

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”**

Greetings all.

Welcome to a new year for our Club. As of June 1, we began our new fiscal year, and we are off to a great start. We closed out last year with a fantastically successful Spring Show. Thanks to all who were able to spend time working at the show. Your efforts produced the best results we have ever had for this show. Now, we have to start planning for the Fall Show. Your success this spring has set a high bar for this fall.

Other good news is that membership is up. We have had a wonderful few months with new applications and election of new members. It's great to see the increase in interest, not just in our Club, but also in the hobby in general. I look forward to seeing all the new members regularly at breakfast and running trains and working on our layouts. Momentum is strong, let's keep it going forward.

I want to thank John Wallis and Randy Foulke for their continued efforts in providing us with great programs at our monthly membership meetings. They have been enjoyed by all in attendance and on Zoom. Great job guys.

Another big thank you goes to Ralph James. He has spent a huge amount of his time working on the electronics and wiring of the HO layout. All those who use the layout owe him a big thank you for his diligence in chasing down gremlins and reworking the wiring issues we have had on the layout. This is an ongoing battle, so make sure you thank Ralph, because we need him to keep going. Thanks Ralph.

A new Organization Chart for current Club committees has been posted on the bulletin board. If you have an interest in, and time to spare for one or more of the committees, please feel free to contact the committee lead that is posted for more information on how you can participate.

Well it's that time again - train ready on track 1 - - - ALL ABOARD

**John Spach, President**

**Editor's Note:** The following editorial appeared in the June/July 2023 edition of O Gauge Railroading. It is reprinted here with the permission of the author. Thanks to George Lasley for the legwork.

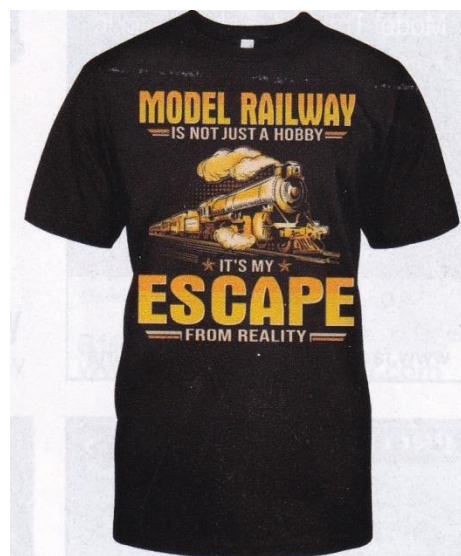
## The Great Escape

Allan Miller

I am of the view that, aside from the recent Pandemic period – or perhaps partly as a result of it - there probably is no better time to be actively involved in this great hobby than the present. Certainly the “real world” confronts us daily with a whole litany of things that tend to trouble our minds. As you watch the morning news while enjoying your first cup of coffee, you are bombarded with news about inflation, health care affordability, supply shortages, financial institution instability, crime, quality of education, illegal immigration, racial divides, a crumbling infrastructure, and international instability, just to name a few. Pretty darn negative and depressing! And it’s pretty much the same thing every evening as you settle back after dinner with a snack or your favorite adult beverage. And that doesn’t even take into account the daily dose of trials and tribulations that most of us experience in one way or another as we are out and about. What pretty much all of us need and most certainly welcome these days is a way to escape the harsh realities of the world we live in.

Recently, while browsing one of the several social media internet sites that I explore fairly regularly in an attempt to identify prospective layouts and how-to-do-it features that may make good candidates for publication in this magazine, I came across an ad for a tee shirt (see photo) that captured my attention and motivated me to write this column. The shirt is imprinted with “Model Railway is not just a hobby - It’s my Escape from Reality.” Now, as a lifelong career journalist and journalism educator, I would certainly change the word *Railway* to *Railroading* if I was decorating a clothing item of this type, but the message still does come across pretty well, and it just so happens that I agree with it.

I honestly do regard model railroading as a viable and time-tested (at least for me) *Escape from Reality*. I have been immersed in this hobby for a large part of my lifetime, dating all the way back to around 1950 when my dad/Santa presented me with Lionel’s top-of-the-line O gauge passenger set, headed by No. 2343 F-3 A-A units resplendent in Santa Fe Warbonnet livery. Even in the early 1950s we kids sometimes found a need to *Escape from Reality*. If you were a “seasoned senior” like me who grew up in that era, you’ll recall the Cold War/Atom Bomb/Duck-and-Cover period that implanted a real-world scare in the minds of youngsters throughout the nation. I remember being very fearful of these things at times, but I also recall how none of that “stuff” bothered me much at all when I was down in the basement playing with my trains and creating my always peaceful, welcoming, and carefree empire. It was a *Great Escape from Reality* for



This tee-shirt is just one of a wide variety of train-theme shirts and other items offered by Teefrost ([www.teefrost.com](http://www.teefrost.com)).

those occasions when even a youngster's somewhat shielded real world became a bit worrisome.

Now, many years later, I still find that just breaking away from the harsh realities of the world and doing something as simple as just running trains on either of my two far-from-complete O gauge layouts provides a refreshing respite that relaxes the mind and body and eases tension. I can even glance at my Apple watch and confirm that engaging in a bit of quality train time lowers my pulse rate, and a device that connects with the watch or my iPhone enables me to see that my blood pressure lowers.

Of course, running trains is just part of what makes model railroading such a *Great Escape*. The diverse activities that make up this hobby involve mind-engaging tasks that relegate real-world trials and tribulations to the back burner of the brain, if only temporarily. Even those who are armchair modelers without an operating layout can escape reality for a while by doing a bit of layout planning with computer software or at a more basic level with a pencil and some graph paper. They can even just sit back for a while – even for a long while if they care to – and just enjoy the wealth of new posts that are ever-present on the *OGR* Online Forum.

For those who have a layout, regardless of the current state of its construction, there is always something that can be done to spend some quality time with a mind free of stress and worry. The possibilities are virtually limitless, and the amount of time one chooses to devote to the undertaking is under his or her control. It could be something as simple as ballasting a section of trackwork, adding scenic details to an area of the layout, or even rearranging things a bit so each scene on the layout tells an interesting story of its own. Or it could be something more involved, such as installing an operating signal system to enhance the realism of operations, doing a bit of kit building or kit bashing, or building a mountain with a tunnel. As I noted earlier, in my case all it takes to escape from the topsy-turvy world we live in today is to power up my MTH DCS remote, flick the main switch that powers the layout, and then watch a train come to life and do its thing. It truly is the *Great Escape*.

## Neat Links

From **Rob Rousseau** via **Tom Magnani**: For anyone modeling Hawaii, here's a good shot of the Kahului harbor railroad yards into the docking piers (photo from 1929). The pier and shed are used by cruise ships now.

<https://youtu.be/GCNlzSCiD2s?t=271>

**Tom Magnani** submitted this 14-year-old link from **Joe Johnston** that still seems to work and might be of interest to our members. Joe says it's a great movie for a snowy day.

<https://www.nfb.ca/film/railroaders/>

**John Spach** sent the following link for those who are having issues with multifunction decoder resets. As you will see, nothing is simple.

[https://dccwiki.com/Decoder\\_Reset](https://dccwiki.com/Decoder_Reset)

**Milo Poulin** sent in the following links to track cleaning information from Ron's Trains N Things.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWv5Jdr9v9k>

## April 27, 2023 Action at Cary, NC

Sometimes you get lucky in catching a lot of railroad action in a short time. Ken Howard took the following pictures at the Cary Amtrak station over a time span of only 21 minutes. Who knew Cary could be a train watcher's hotspot?



The northbound Carolinian departing for Raleigh behind GE P42DC No. 48.



The northbound Silver Star running an hour and 40 minutes late departs Cary behind 119 and 61, a pair of GE P42DCs.



The southbound Piedmont arriving in Cary lead by EMD F59PH No. 102.



The Piedmont departing Cary with No. 1810 the City of Greensboro bringing up the rear.

## IMPORTANT NOTES

For members who store personal rolling stock and/ or locomotives on the designated shelves in the HO layout room – please mark the underside of your equipment with some identifying mark/marks (color dots, perhaps) that will allow you and the Club to identify your equipment in case it gets inadvertently mixed in with Club cars. Club equipment is identified with a white three-digit inventory number, in case it gets misplaced on the members' storage shelving.

**Barry's Café** will be closed the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>, so no breakfast meeting that week.

## Congratulations



Tom and Daphne Garren celebrating their 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary at the Angus Barn. (Photo by Richard Calfee)

## Railroad Action Crossing the Susquehanna

**George Lasley** submitted photos from his April trip to Pennsylvania. The shots are from the Bridgewater Inn of action on the Rockville Bridge across the Susquehanna River.



**Keith Latimer** took the following shots on Thursday morning, June 1<sup>st</sup>, of the 611 departing Enola and headed home to Roanoke. She's shown here awaiting a clear signal, then moving out onto Rockville Bridge.



## “Spring into Trains” Show Wrap Up

It is now official – the Board of Governors closed the books on the “Spring into Trains” show at the meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>. If you haven’t heard, the show was a roaring success and an important source of revenue for the Club. Here are additional photos that should revive some good memories for those who attended and helped make the entire effort worthwhile.



Pre-show preparation of the Raffle Layout in the Club shop (photo by Ken Howard)



Loading out the Penske rental truck on Thursday evening (photo by Ted Kunstling)



Friday night at the Club tablee (photo by Bob Witwer)



Club sale table with LEGO and N-scale layouts (photo by Bob Witwer)



The “Presiding Elders” table (photo by Ted Kunstling)



A quiet moment at the Club sale table (photo by Ted Kunstling)



Atlantic Coast S Gaugers layout (photo by Randy Foulke)



Steve Wills showing off his LEGO layout (photo by Randy Foulke)



North Raleigh N Scale layout (photo by Randy Foulke)



East Carolina O gauge layout. (photo by Randy Roulke)

By the way, the Board of Governors also opened the books for the upcoming Fall show and scheduled the next Open House. No time to rest on your laurels, folks!

## HO Layout Committee Activities in May/June

Final plans for the new industrial area were completed at the May 21<sup>st</sup> HO Committee meeting. We're looking forward to lots of ideas from the members. Supplies are being inventoried and new switches are on order to complete construction. While waiting for the necessary supplies to complete the industrial area, the committee organized a work day on May 31<sup>st</sup> to tackle other pressing issues in the HO layout room.

The following individuals participated in the session: Ron Abraham, David Balkwill, Alan Bradley, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Ralph James, Ted Kunstling, John Spach, Tom Tiemann, and Bob Witwer. During the session, a total of 249 cars from the Club HO Inventory were examined and sorted into categories based on their condition and eventual use to the Club.



Construction has also begun on the Main #4 extension. Buildings and switches and the crossover between mains three and four near the legacy engine house have been removed. Next step is to cut in the switch and establish the grade to take the extension onto the new layout.



Club car storage shelves relocated to the train set-up area in the HO layout room on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Future Events

### Brick Universe Raleigh LEGO Fan Expo

Friday, June 23, 2023: 4:30 to 6:30 pm  
Saturday, June 24, 2022: 9:00 am to 6 pm  
Sunday, June 25, 2022: 9:00 am to 3 pm

Raleigh Convention Center  
500 S. Salisbury St.  
Raleigh, NC 27601

**Steve Wills** has been displaying his Lego layout at this event since 2017. He invites Club members to participate and will allow members who work shifts to hand out materials and to display the Club flags. As in past years, Steve requests that members work on particular shifts. For Friday, meet at the Clubhouse at 1pm. Saturday shifts are 9am to 2pm and 1 pm to 6 pm. Sunday shifts are 9 am to 1 pm and 2pm through pack up.

Club members interested in helping Steve should respond by phone to 984-292-7938 or by email at [gltterstim@aol.com](mailto:gltterstim@aol.com).

## **Company Shops Railroad Club Field Trip to Rocky Mount, North Carolina**

Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> via Amtrak *Carolinian*

Attractions include Golden East Railroad Modelers, Imperial Centre for the Arts and Sciences & Howard Art Museum, Rocky Mount Railroad Museum & CSX "A-Line"

Further information available in June

Contact: Dutch Tubman, President, CSRRC, by email at [cstubman@gmail.com](mailto:cstubman@gmail.com)

### **Member Layouts**

**George Lasley** has been at it again. He submitted the following photos of a barn for his layout farm. He modified a Rail-Scale-Models tobacco barn kit. Note the hay bales inside the door, lightning rods, and sway-backed roof.



## Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

June Membership Meeting: The next meeting is on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Ralph James will present a talk titled “DCC on the HO Layout” after the meeting. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

June HO Committee Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm in the Clubhouse.

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

Breakfast Social: **The July 5<sup>th</sup> breakfast social is cancelled because Barry’s Cafe will be closed for a week of vacation.** Otherwise, 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](mailto: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](mailto:trkunstling@aol.com) so that he can keep our Facebook site current.

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).

## 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://nrclub.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:gwasley52@gmail.com">gwasley52@gmail.com</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
Wayne Aiken	Librarian	<a href="mailto:htomc42@hotmail.com">htomc42@hotmail.com</a>	919-602-8529
George Lasley	Historian	<a href="mailto:gwasley52@gmail.com">gwasley52@gmail.com</a>	919-757-4503
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**WEB SITE** [www.nrvclub.net](http://www.nrvclub.net)

Bernie Dawson	Webmaster	<a href="mailto:nrvwebmaster@gmail.com">nrvwebmaster@gmail.com</a>	919-275-2144
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