



BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 32, Issue 11
November 2018

The Engineer's Cab: Martin Myers

Well it is November already. We just completed The October Scale Show. Paul coordinated this show. The nearly 50' x 100' layout was not without some early glitches. Set up was not as smooth as in the past. Our plan was ambitious. In addition to building a joint layout with NVNTRAK there were multiple new modules introduced. Our new joiner tracks were implemented and a oNetrak branch extending from the spine created extra complications for this show. The extras took a lot of effort by a few members to get resolved. They did get resolved and the layout ran well for their efforts. So well that the NVNTRAK guys expressed interest in doing it again next spring. Paul certainly pulled off a big one for BANTRAK.

As I pointed out at our brief meeting on Sunday, BANTRAK needs to get back to basics. First and foremost new modules must be built to NTRAK standards. Those standards are what our club uses. Every member should own the basic NTRAK manual. All of the information is in there and it is even available online to down load. There really is no reason to get this stuff wrong. Ask if you are not sure.

In the past, the club required new modules to be inspected before being included in a layout. We should return to this practice. It takes just a few minutes to check that the basic dimensions, track spacing, setbacks, and electrical specs are up to snuff. Time is wasted troubleshooting and repairing this stuff later. We will be discussing this at upcoming meetings. An inspection team should be created so that our layouts will set up without losing hours fixing modules. Set up day is not the day to finish construction. If it isn't ready, leave it home until the next show.

Set up day is the time for all hands to be setting up the layout. Everyone has various skills to offer. Leveling, clamping, running ropes and stanchions, hanging aprons, installing joiner tracks, etc. All of those items are part of set up. Show coordinators should assign tasks to keep things organized and moving forward. Tear down requires the same process in reverse. We waste a lot of time piling stuff up on tables only to have to sort through the piles to pack it all up.

Moving on, our next meeting is perhaps one of our most important meetings of the year. Please try to attend this meeting. David Betz is hosting and the location details are noted in this newsletter. We will be working up our budget for the next year. In addition we will have final notes on our upcoming Christmas Layout at the B & O Museum.

Le'Roy and Al are coordinating this year. They have been in contact with the museum and toured the location along with Mark to get final details and plan the layout space. Our set up date is Wednesday December, 12, Starting at 8:00 am. We must have all of our vehicles out of the museum area before 10 am. We will have the usual access to the rear lot that day but late arrivals will have to carry in from there. We officially start running trains on Saturday, December 15th. Tear down will be on Sunday December 30th immediately after the museum closes. Our December meeting will be at the B & O Museum during a pizza lunch while setting up the layout.
Happy Modeling!

Martin

In the issue...

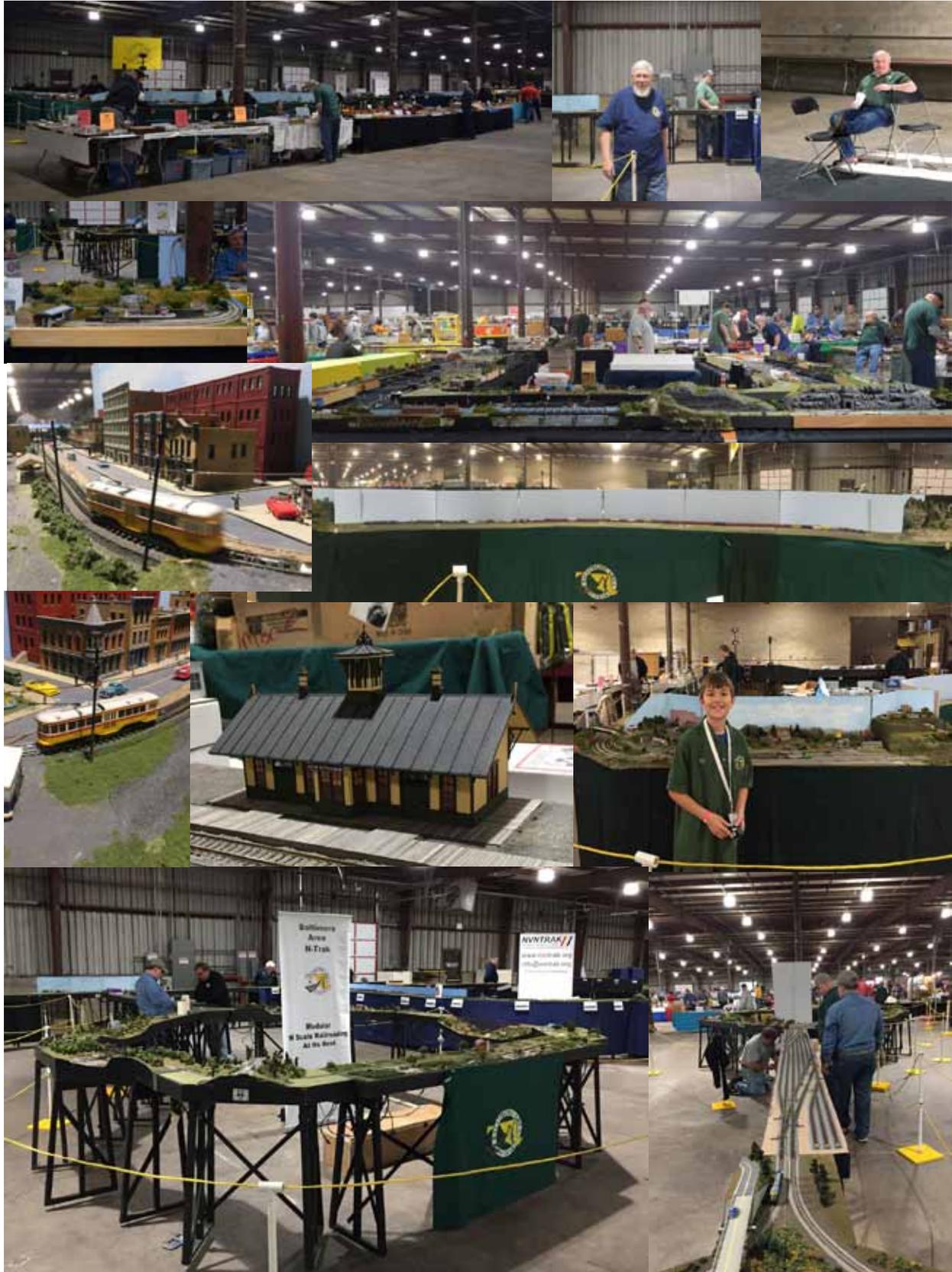
<i>The Engineer's Cab</i>	1
<i>Timonium Show</i>	2-3
<i>T-Trak Update</i>	4
<i>Gaithersburg Show</i>	5
<i>History of Club Cars</i>	6-7
<i>Cars for sale</i>	8
<i>Tains Spotting</i>	9
<i>Calendar</i>	10

Next Meeting...

November 18th



Timonium Highlights :



Timonium Highlights :



T-Trak Update & Editorial: Chris Hyland

First, I would like to dedicate this column to those who suffered through the first of the two World Wars. Even though the guns fell silent on that November morning a hundred years ago, for many it would never truly end and we are still dealing with the consequences of those years today. May those who fought not fade into the mists of history!

Wow, October was busy, a couple Sykesville shows, a Timonium blowout (with joint operations with NVNTRAK), and we visited the TCA up in York, PA. We roared into November with the Gaithersburg Artifacts show just last weekend, the Rockville Lions Club the weekend the 10th and we haven't even gotten to the Christmas season yet.

Timonium was a good show. We had guys from NVNTRAK, S&P, and BANTRAK, all operate together in a large layout, and fun was had by all. Lots of great treasures where purchased, and we got to see that our modules still mesh in with others.

So how is the division doing? Very well. We keep getting people interested in this supposedly-dying hobby and we have a blast running trains at all sorts of different locales. We are also looking to add to these in the future, perhaps another specialty convention. Each show we do, shows the flag of N scale and especially BANTRAK wherever we go.

We are currently upgrading the layout electronically. We are slowly putting into operation some of the (un)National's wiring specs. They seem to clean up the mess of the wiring and it doesn't overwhelm the layout. Also normal people can still wire up the layout. Along with this, we are still doing "Operation Plex." During the fall, this has saved our bacon many times by keeping the kiddos at bay. It may not stop a well disciplined Kidzilla from trying to rip the module out of the layout, but it wards off most of the others. Plus, it's pretty hard for the parents to miss.

It is nice to rub shoulders with all the other clubs out there. After that it is off to sell what we don't want and push tickets for the raffle layout at the Westminster Train show. Speaking of that. Done your bit yet, sell some tickets? We still have a two months left. Sell sell sell. While we are at shows, don't forget to visit the estate sales of some of our members who have passed on. It helps out the families of the members and shows that we take care of our own. You may also get the opportunity to acquire a unique memento of and old friend whom you may have known for years.

Well that about wraps it up here, off to the next show.

I wish every member of the extended Bantrak Family and all of our friends a good Thanksgiving and start to the holiday season.

Chris



Gaithersburg 2018 Artifacts Show: Chris Hyland

In the past there were two shows. The Gaithersburg Model Train show and The Gaithersburg Artifacts show. Over the years they combined. The model trains show dropped off after some time, but the Artifacts show was still going strong. With the strong ties that I had with the coordinator of that show, I was able to get us a seat at the Artifacts show. BANTRAK T TRAK would have the distinction of being one of only two layouts to participate in the show.

For those who have not been to one of these, you don't know what you're missing. Located in the heart of the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, every year is a treasure trove of Railway "stuff" that not only can you look at, but for the right price, buy and take home with you. Sadly enough this part of the hobby is starting to gray as well. And tastes are different. Where there were B&O and C&O fans, Chessie and CSX stuff is looked for. Instead of NW and PRR, Conrail and NS stuff is being gobbled up by the younger crowd. Which means if you are looking for some old stuff you can normally find lots of bargains. Books have been dropping in price. Morning Suns go for 10 bucks apiece. Stranger railroads go for slightly more. All sorts of things show up. Silver, timetables, uniforms. I saw a pair of London Midland Scottish wool blankets go for \$20 each and let's face it, that's pre-WWII foreign stuff. So it is like going and visiting the toy store of train things.

On the layout side, it took a while to figure out what was exactly going to happen, but in the end it was our usual operating time. Saturday afternoon set up and finished by 5 and reopen Sunday at 9 sharp. We had three 8 ft tables in which we put the layout. Making up our humble group was the Hyland Gang, and John S. from NVNTRAK, Jack Walsh, Matt Whiting, Leon, Phillip Cook and a visit from David Clyde.

We ran all sorts of trains. B&O steam.

The Hiawatha, The Southern Crescent, Burlington freights, even a Victorian Railways passenger train from the 1960's complete with a Vic Rails Class B GM diesel from "down under". Each one of these brought out the nostalgia in the visitors. Many recalled fond memories of actually riding on or rail fanning these trains as the N scale form whisked by them. Even moreso was the interest in both N scale and T Trak. Down in the DC area rents are going up and up and with this system people could plan out their dream empire and then put it away in a closet when finished. On the whole we all had a good time.



We

ran until 4 pm when we shut down and headed for Hardtimes for some dinner. Outside of a small matter of getting an air leak from running over a tack, the show went flawless. Thanks for Charlie Miller for having us again and we look forward to next year's show.

Oh, and you were wondering what outlandish thing that we got. Patrick picked up this massive London Transport bus stop sign in cast iron. Now where to hang it....

Chris



History of Club Cars: Jack Walsh

1. GBNSA decal set (don't remember who did them for us)



4. 1996 - 1997 (2 car set -separate) MT



2. 10 Year Anniversary (1993) MT



5. 1998 LL-car/Medford - printing



3. 1994 - 1995 (2 car set - separate) MT



6. 1983 - 2003 (2 car set wrapped together) MT



History of Club Cars: Jack Walsh

7. 1993 MT (error car from 1983-2003 set)



Ralph G. also did a set of four-grain hoppers on his own and used the club's logo.



8. 2008/Sentinel (2 car set wrapped together)
MT



9. 2013 Fox Valley



10. 1983 - 2018 Fox Valley (2 separate cars)



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: MicroTrains 50' Boxcar
MSRP \$27.95
Member Price \$13.48



Next up, MicroTrains 50' Boxcar
MSRP \$27.95
Member Price \$13.48



Next up, MicroTrains 50' Boxcar
MSRP \$27.95



MicroTrains 50' Boxcar
MSRP \$27.95
Member Price \$13.48



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: Chris Hyland



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
November 18th	Club Meeting	1730 Twin Springs Rd. Suite 214, Baltimore, MD 21227	David Betz	Meeting
Dec. 12th	Setup at B&O	B&O Railroad Museum	LeRoy	Show set up
Dec. 15-30th	B&O Show	B&O Roundhouse	LeRoy	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
 Editor: David Betz

