

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”

Happy New Year to one and all. Hope you all celebrated safely with family and friends.

The NRV had a bang up year in 2023. We increased membership to exceed our goal of 100 paid members. We beat out target of \$100k in our accounts. We had two record setting shows. And, we had a lot of fun and fellowship along the way. Plus, we got to run trains! What more can I say: it was a good year! Now we move on to do even better in 2024.

And so we begin the New Year. Plans and progress have begun for our “Spring into Trains Show.” The big news here, of course, is that we are moving to the Expo building this year. That effectively doubles the size of the show. So we will have a lot more vendor tables to sell, and we will have room for more displays. Our show committee is in place and actively working to make this a huge boost for the Club. We will be looking for your help and support as we progress. Watch this space for more details.

Our social committee is working on final plans for a member and significant other dinner. They are planning a plated dinner at Angie’s in Garner. You should have received details on exact time, cost, and menu options recently. Please make every effort to support this event. We want this to showcase the family friendly nature of our Club and the hobby in general.

I hope you all got everything you wanted for Christmas and look forward to see you running all those new additions at the Club this year.

Well – lots to do and the train is ready - - see you at the Club

All Aboard

John Spach, President

In Memorium

The Club lost a valued member on December 21, 2023. Tom Tiemann, Membership Committee Chair, passed unexpectedly at home. Tom was a retired professor of economics at Elon University. He was a regular at Barry's on Wednesdays and a frequent worker at the Clubhouse. Tom was an enthusiast whose latest project was installing switch throws on the HO expansion.

Club Social Event

Hopefully, everyone has heard about the February 1, 2024, **First Annual Club Dinner** for members and spouses (or significant others). The get together will be at Angie's Restaurant in Garner. Each of you should have received an e-mail detailing the menu options, how to make a reservation, and how to pay in advance. The dinner is \$22 per plate. If you aren't already signed up and prepaid, the upcoming January Membership Meeting is a great opportunity to get in on the food and fun. If you are still mystified by the process, contact George Lasley at gwasley52@gmail.com or 919-757-4503. Thanks to the Social Committee for putting this event together.

Club Shirt Orders

Collin Martinko will place an order for NRV apparel items in mid-February. Items must be prepaid at the time you submit your completed order form. Forms (Neuse River Valley Apparel Order Form) are available in the wire rack in the Library. Payment can be made with cash, check, or credit slip placed in an envelope with the order form and deposited in the black box on the Library wall. Contact Collin with any questions at collinmartinko@gmail.com.

Free Stuff and For Sale Items

A number of items have been added to the sale shelves courtesy of Holiday donations. Take note of new HO, N, and O items. Several plastic storage tubs with lids are also on display for sale to members in the Crew Lounge. The FREE STUFF box continues to be a popular source of amusement for members and guests. Current free items and tubs not claimed by members will be donated to charity at the end of the month.

Christmas Charitable Giving

If you haven't already contributed, the Club is still collecting donations from members to create an NRV donation fund for local charities. The Club will match the first \$500 received from members and distribute the funds charitable organizations in the name of the Club. Donations can be made by cash, check, or credit cards at the Clubhouse through the end of the January membership meeting. Once all funds have been received, the Board of Governors will send checks to the selected charities.

Thornfield Logging Number 5

By Joe Scales

Some years ago a friend, Jerry, bought several thousand acres of land on a bad debt sale. Then he told Dad and me we could hunt and fish this land, which we did.

Sometime later Dad and I found this old locomotive lying on its side in the woods, so we took Jerry to see it. He had no idea about it, but he offered to sell it to us. We paid \$100.00 for it. What the hey are we going to do with it?? It was a small 2-6-6-2 locomotive.

We told Darrell about our treasure. He contacted several of his pals, and they came to see what we had found. Tom and George knew of someone that might like to help. Enter Bryan, a heavy equipment mover with a lot of know how. He said he would move the loco to Thornfield (our farm) for \$1,000.00 if we would let him run it if we got it running. Deal done! After a good amount of time and hard work, the loco was delivered to our place and placed on some track in one of the sheds. I don't know what we were going to do with it, but it was ours!!

After much tinkering and hard work, learning just what we had as well as repairing the mechanical damage, we got it to run on the fifty feet of track that we had. In the meantime, we got to know some steam mechanics who helped with our efforts. Thanks fellas. We found out that the loco was built in 1903, plus or minus a year, so it was forty plus years old.

After saving and borrowing all the money we could, we got the boiler repaired. There is no way to describe the excitement and feeling when we lit the first fire and heard the whistle. With the whistle wailing and bell clanging we spent most of the day running on our 50-foot railroad. The neighbors thought we had lost our minds. They have gone plumb crazy they said. Now the big question: What were we going to do with this monster?

I do not know how it got started, but after quite a bit of pondering, we decided to haul logs off Thornfield (our farm) with it. So with a lot of help, we laid track and tied into the Danville and Western (D&W). We named the locomotive Thornfield Logging number 5. We had it made, we thought, not ever thinking of fuel, help, logging tools, money, etc. But we had a running locomotive, now what?



Thornfield Logging Number 5 at the Danville, VA roundhouse for service. (photo by Tom Garren)

Several weeks later Joe G. stopped in to say Hi. After we told him about the engine and showed it to him, he let it be known that in his younger days he was a railroader. Better, he offered to help and teach us. He knew that most railroads were short on motive power. He told us they tried to dieselize too quickly (scrapping steam locomotives during the depression) and now in the midst of WWII they were hurting. So a deal was made with the Southern, who owned the D&W. We could use their track at no charge, if we would help them switch and move some local freight. This was good. It tied us up about two days a week hauling our logs and switching for them. The war was about over, but they let us come “play” and go as far as Ruffin to my son’s sawmill, as long as we did not tie up the railroad. Evidently we met their requirements because we are still here and having fun. We are proof that playing with trains is fun.

Ukrainians in the Carolinas

Steve Wills spearheaded a request from **Ukrainians in the Carolinas** to display LEGO trains around their Christmas gingerbread village and fundraiser at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds on December 8-9. Thanks to all the Club members who help Steve and his broken foot pull this off: The Club received a very nice thank you note and a donation from Valerie Vasylenko in appreciation of your efforts.



LEGO train circling the gingerbread village (photo by Ken Howard).

Real Railroads

Ken Howard spent part of his holiday trip to Arizona chasing trains and railroad museums. A few of his photos from Kingman, Arizona follow.



Santa Fe "Heavy Mountain" number 3759 on static display in Kingman, Arizona. Baldwin 1928.



Eastbound BNSF double stack in Kingman, AZ. Two GE44s and an SD40-2 on point.

George Lasley took the following photos of track relocation work south of, and across the road from, the Graham Building on December 6th. The first photo shows the NS track at the shoefly being cut in. The second shows the Piedmont on the shoefly.



Upcoming Events

Keep your calendars open for the following events coming up early in the New Year. Club members help will be required for some of these events.

February 1, 2024: First Annual Club Dinner at Angie's Café in Garner, NC. Contact George Lasley for details about menu, reservations, cost, and prepayment.

February 10, 2024: Mike's Trains Trackside Train Day, 12 West Main Street, Thomasville, NC. The Club will be taking the travelling layout and setting up sales tables at this show.

March 9, 2024: Train Group of Mebane, Annual Train Show and Sale, 209 W. Jackson Street, Mebane, NC 27302. The Club will be setting up four tables to sell trains.

April 20, 2024: Hold this date open for the Club's spring Open House.

Spring into Trains Show

Wednesday's breakfast at Barry's (January 3, 2024) turned into the first work session for the show. An envelope stuffing session broke out. Flyers for vendors were folded, stuffed, and stamped by the assembled breakfast entourage. A total of 139 letters have been sent to vendors for the show. Thanks to all who attended and participated in the assembly line.



Neat Links

Tom Garren sent the following link to what he describes as “A real weathering challenge.” The video shows CSX 3064 after hitting a cement truck.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/naOsN5nuwRU>

Tom Magnani forwarded the following YouTube video from **Jack Dziadul**: "Minuteman Steam Episode 9: The Switchers"

<https://youtu.be/GTO4mgYNVDw?si=IWagXm4B5HFLntHY>

Jerry Davis came across this video in the NMRA Turntable for November 2023. The YouTube video runs about an hour and shows the Sipping and Switching Society layout being set up, operated, and torn down at the Fall 2023 show. Unfortunately, the narrator doesn't mention NRV.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQ7_kPT1H0M

Tom Magnani also passed along a video from **Fred Krauss** about How a Steam Locomotive Works (Union Pacific "Big Boy"). About 36 minutes long.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hszu80NJ438>

HO Layout Committee Activities in December/January

Because of the Holiday Season, there was very little activity at the Clubhouse HO layout. Some additional scenery was added, and a few necessary repairs were made to keep the layout operational. However, the Club did receive Holiday gift donations from a number of people in December and early January. The HO donations (about 6 boxes) included some very nice older locomotives, cars, and buildings. These donations have been processed and priced for sale.

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

January Membership Meeting: The next meeting is on Thursday, January 18th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Ken Howard will present the program titled "Rail Adventures in Arizona." Attendance via Zoom is optional.

January HO Committee Meeting: The January meeting will be held at the Clubhouse at 1 pm on Sunday, January 21st. It's time to break out of our Holiday mode and get back to working on the layout and new operating rules and procedures.

February Board of Governors Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 5th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

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 nrvwebmaster@gmail.com, so he can maintain and update our website. Also, don't forget to send your material to Ted Kunstling at tkunstling@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://nrvcclub.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
Clif Kelly	Membership Chair	bkelly11@nc.rr.com	919-614-8891
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
---------------	-----------	--	--------------