

# BANTRAK News

A Monthly Newsletter for BANTRAK Members • Volume 36 • Issue 04 • April 2023



## The Engineer's Cab: Chris Quinlan

Happy April, BANTRAK!

I hope this message finds everyone in great spirits and that you and your families are enjoying spring so far! Seeing so many people at Dave's house for our March business meeting was great. That was some record for attendance! Also, I'm grateful we never accidentally let a cat out of the house! Haha!

This season has a few great opportunities for our club members to enjoy their favorite pastimes: running model trains! We will have a show at Timonium on April 29th-30th, with set-up on the 28th (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). We'll be featuring our N-Trak and Free-moN layouts for this event. Thanks to Paul for being our coordinator and putting everything together for us.

On May 29th, Memorial Day, we've been invited to set up a display for the 150th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad celebration in Germantown, MD (see page two). Hopefully, you saw my email about this on March 28th. The Germantown Historical Society is hosting this event, and they are very excited to have us there. Since this will be a one-day show, we'll utilize our T-Trak display only. LeRoy has volunteered to be our coordinator. Thank you, LeRoy!

Keep up the excellent work and continue to enjoy the hobby. Build modules, paint locomotives, print cars, and do track work! Check in on each other when you can. Our best club asset is our members; I'm grateful to know each of you! See you at the show!

Chris



# B&O Day:

## **COUNTY-WIDE CELEBRATION**

OF THE

### **150th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Branch of B & O Railroad**

Tours, exhibits, performances, lectures at various sites  
throughout Montgomery County throughout spring & summer

**2023**

Excursion Train on Memorial Day, May 29



Now the MARC Brunswick Line, the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad, after the first train made its way from Washington D.C. to Point of Rocks on May 25, 1873, changed the face of Montgomery County -- bringing it into the industrial age with steam powered mills and factories located next to the tracks -- transforming agriculture from marketing wheat and corn to producing perishables such as milk, peaches and apples. Railroad suburbs started sprouting upwards from the District line. Villages next to the tracks turned into cities, and sleepy country towns turned into summer resorts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EXCURSION TRAIN TICKETS  
AND A CALENDAR OF EVENTS GO TO:

<https://montgomerypreservation.org>



Montgomery Preservation, Inc



## 2023 Bantrak Club Car Update: Bob Bunge

Over the past several months, I drew an AAR 70 ton hopper car model into Tinkercad, an online Computer Aid Design software package. The idea was to create a CAD model that I could 3D print that I can add to my B&O coal drag. Since my printer is older and of lower resolution, I did not design it to be a highly detailed model, but something that will look good from 3 feet away and run well as part of a longer train.

When I showed a concept car during show and tell at the March show, I was asked if this car could be used for the club car project instead of the smaller, ribbed sided 55 ton hopper which I've made, painted and decaled in the past.

David Betz pointed out the AAR hopper has more room for art work and will be far easier to decal than the ribbed sided hopper. Since these AAR hoppers lasted into the 1970's they can be run with a wider range of equipment as well. Additionally, whereas the original 55 ton hopper required a total of 23 steps to a finished car, I designed the AAR hopper to need only about 10 steps, greatly speeding up the build process.

Here are a couple of photos of a test version of the club car. This was printed in black (because that is what I have in the printer, and it works well). The print was cleaned up a bit with an x-acto knife, a Tichy Group brake wheel installed in a hole that is part of the print. It was then hit with rattle can primer filler, then rattle can gloss yellow. At this point, it is ready for decals, followed by Testers dull coat. Using the rattle can products keep it all enamel paint to keep it simple.

I've put a 3D printed coal load base in the car. Normally, I weight the cars with BBs, glue in the base load, then glue on ground up coal from Strasburg for the final load. In one of the photos is the 1st test car I had at the meeting in B&O. It is weighted to about 0.9oz, and seems to run pretty well, even on unlevelled Kato joiners between modules. For this example, I've added MT 1000 / 003 10 021 Bettenforf trucks with couplers. We might want roller bearing trucks for the production run. The car has space and the support to take car mounted MT couplers, but it is an interesting skill set to mark, drill, tap and attach the couplers.

I'll have this car weighted, but still without decals at the April show and will leave it in the yard so members can run and test. April will be ideal for finding any bugs or problems in my design before we go into full production of the cars.

In the meantime, Dave, Chris, and I will be working on decals. After any feedback on the operation of the car, Ethan and I will go into production on

the cars and the base loads with the expectation we can have some work sessions during the summer months to complete the cars in time for the fall shows.





## Western MD Eastern Sub Build: David Betz

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Picking up from where we left off last month, I built the divider in the shop in two sections and then brought them into the train room. Here you can see section one in place.



In the photo below you can see the second section is in place and we have started adding the horizontal supports for the lower level. I will also add a tie into the ceiling for extra support. Stay tuned for the next update



# BANTRAK 2023 Calendar

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## May 06, 2023

Newsletter content deadline

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

## April 29-30, 2023

Great Scale Show / Meeting

Location: Timonium Fairgrounds

Cordinator:Paul Diley

## May 29, 2023

B&O Railroad Celebration

Location: See Flyer on Page Two

Cordinator: LeRoy Brandimore

## September 18-19, 2023

NScale Weekend

Blair County Convention Center

Altoona PA.

Cordinator:Martin Myers

## October 14-15, 2023

Great Scale Show

Location: Timonium Fairgrounds

Cordinator:?

# 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: Lauren Baker

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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)  
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