



BANTRAK Newsletter

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The Engineer's Cab

Alan Del Gaudio



Holiday season is always a fun time at BANTRAK. It's the culmination of a lot of things going on all year. From having the raffle layout completed, to the camaraderie of set-up on Wednesday at the B&O, to running trains, seeing who will drop in during the long show and feeling the appreciation of the attendees – some retuning for the n th time while others may be new to the show – it is a great time. It may not be seamless and easy, but it's always fun and worthwhile.

BANTRAK has attracted several new members in the past 2-3 months and we look forward to seeing them later on this month.

As a tune-up, we had a great time at the Turf Valley show. Held in the swank environs of the Turf Valley country club (not a small hotel lobby show as some would have us believe), the show was well-run, friendly and comfortable. Our trains ran well in front of an enthusiastic crowd of all ages. From the comments I had, our club members enjoyed the experience and were complimentary about the venue. I hope the Turf Valley Show continues. Many thanks to all who contributed to this terrific holiday show!

Last column I thanked the club collectively for many great efforts. We have a nucleus of leaders and contributors who have all lead various projects, been there when momentum needed initiation and/or coordinated club events, making the past two years a lot of fun and I'm very grateful!

I wish the new team at least as much cooperation and success!

After B&O, we have the winter show at Timonium on February 4, 5 & 6.

And the beat goes on.

Alan

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Next meeting...

TBA

On the web...

News, information, and forums are all at <http://bantrak.net/>

Trains of the West

Jack Walsh



During our two-week tour of the national parks in the west, there were countless miles where a railroad line would parallel the road we were on. Naturally, I saw the two major railroads – Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe – but I also saw some smaller lines – Montana Rail and the Iowa, Chicago & Eastern. Some of these pictures were taken from the bus as we drove by at 70 mph, while for others I was standing still when I took them.

Just east of Gillette, WY is one of the largest strip coal mines in the world. The pictures only show part of the northern side from the interstate and the processing plant. The majority of the trains I saw were coal trains. The IC&E was running through the center of Rapid City, SD delivering covered hoppers to a plant on the east side of town.

As we visited the Grand Canyon, I was able to see and photograph the Grand Canyon train as it sat nearby. One of the comments I heard was that the train starts in Williams, AZ in the desert and ends sitting in trees about two hundred yards from the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. So, at no time can you see the Grand Canyon



Strip Mine near Gillette, WY



IC&E train in Rapid City, SD



BNSF train near Gillette, WY



UP train near Moab, UT



Route 70 west of Denver



Route 70 west of Denver

from the train. The engine was not there as it was being serviced at another location before making the run back to Williams.

The shot in Montana was just to show that you can see trains from quite a distance where it is real wide open spaces. In Denver they've just started operating a light rail and it has become quite popular. Going west from Denver, Route 70 – the same Route 70 that starts here in Maryland – crosses the mountains and joins the Colorado River for some very scenic views as the road and the river travel west through the natural canyons.

To prove that you can find a railroad museum almost anywhere, I found one in Grand Junction, CO. The photo shows the single passenger car that has been converted into a museum describing the Grand Junction

Railway, which was actually a trolley line.

As you come into Moab, UT from the north to visit the Natural Arches National Park, the road parallels the Union Pacific. Here I caught another coal train coming up the mountain. I also found the UP across the valley from Custer's Last Stand. The last train I photographed was a container train coming out of Las Vegas with what appeared to be almost 200 cars. ●



Route 70 west of Denver



Route 70 west of Denver

New and Notable

Alan Del Gaudio



During the past 2-3 months, several new vendors have sent us samples or e-mail messages. I'd like to pass along a brief note of each.

Did you ever think, "Gosh, I wish I had put in a re-railer after that turnout ladder?" Or you want to put one in somewhere but it's just too bulky looking?

Skip received a flyer and samples from a company called **Jiffy-Railer**. It seems to be a small single-person company that makes code 80 N and code 100 HO re-railers that you can drop in. It seems you'll only need to clear our ballast between 2 adjacent ties to mount it. I'm getting a few and will bring the sample to B&O.

So far, it doesn't seem they have a web site or telephone number, so you have to contact them by mail.

Jiffy-Railer
15402 N 60th Street
Scottsdale, AZ, 85254

Ane Model, Ltd. is a Taiwan-based model railroad company primarily focusing on electronic turnout control, model railroad accessories, and DCC products, including:

- Slow-motion turnout machines (DC and DCC)
- Trackside structures
- Track accessories
- DCC decoders

They say their *SmartSwitch*TM slow-motion turnout machines "offer the ultimate in flexibility and operation, not only for the controlling of turnouts but also the operation of crossing gates, signals and other animation that you can think of." In addition, there are screw terminals for the installation of LEDs or 3v bulbs to be used in signalling or a control panel, and with the addition of the *SmartFrog*TM, you get short-circuit-free power routing as well as another set of lighting outlets. The *SmartSwitch*TM is reviewed in the Jan/Feb 2010 issue of Model Railroad Hobbyist online magazine, available for free at <http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/magazine/mrh-2010-JanFeb>.

They are also currently producing laser cut line-side buildings and a super-detailed brass and acrylic 'N' scale manual turntable kit.

Ane Model, Ltd.
<http://www.anemodel.com>



Jiffy-Railer
(HO and N)



The BANTRAK Newsletter is the official publication of the Baltimore Area N-TRAK organization.

This is your newsletter! Please send articles, photos, and suggestions to newsletter@bantrak.net.

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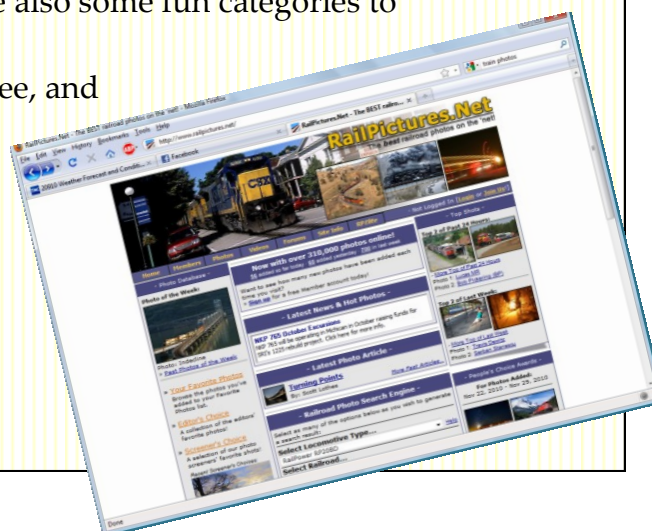
Site of the Month

RailPictures.net

When you need reference photos, there's one site where you're bound to find what you're looking for:

RailPictures.net. Their photo database contains more than 300,000 railroad photos contributed by more than 5,000 photographers, and those numbers are constantly growing. Most importantly, the database is searchable—so it's easy to find what you're looking for! Search by exact locomotive model, railroad, or location, or enter your own search keywords. There are also some fun categories to browse.

Registration is free, and not even necessary to access most of the site. Don't forget about this excellent resource for your next kitbash project!



BANTRAK Calendar

12/15~1/2/2011 Festival of Trains, B&O Museum, Baltimore, MD. Setup 12/15~12/17, teardown 1/2.

2/4~2/6/2011 Great Scale Model Train Show, Timonium, MD. Setup 2/4, teardown 2/6.

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.

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