

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”

Aloha from Hawaii!

I write this as I am cruising the beautiful islands of Hawaii. I may never come back - at least till my money runs out. I do wish you were all here. It is magnificent!

But, back to the real world. Things are moving along quite nicely on the HO layout. New track is being laid, new track locations being laid out, wiring is being updated and expanded, and plans are being worked up for the scenic work to come. We need all hands to be involved to keep this project moving.

I am working on a special workday to be a hands on repair and renovation of Club rolling stock and Club sale inventory. You will be asked to bring your own tool kit, as we do not have enough for all in the shop, and we want to make sure everyone can get hands on experience. Please assemble small screwdrivers, small pliers, X-ACTO knives, and any other small tools you might need. More details will follow. And yes, I'm planning on food too.

OK, enough for now. It's time to eat again!

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

John Spach, President

Spring Show Update

Flyers for the 5th annual “**Spring into Trains**” show are now available. Please pick some up from the Clubhouse or from George Lasley and start distributing them to your friends, social and church groups, and frequent haunts. Show dates are May 6th and 7th so mark your calendars and plan to attend and help the Club put on another successful show.

In Memorium

The Club regrets to inform the membership of the passing of Michael Mitricska. Mike was a Senior Member and very much part of the N Scale scene at the Clubhouse. His presence at the Clubhouse and Club functions will be sorely missed.

Ukrainians in the Carolinas

Steve Wills spearheaded a request from **Ukrainians in the Carolinas** to display LEGO trains around their Christmas gingerbread village and to represent the Club at the group's fundraiser at the Fairgrounds in December. Randy Foulke helped with set up and Joe Johnston was a great help in manning the display on Saturday. Thanks for your efforts guys: The Club received a very nice thank you note from Valerie Vasylenko in appreciation of your efforts.



HO Layout Committee Activities in December/January

As of January 15th, Main Line #1 extension has been completed along with passing sidings, a spur for an engine house, and a train assembly yard. Trains can be assembled on either set of

tracks. Tables for your train boxes are available adjacent to both locations. The passenger siding and assembly yard are powered only when a switch is thrown to direct power, so you can assemble the entire train at either location. When your train is made up, simply throw the appropriate switch in front of your engine to power the siding and allow access to the Main Line.

Construction will be underway shortly to bring Main Line #2 onto the extension. Materials are on hand and plans have been drawn to connect the Main via a series of switches and crossings. The location of Main Line #2 has been pinned on the extension and will include a wye for turning trains. The committee has decided that a portion of Main Line #2 will be elevated above grade to provide additional interest to the layout. The exact elevation has not been determined, but it will likely not be more than two inches above grade.

New Digitrax throttles have been received for the HO layouts. They will be phased in as the older units continue to expire. Thanks to Randy Foulke for doing the research, pricing, and buying the new equipment.

Member Layouts



John Kuchnia shared this snapshot of his home Lionel layout. The layout is 4 x 8 feet and is constructed from two 4 x 4 foot, bolt-together modules for ease of transport. Fast track was used to construction the loops. The building in the center foreground was scratch built by John's son. Goes to show that you don't need a lot of room to get a good looking home setup.

Editor's note: Here's an update from **Bob Witwer** on his layout. Now you know where his trees wound up.

Since I made about two dozen trees, I needed some place to store them. What better place than on my layout, so I built up a mountain by layering 1/2" Styrofoam sheets to form a mountain and tunneling the three end tracks under it. I next put on a layer of plaster cloth over the Styrofoam and wetted it down with a water spray bottle. Plaster cloth adheres extremely well to the contours of the Styrofoam, so I wound up with a mountain full of steps. I learned you should carve and shape the underlayment material first (duh) which meant ripping off the plaster cloth and shaping the Styrofoam to look something like a more realistic mountain. I reapplied a new layer of plaster cloth and it looked much better - but you're left with a bunch of little holes. I mixed up some dry wall joint compound and added some brown paint to it (thanks John for the advice) to the consistency of a milk shake and coated the mountain. Final step was planting the trees. Now I have to figure out how to do the ground cover. Always something new to learn - that's what makes this hobby so much fun!



Neat Links

Tom Magnani provided the following links:

From **Rob Rousseau** at CPD 13 here's a free detective stl file for 3D printing (and adjust to your scale preference) if you scroll down far enough.

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/ilustralia3d/the-motel>

In somewhat old news, **Ted Kunstling** was at Seaboard Ace Hardware and noticed the restored Pullman car (Villa Real) was no longer on its siding. **Tom Garren** supplied the following link about its disappearance.

[Restored 1911 Pullman Car Donated to Illinois Railway Museum \(irm.org\)](http://www.irm.org)

Tom Magnani forwarded this link and commentary on a YouTube video courtesy of **Fred Krauss**. The video is on the Wilesco manufacturing of miniature toy stationary steam engines. Wilesco was the largest manufacturer of miniature steam engines. Some of the narration is in German with subtitles.

<https://youtu.be/hjVilDNa8So>

And if you're still in a Holiday mood, here's a second link from the same source - Subject: What Were America's Christmas Monorails? About a 20 minute long video, but Fred says it's very interesting.

<https://youtu.be/-uW-AeI4q6Q>

Tom Magnani also passed along this link to the LARGEST family owned O-Gauge train layout in the America!! - Cornerfield Model Railroad Museum.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vIg05Bgedg&t=15s>

Tom also passed along a link from **Joel McCurry** about conductors.

<https://northplattebulletin.com/up-rolls-out-defined-process-to-eliminate-train-conductors/>

Future Events

Trackside Train Day

Presented by Mike's Trains and Thomasville Tourism

Memorial United Methodist Church, Thomasville, NC

February 11, 2023, from 9 am to 5 pm

Admission: \$5.00 (Children under 12 free with adult)

Contact Jackie Harper @ 336-689-6397

Editor's Note: NRV will display the O-gauge travelling layout at this show and will also have Club sales tables. Contact Mike Keelean or Ken Howard if you are interested in helping.

Carolina Model Railroaders Spring Train Show

Lewis Recreation Center

3110 Forest Lawn Dr, Greensboro, NC

Saturday 9am - 4pm

March 26th

Saturday 9am - 4pm

<http://carolinamodelrr.org>

Allegheny Day

On December 28th, Jerry Davis hosted Allegheny Day on his two-rail O scale layout. Joe Scales, Tom Garren and Bryan Upchurch assembled their engines for a photo op at Bakersfield. Bryan's engine was run by George Lasley. Not often that you get to see these big engines gathered together (photos by Tom Garren).



A gathering of Alleghenys in Bakersfield on Jerry Davis' layout.



From left to right – Joe Scales, Tom Garren, and BryanUpchurch.



A pair Tom Garren's F3s snuck into the yard in case help was required by the big guys.

Real Train News

George Lasley caught R J Corman Railroad locomotives in Fuquay on New Year's Eve.



Editor's Note: 7710 is an EMD GP38 originally built for Penn Central and 8572 is a GE B39-8 originally built for LMX. Corman has acquired former Norfolk Southern trackage from Fuquay to Fayetteville and is operating as Raleigh & Fayetteville Railroad.

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

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

January Membership Meeting: The next meeting is on Thursday, January 19th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. George Lasley will present the postponed December program titled "When is O-scale not O-scale?" following the meeting. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

February HO Committee Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for February 19th at 1 pm in the Clubhouse.

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

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. Also, don't forget to send your material to Ted Kunstling at trkunstling@aol.com so that he can keep our Facebook site current

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://nrvcclub.net/meeting-minutes/>

NRV Whistle Post
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First Class

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

John Spach	President	jtspach@earthlink.net	937-215-2723
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Tom Garren	Secretary	tomgar@mindspring.com	919-805-0909
Calfee (Richard Calfee)	At-Large	rhcalfree@yahoo.com	301-335-1054
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OTHER KEY POSITIONS

George Lasley	Show Grand Poobah	gwasley52@gmail.com	919-757-4503
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Ted Kunstling	Social Media Chair	trkunstling@aol.com	919-787-5282
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