



BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 24
Issue 10
October 2011

The Engineer's Cab

Martin Myers



The Oakland show started with a few glitches. After a little misunderstanding early in the month, the show went on with great success. The town of Oakland graciously hosted our layout in the historic B & O train station. Local member Bruce Tharp spearheaded the show for the town. Al Potter and John Darlington were coordinators. Mark Bandy jumped in to help Al when John found that he would not be able to participate when rescheduled in late September.

I can't say enough to thank Oakland for hosting us. We were comp'd for all of our rooms and a few meals. We just had to show up and play trains. I'll let Alan give the show details.

Attendance at the trailer repack was disappointing. Short notice may have caused the less than banner turn out. The trailer has been repacked and its contents reorganized. Some old equipment will be sold or discarded. Club members will get first shot. Any thing left will be sold at the October scale show. Our ultimate goal is to replace the trailer with a large version. This will allow us to store the bulk of our club modules and equipment. For the time being, a few members have stepped up to help store the overflow. This is the seldom-used stuff that only occasionally needs to be carted to a layout.

The October scale show is our next outing. Tim is coordinator and by this time he has called for modules and hopefully gotten enough response. He plans to have a one-trak extension for this layout. Don't worry; all three Ntrak lines will be available for normal running. Onetrak gives us a chance to add additional traffic and maybe run some operations without tying up the Ntrak layout. Our scenery looks really good too!

Ed and company will also be displaying T-trak at the October scale show. If you haven't taken a look at T-trak this would be your chance. With time and space at a premium for many of us, a T-trak module might be a way to practice modeling skills without the huge commitment to a full size module. I managed to obtain 18 Shape-master modules from Bruce Tharp while in Oakland. Shapemaster is defunct. These are a self-contained module complete with molded base, plywood panel and adjusting screws. Just add track and scenery. Most have been spoken for already but a few remain available. Since losing my home layout space, a loop of T-trak modules will be my new "home" layout. The whole loop will store on a closet shelf when not needed. Set up and tear down takes just a few minutes.

John Hale made quite a bit if progress on the raffle layout while in his care. Ballasting and scenery base are completed. Mark has taken possession of the raffle layout. Mark will be calling work sessions soon. I believe we are down to adding structures, foliage, and details.

Our next meeting will be hosted by Mark Bandy. I will not be attending due to prior travel plans. Eric will be officiating for thus meeting. Please try to attend as plans will be forthcoming for the B&O show. This us our biggest show of the year and an important fund raising affair. Remember that trailer I mentioned? The November meeting will most likely be a work session to prepare for the holiday layout. Details later.

Now for the bad news (maybe). At the end of this year I will be resigning as president of the Club. Increasing duties at work do not leave me with enough time to attend to Club business. While I plan to contribute to Club functions as always, meeting the additional requirements of office are just not possible.

Martin

Inside this issue...

The Engineer's Cab	1
Oakland Train Show Review	2
Silver Spring Train Days Review.....	4
Gaithersburg Train Days Review.....	5
Oct. Great Scale Show Preview	6
Holiday Festival of Trains Preview ..	7
Holiday Raffle Layout Update	8
News & Notable.....	9
Website & Membership.....	10
DCC Corner.....	11
Site of the Month/Classifieds	12
BANTRAK Company Store	13
BANTRAK Call Board/Calendar.....	14

Next meeting...

Sunday, October 16th, 2011

2pm - 5pm

Host: [Mark Bandy](#)

(see roster for directions)

2011 Oakland Train Show: Review (09/11)

Al Potter



As planned, BANTrak gathered at the Oakland Train Station beginning shortly before noon on Friday, September 23. By 1 PM all modules were in the room and being placed in slightly modified positions to better use the room, it's lighting (dim) and present a unified railroading theme. There was little standing around as everyone had something to do and soon enough, the layout was operational in DC and DCC. Our Ikea lighting scheme came into good use this weekend. Few areas were not covered by them, but open doors to the outside helped except for the evening show Friday night.

Doors opened to invited guests, mainly business, civil, and political invitees including both our US Senators, at 6:30 PM, pausing for welcoming remarks and a presentation by "John Garrett" depicting the early history of the B&O Railroad in Western Maryland and his rise to the presidency of that railroad. He also had much to say about the town of Oakland and his efforts to improve life there. This was moved outside due to large audience and lack of rain. Rain returned during the event but didn't

dampen the presentation outside nor later, ours, inside. BANTrak operations resumed after the presentation closing around 9 PM or so.

While I didn't take extensive notes on who did what and when at this event, most of those who participated will be listed here, not in any particular order: Bruce Tharp was our "host" member, Paul Diley brought his 3 module NW yard, Dave Clyde with module (s), Mark Bandy with his industrial pollution module, Alan Del Gaudio with his rural module making two trips bringing two of his loves with him on the return trip (wife and '05 C6 Corvette), Martin Myers with modules and not to be overlooked, most (if not all) of the Club's necessary items, myself with my mini mountain, Skip Hayes, Al Palewicz (and wife), and Bob Mohr.



2011 Oakland Train Show: Review (09/11)

Al Potter



Outside the historic, and soon to be part of the B&O Museum system, Oakland Train Station was the double track CSX line carrying mainly coal cars, bigguns, East loaded and West empties. While the traffic wasn't anywhere near constant, each warning horn brought out a "Train Break" shout sending most of us outside for an upclose and personal encounter with some of CSX's monsters, EMD 80's and 90's in the minority and CW44's and similar locos dominating the front ends of these long trains. I think there was a mixed freight in there too. Though the tracks lay within close proximity to the station, little excitement occurred on the layout during the passes.

The layout was fairly simple physically, electrically, and trackage wise, there was plenty for our operators and observers alike, a good mix of rural, urban, and yard action railroading. Everyone wanting run times was accommodated. Trains, both passenger and freight wandered the rails in lengths of several cars to 35 or more, about one third the length of those outside the building. Interaction with the guests was plentiful. And the hosts were very impressed with our presentation.

This was the first of what the organizers hope to be an annual "Train Fest" in Oakland. They went out of their way to make us welcome and it was felt. Our "singles" overnight housing was provide by local efforts. Mark and Paul appear to have won the room lottery getting the Bed & Breakfast. They report that

it was special enough to miss breakfast Saturday at Dotties with the rest of us. We didn't see them Sunday morning either at Wendy's (not to be confused with the FF Chain) where we bought our first breakfast. We were also invited to partake of the goodies at the reception Friday night and they were substantial including crackers and various cheeses, fruits, special chicken salad finger sandwiches, and desserts that even on my diet, had to be tried, over and over again... Beer, wine and soft drinks were also provided (even after hours for the club) which rounded out the hospitality.

All this is to let those of you who couldn't make it to Oakland what you missed. Perhaps, next time (and Oakland is planning a next time already) we'll take a much larger layout to Oakland. It's doubtful we'll see free housing but hopefully discounted (hint, hint) next year but it was really appreciated this time. Word is that next year, as the station will be undergoing some crucial renovations for museum standards, that we'll be invited to occupy much larger space either downtown or elsewhere near downtown for a much larger layout.... IF BANTrak votes to continue this adventure in Western Maryland. Did I mention that the scenery is spectacular out there?

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

Martin and Al

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



Silver Spring Train Days: Review (October 2011)

Ed Hyland/Jeff Peck (Show Coordinators)



Today, October 1st, was BANTrak's first set up in the B&O Silver Spring Station. The Station is a 1945 rebuild on a 1880's Baldwin foundation. The Station has been restored to it's 1940's state. You could almost imagine President Truman and other VIPs using the station to avoid the crush of people at Union Station in the District. Our event was dampened with dirty weather which has been going on for a month. Attendance was down, but we had great fun running and watching trains. We saw several SD40-3's and many pieces of Metro work equipment. Metro seems to do a lot of rail work on the weekends. At this station the right of way is four tracks wide with Metro using the center two lines. Marc now uses a new station next to the Metro station at Colesville Road.



The railroad layout was about 20ft long using DC and DCC controls. The DCC equipment and some modules were furnished by Nick Sklias of NVNTrak. We also had some modules provided by Phil and Janice Poole of Capital PennScalers/NVNTrak. The rest of the layout and coordination was done by Jeff Peck and his son Christian. The Hyland Clan (Ed Pat Chris) also provided modules and operated a six foot trolley layout demonstrating the rich history of Montgomery County traction. Other N Trakers in attendance were Dave Balderston of NVNtrak (ran trains), Tom Long (BANTrak) and Rick E.(NVNTrak).



The museum staff was very hospitable and gracious providing snacks and drinks to the various attendants. The refurbished HO layout was being operated by the Rockville Model Railroad Society and was interesting to watch. The layout had been built for a train exhibit at the National Geographic building in the 80's. The museum had wooden trains and Thomas movies for the kids. CSX and Metro had lots of equipment for us. I am not sure which age group was more excited.

We look forward to doing more setups here at this location in the future. Our next Silver Spring BANTrak set up will be November 5th.

Ed & Jeff



Gaithersburg Train Days: Review (October 2011)

Ed Hyland (Show Coordinator)



Saturday October 8th was a beautiful day in Old Town Gaithersburg. We could not set up in the park next to the station due to paint spraying of the old steam engine. We had to move our gear to the deck on the north side of the old freight house.

We ran a 11 ½ ft loop on two 6 ft tables. There were about 20 plus people that visited the layout between 10 and 2. In attendance was the Hyland Clan (Ed Pat Chris) and the Peck Clan (Jeff and Christian). We used our six ft yard, 18 one ft modules and 4 corners.

During our operation Amtrak provided us with a passenger train. CSX ran several freights and light locomotive moves. The unexpected train was a NS solid ethanol unit train.

Other events coming up include the Mass Transit Show for East Penn in New Brunswick New Jersey on October 22, 2011. Web information for that is at : <http://www.nycmodeltransit.org/events.htm>. This is a bit like Bedford for the subway and trolley guys. We do n-scale trolleys and subway cars up at the show.

Hope to see you at one of the set ups. See you there!

Ed



Great Scale Model Train Show: Preview (10/11)

Tim Nixon



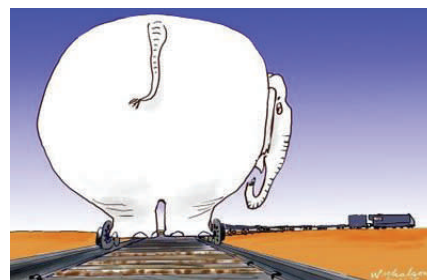
The Oakland Show is now behind us, so it's time to start planning for the [October Scale Show](#) at the Cow Palace in Timonium. This show is scheduled for the weekend of October 29th & 30th, with set-up being on Friday October 28th starting at noon. I have volunteered to coordinate, and Bob Mohr and Frank Hogarth have volunteered to assist.

I am planning to do a standard Ntrak layout with oNeTrak loop in addition to the T-Trak adjacent to the main BANTRAK area).



List of Members bring modules:

- Al Potter – 1x 4'
- Skip Hayes – 1x 4' & Trailer
- Alan del Gaudio – 1x 4' plus 2x oNeTrak
- John Cook – 2x 4'
- Tom Hoover – 1x 2'
- Martin Myers – All modules available
- Al & Leo Palewicz – 14' block
- Ken Greenhorn – attending, no modules
- Jack Walsh – attending, no modules
- Bob Mohr – 15' of City Modules, plus 1' modules as needed
- John Hale – oNeTrak modules
- Paul Diley – 12' Yard + oNeTrak bridge
- Bob Winterbottom – attending, no modules
- Eric Payne – 8' of Ntrak or oNeTrak



*Don't Forget about the
White Elephant (consignment) table.
It is easy to put things up for sale and
you can always find items there on
your "bucket list".*

See you all Friday!

Tim



Holiday Festival of Trains: Preview (10/11)

Dave Clyde



It is getting to be that time of year again. We have been in communication with the B&O Museum and have been informed there has been some changes to the festival this year. As a result Bantrak will only have 2 bays available due to the new Civil War exhibit. This year we will be in bays 13 and 14 in the roundhouse. Stay tuned for more details in November.

See you all in December!

Dave



2011 Holiday Raffle Layout: Update

Tim Nixon



We're heading into what I hope is the home stretch of work on the club's 2011 Raffle Layout. The following work has been done to date:

- Mark Bandy built and contributed the frame for this year's layout. Mark also build and contributed a tower.
- I laid the track and installed the wiring.
- Ken Greenhorn has built a couple of buildings for it (which still need to be sited).
- Andy Courtemanche contributed a barn & chicken coop.
- For the last month John Hale has given the layout a home; John has did the terraforming (installed some hills), ballasted the track, built some roads, built a pond, and put down an initial coat of ground foam. I have attached John's latest photo showing the current state of the layout.

John has made significant progress on the layout in the last month, but he's due for a break. Mark will take the layout for the next couple of weeks until the October meeting (scheduled for the 16th) and possibly till the Scale Show set-up (28th).

Things yet to be done:

- Trees! Lots of trees!
- Bushes and shrubs
- Land the remaining buildings (depot and transfer building)
- Road markings / Signage
- People / Vehicles
- Paint / Stain the frame
- Did I mention trees?

Tentative work session dates and times are listed below:

October 12th Wednesday 7-10PM.

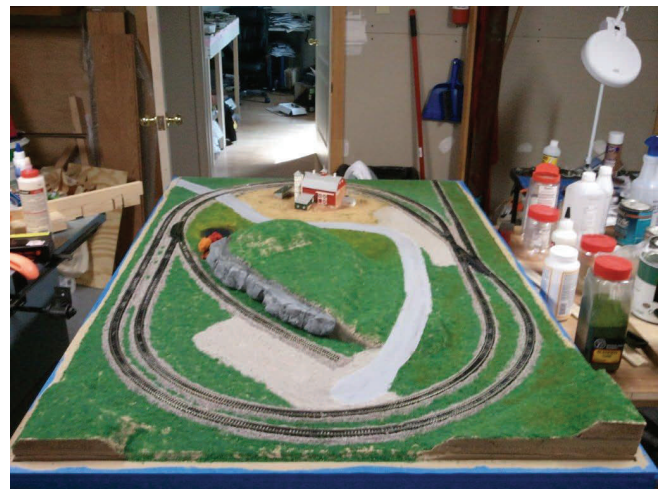
October 16th Sunday 11-2PM.

October 19th Wednesday 7-10PM.

October 26th Wednesday 7-10PM. (If required).

Please email work session host [Mark Bandy](#) with your availability.

Tim



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. 10/05/2011 - Applied security update to the Forum. SMF 2.0 to SMF 2.01.
2. 09/30/2011 - Added the Oakland show review.
3. 09/11/2011 - Added the Company Store page.
4. 09/07/2011 - Added the Bedford Show review to the 2011 Event Reviews Page.
5. 09/06/2011 - The September Newsletter is now available.

New & Notable: Membership

Al Palewicz, Membership



BANTRAK is a division of NTrak. Be sure to check out the latest NTrak newsletter with Tom Hoover's module as a cover story! [September / October NTrak Newsletter](#)

Meanwhile, here is a link to recent (2011) N-Trak Newsletters: [All N-Trak Newsletters \(Library\)](#)

Please contact Treasurer [Tim Nixon](#) for more information on your membership status or [Al Palewicz](#) with general questions.



SUMMARY OF N-TRAK REQUIREMENTS & OPTIONS						
Track	Req. Opt.	Dist from Skyboard	Offset Height	Min Radius	Max Grade	Color Code
Front Main	Req.	20"	0"	24"	0%	Red
Inner Main	Req.	18.5"	0"	24"	0%	Yellow
Branch Line	Req.	17"	0"	18"	1.50%	Blue
Branch Opt. Location	Opt.	10"	0"	18"	1.50%	Blue w/ Yellow
Mountain Division	Opt.	4"	+3 1/8"	12"	3%	Green
Set-up Track	Opt.	-1 1/4"	0"	?	?	Green w/ Yellow
Front Passing Trk	Opt.	21.5"	0"	?	?	Orange
Nn3 Front Track	Opt.	22"	-2'	?	?	Red w/ Green
Nn3 Center Track	R*	15.5"	0'	?	?	Yellow w/ Green
Nn3 Rear Track	R*	6"	+2.5'	?	?	Blue w/ Green
NCat Front Track	R*	15"	0"	10"	?	Special plugs
NCat Rear Track	R*	2"	0'	10"	?	Special plugs

R* = Required only on these modules. ? = No standards set.

DCC Corner: (Exploring Digital Command Control)



[Starter Sets](#)

Zephyr Xtra Digitrax All-in-one command station/booster/throttle

Everything you need to get started in Digitrax Command Control for a great low price. Zephyr Xtra is perfect for beginning, intermediate and advanced model railroaders. It is easy to use and has tons of features. Zephyr Xtra offers excellent speed control, prototypical consisting, the full range of programming features and much more. Zephyr Xtra is a breath of fresh air in model railroading



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

[Get Digitrax Email Updates](#)

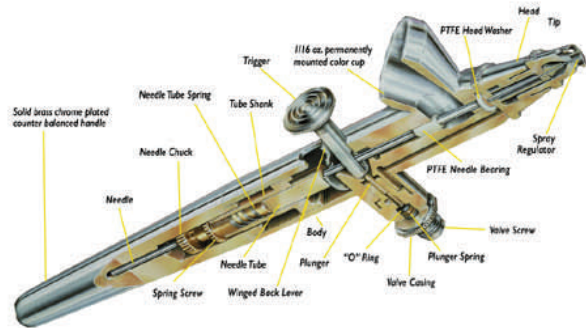


Website of the Month: **Badger Airbrush**

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

Every Badger product, at every stage of production, is created with pride and dedication. Each Badger airbrush component is machined to exacting standards, assembled carefully by hand and then tested in use to assure that it not only meets our high standards, but exceeds your expectations.

At [Badger Airbrush](#) the research and development teams consistently experiment with new product ideas and designs in order to meet the changing needs and interests of airbrushers of all levels for every purpose. In addition, Badger has developed a network of airbrush consultants that continually provide us with feedback from the end user's perspective.



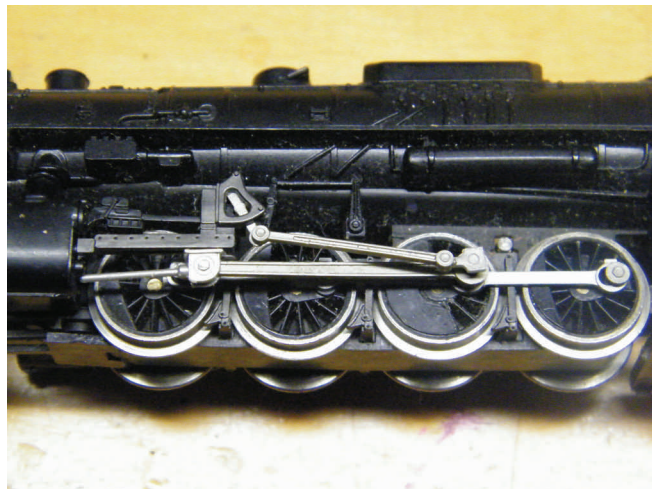
BANTRAK: **Classifieds**

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:

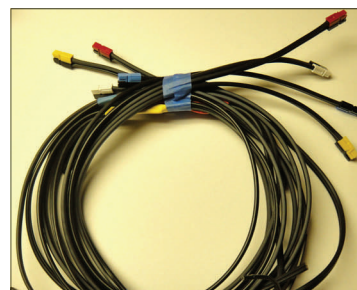
Large	\$12.25
X-Large	\$12.25
2X-Large	\$13.25
4X-Large	\$15.25

(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 !!!

[First Frost Train Show, Allentown, PA](#)
November 12/13 (all day)
Info Contact [Ed Kapuscinski](#)

Holiday Raffle Layout Work Sessions
October 12/16/19/26
Info Contact [Mark Bandy](#)

[NMRA Chesapeake Div. Annual Group Mtg.](#)
November 5th, 8:30am
Info Contact [Arthur Boyd](#)



BANTRAK Calendar

10/8/2011.....[Community Train Days](#), Gaithersburg, MD.
10/9/2011.....[Gaithersburg OcktoberFest](#) Gaithersburg, MD
10/28 - 10/30/2011.....[Great Scale Model Train Show](#), Timonium, MD.
11/5/2011.....Community Train Days, Silver Spring, MD.
12/17 - 12/31/2011.....[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