

BANTRAK News

A Monthly Newsletter for BANTRAK Members • Volume 33 • Issue 7 • August 2020



The Engineer's Cab: LeRoy Brandimore

Hello All,

Well, here we are in August, and we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic is still having an effect. The T-Trak people have received word that a couple of Greenburg shows in Pennsylvania have been canceled. I'm sure that has been the case all around. An announcement in the September Model Railroader magazine says the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour shows are canceled through 2021. Here is hoping the rest of the year is better.

That said, the Great Scale Model Trains Show is still making plans for a show Oct. 3 and 4. What the show may look like is still not known. Aisles may be wider, vendors further apart, maybe fewer vendors. Traveling across state lines can be tricky for them. If vendor space is expanded due to social distancing requirements, vendors may be placed in the North Hall where most of the layouts are. So, there may be fewer and smaller layouts. We must wait to see what happens. I expect we will be hearing more about this in about a month.

As for us, Paul Diley is the Coordinator for the show, and Martin Myers is the Co-coordinator. Paul has already sent out a call for modules. Hopefully, there is a show and we are a part of it.

I have contacted the B&O Museum and they were glad to hear from us. They have been open since June 25. They said that they are making plans to have layouts for the holiday season starting in late November. This looks positive.

As for the meeting this month, Maryland is still in Phase 2 of returning to "normal" and the social distancing requirement is our biggest hurdle, meaning finding a location large enough for us to spread out in. So, it appears we will be doing another Zoom meeting on the third Sunday, the 16th.

Finally, a bit of sad news. Tim Nixon's mother passed away on the August 3rd. Prayers and condolences to Tim and his family.

Take care, all.

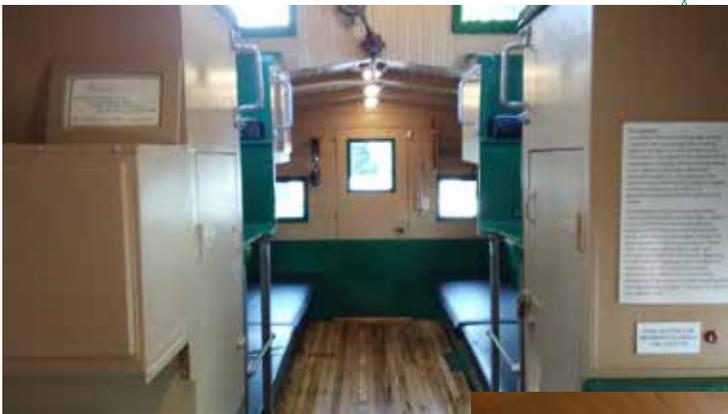
Happy Modeling,

LeRoy Brandimore



B&O Caboose: Jack Walsh

Recently Howard County hired an historic preservation contractor to restore the B&O Caboose at the Ellicott City Museum. All the outside wood was replaced with wood milled by the B&O RR Museum's Restoration Shop downtown. They even cleaned up the interior and repainted it.



Quarantine Time = Modeling Time! : Ethan Bernstein

Scratchbuilding A Farmers Cooperative from Paper

I hope you all are filling your time well and staying on track (pun intended) through these continually uncertain times. This month I will share with you all how I constructed a Farmers Co-op grain elevator from paper. If you read my article about scratchbuilding a depot from paper, the construction of these larger industries is very similar, just on a much larger scale.

Similar to the depot, I first cut the basic dimensions for the walls of the Farmers Co-op from cardstock paper. The elevator consists of three main assemblies: the lower, larger basin portion (encompassing the lower roofline), the top portion with the roof peak that contains the top of the conveyor and motor assemblies for the elevator, and the rear unloading shed for trucks to load the elevator. I began construction of the lower basin first, cutting large strips of cardstock paper and cutting the tops of the front and back walls to form an angle for the lower roof on each side while leaving a flat portion in the center to support the upper elevator assembly, resembling a trapezoid in shape. Next I determined the locations of the windows and doors, cutting out holes for the windows and drawing in the dimensions of the doors. I then cut strips of wood and glued them to the back of each wall for structural support. Due to the large dimensions of this building, it is important to ensure that the paper walls are properly braced to prevent warping. When attaching the interior wood supports, be sure to place weights on top to maintain a flat, even profile for the walls. On the front and rear walls, I left an overhang between the wood frame and the sides of each wall so that the side walls, which have wood bracing the full width of the wall, can attach seamlessly to form an angle. With bracing complete, I proceeded to cut strips of thin wood to form window and door frames, as well as the door rails for the sliding doors in front and the doors themselves, painting them brown with a sharpie before gluing them to the walls.

Now for the most tedious and time-consuming step of the build. In order to accurately resemble the horizontal wood siding used on the prototype, I cut hundreds of strips of cardstock paper each $\frac{1}{4}$

inches in width and cut in length to allow for a small amount of overhang at the sides of each wall. I glued the strips one-by-one to each wall, overlapping each strip slightly over the last to create the texture of the prototype, trimming strips where necessary around doors, windows, and the roof line. Once all of the siding was dry, I trimmed the ends of the siding to match the width of the now interior cardstock sheet. I test fit the walls then glued them together, using wood blocks to ensure 90-degree angles and using rubber bands to ensure smooth corners and evade warping. Once the walls dried, I cut more siding strips, this time for the vertical corner strips, folding them down the center and gluing them along each corner of the building. With the basin walls dry, I could proceed to the upper elevator portion. This section is nearly identical in construction and dimensions to the depot, just with less windows, no doors, and a slightly different roof angle. I built this section separately from the basin, attaching it as a separate structure to the top of the basin.



Quarantine Time = Modeling Time! : Ethan Bernstein

With the main walls of the elevator complete, I then constructed the roof. I first cut strips of black cardstock to the dimensions of the different roofs (this structure has three roofs, two lower and one upper forming a peak), ensuring adequate overhang on all sides as is prototypical, then gluing them to their appropriate locations. To resemble the aluminum roof of the prototype, I cut strips of black cardstock each ½ inches in width and glued vertically to the roof base, overlapping each strip slightly to resemble the “creasing” on the prototype. While the roofs were drying, I built the rear loading shed where trucks deliver grain to the elevator. The shed is built the same as the rest of the building, cardstock sheet and wood bracing followed by wood doors, lots of siding, and the angled roof. The loading shed was also constructed separately from the rest of the elevator, except it only has three walls as the fourth is formed by the rear wall of the elevator. Before attaching the loading shed, I attached the train car loading spout to the front wall of the building above the double loading doors, constructing the spout from leftover white plastic sprue and the brace for the spout from a bent paper clip. I drilled holes in the front wall through the siding for the spout before gluing it in place. The holes make it easier to attach the spout at an angle as seen on the prototype. The last construction step was to attach the rear shed to the back wall of the building. I designed decals for the structure and printed them on white printer paper, cutting them out and gluing them to the structure.

The final step was weathering. I used watercolor paints, streaking a rust colored paint in a downwards-motion on the walls below the windows, doors, seams in the vertical corner siding, and below the roof line. For the roof, I used a gray watercolor to resemble worn aluminum. The final product looks very convincing, and, in my opinion, paper looks much more like wood than plastic. I did not have to paint the model other than weathering, as I used a tan cardstock paper that looked suitable in color for a grain elevator. This scratchbuild took a solid ten hours to complete, but the final product was well worth the tedious and time-consuming effort, especially given the cost of construction - only a few cents! The elevator not only looks great but offers an excuse to detail and weather old boxcars for grain service

- a project for another month.



Thanks for reading! Please stay tuned for my next article, scratchbuilding a modern concrete grain elevator, also from paper, but this time, no wood! As always feel free to reach out with any questions, comments, or suggestions for something you would like to see me scratchbuild.

Stay safe, healthy, and have fun with trains,

Ethan Bernstein
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Quarantine Time = Rail Fanning Time! : Ethan Bernstein



Two GP40-3s, #'s 6561 and 6533, lead a work train northbound through St. Denis on June 26, 2020.

ES44AH #3107 and CW44AH #563 lead a southbound intermodal under the signal tower through St. Denis MARC station on June 26, 2020.



A northbound coal drag led by ES44AH #3208 and ET44AH #3469 hammer through St. Denis June 26, 2020



BWI Amtrak Station News: Jack Walsh

The BWI Amtrak station (newly rebuilt) now has two gondolas sitting on the North Bound track to allow passengers to board trains on the middle track. Somewhere along the line they have closed the north bound track, which is why these are being used.



Train Spotting: Eric Payne



Sunday morning ready for departure from Pittsburgh



Sunday en route home to Philly, passing the world famous Horseshoe Curve during breakfast

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



BANTRAK 2020 Calendar

August 15, 2020

B&O RR Historical Society Virtual Mini Con.
Location: Zoom Meeting, Please visit their website for details: <https://borhs.org/Events/events.html>

August 16, 2020

Club Meeting
Location: Zoom Meeting

October 3-4, 2020

Great Scale Show
Timoium Fairgrounds
Contact: Paul Diley

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 [Tim Nixon](#) 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.