

The

# Whistle



# Post

*Official Newsletter of the*

## Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

**1615 Old Louisburg Rd Raleigh, NC 27604**

**Phone: 919-400-5570**

### **Next Meeting's Program**

### **Under the Crown Sheet by Clif Kelly 30 July 2020**

As we approach mid-summer the uncertainty of the continuing effects of the Coronavirus pandemic very much remains with us in our daily activities. The practice of wearing face masks in public, making liberal use of hand sanitizers and practicing social distancing skills has now become part of our daily lives. While we continue to be under the Governor's order for limited contact in social environments, the Board of Directors voted to reopen the Club on a limited basis beginning on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

While the Board has continued to meet monthly, first by teleconferencing and later in person, it was felt that important issues before the Board could not be delayed. Reviving monthly membership meetings has proved more difficult due to social distancing concerns. Our first membership meeting since last February was conducted on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

Based upon a commitment of twenty club members pledging their support and enthusiastic response from many of our show vendors I am happy to report that by unanimous vote the Board of Directors has passed a motion to proceed with the fall show scheduled at the State Fair Grounds during the weekend of 6-8 November. Although the State Department of Agriculture has cancelled the State Fair, the Flea Market reopened two weekends ago with good success while other weekend shows at the Fair Grounds have rescheduled as well.

The Membership Meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Club House. Due to social distancing protocols the meeting will be conducted in the parking lot. Please bring a face mask, hand sanitizer and a chair.

Of special interest the Board of Directors has received resignations from Steve Wills as Treasurer and Mike Keelean as an At-Large Board member, both effective August 20th. The Board has scheduled a special election as part of the Membership Meeting. Nominations will be opened and closed during the meeting with voting following the close of nominations. Voting will be limited to Senior members present at the meeting.

The membership is reminded that annual dues are now due. Members to remain in good standing should make payment to the Treasurer by August 31<sup>st</sup>.

As a reminder Senior Rate = \$360.00, Associate Rate = \$216.00, Juniors = \$108.00, Youth = \$72.00.

The Club has identified a new venue for Breakfast. We are now meeting in west Raleigh at Barry's Café, located at 2851 Jones Franklin Road in the Swift Creek Shopping Center (intersection of Jones Franklin with Tryon Roads). The meeting time will continue to be on Wednesdays at 9:00 am. The food and service have been enjoyed by one and all.

Best regards for now and everyone stay well and safe.

### **Message from Tom Magnani on Memebership Meeting**

Dear NRV Members and Friends:

Assuming no changes in the State's COVID rules the club is planning an outdoor, socially distanced, meeting this Thursday,August20th.

The meeting will begin in the parking lot at 7PM.

There will be voting by eligible senior members to fill the recent Board vacancies.

Please bring your own chair, facemasks, and sanitizer or wipes so that you can use the bathrooms.

We will also attempt to do a teleconference with a recording.

**Tele-Conference Dial-in Number: 712-775-7031**

**Participant Access Code: 175235#**

Stay healthy,

Tom

### **Minutes of the Membership Meeting of July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call – Tom Garren.

The meeting was called to order by President Clif Kelly at 6:12 PM.

In attendance were:

Board Members Wayne Aiken, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, and Tom Garren;

Members Richard Calfee, Mike Johns, John Kuchnia, and George Lasley,

We also had one visitor, Bill Frechette, who filled out an application. This counted as Bill's first meeting.

2. Treasurer's Report – Steve Wills.

Clif shared the highlights of the treasurer's report

3. Reminder for Collection of Dues (Due 1 Jun 2020 for FY 2020-21) - Clif Kelly and George Lasley.

It is time to remind the membership that it is time to pay the FY 2020-21 dues. Dues should be paid, or arrangements made with the Treasurer, by September 01 for a member to remain in good standing.

As a reminder here are the levels of membership and their dues:

1. Senior member: over 21, have voting privileges and a key  
\$360.00/year
2. Associate member: over 21, no voting privileges or key  
\$216.00/year (60% of Senior)
3. Junior member: Ages 17-21, no voting privileges or key  
\$108.00/year (30% of Senior)
4. Youth: Up through 16 years old, no voting privileges or key  
\$72.00/year (20% of Senior)

Members are also reminded that we now accept credit cards for the payment of dues with no service charge for a full-year payment.

4. Report on WRAL Digital Design Team Progress on Updating Club Website – Tom Garren.

- The Web Site committee met this week with our WRAL Digital Design representative.
- We have been working with mock-ups of the screens and have been asked to approve colors and the basic page layout.
- The next phase will be version 1.0 of our new website in which we will be able to see the actual site and test the way it works.

- Changes will then be made per the request of our committee.
  - We are still on track for a September 01 go live.
5. Update on Fall Show, 6-8 November 2020 – George Lasley.
- We are still planning on holding the November show.
  - We have gathered masks and hand sanitizer for the show
  - Plans for the utilization of the floor space will be adjusted to meet the requirements, once we know them
  - Will work with the State Fair staff to determine if there is a date where we can cancel without financial obligation should the conditions change.

6. Suggestions for Upcoming Events.

We would like to begin thinking about activities we can hold later this year, such as an open house, perhaps in October. The general consensus was that it is too early to set a date and finalize plans for an open house.

Mike Johns made the suggestion that we could bring guests to the clubhouse, a few at a time, and in that way conduct our own small open house. This could still show the advantages of the club and remain compliant with group restrictions.

7. New Business.

A set of jumper cables have been added to the shop in case they are needed for someone in the parking lot.

8. Adjournment.

Mike Keelean made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Tom Garren. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

The meeting was followed by a slide show on North Carolina railroads presented by George Lasley.

### **Minutes of the Board of Governors' meeting of August 3, 2020**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call – Tom Garren.
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 6:56 PM
  - b. In attendance were:

- 1) Board Members: Clif Kelly, John Spach, Steve Wills, Mike Keelean, Wayne Aiken, Tom Garren, and Tom Magnani by phone;
  - 2) Members: George Lasley, John Ragan, Mike Johns, and Richard Calfee.
2. Treasurer's Report – Steve Wills.
  - a. The detailed Treasurer's report has been sent to the Secretary.
  - b. Taxes have been prepared and submitted to the Ways and Means committee for approval.
  - c. We are being charged the expected rate for use of the credit card machine.
3. Status on Membership Dues Received to Date – Steve Wills.
  - a. Two members have made an overpayment of their dues
    - 1) In one case the overage is to be treated as a donation to help other members, especially youth members, with the payment of dues.
    - 2) The Board requests that the secretary send a thank you note to this member.
  - b. At this time we have collected approximately \$8,000.00 in dues. This represents around 2/3 of our membership.
    - 1) This also means that several members have not yet paid any part of their dues.
    - 2) We are hopeful that more dues will come in during August.
    - c. Notification will be sent to any delinquent members in September.
4. Discussion and Decision to Continue to Move Forward with/Cancel Fall Show in November – Clif Kelly and George Lasley.
  - a. At this time we have 19 club members and 2 wives agreeing to work the show.
  - b. We also have 11 members who have declined to work at this year's show.
  - c. George has contacted 29 of our vendors
    - 1) 26 say Yes to being at the show. These vendors represent 114 tables.
    - 2) Only 3 said No, and two of them were for reasons other than COVID.
  - d. If we have 1,000 paid attendees, that will represent at least \$8,000.00 in income. Combined with the \$5,700.00 from table sales it is believed that we will at least break even.

- e. Even though the State Fair has been canceled for this year, there are other shows going on at the fairgrounds. This includes the Flea Market opening up again last weekend.
  - f. To proceed safely the club is planning on implementing these precautions:
    - 1) Everyone will be asked to wear a mask. This includes our staff, the vendors and the attendees.
    - 2) Social distancing will be practiced by adjusting table spacing and marking the floor.
    - 3) Controlled enter and exit doors will be established.
    - 4) Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the show.
    - 5) The number of layouts on display will be limited.
  - g. The State Fair is requiring a Hold Harmless be signed as an additional part of the contract.
  - h. Set up day (Friday) will be used by the Fair staff to set up our tables.
    - i. Vendors can begin their setup after noon on Friday.
  - j. A motion was made by Mike Keelean and seconded by Tom Garren to go forward with the November show.
    - 1) The motion was passed unanimously.
    - 1. John Spach suggested that we get a no-touch thermometer and have someone checking attendees as they come into the show.
    - 2. It was suggested that anyone with a temperature of over 100 degrees be denied admission to the show.
5. Report on WRAL Digital Design Team Progress on Updating Club Website – John Ragan, Bernie Dawson and Tom Garren.
- a. John Ragan has spent a great deal of time over the past couple of weeks to obtain all the needed credentials for our website so that we can maintain the same web address for the new website.

- 1) These included getting the user id, password and pin for our existing website.
  - 2) Also obtained Employment ID Number Determination Letter from the IRS.
  - 3) This document was accepted by Go Daddy and allowed John to receive the needed information.
  - 4) This work most likely has caused a delay of a week or so on the development of the new website.
  - 5) It is essential that the club maintain this information in more than one place for future needs.
  - 6) This information should be managed by the Board.
    - b. The next event will be WRAL sending us an operating version of the new web site.
    - c. The committee will share the initial with the rest of the Board.
    - d. Following our evaluation, WRAL will do a re-write per our recommendations.
    - e. A second re-write will be made if needed.
    - f. Following our approval, the site will go live.
    - g. The check was written for the third and final payment to WRAL Digital Design for this work.
6. Board Personnel Changes
- a. Mike Keelean has resigned from the Board of Governors effective with the August 20 membership meeting.
  - b. Steve Wills is also resigning from the Treasurer role effective with the August 20 membership meeting.
  - c. Mike Keelean has volunteered to take over the Treasurer job.
  - d. Steve wishes to help with the newsletter.
  - e. To facilitate these events the following must happen.
  - f. The Secretary will send a communication from the President to the senior members in good standing explaining the situation.

- 1) At the August 20 membership meeting both resignations will become effective Nominations will be opened and closed at the meeting.
- 2) A special election will be held, if needed, to resolve the vacancies.

## 7. New Business.

- a. It was determined that we should obtain two thermometers.
- b. Steve Wills made a motion that we obtain two no-touch thermometers not to exceed \$150.00. a. Seconded by Tom Garren
- c. Passed unanimously
- d. John Spach has ordered two no-touch thermometers for the club.
- e. These can also be used to check people coming to the clubhouse.
- f. It was clarified that visitors are now allowed at the clubhouse as a result of a vote at the August Board meeting.
- g. The September Board meeting will be held on August 31 since the normal meeting date of September 07 is Labor Day.

## 51. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

**Neat Links**

## **Future Events**

When we can resume some activity, the club will be open on Saturdays at 10 am. and Sundays at 1 pm.

We are currently meeting for Wednesday Breakfast at Barry's Café, located at 2851 Jones Franklin Road in the Swift Creek Shopping Center.

Events at the club site, 1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh, NC 27604

For details on how to arrive at the club, check out our website: <http://www.nrvclub.net>

## **Notes from the Webmaster and the Editor**

Please send [Patrick Bradley](#) recent photos of our club activities, so he can update our website.

Please send articles to Joe at [nrvmrrc@gmail.com](mailto:nrvmrrc@gmail.com) by the Thursday before the next meeting, so I can do the newsletter on Thursday. Check out our website at: <http://www.nrvclub.net>. Check the [website](#) to see when the club will be opened and call 919-400-5570 to be sure that the doors are open, if you don't have a key.

**NRV Whistle Post**  
**The Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club, Inc.**  
**PO Box 19573**  
**Raleigh, NC 27619-9573**

**First Class**

**NEXT MEETING -**

**Board of Governors, Aust 31, meeting earlier due to Labor Day Holiday on September 7.**

**Membership, August 20, 7 pm outside, at the Clubhouse, bring your own chairs, masks and hand sanitizer.**

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

|                 |                |  |                      |
|-----------------|----------------|--|----------------------|
| Clif Kelly      | President      | <a href="mailto:bkelly11@nc.rr.com">bkelly11@nc.rr.com</a>       | <b>919-614-8891</b>  |
| John Spach      | Vice-President | <a href="mailto:jtsbach@earthlink.net">jtsbach@earthlink.net</a> | <b>937-215-2723</b>  |
| Steve Wills     | Treasurer      | <b>919-845-4968</b>  |                      |
| Tom Magnani     | Secretary      | <a href="mailto:tommag1@aol.com">tommag1@aol.com</a>             |                      |
| Michael Keelean | At Large       | <a href="mailto:keeleanmike@gmail.com">keeleanmike@gmail.com</a> |                      |
| Wayne Aiken     | At Large       | <a href="mailto:htomc42@hotmail.com">htomc42@hotmail.com</a>     |                      |
| Tom Garren      | At Large       | <a href="mailto:tomgar@mindspring.com">tomgar@mindspring.com</a> | <b>919/805-0909.</b> |

**WEB SITE**

|                 |                   |  |
|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Joe Johnston    | Newsletter editor | <a href="http://WWW.NRVCLUB.NET">WWW.NRVCLUB.NET</a>   |
| Patrick Bradley | Webmaster         | <a href="mailto:nrvmrcc@gmail.com">nrvmrcc@gmail.com</a><br><a href="mailto:Professor.Miner1@gmail.com">Professor.Miner1@gmail.com</a> |