

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”

Well here we are once again and it's so hot bee hives are melting. I sure love my air conditioner this season, and I am really glad the one at the Club is working well. Hope you all have been in to enjoy running trains in the temperate climate at the Club.

We have had a great season for visitors at the Club and many of them have grown into new members. We are growing at a good pace, and our new members are already contributing their efforts to our on-going projects.

Speaking of projects, I hope you have all seen the great work being done on the HO layout. There is lots of new track laid, scenery and buildings are popping up everywhere, there are even renewed scenic efforts on the legacy portion of the layout, and of course, you can't miss Mount Witwer that is rising in the back corner. If you have not seen any of this, you need to take a trip to the Club.

I also need to bring your attention to our vastly enlarged and improved in Club sales efforts. There is an amazing selection of quality items for sale at very affordable prices. We have been the beneficiary of several large donations recently in all scales. You owe it to yourself to come see if we have something you're looking for.

Our Social committee has been busy, as well, providing great programs for our Member meetings, an exciting new trip this weekend, and diligently working on a new program for member logoed shirts and hats.

Does it sound to you like the Club is growing and becoming more fun and exciting to become part of? YOU BET IT IS! Don't miss out. Get involved. We have lots of committees, and romps that you can be part of. And, we need your expertise and enthusiasm to keep it going.

It's time - - Train speeding up on Track 1. ALL ABOARD 1

John Spach, President

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.

The ALCO DL109

By Tom Garren

In the late 1930's railroads were looking for ways to upgrade the perception of passenger service. In many cases this meant changing from steam to diesel locomotives. At the same time, the early builders of diesel locomotives were anxious to develop locomotives for use in passenger service. EMD scored the first success with the introduction of their famous E units in 1937. Of course, EMD only built internal combustion locomotives.

On the other hand, ALCO was a major builder of steam locomotives. They began building box-cab switchers in partnership with GE and Ingersol Rand from 1924 - 1928. These engines are credited as being the first standardized line of diesel-electric locomotives ever offered.

In 1929, ALCO purchased engine builder McIntosh and Seymour. This gave them the ability to begin building switchers of their own design, which were also successful. The engines in these switchers were of the six cylinder in-line type. They produced 660 horse power normally aspirated and 1,000 horse power when turbocharged. As time went by, the engines were improved and received new model numbers. They began with the 532 engine and grew into the 538 and finally the 539. The turbocharged version was sometimes referred to with a T suffix such as the 539T.

Now for the passenger locomotive: trailing EMD, ALCO began to build their version of a passenger locomotive in 1940. The car body was designed by Otto Kuhler and had a very distinctive three-piece windshield and a long, slanted nose. The locomotive rode on two six-wheel A-1-A trucks, meaning that the center axle on each truck was unpowered. This made for a better ride and improved tracking at high speed. It was powered by two 1,000 horse power engines making it a 2,000 horse power locomotive. The locomotives carried the DL (Diesel Locomotive) model designation, culminating in the DL109.

Depending on the reference material you choose, you may get a different number of total units produced. This is because one source chooses to lump all of the production together and say there were 74 DL109s built. In another, more detailed source, you discover there was one DL103b, two DL105s, two DL107s and 69 DL109s. The model numbers changed as improvements were made to the design. Nevertheless, the entire series of early ALCO passenger locomotives is usually known today as DL109s.

The most successful implementation of the DL109 was by the New Haven. They ran the engines in commuter service during the day and in freight service during the night. The New Haven had sixty DL109's.

Southern had three DL109's. Two ran on the CNO&TP subsidiary and were numbered 6400 and 6401. These units pulled the Ponce de Leon from Cincinnati to Chattanooga. These units were delivered in February of 1941. The third unit was Southern 2904 delivered in October of 1942.

Also of interest are the cabled B units of this series. There were only four booster units built. One went to Santa Fe numbered 50A, two went to Southern's CNO&TP and were numbered 6400B and 6401B. The final DL110 went to Southern as number 2954. Once again, the booster units are generally called DL110s.

The DL109s were superseded by the famous ALCO PA in 1946. The 109s ran into the 1950s. The units on the Southern were retired and scrapped in 1954.

The reason for this article is that I recently acquired a Southern DL109 in HO. A decoder has been added and the loco now runs occasionally on the Club's HO layout.



A post card picture of the Southern DL109 pulling The Florida Sunbeam (Public Domain).



HO model of the Southern (CNO&TP) 6401 on the NRV Club layout (Photo by Tom Garren).

References

- Diesels of the Southern Railway 1939 – 1982* by Paul K. Withers
The Second Diesel Spotter's Guide by Jerry Pinkepank
Guide to North American Diesel Locomotives by Jeff Wilson
Alco Pre-War Passenger Locomotives by John Komanesky and R. Craig (on-line)
ALCO DL109 on Wikipedia (on-line)

IMPORTANT NOTES

The **September Board Meeting** has been moved from its usual date because of the Labor Day Holiday. The meeting will be held on September 11th at 7:00 pm in the Clubhouse.

Aberdeen/Hamlet Trip

The NRV has organized a tour on Saturday, August 19th, of the Aberdeen Union Station Railroad Museum and the Hamlet Depot & Museums, both of which are free. We will carpool from the Club and Barry's Cafe. We need to arrive at the Aberdeen Union Station Railroad Museum between 10:15 and 10:30 am. If interested, please arrive at the Club or Barry's Cafe at 8:45 am, and we will plan to leave at 9 am.

Please let Randy Foulke know by the close of the General Membership Meeting on Thursday, August 17, 2023. You can let him know at breakfast on August 16, at the meeting on August 17, or by texting him at 919-649-8253.

What's New at the Clubhouse

The drumbeat of change continues. The last rollaway drawer units of scenic materials have been transferred from the Shop to the HO layout room. Scenery supplies are now consolidated into the units under the air conditioner or the layout. Smaller supplies for HO and N scales (figures, automobiles, signage, etc.) are not in multi-drawer units in the interior supply room.

The Lost and Found box has been moved from its lofty perch in the Crew Lounge to the more readily accessible top of the Library file cabinet. If you are missing any items, they will hopefully show up at that location in due time.

Revisions continue in the Shop to improve utility and organization. The soldering station has been moved from beneath the test tracks so that both facilities can be used concurrently. The foam flooring has been partially reset and a plastic chair pad has been installed at the soldering station. In addition, two new, two-drawer rolling cabinets have been installed. These units will house the Club's newly received 3D printer and supplies.



John Spach pointing out some of the improvements to the Shop (photo by Ken Howard).

Available Club Emblem Shirts

The following clothing items are still available in the Clubhouse:

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

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

Real Railroads

Thanks to **Larry Pearlman** for submitting this stellar photo of the Carolinian running late in Selma, NC on July 16th. Amtrak GE P42DC number 204 is on the point.



Thanks also to **Mike Johns** for sending these photos from Cody Park Railroad Museum in North Platte, Nebraska.



Union Pacific Challenger number 3977



Union Pacific EMD DDA40X number 6922

Neat Links

Dutch Tubman, President of Company Shops RR Club sent the following text and links to Members and Friends:

1. For those of you who missed Steve Hutchison's excellent 'Railfanning in the 80's – Part 2 - Steam' presentation at the May Membership meeting, here's a link that will allow you to watch it on our CSRRC YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqR3z734Oa0>

2. The CSRRC's Director of Communications, Jack Hutchison made a video of our June Field Trip to Rocky Mount. Please click below to experience – or relive -that fun day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnftlL4Z6vk>

3. Jason Orthner, Director of North Carolina DOT's Rail Division, appeared before the Salisbury NC City Council to discuss NCDOT's decision to stop the early train to Charlotte and the early evening train to Raleigh, the same move that also affected service to Burlington. The presentations prior to Jason's testimony start at approximately 1 hour and 19 minutes into the below video, courtesy of the City of Salisbury. Finishing up at 3 hours and 26 minutes, for a total of 2 hours and 5 minutes. It's a lengthy presentation, but does have a lot of information.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/kRthLQr3BSo?feature=share>

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/News/2022/07/10/nc-by-train-launches-new-service-schedule-time-july-10)

Last Month's Member Layout Contest

There were three entrants in the competition, and all will receive a tour of George's layout. The winners are **Tom Garren**, **George Sawyer**, and **Joe Scales**.

Joe also gets the most **creative e-mail response award** for his entry:

“Now, ole George is headed into the shed to get his old musket to shoot the tree rats off the fence cause the poor ole man can't afford to feed them, and he ain't seen the pecker wood yet!! Ya reckon we should make a poor man collection for him???”

Non-Member Layout

George Lasley forwarded the photograph below courtesy of **Tom Smith** from Yadkinville, NC. Tom models the Nickle Plate Railroad in N scale in his basement. The scene represents a 1934 early morning in Continental, Ohio. Enjoy the view!



National Railroad Museum (Green Bay, WI)

Kelly Darden wrote: “I didn't think I'd have any photos to share, but here we are! I went to Appleton, WI for a wedding and the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay was only 30 min away. I got a chance to see a Pullman Porter exhibit, a few other locos, and fill the childhood dream of seeing a Big Boy up close and personal. This is the only air-controlled indoor model in existence, and gave the chance to sit in the cab too”. Some of Kelly's photos follow:



Green Bay & Western Alco C430 #315



UP Big Boy #4017, PRR GG1 #4890, and United States Army 2-8-0 consolidation #101 Pershing



Union Pacific 4-8-8-4 Big Boy #4017



A very happy Kelly in the cab of #4017.



Left to right: Lake Superior & Ishpeming 2-8-0 #24;
Soo Line 4-6-2 Pacific #2718;
and AT&SF 2-10-4 Texas #5017.



Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range 2-10-2 Santa Fe
#506 and Rock Island #2 GM Aerotrain.

By pure coincidence, I received a set of photos of the National Railroad Museum from a friend, **Kevin Parke**, that were at the same museum in 2008. Some of the same and some different displays after 15 years..



"Dwight D. Eisenhower" British Railways Board
LNER Class A4 4-6-2 #60008.



Centralia and Southeastern #106



Rock Island #2 GM Aerotrain.



DM&IR 2-10-2 Santa Fe #506

HO Layout Committee Activities in July/August

The locomotive wheels have now been cleaned. Our NKP Berkshire has been repaired by Bachmann and returned to the fold. Thanks to John Spach for handling the repairs. John has also donated a Neuse River Valley consolidation that was also shopped out by Bachmann. Both engines are a joy to run, but will be kept under wraps for the time being as they are somewhat fragile.

Stop by the Club and enjoy the construction and scenery additions to the HO layout. Both the extension and the legacy layout are receiving the attention of a lot of members.



The formerly chaotic pile of foam on the extension is taking shape. (photo by Bob Witwer)



Access to the make up tracks beneath the growing mountain. (photo by Bob Witwer)

Member Layout

George Lasley's still the busiest bee in his basement. Here are two photos of a Southern ten-wheeler in passenger paint scheme on his layout. The engine was made by Varney and is two rail O scale.



Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

September Board of Governors Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 11th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

August Membership Meeting: The next meeting is on Thursday, August 17th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Mike Keelean will present a program on MTH after the meeting. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

August HO Committee Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for August 20th at 1:00 pm in the Clubhouse.

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

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