



BANTRAK Newsletter

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June 2016

The Engineer's Cab: Tim Nixon

BANTRAK was recently invited to provide a display layout for the Maryland Home & Garden Show at the Timonium Fairgrounds. In my column in last month's newsletter, I noted that the folks from the Great Scale Model Train Show had agreed to change the dates of the October show to accommodate the H&G show. During these discussions the H&G show asked the GSMTS to set-up a display layout at the H&G show; John "Scott" Geare of the GSMTS immediately thought of us and contacted me to see if we could help out. After polling the club, feedback was overwhelming in favor of doing the show, so I told Scott that we would be happy to provide a layout. This show will be a great opportunity for BANTRAK to reach a different audience. Most of our shows over the last 10 years or so have been to an audience already familiar with trains or model railroading; not since the days of the holiday mall shows have we displayed an N-Trak layout for the general (non-train) public. Since this is a new show for us and since we are working with a group that isn't familiar with us, there are a lot of questions that still need to be answered as we go forward, but we have plenty of time to work out the details. I will be coordinating this show and acting as the main point-of-contact with the H&G show.

This month's meeting is going to diverge from the norm in a couple of ways. First, we're meeting on the 4th Sunday this month, June 26th, instead of the 3rd Sunday so that members can spend Father's Day with their families instead of talking trains. Second, the June meeting will be at a "new" location for most of the N-Trak crowd, the Sykesville & Paptapsco Railway tower in Sykesville, MD. We will be piggybacking on a T-Trak event already scheduled from 10 AM till 2 PM on that day; Ed Hyland is the POC for the Sykesville meeting. Be sure and bring your camera to do some rail fanning, since the S&P tower is right next to the B&O's "Old Main Line" which is now run by CSX.

Happy Modeling!
Tim Nixon



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Next Meeting..

June 26th



Sykesville June 5th : Chris Hyland

So after a long journey to NJ for a subway show, the Hyland clan rumbled out to meet the rest of our party at the Tower in Sykesville MD. Most of the layout was provided by David Clyde and the Hylands. We had a good turnout with visits from Cliff Enz, Matt Whiting, Jeff and Christian Peck, and last, but not least Al Del G!!!.



Getting in to Sykesville was a bit out of scene from Red Dawn. Though instead of Russian and Cuban Paratroopers taking over the town, we were besieged by an army of organic farmers armed with threatening looking cucumbers and hot peppers as well as carrots (and we know how deadly those can be). We set up sometimes to operate with the Farmers Market that is in the street next to the S&P. It is usually as small affair and they only have an ally roped off. Not this time. They had taken over one of the streets and to get around them you had to go half way across town and then double back to miss out on all the road blocks that they had set up. But it takes more than that to stop us. We were up and running by 10. And lucky for us the doom and gloom weather never came about.

We put up a smallish layout of about 4 tables and the super corners. People ran all sorts of trains. The biggest draw was Jeff's new SDP40F's in the Bloody Nose Amtrak Phase I.

Those puppies are really heavy and can they pull. And unlike the real ones, they kick butt on the corners and the straightaways. We ran other freights and had a good time. The crowd was light for some reason (including the fact that the market had nixed my Kielbasa special that I always have for lunch!!!!) so we had a lot of time to catch up on things.



We ran until around 2 and were torn down by 2.30. for those of you who did not get a chance this time, remember that the club will be having our next meeting at the Tower.

See you then,

-Chris



T-Trak Update / Editorial: Chris Hyland

Well, May was an interesting month. I spend a lot of time doing train events; unfortunately none of them were for BANTRAK. I was off to Kimberton PA for the Mid Atlantic Narrow gauge show. I was also out in Pittsburgh for the West Penn trolley show in Washington PA.

This month started out with the NY Transit Modelers in New Brunswick New Jersey, where we set up our subway T-Trak modules, ironically enough with Brooklyn N-Trak doing a Northeast Corridor only set up. The rest of the guys were equally busy running a Bowie event.

These events are always interesting as they provide a fresh view as to how one goes about what they are doing in the hobby. If all you see is the same old same stuff, you get stuck in a rut. You see the same modules and groups and you think that is out there. Washington PA for me got me out of that thinking. Not only did I get a chance to see trolleys going back to the 1890's from Pittsburgh, but also from WV, and Philly. The former Ohio Centrals mainline was right next to the museum doing switching operations in an area that looked like it was populated with Micro engineering and Trix modern day warehouses. The route that the trolley museum uses is one of the old mining railways around Pittsburgh and you can still see some of the coal bins off in the woods.

Coming back we visited Frostburg, followed the old Cumberland and Pennsylvania (later WM) right of way through Mt. Savage, Eckhart and other mining towns that have changed little since the 1900's. We even followed the Cumberland and Westernport trolley line that was out there before rejoining the B&O main at Cumberland.

That's a lot of modeling inspiration right there. So, if you are like me and there are only reruns on TV, and your favorite teams are either not in the Stanley Cup or you need a break from it all, check out the different groups that are offering mini cons out there. See new stuff and meet new people, you never know what you will see or do.

We have been on the road a lot and several of the key coordinators have had life-changing things happen to them. I would like to give a big thank you to those who have stepped up to grab the reins of coordinator. It may seem daunting at first, but you get the handle of it soon enough, then comes the politics with the people putting on the event.

There are several guidelines I would like to pass on to the new chicks learning to fly out of the nest. First, in no matter what you do, like in the military or being a member of a sports team, or a first responder, when you are Coordinator, you are the Squad leader. That is an awesome responsibility. Do what needs to get done, but think of the safety of your guys. Use common sense. If it is an outdoor event and you have high winds knocking over the boxcars, and it looks like it is going to rain, don't hesitate to call off the event. Better to be safe than sorry. Remember that not only do you represent the club and it's interests, but the welfare of your crew. Also be prepared to call the show off cause the events people don't have their own stuff together. We have canceled many a show cause the people that were putting it on just couldn't have the wherewithal to make it happen. Remember it's our personal stuff that we run every time we go out there, not the host's. I personally have been at events that went south very quickly. NVNTRAK had a nickname for one of these events. It was an outdoor free movie fest and the club called it instead of "Movies Under The Moon" it was called "Modules Under the Mud".

So that about sums it up for this month. Hope all of you out there are enjoying the summer and enjoying all the events that we have going on.

See you at the shows,

-Chris



Bowie Show: Cliff Enz

Make Bowie Great Again! Give us back a caboose!

Model Railroaders from the ill-fated Shackleton expedition braved gale force winds and strange rays emanating from an orange disc in the sky to present TTrak railroading to the recalcitrant proletariat of Bowie.

Thanks be, we didn't have a tent- we'd have been in Oz with the cosmetic, honey, and soap sales people who attended the street fair in hope of netting customers. Those worthies, with tents, struggled to remain local. Judging from the later afternoon street assemblage- quite a few probably ended up in Kansas or beyond, as there were major gaps in the fair. In the partial shelter of the passenger shed- we had only one train derailment that could possibly be attributed to high winds.



A small layout- we ran it on battery power, which enabled us to be up and operating at 8:30AM -long before scheduled opening. Special thanks to Jeff Peck- who provided AAA batteries (I had brought only AAs), information and a cable, that got us underway so quickly. We ran all day with a variety of equipment-till 3:30 without diminishing the speed or responsiveness of our Rokuhan throttles.

Attendance at the street fair and our layout was sparse- (see above) but those who did stop by, seemed interested and enthusiastic about our little exhibit. Special thanks to the attendees; Leon, Christian, Jim Masters, and Jeff Peck.



Leon, our documentarian of all things T-Trakish, took some great photos of the layout and of the AMTRAK Veteran's unit (hat tip AGAIN to Jeff Peck)

Cliff

N-Scale Weekend:

12th Anniversary Show

“2016 N-Scale Weekend”

Model Train Show

Saturday August 20th, 10 AM till 5 PM

Sunday August 21st, 9 AM till 3 PM

ALTOONA JAFFA SHRINE CENTER

BROAD Ave. & 22nd Street, Altoona, PA 16602

General Admission: \$5

Under 12 Free w/adult

Participant & Vender registration forms see below or,
e-mail: weekendnscale@yahoo.com Web: www.n-scaleweekend.com

Bedford Model Railroaders c/o Mike Phillips

773 Barclay Drive, Bedford, PA 15522

Phone or Text: 814-977-4933

N-Scale Model TRAINS & SUPPLIES

TEXNRAILS, HB PETERSON, WINGARD'S TRAINS, THE N-CELLAR, PAUL DICKASH, JOHN DRAKE
KENRAY MODELS, THE N-SCALE WEEKEND BOSTON & ALBANY HOBBIES, JAMES OMLOR
NEALS N GAUGING, CONRAIL THOMAS 519, DELUXE INNOVATIONS, CHARLIE STRINGFELLOW
CHALMERS TRAINS, RANDGUST, CRAZY TRAINS, JOHN WOODS, DWIGHT HITCHENS, RICK SHAWLEY
SCOTT CHARLESWORTH, SELLECK TRAINS, MIKE BENCIS, RICK PELTZ, BERGEN NATIONAL LASER

17 Large Operating N-Scale Train Layouts + Several Small Layouts

BALTIMORE AREA N-TRAK, TWIN TIERS N-TRAK, JERSEY CENTRAL N-TRACK
CAPITOL PENNSCALERS N-TRAK, CENTRAL OHIO N-TRAK. GENESEE & ONTARIO MODEL N-GINEERS
THREE RIVERS ASSOCIATES N-TRAK, NEW JERSEY SOUTHERN N-TRAK, CANTINGTON N-TRAK
NORTHERN NEW JERSEY N-TRAK T-TRAK DIVISION, RALEIGH N-TRAK
PITTSBURGH LITE TRAK, & BEDFORD MODEL RAILROADERS



MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **BEDFORD MODEL RAILROADERS**

\$25.00 FEE FOR ALL RETURNED CHECKS.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL OR FAX: _____

“Weekend Participant” \$10 _____ Pig Roast w/All the “Fixins” \$12 _____

Event T-Shirt: \$12 S M L XL \$14 XXL XXXL Circle Size

Total enclosed: \$ _____ 10th Anniversary Decal \$1 _____

EXHIBITORS & PARTICIPANTS ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOST AND OR INJURY TO THEMSELVES, FAMILY, STAFF, AND PERSONAL PROPERTY WHILE ATTENDING THIS SHOW. THEY EXPRESSLY RELEASE THE SHOW MANAGEMENT FROM LIABILITY FOR ANY LOSS AND/OR INJURY. Aug 19, 20 & 21, 2016



N-Scale Convention:



National N Scale Convention

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29 TO
SUNDAY, JULY 3, 2016

Sheraton Overland Park 6100 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS 66211

913-234-2100



Photos: Jon Messeri and Dick Ollendorf



Other Area Attractions:

- Union Station
- Kansas Speedway
- Ameristar
- Oceans of Fun
- Harry S. Truman Library
- Extreme Grand Prix
- KC Barbecue Tours
- Harley Davidson Factory Tour
- Roasterie Factory Tour
- Gangster Tour
- KC Northern Miniature Railroad
- Belton Grandview & KC Railroad
- Kansas Belle Dinner Train

CHECK OUR WEB SITE FOR MORE DETAIL

National-N-Scale-Convention.com

Contact: Dick Ollendorf, Convention Chairman (610) 923-7535

Dick@NScaleEnthusiast.com



Train Spotting: Leon Source



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
June 25th	Silver Spring show	Silver Spring MD	Jeff Peck	T-Trak
June 26th	Club Meeting	Sykesville Tower	Ed Hyland	Meeting
July 17	Club Meeting	TBD	TBD	Meeting
August 19-21	N-Scale Weekend	Altoona PA	TBD	Show

BANTRAK CALL BOARD

CLUB WORK SESSION 2016

Contact Tim Nixon, Eric Payne or Paul Diley for work session information.



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

