

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of April 18, 2024

1. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President John Spach.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Clif Kelly.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance and on Zoom

Members attending in person were Wayne Aiken, Alan Bradley, Bernie Dawson, Darrell Dennis, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, Paul Lebieczinski, Terry Luft, Mike Marsh, Collin Martinko, Don McPherson, Larry Pearlman, Greg Rehe, Adam Servas, Alan Servas, Jim Smith, John Spach, Elliot Susseles, John Wallis, Don Weaver, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom were Ed Bottum, Richard Calfee, Jerry Davis, Pete Donofrio, Haydon Harrison, Brian Heaton, George List, Gordon Lucas, Phil Michaud, George Sawyer, and Gene Sing.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

One guest attended by Zoom, Eli Carter-Williamson. This was Eli's first meeting.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

John Wallis made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Alan Bradley and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report. Tom Garren made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by John Wallis and passed unanimously.

6. Communications with the Club

- a. Richard Calfee reported he had talked to George Buchanan. He has an HO layout and equipment that he is willing to donate to the Club if the buyer of his house does not want the setup. Mike Keelean and Dan Egy have inspected the layout.
- b. Brian Heaton reported that he has shared the information of our Open House with a local school.
- c. Ted Kunstling reported that we have a lot of activity on Facebook.

7. Show and Tell

- a. Randy Foulke shared an electric railroad lantern once owned and used by his father-in-law. He shared that the battery was changed before every run to assure the lantern would work if needed. Each crew member was assigned a lantern.
- b. Ken Howard shared a Southern Railway PS4 telephone that has been donated to the Club by Ralph James.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Clif Kelly reported the new fiscal year begins June 1st. There will be an email sent out in May to remind everyone to pay their dues in June. We have no applications to vote on tonight. Eli Carter-Williamson has applied for membership and tonight is his first meeting. Clif stated that there is no change in the base rate of \$300.00 for Senior membership dues for FY 2024-2025.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. Facilities

Collin Martinko reported that the table tops have been cleaned in both the Crew Lounge and the Library. It is important that this process be done regularly.

John Spach asked members to take food and food containers home to lessen the chance of attracting rats, etc. John shared with the audience that we have successfully removed the rat from the ceiling with the help of the exterminator provided by our landlord. We do not want to leave items in the building that attract critters.

Collin Martinko also added that the tree in front of the building has been trimmed.

John Spach also noted that we need to remove the limb from the tree that was used by the rat to access the building.

John Spach also asked that anyone using the shop should return tools and supplies to their proper storage area and use one of our many vacuums to clean up any mess that was made when you used the shop.

Bernie Dawson shared that he has provided a gallon of white glue and two dispenser bottles. Please clean out the small bottles after using them so the glue does not set up in the spouts.

d. Program/Social Committee

John Wallis reported that we have programs lined up through February 2025.

Randy Foulke reported that we have trip planned in May to Rocky Mount to visit the Golden East Club. Also, Randy is still working on the details for a trip to the Amherst show in January of 2025. We will need to know if you want to go by September to be able to get a group rate from Amtrak.

John Wallace noted that next year is the 90th anniversary of the creation of the NMRA. While there will be celebrations throughout the year, the first celebration will be at Amherst.

Also of note, the NMRA takes over Trainfest in Milwaukee in November 2025.

e. Engineering Committee

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported nothing new to report, but work is continuing to improve the layout.

HO – Ken Howard reported that Paul Lebedinsky is working on more permanent framing and support for Mount Witwer. Bob Witwer is working on the track that goes to the coal mine and the logging camp.

John Spach reported that Phil Michaud identified the problem with a switch that has been out of service for some time. The switch now works again.

Ted Kunstling asked as to the location of the sand house in the engine facility.

O Gauge – Mike Keelean reported that the circus train is now running on the layout. Also, the carnival is wired up and operational. The wind turbines are up on the hill and the radio tower is installed, and scenery work continues.

9. Old Business

a. Open House

Clif Kelly reported the Open House will be Saturday from 10:00 until 4:00. All members are asked to participate and help make the event a success. Please bring cookies and/or drinks for refreshments. The Club will furnish ice and water. Members are also reminded to carpool to save most of the parking spaces for our guests.

Randy Foulke reminded the membership the HO layout has specific operating rules for events such as an Open House. We allow only Club-owned equipment to operate during the event. We will also limit access to the back aisle and keep the guests in the main aisle.

Ken Howard stated that the floors need to be vacuumed prior to 10:00 am on Saturday.

b. Spring Show

Bob Witwer reported that staffing for the show is underway. Ticket table sales slots are full as well as raffle ticket sales spots are covered. We particularly need help loading the truck at the Clubhouse on Thursday night, unloading the truck Friday morning, as well as loading the truck again on Sunday afternoon, and unloading the truck Sunday evening. We also need help manning the Club table on Sunday. Please make every effort to help on these tasks.

Bob also reported that, as of today, we had no Boy Scouts signed up to be porters. Club members must be ready to step up and perform this task if the situation does not change.

Randy Foulke stated that he will investigate takeout meals from Old Tim Barbeque. If possible he will take orders for lunch on Friday, set up day.

c. Rules Book

Randy Foulke has accelerated the creation of materials needed for member orientation. This information will be available for use well ahead of the complete manual.

d. Bylaws Update

Alan Bradley performed a first reading of the proposed changes to the Club bylaws. Prior to the May Membership meeting, a full copy of the bylaws will be emailed to all members. At the May Membership meeting Alan will again read the proposed changes. Following this second reading, the Senior members in good standing that are present will be asked to vote on the changes.

e. Nominating Committee

Bob Witwer gave the report from the Nominating committee. The slate of officers proposed are as follows:

- President – John Spach
- Vice President – Ken Howard
- Secretary – Tom Garren
- Treasurer – Phil Michaud
- At Large Board Member – Richard Calfee
- At Large Board Member – George Sawyer

There were no additional nominations from the floor. Bob Witwer made a motion to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously.

Bob Witwer also made a motion to accept the slate of nominees as our officers for fiscal year 2024-2025, beginning on June 1st, 2024. The motion was seconded by Alan Bradley and passed unanimously.

f. Misc. Questions

Richard Calfee asked how we get a receipt for dues payment next year. Both credit card and cash payment.

John Spach stated that prior to June 1st a communication will be sent out to the membership outlining the procedures for paying dues and getting a receipt.

Also, John announced that we will have membership cards next year. A card will be issued once you have paid your dues. Additionally, we are working to develop sponsorship programs with local hobby shops that include member discounts. The membership cards will be a way to prove membership and qualify for the discount.

10. New Business

1. NRV Paint Scheme

Randy Foulke and Jake Forbes presented proposed paint schemes for NRV diesels in the modern era. The schemes features a maroon and black paint scheme with lettering adjusted to fit the contours of the various locomotive models.

b. Misc. Questions

Don Weaver inquired as to the price of a locker for next year. Locker rentals remain at \$50.00 as they were this year.

The O-gauge circus train is very fragile. It is requested that only Senior members should run this train.

Don also verified that the Open House is from 10:00 – 4:00 on Saturday. He also stated that we need someone to run all of the layouts during the Open House.

11. Program

Larry Pearlman presented a program on the rules of railroad photography and how breaking these rules can create some good pictures.

12. Good and Welfare of the Club

Darrell Dennis reported that he is doing better and could attend tonight's meeting.

Tom Garren reported that Joe Scales had been in the hospital for a number of days. He is now home and resting to regain his strength. Jerry Davis commented that he had talked to Joe on Wednesday, and he sounds better. This is good news.

13. Adjournment

Larry Pearlman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by John Wallis and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.