



BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 5
May 2012

The Engineer's Cab

Eric Payne



Greetings,

And say hello to May! Spring has sprung and its time to talk trains. April was full of activity and May has a few T-Trak events, followed by one in June as well (check the BANTRAK Calendar for upcoming dates). The April meeting at the Scale Show was a good time to discuss Club updates. We have a few projects going on right now (trailer/wiring update) and some that need to be considered as well (corner/duck under bridge rehab). The next meeting will be on the third Sunday this month and will be held at Arthur Boyd's house. Make plans to attend the meeting (2pm) and if we are lucky, Arthur will give us an update on his home layout as well. **DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR SHOW & TELL!**

Current agenda items for the May Club Meeting include:

- Show & Tell (items you just bought, created or found)
- Show Reviews/Previews - T-Trak / April GSMTS / June MS Walk (Paul Diley, Ed/Chris Hyland, E.Payne/Denise Clyde)
- Club Business update
 - Trailer Committee update (Skip Hayes, J. Hale, Dave Clyde, Tim Nixon)
 - DCC Loconet - Club Module upgrade project discussion (Martin Myers, Bob Mohr)
 - Club Car Committee update (Bob Mohr)
 - Upcoming meetings: 6/17, 7/15, 8/19 (Eric Payne)
- Call for New Club Business

Looking forward, in addition to the T-Trak events, we are in need of a Bedford Show Coordinator for August 25/26. The coordinator should be a Club Member who isn't leading other Club events or projects. We have plenty of Members and (to plead for help) someone needs to step up if we want to attend the event. Please email me/Denise/Paul if you are interested. Otherwise, no coordinator = no event. We also need a June/July/August Meeting host. If you haven't already signed up for a future meeting, please consider hosting. Remember, we are a "round-robin" Club, not a "meet at the same place all the time" Club. **More hands = less work.**

The year is progressing nicely with Show & Tell, FAQ's and Events in the forefront; the next few months will likely include some work sessions for the projects we have in place. Club Improvement projects look promising so be sure to show you support and volunteer. So, as you can see, 2012 is shaping up nicely.

Stay tuned and remember, "Keep It Fun".

Eric

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Next meeting...

Sunday, May 20th, 2012, 2pm - 5pm
Location: Arthur Boyd's (check roster for location)
(see roster for directions)



Great Scale Model Train Show: April Review

Paul Diley & Chris Hyland



Thanks for a great show and our largest ever to date. It was a great success and I hope that you all had a good time. The N-trak and T-Trak layouts went up in fashionably good time, with only a few hiccups (if you call redesigning the N-Trak layout on the fly a hiccup). Rest assured, experience paid off and a small module oversight was rectified on the spot (thanks Skip!).

If you all have any thoughts or recommendations, please let us know. As Jerry Mcquire said: "Help me Help you". And yes, I (Chris) will be willing to scream out at the the next show "Show me the money!".

One tiny bit of housekeeping from a T-Trak perspective. During operations at Timonium, the following observation was noted.

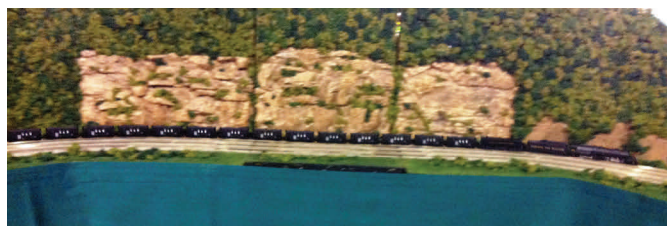
The construction of the clementine box and standard modules may have a slight flaw in construction materials. The use of foam core board may be causing a slight sag in the roadbed. This may be cured by running a brace perpendicular to the surface or using a stiffer material; Gatorboard or thin plywood. The problem with sagging in the middle creates humps at the edges which cause couplers to uncouple. Please check built modules and rectify new construction. Cause no one really likes saggy modules.

Ed H. is picking up DCC outlet boxes which can go on the rear side of modules. This will allow wiring directly from the UP5 to the rear outlet. This will enable setting up the DCC Loconet from module to module without lifting them up and trying to plug them to the UP5's while up in the air. If you have or plan to have a UP5 installed on your module, please let Ed H. know and you guys can discuss the wiring.

See, not a sermon, just a thought.

Thanks again for coming out, here's to future events, and hope to see you all soon,

Chris & Paul



Silver Spring Station: Cinco De Mayo Review

Chris Hyland



On May 5th, the T Trak Unit ran an all Mexican railroad for three hours. We had turquoise passenger trains pulled by D&H PA's. Sets of Red and Black and sets of Turquoise and orange NdeM and FNM pulling "Mixto" trains. Light steam pulling 40 ft. boxcar locals. It was a very colorful railroad. We had a lot more equipment that could not run because of the tight curves. So I guess that we will have to do this again someday on the larger layout. Oh to hear the growl of Ferromex, Kansas City Southern De Mexico and TFM pulling big blocks of Mexican Auto racks down the Red line. We had a good turn out at the show. The Hyland Clan was present, as well as Matt Guey-Lee, Cliff Enz, Matt Whiting (who managed to get an all green Burlington train on at the end), and Tom Long. Leon visited to see the layout and remarked that he was impressed with the station seeing that it was his first time visiting there.



We had 2 layouts set up. We had our primary layout which was 2 ½ six ft tables. Our secondary layout was a street car one that set up on a single table with just 4 corners and 2 straights. Besides all of the Mexican trains running around, Matt Whiting got a chance to do some more switching in Hyland switching district which is becoming a favorite with our guys during set ups as it gives them something more to do then run in circles. Cliff Enz brought some 3D printed trolleys from Shapeways and everyone drooled over them.



We will be at Gaithersburg May 12th and Bowie on May 20th. Hope to see some of you at a set up.

Chris



Silver Spring Station: April Review *(cont. from April)*

Jeff Peck



A few late pics (just missed last newsletter)

See you at the shows.

Jeff



Severna Park Modelers: Sneak-a-Peek

Eric Payne

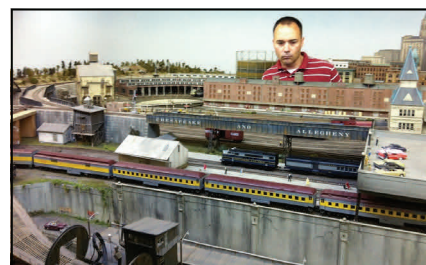


Last weekend, the Severna Park Modelers hosted an open house at their location along the old B&A right of way, now converted into the Baltimore & Annapolis bike trail. They have been around for over 50 years and open up two times per year for public viewing. Regardless of scale, it is always fun to see great work! If you ever get the chance, be sure to check them out.

Here are a few shots I grabbed. More can be found online [here](#).

More information about the Club can be found online [here](#).

Eric



A Scenic Approach: Time to Grout

Ed Kapusinski



Recently, I have been working on adding grout (sanded and non-sanded varieties" into my bag of tricks when it comes to simulating ballast and dirt.

Woodland Scenic just wasn't cutting it for me and as it took was a little inspiration from a few fellow modelers, and I decided to give it a try.

Ballast (all sanded):

Base: Charcoal Gray (in the bag)

Add in Hemp, Platinum, Natural Grey and Silver Shadow (from cartons)

Dirt (unsanded):

Summer Wheat

Results so far have been good, but not without lessons learned:

- Mixing is always referable to "straight out of the box". A good blend always looks better.
- Following up with a little matte medium is always a good idea.
- Prepping the site with some straight Elmer's combined with a little dark paint always does the trick.
- A few coats / passes is all it takes; one or two and your done.
- The stuff is bullet proof and looks good.

So, next time your at your favorite big box store, the Orange Giant or the Lovely Lowes, wander over to the flooring section and pick up a \$9 box (looks like a milk carton) of sanded or unsanded grout. Give it a try, it will definitely make your up close modeling shots look more realistic!



Ed



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. Visit us online at www.gr2012.org.

[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

Visit us online at www.NationalNScaleConvention.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.

Dave

1. 04/10/2012 - The April Newsletter is now available.
2. 04/01/2012 - Made some minor corrections on the BANTRAK FAQ page.



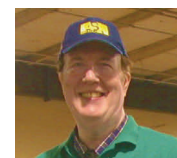
Have an idea for new/updated web content?

Contact the Webmaster with your ideas!

Email the webmaster today !!!

New & Notable: Membership

Al Palewicz, Membership



Please contact Treasurer Tim Nixon for more information on your membership status and roster questions



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

To view the March/April N-TRAK newsletter, click here

(<http://ntrak.org/Newsletter/NL-12-05a.pdf>)



Club Member Benefits

- Sharing of your knowledge (railroading & 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 - whatever's asked
- Recognition as being part of a Nationally known club
- Purchase of surplus club property & access to group discounts



Decoder Selector can be found [here](#)



SEARCH GO

HOME PRODUCTS DECODER SELECTOR SUPPORT DOWNLOADS SOUND DEPOT CASE STUDIES NEWS & EVENTS DEALERS

Decoder Selector

Here's how you can be the expert and answer the question, "What decoder do I need for this locomotive?" Below are three drop-down selection boxes to help you find the decoder(s) you need. Start at the left box and click on the arrow to the right of the box. This will open a list of all the available scales we have in our guide. Click on the appropriate scale. The selected scale will now be the only one showing in this box. Then move one box to the right and select the Engine Brand. Repeat this for Engine Model. When all three have been selected, the appropriate decoder(s) will appear in the Digitrax Product box. We've included a button, which will allow you go directly to each decoder's product page.

[Click here to view in list format](#)

1. Select a Scale:

2. Select a Brand:

3. Select an Engine:

4. Select a Digitrax Product:

Reverse Decoder Selector

To find out which 3rd party products are compatible with your Digitrax decoder, select your decoder from the list below. **Please note that this is not a comprehensive list.**

1. Select a Digitrax Product:

2. Select a Scale:

3. Select a Brand:

4. Select a Produced Engine Model:

Mobile Decoder Naming Convention and Decoder Numbers

See the Tech Support Depot Article - [Mobile Decoder Naming Convention and Decoder Numbers](#)

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



Website of the Month: Scale TOWN Models

Email the editor and recommend a site !!!



Scale Town Models is based in Modesto, Ca. It started as an idea by my buddy Jerry. He wanted a laser kit of the Jamestown, Ca - Sierra Railroad depot, but no one made it. So he contracted Banta Models to cut him a batch of kits so he could have his one. That got this all started and now STM has it's own laser and we produce them inhouse now.



Custom Wood Kits

Made in the USA

Visit their website [here](#)

We manufacture from start to finish right here. The kits are designed, cut, instructions written and kits boxed. At present we are producing kits in HO and N scale and we are looking at O scale.

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 or are interested in volunteering to be on the committee, please contact Bob Mohr at a Club Meeting or Show.



BANTRAK: Company Store



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:

<i>Large</i>	<i>\$12.25</i>
<i>X-Large</i>	<i>\$12.25</i>
<i>2X-Large</i>	<i>\$13.25</i>
<i>4X-Large</i>	<i>\$15.25</i>

(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).



For more information contact treasurer@bantrak.net





(Submissions Needed)

**HELP
WANTED**

BANTRAK: Classifieds

(Submissions Needed)

To list your classifieds, Email the editor





BANTRAK Call Board

(Activities & Events of BANTRAK Club Members)

Email the editor with your info !!!

CHRS Susquehanna Limited
June 16th
Info Contact: Ed Kapusinski

NMRA Chesapeake Div. Group Mtg.
May 19th
Info Contact: Arthur Boyd

Springfield 2013
January 26th & 27th
Info Contact: Eric Payne

PRRT&HS DC Chapter Mtg
April 21st
Info Contact: Jack Walsh

BANTRAK Club Mtg.
Host / Location needed (various months)
Info Contact: Eric Payne/Denise Clyde



BANTRAK 2012 Calendar

This is a listing of all N-Trak events. We have Monthly Meetings, Field Trips, 1-Trak and T-Trak events as well. Attend a meeting for a full list of events!!!

5/20	Club Meeting	Baltimore, Md	Arthur Boyd
6/9 & 6/10	MS Challenge Walk	Chestertown, Md	Denise Clyde/Eric Payne
6/17	Club Meeting	???	??/???
6/23 & 6/24	Scale Show (tentative)	Timonium, Md	Ed Hyland
6/23	Montgomery County Heritage Days (tentative)	Mont. Co., Md	Ed Hyland
7/14 & 7/15	Independence Days	Alexandria, Va	Ed Hyland
7/15	Club Meeting	???	??/???
8/19	Club Meeting	???	??/???
8/25 & 8/26	Bedford N Scale Weekend	Bedford, Pa	??/???



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.

President: Eric Payne

Treasurer: Tim Nixon

Membership: Al Palewicz

