

# BANTRAK News

A Monthly Newsletter for BANTRAK Members • Volume 36 • Issue 01 • January 2023



## The Engineer's Cab: Chris Quinlan

Happy New Year, BANTRAK family!!

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and had the opportunity to spend plenty of time with their family, friends, and loved ones. Also downtime. I hope everyone had some quality downtime to relax and close the year. In the Quinlan house, all decorations have been removed (including the Clark Griswold-level exterior lights display and the Lionel Amtrak train around the Christmas tree), and life is returning to normal.

Kendra and I had the opportunity to do some 1/1 railroad with Eric and Karen in December. We went to Fort Eustis, VA, and had the chance to ride in The Catalpa Falls for a special event called Operation Sergeant Santa for military families. Eric had three of the six cars on the train, and Santa and his elves were also on board. It was a fantastic ride. I've heard this event will be open to non-military families next year. I highly recommend it!

It was great to be back in the B&O for the holiday season. There is something special about train-oriented activity over the holidays. Couple that with good friends, and you have an incredible combination. Thanks to Alan and LeRoy for being our show coordinator and co-coordinator. Alan's continual and consistent communications with the museum helped us get our foot back in the door. Thank you to Vicki and Lauren for getting the layout all dressed up for Christmas. It was beautiful. Finally, thanks to everyone else who helped with set-up, teardown, and running trains. It's safe to say we rocked the heck out of that museum. The BANTRAK team is unstoppable.

What are your resolutions for 2023? I have a few model railroad goals; First, I need to finish all the projects I've started and still need to complete. There are quite a few of these, unfortunately. I also have two Free-moN modules I need to get ready before March. In the past, I've allowed myself one hour of modeling a day. In 2022, I skipped many days due to other things going on. I need to be better about using the hour daily. Not only can I get some stuff done for the hobby, but it relaxes me and helps with getting myself recentered. It's all about balance, and trains are a big part of that for me.

Our first show of 2023 will be The Great Scale Model Train Show in February. Stay tuned for more information to come shortly. Eric and I will coordinate that show. We will do our three layouts again; N-Trak, T-Trak, and Free-moN. We may need a sub-coordinator for Free-moN. Before then, we'll have our January business meeting via Zoom at 2 PM. The year is off to a great start!

See everyone soon!

Chris



## Free-moN: Eric Payne

EP here - pinch hitting for John (Hale) this month. I was supposed to write an article showcasing a module, however I'm writing this Sunday night watching the football game (Go Packers) and am calling an audible (a' la Aaron Rodgers).

Ramping up for Free-moN over the past year has been fun. It's allowed me to reconnect with the Club, attend a few shows, and make some new friends.

It's fun hosting work sessions as I've done in the past, and I got to admit, seeing Free-moN come to fruition is pretty cool.

We're gonna give it another shot in February and we expect to take some small steps forward. We have a punch list from October that we need to complete and we have some new small projects as well.

I expect there will be some new modules in April for the show (or October if we don't do Free-moN in April). Dave B. has the old Ken Greenhorn coal mine and John Bungee is working on a module pair that promises to be a unique shape and give us some flexibility in set-ups. Finally, I'm pretty sure Tim, Paul and Martin are continuing their upgrades of modules and Lauren might be starting a module this spring.

So all in all, things are going great and it's been a fun year of modeling for me (and us) and Bantrak has stepped into Free-moN.

EP



## Western MD Eastern Sub Build: David Betz

I decided to build a home layout of the Western Maryland Eastern Sub between Emory Grove and Hagerstown, with the majority of the action taking place at four locations, Finksburg, Westminster, Union Bridge, and Woodsboro. The yards at Hagerstown and Baltimore will be used for staging. The layout will be two levels with two helixes to allow for continuous running and operations. The staging yards will be on the lower deck and I am considering adding a small tourist railroad on the lower level that will run steam excursions. My plan is to model 1968-1974ish and allow for Western Maryland, B&O, C&O, and Chessie System power. I have collection of Maryland Midland power and may even hold some more modern opps sessions.

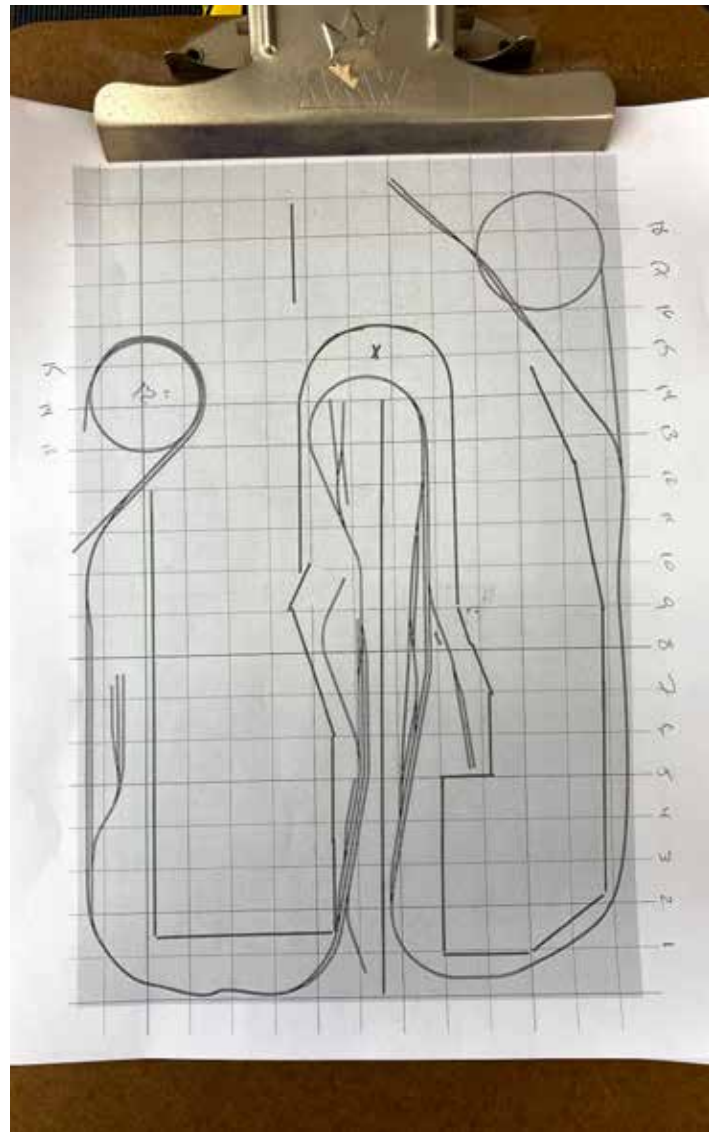
One key thing to note is that part of this line was washed out by two Hurricanes, Agnes in 1972 and then Hurricane Eloise in 1975. For my build, we are assuming that the damage was minor and did not interrupt service on the line, when in reality Hurricane Eloise's damage was so severe the line was left partially abandoned for years and was only resurrected by The Maryland Midland (a short line that took over the rails in 1980) when the state stepped in and helped to finance the repairs.

I reached out to fellow club member Ed Kapuscinski for help with the track planning. We spent many hours having conversations and looking at photos of the prototype. In the end we came up with a workable plan for the available space.

When looking at the upper deck track plan (right) it is important to note that your view is from the back wall looking forward and one would be walking into the layout next to either helix.

Next month look for a new installment as I share the build with you.

David



## Guest Running: Eric Payne

A few months ago, I discovered that one of my friends (Jeff Kehrler) who volunteers at the B & O Museum is an N scale modeler. After a few discussions, visits, lunch dates and Free-moN work sessions I convinced him to come run with us at the B&O.

I learned from my visits that he likes to “model the prototype” that can be found at the Museum as well as proto-freelance (i.e., “what if the Western Maryland RR still existed today”)

Here are three shots of some of Jeff’s models running on the Bantrak layout.

Enjoy,  
EP



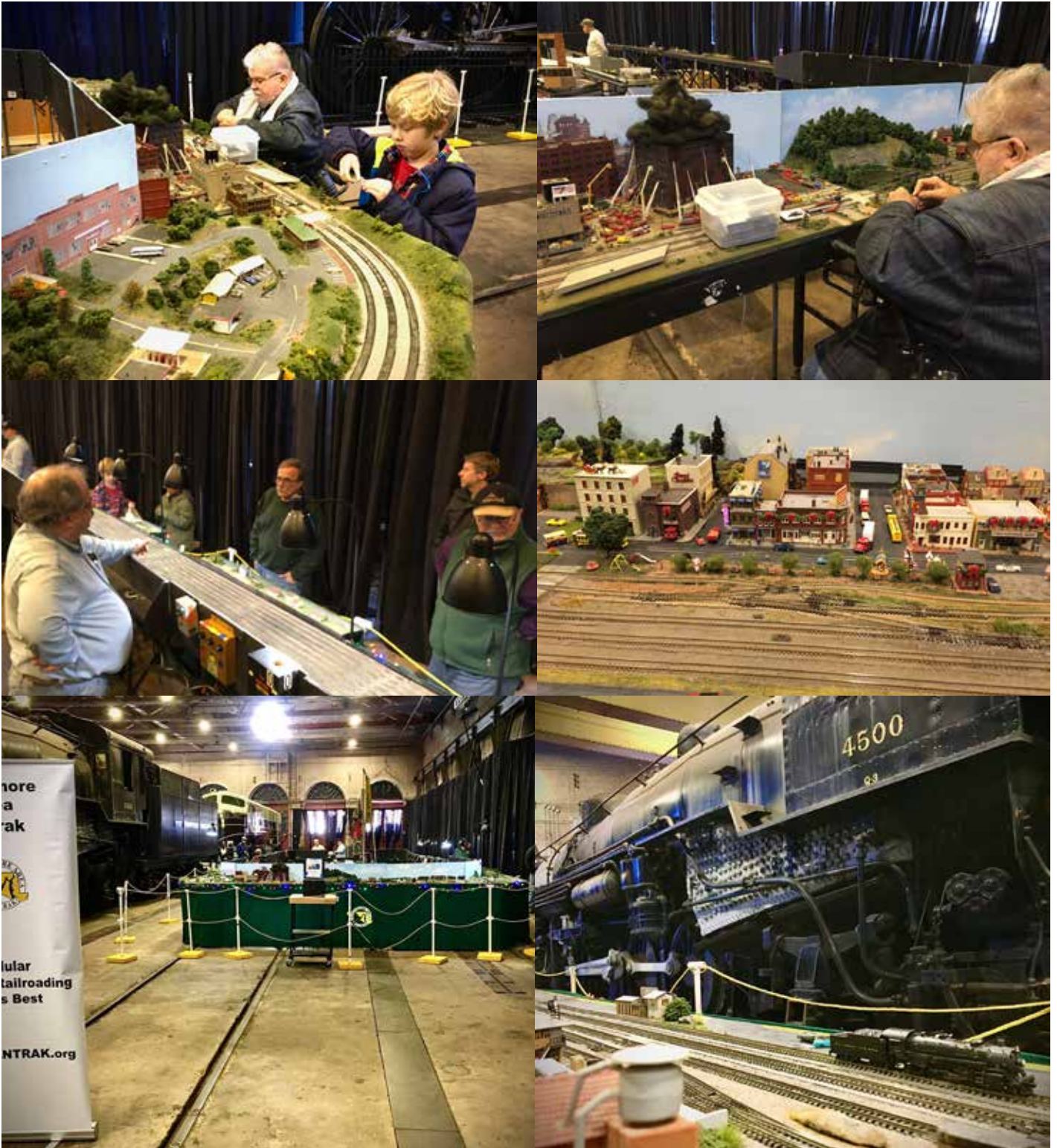
# B&O Show:



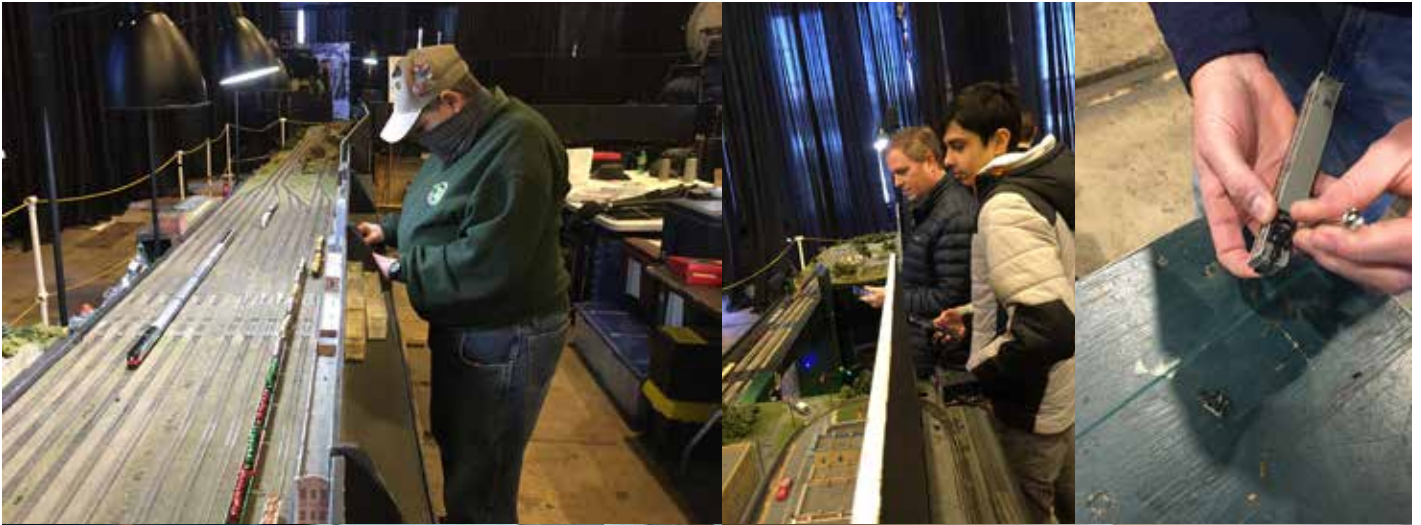
# B&O Show:



# B&O Show:



# B&O Show:





# BANTRAK 2023 Calendar

---

## February 06, 2023

Newsletter content deadline

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

## January 15, 2023

Club Meeting

Location: Zoom

2-5PM

## February 4-5, 2023

**NOTE: Meeting will be Sunday the 5th at the show**

Great Scale Show

Cordinator:Chris Quinlan

Timonium Fair Grounds

## March 19, 2023

Club Meeting

Location: TBD (location pending)

2-5PM

## April 16, 2023

Club Meeting

Location: TBD

2-5PM

# 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: Ed Kapuscinski



Chicago IL. December 2022

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)  
Editor: David Betz