

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of September 21, 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, Erik Dyke, Jake Forbes, Tom Garren, Haydon Harrison, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, John Kuchnia, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, Terry Luft, Collin Martinko, Don McPherson, John Spach, John Wallis, Don Weaver, Ken Wesp, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom included Ed Bottum, Tim Covel, Jerry Davis, and George Sawyer.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Two guests attended in person, Rod Martinko and James Smith.

Guests attending by Zoom were Alex Dayton, George List, Gordon Lucas, and Robert Milbak.

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. Money continues to come in for the show.

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

6. Show and Tell

a. John Spach showed a donation he is making to the Club -a travelling tool box. This will be useful at the show.

b. Jake Forbes brought in a book by Jim Wrinn about the Southern excursion trains.

c. Collin Martinko showed the Seaboard GP7 that he has upgraded with details and added an ESU decoder. This was shown in more detail as the program.

d. Tom Garren passed around two Google Map views of Glenwood yard showing the small wye that is located there.

7. Communications with the Club

- a. Ken Howard reported that we will have another visit from some residents from the Brookdale Senior Living facility in Chapel Hill. The visit is on Tuesday, September 26th starting at 10:30 am. We need members to run all the layouts and host the guests.
- b. Ken Howard also reported that Henry Shirley is downsizing and is donating his entire HO collection to the Club. We will meet at the Club at 12:30 pm and try to be around Henry's around 1:00 pm. We have the vehicles needed but need several people to help carry the boxes out of the house.
- c. The Club has received a donation of three modules equipped with On30 track. These modules fit together or could be reworked to serve other purposes, such as HO modules. They may be viewed in the rear storage unit at the Club. Please let Ken or any Board member know if you have any interest in buying these modules.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Tom Garren announced that tonight we have seven people eligible for membership in the Club.

Brad Bough – Senior member

Alex Dayton – Youth member

Logan Janes – Youth member

Gordan Lucas – Associate member

Dylan Fann – Youth member (Gordon's grandson)

James Smith – Senior member

Alec Urban – Senior member

George Lasley made a motion to suspend the rules and accept these new members by acclimation. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously. Mike Keelean reviewed the prorated dues for the members joining tonight.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. Facilities

Mike Keelean noted there are no outstanding projects for facilities. We will need to clean up the Clubhouse in preparation for the upcoming Open House.

9. Old Business

a. Fall Show

George Lasley reported that we still have a few tables available. The new sandwich signs have been picked up and placed in the rear store room. We are uncertain as to how many gates will be open at the Fairgrounds at the time of the show. Hopefully, most gates will be open for use.

b. HO Committee Report

Ken Howard reported that work continues on the HO expansion. Mount Witwer continues to rise. The track plan and industries for Main 4 have been decided. We will have a coal mine, a logging operation, and a stone quarry. The track layout is under construction, with a trestle is needed to cross over Main 2.

Ken also reported that on September 16th we had twelve people in a workshop learning various methods of making trees. Most went home with homework. We hope to get the trees needed to help scenic the HO layout from this team.

Ken Howard reported that the test track in the Shop is now equipped with a computer running JMRI thanks to Ralph James. Also, thanks to Mike Keelean for building the shelf for the computer and to Haydon Harrison for the donation of the computer itself.

There are two new cabinets on the wall in the HO room. One will be used to store high quality engines and rolling stock belonging to the Club that we want to protect. The second cabinet will be used to display special items. Some of these items may be on permanent display, while others may be sold on eBay or eventually added to Club inventory. Both of these cabinets will have locks installed on them.

c. Layout Care

John Spach shared a recent experience that occurred on the N scale layout. A person had been using the N scale layout, and it was left in considerable disarray. Freight cars had been pushed off the end of sidings onto the scenery, other cars had been moved off the tracks onto the layout, and two of the locomotives required work to get them running again. As a result of this event, John Spach has created a communication that will be posted on the front door of the Clubhouse and on the door to the HO room. The text is as follows:

Attention Please:

Visitors, guests, and fellow Members, we are happy to have you enjoy and interact with the Club's several layouts.

We ask that you respect that each of the layouts represents the dedication, time, and effort of Club members as well as the investment of Club funds.

As a general rule, please only touch if you are actively using the layout, be gentle in your touch, and after using, please return the layout to the way you found it, including all rolling stock, switches, and any materials you may have disturbed during your operation.

Thank you for your cooperation.

We are all reminded to follow this advice.

d. Open House

Clif Kelly reported on our upcoming Open House on October 7th. This is an opportunity to showcase the Club to the general public. We will need to clean up and put the Clubhouse in order prior to the event. The Open House will occur between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm on the 7th. Several people will be needed to man each layout. We also need members to greet the guests as they arrive as well as people to escort our guests on a tour of the Clubhouse. Members are also requested to bring in water and soft drinks and cookies to be used as refreshments for the event. This will be a non-masked event, but it is OK if anyone prefers to wear a mask.

Members were requested to carpool or get dropped off for the event in an effort to save parking spaces for our guests. Ken Howard will run a carpool from the parking lot at Barry's Café and can take up to four additional people.

John Spach reported that we are getting good traffic about the Open House on our Facebook page. Ted Kunstling verified that we have 75-80 likes and several of the other clubs are also sharing our information, so the word is getting out about our Open House.

Clif Kelly reminded everyone that we have flyers available for members to place in their favorite restaurants or businesses to help advertise the event.

Don Weaver wondered if there is a maximum number of people allowed in the Club at one time.

George Sawyer asked if the Shop will be closed during the Open House. After some discussion it was decided that we would like the door open with someone there controlling entry.

Ken Howard reported that the HO committee decided how the HO layout will be operated for the Open House.

- Trains will be made up with Club equipment only, no personal equipment.
- There will be four trains running in alternating directions.
- There will be a dispatcher to manage operations for the day.
- There will be one train that can be run by guests if requested.

e. Shirts

Collin Martinko reported that we are ready to take orders for shirts and hats. Order forms are available. Prices for each item are shown on the order form. Members should fill out an order form and place it in the box in the Library set up

for this purpose. Also, payment for your order should be made and placed in an envelope with your info written on the envelope and dropped in the Treasurer's black box, also in the Library. Notice: payment is required in advance.

The deadline for shirt orders in October 9th.

If you have any questions, please contact Collin Martinko.

f. Social Committee

John Wallis reported that two events are being planned. First, a members dinner including family sometime in January. Second, a tour of the Aberdeen, Carolina and Western shop.

g. S Scale

John Kuchnia reported that the input for the S scale layout for the Rules committee is complete.

h. Travelling Layout

Mike Keelean reported that the HO loop on the travelling layout needs attention prior to the show. Mike is looking for a volunteer to take on fixing the HO loop so that it performs well.

10. New Business

a. Raffle Layout for the Show

John Spach reported that we have a layout for the raffle at the show that needs quite a bit of work. The layout measures four feet by eight feet. Excess wood needs to be removed to reduce weight. The top is scened but needs the track reinstalled. All of this work needs to be completed in time for the show. Please help on this effort if you can.

b. Free Box

Members should note the free stuff box located by the front door. Please help yourself to the contents by the time indicated. After that, the materials will be either donated or thrown away and replaced by new items.

11. Program

Collin Martinko presented a program on detailing and installing a sound decoder in a Proto 2000 GP7 locomotive.

12. Adjournment

John Wallis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Ken Wesp and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.