



Special Edition



THE ORDERBOARD

40th Anniversary



N'Crowd celebrates 40 years!



40 Years of Fun!

by Gordon Bliss and Tom Marsh

Gordon writes: The Houston N’Crowd was formed in 1978 through the simple process of gathering names in a notebook at a San Jacinto Model Railroad Club Jamboree. Greg Johnson asked those interested in forming an NTRAK club to sign, and on March 15 the group gathered for the first time. Now here we are, four national conventions, many mini-cons and several layouts later, and we are still having fun!

We started out building NTRAK modules, showing them and running trains for the public at many different locations and promoting the N-scale side of the hobby. I was a young 13 years old and wanted to learn how to do all the different things in model railroading. I have had many great teachers and now try to pass on what I have learned. Along the way our club members and the club have won the prestigious Con-Cor NTRAK award four times. The conventions and layout setups were hard work, but it was well worth it.

On Saturday, March 17, 2018, we gathered for the first event in our 40th anniversary celebrations with cake and fun at Papa Ben’s Train Place. Twenty-four members, including three of the four remaining charter members, were there, with the

fourth represented by his son, who is also an N’Crowd member. We held a drawing and Allan Melton won a 2003 convention car two-pack from my collection.

A group photo was taken (see cover) for an upcoming article in N Scale Railroading magazine; I am not sure that we’ve had 20-plus members in the club room at one time before! A lot of fun was had, and now we’re looking toward the next 40 years!

We also celebrated at our March membership meeting, but I will let Tom tell that side of the story...

Tom writes: The fun continued at our March 21 membership meeting at Papa Ben’s, this time with pizza and cake. After taking care of a little club

business, hot pizza arrived and the fun began. We had a number of very fine door prize items, including two “\$40 for 40” gift certificates provided by Papa Ben’s owner Allyn Pearlman. The evening ended with a

spirited “off-season” Combat Gift Exchange, in which several items proved popular enough for multiple “steals”.

Thanks to everyone who helped organize or donated to our March anniversary celebrations!



Happy N’Crowders at the March 15 celebration. Photo by Tom Marsh



Above, we're about to have our cake and eat it too at the March membership meeting. Photo by Tom Marsh. At right, the way we were in 1978. Gordon Bliss collection
Two below, Anniversary run of Gordon's N'Crowd tank train on March 17. Top photo by Gordon Bliss; bottom photo by Tom Marsh

