

BALTIMORE AREA
NTRAK (BANTRAK)



BANTRAK Newsletter

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Engineer's Cab	1
Damascus Elementary School Review	2
TTrak Column	2
Festival of Train Review	3
Raffle Layout Review	6
Sykesville Open House Review	7
Module Spotlight	9
N&N: Conventions	10
DCC Corner	12
N&N: Membership and Club Car	13
Company Store and Site of the Month	14

NEXT MEETING:

When: Sunday January
19th from 2pm to 5pm.

Location Host: Paul Diley

(contact Paul via email to
get directions)

The Engineer's Cab

PAUL DILEY



Hello Club Members

It's a new year and with a new President of this great club, I'm looking forward to running and taking the club into the future. As your new President, I will be looking for help in a lot of places, like coordinators and co-coordinators for all of our shows, members to host club meeting at their homes. If you would like to help, let me know what show you would like to do or what month you would like to host a meeting. The January meeting will be at our place. It is small but we look forward to seeing all of you.

This year we will get a new club trailer (sometime in March or April). We will need all hands to help fit and build everything for the new trailer. I would like to see more work shops to work on new and existing modules. If you can or would like to host a work session at your home, it would be greatly appreciated. I would like to see two to four planned work shop sessions this coming year. I also want to put the **FUN** back into model trains like when we were kids. Let's put smiles on the faces of kids of all ages.



Norfolk and Western Heritage Unit ES44AC

So now we start the new session of BANTRAK officers for the next two years. Thank you for all of your ideas, support and hands on deck. BANTRAK is on track.

All Aboard!

Paul Diley



Damascus Elementary School Holiday Show

CHRIS HYLAND

On December 7th, BANTRAK TTrak Division did a two table set up at a local Elementary school in Damascus, MD. It turned out that we were one of four other two table set ups at the show. Two Lionel, one HO and an N scale layout run by two small girls. The two girls I believe kept their trains on the tracks more than we did (they definitely showed us up). We did a standard oval set up with Mr. Leon and Mr. Balderson in attendance. The Two Hyland sons were down at the Alexandria Christmas Walk so only Ed Hyland was in attendance.



We did not contact any perspective members. The show was mostly a Christmas fair attended by mothers and their very small children being a really localized show. The show ran from 10 am to 1pm. And we were packed up and gone by 1:19 pm. I then made a short trip to Timonium where I ran into Tom Long and Matt Guey-Lee. They were at the Greenberg show and had ridden up on MARC to Penn Station and then caught the Light Rail to Timonium. We shopped for a brief time. And then we retired to M.B. Kleins.

Chris

TTrak News and Notes

CHRIS HYLAND



Happy New Year Everyone!!!!

It is 2014 and another year for BANTRAK TTrak. Seeing that not much has happened since the B&O show there is not too much to report at this time. I would assume that most of our dear readers are still recovering from the holiday.



The few brief announcements that we have is congratulations to BANTRAK's own Lauren Baker for winning the TTrak based raffle layout this year. We hope to see more of the modules in the future at the set ups. We are also getting ready to streamline operations so stay tuned for that as well.

We are still hammering together a TTrak schedule for the year from our various sponsors, but hope to have something soon.

So here's to a happy 2014. May there be neat new stuff to explore and operate during the course of the year.

-See you at the shows

Chris

2013 B&O Museum Festival of Toys & Trains - BANTRAK Show Review

CO-COORDINATORS: E. PAYNE / M. BANDY

This year's Festival of Trains featured an all N-Trak set-up (with a few first time modules at the show) and 3 or 4 new faces joining us for set-up. Run slots were all filled up prior to the show, and all the Day Captains held down the layout throughout the show.



Set-up was Wednesday, December 18th and kicked off at 8AM. Things went well and the Club broke for lunch around noon, and had trains running at 2:30PM. Everyone agreed that the set-up went well and faster than usual (even though we had to scrape together some rail joiners). Thursday included some track cleaning and levelling after the layout settled in overnight and Friday had some informal / casual running and "breaking in" of the layout, as the weekend (and opening day) approached.

From the 21st to the 29th we ran trains and sold raffle tickets with all run slots filled and room for "drop-in's" as needed. The usual suspects ran long trains while others chose the "short but sweet" approach. Both passenger and freight were well represented in both modern and heritage livery.



Breakdown on Sunday, December 29th went smoothly. More hands always = less work and there was plenty of help available. A special THANK YOU to all the Club Members who were able to assist with this year's show, the Day Captains for volunteering to collecting money and coordinating the daily runs, and a special shout out to Mark Bandy for assisting with the track plan and Martin Myers for towing the trailer.

Eric



2013 B&O Museum Festival of Toys & Trains - BANTRAK Show Review



*A smile on every
child's face. Do
you remember
your first train?*



2013 B&O Museum Festival of Toys & Trains - BANTRAK Show Review

Pictures from setup on Wednesday December 18th.



2013 Raffle Layout Report

JEFF PECK & MAT CHIBBARO



The 2013 Raffle layout made its debut at the FOT on Friday, December 20th. By all accounts it was well received by the public and BANTRAK members as well. Given the short window of time to sell tickets, trying to keep costs to a minimum were paramount. With the generous donations of time and materials, we were able to bring the project in at a cost of less than \$130.00. I posted a few shots of it on social media sites and was immediately asked if tickets could be bought online. Perhaps this is something the club can look in to for future efforts to expand sales.



Nothing gets accomplished in this life without teamwork. Thanks to John Hale, John Berger, John Darlington, Rick and Leslie Dunstan, Paul Diley, Vicky Walls, Mark Bandy, Bob Mohr, Al DelGaudio and Al Potter for their excellent efforts with the downtown buildings. Thanks to the Hylands for the trolley, to John Hasson and Cliff Enz for detail parts, figures and autos and to M. B. Klein's for the train set and power supplies. Special thanks to Mark Bandy, Al DelGaudio and John Cook for their ideas at the work session at Mark's house; they really expanded the concepts beyond what we first came up with to produce a top-notch layout. Our deepest thanks go to John Cook, who provided a most generous donation of buildings and space for work sessions along with his magic band saw and drill press that were timesavers and last but not least to our President, Eric Payne, for keeping things rolling.

We're not sure what the final take is on ticket sales but we do know it's time to pack up the supply box and pass it on to next year's team.

Jeff



December 13th and 14th Sykesville Open House

CHRIS HYLAND

We had heard from our friends at Sykesville that they would like us to be a part of their holiday show over at the S&P. They even said that we did not have to dress up like Santa and his elves. So off BANTRAK TTrak went to set up in the tower along side David Clyde's TTrak layout.



Saturday brought ominous skies as we set up in the PRR tower. The weather forecasters said that it might be a "precipitous event". These are the kind of words that strike fear into the hearts of Washingtonians. Nevertheless we set up an L shaped TTrak layout with the Hylands and Leon providing modules. David Clyde set up several tables of modules as well. As usual we ran all sorts of trains on the line showing off the diversity of N scale.

The weather outside the tower was very holidayish (is that even a word) as the snow gave a light dusting around the tower and we could see it fall from all around inside. (See the Pictures). An added treat was CSX on the mainline running a very clean BNSF Pumpkin Scheme locomotive on the front of a freight train.

Day Two had better weather with the snow melting and more members coming to run the layout. Matt Guey-Lee, Matt Whiting, and the Peck's showed up. We also had more visitors come by as well. More trains were run and the guys had a good time seeing even more freights on the Old Main Line. During this time visits were made to see the O gauge layout and the N scale layout that the S&P have running as well as the progress on the HO layout that they are working on. This is to be a model of the Sykesville area with the "Dinky Train" that provided coal and other stuff to the various hospitals in the area when they were still operating at full tilt.



At 4 pm we tore down the layout and were away by 4:20. Much thanks to all those who came out to run trains during the busy holiday season. Once again we are looking forward to doing more shows with the S&P in the future.

Chris

December 13th and 14th Sykesville Open House



Module Spotlight: Unionville

AL POTTER

Module Name: Unionville (inspired by Unionville, PA but not a representation of the town)

Module Owner: Alan Potter

Module Size (Length x Width): 2 foot by 4 foot

Module Standard: NTRAK

How long did it take to build? Total time, about 4 months, spread out over 8 years



Construction Method: The module construction was 1x4 frame, 1x8 on the front to accommodate deep river, 1x3 support under center flex track (keeps rails level through module) and other 1x2 braces to support river bed and the ends of the center track at railroad bridge. The terrain is building insulation foam layered, glued, and supported within the framework, shaped to simulate a river gorge in a hilly area. After shaping, spackle was applied to all surfaces except bridge abutments and track cork road-bed. Basic brown paint is applied over all, river is painted a variety of greens and whites, river rubble glued down, then gloss medium is applied. The remainder of scenery is ground foam of various textures, commercial and residential building kits and lots of built up trees of varying sizes and types. My sky board is 1/4" hard board, flat side forward and sealed to accept paint and screwed to the back of the module.

The wiring is simple and uses a BANTRAK approved harness. Track feeders to rails are spaced every 2 feet, a few more are on this module because of the bridges and diverting rail at river.

Leg Style: Conduit legs

Highlight: I am most proud of the module concept of 3 levels: river, rail, and highway. The highway bridge is scratch built as no model was found available, cross braces are from a Central Valley RR Bridge kit, bass wood deck and arches, Plastruct support cables and I girders, Atlas fence railings. All buildings are kits and the scenery is from Woodland Scenic, Bachmann, and others. The water effect is high gloss triple thick medium over various sized boulders/rocks. The waterfall has a sandwich bag over which triple thick medium was spread.

Additional Info: This module was conceived and built to compliment and extend my first module, Wilder Junction, as a crucial scenic effect in the first (highway bridge over diverting track) was a mere 9 inches in length. For me, scenery is wonderful, but reliable operations of trains through that scenery is crucial to club shows. While not perfect (how many things are?), all my efforts were to that end, even after "finishing" the module. This is an ongoing project as I'd like to add lighting effects to the buildings and signals, both railroad and highway.



News and Notable: 2014 N Scale Weekend (10th Annual)

10th Anniversary Show

"2014 N-Scale Weekend"

All N-Scale Model Train Show Saturday

August 23rd, 10 AM till 5 PM

Sunday August 24th, 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, TEXNRAILS, 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 PRODUCTSDELUXE INNOVATIONS,
MAINLINE HOBBY SUPPLY, RANDGUST, CHARLIE HOPKINS & MIKE BENCs

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

BALTIMORE AREA N-TRAK, TWIN TIERS N-TRAK, JERSEY CENTRAL N-TRACK
CAPITOL PENNSCALERS N-TRAK, CENTRAL OHIO N-TRAK, GENESEE & ONTARIO MODEL N-GINEERS
THREE RIVERS ASSOCIATES N-TRAK,, NEW JERSEY SOUTHERN N-TRAK, CANTINGTON N-TRAK
PITTSBURGH LITE TRAK, & BEDFORD MODEL RAILROADERS



DCC Corner: (Exploring Digital Command Control)

BANTRAK DCC Power up and power down instructions

Power up instructions:

1. Command station should be powered up first.
2. Turn on main power switch located on the 110-volt power strip.
3. Turn on power supply switch located on right side of power supply.
4. Check booster scale switch to make sure it is set to N Scale. This switch is on the left.
5. Move booster mode switch up to RUN. This is the switch on the right.
6. Plug in a throttle. Throttle should give voltage and then change to the "sel" screen.
7. Check that track power is on steady. This is the small dot at the top right of the DT400 display. To turn track power on, press the power key and the + key until the dot is on steady.
8. Check lights on PM42. There should be only one green light lit after power up. If any of the 4 red lights are lit, check for short circuits most likely on the track. Once corrected, Red light(s) should go out. The short will be located on the blocks and or wiring being powered by this booster.
9. Move to next black/yellow toolbox mounted booster.
10. Turn on main 110V power strip.
11. Turn power supply on.
12. Check that scale switch is set to N Scale.
13. Move mode switch to Run.
14. Track status light should glow steady.
15. Only the Green light on the PM42 should be lit. If any are red, correct the short and red light will go out.
16. Move to third booster mounted on Plywood panel.
17. Turn 110-volt power strip on. (Power supply will come on at this time.)
18. Check scale switch and set to N scale if needed.
19. Turn mode switch to Run.
20. Track status light should glow steady.
21. Run trains

Power down instructions:

1. Command station should be shut down last.
2. Power off booster by moving mode switch from Run to Sleep.
3. Turn off power supply.
4. Turn off main 110-volt power strip.
5. Move to next booster and shut down.
6. Move to Command station and shut down.

News and Notable: BANTRAK Membership

AL PALEWICZ, MEMBERSHIP



- The New Roster has been sent out.
- A note on Jim Fitzgerald's passing can be found [here](#):
- The current January/February N-Trak Newsletter can be found [here](#):



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

Tim and 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.

Please contact Al for more information on your membership.

News and Notable: BANTRAK 30th Anniversary Club Update

BOB MOHR

The BANTRAK 30th Anniversary Club cars arrived as an early Christmas present and I must say they look beautiful. Fox Valley did an excellent job on them and we were able to keep them at a very reasonable cost by working with Fox Valley on the delivery timelines.

If you pre-ordered 30th Anniversary Club Cars and have not gotten them, please contact Tim Nixon.



Bob



Company Store

Shirt Order Update

If you need a gray BANTRAK t-shirt,

To Order, Email Club Officer Tim Nixon



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).

To Order, Email Martin Myers and cc: Club Treasurer Al DelGaudio



Website of the Month

Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine

This is an online monthly e-magazine that is free to read. It is full of awesome articles about model railroading.



Past Websites

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

Eastern CA Model RR

Heritage Units

ESM

Calendar

Updated calendar coming soon.

From the Treasurer

Dues invoices for 2014 will be emailed at the end of January and will be due by the March



About BANTRAK

President: Paul Diley

1st Vice President: Tim Nixon

2nd Vice President: Rick Dunstan

Treasurer: Al DelGaudio

Membership: Al Palewicz

Quartermaster: John Hasson

Webmaster: Ed Kapusinski (backup: John Hale)

Trailer: Martin Myers and Paul Diley (backup: team)

Newsletter: John Hale

Current Projects:

Loconet Wiring: Martin Myers and Bob Mohr

Trailer Working Group: Eric Payne, Tim Nixon, Martin Myers, John Hale, Paul Diley, Skip Hayes, and Bob Mohr

