



News from Houston N'Crowd



# THE ORDERBOARD

February/March 2011



*The N'Crowd display at the 2011 Greater Houston Train Show featured Mike Anawaty's portable layout. The annual spring show, sponsored by the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club, took place February 19 at the Stafford Centre.*

*Another great*

## **Greater Houston Train Show**

*by San Jacinto Model Railroad Club!*

# "GREEN EYE" - CLEAR BLOCK

by Ted Davis, President

## Of mice and model railroaders

First off, I want to thank the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club for all their hard work in sponsoring another great show again this year.

The old saying goes that "the best laid plans of mice and model railroaders" - well, something like that. Here are some things that went right for us at the Greater Houston Train Show.

The club banner was in fact displayed using Charlie Aselin's telescoping flag poles and concrete filled buckets, which worked well as supports. The members who had volunteered to staff the table completed their shifts. We managed to negotiate to have our table changed so we could have our "usual" spot. Although almost at the end of the hall, this spot gives us some extra space behind the table which allows us to have extra chairs for members to visit. As hoped, we collected several members' 2011 membership dues.

Some things did not go as planned or need improvement. The story boards were a little too large for the space and are looking somewhat worse for wear. For example, some pictures are loose or buckling. In addition, the club's T-Trak modules need a lot of work as they do not fit or travel well in the storage boxes and they have many broken parts. Plus we had a problem leveling them as the "table" provided at the show was in reality two narrow ones butted together. In the end we could not get the modules to run.

The plan to exhibit one of Steve Lancaster's portable layouts fell through as it was sold and he

did not have a new one ready to go. However, Mike Anawaty came to the rescue by bringing in his 2-ft. x 4-ft dresser-top layout.

We ran out of current newsletters, which featured some of Steve's layouts. We had all the ones from the shop as well as some more Tom Marsh brought to the show. I did not see all that many given out and am wondering if some youngsters picked up more than one.

Lastly, I had hoped to make some missing member calls, but did not find the time.

Mike Bodak writes in this issue about his family's involvement in the show. Thanks for the report, Mike!

In old business, Tom Marsh offers some new information on our decal project.

In closing, we wish happy birthday to Hugh, Ted and Dan!



NANOS' T-Trak draws a crowd at the Greater Houston Train Show.



### Next N'Crowd Meeting: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 16

Papa Ben's Train Place, 4007-E Bellaire Blvd.  
Come and check out progress on the BC&G!

**Houston N'Crowd  
Membership Meeting Report  
February 16, 2011  
Prepared by Richard Bartlett, Secretary**

- Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.
- A drawing was held for two door prizes. Dejan Sukarcevic won a "yellow" car and Ray Byers won a built house. As Ray's number was drawn first he had a choice and Dejan did not!

**President's Report**

- President Ted David brought out a number of "surplus" items, including the dreaded yellow car, and offered to return some to the original donors, or to sell to club members present. Quite a number of boxcars and other items were sold ranging from \$2 to \$10 per item with the treasurer collecting the money. Richard Bartlett offered a number of cars to the club and Eddie Aycock selected four for the club inventory.
- Ted provided the secretary with confirmed membership renewals for Chris Martin and his son Dylan, Eddie Aycock, Bob Folser and Steve Redd.

**Vice President's Report**

- Charlie Aselin was again working, so there was no vice president's report.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Our checking account balance was similar to last month's. Treasurer Tom Marsh didn't have the Certificate of Deposit amount, but it's about the same as last month, earning a whopping 0.2 percent interest.

**Secretary's Report**

- The following 14 members were present for today's meeting: Richard Bartlett, Ted Davis, Tom Marsh, Gordon Bliss, Steve Lancaster, Ray Byers, Tom Wayburn, Dejan Sukarcevic, Terry Hooks, Eddie Aycock, Mike Anawaty, Bob Folser, Steve Redd and Harvey Stalarow.

**Layout Master's Report**

- As our Layout Master was absent, we had no report.

**Old Business**

- Ted reminded all of the Greater Houston Train Show hosted by the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club of Houston to be held in Stafford on February 19, 2011. Free parking is available and registration for adults is only \$6.00. Discussion of N'Crowd having a table resulted in Ted volunteering Tom to contact the San Jacinto group for space and an electrical power source. Space is usually available outside the main convention room for the N'Crowd table. Mike Anawaty offered his mobile N-scale layout for the show in case the N Crowd T-Trak modules were not functioning.

- The next Big Texas Train Show will be Oct. 8-9 at the George R. Brown Convention Center. The club will participate in this show. Due to the success of the first show, Tom indicated that the Houston Railroad Museum anticipates it will be a yearly event.

- Tom and Ted renewed the discussion of the N'Crowd's upcoming 35th anniversary, which will occur in 2013. Tom indicated that the Houston Railroad Museum Board approved the N'Crowd's participation in the show for our 35th anniversary event. Tom and Ted reported on the 35th Anniversary committee's discussions of possible mini-con events. A rough plan for the event includes a Thursday prototype tour for participants and an evening meet-and-greet at the convention center or another location; on Friday, self-guided tours of local layouts, clinics and N-Trak setup at the at the convention center as part of the Big Texas Train Show; Saturday could include clinics, a model contest, self-guided layout tour, N-Trak operations and an awards dinner; Sunday would wrap up events with the train show and subsequent layout tear-down. Registration for the 35th anniversary "mini-convention" will include Big Texas Train Show admission for two days. Registration price is not fixed yet as several cost factors such as tour costs, dinner, etc., need to be established first. The board did indicate a desire to keep registration to something near \$50, but again realized that the cost factors must be established first.

- A motion to accept moving forward with the mini-con as outlined was passed unanimously by the members present.

**New Business**

- Tom and Ted offered details of the review of the club charter and the effort needed to file for nonprofit status. Three options were offered:

1. File 30+ page report with IRS - could take 18 months to get approved. Advantages include tax deduction for member donations such as rolling stock.
2. Dissolve the current corporation and become an Association - no deduction for member donations.
3. Do nothing - no deduction for member donations.

Tom indicated he could handle the 30+ page application, as much of it would be blank due to the club's simple status. Several members moved to proceed with the first option and the motion passed unanimously.

- Gordon finished the discussions by proposing a training session in April at his layout for members not familiar with DCC operations or RailOps.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was passed unanimously at 7:54 pm.



# All aboard the crazy train!

by Mike Bodak/Photos as credited

**Another San Jacinto train show is over and it looked to be a good time had by all.**

The day started off very early for Leslie and me at 3:30 a.m. We had to get to the Stafford center by 6:00 a.m. to set up our HO modules (yes that's right, we belong to an HO club also, so put down the torches and pitch forks).

Leslie started the day out by helping President Ted get the N'Crowd table set up, and then she helped with the NMRA Division 8 table. I started the day off at the NMRA Division 8 table. The table was set up next to the registration table and when the door opened at 10 a.m. there were a great deal of people. I gave out flyers and talked with prospective members. This lasted for about an hour and a half, then things started slacking off.

While on the subject of the NMRA Division 8 table, I would like to see more of our club members put in time at the table. No other clubs worked the table all day. Remember this is one way to get new members into model railroading and into the club.

The vender area was well set up I thought and had some great deals. I picked up a new engine (Tex-Mex GP-38) from Papa Ben's and Leslie found her beloved craftsman kits.

As we walked around the show we saw the Galveston County club was there with their traveling layout as well as the NASA club (NANOS) with their T-Trak modules.

Mike Anawaty brought his layout for the N'Crowd and a lot of people stopped by and commented on it. Mike was having some kind of bad day. He kept the car department busy. If it had SP on the car it was getting bad ordered. I personally feel there had to be either a Santa Fe or a UP conspiracy going on.

The contest room was our next stop. There were some fantastic models on display. Most impressive had to be the large scale depot. By the way, don't talk to Ted and tell him which models are yours while he is taking pictures.

Leslie entered an N-scale DPM kit that she had modified and an HO tank car. She made the

decals for both the building and the tank car. I built a Northeastern craftsman kit of what would have been my father-in-law's co-op in Bryan, Texas. My daughter Lindsay built and weathered an HO-scale Athearn blue box kit of a Santa Fe 40-ft. box car. She took third place in freight rolling stock. I would like to encourage all members to build something and enter the contest. It is a lot of fun even if you don't win.

The show ended at around 4:30 p.m. and after packing up we got out right at 6:00 p.m. It was a crazy but fun day!

On a closing note, for the next show we may want to consider giving away door prizes. I noticed no other club did that. Maybe a couple of cars from the overstock, or better yet Ted; everybody needs a train club president.

Until next time, I would like to wish all of you safe and happy railroading.







*Opposite page: This guy has found the best seat in the house for someone his size!*

*Above: Lindsay Bodak's first effort at an Athearn blue-box kit took third place in the freight car model competition. Leslie Bodak entered a Dr. Pepper tank car and a three-story building based on a DPM kit.*

*Above right: A closer view of Mike Anawaty's layout.*

*Right and below: Three crowd favorites - HALS, Galveston County MRRC's animated N-scale layout and Santa Fe's Warbonnet in S Scale! Four photos above by Ted Davis, others by Tom Marsh.*



## Updated BC&G car list available for review and comment

Some N'Crowd members may not know that the club's Bayou City & Gulf Railroad has a master car numbering scheme. The BC&G Master Car List was developed many years ago, went through at least one known revision, and is now due for an update.

A first draft of the revised car list appears below. The list was transcribed into MS Excel from a

paper copy of an earlier version that apparently dates to some time in the 1990s. A note on the paper copy indicates that it was adapted from another list published in 1990.

Most changes to the list have been minor and include some style/format changes for consistency and to facilitate the transcription to MS Excel. The

### Bayou City & Gulf Master Car List February 2011

Road Nos.	Description	Notes
1 000-399	MOW	Any
2 400-499	NE-6 caboose	Atlas 33400/33401
3 500-599	34' wood caboose	Micro-Trains 50000
4 600-699	34' steel caboose	Atlas/Bachmann (ATSF style)
5 700-799	Bay window caboose	Any
6 800-899	Extended vision caboose	Atlas 30200 w roofwalk/Atlas 30520 w/o roofwalk
7 900-999	36' steel caboose	Micro-Trains 100000
8 1776	Steel caboose	Special Bicentennial Micro-Trains
9 1000-9999	Reserved for locomotives (except 1776)	
10 10000-19999	40' single door boxcar w/roofwalk	Micro-Trains 20000
11 20000-29999	OPEN	
12 30000-34999	40' double door boxcar w/roofwalk	Micro-Trains 23000
13 35000-35999	40' plug door boxcar w/roofwalk	Micro-Trains 21000
14 40000-49999	40' single door boxcar w/o roofwalk	Micro-Trains 24000
15 50000-59999	50' single door boxcar w/roofwalk	Micro-Trains 31000
16 60000-61999	50' single door boxcar w/o roofwalk	Micro-Trains 37000
17 62000-62999	ACF Precision Design 50' single door boxcar w/o roofwalk	Atlas 45000
18 63000-69999	50' single door boxcar w/o roofwalk	Any
19 70000-79999	50' single door rib boxcar w/o roofwalk	Micro-Trains 25000
20 80000-89999	50' double door rib boxcar w/o roofwalk	
21 90000-99999	"Bluebonnet Express" 50' standard boxcars w/o roofwalks	
22 100000-100999	Short open hopper car	Any
23 101000-101999	45' 3-bay open hopper car	Atlas
24 102000-102999	2-bay covered hopper car	Atlas
25 103000-103999	47' PS covered hopper car	Atlas
26 104000-104999	54' ACF covered hopper car	Atlas/Bachmann
27 105000-105999	100 ton open hopper car	Atlas
28 106000-106999	Ortner 5-bay open hopper car	Red Caboose (ex-Precision Masters)
29 107000-107999	3-bay covered hopper car	Red Caboose (ex-Precision Masters)
30 108000-108999	Airslide hopper car	Any
31 109000-109499	50' flat car	Micro-Trains 44000 (straight side)
32 109500-109999	50' fishbelly flat car	Micro-Trains 45000
33 110000-110999	Composite gondola	Micro-Trains 61000
34 111000-119999	OPEN	
35 120000-120499	8,000 gallon single dome tank car	Micro-Trains 65000
36 120500-129999	10,000 gallon single dome tank car	Rapido
37 121000-121999	3-dome tank car	Atlas/Bachmann
38 122000-122999	12,000 gallon chemical tank car	Atlas/Rivarossi
39 123000-129999	OPEN	
40 130000-130999	45' trailer flat car	Atlas/Con-Cor
41 140000-140999	57' TOFC flat car	Micro-Trains 64000
42 150000-150999	62' bulkhead flat car	Micro-Trains 54000
43 151000-159999	OPEN	
44 160000-160999	86' trailer flat car	Micro-Trains 71000
45 170000-170999	86' container flat car	Micro-Trains 72000
46 171000-269999	OPEN	
47 270000-270999	Tri-level autorack flat car	Any
48 280000-280999	Modern chemical tank car	Any
49 290000-290999	62' frameless tank car	Tomix/NSN



highlighted entries mark the more significant proposed changes.

Where the highlighted box now says "Any" the list previously indicated multiple model manufacturers' names, some of which are no longer in business and/or no longer produce the type of car indicated. References to Precision Master have been updated to Red Caboose and noted as such.

In the boxcar series, the entire number series from 60000 to 69999 had been allocated to the Micro-Trains 37000 50-ft. single door car without roofwalk. This series has been split into three segments to accommodate cars from other manufacturers, and the first series has been allocated to the Atlas ACF Precision Design Boxcar. Other overly-broad number series can also be adapted in this way when we find it necessary.

The Micro-Trains model numbers currently referenced in the list are based on the company's

older stock numbering system. If anyone would like to provide the equivalent new basic stock numbers, we will be happy to add them to the list.

We are also seeking other corrections, updates and suggestions before making the list "official." If you have something to contribute, please send an email to the editor at [tom@houstonNcrowd.org](mailto:tom@houstonNcrowd.org) or pass along your comments at any upcoming membership meeting.

*BC&G boxcars are in the consist of a train overtaking a circus special at Bennett.*



**ACF Industries**  
**Precision Design Inside Post Boxcar**  
**for**  
**Bayou City & Gulf Railroad, Houston**  
**Car Nos. 62000 - 62299**  
**Watch this Space for More Information**



## BC&G decal work progresses

by Tom Marsh

As many of you know, the company that in the past produced decals for the club's BC&G Railroad has declined to do so again unless we can provide new artwork, preferably in a digital format. This has proved to be challenging, given that no one seems to have any information on the original artwork.

At a number of membership meetings and informal gatherings over the last nine months or so, several members have provided suggestions as to how to proceed. Most recently, a number of members took a close look at one of the old decal sheets and identified those elements that we would like to reproduce as closely as possible. Partial results appear below; you can compare these with an image of the original decal sheet that appeared in the May/June 2010 issue of *The Orderboard*, which can be downloaded from [www.houstonNcrowd.org](http://www.houstonNcrowd.org). (The file includes all of the 2010 newsletters and is large; a high-speed internet connection is recommended, and you must have the ability to unzip the file).

Points to note: First, the images below are not the final sizes. The BC&G logos are based on the digital logo variation developed for the website and newsletter; the proportions and font are not the same as the older version. Fonts chosen for other elements are as close as could be found after extensive research. At members' suggestions, an extended Railroad Roman more suitable for passenger cars has been added, as have maintenance base names in block letters for use on locomotives.

If you have comments or suggestions about the artwork, be sure to attend the April 20 membership meeting, or email [tom@houstonNcrowd.org](mailto:tom@houstonNcrowd.org).

**BC&G**  
BAYOU CITY & GULF

BC&G

BC&G 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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BAYOU CITY & GULF

The  
**DOMECITY**  
Route

Route of the  
**'BLUEBONNET'**

**BC&G**  
**BC&G**

BAYOU CITY  
&  
GULF

HOUSTON  
HOUSTON

GALVESTON  
GALVESTON

SAN ANTONIO  
SAN ANTONIO

BEAUMONT  
BEAUMONT

NEW ORLEANS  
NEW ORLEANS

CORPUS CHRISTI  
CORPUS CHRISTI



## TIME TABLE

Mark your calendar now for these upcoming events!

**March 16**

N'Crowd Membership Meeting  
Papa Ben's Train Place

**April 9**

Houston Railroad Museum Third  
Annual Music Festival and Trainfair

Restored Hearne Depot Grand  
Reopening Celebration

Eagle Lake Santa Fe Depot 100th  
Anniversary Celebration

**April 20**

N'Crowd Membership Meeting  
Papa Ben's Train Place

**May 18**

N'Crowd Membership Meeting  
Papa Ben's Train Place

**June 9-12**

LSR NMRA 60th Annual Convention,  
Lubbock

**June 15**

N'Crowd Membership Meeting  
Papa Ben's Train Place

## THE ORDERBOARD from Houston N'Crowd

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