

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 again, another month has gone by and we are all suffering from extreme cabin fever. After two years of Covid restrictions, we are all anxious to get out and get back to “normal”. To wit, I have succumbed to it and am, at this moment, writing this on the porch of my resort in Disney World in Florida. Spending a week here with friends and enjoying feeling almost free. There still are some things that are restricted, and it seems funny to see everyone in masks, but it is great to be back out.

Back at the Club, the HO group is really making progress on plans for expansion and renovation of the layout - looking forward to their finalizing their plans and helping to make it happen. I suggest that anyone with interest in the layout contact Ken Howard for details and get on his mailing list for meetings and updates.

We need some help on the housekeeping committee. Anyone who attends Club meetings or uses the Club is welcome: please contact Mike Keelean.

I’m getting dirty looks from “she who must be obeyed” - she declared this a true “vacation” - no web, no trains, and no email, so I better go for now. Be back soon.

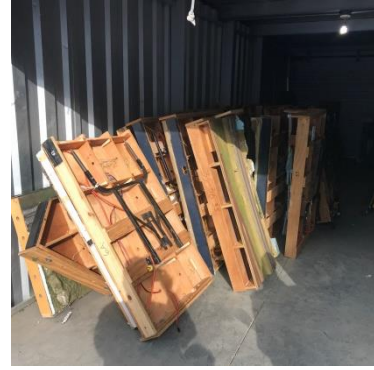
OK Train’s leaving the station on track 1 - - - ALL ABOARD

**John Spach, President**

### **Club COVID-19 Mask Policy**

The Board of Governors has elected reopen the Clubhouse to the general public effective immediately. We will continue to honor the City of Raleigh mask mandate. A mask or face covering is required while you are inside the Clubhouse regardless of your vaccination status. All members are expected to comply with the requirement and to remind other members of their responsibility. Thank you for your cooperation.

## HO Layout Committee Activities



On January 14<sup>th</sup>, Bob Witwer, John Mezera, and Ken Howard travelled to Greenville, NC to pick up a donation of benchwork and miscellaneous HO stuff from Steve Mabry. The donation filled a 4'x 8' foot truck bed and 4'x 8' foot trailer. Some forty pieces of bench work were retrieved and are now stored for salvage, sale, or Club use in Bob's storage shed in Clayton. A second trip was required on February 11<sup>th</sup> to gather up loose ends that weren't available on the first trip.

In addition to the visually obvious changes in the layout room, the accumulations of STUFF that used to reside under the N and HO layouts have been purged or organized in storage compartments, preparatory to moving both layouts. Materials that will be useful in construction have been inventoried and are stored until actual construction can begin.

The committee met on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm in the Clubhouse to 1) discuss options for the new construction, 2) start scheduling relocation operations, and 3) set time frames for needed maintenance on the HO layout. Nineteen members attended and participated in the discussions.

Several meetings and work sessions have been scheduled:

- 1) Two sessions have been set for Club members to examine the approximately 40 modules that we received as a donation. Modules and equipment that will not be used by the Club will be available for member purchase:

Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 1pm, and Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 1 pm

If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please contact Bob Witwer at [bobwitwer@gmail.com](mailto:bobwitwer@gmail.com) for directions and the access code to the storage facility.

- 2) February 19<sup>th</sup> (same day as the Club workshop for DCC chip installation) has been selected as the date for moving the N scale layout and the materials stored underneath to their new home. Eight volunteers will be needed to make the move. We will start work around 9:45 am and operate around the workshop and hot dog lunch.
- 3) Bob Witwer will coordinate with the Track Planning subcommittee to set a date for their first full meeting to begin planning the design and construction schedule for the expansion.

- 4) The next meeting of the full HO Committee will be held at the Clubhouse on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. All interested members are invited to attend.

A number of items were discussed about problems with the current layout and the expansion:

- 1) The Committee decided to leave the layout at its current height by unanimous consent.
- 2) Ethan Quiram, Richard Calfee, Tom Tieman and Ken Howard agreed to produce a recording system that can be used for systematically identifying and recording operating problems with the existing layout so that they can be repaired.
- 3) A number of people have volunteered to participate in a review the electrical system and computer system on the current HO layout. This review may lead to modifications or an update that will be useful for the expansion as well.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, please send additional thoughts to Bob Witwer or other members of the HO committee (Richard Calfee, Mike Johns, and Ken Howard). A number of members have contributed ideas and potential track plans for the addition and more ideas are welcome. Thanks to those of you who have already contributed!

The full minutes of the meeting are available for all to review on the Club website.

Ken Howard

## Member Layouts

**Bob Witwer** sent the following photos showing initial stages of his HO gauge revival layout. Like many of the newer Club members, Bob is getting back into the hobby after a long hiatus. The new layout construction is in his office and is currently 4 x 8 feet. We can look forward to watching Bob's layout progress over the coming years.



## Neat Links

If you missed **Ethan Quiram's** January Membership Meeting presentation, "*But it's not a Big Boy*", and are fascinated by big steam engines, you'll have to wait for a rerun. However, in the interim you can visit the websites that Ethan used in his research and has provided for the Club. Don't forget - the NRV Library is also a ready source of information to satisfy your curiosity.

General information about big steam:

<https://www.american-rails.com/>  
<http://steamlocomotive.com/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whyte\\_notation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whyte_notation)

Big Boy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYYzhjUzCOU&t=1s>  
<https://youtu.be/4McOsLJ1Npk>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTWIPsqy9KM>

N&W 1218:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXhsAEyIIw>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CvpNdCA6hg>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpciOZs9d6w>

UP Challenger:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhgHrDbN4EU>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVcOPIaekOU>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2YUwExIn4nY>

Western Maryland 1309:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ali67sEdeac>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SO-29k43Jmg>

Black Hills Central 2-6-6-2:

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

N&W big steam:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0wmvZTyFYs>

PRR T1s:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znMu4K71ktY>

Zimbabwean Garratt at work:

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

Jerry Davis's YouTube channel! Cary NC:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsnTMDDRci6CJ\\_N\\_Xo55fgw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsnTMDDRci6CJ_N_Xo55fgw)

**Scott Hall** passed on the following link from Ron's-Trains-N-Things, "Shocking Reasons Why I Am Ditching DCC Sound Decoders"

<https://youtu.be/nwL27VIIJi0>

Courtesy of **Ted Kunstling**: "One of my favorite O gauge layouts. I missed seeing it with my grandsons this year due to COVID. Please share."

[\(2\) Facebook Live | Facebook](#)

**John Spach** submitted the link below titled: "How to make HO Scale Atlas Switches work reliable." The video runs a shade over 14 minutes and is mandatory viewing for those of you who plan to work on the HO layout expansion.

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=RaJS0SmuBeU&feature=share>

From **Tom Magnani**: Subject: Restored Pullman Arrives at Illinois Railway Museum. "Looks like Al's car finally made it."

<https://railfan.com/restored-pullman-arrives-at-illinois-railway-museum/>

**Tom Magnani** also contributed a number of links for those of you who might be in the market for decals. Tom has compiled these sites courtesy of a number of his contacts and can provide more information about the work that these sites perform.

<https://k4decals.com>

<https://modernrails.com>

<https://www.highballgraphics.com/index.php/custom-waterslide-decals>

## **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 8.

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Bake Head     | a. Train dispatcher   |
| 2. Brass buttons | b. Brakeman           |
| 3. Detainer      | c. Railway Official   |
| 4. Gandy Dancer  | d. Switchman          |
| 5. Mule          | e. Locomotive fireman |
| 6. Pot Walloper  | f. Engineer           |
| 7. Silk Hat      | g. Section Worker     |
| 8. Swell Head    | H. Freight Conductor  |
| 9. Snuzzle       | i. Drunk              |
| 10. Yard Geese   | j. Dishwasher         |

## Real Train Photos

**Fred Krauss** sent the photo below of a tank car at Dow Chemical Company. The workers had just finished steam cleaning the tank car so it could be used to move a different plastic product, but they put the lid back on too soon. The residual steam inside condensed and drew a vacuum which imploded the 3/4" thick steel tank.



## Future Events

The C&O Railway Heritage Center will hold a fundraising event:

### ***The George Washington Modeling Expo***

C&O Railway Heritage Center  
705 E Main St., Clifton Forge, VA.

Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 4 pm & Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm – 4 pm  
Admission is \$5.00 including entrance to the C&O Railway Heritage Center/Museum

### ***Company Shops Railroad Club Membership Meeting***

Southbound Sandwich Shop, Burlington, NC  
Dinner at 5 pm followed by brief Membership Meeting and Presentation

## ***2022 Train Show***

The Carolina Coastal Railroaders

February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday, and 10 am to 4 pm Sunday  
New Bern Riverfront Convention Center in downtown New Bern NC.  
Adult admission \$8. Under 12 free with paid adult admission  
Admission is good for both days.

[Train Show | Welcome to Carolina Coastal Railroaders](#)

## ***The Train Group of Mebane 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Trail Show and Sale***

Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 2 pm  
202 W. Jackson St., Mebane, NC 27302  
Adult Admission \$5.00 – children under 12 free with paid adult

<https://themebanetraindisplay.com>

## **Upcoming Meetings and Activities**

February Membership Meeting: The next meeting will be held Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

March Board of Governors Meeting: The next meeting will be held Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

HO Layout Committee Work Sessions: Those interested in the modules received by the Club are invited to either or both work sessions to assess the value to the Club on Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 1pm, and Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 1 pm. Please contact Bob Witwer for location and access to the storage shed.

February 19<sup>th</sup> Work/Learn Day at the Clubhouse: Come and learn how to add DCC to analog locomotives, mount couplers, and other fun maintenance items for Club equipment. We will also use this session to move the N scale layout.

HO Layout Committee Meeting: Those interested in the planning process for the layout expansion are invited to the Clubhouse at 1 pm on March 20<sup>th</sup> to participate in deciding what the new addition should incorporate.

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

Dates are set for the **NRV SPRING INTO TRAINS**, 2022 edition, for April 30 – May 1, so mark your calendars. The date is a week earlier than usual to avoid the Mother's Day weekend.

## **Notes from the Editor and Webmaster**

Please send recent photos of Club activities to Bernie Dawson, at [nrvwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:nrvwebmaster@gmail.com), so he can 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 interesting links to Ken Howard, Whistle Post Editor, at [klhowardjr@aol.com](mailto:klhowardjr@aol.com).

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

**How Did You Do?**

## **Minutes of the Membership, Board, and Committee Meetings**

Minutes of both Board of Governors and Membership meetings are now available to those who wish to read them on the Club website. Also, minutes from HO Committee meetings are now available, so members can follow the planning and construction of the new HO layout additions. The link below takes you directly to the Minutes page:

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



NRV Whistle Post  
The Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club, Inc.  
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First Class

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

John Spach	President	<a href="mailto:jtspach@earthlink.net">jtspach@earthlink.net</a>	937-215-2723
Wayne Aiken	Vice-President	<a href="mailto:htomc42@hotmail.com">htomc42@hotmail.com</a>	919-602-8529
Michael Keelean	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:keeleanmike@gmail.com">keeleanmike@gmail.com</a>	919-886-9238
Tom Garren	Secretary	<a href="mailto:tomgar@mindspring.com">tomgar@mindspring.com</a>	919-805-0909
Calfee (Richard Calfee)	At-Large	<a href="mailto:rhcalfree@yahoo.com">rhcalfree@yahoo.com</a>	301-335-1054
Ken Howard	At-Large	<a href="mailto:klhowardjr@aol.com">klhowardjr@aol.com</a>	919-851-3805
Bob Witwer	At-Large	<a href="mailto:bobwitwer@gmail.com">bobwitwer@gmail.com</a>	919-632-0785

### OTHER KEY POSITIONS

George Lasley	Show Grand Poobah	<a href="mailto:glasley@bellsouth.net">glasley@bellsouth.net</a>	919-757-4503
Calfee (Richard Calfee)	Membership Chair	<a href="mailto:rhcalfree@yahoo.com">rhcalfree@yahoo.com</a>	301-335-1054
Ted Kunstling	Social Media Chair	<a href="mailto:trkunstling@aol.com">trkunstling@aol.com</a>	919-787-5282
Tom Garren	Librarian	<a href="mailto:tomgar@mindspring.com">tomgar@mindspring.com</a>	919-805-0909
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**WEB SITE** [www.nrvclub.net](http://www.nrvclub.net)

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