



BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 32, Issue 7
July 2019

The Engineer's Cab: Martin Myers

July is here. We have reached the unofficial half way point of our "summer break". Our June meeting was well attended at Paul and Vicky's home. Thanks to Vicky and Paul for having us again.

We discussed upcoming shows and layouts for this year. Three of the four TTRAK modules for our raffle layout were adopted by Alan, Paul, and Chris. BTW, Chris Quinlan is back from his deployment! It was really great to see him at our meeting. Thanks again for your service, Chris.

Some members were leaving or already in transit to Chicago for the annual N Scale Enthusiast Convention. From reports I have seen so far it was a great convention and well attended by at least 500 N Scale Enthusiasts. Le'Roy pegged it right and made a prediction that next year would be in Nashville.

Our annual club picnic is scheduled for July 20th at Alan Del Gaudio's home in Ellicott City. The club normally takes care of the burgers, dogs, and drinks. Members usually provide desert or munchies. Alan will be sending out messages soon on this so that we don't wind up with 30 bags of pretzels. We will also have a brief meeting and as always begin with a Show and Tell session.

Our next official club layout and show will be the 15th annual N Scale Weekend in Altoona, Pa. This is all N Scale all weekend and a way to mingle with other NTRAKers from the MidEastern area. We have approximately 16 x 46 feet allotted for this layout. So far members' module commitments and club equipment will allow us to fill the space. We can always add modules if anyone who has not responded changes their plans. We will need to transport some club equipment to Altoona as in past years. I will get this info out for a likely trailer raid to secure what will be needed this year.

We don't normally use a formal run schedule for this show as most of us are there for the duration anyway. If any member needs to set up a specific run time just let me know so that I can note it and that track and time will be available. Please remember that everyone that provides transport, modules, setup, or teardown help should get a fair shot at running. Hope to see you all on the 20th.

Regards,

Martin

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Next Meeting...

July 20th



German Prototypes: Jack Walsh

I spent some time train watching in Esslingen, Germany. Below are some of the German trains that I saw with a long view of the Esslingen station. The 1920's station is on the right even with the platforms.



N-Scale Convention Highlights: Tim Nixon

I finally had a few minutes to put some thoughts together on the Chicago Convention for your information and amusement

1. I rate the Chicago convention as a “medium” on the fun scale; well below Pittsburgh and Hershey on the enjoyablity scale.
2. Chicago is an expensive city; parking in the hotel lot was \$17/day and sales tax is 10%. And don’t ask about toll roads...
3. Chicago traffic really sucks; I thought DC traffic was bad but Chicago has it beat. Took me over 90 minutes to go 20 miles on the interstate at one point.
4. Hotel was okay; they had lots of ballroom space and meeting rooms to support the convention, but guest rooms were small. I think the rooms at the Super 8 in Altoona are bigger and just as nice at the rooms we had at the Crowne Plaza.
5. They had 4 different layouts at the convention; Ntrak, Ttrak, FREMO, and Modutrak. I wasn’t overly impressed with the first 3, but the Modutrak was very well done. I wanted to run on the Modutrak layout, like I did in Milwaukee, but was told they weren’t letting people run their personal trains due to previous “issues” with pizza cutter wheels and unreliable power. I was later told they should have allowed me to run; that was part of their deal with the convention to get space.
6. No major new announcements at the Swap-O-Rama or Public Show; there may have been some at the Manufacturers Breakfast but I didn’t attend. Some minor comments:
 - a. Most of the major manufacturers are finally getting back to normal after the last factory closure. Atlas, Bluford, and Intermountain all indicated they have stuff on the water.
 - b. Most are diversifying; Atlas told me they are now using 5 different factories for production, and tooling is kept in a central warehouse for distribution as needed.
 - c. MT single window coach will be released later this year and a new boxcar in the 1st quarter of 2020. The HEMTT is next in the military vehicle line.
 - d. Bluford had the first painted sample of their International Bay Window caboose on display.

- e. Digitrax was not present; they are apparently still recovering from the hurricane damage.
- f. Manufacturers present included: Atlas, Bluford, Eastern Seaboard Models, Fox Valley, Intermountain, N-Scale Kits, Railsmith, Trainworx, and Walthers
7. Next year’s convention will be in Nashville, which is almost as far west as Chicago. Apparently the NSE has been trying to get a convention into Nashville for at least 5 years, and the stars finally aligned for 2020.
8. I have lost my raffle mojo to LeRoy. I only won two random number prizes this year (one single car and a 3-car runner pack), down from 4 in Pittsburgh and 6 at Roanoke, and didn’t win any of the drawn number prizes (last one of those I won was at Roanoke in 2014). LeRoy won 3 random number prizes and a placard with 6 FVM locomotives from the drawn prizes.
9. Best part of the convention for me was the Chicago Dogs game on Friday night. For \$31 I got a game ticket, a special run car, a free t-shirt, and a free ball cap; only thing that would have been better was if the Dogs had actually won (they lost 7-5).

Tim Nixon



Upcoming Conventions:

15th Anniversary

“2019 N-Scale Weekend”

N-Scale Model Train Show

Saturday August 3rd, 10 AM till 5 PM

Sunday August 4th, 9 AM till 3 PM

ALTOONA JAFFA SHRINE CENTER

2200 BROAD Ave., Altoona, PA 16602

General Admission: \$5

Under 12 Free w/adult

Participant & Vender registration forms see below or,
e-mail: weekendscale@yahoo.com Web: www.n-scaleweekend.com

Bedford Model Railroaders c/o Mike Phillips

773 Barclay Drive, Bedford, PA 15522

Phone or Text: 814-977-4933

N-Scale Model TRAINS & SUPPLIES

TEXNRAILS, WINGARD'S TRAINS, THE N-CELLAR, CRAZY TRAINS, SCALETRAINS
NEALS N GAUGING, BUNKER HILL TRAINS, BMRR, BOSTON & ALBANY HOBBIES,
CMR PRODUCTS, ESTHERS HOBBY, MIKE SABIA, MICRO TRAINS LINES, FOX VALLEY
RANDGUST, PAUL BANNETT, GARRY LANCE STEEL, TIM CASAZZA, SCOTT LOHR,
W. NEAL TRAINS, RICK PELTZ, WURTZ TRAINS PAUL DICKASH, FRANK FEDROFF

14 Large Operating N-Scale Train Layouts + Several Small Layouts

BALTIMORE AREA N-TRAK & T-TRAK, TWIN TIERS N-TRAK, JERSEY CENTRAL N-TRACK
CAPITOL PENNSCALERS N-TRAK, GENESEE & ONTARIO MODEL N-GINEERS,
THREE RIVERS ASSOCIATES N-TRAK, NEW JERSEY SOUTHERN N-TRAK, CANTINGTON N-TRAK
PENNSCALERS, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY N-TRAK, T-TRAK DI VISION, STEEL TOWN N-TRAK
PITTSBURGH LITE TRAK, & BEDFORD MODEL RAILROADERS



MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **BEDFORD MODEL RAILROADERS**

\$25.00 FEE FOR ALL RETURNED CHECKS.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL OR FAX: _____

“Weekend Participant” \$10 _____ Pig Roast w/ All the “Fixins” \$13 _____

Event T-Shirt: \$13 S M L XL \$15 XXL XXXL Circle Size

Total enclosed: \$ _____

EXHIBITORS & PARTICIPANTS ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOST AND OR INJURY TO THEMSELVES, FAMILY, STAFF, AND PERSONAL PROPERTY WHILE ATTENDING THIS SHOW. THEY EXPRESSLY RELEASE THE SHOW MANAGEMENT FROM LIABILITY FOR ANY LOSS AND/OR INJURY. Aug 2, 3 & 4, 2019.....



Train Spotting: Gary Horrocks



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 [Alan Del Gaudio](#) for more information regarding your membership status and roster questions or contact [Al Palewicz](#) with general questions.

Member Benefits:

- Sharing of your knowledge (railroading & 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.

BANTRAK 2019 CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Type
July 20th	Club Picnic	Al Del Gaudio's house	Al	Meeting / event
August 2-4	N-Scale week-end	Altoona	Martin	Show
September 15th	Meeting	TBD	Martin	Meeting
Oct. 26-27th	Great Scale Show	Timonium Fair Grounds	TBD	Show

BANTRAK CALL BOARD

CLUB WORK SESSION 2019

Contact *Tim Nixon, Eric Payne, or Paul Diley* for work session information.



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

