

## *April 2019*

With the 2019 convention behind us I thought this was a good point to try and put together another newsletter.

There were a few changes at this year's meeting, some forced and some planned. Neal Carnaby couldn't make it this year but he was ably represented by Erika and Norman conducting 'business as usual'. Russ Kaufman (The 'N' Scale Architect) was there but none of his stock was! Somehow it got 'lost in transit' but he did have built samples of most of his range which he'd brought in his luggage. New, and very welcome, this year was Barry from Mech Models of Burton-upon-Trent,

<https://mech-models.com/>

who had a trade stand with us for the first time.

As usual we had the two layouts present, one from Poole (DC and DCC) and the other from Black Diamonds (DCC).

Most years seem to develop an (unconscious) theme. Last year it was the year of the hopper car, the year before the Centipede and before that the GMD-1. I think this year must have been the year of the T1. At times there seemed to be more T1s running than the Pennsylvania owned!

Looking forward, Russ Cook has already booked the hotel for next year.

Hotel charges are:-

For Fri - Sat £117.00 per person (Includes dinner Friday, breakfast and dinner Saturday and breakfast Sunday)

Extra nights are

Thursday £53.00 per person  
Sunday £42.50 per person

Booking forms will be sent out later in the year.

Also, at the convention, Russ celebrated it being our twenty-fifth convention with a number of personal awards:-

**Outstanding Service Awards** went to **The Black Diamonds** and **Steve Bunce**

**The Lifetime Service Award** went to **Barry Owen**

In a lighter mood:

The **Across the Pond Award** went to **Neil Carnaby**

The **Maple Syrup Award** went to **Russ Kaufman**

And finally, the **News Hound Award** went to **Ralph Snelling**

I think all of us who received awards were very grateful to Russ and the 'meeting' passed a unanimous vote of thanks to him for the work he puts in organising our annual get

together and supporting N-Trak in many ways.

Russ himself writes

'A big thank you to all for your support and help in making it a great 25th convention also to Russ, Erika, Norman and Barry for providing the Trade stands. Even though the Hotel has been sold on to a local group so far it has not changed their excellent service and I hope to see you all again next year. Russ'

### Convention Pictures



Photo 1 Con-Cor Aerotrain (Chris White)



Photo 2 Aerotrain from behind (Chris White)



Photo 3 Rapido Turbo-Train (Chris White)



Photo 4 Turbo-Train close up (Chris White)



Photo 5 UP 'Super Power' in the yard (Chris White)



Photo 6 Double Headed T1s! (Ralph Snelling)

### The 25 Tonner

In the last issue I wrote (at length) about my efforts to build a GE 25ton switcher using a 3D printed body

shell. I took the said beast, still unfinished, along to Bournemouth and a number of people expressed surprise at how small it was since the photos in the February issue didn't have any real indication of the diminutive nature of this mini-beast. So, with some help from Chris White I managed to get these pictures that show just how small this is.



Photo 7 Next to a hand (mine)! (Chris White)



Photo 8 'Pulling' a stock car (Chris White)



Photo 9 Little and Large (Chris White)

There's still a lot to do here. Handrails need to be made and fitted, pick-up needs sorting out, windows need glazing, etc. etc. but

the hope remains that I'll end up with a working loco. By the way, there is a chip in there (a DCC Concepts Zen Nano – the smallest I could find)!

## What's New

With all the political uncertainty that seems to be rife these days in all parts of the globe, there seems to be not a lot of movement in the market place. One recent event that is beginning to show progress is the take-over, by Atlas, of the former Walthers (originally LifeLike) range of locos and rolling stock. We're beginning to see announcements of 'new' items from Atlas which seem to be the Walthers freight cars and some of the LifeLike locos, but now with modern Atlas chassis. LifeLike had a large range of 'interesting' locos, so let's hope this trend continues.

Another new source of detail parts and road vehicles I've discovered is DM-Toys in Germany -

[www.en.dm-toys.de/index.html](http://www.en.dm-toys.de/index.html)

Many of you will have come across this trader at The International N Gauge Show held annually near Warwick. Two ranges which have caught my attention are the RAILNSCENE vehicle kits and the Modelbahn Union range of accessories and vehicles. These kits are all 3D printed but in a sort of grey resin which appears quite like cast resin, but much finer detailed.

RAILNSCENE specialise in road vehicles. The models, supplied unpainted and as multiple parts, are truly exquisite and very fine. Of most use to us in the American scene has to be the Model T Ford (though the Lotus 7 and early Range Rover may be of use). The range also includes

a number of obscure 1950s East German models, some of which resemble 1930s/40s American



Photo 10 RAILNSCENE Model T Ford (Ralph Snelling)

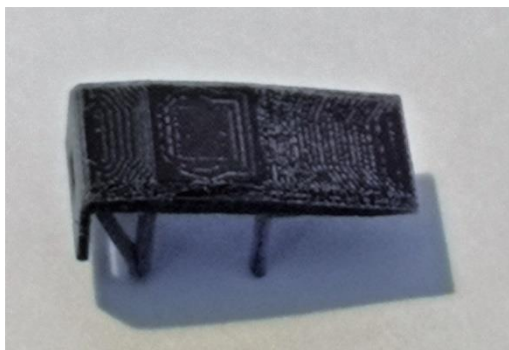


Photo 11 Roof for the Model T (Ralph Snelling)

vehicles. My favourite is a SAG fire engine which would not look at all out of place roaring out of the #4 Hook and Ladder Company fire house. The modelling is incredible and includes a full crew in period uniform. Now there's a painting challenge!



Photo 12 Fire Appliance (main parts only) (Ralph Snelling)

Do, please, bear in mind that although the camera never lies it can exaggerate, and may highlight

imperfections you wouldn't normally see or notice.



Photo 13 Fire Crew (Ralph Snelling)

On the downside, this sort of quality does not come cheap. A single car, such as the Model T, will set you back 9.99 Euros and the fire engine was 29.99 Euros.

The Modelbahn Union range is vast and includes some road vehicles, mainly German, but also masses of 'bits' for buildings including interiors. The interior parts seem to be sold as sets for a particular function e.g. modern office interior (desk, filing cabinet, computer etc.). I haven't purchased any of these yet so I can't really comment on the quality, but the photos on the web site look excellent. (Any one fancy a brewery 'kettle'?)

DM-Toys provide an excellent mail order service to the UK (10 Euros per package) and their customer service is also very good. For example, in one order I purchased a set of four Vespa motor scooters with two riders. These came packed in foam plastic in a small plastic box (as do all their models). Unfortunately, the plastic box holding the parts had burst open in transit depositing the parts into the packaging and cardboard external shipping box with catastrophic consequences. A quick email to DM-Toys explaining what had

happened and a new set was in the post free of charge. An excellent response!

Finally, I'd like to mention the Dutch firm Artitec.

[www.artitecshop.com/en/](http://www.artitecshop.com/en/)

Now I know these guys have been around for some time, producing great cast resin kits, but did you know they make road vehicles like this lovely baker's delivery tricycle.



Photo 14 Artitec Delivery Tricycle (Ralph Snelling)

Mostly these are supplied ready assembled and painted. Of particular interest to modellers of the US scene may be this military GMC353 Crane Truck, one of a number of GMC353 variants.



Photo 15 Artitec GMC353 Crane Truck (Ralph Snelling)

Again, quality comes at a price (around 33 Euros for the crane) but have you ever seen such delicate work as that jib and its associated rigging?

I must add that I have no connection, other than as a customer, with any of the companies mentioned above.

## Upcoming Events

Mech Models are holding their Americana Open Weekend (in conjunction with Black Diamonds) on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June (10 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Admission is £3 (includes a free tea or coffee) and the event promises layouts, traders, free parking, hot and cold refreshments and a display of Harley-Davidson motorcycles. The venue is Unit 9, Lancaster Park, Newborough Road, Needwood, Burton on Trent, Staffs, DE13 9PD

## Department of Good Intentions

I want to make this newsletter a bit more regular this year but I need your help. I need articles, of any length. It can be a brief note, a heads up about a common problem, a 'how I did this' type of article, a report on a local show or just a note about anything relevant.

The editor of a local newspaper once told me 'If it's not on my desk, I can't put it in my waste bin.' A bit extreme, but I'm sure you'll get the meaning – I can't publish what I haven't got! So please get scribbling.

Also, if you know of local events that might be of interest – let me know in good time and I'll see what I can do. You can reach me on [ralph.snelling@googlemail.com](mailto:ralph.snelling@googlemail.com) (that's the best method) or by snail mail to 109 Henderson Road, Southsea, PO4 9JE. I look forward to being inundated with responses!