

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of August 15, 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, Ely Carter-Willamson, Tom Charnley, Bernie Dawson, Pete Donofrio, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Brian Heaton, Mike Hinman, Ken Howard, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, Chuck Larnerd, George Lasley, Paul Lebiezinski, Mike Marsh, Don McPherson, John Mezera, Schaefer O'Neill, Larry Pearlman, Greg Rehe, George Sawyer, Jim Smith, John Spach, Elliot Susseles, John Wallis, Don Weaver, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom were Ed Bottum, Jerry Davis, and Mike Poulin.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

There were no guests in attendance this evening.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

5. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report. Members were reminded that if you use the credit card machine to make a purchase, put a copy of the receipt in the black box in the Library. Also, we should not be charging less than five dollars on a credit card. If buying a drink, put in an IOU and settle up later. Schaefer also reported that our Federal taxes have been filed. John Wallis made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

6. Show and Tell

There were no items for Show and Tell this evening.

7. Communications with the Club

Mike Hinman reported talking to a Brenda Basik who ultimately brought an HO donation to the Club.

Ken Howard reported he is trying to contact two different people with possible donations. One is a box of parts and the second a partial layout. Since he has been unsuccessful by phone, he will send them both an email. At this time, Ken has no specifics on the content of these two possible donations.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

John Spach reported that we now have 96 paying members.

Clif Kelly reported that we have one application for a father and son team for consideration next month. Clif also reported that he is beginning to contact people on our mailing list that have previously shown an interest in the Club. This will be an ongoing activity to try to recruit more members and clean up the list at the same time.

George Lasley requested a copy of the roster be distributed to the members. Tom Garren stated that plans are to make such a distribution in the near future with limited fields of information given out. This approach seemed to satisfy those present.

Another concern was giving the members a chance to opt out of having their information on the list. Tom Garren will send out an email to the membership early next week and give members until the next Board meeting, September 9th, to opt out.

There was also concern expressed about emailing the roster out. That being said, plans are now to have the list available in hard copy format at the Club. This means that members wanting a copy of the roster will have to come to the Club to pick it up.

b. Ways and Means

The second reading of the proposed Bylaws revisions was presented by Ken Howard and John Wallis. They noted that comments had been received from a few people. Each person that sent in comments received an answer from the Bylaws committee. After additional discussion and comments, the vote was held. The Bylaws revisions passed as presented.

George Sawyer commented that the Club should thank the members of the Bylaws committee for their hard work. The members agreed with their applause.

Bernie Dawson asked if this committee is a standing committee. John Spach stated that the Bylaws committee is a subcommittee of the Ways and Means committee and will continue to work.

Ken Howard stated that the next work for the committee will be to clean up the constitution. Ken also stated that members could send comments for further revisions for the bylaws to any of the committee members for further study. The committee members are Alan Bradley, Ken Howard, and John Wallis.

c. House

John Spach reported that the tree should be taken down tomorrow by a team hired by our landlord.

Also, we continue to make improvements to our AV setup. The camera is now mounted on top of the TV requiring much less work to set up for a meeting and

offering the best view of the Crew Lounge. Our next steps will be to improve the cabling of the equipment.

We now have five security cameras covering all major layout rooms and an outdoor camera covering the outdoor storage rooms. If a member notices something that needs to be reviewed, they should contact a member of the Security committee, Richard Calfee, Bernie Dawson, and Mike Hinman. These people can review the footage to see what caused the concern.

Don Weaver asked if Senior members can still access the back storage area. The answer is yes.

Wayne Aiken asked if the projector was going to go away. John Spach answered that we are keeping both the projector and the screen as back up for the TV, or for other uses such as to project slides if needed in the future.

d. Engineering Committee

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported that the N scale team is moving forward with the addition of scenery on the main N scale layout. They are also working on the two T Trak modules. They are trying to create a scene of an Eastern North Carolina tobacco farm. They are currently looking for N scale tobacco plants. Other supplies needed to develop these modules are being ordered.

HO – Ken Howard reminded everyone that the next HO committee meeting will be on Sunday, August 18th at 1:00 pm. The main topic for discussion is how to get trains in and out of the yard on Module 4.

Several people have been working on the HO layout recently; Pete Donofrio, Paul Lebidzinski, and Milo Poulin have made considerable progress on their areas. Thanks for their work.

S gauge – John Spach reported that George List continues to repair engines and we now have both AC and DC available for the S gauge layout.

G gauge- John Spach reported that we have several power taps to be installed on the layout.

O gauge – George Sawyer stated that conventional control is fine on the O gauge layout. They are having trouble making DCS and Legacy work together. George is waiting on Ralph James to help with this project.

Elliot Susseles wanted to know if there are O gauge committee meetings. There is nothing set up at this time, but maybe on a Wednesday after breakfast.

George Sawyer noted problems with Duracell batteries. He also noted that several batteries stored at the Club need be discarded. George Lasley stated that the folks on the OGR forum discourage the use of Duracell batteries due to leakage.

e. Program Committee

John Wallis reported that we have volunteers for programs through July of 2025.

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reviewed details of the September 28th trip to Greensboro. We need at least fifteen people going to get a discount price from Amtrak. The minimum number has been more than met. The trip will include seeing two model layouts, an NRHS museum, and the actual station. The train will leave the Cary station at 10:12 am and return around 5:20 pm.

Randy Foulke is still working on the details for the possible trip to Amherst in January. His biggest concern now is ground transportation for the group while in Amherst. More details on this trip later.

9. Old Business

a. Fall Show

Bob Witwer stated that the show is sold out, and we are developing a waiting list.

We have six layouts confirmed to display on the show floor with two more layouts in the lobby.

A QR code has been added to our flyers for ordering online advance tickets. A link will also be added to facilitate the purchase of online advance tickets.

We are looking for sponsors for the show. Don Tichy has agreed to be a sponsor this year and is sending items to be used for door prizes. Greg Rehe is preparing poster boards on which we will display logos from our sponsors. These boards will be displayed both in the lobby and on the show floor. We also plan on giving vendors that are sponsors credit over the PA system and remind attendees to stop by their tables. This may include a "blue light special" if we can work out those details.

A new feature of the show this year is called Train Talk. A table and chairs will be set up where a volunteer, such as a Club member or vendor, will lead a discussion on some facet of model railroading or trains or the Club for 30 to 45 minutes. These presentations will occur several times during the day on both Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers are needed for this feature. Please let Bob know if you are interested in leading a discussion.

We are in discussions with our shirt vendor about the possibility of creating a 40th anniversary tee shirt for this year's show. The details of this project are still being worked out.

All members of the Club are requested to spread the word about the show any way you can to help make it a big success. We need to leverage all forms of advertising and social media that we can to help grow the show. Please let Bob know if you have any thoughts on this or would like to help.

Bernie Dawson is beginning to populate the crew scheduled for the show. Expect a call from Bernie to help get you signed up for work at the show.

b. Shirts

John Spach announced that Collin Martinko is working on a shirt order in the near future. If you have interest in an item, please go ahead and contact Collin directly.

Randy Foulke added that we are also working on a Club tee shirt to along with our other shirts. George Sawyer requests 100% cotton and possibly with a pocket. Ted Kunstling asked if we could obtain a patch that can be sewn to an existing garment.

c. Member Handbook

Randy Foulke reported that we expect to have the Member Handbook ready to distribute in the next sixty days. At that time most of the sections will be completed with a few sections still under development. The most significant sections will be complete and the book can be of use to the members.

10. New Business

a. Norfolk Southern

George Lasley reminded everyone that 42 years ago the Southern and the Norfolk and Western ceased to exist and became the Norfolk Southern.

b. Magazines

George Lasley informed the membership that as a result of the publishers changing their return policy, Nick's Trains will be ordering significantly fewer magazines than in the past. This will begin effective September first.

11. Program

Bernie Dawson gave a presentation on the Peter Witt trolley cars.

12. Good and Welfare of the Club

It was noted that Dan Egy is back running trains at the Club.

13. Adjournment

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.