



# BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 30, Issue 11  
December 2017

## The Engineer's Cab: Tim Nixon

Hopefully you all got plenty of turkey, some quality time with family, and a little bit of rest over the Thanksgiving weekend, because the busiest two weeks on BANTRAK's calendar are fast approaching, with our annual appearance at the B&O Railroad Museum's Festival of Trains schedule to kick on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Yes, you read that right, Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Unlike past years when we have started set-up on Wednesday, we will start set-up on Thursday this year to accommodate the museum's needs; they have a special event scheduled for Wednesday night and need our space to fit everyone in.

I'm hoping most of you can accommodate the change in dates; we can use the help at set-up. Martin has sent out an initial layout plan, but this being BANTRAK we need to stay flexible because it can and probably will change. LeRoy has posted the run schedule, and as always we need runners to cover the full two weeks. If you can come down and help out, please sign up for run slots. And while you're doing that, remember we need cover at the raffle table too, so please sign up for those slots. I would like to request that each club member sign up for at least one raffle table slot; every member benefits from the raffle, so it's only fair we all share the burden.

The club's December meeting will take place after the pizza luncheon, which will be held at noon on December 14<sup>th</sup> during a break from set-up. This will be an abbreviated meeting (hopefully less than 30 minutes), since we don't want to take too much time away from set-up, but we do have one important issue that we need to vote on. At the November meeting, the members voted unanimously to recommend raise club dues to \$45/year, and the membership will vote on that recommendation at this month's meeting. We are not taking this step lightly; BANTRAK dues have been \$30 since the club was founded in 1983, and we've reached the point where we can't craft a budget that adequately funds all expenses without additional income. All members are encouraged to attend and make your preference known (and hopefully help with set-up while you're there).

This is my final column as president, my term expires at the end of December and Martin Myers will become president; he gets to do the columns for the next two years. I wanted to use the remaining space to give a few quick thoughts as I conclude my term. First, remember that this is supposed to be fun! We joined this club because we like to play with N-scale trains, so the most important thing we can do in this club is run trains! Second, to run trains we need a layout, which means we need modules and we need people to set them up! Some of our modules are getting a little long in the tooth and we could

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### ***Next Meeting...***

***December 14th***



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really use some new ones. It's hard to believe that my Dairy Farm module is almost 14 years old (built in early 2004 for Chantilly) and the Harbor scene is over 4. I would urge those of you who have older modules to consider retiring them (or donating them to another member) and build a new one, and I'd urge those who currently don't have modules to consider building one. Third, I'd like to urge all club members to step up and consider doing more for the club; we have a lot of roles that need to be filled and it seems to be the same 10-12 people that consistently take them on. Consider volunteering as a show coordinator (it's not that hard, honest), or as the raffle layout coordinator. Sit down and write an article for the newsletter, since Dave always needs content, or even consider volunteering to take over as editor (since Dave needs a break). Or if you're especially ambitious, consider stepping up and becoming 2<sup>nd</sup> VP when the position opens up in January; we need that position filled and if we don't have a volunteer, someone may get drafted! (Just kidding). I'll finish by saying it's time for me to step down from a leadership role within the club for a while; I have been an officer since the late Bob Mohr asked me to take over duties as treasurer in 2007. For the last 11 years I've served first as treasurer then 1<sup>st</sup> VP, and finally as president; it's time for me to take a break, sit back, and let someone else put their imprint on the club. And oh yeah, run some trains.

Happy Railroading!

*Tim Nixon*

## Rockville Lion's Club: Leon Sorge

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## Train Spotting: Ryan Jones

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Three miles north of Point of Rocks along the C&O Canal on Friday Nov 23rd

## BANTRAK Membership: Al Palewicz

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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 2017/2018 CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Type
Dec 14-31st	Festival of Trains	B&O Museum	Martin & LeRoy	Show/ Meeting
Feb. 3rd & 4th	Great Scale Show	Timonium Fair Grounds	TBD	Show
April 14th& 15th	Great Scale Show	Timonium Fair Grounds	TBD	Show
Oct.27th & 28th	Great Scale Show	Timonium Fair Grounds	TBD	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](mailto:newsletter@bantrak.net)  
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