

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”

Hard to believe that it's already November – time is just flying by. Hope you all have had a terrific summer.

Speaking of terrific things, we just had a super terrific Fall Show. Many thanks to all who helped out. Your hard work is greatly appreciated and will show up in the terrific results we expect to have when the final expense report is done. All signs point to a successful result. I was fortunate to be able to attend, despite my surgery, thanks to George securing a scooter for me. While doing the obligatory shopping and communicating with our vendors, I received lots of compliments from the vendors who indicated they were pleased with the turnout and were having good sales results. So, once again, thanks to George, the Poohbah and his flock of Poohbah assistants, for a job well done.

Let me give you a little advanced notice of our next scheduled Saturday work session. We have not picked the exact Saturday yet, but it will be late November/early December. It will be a work/learn session. We are planning to add DCC chips to many of the Club's DC locomotives that have been approved for upgrading. We plan on using the opportunity as a hands-on learning session. So, if you are interested in learning how to add a DCC chip to a DC loco, this is for you. We will also be using the time and opportunity to upgrade a lot of our Club rolling stock's couplers and wheels and repair anything and everything that has been reported as in need of repair. And, I plan on providing lunch for those who attend. More details will be sent out soon by Club email. Be ready to come and enjoy a day with friends.

Next up will be the revision and expansion of our HO layout. Ken and his committee will be having meetings for discussion and planning. Anyone interested in being part of this and helping plan and execute the new look layout, please contact Ken Howard to get on the group list and stay informed. We want input and assistance from everyone with an interest in this layout. Your help will be greatly appreciated, and your work will be needed to finish the final plan in a timely fashion.

One last thing – if you know anyone interested in trains, bring them to the Club, introduce them to our group - - - let's build membership.

OK Trains ready to go - - - -ALL ABOARD

John Spach, President

November 6 -7 Fall Train Show



First, thank you to all Club members and non-Club members who participated in the show. Without you it would not have happened. If you missed it, you missed a great time. We had several new dealers show up with lots of exciting merchandise. Many of our old friends were around as well.

We missed long time dealer Elmer “Shave” Bennett. His son reported that he passed away in October. He will be missed.

1,986 paid admissions put us back to normal attendance-wise. The Club table did quite well with a lot less stuff returning to the Clubhouse. Thanks to all who helped to load and unload the trailer. Once again we give thanks for the loan of the truck and trailer by Justin Boatwright, a friend of Doug Alumbaugh.

The raffle of the Thomas layout went well. The winner was Chase Teal of Raleigh. Chase was able to pick the layout up on Sunday afternoon.

As usual the layouts were quite enjoyable. The Sipping and Switching Society HO was simply breathtaking with its 1,440 foot mainline. North Raleigh provided both N track and T track layouts. The Atlantic Coast S Gaugers returned with lots of buttons to push. The North Carolina Garden Railway Society also returned with G gauge. The East Carolina Model Railroaders as well as Mike Keelan provided two O scale layouts. Steve Wills brought the Lego layout and Bernie provided an additional N scale display. Ken Mitchell operated his Standard Gauge in all its glory. Several individual modules were also displayed including an exquisite WW II module of a French village scene and a Hollywood sound stage set.

Close to final numbers will be available at the next membership meeting. I hope all of you have recovered. We turned the building back to the fairgrounds at 8:48 pm on Sunday night.

Again, thanks to all for a job well done.

Grand Poohbah George

Thomas Train Raffle



The winning raffle ticket is selected by Mike Irwin, George Lasley, and Tom Garren.



The winner Chase Teal of Raleigh receiving congratulations from Mike Irwin.

Thanks to Clif Kelly and Mike Irwin for yeoman service in manning the Thomas Layout and selling raffle tickets throughout both days of the show. The first ticket drawn was called and was able to pick up his prize at the end of the day.

A Conversation with Joe Balint by Tom Garren

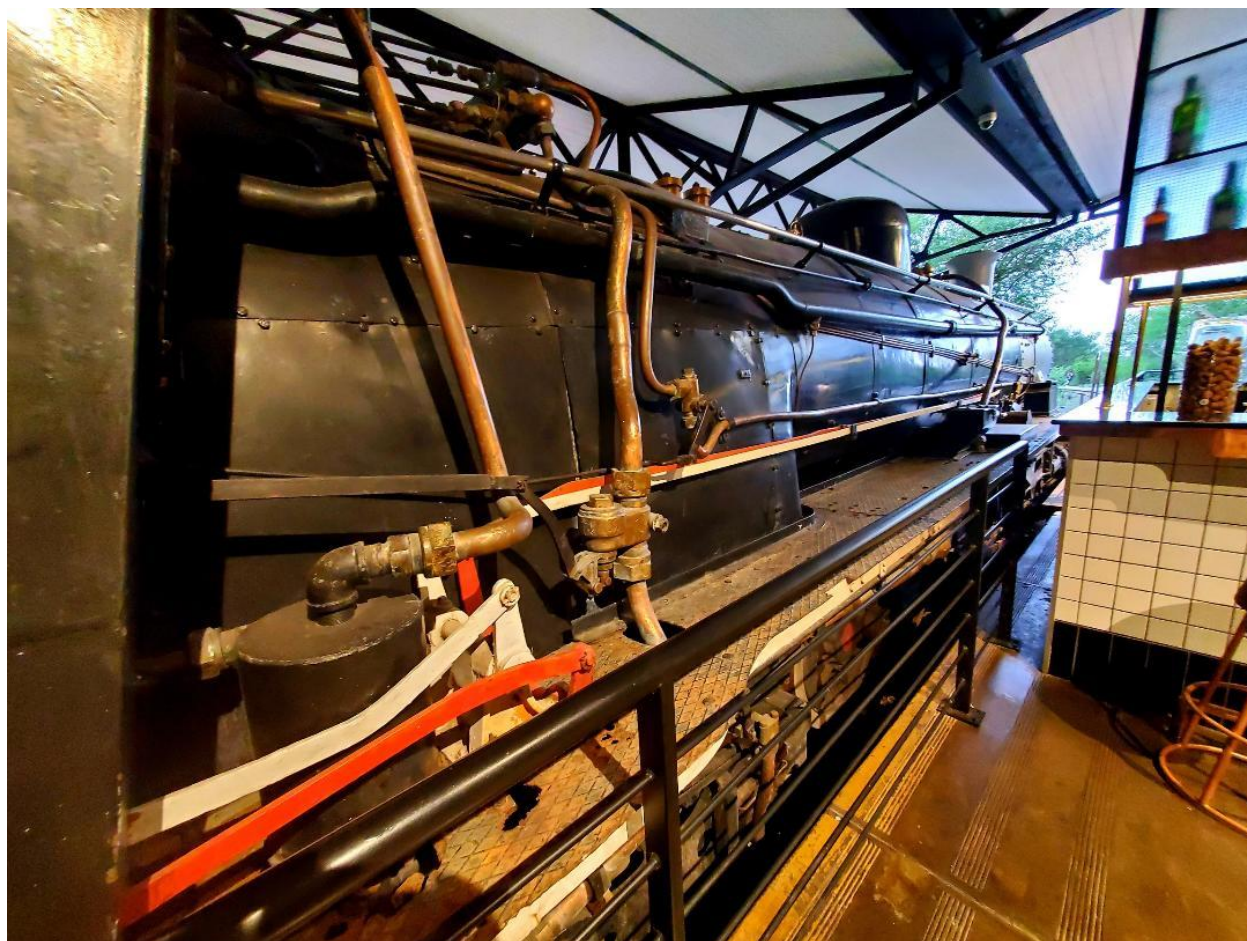
I had a chance to talk to Joe Balint about the Sipping and Switching layout at the show. Our November show closed out the 30th year for the Sipping and Switching Society. People from seven states participate in this layout. The states included North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, and Arkansas.

The statistics on the layout itself are pretty amazing: The layout occupied 25,200 square feet of floor space. It was made up of some 400 modules. The oldest module in the layout was completed in 1976: the newest was completed on Tuesday before the show. There were 1,440 feet of mainline and 7,500 total feet of track. Within the layout there were some 17 yards, 9 of which were 48 feet in length or longer.

Joe thanked us for providing the space for Sipping and Switching Society to display this very large layout. Thanks to you Joe, and all of your associates.

Neat Links

George Lasley has received a number of pictures from **Will Allen's** recent trip to South Africa. Here's one of a 2-8-4 built in 1949, one of 100 Class 24 locomotives ordered, preserved in a station.



See the following website for more information:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_African_Class_24_2-8-4

Tom Magnani provided the following information about the newsletter of the Mid-Eastern Region of NMRA named the *The Local* for those who are not members:

You can also visit the MER website to download this and previous LOCALs all the way back to 1996. The MER website is at <http://mer-nmra.com>. Follow the link to the Archives. In addition, you can purchase a CD with the .pdf files for *The Local* issues 1949-2017.

Nevada Northern Fundraising Campaign: For those of you who haven't received a direct mailing or haven't read your latest issue of *Trains*, the Nevada Northern Railway Museum is

conducting a fund raiser to return two historic diesel locomotives from their current locations to the Ely, Nevada museum site. Visit the website for information about donations:

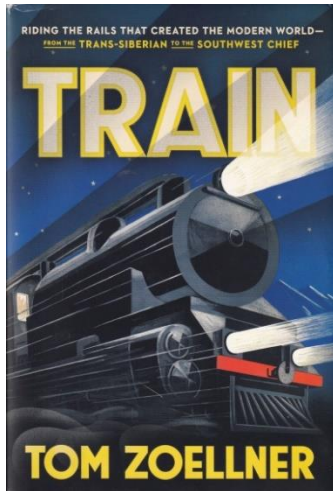
www.nnry.com/Sponsor

Railroad Slang Contest (courtesy of John Spach)

Test your train trivia knowledge with this 10 part challenge match up. Match the term with the appropriate definition. Answers can be found on Page 10.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Baby lifter | a. railroad car cleaner |
| 2. boss | b. short handle shovel |
| 3. car whacker | c. stop signal |
| 4. diamond pusher | d. caboose |
| 5. grease the pig | e. cross tie |
| 6. junk file | f. passenger train brakeman |
| 7. Palace | g. oil the engine |
| 8. Red board | h. fireman |
| 9. sleeper | i. worn out locomotive |
| 10. ukulele | j. conductor |

BOOK REVUE: *Train* by Tom Zoellner, 2008, 246 pages, VIKING Penguin Group, New York, New York, ISBN 978-0-670-02528-2.



I wasn't quite sure what I was getting into when I started reading this book. Based on the cover, I expected first had descriptions of modern railroad trips of historical significance. The content turned out to be much more complex and diverse. Zoellner begins his narrative with a trip from Pentland Firth to Land's End in Great Britain. His descriptions are full of historical notes about the history of railroads and the Industrial Age and social commentary on the people that he met on the journey.

If you enjoy the first chapter, you will enjoy the remaining content as Zoellner describes his usually successful trips through India, USA, Russia, China-Tibet, Peru, and Spain. The trips encompass the full range of global railroading from inception to bullet trains.

This is a light read and should contain enough railroad history, modern railroad experiences, and social commentary to keep most rail fans interested throughout.

Ken Howard

Club COVID-19 Mask Policy

Although some Triangle cities have eliminated their mask requirements, the Club will continue to honor the City of Raleigh mandate. A mask or face covering is required while you are inside the Clubhouse regardless of your vaccination status. Thank you for your cooperation.

Open Houses and Member's Layouts

Phil Michaud conducted an open house for members on October 23rd. For those who missed the show, here are some pictures of Phil's N-scale and HO-scale layouts. Phil models the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad in both gauges. The N-scale is a true point to point representation of the actual railroad and is located in the house while the HO-scale layout is more generic and is located in the garage. The HO is notable, because the entire layout can be folded up against the garage wall when not in use.

We'll start with the N-scale photos by Ken Howard and Ted Kunstling:



Control panels for the central portion of the layout.



Hand built curving trestle.



Lumber products are a big industry in Maine.



Typical Maine town with loop.

Now have a look at the HO layout in the garage. This is also Bangor & Aroostook, but it is more generic than the N-scale that replicates actual towns.



Phil standing in the center of the layout.



Lots of State of Maine loads of potatoes.



Potato shipping facility.



Phil has examples of each B&A paint scheme.

John Spach also invited members to view his HO-scale layout at the same time Phil opened his for members. Since John is just down the street, many members were able to catch John's layout on the same trip. John has been working on the layout for several years and insists that he is just using the layout to learn modelling techniques. Looks like he has already learned a lot. Main theme is New York Central and the layout has grades tunnels and mountains.



John Spach describing his garage layout to Ken.



Close up of an industrial area on the layout.

Real Train Photos

The Rockville Bridge and the Bridgeview BNB have become a popular destination for Club Members. Thanks to George Lasley for the following photographs.



View of the Rockville Bridge across the Susquehanna River from Marysville, PA.



The Pennsylvania crosses the Rockville Bridge on a beautiful afternoon. Shot from the deck of the Bridgeview Bed and Breakfast.

Future Events

Steve Wills has requested help from members for with the LEGO layout display at the **TCA Show** on December 4th and 5th in Raleigh, NC. Steve would like 2 to 3 members to help with setup (he will be at the show about 5:30 pm to unload and setup) and to help out during the show and take down. Please contact Steve by e-mail if you can be of assistance at srwills@lenovo.com.

Bring your layout to the train show

We are currently accepting reservations for 2021-2022 shows through March. You can use the online signup form, which is the fastest and easiest way.

The link is: <https://www.trainshow.com/bring-a-layout>

Or, you can print out the PDF pack and mail it in.

That link can be found at: <https://www.trainshow.com/exhibitor-area>

Great American Train Shows is the nation's only coast-to-coast train show company. Our train shows are designed for the general public, modelers, hobbyists, families, and the just plain curious. Each show features hundreds of tables of trains and accessories for sale, huge operating exhibits, activities for kids, and more. All scales are welcome as are books, videos, and railroadians.

You can raise money for your club or layout!

Display Layouts will be paid a standard honorarium based on square footage and will be as follows:

- \$50.00 Less than 100 Square feet of actual layout
- \$100.00 101 to 499 Square feet of actual layout
- \$150.00 500 or more square feet of actual layout

You may request a non-standard honorarium. Please be aware we will give first preference to those who do not require an honorarium, then those who accept the standard honorarium and lastly the non-standard honorarium requests.

Workshop Presenters will be paid a \$30.00 standard honorarium for each workshop topic that is presented both days of the show. The current schedule of shows is as follows:

2021 Train Show Schedule

November 20-21, 2021– Greenberg's Train & Toy Show – Wilmington, MA - Shriners Auditorium

November 27-28, 2021 Great Train Show – Collinsville, IL – Gateway Center

November 27-28, 2021– Greenberg's Train & Toy Show – Edison, NJ - New Jersey Expo Center

December 4-5, 2021– Greenberg's Train & Toy Show – Timonium, MD - Maryland State Fairgrounds

December 12, 2021– Great Midwest Train Show – Wheaton, IL - DuPage County Fairgrounds

December 18-19, 2021– Greenberg's Train & Toy Show – Chantilly, VA - Dulles Expo

Dates are set for the **NRV SPRING INTO TRAINS**, 2022 edition. George Lasley has booked the Fairgrounds for April 30 – May 1, so mark your calendars. Date has been moved a week earlier to avoid Mother's Day.

South Carolina Model Railroad Shows

Friday, December 10th 1pm-6pm and Saturday, December 11th 9am-3pm
Rollins Edwards Community Center,
301 N. Hickory Street, Summerville, SC
Admission \$5 for both days
<http://www.southcarolinatradeshow.com>

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

November Membership Meeting: The November Membership meeting will be held Thursday, November 18th, 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

Board of Governors Meeting: The December BOG meeting will be held Monday, December 6th, 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

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

The Clubhouse is open to friends and guests most Saturdays, and Sundays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. If you don't have a key, 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.

Notes from the Editor and Webmaster

Please send recent photos of Club activities to Bernie Dawson, at nrvwebmaster@gmail.com, so he can maintain and update our website.

Thanks to all who are contributing items for the Whistle Post. 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.

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

Minutes of the Membership and Board Meetings

Minutes of both Board of Governors and Membership meetings are now available to those who wish to read them on the Club website. The link below takes you directly to the Minutes page:

<https://nrvclub.net/meeting-minutes/>

NRV Whistle Post
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First Class

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

John Spach	President	jtspach@earthlink.net	937-215-2723
Wayne Aiken	Vice-President	htomc42@hotmail.com	919-602-8529
Michael Keelean	Treasurer	keeleanmike@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
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

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