



# Rules of the Road

Updated 11/21  
(Previous editions are obsolete)

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## Group 160 NTRAK History:

Group 160 NTRAK club is a model railroad club based in Burbank, CA. Founded in 1993 by George Johnsen and others interested in N-Scale (1 to 160; 3/4" = 10') model railroading, their idea was to bring together modelers who enjoyed N-Scale model railroading but who had little or no room for a home layout, and those who had home layouts but wanted to run long trains. They also hoped to spread the word about the fun hobby of model railroading.

Group 160's layouts are modular in nature and adhere to the NTRAK 2000 standard. The NTRAK 2000 standard uses modules with a 30" width allowing for a bit more room for scenery or industry. The NTRAK 2000 standard uses two outside main lines (the Red and Yellow lines) and sets the Blue line back further toward the rear of the module to wander up and back as a branch line.

The club owns four corner modules, each of which is approximately 4' square. The main theme of the modules depicts the Pacific Northwest lumber industry. The layout yard (the Roger Slowi Memorial Yard named after one of the Club members who died much too young) consists of twelve yard tracks of up to twenty eight feet in length, plus a yard throat that marshals the assembled trains on to the layout. The remainder of the layout is owned by members of the club.

In general, the Club modules embrace a Pacific Northwest theme, but the members' modules express a broad range of interests: orange groves and fruit packing are represented, as are small towns. Even one that is devastated by a tornado every few minutes. Members may build their own modules but are encouraged to help maintain the Club modules.

In 2021 the Club incorporated T-TRAK modules as an alternative to the larger NTRAK modules, and to help promote entry into the Club for new members who may not have the space for the larger modules.

## Club Officers

### **President** (Elected position):

- 1) Shall be responsible for overall activities.
- 2) Shall preside at club meetings.

### **Purchasing Agent (Treasurer)** (Elected position):

- 1) Shall collect dues, pay expenses and maintain checking and other accounts in a financial institution.
- 2) Shall verify that all members maintain their NMRA membership.
- 3) Shall be responsible for the receipt and disbursement of club funds and for maintaining an accurate record of all transactions.
- 4) Shall provide reimbursement for expenses to club members when receipts are provided by that member. (Examples: fuel expenses for towing the club trainer, work performed on club modules)
- 5) Shall submit a complete financial report at each meeting or at the request of the President.

### **Yard Clerk (Secretary)** (Elected position):

- 1) Shall send all necessary notices to club members.
- 2) Shall record and report the minutes of all club meetings, MOW work sessions, and keep the official records of the club.
- 3) Shall furnish a copy of all minutes to the club members in a timely manner.
- 4) Shall submit membership and insurance documents to the NMRA.
- 5) Shall maintain and update club documents including: The "Articles of Association", "Rules of the Road", MOW To-Do list, and the decoder prefix spreadsheet.

### **Dispatcher (Event Coordinator):**

- 1) Shall be in charge of procuring show events, actively seeking show events, and act as a public relations liaison between Group 160 and the public.
- 2) Shall design an appropriate size layout for the space allotted at a venue and coordinate members available for set-up and take-down.
- 3) Shall organize a run time sign-up sheet, if needed, at an event.

### **Maintenance of Way (MOW):**

- 1) MOW is an all member responsibility.
- 2) See the "Club Rules" section for more details.
- 3) All layout changes or updates, particularly DCC, shall be recorded by the member making the changes/updates and given to the Yard Clerk to be filed in club records.

### **Engineers:**

- 1) Any other club member that runs trains, helps maintain modules, or just likes to socialize about N-Scale railroading.

## Club Members

### Expectations and Requirements

- 1) All Group 160 members, or persons wishing to join Group 160, shall read, understand, and abide by these “Rules of the Road” as a requirement for membership.
- 2) Group 160 consists of individuals and groups dedicated to the promotion and advancement of scale model railroading and related hobby activities, through public education, shows & conventions, specific education and training in different aspects of the hobby.
- 3) Group 160 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, national origin, sex, gender, religious affiliation, handicap, or other personal factor. Group 160 welcomes model railroaders and those interested in becoming model railroaders but because of our interactions with the public, and particularly children, persons convicted of crimes against children are not eligible to join Group 160. We reserve the right to determine our membership.
- 4) Group 160 is a purely voluntary organization; annual dues are required for membership. Regular membership is open to individuals eighteen (18) years and older, who are interested in and dedicated to promoting the hobby and actively supporting local club efforts to expand interest in the hobby. The minimum age for Club membership is twelve (12) years of age.
- 5) Youth membership:
  - Any person between the ages of 12 ~ 18 may become a Youth member upon completion of an application for membership.
  - Any Youth member must have a sponsor (regular member) who will take responsibility for the actions and behavior of the Youth member.
  - The sponsor must be a parent or legal guardian.
  - The sponsor must accompany the Youth member at events / shows, work sessions, club meetings, or other club activities.
  - A Youth member may participate in all activities of Group 160 but may not hold an office.
  - There are no dues for Youth membership.
- 6) Pay annual dues to the Club and to the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. (NMRA) in order to provide the club with sufficient working capital and qualify the club for liability insurance through the NMRA.
  - Group 160 participates in the NRail.Inc “Super Club” program ([www.NRail.org](http://www.NRail.org)). A portion of Group 160 membership dues pays for all Group 160 members to be members of NRail.
- 7) Attend Club meetings (see Club Meeting section below), and actively participate in club decision making.
- 8) Attend as many club-involved venues as possible throughout the year including set-up, operation, and tear-down. Current locations of shows range from Los Angeles, Kern & Ventura Counties (with the potential for an occasional show outside this area), and run from one to three weekend days on average.

- 9) General expectations are that members will be able to actively assist in unpacking and packing the Club Trailer and NTRAK modules, setting up modules, and operating trains at shows. All members are expected to participate in either the setup or tear-down process.
- 10) Participate in periodic work sessions, held in various locations, involving club modules and equipment to help to repair and maintain modules and other club property to ensure proper working condition for shows and events.
- 11) Transportation costs, food and lodging expenses to and at shows, work sessions, meetings, etc. are the responsibility of the club member. Members who transport the club trailer are eligible for reimbursement of fuel costs.
- 12) Develop operationally sound N-Scale train consists and modules that can be used on the club layout to enhance our stature as a leading edge modular model railroad club.
- 13) Group 160 has uniform logo-branded shirts for use at all of our public events. All members are required to wear a Group 160 shirt while operating at shows or events. Shirt costs are nominal and paid for by each member. Shirts can be purchased from Daylight Sales (<https://www.daylightsales.net>).

## **Monthly Club Meetings**

We have a monthly dinner meeting, usually on the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 7:30 PM and lasting approximately 1 ~ 1.5 hours. However, on special occasions, that meeting can change and notification will be given to all members.

- On months that we have a show, the meeting may be held on the first day after the show, or at a dinner on one of the show days.
- On months we hold MOW work sessions, the meeting may be held in conjunction with the work session. Meeting may either be at the work site, or after work has finished at a nearby restaurant.

## **Group 160 Club Rules**

- 1) This is our hobby and is meant to be fun and enjoyable for all. Therefore the number 1 Rule is **“Always Have Fun”**.
- 2) The Digitrax Digital Command Control (DCC) system is the standard used by Group 160.
  - Throttles are the responsibility of individual members.
  - Duplex radio throttles are recommended.
  - There is limited Wi-Fi phone/tablet control use available for the NTRAK layout.
  - T-TRAK modules have the option of operating on DCC, DC or both.
- 3) Normal track operations are: Red (counter clockwise), Yellow (clockwise) & Blue (counter clockwise).

4) Trains run at public events during “prime time” hours need to be “bullet-proof”—previously run successfully at a show with zero derailments. *No exceptions!!*

5) There needs to be at least one train operating on each of the Red, Yellow & Blue lines when doors open for an event. And at least one train operating on each (R, Y & B) line throughout the event and until closing time each day of the event.

6) Bad order cars on any train on the layout will be pulled by any operator / member after three derailments or un-couplings, assuming that the track work is solid. Cars should be placed on the yard table or given back to the owner / operator when removed.

7) Wayne and Arnold are our designated DCC Czars. If there are questions or problems re: our system, please start with them.

8) Be careful and respectful of others’ work if you are “tinkering” with any aspect of DCC, layout wiring, track work, construction, and the like. Please confer with Wayne or Arnold for DCC issues and the Dispatcher or affected club members before making any changes to the layout.

9) The club Dispatcher or DCC gurus may pull any module from the layout that is causing issues or not working properly.

10) Train length: 30 or more freight cars and 10 or more passenger cars will run on the Red and Yellow lines. Way freights, commuter passenger trains, and Thomas or other novelty trains should be run primarily on the Blue line.

11) If you are running a train on any track you, or your designated operator, must be on its throttle.

12) At public events, children of all ages are encouraged to participate in operating trains on the layout. Children under the age of 18 must be under the supervision of a Group 160 member.

13) Ideally there will be a sign-up schedule (Appendix 2) provided at each venue so that all members have an opportunity to run trains during shows and there is sufficient coverage and variety of trains displayed.

- Members who are actively involved in set-up at the show have first rights for picking times on the sign-up schedule.
- Show some courtesy in allowing others to sign up and/or run first before you from time to time. Shifts will normally be 90 minutes.
- If you are not current with your NMRA dues you will only be allowed to operate on the layout if there is no one else who wishes to run.
- The last scheduled running times on any day of a show will be made available for previously untested trains to test run or to correct any operational issues.

14) Club Modules:

- Other than routine maintenance on modules, all changes or updates to modules must have the approval of the club.

- Any expenses associated with changes or updates must also have prior approval from the club prior to work being conducted on any module.
- Receipts for items associated with work must be given to the Club Purchasing Agent for reimbursement in a timely manner (within 90 days).

15) Bridge Module:

- There is not track power cut-off on the bridge. Ensure there are no trains approaching from either direction before lifting the bridge.
- DO NOT stand on the bridge module when lifting or lowering the bridge. This causes the module to narrow causing the bridge to bind.
- Lower and lock the bridge in place as soon as you pass through.

16) Member Modules:

- It is the responsibility of the module builder / owner to ensure their module is in good working order, track work is "bullet-proof", switches operate properly, and dead spots do not exist on their module(s).
- If a member's module(s) are to be used in a show, that member (or their designee), must be present for set-up, take-down, or preferably both.

17) Please exercise due diligence and care of member and club-owned modules and scenery / buildings during set up and tear down. If you are unsure of how items are packed / unpacked or assembled / disassembled please check with a member experienced with these items before proceeding.

18) Model Railroading IS fun. Please interact and be courteous with the public, other clubs and their members, and your fellow Group 160 members. Let's do our share to make model railroading a positive experience for EVERYONE.

## **NTRAK Modules**

1) Group 160 modules are based on the NTRAK 2000 standards module size (30"x48") running the alternate branch line (Blue line). The centerline of the track as measured from the front of a standard module:

- Track spacing shall be as follows:
  - Red line – 4"
  - Yellow line – 5 1/2"
  - Alt branch line / Blue line – 14"
  - Group 160 Green line – 25" and 3" above the module table-top. If interested in installing a Green line to your module, please first consult with the Club

2) Preferred ballast is Woodland Scenics N-Scale fine. The Red & Yellow mainlines are 8 parts fine gray mixed with 1 part cinders (black). The Blue & Green branch lines are 4 parts gray mixed with 1 part buff. Crossovers from Yellow to Blue should be the same as the Blue & Green. All other lines or sidings ballast can be the module owners' choice.

- 3) The front edge of modules should be contoured to match the scenic topography of the module. The color chosen for module fascia is “Nutmeg” brown. It is recommended that all new or re-furbished modules be painted to match this color. The bottom edge of the module should have a hook Velcro attached. The Velcro strip will be used to attach Group 160’s brown skirting.
- 4) Track Bus wire shall be stranded 12 gauge spanning the length of the module between the endplates. The Track Bus wires shall terminate near the center of the endplates, extending long enough to attach to the adjoining module with a pair of 30 Amp Anderson Powerpole connectors. Track feeder shall be 20 to 24 gauge wire.
- 5) Digital Command Control (DCC) will be the default mode of operation on all NTRAK module lines.
  - When the Wi-Fi is used (throttle for phone or tablet) the computer needs to be set to Decoder-Pro.
- 6) Show Special Considerations:
  - Lomita & Pomona Fairplex – Due to the slope of the floor, it is recommended when leveling the layout, to start on the upside and make the modules as low as possible, and make the downside as high as possible to match.

## **T-TRAK Modules**

- 1) The Club T-TRAK layout will be secondary to the club’s NTRAK layout and will only be set-up after the NTRAK layout is up and running / operational. T-TRAK will be displayed only at shows where space allows and does not take away from the NTRAK layout, and when we have a sufficient number of club members to operate both layouts.
- 2) Modules will be constructed in accordance with T-TRAK standards ([www.nrail.org](http://www.nrail.org)) or (<http://t-trakhandbook.com>) for module size, track location and wiring (BWVB) if wired.
  - Not all modules are required to have power supply connections
  - T-TRAK modules may operate on DCC or DC
  - Throttles for DCC are the responsibility of individual members
  - Duplex radio throttles are recommended
- 3) There are no Club standards for scenery or fascia color. Just build what you want and have fun.

## **Locomotive Addressing**

Each member will have a unique two-digit member roster prefix. When programming loco addresses, the first two digits of the road number will be replaced with the assigned two-digit member roster prefix. For example, if a member's assigned prefix is 22 and the engine’s current decoder number is 6543, the member would program the decoder in 6543 to a number of their choice, but beginning with 22xx when operating on the Club layout. The Club Yard Clerk will maintain a listing of the two-digit prefix roster.

## **Special Orders of Operation**

Special Orders of Operation apply when necessary. Orders may change from time to time throughout the year. If so, new Special Orders will be noted in Appendix 3 of this document until incorporated into the next revision of this document.



Group 160 NTRAK Club  
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Glendora, CA 97140  
Group160ntrak@gmail.com  
Web: Group160NTRAK.org



## Membership Application

Information is for club use only and will not be shared.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

NMRA Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Group 160 is a 100% NMRA club

Your interest in model railroading (check all that apply):

- Construction                       Operations / Running Trains     Scenery  
 Model building / 3D Printing     Electronics (DCC / Arduino)     Socializing / Talking Trains

Do you have, or would you like to build your own NTRAK module?  Yes  No

If yes, what is the theme of the module? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have, or would you like to build your own T-TRAK module?  Yes  No

Road(s), Era and Location You enjoy or would like to model: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a home layout?  Yes  No

Group 160 NTRAK is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Reading and understanding Group 160's "Rules of the Road" manual is a requirement for membership.

## Appendix 2

Group 160 Rules of the Road

### Event Sign-up Schedule for Running of Trains

Sessions are generally 90 minutes.

First session trains will be running at event door opening.

ccw = counter clockwise cw = clockwise.

First Session: _____ to _____					
		Name	Train Type	Name	Train Type
R	CCW				
Y	CW				
B	CCW				
Second Session: _____ to _____					
		Name	Train Type	Name	Train Type
R	CCW				
Y	CW				
B	CCW				
Third Session: _____ to _____					
		Name	Train Type	Name	Train Type
R	CCW				
Y	CW				
B	CCW				
Fourth Session: _____ to _____					
		Name	Train Type	Name	Train Type
R	CCW				
Y	CW				
B	CCW				
Train Testing - Final Hour					
		Name	Name	Name	Name
R	CCW				
Y	CW				
B	CCW				

## Appendix 3

### **Special Orders of Operation (Layout Set-up Notes):**

Orders of Operation apply when necessary. Special Orders may change from time to time throughout the year so only this Appendix will be updated rather than the entire document. Special Orders in this Appendix may be moved to the “Rules of the Road” document at the next revision of that document.

- NONE AT THIS TIME