

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”

Welcome to Fall! It's here, like it or not, in full force, Pumpkin Spice and all.

And with it comes our main event – The 39th annual Train Show and Sale. Are you ready? You better be – it's going to be HUGE! Please be sure to come ready to work. There will be lots to do. We will need help for loading the truck, set up, vendor set up, tickets, Club table, raffle, tear down, and lots more. We need you all to be there and ready to pitch in.

Did you make it to the Fall Open House? If not you missed another HUGE event for our Club. We had over 235 visitors come and enjoy what we have to offer. Club membership was well represented as well, and volunteers provided drinks and cookies for the crowd. Things went very smoothly as well, thanks to the new rules that were put in place for Open Houses and other Club events.

Just in case you missed the announcement at the September Membership meeting, we have reached a major milestone. We now have over 100 active members. Well-deserved congratulations to all of you who made this happen. Now, on to the next target, \$100,000.00 in our asset accounts. A really good show could make this happen this year. Let's get 'er done.

Now, a couple of housekeeping items to mention. First, if you bring in food to eat, take your trash out with you when you leave. Do not just dump it in the trash cans and walk away. Don't depend on others to clean up after you. And second, when you put Club rolling stock back on the shelves, do not stack cars on top of each other, it causes damage and leaves the stacked cars in danger of falling.

O K, it's time to run trains – see you at the Club - ALL ABOARD

John Spach, President

39th Annual Train Show and Sale

November 4 – 5, 2023 – 9am to 5pm each day
Jim Graham Building, NC State Fair Grounds
4285 Trinity Road, Raleigh, NC 27607

Admissions: Adult \$10 / under 12 free w/adult
\$1 off admission with copy of show flyer

It's not too early to set these dates aside on your calendar and to start talking up the show to friends, neighbors, and civic and church groups.

Brookdale Senior Living Solutions Visit

On September 26th, the Club entertained a group of senior citizens from Brookdale Senior Living Solutions in Chapel Hill. Eleven seniors and two staff members received guided tours of the Clubhouse and each of the layouts. Because of an emergency, the group was delayed in their arrival at the Clubhouse by four hours. Thanks to all the Club members who came out in the morning or afternoon or both to support our efforts: Bernie Dawson, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, John Kuchnia, John Wallis, Don Weaver, and Bob Witwer. The folks were enthusiastic and had a good tour and some cookies to boot. Thanks to Barbara Tate of Brookdale for helping her seniors enjoy their day out.



Visitors viewing the O gauge layout (photo by Ken Howard).



Cookies and drinks in the Crew Lounge (photo by Ken Howard).

Henry Shirley Donation

Longtime Club member Henry Shirley is downsizing and has donated his collection of HO gear to NRV. A number of the old (but still able) went to his house on Sunday, September 24th to take possession of large boxes full of locomotives, cars, kits, scenic materials and display tracks, framed pictures of railroad prints, and tools. The donation is far reaching and is greatly

appreciated by the Club. We're all looking forward to opening the boxes and examining their contents. Most boxes came to the Clubhouse, but John Spach's garage also got some more.



Left to right: Don Weaver, Ken Howard, George Lasley, Henry Shirley, Bob Witwer, and John Spach. Tom Garren's Silverado is also prominently featured since Tom was taking the picture.

October 7th Open House

The Club hosted a very successful Open House on a lovely fall day. In fact, it may have been the most successful Open House in the history of the NRV. Attendance was excellent all day. A record number of people signed the guest book, and donations and sales were brisk. At times, the parking lot was filled all the way to the street, so thanks to those who car pooled or parked in the lot down the street to make room for all our guests.

Much of the success should be credited to the Club members who planned and attended the event. To those who donated cookies, please be informed that the final four cookies were consumed by Club members at 4:01 pm. Our guests got the rest! A large number of free magazines were also given out to attendees.

A number of changes were made to our procedures to make the event successful, most notably the rules devised to control the operation of layouts. Members in attendance included: Wayne Aiken, Ed Bottom, Bernie Dawson, Dan Egy, Randy Foulke, Jake Forbes, James Hall, Haydon Harrison, Ken Howard, Mike Johns, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, John Kuchnia, Collin Martinko, Don McPherson, Milo Poulin, George Sawyer, John Spach, Tom Tieman, Luke Tomberlin, Don Weaver, Ken Wesp, and Bob Witwer.

Special thanks to Mike Johns and Clif Kelly for spearheading the organization and to Randy Foulke for acting as dispatcher for the HO layout and keeping the trains running. The new rules for Open House operations made for a much less chaotic day in the layout room.



Milo Poulin, Bernie Dawson, and Ed Bottom prepping the N scale layout (photo by Ken Howard).



We had lots of visitors in the HO-N layout room during much of the day (Photo by Bob Witwer).

What's New at the Clubhouse

Railroad pictures that were removed during construction of shelving and other Club improvements are reappearing on the walls of the HO layout room and the Crew Lounge. Time to get back in touch with some old friends.

You should also take a look at the contents in the new display cases. The locomotive case is now filled with new and refurbished Club-owned locomotives, some so new that they are awaiting inventory numbers. The items in the cases are under lock and key. Until more keys are made, the newer and more delicate locomotives can be accessed only by senior members via keys held by either John Spach or Ken Howard.



Cedar and Bernie running trains on the N scale layout (photo by Tom Garren).



Old pictures in new places (photo by Ken Howard)..

Real Railroads

Ken Howard again shares a few railroad pictures of his fall foliage sojourn to upstate New York and points in between. There's a lot of life in Staunton, Virginia these days on the former C&O and B&O lines – now the Buckingham Branch of Virginia Scenic Railroad and the Shenandoah Valley Railroad, respectively. The historic station in Staunton was first built in 1856 by the Virginia Central Railroad, burned during the Civil War and rebuilt in its current form in 1906. The station is now used by the Virginia Scenic Railroad, Buckingham Branch, the Shenandoah Valley Railroad, and Amtrak. If you visit Staunton, take the time to wander around – you'll find a lot of old rolling stock and a lot of railroad history to enjoy.



Buckingham Branch GP38-2 No. 16 taking on passengers for the morning train at Staunton, VA.



Shenandoah Valley GP9 No. 5940 parked at Staunton, VA engine yard.

George Lasley is once again at the Bridgeview BandB in Pennsylvania photographing trains on the Rockville Bridge. He shared photos of the action from part of the afternoon of October 12th.



George also shared some photos of train action at Duncannon, PA from October 15th.



Amtrak No. 112 in passenger service.



Norfolk Southern No. 4581 leading a freight.

IMPORTANT NOTES

We Can Do Better: October 9th. While we all know that the Open House required a lot of effort from a lot of members, let's not forget that we have to be responsible to leave the Clubhouse in good shape at the end of the day. The following items were overlooked by whoever was responsible for closing the Club down on Sunday the 8th.

- 1) The power strip at the soldering station in the Shop was left on;
- 2) A Club caboose was improperly stored on the Members' only shelves;
- 3) The fan and light in the library were left running; and
- 4) Car storage in the HO layout room was a total mess with passenger cars stacked on one another, and freight and passenger cars commingled.

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

Neat Links

Ted Kunstling submitted the following comments about a series available on Amazon Prime:

"Full Steam Ahead" is a wonderful documentary series I have been watching on Amazon Prime. It focuses on how railways transformed Britain. It features colorful reenactors, beautiful scenery, trains, excellent history, and lots of personality and humor. I strongly recommend the series to Club members.

Bernie Dawson provided the following link to YouTube: " THE THUNDER OF STEAM IN THE BLUE RIDGE - 1958 NORFOLK & WESTERN STEAM LOCOMOTIVES J-CLASS 48314"

<https://youtu.be/ufSPm-wOKE8?si=q3u6foHwM36WnAdF>

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

Century old footage of steam locos, switching, hump yard, tower operators, chalk marking/sorting cars, and facilities at the Terminal Division in East Somerville, MA.

<https://youtu.be/G4Jeg9MuavQ?si=ciZx-670IsayO1J0>

Tom Magnani provided a link about Italy's 950 miles from Milan to Palermo on sleeper car, via ferry from **Rob Rousseau**:

<https://twitter.com/seatsixtyone/status/1704205843053314430?s=20>

Tom Magnani provided another link to "Why Are Rails Shaped Like That?" from **Will Seehorn**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nteyw40i9So>

Member's Layout

Don McPherson has a layout under construction in his backyard shed. As you know, Don is a frequent contributor to show and tell sessions at Barry's and the Club. For those of you who thought that he might soon run out of neat locomotives and rolling stock to share – WRONG! As demonstrated in the photos below, Don has boxes of neat stuff in reserve and a layout that is covered in engines and cars. I counted over 80 locomotives just on the layout, so more to come. Don also donated some more cars and engines to the Club. Thanks, Don.



All manner of cars and cabooses (photo by Ken Howard).



Lots of engines sitting out and in boxes (photo by Ken Howard).



Three stall roundhouse behind caboose track (photo by Ken Howard).



Steam engines are hiding everywhere (phot by Ken Howard).

HO Layout Committee Activities in September/October

To All HO Users of Club Equipment: It is your responsibility to handle Club equipment as if it were your own! Poor handling results in damage that has to be repaired by someone in the Club. Passenger car coupler springs have taken a severe pounding over the last few weeks – nine cars have required repair because of misuse. In addition to the damage, members are not reporting the issues with bad order cards, but are simply replacing the cars on the shelves for the next user to discover when his or her train comes apart. Let's all be more attentive to proper use of our Club equipment.

The HO Committee hosted a workshop on construction of model trees on September 16th 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 who is the figure cooking brats on the right side of the picture..



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.



Preliminary layout for the coal mining operation
(photo by Bob Witwer).



Three service tracks and a run around are being
laid out (photo by Bob Witwer).

George Lasley's Quiz

George challenges the membership to properly name the depression shown in the center of the following photograph.



The answer is on page 11.

Aberdeen/Hamlet Trip – a Photo Reprise

Because of size constraints, a number of great photos from last month's trip to Aberdeen and Hamlet had to be set aside. So here are a few more of the photos that didn't make the September issue of the Whistle Post.



Club members viewing the Aberdeen & Rockfish engine shop (Photo by Randy Foulke).



Overview of a portion of the Sandhills Club layout (photo by Randy Foulke).



Milling about at the Aberdeen Museum (photo by Ted Kunstling).



Overview of the group viewing the Aberdeen and Rockfish engine shop (photo by Ted Kunstling).



Everybody was fond of the off-layout train set up tracks (photo by Ted Kunstling).



Sandhill club members welcoming John Spach (photo by Ted Kunstling).

George Lasley's Quiz Answer

The answer is a "poling pocket".

Did anybody know the answer?

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

November Board of Governors Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 6th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

October Membership Meeting: The next meeting is on Thursday, October 19th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Jake Forbes will present the program titled “History of the NRV”. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

November HO Committee Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for November 18th at 10:00 am in the Clubhouse. This will be a work day to bring organization to all the equipment that is currently stored in haphazard fashion under the HO layout.

Breakfast Social: Join us for the breakfast social every Wednesday, 9:00 am at Barry’s Café, Raleigh, NC.

Fall Show: November 4th and 5th at the Graham Building on the NC State Fairgrounds.

Notes from the Editor and Webmaster

Please send recent photos of Club activities to 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 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.

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://nrvclub.net/meeting-minutes/>

NRV Whistle Post
The Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club, Inc.
1615 Old Louisburg Road
PO Box 19573
Raleigh, NC 27619-9573

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
Tom Tiemann	Membership Chair	tiemann@elon.edu	919-636-2283
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
Ken Howard	Newsletter Editor	klhowardjr@aol.com	919-851-3805

WEB SITE www.nrvclub.net

Bernie Dawson	Webmaster	nrvwebmaster@gmail.com	919-275-2144
---------------	-----------	--	--------------