

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”**

OK - Start the clock - The countdown to our 40th Annual Fall Train Show has begun. We are down to the short strokes now, with less than a month to go. Everyone has been busy working on details and prepping for our biggest ever event. Yes, even though we will be in the Expo Building, where space is limited, we are gearing up for this to be the biggest, baddest, spectacular event we've ever had. Bob Witwer has done an amazing job in putting this together, and he has had even more amazing support from all of you. Thanks to all for what you have done so far, but don't stop now, let's take this thing on to final glory.

Wow, did I write that?

Anyway, lots to still do and more help needed. Thanks in advance for everything you are doing. Aside from all that, this has been a busy month. We had a successful Fall Open House, with many visitors and at least 2 new member applications. Nice work.

We are also hosting members of the NMRA who will be in town for their convention. It should be a nice opportunity for our members to rub elbows with other model railroad enthusiasts. Remember, one of the founding principles of our Club is to promote membership in the NMRA, too. We do have a large portion of our Club who are also NMRA members.

We are in need of 2 volunteers to serve as facilities chairs: one for inside and one for outside the building. Duties are to keep the place clean and neat. That does not mean doing it all yourself. What is needed are 2 people who will organize a crew to keep things in good condition on a regular basis. Please contact me as soon as possible. Remember this is a Railroad Club, so if there are no "volunteers", someone will be "appointed" to take on the tasks.

Enough for now – Let's go run Trains - All Aboard

**John Spach, President**

## **Amherst Model Railroad Show**

**January 25 & 26, 2025**

**West Springfield, MA**

**by Randy Foulke**

The Railroad Hobby Show sponsored by the Amherst Railway Society will occur January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in West Springfield, Massachusetts. The show is the largest model railroad hobby show in North America. It occupies 350,000 square feet in the Eastern States Exposition Center. The January 2024 show set a one-day attendance record on Saturday of over 17,000 people. Many manufacturers will attend, with many showing off new releases for 2025. Up to 50 operating layouts may be present. Show hours will be 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday.

The committee has determined that Amtrak travel as single group is not feasible because:

1. The Amtrak Silver Star will be discontinued in November 2024. It will be replaced by the Floridian train from Chicago to Miami routed through Washington, DC. The new routing will take 15+ hours from Cary to the Hartford, CT/West Springfield, MA area, including a 2+ hour transfer in DC. Arrival will be at midnight, and the return trip will require boarding at 5:00 AM.
2. Rental vehicles are not available at the Amtrak station, especially late night.

Instead, Schaeffer O'Neill and I are planning to drive to the West Springfield, MA area. If others want to carpool with us, you are welcome. If there is enough interest, vans can be rented in the Raleigh Area. The drive, including stops, is 10+ hours. We plan to leave very early Friday morning, January 24<sup>th</sup> and return Monday morning, January 27<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be considerably less than taking the train.

In lieu of driving, Bradley International Airport (Hartford, CT) is convenient and flights are relatively inexpensive. Breeze Airways has a non-stop from RDU. Southwest, American, United, and Delta have one-stop flights. Depending on where we stay, Schaeffer and I can pick you up at the airport, or you can catch a shuttle bus if we stay at a nearby hotel. If anyone still wants to have the train experience, Schaeffer and I can pick you up at the train station. You should depart the train at the Windsor Locks, CT station.

All attendees should stay at the same hotel to make travel to the model railroad show and dinner easy and convenient. Anyone interested in going to the Amherst Model Railroad Show should let me know by early December (I will establish a firm date later). If we have enough interest, I may be able to get a group rate at a hotel.

## **Honoring Tom Tiemann**

As you remember, Tom Tiemann passed away in late December 2023. His widow Eileen offered his train layout to NRV, and the Club gladly accepted her generous offer. On September 22, 2024, ten Club members travelled to Carrboro to box up Tom's rolling stock, buildings, and

track for reuse by the Club. Additionally, the layout bench work was dismantled and disposed of and the attic cleaned up. Special thanks to Kevin Harrington for using his truck to dispose of non-salvageable materials. Some of the tools, books, pictures, and materials that Tom was using were also recovered for use at the Clubhouse.

The Club extends its sincerest thanks to Eileen, and to the members of the crew who helped in disposition of Tom's train layout. The following Club members contributed to the effort:

Wayne Aiken, Jake Forbes, Tom Garren, Kevin Harrington, Ken Howard, Greg Rehe, George Sawyer, Adam Servas, Allan Servas, and Eli Carter-Williamson.



Tom's layout was constructed in the third floor attic around the stairwell and utilities. This section was his yard and industrial area.



Tom had a complete loop around the chimney vent structure and was in the process of adding a second level. (Photos by Ken Howard)

## Greensboro Rail Trip

On September 28<sup>th</sup> members of the Club rode the Piedmont from Cary to Greensboro to visit the Carolina Model Railroaders' layouts, the NRHA museum, and the restored Southern depot. The group enjoyed lunch in downtown Natty Greene's restaurant.



Waiting for the train in the Cary Amtrak depot.



NC DOT 103 leads the Piedmont into Cary.



Arrival at Greensboro.



View of downtown from the depot.



What we went to see.



Bell from the old 97.



The central portion of the HO layout.



Detail of the yard shown in photo to the left.



Ralph James contemplating the operation.



Detail of the stone quarry.



Brennan Smith and other members taking a break in the CMR library.



Overview of the N scale layout.



Restored interior of the Greensboro Depot.



Preserved Southern Railway schedule.



Preserved Southern Railway System route map in the Greensboro depot. (Photos by Ken Howard)

**Many thanks:** to the members of Carolina Model Railroaders who hosted and gave us great guided tours of their HO and N scale layouts and the National Railway Historical Society Museum. We greatly appreciated their time and efforts. The visit was thoroughly enjoyable, and we always come away from touring other clubs with modelling and operational ideas.

Those participating from NRV were Wayne Aiken, Liam Bryant, Bill Butler, Tom Charnley, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Haydon Harrison, Bryan Heaton, Ken Howard, Ralph James, Mike Johns, John Kuchnia, Don McPherson, Lou (Doc) Monville, Milo Poulin, Brennan and Paul Smith, James and Teresa Smith, Brylan Teague, Alec Urban, and Bob Witwer.

## Upcoming Events

**October 28, 2024:** CSRRC Membership Meeting at the Southbound Sandwich Shop. The meeting will feature the first public showing of CSRRC member Steve Hutchison's "Trains and Things in Black and White" chronicling Steve's black and white railroad photography from the past 50 years.

**November 23-24, 2024:** "Trainfest" at the Baird Center, Milwaukee, WI. Largest operating model railroad show in America.

## October 5<sup>th</sup> Open House

by  
Tom Garren

The Club held its Fall Open House on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Attendance was light, but very positive. We had thirty-two guests come to the Open House. We have two solid applications in the works. Overall, a successful event.

We had good support from 24 members for the event. Those participating were: Ed Bottum, Bernie Dawson, Rick Calfee, Ely Carter-Williamson, Dan Egy, Sam Ely, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Jimmy Hall, Brian Heaton, Mike Hinman, Mike Johns, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, Paul Lebedinski, George List, Schaefer O'Neill, Don McPherson, Larry Pearlman, John Spach, Elliot Susseles, Alec Urban, Don Weaver, and Bob Witwer. The pictures show Bob Witwer and Mike Johns with two different groups of guests.



## Real Railroads

**Ken Howard** contributed the photos below from his September/October road trip through West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.



Baltimore & Ohio EMD F7A on Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad in Romney, WV.



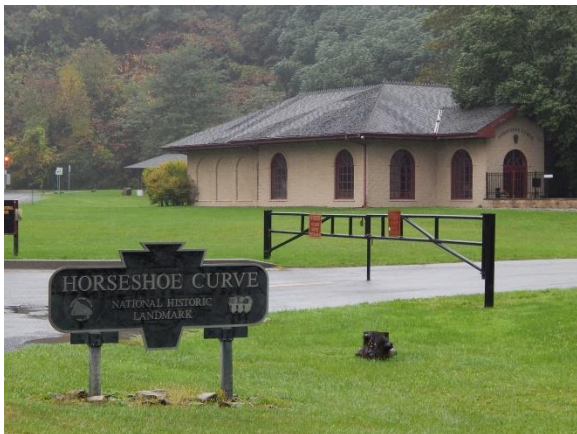
Western Maryland Scenic Railway tourist train arriving in Cumberland, MD.



Lehigh Valley SW900m number 126 pulls tourist trains for the Everett Railroad in Holidaysburg, PA.



Everett Railroad is also a Class III common carrier. Here EMD GP16 number 1712 hauls freight out of Duncansville, PA.



Horseshoe Curve National Historic Landmark in Altoona, PA. Only open four days a week so plan ahead.



Sperry Rail Service Car 135 at the Danbury Railway Museum in Danbury, CT.





Lift bridge for the Cape Cod Railroad over the Cape Cod Canal. Highway bridge in the background at Buzzards Bay, MA.



Derail switch to prevent entry when the bridge is raised. Better derailed than submerged in the canal.



New Haven EMD FL9 at Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum in Lenox, MA



Conrail SW9 number 9128 at Lennox, MA.



New Haven Budd RDC number 140, the Roger Williams Train, leased to the museum by Budd RDC Foundation and operated as a tourist train by Berkshire Scenic Valley Railway, Lennox, MA.



Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum EMD SW8 number 8619 ready to take a tourist run out of the depot at Adams, MA.

## Neat Links

**Tom Garren** provided a number of links to videos and the following text showing the disaster that hurricane Helene unleashed on the western part of the state.

“We have not seen anything close to this damage in 108 years. My maternal grandfather used to talk about the 1916 flood. This one is worse. Another interesting thing about this area: it sits atop of the Eastern Continental Divide. The Broad River (Chimney Rock, Lake Lure) and the Green River (Lake Adger) flow east. The French Broad River and the Pigeon River and their tributaries flow west. Hendersonville, Asheville, Marshall, and Hot Springs are all on the west side of the eastern Continental Divide.

The first link shows destruction in Chimney Rock and Lake Lure. Chimney Rock is about 15 miles from where I grew up on the farm we sold two years ago. I believe the second dam and power house shown is at Lake Adger near Mill Spring, NC. The road in front of it, with the bridge washed out at each end, is on Highway 9.

[Chimney Rock, NC DESTROYED By Massive Hurricane Helene Flood 9/29/2024 - YouTube](#)

This speaks for itself. Note the railroad tracks.

[Flood Aftermath | Marshall, NC 2024 | Tropical Storm Helene | Aerial Drone Footage - YouTube](#)

Hot Springs is the next town down the French Broad River from Marshall. I used to work some over there when we put computers in our service and later line trucks. There were coverage issues in Hot Springs because it is in a deep valley and very remote.

[Hot Springs, North Carolina Flooding Drone Video \(Hurricane Helene\) - YouTube](#)

An additional link is from Channel 4 in Greenville, SC. Some of the locations listed are wrong. Once again the power house is at Lake Adger not at Bat Cave.”

[Drone Video: Floods wipe out homes & bridge in Bat Cave, Asheville River Arts District devastated - YouTube](#)

## Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

October General Membership Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Wayne Aiken will present a program on Using the NRV Library. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

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

**October 18, 2024: NRV OPEN HOUSE for NMRA/MER Convention** will be held from 10 am to 2 pm at the Clubhouse. Please come and meet our visitors and run the layouts.

October HO Committee Meeting: The committee will meet on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm in the Clubhouse.

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 photos of Club activities to Brian Heaton, Webmaster, at [bheaton1@gmail.com](mailto:bheaton1@gmail.com), so he can maintain and update our website. Also, don't forget to send your material, especially videos, to Ted Kunstling at [trkunstling@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:klhowardjr@aol.com).

## **Minutes of Membership, Board, HO, and N Committee's Meetings**

Minutes of Board of Governors, Membership, and HO and N 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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### OTHER KEY POSITIONS

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**WEB SITE** [www.nrvclub.net](http://www.nrvclub.net)