



BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 26, Issue 06
June 2013

The Engineer's Cab

Eric Payne



Hello Again Everyone! June is upon us, and Father's day threw us a logistics curve ball. Instead of the meeting being on the 3rd Sunday of the month, we will push it back one week, to June 23rd. This Newsletter includes the May Bowie T-Trak Review from Jeff, an preview on the August Bedford show from Martin as well as some railfanning by yours truly and the usual DCC and web gems. Also, check out the Time Machine (from 2005) and the Club Calendar.

In Club News, the focus of the next few months will be works sessions (July 20 & August 17) and Trailers. In other news, The path to Inc. continues (non-profit status) and the T-Trak calendar is filling up.

For those of you keeping up with BANTRAK via the Newsletter (and unable to attend Club Meetings and Events), we try and include a quick summary/review of the last Club meeting. Our last meeting was hosted by the Club at the May Bowie T-Trak event in Bowie, Md. Topics discussed included Show & Tell, Financial review, Show Reviews/Previews, (John Hale & Chris Hyland to co-ordinate Oct. NMRA show) Trailer storage, Club Business (October Timonium Show T-Trak gathering) and one (1) motion for spending Club Funds (Club trailer acquisition)

The June meeting has been rescheduled from June 16th (Fathers Day) to June 23rd and will be at Arthur's house in Baltimore and the July summer picnic will be in Ellicott City at Al Del Gaudio's. (see BANTRAK Calendar on last page.) As always, **DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR SHOW & TELL.**

The Current agenda items for the next Club Meeting include:

- Show & Tell (items you just bought, created or found)
- Show Reviews/Previews - N-Trak & T-Trak
- Club Business update
 - DCC Loconet - (Martin Myers)
 - Club Car Committee update (Bob Mohr)
 - Club Organization update (Tim Nixon)
 - Trailer Committee update (Eric Payne)
 - Oct. 2013 Timonium T-Trak Gathering update (Ed/Jeff/Rick)
- Call for New Club Business

There will be some updates to the website in the near future, so keep an eye out for those.

Also, as a reminder, If you have a module, or you want to build a module, be sure to check out the Club Calendar for Work Session this Summer. All the older CLUB modules need TLC and most PERSONAL modules need a new coat of scenery. These dates were set up in response to feedback about "the need for some upkeep". So "Save the Date" and come on out!

As a constant reminder, please remember, we are a volunteer driven organization so "More Hands = Less Work" and above all... "Keep It Fun".

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Next meeting...

Sunday, **June 23rd**, 2013 @ 2-5pm
Location Host: Arthur Boyd
Location: Baltimore, MD.
(see roster for directions)



Gaithersburg : May Review

Chris Hyland



I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your layout down. Being outside has its advantages. It can be wonderful to be in the sun with the fresh air, looking at the trains go by. The smell of various restaurants cooking up their fares enticing you to come in to buy something from them. The sight of flowers in the early spring and all the color they bring. It is the closest to garden railroading the N scale can operate at. More on this later....

BANTRAK set up its monthly Gaithersburg layout on the 25th of May. Way back when We were hammering out a schedule with the City at the last minute we pretty much settled on operating the 4th Saturday of the month. When we looked at May quickly in the calendar and saw that there was a big hole in the schedule, the thought quickly went "lets do it, should be a quiet weekend". Oops, sometimes there is a reason a weekend is quiet like MEMORIAL DAY. So your friendly setup guy offered a way out by invoking the "No need to show up unless you want to". But I guess saying that you are running trains on T Trak is a bit like shouting out "Free Beer!" at the top of your lungs. Guaranteed to get a crowd. And a crowd we did have. Members in attendance included, Jack Walsh, Al Del Gaudio, The Hylands, Cliff Enz, Jeff and Christian Peck, Matt Chibarro, and David Balderston,

We all got to Gaithersburg Station around 8.45. The trailer was quickly unloaded and the layout was set up. Things were going good until....

And then there are the times that when you are operating out of a tent that you just know that Mother Nature is out to get you. These days consist of driving rains that wash out layouts, 100 degree heat that makes you want to pour yourself out of your t shirt at the end of the show and one of my all time favorites. Wind gusts. Not matter how nice a day, a minor gust can sent a GEVO pulling Kato Beth Gons filled full of liquid lead off the track with no problem. Houses get pulled up like buildings from the Wizard of Oz. These are times you just shrug you shoulders and dig in.

So we shook our fists at the wind and ran trains. Al and Peck rain some very nice freight trains and Cliff Enz showed what happens if you just super size N scale by running another Ebay find in the form of a HOe trolley on the rails. Operations involved watching your trains closely, but everyone seemed to have a good time.

CSX rain many trains and we got to see the Capitol Limited run by. The big show stopper was the Montgomery County garbage train. It's immaculate shinny trash containers highballing at insane speeds down the Met. Ahh my county's tax dollars at work.

Around 1.30 the gusts got higher and we decided to call it a day. Thanks again to all the members that came out on a holiday weekend, foregoing their chances of eating a corn dog and/or cotton candy at OC to run trains with us.

Chris "Red Button" Hyland

Gaithersburg : May Review *(continued)*

Chris Hyland



Pics courtesy of Jeff Peck

Chris



Bowie Tower: May Review

Jeff Peck



Sunday, May 19th started off with a soft Spring rain, like an English rain - so light yet endless from a leaden sky but this did not deter a hearty band of BANTRAK members from setting up in the waiting shed at the museum in Bowie.

Setup went at a quick pace and included modules from Leon, Matt G-L, Cliff, Rick, the Hylands, Christian and myself. In deference to our location a stone's throwaway from the NEC, we spent most of the day running passenger trains spanning the first 40 years of Amtrak with a little VRE and a neat freight motor Cliff picked up for a song not unlike the ones that ran through the area on the W B & A.

Despite the overcast conditions, we had steady streams of visitors, mainly families with young ones...hopefully planting the seeds for the next generation of modelers. At 3 we shifted to the monthly business meeting out in the picnic area featuring time-outs because those big pesky trains kept flying past.

At 4, we broke down and headed out with another successful set-up under our belts.

Jeff



Railfanning : A Few Shots Around Enola Yard

Eric Payne

I grabbed a few shots on May 24th on a day trip to Harrisburg and New Freedom, Pennsylvania.. Enjoy !!!

Eric



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



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

Visit the 2013 Convention registration website at www.NationalNScaleConvention.com

Registration is now OPEN !!!



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 Weekend (9h Annual)

9th Annual Train Show

"2013 N-Scale Weekend"

All N-Scale Model Train Show Saturday

August 24th, 10 AM till 5 PM

Sunday August 25th, 9 AM till 3 PM

Bedford ProCare "SPORTSPLEX"

125 Willow Grove Drive, Everett, PA 15537

General Admission: \$4

Under 12 Free w/adult

Participant & Vender registration forms may be obtained by
e-mail: nscaleweekend@yahoo.com Web: www.n-scaleweekend.com

Bedford Model Railroaders c/o Mike Phillips

773 Barclay Drive, Bedford, PA 15522
Phone: 814-623-2239 Show Dates: 814-977-4933

N-Scale Model TRAINS & SUPPLIES

PARK LANE HOBBIES, TEXRAILS, HB PETERSON, WINGARD'S TRAINS, THE N-CELLAR, KENRAY MODELS, THE N-SCALE WEEKEND, BOSTON & ALBANY HOBBIES, A&L LINES, NEALS N GAUGING, CONRAIL THOMAS 519, NZT PRODUCT/DELUXE INNOVATIONS, MAINLINE HOBBY SUPPLY, RANDGUST, CHARLIE HOPKINS & MIKE BENCS

11 Large Operating N-Scale Train Layouts + Several Small Layouts

BALTIMORE AREA N-TRAK, TWIN TIER N-TRAK, JERSEY CENTRAL N-TRAK, CAPITOL PENNSYLVANIA N-TRAK, CENTRAL OHIO N-TRAK, GENESEE & ONTARIO MODEL N-ENGINEERS, THREE RIVERS ASSOCIATES N-TRAK, NEW JERSEY SOUTHERN N-TRAK, CANTINGTON N-TRAK, PITTSBURGH LITE TRAK, & BEDFORD MODEL RAILROADERS

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **BEDFORD MODEL RAILROADERS**
Pay Via PayPal to: nscaleweekend@yahoo.com



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All Aboard!

News & Notable: C&P Junction MER Convention

The coming C&P Junction Convention in Rockville, Maryland, will feature all those elements you expect: clinics by nationally-recognized clinicians; layout tours of prominent modelers; a bursting White Elephant Room, operations call-boards for every level; a lively contest room, a Banquet and live Auction. But one big difference will be Rockville--Washington and Baltimore-area destination cities. This is one convention where, over the long Columbus Day weekend, you and your spouse, if you wish, can use the long weekend to enjoy the Washington and Baltimore area: the Air and Space Museum, the International Spy Museum, the Newseum, the Baltimore Inner Harbor, Aquarium and other attractions. C & P Junction, Crowne Plaza Hotel (www.cprockville.com) with a free shuttle to the Metro and other points. Visit our [website](http://www.cprockville.com):

C & P Junction
ROCKVILLE
MER Convention

COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND
OCTOBER 10-13, 2013

Layout Open House at
Howard Zane's
Piermont Division (HO)

Clinic by Marty McGuirk
on his Central Vermont,
Winooski Subdivision (HO)

Layout Open House at
Monroe Stewart's
Hootch Junction (N)

Email: CandP2013@comcast.net
website: <http://home.comcast.net/~CandP2013/>

C & P Junction ♦ Rockville, MD

New & Notable: BANTRAK Online

Ed Kapusinski, Webmaster



EDITORS NOTE: We are in process of updating the website. Please be patient.

Email the webmaster today !!!

1. Newsletter has been posted to the website
2. BANTRAK Forum to be discussed at June Mtg.
3. Website design to be reviewed



Have an idea for new/updated web content?

Contact the Webmaster with your ideas!

New & Notable: BANTRAK Membership

Al Palewicz, Membership



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



- The New Roster has been sent out.
- The current N-Trak Newsletter can be found here:
<http://ntrak.org/Newsletter/NL-13-MA.pdf>

Tim & Al

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.

Please contact Al for more information on your membership.



New & Notable: BANTRAK Raffle Layout

Email the editor and recommend a site !!!

The 2013 coordinators (Jeff and Mat) will be starting to brainstorm over the next few months. Stay tuned for more updates starting in August.

(P.S. be sure to see all the pics from the 2012 Raffle build sessions [here](#)).



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. Next update should be at the July meeting.





Email the editor and recommend a site !!!



Past Websites

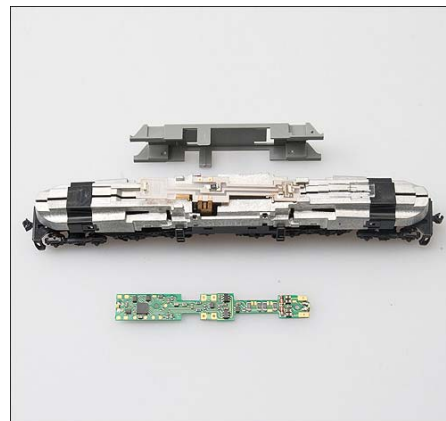
[Ashlin Designs](#)
[Great Lakes Models](#)
[JMRI](#)
[Road Signs](#)
[Scale Town Models](#)
[Citrus Modeling](#)
[Aztec Trains](#)
[BCWRR](#)
[Banta Model Works](#)
[GRS Micro Liting](#)
[Monster Modelworks](#)
[ImagineThatLaserArt](#)
[CMR](#)
[Prairie Shadows](#)
[Lunde Studios](#)
[Shapeways](#)
[Osborn Model Kits](#)



Editor's Note:
CMR is offering BANTRAK a bulk order discount on this kit (we need 3 more people) If interested, please [drop me an email](#).

DCC Corner: (Exploring Digital Command Control)

[How to](#) install a Digitrax decoder in a Kato GG1



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

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



Company Store Shirts and Wire Harnesses



Shirt Order Update

The BANTRAK Club shirt order was distributed at the May meeting. If you still haven't picked up your shirt, please coordinate the pick up of the shirts from Tim.



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).



CLASSIFIEDS : Module for Sale

For Sale !!!

By Author of Kalmbach's

'Model Railroading in Small Spaces'



Ntrak two module set (4 ft ea.) with mountain Line & independent high line
Rear staging, folding legs ~ No trains included ~ \$900

Contact: Mat Chibbaro 301-728-2235

For more information contact treasurer@bantrak.net





Trolling through the Archives (March 2005) again. Enjoy.

Eric

BANTRAK Newsletter

Page 3



DCC Consisting

Big Martin Meyers

There are 4 types of consisting that can be used with DCC. They are: Basic consisting, Universal consisting, Advanced consisting, and Nested consisting

Basic consisting simply uses the same address programmed to each engine. It can be a 2 digit "short" address or a 4 digit "long" address. When throttle, direction, and function commands are sent to that address, all engines with the same address will respond. Basic consisting is useful when more than one engine are normally run together. An example would be an AB unit that are run together all the time.

1. **Universal consisting** a.k.a. command station consisting, allows units with different addresses to be MU'd together with no changes being made to each engine's own address. The command station keeps track and sends commands to all engines in the consist. To set up a Universal consist with a DT400 or 300 throttle plug the throttle in as usual. Using the right knob, select the engine address you would like to be the TOP address. Set its direction to forward. Next, using the left knob, select the first engine to be MU'd with the TOP engine. Once the engine is selected to the left knob check the direction of the engine by turning the left throttle knob. Set its direction so that it is running in the same direction as the TOP engine. Once the engine is running the same direction as the TOP engine, press the MU button and then press the + key. The engine on the left knob is now consisted to the engine on the right knob and will respond only to the TOP engine's address. Additional engines can be added to the consist by selecting each one on the left knob, setting direction, and pressing the MU and + keys. The command station keeps track of the engines and will retain them in its memory until cleared. To remove (break) a universal consist, plug the throttle in, select the Top address on the right knob, select the engine to be removed on the left knob. Press MU and the - key and the left engine's address will be removed from the consist. Continue with each engine until done. The TOP engine does not need to be removed. It will automatically be de-consisted when no other engines are MU'd to it. There is an additional option with Universal consisting. The TOP address does not have to be an actual engine's address. You can use any number you want for the TOP address. I have found this useful when running sound only decoders with a train. They need to be the TOP address to work. I make the sound decoder the TOP address, and MU the other engines to it.
2. **Advanced consisting** is also known as Decoder Assisted consisting. The decoder in each engine keeps track of its consist address using this method. Some older decoders do not have this feature but most modern decoders made in the past couple of years have this feature. To check if it's available, you should look at the spec sheet for the particular decoder. If it has CV19, it is capable of being advanced consisted. To set up an Advanced consist you will need to use the programming track. Program a 2 digit address (short address) into CV19 for each engine you would like to have in the consist. Multiple engines can be done at once. CV19 will only use a Short address and with Digtrax, that means 1 to 127. All of the engines using an Advanced (CV19) address will respond only to direction and throttle commands sent to the short address. The Advanced consist address can be selected on either knob of the throttle. In addition, the functions of each engine can be independently controlled by selecting that engine's normal 2 or 4 digit address and operating the function keys. Lighting can be set to only be on in the lead engine this way. To break an Advanced consist, return to the program track and set CV19 to 0. All engines will now respond to their original (still programmed) address.
3. **Nested consisting** allows any or all of the above types of consisting to be used together. It is really advanced Universal consisting. You can set up a nested consist by first having a couple of consists set up by one of the first three methods. Select the TOP (basic, universal, or advanced, or individual engine) address on the right throttle knob. Select the second consist (basic, universal, advanced, or individual engine address) to the left throttle knob. Press MU and the + key and the left consist will now be controlled by the TOP (right) address. I use nested consisting when running Two basic consisted AB units with another pair of AB units to create an ABBA lash up. A couple of cautions should be noted on consisting. Keep a record of all address' used in consists. It's easy to forget. Break all consists and set each to speed 00 when finished running at a show. If using Advanced consisting, remember to reprogram CV19 to 0 when done. CV19 overrides both the short and long address. Setting it to 0 turns off Advanced consisting and returns the decoder to its original settings.

To list your classifieds, Email the editor





BANTRAK Call Board

(Activities & Events of BANTRAK Club Members)

NMRA Chesapeake Div. Group Mtg.

TBD

Info Contact: Arthur Boyd

Home Layout Work Sessions

Ongoing

Info Contact: Al. Del Gaudio, Eric Payne,
Ed Kapusinski



BANTRAK 2013 Calendar

This is a listing of all BANTRAK Monthly Meetings, Field Trips, I-Trak and T-Trak events as well as current Volunteer Positions



*Baltimore Area N-Trak is a volunteer driven organization. **THANK YOU!** for your*

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Type
5/19/2013	BowieFest / Club Meeting	Bowie, Md	Jeff Peck	t-trak
5/25/2013	Gaithersburg	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
6/16/2013	Club Meeting	Baltimore, Md	Arthur Boyd	meeting
6/22/2013	Gaithersburg	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
6/29 & 6/30	Silver Spring Station (B & O)	Silver Spring, Md	Jeff Peck	t-trak
7/20/2013	Club Work Session (Modules)	Glen Burnie, Md	Eric Payne	work session
7/21/2013	Club Meeting - Summer Picnic	Ellicott City, Md	Al Del Gaudio	meeting
7/27/2013	Gaithersburg	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
8/17/2013	Gaithersburg	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
8/17/2013	Club Work Session (Modules)	Glen Burnie, Md	Eric Payne	work session
8/18/2013	Club Meeting	Odenton, Md	Al Potter	meeting
8/24 & 8/25	Bedford N Scale Weekend	Bedford, Pa	Martin Myers / Paul Diley	show
9/7 & 9/8	JV w/ Capital O Scales/TCA	Kensington, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
9/15/2013	Club Meeting / Raffle Layout Work Session	Ellicott City, Md	Mark Bandy	meeting
9/28/2013	Gaithersburg	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
10/12 & 10/13	NMRA Potomac & Chesapeake Convention	Twin Brooke, Md	John Hale/Chris	t-trak / t-trak
10/12/2013	Kentlands Octoberfest	Rockville, Md	Chris Hyland	t-trak
10/20/2013	Club Meeting	Crownsville, Md	John Cook	meeting
10/26 & 10/27	Great Scale Model Train Show	Timonium, Md	Al Del Gaudio / Rick Dunstan / Ed Hyland	show
11/2/2013	Silver Spring Station (B & O)	Silver Spring, Md	Jeff Peck	t-trak
11/3/2013	Gaithersburg Artifact Show	Gaithersburg, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
11/9 & 11/10	Rockville Lions Show	Rockville, Md	Ed Hyland	t-trak
11/17/2013	Club Meeting / Club Work Session			meeting
12/1/2013	Trainspotting Day at Bowie RR Museum	Bowie, Md	Jeff Peck	t-trak
12/18/2013	B&O Festival of Trains	Baltimore, Md	open	show

President	Eric Payne
VP1	Paul Diley
VP2/Secretary	Rick Dunstan
Treasurer	Tim Nixon

2013 PROJECTS	
LocoNet Wiring	Martin Myers / Bob Mohr
Raffle Layout	Jeff Peck / Mat Chibbaro
Anniversary Club Car	Bob Mohr

Membership	Al Palewicz
Quartermaster	John Hasson
Webmaster	Ed Kapusinski (backup= John Hale)
Trailer	Martin Myers / Paul Diley (backup = Team)

Trailer WorkGroup	
E. Payne, T. Nixon, M. Myers, J. Champlin, J. Hale, A. Potter, P. Diley, S. Hayes, B. Mohr	



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.

