

## **November 2017**

Hello again. My apologies for not getting this newsletter out sooner but I can only publish material I have and it has been very slow coming in this time around.

I have to start by recording a sad event. Many will have already heard of the passing of Gordon Anderson in October this year. Gordon was a long standing member of N-Trak, and although a severe stroke many years ago had left him confined to a wheelchair, he retained his interest in American model railroading and N Scale in particular. I'm sure you'll join me in extending our condolences to Gordon's family.

## **Convention 2018**

Bookings should now be in for next year's Convention, which will be again at the Trouville Hotel, Bournemouth, though I'm sure that now we've reached the 'magic number' Neil will still be able to take any late bookings

The date is one week later than previously and will be **8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018**. This follows discussion with quite a few members at this year's Convention who preferred the second week in March.

Adults £51.25 per person per night for Dinner, Bed and Breakfast on Thursday

Adults £56.25 per person per night for Dinner, Bed and Breakfast on Friday and Saturday

Adults £41.25 per person per night for Dinner, Bed and Breakfast on Sunday

There is a single occupancy supplement of £15 per night if more than 6 singles are used.

For the basic weekend therefore, the cost is **£112.50** which is only a slight increase over the 2017 price.

Booking forms were sent out during the summer but if you missed out for any reason or need a replacement there's still time; just email me at [ralph.snelling@googlemail.com](mailto:ralph.snelling@googlemail.com) and I'll send you a copy either by email or, if you prefer, by snail-mail (don't forget to let me have your address).

## **It's New!**

No newsletter would be complete without a new announcement from Russ Kaufman of **The N-Scale Architect** and this one is no exception. In fact, this time there are three:-

## **Flat Car Bridge!**



This kit is the ninth in our TRACKSIDE SERIES which feature easy-to-build laser-cut structures, re-purposed rolling stock from major manufacturers and custom detail parts. This "Flat Car Bridge" kit includes a re-purposed flatcar body and photo-etched railings along with laser-cut concrete abutments, wooden trestle supports and treads options to support rail or vehicular traffic. The completed model, shown in the above photo measures approximately 5.75"L x 1.00"W x 1.50H". This kit (Item#10041) retails for \$35.95 and is available from local retailers or direct from [THENARCH.COM](http://THENARCH.COM).

**Picker's Paradise...** where everything's for sale...even the fence!!!



This kit is the tenth in our *Trackside Series* which feature easy-to-build laser-cut structures, re-purposed

rolling stock, full colour signage and custom detail parts. This "Picker's Paradise" kit includes two(2) re-purposed TOFC trailers, over five(5) inches of photo-etched fence, a laser-cut office with roof sign, two (2) concrete trailer platforms & stairways, real corrugated aluminium roofing, a full colour sign sheet and over a dozen scenic detailing parts. The completed model shown measures approximately 4.00"L x 2.75"W x 1.00H". This site plan can be modified to suit available layout or module space.

This kit (SKU#10042) retails for \$45.95 and is available from local retailers or direct from [THENARCH.COM](http://THENARCH.COM).

## **'Pattersons Pickle & Brine'**

A Happy Thanksgiving to all... and of course... no holiday feast is complete without some tasty pickles!!! In keeping with that theme, we are proud to introduce several new products that highlight the role of railroads in the pickling and preserving industry.





Since the late 1800's, commercial preserving operations such as those run by H. J. Heinz, L.C. Forman, Keokuk Canning and Hirsch Brothers depended on the railroads to bring their raw materials from the fields and their delicious products to market. Our newest kit, 'Pattersons Pickle & Brine', emulates these turn of the century pickling plants that often found new life as distilleries, breweries and acid factories. 'Pattersons Pickle & Brine' features a laser-cut micro-plywood support system overlain with laser-cut self-stick stonework pieces, over five(5) dozen window, door and resin castings, and a full-colour sign sheet of the most popular pickling brands. As with all of our kits, these high quality materials are complimented by our step-by-step instructions, in-progress photos and a complete set of scale drawings. This N-Scale kit (#10043) retails for \$199.95 and the finished model measures approximately 8"L x 9"W x 4½"H.

Modellers can infinitely expand their pickling operations with the companion 'Pattersons Pickle Vat Expansion' kit which provides nine(9) cast resin pickle vats with laser-cut wooden lid assemblies surrounded by a 3¼" x 3" wooden service deck with open support frame structure and positionable stairway. Each 'Pattersons Pickle Vat Expansion' kit (#10044) retails for \$59.95. Both of these structures kits are available from

local retailers or direct from [THENARCH.COM](http://THENARCH.COM).

But wait! There's more... we've teamed up with James' Train Parts of the UK to create 3-D printed kits of the specialised tank cars that supported these pickling operations !!! Each of these N-Scale car kits come complete with 3-D printed parts, full-colour illustrated instructions, photo-etched ladders, roof sign & stirrups, car weights, a choice of four(4) different decal & full-colour roof sign sets AND Micro-Trains brake wheel, trucks & body mounted couplers. Each decal & roof sign set is inspired by vintage pickling company markings and includes four(4) different road numbers. The 'Enclosed Tank' (#20098) kit retails for \$39.95 and the '4-Tank' version (#20099) retails for \$43.95 exclusively at the [THENARCH.COM](http://THENARCH.COM). Additional 3-D printing material options are available at our NEW Shapeways Shop: <https://www.shapeways.com/shops/the-n-scale-architect>.

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Russ is not the only manufacturer who's been busy. This year I took the opportunity to visit The International N Gauge Show (TINGS) in September. One of the stand-out layouts was provided by the N Gauge contingent of The Black Diamonds group; a fabulous display that ran better than clockwork and provided a great advertisement for American modelling in any scale.

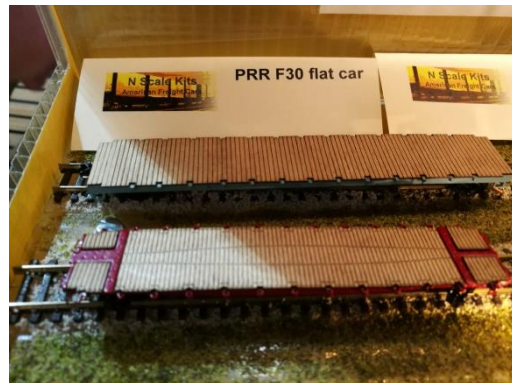
Also at TINGS was a display of laser cut building kits by Simon Ansell of **N Scale Laser** ([www.nscalelaser.com](http://www.nscalelaser.com)). This is a growing range of very high quality



kits based on very typical American structures and it's very much worth a look at the website, as my photos scarcely do these models justice.



Also displaying at TINGS was Peter Harris and his **N Scale Kits** range of white metal freight car kits. This range seems to grow continuously and now includes at least five different types of Pennsylvania Railroad flat cars, from the mundane to the monstrous. This range is well worth a look if you want something 'a bit different' for that special working! It was difficult to photograph Peter's wares at TINGS but I hope these photos give you an idea of the sort of thing available. For the full range visit [www.nscalekits.com](http://www.nscalekits.com)



## Member News

I've already covered the sad news of Gordon Anderson's passing, but

on a happier note, Bill Hamilton-Turner has been on his travels again.

**MINIATUR WUNDERLAND,  
Hamburg, Germany  
“The Largest Model Railway in  
the World”**

My children gave me a trip round MW for my 70th birthday in July 2017. Instead of a long, tedious narrative, here are some key stats, features and a few photos to give you the idea.

Countries modelled to date: Austria, Germany, Italy, Scandinavia, Switzerland, and USA.

Further countries planned: Venice (part of Italy), Monaco, and England.

Layout size: 1,490 sq. metres over 9 sections and 2 floors. All HO scale.

Length of track: 15,400 metres.

Trains: 1,040. (10,000 carriages & freight cars; longest train 14.51 metres).

Signals: 1,380 (all working); points: 3,454.

Computers: 50.

Lights: 385,000 (mostly LEDs).

Figures: 260,000.

Trees: 130,000.

Construction Time: 760,000 hours since it started in 2000.

Cost to date: 20 million Euros.

Outstanding features for me were:

1. Roadway system adjoining the railway tracks with hundreds of cars, lorries and emergency vehicles. These all have LEDs, they all are autonomous and obey roads signs e.g. traffic lights/Give Way signs; and they all drive

automatically when necessary to a recharging area and “refuel”.

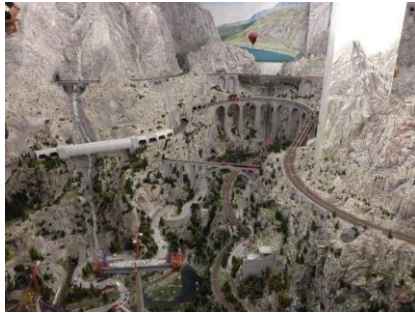
2. Large working airport with taxiing, take-offs and landings by a variety of commercial planes (including Concorde) with authentic sounds effects.



3. Periodic dimming of room lights and the lighting of streets' and buildings' lights.
4. Vesuvius volcano erupts during periods of dim lighting.
5. Harbour and waterway with real water and radio controlled ships.
6. Las Vegas at night with over 30,000 LEDs
7. Sports stadium/arena with 12,500 individual figures (1:150 scale) with special effects.



8. Cape Canaveral with Shuttle launch.
9. Scenes accurately, skillfully and artistically created on site by some of the 150 permanent workers.



10. A lot of humour in the scenes – try to spot Superman about to rescue a doomed motorist! And so on...

You will need a whole day, preferably two or even three. It's a must-see.

Enjoy!  
Bill H-T 13/08/17

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Our own travels have been railway orientated this year with visits to the Harz Mountains of Germany. A visit here will completely change your perspective of 'narrow gauge railways', forget quaint little 'tea kettles' puffing through valleys, the locos are monsters.

Later we visited some preserved lines in France and Belgium. It was on one of these visits that we were able to attend the 'Jour de Modélisme' at the Chemin de Fer à Vapeur des 3 Vallées at Marienburg in Belgium. It was very different from a British 'exhibition'. The show was held outside the railway museum at Treignes, the

terminus of the line, and the layouts were laid out in a straight line, which suited their style, and the traders all seemed to merge into one long sales table. You had to guess who was selling what to some extent! However it was very enjoyable, very hot and I came away with a couple of nice items (not American though). It was interesting to see how it was done elsewhere and the show featured many types of modelling, not just railways.

During this year I've also been delighted to be able to help Alan Cross fly the American N-Scale flag at a number of exhibitions with Mohawk Valley. We even made it onto the front cover of Roundhouse, the NMRA British Region magazine. This has been a great experience and it's been interesting to watch as Alan has modified the layout to run under DCC, added features like the water tower with sound effects and planted trees in what was once a barren landscape. Thanks Alan, it's been fun and I hope it will continue.

All that remains now is to bid all members seasonal good wishes and see you at Bournemouth!