

# The Call Board

October 2015

Volume XXIV

Number 10



## RAIL EVENTS TIMETABLE

**Friday and Saturday—October 2 & 3—Lovettsville Library** at 12 N. Light Street, Lovettsville, VA, 20180. Public Hours: 1000-1700 Friday and 1000-1600 Saturday; Set-up Coordinator: Ed Boland; Trailer: NVX-4; Trailer Hauler: Jim Davis; Set-up done on Oct 1. This set-up will be a small NTRAK oval.

**Sunday—October 4, 2015—Back Shop 1300-1600** at Franconia Fire Station, 6300 Beulah St. Alexandria, VA. (Note: The October Board meeting is Cancelled.)

**Saturday—October 10, 2015—T-TRAK, Bunker Hill Train Club Show** at Ranson Civic Center, 431 W. 2nd Ave, Ranson, WV. Public Hours 1000 to 1500; Set-up Coordinator: John Steitz; Set-up: 0800 to 1000; Click together: 0900.

**Saturday—October 10, 2015—Franconia Fire Station Fire Prevention Open House** at 6300 Beulah St., Alexandria, VA. Public Hours: 1000-1600; Set-up Coordinator: JB Weilepp; Trailer: NVX-4; Trailer Hauler: NA; Set-up 0700-0930; Clamp Down 0900 This set-up will be a small NTRAK oval.

**Sunday—October 11, 2015—T-TRAK, Fairfax Station Railroad Museum** at 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax, VA 22039. Public Hours: 1300-1600; Set-up Coordinator: Steve Jackson; Trailer: N/A; Set-up: 1100-1300; Click together: 1230. **T-TRAK**

**Sunday—October 18, 2015—Fairfax Station Railroad Museum** at 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax, VA 22039. Public Hours: 1300-1600; Set-up Coordinator: Jim Davis; Trailer: NVX-3; Hauler: Jim Davis; Set-up: 1000-1300; Clamp Down: 1130.

**Saturday and Sunday—October 31 & November 1 2015—Greenberg Train Show** at Harrisburg Mall, 3501 Paxton St., Harrisburg PA. Public Hours: 1000-1600 both days; Set-up Coordinator: Dale Rinker; Trailer: NVX-4; Trailer Hauler: Jim Davis; Set-up: Friday 1200-2000 and Saturday 0800-1000; Clamp-down: 0900 Saturday. (See Page 6)

**Sunday, November 1, 2015 T-TRAK Gaithersburg Model Train Show** at Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD. **T-TRAK**. Public

hours: 0900-1600. Coordinator: TBD ; Trailer hauler: N/A; Set-up: Saturday 1200-1600, Clamp-down: Sunday 0800; Layout: **T-TRAK**

**Sunday—November 1, 2015—Back Shop 1300-1600** at Franconia Fire Station, 6300 Beulah St. Alexandria, VA.

**Saturday—November 7, 2015—Damascus Train Days** at Damascus Public Library, 9701 Main St., Damascus, MD. Public Hours: 1000-1600; Set-up Coordinator: Bob Yetter; Trailer: NVX-4; Hauler: Jim Davis; Set-up 0700-1000; Clamp-down: 0900.

**Saturday and Sunday—November 14 & 15, 2015—Rockville Lion’s Club Train Show** at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville, MD. Public hours: Saturday 1000-1600; Sunday 1200-1600. Set-up Coordinator: Jim Davis; Trailer: NVX-4; Hauler: Jim Davis; Set-up Friday 1600-2000 and Saturday 0730 -1000. Clamp-down 0900 Saturday.

**Sunday—November 15, 2015—T-TRAK, Fairfax Station Railroad Museum** at 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax, VA 22039. Public Hours: 1300-1600; Set-up Coordinator: Steve Jackson; Trailer: N/A; Set-up: 1100-1300; Click together: 1230. **T-TRAK**

### December Schedule:

December 5 & 6—Fairfax Station Holiday Show, Caboose only.

December 12 & 13—NTRAK and **T-TRAK** at the Herndon Holiday Train Show.

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**SUPERINTENDENTS CORNER**  
BY  
*ED BOLAND*

October will be a busy month for NVNTRAK as the Fall schedule kicks in. We have a number of NTRAK and T-TRAK shows.

We start the month with a new show at the **Lovettsville Library on Friday October 2 and Saturday October 3**. Lovettsville, Virginia is just 5 miles south of Brunswick, Maryland with its rail yards and museum. This will be a small oval, but there will be plenty of time to run trains in a relaxed atmosphere.

**Sunday, October 4, 2015** we will have our **Back Shop**. The clinic will continue the construction of a new club module with track laying and wiring being covered in this session. We have the module built, painted and cork roadbed laid.

**Saturday, October 10, 2015. Franconia Fire Station Annual Fire Prevention Open House**. We will set up a layout in the Bingo Hall for this event. This is part of the support we provide the Fire Station for letting us use their facilities.

**Sunday, October 11, 2015. T-TRAK at Fairfax Station.**

**Sunday, October 18, 2015. N-TRAK at Fairfax Station.**

**Saturday and Sunday, October 31 and November 1. Greenberg Train Show at the Harrisburg Mall in Harrisburg Pa.** This is also a new venue for us. This show is discussed in more detail in another article in this Call Board.

We have a very diverse schedule this month. Lots of different locations, long shows, short shows, **NTRAK**, **T-TRAK**. So, look closely and find a show that suits your fancy. It is time to get out of the summer doldrums and get involved again. There is room at these shows if you want to bring modules or just come and run trains. Get involved!

Please check the events column at the front of the **Call Board** for detailed information such as times and addresses. Send me an email if you plan to bring modules or to help set up, so I can put you on the list.

'til next month

Ed

**VIEW FROM THE LOO:  
T-TRAK UPDATE**  
BY  
*STEVE JACKSON*

The **T-TRAK Division** had the month of September off, so hopefully folks were able to take advantage of the down time to work on modules. I know that **Josh Weilepp** has been working on a set of modules using some frames that he picked up from **Nick Sklias**. I wanted to use this article to let you know about some upcoming shows.

**Upcoming Shows:**

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, we return to the **Bunker Hill Train Club Show** (<http://ttrak.wikidot.com/20151010-bunker-hill-train-club-show>) **John Steitz** is the coordinator for this show and he has been in discussion with **BANTRAK** to see if they want to participate in a two-club layout this time. I know that John sent out a call for modules a while back, but you can expect another call before too long so he can finalize plans.

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, we return to **Fairfax Station Railroad Museum** (<http://ttrak.wikidot.com/20151011-fairfax-station-railroad-museum>). I am the coordinator for that show and will be sending out signups for that too, so keep your eyes out on the **T-TRAK Division** email list. Not on the list? See the info at the bottom of this article to get added.

Looking ahead, November will have another two shows. We will participate in the **10th Annual Gaithersburg Model Train Show** on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Two weeks later, we have been asked by the **Board** to cover the November **Fairfax Station Railroad Museum** on the 15<sup>th</sup>. In December, we will participate in the **Herndon Holiday Model Train Show** on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

We have a pretty busy fall coming up, so I hope to see lots of you supporting these shows. For information on all upcoming **T-TRAK** shows, please take a look at the wikidot site: <http://ttrak.wikidot.com/nvntrak-events>

**T-TRAK Division Mailing List**

The **NVNTRAK 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 [ttrak@nvntrak.org](mailto:ttrak@nvntrak.org). If you are a club member, but not on this list and would like to be, send a note to me ([steve.jackson@nvntrak.org](mailto:steve.jackson@nvntrak.org)) or the list and we will get you added.

**Now you have seen the schedule TWICE—Please participate in NVNTRAK Shows**

**FAIRFAX STATION LABOR DAY SHOW  
SEPTEMBER 6 & 7, 2015  
BY  
STAFF**

NVNTRAK's involvement in this show seemed to be minimal, with only an opportunity to run trains in the Caboose on Sunday and Monday, but the opportunity to interact with the public makes it important for NVN-TRAK to participate in this show. Inside the station there was a shall 16 foot by 20 foot HO layout and a Lego train setup on four tables.

The weather was outstanding and throughout both days there was a steady steam of people in the Caboose with questions and interest in train history. There were few visitors that really understood the function of Caboose on trains.

On Sunday **Jim Altobello, Bob Yetter, Mike Rathje and Jim Davis** participated. On Monday we had **Nick Sklias, Kent Smiley, Mark Bowman, and Jim Davis**. We limited it to two members in the Caboose at a time so there was room for visitors. Actually, standing around outside the caboose, there were lots of opportunities to interact with the visitors. As stated earlier both days had very nice weather.

The Caboose layout really gets dirty between shows so a good track cleaning is essential. At the start some of the engines were stalling across turnouts. The turnouts on this layout are all power routing, so the points have to be clean to make good contact with the rail. A little extra cleaning and trains started to ran well.



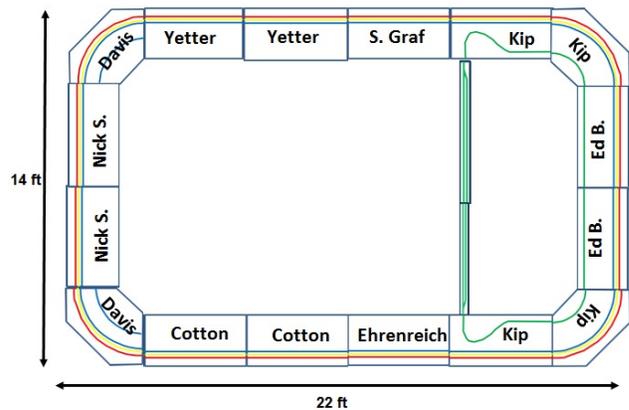
Bob is being closely supervised.

Photo by Altobello

**FAIRFAX STATION  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2015  
BY  
JIM DAVIS**

The monthly Fairfax Station show always seems to go together quickly with few issues since most of the club members that participate do it each month. With lots of experience in doing the setup, everyone knows where things go and the setup is done quickly without a lot of discussion.

This month was no exception; we started the setup about 1000 and were running trains well before noon. This time I could only squeeze in my two corners with the other modules provided by **Ed Boland, Kip Petzrick, Cotton Bowen, Rick Ehrenreich, Steve Graf, Bob Yetter and Nick Sklias**. As you can see from the diagram the mountain line was small this month.



We also tested two new "decoder in a box" arrangements during the show. There were several issues including a bad power pole on one of the boxes. Several Analog steam engines did not run correctly using the decoders to supply the DC power to the track. It also turned out that the engines did not run when we shifted to an Aristo. So the results were a little confusing, and more work is needed. I guess that is why we test new devices





School has just started but Kip is already challenging his Engineering students. It wasn't clear what the exercise was, but one student was observed chasing a train with a ruler!



## HOW TO: MODULE EMT LEGS BY STAFF

*Editors Note: This is an update of the leg article published in 2008 based on work done in building a new club module during Back Shops.*

Building sturdy legs is an interesting challenge with a 40 inch length and only 3 inches to work with for support under the module. Somewhere there has to be a compromise between sturdy, light weight, and ease of set up. A small force at the bottom of a leg results in significant torque at the top trying to rip it out of the soft pine base.

There are two basic choices—wooden legs or Electric Metal Tube (EMT) legs. There are a number of articles on wooden legs. This article describes an approach that makes legs from three-quarter inch EMT. The design used addresses two key challenges: solid leg support in soft pine module corner blocks and a rigid support for the eye-bolt at the bottom of the leg.

### Notes:

- Do not use one-half inch EMT. It has proven to be too weak and will bend with only a moderate force applied.
- The original design used 6 inch, 5/16 inch diameter eye bolts that were threaded to within one inch of the “eye”. However, these 6 inch bolts are no longer available at local hardware stores. Currently, only 5 inch eye bolts are available. The shorter eye bolts work fine if the lower dowel is reduced from 2 inches to 1 inch.
- It is hard to get the holes straight without a drill press to get them properly aligned. It can be done, but you need to be prepared for a few failures.

**Materials:** A list of materials used is the best way to start this description since a lot of search time was involved in finding the right components for this project.

1. 3/4” Electric Metal Tube (EMT)
2. Corner blocks cut from pine 2x4, 3 1/2” on a side.
3. 1” washer to go in bottom of the hole in the corner blocks.
4. 3/4” PVC 1120 drinking water pipe rated at 200 psi. Inside diameter varies between pieces. Since the fit is critical, test each piece of PVC with a piece of

*(Continued on page 5)*



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These screws must handle the upward thrust on the leg. Two smaller machine screws, #4 by 3/8, were used to hold the 1" dowel in place, which keeps the Tee-nut tight.

The EMT was cut to a length so that the module road-bed was 40" above the floor when one thread was showing on the eye bolt. This allows the module to quickly set to the right height. For example, for a module with a 1/2" plywood top the legs would be 36 3/4 inches (40" - 0.125 for cork - 0.5 for plywood - 0.25 in pine block - 0.0625 for washer - 2.25 for remaining eye bolt length at one thread = 36.8125 so 36 3/4 is close enough). The eyebolt can be screwed in or out for the required plus/minus 1 inch.

The legs can be stored in the frame of both a POFF and corner module.



**NEW SHOW VENUE  
HARRISBURG, PA  
BY  
DALE RINKER**

NVNtrak recently received a request from Frank Hicks, a manager for the *Greenberg Train Shows*, for us to participate in the train show in Harrisburg, PA. on October 31, 2015 and November 1, 2015.

This show is being held in the Harrisburg East Mall near the Bass Pro Shop. The venue is actually inside the former JC Penny's Department Store which has been vacant for several years. I participated in the show last year as a member of the **Capital PenN Scalers**, which is a train club in Central Pennsylvania.

It is a very comfortable venue, bright, easily accessible in an area that has plenty of shopping, eating and hotels. I know this is an away show for everyone, but MB Klein is on the way. We have a 30 X 50 foot space in the store so there is plenty of room for everyone. We will have a normal Friday afternoon set-up and I will personally pay for dinner for anyone who arrives on Friday and brings a module to participate in the show.

If you are so inclined to participate, feel free to contact me directly.

**VICTORIA STATION AND  
WARTHER MUSEUM  
BY  
KIM PETZRICK**

Let me start by saying that I have not personally been to either of these locations, but one of my students (a regular when I have the labs at Fairfax Station) saw this while on a college visit out to the Chicago area. She was so excited about the opportunity to check out the trains that she insisted that her family stop and stay at the inn.

Sugarcreek Inn/Victoria Station and the Warther Museum are located in Dover, OH (Exit 83 off I-77) in an area known as The Little Switzerland of Ohio. Victoria Station gives you the opportunity to sleep in a railroad car with 19<sup>th</sup> century décor, but with all the modern amenities of today (refrigerator, coffee maker, AC and wireless internet). According to my student, the rooms are huge.

Within a short walk you can visit downtown shops, see the World's Largest Cuckoo Clock, and the Warther Museum. The Warther Museum is a family run museum that honors the family patriarch Ernest "Mooney"

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Warther. Mooney was a world-class carver and among the works displayed are hand-carved models of

Lincoln's Funeral Train, "The General" and a couple of other locomotives.

**Lincoln's Funeral Train is shown below.**



**The engine and coaches are carved in black ebony, trimmed with ivory and pearl.**

**It is about eight feet long and took 12 months to carve.**

# The Call Board

#### Northern Virginia NTRAK, Inc.

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Questions? Need Help? [president@nvntrak.org](mailto:president@nvntrak.org)

Editor—Jim Davis

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 or text format; either is acceptable. Send submissions to the Editor:

**[callboard@nvntrak.org](mailto:callboard@nvntrak.org)**

All submissions must contain clear text identification of the author to be accepted for publication. **Articles and other submissions for the next issue MUST be received by the 25th of the month.**

#### NVNTRAK E-mail Lists

**NVNTRAK** maintains a list server in conjunction with the club web site. A message addressed to [nvntrak@nvntrak.org](mailto:nvntrak@nvntrak.org) reaches all club members who are subscribed to the list. To subscribe, or if your e-mail has recently changed, contact the Webmaster at [webmaster@nvntrak.org](mailto:webmaster@nvntrak.org).

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**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