

BANTRAK News

A Monthly Newsletter for BANTRAK Members • Volume 37 • Issue 01 • January 2024



The Engineer's Cab: Bob Bunge

Happy New Year Bantrak friends!

The holiday season at Bunge house slipped into what I suspect will be a new long-term scheme, as we celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas a week apart in early December based on when our daughter could make it home. Santa must have been happy, as I got a couple of neat toys, including a 3018 CNC milling machine that I eagerly look forward to applying to my train hobby. The season was bookmarked by moving John into an apartment in Hagerstown; he started trade school for aircraft maintenance in early January.

A major thank you to Chris Quinlan for serving as President for the past two years. I know it was a challenge for him with a job that included unplanned overseas trips and off hours emergency work. I watched him closely, especially how he managed meetings, and I will strive to follow his cool and reasoned approach to the various topics that will come up in 2024.

More thanks to Al Del Gaudio and LeRoy Brandimore for coordinating and staffing the annual Festival of Trains layout at the B&O Museum. This is my favorite event of the year; not only is it the best place in the world to run model trains, the event is long enough that the layout becomes a smooth running road. A shout out to those who helped with setup and tear down even though they might have had limited opportunity to run.

2024 promises to be an interesting and fun year. At the February Great Scale Show (Feb 2/3/4), we will experiment and set up two layouts, FreemoN and T-trak. Additionally, Paul Diley will bring his N-trak Horseshoe curve to the show for a work session to lay new track. This will be a great opportunity for new members to learn about trackwork, meet other members and show the public how we work on our models. The April show will feature N-trak and T-trak. Please see the 2024 show/meeting schedule in this newsletter for more information.

For both new and old members, Bantrak has an active private Facebook group where we share show photos, videos and the occasional 1:1 railfan photos. Send me a note at bbunge@ladyandtramp.com with your Facebook user name and I'll send you an invite.

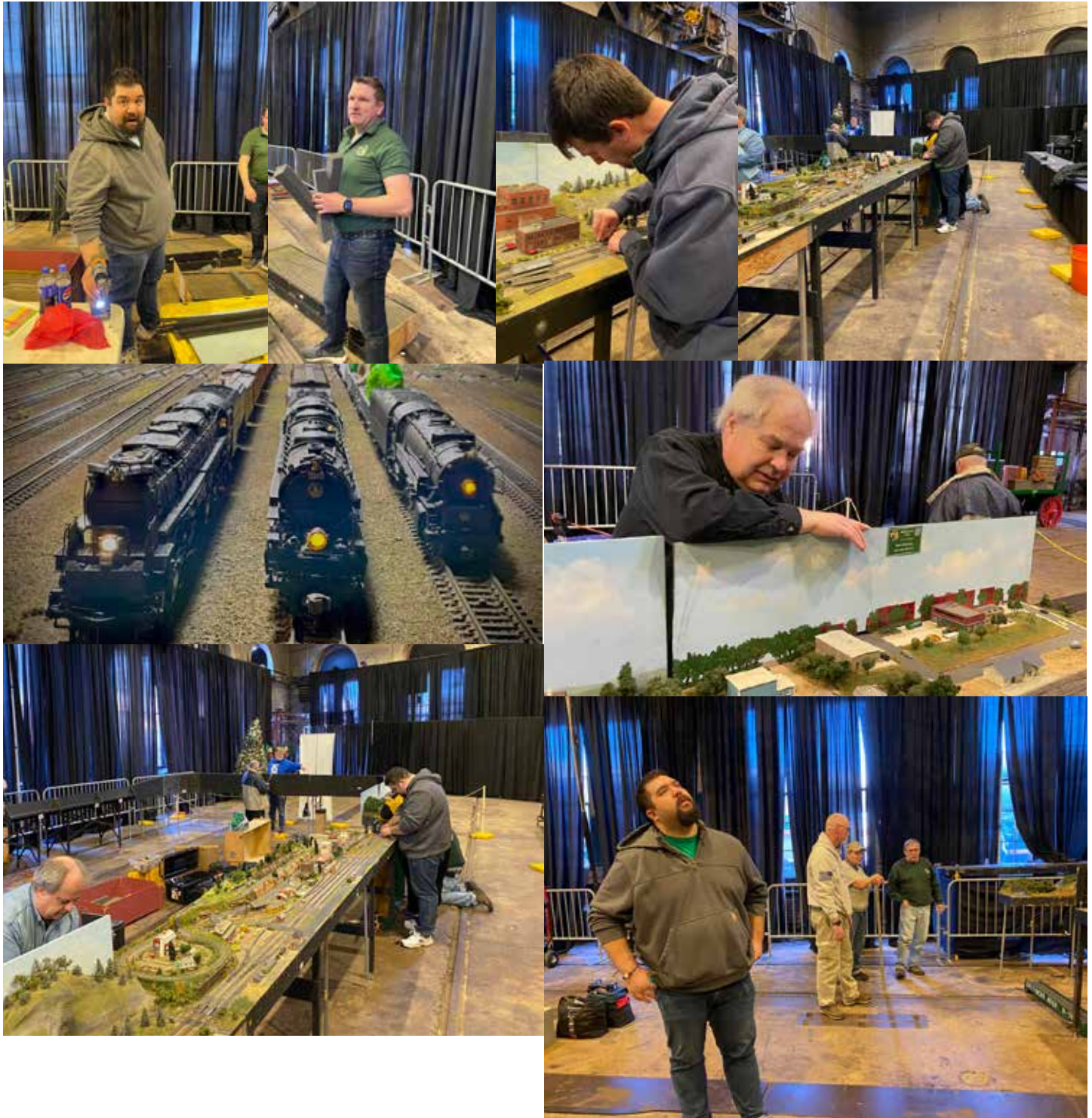
Next meeting will be at Chris Quinlan's house, 500 East Maple Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090, Sunday, Jan 21st at 2pm. Hope to see you there.

Cheers,

Bob



FOT Highlights:



FOT Highlights:



Free-MoN build: Jeff Kehrer

For full disclosure, this is my first Free-Mo module. I have finished two layouts and I'm currently working on my third layout and I'm finding that my favorite part is working on the scenery. When Eric gave me the blank slate, it sat for a while until I was ready to dive in. The only thing I knew I wanted on it was a diamond crossing. Don't know why but I've been fascinated with these on railroad lines for as long as I can remember.

After the track work and wiring was completed, it was tested over and over again until I was satisfied that I was good to go for scenery. The good thing about R. Jeremy Crossing is that it's divided into 4 quadrants so that made it nice to work on. Finish one and then move on.

The first section I worked on was the only industry that is on the scene. Wasn't sure of the name so I just went with Tradepoint Atlantic Industries for the name. Being a volunteer at the B&O Museum in Rail Operations, we do business with Tradepoint from time to time. I used a technique that has worked great for me before on my past layouts placing objects that you may see right up against a building as a guide for perfect building placement every time. In this case I lined one side with some ties and had a stack of ties on the other. Everything else in that section is glued down.



Across the tracks is a small country church very much like my Mom and Dad's church in Western New York in the very small town of Aloquin. The front sidewalk is permanently glued so the church placement during setup is easy placing it right against the



sidewalk. Although my folks' church does not have a cemetery on its property, a friend of mine kept bugging me that this church needed a cemetery. The one small side note on the cemetery is when my paternal grandfather was alive, I always remembered as a kid that when he saw a grave that had a pile of flowers on it (ceremony completed), he would always nudge me and say, "look over there, there's a fresh one."



Across the road and crossing tracks is where the Control Tower was placed along with a Western Maryland office building.



Free-MoN build: Jeff Kehrler

And as you can see from the photos, the last section is landscaped.



The hardest part of this (in my opinion) was transportation of this for shows. I could make a box or something along that line so I thought why not utilize the underside and see if storage is possible. As you can see that with a couple screws, plastic container, a small box and some rubber bands, I can hide the scenery for storage and transportation.



BANTRAK 2024 Calendar

February 06, 2024

Newsletter content deadline

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

January 21st, 2024

Club Meeting 2:PM

Location: Chris Quinlan's house,
500 East Maple Road,
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090,

February 3rd & 4th 2024

Setup on the 2nd

Great Scale Show

MD State Fair Grounds

Coordinator: Eric Payne

March 17, 2024

Club Meeting 2:PM

Location:TBA

April 26-28 2024

Setup on the 26th

Great Scale Show

MD State Fair Grounds

Coordinator:TBD

May 19, 2024

Club Meeting 2:PM

Location: Eric Payne's house,
619 Elizabeth Rd
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

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.



Train Spotting: Bob Bunge



San Francisco, CA.

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

