



## The Engineer's Cab: Bob Bunge

I want to thank Freddy Mitchell for stepping up to run for 3rd vice president at the last meeting. Freddy always has great toys to show off during Show and Tell at meetings and brings the most interesting equipment to run at shows. He was instrumental in the recovery of the Bob Mohr city modules and has been storing them for the club and will lead the effort to get them ready for future use. This is on top of recently getting married! Congratulations Freddy!

Second Vice President John Hale has been busy as well. Last summer, when we disassembled Bob Mohr's layout. John became the keeper of a stash of electronics salvaged from the layout. He put a good amount of this donated hardware to use by building the nifty Command Station in a Box (CSIAB). We gave the CSIAB a workout at the last show when it powered the FreemoN layout. A couple of lessons were learned and John recently installed another track power pigtail and an audible short indicator.

John also took it upon himself to research options for a new run of club swag and collected order requests. The swag is ready and will be distributed at the next meeting. It will be great to see newer members of the club all dressed up.

After an amazing T-trak layout at the February show, Ed Kapuscinski drafted up a plan to build a T-Trak-in-a-box power system similar to CSIAB. Ed's plan is in the newsletter. Please give it a good look over for suggestions. I would like to discuss this at the March meeting and see if we are prepared to agree to authorize the use of club funds to build it out. I am excited by Ed's proposal as it will allow wireless DCC throttle control with T-trak, a feature I really enjoy.

A number of years ago, I acquired a good amount of green Burlington Northern equipment from former member Bob Winterbottom, including two very nice Kato SD 40-2s. For over a decade, our family made annual trips to stay at my in-law's farm near Pasco, Washington. The farm was bordered on one side by the BNSF main between Pasco and Spokane. I would help out on the farm during the day and cool off in the pool in the afternoon/evening and watch the trains climbing up the grade out of Pasco. John Bunge tells me his earliest train memory is watching strings of patchwork orange and green locomotives while playing in the pool. A recent project was to patch and weather the two BN locomotives to early BNSF. I'm pretty happy with the results. The next meeting will be at Chris Quinlan's house, 500 East Maple Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090, Sunday, March 17th at 2pm. Hope to see you there.

Bob



## A DULLCOTE REPLACEMENT?: Ed Kapucinski

### WINDSOR & NEWTON GENERAL PURPOSE MATT VARNISH, A DULLCOTE REPLACEMENT?

I've seen it before-something important in the hobby world just suddenly disappears and now we're stuck trying to find a good replacement. This happened with paint recently, and I'm afraid it's going to happen with the single most important coating in the hobby: Testors Dullcote. I think I've found a replacement.

Testors has been one of those companies that modelers just took for granted. They'd always be around, right? Well, a few years ago they were purchased by Rust-Oleum, for whom the hobby market is a very small segment of their business. This started causing trouble a few years ago when Testors Model Master series started going away. I can read the writing on the wall, and I want to be ready for when my favorite modeling supply, Dullcote, does likewise.

I've been hunting for a suitable replacement and had thus far come up relatively empty handed. Everything I tried, from hardware store "matte finish" sprays to Tamiya's Matte Clear, had left me wanting. The former because it was too thick, the latter, surprisingly, because it wasn't flat enough.

A recent article in, I believe, RMC, talked about using Grumbacher Matte Oil & Acrylic Final Varnish as a Dullcote replacement. I was intrigued and wanted to try it out. Sadly, my local Michaels didn't have it in stock, but they did have a Windsor &



Newton version. I decided to give it a shot.

I've only performed one test, but I'm enthusiastic about the results so far. It provides the same "rough" finish that Dullcote did. This was particularly visible in my first test where I used a very light coat. It gave the same stippled look that Dullcote



does.

Importantly, another application did exactly what Dullcote does: smooths it all out while providing



a very flat finish.

More testing is required, but so far I am very enthusiastic about my results. The thing I really like about it is that I can get it, hopefully reliably, from the store next to my grocery store.

Ed

# BANTRAK 2024 Calendar

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## April 06, 2024

Newsletter content deadline

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

## March 17, 2024

Club Meeting 2:PM

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

## April 26-28 2024

Setup on the 26th

Great Scale Show

MD State Fair Grounds

Coordinator: Paul Diley

## May 19, 2024

Club Meeting 2:PM

Location: Eric Payne's house,

619 Elizabeth Rd

Glen Burnie, MD 21061

## June 18-23 2024

N Scale Convention

77 Wind Creek Bethlehem

Bethlehem, PA 18015

Coordinator: Paul Diley

# BANTRAK Membership: Eric Payne

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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 [Eric Payne](#) 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

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Ducannon, PA.

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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