

BANTRAKNews



A Bimonthly Newsletter for BANTRAK Members • Volume 39 • Issue 03 • May 2026

The Engineer's Cab: John Hale

So far this year we have participated in two Great Scale Train shows, in January Eric and Chris Q. spearheaded a very large Free-moN layout. And in April Paul and Savannah guided us on one of our larger N-Trak setups in a while. We had a couple of meetings in between and a couple of work sessions. Things are progressing along and it is already MAY!

As we spring into May, we have a couple of key events coming up this year, a new event at the Baltimore Streetcar Museum where we will be focused, the N Scale weekend in Altoon, PA, which has become the premier yearly N Scale event on the east coast, and another Great Scale Train show. And we have some tentative plans for other events closer to the end of the year.

This month's meeting and annual Bantrak picnic will be at my house Saturday May 16, 2026. Please respond to the club email to let me know if you will be attending. We will have a business meeting also, so please bring a nice item for show and tell!

Until then, happy modeling!

John

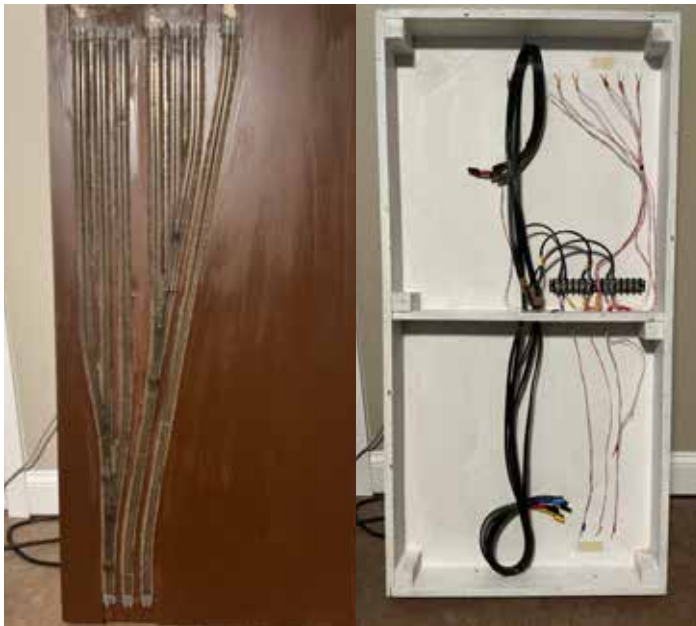


Bob Mohr Module update: Eric Payne

The “City” modules are scheduled for completion by the end of August. As the weather becomes more suitable for outdoor work, the final phase will begin, with work sessions focused on skyboards, legs, scenery, electrical systems, and trackwork/ballasting.

Following the module completion, a work session will be held in mid-to-late September to assemble the storage carts, which will coincide with the Altoona trailer repack. These steps will ensure the modules are ready for their debut at the December Holiday Festival of Trains at the Baltimore and Ohio Museum.

Over the past 45 days, several key tasks have been completed. Martin and Mark agreed to a major redesign of the two rolling storage carts for the trailer modules. Mark finished the trackwork (AND ELECTRICAL !!!) for both Module #5



and Module #2, which involved replicating the original track plan, installing Kato expansion tracks, and removing duplicate drop feeders.



Additionally, Alan D. completed the centerpiece building for Module #5, which was built from a DPM kit donated by Martin and features a nice tribute honoring Bob.

Eric

February Show Report: Chris Quinlan

Another Great Scale Model Train Show is in the books, ladies and gentlemen! We had a few scares with the weather before the show's start, but aside from some extremely cold temperatures, our event was successful, and we continued to share our beloved hobby with other train enthusiasts and the general public.

BANTRAK members began arriving at the Timonium Fairgrounds for layout setup at about 10:30 AM on a blustery Friday morning. By noon, we were well underway on getting our Free-moN and T-Trak displays squared away and ready for some serious model railroad operations and showboating. The T-Trak team completed their tasks around 2:30 PM. Members working on the Free-moN layout labored until about 5:30 PM. The set-up was well attended by club members.

On Saturday morning, T-Trak was up and running right away. A few more kinks needed to be worked out on the Free-moN display, but by late morning, trains were crisscrossing the layout. As the day wore on and the temperature rose, expansion began to cause issues with the trackwork. Derailments were not uncommon. While frustrating, this was to be expected given the extreme weather and temperature fluctuations, and everyone did a good job of keeping their cool and working around the issues to the best of their abilities. A few modules also had issues identified for correction.

We saw a nice variety of trains on display over the weekend, including CSX, Nickel Plate, MARC, B&O, Amtrak, and others. It seems like everyone who had a sales table did pretty well. We had two new members with us this weekend: Philip Petersam and Dennis Wallick. Welcome guys!

On Sunday afternoon at 3:00 PM, we began tearing down. This was the smoothest tear-down I've ever seen. Everyone pitched in and worked hard to get things put away. We departed the Cow Palace at 4:45.

A huge thank you to all the members who helped with set-up, tear-down, and running trains. Aside from a few sweat-equity deficiencies,

everyone did their part, and we are absolutely grateful for that. I think everyone had a very enjoyable time, and hanging out together was the best part. There was lots of camaraderie and joking around, along with serious conversations, problem-solving, mentoring, and discussion of plans for the club's future (mostly about the yard).

We have a great group. Thanks for being awesome.

Eric and Chris



GSMTS April Highlights



Dodge Train Spotting: Eric Payne

On April 25th, I visited Andrew Dodge to see his revamped model railroad empire, which has been converted from the Colorado Midland to the Central Maine. Andrew chose to model Maine so he could include both boats and trains.

Conveniently, because “Central Maine” (CM) shares the same initials as “Colorado Midland” (CM), he only needed to change the heralds on the livery, avoiding the need to repaint everything.

Suffice it to say, it is worth the drive. Here are two photos of the layout and a video sum-

mery can be found here: (<https://youtu.be/DZ15Q0aRpMU?si=QOI733qczgtZ0JN2>).

Bonus side trip for lunch was at 2Fifty Texas BBQ (<https://www.2fiftybbq.com>) where the wait is long, but the food is worth it.

Eric



Ultraviolet Activated CA: Bob Bunge

I think it was on the Railwire website that I saw a reference to JB Weld UV activated super, or CA, glue. It seems that I use a good bit of CA glue in my modeling. I used it for years and years to repair broken toys. I have the regular stuff that I tend to buy at the dollar store, the gel version and some specialty types like extra thin and thicker that can fill voids.



These each have their uses. The gel holds well, especially if the pieces don't have a close fit, but takes a while to set. The "normal" CA glue is good if you have good mating surfaces and can hold them together for 30-60 seconds. A couple of rules I have included:

- Use a toothpick to apply the glue.

Using the nozzle will get it everywhere but where you want it.

- Use as little as possible. See rule number 1.
- Have surfaces that mate very well, OR surfaces that have organic material (like wood) that the glue can bond to.

I have found that keeping the pieces together, even for 30-60 seconds can be a challenge without getting glue on your fingers and gluing them together.

With the UV version, you apply the glue to

the surfaces, arrange them like you want, then expose the glue to UV light for a few seconds to set the glue.



I found the JB Weld version at my local Lowes store. It is pricey - about \$12 for a bottle. There aren't really any instructions on the package, which I found odd, but it wasn't hard to figure out. One end of the bottle contains the UV light, which is turned on with a slide button.

The glue itself is slow acting. It will set on its own in about 24 hours. I found through trial and error the light portion of the bottle will snap off to make a small, compact unit that can fit in small places.

I normally put a drop of the glue on a piece of cardboard that I keep around to hold various glues I need to apply. I use a toothpick to pick up a very small drop and apply as needed. I've used wire, needles and anything small and sharp to do this task. Once applied, I put the pieces together and hold them with one hand or a tool like a vice needle. I can wipe off my fingers to make sure I'm not going to glue them. I turn on the light and hold it within an inch of the glue for 5-7 seconds and I'm done.

I recently used this at the show to repair a person standing on a station platform that had been knocked over. It was a quick repair and didn't require much time or finding something to prop the person in place.

I have also used this glue to hold down rail that has come loose from ties. You can apply to

Ultraviolet Activated CA: Bob Bunge

a couple of ties, set the glue and move on to the next couple of ties.



There are some things to watch out for, though. When I didn't keep the tip of the bottle clean, the glue wandered down into the lid threads and glued the lid on. When I used force to remove it, the lid broke clean off, effectively ruining the bottle. I now wipe off the nozzle before I put the lid back on.

Armed with this cool tool, I showed up at the January show, knowing that coordinator Eric would assign me to fix track issues on modules. I was sure the UV glue would be a great asset. Well, it was, sort of. It was cold. I learned quickly, the glue did not set if the temperature was around 45 degrees F or so! My Johnny on the spot answer was to heat up the area with a soldering iron.

Finally, at least some of the glue must be exposed to the light to make this work. If your piece has no exposed surfaces, the UV light can't penetrate to set the glue.

I recently ordered a two pack of this glue off Amazon for a slightly lower price than Lowes. One bottle landed in one of my show toolboxes and expect to use this tool for a long time to come.
Bob

Gold Spike: Eric Payne

For those who use K-Cups, I recently discovered a new coffee I thought others might enjoy. I'll be bringing some to the upcoming work sessions for the City modules, so please feel free to stop by and try a cup for yourself!.



No affiliation, just passing it along <https://lowell-smith.net/gold-spike-coffee/>

Eric



BANTRAK 2026 Calendar

June 06, 2026

Newsletter content deadline

We need content, please submit your articles by the deadline.

May 16, 2026

Club Meeting / Picnic

Location: John Hale's house

June 2026

No Meeting

July 18-26th, 2026

Club Meeting and Show

Baltimore Streetcar Museum

August 06, 2026

Club Meeting

Location: TBD

BANTRAK Membership: Eric Payne

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 [Tim Nixon](#) for more information regarding your membership status and roster questions or contact [Eric Payne](#) 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.

Train Spotting: Ryan Jones



Denver Colorado

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
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