



BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 32, Issue 4
April 2018

The Engineer's Cab: Martin Myers

The winter train season is close to its end. Although winter doesn't seem to want to call it quits. Next weekend we will be setting up our layout at the April Great Scale Model Train Show. We will have our usual space available. Lauren is coordinating this show. She has a special double loop layout planned using our junction modules. She and Eric used the same type layout last year and a lot of fun was had running trains on it. A few members were able to run a train on every loop and line using the various routes that were available. If that's not your cup of tea, there will be up to 5 loops to play trains on. Come on out and have some fun.

Al Potter managed to secure the hall at his church in Odenton for our March meeting. Although attendance was sparse, we did get a look at this year's raffle layout. Al has assembled a frame with a foam platform for laying track and sculpting scenery. Track and wiring are next. Al has a concept laid out with the basic track plan and land forms sketched in. Time to start making it look like a model railroad.

This month's meeting will take place at the Scale Show on Sunday at 2pm. This will be an abbreviated meeting with tear down commencing shortly after.

The annual N Scale Enthusiast convention is coming up on June 20 – 24. This year it is located in Salt Lake City. More information can be found here: <https://www.nationalnscaleconvention.com/>

Our next official club layout will be at the annual N Scale Weekend in Altoona. The unofficial club motel this year is the Super 8 which is located at 3535 Fairway Drive. It is just off of I 99 at exit 32. It is just a few minutes to the Jaffa Hall.
<https://www.priceline.com/stay/search/details/1870505/1/>

Alan has asked me to note that the deadline for paying dues is April 15. Dues can be paid at the Scale Show. Receipts will be available. If you can't make the show, just drop a check in the mail to Alan.

We are still in need of locations for club meetings. If any member has a space or can volunteer the use of their home for a meeting let us know when you can host. Attendance is generally around 20 people.

Happy Modeling!

Martin

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Next Meeting...

April 15th



So, will it ever be spring? Will I be able to go outdoors and not have to jump on a T Trak module box to keep it from floating away? At the time of writing this we are getting ready to go off to Ranson, WV, and they are talking about snow. Absolutely crazy. But T Trak is like the postman. Neither rain nor snow nor flood will keep the T trak layout away.

It seems like the world is not letting T Trak fall by the wayside. I have heard of the layout up at the Big E in Mass. Apparently there was one even at the Kato booth. Can't imagine what they were pushing? Plans seem to be made amongst the "big guys" out there to do "the worlds largest T Trak layouts. That's nice and I wish them all the best. I can say in our group, that's not what we do and I got my fill of the big stuff years ago with NVNTRAK when I did the 2004 convention. It was neat, but it was a lot of work. And I didn't even get in the picture of the staff when they took it because I was loading up someone else's U haul who could not remember how he loaded it to get to Chantilly. But that was another time. As I said before T Trak is everywhere.

Case in point, the other night I went to the local Giant Grocery and staring back at me in the checkout aisle was a *Model Railroader* publication on building your dream layout. So while waiting to check out, I flipped through the magazine. The usual things were there. Homage to John Allen, the usual weird idea of shadowbox layouts of the 1 x 5ft variety in O scale with only 2 ft of actual tracks (do they really run?) and as always the basement empire where at the end the guy goes "heck no I'm not done. When we get done with the scenery, we're going to tunnel under the house to build the branchline that will end somewhere either under the pool or the neighbors garage." But there tucked in the pages: HOW TO MODEL TTRAK, Wow! Okay so it is done the model railroader way, but

there it is in MR. That's like having my garage industrial sea chanty heavy metal folk group on the front of Rolling Stone magazine. Not a mention of Ntrak or that T Trak is part of Ntrak. Just T Trak is something that everyone can get into.

True they build their stuff out of laser adjusted Masonite and I get something a bit stiffer, but they are pushing T Trak. Which is better than they have done for the Traction and narrow gauge world. And everyone in it has a smiley face. We'll, I saw the same thing in a video about installing a trailer hitch and the auto mechanics all had clean hands and a shop that you could eat your dinner off of. But it is T Trak and MR seems to like it. As I used to say "wave of the future guys" but more importantly it shows that perhaps, just perhaps, some kid or adult, dreaming of trains, will pick up a copy of *MR* next to the *Monster Truck*, *Cosmo*, *Teenbeat*, *Tactical Hand gunner* and *Mother Earthnews*, and get into T trak. One can dream....

Currently your T Trak guys have been busy. The spring season is coming up. Lots of shows. So much that we have started booking for next year. And conventions, and road trips. Lots of stuff.

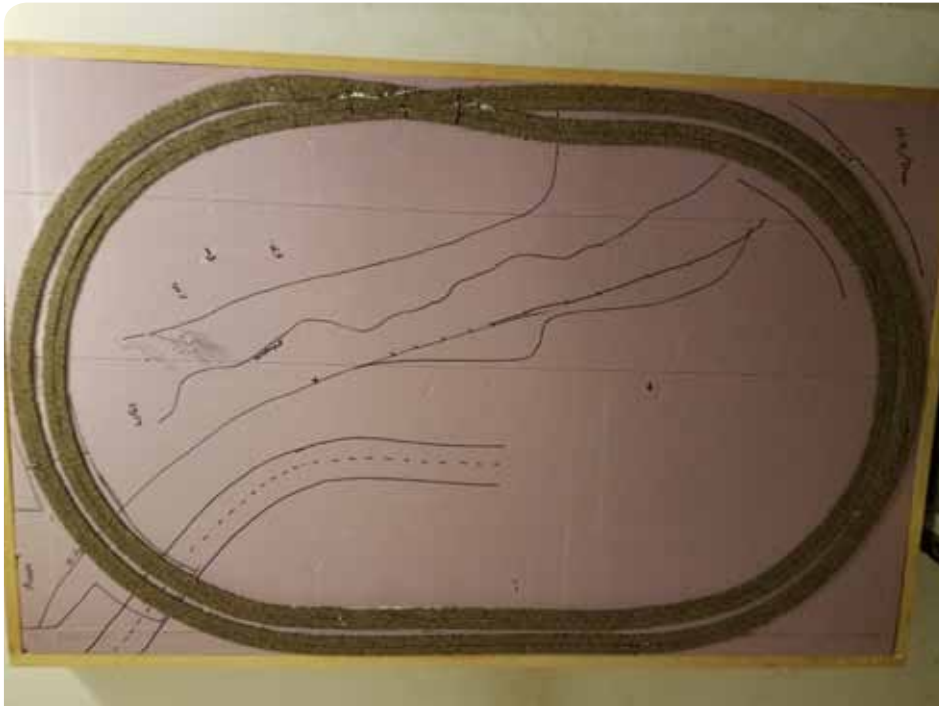
Other than that, started the work on several different projects. Have been hunting the web and dusty hobby shops far and wide for all sorts of stuff. Old building kits there, an order for cars here, and gosh, I need a ton of brass poles from Jason to put on some modules. He's even willing to build northeastern corridor stuff to order? Great!!!! Flames of War is making rice paddies for their 'Nam in 10mm. Wonderful. Kibri has the bridge I need, perfect! Now tax time is over. Time to build...

Righto, until next month,
-Chris

Raffle layout 2018: Al Potter

Below are a few progress shots of this year's raffle layout. The frame is built, the cork is down and we are looking for help with the scenic work.

Let me know if you can host a work session, we need to keep this ball rolling if we are to have it ready for October.



F-250SD's Train Ride to Maryland : Ryan Jones

My company has been working towards compliance of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's mandate for electronic logging devices for commercial motor carriers. The objective of the rule, according to FMCSA, is to strengthen commercial truck and bus drivers' compliance of the hours-of-service (HOS) regulations that combat fatigue. The mandate requires both a human interface device (a tablet) and a data transmitting device that gets plugged into the vehicle's OEM data port. This hardware is referred to as Telematics.

Telematics combines engine data, accelerometer data, and GPS data to provide trucking companies with a comprehensive package of information, from truck engine information to truck whereabouts, history of routes traveled and speed. A web service is being used to streamline all this information into actionable events such as the engine running and the truck not moving will show idling duration, and driving around a corner too fast or stopping too fast will activate the accelerometer showing how many G forces were pulled.

All new vehicle leases for my company come with the transmitter already installed. One day, I was checking up on our fleet and noticed one within a few miles of my home. I zoomed in on the map and discovered it was sitting in the CSX Auto Distribution yard in Jessup Maryland.

Thanks to Telematics, I was able to follow the truck's ten-day journey from the Ford Plant in Kentucky to Jessup, Maryland. Here is a short story of that journey as told from the point of view of our new truck.



I was built at Ford Motor Company's Kentucky Truck Plant by some hard-working American auto workers. On Tuesday December 12th, somebody drove me inside this metal box that looked unlike any truck chassis I had ever seen before.

Unlike me, this box didn't have tires and was rolling around on metal beams that

F-250SD's Train Ride to Maryland : Ryan Jones

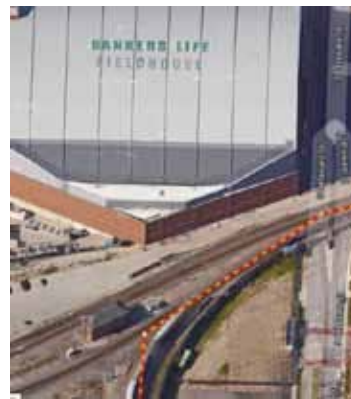
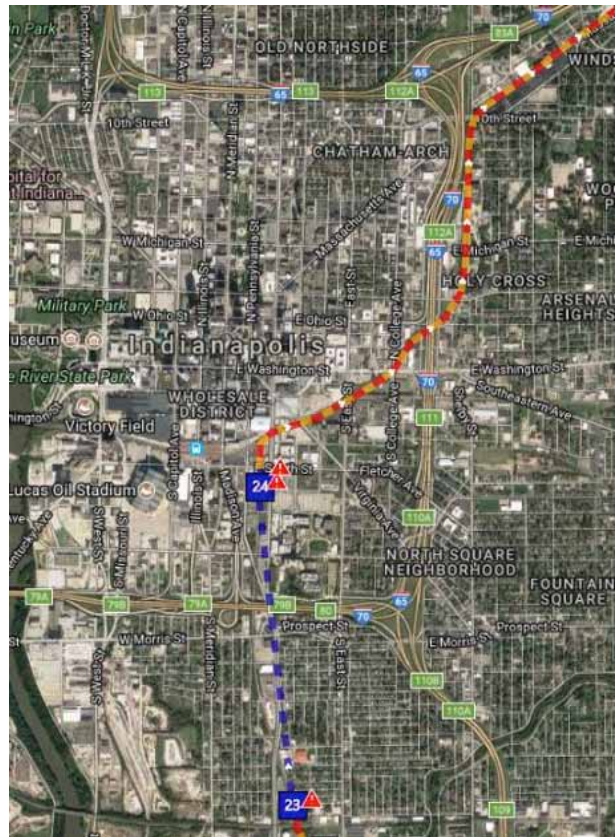
seemed to go on for miles. It was real dark inside this box but I had a bunch of holes to look through and a few friends from the plant were in here too. Later, I noticed that those trucks outside were moving but I didn't see any drivers behind their steering wheels.

That's when I noticed my shocks and struts were bouncing. Wait and second, those trucks outside aren't moving....I am? But my engine isn't running! What is happening to me?



December 14th, was hard on my shocks. It felt like my friends and I were going back and forth, back and forth. This went on for two days. The only thing I could see thru my peep holes were other metal boxes and some of those had automobiles inside that I had never seen before. I wish they would pick a direction already...

On December 17th, someone shouted "INDIANAPOLIS". I had no idea what they were talking about. All I saw outside were a bunch of old houses. Then this massive structure was beside me. Is that where trucks go to work in the fields?



F-250SD's Train Ride to Maryland : Ryan Jones

Later that day, we flew over a river by using something called a bridge. This bridge didn't have any guard rails. I hope the driver doesn't make a wrong turn. One of my friends really wants to go fishing...if they would only stop this box long enough to take our straps off.

This place really likes their black and yellow and the word Pittsburgh is on EVERYTHING. I think I've heard of this place before. Don't they make Steel here? I wonder if my 95% high strength steel frame was produced here. Unfortunately, they didn't stop long enough to find out. Did I mention that it's still December 17th?



December 18th, We STOPPED!!!! Or so I thought. Today we played the back and forth game again. The only thing I could see thru my peep holes were more metal boxes but these didn't look anything like mine. They didn't have roofs to keep the rain out and were full of black rocks. They must have talked to the driver from the other day because unlike last time, we only played the back and forth game for a one day this time. Am I in West Virginia right now?



December 19th, Trees, Trees and More Trees. Wait a tick, is that the Mormon Temple I see? We stopped about 15 miles north of DC. This place smells like a dump!



FREEDOM!!!! Today is December 21st and they finally let me out of that metal box with no tires. It feels good to stretch my axles. A new driver drove me over to a parking lot with a whole mess of cars. I hope these cars don't make fun of me. You see, I'm 24' feet long and do not fit in a normal parking spot. I am not fat, just an extra long bed Crew Cab.



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 Web: 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.....

N-Scale Enthusiast Convention 2018:

Make Plans Now

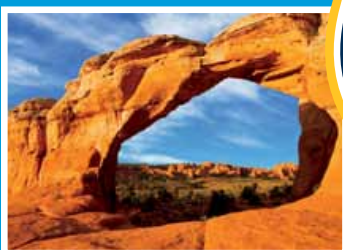
26th Annual

**Wednesday, June 20 to
Sunday, June 24, 2018**

2018

**N Scale
Convention®**

Sheraton Salt Lake
150 West 500 South,
Salt Lake City, Utah
801 401 2000



Train Spotting: Paul Diley



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
April 14th & 15th	Great Scale Show	Timonium Fair Grounds	Lauren Baker	Show / Meeting
May 5th	Gaithersburg	Montgomery County Fairgrounds	Chris Hyland	T-Trak
June 20-24th	N-Scale Convention	Salt Lake City, Utah	Skip Hayes	Event
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
 Editor: David Betz

