



# BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 32, Issue 2  
February 2018

## The Engineer's Cab: Martin Myers

We can put another Great Scale Model Train Show in the books. I write this after parking the trailer and unpacking the van. Bob and John Bunge stepped up and volunteered to coordinate their first show and layout. They did an excellent job of it. The layout although not the largest we ever did went up quickly and was running by 4pm on Friday. There were enough run slots to go around so no one was left out. Tear down went smoothly and we managed to clear the Cow Palace before 5pm despite the larger than normal bunch of vendors and layouts.

The April show is next. Lauren has volunteered to coordinate this show. She has something special in mind for this layout so stay tuned for more information. Last year's figure eight was quite an undertaking and proved tons of fun to run on.

Our new club sales committee managed to sell a fair amount of special run anniversary cars from our old stock. More will be available in April. As always, club members have first shot at these items.

Our February meeting will be at Jack Walsh's home Sunday, Feb.19, 2pm to 5pm. Due to a previous out of town commitment, LeRoy will be running this one. Future meeting sites are undetermined at this time. If any member is able to sponsor a meeting, please let the officers know so that we can get it on our calendar.

At this time we need a coordinator for a raffle layout. Work should commence as soon as possible so that we can be ready to go public in time for the October Scale show.

Happy Modeling!

*Martin*



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### ***Next Meeting...***

***February 18th***



## T-Trak Update / Editorial: Chris Hyland

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So it is a new year and the halfway marker of winter (Super Bowl weekend) has just passed by. The deep freeze that the area has been under seems to be receding. By this time the first Great Scale Show of the year has been done. It was a first show that the T Trak Bantrakers have done this year. And it was an interesting one. First the good stuff: We ran a horse shoe style layout for 2 days. We had besides the Hyland Clan, Leon, Matt Whiting, Dave Clyde, David Balderston, and our new guy Aaron Woodson (who should be joining shortly). Bought way too much stuff (like a completed blast furnace) and books.

Now the downside: For the most part I trust guys in the model railroad community. Even now that things are decent out there. But as they say it is all fun and games until you get poked in the eye. A brass engine that I had, an expensive Shay, got five finger discounted from the White Elephant table. Now I had heard the legends before of guys doing that sort of stuff. Including the one that had the guy dressed as a priest with the hollowed bible (that one I thought got an A for effort). But it happened to me. Am I upset? Heck Yeah!!! But let this be a word of warning. Keep a wary eye on your stuff. As to who knicked it: I hope you get magic smoke the first time you run it.

As things thaw out, we are heading into the busy time of the spring. This means lots of opportunities to run stuff. So if you want in let me know. Also if you are looking for something to do while you are watching the 23rd hr of figure skating in the upcoming weeks praying for the bobsleds or hockey to come on the tube, build something new to bring out. New modules are always welcome. We are under construction of four more inside corners ourselves, and a peninsula that will be a steel mill complex.

So as I conclude this Ttrak note, a couple more things: 1.) Some of our guys have been through a lot recently. Like Dave Clyde and Jim Masters. So if you get a chance extend an arm of friendship out to them please do so, or even give them a ring if you can. 2.) Over the last couple months, maybe last year, I have gotten the proverbial Sykesville is too far away, it is too cold, it is too blah blah blah. So as they said in "Who Framed Roger Rabbit": "You don't want to go to Toon Town, you don't have to go to Toon Town. One of the various hats that I wear out there is being the Secretary of S&P. Also known as the guy who books the tower. So if you want to attend a Sykesville event, let me know and you get an invite (and maybe even a Beck's burger). Otherwise have a good weekend off. Nuff said about that. Looking forward to spring, cherry trees, baseball, concerts and train conventions. And BTW GO USA!!!!. May you bring home a wheel barrow of Golden Goodies, especially in hockey.

-Chris



## T-Trak Portable UP5 : Dave Clyde

I spent some time with the TTrak guys and noticed that they had mounted their UP5s to some of their modules. In and of itself, this is not a bad idea except that I also noticed that the modules had a tendency to shift around when throttles were plugged and unplugged from the UP5. This caused me to reflect on alternatives that might make things a bit better. Well, this is what I came up with. This solution is independent of the modules, it is relocatable to anywhere on the layout and it is chainable with other Loconet devices.

I would like to stress that this is not rocket science here. I simply took everyday practices and everyday devices and applied a slightly different approach to their uses.

Anyway, have a look and feel free to try it on your own.

The following is a list of materials:

1. 1 Double gang box from Home Depot.
2. 1 Digitrax UP5.
3. 1 Dual port RJ12 potato block from Bainesville Electronics.
4. 2 RJ12 pass through connectors from Bainesville Electronics.
5. 2 6" Loconet cables (including connectors).

We begin with all of the parts.



The first thing I do is trim off the tabs on the outside of the gang box so the box looks as follows:



Then I added the potato block using the double sided sticky back to the back of the gang box. Note that the RJ12 connectors are pointed up and centered on the box.

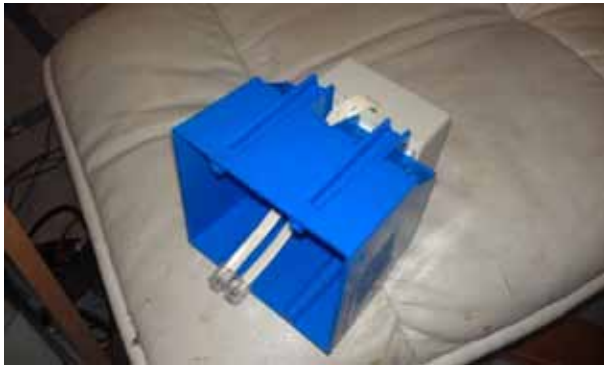


Trace the face onto some sort of 1/4" wood to be used as the mounting point for the UP5. This is used to cut out the opening for the UP5 and for the pilot holes for all the screws.



## T-Trak Portable UP5 : Dave Clyde

Connect the Loconet cables to the RJ12 pass through connectors and mount them to the potato block. Route the Loconet cables through the single cable hole at the bottom of the potato block and into the gang box via one of the punch openings. Assemble the potato block.



Mount the UP5 to the wooden face plate using 4 screws. Connect the two Loconet cables to the back of the UP5. Mount the wooden faceplate to the gang box using 4 screws.



Congratulations...You're done! The unit is now ready to be painted and/or used.

The following are some pictures of the finished product.



As I indicated earlier, this isn't rocket science. This is an easy, flexible way to introduce DCC into a TTrak layout.

I would like to stress that we have historically been N-Trak only modelers. It was by fluke that we tried messing around with T-Trak. It has turned out to be quite fun and is an addicting part of the hobby.

Just remember that playing with trains is supposed to be fun.



## Dues 2018:



# Baltimore Area Ntrak Club

## Dues Invoice

Payable to: Baltimore Area N-Trak

Invoice Date:

February 9, 2018

Due Date:

April 14, 2018

Remit to:

Mr. Alan Del Gaudio

2905 Montclair Drive

Ellicott City, MD, 21043

Or pay at February or March meetings

### Annual Club Dues

(Including National N-Trak Membership)

→ **\$45.00**

Member Name:

Please Print \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

N-Trak Member Number:

Please print a copy of this invoice and submit with payment.

### For Treasurer's Use

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Member's Receipt

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Del Gaudio



*14th Anniversary*

# "2018 N-Scale Weekend"

## **N-Scale Model Train Show**

**Saturday August 4th, 10 AM till 5 PM**

**Sunday August 5th, 9 AM till 3 PM**

**ALTOONA JAFFA SHRINE CENTER**

**2200 BROAD Ave., Altoona, PA 16602**

**General Admission: \$5**

**Under 12 Free w/adult**

Participant & Vender registration forms see below or,  
e-mail: [weekendscale@yahoo.com](mailto:weekendscale@yahoo.com) Web: [www.n-scaleweekend.com](http://www.n-scaleweekend.com)

**Bedford Model Railroaders c/o Mike Phillips**

**773 Barclay Drive, Bedford, PA 15522**

**Phone or Text: 814-977-4933**

### **N-Scale Model TRAINS & SUPPLIES**

TEXNRAILS, HB PETERSON, WINGARD'S TRAINS, THE N-CELLAR, CRAZY TRAINS  
NEALS N GAUGING, BUNKER HILL TRAINS, BMRR, BOSTON & ALBANY HOBBIES,  
CMR PRODUCTS, ESTHERS HOBBY, B & B TOOLS, MICRO TRAINS LINES  
RANDGUST, DWIGHT HITCHENS, PAUL BANNETT, GARRY LANCE STEEL  
SELLECK TRAINS, RICK PELTZ, RSLASER, PA TRAINS, 4 STAR HOBBY

### **14 Large Operating N-Scale Train Layouts + Several Small Layouts**

BALTIMORE AREA N-TRAK & T-TRAK, TWIN TIERS N-TRAK, JERSEY CENTRAL N-TRAK  
CAPITOL PENNSCALERS N-TRAK, GENESEE & ONTARIO MODEL N-GINEERS,  
THREE RIVERS ASSOCIATES N-TRAK, NEW JERSEY SOUTHERN N-TRAK, CANTINGTON N-TRAK  
PENNSCALERS, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY N-TRAK, T-TRAK DI VISION, STEEL TOWN N-TRAK  
KEYSTONE N-TRAK, PITTSBURGH LITE TRAK, & BEDFORD MODEL RAILROADERS



MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **BEDFORD MODEL RAILROADERS**

\$25.00 FEE FOR ALL RETURNED CHECKS.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL OR FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

"Weekend Participant" \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Pig Roast w/ All the "Fixins" \$13 \_\_\_\_\_

Event T-Shirt: \$13 S M L XL \$15 XXL XXXL Circle Size

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

IBITORS & PARTICIPANTS ACCEPT FULL RESPONSEIBILITY FOR LOST AND OR INJURY TO THEMSELVES, FAMILY, STAFF, AND PERSONAL PROPERTY WHILEATTENDING THIS SHOW. THEY EXPRESSLY RELEASE THE SHOW MANAGEMENT FROM LIABILITY FOR ANY LOSS AND/OR INJURY. Aug 3, 4 & 5 2018.....



## *Baltimore Society of Model Engineers*

225 WEST SARATOGA STREET

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

(410) 837-BSME

<http://www.modelengineers.com>

ESTABLISHED 1932

February 4, 2018

Fellow Modelers:

The Baltimore Society of Model Engineers cordially invites you to attend our 86<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The festivities will be held **Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1-5pm** at the clubs headquarters on the third floor of 225 W. Saratoga Street, sorry accessible by stairs only. On street parking is free on Sunday, usually available in the 200 or 100 West block of Saratoga or 200 block of Park Ave. A map is on the back of this letter to help you locate our organization.

This is a casual affair for adults and children, so please feel free to bring your kids and spouses. We will have a buffet style lunch with deli sandwiches, chips, potato salad, cole slaw, drinks and deserts. **RSVP by Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup>** to Jim Berg: e-mail, [jtmcborg@gmail.com](mailto:jtmcborg@gmail.com), or phone at 410-519-9837; please include the number in your party that will join us for lunch, and a phone number that we can reach you on the weekend should the event need to be canceled due to weather. A donation is not required, but graciously accepted to help defray our costs.

Our O-scale (2-rail) and HO layouts will be operating all afternoon, and visitors are invited and encouraged to bring their equipment for operation on our layouts. You are also welcome to bring your models for display. The O-scale trolley runs off the overhead, and the O-scale 2-rail mainline is standard DC. The HO layout uses the NCE DCC system, feel free to bring your own throttle. To ensure there are no throttle conflicts we may need to change your CAB address, and please put your name on your throttle for easy identification. We also run a WiThrottle server so you can use your smart phone or tablet. Our narrow gauge is also DCC, it is HOn3 so if you have narrow gauge equipment bring it. Our city trolley is standard DC and runs off the overhead.

Throughout the afternoon rail videos will be shown in our club. Also available to challenge your mind will be our O-scale time saver switching layout inspired by John Allen. We will have a short ceremony at approximately 2:30 pm after which we will cut our anniversary cake. Come enjoy our layouts and the camaraderie of old friends and make new ones.

We hope you are able to celebrate with us.

Sincerely,

Jim Berg  
Public Relations  
Baltimore Society of Model Engineers  
<http://www.modelengineers.com>





## Train Spotting: Ed Kapuscinski



## BANTRAK Membership: Al Palewicz

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.

### 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
- Recognition as being part of a Nationally known club.



# BANTRAK 2018 CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Type
February 18th	Club Meeting	Jack Walsh's House	Martin / Jack	Meeting
March 18th	Club Meeting	TBD	Martin	Meeting
April 14th & 15th	Great Scale Show	Timonium Fair Grounds	Lauren Baker	Show
May 5th	Gaithersburg	Montgomery County Fairgrounds	Chris Hyland	T-Trak
August 4th & 5th	N-Scale Weekend	Altonna Jaffa center	TBD	Show
Oct. 27th & 28th	Great Scale Show	Timonium Fair Grounds	TBD	Show

## BANTRAK CALL BOARD

### CLUB WORK SESSION 2018

*Contact Tim Nixon, Eric Payne, Paul Diley, or Ed Kapuscinski for work session information.*



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](mailto:newsletter@bantrak.net)  
 Editor: David Betz

