

9th Enchanted Forest Train Show – Report
19-20 November 2016 at the Westin Hotel, Tyson’s Corner Virginia

Setup for the Tracker’s 9th consecutive appearance at the Junior League’s 16th Enchanted Forest event began on a very nice and seasonably warm (~70°F) Friday afternoon shortly after 12pm with Fred’s module and was completed around 8:40pm with testing of track functions including a “green” power cabinet continuity light. Setup went smoothly in the same “Pines” conference room as in previous years with everyone pitching in and helping with off-loading from the trailer. The slightly different sized 26’ L x 10’ W layout



featured the club’s new VA corners used in the October 2016 TCA York show which provided a bit more room for staging operations inside the layout. Members participating in the show with modules were Fred B, Russell E, Bill K, Joe L, Jim Mc and Trackmaster John M. Bill travelled furthest from the other side of Philadelphia to participate for the first time in the show. Addition scenery was provided Jim on the corners. The “Power House” was used again this year on the outside of the layout, to the right rear, due to limited inside space. The show had visitors on Saturday morning shortly after 9am prior to full public operation starting at 10am. Saturday operations continued until 5pm and on Sunday from 11am to 3pm on a cold (~40°F) and a very windy (~20-40 mph) fall day. There was lots of running time on both days for conventional trains and DCS/TMCC command trains which allowed club members and the public to enjoy a variety of trains.



Fred Booth featured his Texaco Petroleum tank farm display and ran his Lionel steam engine and pulled Jim’s Southern passenger cars. Bill ran several trains on both days including his theme army train with different cars and loads, and an complete orange Amtrack maintenance train which blended well with this three construction and maintenance module set complete with an inside siding. Russell ran his 25+ box car Lionel 9600 series Disney and Hershey chocolate train on both days and on occasion and by public demand his blue and yellow Chuggington engine

and accompanying freight cars. Joe ran his passenger train and was the first club member to run the club gondola car that Mike F delivered earlier that morning. Joe quickly got his other two gondola cars on the tracks to have all three going in the same train. Jim ran his passenger train and a freight train consisting of all club cars: the tanker (4), gondolas (1), double stacks (4) and a bay window caboose. John ran his conventional MTH silver Amtrak passenger train with four cars. John, Jim and Russell had winter scenes on their modules while Joe had some freight type buildings that were rewired with interior lighting. Mike F dropped by on Saturday around 11am to distribute the club’s 2016 extended length gondola car to show participants and other club member who dropped by early in the day. Take down of the layout including trailer loading was completed by ~4:30pm. There were a few train wrecks mostly due to external forces; however, there were no casualties to spectators or trains.

Thanks to Rick E for dropping off the VA club trailer on Friday morning.

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The club picked-up an pseudo honorary member (shown at right with Joe) at the show in the form of an enchanted forest event staff who ran Joe’s Lionel command train for quite a while and asked numerous questions about the club, layout, power cabinet and model trains. Two other event staff members also dropped by on Sunday afternoon near closing and asked similar questions.



The Junior League was very happy with NCT’s involvement as the model train display continues to be a major draw for the event with lots of young and old smiling and happy faces. Junior League invited the Trackers back in 2017 in which the enchanted forest event may be held in a different venue and format.

Happy Thanksgiving



Respectively submitted,
John M, Trackmaster
24 November 2016