



BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 25, Issue 12
December 2012

The Engineer's Cab

Eric Payne



It's beginning to get that time of year again! Hello and welcome to the December Newsletter. If it is December, then it is Festival of Trains time at the B&O. But, before we get into that (and the great job Dave and Jack are doing) lets reflect on November for a second. Talk about a BUSY month! Whew. Everything was quiet until Thanksgiving and then it was event after event for us (T-Trak). Check out the reviews and pic of Bowie, Silver Spring and Gaithersburg, as well as Ed's rail fanning article. Also, we have the raffle layout project, and the Wilderness Corner rebuild project going on. BOTH of those projects could use a little "final push" over the next 5 days, so if any of you out there could help out for an hour or two this weekend, it would help. ;)

Speaking of the weekend, and December in general, it's Festival of Trains time again!!! Our biggest event of the year! One point of clarification, and some general points of interest. For anyone NEW to the Club, there is an **OPTIONAL** Sunday (this weekend) drop off at the B&O museum that **MUST** be coordinated through Dave Clyde. (NOTE: Most Club members drop off modules Wednesday at 8am). Club members who don't coordinate with Dave Clyde will not be ensured they can drop off their modules early. Speaking of Wednesday. Set up is at 8am. We meet at the back gate and drive into the back parking lot. Arrival time is recommended as 7:50. Lunch will be provided and we should be done by 4:30pm. Check out Dave's article for all the details and email Jack Walsh for your run times! One final note. Be SURE to sign up for at least 1 or 2 shifts on the raffle layout. The raffle proceeds help keep our Club going.

Speaking of the keeping the Club going, In continuing news, the Club's journey to incorporation (and 501c3 status) are going well. The Articles of Incorporation were accepted by the State and we have a Federal ID # as well. It has been a very educational experience for the committee and there is still work to be done re: State ID # and non-profit designation.

The December meeting will be this coming Wednesday during F.O.T. set-up during lunch. As always, **DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR SHOW & TELL.**

The Current agenda items for the December 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

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

Eric

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Next meeting...

Wednesday, December 13th, 2013
@ 12-1pm Club Meeting
Location Host: B&O Railroad Museum
(contact Eric via email for address)



Rockville Lions Club: November Review

Chris Hyland



On Nov. 10th and 11th, BANTRAK participated for the first time at the Rockville Maryland Lions Club Holiday show. This event is a event that many of the local clubs in the Washington DC area get together and have a layout show right before the holiday season. The Lions Club has done this for many years at the Rockville Senior Center located near Montgomery College in Rockville. I had participated in this show in the past with other organizations and jumped at the chance to do it for the club and show off BANTRAK and T Trak.

The Lions club event had been a popular show to do in the past due to the location and set up of the show. The different clubs get to set up in different rooms throughout the facility to show off their modeling. Usually the crowds are light, the kids are well behaved and with nothing (except for food) to buy, it provides hours of train running. We have also found that this show is always a good time to show the public what we do one on one and do a bit of recruiting for the club for those just getting into the hobby. With the different clubs in the area you get a chance to meet and catch up with one another because the show is not the usual hectic situation that a Great Scale Train show would be. Participating at the show besides us were the Potomac Module Crew (HO), NVNTRAK, The Japanese Modelers of DC (mostly N), The National Capital Trakers (O), Lego Modelers of DC, the Garden Railway Society of DC (G)

We set up a double u formation of T Trak with a separate Trolley T Trak layout set up by Matt Guey Lee. Members that had modules in the big layout were Hyland Clan, Leon Sorge and Mat Chibarro. Members that participated were Dave Balderston, Cliff Enz, Jeff and Christian Peck. The layout went well and all had a good time. We received many visits from the other clubs and got many positive comments on our set up. Most people were impressed by Mt. Hubungi being in front, showing off the new changes that Mat has done to the module which include a town on one side and a derailed train that fell off the cliff on the other.

We have been invited to do the show again next year and are looking forward to doing it again. More pics can be found [here](#).

See you at the shows



Gaithersburg: November Review

Chris Hyland



The day after the Silver Spring Show, BANTRAK T Trak dusted itself off and started operations over again. This time just a short hop around the Beltway at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg Maryland. The event was the Artifacts and Model Train show. We set up a small simple T shaped layout in the model train vendors area.

The show was decently attended by the public. We had a large amount of public visit the layout which was different than in previous years. Most of the time we had more of the NRHS crowd and railway fans. This time, it seemed to be people from all walks of life. This is always a good thing cause it gives us a chance to show off N scale and what it can offer people that what do model railroading.

We got a chance to run next to the NVNTrak's T Trak set up which gave us a chance to see what the competition was up to. They had a large L shaped layout with a mountain division at one end. The layout was interesting as it gave us a chance to see what they were up to south of the river and how they conduct operations in T Trak. It was also good to see how one of our sister clubs were doing.

We had a decent amount of turn out amongst ourselves. Members participating were the Hyland Clan and Leon Sorge (who provided the modules), Matt Guey-Lee, Matt Whiting and Jack Walsh. We ran all sorts of trains, Amtrak passenger and Penn Central being the primary trains. Jack also brought out some of his scratch built Pennsy steam (especially Atlantics) which is always worth catching even if you aren't a SPF (Slobbering Pennsy Freak).

As to the rest of the show, unlike the old saying "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas". No not true here. It goes to my and other persons basements. Books a plenty was the motif for this year. It seems that more collections of older railway books are coming back on the market and a lot of times at decent prices. And then there are all the other goodies that the barns hide. I kept thinking to myself: "I wonder if this guy will take the installment plan" for a Congolese Railway Art deco poster from the 20's that I was told was a bargain at a mere \$1200 bucks. Sadly no. But there were all sorts of other things there. Time tables, Headlamps, builders plates, china. The list of gotta have it kept growing as one went from isle to isle. What did your author get?. I'll never tell!

All in all, it was a good show and much fun was had by all. The T trak division is planning on returning next year so mark you calendars for the first Sunday of November.

See you at the shows.

Chris



Silver Spring Tower: November Review

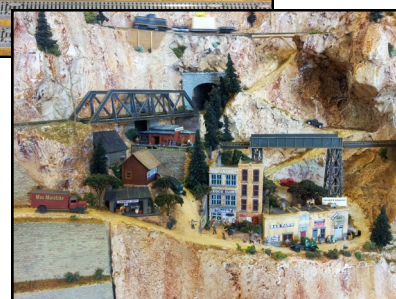
Jeff Peck



The T-Trak bunch visited the historic B & O Station in Silver Spring, MD on November 3rd to participate in their 10th Anniversary celebration. We set up a 12' x 6' T shaped layout with modules from myself and Christian, Matt Guey-Lee, Jim Altobello from NVNT, and Mat Chibbaro's Mt. Hubungi which has seen a town and wreck scene recently added. The Hylands set up a single table trolley layout. Other members in attendance to provide setup/teardown and running assistance included Cliff Enz, Matthew Whiting and Tom Long. Steady crowds viewed the layouts all day and the station had several speakers as part of the festivities and we were presented with a token of appreciation for our support. CSX & Amtrak provided some big trains outside for us as well. A nice setup in a great place with gracious hosts.



Jeff



Bowie Tower: November Review

Jeff Peck



On a brisk Sunday, November 25th the BANTRAK T-Trakers made a return visit to the Bowie Railroad Museum to participate in their annual Trainspotting Day. Members in attendance included the Hyland Clan, Leon Sorge, Matt Guey-Lee, CliffENZ, Matthew Whiting, Tom Long, Christian and myself.

Since the nice weather we had last year didn't return, we staked out a spot in the heated caboose. We did a simple 2 table oval and the visitors started arriving and flowed through at a steady pace throughout the day. Amtrak put on a show outside with their busiest day show with a few surprises such as a few all MARC trains with an Amcafe tacked on the end and an all NJ transit set.

There was another "Special Commuter Equipment" train due around tear down time but it ended up being well over an hour and a half late so more than likely it was another NJT or a SEPTA set which don't move as briskly as Amtrak stuff.

The show as well attended at around 100 visitors both inside and outside on the grounds. With lots of hands, setup and teardown went quickly and many trains were run.

Jeff



B&O Festival of Trains: December Preview

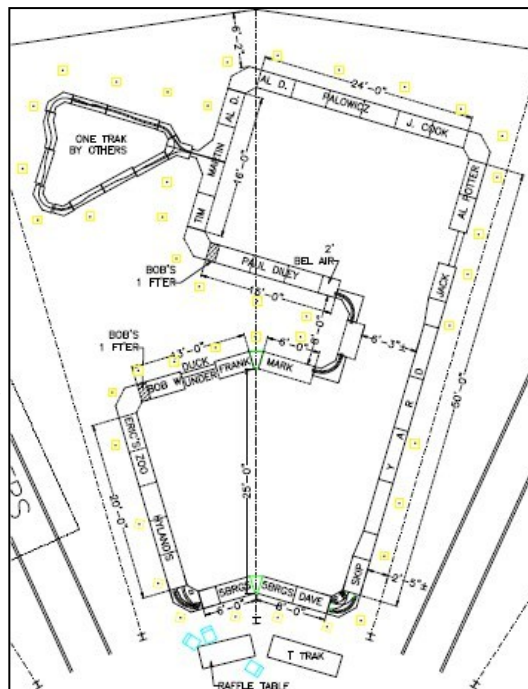
Dave Clyde & Jack Walsh



The 2012 B&O Festival of Trains seems to be off to a good start this year. Of course, a show of this magnitude is not possible without the help of a lot of people. I'd like to thank Jack Walsh for stepping up as the co-coordinator again this year, Mark Bandy for his efforts with the NTrak layout diagram, Tim Nixon for his help with the oNeTrak layout diagram, all the members that have volunteered their modules, time and efforts in filling run slots and day captain positions. Our thanks to all.

All indications are that we have the same space this year that we had last year. It appears that the only difference is that the display cases along the outside wall have been removed. This also, however, includes the same limitations that we had last year which includes the line Santa on one bay border and the Merry-Go-Round on the other.

So, what do we have so far? Well, to start with we have the preliminary layout diagram: (see right)



As you all can see from the diagram, Mark has done an excellent job creating a layout that maximizes the public's ability to see the entire layout. Kudos to Mark. Of course, we need modules in order to create the layout. To that end, the following modules have been offered up for the show:



We may not need or use all the modules listed above but we would like to thank everyone who has volunteered.

As far as run times and day captains go, everyone should have received a copy of the schedule via email. Please email Jack Walsh with your availability. I won't put his email address here since this is a public document however, his email address is on the membership sheet as well as the membership emailing he sent out. Here is an up to the minute Run Schedule.



Remember that the layout is of a sufficient size that multiple member should be able to share the NTrak lines. It's a little tougher for the oNeTrak and the TTrak layout. When in doubt, come on out. Someone will fit you in somewhere.

As a reminder, setup is Dec.12 – Dec. 14 during the Museum's normal business hours. Please drop off your modules first thing on Dec. 12 as all vehicles need to be out of the back lot by opening time. The first day of official running is Dec. 15. Tear down is currently scheduled for Dec. 30 at the end of the business day. Everyone is encouraged to show up to help. The more people we have helping, the faster we can tear down and head home. We have also received and committed to our first night run of the season which will be Dec. 15 from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. It's on Jack's schedule so sign up if you can make it.

All things considered, it looks like this year's show is shaping up nicely and should make for an excellent show for the B&O and BANTRAK. We encourage everyone to participate, have fun and strut your stuff in front of a large and appreciative public. We look forward to seeing everyone there and remember that playing with trains is fun.

Dave & Jack

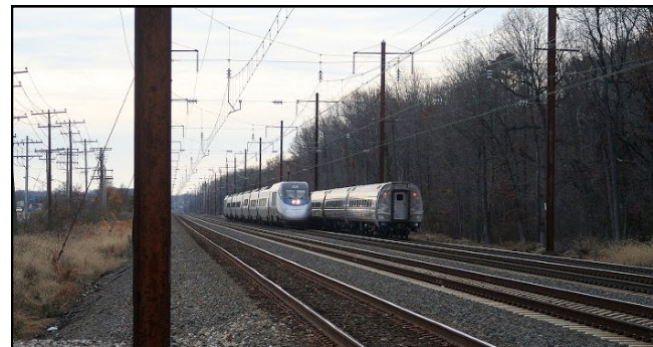
Trainspotting: Amtrak's Busiest Day

Ed Kapusinski



November 25th is Amtrak's busiest day of the year on the corridor. There are lot's of good places to catch the trains. I ventured out to Martin State Airport off of Eastern Avenue. We saw lots of trains, but it was very cold! Check out the whole photo album [here](#).

Ed



New & Notable: Club Work Session in November

Email the editor and recommend a site !!!

For the past few years, the November Club meeting has doubled as a Club Work Session in preparation for the Festival of Trains. We have been fortunate to have had Skip host this all-day event. Skip has a great garage and is set up with a full compliment of tools and supplies to support a Club Work Session. This year's projects included repainting the Club skyboards and assembling (and installing) the LocoNet wire harnesses to be used on all Club Modules. Thanks for everyone who came out and helped lend a hand!

Erie



New & Notable: Wilderness Club Corner Rebuild

Just a quick update on the BANTRAK corner rebuild. This module has been in the Club a long time, but the road-bed was in need of help and the scenery was in need of some tender love and care. We started a replacement corner 3 years ago and this served as the basis for a revitalized Wilderness Peak. With the help of some Club members, we have updated the track and the electric, as well as roughed in the recontoured landscape and added a rock casting or 2. We reduced the mass of the mountain on the mating surfaces and added more definition to the rocky faces with rock castings and foil rock faces. We still need to add pavement to the road which replaces the old green line. The next application will be of blended turf and coarse turf, then hot glue shrubbery and



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 that happened in 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

- 11/03/2012 - The November Newsletter is now available.
- Facebook page is now [active](#)

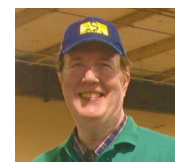


Have an idea for new/updated web content?

Contact the Webmaster with your ideas!

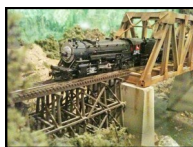
New & Notable: BANTRAK Membership

Al Palewicz, Membership



BANTRAK (founded in 1983) is an incorporated N-Trak Club with additional focuses in 1-Trak and T-Trak .

Be sure to check out the [first N-Trak newsletter](#) (1976) !



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

Please contact Al for more information on your membership.

New & Notable: BANTRAK Raffle Layout



Pictures from Work Session at Eric Payne's house in November/December show the progress that has been made. Progress is coming along nicely. It is completed up to trees, bushes, cars, people. Water is poured, ballast, all ground foam touch up, roads, fields, etc are done. Special thanks to those who have come out so far to help. A few touch up details need added. If you are available, please contact me or Eric.

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 summer 2013 (just like the real railroads, we are piggybacking on another order). Current sentiment is to go with a Fox Valley wagon top boxcar a la B&O and artwork has been finalized from FVM and approved by the committee.

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.





Email the editor and recommend a site !!!

IMAGINE THAT LASER ART:



We have just launched this new Imagine That! Laser Art Products website and are expanding it daily. You may also begin to know us by the tag name "ITLA" for Imagine That Laser Art.

As a scale railway modeling family, Renee and Nick along with their young boys, intend to provide their clients with the best in their product line of laser cut wood kits. They are passionate about providing you with product you will enjoy building and be proud of displaying.

You will also note the beginnings of a "Client Consignment" area. Since we are a family heavily influenced by Nick's lifelong interest in the model railway hobby, we wish to provide our clients with web-exclusive opportunities to purchase scale model "treasures" offered for sale by other clients. Please check that tab regularly for offerings.

Check out the website [here](#).



2012 Websites

[Ashlin Designs](#)
[Great Lakes Models](#)
[JMRI](#)
[Road Signs](#)
[Scale Town Models](#)
[Citrus Modeling](#)
[Aztec Trains](#)
[BCWRR](#)
[Banta Model Works](#)
[GRS Micro Liting](#)
[Monster Modelworks](#)

DCC Corner: (Exploring Digital Command Control)



Digitrax Tool Box app for iPhone, iPad, and Android now available!

Sept. 6, 2012

Digitrax Tool Box app now available for iPhone / iPad and Android!

These easy to use tools will enhance your Digitrax experience!

- Decoder Selector - Find recommended decoders for specific locomotives and find a locomotive for any Digitrax decoder.
- News & Events - Keep up with the latest from Digitrax in the palm of your hand.
- Dealer Locator - Find your nearest dealer anywhere in the world! With maps and contact information.
- Manuals - View Digitrax Manuals & Instruction Sheets anytime, anywhere!
- CV Calculators: Compute the CV Values for 4 digit addresses, decoder configuration, lighting controls, advanced consist control and more. There's even a hex/dec calculator for customers with legacy throttles.
- Video Tutorials - Get the help you need with video tutorials on the go!

Download Now for iPhone/iPad or Android!



Go to the webpage, click [here](#).

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:

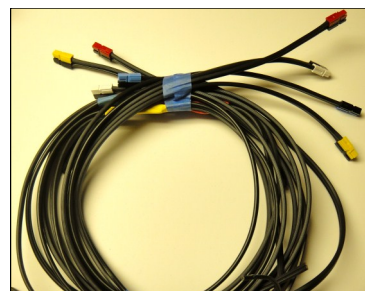
<i>Large</i>	<i>\$12.25</i>
<i>X-Large</i>	<i>\$12.25</i>
<i>2X-Large</i>	<i>\$13.25</i>
<i>4X-Large</i>	<i>\$15.25</i>

(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



A Quick & Easy Submission For the Time Machine By: *Jack Walsh*

"Here are some photo's from the Christmas layout at Owings Mills Mall in 2001."



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/Eric Payne

NMRA Chesapeake Div. Group Mtg.

Saturday, December 15th, 2-5pm
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: 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 Baltimore Area N-TRAK (BANTRAK), Inc. This is your newsletter! Please send articles, photos, and suggestions to newsletter@bantrak.net

Editor: Eric Payne

