



BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 28, Issue 12
December 2015

The Engineer's Cab

Paul Diley



I am looking forward to seeing everyone at this year's B&O show. As many have you may have noticed we will have far less space than normal. I hope that next year we can once again be back to a normal size for this show. Our setup this year will be Wednesday the 16th, we need all the help we can get, so please be at the S. Schroeder St. gate at 8 am to help unload. We will have our meeting midday with Pizza for lunch.

This year we will also will have a silent auction during the show for some items that have been donated to the club. There are several very nice sets and all proceeds help the club's bottom line, so bid early and bid often!!

One other last order of business before I relinquish the presidency to Tim. I again want to thank everyone who has pitched in to make Bantrak a great organization. Over the last two years multiple folks have stepped up and made our volunteer organization run and run well. As Tim takes over, please remember this is a volunteer organization and everyone needs to continue to pitch in wherever they can to make the club function and make it fun for all!

Happy Modeling,
Paul Diley



In the issue...

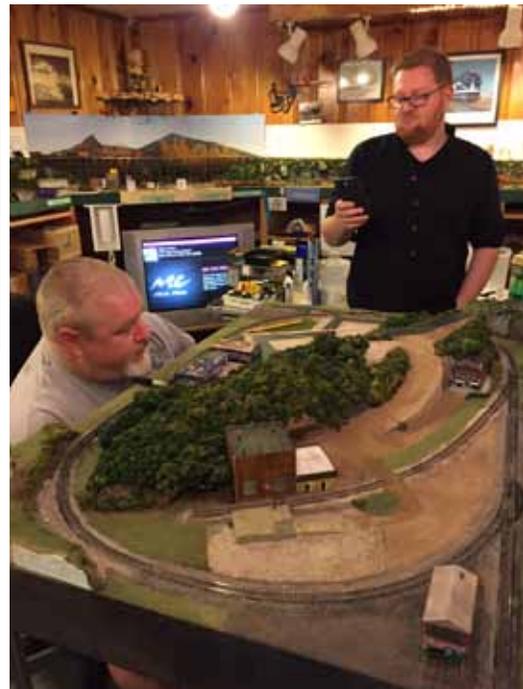
<i>The Engineer's Cab</i>	1
<i>Raffel Layout</i>	2
<i>Orange Empire</i>	3-4
<i>T-Trak update</i>	5
<i>Rockville</i>	6-7
<i>Bowie / Classifieds</i>	8
<i>Train Spotting</i>	9
<i>Calendar</i>	10

Next Meeting...

Wednesday Dec.16th



Raffel Layout update: Eric Payne



Big Thanks to;

Tim Nixon, David Betz, Jeff and Christian Peck, Josh Surkosky, Ed Kapuscinski and John Berger who have all stopped by to help with this year's layout.

Buildings have been built by; Ryan Jones, Lauren Baker, Mark Bandy, David Betz, Al De Gaudio, Tim Nixon, Ed Kapuscinski, and Josh Surosky



The Orange Empire: David Betz

Last spring, I was visiting California on a business trip and I managed to add an extra day to do some sightseeing. I headed out into the desert to visit the Orange Empire Museum. The museum bills itself as the having the largest collection of rolling stock west of the Mississippi.



The museum sits behind a neighborhood that has seen better days; the museum covers 90 acres in Perris, Ca. They have over 200 pieces of rolling stock, including locomotives and trolleys. Part of their collection of trolleys and rolling stock was secured from movie studios, including the trolley used in "Singing in The Rain." They also have the only funeral trolley left in North America.



I was lucky to have visited on a Monday during the school year. There was almost no one there when I arrived. The person in the ticket office told me to feel free to wander and a docent would be available in around an hour or so. I took her advice and while wandering,



I ran into a maintenance guy, who opened up a few cars so I could photograph the inside. He also let me into the trolley shed and onto a few of the trolleys one is not normally allowed to enter.

After my self-guided tour the docent arrived and I took the official tour. The museum has a lot of the more interesting pieces in giant sheds to protect them from thieves who steal the metal off the cars.



The Orange Empire: David Betz



After a few hours I asked about the locomotives and was told they had been moved to the maintenance shed for safe keeping. This shed was not open to the public. I mentioned that I had come over 3,000 miles to see their UP E8 and the FP-45.



The docent pulled me aside and said if there was no one waiting when we returned to the office he would take me over to see the locomotives.

My luck held out and I was given a private tour of the maintenance shed. I found out after our shed visit that I could have reserved an opportunity to drive one of the locos, but I needed to book in advance.

My experience was very positive, the staff was more than helpful and for some reason no one ever asked me for an entrance fee. So my entire experience was free. I did make a donation and purchase a T-shirt to help support the museum. If you visit the museum, it is in the middle of nowhere and you will need a hat, water and plenty of sunblock. Also bring good shoes as the grounds are spread out. Plan to be there for several hours and it is about a 90 min ride, without traffic, from John Wayne Airport.

<http://www.oerm.org/>

David Betz



T-Trak Update: Chris Hyland

Gosh, it doesn't seem like it, but the end is nigh. That's right, we are counting down the clock till the end of the year. The Holidays are swooping down upon us, and the days are getting shorter. By the time this is at press, the last of the Turkey will have been eaten. T Trak will have had its Thanksgiving get together at the Bowie Tower. But it doesn't stop there. There is the Greenberg show in Timonium, and several S&P towers. But even more than that, trips down to see the National Train layout in DC, the Union Station layout also in DC, Brookside showing off a local garden (G scalers to the rest of us) layouts. Rushing up the road to catch layouts in PA like York's Connecting Railroad and Chambersburg. Philadelphia. Holiday Parties, Scot Walk, and last but not least: B&O. Time will fly and by the time all the various holidays come to an end. That will be it. So lets look back on the highlights of the year.

It was a busy year for T Trak as always. But we always made sure that no one could ever say that they did not get enough time to run trains. Tons of S&P's, Gaithersburgs, Silver Spring, and Timoniums, the Artifacts show, Rockville Lions Club, Bowie, Bedford, Ransons, Kensington, amongst others. There was our first (un)picnic, which we hope to do again, hopefully on a cooler day. T Trak was busy and still it didn't seem all that hard. We invented new things, Electronic doohickeys that make the choo choos go even better, and the biggest surprise of all: Supercorners. Plus all of the cool stuff that the manufacturer's come out with for us to run or build. There is always something to do or see. But this is why we are the busiest T Trak club IN THE WORLD.

But that is not the end of this adventure, no, not at all. We are lining up even more new exciting events even now. Possibly more places in the PA, NJ areas for different events. New local events, and we can say that even though we are sorry to see Bedford go; HERE'S TO T

TRAK AT ALTOONIA IN 2016!!!!. We will also keep pushing the envelope as the combined technicians from the Peck's, David Clyde, and the Hylands see what can be done layout design and electrical wise. 2016 will see even more stuff as we hope to get some more ideas rolling. We hope to "branch out" (yep, there is a pun in that) and do some themed layouts as well. Inside curves are being worked on for the big corners as we speak. Radio control events without the need for juice, and as always tweaking what we have done before. Don't forget all of the road trips. The future seems so bright; I got to get some sunscreen.

Now it's time to tune up Guy Lombardo and the Royal Canadians as they play the old familiar set at Lord Baltimore Hotel Ballroom here in our beloved Port. But first, Dick Clark said we have to vacate the stage so that Bing can serenade us down here at the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park on the shining banks of the Potomac. Before signing off, we of Clan Hyland and T Trak wish you the most Festive of Seasons and a Great New Year. To absent friends, we raise a toast and to those not so absent, we look forward to running with you across the metals of various layouts of Unitrak and otherwise in the upcoming year. Here's looking towards a great 2016!

And as always,

See you at the shows,

-Chris



RockvilleLions Club: Chris Hyland

We started setting up the layout at 5 PM. Things went rather easy, and the folks who had been in the room before us cleared out. Set up was done for the most part by Leon and Ed by 8 PM. Then it was off to Hard Times down the street for Chili.



Next day started bright and early at 7.30. The rest of the crew showed up with modules. By this point we had modules from Jeff Peck, Mat Chibbaro, Leon, Jim Atebello and Pat Hyland as well as the Hyland Clan modules. Phillip Cabon also showed up with a corner module. We also had a lot of runners show up as well. Matt G-L, Lindsay, and Cliff Enz showed up. And then we got down to the business of train running and seeing the other layouts.

There were modular setups from Z to G-Scale and even the Lego people were there. At the BanTrak layout we ran everything from NS local freights to Japanese local freights.



Lots of passenger trains were to be seen, including Leon doing the Kato version of the



Auto train which can now go around the wide curves. The crowd was larger than it had been in years thanks to an aggressive mar-

keting campaign by the various train clubs, especially the National Capitol Trakers. They stapled fliers of the show nearly everywhere and it paid off. We had tons of people come by and we hope that we tuned them into the possibilities of running T Trak, or even better, joining the club. We kept the layout running until 4PM when we had to shut down for the day. Then it was off for more Chili.

Next day started later at 10AM. Though the show opens officially at 12 (11 on Saturday), getting there early gives one the chance to run without worry-



ing about the public. So we got a chance to run and chew the fat before the kiddos showed up at the door. We figured that Sunday was going to be a bit slower due to not just the BANTRAK meeting, but that the Redskins and Ravens were both



playing. The layout shrank overnight because some of the guys wanted to catch the meeting over at John Cooks house or had family stuff.

RockvilleLions Club: Chris Hyland



Nonetheless the show had to go on. And we ran more different types of trains. British Goods trains and Western Maryland Freights seemed the order of the day.



Then all the sudden the Rio Grande seemed to make an appearance everywhere as Hornet stripped schemes showed up all over the layout.



The crowd was a bit smaller, but we still had a good amount show up compared with all that was going on. We kept running ti 4PM,



when it was time to tear down. Tear down went really fast and we were on the road by 4.45PM. This closed the most recent Rockville Lions Club. If you are interested in a laid-back



two day show with really nice indoor facilities (not to mention free hot dogs for

lunch!!) this is a good show to attend. So mark your calendars for next year. Thanks again to the Rockville Lions Club for having us and we are looking forward to doing it all again next year.

-Chris

Bowie Trainspotting: Jeff Peck

Sunny and 70 from Thanksgiving to Saturday...Sunday in Bowie...steady drizzle and 50. Not what you'd call optimal weather for our usual outdoor setup in the waiting shed. The caboose is gone which leaves us in unexplored waters with the freight station.



Caffeine and doughnuts got the brain engaged and with a slight rearrangement of some artifacts we were in business with a 2 table setup. Matt G-L, Patrick, Cliff, Leon and I

brought out modules and David C. brought his most interesting and wonderful power supply box. Ed, Chris and Matt W. provided support. Al and Eric stopped by to check out the museum complex.

Outside, Amtrak provided a parade of almost non-stop traffic with the usual Sunday MARC runs mixed in. The catch of the day is a set of New Jersey Transit Silverliners which are a pain for the dispatcher, loathed by the rider since there's no toilets or food service but foamed over by the railfans.

After that passed it was time to pack up and go home. Lots of the local citizens stopped by in spite of the weather. A good day for the T-Trakers.



Classifieds: Jack Walsh



I have a collection of NTRAK Newsletters from Jul/Aug 1978 to Jan 92 complete - every issue - For Sale - Best offer by B&O tear down on January 3rd.

Additionally, I have a box of HO cork roadbed that is a little old but still usable. This is free to the first call/email I received requesting it. I can leave it at the layout at the B&O RR Museum.

[Contact Jack Walsh](#)

Train Spotting: David Betz

David Betz caught this CSX and lease unit pulling autoracks in Landsdown



BANTRAK Membership: Al Palewicz

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.

Please contact Treasurer [Alan Del Gaudio](#) for more information regarding your membership status and roster questions or contact [Al Palewicz](#) with general questions.

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
- Recognition as being part of a Nationally known club.

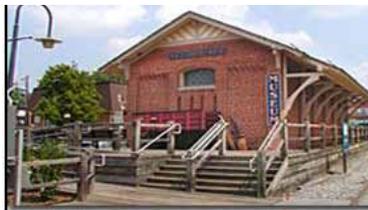
BANTRAK 2015/2016 CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Type
Dec. 12-13th	SP Tower	Sykesville	Chris Hyland	T-Trak
December 16	B&O setup / Meeting	B&O Roundhouse	Paul Diley	Setup/ Meeting
Dec17th - Jan. 3rd	B&O show	B&O Roundhouse	Paul Diley	N-Trak Show
Dec. 19th	SP Tower	Sykesville	Chris Hyland	T-Trak
January 17th	Club Meeting	TBD	Tim Nixon	Meeting
Feb. 5-6	Great Scale Show	Timonium Fairgrounds	Eric Payne	oNeTrak- Show
August 20-21	N-Scale Weekend	Altoona PA	TBD	N-Trak Show

BANTRAK CALL BOARD

HOME LAYOUT / MODULE WORK SESSIONS

(ongoing) For Information contact: Alan Del Gaudio, Eric Payne, Ed Kapusinski, or Paul Diley. If you need help on your home layout and want to host a work session let Paul Know.



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: David Betz

