



BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 28, Issue 1
January 2015

The Engineer's Cab

Paul Diley



Hello Fellow Bantrak Members,

January is off to a frigid start, which presents a great opportunity to stay inside and do some modeling. With that in mind, I am looking forward to our *show-and-tell* at the next meeting.

The B&O show was a great success; we had plenty of run times for those who came down to the museum. Make sure you check out some of the photos in this month's newsletter. A big thank you to all of our members who helped with set-up and breakdown this year; it was a great showing by the club. Additionally, I want to thank those of you who contributed modules to the layout and thanks as well to all of our day captains. My co-coordinator, Ryan, (with AJ's help) did a great job setting up and adjusting the schedule for the show. It was wonderful to see everyone working together, sharing their time slots and running multiple trains over all three lines. I saw three and four trains running on the same line.

A special thanks to all of the members who helped to build, decorate and contribute to the raffle layout, as well as to those folks who manned the table selling tickets during the show. The winner this year was Cathy Schreiner who happened to be sick on Sunday the 4th. So I delivered the layout to her house on the 10th. She was thrilled! See the photo on page three.

You may notice some changes with the newsletter. David Betz has volunteered to take over as editor. Please feel free to reach out to him and offer your help with content.

The calendar on page 10 shows our upcoming events. Note this month's meeting will be held on January 18th. Vicky's employer is allowing us use of their meeting room again. The meeting location is ***The Quall Run Assisted Living, 9900 Walther Blvd, Parkville, MD 21234***. We are meeting down the stairs, in the large meeting room. Call me if you get lost or need additional directions.

Our next show, The GSMTS, is approaching fast. Set up will begin at noon on Friday the 30th and the show will run the 31st and the 1st. Martin Myers is our show coordinator, so feel free to reach out to him if you want to participate. I look forward to seeing everyone on the 18th.

Happy Modeling,
Paul Diley

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Next meeting...

Sunday, January 18th



Letter from the editor:

David Betz

Welcome to our club newsletter for 2015. I am excited to take over the role of editor and look forward to working with everyone to improve club communications and help us all grow as members.

With this new issue we are doing a slight design modification. Mostly, the changes are for ease of reading and in keeping with modern publication design trends. We are updating the fonts and moving a few things around. We are keeping most of the features you know and love, but I am thinking it might be fun to add new sections. The first new section I am calling Train Spotting, and no, it has nothing to do with the film. I thought it might be fun to have members submit photos they have taken trackside while rail fanning. There will be no restrictions on where your photo was taken. Sample ideas could be trains in motion, parked in a siding or yard, or at a museum for that matter. The only restriction is that it must be a photo you took, and when you submit the photo; please include the date the photo was taken and the location. I look forward to your feedback and help. Submissions to: newsletter@bantrak.net

Thank you,
David Betz, Editor

Train Spotting:

This Western Maryland caboose is on static display in Westernport Maryland. The photo was taken with an Iphone September 15, 2014. Photo courtesy of David Betz



B&O Festival of Trains 2014:



Cathy Schreiner receiving this years raffle layout from Paul



Boxing Day 2014, while the majority of the club was running trains at the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad museum, the T Trak division quietly slipped across the Potomac River into Virginia. Our target was the Greenberg show at Chantilly. We had been planning for quite a while to do this as Greenberg had cancelled the other major train show in the Washington DC area, Upper Marlboro. Our goals: run trains, show off T Trak, recruit new people, and eat a lot of BBQ at Willards next door.

Set up went relatively easy and we set up two layouts to razzle and dazzle all those that showed up. We were placed right after the front door after the admission table near to the Potomac Module crew. So N scale and T Trak were some of the first things you saw right inside the gate. We had two layouts. One subway and one regular mainline. Our happy band consisted of the Hyland Clan, David Balderston, Matt Whiting, Lindsay, Cliff, and Leon.

The first day was busy. We had large crowds and lots of kids. They liked taking snipes at the trains that were running. Thankfully nothing was damaged. The subway did have problems in the fact that the majority if subway cars like nice stable track instead of being pushed out of alignment. Lots of questions were asked and lots of trains were run. Afterwards it was off to Willard's for eats.

The next day was more of the same, except that the crowd had died down a bit so that some of us could escape and see what was for sale. Lots of goodies were to be found for not a whole

lot. Greenberg shows tend to have lots of junk. But there were several good dealers including a guy who was selling off special Micro trains run cars at 7 bucks a crack. And that is how I came to find in all its glory a Micro-Trains special paint Bicentennial car for the National Park Police. The kind of car that only a mother (recently released from St. E's with cab fare) could love. And so, I have given it a new home where it can live and prosper and run around on the rails till its wheels fall off. The show came to an end around 4 and we packed up and were gone in under an hour. On the whole the show was successful and we shall see where we go from here. Bedford usual conflicts with the summer show, so it may be only a winter on. But with recruiting guys from VA. Who knows...

Stay tuned sports fans as BANTRAK does its tour of the Old Dominion State placing large statues of the O' Bird and the Raven to claim our new territory. Fear Not! We come with Natty Bo and crab cakes!

-Chris



Sykesville Tower: Review (December)

Chris Hyland



Saturday morning, in absolutely abysmal conditions, the T Trak division set up at the Sykesville Tower. We set up a rather nice small 3 table layout. Our happy band over the weekend consisted of Leon, Cliff, David Clyde, the Peck Gang and the Hyland Clan, and Matt Whiting.

We ran trains both days from about 10 to 4. We ran all sorts of trains at the layout. Lots of Amtrak passenger. Burlington Big Green freights, log trains run by twin 70 tonners, CP freights. And then there was lots of testing of stuff that had been picked up over the holiday season. Atlas recently released Alco M630's in all sorts of flavors. Sometimes these test reached absolute hilarity when they split a switch and sailed off the end of a layout. This led to another round of singing, "It's raining trains, hallelujah, it's raining trains." Several other spectacular accidents took place as well with trains meeting each other when someone forgot to keep an eye on them. The only downside with this event, besides the weather, was that CSX was having their own goofs on the line. This led to the Old Main being deserted for once.

Sunday, we got out of there early and ran down to Baltimore to pick up our modules, closing the books on another Sykesville. If you missed it this time, no worries. There is always another one coming up. Check your calendars.

-Chris





Yes, last year has been a busy one. But it was a good one. T Trak racked up another busy holiday season. Besides members taking part in the big layout at the B&O, we kept on the road doing many side missions and bringing N scale railroading to the masses. A Greenberg Timonium was done early in the month. This was followed by a Sykesville. Furthermore BAN-TRAK T Trak launched its first great raid across the Potomac to support some of its Northern Virginian members at the Greenberg Chantilly Show. Who would have thought that BANTRAK would stretch from Manassas to Towson. The New Year brings another Sykesville and the beginning of scheduling new events, perhaps even visit some conventions. Bedford is right around the corner. Add to that, building of new modules, purchasing of new equipment, R+D at the Hyland Armories. There is a lot of stuff coming as we "chase that dragon" as Chuck Yeager used to say. We might even slay a few dragons out there as well.

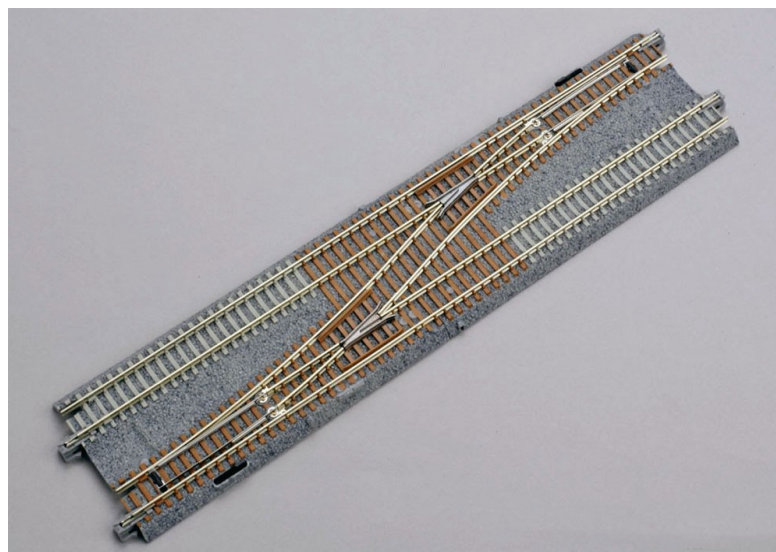
See ya at the shows,

-Chris

News & Notable: From Kato



Kato now has single crossovers for double track. According to their [website](#), there is 33mm spacing between tracks, and each crossover is 248mm (62x4) long. Standard T-Trak module length is 310mm (62x5), so that leaves the modeler with 62mm for something else like, a power feeder piece. There seems to be a lot of potential for things like single crossover modules on either side of junction/interchange modules to allow both tracks to access yards



New & Notable: National N Scale Convention 2015

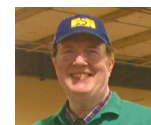
National N Scale Convention 2015



Have an idea for new/updated web content? Contact the [Webmaster](#) with your ideas!

New & Notable: BANTRAK Membership

[Al Palewicz](#), Membership



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 Treasurer [Alan Del Gaudio](#) for more information regarding your membership status and roster questions or contact [Al Palewicz](#) with general questions.



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





[Creative Laser Design](#) is a small, family business in the “Northeast Kingdom” of Vermont. Their site says they are an open minded company, interested in helping you with your ideas.

They can cut and engrave various materials. Some examples are wood, plastic, metal knife blades, leather, rubber stamps and Plexiglas. Their passion is model design and model building. They have done some custom model cutting and custom model building. Check out their N Scale kits.

Past Websites

[Classic Metal Works](#)
[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](#)
[Eastern CA Model RR](#)
[Heritage Units](#)
[ESM](#)

DCC Corner: Exploring Digital Command

Matching Speeds Inside a Consist

Q: How do I get all the engines of a *consist* to run at the same speed?

I have 3 engines with DH163A0 decoders and one with a MRC sound decoder. All units have the same top speed, but the unit with the MRC decoder starts and accelerates more quickly.

A: Getting a group of locomotives to operate at the same speed can be a challenge. Experience has proven that it is best to work with the slowest locomotive and bring the other locomotives into agreement with that engine.

Since the others appear to be in general agreement, it would be the speedy sound equipped locomotive that needs attention. In particular, the starting voltage setting (CV02) and then the midrange setting (CV06) would need adjustment.

You may also need to adjust the locomotive's *acceleration* rate (CV03). Because the MRC sound equipped locomotives have certain issues, you will probably need to program the locomotive in OPS Mode.

For more helpful hints please visit the Digitrax webpage, click [here](#).





Shirt Order Update

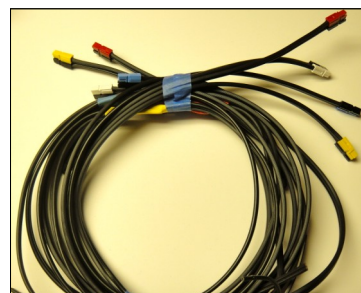
If you need a gray BANTRAK t-shirt,
To Order, Email Club Treasurer [Alan Del Gaudio](mailto:Alan.Del.Gaudio@BANTRAK.net)



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
[Alan Del Gaudio](mailto:Alan.Del.Gaudio@BANTRAK.net)



CLASSIFIEDS : Club Classifieds



Let me know if you want to keep this section.

For more information contact treasurer@BANTRAK.net



BANTRAK Call Board

Activities & Events of Bantrak Club Members

Home Layout/Module Work Sessions

(ongoing) For Information Contact: Alan Del Gaudio, Eric Payne, Ed Kapusinski, Paul Diley



BANTRAK 2015 Calendar

This is a listing of all BANTRAK Monthly Meetings, Field Trips, 1-Trak and T-Trak events as well as current Volunteer Positions.

Date	Event	Location	contact	Type
Jan. 18	Club Meeting	Quall Run Assisted Living, 9900 Walther Blvd, Parkville, MD 21234.	Paul Diley	Meeting
Jan.31- Feb 1	GSMTS	Timonium Fair-	Martin Myers	show
Feb. 7-8	Sykesville Tower	Sykesville MD	Chris Hyland	T-trak
Feb.15	Club Meeting	TBD	Paul Diley	Meeting
March 1	Sykesville Tower	Sykesville MD	Chris Hyland	T-trak
March 15	Club Meeting	TBD	Paul Diley	Meeting
April 11-12	GSMTS	Timonium Fair-grounds	TBD	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.

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: David Betz

