



Volume 22

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BANTRAK Newsletter

The Engineer's Cab

Alan DelGaudio

Summer 2009 is halfway done! Unless you're in school; then it's two-thirds done.

We're closing in on a pretty fun-filled autumn and winter. Leading off, we have a 14 x 28 layout in Bedford. Martin's coordinating it and he's trying to fit in as many modules as possible. Mr. Nixon promises something different for us at the October Scale show in "Tim"onium. Then we're on for steam weekend at the B&O, headed up by Msrs. Dily and Winterbottom.

Those are all tune ups for the big soiree at the B&O Festival of Trains.

And I'm hoping we can eke in a nice lil' extra show. I'll send a separate message within the week.

So with all that, there are projects a-plenty for us to work on, such as continuing our corner refurbishment and upgrade project. Ken Greenhorn has breathed new life into both the 7-11 and the Wilderness corners (the one with the green line). Good job, Ken! Come see them at Bedford.

Speaking of Bedford, if you haven't gone, try it — even if just for a day. There are multiple N-scale layouts and it's great for ideas, conversation with fellow N-scale runners, and just a nice, relaxed atmosphere. There are plenty of RR activities, such as Horseshoe curve an hour or so away.

With all the good stuff happening, it's sort of bittersweet to be wishing Ralph and Jill a wonderful life on the left coast (not California — Oregon). I'd like to take a moment to say a few things about Ralph. It was Ralph that indirectly brought me to BANTRAK. Sometime in 2001, my wife and I were at the Scale show in Timonium (or maybe it was a Greenberg show), and I had just started messing with an N-scale layout. Ralph was doing some scenery work on what may have been a raffle layout and took a good bit of time out to answer the various unorganized questions I

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Next meeting...

August 16, 2009
2:00 pm

Community Center at
Faith Community (United
Methodist) Church,
Baltimore

On the web...

News, information, and
forums are all at:

<http://www.bantrak.net/>

MBK Layout Progress Report

Bob Mohr and Alan DelGaudio
Photos by John Darlington

We thought club members might be interested in a progress report on the MBK layout. There were several work sessions with



Overview of layout with scenery texture

enough folks to get the job done and not too many to get in each other's way. The layout now is beginning to take on form and color, with the hills being covered with a layer of ground cover and the rock castings having been stained with washes. The track plan was tested prior to the scenery work.

There are some off-line projects going on to support this effort as well. Mark Bandy is constructing the New River Mine kit that will be the dominant structure on the layout. Martin Myers is working on the schematic for the local switch controls. Bob Mohr is working on the switch control panel and a small panel to mount the DS 64 that will be the controller for the five turnouts on the layout.

Formal work sessions will be held on Saturdays. These sessions will primarily deal with scenery detailing. We will be gluing

clump foliage in place and locating and building trees. There will be need for lots of touch up and assorted small tasks. These tasks allow for one or two people working together to finish an area. We can accommodate up to four people for each session. If you are interested, please send an email to RTMohr@msn.com and indicate which session or part that you can make. This scheduling is needed for work planning purposes. If you just want an excuse to come and shop at MBK and be a "sidewalk superintendent", well, that's OK too. In that case, there is no need to email – just come on down and join the fun. We welcome your participation at whatever level you are comfortable with.

These sessions have been and will likely continue to be impromptu clinics for Klein's customers, so we recognize progress may be



Alan, Bob, Dave, and Tim discuss the next steps

compromised by our being good model railroading ambassadors.

We'd like to say "a big thank you to all the folks that have pitched in so far to move this project along".

And, thank you to the staff at M B Klein for asking us to be involved with this wonderful opportunity.

(more photos next page...)

MBK Layout Progress Report (continued)



The layout before scenery work



Skip and Bob test track power



Martin works on under-layout wiring

Site of the Month: BANTRAK.net

Matthew Davis

This is a new feature, where each month I'll introduce a web site of interest to BANTRAK members. And what better site to start with than our own BANTRAK home page? Have you visited it lately? If not, now's a good time to point your browser at www.bantrak.net and see what it's all about.

There's lots of information about BANTRAK and modeling in N scale, photos, and even a listing of items for sale. Be sure to register (it's free!) and sign in to get member information and participate in the forums. It's a great way to stay connected to your fellow BANTRAKkers!



The Engineer's Cab (continued)

was full of. Six months later at Sykesville, I had another enlightening discussion (probably with Mr. Potter and Ralph). The following February, I came down to see what the club was up to. No doubt, there are many great folks at BANTRAK, but Ralph was my "first contact". What may seem like innocuous conversations could bring us a new member or someone wanting us to run at their function.

A lot of modules have recently been adopted. Dave and Denise will probably have a "new" module every show. Steve and Eric aren't far behind! Will we see a new layout?

As far as club modules, there are several projects that will need volunteers and leaders:

1. *Corner Refurb II*: So-called "Ellicott City" and "Rock Cut" need facelifts.
2. *New corner initiative*: I have one ready with track and electrical drops, it will need scenery.
3. *Club animation and lighting*: More visual interest for modules at the B&O.
4. *Yard legs repair*: The screws are falling out with alarming regularity.
5. *B&O Ellicott City cleanup*: The 5x7 layout needs cleanup and track repair. I plan to have it at my home in late October. After working on it, we can have photographs taken. We'll then need to set it up at the museum. It needs a timer so trains only run for 5 minutes.

The next meeting is August 16, coordinated by Frank Hogarth. Watch your e-mail for details.

Please take some time to thank our newly returned member, Matthew Davis, for jumping in as editor! I look forward to seeing you all on August 16.

Alan

BANTRAK was founded in 1983 as the Greater Baltimore N-Scale Associates. Begun as a "round robin" group to share skills and experiences, we have expanded our focus to include participation in many diverse activities to promote model railroading in general and N-Scale model rail-roading in particular. Activities include participation in local, regional and national shows, meets and conventions. BANTRAK membership includes membership in the national NTRAK organization.

President

Alan DelGaudio (410) 480-9155

Treasurer

Tim Nixon (410) 757-5045

Membership

Al Palewicz (410) 426-0339



BANTRAK Calendar

8/16 — BANTRAK Meeting at Church Community Center (Frank Hogarth hosting)

8/28-30 — 5th N-Scale Weekend, Bedford, PA

9/20 — BANTRAK Meeting at Dave and Denise Clyde's

10/10-11 — Scale Show, Timonium Fair Grounds (setup 10/9)

10/16-18 — Steam Weekend, B&O Railroad Museum

The BANTRAK Newsletter is the official publication of the Baltimore Area N-TRAK organization.

This is your newsletter! Please send articles, photos, and suggestions to matthew@houseofflameandglass.com.

Editor: Matthew Davis

