

The

Whistle



Post

Official Newsletter of the

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

1615 Old Louisburg Rd Raleigh, NC 27604

Phone: 919-400-5570

“All Aboard”

Well, here we are, it's just past the 4th of July, and we are on track for a great summer. Things here at the Club are moving forward at a great pace. We are making real progress on our plans for cleaning up and organizing all the bits and pieces we have accumulated. Some of this stuff has not seen the light of day for years. Many items have been selected cleaned and repaired, priced, and sold. Our improved display of goods for sale has proved to be very productive. Keep looking on the shelves, as we are continually replacing sold items. Just a review – all items are priced. If you decide to purchase, you go to the library, find the black box on the wall, take an envelope, and write on it what you are buying and the price, put your money in the envelope, seal it and put the envelope in the black box. Then take your item home and enjoy it.

The N scale group is working on several projects. First, they have cleaned out a large part of the under-layout disorder and reorganized their materials, taking advantage of a rolling storage cart and a liberal parting of the ways with nonfunctional items. They are also in the process of reworking and cleaning up all the wiring under the layout, which is a mighty task. In addition to this, they are starting work on a 3x6 layout to either be sold or auctioned off at the November show. That's quite a heavy workload for a small group of dedicated guys.

OK, now I need to talk about some items that need improving on all our parts, and for some more than others. First, let's talk about an issue of personal pride, not mine, but all of ours. Our Clubhouse should be our showplace. It should be cared for like it was the jewel in the crown. In recent weeks there have been a lot of issues that can easily be fixed. When you eat lunch at the Club, take home your trash. When you bring in coffee, don't leave the empty cups around, dispose of them. When you take out tools or materials to work on something, put them back when you are finished, and back where you got them, so others can find and use them. When you bring in boxes of stuff to run, don't take up all of the Clubhouse table, the sofa, and several chairs with the boxes. Others might need some of that space. Sounds like all we need to do is have pride in our Clubhouse and treat it with care.

Off the soapbox for now – let's talk about membership for a minute. We have established two goals for membership. First, we have a target of 10 new senior members by the end of this fiscal

year, bringing us to 50. Second, and a main five-year goal, is to become self-sufficient for all our bills by dues alone. Both are worthy goals and quite reachable. We all need to work on this. Go find us some friends that love railroading as much as we all do. We can make this happen.

Try your hand at the Railroad Slang contest – see how good you are.

Don't forget the July Open House on the 17th from 10 am to 4pm. If you can help, contact Mike Johns for details of what he needs.

I am excited with the progress we have made in a very short time and look forward to much, much more progress in the future. You are a marvelous group of guys. It is a privilege to work hand in hand laying tracks with you. So, let's get to it – All Aboard.

John Spach, President

Do You Recognize these Photographs?



Club Storage Room for Show Materials



Club General Storage Room

If you didn't recognize them, it is probably because you have never seen the Club's storage spaces in a really useable condition. John Spach organized a clean-out session on Saturday, June 12th to sort, sift, repackage, restore, and reorganize the contents of the rooms. Unnecessary items were hauled to the dump (Two vehicles were required). The Club now has 1) a storage room dedicated to materials needed to put on train shows and 2) a second storage room dedicated to supplies equipment and train materials used for the general operation of the Club.

If you noted the large yellow cabinet at center left on the right-hand photo, you now know where to find paint for the layouts or the Clubhouse. The amount of clutter in the Clubhouse, Shop, and layout rooms has also been dramatically reduced. During the clean-out, John cooked Brats with all the trimmings for participating members who socialized with food and drink before going back to work and finishing the job. Thanks to the following folks who contributed to, and participated in, the process: Ron Abraham, Wayne Aiken, Dan Egy, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Johns, Ted Kunstling, Mike Marsh, and John Spach.

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 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 Aiken has coached me on car repair and leveling couplers. George Lasley and Tom Garren have helped me understand the history of the NRV. All the members have been friends.

Open House – July 17th

The Club will hold an Open House on Saturday, July 17th. Tom Magnani has forwarded the flyer to the membership by e-mail. In case you missed your copy, check the Club website,

Considerable effort is being expended to make the layouts, and the Clubhouse as a whole, more presentable and welcoming to the public. Some of the effort included organizing the Club's storage closets as described in an earlier article.

Please spread word of the Open House to friends, family, social medial sites, church groups and organizations. The more people we can attract, the better the Club's prospects become for attracting new members.

Members are strongly encouraged to help cover a part of six hour time period when the public will be touring the Clubhouse. Please check with Mike Johns for more specifics.

The Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club invites you to an

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY

JULY 17, 2021

10 am to 4 pm

at the Clubhouse located at 1615 Old Louisburg Road, Raleigh, NC 27604
Bring the entire family. View our Clubhouse, railroad library, seven operating layouts and chat with our members about the fascinating world of model railroads.



We hope you will visit us in person, but if you cannot, please check out the Club's website at www.nrvclub.net.

Neat Links

Scott Hall provided the following links from CCRX, Cumberland Mine Railroad:

- 1) "Locomotive controls emd sd 40-2": https://youtu.be/ZdNhuhmK_z0

Editor's note: This video runs about 10 minutes. If you have never seen the electrical control panels and engineer's controls for an EMD SD 40-2 or other modern diesel, this video will be a real eye opener. Even if you have, this well narrated close-up is fun and educational.

- 2) "Parts of a Railroad Track Turnout": <https://youtu.be/tOJQBoQXqPc>

Editor's note: This video runs about eight minutes and is a great primer, explaining construction and terminology of switches. If you don't know the difference between a number 10 and number 20 turn out, you will after viewing the video.

Tom Magnani provided the following link:

Subject: STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF PRIVATE SIDETRACKS

<https://www.csx.com/index.cfm/library/files/customers/industrial-development/site-design-guidelines-and-specifications/>

Editor's note: This is a link to a CSX manual on railroad track construction. It is a 59 page pdf file divided into four sections: Design, Construction, Grading, and Materials. For those of you who are really interested in railroad construction: you will find a trove of information in this liberally illustrated document. For those with a lesser level of interest, you will see the level of detail required in the real world to lay track.

Katharine Howard Layton provided the following link:

<https://www.american-rails.com/museums.html>

Editor's note: My sister forwarded this link to help me make travel plans for the summer. The site gives direct web links to a number of museums, exhibits and organizations operating tourist trains. There is also a considerable amount of descriptive material about rail-themed attractions that might help you plan outings for yourself, your family, or interested friends.

Jerry Davis provided the following links:

These are videos that Jerry shot in 2007 and 2010 of Jerry Guth's O gauge layout some years ago. Next month look for links to videos of Joe Scales' layout.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vPfi8Wq1x8>

Jerry Guth's SP Layout Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpliBYTS2P4>

Jerry Guth's SP Layout Part 2

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

Layout Tour - Jerry Guth's SP - Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1T1Mw1K6J0>

Layout Tour - Jerry Guth's SP - Part 2

Editor's note: The first two videos run 15 and 8 minutes, respectively, and show trains operating on this beautiful layout. The second two are each 12 ½ minutes long and the camera was mounted on the engine so you get the engineer's view of the layout. If you don't click any other links in this issue, you should click on these.

Members' Layouts

Fred Krauss HO Layout:



Fred has sent in some more photos of his HO layout for the members' enjoyment. Take a close look at the water under the pier in the left hand photo and at the marina on the right. Have you ever seen a better job of modeling water?

Real Train Photos

Fred Krauss forwarded the following photos from The James F. Dicke Family Transportation Center in Carillon Historical Park, Dayton, Ohio. The Detroit and Mackinac coach #100 was built in Dayton in 1903 by Barney & Smith. It is open to the public for tours. The Center also features some historic Baltimore & Ohio equipment.



Coach #100



Interior View

Ken Howard caught this shot of the J-611 returning to the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, NC from an excursion. Seems like a long time ago, but it was only Labor Day weekend of 2018. The J-611 has since moved to Strasburg, PA after repairs to the coal stoker. Go to <https://www.strasburgrailroad.com> for 2021 schedules and fares.



Railroad Slang Contest (courtesy of John Spach)

Test your railroad knowledge with this 10 part challenge match up. Match the term with the appropriate definition. Answers can be found at the end of this edition of the Whistle Post.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bait can | a. a new hand |
| 2. Bucket the Balonies | b. Fast Freight |
| 3. Bull Head | c. Surveyor |
| 4. Crummy | d. doughnut |
| 5. Fresh Fish | e. lunch bucket |
| 6. Mud Chicken | f. conductor |
| 7. Pig Pen | g. caboose |
| 8. Rattler | h. beans |
| 9. Sinker | i. roundhouse |
| 10. Torpedoes | j. connect the air hoses |

New Club COVID-19 Policy

If you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you do not have to wear a mask or face covering while inside the Clubhouse.

If you have not been fully vaccinated, or are a child, a mask or face covering is required while you are inside the Clubhouse.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Library Update (from Tom Garren)

Thanks to more donations, the Club Library now has 1503 books with more waiting to be added to the inventory. We also have 7925 magazines. Also, stop by the Library to see the new ceiling lighting and fan that make the space more comfortable for all concerned.

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of June 17th, 2021

1. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President John Spach.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by George Lasley.
2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance and on Zoom
In attendance at the Clubhouse were Ron Abraham, Wayne Aiken, Richard Calfee, Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, John Ragan, John Spach and Bob Witwer.

Attending by Zoom were Jerry Davis, Scott Hall, Mike Irwin, Mike Keelean, Tom Magnani, Mike Mannella, George Sawyer, and Curtis and Mylen Strong.

3. Recognition of Visitors and New Member Candidates

Former member Michael Giles attended as a guest.

This was the second meeting for Curtis and Mylen Strong. George Lasley made the motion to suspend the rules and accept them as members. The motion was seconded by John Ragan and passed unanimously.

4. Minutes of the Last Membership Meeting – (read if needed) - motion to accept

There were three small corrections suggested for the Minutes of the May 20, 2021, Membership meeting. It was further stated by Tom Garren that the changes would be made in the June Whistle Post and the corrected version will be posted on the website. George Lasley made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. It was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

Secretary's note: The changes have been made and an updated version of the Whistle Post has been posted on the Club website.

5. Treasurers Report – motion to accept.

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report. Income until the fall show is expected to be from the payment of dues and Club sales. George Lasley made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report. It was seconded by Bernie Dawson and passed unanimously.

6. Communications with the Club

a. Phone, mail, e-mail

George Lasley reported that he has contacted one of the contacts to the Club and the lady wants to sell rather than donate. A second item is also being forwarded to George for follow up. This one may be more agreeable to donation. George explained his approach to following up on these communications. He begins the conversation with his NRV hat on suggesting donation, and if they prefer to sell, then he puts on his Nick's Trains hat and discusses a sale. He made this explanation in the spirit of full disclosure. There were no objections to the way George is handling these contacts.

7. Committee Reports – as needed

a. Membership

Calfee asked for clarification of the information needed for the badges for Curtis and Mylen Strong. This was provided over Zoom by Curtis Strong.

b. Ways and Means

George Lasley noted that it is time to perform the yearly audit. This will be brought up at the next Board meeting.

8. Old Business

a. Special Election of Board members to fill vacancies.

John Spach appointed non-Board members George Lasley and John Ragan as vote counters. Following the count, George reported that the two new Board Members are:

Ken Howard

Bob Witwer

It was previously agreed by all involved that the top two vote getters would take office and decide who would fill which At-Large seat. The At-Large positions, of three-year duration, are timed so that only one normally requires filling each year. One of the positions is for one year and the other is for two years. This will keep our rotation in sync.

b. Review of the changes to Club Wi-Fi and phone service

Due to price increase from AT&T, Mike Keelean investigated other providers and chose Spectrum as our internet provider. The change is complete, and we are now enjoying much faster speeds at an acceptable cost. There is a sign on the wall in the main room with the network information for members to use to access the service when at the Clubhouse.

c. Review of special work Saturday where we got a jump start on storage cleanup and Club cleanup in general.

The work session held on Saturday, June 12 was a great success. Approximately 10 members participated in cleaning up the front storage room at the Clubhouse. The space now is neat, has room available and is useful again. We all need to work to keep it that way.

The rear storage area has now been designated for storing show materials and Club records. The front storage room will be used for more general storage. Please maintain this distinction when storing items.

In addition to the storage areas, the layout areas are being cleaned up. By getting our facility cleaned up and keeping it that way we will not have to have a major cleanup activity prior to an open house or other special event.

Expect to see an e-mail soon with a list of projects that need work to help us make the Clubhouse a better place.

d. Additional old business as needed.

The proof of concept for converting to LED lighting at the Clubhouse has been completed by Bob Witwer and was very well received. After some discussion, Mike Keelean moved that we appropriate \$400.00 for the purchase of new tubes to convert all the Clubhouse lighting to LED. The motion was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

George Lasley mentioned that he and Tom Garren are planning on installing a small ceiling fan in the library to facilitate better air movement.

9. New Business

a. Fall show 2021 – Official announcement of dates and plans.

George Lasley reported that the Fall show is officially open and will be held on November 06-07.

Train Fest has been canceled for this year, so we may gain some vendors for our show as a result.

The vendor list is being finalized by Tom Garren and is now approaching 200.

Just a few years ago the number was 160.

We are again working with TCA. They are taking 36 tables for resale to their members. We are awaiting the contract from the Fairgrounds, but assume the price will remain the same as last year. The contract will also determine when our deposit will be due.

Ron Abraham asked about catering/food at the show. The answer depends on the State Fair finding a new food vendor for events. Currently, we do not know.

Ron had another question concerning mask requirements. We will follow the guidelines in effect at the time of the show. It is too early to say one way or the other as to whether we will have a mask requirement at the November show.

Bernie Dawson asked if the dates for the May 2022 show have been confirmed. We are waiting on the State Fair office to confirm the dates for the May 2022 show.

Some other questions were asked about the security guard and air conditioning issues at the May show. George reported that we were able to work with the State Fair and get price accommodations for the May 2021 show because of the time without a security guard and the lack of air conditioning.

Randy Foulke stated that there may be some confusion as to how much space Sipping and Switching has for the Fall show. We assured him that they have 20,000 square feet for their layout. Tom Garren will follow up with Joe Balint of S&S on this matter.

b. Youth and Junior membership encouragement plan – review and discussion

As a result of Covid, we have lost most of our Youth and Junior members. We want to bring back the participation of our Youth and Junior members to at least the levels we had pre-pandemic to help continue the growth of the hobby and keep the Club going. Two proposals were discussed at the June Board meeting.

The first proposal, made by Mike Keelean, would select a junior member as the coordinator for the younger members and this lead person would be given a key to the building to increase the access to the Clubhouse for this group. Several concerns were voiced about liability issues, both for the Club, and the coordinator with this solution.

Another idea was to have dedicated times for the Youth and Junior members to come to the Club to run trains or have workshops. This would be special times designated for this purpose with at least one Senior member in attendance.

As a starting point, John Spach will contact our recent Youth and Junior members to get their input and determine if they like the idea and which time will work best for most attendees. Results from this communication are expected by the next Board meeting.

The general membership was also asked for their input on this topic. A long discussion occurred with comments made by several members. Among those voicing ideas were Ron Abraham, Wayne Aiken, Scott Hall, Randy Foulke and Mike Irwin. Suggestions included working with high schools for building modules, the importance of protecting the Club from liability issues, the potential for scholarships, the Boy Scout merit badge program, and the creation of a youth train group that could teach modeling techniques.

Mike Mannella suggested that the outreach program could be used to teach the 15-18-year-old members more about the how the Club works as an example of how many clubs work.

Bernie Dawson suggested a table at the November show to encourage membership for all levels and ages. It would be manned throughout the show so that questions can be answered for interested people.

John Spach asked that the members send him an e-mail with any ideas that they have on this subject before the next Board meeting, scheduled for July 05. He will compile the ideas and present them back to the Board.

c. Review proposed update of Club Brochure.

John Spach asked Ken Howard to prepare a new color brochure the Club with updated information and a fresh look. Ken presented version one of the new brochure at the Board meeting. Ken presented version two at this Membership meeting. The brochure was well received. Following a final review, John Spach will get the new brochure printed.

d. Revised membership application and procedure for recruitment of members

The membership application has been updated and is available both at the Clubhouse and on the website.

The dues amounts have been added to the application to prevent surprises. A request to print clearly was also added. In addition, a new shorter Request for Information form has been created allowing us to get basic contact information from interested parties without requiring them to fill out a complete membership application. This form is available at the Clubhouse near the guest book.

Mike Irwin asked about the possibility of creating a fillable PDF application form that could be filled out online. Scott Hall stated that he would be willing to work on this and wanted to know if we have a Google drive for members to share documents. These ideas are considered future projects for now. Also, it was noted that we want face to face

contact with people wanting to join the Club so that they have a chance to meet us and realize that we are a friendly group of people.

e. Revised committee assignments for new fiscal year

As you are aware, there are five standing committees in the Club. A new subcommittee has been created under the Membership committee for open houses. Mike Johns has agreed to head up the Open House subcommittee. He will schedule and coordinate all open house activities going forward.

John Spach also stated that work is underway on the structure of subcommittees under the standing committees. More information will come out on this in the future.

f. Announcement of next Club Open House in July

Our next open house is scheduled for July 17 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. More details will be shared about this event as the date draws closer.

The Club has done a good job of cleaning up the Clubhouse this year. It is the intent to keep the Clubhouse clean so that we do not have to have a major cleanup activity prior to having an Open House or other special event.

g. Additional new business as needed.

George Sawyer asked about the possibility of having a computer at the Clubhouse to be used by people for filling out application forms. John Spach stated that this is in the plans. At a future time, a computer will be placed beside the printer for that purpose.

10. Good and Welfare of the Club

John Spach explained that this is the time to bring up anything that is for the good of the Club. This could include sharing information about a sick member or friend or anything else that could benefit the Club. An example was a previous suggestion about helping vets in the Fayetteville area.

Regarding youth memberships, George Sawyer asked about the status of starter sets at the Club. John Spach stated that this is an item that we want to pursue as we go through the inventory of equipment at the Club including O-gauge material.

Mike Irwin asked about the status of the three starter sets that he donated. Mike Keelean responded that they have all been given out, and the recipients have become members.

Scott Hall and Randy Foulke expressed interest in serving on a subcommittee for creating a portable HO layout.

George Lasley shared the information that Nick's Trains will be closed from 6/28 - 7/06 for vacation. Get your supplies now.

11. Adjournment

George Lasley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Following the meeting Tom Garren presented a slide show of regional train photos from the seventies. George Lasley provided color commentary.

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

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

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

Board members in attendance were Wayne Aiken, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, John Spach and Bob Witwer.

2. Recognition of Additional Members and Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Members in attendance at the Clubhouse were Bill Ferguson, Mike Johns, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley and Mike Marsh.

Attending by Zoom was Tom Magnani.

Mike Mitricska attended as a guest. He models in N scale and likes large steam in the 1945-1950 era. He has filled out an application. This is his first meeting.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting – (Read if Needed) – Motion to Accept

Bob Witwer made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting. Ken Howard seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report – Motion to Accept

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report. In addition to the normal items, Mike reported that the Spectrum bill was found out of place. He has contacted them to get the billing address corrected. Also, Duke Energy has not yet drafted our account this month, seems later than normal.

AT&T continues to bill us even though we discontinued the service and are owed a credit.

Our quarterly sales tax will be paid soon.

Tom Garren moved to accept the Treasurer's report. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

a. Phone, mail, email

George Lasley reported that he had followed up with the two emails submitted to the Club. One contact resulted in a substantial donation while the other wanted to sell rather than donate.

Ted Kunstling reported that we have had over 460 views on Facebook for our Open House and the Fall Show.

A discussion was held concerning mask requirements in the Clubhouse. It was decided that if a person is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 they do not have to wear a mask inside the Clubhouse. If they are not fully vaccinated, or if a child, they must wear a mask while in the Clubhouse.

John Spach asked Tom Garren to prepare a door sign about the mask regulations and post it on the Clubhouse door.

Wayne Aiken reported that a 10-year-old from Cary has called and wants to come by on a Wednesday after breakfast to run some trains.

6. Committee Reports – As Needed

a. Membership

New member Curtis Strong has been reassigned to Nevada and, as a result, he and his son have resigned from the Club. A motion was made by Bob Witwer and seconded by John Spach to refund the unused portion of the dues. After some discussion, the motion was amended to refund all their dues. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Ways and Means

Because the Club has a new Treasurer, George Lasley requested that the Club engage a CPA to; perform an audit of our books, and to review our accounting procedures. This is in line with the requirements set forth in the constitution and by-laws. It was further suggested that we use the CPA for tax preparation as well. Tom Garren, Ken Howard, and Mike Johns will contact three different CPAs to obtain estimates for this work. The Board will make a decision at the next meeting.

7. Old Business

a. Fall Show 2021 Updates

George Lasley reported that we do not yet have a contract for the Fall Show from the State Fair office. He will follow up tomorrow with an email. Letters to the vendors were mailed out on June 30th. Thanks to all who helped prepare the packages.

At this time approximately 70% of the tables have been reserved.

John Spach wondered if we need to do more or different things to attract even more vendors.

b. Youth and Junior Membership Encouragement Plan – Review and Discussion

John Spach reported that we currently have 11 youth members and six junior members listed in our member sheet. Only two people have paid so far. John has contacted most of these people and learned that there are numerous things in the evening tying up their time.

One suggestion came in from a member. This was to take over and maintain the Thomas layout and get youth to come in and work with Thomas. Unfortunately, this suggestion was made by the Strongs who are moving.

There have been no negative comments from the people interviewed, just a shortage of time from the youth and junior members. This item was tabled until September when information on school schedules will be available.

In addition, John shared the numbers for all classes of members.

We have 40 senior members, of which 30 have paid their dues.

We have eight associate members, of which only two have paid their dues at this time.

In the general mailing list, we have 54-64 people that are not on our member list.

Tom Garren will put together an email and contact these people to see if there is a chance of getting them to join/rejoin the Club. This will happen this month.

Model railroading in community colleges was mentioned as a possibility for advancing the hobby. It was commented that in North Carolina any course added to a community college must be added to all locations. It would also take at least three years to add a new course to the curriculum. Another possibility with community colleges could be with the adult education area. Also, senior centers in the area are beginning to reopen. Members are requested to keep their eyes open and look for ways for us to increase membership.

c. July Open House Update

Mike Johns reported that he had shared the Open House flyer with 10 friends and suggested that other members do the same thing. The flyer can be downloaded from our website. Stress the fact that it is a free event. Mike encourages personal contact as highly effective method of sharing the information. It was also suggested that we take flyers to senior centers and libraries, with permission. The Open House is July 17th from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. All members are needed to help.

d. Presentation of New Club Brochure

John Spach thanked Ken Howard for his work in designing a new Club brochure. John was able to get 1,000 brochures printed for the cost of the paper. They present the Club very well to the public.

e. 2021 Committee Assignments and Org Chart

John Spach passed out the new Club org chart showing the Board, the 5 standing committees and the subcommittees under the standing committees.

John reminded those present that membership in all subcommittees is open to all members in good standing who are interested and willing to help.

It was requested by Mike Keelean to change the lead on the O Scale subcommittee from him to Mike Marsh.

We are still looking for persons to lead the Thomas and G Scale subcommittees. Mike Keelean suggested that the HO committee recommend a lead person for Thomas.

The new org chart will be posted on the bulletin board in the Clubhouse.

8. New Business

a. Club Layouts – All

John Spach stated that we need plans for upgrades and maintenance for all Club layouts.

The Committee Chairs are requested to hold meetings with all interested members for each layout. Post notices as needed to make the meetings successful.

The proposed plans for upgrades and maintenance are to be submitted to the Board for approval at the September Board meeting.

The goal is to have an idea of what is happening on each layout, and everybody can be on the same page. We cannot have individuals doing something on a layout that is not part of the overall goal or intentions for that layout. For some layouts this will be relatively easy as they have already been working in this fashion. Examples are the O Scale and N Scale layouts. It is believed that we will need a comprehensive plan from the HO and Lego committees.

b. Cleanliness and Respect for the Clubhouse

John Spach stated that all members are expected to clean up after themselves - be that a project or your lunch.

If you use an item – be it a tool or some rolling stock – return it to where you got it when you are done using it.

The meeting room area is not a dumping ground and should only be used when no other space is available.

John reminded us that we only have one chance to make a first impression. Let's work together to make it a good one.

Mike Johns reminded everyone to follow the instructions on the sign in the rest room to "Sit Down for Everything."

c. Membership – Recruitment, Retention, and Reinstatement

John Spach stated that our long-term goal is to make us self-sufficient by dues alone.

This means that our normal operating expenses should be covered by dues. At the current level of dues, we would need 83 senior members to accomplish this.

It was agreed that for the immediate future we set a goal of increasing the number of senior members to 50 by May 31, 2022.

Mike Johns recommended that we have a visitation team to try to get members.

George Lasley noted that we are seeing several former members return to the Club.

Reasons for increasing membership included that the fact that we cannot always depend on the show being there. Stated another way, what do we do if the show goes away?

George stated that we should also have as goal to increase the Edward Jones fund to the point that it provides a revenue stream for the Club.

It was further discussed to set the long-term goal of being self-sufficient by dues alone within 5 years, or by May 31, 2026.

Ted Kunstling suggested having more workshops, layout tours and outings as a way to increase interest in the Club.

d. Additional New Business as Needed

George Lasley informed us that the property adjacent to the Clubhouse has been sold. We do not yet know who the owners are or what is going to be built. For the current time, we should honor the new No Parking signs until we can establish contact with the new owners. This may cause problems for the Open House.

9. Good and Welfare of the Club

Mike Johns thanked Ken Howard for assisting with the recent visit of his daughter and grandson. They enjoyed the visit as result of the help.

10. Adjournment of Public Meeting

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm.

11. Executive Session – As Required

There was an executive session following the public portion of the meeting.

12. Motion for Adjournment of Board Meeting

Tom Garren made a motion which was seconded by Ken Howard to adjourn the meeting. It was passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Future Events

Following the Membership Meeting, Ken Howard will give a slide presentation on the Colorado Railroad Museum. The slide show will begin about 10 minutes following meeting adjournment.

Mark your calendars! Mike Johns has accepted the Chair Position for the Open House Subcommittee, tasked with looking at schedules and making recommendations for public events to help showcase the Club. He has selected Saturday, July 17th for the next Club Open House from 10 am to 4 pm. Plan to help with publicity and at the event so that we can put the Club's best foot forward.

The **37th Train Show and Sale** will be held at the Jim Graham Building, North Carolina State Fairgrounds, 4285 Trinity Road, Raleigh, NC 27607 on November 6-7, 2021.

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 are contributing items for the Whistle Post. I am building files for use in future editions. Your participation is appreciated, and your contributions will appear as space permits. Please send articles, photos of real trains, book reviews, 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 Monday, August 9th, ten days prior to the next Membership Meeting of August 19th.

The Clubhouse is open to friends and guests most Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. 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 and Activities

Board of Governors Meeting: Monday, August 2nd, 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

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

Breakfast Social: Every Wednesday, 9:00 am at Barry's Café, Raleigh, NC.

**Answers to Railroad Slang Matching Game: 1e, 2j, 3f, 4g, 5a, 6c, 7I, 8b, 9d, 10h
How Did You Do?**

NRV Whistle Post
The Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club, Inc.
1615 Old Louisburg Road
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First Class

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Michael Keelean	Treasurer	keeleanmake@gmail.com	919-886-9238
Tom Garren	Secretary	tomgar@mindspring.com	919-805-0909
Calfee (Richard Calfee)	At-Large	rhcalfree@yahoo.com	301-335-1054
Ken Howard	At-Large	klhowardjr@aol.com	919-851-3805
Bob Witwer	At-Large	bobwitwer@gmail.com	919-632-0785

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
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WEB SITE www.nrvclub.net

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