



BANTRAK Newsletter

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The Engineer's Cab: Martin Myers

The summer is coming to a close, and we will soon be moving inside and back to some serious model railroading. We have a couple of upcoming shows that will be upon us sooner than later. Paul Diley is coordinating the October Scale Show at Timonium. This will be a joint effort by BANTRAK and our counterparts at the other end of the parkway, Northern Virginia NTRAK. An expanded 50 x 100 foot area has been allocated for our layout. Paul has a couple of extra ideas for this layout. He plans to have a oNetrak appendage off of the spine.

I should explain to those that are new to NTRAK. In a multi-club layout we generally have two complete loops of NTRAK modules. Each club supplies its own loop of modules. The loops are joined together by a "spine". For show operation the blue and yellow lines of each loop are available to members of their respective clubs to run trains as always. The red line of both loops and the spine is available to runners from both clubs to run trains. The red line run is always the longest run. Nowadays, we make this line DCC only as it is large enough that numerous trains can be running at the same time.

Paul is planning to add a junction off of the connecting spine that will be oNetrak modules. These will most likely be supplied by BANTRAK. Anyone will be welcome to take the oNetrak route but they must be aware that the track is ATLS code 55. Deep profile wheels (pizza cutters) won't work. Don't worry, the oNetrak portion will be optional so it will not affect red line running.

We also plan to have our annual raffle layout ready for prime time by the October show. We will need members to put some time in at the raffle table to get the sales going this year. If each attending member can put in an hour or so at the raffle table this should be rather simple to handle.

Next up after the October show will be the annual "Holiday Festival of Trains" at the B&O museum. We still need a coordinator and at least one assistant for this layout. In an earlier message I noted the dates are Dec.15th through the 31st. Set up to be on Wednesday, Dec 12, 8am to 4pm.

I am also trying to secure a meeting location for September. If any member can host this month's meeting please let me know ASAP. October's meeting will be held at the Scale show on Sunday afternoon. November's meeting is still in the wind awaiting a location. I finish with this photo taken yesterday at Timonium. Tim's farm module should fit well in our usual location: (See Page 2)
Happy Modeling!

Martin

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Next Meeting...

September 16th



Future site of Timonium Layout:

N Trak layout space



T Trak layout space



The Steam Engine: Dave Clyde

Each of us enjoy model railroading as a hobby. I know...I know, how obvious can you get, however, through the course of each of us laboring to improve this and to upgrade that, we sometimes lose the realization of the impact we and our hobby has on others. The things we toil over amongst ourselves...The things we look at and just shake our heads because it's missing that something that we can't quite put our finger on, in fact, can have quite an impact on those people we come in contact with.

An example of this happened to me a while ago and I wanted to share this experience with our fellow BANTRAK members.

A long time and very dear friend of mine by the name of Robert (Bob) Heron dropped by one evening to check out the progress of my home layout. I was kind of aw-shucking the state of the layout. There were materials everywhere around the layout. A sea of pink greeted Bob with his first glance. Track was still in the process of being laid. Everything was in disarray. The only thing I had going for me was the fact that I could actually run trains. Ah the wonderment of seeing a train running down the track.

Anyway, Bob has never really been into trains beyond the fact that at one time, we both worked together at CSX before their mass exodus to Jacksonville, Florida. He did, however, volunteer to build the first round of tables for me which, I happily accepted. At times he did show a closet curiosity in what I was trying to accomplish.

As the trains were moving around the layout and I was trying to explain my vision of the future, Bob just stood there with mouth open, watching the round-de-round as if he were a child seeing this seeming simplistic episode for the first time.

What I saw as a work in progress was obviously much more than that to Bob.

Well, as the evening drew to an end and Bob thanked me and left for the evening, I had not realized the impact that this visit appeared to have on Bob. Apparently, Bob was inspired enough by his short visit to actually take the time to sit down and compose this short poem and, believe me, Bob is not known for his poetry. That is what makes this even more amazing.

So, without further adieu I present Bob's poem (with his permission, of course):

An Ode to My Second Love, the Steam Engine

By
Robert (Bob) Heron

Good morning,

Ahhh! yes, nothing better on a cold winter morning.

Hearing in the distance muffled sounds of a giant in the valley,
whistle blowing, rhythmic clanking of wheels meeting track.

Waiting with anticipation to see its approach,
the whistle gives way to the clanking of the bell.

The great beast of burden slows with its load,
cars banging on cars, it comes to a stop.

The pulsating beat expels clouds of white,
the roar of its breath can be heard and smelled.

Workers tend the beast, with oil cans and wrenches in hand,
others overhead feed the beast taking on its life blood.

With the wave of the light and a couple good toots,
the giant beast begins to move.

Wheels spinning and screeching to grab the rail,
the giant grunts forward ever so slowly.

The beat of its heart spewing jets of steam,
the whistle sounds different as it leaves our town.

Destined, for where, I do not know,
All I know is that I look forward to its return.

The End
Robert (Bob) Heron

Perhaps there are times when each of us should dispense with the excuses and explanations and just truly enjoy the smiles we put on the faces of those who we come in contact with. To perhaps take a step back and remember our own time of innocence.



T-Trak Update & Editorial: Chris Hyland

First I want to say congrats to all those who participated in the Kansas City Show. Wow. You showed Ttrak off to the world and won a fistful of awards to as well. I saw the highlights and I can say that T Trak has come of age (not that we already didn't know that) and to quote Peter Gabriel: And the eyes of the world are watching now". I am truly impressed. So to the crew, want modules like those? As I always say start building! Dave Clyde and us Hylands can't do it all. We try but we can't.

So sadly enough I have been doing more strategic planning since Altoona than actually building anything myself. Heck, I have to remind myself "Hey dummy! It's almost 3 pm run a train! We just finished a Sykesville (thank you David Clyde and Leon for being there). Where I got to run two clubs because I wound up being the board member in charge of the S&P at their open house. I need to figure out how to replicate myself and have a whole bunch of Chrises running around doing what needs to be done. The event was a fun one though. We ran a lot of trains and saw lots of trains.

Which leads me to the fact that September is probably going to be next to Nov. and Dec. as one of our busy months. If you say you didn't get time to run, that is your fault. We kick off September with Kensington, a two day event at the town hall. Then the following weekend it is the Mainline layout tour and a T Trak layout at S&P on that Sunday. Then Ranson, WV. So no rest for the weary, guys, if you are interested in attending any of these events. Email me and let me know if you are coming.

So while I have been working on other projects besides doing modeling, this does not mean I have not being doing anything N scale related. Last month I thought that the world was going to be falling in when Atlas

and Intermountain made their announcement about their factory shutting down. It seemed that we N scalers might be forced to partake in Gladiatorial combat for old Arnold Rapido GP7's and other stuff from the basement, or hoard Bachmann engines. Or worse, grovel for Model Power short nose RS11's when our engines finally died. Maybe sending holograms to Kato using small droids going: The plans for the SD50 are located in the memory banks along with the Alco M630's. Help me, Kato, you're my only hope. That people would bring Uzis to protect their mid 70's SOO train. But thankfully some stuff is still showing up from Atlas and Intermountain. At least enough to keep us in trouble for a while, but I do hope they get things worked out.

One final thing before I sign off to go power up the drills to install plex. A word about setting up events; we at T Trak have never looked at a place as being a permanent home for set ups. Because it seems like if you do, that's when things change. But we are always looking for places to go to. If you think you have a place let me know and we can work out something. A word of advice, free is good, safe dry places with electricity are also good, wet place not so much. Nuff said.

Chris



Adventures in Washington State: Bob Bunge

John and I recently visited his grandmother in Pasco, Washington. Pasco and the Tri-cities area is on the desert side of the state. The vistas are large, the sky is larger, short line railroads abound and distributed power freight trains are in plenty.

Weather trouble getting out of BWI



caused us to miss our connecting flight out of Portland. The result was a relaxing four hour ride from Portland to Pasco on Amtrak's Empire Builder. This leg of Train 28 is only four cars long. It links up with the other leg out of Seattle in Spokane, the stop after Pasco to combine and continue to Chicago.



With the BNSF Lakeside Subdivision layout for the ATCSMon program installed on a laptop, we were able to chase a number of BNSF freights between Pasco and Spokane, as well catch some other trains during our trip.

The Lakeside is single track with many long sidings. It wasn't uncommon to experience three long and fast freights within 30 minutes.



Three SD-9's from the Columbia Basin RR idle at Connell, WA. CBWR services a large number of grain silos and other industries across some 80+ miles of track, interchanging with BNSF at Connell.



The Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad, a part of the WATCO network, operates from a BNSF/UP interchange at Wallula to Walla Walla, WA. The original 3-foot Walla Walla & Columbia River Railroad is the stuff of legend.

Raffle Layout Work Session: Leon Sorge



Paul hosted several work sessions in August. We need additional volunteers to help get us closer to a more complete looking layout for the October show. Reach out to Paul or Al Potter if you can host a session or want to help.



Cars for Sale: David Betz

Several previous month's cars are still available. So don't be shy, you know you want them. Step up and help the club while filling in your roster.

This month we have four new cars. We are making the balance of those cars and locomotives available through the newsletter on a first come, first served basis. The cars will be sold at 50% of MSRP plus MD sales tax of 6%. All proceeds will go to the club. Over the next few months look for 4 pieces for sale each month. Please contact me and Alan to hold a particular piece for you and you can settle up with our treasurer Alan Del Gaudio and your car will be ready for you to pick up at the following month's meeting. So this month we have four brand new cars.

First up Walthers 48" Standalone Well car
MSRP\$24.98
Member Price \$12.49



Next up, Intermountain Mechanical Refrigerator
MSRP \$22.95
Member Price \$11.48



MicroTrains Conrail Test car
MSRP\$12.95
Member Price \$6.48



MicroTrains Twinbay hopper (missing load)
MSRP\$23.85
Member Price \$11.92



Remember all proceeds will go to the club.
This is a great deal on brand new cars.

All MSRP prices were either taken from the box itself, ModelTrainstuff.com, Hogtrainz, or from Trove Star.

LOOK FOR FOUR NEW OFFERINGS NEXT MONTH!!

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
Sept. 7-9	Kensington Railway Days	Contact Chris for Details	Chris Hyland.	T-Trak
Sept. 16th	Club Meeting	TBD	Martin Myers	Meeting
Sept. 22nd	Gaithersburg Museum	Contact Ed for Details	Ed Hyland	T-Trak
Sept. 29th	Ranson WV	Ranson WV	Chris Hyland	T-Trak
October 7th	SP Tower	Sykesville	Chris Hyland	T-Trak
October 21st	SP Tower	Sykesville	Chris 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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