



BANTRAK Newsletter

December 2014

The Engineer's Cab

Paul Diley



Hello Club Members,

The end of the year is here, the last show is here, setup is in two weeks at the B&O Museum. Looking forward the show this year. Looking forward to seeing everyone on Weds, Dec 17 at 8:00am at the back gate. I have Mark doing a layout drawing for us. This year we will setup for 3 weekends & 2 follow weeks. So that means a lot of run time for everyone. So sign up as soon as possible. Looking forward in seeing one at the show. The last weekend of the layout there will be the GSTS that the Museum. We will be the only layout that the Show for that last weekend. So lets all have you fun running trains for the public.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the new trailer setup. No we have the old trail to sale. If anyone interested in the old trail please talk to any of are club officers.

The next meeting will be that Wednesday at lunch time at the museum. The Januarys meeting will be at Quail Run Assisted Living in the big meeting room. We had our September meeting there. This is where Vicky works at. The February meeting will be at the GSTS on that Sunday. Looking for someone to be the coordinator for this show.

Thank you
Paul Diley

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Next meeting...

**Wednesday, Dec 17
At the B&O Museum**



The look at the new Pillsbury Module that is I am building for my wife this coming year.



New You Central System Historical Society Meeting:

Al De

New York Central System Historical Society Meeting in Cleveland, April 25-27, 2014

With the coming of the NMRA Convention in Cleveland in July, I thought to share some comments about a number of model and prototype related activities that were part of the recent NYCSHS Convention also in Cleveland. Some of which one could do during the July NMRA.

Train watching

I had 3 great areas that I saw trains from.

1- **Berea Station** is now a pub restaurant. Located about 3 miles south of Cleveland Hopkins Airport, the food and draught beer are good. There can be well over 70-80 trains per day going by. This area was once the confluence of the NYC main line [Lake Shore and Michigan Southern-now NS] and Big Four [NYC-owned Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis, now CSX]. CSX has the 2 tracks near the station and NS has 2 about 100 feet away. I was there for a late lunch on Thursday and special convention brunch on Sunday and saw at least 5 trains each time.



2- **Grafton Tower** guarded the 90 degree crossing of the B&O with the above mentioned Big Four [NYC]. About 15 miles southwest of the Airport, there's plenty of good viewing here. If the station is open, they have a full battery of Armstrong switches, 3-5 of which still "function" in that you can "throw" them and learn how the term "Armstrong" came about. The Grafton tower was physically moved about 150 feet during the Conrail days. Just 2 blocks away is a beautifully restored Chessie I-12 caboose. Joe Filipiak's Chicago Junction/Chessie System layout is less than 4 miles away and it's likely you'll pass his driveway on the way to and from the tower. In between is a massive, active grain silo facility which you can almost drive into [not recommended] on the former B&O line.



3- **Olmstead Falls Station** was on the NYC LS&MS line. What can I say? I pulled up and was greeted within 2 minutes by a huge train, at the head end; 1 NS, 3 UP, 1 BNSF, 1 NS and at least 140 cars in a mixed freight. More trains passed in the hour I was there; road railers, double stacks, mixed freight. It's busy there and it's only about 6 miles from the Cleveland airport. It also has a PRR caboose out front.

Layouts

I had the opportunity to see 4 layouts. 1- While we were just discussing Olmstead Falls for rail fanning, this facility features several layouts by the Cuyahoga Valley and West Shore Model RR clubs. A large two-tier HO layout [16 scale miles], an N scale and an O scale layout are all there plus a G scale that runs around the room on a shelf above. The HO layout has a lot of steel industry spread out along the line plus many nice vignettes.

2- Joe Filipiak's Chessie system a 31 x 35 foot layout is based on the mid-80s. Joe is an artist by trade and has a unique presentation for making background buildings, panning the visual discontinuity between photos of buildings and painting of natural scenery. In addition he has a working coal mine and a coal dump to load/unload his cars after a pretty good run between representing loading coal in West Virginia and transporting it to the Great Lakes.

3- Bill Feth was kind enough open his NYC layout. Bill is about 20 miles south of downtown Cleveland, literally 1 mile off I-77 in a beautiful neighborhood. His layout was built by SMARTT from Miami Beach. It features a combination of an O-scale layout and HO layout. They "work" surprisingly well together winding through the beautiful towns and countryside. The backdrops are gorgeous.

4- Not far away [about 4 miles] is Wayne Tomic's NYC/PL&E S-scale layout. I have to say, I forgot this was S-scale and was thinking too big for HO, but too small to be O-scale. Duh, then I remembered. Wayne is focused on operations with some challenging elements. I felt bad to not stay but my quest to get a lot of viewing in during one rainy afternoon was a challenge of its own. He has freight yards and an engine service terminal on his 30 x 14 layout.

I don't know which will be accessible during the NMRA, but I was able to see everything but the Berea Depot between noon and 5 PM on a Friday afternoon. There were 5 other layouts open and with just a little more planning, I might have squeezed 1 or 2 more into my route. I went to layout 3 at noon and 4 then layout 2, then the Grafton Tower/I-12 then to Olmstead Falls station with layout 1 which closed at 5.

Trips

Age of Steam Roundhouse. On Saturday, I had the wonderful opportunity to tour the Age of Steam Roundhouse. It is not open to the general public, **only accessible by guided group tours.** The structure was built in 2010 and the logistics in constructing this new 18 stall roundhouse are truly impressive. Real wood beams were used to brace the walls in the large open facility. Between the brick, wood beams and other facets of its construction must have helped the local Amish community artisans considerably. Heaven knows how many bricks were used. As it is not open to the public, they asked we do not share pictures in public media, but they do post a lot of high quality images on their site. I don't have exact numbers but it seemed like there were a dozen steam locomotives, a NKP Berkshire, Grand Trunk 4-8-4 and their 4-60 for the Ohio Central stand out. But there are plenty of diesels, Alco Switchers, RS-3s and FP-40s. The 115' turntable is from the WM Hagerstown Roundhouse. www.ageofsteamroundhouse.com



Sunday ride on Astabula, Carson and Youngstown Rwy. We bussed to Jefferson Station, about an hour from Cleveland passing the old Collinwood NYC service depot, not full of intermodal. The neighborhood is not great but the main drag off I-90 is okay. Jefferson Depot is nicely restored and the short ride on the ACY was interesting. With what many NYC old-timers considered the only non-smoking ALCO, [they said it had the unique ALCO sound], it pulled a short consist of ex-LIRR and Erie cars about 5-8 miles up the road and did a run by both to and from. The ACY does move freight for the larger roads.



Modelers and the NYCSHS

In terms of the society; it has become very modeler-friendly with an on-line quarterly modeling newsletter. Recent polls of the membership showed an overwhelming amount of HO modelers, with O and N about even. They have worked with and are working with a number of vendors for specific HO models and/or unique road numbers of current releases ranging from flat cars, coal hoppers, reefers and box cars. A much-anticipated project is they are working with True Line trains to have the signature NYC 19000 [low offset cupola] caboose out as an HO RTR

Recently, I found a new weathering product to test. The product is supposed to simulate old and weathered wood; such as you would find on a shack or as in my case a flatcar. I used a couple of older Atlas flatcars. The cars have molded wood tops painted to match the car body. The product I used to paint the molded wooden surface is called *Weathered Wood*, and the results were better than I had expected.

For show and tell at the February meeting, I brought in the two flat cars I had weathered. Our members liked the results and Arthur asked me to share information on the product and how it works in our newsletter.

Weathered Wood is made by Astromodel of Italy. It is sold under the LifeColor brand. The kit contains six, 22mil. bottles of paint, ranging in color from Cold light shade to Warm dark shade. The process of applying the colors is very straightforward. As with any painting project, I washed and dried the model. Then I carefully applied the next-to-lightest color, Cold base color. After this color dried, I repeated the process using ever-darker shades. The paint goes on smoothly and dries quickly. The key to success is not to be too careful with your brush strokes and don't attempt to cover everything evenly with every color. The more random the paint application the better the results. The entire process took less than 30 minutes.

Here are the before and after photos:



If you would like to try Weathered Wood for yourself, I found it at Hobby Masters on the web, www.hobbymasters.com. The full name of the product is *Lifecolor Paint Weathered Wood Diorama Acrylic Set*. It costs \$29.75 plus shipping.

New & Notable: BANTRAK Online

Ed Kapusinski, Webmaster



EDITORS NOTE: We are in process of updating the website. Please be patient.

1. Newsletter has been posted to the website
2. Website design to be reviewed

Email the webmaster today !!!



Have an idea for new/ updated web content?

Contact the Webmaster with your ideas!

New & Notable: BANTRAK Membership

Al Palewicz, Membership



Please contact Al for more information on your membership.



Club Member Benefits

- Sharing of your knowledge (railroading & modeling) with others of similar interests
- Access to railroading and modeling knowledge of other members
- National exposure and recognition of your endeavors in modeling
- **Hands on activities:**
Club modules - track, wiring and scenery. Raffle layout - track and scenery Members' layouts - whatever's asked
- Recognition as being part of a Nationally known club
- Purchase of surplus club property & access to group discounts

BANTRAK does a significant amount of charitable activity, although we rarely think of it that way because we get pleasure out of it. When you think about it, that is "as it should be" with all "giving from the heart."

What is our charitable activity? Our major participation is in the B&O Museum's (which is a charitable organization) Annual Festival of Trains. Our display has been a major draw for people to come to the Museum for many years, both recent and in the past. There are plenty more examples, this is just one.





Email the editor and recommend a site !!!



[Classic Metal Works](#) is famous throughout the world for models with exceptional detail, accuracy, and value especially for the unique needs of Model Railroaders and Collectors. Visit their website and check out their NEW N Scale Offerings.

Subscribe to their Newsletter [here](#).



Editor's Note:

CMR is offering BANTRAK a bulk order discount on this kit (we need 2 more people) If interested, please [drop me an email](#).

- [Past Websites](#)
- [Ashlin Designs](#)
- [Great Lakes Models](#)
- [JMRI](#)
- [Road Signs](#)
- [Scale Town Models](#)
- [Citrus Modeling](#)
- [Aztec Trains](#)
- [BCWRR](#)
- [Banta Model Works](#)
- [GRS Micro Liting](#)
- [Monster Modelworks](#)
- [ImagineThatLaserArt](#)
- [CMR](#)
- [Prairie Shadows](#)
- [Lunde Studios](#)
- [Shapeways](#)
- [Osborn Model Kits](#)
- [Eastern CA Model RR](#)
- [Heritage Units](#)
- [ESM](#)

DCC Corner: (Exploring Digital Command Control)

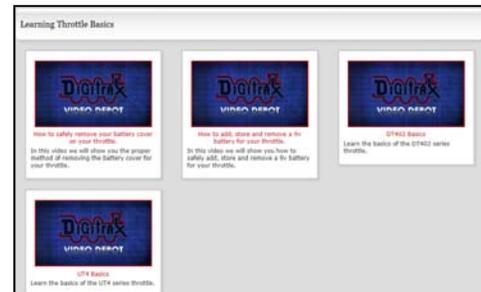
Email the editor and suggest a DCC topic !!!

Learning Throttle Basics by Digitrax

This new video series will show you the fundamentals of your DCC throttle, including:

- The correct method of removing the battery cover of your throttle
- How to add, remove and store a 9v battery to your throttle
- DT402 series basics
- UT4 series basics

Visit the video website [here](#).



Go to the Digitrax webpage, click [here](#).



Company Store Shirts and Wire Harnesses



Shirt Order Update

If you need a gray BANTRAK t-shirt,
To Order, Email Club Treasurer Tim Nixon



Building a module or rescuing an old one? Get your wire harness. It doesn't get easier than this. Color coded / pre-installed power poles included.

List Priced at \$25 (plus shipping and handling).

To Order, Email Martin Myers and cc: Club Treasurer Tim Nixon



CLASSIFIEDS : Club Classifieds

For more information contact treasurer@BANTRAK.net





BANTRAK Call Board

(Activities & Events of BANTRAK Club Members)

NMRA Chesapeake Div. Group Mtg.

TBD

Info Contact: Arthur Boyd



Home Layout/Module Work Sessions

(Ongoing)

Info Contact: Alan Del Gaudio, Eric Payne, Ed Kapusinski, Paul Diley



BANTRAK 2014 Calendar

This is a

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Type
Jan	Meeting	Perry Hall	Paul	Meeting
FEB	Great Scale Train Show	Timonium		Show/ Meeting
March				
April				
May	MORE INFO TO COME			
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				



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 railroading in particular. Activities include participation in local, regional and national shows, meets and conventions. BANTRAK membership includes membership in the national NTRAK organization.

The BANTRAK Newsletter is the official publication of Baltimore Area N-TRAK (BANTRAK), Inc. This is your newsletter! Please send articles, photos, and suggestions to newsletter@BANTRAK.net

Editor: Eric Payne

