



Nashville N-TRAKING

Vol. I, No. 1, September 2017

Welcome to... Nashville Ntrak's inaugural newsletter!!

You are receiving this e-letter because you have expressed an interest in N-Scale model railroading, are a member of Tennessee Central Railroad Museum, participated in our Summer "Fun Run Open House", or have signed up to receive TC Hobby Shop's notices. We ask that you take the time to click on the "Manage My Account" link at the bottom of the page to record your interest in model railroading. Or if you do not wish to receive further emails, you may simply "unsubscribe".



Announcing 2nd Saturday Monthly Meetings....

Membership Not Required for 2017

October 14, 2017 9 AM – Noon

November 11, 2017 9 AM – Noon

December 9, 2017 9 AM - Noon

For many years, Nashville NTrak has been meeting weekly, either on Thursdays, or more recently Tuesday afternoon/evening. Recognizing that this schedule interferes with work or school, we will begin holding monthly Saturday meets at Tennessee Central Railroad Museum beginning in October and continuing through June. As our meeting space is not air conditioned, we will not hold regular meetings during July, August, and September. So that you can give us a *test drive* membership is not a requirement during the remainder of 2017. While the formal activities will be from 9 AM through Noon, Guests may operate their trains on the club layout until the museum closes at 3 PM so long as an NTrak member is present. Note also that the hobby shop is open until 2 PM on Saturdays.

*****Fall Clinics*****

October - **Basic** **Benchwork** **Construction:**
Participants will be given the opportunity to assemble open-grid benchwork designed to NTrak standards. This type of benchwork is also the most popular design for home layouts

as it allows establishment of grades and elevations by using a combination of risers, plywood, and extruded foam board. It is an easy technique that is very forgiving as the risers may be adjusted to smooth out any kinks in the track elevation. We will also establish a theme and layout the basic track plan in this clinic.

November – Track Laying Techniques:

After the benchwork has been completed, designing and laying track is the next step in the process. We will be using multiple modules during this process, so that we may start with laying the roadbed on the basic benchwork, then laying track on a second module, followed by wiring the track on yet a third module. This three-step process on multiple modules is required as the adhesives used require curing time.

December – Scenery Techniques 1:

Once the track is down, it's time to add scenery to the modules. Structures will be placed on the layout and the footprints will be outlined. Using various materials, we will begin the basic sculpting, apply fiberglass support and plaster to areas such as roadways and hills. Paint of basic ground color will also be applied in appropriate areas.



Upcoming events

Remembering WWII in Linden, TN

One of our most attended events last year was the WWII Reenactment in Linden.

We have an excellent venue for our modular display with air conditioning and “necessities” on site, just across the street from the court house. The main event is scheduled for September 23 and is every bit worth the trip. If you have not experienced this all-day event and street fair, take a leisurely early Saturday drive to Linden on September 23. You’ll be glad you did!

Check it out at this link: www.rememberingwwii.com

Who we are

Founded in 1987, the club's mission was to build NTrak modules that are staged for public display at International, National, & Regional shows; and Special Events. NTRAK layouts feature beautifully detailed modules with two main lines, and a branch line for picking up and setting out cars. The club adheres to international NTrak standards and has added an optional fourth rail line that runs through mountain scenery. In addition to our modules, most of which are individually owned, our club also operates and maintains a permanent layout at Tennessee Central Railroad Museum. The museum layout consists of two main lines and an extensive rail yard. Our modules and the museum layout operate with Digital Command Control (DCC); however, at least one line can operate in analog mode (DC) to accommodate modelers who do not have locomotives equipped for DCC. Recent technological developments now allow model railroaders to control their trains using smartphones. Folks with iPhones may download the *WiThottle* App; and Android users, *Engine Driver* is the App for you. Both apps are free.

During the year, members operate the museum layout for museum visitors and patrons of the Tennessee Central Railway Saturday excursion trains. NTrakers also set up modular displays throughout Middle Tennessee at various weekend events. Ownership of modules or even model trains is not a requirement to participate in any of Nashville NTrak activities.

Membership Requirements: Many model railroad clubs incur space costs such as rent and utilities in addition to the costs of maintaining the layout. Nashville NTrak is an exception as we are one of two clubs that are part of the Tennessee Central Railroad Museum. An extremely reasonable annual membership fee (individual or family) is all that’s required to become a member of both the Museum and Nashville NTrak. Members have access to the club layout during museum operating hours Tuesday – Saturday, receive everyday discounts at TC Hobby Shop, and have numerous opportunities to support our museum and excursion train.

Give us a test drive....

Our monthly meetings for the remainder of 2017 are open, so you do not have to be a member to participate. Bring your trains, or run ours on October 14 starting at 9 AM. Club members will be available to answer any questions you may have regarding control systems, track systems, scenery materials and techniques, manufacturers to name a few. In addition, we will be holding a “hands on” clinic on building benchwork. This will be an ongoing clinic as we will construct a module from start to finish.

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