



BANTRAK Newsletter

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November 2017

The Engineer's Cab: Tim Nixon

Well, the end of the year is fast approaching. The Halloween ghouls and goblins have come and gone (and hopefully taken the gremlins that inhabit the BANTRAK layout with them) and I can almost smell the Thanksgiving turkey. Model railroad season is definitely here!

We have one more show to go in 2017; the Festival of Trains at the B&O Museum. We are scheduled to start set-up on Wednesday the 13th of December and run from Saturday the 16th through Sunday the 31st, with teardown on the 31st. Martin and LeRoy are the coordinators for this show. Martin has already sent out the first call for modules for the FoT and hopefully those interested have already volunteered their modules. If you haven't and still want to get in, it's not too late; just let Martin know and we'll get you worked in. We're also going to need runners and people to man the raffle layout table; if you have some extra use or loss leave you need to burn, consider taking a day off and spending it manning the layout at the B&O!

2018 will mark BANTRAK's 35th anniversary, and as most of you know Alan del Gaudio has been working with Matt Gaudynski at Fox Valley Models to get a special run car to mark the occasion, one of their wagon-top caboose decorated in a Baltimore Belt Line scheme. Well, we just got word from Matt that the cars have arrived and will be shipping to us soon. As an added surprise it appears we not only getting the 2018 road number we reserved, we're also getting the alternate 1983 road number we looked into but weren't sure we could get due to minimum order size. Alan will be providing more details soon on how to get the caboose you pre-ordered and the sale of additional cars.

Odds & Ends:

- As of January we'll need a new 2nd Vice President, as LeRoy steps up to replace Martin and Martin steps up to replace me. If you would be interested in serving, or have someone you'd like to nominate for the position, let one of the club officers know.
- In January we will be discussing the club calendar for 2018. If you have a show you'd like to do that isn't on the normal club schedule, let Martin know so we do some investigation and get details on the show.
- We're also looking for coordinators for future shows, specifically the February and April Scale shows. If you're interested in coordinating, let a club officer know.
- Lastly, we need meeting locations for 2018, especially January! If you can host a meeting, or know of a good

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Next Meeting...

November 19th



The Engineer's Cab: Tim Nixon

meeting location, let an officer know.

The November meeting will be on Sunday, November 19th at 2 PM. David Betz has gotten permission to hold the November meeting in his company's conference room, and he will be providing directions to how to get there (hopefully elsewhere in this newsletter). Major topic of discussion on the agenda for November is approval of a club budget for 2018; if you want a vote on the matter, make sure you attend the meeting!

Happy Railroading!

Tim Nixon

November Meeting Location:

InSource Solutions Inc.
1730 Twin Springs Rd
Suite 214
Halethorpe, MD 21227

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/XwYxqZDgE5G2>

Ranson WV Show: Leon Sorge



Opps Session : Eric Payne

The NKP Cleveland Division in 1953!

On November 4th, I hosted a Time Table Train Order Operating Session and was joined by a handful of friends/operators. Typically, I am looking for 10-12 operators, but lately I have been scaling back. The layout is large and there is a lot of right of way so usually there aren't a lot of meets, but occasionally there are one or two. The double track allows for smooth sailing (usually) but occasionally there are obstacles that require Train Orders.

Steve Kolarz making Sunnyside his. He ran it WELL. Tim Nixon in the background fighting Tucker and watching Michigan play.



David Betz working outside Sunnyside Yard Limits



Phil Hoffman fighting with the Beast



Lauren Baker holding down dispatch



A weary Lauren Baker wrote 20 Train Orders (the high number was a result of a washout on the WB Main between Sunnyside and Tucker)



Brian Carhart exiting Virginia City on the downgrade with NKP#7 City of Cleveland (using leased PRR Equipment)



The obligatory group shot... with Uncle Ray and Dad joining the fun.



T-Trak Update / Editorial: Chris Hyland

Things have been busy around here at T Trak. This time of year is when we do a lot of shows in our own backyard. Everybody wants a Christmas Garden and that is what we give them.

We just did our show at the Golden Spike Railroad Show at the Gaithersburg fairgrounds. It was a much smaller show this year, but it's still one of our favorites. Attending were Leon, Jack, and the Hylands. We ran lots of trains, were allowed to sell N scale and other stuff and managed to do some shopping. There were goodies to be had, though this year I promised myself not to spend lots of money on pretty shiny things. Younger brother didn't hold to that. It is interesting to see how things change. For years it was lots of fallen flag stuff. Nowadays, this theme has changed. Lots of Amtrak and Conrail stuff shows up as guys who worked there are retiring. So if you are looking to own a piece of the mighty "Can opener", this could be your chance. But you have to wait until next year.

The only downside to this weekend was that the show was scheduled against the New York Transit Association subway convention in Parsippany, NJ. Besides all the subway stuff, going up there in the past gave us a chance to hang out with Brooklyn N Trak and Jersey Southern. Plus there are all those Jersey RR shops. Come to think about it, maybe it was a good thing because I still have money in my account. From what I have heard though from my pals up there, the show did very well. Thanks for the info, Jim.

By the time that this is published, we will have done the Rockville Lions Club. This is a great show that the local clubs of the DC metro area put on as a charity event. Every year the clubs get to run for two solid days and the gate raised goes to children who need glasses in the area. Can't think of a better

event than that. It also gives us a chance to tie in with our fellow railroaders and take stock in the year before the true holiday rush hits everyone. Plus it is a nice laid-back event that is not high pressure.

Speaking of holiday stuff. Sold any tickets recently? Leon has been selling Layout tickets high and low. At the last event he even had me beat. So get out there and do your bit for the club. Your comrades are counting on you to do your part!

So as I finish off this ditty for the month, T Trak has off for December. Not that I plan on sitting in front of the TV to watch "It's a Wonderful Life". We have a ton of layouts to visit, there are train gardens and other things, plus building projects that need finishing. Project X is rolling right along as well as some other unique modules. Wait and see!

So Happy T day to all and to all a good night,

-Chris



Railfanning Arkansas : Eric Payne

This past June, I had the opportunity to take a few minutes while traveling to visit the local railroad related sites in Fort Smith, Arkansas. For those of you flipping through your mental rolodex, Ft. Smith is in the north-western corner of Arkansas, a mere hop skip and jump away from Oklahoma.

In fact, at one point, it was THE western border of the US (everything west was considered "Indian territory"). Today it is the second largest city in the state, and driving outward from the historic city center you can see the decades go by as the architecture changes.

The city has a Trolley Museum and offers rides (point to point) around the old Main Street portion of the city. Pic 01 and 02 were grabbed when I tripped over the trolley. Pic 03 shows the back of the trolley shops (big gray building on left) and Pic 04 shows the typical roadbed around the city. Finally, Pic 05 shows their trolley barn.



Railfanning Arkansas : Eric Payne



They also have a few other non-trolley related pieces. An old steam engine (Frisco 4003) seen in Pic 06, a few cabooses (cabeese?) seen in Pic 07 & 08. There were also a few pieces of rolling stock rounding out the roster Pic 09 and an old heavyweight passenger car in MOW livery Pic 10.



Finally, all over the city you can see ghosted and faded signage from eras past. Pic 11 for an example.



I hope you enjoyed my quick whirlwind tour of old Ft. Smith and the local railroad museum. It was all pretty cool to see what they were doing and how the local government supported it. You can check it all out virtually by surfing over to their local website found here <http://www.fstm.org>.
Eric



Train Spotting: David Betz



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 2017 CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Type
Nov. 10-12th	Rockville Lions Club	Rockville MD	Chris Hyland	Show
November 19th	Club Meeting	InSource Solutions	David Betz	Meeting
Dec 13-31st	Festival of Trains	B&O Museum	Martin & LeRoy	Show

BANTRAK CALL BOARD

CLUB WORK SESSION 2017

Contact Tim Nixon, Eric Payne, Paul Diley, or Ed Kapuscinski 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
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