

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 upon us in only two weeks. The club needs everyone to participate in this activity. **Please let me know by email if you will or will not be working the May show at glasley@bellsouth.net.** 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

April Library Update

During the past month, several new books have been added to the Library. There are now 1453 books in the Library as well as almost 7,700 magazines.

Please take time to check out the Library the next time you are at the Clubhouse.

Tom Garren

Program for April 15th Membership Meeting

There will be no program following the Membership Meeting this month. The time will be better utilized to help clean the Clubhouse in anticipation of the upcoming Open House planned for Saturday, April 17th. George Lasley promises to return next month with another installment from his memory stick on various North Carolina railroads from the 1980s and other topics of interest. The presentation is scheduled to commence immediately following adjournment of the May Membership Meeting and will be made available to those participating from the Zoom community.

Under the Crown Sheet by Clif Kelly April 15th, 2021

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well. Excitement continues to build as the “Spring into Trains Show” is but weeks away. The inoculation programs fighting the Covid-19 virus administered by Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and other pharmaceutical companies have met with great success during the past several weeks. More than 25 percent of our fellow North Carolinians have received at least one of their two shots. The age group of 65 years plus is expected to reach general herd immunity by May 1st. These results are extremely encouraging.

The fourth Membership Meeting of the year is scheduled for this coming Thursday, April 15th at the Clubhouse. Start time is 7:00 pm. Protocols will continue to be in place for wearing face masks and practicing social distancing. Hand sanitizer will continue to 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 Zooming in if you desire.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87209858356>

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 Nominating Committee (consisting of the three At Large Members) will provide a slate of Officers for consideration of the General Membership. Other nominations for Club Officers and seconds will be taken from the floor. When nominations have been completed a motion will be entered to close the Nominations. The general election of Club Officers will be conducted at the May Membership Meeting on May 20th with newly elected Officers taking office on June 1st, 2021 for Fiscal Year 2022 (June 1st, 2021 through May 31st, 2022). Only Senior Members in good standing are eligible to seek office and to vote.

I’m pleased to report that the date of Saturday, April 17th has been set for the next Club Open House. Times are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This will be our first opportunity to interface with the Community in more than a year. All layouts will be operational. Club Members are urged to support this event. Light refreshments consisting of chilled canned beverages will be served. We will not offer individual cookies or baked goods. This activity will require face masks and respect the Governor’s guidance not to exceed 50 persons in the building.

In closing, you are asked to thoughtfully consider supporting the “Spring into Trains Show” by your attendance if possible. Workers will be needed at the ticket desk, Club tables and 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 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). Our numbers in attendance are growing by the week. 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 protocols.

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

Items of Special Interest

NEW Historic Spencer Shops Train Show

Saturday, May 22 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 23 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Historic Spencer Shops Train Show features vendors with railroad memorabilia of all types: Model train dealers, model train layouts, collectors, and more. The show takes place in the 1905 Back Shop, a historic railroad location perfect for a railroading event!

Additional COVID-friendly activities to celebrate railroading will include photo opportunities, train rides around our 60-acre historic site, and more fun for all ages.

Members of the N.C. Transportation Museum enjoy this daytime event, including museum admission and train rides, for free. Saturday, May 22, is also Membership Appreciation Day with special members-only tours and other perks. If you're not already a member, it's a great day to sign up and enjoy a day at the museum for free!

And don't forget your 3 W's!

Wear. Wait. Wash: Wear a cloth face covering. Wait at least six feet away from others. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the museum site.



BrickUniverse
LEGO FAN CONVENTION

NEW LEGO CREATIONS FOR 2021!

RALEIGH! SEPTEMBER 25-26!

Hello LEGO fans!

Exciting news! BrickUniverse is returning to Raleigh, NC on **September 25-26, 2021** and **we have an Early Bird discount for you!** This year we are greatly limiting tickets, so buy yours while you can! This discount is the cheapest you will be able to buy tickets.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT: We are exclusively offering past attendees **30% OFF** each ticket. USE CODE "**EB30**" WHEN BUYING YOUR TICKETS. Hurry, there are only 500 early bird discount tickets available for each time session! Tickets will sell out.

[Click here to buy Tickets to BRICKUNIVERSE RALEIGH 2021 with 30% OFF Discount](#)

The BrickUniverse Team
www.brickuniverse.com/raleigh

Breakfast at Barry's: photos by George Lasley

The March 24th breakfast meeting set a record for attendance at Barry's Café. A total of 12 people attended. As you can see, the meeting room can accommodate many more, even with social distancing. All are welcome!



Neat Links

Scott Hall provided the following collection of links and commentary:

I saw a couple of great YouTube videos from a guy 'DJs Trains'. He is an engineer for CSX in Pennsylvania, and is able to get clearance for drone footage that others normally could not. He likes to show prototype locations that make great modelling opportunities. Here are a couple of them:

"Wild Model Railroad Track Plan Idea based on Prototype!" <https://youtu.be/R-n6sImwaJo>

"Model Railroad Great Use Of Space." <https://youtu.be/O4nRSMaAwwQ>

2'x4' N-Scale module "WALTHERS NATIONAL MODEL RAILROADER BUILD OFF 2021 UPDATE #1." <https://youtu.be/6zIlkEoBei4>

"Realistic Model Railroad with Working Signals and More!" <https://youtu.be/IGisdDG5Vcs>

"My First Model Railroad based on a Prototype! So Much Fun" <https://youtu.be/M0jJFYx6hnA>

And more: <https://www.youtube.com/user/djstrains/videos>

Fred Krauss provided the link and commentary:

This is amazing, From Hamburg Germany.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBNHmUT3GPg>

Member's Home Layouts

Ron Wertenberg has contributed photos of his HO-scale home layout for this month's edition. The layout takes up one half of his basement space and features a large mountain with six tunnels and hand-made trestles. The layout has over 800 feet of track, with more to be added. Other things presented are: a turntable and roundhouse for four engines, circus trains with multiple carnival rides in an amusement park area, two wood mills, industrial area, train maintenance yard area, two lakes, one town and one city to name just a few.

Being from the West Coast, Ron runs mostly Southern Pacific or Union Pacific engines.



Minutes of the Membership Meeting of March 18th, 2021

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

The meeting was called to order by Clif Kelly at 7:02 pm. Tom Garren took attendance at the meeting and forwarded attendance to Tom Magnani.

Those attending at the Clubhouse were: Wayne Aiken, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Johns, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Mike Marsh, and Bob Witwer.

Those attending by Zoom were: Ron Abraham, Jerry Davis, Scott Hall, Bill Hanses, Ted Kunstling, Tom Magnani, and John Spach.

Also attending by Zoom as guests were: Sam Ely, Peter Ring, and John Russo.

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

This is Sam Ely's 2nd meeting. Mike Keelean's motion to wave the rules and to admit Sam Ely as a Junior Member was seconded by John Spach and approved unanimously.

This is Peter Ring's 2nd meeting. Mike Keelean's motion to wave the rules and to admit Peter Ring as a Youth Member was seconded by George Lasley and approved unanimously.

This is John Russo's 2nd meeting. Mike Keelean's motion to wave the rules and to admit John Russo as a Senior Member was seconded by Clif Kelly and approved unanimously.

This is Bob Witwer's 2nd meeting. Clif Kelly's motion to wave the rules and to admit Bob Witwer as a Senior Member was seconded by Ted Kunstling and approved unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report - Mike Keelean.

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report.

The \$400 that the Board allotted for the new yard on the HO layout has been expended.

The yard is mostly installed.

4. Open Nominations for Spring Elections - Clif Kelly

Mike Johns' motion to open the nominations for the Spring Elections for the 2021-2022 terms of office was seconded by Bill Hanses and approved unanimously.

George Lasley explained that Nominating Committee is composed of the 3 At-Large Members of the Board. [The 3 At-Large Board Members are: Wayne Aiken, Richard Calfee, and Tom Garren.] They are charged with the duty of soliciting the membership for candidates.

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

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

Nominations are taken from the floor. If someone chooses to nominate another member, that member must agree to the obligation. Attendance at the Board's Meetings is necessary and encouraged for the Membership Meeting.

The nominations are closed at the April 15th Membership Meeting. Any Senior Member in Good Standing is eligible to vote.

The ballots are USPS mailed to the membership. Please fill out the ballot without signing the ballot sheet even if you think that you will vote in person. Place your signed ballot in the envelope. Seal the envelope and **write your signature over the flap's seam on the envelope**. If the envelope is not signed it will be thrown away.

If you are able to participate in the in-person voting, your signed envelope will be returned to you, unopened.

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.

5. Update Report on “Spring into Trains Show” (30 April- 2 May) - George Lasley.

The Show is SOLD OUT with a waiting list of 9-10 vendors equal to about 20 tables. TCA has sold all of their tables.

It will be held in the Kerr Scott Building on May 1st and 2nd. Loading and set-up will be Friday April 30th.

He has arranged for both a drink cart inside the roll up doors and a snack cart to be available just outside the double doors.

The News & Observer advertisement will be a quarter page and will run the Sunday, April 25th, before the show. It will cost us \$550 with our not-for-profit discount.

The WRAL advertisements will be a series of 15 second ‘spots’ running the week before the show along with a separate ‘Banner’ before traffic updates.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED.

We need at least 30 people to cover all the positions while allowing members to enjoy the show.

There is not an official sign-up sheet.

Ted Kunstling asked for a refresher on the use of the card reader.

Mike Johns recommended that each of us spread the word through our various social groups.

Members were asked to bring in collapsed cardboard boxes for use at the show.

Show pricing is \$9 for adults with \$1 off for coupons and flyers. Children under 12 are free.
6. Report on Retrieval of G-Scale Layout from Pinehurst - George Lasley

George reported that 8-10 people got together and left for Pinehurst at 9 am to retrieve the G-Scale layout. Everyone was back at the Clubhouse at 1:30 pm. Mike Marsh loaned the Club the use of a box truck from his place of work. The original owner was delighted that the layout was going to be donated and had a new home. The Club received a nice donation for arranging the transfer.
7. Update on HQ Layout Upgrade - Mike Johns and Steve Wills.

Mike updated the meeting on the addition of an inside yard measuring 8” x 35’ to the HO layout. It is divided into a ‘North’ side and a ‘South’ side with about 105’ of new track. Where possible, Club track and switches were used. The bench work was constructed by Mike Keelean. There was help provided by many people from visitors to members. Steve Wills is continuing to work on the turntable.
8. 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 on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

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 of their Club shirts and to remember to sign in.

Tom Garren will leave sign-up sheets for March and April. He observed that visitors have become our new members.

A closing procedure is posted on the Bulletin Board between the Bathrooms. Senior members are the ones with the keys.

9. Possibility for July or August Club Open House - Clif Kelly

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

We will serve light refreshments. An October Open House would be a lead-up to the Fall Show.

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

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

Clif thanked Ken and the contributors for the evolution of the Whistle Post.

Ken thanked everyone for their contributions of articles, links and photos. He is still short on Articles and Book Reviews. He accepts Book Reviews, YouTube links for model and real RR items of interest.

His contact information is on the back page of the Whistle Post. His email address is: klhowardjr@aol.com.

Tom Magnani was asked to update Mike Johns' email address.

Mike Johns will contact Kim Parker to see if he has any materials or recommendations that we could use.

11. Call for New Business - Clif Kelly.

Tom Magnani asked if there was anyone who could provide transportation to our weekly breakfast for Bob Milback who lives on Sweetbriar Road in Durham near Falls Lake.

Mike Keelean reported a new contact and a possible donation. He thanked Mike Irwin for his donation of 3 HO sets. Two of them have gone to some very thankful new modelers.

12. Adjournment - Clif Kelly.

Tom Garren's motion to adjourn at 7:56 pm was seconded by George Lasley and passed unanimously.

Tom Garren presented the after meeting program at the Clubhouse and on Zoom.

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of April 5th, 2021

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call – Tom Garren (On-site Sec) and Tom Magnani (Zoom Sec).

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by John Spach

Those attending in person were Wayne Aiken*, Richard Calfee*, Tom Garren*, Ken Howard, George Lasley, Mike Marsh, John Ragan, John Spach* and Bob Witwer.

Those attending by Zoom were: Jerry Davis, Mike Keelean*, Ted Kunstling, Tom Magnani* and Mike Mannella.

* = Board Member

2. Recognition of New Members and Visitors – John Spach and Richard Calfee
There were no visitors tonight. New member Bob Witwer was in attendance.
Mike Keelean reminded everyone that Richard Nyce will be eligible to be voted in at the April 15 Membership meeting.
3. Treasurer’s Report – John Spach
John Spach presented the Treasurer’s report.
A question was asked about funding of the HO turntable. It was stated that funds for the turntable were included in the monies previously approved by the Board for the track and switches for the new HO yard.
- 3a. Ways and Means Committee Report – George Lasley
George reported that the Ways and Means committee had determined there will not be a dues increase in fiscal year 2021-2022.
4. Report on “Spring into Trains Show,” 30 April – 2 May 2021 – George Lasley
We have completed all our obligations to the State Fairgrounds a month early.
There will be 185 tables set up per our map with extras remaining on the cart.
200 chairs will be delivered and left on their carts.
Also, there will be 24 rugs provided to cover cords.
Our show will be advertised on the Hillsborough Street sign at the Fairgrounds, provided it is still working.
There will be a drink cart inside the roll-up door and a snack cart to be available.
The appeal to the membership for help will continue. We need at least 30 people to staff the 20 some positions we have and give relief.
There are 12 vendors currently on our waiting list.
We will have power on the Club table so that test tracks can be available.
George will email Steve Wills the number of tables allocated for the Lego layout.
We will try to move our materials to this show without the truck and trailer we used for the November show.
Mike Marsh will check on the availability of the box truck used to haul the recent G-scale donation.
Otherwise, we will use a combination of our trucks and SUVs to move the merchandise to the Fairgrounds.
Mike Keelean will bring the credit card machine and change to the show.
Information for the show is posted on both our Facebook page and our website.
5. Selection of Date for Spring Open House (Proposed Date-17 April) – John Spach
It was decided that we will hold an Open House at the Clubhouse on April 17 from 10:00-4:00.
We need to clean up the Clubhouse prior to the event.

We need the support of the members to make the event a success.

It was decided to have soft drinks in small cans or bottles rather than pouring drinks from larger containers.

It was further decided to not have snacks this time due to handling problems.

Ken Howard will make a poster for the event that will be distributed to the membership, our Facebook page, our website, and Nick's Trains.

Members are encouraged to forward this poster to any social groups with whom they are affiliated.

6. Interest in Spencer Train Show 22 May – George Lasley

It was determined that the Spencer show is now listed as only one day, May 22, at the museum.

Members are encouraged to arrange their own transportation if they want to attend. This could include riding the train to Salisbury.

This will be discussed more at the April Membership meeting.

7. Conduct of Spring Elections – John Spach and George Lasley

Nominations are now open.

The Nominating Committee will present a list of nominations at the April 15 Membership meeting.

Nominations can also be made from the floor.

Nominations will then be closed at the April meeting.

Ballots will be mailed to all Senior members in good standing.

The ballots will be counted at the May Membership meeting and the new officers will take office in June.

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

The signup sheets are available and are being used.

There are some blank times, so more participation is needed.

9. Call for Articles and Pictures of Interest for the Whistle Post – John Spach and Ken Howard

Ken Howard reminded everyone that product and book reviews are needed for the Whistle Post.

He reminded everyone that we must be careful with copyrighted material, and that we must obtain permission to use it.

It was suggested that we contact the Rod Stewart organization concerning the possibility of funds for the Club.

10. Call for New Business – John Spach

The Ways and Means Committee recommended that there be no dues increase for 21-22 fiscal year.

Tom Garren informed everyone that we currently have a problem uploading pdf files to our website.

An email has been sent to our WRAL contact to have them investigate and resolve the problem.

John Spach is conducting a trial to sell some donated merchandise on eBay to increase our revenues.

We look forward to the seeing the results of John's test.

John Ragan made an appeal to increase in-person attendance at our meetings. While Zoom is beneficial for some members, it is desired to have as many members as possible physically attend the meetings. After some discussion, it seems that Zoom is the way of the future, and we should continue to offer it as way to participate in our meetings.

John Spach commented that JMRI used to be available on the HO layout and wanted to know if we can get it updated and working again. John Ragan will investigate.

11. Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. It passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Future Events

The Club will hold an Open House on April 17, 2021, from 10 am to 4 pm. The public is invited.

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.

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.

Thanks to all who have contributed items for the Whistle Post. I am building a file for use in future editions. Your participation is appreciated and your contributions will appear when space permits.

Please send articles, product reviews, photographs of your home layouts, and video links of interest to Ken Howard, Whistle Post Editor, at klhowardjr@aol.com no later than Tuesday, May 11th, one week prior to the next scheduled Membership Meeting (May 20th).

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

April Membership: Thursday, April 15th, 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

Board of Governors: Monday, May 3rd, 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

May Membership: Thursday, May 20th, 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 Poobah	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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