



News from Houston N'Crowd



# THE ORDERBOARD

November/December 2014



*BC&G business car Houston on N'Crowd member Al Hague's Kansas & Pacific during the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club Annual Fall Layout Tour.*

**N'Crowd shines during layout tours!** *page 6*

# "GREEN EYE" - CLEAR BLOCK

*by Vincent Walker, President*

## Up and running: Where are you?

We will be holding operating sessions again beginning in February. Thanks to Ray Byer, the bridge that was out is repaired and back in service, and the BC&G is back in business.

I've noticed that the number of members we see at the Saturday running sessions is getting low again. Remember, this is your club, and we should all take advantage of having a running layout. Papa Ben's has been generous enough to give us the space for the layout, so let's keep the trains running on Saturdays. Bring your train, or if you don't

have a train, come on down and make up a train with the club's equipment.

Sorry for missing the October meeting, I was on vacation and totally forgot to request our VP to stand in. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings and the annual party.

This year's holiday party and combat gift exchange will be hosted by Eddie and Cheryl Aycock; see page 11 for details and plan to join the fun with your N'Crowd friends!

*Vincent*

### Houston N'Crowd Membership Meeting Report October 15, 2014

Prepared by James Senneff, Jr. - Secretary

**President's Report:** President Vincent Walker not in attendance. Gordon Bliss called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. Secretary was late to the meeting.

**Vice President's Report:** VP not in attendance.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Eddie Aycock reported the checking account has \$10,814.96 and the CD is at \$4818.53.

**Secretary's Report:** Ten members in attendance: Tom Wayburn, Tom Marsh, Richard Bartlett, Dejan Suskavcevic, James Senneff, Jr., Kyle Senneff, Gordon Bliss, Joe Kingsberry, Ray Byer, Steve Lancaster.

**New Business:** San Jacinto Model Railroad Club Fall

Layout Tour guide is available. N'Crowd will be open Nov. 29-30 for the tour. Joe Kingsberry will man the layout, but everyone is invited to participate.

BC&G bridge repairs completed and ready for testing. Joe Kingsberry has a few club locos for repair; he brought back the SD40 with couplers fixed. Gordon showed photos of the updated Holbrook, Ariz., section of his layout.

**Upcoming Clinics:** Richard Bartlett's new electrical clinic is scheduled for the November meeting. DCC programming with the new BLI Address Changer will also be covered.

**Upcoming Club Events:** N'Crowd holiday party and combat gift exchange will take place Dec. 13.

**Old Business:** Scenery clinic by Greg Johnson at his new layout was a lot of fun.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



**N'Crowd Wednesday Membership Meetings:**  
December 17 / January 21 / February 18 / March 18

**BC&G Operating Sessions:**  
February 4 / April 1 / June 3 / August 5 / October 7

Most activities take place at Papa Ben's Train Place, 4007-E Bellaire Blvd. Our monthly membership meetings start at 7 p.m. The BC&G Wednesday operating sessions start at 7 p.m. Come earlier to join us for dinner.



# Spotting heritage

by Samuel Townsel II

Railfanning has evolved from the days of spotters with scanners chasing trains. Scanners are still relevant to our hobby, but I want to let everyone know of a website where spotters upload current heritage locomotive unit locations across the country.

About a year ago, I joined [www.heritageunits.com](http://www.heritageunits.com) and I have been impressed by the information posted by a network of spotters uploading interesting locomotive locations and movement directions. It was because of this tool I was able to catch UP's Southern Pacific heritage locomotive No. 1996 in Settegast Yard in early November just where the site said it would be getting ready to depart with an intermodal train.

If you are interested in catching heritage units from any of the major class I railroads and Amtrak, I encourage you to go to [www.heritageunits.com](http://www.heritageunits.com). Who knows, your favorite heritage units may be in your area sooner than you think!



*N' Crowd member Samuel Townsel II used information on [www.heritageunits.com](http://www.heritageunits.com) to track down Union Pacific's SP heritage unit No. 1996. Samuel caught the EMD SD70ACE in Houston at Settegast Yard on Nov. 4, 2014.*



## WANTED!

Your contributions to *The Orderboard*.

As with most aspects of your club, this only works if you participate.



# N'Crowd highlights N-scale variety

Your N'Crowd Model Railroad Society was well-represented in the 2014 San Jacinto Model Railroad Club 2014 Fall Layout Tour. Five N'Crowd members were on the official tour list, a sixth invited club members to see his work in

progress, and the club's own BC&G was back in action after recent bridge, track and electrical maintenance and repair work was completed. In addition to the N'Crowd's participation, another 53 layouts were included on this year's tour.



*Above, Gordon Bliss and his Santa Fe - All the Way.*

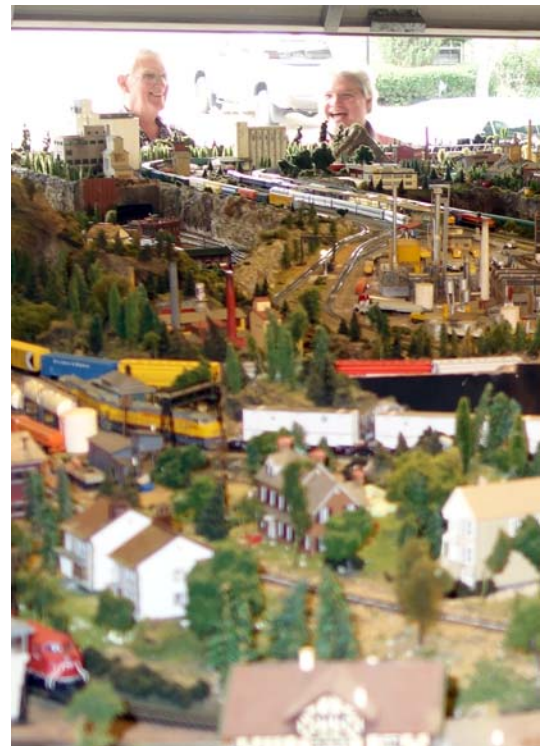
*Below and right, visitors enjoy the sights on Gordon's layout. Photos by Tom Marsh unless noted otherwise.*







*This page, Al Hague shows off his Kansas & Pacific. Al's multi-level garage layout has around 1,500 trees, many buildings and more trucks and trailers than you care to count!*







*This page, Greg Johnson's latest creation models the Southern Pacific's operations in east Texas. This marked the first time on the San Jac tour for Greg's new East Texas Railroad, and the layout did not disappoint. The East Texas Railroad will be featured in Kalmbach Publishing Co.'s upcoming Model Railroad Planning 2015.*



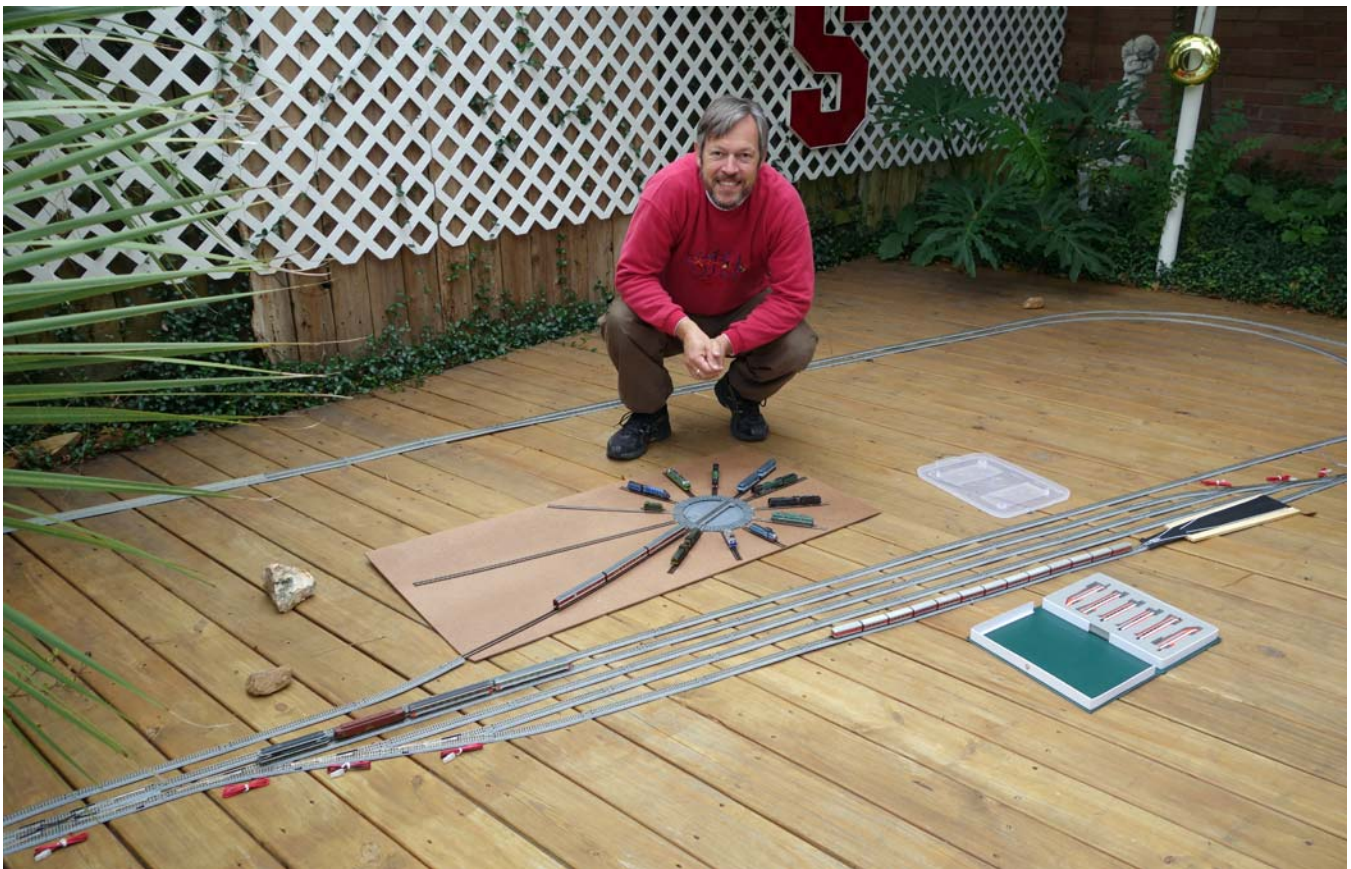




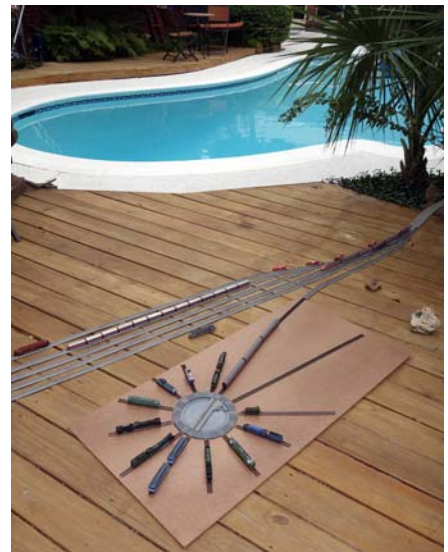
*This page, Samuel Townsel II is modeling the UP in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas. His double-deck layout was started less than a year ago, and he has still found time to work on the refinery on the club layout at Papa Ben's and not ignore his wife and two young children! Samuel's son is already a diehard Santa Fe fan, so we can expect to see a Warbonnet or two on the Ark-La-Tex Line in the future.*



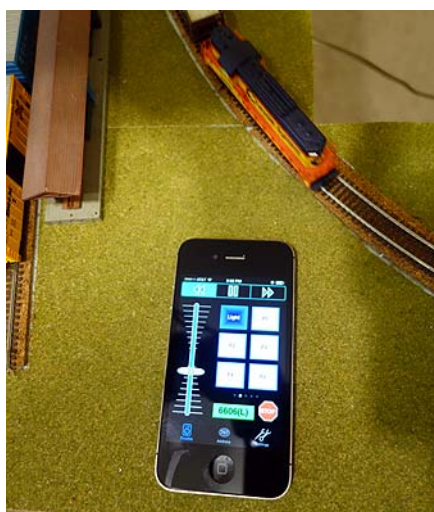




*This page, the San Jac layout tour guide book rarely includes the phrase “weather permitting” when referring to an N-scale layout, but it did this year in the listing for Daniel and Thattaya Shaw’s Le Cevenol garden railroad. The layout is unique not only for the gauge selection, but for featuring Daniel’s interest in French and other continental European prototypes. The poolside deck provides yard space, while the well-manicured garden provides the scenery.*







Above and far left, Dejan Suskavcevic did not join the official San Jac tour this year, but he did invite N'Crowd members to check out his "test" layout. Dejan is using his modules to practice and test his tracklaying skills, including a variety of hand-laid switches and crossings.

At left, Dejan is also testing a DCC/ computer/wireless interface, which allows him to control multiple locomotives and track routing on the layout using smart phones.





*N'Crowd's Bayou City & Gulf welcomed San Jac tour participants over the last Saturday and Sunday in November. Top left, visitors enjoy action on the BC&G. Top right and above, Santa's N'Crowd helpers man the BC&G during the tour.*

*At left, a unit train of empty UFIX coal hoppers winds its way around the BC&G during the tour. Photo by Gordon Bliss*





# All aboard for fun!

## Join us for Houston N'Crowd's Annual Holiday Party and Combat Gift Exchange

**Hosts:**

**Eddie and Cheryl Aycock**

**When:**

**Saturday, December 13 at 6:30 PM**

**Where:**

**Aycock Home – 8119 Town Creek Drive, Houston, Texas 77095**

**Dinner, dessert and soft drinks provided. BYOB if you want something special to drink.**

**If you have a special holiday side dish you want to share, please feel free to bring it.**

**Remember to bring your gift for the Combat Gift Exchange:**

**Rails and non-rails invited to play!**

**Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Cypress Assistance Ministries.**

**If you have not yet responded to the evite, please RSVP by Dec. 5:**

**Call 281-463-2623 or email [efaycock@aol.com](mailto:efaycock@aol.com)**

**How the combat gift exchange works: Bring a wrapped gift, \$15-\$25 limit. We'll have exchanges for both rail and non-rail; anyone can participate in either or both exchanges. Everyone who brings a gift pulls a number. No. 1 selects the first gift, then No. 2 has the choice to take that gift or select another, and so on, and the combat is on! Note that any one gift can only be stolen once in each round. The process continues until the last person winds up with the final pick or steal; that person can take any gift. Good strategy or good luck!**

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### **Houston N'Crowd 2014 Officers and Volunteers**

President ..... Vincent Walker  
Vice President ..... Samuel Townsel II  
Secretary ..... James Senneff, Jr.  
Treasurer ..... Eddie Aycock  
Board Member (2014) ..... Ray Byer

Board Member (2015) ..... Justin Coder  
Board Member (2016) ..... Al Hague  
Layout Master ..... Al Hague  
Editor & Webmaster ..... Tom Marsh



# LCL

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

**Final departure:** Our friend and N'Crowd member Robert B. "Doc" Moore passed away Oct. 30. We send our condolences to Doc's wife Eileen and all his family. In Doc's honor, a special train operated in early November over N'Crowd member Gordon Bliss's "Santa Fe - All the Way".



## HOUSTON N'CROWD 2014/2015 TIME TABLE

### 2014

**December 13**  
**N'Crowd Annual Holiday Party & Combat Gift**  
**Exchange: *Plan now to join the fun! See page 11.***

**December 17**  
 N'Crowd Membership Meeting at Papa Ben's Train  
 Place, 7 p.m.

### 2015

**January 21**  
 N'Crowd Membership Meeting at Papa Ben's Train  
 Place, 7 p.m.

**February 4**  
 BC&G Operating Session, 7 p.m.

## Happy Holidays from Houston N'Crowd!

## 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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