



BANTRAK Newsletter

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July 2018

The Engineer's Cab: Martin Myers

Our annual club picnic was well attended. I would like to give a huge THANK YOU to Alan and Debbie for hosting us again this year. The torrential rains subsided but the sweltering heat forced us mostly inside. Thanks also to everyone who supplied treats and beverage. Alan also had an added surprise for us. Alan invited a coworker, Diane, and her husband Phil. Phil gave us a demonstration of his custom-built brass locomotives. His work is exquisite. Although not N scale this was a highlight to our show and tell.

As we approach mid summer our thoughts are probably turned to vacations and outdoor projects. My "honey do" list is rather long. The multiple rainstorms may have yielded some extra modeling time. The annual N Scale Weekend is racing up on us. The show was moved to the first weekend in August this year. We will need to raid the trailer soon to get the modules and equipment for our layout.

I have received permission to use the shop area of the facility where we currently store the club trailer. In order to kill two birds with one stone, July's meeting will be held on Sunday July 22. This is the 4th Sunday instead of our usual 3rd. We will have a short meeting to discuss the upcoming show, raffle layout progress, and our joiner track replacement efforts. Our two projects are important. Supplies of the new joiner tracks were delayed several weeks but we do have a pretty good supply of the pieces now. Our raffle layout progress is important. There are buildings to model and those will be available to take home as well.

We will also raid the trailer on the 22nd. Members that are planning to go to Altoona and help with transport should contact me if this date does not work. We will still have two weeks to work something out. I live close so another day can be possible.

Happy Modeling!

Martin



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Next Meeting...

July 22rd



TCA's Spring Show in York: Chris Hyland

Well besides the snow finally going away, it was time for that spring rite of passage. Could it be the swallows returning to Capistrano? No. Maybe cherry blossoms at the Jefferson Memorial, close, TCA at York? Right!

For the last year the TCA has allowed the general public to come visit their great fabled York show twice a year. In the old days, you had to be a member or be invited to come see what was in all of those halls. Like something out of the Lord of the Rings, there were only rumors of what went on there, dark, mysterious things. Deals aplenty, but you had to belong, and not everyone got in. Only the chosen few, the true believers. The keepers of the sacred smoking choo choo, and if they caught you sneaking in, you were never heard or seen again. But this has changed and as they say now, everyone can get a taste of York.

For 15 bucks a head, you can go visit the grand hall with most of the big dealers and manufacturers (MTH, Lionel, Bachmann, Atlas) and a smaller hall filled with other small time dealers as well as a hall with modular layouts in them.

Now why would an N scaler go to TCA every year? Well, first I don't just do N scale. I started out in Lionel and LGB, moved to HOn3 and 30, then got big into N scale, with a side order of HO Traction and On30 narrow gauge. Primarily I go there to get good deals on O scale stuff for the narrow gauge or trolleys. Deals on cars, trucks, buildings are to be found there as well. All at the same price one pays for stuff at Altoona. But you can find, even in this bulwark of O scale, N scale goodies.

TCA sometimes feels like going back to my childhood. Postwar steamers, hefty steeds made out of zinc and iron and steel thundering down the three rail tubular track (Yuck, what a scene killer!!!). And also lusting after all the toy trains of the past. Standard Gauge, Marklin, British tin plate OO. And

you can see all this and much more. Looking for that Matchbox Super King Leyland BP 18 wheeler you wanted as a kid. They got it and in the box too. Toy trains and memories of old. Also the people there are friendly. They don't have fangs, they like trains too and are pretty friendly for the most part. They love trains in their own special way. But you are still asking, "What the heck does this have to do with me?"

Well as I said before, you can find all sorts of stuff. And I spent more on N scale than anything else. Within a few minutes of getting there, I ran into an estate liquidator who sells off N scale items. Last fall I bought a German 0 10 0 from him for about \$30 dollars and it runs like a beaut. This time he had special paint German Beer wagons and intermodal cars painted up for German Hobby Shops and Railway events, also a massive stack of Graham Farish wagons. Cheap because it's N scale and this is the TCA. I also found someone dealing in tacky Thomas Kinkaid cottages. Bought myself a whole village for DPM prices and painted up ready to go. And this is not all.

You can find other dealers who do not go to the Timonium shows. The big one is Scenery Express. They show up with a massive booth and sell all sorts of stuff. And it is closer than Springfield, MA. So if you are looking to turn your module into a tropical paradise, this is your booth. And there are all sorts of gems hidden away everywhere. You just have to look. But fear not about missing it, the next one is this fall, so mark your calendars.

-Chris Hyland



Train Spotting: Ryan Jones



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 2018 CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Type
July 22nd	Club Meeting	Baltimore (email pending for location)	Martin Myers	Meeting
August 4th & 5th	N-Scale Weekend	Altonna Jaffa center	Martin Myers	Show
Sept. 7-9	Kensington Railway Days	Contact Chris for Details	Chris Hyland.	T-Trak
Sept. 22nd	Gaithersburg Museum	Contact Ed for Details	Ed Hyland	T-Trak
Oct.27th & 28th	Great Scale Show	Timonium Fair Grounds	Paul Diley	Show

BANTRAK CALL BOARD

CLUB WORK SESSION 2018

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
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