

BANTRAKNews

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The Engineer's Cab: LeRoy Brandimore

As we round out the first 90+ days of our Social Isolation, I trust everyone is doing well and getting some fantastic modeling projects completed. Ethan Bernstein has been doing a great job sharing his efforts and I know everyone is excited to read about his latest building adventures in this month's newsletter.

Our meeting on June the 28th will be hosted by Chris Quinlan. We should all be prepared with a mask. If you need Chris's address please reach out to me or Chris directly.

In other news, it looks like we are good to go so far for the October Great Scale show and Paul Diley has volunteered to be our show coordinator, thank you Paul for stepping up. As we all know it is a group effort to have a show planned and run well. To that end Paul is looking for a co-coordinator. Please let Paul and myself know if you can help. I for one am looking forward to seeing everyone and running some trains.

Happy Modeling,

LeRoy Brandimore



T-Trak Update & Editorial: Chris Hyland

Hi everybody. What interesting times we live in. We got the bug, people upset in the streets and it seems like the whole world is crashing down around us. Job rates seem to be in the gutter. And now it is getting to be one of those DC summers that remind you that you are part liquid because you could melt from all the humidity of the day. This certainly has led to a bout of being overwhelmed.

Well, to quote the movie Pleasantville: "Recently things have become unpleasant. Now it seems to me that the first thing we have to do is separate out the things that are pleasant from the things that aren't pleasant. Well we are safe for now. Thank goodness we are in a bowling alley." And thank goodness for our hobby. With everything going on, it has been a nice distraction from the almost Atlas-style problems of the world. We at the Hyland house have not been spared from many of the problems of the outside world, so it is nice to get away by running trains around on some TTrak modules. Because we all need a pleasant distraction from things. A vacation from the vacation.

So what has TTRAK been doing. Shows, ha ha ha ha. But we have been getting ready to go out there again if needed. We took a poll and for those that answered (those that didn't well, you had your chance) and the response from our group was to try and go out as early as possible, but as safely as possible. We have been having all sorts of discussions amongst us as to what to do to stay safe. Some of us have even secured equipment to get ready, such as N95 masks, face shields, goggles, and other stuff to try and keep us as safe as possible before there is a vaccine. Things may be different than before, we may be more safety concerned, and certainly we will do our utmost to make sure we are all safe. But like I said before, if I send out a thing asking for who is going to be there SOUND OFF ON YOUR RSVP. Otherwise you don't get into the pit. If you are sick STAY AT HOME! It is still a scary world out there and as my military pals used to say: Stay Alert Stay Alive! Think of yourself and others, before what you do!!!!!!

And we have been building. I have heard reports of people building stuff because they got stuck and had

nothing else to do. So they built stuff. Hopefully we will have new modules around the campfire when we return.

And stuff has shown up. New cars have come out. Old stuff has popped up. I have even rediscovered old haunts that I forgot were out there as things have slowly reopened. I get calls from guys trying to sell me trains (a big improvement over siding, or gutters, or even worse REAL ESTATE BROKERS...). And Ebay always has something special. Plus the pause button was nice to have because TTRAK is always out there. Not being so gave us a chance to regroup, rethink, repair, and rearm. We may not know what the future may bring, but we will be ready.

So if the news gets ya down, work on some TTRAK stuff. We miss everyone, but rest assured, we will be back, stronger than ever,

I am going on vacation after this month's column. Not much is going on as far as news that really needs to be spread club wide. And on the whole the club seems to be not up to much that needs discussion before the fall. As always email me for the Ttrak division's updates and I will add you to the list. I will not be at the club meetings until the okay is given by our gov, Hogan. We are going to try and avoid close spaces and avoid layouts in non airy places until there is a vaccine out. I suggested that we meet via Zoom or some other electronic platform to the club, but hadn't heard anything back, so until then...

When things heat up hopefully in the fall, I promise that I will be back. Til then, stay safe.

Missing all of you and waiting for the all clear signal,

Until next month,

Chris



The Almost A Convention Car: LeRoy Brandimore

When the N Scale Enthusiast 2020 Convention in Nashville was canceled they offered everyone that had registered a gift box. This gift box was to include 3 N Scale raffle prize items, a Convention Pin, and a special car.

Toward the end of May I received my box which included the Almost a Convention car which has the insert personalized for me, 3 Micro-Train cars and the convention Pin.

One of the Micro-Train cars is the Maryland State Car. Another is the B&O Double Door Box that was part of the April Release. The 3rd car is a Wabash Double Sheathed Wood Box.

These were some of the exact cars which the N Scale Enthusiast put on their website for sale. They are already sold out.

LeRoy

The Gift Box



Quarantine Time = Modeling Time! : Ethan Bernstein

I hope all is well and that you all are using this quarantine time wisely to finally play with trains! I have been furthering my scratch building techniques, now at a total of five complete scratch builds over the past four weeks, ranging from small depots made from paper to a scale commercial airliner from matchsticks, all of which I hope to share with you all in person sometime in the future. For now, I will try to write about all of my projects in hopes to inspire you all for your next quarantine projects or just to share some new, and in some cases unconventional, modeling techniques. This month I will share with you my scratch-built depot, made from wood and paper.



The depot is based off of the thousands of small trackside structures once populous across the U.S., where engineers may have picked up orders on the go or maybe stopped to drop off some less-than-carload freights, or possibly for a quick restroom break. The detail features of the model include individually applied horizontal sheet-siding panels, individually cut shingles, scale signs, exterior wood framing, and a chimney.

Now to the building of the structure. The basic design is wood framing glued to sheets of tan cardstock, which I pre-cut and marked up for window and door details. Once the wood framing was applied to the back of the cardstock walls, I cut and glued small strips of wood to frame the doors and windows. The model has front and rear doors and windows, as well as two garage doors, all made from small strips of wood. Once the door and window

frames were in place, I began to cut siding strips from cardstock, each half-a-centimeter in width, cut using a paper cutter, and overlaid on the cardstock walls to give the appearance of horizontal sheet siding. Once the siding was applied and trimmed, I then attached the four walls together, ensuring 90-degree angles. Once the walls were attached, I cut four strips of cardstock half-a-centimeter wide and the same height as the front and back walls, folding the strips to form a 90-degree angle and then gluing them to the corners of the building.

Next I cut black cardstock sheets to form the roof, ensuring enough overlay on the sides and ends to replicate the large roofs of the prototype. I ensured the angle on the roof through the cut in the side walls, making them perfectly symmetric in angle on each side so that the roof formed and even point. Next I cut the shingles. Using more black cardstock paper, I cut more strips again each half-a-centimeter wide and the length of the roof, hand cutting shingle size sections in the strip up to half the width of the strip, or about one-quarter centimeter cuts. I then attached the strips to the roof, overlaying them similarly to the siding strips by about one-quarter centimeter. For the shingle roof caps, I individually cut one-quarter wide by half-centimeter long strips, folded them in half to achieve the peak of the roof, and glued them to the top of the roof. Then I added wood strip support beams underneath the roof on the sides of the building as seen on the prototype.



Quarantine Time = Modeling Time! : Ethan Bernstein

Next was the chimney. I made this structure from brick-printed paper which I cut and folded to form a rectangular prism open on each end and cutting the bottom of the chimney to match the angle of the roof peak. I then glued a small strip of folded black cardstock paper to the top of the chimney. The last steps were signs and weathering. I made signs for the building using Microsoft Word. I found pictures of the signs I wanted to use on the internet, then pasted them into Word, resizing them to scale size.

The model features B&O heralds on the front and rear doors, "DEPOT" signs, and "authorized employee only" signs. Once the signs dried, I weathered the entire building with watercolor paints.



This build took me around five hours to complete, thanks to the quick drying time of wood glue. I learned a lot of new feasible techniques from this build, primarily that cardstock paper is a viable material to construct highly detailed buildings, and that my printer is capable of printing legible n-scale signs on white printer paper! I have since expounded upon the techniques I used to build the depot to construct two grain elevators, which I will share with you all soon.

Please stay tuned for my next scratch build article (a bulkhead flat car scratch built from wood!). If you have any questions or comments about my scratch builds, feel free to email me at: epberns@gmail.com

Thanks for reading and happy quarantine modeling! Remember to get outside for some fresh air too!

Happy Modeling!

Ethan Bernstein



Train Spotting: Ethan Bernstein



CSX ES40DC #5414 leads another ES40DC and an SD40-3 across Thomas viaduct with a southbound manifest, primarily trash and empty cars Tropicana reefers (129 cars).

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

BANTRAK 2020 Calendar

June 28, 2020

Club Meeting (MAYBE?)

Location: Chris Quinlan's house

October 3-4, 2020

Great Scale Show

Timoium Fairgrounds

Contact: TBD

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 and 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.

