Jim Altobello

Fairfax Station



Coming Soon — Two New Advertisers that will Offer a 5% or greater discount to members! - “The Peanut Butter of Trains” and “National Capital Trains”

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Northern Virginia NTRAK, Inc.

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<http://www.nvntrak.org/>

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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.

Items for publication should be submitted in MS Word format. 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 February 2010 issue MUST be received by January 28, 2010.**

Northern Virginia NTRAK membership is \$45/year Dues are payable each January. Northern Virginia NTRAK membership includes NTRAK membership.

Northern Virginia NTRAK is a 501(c)(3) educational organization. Donations are accepted at any time and may be tax deductible. Send checks for membership or donations to: Treasurer; **Northern Virginia NTRAK, Inc.**; P.O. Box 523051; Springfield, Virginia 22152

January 2010

NV
NORTHERN
VIRGINIA **NTRAK**

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PHOTO BY
JIM ALTOBELLO