

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of July 20, 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, Liam Bryant, Bernie Dawson, Dan Egy, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Ralph James, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, John Kuchnia, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, Terry Luft, Collin Martinko, Don McPherson, Peter Ring, Adam Servas, Alan Servas, John Spach, John Wallis, Don Weaver, Ken Wesp, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom included Ed Bottum, Jerry Davis, George Sawyer, and Tom Tiemann.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

One guest attended in person, Ray Carpenter. He models in HO scale.

Guests attending by Zoom were James Carpenter and Steve Delgrosso.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

George Lasley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by John Wallis and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report. He stated that dues and payments for tables at the Fall show are coming in well. He predicts these funds will continue to come in for the next month.

John Spach reminded everyone that anybody that has not paid their dues is now past due. Please get your dues to Mike Keelean as soon as possible.

John Wallis made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. It was seconded by Ken Wesp and passed unanimously.

6. Communications with the Club

Ted Kunstling has made new postings to our Facebook page. They are being well received. We are encouraged to check out our Facebook page if we have not done so recently.

7. Show and Tell

Tonight we had several items for Show and Tell.

- a. John Wallis announced that Scale Trains is making a run of GP30's including Southern style. Reservations can be made either with Scale Trains or the North

Carolina Transportation Museum. If the locomotives are purchased through the museum, they will get a percentage of the sale. Here is how to get more information for those interested.

Call the NC Transportation Museum Gift Station at 704-636-2889 Ext 239 during business hours for more information.

Scale Trains reservations can be found at their website at <https://www.scaletrains.com/>

Please note that the deadline for reservations is July 31st, with delivery expected toward the end of January 2024.

- b. Jake Forbes displayed a NRV 2-8-2 and caboose that he has painted and decaled for the home road.
- c. Bob Witwer took several sets of plastic freight car wheels that we have swapped out for metal and created a scenic accessory. He painted the wheelsets and glued them to two pieces of scrap rail. He kept a couple of sets for our HO layout and passed the rest around for anyone at the meeting to have. This is a nice scenic touch to a car shop area of a layout.
- d. George Lasley presented a 3-D printed Victorian house he has purchased from Gold Rush Bay in California. This is a very nice looking structure that will enjoy a place on George's layout.
- e. Tom Garren presented two motors from Jerry Davis showing the state of the art in the 1950s and 1960s. The motors included a Pittman DC195A that would have been used in a small HO locomotive. The second motor is a large, KTM open frame motor from an O scale KTM Southern Pacific AC12. This motor will soon be seen as a flat car load.

Tom also showed two different inexpensive tools he had recently acquired from Harbor Freight. First, a sixteen piece precision screwdriver set, and second, a multilevel magnifier and head lamp to make working on small parts easier.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Tom Tiemann announced that tonight we have four people eligible for membership in the Club.

Luciano Barillas - Youth member

Caleb Taylor - Youth member

Steve Delgrosso - Senior member

Jack Rouviere - Associate member

George Lasley made a motion to suspend the rules and accept these new members by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously.

- b. Ways and Means
Nothing to report.

- c. Facilities
Mike Keelean noted there are no outstanding projects for facilities. Several have been recently completed.

John Spach noted that it is time to acquire two more chair mats for the Shop. John Spach further commented that he is gathering a list of tools that need to be added to the Shop. If you have any items that you want to be added to the list, please let John Spach know by email.

9. Old Business

- a. Social Committee Report

Randy Foulke reported that an outing is being planned for August 19th. This trip would be to visit the Sand Hills Model RR Club in Aberdeen. We would also plan to visit the museum located in the old Aberdeen station. Additional activities may include viewing the side-door caboose on display and viewing the shops of the Aberdeen and Rockfish from the street. If time permits, the group may also go on down to Hamlet and visit the museum in that station too.

Randy does need a number of people interested in going, so be sure to let him know. More details will be sent out as they become available.

John Wallis and Randy also reported that they have volunteers for programs through November. If you have interest in providing a program, please let either Randy Foulke or John Wallis know.

- b. HO Committee Report

Ken Howard reported that the track is all down in the industrial area. Collin Martinko finished it up this past weekend. Bob Witwer and Ken Howard finished the junction of Main 4 and the extension. Track is down there and is powered. Scenic details are being added to the legacy layout in addition to work on the extension. There will be many things to be named as the expansion is completed.

The next meeting of the HO committee will be on August 20th at 1:00 pm at the Clubhouse.

A foam mountain has been set up on the extension of Main 4. It is time for the membership to comment on how this should be finished and how the extension should be finalized.

The wheels have been cleaned on all of the Club engines. All Club rolling stock with the exception of eight passenger cars have had the wheels changed out to metal wheels.

The Nickle Plate Berkshire is back from repair at Bachman. This raises another issue. How do we protect the Club steam engines from being damaged due to rough handling. This is an item for discussion at the next HO committee meeting.

Don Weaver noted that he had found passenger cars stacked on themselves rather than being placed on the shelves. John Spach pointed out that it is the responsibility of all members to call out anyone they see mishandling our equipment.

Ken Howard reminded everyone that there were two lists of equipment in the last Whistle Post. The first is of HO equipment on our inventory that cannot be found. This includes a Florida East Coast switcher.

The second list is of twelve cars that are not on our inventory. If these are not claimed soon they will be considered donations and added to the inventory.

George Lasley questioned why we spent money to replace a Bachman engine. Ken Howard noted that this locomotive had suffered battle damage rather than the usual failure of a Bachman engine. Should it fail again, we can reconsider if we wish to repair it at that time.

Once again it was stated that we need to determine a way to minimize damage to steam engines due to handling. This will continue to be an item for discussion at the HO committee meeting. Collin Martinko thinks that the new trackage fee rule may help somewhat with this problem.

c. Rules Committee

Randy Foulke reported that the Rules committee met on July 12th. Work is underway to develop an outline for the new Membership manual. This outline will be presented to the Board at their August meeting.

d. Open House

John Spach reminded everyone that we have an Open House scheduled for October 7th. We will need everyone to help out to make this event a success.

e. Shirts and Hats

Collin Martinko reported that the logo is being digitized so it can be embroidered on our shirts and hats. We will see a sample shirt shortly after the logo is available, and we can then follow up with a new shirt order.

John Spach reminded everyone that we do still have a small inventory of shirts. This list was in the July Whistle Post. If you need a shirt immediately, and we have the size, you can buy one of these.

f. Fall Show

George Lasley reported that we now have only six tables left on the main floor and twenty four in the little room where TCA will also be displaying. Money is coming in from vendors for their tables.

Layouts are lined up the show. They will include Sipping and Switching, North Raleigh, our O gauge, Greenville O gauge, Atlantic Coast S, the little wooden layout from Wilmington, N scale from Durham, Lego, and G scale.

The dates for member involvement are November third, fourth and fifth. Please make your plans accordingly.

Ted Kunstling stated that his church will again be selling barbeque plates on the Friday set up day for the show. He will take orders and deliver lunches as needed.

10. New Business

a. Trackage Fees

John Spach explained our new Trackage Fee policy that appeared in the last Whistle Post. As a reminder, here is what was printed in the newsletter:

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.

To summarize,

- i. Club members in good standing will have unlimited trackage rights on all Club layouts.
- ii. Guests will have a three visit get acquainted period where they may run on our layouts without charge.
- iii. After three running visits, guests will either join the Club or pay a ten dollar per day trackage use fee.

Terry Luft suggested that we may want to consider a three ticket pass that will be issued to a guest on their first visit to the Club. Upon use, each ticket should be torn off of the pass.

b. Speedometers

Interest has been expressed to install speedometers on the HO layout. Ralph James has agreed to research the issue and report his findings. It is believed the only product currently available that operates off of light sensors is from TCS. Ken Howard pointed out that the Club has a speedometer donated by Ted Kunstling in the supply cabinet.

c. Buildings

Mike Keelean related a story recently told him by a guest from East Tennessee. This person was a member of a club in Johnson City, Tennessee. They were located in a building at the Tennessee Railroad Museum. The management of the Museum decided to tear that building down so the club has lost their home. In their area a building of the same size will cost them \$68,000 per year. This is a reminder of what can happen when you are in a “free” building that someone else owns.

d. Parking Stickers

We have a new supply of parking stickers for those who may need them. Some of the old ones are beginning to peel up around the edges. See John Spach for a new parking sticker if you need one.

e. Little Choo-Choo

George Lasley reported that the Little Choo-Choo in Spencer is alive and well and pretty well stocked, especially for HO.

11. Good and Welfare of the Club

Ken Howard reported that he and Tom Garren had delivered the get well card from the Club to Wendy, our server at our Wednesday breakfasts. She is recovering well and hope to be back to work in two or three more weeks.

It is believed that member Darrell Dennis will have surgery very soon.

12. Program

Liam Bryant presented a program on kit bashing a locomotive to create a War Baby (non-streamlined) Norfolk and Western J.

13. Adjournment

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by George Lasley and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.