



The Engineer's Cab: Martin Myers

Summer has passed. Train (fall) season is here. Our September meeting was hosted by Leo and Al Palewicz at Leo's home, thank you, Leo and Al. We will hold a brief meeting in October at the Timonium show on Sunday at 2pm. Teardown will be after the meeting.

Tim Nixon is coordinating the October show. Jack Walsh has stepped up to co-coordinate. We have our usual space allotment, but the show has sent us word that all trailers will have to be moved outside of the hall on Friday. This may cause our tear down to take a little longer than usual. We will also be identifying any club equipment that may require some tune up or touch up. Volunteers will be needed to adopt some of this work to be complete in time for our B&O Museum layout.

Thanks to Alan DelGaudio, contact was made with the B&O Museum just in time for our last meeting. BANTRAK will be setting up again this year in bays 11 and 12 for the annual Holiday Festival of Trains. Alan and I met at the museum and firmed up dates for this year. Set up will be on Monday, December 16 at 8am. This means we can begin running trains that week and continue through Sunday the 29th. We will tear down on the 29th right after the museum closes for the day. LeRoy has volunteered to coordinate along with Al Potter to co-coordinate. Watch your emails in the upcoming months for details.

We confirmed permission to sell tickets for our raffle layout at the Museum. Work proceeds on our 4 modules. Our target is to unveil them at the Timonium Show. We have one table reserved for the layout.

Alan is preparing our annual budget proposal for the upcoming year. It will be presented at our November meeting to be tweaked and approved, please try to attend. David Betz will host us at his office for this meeting.

Last but certainly not least the club will need

a second vice president after the first of the year. Anyone ready to step into this prestigious position?

Regards,
Martin

Regards,
Martin



T-Trak Update & Editorial: Chris Hyland

Well, it has been a busy month. For us, we are in the biggest part of the TTrak season. We have almost never ending train shows until after Thanksgiving, and then it is the Christmas season....

To start off this month we did a joint running operation with NVNTRAK at Ranson, WV. It was a good show. NVNTRAK had some problems with their modules, but they had a good time all the same. That is what TTrak is all about. Some goodies were to be found as usual out there in the hinterland, and once again we were gone before 4. Thanks to John Steitz and Dave Truscott for visiting from NV., and thanks to Dave Clyde and Matt Whiting from our own guys for making the trek out there. April is their next show.

Last weekend was the last Gaithersburg show for the year, and it was an interesting one. Although the Hyland clan were the only ones to make it for the show in the RDC, it was the busiest show there this year and this time we were not alone. The Local Loco's of the Garden Railway Society of DC showed up with an elevated loop of live steam locomotives and Shay's to run around. You think we have a hard time setting up DCC for a two-day weekend set up. These guys have to set up their layout and fire up the boilers to make sure their trains go.

So now we are getting ready for Timonium (with a side trip to TCA in York the week before) and it promises to be a busy one. Due to the fact that we have been having more guys than usual show up future shows will feature a sign-up sheet for run slots just like the N-Trak side of the club. This should give everyone a bite at the apple and a chance to run. And that will up October 2019. Combine that with the fact that I have been spending time working on the home layout, it will have been a busy month.

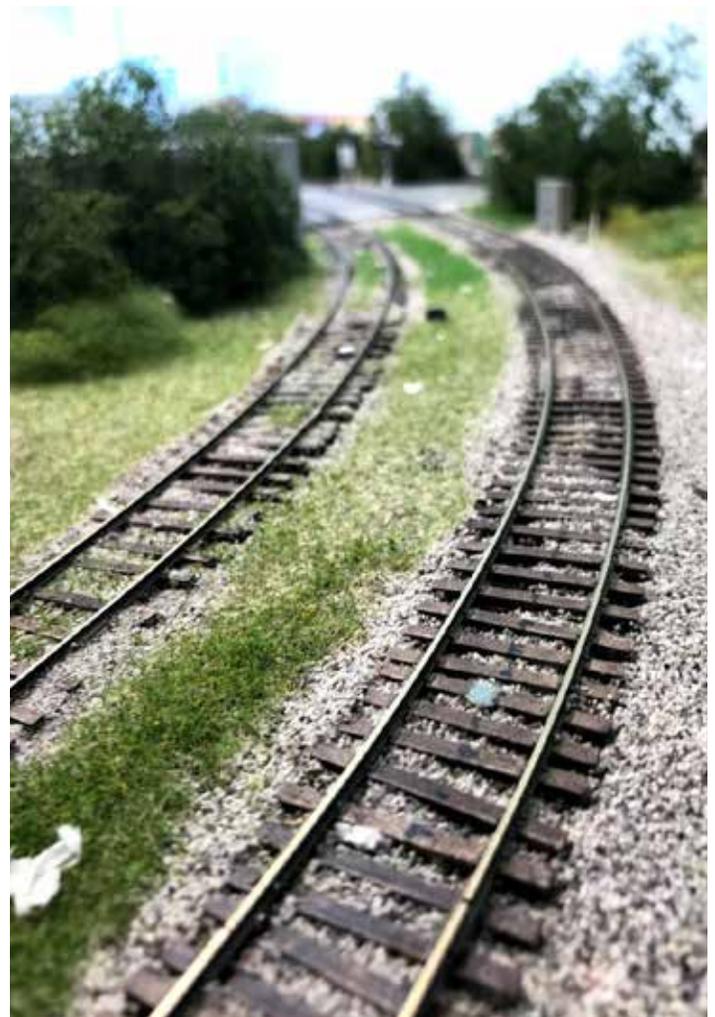
Nov. starts with the Artifacts show, goes on to Rockville Lions Club and ends with a possible new show. Stay tuned.

Now the bad news. Like everyone else in the world, I too have heard that M.B. Klein is shuttering its retail doors at the end of October. Personally, I think this is a colossal mistake. Yes, I am fully aware that online sales are massive. In this fast-paced world of I needed it yesterday, I am one of those weird people who just won't give up their rotary telephone (and if

you don't know what that is: Wikipedia). Heck I still have a heliograph. How do you think this article gets submitted? Sun flashes duh! But I will miss the going in and pulling stuff off the shelves at the last minute. It was always a good waste of a Saturday or a weekday that I had off. So, here's to the end of a thirty plus year wild ride at the shop with many friends whom I made amongst the staff. Let's see what the future holds.

Hope to see you guys at Timonium and hope you all have a Happy Halloween!

Chris



L-Scale: Al Palewicz

After the meeting in September at Leo's house, where we saw Leo's latest, somewhat miniaturized, L scale layout, I thought it would be appropriate to recall a larger L scale layout from the past. At the April 2013 Scale Model Train Show in Timonium, MD, Bantrak members did an experiment in "L" scale. The "L" can stand for Lego, which was the main building block of the layout. It can also stand for Leo, who was mainly responsible for the planning, design, and construction of the L Scale layout. Finally, the "L" can stand for learning, for that is what mainly took place at the L Scale layout on April 13 & 14, 2013.

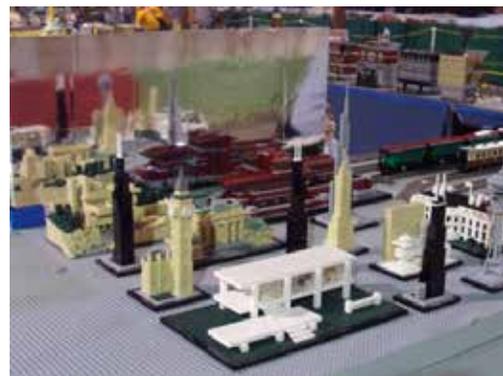
The picture (below) gives a good view of one side of the layout, showing the 11-line yard, with six of its nine trains, and the Lego models above the yard turn-around tracks. These included an incredible Lego model of the Taj Mahal, and an architectural park with models of a number of recognizable buildings by prominent 20th century architects.

Lego trains are a step above the "toy trains" of the original O Scale. While not precisely to a scale, the trains are constructed to showcase modern railroad

locomotives and unit trains, including high-speed passenger trains, tanker cars, container trains, and coal cars. There are also steam locos, including a pretty good model of a famous Scottish loco. While these trains do not really fit in with the precise scale modeling of the N scale that Bantrak models in its main layouts, they do perform admirably in the role of attracting the attention of young people to the hobby of model railroading. The L scale layout at Timonium in April 2013 also had the effect of showcasing the modular concept of layout construction that Bantrak embraces.

During the show dozens of youngsters came over to the layout asking questions about what had been done, and how we had done it. They spent time talking not just with the two Bantrak members "in charge" of the layout, but also with the several youngsters, who were involved with the running of the layout all weekend. These included the son of the Show dealer who had a stand directly behind the L Scale layout. His name is Zach. He came over while we were setting up on Friday, and spent hours with us during the weekend, helping maintain and run the trains. He showed great interest in the computer control that Leo had set up to direct the trains and took time during the weekend to invite other interested young people to look over his shoulder and see just what was happening.

The picture below is the "architectural park" of small Lego models of famous buildings and landmarks, such as the Sears Tower, London's Big Ben Tower, and many others. They were all on the wall at Leo's house in September.



L-Scale: Al Palewicz



The picture above is the storied Taj Mahal in India, along with part of the reflecting pond in front of it. On Sunday at the April 2013 show three other young people, my grandkids and Leo's nieces and nephew, arrived at the show. They immediately joined with Zach in running the trains. At one point they were working together to keep four trains running on the two loops of the layout. While Leo, Dan and I did overall trouble shooting, the kids ran the layout. Many of the kids who stopped to look at the layout asked about whether we did this at every show. We told them this was special, and that usually we worked on the Bantrak layout. When we pointed it out, many of them went over and spent time looking the big layout over.

The next two pictures show a section of track bordered by a village of Lego buildings in line with the scale of the trains., and the "command center" from which the trains were controlled.



As a fun layout, the L Scale setup in April 2013 was a great success for us. As a tool for the education in the hobby of model railroading that Bantrak is committed to, the L Scale display was amazing. It attracted much interest, and gave the Bantrak members at the L Scale layout an opportunity to deal with several dozen young people, who would otherwise have likely walked on by. More photos are below.

The final photo below shows the L scale container ship that graced one end of the layout.



BANTRAK 2019- 2020 Calendar

October 26 - 27, 2019

Great Scale Show
Timoium Fairgrounds
Contact: Tim Nixon

November 17, 2019

Club Meeting
1730 Twin Springs Rd
Suite 214
Baltimore, MD 21227
Contact: David Betz

December 16 - 29, 2019

B&O Festival of Trains
B&O Round House
Contact: LeRoy Brandimore

February 1-2, 2020

Great Scale Show
Timoium Fairgrounds
Contact: TBD

May 2-3, 2020

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: Ed Kapuscinski



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