

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Membership Meeting of March 16, 2023**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President John Spach.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Clif Kelly.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance and on Zoom

Members attending in person were Wayne Aiken, Alan Bradley, Darrell Dennis, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, Terry Luft, Colin Martinko, Alan Servas, Adam Servas, John Spach, John Wallis, Don Weaver, Ron Wertenberg, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom were Ed Bottum, Richard Calfee, Kelly Darden, Jerry Davis, Pete Donofrio, Tom Garren, Ralph James, Tom Magnani, and Larry Pearlman.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Guests attending in person included Larry Martin. This is Larry's first meeting.

The guests attending by Zoom were Briggs Bull, and Howard Dishman. This is Briggs' second meeting and Howard's first meeting. He models in HO scale and likes the Southern Pacific, Southern, and Norfolk and Western.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

George Lasley made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted. It was seconded by John Wallis and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report.

Dollars continue to come in from the show vendors.

John Wallis made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

6. Communications with the Club

- a. There is a new pad by the phone for recording phone calls. Members should fill out the pad if a message needs to be left for someone else. The original should be placed on the TV screen, and the copy left in the book for a permanent record. Once complete a check mark should be made on the yellow (original) copy in the book to show that it is complete. If the phone rings, answer it.
- b. Randy Foulke shared the calls currently on record.
- c. Ken Howard reported two contacts. One on Tuesday that resulted in a donation of four boxes of HO and a little bit of O equipment.
- d. Ken Howard is also working with Brookdale Senior Living in Chapel Hill for a return visit on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 or 11:30 am.

- e. Randy Foulke reported that he had recently talked with Don Tichy and learned that he and his wife would like to come over some time to see the Club and bring their grandchildren.
- f. Ted Kunstling reported that approximately 2,000 people have seen our show information on Facebook. Members are encouraged to go on our Facebook site and share our announcement to increase the number of views of our information.

## 7. Committee Reports

### a. Membership Committee

Tonight we have one person eligible to be voted into the Club; Briggs Bull as a Youth member.

George Lasley made a motion to accept him as a member by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously.

### b. Ways and Means had nothing to report this month.

### c. Facilities Committee

Mike Keelean reported we are moving along. The additional shelves for the library will be started as soon as our carpenter recovers from a pulled muscle.

Wayne Aiken reported that the Library now has over 11,000 magazines.

## 8. Old Business

### a. HO Committee Report

Ken Howard reported that work continues on main 2. Within a week or two, the wye should be able to be controlled remotely.

The next HO committee meeting is March 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Bob Witwer stated the committee would like to hear any ideas members have on the engine support area.

The situation we have been experiencing with running DC engines on 00 is still happening. Investigation of this problem is continuing.

### b. Shows

The Club recently set up tables at the shows in Thomasville and Mebane. Sales at both shows exceeded expectations.

Let us know if you are aware of any one-day shows within a reasonable driving range from Raleigh, say no more than two or two and a half hours.

We are expecting more donations in the coming months. As always, donation items will be evaluated to determine if they are to be kept for use on a Club layout or if they will be offered for sale. One donation was received this week and the material has already been priced.

c. Throttles and Digitrax

Randy Foulke presented a report on the new Club throttles. It seems that the cords are disappearing from the throttles. It is suggested that the cord be left in the plug on the layout and the throttle be returned to the proper holder and plugged back in when it is no longer being used. Throttles should not be left lying on the layout.

John Spach reported that an infrared device inside the layout is being replaced with a standard UP5.

Ralph James suggested that someone take over the ownership of Loconet on the HO layout. John Wallis volunteered to do this.

d. Website Update

John Spach now has access to the Club's old website. The old website is still averaging over 150 hits a day. John Spach and Tom Garren will look at materials on the old site that may need to be moved to the current site.

Contact us now works and is being monitored by John Spach.

WRAL has quit hosting websites and our current website has been moved to Go Daddy.

Also, we now have a Club Zoom account. Future meeting notices will be coming from our own Zoom account. Thanks to both Ted Kunstling and Tom Magnani for use of their Zoom accounts.

Mike Keelean stated that we will be getting a refund from WRAL for the prepayment of the hosting service that they will no longer provide.

e. Spencer Trip Update

Randy Foulke presented a report on the upcoming trip to Spencer on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

He needs eight more people to get the Amtrak discount.

By April 13<sup>th</sup> Randy needs to know the number of people going to the museum.

He also needs to know how many people want to ride the train at the museum and how many people want to ride the turntable.

Look for an email from Tom Garren on March 17<sup>th</sup> with details of the trip.

f. Closing Procedures

The Club closing procedures need to be modified to include returning the throttles to their holders on both the HO and N scale layouts.

g. Facebook

Colin Martinko stated the value of the Facebook page to the Club. He stated a willingness to help update the Facebook page.

Ted Kunstling stated that he will put a note on the Facebook page when the new Whistle Post comes out.

Ken Howard reminded us that we will need to update and redo the Club brochure in the near future.

9. New Business

a. Work Session

John Spach announced that we will be holding a work session on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. We need to repair over 100 HO cars. Members are encouraged to bring their own tools. Lunch will be provided.

b. NMRA Clinic

Bob Witwer announced an NMRA University clinic at the West Concord Baptist Church in Concord, NC on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be \$10.00 to attend. About fifty different clinics will be offered. You do not have to be a member of the NMRA to attend.

10. Show and Tell

Randy Foulke had two items for show and tell this month. First, a DT100 Digitrax throttle that has been disassembled.

Second, a pocket watch purchased by Randy's father-in-law purchased in 1941 when he worked on the Pennsylvania RR. It is a Hamilton watch.

11. Program

Clif Kelly presented a program on the Railroads of Alaska.

12. Adjournment of the Meeting

A motion was made by John Wallis to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.