



BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 29, Issue 1
January 2016

The Engineer's Cab

Tim Nixon

Well, the calendar has turned from December to January and we start a New Year in BANTRAK. With the dropping of the ball in Time's Square, Paul's 2-year tenure as president has ended and I assume the mantle for the next two years. On behalf of the club membership as a whole, I'd like to thank Paul for all his hard work, and also thank his lovely wife Vicky (with a "y") for allowing him the time to do it.

Our next club meeting will be on Sunday January 17th at the Quail Run Assisted Living, 9900 Walther Blvd, Parkville, MD 21234. Vicky Diley has made arrangements for us to use this fine facility again, thanks Vicky! The main order of business at the January meeting will be setting the club calendar for the year, so if anyone has suggestions for additional shows they'd like to do, field trips they'd like to take, or anything else they'd like to see on the club calendar, show up and make your feelings known! We'll also be looking for meeting locations for the rest of the year, so if you have a location that will accommodate the club and are willing to host a meeting, let me know.

Speaking of the club calendar, we received an email from the folks at the Great Scale Model Train Show (GSMTS), and there have been some changes to the traditional show dates for this year. Evidently the General Manager of the State Fairgrounds recently retired, and having new management at both the GSMTS and the Fairgrounds resulted in some hiccups in reserving the facilities. The February show is still Super Bowl weekend (February 6th & 7th), but the April show is now April 23rd & 24th, the Summer (June) show is now July 9th & 10th, and the October show is October 15th & 16th. Hopefully the new dates won't generate any issues for BANTRAK.

The February GSMTS is just around the corner. Eric Payne will be coordinating the show, with assistance from Lauren Baker. Look for a call for modules soon, and further details from Eric in the coming weeks.

Happy Modeling!
Tim Nixon



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Next Meeting...

January 17th



2015 Baltimore Area N-Trak Holiday Raffle Layout



Build pictures

- Club members assisted project coordinator Eric Payne in all facets of the project (buildings, scenery, track work, electrical, etc.)
- A complete photo library can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/22QYuAJ>



2015 Baltimore Area N-Trak Holiday Raffle Layout



Final pictures

- A special thanks to Ryan Jones, Dave Betz, Lauren Baker, Mark Bandy, Jeff Peck, Josh Surkosky and Al Del Gaudio for building the structures as well as a special thanks to Ed Hyland for the platform; Steve van Metre and John Cook for donations of building kits and details
- The layout had 2 distinctive scenes (Rural Town and Country Industrial) as well as smaller scenes including hobo's, weddings and town park.
- A complete photo library can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/22QYuAJ>



2015 Baltimore Area N-Trak Holiday Raffle Layout



Winner Pictures



- The winning ticket was picked on Sunday, January 3rd at 3pm by the Manager on Duty of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum



- The 2015 winner was John G. Nizer of Centreville, MD on the eastern shore.
- Mr. Nizer is a member of the Queen Anne's Model Railroad Society and has been buying tickets to our raffle since at least 2005.
- Tim Nixon delivered the layout on Monday, January 4th, 2016.



T-Trak Update: Chris Hyland

The Holiday season went by very quickly. And I got lots of stuff under the tree. Oxford in the UK was nice enough to provide me with not only a large shipment of Foden Lorries (Trucks), but I was able to get some Walls Bedford Ice-cream vans as well. Also under the tree was a Kato new AMTRAK electric loco with the passenger cars to go with it. Okay Atlas, what was that about no market for the AEM7 in N scale? Yes, I daily thank the fact that you turn out Mexican Railway engines and cars. By the way WHERE ARE MY GP38-2's? I have been waiting since November and otherwise I might be forced to come up to New Jersey myself. All in all it was a nice holiday.

This holiday was also a time of travel for the Hyland Clan. Usually we spend quite a bit of time at the B&O. In December we decided to broaden our horizons. We went travelling to see other people's layouts. Amongst ones that we visited was the York Connecting Railroad in York PA. If you have never been by this railroad, you should certainly see it. The club has had it's own building hosting an HO layout since the 1940's (some parts of the bench work are over 70 years old. Currently they are completely rebuilding the back half of the layout, but it still has quite a bit of great modeling with Port Facilities, Steel Mills and really great urban modeling. Though this too may change as they always strive to refresh scenes. An added bonus is that their parking lot faces the old main line of the MA&PA and there are lots of neat stone factories everywhere. So when you're in the York Area, give them a ring. The other layout that we visited was the Waynesboro Railroad club. Like many PA groups, they have a little something for everybody. O, O standard, HO and even an N scale layout. Located in a granary next to the Old WM/Reading line it is worth a visit if you are out that way and they have an open house. Even better is the classic car lots that show off what almost seem like time warp used dealerships.

Along with that came visits to Enola Yards where there were many a GO diesel seen as well as UP patch jobs. They even brought out the Alco slug for New Years Eve. So along with seeing model trains, seeing real trains as well.

So now we are in the depths of winter and the Hyland workshops are turning out tons of stuff seeing the last of the pecan pie has been eaten and the bubbly all drunk up. We are building, building, and building. Seeing that we have time off to finish up those modules, if not, try and freshen them up. Winter is a great time to get rid of the "kiddie claw marks" that seem to reside at the end of our modules. Some of my long awaited UK modules are going through the final planning stages. And speaking of this, I have discovered a perfect source of buildings for these things. I have been hunting down all the junk shops out there looking for Lilliput Lane and David Winter buildings. Yes, the same buildings that you inherited from your Aunt Margret's nick knock shelf. I have been snapping them up as I make up my own version of Old(e) Kent or Fair(e) Devon. Fuelled by watching tons of BBC murder mysteries, these little ceramic beauties add a certain air of chocolate box regalness meets tourist trashy trinkets to the layout. And I salute the poor soul who painted all the little rose bushes on the sides of the faux Kit Marlow birthplace Elizabethan cottage. It is a work of art in a work of art. So watch out, Margret's tricket shelf might get "nicked" as the Cockneys say.

One other bit of T Trak news, I would like to welcome the South Dublin Club of Ireland to the T Trak community. These guys not only do really cool modules, but they scratch build almost all of their engines and rolling stock. So as the bleak midwinter descends upon us, warm your self up with a modeling project. And as always, see you at the shows,
-Chris



Silver Spring Station: Jeff Peck

On December 5th, we made a trip to Silver Spring to set up at the Historic B & O station as part of the celebration of the station's 75th anniversary. The celebration is significant as the ever-changing landscape of Silver Spring redevelopment has swung its guns at the station. Even though the building is on the National Register of Historic Places, the grounds are not and the station is looking at losing a majority of its outdoor space to Metropolitan Branch Trail expansion and the construction of a 6 story building in the rear of the adjoining firehouse. It's looking like they're headed to court to either alter the plans or be compensated for their losses.



Later in the day our hosts had a short celebration documenting the history of the station for the last 75 years and further back to the station it replaced that was built in the 1870's capped off by an excellent cake. Shortly after, we broke down the layout and headed off in to the sunset.



We arrived to find CSX trains literally running bumper to bumper because of a balky lift bridge over the Anacostia River.

Modules were provided by Cliff, Jim A, Mat and me. Everything went together smoothly and ran smoothly all day. Dave B. stopped by for a visit as well as Vincent, who brought an excellently executed new module by for inspection.



Sykestravaganza: Chris Hyland

T-Trak did two shows over the holiday season with our pal's at the S&P. The PRR Tower there is quickly becoming our "go to" place to raise our fists against the, err, coldness, or something, of winter.



On December 19th, the T Trakers showed up and did a set up that started at 9am. It was a U shaped layout consisting of modules from Jeff, Leon, David Clyde, Pat and the Hyland clan standby's. Also showing up that day were Al Del G, and Matt Guey Lee as well as Cliff and Philip Capon. This was a fun layout in which we ran just to run. No really crazy rules, just what they called in my reenactment days: a chance to burn powder". We ran all sorts of stuff, with the new AMTRAK set's being the most in vogue. The layout ran smoothly.

Everyone had a great time and a chance to scoot over to Becks for lunch. The best part of the layout was watching the baristas over at the Crepe place across the street perform all sorts of death defying feats to hang up Christmas lights on the second story from a very slanted roof of the porch and try a ignore gravity in a more non chalant way than hi wire people do at the circus. What a show. We tore down by 4PM.



After New Years day, we did it all over again. This time we had different cast of characters. We had Dave Balderston and Lauren and Matt Whiting added to the usual group of guys. We ran even more trains and all had a good time. Once again it was a 9 to 4 event. This time we did the layout on 6 tables as a chariot race with large curves.

During both events CSX did large movements of engines. They had lash ups of 10 plus engines running light, it was pretty exciting, and certainly a sight to see on the Old Main of the B&O.

All in all the events helped pass the holidays.

They were a good escape from the craziness of this time of year.

We look forward to doing more shows coming up, so mark your calendars as we release dates for this year. Sykesville is always a great place to watch trains and run trains.

Chris



The February GREAT Scale Model Train Show Update



We're in the 4 week horizon so it's time to be more concrete. For this show, we have our traditional 50 x70 square feet to display our layout. As far as we know, we've gotten our

traditional number of Vendor Tables as well. So everything is "as usual".

Our plan is to have a normal N-trak layout, using both N-Trak and oNe Trak.

For the N- Trak, the options are an "L" configuration or a square using the Club Corners. Both options include oNe Trak using Martin's Banjo's as the junction.

Lauren (or I) have spoken to most of the module owners during the Festival of Trains and have a general idea of modules every one can bring. As normal, we will trust our oNe Trak steering committee for their layout plan (probably designing it on the fly on Friday)

There is room for T-Trak if it is needed, but at this point the Bantrak T-Trak members are planning on participating in a regional meet" co-located at Timonium, so be sure to contact Ed Hyland if you are participating.

As always, February is a slow show, with light participation. We will need runners on Saturday. Sunday will likely be ok for runners. We will plan on setting up the show Friday at noon and breaking down on Sunday at @3:30 or 4pm with plenty of time to pack up your trains and catch the SuperBowl.

Please contact me by e-mail at: seusscaboose@yahoo.com to sign up for modules and a description thereof, set-up crew, vendor tables and the run schedule. Preference is given to those bringing modules, then set up crew, but we'd like to fit everyone in and will make every effort to do so.

Eric

Letter from the Editor: David Betz

I want to start off the New Year by thanking all of the members who contributed to this newsletter over the last year. Many of our members submitted articles about their trips and train spotting photos. A few shared their stories about modeling adventures including weathering techniques and product reviews.

I for one am looking forward to reading more about how our members achieve some amazing models. It would helpful if those of you building home layouts or modules shared your experiences with the rest of us.

One more item of note, a special thank you to Chris Hyland, and Leon Sorge both of whom I have come to rely on for monthly articles and photographs. Next month look for an upcoming article from Bob Bunge and photos from the B&O show. See you on the 17th.

Happy Modeling!

David Betz
Editor



Train Spotting: Ed Kapuscinski

I swung by CSX's Curtis Bay yard. I got lucky, catching a coal train just arriving on the scene as I got there.



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.

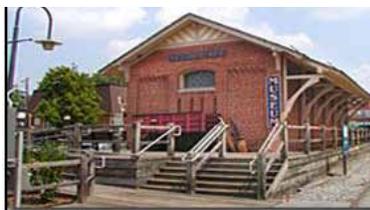
BANTRAK 2016 CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Type
January 17th	Club Meeting	Quail Run Assisted Living	Tim Nixon	Meeting
Feb. 5-6	Great Scale Show	Timonium Fairgrounds	Eric Payne	Show
Feb. 13th	Sykesville Tower	Oklahoma Road, Sykesville	Chris Hyland	T-Trak
March 6th	Sykesville Tower	Oklahoma Road, Sykesville	Chris Hyland	T-Trak
April 2nd	Ranson	Ranson WV	Chris Hyland	T-Trak Show
April 3rd	Sykesville Tower	Oklahoma Road, Sykesville	Chris Hyland	T-Trak
April 23,24	Great Scale Show	Timonium Fairgrounds	TBD	Show
August 20-21	N-Scale Weekend	Altoona PA	TBD	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 Tim 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

