

BANTRAK News

A Monthly Newsletter for BANTRAK Members • Volume 32 • Issue 9 • September 2019



The Engineer's Cab: Martin Myers

Hello all,

I want to thank Alan and Debbie for hosting our picnic again this year at their home. It was a scorcher. Alan suffered through the cooking outside and fired up some great burgers and dogs for the large contingent that was present.

We just got back from the 15th annual N Scale Weekend. The club's trailer has been repacked and readied for our next big outing in October. Thanks to everyone who was able to participate. We made a few changes to the original plan during set up. Space allotments changed at the last minute but what the heck we are a modular club. That's what we do. I believe everyone had a good time and was able to get enough run time in over the weekend. Mike Phillips has confirmed that next year the weekend will again be held at the Jaffa Center in Altoona. Dates are August 1 and 2, 2020. Set up on July 31.

We are getting the bugs out of our change to Kato adjustable connector tracks. Most of the beginning vertical alignment issues have been eliminated. Some have added a short section of Unitrack to the end of their modules so that standard rail joiners are not needed. That is a good idea and certainly speeds the set up. Remember that the end of the rails on each line should remain 2 ½ inches back from the module end to meet NTRAKL standards. Of course if the modules are a set and will never be joined to any other NTRAK module, the connection can be any way that works.

Work continues on our raffle layout. Four TTrak style modules are now being worked on by members. We are trying to stick to modern (1980's +) scenery. As a change there is no attempt to make each module continue to the next. I believe that people will buy tickets because it looks good and the four modules will make it convenient to use at the winner's home. It is an experiment that hopefully will be successful. Our

TTRAK layouts certainly appeal to the masses. Tim Nixon has been volunteered to coordinate the October Show in Timonium. Thank you Tim for accepting this task. He would likely welcome someone who might want to volunteer to assist him on this.

We will be meeting at Leo Palewicz home in September.

Details for the Holiday Festival of Trains at B & O Museum are still forthcoming. We will pass any information to members as soon as we hear. We will need a coordinator and at least one co-coordinator for this show. Two assistants would be even better.

Regards,
Martin



T-Trak Update & Editorial: Chris Hyland

We are back. Life has been interesting. First, communications have been up the spout here at Casa Del Hyland. While upgrading initially to having WiFi in the house, we lost everything else. Phones went down. Internet was spotty. So finally we decided to switch and now things are slightly better. Plus we now have a new phone for the first time in almost 50 years.

So modelling and TTrak stuff. Altoona was the big push for us this summer. From those who noticed the layouts we had our traction layout that we normally carry with us to East Penn events. Lots of skyscrapers huh? We have been working on that for a while and we tried to get our hands on every decent one at shows for the last couple years. And it is not finished yet. More different cars and other stuff is coming. Big thanks to David for running the regular TTrak layout. We had a small crew of people. The three of us, Leon and Dave. And we had a great time.

I was horribly ill, but spent money and was glad that I went. Will talk about this in next months column, but if you are ever in Altoona, visit the Altoona Modellers near the Brickyard. Their collection of real PRR builders plates makes the trip worth while.

As I am writing this, we just got back from an event today. Gaithersburg. Small layout. Decent crowd. Lots of fun. We are coming up to the busy part of the year. After Labor Day it is one event after another. We do Kensington, Ranson, Timonium, Gaithersburg Artifacts, Rockville Lions Club, and the Layout Rodeo just to name a few. If you are interested in keeping up with us, drop me a line and I will put you on the list, now that things are back and running to specs. again.

So a couple of other things before I sign off this short message. Some house keeping stuff. First, it is always a perfect time to build a module. CMR is selling them cheap and with a little wood glue you're done in a day (15min to put together, and the rest of the night to dry). So no, "Oh, I have no carpentry skills". As CSM Bourne said in the movie *Zulu*, "Right, no one told you to stop working, get sweatin". Second, a wee little bird told me that people have hovered about the layout asking to test trains on the "test track".

Well, as far as I know, that is the grey loop inside the Ntrak layouts. TTrak is NOT A TEST TRACK!!!!

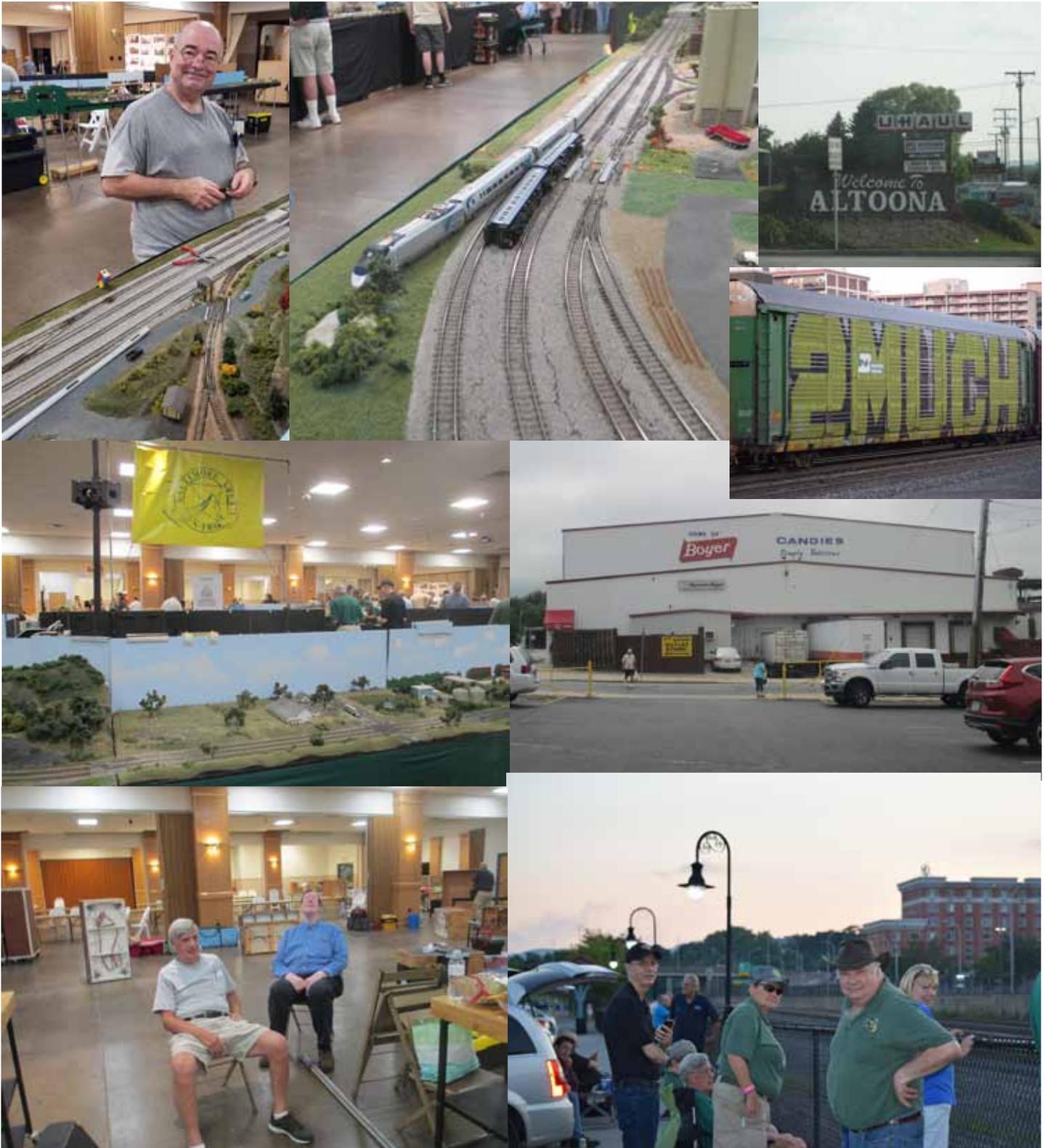
We invite all club members, family, friends to come run trains, preferably in peace. But calling the layout a test track is fightin words, We got track times just like everyone else. So bring trains to run and you can get the dubious congrats of being a TTRAKER. Otherwise you know what to do. Nuff said.

Hope you all had a great summer and now it is time to get back to running trains.

Chris



Altoona Memories



Altoona Memories



BANTRAK 2019 Calendar

September 6-8, 2019

Kensington MD Train show

T-Trak

Contact: Chris Hyland

September 14, 2019

Mainline hobby Tour

Non Club event

Contact: Chris Hyland

September 15, 2019

Meeting

Leo Palewicz's home

Contact: Martin

September 19-22, 2019

MARPM Convention

<https://www.marpm.org/>

DoubleTree, BWI

September 19-22, 2019

B&O Railroad Historical Society Convention

<https://borhs.org/Events/events.html>

Sherton, BWI

October 4-6, 2019

Western Maryland Railway Historical Society Convention

<https://borhs.org/Events/events.html>

Econo Lodge, Shamokin Dam, PA 17876

October 5, 2019

Ranson VW Show

T-Trak

Contact: Chris Hyland

October 26 - 27, 2019

Great Scale Show

Timoium Fairgrounds

Contact: TBD

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 and 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.



Train Spotting: David Betz



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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