



BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 24
Issue 9
September 2011

The Engineer's Cab

Martin Myers



We had one of our best turnouts ever for a club meeting. Thanks to Al Potter for offering the Fellowship Center at his church for last month's meeting. As of this writing we do not have a location for our September meeting.

Tim turned over the raffle layout to begin scenery. John Hale will be scheduling sessions to move the layout along toward completion.

Due to Hurricane Irene, we went right down to the wire deciding whether to attend or cancel our Bedford show. The question was stability of the trailer. On Thursday evening Skip decided that the storm's track would pass us by while we were in PA. And decided to go. Friday was a beautiful day for travel to Bedford. Layout was up and running in very good time. Dinner was at Hoss'. Saturday was a cloudy day with some light rain in the evening. Those that made the decision to stay home on Saturday made the safe choice. Return to Baltimore on Saturday night would have been treacherous. Unfortunately, we had to cut our participation early on Sunday. Several of us had reports of damage and/or no electricity at home. Tear down went quickly on Sunday morning. Travel back to Baltimore was uneventful with only a stiff breeze. Turns out Skip made a good choice to travel. Our trailer and equipment was probably safer in Bedford than under a bunch of trees during the storm.

Our next endeavor will be to the Oakland Train Station for a similar layout on September 23, 24, 25th. Plans for lodging are firming up now. We're a few days behind on this due to last week's storm and resultant power outages. Fortunately we have all of our equipment "modularized" so it moves as easily as our modules. We are still deciding whether to haul the trailer for just the pieces we need. Alan Potter and Mark Bandy are the coordinators for the Oakland Show.

Tim is coordinating the October Scale Show. He has informed us that oNe-trak will be a part of this layout. Tim will be furnishing more info later in the month.

Dave Clyde, John Darlington, and Jack Walsh are coordinating the B & O show this year.

As already mentioned, we do not yet have a meeting place for September. If some one can provide a space for this month or down the line, let me know.

Martin

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Next meeting...

Sunday, September 18th, 2011
2pm - 5pm
Host: **TBD / Location Needed**

On the web...

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

7th Annual 2011 N Scale Weekend: Review (09/11)

Denise Clyde



This is a year of firsts, to say the least; we had an earthquake that rattled us followed by a hurricane that showed us the power of nature. And, I was the show coordinator for the first time! Coincidence...I think so.

Before I give a summation of the show I want to thank Mark for taking the weight off of me trying to create a layout. I had all the pictures of the modules and felt a little overwhelmed! Mark came through and I felt good knowing that the modules that were going were going to be in the right spot.

I also want to thank Jack. As the trailer was being unloaded I was having trouble figuring out exactly where our layout lines were. Mike Philips didn't tell me anything so Jack found the diagram of the entire show and off we went. Jack you were great and I learned a lot following your lead. I apologize to the guys that brought the lift bridge in, back out and back in again. It was a good decision to use the lift bridge and not the BANTRAK bridge.

We had all the usual guys there minus a few. Skip, Jacob, Bob Mohr and Denise, Jack, Mark, Martin, the Hyland Clan of 3, Al D, Tom Hoover, Al Palewicz and Stephanie, Tim, Ken, Bob Winterbottom, Dave and myself. If I left you out please forgive me. I am having trouble with the memory, that's my excuse and I'm sticking to it.

Of course the layout was set up without issue, oops, we had to turn the legs on the yard section around so the pole was on the outside. Of course everyone got into their groove and did what they do best. We were set up by 4:30, headed out to check in at the Best Western after which we met up at Hoss's at 6 for another great dinner.

With full bellies and needing some beer, we ended our evening poolside and shared our time there with Union Civil War enactors who were in Bedford to celebrate the end of the civil war. Dave headed to the pool; they all stopped talking and looked at him. He assured them that he was born in Ohio and was on their side! We wanted him to do a cannonball but that didn't happen. A few beers (translation-a lot of beer) and a box of pretzels later we all called it a night.

Saturday morning there was a mad dash to the breakfast bar. We were told that they tried to spare Dave by eating as much of the bacon as they could and I was told that Martin made a teepee of sausage with bacon on the side. It was as expected, excellent.

Bob M., Denise M and Al D. decided to go to see Horseshoe Curve and some other sights before returning to run. The first runners of the day wereyour guess is as good as mine because I snuck out to the Goodwill Store to get some kids clothes at a great price! I do know that Arthur showed up to run for a bit. Steve showed up to buy things and to say hello. I don't



7th Annual 2011 N Scale Weekend: *continued*

Denise Clyde



think there many trouble spots except on the red line. I was running great on the red until I came into the yard and my train would stop. I would reach over for a little 0-5-0 help and the train would start before I could get to it. This happened 4 times on the yard red line for me, in 4 different spots, all in the yard. Everyone else was running great. After 4 times into the yard and the same issue happening, my train pulled a reverse on me! That was the defining moment...I turned around and looked at Dave. He was taking control of my train with his tablet while sitting with the Hyland's at their T-Trak table and they were all having a good laugh! It was a good trick to pull so a word of warning, if your train suddenly takes on a life of its own, look at Dave first.

The Hylands set up their T-Track layout close to our N-Track layout. They had it set up within an hour, up and running. Thank you to the Hylands for their help with the N-Track as well. It's good to have you as new members!

As we were getting some snippets of the weather back home we had some choices to make. Tim and Ken left early on Saturday before the wind was to become an issue. The rest of us were in touch with our families back home and knew that the storm was worse than anticipated and that the electric was out for most of the East coast area. It didn't take much convincing to tear down first thing Sunday morning and head home. Skip was going to stop in Hagerstown for the night if the wind was still whipping but I believe he was able to go straight home. Al and Stephanie, I apologize for you not knowing about the early tear down but no one has your cell phone numbers! That made me chuckle a little because of our conversation about cell phones and how you don't want to have texting...it was just one of those moments! We tore down and were on the road in 2 hours time. Thank you to everyone for really pitching in and making it a smooth tear down. A special thank you to the Hyland Clan as the boys really got a work out taking the heaviest things out to the trailer. They stayed to run on Sunday so BANTRAK was represented on Sunday. If Bedford has a show next year I would like to be the coordinator again if that suites the club.

Denise



Gaithersburg Train Days: Review (August 2011)

Ed Hyland (Show Coordinator)



Our layout again was between the Gaithersburg Railway Station and Freight house under a tent. The weather was great and we ran many trains from 10 am to 2pm.

There was a great amount of CSX traffic with one coal drag being pushed by four helper locomotives. The club members in attendance were Ed, Chris, and Patrick Hyland, along with Tom Long. Dave Freshwater (ex president of NVNTRAK) and Dave Balderston (also of NVNTRAK) also showed up to help run on the layout. We had many Gaithersburg-undians see the layout with the highlight being the curator and her 4 day old newborn visiting the set up.

The museum is undergoing renovations of it's yard and steam engine. We were informed that an RDC is to be moved from the B&O railroad museum to Gaithersburg.

Our next set up will be September 18th on Gaithersburg Days which is on a Sunday. The set up time is from 9 to 11 am and operations will be from 12 -5. (Due to the festival, cars must unload and clear the parking lot next to the station by 11). We are waiting for information from the city of Gaithersburg and if you are interested in attending, please contact us.

We have a new venue in the Silver Spring B&O railroad station on October 1st and November 5th. This is the restored 1945 station that Truman and other VIPs used to avoid crowds and the press at Union Station. Usually the original station master is in attendance with many stores about the station and B&O on that day.

Hope to see you at one of the set ups.

See you there!

Ed



2011 Oakland Train Show: Preview (09/11)

Al Potter (preview by Martin Myers)



We are ready for Oakland and this show will go on as planned. We realized (finally) that many members were without electricity and/or email for a portion of last week. Some may still be. Naturally, we were not going to get the enthusiastic support we had earlier this year with our communications down.

Set up is on Friday 9/23/11. We need to be in operation by late Friday afternoon in preparation for the Welcome Reception being held in the Station. An average size oval about the same as our Bedford layouts is planned. Set-up should be no problem completing it if we get started by noon on Friday. All participant's should make an effort to be present at the Oakland station by noon.

This is especially important for those bringing modules. We are depending on members' modules to complete the straight sides. We can use yard sections to make the layout larger if extra space should become available.

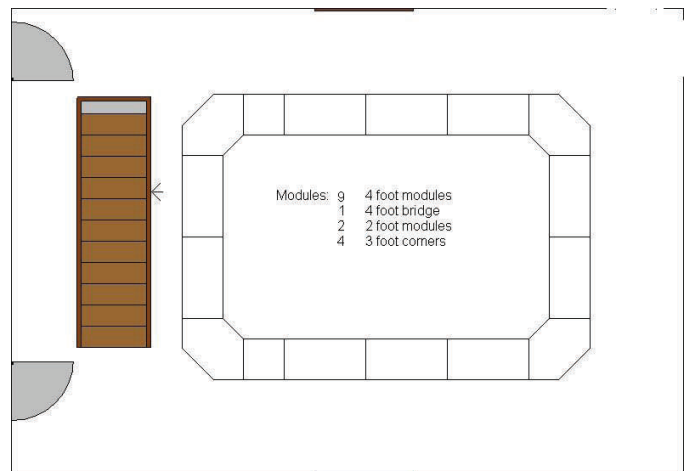
We will need runners for Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday. I know that every member can't participate for the whole weekend. How about carpooling a day trip? Bring a few trains to run.

Let me or Al Potter know if you can participate in any way. Efforts are being made to secure low cost lodging for the weekend. We need a count ASAP.

You can even buy an N Scale version of the kit [here!](#)

Check out the event's website [here.](#)

Martin and Al



News & Notable: 2012 NMRA Convention (77th Annual)



We are **The Grand Rapids Model Railroad Historical Society**, established in 1992. We currently reside in a beautiful Craftsman Style structure built by the state of Michigan in 1914 as a fish hatchery. We acquired the building in 1994 and in 1996 began constructing our version of the Pere Marquette Ry. System circa 1945.

We are joined by a group of dedicated modelers from all across Michigan in our quest to bring you a convention you will remember fondly for years to come.

There are many levels and areas of talent on our team and with this blend we will strive to provide you with the most enjoyable experience you can have at an NMRA National Convention.

We believe that the number of great layouts we have in a concentrated area is only one of the many reasons that **Grand Rails 2012** will be more than just another National Convention.

[Contact us](#) today for more information.

News & Notable: 2012 N Scale Convention (20th Annual)



2012 NATIONAL N SCALE CONVENTION
MEDFORD, OREGON
20th N Scale Enthusiast Convention
TUESDAY, JUNE 26 TO
SUNDAY, JULY 1, 2012
CHECK OUR WEB SITE FOR MORE DETAIL
Contact Dick Ollendorf, Convention Chairman
(610) 923-7535 Dick@NScaleCollector.com

New & Notable: Bantrak.org

Dave Clyde, Webmaster



During the past 4-6 weeks,
new updates have been made
to the website. I'd like to pass
along a brief note of each.

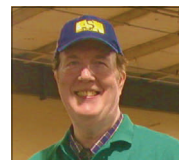
Email the [webmaster](#) today !!!

Dave

1. 09/05/2011 - Added the Brunswick Railroad Museum link to the links page.
2. 09/05/2011 - Added the Oakland B&O Train Station Museum link to the links page.
3. 08/25/2011 - Added the physical links to the entries on the links page.
4. 08/25/2011 - Added Fifer Hobby Supply to the links page.
5. 08/11/2011 - Added the What is oNeTRAK section to the main page.
6. 08/11/2011 - Added the What is T-TRAK section to the main page.
7. 08/09/2011 - The August Newsletter is now available.

New & Notable: Membership

Al Palewicz, Membership



We have exchanged several emails with Jim FitzGerald over the last two days,
and I'm hoping all the errors in our membership roll have been corrected.
Jim has indicated that the electronic Sept/Oct issue will go out "soon" and
hopefully you will all get it.

Please contact Treasurer [Tim Nixon](#) for more information.

Meanwhile, here is a link to recent (2011) N-Trak Newsletters:

<http://www.ntrak.org/Newsletter/NL-11-01.pdf>

<http://www.ntrak.org/Newsletter/NL-11-03.pdf>

<http://www.ntrak.org/Newsletter/NL-11-05.pdf>

<http://www.ntrak.org/Newsletter/NL-11-07.pdf>

[All N-Trak Newsletters \(2004-2010\)](#)

DCC Corner: (Exploring Digital Command Control)



Boosters

Boosters receive the DCC signal from the Command Station, amplify it & put it on the track as the power that runs the locos. You can have several boosters on a system, each driving its own track section. You can have both regular or auto reversing boosters depending on your needs.

Also called Power Booster, Power Station.



Email the [editor](#) and suggest a DCC topic !!!

[Get Digitrax Email Updates](#)



Website of the Month: **Scale Scenes**

Email the [editor](#) and recommend a site !!!

Being a keen railway modelers as well as an experienced graphic designer inevitably led John Wiffen to begin development of Scalescenes.com in 2003. Having enjoyed constructing and kit-bashing many existing commercially available card building kits, a number of drawbacks began to emerge. Firstly, unrealistic 'mechanical' looking brickwork. Secondly, the fact that building multiples of any kit started to become quite expensive and thirdly limited flexibility to create something different for your own layout.

Scalescenes.com began as a large photographic collection of brick walls and other interesting textures, that over the past five years have developed into a growing range of realistic and versatile card kits that finally allows modelers to download, print and create unique structures of any size for their layouts.



There is a FREE download [here!](#)

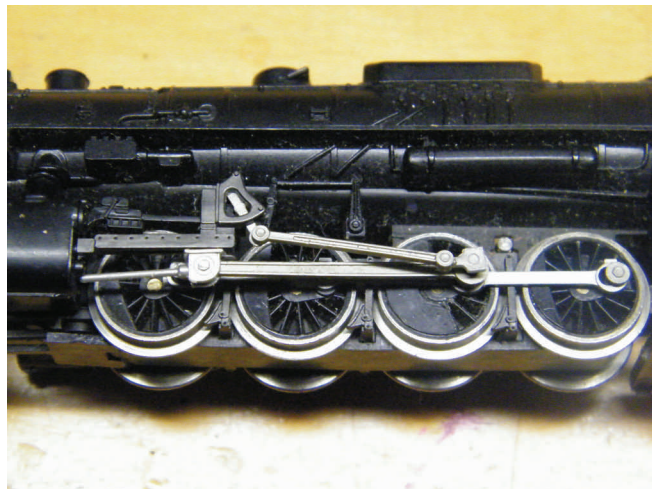


BANTRAK: **Classifieds**

To list your classifieds, Email the [editor](#)

I am in need of several of the plastic rods (primarily idle rods) from both the MRC Berkshire and Mallet steam engines. The rods I need are from the top of the pin holding the driving rod to the short rod that comes out just about the second driver. I also need that short rod as well.

If you can assist, please contact [Jack Walsh](#)





Baltimore Area N-Trak presents a special run of a 40' standard box car with a single Youngstown door. Road #466008 has the B&O logo, and road #52008 has the BANTRAK logo. We are pleased to commemorate our 25 years in modular N-scale railroading by offering this commemorative two-pack.

List Priced at \$69.95 (plus shipping and handling).



Baltimore Area N-Trak currently has a limited supply of the 20th Anniversary Car Set.

Presented in prototypical fashion, the commemorative set consists of the 1983-2003 two-car set presented on traditional brown boxcars featuring the Baltimore Belt Line herald in white.

List Priced at \$35 (plus shipping and handling).



Gray t-shirts with pocket having a full color BANTRAK logo on the back and a single color (green) logo on the front above the pocket.

Prices are:

Large \$12.25

X-Large \$12.25

2X-Large \$13.25

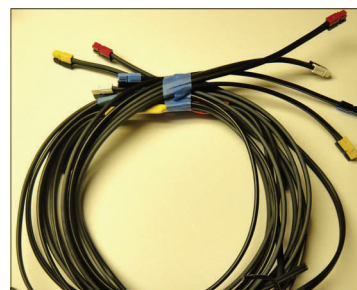
4X-Large \$15.25

(plus shipping and handling)



Building a module or rescuing an old one? Get your wire harness. It doesn't get easier than this. Color coded / pre-installed power poles included.

List Priced at \$25 (plus shipping and handling).





BANTRAK Call Board

(Activities & Events of BANTRAK Club Members)

Email the editor with your info !!!

Fall 2011 Rail-BQ, Newport, PA
September 17th (all day)
Info Contact Ed Kapuscinski

NMRA Chesapeake Div. Mtg.
Sept 25th, 2pm
Info Contact
Arthur Boyd

NMRA Chesapeake Div. Annual Group Mtg.
November 5th, 8:30am
Info Contact
Arthur Boyd



BANTRAK Calendar

9/18/2011.....Community Train Days, Gaithersburg, MD.
9/23~9/25/2011.....Train Festival, Oakland, MD.
10/28~10/30/2011Great Scale Model Train Show, Timonium, MD.
.....(TBD).....B&O Museum Festival of Trains, Baltimore, MD.



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 the Baltimore Area N-TRAK organization.

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

Editor: Eric Payne