

The

Whistle



Post

Official Newsletter of the

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

1615 Old Louisburg Rd Raleigh, NC 27604

Phone: 919-400-5570

“Spring into Trains Show”

As most of you are probably aware the 3rd Spring into Trains Show will be coming up in about six weeks. The club needs everyone to participate in this activity. The two shows each year are important as far as raising money for club operations. Dues alone cannot sustain us.

At any given time during the show there are approximately 20 positions to be filled. This means we need 30 persons to work the show. It is not fair to ask one person to do the same job for two days straight. Each of us needs a break as well as time to enjoy the show. I know some of you are reluctant to come out due to Covid restrictions and precautions. We will be observing the same strict guidelines which we had in place in November. To our knowledge there were no incidents arising from the November show. The general public wants to have train shows and is willing to follow the guidelines. Anyone not following our guidelines will either not be admitted or asked to leave if they are in the building.

The following is a general schedule for the show:

- Friday morning is for loading and transporting club layouts and merchandise from the clubhouse to the fairgrounds.
- Friday from noon till 8pm is setup time in the Scott Building.
- Saturday morning from 7-9 am is also setup time. The show opens at 9 am and closes at 5 pm.
- On Sunday the building is open at 8 am, and the show is again 9-5. Tear down and return to the clubhouse follows.

Again I am asking all of you to please participate as much as you can.

Thank you,
George Lasley, Show Grand Poobah

Program for March 18th 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.

Under the Crown Sheet by Clif Kelly March 18th, 2021

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well. Excitement continues to build as the “Spring into Trains Show” is but weeks away. There have been many positive developments on fighting the Covid-19 virus. Among these are a series of new emergency vaccines from Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and other pharmaceutical companies that have met with great success during the past several weeks to targeted segments of the population with limited side effects reported. The age group of 65 years plus is expected to reach general herd immunity by April 1st. These results are extremely encouraging.

The third Membership Meeting of the year is scheduled for this coming Thursday, March 18th at the Club House. Start time is 7:00 pm. Safety protocols will continue to be in place for Club members planning to attend in person. The wearing of face masks will be mandatory. Social distancing will be practiced and hand sanitizer will be available. If you believe that you may have a fever, have been exposed to someone with the virus or suspected of having the virus yourself, please take adequate precautions by staying isolated at home.

As an alternative Ted Kunstling has once again generously provided the link below to allow the Membership the option to attend remotely by Zoom if you do not feel entirely comfortable attending the meeting in person.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83652502976>

All that is needed is a lap-top, note-pad 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 minimize background disturbances each participant is asked to mute his microphone which is found in the lower left portion of the screen. Please contact Ted at 919/787-5282 if you have any questions. Tom Magnani will serve as an alternate Zoom Master should Ted not be available. Tom's number is 914/815-2708. This production will be coordinated from the Clubhouse and will provide an exciting off campus experience to join in the meeting.

The meeting will be highlighted by the monthly Treasury Report given by Mike Keelean. George Lasley, acting in his capacity as 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. 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. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted. Coupons can be found at the Club Website at: **<http://www.nrvclub.net>**.

The nominations for Club Officers including President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as the senior At Large member rotating off the Board, will be opened at the Membership Meeting. Nominations will be closed at the April Membership Meeting followed by election of the officer slate in May. The new officers will assume their duties June 1st. The Board of Officers serve for one year and the At-Large position serves a staggered three-year term. Only Senior Members in good standing are eligible to seek office and vote.

In closing you are asked to thoughtfully consider supporting the Show by your attendance if possible. Workers will be needed at the ticket desk, Club tables and manning the Club layouts. If not available for the entire weekend you are encouraged to work when you can. Let's make this show the best ever. Thanks for your support.

For those with an interest in good food and service we are now meeting 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 social distancing protocols.

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

Articles of Special Interest

The Generosity of Club Fellowship by Mike Johns

Recently Brock Bowden of the Sunday Club Model Train operators noticed that my Norfolk and Southern GP 38 was a DC locomotive. He could tell that by the humming sound it makes when running. He volunteered to add a DCC from a decoder chip he had at home. One week later Brock brought my locomotive in and programed the number from the cab number. It runs great.

This is just the latest help I've received from fellowship in the Club. Dan Egy is very helpful in programming trains as is Steve Wills. Richard Calfee is very good at scenery through example and hints. Wayne Akins has coached me on car repair and leveling couplers. George Lasley and Tom Garren have helped understand the history of the railroad. All the members have been friends.

Product Review: Airbrush Bottle Cap Covers by Tom Garren

I have always thought it inconvenient to pour unused paint back into the retail container after painting with an airbrush. This is especially true if you are working with a color you have mixed. I wanted to find something that would let me leave the paint in the airbrush bottle but prevent it from drying out.



I found one such product a few months ago on Amazon. What I found was airbrush bottle cap covers. They are sold in a package of 30 covers for less than \$7.00. To use them, you simply slide one of the covers over

the siphon tube of the airbrush bottle. This allows you to store the paint in the bottle with the siphon tube still in place. You should also cover the vent hole in the bottle lid with a piece of masking tape. By using this process, I have successfully maintained usable acrylic paint in an airbrush bottle for several months.

Once in a while, you find a product that looks too good to be true. In this case, the product did exactly what it is supposed to do. Using this product has saved me both time and paint. Hope it will be useful for you too.

Neat Links

Tom Magnani passed along the following information on the startup of NHRV train rides.

New Hope Valley Railway 2021 Season Begins March 27-28 with New Hop into Spring Train Rides

Ride event features socially distant photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny, visual egg hunt

New Hope Valley Railway (NHVR), which is operated by the North Carolina Railway Museum, will begin its 2021 season on **Saturday, March 27**, and **Sunday, March 28**, with its new ***Hop into Spring*** train rides.

Individual tickets are available now online at www.TriangleTrain.com and cost \$14 for all ages. Children under 2 are free. Train capacity will be limited to less than 50 percent due to pandemic restrictions and to allow for socially distanced seating. Tickets are expected to sell fast. Our Family Caboose, which enables up to 10 members of the same family to ride together for a single price, is already sold out on both days.

For further information see the full flyer on the Club website: www.nrvclub.net

George Lasley passed along the following information about South Carolina train shows. Follow the links in their flyer if you have further interest.

FREE ADMISSION to our March 27th show in Columbia, SC at Jamil Temple, 206 Jamil Rd from 9am-3pm. This show is the Largest show in South Carolina with 200 tables. The show will have several operating layouts including AMROC, NMRA and Midland's T-Track. We are pleased to announce that TRAINZ.COM will be vending at the show.

Another new venue for South Carolina Trade Show will be in Summerville, SC as a 2 day train show!!!! The show will be Friday, December 10th from 1pm-6 and Saturday, December 11th from 9am-3pm.

The following is a list of South Carolina Trade Shows. More information as well as vendor applications are on our website at <http://www.southcarolinatradeshow.com>

Fred Kraus passed along the U-tube link for those of you interested in the Alaska Railroad or who might have had difficulty with last month's link to Klondike Alaska:

<https://alaskashuttle.com/the-history-of-the-alaska-railroad/#:~:text=The%20History%20of%20the%20Alaska%20Railroad.%20The%20Alaska,Alaskan%20Interior%20was%20unsettled%20and%20lacked%20road%20links>

Ken Howard would like pass along the following website about BNSF operations at Marias Pass in Montana. This line used to be Great Northern trackage and the home of the Empire Builder.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlgwOVntknA>

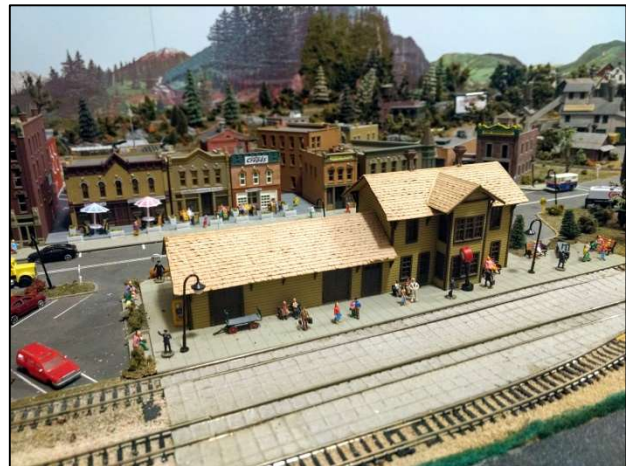
This video is not for the easily bored. It runs about 40 minutes and spans the entire operation of trains through this heavily used transcontinental line from east to west. There are long unit trains that receive entirely too much air time, but if you can stand all the excess footage there are some great scenic views and occasional mountain goats to wake you up. The Amtrak Empire Builder also makes several appearances. The site also has links to a number of other railroad videos that might be more to your interest.

Member's Home Layouts

Ken Wesp has contributed photos of his N-scale home layout for this month's edition. The overall layout is about 3 ½ by 11 feet and began life as a club donation in 2019. He has been expanding and improving it since that time, particularly with application of lighting to vehicles and structures. The rolling stock represents many different railroad lines and includes an Amtrak passenger train. The two photos that follow are details from his cityscape. For additional layout photos, visit the Member Articles tab on the Club website.



Note the theater marquee and fire truck lights that Ken has created using glass fibers. See the website for more views of his lighting.



Detail showing the passenger station and Main Street. Note the dining accommodations on the sidewalk behind the depot.

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of February 18th, 2021

1. Call Meeting to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call — Clif Kelly and Tom Magnani (Secretary).

The entirely Zoom meeting was called to order by Clif Kelly at 7:00 pm.

Those attending by Zoom were: Ron Abraham, Wayne Aiken, Doug Alumbaugh, Richard Calfee, Jerry Davis, Tom Garren, Scott Hall, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, Tom Magnani, John Spach, Ron Wertenberg, and Bob Witwer.

Also attending by Zoom as guests were: Donnie Baca and his son Max, Stephen Dalhem, Michael Mannella and his son Steven, Paul and Ward Pagan, and Peter Ring.

2. Recognize Visitors and Applications for Prospective Members — Clif Kelly.

Donnie Baca and his son Max introduced themselves. They are getting started in the hobby and working in HO scale. This is their 2nd meeting.

Stephen Dalhem is primarily interested in O and S gauges. He does not yet have a home layout and is interested in the B&O railroad. This is his 1st meeting. Ron Abraham welcomed on behalf of the S gaugers.

Michael Mannella and his son Steven introduced themselves. Their home layout is a Lionel Fastrack. Their preferred gauges are O and Lego. Their preferred railroads are NS, Canadian Pacific, and the Trans-Siberian Railway.

This is Paul and Ward Pagan's first meeting.

Peter Ring is interested in HO and has an East German train set. This is his 1st meeting.

Tom Magnani suggested that he introduce himself to Dan Egy for help with his trains.

Richard Calfee's motion to wave the rules and to admit Donnie Baca as an Associate Member and Max Baca as a Youth Member and to admit Michael Mannella as an Associate Member and Steven Mannella as a Youth Member was seconded by John Spach and approved unanimously.

Blank membership applications are in a holder just inside the Library doorway and on our web site.

3. Treasurer's Report – Mike Keelean.

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report.

Checks are mostly in for the "Spring into Trains Show".

We have 53 Club members.

Almost everyone, including our four new members, is current, or at least up to date, with their dues.

4. Update Report on "Spring into Trains Show" (30 April - 2 May) — George Lasley.

The flyers for the show have been printed and are available.

There are three saleable tables remaining for this show.

Of TCA's block of 36 tables, they have sold back 12 tables and may sell back 12 more.

Layouts for the show will include the North Raleigh NRail, our Lego and traveling O layouts.

Sign up for working at the show is through George at: glasley@bellsouth.net or 919-757-4503.

5. Possibility for Club Open House - Clif Kelly.

Considering early 3rd quarter, July or August, depending on COVID progress.

Clif hopes to restart Club road trips in late 2021 or early 2022.

6. Appeal for Membership Support During Club Visiting Hours -- Clif Kelly and Tom Garren.

We need for the club to have Senior Members, with keys, on hand to cover the club from 10 am – 2 pm.

Non-key holding members are advised to call the club at 919-400-5570 to confirm that someone will be there for them so that they will not make a trip in vain.

Everyone is asked to wear their name badges or their club shirts and to remember to sign in.

Tom Garren will leave a sign-up sheet next week.

7. Update on HQ Layout Upgrade – Mike Johns.

Mike updated the meeting on the planned upgrade to the HO layout. The HO layout group, Calfee, Johns and Wills, had received a \$400 authorization from the Board to add a yard to the layout. Steve Wills wanted to add a small, 9” turntable at one end for which the Board had requested more information. Subsequently the HO group decided to let him add it. Ron Wertenberg offered to cover Steve’s expenses.

Ted said that Steve is developing the paperwork for an Operating Session that will take 2 hours to run.

8. Appeal for Articles and Pictures of Interest for the Whistle Post--Clif Kelly and Ken Howard.

Ken needs articles, links and photos 10 days prior to the 3rd Thursday of the month for the Whistle Post.

Accepting book reviews, YouTube links for model and real RR items of interest.

He has added a new section about home layouts and desires to build a reserve of materials.

9. Process for Spring Election of Club Officers -- George Lasley and Clif Kelly.

Clif described the process as beginning at the March 18th meeting with the At-Large Directors soliciting nominations.

The senior At-Large Director, Richard Calfee, will be rotating off the Board.

At the April 15th meeting the nominations for the Board are opened.

At the May 20th meeting the nominations are presented to the membership, closed, and a vote taken.

The new officers are installed on June 1st.

10. Call for New Business — Clif Kelly.

Ted Kunstling asked that anyone who has their 2nd COVID shot notify the Club.

Ted's presentation on Civil War Railroads can be found at www.raleighcwrt.org

Mike Keelean reported we have two connectable tables for sale at \$15 each. The Mannella's will buy them.

Mike asked that a replacement for our inoperable doorbell be found. Tom Magnani will handle it.

George Lasley reminded the new members that our library is a resource for both model and real railroads.

Ron Abraham has provided a new write up for the S gauge layout. It, and the club's bylaws, constitution, Whistle Posts, etc., can be read at the club's web site:

www.nrvclub.net as well as on our Facebook page.

Ted asked for help with the Facebook page.

11. Adjournment — Clif Kelly.

Tom Magnani made a motion to adjourn at 8:13 pm, seconded by Mike Keelean and passed unanimously.

There was no after meeting program planned.

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of March 1st, 2021

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call – Clif Kelly and Tom Garren and Tom Magnani.

The meeting, Zoom and in-person, was called to order at 7:00 pm by Clif Kelly.

Those attending in person: Wayne Aiken*, Tom Garren*, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean*, Clif Kelly*, George Lasley, Mike Marsh and Richard Nyce, his 1st meeting.

Those attending by Zoom were: Ron Abraham, Richard Calfee*, Jerry Davis, Bill Ferguson, Ted Kunstling, Tom Magnani*, Mike Mannella, Peter Ring, John Spach* and Steve Wills. Attending as guests by Zoom were: Bob Witwer, his 2nd meeting, and John Russo his 1st meeting.

* Denotes member of the Board of Governors.

2. Recognition of New Members and Visitors – Mike Keelean and Clif Kelly.

Tonight, we have Richard Nyce, his 1st meeting, Bob Witwer, his 2nd meeting, and John Russo his 1st meeting, as our guests and intending to become Senior Members.

3. Discussion About the HO Layout and Turntable Options – Steve Wills

Steve provided the Board with a summary of the reasoning and planning that went into his purchase of a 10" (72 scale feet) turntable. A 130 scale foot turntable is about 24" diameter footprint and too big for our layout. The 10" one will handle most of the locomotives that usually run on the layout and will enable switching operations. He left his yard plans laid out on the layout for the Board to view.

He is considering adding a 2nd one at the other end of the layout. John Spach noted that the Board has authorized money for the 1st turntable and related changes to the layout and that the HO group will need to come back to the Board for a 2nd turntable. Steve's single person operations sheet which will take two hours to complete is in a holder near the room's door.

4. Treasurer's Report – Mike Keelean.

Mike Keelean gave the treasurer's report.

Most of the increase in total monies has been due to table rental receipts.

All members have now paid their dues. Most of our younger members, five Youth and two Junior, dropped out because of warnings for younger people not to put elder people at risk. They will be readmitted beginning with June 1st and payment of next year's dues. They will be asked to work at our show table. He will be contacting them.

5. Report on "Spring into Trains Show," 30 April – 2 May 2021 – George Lasley

Our tables and TCA's are sold out. Waiting list for 8 tables. Will print more flyers.

Working on getting indoor snack and drink carts.

We need participation from everybody to help with this show.

Non-members are welcome as volunteers. This appeal for help will continue to be made as we get closer to the show dates.

WRAL advertisements are done. The N&O is a work in progress.

Ted Kunstling will talk with John Ragan about purchasing a Facebook Boost.

6. Outlook for Spring and Summer, 2021 – Clif Kelly.

He would like to have an Open House in July or August. Expects that we will still require masks, etc. but with a limit of 25 people. Mike Keelean said that our past weekends have almost been Open Houses with excellent attendance. Ted Kunstling thinks that the new COVID strains will make their effects known in about a month.

7. Conduct of Spring Election – George Lasley

George Lasley explained at February's General/Membership Meeting that the At-Large Board members have the duty of soliciting the membership for candidates.

Five positions are on the ballot: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Senior At-Large Member. The only position with a term limit is that of the President who is limited to five (5) 1-year terms.

Any Senior Member in good standing is eligible to vote.

Nominations are opened at March's Membership Meeting; beginning the election process with the polling of the Membership is done by the three At-Large Members of the Board.

[The At-Large Board Members are: (Wayne Aiken, Richard Calfee, and Tom Garren).]

The senior At-Large Director, Richard Calfee, will be rotating off the Board and is Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

The At-Large Board members are charged with the duty of soliciting the membership for candidates.

Nominations are taken from the floor. If someone chooses to nominate another member that member must agree to the obligation.

The nominations are closed at the April 15th Membership Meeting. The ballots are USPS mailed to the membership.

At the May 20th Membership Meeting, the vote is taken and all ballots are counted, both in person and absentee. Results are announced and the new officers are installed in June.

8. Signup Sheets for March and April Work Hours at the Club – Tom Garren

Tom has sign-up sheets, to address the lack of coverage during our stated open hours, available for March and April. Each time slot is for 1 hour.

Richard Calfee noted that one of our sites says we are open until 5 pm and needs to be corrected.

During a member's sign-up time they are expected to act as greeters, answer questions about the club, provide membership flyers and applications, make introductions, ask visitors to sign in, turn on layouts as requested, and to monitor the front door.

Ted Kunstling asked that we have a check-off list for turning off the club's power and layouts posted at the door.

Tom Magnani's first attempt at a wireless chime would not work due to the way the present door button is mounted, exposed to the elements. Additionally, it would not monitor the opening of the door. He will do a detailed inspection of the door circuit in the coming week. A cow bell hanging from the door was suggested. A combined function, doorbell and door opening, was requested.

9. Call for Articles and Pictures of Interest for the Whistle Post – Clif Kelly and Ken Howard

Ken wants to develop a backlog of information, materials, links, photos and videos, book reviews, etc.

He is also looking for ideas for new or different content.

Tom Magnani is to send out an email requesting content donations.

Bernie Dawson, club webmaster, would also be a recipient of these materials.

10. New Business – Clif Kelly.

George Lasley dropped off a two-box donation of HO and N.

George has been offered a six-section, racked, 26' x 8', G scale layout, including scenery and rolling stock, located in Pinehurst, in exchange for a donation letter. It needs to be retrieved by March 15th and then stored until our May show as the sections are too big to fit through our door. Ron Abraham volunteered his garage. It was decided to do an inspection/retrieval trip.

Tom Garren used an email of February 24th (in which a nonmember asked for help with an N Gauge layout) as an example of a regular communication for which we need a response procedure and designated person.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 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 Clubhouse, please call 919-400-5570 to ensure that the Club is open.

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

All events and meetings, other than Wednesday breakfast, are held at the Clubhouse, 1615 Old Louisburg Road, Raleigh, NC 27604. For directions to the Clubhouse, 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, so he can continue adding new materials and updating our website.

Please send articles, photographs of your home layouts, and video links of interest to Ken Howard, Whistle Post Editor, at klhowardjr@aol.com no later than Tuesday, April 6th, one week prior to the next scheduled Membership Meeting (April 15th). Many of you have already responded with pictures and links. Your participation is appreciated and your contributions will appear in future editions of the Whistle Post.

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, March 18th, 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

Board of Governors: Monday, April 5th, 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	bkelly11@nc.rr.com	919-614-8891
John Spach	Vice-President	jtspach@earthlink.net	937-215-2723
Michael Keelean	Treasurer	keeleanmake@gmail.com	919-886-9238
Tom Magnani	Secretary	tommag1@aol.com	914-815-2708
Calfee (Richard Calfee)	At Large	rhcalfree@yahoo.com	301-335-1054
Tom Garren	At Large	tomgar@mindspring.com	919-805-0909
Wayne Aiken	At Large	htomc42@hotmail.com	919-602-8529

OTHER KEY POSITIONS

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

WEB SITE

www.nrvclub.net

Bernie Dawson	Webmaster	nrvwebmaster@gmail.com	919-275-2144
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