

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”

So it's cold outside - - come on in and run some trains, or work on a layout – its warm inside. And, of course, there are lots of other Club members here that would love the company and are looking for others to share stories with.

Speaking of layouts, have you seen what's happening on the HO layout? I walked in the other day and found a lot of new work going on Mount Witwer. Track is being laid, foam and supports are going up, and scenery is being placed. Great work guys. And not to be outdone, the N scale layout has a lot of new track and now a new Wi-Fi connection. And best of all, new members are focused on N scale.

It is just wonderful to see all the new faces at the Club, at breakfast, and attending meetings. Our growth has been amazing and seems to be on a sustained basis. Let's keep it up. We passed the 100 mark, so now let's go for 125. It's a target we can make!

We have lots of things in the planning stage. There are road trips to visit other clubs, nearby one day shows where we will have sales tables, an Open House, and of course there is the “Spring into Trains” Show. This year we are growing. We are moving from the small place we had to the double sized Expo Building at the Fairgrounds. We have almost double the vendor space available, and as of this minute, we have reservations for almost all of them. Be prepared, this is going to be a great Show.

I want to thank everyone who attended our first ever, and to become an annual, family dinner celebration. A big high five to Randy, John, and George for organizing it. It was good to see the “better half's” of our membership. I hope they enjoyed dealing with us as well.

Well here comes the train, time to go - - All Aboard.

John Spach, President

Club Social Event

On February 1, 2024, the Club held the **First Annual Club Dinner** for members and guests at Angie's Restaurant in Garner. Thirty-six members and guests attended. Thanks to **John Wallis, Randy Foulke, and George Lasley** for organizing and executing this highly successful event.



Bob Witwer, Ken Howard, Don McPherson, Bernie Dawson, Ralph James, and Peter Donofrio. (photo by Tom Garren)



Ted and Frances Kunstling, Laura Payne and Alan Bradley, and Peggy and Ken Wesp. (photo by Tom Garren)



Mike and Jean Keelean, George Sawyer, Elliot Susseles, and Larry Pearlman. (photo by Tom Garren)



The organizers: John Wallis, George Lasley, and Randy Foulke. (photo by Tom Garren)



John Spach welcoming the guests. (photo by Ken Howard)



Robin and Larry Martin, Hannah Overton and Jake Forbes, and Karen and Ron Wertenberg.. (photo by Ken Howard)



John Spach welcoming the guests. (photo by Ken Howard)



Laura and John Spach, Richard and Marilyn Calfee, and Daphne Garren. (photo by Ken Howard)

Mike's Trains Trainside Train Day February 10, 2024

NRV was well represented at the show. The travelling layout was on display and the Club had six sales tables for HO, S, and O gauge models. This was our second Thomasville show, but it was in a downtown venue instead of the church recreation hall that hosted last spring's event. We had a direct view of real trains (NS and AMTRAK) running down the center of town through the storefront window of this location.

Thanks to the travelling layout crew – Mike Keelean, John Kuchnia, George Sawyer, and Don Weaver. Thanks also to the table sales crew including Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Phil Michaud, John Spach, and Bob Witwer for assistance in packing, travelling, unpacking, and selling goods for the Club.

The show was well attended and a rousing financial success financial for the Club as witnessed by the many empty tubs that returned to Raleigh at days end.



Mike Keelean running the travelling layout for the last time. (Photo by Ken Howard)



Mike Keelean, Schaefer O'Neill, and Don Weaver with the LEGO core of the layout in the foreground. (photo by Ken Howard)



Bob Witwer, Tom Garren and John Spach at the Club sales table for S scale and HO models. (photo by Ken Howard)



Look what came back empty. (photo by Ken Howard)

Memorial Service for Tom Tiemann February 11, 2024

Five friends and members (Tom and Daphne Garren, Ken Howard, Joe Johnston, and Bob Witwer) represented the Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club at the Celebration of Life for Tom Tiemann at the United Church of Chapel Hill. Tom was very active in helping to build the HO layout extension and a regular breakfast attendee. We will miss him.

Contributions in his memory may be directed to Eden Theological Seminary, 475 East Lockwood Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119 or to United Church of Chapel Hill, 1321 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Club Shirt Orders

Don't forget to order your Club apparel before the end of the February Membership Meeting. Order forms are available in the Library and payment must be made to the black box when you submit your order. Contact Collin Martinko with any questions at collinmartinko@gmail.com.

Year-End Charitable Giving

The year-end charitable giving program raised \$800 from the membership. The Club added a matching donation of \$500 for an available fund of \$1300. The Board of Governors decided to allocate the funds equally between the Durham Rescue Mission and the Helping Hand Mission of Raleigh.



Rob Tart of Durham Rescue Mission accepts holiday donation from NRV Model Railroad Club. (Photo by Bob Witwer)

Real Railroads

Larry Pearlman contributed the photos below of North Carolina railroading. Larry will be giving the program at the April Membership Meeting on photography.



Norfolk Southern number 722 (EMD RP-E4C) leading a local outside Raleigh Union Station.



Coastal Carolina number 4609 (EMD GP9Rm) in red, white, and blue livery (NS Heritage Colors) along the shoreline in Washington, NC.

George Lasley sent a reminder that January 25th was the 175th anniversary of the passage of the North Carolina Railroad (NCR) charter by the General Assembly. NCR is the oldest corporation still doing business under its original NC charter.

George also sent a reminder that February 2nd was the 85th anniversary of Seaboard Air Lines's (SAL) Florida streamliner the "Silver Meteor." The inaugural run departed New York's Penn Station on its 1,388 mile journey to Miami on February 2, 1939. Service was originally three days a week carded at 25 hours and 25 minutes.

The first Silver Meteor consisted of seven stainless steel lightweight Budd cars pulled by a single EMD E4 painted in the "Citrus" scheme. The new train was such a success that SAL ordered two more trainsets in mid-1939 and began daily service in December 1939. Heavyweight sleepers were added in 1941. Lightweight sleepers and lounges were added to the Meteor after WWII.

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 20, 2024: The Club will host the seniors from Brookdale Retirement Community in Chapel Hill for a tour of the facilities at 10:30 am.

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.

May 4-5, 2024: NRVNRC "Spring into Trains Show" at Expo Building.

June 28-30, 2024: Brick Universe, LEGO displays at Raleigh Convention Center.

Neat Links

Dutch Tubman, President of Company Shops RR Club posted this link to that talk about East Broad Top Railroad on the CSRR YouTube Channel. The video runs about an hour.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrIoQejYjy0>

Tom Magnani forwarded the following YouTube video link from **Jack Dziadul** about Bethlehem Car Works. Ryan Thoman of White Rose Hobbies, York, PA has apparently purchased Bethlehem Car Works (BCW) from the John Greene estate. BCW is a manufacturer of HO scale passenger cars and detail parts.

N Scale Layout Committee

Seven Club members have formed a committee (headed by Bernie Dawson) to oversee the operation and development of the N-scale layout. If you haven't noticed the changes, you should go take a look at the new scenery, staging track, plexiglass shield, and lighting installations in buildings and vehicles. Lot's going on. Minutes of N-scale meeting are posted on the website.



Phil Michaud showing off the new staging track on the N-scale layout. (photo by Ken Howard)



Moonshiners are also busy on the layout – they just erected a shack above the tunnel portal. (photo by Bernie Dawson)

Spring into Trains Show

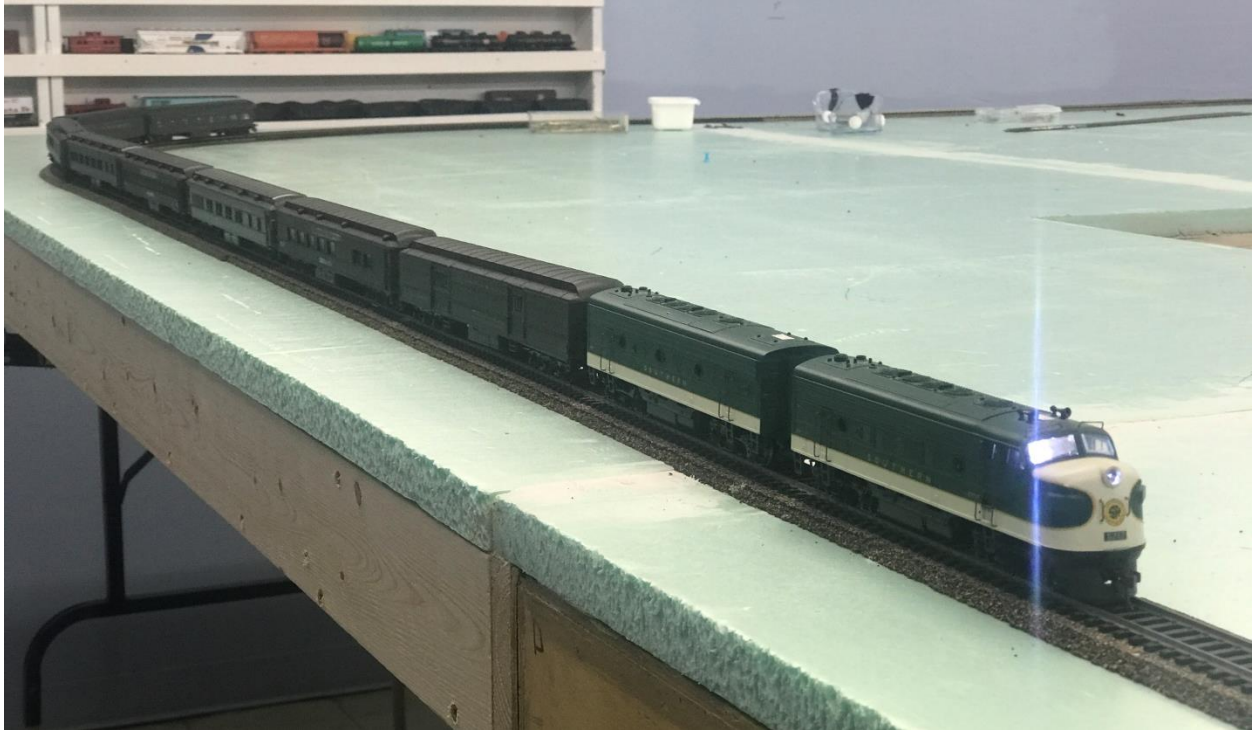
George Lasley reports that almost all the vendor tables have been sold. A schedule of manpower needs to staff the show is in preparation. Remember that we are moving to the EXPO Center for this year's "Spring into Trains Show," a much larger facility than the Scott Building.

HO Layout Committee Activities in January/February

Remember When?? September 5, 2022. We've come a long way since the inaugural run on Main 1 extension. Be sure to visit the Club to see the progress that we continue to make.

Work on the extension has resumed with a vengeance. Main 4 Extension is advancing up the slopes of Mount Witwer and the first switch has been laid and powered as the line passes over the legacy mainlines and into terra incognita.

New projects are underway to improve the legacy layout modules as well. The engine house and sidings on Module 9 have been removed and are being replaced by a new marshalling yard to facilitate the growth of operational abilities on the layout.



Plans are in preparation for extending the interior staging yard toward the Crew Lounge to improve its functionality. The existing yard will be extended behind Module 4 and a direct connection to allow trains onto Main 4 will be constructed. The improvements will allow for make-up of longer trains with direct access to the mains on the legacy layout, removing the current bottleneck from Main 4 on Module 3.



A section of Module 9 has been cleared to accommodate a new yard that will improve operational capabilities. (photo by Ken Howard)



Earth colored paints are covering the blue foam on the extension. Watch as coverage expands – scenery won't be far behind the paint. (photo by Ken Howard)

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

February Membership Meeting: The next meeting is on Thursday, February 15th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Jake Forbes will present the program titled “Evolution of N&W Steam.” Attendance via Zoom is optional.

February HO Committee Meeting: The February meeting will be held at the Clubhouse at 1 pm on Sunday, February 18th. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

February Visit for Seniors from Brookdale Senior Living Solutions: We will again entertain a visit from this Chapel Hill group. Their bus will arrive at about 10:30 am on February 20th. Members are invited to help host the group on their tour of our facilities.

March Board of Governors Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 4th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

March HO Committee Meeting: The March meeting will be held at the Clubhouse at 1 pm on Sunday, March 17th. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

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 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
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First Class

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