

# BANTRAK News

A Monthly Newsletter for BANTRAK Members • Volume 35 • Issue 08 • August 2022



## The Engineer's Cab: Chris Quinlan

Hello BANTRAK Family,

Thanks to everyone for coming out to the BBQ last month. A good time was had by all! It's always good to spend time with each other.

I hope everyone is excited for Altoona next month. It looks like it's shaping up to be a great show. A huge thanks to Martin for getting everything put together for us. I'm looking forward to hanging out and running trains.

I hope the summer has been treating everyone well. I know the Quinlan family still isn't used to all this humidity after seven years! We haven't had very many opportunities to do train stuff, but we did take some family visiting from Ohio to B&O Museum. It was an appropriate visit since they are from Ohio and we are from Baltimore! Haha! For me, the highlight of the museum was the restored B&O EA. It was absolutely stunning. The new layout of downtown Baltimore was also very cool!

I hope to see everyone at our next business meeting. It will be at my house, 500 East Maple Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090 on 21 August at 2PM. Think about having BBQ afterwards!

Happy Modeling

Chris



## Free-moN: John Hale

Hello fellow Bantrakers!

From a national Free-moN perspective, several proposed changes to the national Free-moN standard went through the review and comment period and became official this last month. The major change with this update was the official adoption of the 1.125 or 1 1/8 inch spacing for double track modules. This means all of our work so far is now fully compliant with the national standard. There were several smaller changes like dropping the requirement for “C-Clamps” between modules and just requiring “clamps”, along with the removal of the recommended practice to make modules 24” deep (Bantrak’s recommended depth is 18”).

Work continues on modules across the club. Several members are working on converting our existing oNe-Trak modules to Free-moN. Work continues on both the “Northern Loop” based on Martin’s modules and the “Southern Loop” based on new modules under construction; these loops will make up the ends of our Bantrak Free-moN mainline and allow continuous running.

There was discussion amongst the Free-moN group this last month and we have decided to forgo skirting in our initial setups. We have all agreed to paint our module legs black, keep the wiring tidy and see if we can make a skirtless setup visually appealing. We will revisit that decision later.

Altoona is quickly approaching and the club will be focused on our NTRAK layout at that show. There is a lot of interest as there will also be a Free-moN layout there for the first time (its being led by the Delaware Free-moN group). Some of us are looking forward to the discussions with that group as we build some synergy on the east coast around the Free-moN standard.

We have not formally asked the October show coordinator for space for a Free-moN layout, but our goal is to have an operating Free-moN layout at the October show.

John Hale and Eric Payne are your primary points of contact for how Bantrak is implementing the Free-moN standard to both meet our modeling needs and still conform to national standards to improve interoperability with other Free-moN clubs. If you are interested in participating, contact

one of us and we get you everything you need to be successful.



## Free-moN: John Hale

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# N-Scale Weekend:



**AAMR**  
**THE ALTOONA ASSOCIATION**  
**OF MODEL RAILROADERS**  
EST. 1949 **PRESENTS...**

**Mike Phillips' 2022**  
**"N-Scale Weekend"**  
**Altoona, PA** <sup>TM</sup>  
[www.n-scaleweekend.com](http://www.n-scaleweekend.com)

**Blair County**  
**Convention Center**  
*(new location)*

- Saturday 9/17 9am to 5pm
- Sunday 9/18 9am to 3pm
- \$7 for Guests over 12
- \$10 for a 2 Day Pass

**11+ Operating Layouts**  
**Vendor Tables**  
**(\$45 to Reserve a Table)**  
**Contact: [president@theaamr.org](mailto:president@theaamr.org)**

**The show IS BACK at a NEW LOCATION following the Covid hiatus. Bigger and Better than EVER!!**



## The Men Who Loved Trains: Bob Bunge

About the time I was in 1st grade, I have memories of my father sitting at the kitchen table sorting through thousands of 3x5 color prints of photos he had taken as part of a side gig from his day job. The photos documented the construction of a massive state-of-the-art Penn Central yard on the west side of Columbus, Ohio, that was known as Buckeye Yard.

Dad knew a lot of PRR men (and few C&O men). I would often get dragged along while he visited them on weekends. It was boring and I couldn't fathom what they were doing (arranging for Buckeye Steel company to buy an ex-PRR RPO and donate it to the Ohio Railway Museum for a buck and other donations to ORM).

Recently, all this came back to me while reading "The Men Who Loved Trains". This book, in detail, explains the backroom deal making, backstabbing, robbing, lying, cheating, blindness to reality, trickery, honor, integrity, grit, scheming, politicking, and determination of a few men who loved trains to shepherd an aged, dying industry back to health, vigor and innovation and even sets the stage for the current era of Precision Scheduled Railroading and the focus on stock earnings.

Starting in the 1950's, author Rush Loving Jr tracks the corporate leaders of the Eastern Railroads as a few rising stars and gritty veterans realize their industry was about to die a hard death—a death that caught the attention of the White House and Capitol Hill when it was realized how many jobs and industries were at stake—an early form of "too large to fail."

Through this book, I came to realize why Al Perlman of the NYC scrapped his steamers—they were barely making monthly payroll—and how he envisioned and later, as the President of Penn Central, built Buckeye Yard. In more recent years, my father would roam and document Buckeye Yard, and later an Uncle, a longtime conductor, would do everything he could to keep his beloved PRR caboose from being painted green, including putting wood blocks in the trucks to replace broken springs.

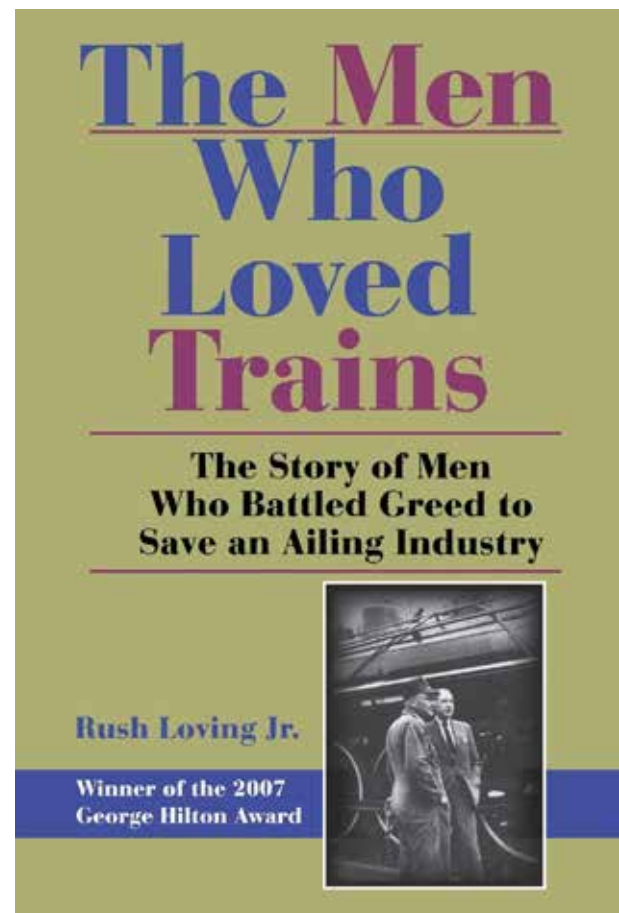
The executives in the book range from those who would deny that the fabled PRR could ever fail and those who led the creation of Amtrak, to the battle to destroy a Federal agency that was crippling the industry, to the Executive of the Union Pacific who helped to trigger the creation of Conrail in Washington, D.C., when he realized the failure of PC was going to destroy his own railroad, to current day figures like CSX's John Snow as CSX and NS fought over a profitable Conrail.

While I'm sure there are mistakes or differences of opinions, I would dare anyone to attempt to capture 50 years of history in just 360 pages, so for me, Loving did a masterful job.

The paths and decisions laid out in this book impact our hobby in more ways than can be described, that is unless you only model up through the end of WWII. If you model NS, CSX, Conrail, Amtrak, late PRR and NYC, Southern, Seaboard, but don't really understand how your favorite road got to where it was or is, then this book is for you.

Originally published in 2008, I can't believe it took me this long to read it.

The Men Who Loved Trains  
360 pages  
ISBN-10: 0253220319  
ISBN-13: 978-0253220319



# BANTRAK 2022 Calendar

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## September 6, 2022

Newsletter content deadline

***We need content please submit your articles by the deadline.***

## August 21, 2022

Club Meeting

Location: Chris Quinlan's House,  
500 East Maple Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 20109  
2-5PM

## September 17&18, 2022

N-Scale Weekend

Martin Myers, Cordinator

Location: Blair County Convention Center  
One Convention Center Blvd. Altoona, PA 16602  
Setup: Friday the 17th.

## October 14-16, 2022

Great Scale Show

Timonium Fair Grounds

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## BANTRAK Membership: Al Palewicz

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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.



## Train Spotting: David Betz



A great closeup of 1 to 1 weathering somewhere in upstate NY

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](mailto:newsletter@bantrak.net)  
Editor: David Betz

