

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, in October already. Time flies when you're having fun, and we certainly are having fun. Nothing beats a good day of running trains and enjoying time with good friends. We had a great day last Saturday at the Club. Ken and Bob put on a great demonstration and work day where we learned the secrets of building realistic trees. Many who attended took home kits and supplies to work on for the HO layout. I look forward to seeing what we come up with.

Things are moving along with preparations for the Fall Show. Don't forget to mark your calendar and start saving up for all the great bargains we will have at the show. First weekend in November - - don't forget, we will need all your help to make it a great, successful venture.

It was brought to my attention the other day that we had some disruption and minor damage on the N scale layout. We all need to be vigilant in the care and thoughtful handling of our layouts. They are valuable assets of the Club and represent a tremendous effort in time and skill in their construction. Please help us keep them safe. This notice will be posted to make sure everyone who enters the layout rooms is aware of what we expect.

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.

Remember, we have an Open House scheduled for October 7. We will need a good showing of members to handle the anticipated attendees. Parking might be an issue, so please try to organize

car pools to cut down on member cars. We will need donations of drinks and snacks as well. If our reaction to the posting on Facebook is any indication, this should be a big event. Remember to wear your Club shirts and name badges.

Well, enough from me for now - time to catch the train on Track 3 - ALL ABOARD

**John Spach, President**

## **Alaska Railroad Trivia**

**By Randy Foulke**

2023 marks the 100-year anniversary of the driving of the golden spike for the Alaska Railroad. The Alaska Central Railroad, a predecessor of the Alaska Railroad, began construction in 1903 in Seward. Eventually the Alaska Railroad and other predecessor railroads constructed a continuous line to Fairbanks. President Warren G. Harding was a champion of the construction of the rail line. President Harding drove the golden spike that completed the railroad on July 15, 1923, on the north side of the Mears Memorial Bridge over the Tanana River at Nenana. At the time, the railroad was part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. On his return trip to San Francisco, President Harding died from an attack of food poisoning.

A centennial celebration took place near the original site.



## **IMPORTANT NOTES**

**We Can Do Better: August 21<sup>st</sup>.** The following items were overlooked by whoever was responsible for closing the Club down on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>:

- 1) The air conditioner in the HO layout room was left running;
- 2) The floor standing fan in the HO layout room was left running;
- 3) Three Club freight cars were stored on the Members' only shelves;
- 4) The power strip at the soldering station in the Shop was left on; and
- 5) The power strip at the work station in the Shop was left on.

Let's be more careful in closing the building – some of these omissions are safety concerns!

**Covid** is again rearing its ugly head. Over that last month several members have been infected and have self-quarantined to keep other Club members from being exposed at the Clubhouse or other Club functions. Please self-test if you suspect you have an infection. The Club has no current plans to limit activities, but it is everyone's responsibility to help others stay safe.

## Silver and Purple Norfolk & Western E Units

By Randy Foulke

The Norfolk & Western Railway (N&W) ended passenger steam operations in the summer of 1958. When this occurred, the N&W had not yet received sufficient numbers of steam generator equipped EMD GP9's to power its passenger trains. As a result, the N&W leased one EMD E6A, four E7A's, and three E7B's from the Atlantic Coast Line (ACL). What is not commonly known by many railfans is that N&W lettered the leased E units with standard N&W lettering but kept the purple and silver colors of the ACL. It must have been a colorful sight to see purple and silver diesels pulling Tuscan red and black passenger cars. The E units also ferried Southern Railway's *Birmingham Special*, *Pelican*, and *Tennessean* between Bristol and Monroe, Virginia on N&W trackage. It would have been interesting to see ACL purple and silver diesels pulling Southern passenger cars. Anybody want to model these E units?



ACL E6A 512 and one of the E7B units lettered for the N&W.

## Club Emblem Shirts Inventory Dwindling

The following clothing items were still available in the Clubhouse as of September 12<sup>th</sup>:

1	2XL	Denim Short Sleeve Shirt
2	2XL	Burgundy Polo Shirts
3	XL	Green Polo Shirts
2	Medium	Green Polo Shirts

## Aberdeen/Hamlet Trip

Kudos to **Randy Foulke** for putting together a great trip for the Club to the Union Station Railroad Museum and Sandhills Central Railroad Club in Aberdeen, NC, and National Railroad Museum and Hall of Fame in Hamlet, NC. Special thanks to our hosts at Aberdeen who made our visit most enjoyable: Jim Ferrante (president of Sandhills Central), Elmer Pearsol (alias Santa Claus), and Robert A. (Robbie) Farrell (Mayor of Aberdeen).

Members and guests attending were Wayne Aiken, Henry Demyan, Sam and Carl Ely, Randy Foulke, Jimmy Hall, Ken Howard, Ralph James, Clif Kelly, John Kuchnia, Ted Kunstling, Adam and Alan Servas, John Spach, and Tom Tieman.

### Photos of Sandhills Central Railroad Club layout



Nice bridgework and river scene (Photo by Ken Howard).



Industrial scene on the Sandhills layout (photo by Ted Kunstling).



Downtown Aberdeen is an important part of the model railroad (photo by Ted Kunstling).





Randy Foulke and the Robbie Farrell, Mayor of Aberdeen (photo by Ted Kunstling).



Staging tracks are in the shop next to the layout. Permission is required to bring a train onto the layout (photo by Ted Kunstling).



John Spach surrounded by our hosts (photo by Ted Kunstling).



Some of the cats got herded together (photo by Randy Foulke),

### Photos of National Railroad Museum and Hall of Fame layouts in Hamlet, NC



The relocated and restored Seaboard Airline Depot (Photo by Ted Hunstling).



The crossing is still there, but is now single track only (photo by Ken Howard)



A crowd gathers in the museum (phot by Randy Foulke).



The waiting room for Amtrak trains in the restored station (photo by Ken Howard).





The HO model of Hamlet in the basement of the depot and museum (photo by Ted Kunstling).



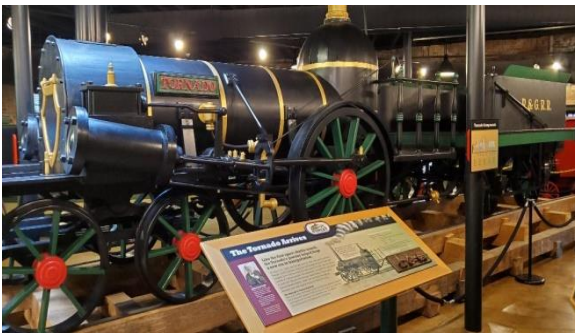
The building that houses the Tornado and an O scale layout (photo by Ken Howard).



Seaboard diesel 1114 on static display adjacent to the Tornado Building (photo by Ted Kunstling).



Clif Kelly coupling the Seaboard 1114 (photo by Randy Foulke).



Full scale reproduction of the Tornado, the first steam engine in Raleigh (photo by Ted Kunstling).



Ralph James at the controls (photo by Ken Howard).



The O scale layout in the Tornado Building (photo by Ken Howard).



Jimmy Hall in the Seaboard engineer's seat (photo by Randy Foulke).

## What's New at the Clubhouse

The 10 commandments of Shop usage have been posted on the door. Please read and obey them.

A new layer of foam flooring has been added in the shop. You'll notice that the floor in front of the test track is now a lot easier on the knees and feet. The test track has been equipped with a JMRI computer to upgrade our capabilities. Thanks to Ralph James for the installation.



The test track in the shop has received a new upgrade with the installation of a laptop with JMRI (photo by Ken Howard).



New cabinet in the HO layout room will be used to house the best of the Club locomotives (photo by Ken Howard).



The S scale should be easier of novices to operate now that a switch of AC or DC operation has been added (photo by Ken Howard).



New display cabinet for possible Club acquisitions or sales (photo by Ken Howard).

Two new wall-mounted cabinets have been added in the HO layout room. The clear case near the entry door will house high quality models that are for display purposes only. The wooden cabinet with sliding glass doors on the wall behind Mount Witwer will be used to house the Club's more fragile engines (e.g. the Nickel Plate Berkshire). Use of these locomotives will be limited to Senior members. Watch for exciting additions to these cases in the coming weeks. Some very high quality models will be emerging from house arrest in Board Members' lockers.



## Real Railroads

Not only did we visit museums and model railroads on our Aberdeen/Hamlet outing, but we also got to see and photograph real equipment that's still in service.



Aberdeen, Carolina & Western SD-40s numbers 6939, 6026, and 6922 were parked outside the Aberdeen museum. The units were manufactured in Canada by GMD and acquired from Canadian National (Photo by Ted Kunstling).



Aberdeen Carolina & Western SD-40 6922 still in somewhat faded CN livery (photo by Ken Howard).



Aberdeen & Rockfish locomotives 2486, 400, and 205 at the Aberdeen shop (Photo by Ken Howard).



## Neat Links

**Ted Kunstling** submitted the following video: CSX rides the turntable in Raleigh.

[CSX 4535 Rides the Turntable at Raleigh - YouTube](#)

[As Amtrak's monopoly falls, Brightline expands passenger trains to Orlando - The Washington Post](#)

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**Bob Witwer** provided the following reference for YouTube about tree construction:

**"Analyzing the Ultra Realistic Model Tree / River Road VLOG #60."**

**Tom Magnani** provided the following links from **Jack Dziadul** about:

“Apex's secret identity: Lost pond hides true origins of NC town.”

<https://www.wral.com/amp/21046589/>

Sanford, NC: Depot Renovation

<https://sanford-nc.civilspace.io/en/projects/depot-renovation>

## Member's Layout

**Tom Garren** submitted this photo of **Joe Scales'** O scale SR DL109-110 set in the original Southern passenger scheme. The A unit is green with white trim and the B unit is white with green trim. Photo taken as the train nears the top of Tehachapi Loop on **Jerry Davis'** O scale layout.

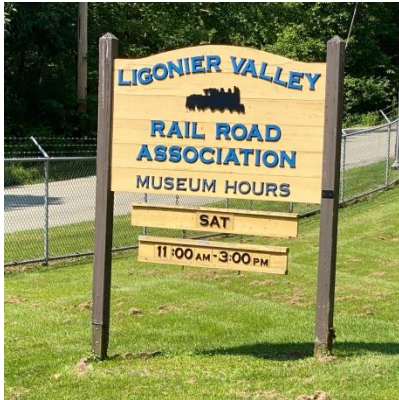


# Ligonier Valley Rail Road Museum (Ligonier, PA)

By Bob Witwer

I visited the Ligonier Valley Rail Road (LVRR) museum on a trip to Ligonier, Pennsylvania a couple of weeks ago. The museum is approximately 30 miles east of Pittsburgh and located in the beautifully restored Darlington Station, an original station of the LVRR. It was built in 1896 near Idlewild Park. Throughout the museum, photographs, memorabilia, and railroad artifacts, such as locks and keys, lanterns, yard tools and an original ticket dispenser are displayed. There are numerous items from the interchanging railroads, the Pennsylvania (PRR) and the Pittsburg, Westmorland and Somerset Railroad (PW&S) included in the museum's collection. LVRR serviced a number of coal mines in the area among other industries.

Of special interest is the interactive display map of the LVRR line, which highlights stations, stops, and resources that existed between 1877 and 1952. Also located on the property is a 1905 bobber caboose, a twin of the one operated by the LVRR. The caboose, which houses an original PRR stove, is open to visitors. Its website is [www.lvrra.org](http://www.lvrra.org).



Museum entrance



Darlington station



Ticket dispenser



Interactive map of LVRR



Bobber caboose LGV #57



Restored caboose interior



## HO Layout Committee Activities in August/September

The HO Committee hosted a workshop on construction of model trees on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Clubhouse. Bob Witwer and Ken Howard demonstrated techniques and tips for making trees from scratch or a variety of available kits. Everyone learned that constructing realistic tree models is a tedious process that requires multiple sessions. Those in attendance (Luciano Barillas, Alan Bradley, Brock Bowden, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, Ted Kunstling, Don McPherson, George Sawyer, John Spach, Don Weaver, and Bob Witwer) also enjoyed Brats courtesy of John Spach.



Don McPherson, Don Weaver, Ted Kunstling, Tom Garren, and Bob Witwer making trees for the HO layout.  
(photo by Ken Howard)

For those of you who have enjoyed running the Southern Crescent, please take note that six new passenger cars have been added to the Club's fleet. Thanks to John Spach for adding metal wheels to the trucks to make the cars compatible with the rest of the rolling stock. A ten-car train complete with baggage, coach, Pullman cars, and an observation car can now be assembled. Enjoy!

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 and upgrades from a lot of members.



No longer a bridge to nowhere (photo by Ken Howard).



Mount Witwer is taking shape. Note the coal facility on the left (photo by Ken Howard).



New platforms at the Raleigh Depot (work and photo by Richard Calfee).



Join the Army and see the world at our new recruiting office (work and photo by Richard Calfee).



## Module Donation

On September 18<sup>th</sup> the Club received a donation of three small (roughly 2 x 4 feet) modules in On30 gauge. For those not familiar with On30, this is narrow gauge O scale with wide ties and HO rails. The Club wants to give interested members an opportunity to acquire one or all of these modules before they for up for sale at the Fall show. Interested members can view the modules in the Show Storage Room at the Clubhouse.



## Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

Visit from Brookdale Senior Center: The Club will again host a group of senior citizens on the morning of September 26<sup>th</sup>. Members are welcome to participate in hosting this group. Please contact a Board Member for specifics if you plan to attend.

October Board of Governors Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

October Membership Meeting: The next meeting is on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Collin Matrinko will present the program titled “Upgrading Proto 2000 Geeps”. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

October HO Committee Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> 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](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 and Club activities, 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 HO 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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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

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Tom Tiemann	Membership Chair	<a href="mailto:tiemann@elon.edu">tiemann@elon.edu</a>	919-636-2283
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
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