



The Beltline

On the Web at www.nattrackers.org

Official Newsletter of the National Capital Trackers

2022, no. 2, issued February 2022

Contents:

- Marine Corps Museum Show
- Chantilly Library Show
- WMSRR 1309 Rolls Again!
- NCT Club News
- Membership News/Annual Dues Time
- New Website Info: Support
- Need Plexiglas for Your Module?
- Club Committees
- Modules For Sale
- Trackmaster Report, Greenberg at Fredericksburg
- Trackmaster Report, College Park Aviation Museum

Marine Corps Museum Show

If we have enough participants, a Tracker layout display will be scheduled for March 26 - 27 at the USMC Museum. Setup will be at 7:00 AM Saturday. If you wish to participate, respond with the number of modules and type of track you use to johnzamp@aol.com

Chantilly Library Show

The Trackers are confirmed for the show at the Chantilly Library on 14 & 15th May. Set up is on Friday the 13th from 1 to 6pm. Contact John Masiyowski to take part.

Baldwin-built ex-C&O 1309 is finally rolling again, the largest Mallet running anywhere.



NCT Club News

Tracker Membership Report - February, 2022

Please pay your dues for the 2022 if you have not done so. We rely on dues payments to cover expenses each month, This includes maintenance of our two trailers and club assets. Just this month, we had to replace a defective WiFi Router. We thank those who have paid and supported our club.

Dues for Passengers are \$30; dues for Partners are \$20. There are no dues for Junior members but the Junior's parent pays as a Passenger. As of February 4th, 2022, **31 club members have not paid their 2022 dues.** Of these 15 have not paid their 2021 dues as well.

Please pay your dues to: John Masiyowski, NCT Treasurer, either in person at the monthly meetings **OR** send a check or money order made out to NCT / National Capital Trackers. Send to John at the address:

John Masiyowski, 13607 Brass Harness Ct. Oak Hill, VA 20171-3364

A new roster will be distributed to members in early February reflecting updates received since last November. In this Roster, those identified as "Inactive" in the first column (Category column) are those members who have yet to pay their 2021 dues. For those, PLEASE PAY ASAP if you want to remain a member and participate in our shows.

Several "Membership Packets" have been placed in the Virginia and Maryland power cabinets.

New Website Info: Support

Important new information has been posted on our website. Sign on to the NCT website (Nattrackers.org) then click on MENU. (Top of Screen)

Under the MENU a SUPPORT category has been added.

Under SUPPORT the following topics are listed:

MD Available Networks

VA Available Networks

VA Power Cabinet

MD Power Cabinet

NCT Problem Solving and Workarounds

WIFI Helper

The information listed in each topic is designed to help a Trackmaster answer or resolve any situations or problems that may arise. Besides using the website as a resource, the information is also readily available in each Power Cabinet.

Reference the Red binder and White binder located inside each cabinet.

Even though this information is basically a Trackmaster resource, every NCT member should be familiar with all topics. Take a little time and sign onto our website, no password needed, and review each item.

Need Plexiglas for Your Module?

Contact Don Roberts to freshen up your module for 2022 show season.

Club Committee Chairs for 2022

- Communications – TBD
- Membership – Dave Eadie
- Quartermaster (VA) – Rick Eudy
- Quartermaster (MD) – TBD
- Beltline – Gil Baldwin
- Apparel – Mike Fistere (?)
- New Venues – John Zampino
- Power Cabinet Tech Support – Steve Kehn

For Sale

Two module tables (with legs & plexiglass) used with the old Tracker standards.

They contain two Lionel tubular tracks wired with the old wire harnesses. I will include enough tubular track to complete the center track to meet current Tracker standards.

With a center track and new harness added, they will make a nice addition to any Tracker display. \$60.00 each. Contact John Zampino, johnzamp@aol.com

Trackmaster Report

Greenberg Show at Fredericksburg Expo Center

August 7&8, 2021

Trackers Brave I-95 Traffic to Exhibit at the Fredericksburg Greenberg Show

The set up period designated by the show management for layouts began at 1 PM Friday afternoon. The trackmaster pulled in first at 1:15 PM, followed in short order by Tim Minor and Bob Easton. Tim kindly provided two additional modules (a rail yard and village scene) to compensate for a member who had to cancel his participation. Bob was assisted by his grandson, Nolan, in setting up his 2 module downtown display. Nolan also assisted with set-up of the club corners and packed the cooler. Shortly afterward, Jack Frost arrived with grandson Sebastian to set up his very popular National Mall display. Bill Creech, accompanied by Bear Bailey, appeared and set up his Tunnel module. Claire Eudy's airfield modules were delivered and set up by the Trackmaster, and Don Roberts checked in to set up his Maintenance Yard vignette. The set up period concluded at 6 PM, and the participants saddled up to fight the northbound traffic.

Saturday morning, the show floor opened at 7 AM and members arrived to complete set up activity. Dave Bonner prepared his gas station module, and Gary Lavinus assembled his car dealer module to complete the layout. Once all the modules were connected, the green continuity lamp was lit. On the geezer gate, one of the latch balls had become misaligned and needed to be adjusted. There was one minor wiring issue in a member module which was diagnosed and remedied by Thomas "Gilliy" Gilsdorf well prior to the show opening at 10 AM. Saturday attendees at the show included President Regis Harkins, Treasurer John Masiyowski, and Lynn Gaines.

The show floor was fairly crowded Saturday until mid-afternoon, as rain fell steadily in the area until shortly before the show closed down at 4 PM. Due to the relatively small number of participants, track time was readily available. I found that this particular Greenberg show was notable owing to the quality of vendor offerings. It is not uncommon for me to walk the floor of a Greenberg show and find nothing of interest. This time was different, as I found 8-10 items that

appealed to me. I had to decide which item I wanted most and limited my purchases to that one item.

On Sunday, the show was much more sparsely attended, possibly due to improved weather. The show went smoothly until closing at 4 PM. Tear down was facilitated by our location next to a roll up door. Bob's daughter and grandsons and Jack's son and grandson Sebastian, assisted with the teardown. All items were packed, and everyone was on the road by 5:40 PM.

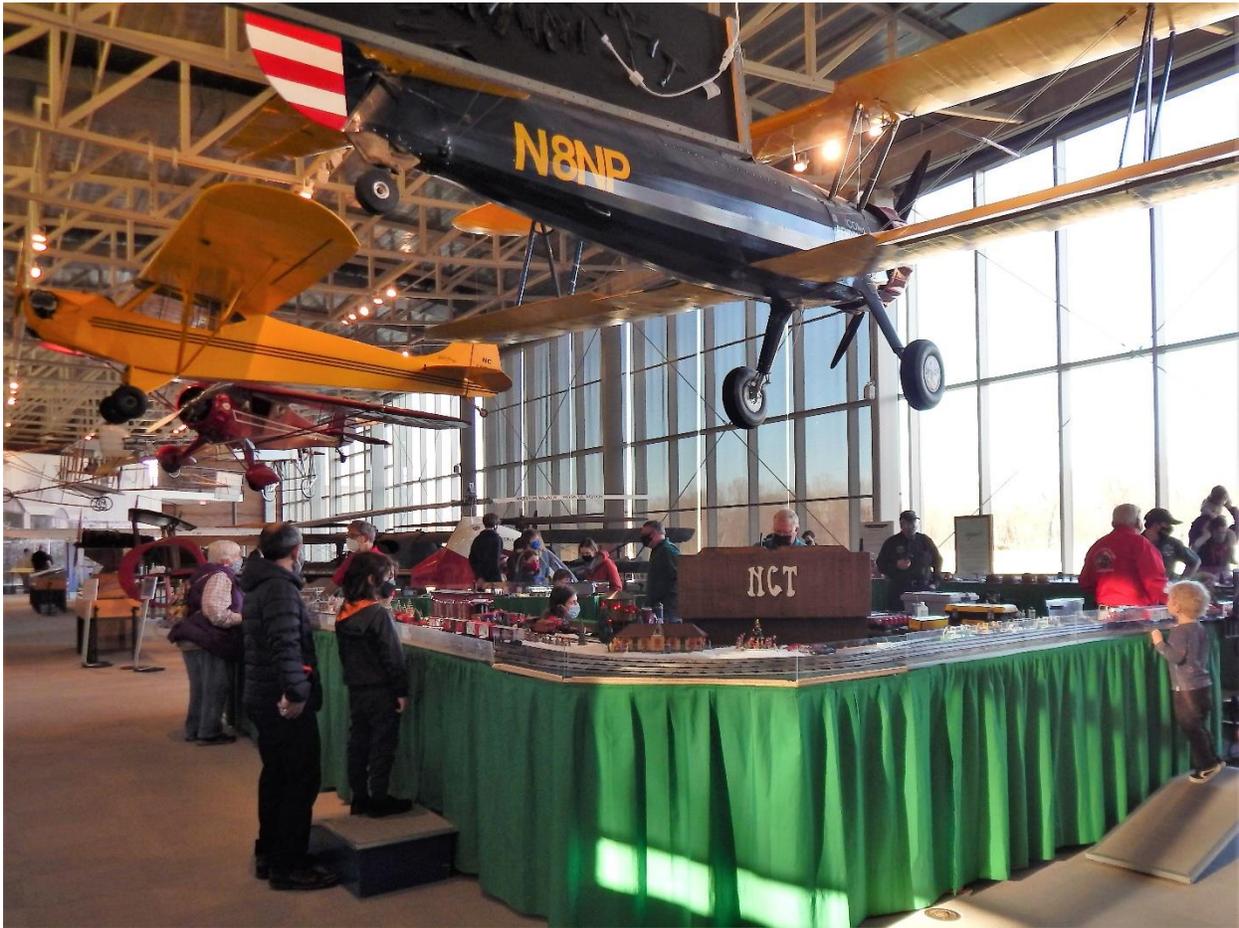
Respectfully,

Rick Eudy, Trackmaster

College Park Aviation Museum Planes and Trains Show,

December 17th – 19th, 2021

The National Capital Trackers again held a Christmas Holiday Show at the College Park Aviation Museum. The show was enthusiastically received by the public, new museum management, and club members. The schedule was shortened from prior years to three days, Friday through Sunday, which proved to be the right amount of time.



Setup took place on Thursday December 16th. Our layout design was rectangular with a “horseshoe curve” on one side. The layout was up in a few hours.

However, we had an electrical short and some odd electrical readings on several tracks. Extensive troubleshooting took place over the course of a few hours, eventually finding a club connector track that was defective. After that, the layout ran well throughout the show. Folks using smartphones or tablets did have to connect directly to the DCS Wi-Fi unit for connections as the large router did not work.

As always this is a great venue combining an airport, airplanes all around, and model trains. Using this theme, Tracker Chuck Mulchi created an airport scene that featured planes with rotating propellers on the runway and a rotating radar antenna above the control tower. On the runway, ready for takeoff, was Santa with his sleigh full of toys pulled by his reindeer. This was a hit!



Friday evening the museum hosted a gala event and the Trackers participated putting on a show. There was ample run time. The museum provided us with a boxed dinner from Panera bread and a quiet area to enjoy the meal.



The show continued both Saturday and Sunday. The manager informed us that they had over 1500 paying customers. Everyone seemed to be delighted with the

trains. Takedown was accomplished in just over an hour. Several of us celebrated by reconvening for dinner down the road at Franklins and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!

I wish to thank everyone who participated and made this a great time for all.

Don Hemmer Trackmaster

George Tsakiris Assistant trackmaster

Train Songs Returns

- **“Wreck of the Old 97”** history and song, courtesy of Ralph Fox
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ggBWk-Q_NY
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The **Beltline** needs your articles **in MS Word format**, photos **as JPEG image files**, and links about trains and railroading, prototypical or scale, new or old. Send them to GilBaldwin3@gmail.com