



## Welcome to the National Capital Trackers!

We are excited that you are interested in joining our club to run O-gauge trains, have fun, and promote the model railroading hobby.

In this package for new and prospective members you will find basic information about who we are and what we do.

For more information contact us at [info@natracker.org](mailto:info@natracker.org) or visit us on the web at [www.natracker.org](http://www.natracker.org).



## About Our Club

The National Capital Trackers have been operating O-gauge trains throughout the Washington DC metro area since 1991. As the hobby has evolved over the last several years so has the National Capital Trackers club. We operate our O-gauge trains with all available digital control systems from both Lionel and MTH, both major manufacturers in the hobby. By utilizing all available control systems, we open our modular layouts to every level of train enthusiast and encourage new and old members to share their passion of operating their favorite O-gauge trains with members and the public alike.

Innovation and imagination are the only limits to module design and has been a cornerstone of the club since its inception. We adhere to our published construction and electrical standards for members modules ensuring compatibility. We encourage every new member to construct at least one module and actively participate in several shows throughout the year. Our busy show schedule provides ample opportunity for member participation.

Camaraderie and the fun of operating “O” gauge trains is what the NCT club is all about. Every member has one thing in common: the sharing of our passion for operating toy trains for each other, for ourselves and for the general public. We truly are part of the World’s Greatest Hobby.



## **National Capital Trackers Activities**

The National Capital Trackers (NCT) is a club of O-gauge electric train enthusiasts who run trains on temporary modular layouts in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. We support 12-16 shows annually at a wide range of venues, including Celebrate Fairfax, Manassas Railway Festival, B&O Museum in Baltimore, Marine Corps Museum, College Park Aviation Museum, Kensington, Md., and Greenberg Toy and Train shows. These shows run the gamut of multiple modular clubs of all gauges to just the National Capital Trackers club. Our layouts are unique and vary from show to show depending the size and location of the facility. Our schedule is busiest from September through New Years and the show season ends for us in early June.

Our members build and decorate standardized modules. These modules are connected to form layouts, often holiday-themed. Corners, power equipment, specialized modules, and skirting are all NCT owned and transported via the club's trailers. Individual members provide modules, decorations, and the trains that make up the total layout for any given show. Each member is responsible for transporting and setting up their module(s).

NCT is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, and we welcome members of all ages. Our club has promoted the model railroad hobby and increased public awareness of railroading since 1990.

## Membership Classes and Expectations

The three major classes of Members are:

- **Passengers:** New members without modules.
- **Partners:** Voting members with modules.
- **Junior Members:** Under 18 must be accompanied by an adult at all shows.

Those under eighteen of age must join as a 'Junior' membership with a parent or guardian. The parent or guardian must be a club member. As an adult over eighteen one joins as a 'Passenger' until the new member participates in at least two shows a year and has one train module. Elevation to the 'Partner' classification is recommended by one of the show's Trackmasters.

### Dues and Expenses

An application fee of \$ 40 is required to join. This includes membership in the year you joined and your club name badge. Subsequent annual membership fees are:

- **Passengers** and parents of Juniors - \$ 30
- **Partners** - \$ 20
- **Junior members** are free of dues.

Other expenses such as club apparel, module building supplies, etc., are the responsibility of the member.

### Expectations of Members

**Passengers** are typically new members without modules. The expectation is that a passenger will participate in several shows and assist with set up and tear down of club assets along with running their trains during the event. Ultimately each passenger is encouraged to build their own module and be part of at least two shows. Once this is accomplished the Trackmasters will notify the membership chairman and the membership will vote on the Passenger becoming a full Partner with voting privileges.

**Partners** are members with modules built to club standards and must participate in at least two shows annually. It is also expected every member will assist in unloading and loading club equipment in the trailers. Each year Partners elect two Board members. Other club actions, expenditures, and projects are voted on at the monthly meetings. Mail in voting is only available for the November Board elections.



## Membership Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents's name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( if Junior member )

Date of Birth: (Junior members only) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip; \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:

Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_

(Tracker's Name)

How would you like your name to appear on your club name badge:

\_\_\_\_\_

Send application with a check for \$40.00 made payable to "National Capital Trackers" to: David Eadie, Membership Chair, 7825 Wintercress Lane, Springfield, VA, 22152-3842

For NCT Use:

Payment Rcvd: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Rcvd: \_\_\_\_\_