

# BANTRAK News

A Monthly Newsletter for BANTRAK Members • Volume 36 • Issue 11 • November 2023



## The Engineer's Cab: Chris Quinlan

Happy November BANTRAK family! I hope everyone continues to enjoy the fall weather and you are ready to enjoy the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. It sounds like our Timonium show last month was a huge success! Tim, thank you so much for putting that together for us and thank you to LeRoy, Bob, and John for managing our TTrak and FreemoN operations. It sounds like everyone had some fun, and some important lessons were learned with our FreemoN layout.

Our next layout event will be the B&O Museum Festival of Trains event from December 23rd through the 31st (minus the 24th and 25th). As always, this is a wonderful show and is highly popular amongst our members and the public. Alan has been coordinating with museum representatives so far, but we'll need another person to help since he will be on vacation for part of the holiday season. We will hammer that and other details out at our next business meeting, which will be at Paul and Vicky's on November 19th at 2 PM.

Fall is my favorite time to railfan, probably because it's my favorite time to be outside. I love the cool crisp air and the color of the trees. My first railfanning trip occurred in the fall of 1993 in New Mexico on the Laguna Native American Reservation on the Santa Fe Transcon. I was 12, and that's when Santa Fe was still around. Seeing real trains was still new and an extra special treat for me back then, so seeing a string of Super Fleet Warbonnet locomotives fly past at 79 MPH was unique to young me. The picture below (the one with the ATSF locomotive) is the first spot. We were staged on the other side of that rock formation, and the diesel engines' roar and the horn's blast would echo off those canyons. It really made me decide that I would love trains and not just model trains for the rest of my life. The other picture is in Raton Pass, which is not only my favorite spot in the world but also my favorite place to watch trains. Raton Pass is the "highest point on the Santa Fe." This is part of the same line, just 200 miles north, as the one which runs through Laguna. Until recently, there were still semaphores on this part of the route.

That's about it for this month. Thanks for all you are doing to keep our club one of the best in the world! I can't wait to see everyone on the 19th! Be safe and stay warm until then!

Chris





# Timonium Highlights:





# Timonium Highlights:





# Timonium Highlights:



# BANTRAK 2023 Calendar

---

## December 06, 2023

Newsletter content deadline

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

## November 19, 2023

Club Meeting

Hosted by Paul & Vicky

## December 02, 2023

T-Trak event

Roland Park Place retirement community

830 West 40th Street, Baltimore 21211

Setup is 8:00am- event is 11AM - 5PM

Coordinators are: Arthur Boyd & Lauren Baker

## December 20-31st, 2023

B&O Roundhouse

Coordinator: Al Del Gaudio

## 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: David Betz



Strasburg

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