



BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 9
September 2012

The Engineer's Cab

Eric Payne



Greetings,

HELLO September. Wow this year is flying by! Before you know it, we will be facing Thanksgiving and the Festival of Trains. Bedford usually marks the midway point of the year for us and a big thanks for everyone coming out and enjoying the hills of Pennsylvania. It is always a fun time, and this year didn't disappoint. September is jam packed with T-Trak and followed up by a big October show @ Timonium. Work sessions for the Raffle Layout (Martin) and Club Corner (Al) are scheduled for Mark's house, plus we need to get back to Skip's to repack the trailer. In other news, Dave & Denise Clyde have offered to store the Club Trailer beginning after the October Show. Special thanks to them, as well as Skip for storing over the past several years!!! In other news, discussions in Committee are being had to explore Incorporation of the Club as a potential first step toward 501c3 status. The reasons for the dialogue is based on concerns by most (if not all) Club members that the Club is ready for this next step in organization as we grow and transition. Primary benefits would be purchasing common Club property (a new trailer) and solidifying the Club's existence as an organization (for insurance purposes). Secondary benefits include accepting charitable donations and properly hosting a raffle/lottery. It is VERY important to note the timing of this is not completely known and if you have any concerns, please feel free to reach out to me personally and I will do my best to answer any questions you have. Be sure to attend the next meeting for updates.

The next meeting (3rd Sunday in September) will be hosted by Mark Bandy at his house in Ellicott City. Contact Mark for directions and be sure to come on out early for the Club work session! As always, **DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR SHOW & TELL!**

Current agenda items for the August Club Meeting include:

- Show & Tell (items you just bought, created or found)
- Show Reviews/Previews - N-Trak & T-Trak
- Club Business update
 - DCC Loconet - Club Module upgrade project discussion (Martin Myers)
 - Raffle Layout Committee (Martin Myers)
 - Club Car Committee update (Bob Mohr)
 - Club Organization update (Eric Payne)
 - Trailer Committee update (John Hale)
 - Smile Train Donation: (Al Palewicz)
- Call for New Club Business

Finally, Martin just put out a call for modules for October, please reply to him with your availability AND there is a work session scheduled for Sept. 16th at Mark's, so please plan on attending. Stay tuned and remember, "Keep It Fun".

Eric

Inside this issue...

The Engineer's Cab	1
Bedford N Scale Weekend Review	2
Silver Spring Station Sept. Review ...	5
Sykesville Tower August Preview	6
N&N: Miscellaneous	7
N&N: Conventions	8
N&N: Website & Membership	9
DCC Corner	10
Site of the Month / Club Car	11
Company Store	12
Time Machine / Classifieds	13
Call Board / Calendar	14

Next meeting...

Sunday, September 16, 2012, 2-5pm
Location: Mark Bandy's
(contact Mark via email for address)



Bedford N Scale Weekend: Review

Eric Payne & Chris Hyland



"N-Scale Weekend"

(EDITORS NOTE: I am pinch hitting for Al)...

Bedford 2012 was a good time, as always. Set-up went smoothly on Friday, with the Club meeting at McDonald's at noon and being set up and running trains by 4pm. Dinner at Hoss's was around 6pm and the Hot Tub (note the caps) by 9pm.

Saturday was kicked off with the buffet breakfast (get there early to beat Martin to the bacon) and then trains around 9am at the SportsPlex. A quick inspection of the layout for rail joiners and clean track; and it was go time. Saturday evening was the BBQ and the auction, highlighted by food and friends!

Sunday was a late start (planned) for breakfast and trains, with Club Members scouring the show for last minute deals before breakdown started (around 3:00pm). A quick "pack up the Trailer" and "help everyone get loaded" and we were on the road by 6 for sure (if not earlier).

Now more from Chris.

Eric

T Trak operated a 4 table layout at Bedford. We had modules from many members of our group. The Hylands provided their High Speed Line with the modern apartment buildings and we also rolled out our new inside corners to make the layout a large T formation. There were modules from Leon and David Clyde (who seems to have a thing for cemeteries on his layouts). Mat Chibbarro provided his new mountain module for all to see called Mt. Hubungi. This is his large set of T Trak modules that has a figure eight and a point to point up above the mainline. It was probably one of the most talked about and certainly the most shot layout at the show. Matt Guey-Lee also provided another 4 ft of modules as well as his refurbished tunnel module, with Tom Long putting in his Howard Street street car module to provide a dash of urban scenery. Lots of members also stopped by to run trains during the weekend.

We set up the bare bones of the layout at noon on Friday and got all the layout up and completely running at 9.30 am the next day when everyone was able to get to the show. The layout ran flawlessly for the most part and we sat in our folding chairs partaking in T Trak beach party by watching the trains run by without a care in the world.

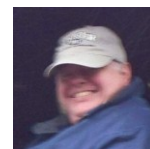
Some members were only there for Saturday. Sunday morning we reconfigured the layout and operated it until tear down at 3 pm. We packed it up and loaded it during a rain-storm. Our plastic boxes kept the modules and electrics dry. By the time we had loaded, the main layout was ready to be loaded in the trailer.

Chris



Bedford N Scale Weekend: Review (cont.)

Al Potter & Bob Winterbottom & Chris Hyland



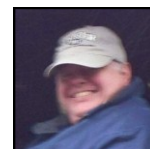
"N-Scale Weekend"

Photos courtesy of Eric Payne & Chris Hyland



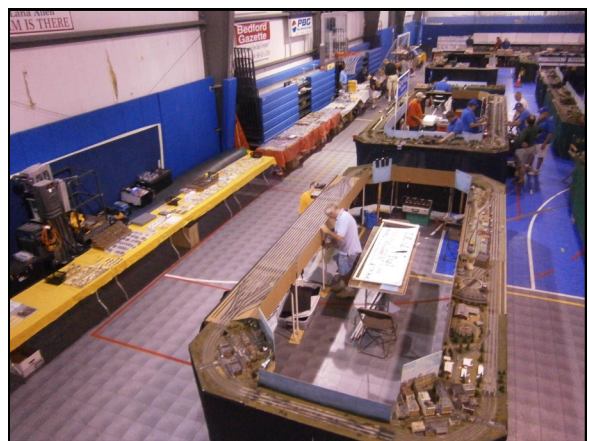
Bedford N Scale Weekend: Review (cont.)

Al Potter & Bob Winterbottom & Chris Hyland



"N-Scale Weekend"

Photos courtesy of Al Potter, Jack Walsh



Silver Spring Tower: September Review

Jeff Peck



On Saturday, September 1st, the T-Trak Division set up again at one of our favorite haunts, the historic B & O station in Silver Spring, Md.

In attendance were The Hyland gang, Mat Chibbaro, Matt Guey-Lee, Cliff Enz, Dave Balderston, Tom Long and Christian. Everything went together quickly and we used Ed's new inside corners which are smaller than regulation (which is a good thing) yet afford larger curves so the trains look and track better.

Mat's mountain modules always impress the crowds with trains running on multiple levels. CSX gave us a great show outside including one train that had about 50 tanks on flat cars and a unit ethanol train with Illinois, Chicago & Eastern and CP Rail Power.

Everything came down and got packed quickly and we went our separate ways having scored a few Good Guys points by giving our hosts a few B & O DVD's and an old desktop scanner to monitor the comings and goings.

Jeff



Sykesville Tower: September Review & Upcoming Events

Chris Hyland



BANTRAK operated for its second time at Sykesville with the S&P On Aug 5th. This time around we did not have to deal with any of the events that made the first set up so monumental. There were no power outages by either Pepco or BGE, one could find places that sold gas readily, and one no longer needed to have to barter or worry about making the cash in ones pocket last an entire week until the banks were able to get power again.

We ran two layouts at Sykesville. The first was a mainline layout like what we usually run during our set ups. It had modules from David Clyde, Jeff Peck, and the Hylands. The other layout was a new venture for us in BANTRAK. Matt Guey-Lee ran an all Trolley/Street car layout on two tables. This one was unique as it could ONLY run street cars. It was (as they call it in layout design world) a folded single line dumbbell. The layout folded in on itself in two return loops at either end of the layout. It also had a very small yard in one of the "end of line" modules as well where the cars were parked.

Once again we ran all manner of trains and street cars. CSX provided real one one trains that could be seen from the tower and everyone had a great time as usual.

We are looking forward to the next event which is Sept. 9th with David Clyde as Coordinator. If you get a chance, come and see the layout, though with the current status, who knows what is occurring with the Old Main line of the B&O.

See You At The Shows!

Speaking of Upcoming Shows, the T-TRAK schedule is full in September. Yes, just when you thought it was safe to read your messages.... Here are the September Events:

September 1st.:

Silver Spring (Contact Jeff Peck, Coordinator)
Set up 9, Show 10-3

September 8th & 9th (NEW EVENT):

Kensington Armory (Contact Chris Hyland, Coordinator)
Set up Friday (?)
Show all day Saturday and Sunday
Confirmed finally: Small Layout More Info to follow

September 9th:

Sykesville Tower (Contact David Clyde, Coordinator)
Set up 10am, Show 12-4

September 16th:

Gaithersburg Museum (Old Towne Days) (Ed Hyland Coordinator)
12-5 Set up ? Contact for details
Note: This is part of a large street festival, so parking near layout may be limited!

September 29th (NEW EVENT):

Germantown (Contact Leon, Coordinator)
Set up 10am, Show: 12-4pm

September 29th :

Bowie Days (Contact Jeff Peck, Coordinator)
Set up info to follow

Chris



News & Notable: Washington Post / Montgomery Gazette

As the Rat Pack used to sing, we can tell ya' what's in the Daily News.

Here is the [web URL](#) for the Washington Post / Montgomery Gazette article about Gaithersburg. Unfortunately it does not seem to have any of the pictures that the hard copy does (so I will bring that to the next get together).

Chris

Gaithersburg Community Museum keeps track at Train Day

Local model collectors celebrate historic railroad station

By Kara Rose Staff Writer

Ed Hyland's fascination with trains began when he was child.

His father worked as a block operator for the Baltimore District of the Pennsylvania Railroad in the 1950s, and Hyland would fight to stay awake watching the trains alongside his father as he worked the late shift in the control tower.

"I loved it and became a modeler," said the 65-year-old Kensington man, who is a member of BANTRAK — the local club for the Baltimore Area for N-scale trains, a smaller sized train model that is standardized so users can build sections of model railroads that can combine to form a full layout without taking up too much space. "It was a good hobby. My wife, before she passed away, said she always knew where I was because I was either at a train fair or down working on my trains."



Brian Lewis/The Gazette Train Day was staged Saturday at the train station in Olde Towne Gaithersburg. Andrew Willis, 4, of Gaithersburg watches N-scale model trains from the group BANTRAK, which volunteers to display its trains at the Gaithersburg station once per month.

News & Notable: Washington D.C. Union Station Overhaul



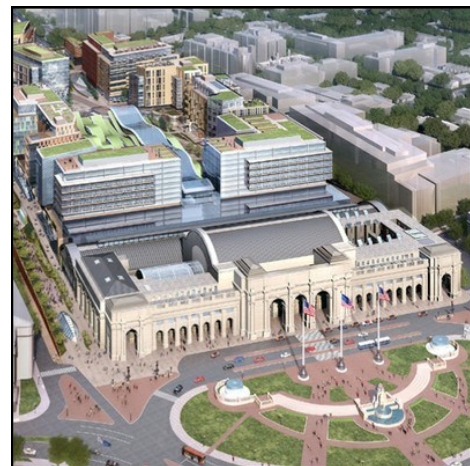
BANTRAK folks, this is kinda neat. Sorry, just railroad buildings not trains. Amtrak has released a proposal to significantly overhaul, upgrade, and expand Washington Union Station.

An overview of the plan is available at the following website; links to the full study documents are available [HERE](#).

Also, You can view a "fly by" rendering of the proposal [HERE](#).

And finally, [HERE](#) is the Master Plan.

Arthur



News & Notable: 2013 NMRA Convention (78th Annual)



Atlanta Welcomes the NMRA July 14 - 20, 2013



Atlanta's [Piedmont Division](#) is proud to host the 2013 NMRA National Convention. Located in Northwest Atlanta, the [Cobb Galleria Centre](#) is a beautiful facility to house the convention and the National Train Show.

Layout tours will provide access to more than 60 layouts already showing on the annual [Piedmont Pilgrimage](#) open house event in each November. Other impressive layouts from around the [Southeastern Region](#) will also be on tour.

Click [HERE](#) for more information !!!

News & Notable: 2013 N Scale Convention (21st Annual)



Check out John Sing's ultra detailed gallery of ALL the action in 2012 [here](#)

Visit the 2013 Convention registration website 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

- 07/11/2012 - The August Newsletter is now available.

Email the webmaster today !!!



Have an idea for new/updated web content?

Contact the Webmaster with your ideas!

New & Notable: Membership

Al Palewicz, Membership



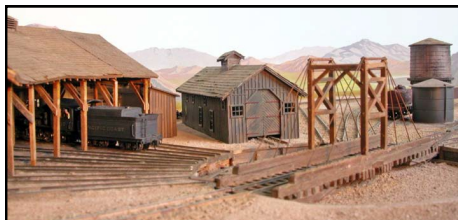
Please contact Treasurer Tim Nixon for more information on your membership status and roster questions



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

To view the May/June N-TRAK newsletter, click here

<http://www.ntrak.org/Newsletter/NL-JA12-CL.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

TONY'S TRAIN EXCHANGE

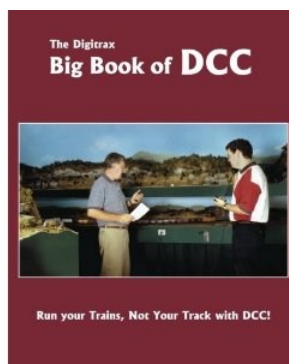
DIGITAL COMMAND CONTROL PROFESSIONALS

DCC Primer

With DCC, train operation depends on the decoder installed in the locomotive. The track is powered by a command station and/or booster connected to a transformer. Each locomotive operates independently over the track. Several locomotives can be moving at different speeds and in either direction at any time on the same electrical section of track. Blocking is not required for train control. It's easy to move engines around in the yards and park them close to one another without worrying about where the insulated sections are. It's easier to operate trains in the wide open spaces, too! DCC lets you run your trains instead of running your track.

With DCC, train operation depends on the decoder installed in the locomotive. The track is powered by a command station and/or booster connected to a transformer. Each locomotive operates independently over the track. Several locomotives can be moving at different speeds and in either direction at any time on the same electrical section of track. Blocking is not required for train control. It's easy to move engines around in the yards and park them close to one another without worrying about where the insulated sections are. It's easier to operate trains in the wide open spaces, too! DCC lets you run your trains instead of running your track.

DCC Primer can be found [here](#)



Subscribe to our newsletter using the form below. It is an easy way to learn about new products, product updates, special deals, and more. Delivered straight to your inbox.

Website of the Month: Banta Modelworks

Email the editor and recommend a site !!!



Banta Modelworks manufactures quality craftsman kits using a variety of materials. We use industrial lasers for cutting and etching wood, and Hydrocal® plaster for masonry buildings.

Many of our structures are of specific prototype buildings located along the old Rio Grande Southern Railroad or Denver and Rio Grande narrow gauges, Southern Pacific standard gauge, with an equal amount of free-lance structures designed to enhance any layout being built to a particular prototype or built to your own imagination. Pricing subject to change without notice...Thanks for stopping by!!!

Visit their website [here](#)



Ridgway Sandhouse



Ophir Depot

BANTRAK: 30th Anniversary Club Car



The project is coming along nicely and there is a target release date of Christmas season 2012. This would be slightly prior to the thirtieth anniversary of the first club meeting in January 1983.

Current sentiment is to go with a Fox Valley wagon top boxcar a la B&O with artwork is pending from FVM.

We have confirmed enough Club Members are committed to meet the minimum order.

Questions can be directed to 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.

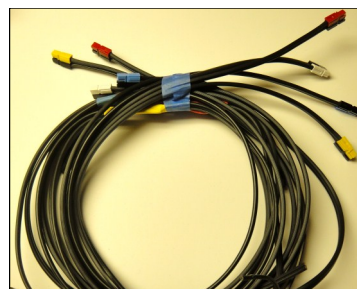
Prices are:

<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>
<i>(plus shipping and handling)</i>	



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



BANTRAK: Classifieds



To list your classifieds, Email the editor





BANTRAK Call Board

(Activities & Events of BANTRAK Club Members)

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

NMRA Chesapeake Div. —
[Harford Co. Open House](#)
September 8th
Info Contact: Arthur Boyd

[NMRA Chesapeake Div. Group Mtg.](#)
Sept: TBD
Info Contact: Arthur Boyd

[Springfield 2013](#)
January 26th & 27th
Info Contact: Eric Payne

[Home Layout Work Sessions](#)
Ongoing
Info Contact: Al. Del Gaudio, Eric Payne,
Ed Kapusinski

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



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!!!

8/25 & 8/26	Bedford N Scale Weekend	Bedford, Pa	Al Potter / Bob Winterbottom	show
9/1	Silver Spring B&O Tower	Silver Spring, Md	Jeff Peck	t-trak
9/8 & 9/9	JV w/ Capital O Scales/TCA	Kensington, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
9/9	Sykesville B&O Tower	Sykesville, Md	Dave Clyde	t-trak
9/16	Gaithersburg (Old Towne Days)	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
9/16	Club Meeting/Raffle Layout Work Session	Ellicott City, Md	Mark Bandy	meeting
9/29	Bowie Days (B&O Tower)	Bowie, Md	Jeff Peck	t-trak
9/29	Germantown (Historical Bank Building)	Germantown, Md	Leon Sorge	t-trak
10/13	Gaithersburg	Gaithersburg, Md	Chris Hyland	t-trak
10/14	Kentland (Oktoberfest)	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
10/21	Club Meeting	Crownsville, Md	John Cook	meeting
10/27 & 10/28	Great Scale Show	Timonium, Md	Martin Myers/Paul Diley	show
11/4	Gaithersburg Artifact Show	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
11/10 & 11/11	Rockville Lions Show	Rockville, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
11/18	Club Meeting/Club Work Session	Baldwin, Md	Skip Hayes	meeting
11/25	Bowie Days (B&O Tower)	Bowie, Md	Jeff Peck	t-trak
12/12	B&O Festival of Trains	Baltimore, Md	Dave Clyde/Jack Walsh	show



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 **VP's:** Denise Clyde/Paul Diley **Treasurer:** Tim Nixon **Membership:** Al Palewicz

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

