



# THE ORDERBOARD

News from Houston N'Crowd



January/February 2013

## OKC entertains N-scalers again *by Tom Marsh*



*Over the years, the annual Oklahoma City Train Show has attracted modular clubs from Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Colorado and other states. Here is a modern scene on an NTrak module from Dodge City, Kan. Inset at right, model railroaders pose for a group photo on an HO scale module.*

The 2012 Southern Plains N-Scale Convention and Oklahoma City Train Show once again provided an entertaining and informative long weekend for all those who attended. The OKC Train Show takes place each year over the first full weekend of December; the related N-scale convention activities usually start the Thursday before. The 2012 convention and show took place Nov. 29 through Dec. 2.

2012 marked the 18th year the Southern Plains N Scale Convention has been held. The highlight was a tour of the Farmrail locomotive shop at Clinton, Okla. The tour included full access to the facility, along with enthusiastic and informative railroad employees as guides. At the end of the tour, everyone received Farmrail tote bags with two hats, 2013 calendar and day plan-

ner, pens and an official State of Oklahoma Railroad Map.

Other convention events included clinics, a swap meet and a Saturday evening banquet featuring a local railroad historian.

*See OKC page 4*



*Above, Athearn showed examples of new road numbers for N scale SP cabooses and PFE reefers, along with highly detailed new HO scale EMD GP-38s and NS heritage locos.*

# "GREEN EYE" - CLEAR BLOCK

*by Gordon Bliss, President*

## Welcome to 2013!

Welcome everyone to 2013. I hope everybody had a prosperous 2012 and will have a great 2013.

First I would like to thank the officers of 2012, especially Ted for his many years as president. In the past couple of years I have felt that the club has "slowed down" a bit and progress on the club layout has moved at a crawl. Since Charlie Aselin has been too busy to continue as layout master, I would like to find a replacement who will oversee the progress on the layout.

I also would like to increase the number of members attending the monthly meetings. I think holding a clinic FIRST from 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. THEN starting the business portion of the meeting will help. I have seen this work at other clubs and would like to try this.

For the January meeting, we tentatively have a UP Railroad Police officer scheduled, otherwise I will host the first clinic on layout maintenance.

To the officers of 2013: I would like a

SHORT report from you at the meeting. If you cannot make it, please forward your report to me or another officer. All other information would be under NEW or OLD business in order to keep the meetings as short as possible so we can enjoy the trains MORE!!!

There has been talk of term limits for officers, but let me be blunt: I wish we could have ZERO politics in this club. I started with this club because I like trains and I am still here 35-plus years later because I STILL like trains! If you like trains you are in the right place; if not, please go join a political club. I have run for president and will hold the office for one year. If things go well I might run for a second term, but there is no way I will run for a third.

I plan on taking several "train trips" this year (Plano show, N-Scale Enthusiast, Oklahoma City - see our calendar on the back page). What are YOU going to do?

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE!

It's time to renew your N'Crowd membership and update your contact information!

A membership application/renewal form is included in this newsletter. The form is also available on the web at [www.houstonNcrowd.org](http://www.houstonNcrowd.org).

All renewing members are required to complete a renewal application.

Please be sure to provide your current mailing and email addresses as this is the only way we have to contact you! Mail your renewals to:

Houston N'Crowd  
c/o Papa Ben's Train Place  
4007 Bellaire Blvd. Suite E  
Houston, TX 77025-1165



**N'Crowd Wednesday Membership Meetings:**  
January 16 / February 20 / March 20

**BC&G Operating Sessions:**  
Saturday, January 5 / Wednesday, February 6

Most activities take place at Papa Ben's Train Place, 4007-E Bellaire Blvd. Membership meetings start at 7 p.m. Saturday operating sessions start at 5 p.m. Wednesday operating sessions start at 7 p.m.

# 2013 N'Crowd Build-a-Building Event

by Richard Bartlett, PhD

I have leftover components from building the BC&G engine house and two other engine houses for the traverse table on my layout. These components will allow assembly of various sized small buildings with a minimum of four walls, including an entrance/loading dock wall and three remaining window walls. The window walls can have either three or four windows creating a scale 35-ft. by 45-ft. building of one story using the three and four window walls.

This small building can be a business or warehouse, or even a cell phone tower accessory building. In fact, the manufacturer sells these components as a kit to make a customs building and we have one on the layout in Danville. A neat use of one of these buildings is to hide a surface mount Peco switch machine next to a turnout using the Peco switch machine extension. Certainly by making longer runs of the three or four window walls, the buildings can be made larger, such as a warehouse or factory. Moreover, the kits allow for second stories to be added.

I have several bottles of Microscale window material, which makes realistic glass panes, and I will show everyone how to do this as well. These make much more realistic windows than the clear

plastic kit material that is glued to the back of each of the window panels. In my opinion, this looks atrocious from the inside of the building, but if anyone so chooses, the kit panes can be used. Also included in the kits are decals to put ads on the sides of the buildings.

There are several different alternatives for adding roofs: using flat pieces of balsa wood, the roof can be flat, slanted or pitched. Each kit also has component gray plastic roof pieces used to create slanted roofs with a skylight. The balsa wood can be painted weathered black and left as is or fine gray ballast can be added to simulate a gravel roof. Numerous forms of shingles as well as corrugated roofing can be used, and these are available at Papa Ben's.

I would like to set up a Saturday morning/afternoon clinic in January or February to offer everyone the opportunity to deplete my stash of these materials. For a \$10 fee, half of which will go to the club, I will offer the plastic components, balsa wood, window material and glue for assembly of buildings of various sizes from these kit materials.

As Papa Ben's sells the shingle and corrugated roofing material, these can be purchased separately. The small 35-ft. by 45-ft. building only requires half of the corrugated roofing in one package, so two people could split the cost of the roofing.

Finally, I have a facile way to weather the foundations of these buildings to add to their realism.

People interested in participating should contact me to arrange a group clinic in January or February. I could also plan a session on adding LED lighting strips to buildings as well.

*N'Crowd VP Richard Bartlett is planning a clinic on how to build small buildings from leftover modular components. Two possible configurations are shown at left.*





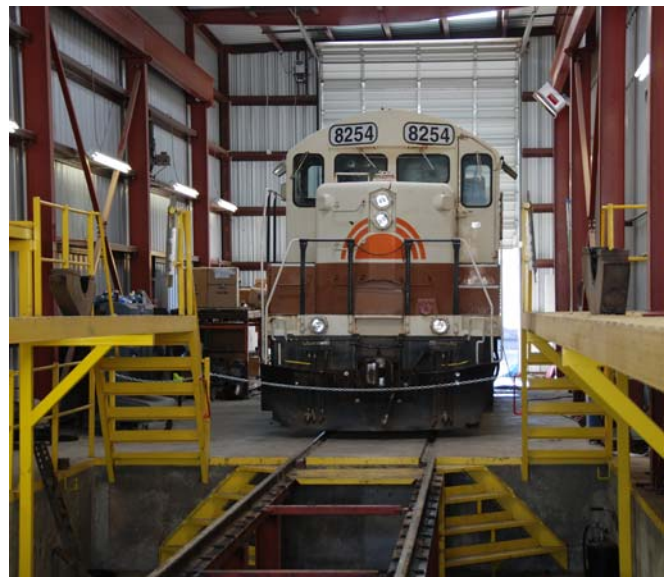
# OKC *from page 1*

The 36th Annual OKC Train Show showcased some very fine modular railroads in almost every scale, and attracted a multitude of dealers and model railroad manufacturers. Of particular interest to N-scalers were displays of new and recently-released models by Athearn, Kato, ExactRail, InterMountain Railway Co., Walthers, Digitrax and SoundTraxx. The show presents a great opportunity to speak to manufacturers' representatives and let them know what you like, don't like and want.

The 19th Annual Southern Plains N Scale

Convention and the 37th Annual OKC Train Show will take place Dec. 5-8, 2013. Convention and show information will be available later this year at <http://www.oknrail.org/convention.html>.

The Southern Plains N Scale Convention is hosted by the Oklahoma N-Rail club of Oklahoma City. The OKC Train Show is organized by volunteers from local model railroad clubs, the Oklahoma Railway Museum and Whistle Stop Trains, an OKC hobby shop. The show was awarded Cowcatcher Magazine's Gold Rail Award for Best Train Show in 2009, 2010 and 2011.



*A tour of the Farmrail locomotive shops in Clinton, Okla., was organized for attendees of the Southern Plains N Scale Convention. The facility would be fairly straightforward to model; it consists of a two-bay shop building and an office, both metal, along with a number of service tracks (one with a catch basin) and various storage tanks. Note that the tracks into the shop building are not through tracks; the end opposite the locomotive doors is set up for truck deliveries.*





Top, Walthers displayed Proto N EMD GP-60s in new BNSF patch and UP paint schemes, and the new Alco RS-2 in ATSF.

Above, InterMountain showed variations of their R-70-20 refrigerator car, including the modernized cars with Carrier cooling units. Cold Train's light blue cars with the new cooling units can be seen regularly in the Houston area.

At right above, a Titanic Lego display at the OKC show.

Below, the very first American-themed T-Trak modules, built by Lee Monaco-FitzGerald in 2001, were on display at the OKC show. In addition, a large, multi-peninsula T-Trak layout was in operation.

At right, one of the modules in the large T-Trak layout featured a model of a residence designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.



**Houston N'Crowd  
Membership Meeting Report  
November 21, 2012**

**Prepared by Richard Bartlett, PhD - Secretary**

**President's Report:** President Ted Davis called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Door prizes were a UP 150th anniversary flag donated by Richard Bartlett, won by Gordon Bliss; Lindsey Bodak won a cookie cutter; Mike Bodak won a car; Steve Lancaster won an air-driven saw; Barry Miles won the UP 844 envelope pack; Harvey Stalarow won a yellow car; and Tom Wayburn won the fire engine kit donated by Richard Bartlett (I took one look at this and said "I'll never do this!"). Ted handed out a brain teaser - turkey picture to draw nine turkey pens (several members including me finished this one!). Missing member call went to Mike Anawaty who was in Tennessee; we reached his answering machine.

**Vice President's Report:** VP Steve Lancaster reported that he has looked at Bayou City and selected a Walther's kit for the church near Union Station. Gordon made a motion for Steve to buy the kit and have Steve build it. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** Same as last month. Treasurer Eddie Aycock reported the club checking account has \$11,450.68 and our CD is still at \$4,804.08. We have a Papa Ben's gift certificate balance totaling \$99.72; and recent donations totaled \$110. Several members paid past and upcoming membership dues.

**Secretary's Report:** We had a larger than usual turnout due to the vote for 2013 offices. The 22 members present for the meeting were Al Hague, Harvey Stalarow, Barry Miles, Richard Bartlett, Joe Kingsberry, Hugh Boyd, Tom Wayburn, Eddie Aycock, James Senneff, Dejan Suskavcevic, Dominic Valdez, Justin Corder, Tom Marsh, Ted Davis, Steve Lancaster, Leslie, Lindsey and Mike Bodak, Rick Gonzalez, Ray Byer, Gordon Bliss, and Vince Walker.

**Election of Officers:** Prior to the election, Ted indicated that there would be some ballot changes taking place. The original ballot published in the October issue of *The Orderboard* was handed out to members, and then the shuffling began. Several people were nominated to be added at the last minute who were not originally nominated for the post they eventually sought. Ray Byer called a point of order and wanted the by-laws clarified regarding the ballot. Tom Marsh and Ray reviewed the by-laws and the nominations were

finalized. The final slate included: Gordon Bliss unopposed for President; Richard Bartlett and Ted Davis for Vice President; Harvey Stalarow unopposed for Secretary; Eddie Aycock unopposed for Treasurer; Dominic Valdez, and Justin Corder for Board Member At Large expiring 2015.

The vote was counted by Tom Marsh and Ray Byer, with Steve Lancaster assisting. Final results were:

President: Gordon Bliss

Vice President: Richard Bartlett

Secretary: Harvey Stalarow

Treasurer: Eddie Aycock

Board Member At Large: Justin Corder

**New Business:** After the election, Ted suggested some ideas for enhancing membership participation and enjoyment.

1. A membership chairman to contact people who have let their memberships lapse
2. Parliamentarian to be an authority on the meeting rules of order and club bylaws
3. Activities chairperson
4. Club historian
5. Schedule guest speakers and clinics (DCC track planning, weathering, layout maintenance)
6. Layout committee to follow up on maintenance

**Old Business:** We have not had an operating session for two months due to scheduling and/or illness issues. It was decided after some discussion that these would begin anew with the New Year. As no preference was decided on Wednesday vs. Saturday sessions, Richard suggested holding operating sessions on the first Saturday of odd numbered months and the first Wednesday of even numbered months. Eddie will send out email invitations, and replies will be needed at least four days before the session to get at least six to eight participants to make firm commitments. The next operating session will be Saturday, Jan. 5.

Harvey reported no cars sales during the last month. As there was no Layout Committee meeting since last we met, there was no report from that committee.

Ted pointed out that the club's annual open house in conjunction with the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club Fall Layout Tour will be Dec. 4-5., and he again called for members to volunteer. Ted received positive responses from Gordon, Richard, Eddie, Dejan Suskavcevic, Tom Wayburn and Al Hague. Ted will email the roster for the open house.

**Holiday party:** Vince and Ingrid Walker have gra-



ciously offered their home for our holiday party, which will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8. Eighteen members present at the meeting indicated they planned to attend (and one may assume several spouses will also attend). As the N' Crowd in the past has compensated members who host holiday parties, Gordon made a motion for the club to reimburse the Walkers for the cost of the main course that Ingrid has planned. Motion carried without dissent. Vince will send an eVite to members to get a more exact headcount and provide a map and directions to their home in the Sugar Land area. As before, a combat gift exchange will be held with a \$20 limit on either railroad or non-railroad gifts.

**New Business:** Mike Bodak announced the 2013 LSR NMRA Division 8 chili cook-off will take place April 20 in Alvin. Division 8 is planning on holding clinics next year but Mike needs to find a venue. Proposed clinic topics include DCC, scenery, weathering, etc. Mike is looking for volunteers to present clinics.

Tom Marsh talked about the upcoming move of some of Houston Railroad Museum's cars to storage near downtown. Gordon asked that Tom notify members when the move will occur.

Ted made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. and the motion carried without dissent.

### Houston N' Crowd Membership Meeting Report December 19, 2012

**Prepared by Richard Bartlett, PhD - Secretary**

**President's Report:** President Ted Davis called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Ted suggested changing the membership application address to Papa Ben's and add birthday (day and month) to the form. Tom Marsh indicated he would make the changes.

**Vice President's Report:** VP Steve Lancaster purchased the church kit approved for the layout at last month's meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** At year-end, the club has \$11,610.68 in cash and \$4,804.08 in a CD (same as it has been all year!). During the year, \$220.00 was received in gift certificates; \$800.00 received in dues; \$322.24 received in donations; \$292.68 received in car sales; \$134.00 received in miscellaneous sales. Outlays for the year included \$99.72 used in gift certificates; \$1,251.17 spent on the layout; and \$282.17 paid for

administrative expenses. Net expenses: \$1313.34. Net revenue: \$1548.92. Net club equity: \$16,734.48.

**Secretary's Report:** Ten members present: Harvey Stalarow, Richard Bartlett, Tom Wayburn, Eddie Aycock, Dejan Suskavcevic, Tom Marsh, Ted Davis, Steve Lancaster, Corbet Legg and Gordon Bliss.

**Other Business:** Richard indicated that he plans to arrange a "Build-it Day" for small buildings for members who wish to make modular small warehouses, shops or cell phone tower support buildings for their layouts. Richard will provide all materials except for roofing material, which are available for purchase from Papa Ben's (shingles, corrugated roofing or gravel). Cost for materials other than the roofing will be \$10.00 per member and half will go to the club. In addition to the modular construction, Richard will also demonstrate the use of the Microscale Krystal Clear for making window panes. If there is enough interest, Richard will also demonstrate installation of LED lights in the buildings. The plan is to hold the Build-it Day on one or two Saturdays during January.

Assuming the world will not end on Dec. 21 as predicted, the next BC&G operating session will be held on Saturday Jan. 5, 2013. Eddie will send out an email invitation before the session. Please remember that 2013 operating sessions will be scheduled as follows: Odd numbered months' sessions will be on the first Saturday at 5 p.m. and even numbered months' sessions will be on the first Wednesday at 7 p.m.

The N' Crowd open house was well staffed and well attended. Thanks to the club volunteers who hosted.

The holiday party at the Walker household was a huge success. Vince's layout will be quite an undertaking if he can convince Ingrid not to get the urge to move anytime soon! The combat gift exchange took a bit of time to draw blood, but was enjoyed by all. Thank you Vince and Ingrid for providing the memorable party!

Gordon asked if any members wished to travel together to the Dallas Area Train Show in Plano over the weekend of Jan. 19-20 as he is planning to go.

Meeting adjourned by 8:00 p.m.

*It has been my pleasure to serve as your Club Secretary for the past two years, and I now pass the reins to Harvey Stalarow to continue in the coming year.*

*- Richard*

# LCL

*Less than Car Load: a few notes from your editor*

**Thanks and speedy recovery:** A very sincere thank you goes out to Ingrid Walker, husband Vince, son Vincent and Ingrid's sister for their hospitality at the 2012 N'Crowd holiday party. I know I ate way too much, and I am willing to bet that others had extra helpings as well! In the photo below, Vince shows off his "combat gift".



Vince had a medical issue arise recently, but he expects to be back in action in a few weeks. We wish him a speedy recovery!

**Address change:** Effective Jan. 1, 2013, all correspondence for the Houston N'Crowd should be mailed to:

Houston N'Crowd  
c/o Papa Ben's Train Place  
4007 Bellaire Blvd. Suite E  
Houston, TX 77025-1165

**Web site update:** Several sections of the N'Crowd web site have been updated, including the BC&G and event pages, the PDF calendar and the membership application. Take a look at [www.houstonNcrowd.org](http://www.houstonNcrowd.org).



## TIME TABLE 2013

### January 5

Saturday BC&G Operating Session, 5 p.m.

### January 5-6

World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, Will Rogers Memorial Center, Fort Worth

### January 16

N'Crowd Membership Meeting at Papa Ben's Train Place, 7 p.m. Guest speaker from UPRR tentatively scheduled

### January 19

North Texas Chapter NRHS Annual Dallas Area Media-Slide Show and Open House, Southfork Hotel, Plano

### January 19-20

Dallas Area Train Show, Plano Centre

### January 26-27

San Antonio Model Railroad Association 37th Annual Model Railroad Jamboree

### February 6

Wednesday BC&G Operating Session, 7 p.m.

### February 9-10

Great Train Expo, Reliant Arena, Houston

### February 16

Greater Houston Train Show, Stafford Centre

### February 20

N'Crowd Membership Meeting at Papa Ben's Train Place, 7 p.m.

## THE ORDERBOARD *from Houston N'Crowd*

### Tom Marsh, Editor

Published fairly regularly for members and friends of N'Crowd Model Railroad Society, Inc., Houston, Texas.

Send newsletter contributions to:

[tom@houstonNcrowd.org](mailto:tom@houstonNcrowd.org).

Please note: We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and length.

Visit our Web site:

[www.houstonNcrowd.org](http://www.houstonNcrowd.org)

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**N'Crowd Model Railroad Society**  
Application for Membership/Renewal  
Calendar Year 2013

Mail to: N'Crowd/Papa Ben's  
4007 E Bellaire Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77025

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Active Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Member    | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Membership     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member*       | <input type="checkbox"/> Corresponding Member |

\*requires \$10 initiation fee for name badge

Name (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (M.I.) \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (Month and Day) \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members' Names (if applying for Family Membership) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Current Membership in Other Organizations:

☐ NMRA   ☐ San Jacinto Model Railroad Club   ☐ NRHS

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an N Scale layout? ☐ Yes ☐ No   Modules? ☐ Yes (Feet) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ No

Do you collect or model in other scales? ☐ G ☐ O ☐ S ☐ HO ☐ Z ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues: ☐ Active \$15   ☐ Family \$30   ☐ Youth \$7.50   ☐ Corresponding \$5  
(Active, Family and Youth Memberships require Attendance and/or Participation)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Date accepted into Membership:



# Bayou City & Gulf Railroad • 2013

N'Crowd Model Railroad Society • Houston • [www.houstonncrowd.org](http://www.houstonncrowd.org)

## January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		<u>1</u>	2	3	4	<u>5</u>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	<u>16</u>	17	18	19
20	<u>21</u>	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## February

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24	25	26	27	28		

## March

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## April

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14	15	16	<u>17</u>	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	<u>4</u>
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12	13	14	<u>15</u>	16	17	18
19	<u>20</u>	21	22	23	24	25
26	<u>27</u>	28	29	30	31	

## June

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16	17	18	<u>19</u>	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## July

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## August

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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15	16	17	<u>18</u>	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	<u>2</u>	3	4	5
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13	<u>14</u>	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	<u>23</u>	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	<u>20</u>	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	<u>28</u>	29	30

## December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	<u>4</u>	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	<u>18</u>	19	20	21
22	23	24	<u>25</u>	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Red = N'Crowd scheduled meeting night

Blue = BC&G scheduled operating session

Black = US holiday