

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”

Hot enough for you??

It certainly is for me. I am forever grateful for A/C. The world wouldn't be the same without it.

Things are really cooking at the Club, too. I have seen amazing progress on the HO layout with lots of new track laid, new areas developed, and the best part, many new hands doing the work. It is great to see more people being involved in this project. The majority of our members run trains on this layout, so it is great to see so many sharing in its development. In order to support these efforts and to protect all our layouts for the future, we will be instituting a common railroad practice of charging “Trackage Fees” for the rights to use our layouts. More details will be available elsewhere in this issue, but all should know that it will not affect any current member in good standing.

We have been blessed with several new rather nice donations recently, and while most of it will be for the Fall Show, Ken will be working lots of it into our expanded displays in the Club for immediate sale to members and guests. We are really doing quite nicely in Club sales. It is becoming a continuous revenue source. Thank You Ken Howard, for all you do.

I have been working a lot lately on sorting out, cleaning up, and organizing the Shop. For now, I have assumed responsibility for it, except for the power tool section which remains under Mike Keelan. At the last meeting I asked for any recommendations for new and/or upgrading to tools needs to repair our equipment. Please email me with your suggestions. As time and circumstance permit, we will be repairing/replacing the rubber flooring, improving the actual work space, renewing our tools, and organizing our parts and supplies. This is a long process, but we will have a well-organized, neat, and resourceful shop soon. Remember, all work should be done IN THE SHOP, whenever possible to keep the meeting area and layout rooms presentable.

We have multiple committees working on many diverse projects, from our Shows, new shirts and hats, each layout, membership manual, programs, trips, open houses, membership, social media, web site, and more. There is something happening for everyone. Please find a committee

that interests you and lend us your expertise and talents. It will make for a better Club experience for all.

Ah. Air Conditioned train is ready on track 1- - ALL ABOARD

John Spach, President

Trackage Fees – What are they and how do they work?

By John Spach

Railroads are an expensive operation to maintain and to continue their survival. To help with these expenses and to insure continuous operational capabilities for all, railroads charge a Trackage Fee for use of their most important resource, their Track.

Model railroad clubs are in the same situation. We exist to provide a place for members and visitors to see model railroad layouts in operation and to run trains on those layouts. As with prototype railroads, this is an expensive endeavor. Not only do we have to pay the rent, phone, electric, and other bills, but we have to maintain the layouts themselves. We pay dues, according to membership levels, sell donated materials to members and guests, and run two quite successful shows each year, all to keep the Club running.

In order to protect all of our investment (time, expertise, and money) in our most important asset, our layouts, we will be instituting a nominal Trackage Fee that will apply to non-members who wish to run trains on any of our layouts. That fee will be \$10 per day, payable before usage of any layout.

Here is how it will apply:

All members in good standing (dues paid), will have unlimited prepaid Trackage rights for the current fiscal year for which their dues are paid.

Visitors coming to the club will have special “let’s get acquainted rights” for the first **three** visits, then will have to pay the Trackage Fee for any additional visits until they become members.

Other non-members will be required to pay the Trackage Fee on any day they want to run trains. Trackage Fees can be paid to any Senior member who will use the envelope and black box procedure to transfer the money to the Treasurer.

Dues Reminder

Dues for the 2023-2024 fiscal year are now past due. Your dues keep the Club up and running. Thanks to all who have already paid or made arrangements. If you haven’t paid, this would be a great time to do so. Please contact Mike Keelean to make your payment.

What's New at the Clubhouse

If you haven't been at the Clubhouse lately, you'll be surprised by the changes – both inside and out. Mike Keelean has been overseeing a lot of construction. The first thing you'll notice is the new exterior landscaping - landscape logs, trimmed bushes, and brightly colored mulch. No more weeds and blocks to knock over. Even the flagpole has been made more useable.



The building looks much more presentable now. (photo by Ken Howard)



Don Weaver gets credit for wielding a mean rake. (photo by Ted Kunstling)



Mike Keelean adjusting the flagpole. (photo by Ted Kunstling)



Ralph James taking a computer home to work on Club software. (photo by Ted Kunstling)



Lots of new shelving has appeared inside the Clubhouse thanks to Mike Keelan. New shelving has appeared in the ladies room to help hold the growing library and make books more accessible. The shelving in the hallway has also been greatly expanded and is now filled with new merchandise for sale to members or visitors. Take a look at the expanded stock of items that you haven't seen before. (photos by Ken Howard)

Available Club Emblem Shirts

The following clothing items are still available in the Clubhouse:

1	Medium	Maroon Shirt
1	2XL	Jean Jacket
1	XL	Jean Jacket
3	2XL	Maroon Shirts
3	XL	Green Shirts
2	Medium	Green Shirts
2	2XL	Green Shirts

Before a new order is placed for additional Club shirts and hats, please see if you can use anything from this list. Contact Randy Folke, Colin Martinko, or any Board Member if you want to purchase any of this stock.

Latest Donation

On July 7th, John Spach, Ken Howard and Tom Garren travelled to Pittsboro to load up a donation of HO gauge cars, buildings, and locomotives. Twenty-four banker's boxes came back to Raleigh with us. Most of them are in John's garage, but two boxes of books are being processed for inclusion in the Library. Thanks to Gary Carlson for his well-organized donation.



John Spach loading Tom Garren's pride and joy Silverado with goodies in Pittsboro (photo by Ken Howard).

Neat Links

Tom Magnani forwarded the following links from CPD13 on how movies use miniatures and the railcar company moving its new headquarters to North Carolina:

<https://www.openculture.com/2023/06/how-wes-anderson-uses-miniatures-to-create-his-aesthetic.html>

https://local.newsbreak.com/mecklenburg-county-nc/3086313458623-railcar-company-bringing-jobs-with-average-salary-of-nearly-180000-by-moving-headquarter-to-north-carolina?s=dmg_local_email_bucket_14.web2_fromweb

Tom also forwarded a “great short video by Eric Hansmann on preparing resin parts.”

<https://youtu.be/SIW3aEHTw3A>

Both **Ted Kunstling** and **Tom Magnani** provided the following link about new NC passenger service:

[NC By Train Launches New Service & Schedule Time July 10 \(ncdot.gov\)](https://www.ncdot.gov/nc-by-train-launches-new-service-schedule-time-july-10)

IMPORTANT NOTES

The HO Committee has completed a comprehensive review of the inventory of HO equipment. Sadly a lot of repairs are needed and several items turned up missing. Please check your own stock of equipment to see if you inadvertently removed one of these items from the Clubhouse. You can recognize Club HO equipment by the three-digit inventory number on the underside of the car.

<u>Inventory #</u>	<u>Description</u>
109	FEC switcher
134	Granulite Fertilizer covered hopper no. 6860
179	AGPX closed hopper no. 96092
251	Pennsylvania box car track cleaner no. 498328
258	NYC gondola no. 4050
329	Milwaukee Road snowplow

Please help us locate these missing items. Thanks.

We also located a number of cars on the Club shelves that do not have an inventory number. These cars may or may not belong to the Club. If you recognize one or more of these items as your personal property, please contact Ken Howard or Bob Witwer to claim it. Unclaimed items will either be sold or added to the inventory based on their value or quality.

<u>Car #</u>	<u>Railroad</u>	<u>Description</u>
11445	Burlington Northern	caboose
11990	American Transit	reefer
24318	NRV	coal car
-	CAP	log hauler
319504	TILX	large tanker
10295	UOCX	tank car
900511	Southern	covered hopper
900175	Southern	covered hopper
79645	BN BREX	insulated box car
144913	Norfolk Southern	coal car

Brick Universe LEGO Display

Steve Wills again took his LEGOs to the Brick Universe Event at the Raleigh Convention Center. Steve extends his thanks to the following people who helped with set up and manning the exhibit: Preston Cudd, James Hall, Bill Ferguson, and Bernie Dawson. Steve reports that he won the “Best Train” award. Congratulations! Steve took the photos below to show the exhibit. He also reports that a lot of NRV business cards were passed out, Preston brought his custom train, and that James finally bought a LEGO set for his brother.



Spencer Club Outing Reprise

Here are some photos of our Spencer outing courtesy of **John Mezera**. Hope you enjoy the memories of the camaraderie, train ride, and non-railroad content in the museum.



Waiting for the train in Cary. Left to right: Liam, Peter, Ken, Ralph, Marilyn, John, Clif, Randy, and Ted (photo by John Mazera).



Piedmont Airlines DC-3 undergoing restoration (photo by John Mazera).



Looks like the Harley could still outrun the Studebaker (photo by John Mazera).



Cheerwine Bottling Company and an old Ford (photo by John Mazera).

HO Layout Committee Activities in June/July

On Saturday, June 17th, Ken Howard began construction on the Main #4 extension. The piers and support spans are in place on a temporary basis. A switch needs to be inserted to direct trains onto the newly constructed grade. Thanks to Collin Martinko for clearing the scenery on Module 9 in preparation for the bridge work. Also on Saturday, Dan Egy, Ralph James, and Ken Howard continued the electrical work to isolate Mains 3 and 4 from each other and from the other main line circuits. While some work remains, the mains are now effectively isolated from each other. Shorting on any line will no longer cause the entire layout to hiccup.

The regular June meeting fell on Father's Day. As a result, the meeting was converted to a working session. Pete Denofrio, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Ted Kunstling, Phil Michaud, John Spach, and Tom Tiemann participated. Every freight car currently on the Club shelves was taken into the shop and the wheels were cleaned. Dremel tools with wire brushes made short work of the dirt buildup on the metal wheels in most cases. More stubborn layers of dirt (looked like traction tires) were removed by scraping with X-Acto knives or scrubbing with lighter fluid on paper towels or Q-tips. A total of 150 cars were cleaned.



Pete Donofrio and Ted Kunstling laying cork (photo by Ken Howard)



Tom Tiemann cleaning wheels. (photo by John Spach)



The outermost siding on Main 1 has been reconnected to the line and can be used as a storage track or passing siding. (photo by Ken Howard)



The bridge to nowhere (so far) will carry Main #4 onto the extension. (photo by Ken Howard)



Ken Howard, Tom Garren, Phil Michaud and Pete Donofrio attack wheel dirt with Dremmels. (photo by John Spach)



New bridge on Main 4 extension carries rails over service road. (photo by Ken Howard)

Now that the wheels on the freight car fleet have been restored, it is time to attack the wheels to the passenger car fleet, finish repairs to Club rolling stock, and clean the wheels on the engines. And just in case you need something to do, there's a lot of track to be laid!

Don't forget to clean the wheels on your own rolling stock before it gets to put dirt down on the Club layout. Some members have been amazed that their own equipment is as dirty as the Club's was.

Future Events

The Lionel Collectors Club of America (LCCA) Convention will be in Concord, NC from Monday July 24th through Saturday, July 29th.

They have an open invitation to all clubs to join them. The LCCA is offering other model train club members to join the LCCA and attend its 2023 Convention with a special one-time rate of \$27 for a regular membership effective from July 1, 2023 through January 1, 2024.

<https://www.lionelcollectors.org/lcca-newsstand/lccanews/newsStory.aspx?id=1359&catId=13>

The Convention registration is \$110, plus any other tours you may want to attend. The Convention schedule, registration documents are here:

<https://www.lionelcollectors.org/lcca-newsstand/lccanews/newsStory.aspx?id=1345&catId=13>

Member Layout Contest

If you have been following **George Lasley's** building frenzy in the past few issues of the Whistle Post, you'll recognize that his new structures are now incorporated in his railroad. To make sure you are actually looking at this issue, we'll have a little contest. As you admire the photos, be on the lookout for the following items: squirrels, a woodpecker, and George's refrigerator. Correctly identifying which photos contain those items will win a personally guided tour of George's layout. Send your answers to klhowardjr@aol.com by July 23rd. All correct entries will win.



Photo number 1.



Photo number 2.



Photo number 3.



Photo number 4.

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

July Membership Meeting: The next meeting is on Thursday, July 20th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Liam Bryant will present a program titled "Kitbashing a Norfolk & Western War Baby J" after the meeting. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

August HO Committee Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for August 16th at 1:00 pm in the Clubhouse.

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

Breakfast Social: Join us for the 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.

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 Board of Governors, Membership, and HO Committee meetings are available on the Club website. The link below takes you directly to the Minutes page:

<https://nrclub.net/meeting-minutes/>

NRV Whistle Post
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First Class

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

John Spach	President	jtspach@earthlink.net	937-215-2723
Wayne Aiken	Vice-President	htomc42@hotmail.com	919-602-8529
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
Ken Howard	At-Large	klhowardjr@aol.com	919-851-3805
Bob Witwer	At-Large	bobwitwer@gmail.com	919-632-0785

OTHER KEY POSITIONS

George Lasley	Show Grand Poobah	gwasley52@gmail.com	919-757-4503
Calfee (Richard Calfee)	Membership Chair	rhcalfree@yahoo.com	301-335-1054
Ted Kunstling	Social Media Chair	trkunstling@aol.com	919-787-5282
Wayne Aiken	Librarian	htomc42@hotmail.com	919-602-8529
George Lasley	Historian	gwasley52@gmail.com	919-757-4503
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