

BANTRAK News

A Monthly Newsletter for BANTRAK Members • Volume 35 • Issue 05 • May 2022



The Engineer's Cab: Chris Quinlan

Hello BANTRAK Family,

I hope everyone is having a great May so far. At the Quinlan house, we have been busy with work, school, home improvement, spring yard work, and even a little time for some model railroading! Interesting factoid about May, Amtrak was “born” this month on the first. 51 years young!

Speaking of organizations that end in “trak,” it’s a great time to be part of BANTRAK. Our new T-Trak program is already pretty solid and Free-moN is well on its way to being a primary player. Three different N scale modeling “formats” is pretty awesome and makes us more flexible with tons of options for enjoying and presenting our hobby.

Because we are so diversified, it was proposed and we started discussions at our last meeting for a change/modification to our club’s name. This will be a big topic of conversation over the next few months. Stay tuned!

After our last meeting, a number of us went to Mission BBQ. It was awesome to break bread and be together as friends. I know I had a great time... and I didn’t see anyone with a frown. Haha! Maybe grabbing an early dinner after our monthly meetings will be a new tradition.

A huge thanks to Dave for putting together our newsletters each month. They always look great and professional. Dave, I promise one day, in the near future, you won’t have to remind me to get this column to you every single time! Scouts honor!

I’m excited to see everyone at my house on the 15th! Take care!

Chris



Free-moN : John Hale

Hello fellow Bantrakers!

An update to the club's Free-moN effort, the simple subject is "loops." As our group is targeting a running display of Free-moN modules for a Great Train Show later this year, we started looking at what is needed for a successful showing.

The Bantrak FreemoN Group met via an online meeting (please let us know if you would like to be invited to future planning meetings online). We decided the following is needed for a show-ready display of Free-moN:

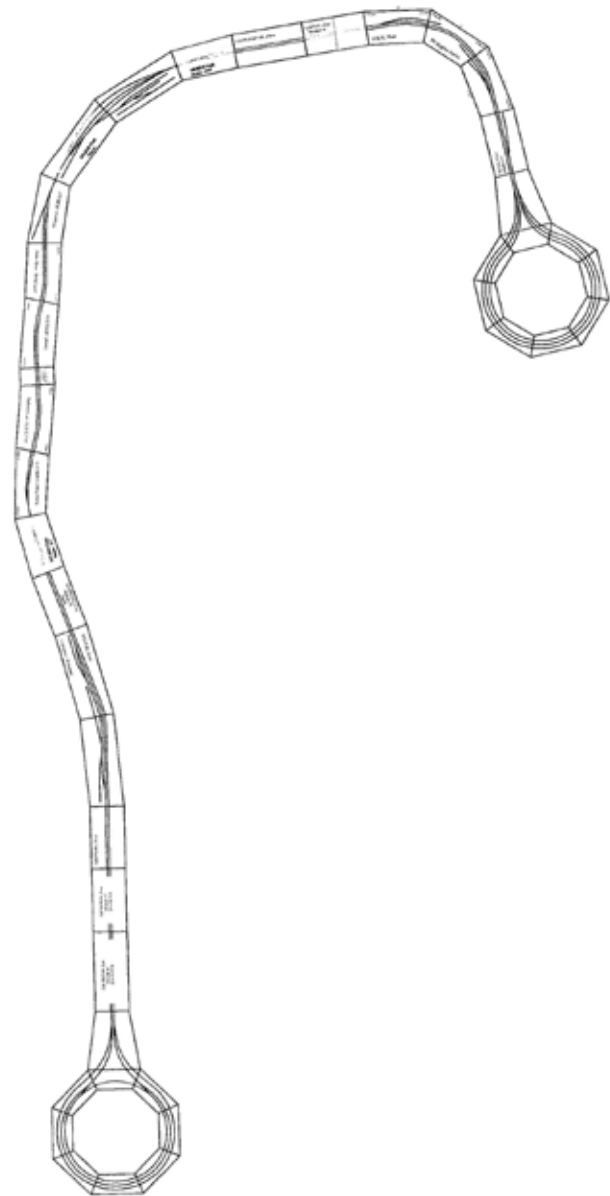
1. We need two return loops (one for either end of the layout) so we can run trains continuously while switching and/or talking to show attendees.
2. We need some track footage (both double track straight and double track curved).
3. We need a Wye to connect single track modules to the layout.
4. Power for both track (DCC) and the accessory bus (16VAC). We will use excess Bantrak NTrak equipment for this.
5. A nice to have would be some industries and a yard, but those can come at a later time.

To refresh your memory, we are building our Free-moN modules using the nationally recommended double track spacing (1.125 inches center to center). We are also wiring each of the double tracks on separate buses (red and yellow) to allow for multiple power blocks. This setup will allow us to have a balloon loop at each end which will return the train on the opposite track it entered the loop on. This makes the loops and wiring once again simple.

We decided to take advantage of some of our legacy oNeTrak modules and repurpose those for Free-moN. Of note, Tim Nixon has a couple of 90 degree corners that will become the basis of one of our return loops. The other return loop will be new construction for the show.

While not based on our modules, this is an example of the type of layout we are picturing for a show ready display.

Next month, we plan to show the construction of a Free-moN module. 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 will get you everything you need to be successful.



T-Trak update : Lauren Baker

At the April meeting the Bantrak membership approved the additional TTrak purchases of a zephyr, A UR 93 for multiple radio throttle connections for TTrak and the cabling and connectors all to be stored in the club trailer. This will join the (4) s90 degree corners and DC power pack stored in the trailer after the April show. An update will be provided on actual cost versus approved budget once purchases have been completed.

Lauren Baker



2022 N Scale Convention :

20th Annual

N Scale
ENTHUSIAST

2022
**National
N Scale
Convention®**

Pre-Convention Trip - Tuesday June 14th
Convention - Wednesday, June 15 to
Sunday, June 19, 2022

Sheraton Music City
777 McGavock Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
615-885-2200

**Make
Plans
Now**



NASHVILLE

Pre-Convention
Tuesday, June 14th

**TENNESSEE
RAIL ROAD
LINES**



CHATTANOOGA, TN

**NATIONAL
- N - SCALE
CONVENTION**
JUNE 15-19, 2022



N-Scale Weekend:



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

Mike Phillips' 2022
"N-Scale Weekend"
Altoona, PA™
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

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



BANTRAK 2022 Calendar

June 6, 2022

Newsletter content deadline

We need content please submit your articles by the deadline.

May 15, 2022

Club Meeting

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

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.

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



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

