



BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 24, Issue 12

December 2011

The Engineer's Cab

Martin Myers



Greetings

December has arrived. Our annual Christmas show as part of the B & O museum's Holiday Festival of Trains is upon us. Come on down, run some trains, and sell a few raffle tickets. This year's schedule should allow for a few chances to participate for members who are not yet retired. The museum will be open on a couple of days that are work holidays for others. Should help attendance at the museum.

Thanks to John Cook for hosting the November meeting. Ed Aufderheide will be hosting our January meeting. As before, there is no meeting in December. I'd also like to thank Eric for stepping up to take care of business while I deal with business when matters at home keep me from attending. He certainly wasn't figuring on taking over earlier than 2013.

This past year we managed to add a couple of shows to our normal schedule. Oakland looks like a show we will be happy to do on a regular basis. The convention required a ton of work for many members. We pulled it off and could not have asked for a better running layout.

This will be my last engineer's cab. Quite frankly, I won't miss it because coming up with this article is the hardest part of the job for me. Blame the late newsletters on me.

Anyhow, thanks for the support all of you have given me this past year. Hope to see you at the museum for set up.

Martin

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Next meeting...

Sunday, January 15th, 2012
2pm - 5pm
Host: [Ed Aufderheide](#)
(see roster for directions)



Silver Spring Train Days & Gaithersburg Artifact Show

A Tale of Two Events (November 2011)



Our first event in November was at the Silver Spring B&O station on the 5th. It comprised of three two ½ x six foot tables forming a T shaped layout. We used two inside curves along with six outside corners. This broke the normal chariot race style layout norm into sections that the visitor would have to walk around the layout to see. The layout modules were provided by Jeff and Christian Peck and the Hyland Clan. Dave Balderston of NVNtrak ran trains and our newest member Cliff Enz paid us a visit.

With the yard on the long side and with vegetation modules with multiple curves, the layout was much different than previous set ups. The layout comprised of 20 ft of straight track including the six foot yard plus the eight curve modules. The only difference with the inside curves is that the smaller radius curve is on the outside track.

During the layouts operation the museum ran the HO layout running through it's night to day and back to night sequence. Some new B&O wagon top cars had been added to the freight train that was running on that layout. The BRIO layout was in full operation with lots of kid power and future model railroaders. The station had it's customary tea, coffee, cocoa and nibbles laid out for us. Our operations at this station are always warm and fun.

At three o'clock we went into tear down mode, loaded the layout back into boxes and headed north to Gaithersburg. After finding the new building for the train show at the 6th annual model train show. We set up and reconfigured the layout to two six ft tables and were running again by 5 pm. The train show ran on Sunday from 9 to 4. We had many visitors and questions from the public about N scale T Trak and N Trak. Matthew Whiting joined the Peck and Hyland Clans in operations. We had a visit from Jack Walsh who enjoyed the train show and visited the artifacts show. Other visitors to the set up were David Porter, David Freshwater, Bob Yetter Nick Skalias, and Rodney Bowman's son, all associated with NVNtrak. NVNtrak operated a small oval in an adjacent room. There was a large scale aristo elevated loop next to them. There were about a dozen vendors including National Capital Trains and Brian Bowles (formerly of RIP Track) who had a lot of n scale equipment from a large estate sale . The show was so busy that this was the first time I never got over to the rest of the Artifacts show.

The show is worth seeing for it is filled full of all sorts of railway artifacts. Everything from lanterns to steam engine headlights to books and timetables. Everything you didn't know you needed, but just had to have. It occurs every year on the first week of November. It is a different show from most others that we do as

it exposes n scale to not just fellow modelers, but railwayania people as well. All in all, we were very well received and have been invited back for next year.

Ed & Jeff



Dave Clyde



HOLIDAY FESTIVAL
OF TRAINS
AND TOYS!

1. Setup will begin at 8:00am Dec 14, 15 and 16.
2. Our part in the festival begins at opening time on Dec 17th.
3. There will be no early drop off as there is no place to store and/or secure anything.
4. Please remember that the layout diagram is a guide. Last minute changes are likely as setup progresses.
5. The raffle layout location will most probably be moved depending on how things go.
6. The main ingress/egress for us will be the big doors by the snack bar and not the doors by the platform as in previous years.
7. Dave Shakelford will be onsite Wednesday morning to unlock the gate and to settle any outstanding issues.

[illegible]

I'd like to thank Jack Walsh and Mark Bandy for all their help and expertise. Their help has been invaluable in making this years show possible.

Your feedback is welcome but please email ME directly.

Dave



Holiday Festival of Trains: Public Service Announcement

Jack Walsh



The **NEW** Holiday Festival of Trains & Toys at the B&O in Baltimore!

Friday, November 25 Saturday, December 31
Monday-Saturday (10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
Sunday (11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)



Celebrate the holiday season at Baltimore's largest display of toy and model train layouts.

Santa & Mrs. Claus arrive by locomotive into the Roundhouse at **10:30 a.m. on Friday, November 25**. Santa will be available throughout the day for visits and photo opportunities.

Debuting opening weekend November 25-27 on the Roundhouse's 60 foot wooden turntable is an incredible LEGO toy train layout. **NEW this year** is the Honorable **William Donald Schaefer's toy train layout** along with some of his treasured holiday memorabilia on exhibit for the first time ever and a new operating **floor level G-scale layout** (*in front of Bay 7 - Jack*).

There are also **indoor Train Carousel rides**, **Santa's workshop** where holiday ornaments and crafts can be decorated, and the **North Pole Postage Bag**, where children may purchase a postcard and mail wish lists to Santa in the MA & PA Postal Car.

The Museum continues its partnership with the U.S. Marine Corp's **Toys for Tots program**. Visitors who bring a new, unwrapped toy to the Museum from **November 25-December 18** **receive 50% off admission**. To encourage participation from all visitors, the Museum Store will offer a 10% off discount for all toys purchased on-site as a donation to Toys for Tots.

Weekend train rides and photo opportunities with Santa & Frosty the Snowman through December 18. Children receive candy canes personally from Santa and Frosty while traveling along the first commercial mile of railroad track laid in America. When Santa returns to the North Pole, **train rides continue with Frosty the Snowman through December 31**.

The schedule for live entertainment performances by choral and dance groups include:

- December 10 at 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.: **Savage Dance Company**
- December 11 at 11:30 a.m.: **Cynthia Wagner Dance Studio**
- December 11 at 1:30 p.m.: **Backstage Dance Studio**
- December 17 at 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.: **Maryland Sings**
- December 18 at 11:30 a.m.: **Pride of Baltimore Chorus**
- December 18 at 1:30 p.m.: **Flair Studio of Dance**

The schedule for visits with Santa is:

- Saturday, December 10 from 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
- Sunday, December 11 from 12 Noon - 12:45 p.m.
- Saturday, December 17 from 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. & 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 18 from 12 Noon - 12:45 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The schedule for train rides with Santa is:

- Saturday, December 10 at 12 Noon & 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 11 at 1:00 p.m.

Jack

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.

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



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](mailto:dave@bantrak.org) 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.

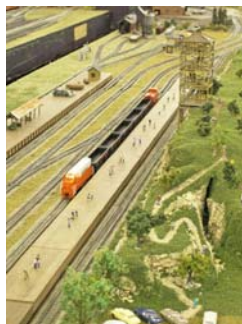
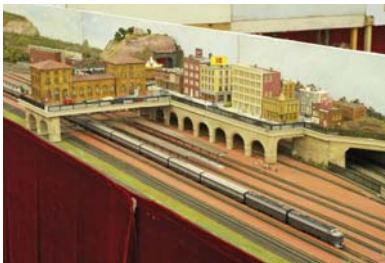
New & Notable: Membership

Al Palewicz, Membership



BANTRAK is a division of N-Trak. Be sure to check out the latest N-Trak newsletter !

[November / December N-Trak Newsletter](#)



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



DCC Corner:

(Exploring Digital Command Control)



Power Management

Get the benefits of short circuit management and auto reversing without adding more boosters!

PM42 Quad Power Manager lets you use a single booster and divide its output into 4 power sub-districts for automatic reversing &/or to improve operation by preempting booster shutdown when a short circuit is detected by the PM42. If you want to improve operation but don't need the added power (or expense) of adding a booster, the PM42 is the right answer for you. Each PM42 can run 4 sub-districts off a single booster in any combination of regular sub-districts and auto reversing sub-districts.



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

[Get Digitrax Email Updates](#)



Website of the Month: NYCSHS.ORG

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

Here is the link for the NY Central System Historical Society [free] quarterly modeler e-zine. Developed and edited by members and friends of the New York Central System Historical Society, they provide this free resource for anyone interested in creating accurate models of New York Central railroad equipment and structures. The magazine is only available as a PDF file.

http://nycshs.org/nycentral_modeler.php



BANTRAK: 30th Anniversary Club Car



Any club members with ideas or thoughts about the project should send me an email so that these may be taken into account prior to a proposal presentation to the membership.

Current sentiment is to go with a Fox Valley wagon top boxcar a la B&O. Nothing is decided and the committee has not met.

All interested parties are welcome to contribute. Target release would be Christmas season 2012. This would be slightly prior to the thirtieth anniversary of the first club meeting in January 1983.

If you can assist, please contact [Bob Mohr](#)



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).





Item from the November/December 1986 Greater Baltimore N-Scale Associates Newsletter edited by Ken Mayer. This newsletter also included a listing of members and what modules/equipment they were bringing to the Greenberg show – everything needed for the layout was brought by members – no trailer back then. The members included: Andy Courtemanche, John Darlington, Ken Mayer, Bob Mohr, Wayne Morrow Jerry Mulford and Jack Walsh. The layout consisted of ten four foot modules and four club corners.

INSTRUCTION SHEET - GBNSA TIME-TABLE

The following are general guidelines intended to facilitate the operations of the GBNSA at the Greenberg Show. They are not intended to strictly control the membership, but rather to impose a certain measure of structure on the club's public operations.

1. There are 36 total hours of train running time over the two days of the show. Since it is expected that nine (9) members will be "working the show" and will wish to run their equipment, no member shall sign up for more than four (4) hours of track time until everyone has been given the opportunity to sign up. There are two 20 minute blocks of time, two 40 minute blocks of time, and 16 one hour blocks of time available on each day.
2. Should extra time become available, either from cancellations or from members not taking all of their time entitlement, the four (4) hour restriction will be waived. In fact, additional "train service" will be needed.
3. Members shall specify on the time-table the class of equipment they wish to run (Passenger or Freight) and their preferred operating direction (either clockwise (CUI) or counter-clockwise (CCW)) for the track they select. Members may be as explicit in their descriptions as they choose. The intent here is to provide information to the other members who will sign up later, so that they may vary the equipment running and the track directions.
4. Members may sign up for sequential blocks of time, but should not sign up to use more than one track at a time.
5. Members are free to exchange time among themselves. Such changes shall be noted on the time-table, so a record can be kept of who is supposed to be running.
6. Moving cars on and off the sidings along the branch line is a legitimate benefit of signing up to use the inner (branch line) track.
7. Entire trains should be placed on or removed from a track only at the transfer times for that track.

The three members signed up to operate on the layout at any given time are to be given the radio headsets, and are responsible for the operation of the layout.

Members are reminded that they should bring sufficient proven motive power to the show to keep their trains running as much as possible during their time period. Also, balky cars should be removed from the layout by their owner as soon as they can be identified.



BANTRAK Call Board

(Activities & Events of BANTRAK Club Members)



Email the [editor](#) with your info !!!

[NMRA Chesapeake Div. Group Mtg.](#)

Info Contact [Arthur Boyd](#)



BANTRAK 2011 Calendar

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.

