



BANTRAK Newsletter

Volume 32, Issue 6
June 2018

The Engineer's Cab: Martin Myers

Spring may have finally showed itself. Our last meeting was hosted by Chris Quinlan. Thank you Chris for volunteering your home to us.

We have been working to change our connector tracks to make set up go faster and easier to do. Last fall a couple of us modified our modules to use KATO adjustable track sections as joiner tracks between modules. They have been in 4 layouts since October. We have not had any problems operating trains over them.

The club decided to go with the change with a unanimous vote at our last meeting. Alan is currently working on purchasing enough of the KATO pieces to make the change happen. The club will be covering the cost for the basic connector track assembly. Other non-required modifications could be made to individual modules. These additional mods would be up to the module owner. Please remember that over doing it may make a module unable to properly mate with NTRAK modules. Once the parts are procured, we will be able to make the modification to all modules. Our hope is to have the materials ready before our annual club picnic. A short how-to demonstration will be done at the picnic.

Our picnic will be at Alan DelGaudio's home on Saturday, June 23rd. Alan will be sending out more information soon. A short business meeting will be held including the demo and show and tell. The raffle layout will also be there and can be worked on during the day. Al Potter will be requesting volunteers to help with the layout as well as someone to host the layout for a while. Structures should be available for members to take home and do their best modeling.

Hope to see you all at the picnic,

Happy Modeling!

Martin



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Next Meeting...

June 23rd



Joiner Track Instructions: Martin Myers

Using the KATO track, mark the roadbed area to be removed for clearance. Roadbed needs to be removed even with the ends of the rails on each line. I suggest taking a little extra width so that the connector will be able to wiggle in order to align with the next module.



Assemble the Kato track to one section of the @0092 straight track set. There are two sizes of track in the set. Four pieces of each size. Both sizes will work so there will not be any wasted. Remove the unijoiner from each end of the assembly. Place the assembled track section on a piece of medium sand paper and gently sand the bottom of the Unitrack until the sandpaper begins to scuff the bottoms of the unijoiners. Install four code 80 rail joiners on the rail ends. Your connector track is now ready to install between two modules.



Joiner Track Instructions: Martin Myers

Below shows the new joiners installed in all 5 tracks of my modules. The connector on the red line uses one of the shorter sections of track included in the 20092 track set. It has not been fully extended yet. The last photo shows all 5 tracks installed and ready to run trains.



Below are all five connector tracks after weathering. Similar weathering was done to the "hole" on my modules.



Well, just got back from the first major convention of the year, The West Penn Trolley Meet in Washington, PA. This is a must for people who are into trolleys, and similarly to the East Penn National Trolley convention, West Penn meets every other year. The other benefit is that you are within striking distance of the railroading Mecca known as Pittsburgh. So I spent five days up there and it was well worth it. Trolleys, Interurbans, and PCC cars, oh my. The museum rolled out everything that they had running, including hitching a couple cars together and doing night trolley trains. It is something watching a MU'd pair of cars turn around a tight traction loop at the end of a line. They also dedicated a new car from the West Penn Railways that they had been working on for 30 years. And it was a true beauty with varnished wood interior and leather bucket seats. Your author was part of the two N scale layouts that participated in the meet as well as numerous HO and O layouts. And if you got bored with the trolleys, Ohio Central was switching in the area doing locals with all of the industrial customers they have in the valley. Live Onetrak two or three times a day.

The other thing that I factor in the trip while up in Pittsburgh is railfanning. The Pittsburgh region has it all, tons of industrial and mainline railroading still going on. A working Transit LRV (think trolley) system, which for 7 bucks you can get an all day pass and ride the two lines and spurs as well as see yards and other parts of the system. It has interurban trackage, city trackage (that climb high grades), elevated lines, and subways, also tons material from railroading's past. In Washington alone, there were elements of the PRR abandoned lines (two stone stations and a elevated belt line), Ohio Central, NS, and even better, the vestiges of the "Whaynie" as the locals called it. This was the PRR owned 3 ft narrow gauge system that went from Washington to Waynesburg, a total of 28 miles. Their elegant station, built in PRR style is still there, although being used now as a concrete warehouse. We found part of it while getting lost south of Pittsburgh. And it had true narrow gauge names of towns that it serviced. Actually they sound more

like names from a Western. Lone Pine, Marianne, Ten Mile Creek and my all time favorite: Fifty One PA. Named after the No. 51 mine. And all the towns look like they are straight out of the Molly Maguires. I would not be surprised if the big crime around those parts was stagecoach robbery.

There are lots of things to do in Pittsburgh. I visited the Arts fest downtown. Parts of it remind me of Baltimore with bits of San Francisco and the Bay area thrown in. They have the Pirates and Mr. Rogers. A hip nightlife, a cool NPR station, and sadly enough, the Steelers, even worse, Sidney Crosby. But no place is perfect. One thing they do have is Esther's Hobby Shop. If you haven't been, oh be very, very careful how much you spend. The shop has a white bench out in front which has on it (in friendly green letters) "Relax with a hobby!" It should say, as you sit on it, "My God What Have I Done". The stuff he brings to Altoona is a drop in the bucket. What did I get? Well let's just say that my Japanese steam fleet is nearly complete. And he discounts stuff. Unggggghhhhh!!!!!! And he has a layout.

So now that I am back, before the next train show, I aim to add in some of the stuff that I saw to modules that I am building. Next stop is Lycoming PA. Home of Bowser, Little League and the On30 convention. We have a few shows between now and Altoona for those that need their fix. I am also getting the T Trak jungle drums up and running again. So email me if you want to know what is going on. I hope to see you all at the picnic with a cheeseburger in one hand and a chocolate chip cookie in the other. Happy Railfanning wherever the winds take you. You never know what is around the corner till you see it.

Til then,

-Chris

Gaithersburg Highlights: Chris Hyland

On May 5th Bantrak's T Trak Division did their first set up at the Gaithersburg Museum. Worries about the site had been dissuaded by a recon trip to the site the week before. For the time being the site itself is stable and not looking like a construction zone. The downside is that a good amount of the parking that was there is now gone. Nonetheless, the Hylands rose to the occasion because lets face it, when you got three model railroaders under one roof. Its a club in a box.

Due to the threat of the mighty rainstorm that never came, we set up a small layout in the RDC car. The inside of the car has been turned into an event space. Unlike before, we had lots of room to operate. Though, let me rephrase that. We had a lot more room to operate a small layout. But sometimes smaller is better. And with only three people, that is plenty.

So we ran trains from the comforts of the indoors. The crowd was light, but the kids that showed up loved what they got a chance to see, Burlington Red freight trains, Gilford and N. England freights, Metra, and Rio Grande Passenger trains. Hopefully one of these days, the bug will stick with these young ones to carry the torch when it is time to go to the old folks home. At least it is something different than being tied to their Facebook profile. Do you know that I still don't have one of those? Well that is for another time.



Outside our windows we got to see the set up for the Mila Del Mayo race. Glad to be not part of that one. As I have found in my years, street festivals are interesting, but can be a real pain and put wear and tear on the layout.

So we ran until 3 pm and packed up quickly. The rain started coming in and we threw our boxes over a fence and into our trailer, one Gaithersburg show down. We will let you all know as things progress there, but for the future it looks like it is going to be small 2 to 3 table layouts with small corners. So glad I got the new corners almost rehabbed...

-Chris Hyland



Cars for Sale: David Betz

Last month's cars are still available. So don't be shy, you know you want them. Step up and help the club while filling in your roster.

This month we have four new cars including a limited edition locomotive. We are making the balance of those cars and locomotives available through the newsletter on a first come, first served basis. The cars will be sold at 50% of MSRP plus MD sales tax of 6%. All proceeds will go to the club. Over the next few month look for 4 pieces for sale each month. Please contact me and Alan to hold a particular piece for you and you can settle up with our treasurer Alan Del Gaudio and your car will be ready for you to pick up at the following month's meeting. So this month we have four brand new cars.

First up Micro Trains (MTL) 51' Rivet side Mechanical reefer.

MSRP\$24.75

Member Price \$12.38



Next up, MTL Special Hanukkah Car

MSRP \$24.65

Member Price \$12.33



Rapido EMD FL9

MSRP\$169.00

Member Price \$84.50



Last this month from MTL is Vermont box car.

MSRP\$19.85

Member Price \$9.92



I tested the Locomotive, ran forward and backwards on my test track, no issues.

Remember all proceeds will go to the club.

This is a great deal on brand new cars.

All MSRP prices were either taken from the box itself, ModelTrainstuff.com or from Trove Star.

LOOK FOR FOUR NEW OFFERINGS NEXT MONTH!!

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.....

Train Spotting: Ryan Jones



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
June 9-10	Great Scale Show	Timonium Fairgrounds	None	Event
June 16th	Community Museum	Gaithersburg MD	Ed Hyland	T-Trak
June 20-24th	N-Scale Convention	Salt Lake City, Utah	Skip Hayes	Event
June 23rd	Club Picnick and meeting	Al Del Gaudio's house	Al Del Gaudio	Meeting
August 4th & 5th	N-Scale Weekend	Altonna Jaffa center	Martin Myers	Show
Sept. 7-9	Kensington Railway Days	Contact Chris for Details	Chris Hyland.	T-Trak
Sept. 22nd	Gaithersburg Museum	Contact Ed for Details	Ed Hyland	T-Trak

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

