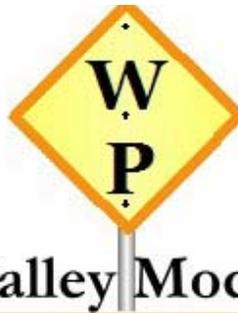


The

**Whistle**



**Post**

*Official Newsletter of the*

**Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

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

**Phone: 919-400-5570**

### **Program for January 21<sup>st</sup> Membership Meeting**

George Lasley will offer another installment of slides from his memory stick on various North Carolina railroads from the 1980s and other topics of interest. The presentation will commence immediately following adjournment of the Membership Meeting and will be made available to those participating from the Zoom community. The meeting and program are expected to end by 9:00 pm to ensure that Club Members can return home safely in compliance with the Governor's Covid-19 curfew set for 10:00 pm.

### **All Hands on Deck**

***Please mark your calendars.*** The club plans to hold the “Spring into Trains Show” from April 30 to May 2, 2021. The Fall Show was a bit of a scramble as the Covid-19 outbreak left us short-handed with many members unable to participate. The Board would like to avoid a similar situation this May. Anyone who can participate, even if for only a short time period to help set up or to man the show, will be welcomed with open arms and Covid-19 protocols. Please contact George Lasley to inquire about times when help will be most needed. Thank you in advance.

### **Under the Crown Sheet by Clif Kelly January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one a most prosperous and Happy New Year for 2021. In keeping with Southern traditions, I trust everyone had some sort of pork serving, collard greens and black-eyed peas on New Year's Day.

As we kick off the New Year, everyone is cordially invited to attend the Membership Meeting on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at the Clubhouse. Start time is 7:00 pm. Protocols will be in place to conduct temperature checks at the door for Club members planning to attend in person. The wearing of face masks will be mandatory. Social distancing will be practiced and the use of hand sanitizer will be available. If you believe that you may have a fever, have been exposed to

someone with the virus, or suspected you have the virus yourself, please take adequate precautions by staying isolated at home.

If you do not feel comfortable attending the meeting in person, Ted Kunstling has generously provided a link to allow Members to attend remotely by Zoom at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88417427631>

All that is needed is a laptop, tablet or cell phone that receives your email. Dial in will begin at 6:45 pm, and Ted will log you in. To ensure some degree of order and to minimize background disturbances, each participant is asked to mute his microphone (found in the lower left portion of the screen). Please contact Ted at 919-787-5282 if you have any questions. This production will be coordinated from the Clubhouse and will provide an exciting off campus experience to join in on the meeting if you have not used this medium before.

The meeting will be highlighted by the monthly Treasury Report given by Mike Keelean. George Lasley, acting in his capacity as Exalted Grand Pooh Bah and Show Producer, will present an update to the "Spring into Trains Show," scheduled for the State Fairgrounds (Scott Building) over the long weekend April 30 through May 2, 2021. Mark your calendars now for this event. As in the past, Friday will be the setup day for attending vendors and Club layouts and Club sales tables. Show times for Saturday and Sunday will be 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Tickets will be good for both days and are priced at \$8.00 with coupons and \$9.00 for general admission.

I'm happy to announce that Ted Kunstling has taken the Social Media Chair and will coordinate and maintain the Club's activities on Facebook and other interactions with the Website on <http://www.nrvclub.net>. We look forward to his assignment. Ted replaces John Ragan who resigned in September.

For those with an interest in the Civil War, Ted has also provided a link to a video of his program on Civil War Railroads in North Carolina. See the **Neat Links Section** below for further information.

I'm sad to report that Bob Patterson passed away unexpectedly last week. Bob had been a member of the Club years ago and had made recent inquiries to rejoin in the near future. Bob had a lifelong interest in model railroading. We will miss the opportunity to renew his friendship.

For those with an interest in good food and service, we are now meeting in west Raleigh for breakfast every Wednesday at 9:00 am at Barry's Café, located at 2851 Jones Franklin Road in the Swift Creek Shopping Center (intersection of Jones Franklin and Tryon Roads). If you have not yet participated in this event, you are encouraged and invited to join us. This activity has been ongoing since July, and we practice all Covid-19 safety protocols.

Best regards for now and everyone stay healthy, safe and well. See you this Thursday.

## Articles of Special Interest

### **BOOK REVUE** by Tom Garren: *Basic Painting & Weathering for Model Railroaders*

In addition to many books about prototype railroading, our library also contains a large selection of how to books for modelers. Some of these books are in the Model Railroader Essential Series. The book I am reviewing is in this series and is titled *Basic Painting & Weathering for Model Railroaders*, second edition. The book was written by Jeff Wilson, a very prolific author of books from Model Railroader.



This book covers all aspects of painting and weathering. It begins with a discussion of the various brands and types of paint in use today. Then it talks about painting with a brush as well as painting with an air brush. Special attention is paid to multicolor paint schemes, applying decals, and dry transfers. The book then moves into weathering with paint and chalk. Finally, special attention is given to weathering rolling stock and locomotives, and finally, structures and figures.

I found the book very useful for someone getting back into painting locomotives and cars after many years away from the hobby. I was reminded of old techniques and also learned new ones along with some really good tips. I suggest that if you have any interest in painting or weathering models, you should check out this book.

## **NTRAK is now NRail**

Effective January 1, 2021, NTRAK has changed its name to NRail pursuant to a notification from John Wallis, President, NRail. Full text of the announcement follows:

1973 was a very significant year in model railroading. The first N Scale modules were designed, constructed, and displayed at a public show. That show was the MRIA show — no layout, just modules displayed. The first public NTRAK layout was the NMRA convention in 1974. These were the seminal NTRAK modules, and their debut began the widespread use of modular layouts, not only in N Scale, but in other scales as well. With the definition of NTRAK standards and the founding of the NTRAK Newsletter by Jim FitzGerald the modular concept took off. Today, almost one-half century since their freshman assembly more than an estimated 7,000 NTRAK modules have been built.

Over the years NTRAK has evolved with variations on the basic NTRAK module including oNeTRAK, Ncat, BendTRAK, and TwinTRAK. Technical advances were made in the form of wireless throttles and Digital Command Control.

In 1996, Jim FitzGerald took steps to ensure the ongoing viability of the organization with the formation of the NTRAK Modular Railroading Society, Inc. (NTRAK, Inc.). A Board of Directors was appointed to oversee the organization, which continues to this day.

The next major advance in N Scale modular railroading was made with the introduction of T-TRAK in 2000 by Lee Monaco-FitzGerald and Jim FitzGerald. After a slow start,

the growth of T-TRAK was rapid and now has more modelers than NTRAK. Standards for T-TRAK were established by Lee and Jim, and they started building T-TRAK modules and module kits. Today, multiple manufacturers are making T-TRAK module kits.

NTRAK, the organization, has continued to be the standard bearer for NTRAK and T-TRAK by maintaining the standards function, as well as providing support to NTRAK and T-TRAK clubs, publishing the newsletter, organizing layouts at major shows, maintaining the web sites and our social media presence. But NTRAK has become more – promoting N scale in all forms including home layouts and supporting N scale activities including Free-moN and giving N Scale clinics at major shows.

As we have expanded our scope over the past few years, it has become evident that we are more than just NTRAK and the newsletter and our show activities have reflected that. But for many N scalers, NTRAK is a specific modular standard.

With that in mind, the Board has considered a new name and approved NRail as a more appropriate name to match our goals and our ongoing evolution as an organization. Legally, our new name is NRail, Inc.



What does this mean for members? NRail will continue to focus primarily on the two most popular standards, NTRAK, and T-TRAK, but we will also continue to expand and increase attention to the other aspects such as Free-moN, Clubs, and Home Layouts. And NRail will continue to expand and enhance our relationship with the various N Scale manufacturers.

Already our efforts have resulted in the following:

- A new, improved web site with a members' only section.
- Monthly ZoomTRAK meetings for members.
- Expansion of the Newsletter and its staff.
- Recognize and promote Super Clubs.
- Expand the use of social media channels.

Other programs are under way and will be announced as they are ready for unveiling.

Although the new website is [NRail.org](http://NRail.org), it will continue to be available using the existing URLs of [NTRAK.org](http://NTRAK.org) and [T-TRAK.org](http://T-TRAK.org).

We look forward to continuing the 47-year-old tradition under the new name, NRail.

NRail, NTRAK, T-TRAK and ZoomTRAK, and their logos are trademarks of NRail, Inc. Permission to use is required.

John Wallis  
NRail, Inc. President

## Neat Links

Thanks to Ted Kunstling for the following link to the video of his program on Civil War Railroads in North Carolina:

<http://www.raleighcwr.org/monthly-meeting-videos/#event1>

(If you have difficulty activating this link use Ctrl+Click to follow the link.)

The link to the video is also available at the Club website on the newsletter page under Member Articles: <http://www.nrvclub.net>.

A bibliography of the references for Ted's video is included below:

### **CIVIL WAR RAILROADS WITH A FOCUS ON NORTH CAROLINA A BIBLIOGRAPY**

Ted Kunstling 1/14/2021

George Edgar Turner, *Victory Rode the Rails: The Strategic Place of the Railroads in the Civil War* (Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1953) (First Bison Book printing 1992) This is considered the classic study of Civil War Railroads

Earl J. Hess, *Civil War Logistics: A Study of Military Transportation* (LSU Press 2017)

John E. Clark Jr., *Railroads in the Civil War: The Impact of Management on Victory and Defeat* (LSU Press 2001)

Robert C. Black III, *The Railroads of the Confederacy* (UNC Press 1998)

General Herman Haupt, *Moving the Union Army; Reminiscences of General Herman Haupt... 1901* (Big Bite Books 2014)

James A. Ward, *That Man Haupt: A Biography of Herman Haupt* (LSU Press 1973)

James C. Burke, *The Wilmington & Raleigh Rail Road Company 1833-1854* (McFarland & Company 2011)

James C. Burke, *The Wilmington & Weldon Railroad in the Civil War* (McFarland & Company 2013)

Allen W. Trelease, *The North Carolina Railroad 1849-1871 and the Modernization of North Carolina* (UNC Press 1991)

Burke Davis, *The Southern Railway: Road of the Innovators* (UNC Press 1985)

## **Minutes of the Membership Meeting of December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

1. Call Meeting to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call – Clif Kelly and Tom Garren (Acting Secretary).

The meeting was called to order by Clif Kelly at 7:05 pm.

Those in attendance at the clubhouse were: Wayne Aiken, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Johns, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Mike Keelean, Mike Marsh and Bob Patterson.

Those attending by Zoom were: Jerry Davis, Bill Ferguson, Scott Hall, Ted Kunstling, Tom Magnani and George Sawyer.

2. Recognize Visitors and Applications for Prospective Members – Clif Kelly  
There were no visitors or applicants at this meeting.
3. Treasurer’s Report (Less Fall Show) – Mike Keelean.  
Mike Keelean presented the Treasurer’s report and discussed some bank fees we have encountered with deposits from the show and the use of our credit card machine.
4. Final Report on Fall Show (6-8 November) and Preliminary Plans for “Spring into Trains Show” (30 April – 2 May 2021) - George Lasley and Mike Keelean.

George Lasley reported that the Fall Show is complete, and we made a small profit. We had about 1,100 paid admissions for the show.

George further reported that the Board has approved going ahead with the “Spring into Trains Show.”

It will be held in the Scott building at the NC State Fairgrounds on May 1-2 with setup on April 30, 2021.

TCA is interested in buying a block of 50 tables for their members to use. They will also have a meeting on Saturday morning.

We estimate that we will at least break even on the “Spring into Trains Show.”

5. Appeal for Support for Charitable Giving – George Lasley.  
As has been the custom for a number of years, we will solicit donations from the membership for donation to selected charities. This year the charities are the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. The money will be split evenly between the two charities.

The Club will match the first \$200.00 of donations.

We also offered the ability for a member to pledge an amount for this drive, if desired. The pledge will be covered by the Club and will be due from the member by the March 2021 membership meeting. The donation period ended at this meeting.

6. Update on Status of Club’s New Rental Agreement - Clif Kelly.  
Clif Kelly reported that as the Board approved, we have entered into a new lease agreement with our landlord. This new lease covers the years 2021 – 2024. As in the past, the landlord will take care of major problems, and the Club will cover minor expenses inside the building.
7. Update Report on Club’s New Website – Tom Garren.  
We have received a solution from WRAL for the problem we were having updating a picture on the website. The fix is about 2/3 complete with hopes that it will be completed this weekend.

The webmaster requests that members send pictures to be used to keep the website fresh. Anyone having pictures for the website should contact webmaster Bernie Dawson at [nrvwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:nrvwebmaster@gmail.com).

8. Seeking Volunteer for Social Media Chair Opening– Clif Kelly.  
We are still looking for a volunteer to take over the Social Media chair.  
Tom Magnani was asked to put out an email to the membership asking for a volunteer.
9. Passing of Long Time Member John Held – Clif Kelly.  
Clif noted the passing of long time member John Held. John is remembered as a person who was always helpful on Club projects.  
There are no funeral arrangements at this time. When information becomes available it will be shared with the membership.
10. Emphasis on Club Safety Measures – Clif Kelly.  
Clif reminded the membership that we must pay attention to safety when working on projects at the clubhouse. This includes putting away tools and project materials when you are finished for the day. We need to be especially vigilant to properly put away and store anything that poses a safety hazard to yourself and others.
11. Call for New Business – Clif Kelly.  
Tom Garren reported that he is working with an individual that contacted us on a potential book donation for the library.  
Mike Keelean reminded everyone that the shelves in the clubhouse now contained priced merchandise that is for sale. All sales will benefit the Club treasury.
12. Adjournment – Clif Kelly.  
George Lasley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

The Program for this evening was cancelled to ensure that members can safely leave the Club and arrive at home prior to 10:00 pm, in accordance with the Governor's revised Covid-19 policy for curfew.

## **Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of January 4, 2021**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call – Clif Kelly and Tom Garren (On-site Secretary).  
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.  
  
In attendance at the clubhouse were: Richard Calfee\*, Tom Garren\*, Ken Howard, Mike Johns, Mike Keelean\*, Clif Kelly\*, George Lasley, and Mike Marsh.  
  
Attending by Zoom were Jerry Davis, Mike Irwin, Ted Kunstling, Tom Magnani\* and John Spach\*.  
  
\* Denotes member of the Board of Governors.

2. Recognition of New Members and Visitors – Richard Calfee and Clif Kelly.  
There were no new members or visitors at tonight’s meeting.
3. Treasurer’s Report – Mike Keelean.  
Mike Keelean gave the treasurer’s report.  
Our available funds are close to the same amount we had on 05/31/2020.
4. Report on Club Holiday Donations to Selected Charity Organizations – George Lasley.  
Checks were written and distributed to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle.  
There was also discussion about inviting these two charities to the set up tables at our spring show.
5. Seeking Volunteer for Social Media Chair Opening– Clif Kelly.  
At this time we have one person that has expressed interest in the position.  
A decision will be made by this person after more specifics of the job are understood.
6. Outlook for Spring and Summer, 2021 – Clif Kelly.  
At this time there are no activities planned for the next 90 days, due to COVID restrictions.  
We may be able to have an open house sometime in April.  
Second quarter looks better for more activities.  
George Lasley shared information on the “Spring into Trains Show” scheduled for May 01-02.  
The dealer letter will be sent out by the end of January.  
At this time we will have 162 sellable tables.  
Between 48 and 60 tables will be sold to TCA for resale to their members.  
Projections indicate that we should make a small profit.
7. New Business -- Clif Kelly.  
It was noted that, on several occasions, equipment has been removed from the Thomas layout. All equipment should remain on the layout, so it can be operated quickly.  
  
A proposal was discussed to spend club funds to purchase a turntable for the HO layout. Concerns were expressed that the proposed turntable may be too small to be useful. This item has been referred back to the HO committee for further study and recommendations.  
  
Several members are notified by email when someone contacts us via the website or social media. Tom Garren requested that the first person to reply to such a contact use “reply all” so that others know the person has been contacted and not overlooked.
8. Adjournment.  
Richard Calfee made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
It was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

## Future Events

The Club is open to friends and guests most Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Club has resumed most social activities with a limitation of ten persons per room. Protocols call for social distancing, face masks and use of hand sanitizers. If you do not have a key to the Club House, please call 919-400-5570 to ensure that the Club is open.

The Club anticipates planning for an Open House in Spring 2021, depending upon status of the Corona Virus.

All events and meetings are held at the Club House, 1615 Old Louisburg Road, Raleigh, NC 27604. For directions to the Club, check out our website at <http://www.nrvclub.net>.

## Notes from the Editor and Webmaster

Please send recent photos of Club activities to Bernie Dawson, at [nrvwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:nrvwebmaster@gmail.com), so he can update our website.

Please send articles to Ken Howard, Whistle Post Editor, at [klhowardjr@aol.com](mailto:klhowardjr@aol.com) no later than Tuesday, one week prior to the next scheduled Membership Meeting (January 21st).

Check out our website at: <http://www.nrvclub.net> to see when the club will be open and call 919-400-5570 to be sure that the doors are open, if you don't have a key.

## Upcoming Meetings

Membership: Thursday, January 21<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

Board of Governors: Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

Breakfast: every Wednesday at 9:00 am at Barry's Café, located at 2851 Jones Franklin Road in the Swift Creek Shopping Center (intersection of Jones Franklin and Tryon Roads), Cary, NC.

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Clif Kelly	President	<a href="mailto:bkelly11@nc.rr.com">bkelly11@nc.rr.com</a>	919-614-8891
John Spach	Vice-President	<a href="mailto:jtspach@earthlink.net">jtspach@earthlink.net</a>	937-215-2723
Michael Keelean	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:keeleanmake@gmail.com">keeleanmake@gmail.com</a>	919-886-9238
Tom Magnani	Secretary	<a href="mailto:tommag1@aol.com">tommag1@aol.com</a>	914-815-2708
Calfee (Richard Calfee)	At Large	<a href="mailto:rhcalfree@yahoo.com">rhcalfree@yahoo.com</a>	301-335-1054
Tom Garren	At Large	<a href="mailto:tomgar@mindspring.com">tomgar@mindspring.com</a>	919-805-0909
Wayne Aiken	At Large	<a href="mailto:htomc42@hotmail.com">htomc42@hotmail.com</a>	919-602-8529

### OTHER KEY POSITIONS

George Lasley	Show Grand Pooh Bah	<a href="mailto:glasley@bellsouth.net">glasley@bellsouth.net</a>	919-757-4503
Calfee (Richard Calfee)	Membership Chair	<a href="mailto:rhcalfree@yahoo.com">rhcalfree@yahoo.com</a>	301-335-1054
Ted Kunstling	Social Media Chair	<a href="mailto:trkunstling@aol.com">trkunstling@aol.com</a>	919-787-5282
Tom Garren	Librarian	<a href="mailto:tomgar@mindspring.com">tomgar@mindspring.com</a>	919-805-0909
George Lasley	Historian	<a href="mailto:glasley@bellsouth.net">glasley@bellsouth.net</a>	919-757-4503
Ken Howard	Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:klhowardjr@aol.com">klhowardjr@aol.com</a>	919-851-3805

**WEB SITE** [www.nrvclub.net](http://www.nrvclub.net)

Bernie Dawson	Webmaster	<a href="mailto:nrvwebmaster@gmail.com">nrvwebmaster@gmail.com</a>	919-275-2144
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