

Special Edition



THE ORDERBOARD

2020 T-TRAK Debut

N'Crowd T-TRAK debuts at the 2020 Greater Houston Train Show



N'Crowd T-TRAK Division and NWX join forces for a great Greater Houston Train Show

by Tom Marsh

With assistance from our friends in the N-scale cadre at Northwest Crossing Operating Model Railroad Club (NWX), our Feb. 15 T-TRAK debut at the Greater Houston Train Show was a success. Thanks to everyone who participated with modules or as volunteers

working with the layout, and also to those unsung heroes who manned the N'Crowd test and information tables, and ran the BC&G at Papa Ben's!

We expect to work with our friends at NWX on future T-TRAK events.



As many of us are new to T-TRAK (whose idea was this, anyway?), we held several module test sessions before the show.

Thanks go to Allyn Pearlman of Papa Ben's Train Place for allowing us to set up our test rig outside of business hours.





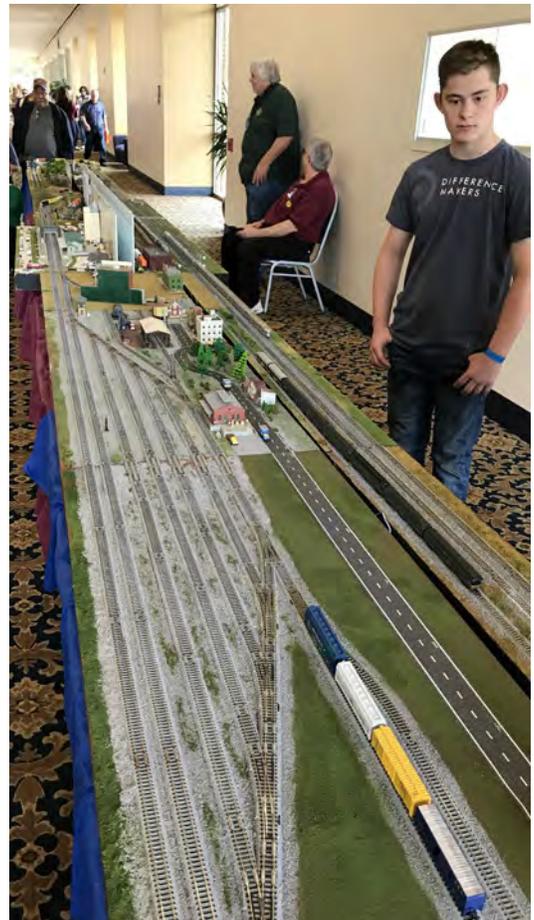
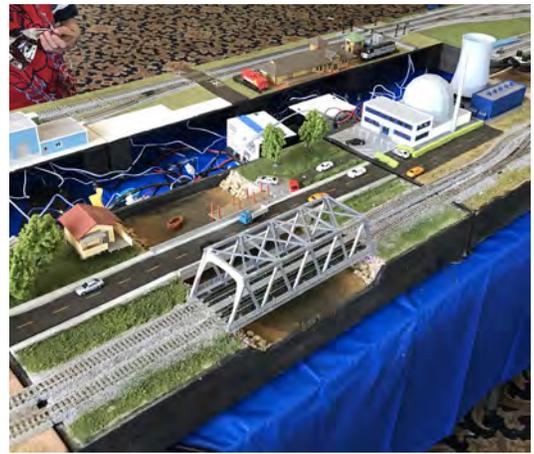
Once the layout was set up, we had a minor scare: Everything was plugged in but no power was going to the track. After jiggling a few wires things started to work, but we don't know exactly what was going on.. From that point on, the layout generally ran well, aside from the odd derailment or train decoupling. And it attracted a fair amount of attention over the course of the day.



Above, N' Crowd member Cameron Barratt's submarine pen drew many compliments. Cameron also did the scenery on two of the club's corner modules, at right.



N' Crowd members tapped into their artistic sides with their new modules. At right, Phil Poirier went rustic with his corner module. At far right, Bill Busch went nuclear and bridged troubled waters with these two modules. Below, David Crawford used two long modules to create a refinery scene.



Above, John Sweigart and Michael Angiolillo used the smallest T-TRAK template to create a greenhouse and garage scene, respectively. At left, Bob Folser went for elevation with a wooded hillside. At right, the yard built by Bill Busch and Carl White did its job well during the show.

The Greater Houston Train Show attracted an estimated 1,900 paid and unpaid admissions. Unpaid admissions included volunteers setting up and running layouts, vendors and around 150 National Model Railroad Association members who were attending the 2020 Lone Star Region NMRA convention. The NMRA event was scheduled to coincide with the train show. Seen below, NWX had their HO division's layout up and running during the show.



In addition to the T-TRAK layout, we also had our usual locomotive test gear set up at our booth, along with information about the N'Crowd. We are able to test both DC and DCC locomotives, and the test tracks prove useful for many during the show.

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