

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, we made it – Spring is here, flowers are blooming, pollen is all over everything, sneezing is not Covid, and our Spring show is right around the corner. ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?

I, for one, am more than ready. I have had enough of being a shut in and recluse, and I need a train show “fix.” How about you?

Speaking of the show, I hear from George that we are sold out of tables for vendors. That is a great sign for a really good show. Ken Howard and Mike Keelean have lots of goodies all priced and ready to sell. So now it's up to us to get it all there, spread out, and sold. Let's make this a great show.

We will be following our usual load out process Thursday night, and all meet at the show on Friday to set up. We will have a Lionel O gauge layout to raffle at this show, and Clif has volunteered to spearhead the efforts to sell raffle tickets.

The HO layout group is moving along nicely, and construction plans are being formulated. They plan to start work after the show. I hope everyone takes some time out of their busy lives to help in any way they can. This becomes an even bigger success when we all work together to accomplish our goals. And the camaraderie is great too. I might even be motivated to feed the group as well.

Speaking of working together, we will have at least two small layouts to fix up and revamp for the Fall show, so put that in the back of your mind, that there will be work sessions for that as well this summer.

It's really great to see all the new members at the Club, participating and helping us improve the member experience. Thanks Guys.

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

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

John Spach, President

“Spring into Trains Show”

As most of you are probably aware the 4th “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 April 30/May 1 show at glasley@bellsouth.net.** The two shows each year are important as fund raisers 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 about 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.

The following is a general schedule for the show:

- Thursday evening and Friday morning are for loading and transporting Club layouts and merchandise from the Clubhouse to the fairgrounds.
- Friday from 10 am until 8pm, and Saturday from 7 to 9 am are setup times in the Scott Building.
- The show opens at 9 am and closes at 5 pm on Saturday.
- On Sunday the building is open at 8 am, and the show is again 9 am to 5 pm. Tear down and return to the Clubhouse follows.

Again I am asking all of you to please participate as much as you can. Remember work gloves and comfortable shoes!

Thank you,

George Lasley, Show Grand Poobah

March 19th Work Session



Mike Johns making rocks on N scale



Phil and Bernie wiring N scale test track



Ken Howard cleaning O gauge track

On Saturday, March 19, 2022, members gathered at the Club to work on upgrading the N scale travelling layout in preparation for its sale to a member in lieu of raffling it at the Spring into Trains Show. Enough people responded to the call that we were able to accomplish several other tasks that the Club needed. Among these tasks were:

- 1) Beginning a new O gauge layout for raffling at the Show.

Phil Michaud donated a foam board with an O gauge oval track to form the basis for a Lionel layout that could be raffled. A steam engine and several cars had been selected from stock to run on the layout, but considerable cleaning, lubrication, and substitutions were required to produce a saleable operating train. By the end of the session, a viable wired layout with transformer, buildings and an operating train were available. Additional work will include wood bracing and moldings to strengthen the foam and addition of a siding and support legs.

- 2) Installation of the new N scale test track.

Mike Keelan had constructed a shelf for the N scale test track. Bernie Dawson and Phil Michaud mounted the shelf to the front of the layout and ran wiring. It is now ready for use.

- 3) Scenic upgrades on the N scale layout.

A number of people participated in adding new scenic details to the N scale layout. Look for the train watchers at the tunnel portal waiting for their next photo op.

Those in attendance for the day's activities (Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Johns, Phil Michaud, Mike Mitricska, John Spach, and Bob Witwer) were also treated to a bowl of homemade chili courtesy of John Spach. Thanks to all who pitched in to make the day a success and to Tom Garren for the photography.

Future Events

Historic Spencer Shops Train Show

NCTM Historic Spencer Shops
411 S. Salisbury Avenue
Spencer, NC 28159

Saturday, May 14

Open & Train Show 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Train rides at 10 & 11 a.m. and 1, 2 & 3 p.m.

Sunday, May 15

Open 12 – 5 p.m.
Train Show will be from 12 – 4 p.m.
Train rides at 1, 2 & 3 p.m.

For additional information visit:

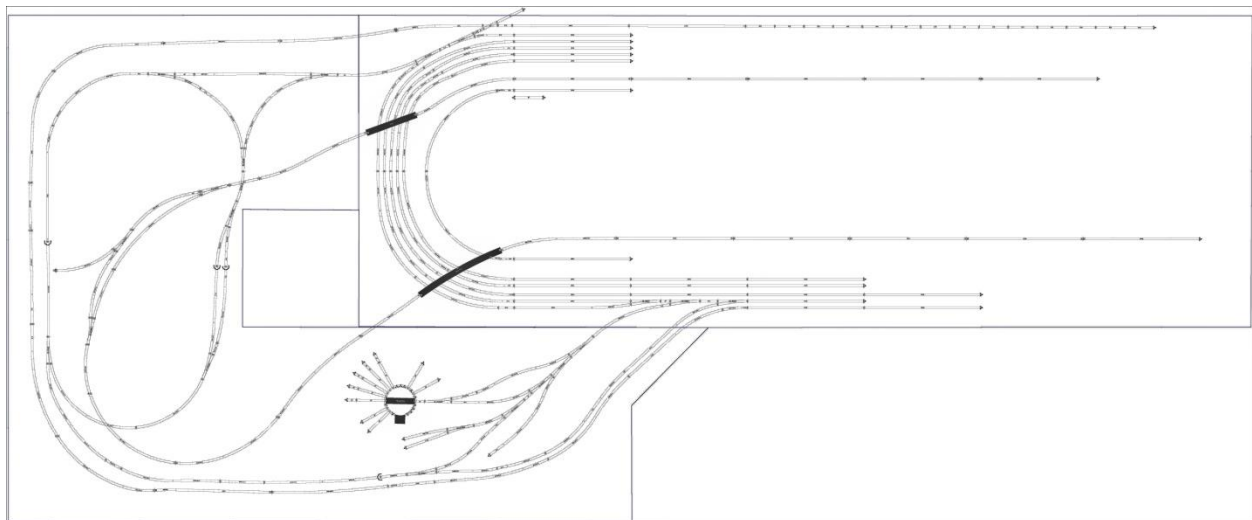
www.nctransportationmuseum.org/train-show/

HO Layout Committee Activities

The HO Layout Committee and other interested Club members met on March 20th to review comments received and to decide on the final configuration of the new addition. Thanks to Marilyn Calfee for creating a summary handout of comments received for use at the meeting and as we go forward in the planning process.

The committee decided that the following components would be required in design of a track plan for the extension:

- 1) Two roughly parallel main lines will be constructed in the form of a loop along the margins of the extension.
- 2) The main level will also have a single closed loop and a wye. The closed loop will be constructed so that it can be isolated for DC operation or DCC operation.
- 3) The upper level will have a single main line which will be developed as an extension of the current mainline 4 on the existing layout.
- 4) Access will be via a single popup rather than using narrow aisles.
- 5) The layout will be developed in stages with the initial construction to assure that the new trackage is compatible with the existing layout operations.
- 6) Scenery and sidings for industries will be added after the basic track plan has proven to be operationally sound.
- 7) The consensus of the group at this time is that the extension should contain one or more coal mines, an engine terminal, agricultural lands, timber related industries, a power plant, and a small town to serve the appropriate industries.



Layout track plan currently under consideration (drawn by Peter Ring)

Members in attendance included Brock Bowden, Richard Calfee, Bernie Dawson, Peter Denofrio, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mick Johns, Ted Kuntsling, George Lasley, Ethan Quiram, and Bob Witwer.

The next meeting will be held to approve the final track design and to schedule workdays for construction. The meeting will be held on April 26th at 1 pm. The full minutes of HO committee meeting and the summary of comments are available for all to review on the Club website.

Ken Howard

Neat Links

Scott Hall ran across another good video from DJsTrains: "Model Railroad Layout Tour: Industrial Operations Explained" (*running time 20:01*)

<https://youtu.be/IgRwPNHVH48>

Courtesy of **Fred Krauss** via **Tom Magnani**:

The National Film Board of Canada made a number of well-produced short subject films regarding life in Canada over the decades. Here is a 15 minute film of a winter day in the life of the Station Master of the Canadian Pacific rural town of Finch, Ontario in 1954. Many typical old time railroad aspects appear in the background.

<https://www.nfb.ca/film/station-master/>

Baldwin Steam Locomotives: a long video, but very interesting according to Fred.

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

Tom Magnani passed along this link to a presentation by Kevin O'Connor on tuning freight cars to optimize operational performance. The link is courtesy of Bob Gamble, Editor, **The Herald**, Carolina Piedmont Division, Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-7iLffqpfO2RoZUhY3q4SpyN7nqnFFtz/view?usp=sharing>

Editor's Note: This is a series of 21 slides from the original presentation.

Club COVID-19 Mask Policy

The City of Raleigh has discontinued its mask mandate, and the Board of Governors has elected to follow the new guidelines. Masks will not be required in the Clubhouse. All members and guests are free to wear, or to not wear a mask, at their personal discretion. If this policy changes in the near future, we may have to modify plans for the "Spring into Trains Show." Keep up with any possible changes at this month's Membership Meeting.

Other Club Activities



Ron Abraham working on a project in the newly cleaned and useable shop.
Photo by Tom Garren



Ken Howard and Bob Witwer work a switching problem with a **mallet** on Joe Scales' layout!
Photo by Tom Garren

HO Layout Committee Work Session

Photos by Tom Garren



Bob Witwer and Ken Howard



Ted Kuntsling and Randy Foulke

On March 26th, a work session was held at Eagle Storage in Clayton to dismantle and salvage the remaining modules from the Greenville donation. Five senior members (median age of 75) stripped 12 48x30 inch panels of track and scenery. These units will to be used in the HO expansion.

Thirty-one working switches and two re-rail sections were salvaged along with eight support legs and a few scraps of scenic materials, electrical equipment, and reusable wood sections. A total of 530 pounds of scrapped modules and debris were disposed of at the Johnson County landfill. Anyone interested in any of the remaining modules can purchase them before they are hauled to the dump. Contact Bob Witwer or Ken Howard if you have any interest. Members in attendance for the grand dismantling were Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Ted Kuntsling, and Bob Witwer.

Member Layout

Part II: ROCK CREEK DIVISION: A Work in Progress by Ted Kunstling

Planning follows an “evolutionary” approach, beginning with resources I had accumulated. Liking the NRVMMR Club layout, I decided on a rectangular configuration with access on all sides and open center. I had plenty of Sievers Benchwork and a large inventory of Bachmann E-Z Track, so that is what I used to develop and assemble a layout, enabling me to begin running trains right away. Ultimately, I came up with 2 and 7/8 complete loops and a staging yard. The 7/8 loop serves industrial sidings with several spurs.



Rather than lining unrelated structures along the tracks, I wanted to create distinct places and purposes for rail operations and so am developing “zones.” In addition to the staging yard, which also serves as a locomotive service area, other zones include the Town of Hadnot (named after a creek in Carteret County), a rural highway, an agricultural zone with fields and tobacco barn, a heavy industrial zone featuring a cement plant, and a large oil tank facility. I have yet to decide how I’ll develop the east side of the layout.



The cement plant is composed of two Walther's kits.



A visit to the plant on West Street near NS Glenwood Yard in Raleigh offered guidance and inspiration.

When: I try to achieve a 1950's ambience with my scenery, evoking small North Carolina towns, but run whatever equipment pleases me, sometimes even a Hornby Flying Scotsman, a favorite of my grandson. After all, modern trains pass old structures.

Since my locomotives are from several railroads including Norfolk Southern, CSX, and other mid-Atlantic lines, I decided to name my layout the "Rock Creek Division" after the creek behind my house rather than call it by a specific company. I also use local names that are evocative for me, such as Nahunta and Pisgah in addition to Hadnot. I am partial to rolling stock and loads frequently seen locally: covered hoppers, coal, wood chip, tank, lumber, and container.



The Town of Hadnot has a church, school, police station, gas stations, grocery store, theater, offices, businesses, light industry, café, and even a food truck.



Rural highway zone before adding ballast and grade crossing



Agricultural zone



Cemetery behind Hadnot Methodist Church



Tobacco barn with tobacco plants waiting to be put out



Staging yard and locomotive service area

Ballast, grade crossings, appropriately tall tree sizes, barbed wire fence have now been added. The wooded area provides a visual break between the rural highway and the heavy industrial zones. Ballast has been added along the E-Z Track, and the highway elevation gradually rises to the level of the E-Z Track grade crossings. “Ground goop” composed of Celluclay, vermiculite, “mudslide” colored latex paint, white glue, and a dash of Lysol make an excellent and versatile ground cover. Static grass and shrubbery are yet to be added. Ted’s shop is shown below.



Real Train Photos

Ken Howard took this photo of GMTX Locomotive Group EMD GP38-2 #2005 at Ducktown, Tennessee on a rainy day in June 2019.



George Lasley has been vacationing in Pennsylvania and sending photo of trains for inclusion in the Whistle Post. Here is a sampling of his photos from the Harrisburg area: more to come in next month's edition.



NS 911 crossing former Pennsylvania Rockville Bridge from BnB deck.



AMTRAK Bombardier/Alstom HHP-8 #659 on former PRR main.



UP SD9043MAC # 8038 on PRR near Harrisburg, PA.



Steelton & Highspire railroad SW1200 switcher #1280 at rail recycling mill in Steelton, PA.

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

April Membership Meeting: The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 21st, 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

HO Layout Committee Meeting: Those interested in the planning process for the layout expansion are invited to the Clubhouse at 1 pm on April 24th to participate in reviewing final plans and scheduling construction of the layout extension.

May Board of Governors Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 2nd, 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

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



NRVMRC breakfast at Barry's Café on 4/6/22
Photo by Randy Foulke

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, 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.

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
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First Class

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