Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club
Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of February 18, 2024

1. Call Meeting to Order
   The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Ken Howard.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance
   Members attending were Wayne Aiken, Alan Bradley, Liam Bryant, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, George Lasley, Paul Lebiedzinski, Collin Martinko, Don McPherson, Larry Pearlman, Jim Smith, John Wallis, and Bob Witwer.

   One guest was in attendance, Duncan Evans. This is Duncan's first meeting.

3. Equipment
   Ken Howard presented several pieces of equipment for the committee to determine if they should be placed into inventory or sold.
   A pickle car, two wood chip hoppers, Walthers Summit double stack were all kept and added to inventory.
   So was an NS ET44AC locomotive.
   A spectrum consolidation was kept with the need to add a decoder.
   Four GN engines were presented. It was determined to keep one of the F45's, number 393, and sell the other F45 and the two SDP40's on eBay.

   Tom Garren suggested the Club acquire a Loksound programmer since ESU decoders seem to be the most popular at this time. The group unanimously agreed to take this request to the Board for funding.

4. Construction Projects
   Jake Forbes requests more shelving for the storage of Club HO cars. We will put up one additional set of shelves that we have.

   Track is being installed on Main 4. Bob Witwer has the switches and switch motors needed.

   Ralph James will wire the extension on a separate circuit. It is desired to use yellow and green 14 gauge wire in a 50 foot run.

   Wood work needs to be done to put in the trestle.

   Collin Martinko is working on the inside yard on Module 9. Track for Main 4 is being rerouted to make the yard work better.

   Bob Witwer stated that the logging/sawmill branch needs final definition. Essentially, we need someone to tell us what to do.

There was a discussion about the nine inch turntable we have. After some discussion as to sell or keep the turntable, Jake Forbes requested that we create a drawing of the branch to the mine and the lumber area. This could help determine if the there is a valid use for the small turntable.

Wayne Aiken made several suggestions for mountains and tunnels.

The end of Germantown
The inside yard will be extended and intersect Main 4. This will open up space for an engine terminal. We are still looking for ideas of track changes needed.

Much blue foam has been covered with paint by Calfee.

The quarry needs ideas for development.

Randy Foulke stated that we want operating capabilities. He also stated that the Golden East layout in Rocky Mount is of very good quality.

Ken Howard stated that we need to clean both track and switches. Some of the switches are not functional due to excess glue.
George Lasley asked about powered track cleaning cars.
Ken stated that we need to do this by hand to both clean the track and identify other problems and get them fixed. This is especially true on the legacy layout.

John Spach suggested an adopt a module program as future way to keep the layout in good shape.

Ken stated that we have a total of 18 modules.

We will have a work session on February 24th beginning at 10:00 am to clean track on the HO layout.

5. Raspberry Pi
   John Wallis presented a proposal to install a Raspberry pi computer on the HO layout. This device will serve as our Wi-Fi host for the layout. It will also have JMRI installed. The cost of the computer, case, power supply and memory card will be approximately $90.00. Bob Witwer proposed that we take this recommendation to the Board for funding.

6. Rules for Operation
   Randy Foulke passed around draft copies of the rules for operation of the HO layout. Members are requested to review and send comments and suggestions back to Ken Howard by Tuesday, February 20th.

7. Additional Comments
   Additional comments were made concerning repairing damaged trees, repairing the roof on the engine house and encouraging use of the staging tracks.

8. Adjournment
   The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 pm.