

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”

Welcome to March – Let the Madness begin.

It's amazing that we are almost into Spring, especially seeing all the trees in bloom and flower bulbs popping open. Time is just flying by these days.

We have begun this year by doing something we have not done previously – we have taken sales tables to a couple of recent small shows in our area. The sales staff, led by Ken Howard, staffed these adventures and produced very successful results. They generated great sales and made huge contributions to the Club treasury. I can't say enough how much this is appreciated, and what a great benefit they provided to the Club's Treasury. Thank You.

We have a work session planned for this Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. We will be repairing Club rolling stock: both inventory items for the layout, and for sale items. This session will be for HO scale items. You are all invited to attend. I recommend that you bring your own tool kit, as Club tools are limited. We hope to have you all involved in the repair work. A recommended tool kit should include small screwdrivers, small needle-nose pliers, tweezers, model oil and lube, your glasses, and anything else you normally use to work on your own rolling stock. We will have tables set up, and you all should have room to work. Not sure you know how? Come and learn. I plan to grill some brats for lunch as well.

Thanks to all who have been working on the HO layout expansion. It is coming along really well and looks and works great. It is a vast improvement and, when finished, will be a major asset to the Club.

Attendance on recent weekends has been terrific, and we have had lots of visitors. Thanks to all who have made the visitors welcome and kept the Club neat and presentable.

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

OK Train's leaving the station on track 3 - - - ALL ABOARD

John Spach, President

The Coupling Problem

By Fred Krauss

Somebody asked me why the British and Europeans use different couplers than we do.

Basically, Europeans use what are called chain couplers, almost like our old link and pin couplers. The trainman has to go between the cars to couple or uncouple. Their freight cars also have spring-loaded buffers on the ends of the cars. The trainman has to put the chain links in place and then tighten them with a kind of turnbuckle to take the slack out from between the cars, putting a bit of tension on the buffers. Potentially, this is a dangerous activity. Our knuckle couplers avoid that situation by letting us couple or uncouple without going between the cars.

Of course, American trains have some slack in the couplers, requiring the engineer to take the slack out slowly when starting up or stopping to minimize the bunching up of the train cars. Otherwise, they would wind up with broken couplers.

A committee was formed in Europe over 100 years ago to look into the coupling problem. To date, they have not come up with a better way of coupling their cars. This committee is still looking into the problem. Supposedly, it is the oldest committee in the world. But we all know that it takes time to get things right!



Chain Coupler



Three link chain.

HO Layout Committee Activities in February/March

Main Line Extension #2 is complete, operational, and in use on a regular basis. The first locomotive made a successful circuit of the loop on February 20th. After adjustment of the reversing circuit, the wye became operational on March 4th, and the first train reversed direction on the Wye on March 5th. Wye operation still requires two people to throw switches, but switch motors and a control panel will be installed in the near future. Thanks to the many folks who contributed to the construction including, but not limited to, Ralph James, Tom Tieman, Ted Kunstling, Peter Donofrio, Ken Howard, and Bob Witwer.

Construction related to Main Line Extension #2 continues. A preliminary layout of industrial sidings has been completed for the new town, an agricultural area, and the engine servicing facility. Installation of switches and track will commence shortly. As shakedown operations continue, minor glitches in the track have become apparent and will be corrected. The photos below show construction progress for those who haven't been to the Clubhouse lately.



The youngest Club member gluing down roadbed on Main Extension #2. (photo by John Spach)



The first cork roadbed layout of the wye on Main Extension #2. (photo by Ken Howard)



Construction of Main Extension #2 in progress. Bags of shot help assure a good glue job for the cork roadbed. (photo by Ken Howard)



The first locomotive to negotiate the wye on March 4th. (photo by Ken Howard)

Mebane Train Show – March 11, 2023

Following our success at the Thomasville Train Show, the Club decided to try selling at the Mebane Train Show and acquired two tables. John Spach, Ken Howard, Tom Tieman, and Joe Scales spent the day selling trains. Sales surpassed our wildest expectations. Our success at other shows has opened a new pathway for raising funds to support the Club.



Left to right: Tom Tieman, Ken Howard, and Joe Scales (photo by John Spach)

Future Events

Carolina Model Railroaders Spring Train Show

Lewis Recreation Center
3110 Forest Lawn Drive, Greensboro, NC
Saturday and Sunday, March 26th and March 27th - 9am - 4pm
<http://carolinamodelrr.org>

Carolina Model Train Show

Jamil Temple
206 Jamil Road
Columbia, SC
Saturday, March 25th - 9am - 3pm
Admission \$5

Carolina Train Shows
Clarion Hotel
3695 Foothills Way
Fort Mill, SC
Saturday, April 15th - 9am-3pm
FREE Admission!

Other Club Doings

If you have noticed the stacks of plastic tubs and containers in the Club meeting room, you are among the highly observant. If you haven't seen the tubs, you are either blind or simply have not been to the Clubhouse in the last few weeks.

The BOG has determined that these storage tubs are surplus and will be made available to members on a first-come first-sold basis. The tubs will cost \$5.00 apiece for members. Any tubs that do not sell to members will be sold or donated.

In the same vein, there is a tub sitting next to the S-scale layout labelled "Goodwill Donations." If you find items in the Clubhouse that are of no use to the Club, please place them in the tub. This is not meant as a dumping place for member's personal or home donations. Please limit the contents to useless stuff that you find in the Clubhouse. Thank you.

Neat Links

Bob Milback requested that we post the following link for a new Club in Durham:

DAMTRC.club
Durham, NC

Promotes N Scale T-TRAK Modular Model Railroading and Fun Running Trains.

Ken Howard came across the following site while searching for model railroad related events and shows:

[RailServe.com Railroad Directory: Rail Travel, Hobby & Industry](http://RailServe.com)

Member Layouts

Photos from the March 8th operating session at **Jerry Davis's** Southern Pacific layout. March 8th.

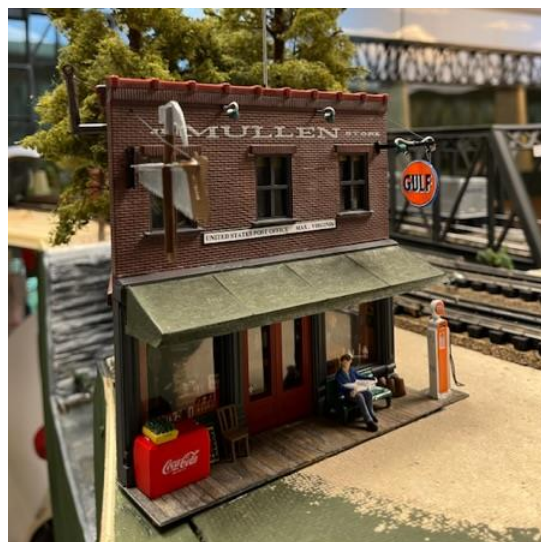


Bryan Upchurch's D&RGW L131 coming into Bealville on Jerry Davis's O scale layout. (Photo by Tom Garren)



Joe Scales was happy to receive his membership badge at Jerry's! (Photo by Marilyn Calfee)

George Lasley has also been busy building the JD Mullen Store for his O scale layout.



Steve Wills provided the following update and photos on his latest project:



The latest addition to Steve's corner layout is this multi-room treehouse. It is fully detailed with outdoor dining and recreation. There are three interior rooms- a master bedroom, kid's bedroom with bunk beds and a bath with a hot tub. Two light kits give the treehouse that homey feel.

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

April Board of Governors Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 3rd at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

March Membership Meeting: The next meeting is on Thursday, March 16th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Clif Kelly will present a program titled "Railroads of Alaska" following the meeting. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

March HO Committee Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for March 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

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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
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OTHER KEY POSITIONS

George Lasley	Show Grand Poobah	gwasley52@gmail.com	919-757-4503
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