



BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 11
November 2012

The Engineer's Cab

Eric Payne



Greetings and WOW! Hurricane/tropical Storm Sandy sure tore through the mid-Atlantic region this week! It will be remembered as one of the largest storms on record to ever hit the east coast. Hopefully this Newsletter finds you safe and secure (and dry). October had us busy (as usual) with the Great Scale Show in Timonium. Everything went well for the most part, be sure to read Martin's summary on it! Work on the Raffle layout continues, so be sure to volunteer at work sessions.

In continuing news, the Club's journey to incorporation (and 501c3 status) are going well. The Articles of Incorporation (the "legal stuff") were reviewed by Club members at the October meeting and the November meeting will include a vote by the Club to approve the Aol's to start the process of Incorporation. In addition, the current Club guidelines (reviewed/vetted and approved in February) will be used as the first version of Club By-Laws. This is the easiest and most pain free solution (since there are no changes to make) so thank you for your support on this (*in fact, please thank the Committee of Al Palewicz, Bob Mohr, Tim Nixon, Jack Walsh and Chris Hyland*). **BE SURE TO ATTEND** the November meeting at Skip's house! It is VERY important 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.

Speaking of the November meeting, (3rd Sunday in November) be sure to make note there is a Club work session starting in the AM in preparation for the Festival of Trains. The meeting will be hosted by Skip Hayes at his house in Baldwin (check the Club Roster for directions) and be sure to come on out early! As always, **DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR SHOW & TELL!**

Current agenda items for the November 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 (Martin Myers)
 - Raffle Layout Committee (Martin Myers)
 - Club Car Committee update (Bob Mohr)
 - Club Organization update (Eric Payne)
 - Trailer Committee update (John Hale)
- Call for New Club Business

A soft and gentle reminder about [e-mail etiquette](#) / housekeeping note. Please do not "email blast/bomb" the Club. E-mails to the entire Club are for Club use; i.e. "Call's for Modules & Sales Tables" or "Emergency Club Business" (show cancelled because of weather). If you feel the need to inform the Club of something, the Newsletter or a Club Meeting is a good alternative. Enough said on that topic (thanks for your understanding).

Be sure to check us out on [Facebook](#) and remember, "More Hands = Less Work" and above all... "Keep It Fun".

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Next meeting...

Sunday, November 18, 2012
10am-2pm Club Work Session
2pm-5pm Club Meeting
Location Host: Skip Hayes
(contact Skip via email for address)



Great Scale Model Train Show: October Review

Martin Myers, Paul Diley, Chris Hyland



The October Scale show is over. I won't say it came off without a hitch because that's literally when trouble started. Skip had hitched the trailer up to his truck. When He went to pull out from his driveway, the breaks on the truck failed. Fortunately, they failed before pulling away. Later would have been a catastrophe. Calls were made. I was finally tracked down and between Dave and myself a hitch was assembled and the trailer was hauled to the fairgrounds.

Set up went well, including the debut of three (3) new roll around / collapsible carts to make things easier. With a little extra encouragement from Eric, a large layout with a oNetrak appendage was set up and operating by 6:00. This included setting up three T-Trak layouts using 7 tables as well. We filled a 50 x 70 space.

Saturday running sots were filled but not overloaded. The layout was large enough for everyone to get some run time in. oNetrak saw its usual lackluster run appeal. Tim had a train circling most of the day.

Sunday running filled the morning. With the impending storm, Howard gave the vendors permission to tear down after 2:00. We started tear down of the oNetrak appendage about 3:00. The rest of the layout was broken down when oNtrak was done.

Dave towed the trailer to its new home behind his garage. It's parked under a deciduous tree instead of the pine tree behind Skip's garage.

Martin



Great Scale Model Train Show: *(continued)*

Martin Myers, Paul Diley, Chris Hyland



October 26, 27, 28: BANTRAK boldly goes forth to brave the impending weather. Our mission should we chose to accept it is to put together one of our most ambitious layouts yet done and hopefully not get blown away by the storm. This is a challenge that the T Trak group accepted as they headed to the Great Scale show in Timonium.

Members in attendance for this one were: John Cook, The Hyland Clan, Mat Chibarro, Leon Sorge, Tom Long, Matt Guey-Lee, Matt Whiting, David Balderston, David Clyde, Jeff and Christian Peck Cliff Enz, and Conrail Ed. This was our largest show to date. Part of the plan was to do several themed layouts with a common layout as well. Added to that was a special project that Cliff was attempting for a contest.

Friday: Car packed and everything is a go after running around half the DC area picking up things here and there and putting a younger brother into Holy Cross Hospital after an accident. Arrived at Timonium at around 12.30 after leaving Silver Spring at noon (hopefully there are no pictures of us that the State has). We quickly looked at the space and devised with Jeff: The Triangle Route. We formed a triangle with our American layout in the shape of a T as the base. This would have the majority of members modules placed in it. The other two sides of the Triangle consisted of a subway layout of two eight ft tables which had the Hyland clans new subway modules and high speed lines to show off our new mass transit layout. The other side would have the Hyland clans German Layout with Matt Guey Lee providing two feet. Cliff Enz was just outside the triangle with his project which gave him some space to work on it. We had the layouts up and running for the most part (sans some modules) by 6pm when it was off to DC to see how the other Hyland was fairing.

Saturday : The Big Day. Layout had some electrical hiccups at the beginning with a power yard trying to draw power from a unpowered module positioned next to it and a melting building on one of the modules. No big problem and an easy fix. After that the layout ran well. All members appeared to have fun like we normally do. Crowd was moderately heavy as it seemed that everyone was attempting to get their power shopping (including your author) done before the end of the world came about from Sandy paying us a visit. The layout ran smoothly as various trains on the multiple layouts showed the various elements of what T Trak could do. Also many were impressed with the themes shown in the various layouts. Saturday came to an end and we packed things in waiting to see what the next day had in store.

Sunday: Weather reporters were sounding a bit like one of Bill Cosby's comedy albums that I grew up with: "Noah, how much water can you tread, ha ha ha". Off we went to the show. It was much quieter than the previous day. Attendance really dropped off. But what the heck, more stuff to look at, people to talk to, and trains to run. So we did till it was decided to end things a bit on the early side. After a decent day and worrying about what might happen, we closed the chapter on another event.

A big thank you to all whom attended and braved coming out to run trains even though every sane person on the east coast told you to stock up on toilet paper and head to the hills for your lives. We also have our thoughts with all the people who were affected by the storm in the upper northeast region. May you come through this crisis safely. See you at the November shows

Chris

Gaithersburg Station & Oktoberfest: October Review

Chris Hyland



October 13th and 14th: Bantrak's T Trak group did it's final monthly set up for the year at Gaithersburg Maryland at the Museum. It was a rather quiet event. There had been some mix up and we had slipped off the PR parade as we were not advertised in the local news organs. For us though this was rather nice. The weather was perfect for a fall day, the not too hot, not too cold that one expects from that time of the year. Also it gave us a chance to break in the new modules and equipment that were about to go on line the following day just a few miles away.

The modules for the set up were provided by the Hyland Clan. So was most of the German Dampflok (steam engines) that were running light on the tracks that they would call home for several events to come. Also in attendance were Leon Sorge and Tom Long. CSX again provided tons of stuff to look at including lots of military equipment as things slowly (hopefully) return to normal after the long conflicts in the Middle East. We were also treated to a new situation which we will see where it goes in the up coming months. That is of the B&O RDC opening up for public consumption. We got to be the first humans to visit this strange far off land since a certain member helped turn the piece of equipment over to the city months ago. Thankfully there were no "wee beasties" as my Scottish forebears would say hiding in any corners. We shall keep you updated as things progress. The layout ran smoothly from 10 in the morning till 2 in the afternoon. Once again, it was a rather nice way to end our second successful season there and our first year with the club.

Dawn broke on the scenic subdivision of the Kentlands for the clubs second round at Gaithersburg's Oktoberfest. Like last year we were running an all German themed layout. Our small convoy of adventurers gathered near Darnestown Road and negotiated the barricades and beer gardens to reach the Kentlands mansion in the center of the subdivision which was our set up area. Set up was quick and we were running by 11.30. The show started at noon. Members in attendance were the Hyland Clan (obviously), Matt Guey-Lee, Leon Sorge and his wife and Matt Chibarro and his wife as well. Supposedly out there somewhere amongst the crowds was Al Potter providing music for the crowds at the Dance pavilion.

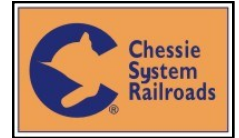
The beginning of the event was rather laid back, but this changed rapidly. Attendance was way up at the event from last year. We quickly had to erect a barrier to keep the little ones off the track after a slight accident with the layout when a little girl of about nine thought that she might want to take home a piece of the layout (namely an inside corner home with her). Otherwise the layout operated smoothly and we were a big hit with the crowds. Many were impressed with the bright colors and the steam engines as they made their way around the layout.

We continued on till 4 when we started to do tear down. We still had a large crowd of people when we shut down still wanting to see the layout. Always keep them wanting more as they say in show biz. So we bid a temporary good bye to the city of Gaithersburg till next year.

Chris

Silver Spring Tower: November Preview

Jeff Peck



Sandy's best effort notwithstanding, the T-Trak Division will be setting up at the historic B & O station in Silver Spring MD on Saturday November 3rd as part of their 10th Anniversary Open House. Setup begins at 9 am; show from 10 - 3. Big trains outside, little trains inside...if you're interested in bring a module out let me know. I have Mat so far on the main layout and the Hylands will do a separate trolley display. Runners and kibitzers welcome as always.

Jeff



Chris Hyland



So what does this mean?. This gives ALL BANTRAK members FREE ADMISSION(!!!!!!) to the Golden Spike Railway Artifacts show. This is one of the largest Railway artifacts show on the East Coast. If it is railway related, it might be there for sale. Watches, Timetables, locomotive headlights, uniforms, playing cards. If you are looking for that Chicago Northwestern book of matches that you didn't know you needed or a book on the Railways of Corsica or you just can't live without a "TO THE TRAINS" sign from Newark station, this is your place.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Check in at the Model Railroad Show FIRST to get your hand stamped then you can go on to the artifacts show in the other buildings. Say that you are with BANTRAK at the door.

We will have the layout running if you want to run trains. It will be a small 2 1/2 ft x 12 ft layout.

Please contact me (Chris Hyland) for information. Due to the weather, phone contact will probably be better.

Web site for the show is: <http://www.gserr.com> There is also a brief write up for the model train side of the show on Trains.com: <http://trc.trains.com/events>

Address for the show is:

Montgomery County Fairgrounds
16 Chestnut street
Gaithersburg Maryland 20877

Chris



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 Online

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

- 10/11/2012 - The October Newsletter is now available.
- Facebook page is now [active](#)

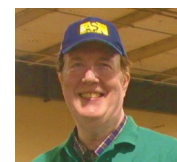


Have an idea for new/updated web content?

Contact the Webmaster with your ideas!

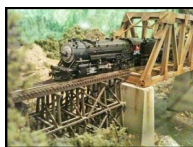
New & Notable: BANTRAK Membership

Al Palewicz, Membership



BANTRAK is an N-Trak Club with additional focuses in 1-Trak and T-Trak .

Be sure to check out the latest N-Trak newsletter !
To view the September/October N-TRAK newsletter, click [here](#)



BANTRAK does a significant amount of charitable activity, although we rarely think of it that way because we get pleasure out of it. When you think about it, that is "as it should be" with all "giving from the heart."

What is our charitable activity? Our major participation is in the B&O Museum's (which is a charitable organization) Annual Festival of Trains. Our display has been a major draw for people to come to the Museum for many years, both recent and in the past. There are plenty more examples, this is just one.



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

New & Notable: BANTRAK Raffle Layout



Pictures from Work Session at Mark Bandy's in October will be available in the December newsletter. Progress is coming along nicely. Special thanks to those who have come out so far to help. Stay tuned for a possible work session in a few weeks to begin finishing touches.

Martin



Email the editor and recommend a site !!!

New & Notable: BANTRAK 30th Anniversary Club



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.



Website of the Month: **Monster Model & Laser Works**

Email the editor and recommend a site !!!

[Monster Modelworks](#) specializes in highly detailed scale model building. Hence their slogan "The Monster is in the Details".

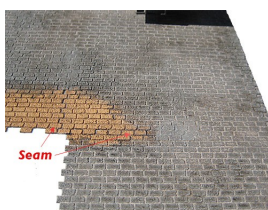
They offer:

- Craftsman Structure Kit Building Service
- Scratch building Service
- Kit bashing Service
- Layout Scenery Service
- Layout Consulting Services (Structure Placement, Site Planning, Prototype Planning)



They also carry their own line of stains "Monster Mix's", thinner as well as diorama dirt.

If you are looking for highly detailed structures and scenery look no further.



DCC Corner: (Exploring Digital Command Control)



[LocoNet](#)

With all the talk about the "Club LocoNet project" I figured it would be a good time to explain what LocoNet is.

First. The project will encompass both Club and Member modules. Simply put. We will no longer need to run 20 foot cables underneath modules. We will connect the LocoNet the same as we do the Power Poles underneath modules **making set up quicker and easier.** Club modules will be upgraded at the November Work Session as well as at the 2012 Festival of Trains. Member modules will be upgraded (no cost to Members) via on-site conversions at Shows or via "easy to install kits".

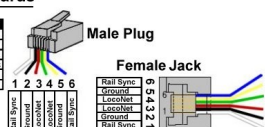
Second. What is LocoNet? Loconet is part of a DCC train control system designed by Digitrax to control a model train layout. LocoNet is a Peer to Peer Local Area Network (LAN) designed for very high traffic capacity and free-form wiring as well as future system expandability and ease of upgrade. It is a separate circuit from the track power used to run model trains.

Digitrax developed LocoNet to handle the communications between throttles, stationary decoders, and other devices that need to communicate with the command station. The command station processes, assembles and routes this and other information to either the train tracks or to the LocoNet only. This network allows fast communication between devices not related to running the model trains.

Digitrax Wiring Standards

Pwr No	Colour	Function	Voltage
1	White	Rail Sync-B	7 vdc
2	Black	Ground	
3	Red	LocoNet	14.6 vdc
4	Green	LocoNet	14.6 vdc
5	Yellow	Ground	
6	Blue	Rail Sync-A	7 vdc

All components are RJ12 6-wire
Do not use RJ11 4-wire.



Email the editor and suggest a DCC topic !!!

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:

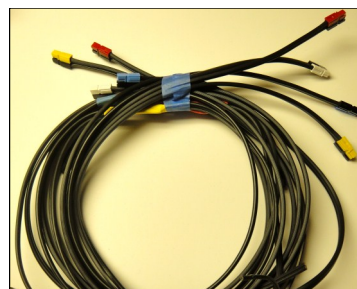
<i>Large</i>	<i>\$12.25</i>
<i>X-Large</i>	<i>\$12.25</i>
<i>2X-Large</i>	<i>\$13.25</i>
<i>4X-Large</i>	<i>\$15.25</i>

(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



Bantrak: Time Machine

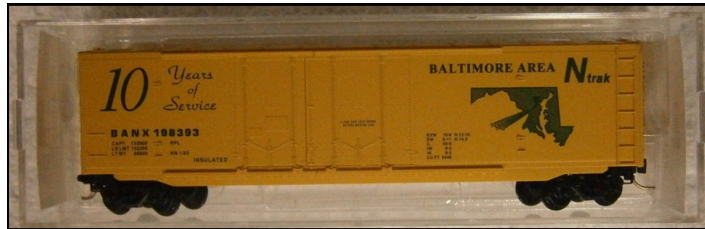


The Sept/Oct 1992 Baltimore Area NTRAK Newsletter featured a small article on the new Club Cars as well as a little background info on Jerry Mulford. Enjoy.

Jack

THE CLUB CARS ARE HERE

YES, that's right, the club cars arrived just before the meeting at Phil's and they look great!!!! You have to admit KADEE (being an old timer – I just can't get used to calling them MICRO-TRAINS) does a really excellent job on both paint and lettering. The Car Committee announced that for members only, each member can buy up to four cars at cost, \$10 per car. This includes Maryland tax. The Car Committee has had two meetings already to package the cars for the initial orders we have received. They are still looking for small boxes and filler. Please call SKIP or Bob if you can supply any material or assistance in helping package them for mailing.



Also noted in the newsletter was that Jerry Mulford is involved with another kind of modeling. It was found by the grapevine that on Saturday, 10 October at Hecht's in White Marsh, Jerry was on stage modeling some of the new fall line of cloths

BANTRAK: Classifieds



To list your classifieds, Email the editor





BANTRAK Call Board

(Activities & Events of BANTRAK Club Members)

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

Raffle Layout Work Sessions

Ongoing
Info Contact: Martin Myers

Springfield 2013

January 26th & 27th
Info Contact: Eric Payne

NMRA Chesapeake Div. Group Mtg.

November: TBD
Info Contact: Arthur Boyd

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!!!

10/13/2012	Gaithersburg	Gaithersburg, Md	Chris Hyland	t-trak
10/14/2012	Kentland (Oktoberfest)	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
10/21/2012	Club Meeting	Crownsville, Md	John Cook	meeting
10/27 & 10/28	Great Scale Show	Timonium, Md	Martin Myers/Paul Diley	show
11/3/2012	Silver Spring Station (B & O)	Silver Spring, Md	Jeff Peck	t-trak
11/4/2012	Gaithersburg Artifact Show	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
11/10 & 11/11	Rockville Lions Show	Rockville, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
11/18/2012	Club Meeting/Club Work Session	Baldwin, Md	Skip Hayes	meeting
11/25/2012	Trainspotting Day at Bowie RR Museum	Bowie, Md	Jeff Peck	t-trak
12/12/2012	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

