

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of January 16, 2025

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 George Sawyer.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance and on Zoom

Members attending in person were Alan Bradley, Ely Carter-Williamson, Bernie Dawson, Pete Donofrio, Tom Garren, Mike Hinman, Ken Howard, Chris Kehoe, Ted Kunstling, Chuck Larnerd, Larry Martin, Don McPherson, John Mezera, Schaefer O'Neill, Larry Pearlman, Greg Rehe, George Sawyer, Alan Servas, James Smith, John Spach, John Wallis, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom were Ed Bottum, Liam Bryant, Randy Foulke, Collin Martinko, Milo Poulin, Gerald Powell, Robert Spohr, and Elliot Susseles.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

We had four guests tonight. Adam McDonald, Alex Griswold, Bill Handley, and Rich Morrello. Adam and Alex are eligible for membership tonight. Bill is presenting the program, and this is the first meeting for Rich Morrello.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

5. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report. We also had a short discussion about our credit card machines. John Wallis made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by George Sawyer and passed unanimously.

6. Show and Tell

Ely Carter-Williamson showed a "new" old computer he has obtained and briefly discussed the SCARM software he uses to design layouts. He is developing a plan for the N scale layout that will be raffled at the Spring show.

Bob Witwer presented a scratch-built trestle he has constructed.

Don McPherson showed an HO model of Sante Fe 1624, an early 2-10-2.

7. Communications with the Club

Mike Hinman reported that the Durham Library would like to talk to us about us presenting a program for them on model railroading.

Mike also reported we have had a call from someone possibly wanting to make a donation of doll houses to the Club.

Schaefer O'Neill reported that the Greensboro club had a spot on WRAL recently.

Tom Garren reported he had spoken with Joe Balint of Sipping and Switching. Joe would like to speak to someone on the Show committee concerning his group setting up at the Fall show. Bob Witwer will handle this communication.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Tom Garren reported in the absence of Clif Kelly that we have two applicants eligible for membership tonight. Adam McDonald has applied for Youth membership. Alex Griswold has applied for Associate membership. George Sawyer made a motion to accept Adam and Alex as members of the Club. The motion was seconded by Ely Carter-Williamson and passed unanimously.

b. Ways and Means

John Reported that they have meetings set up to be begin work on the Club budget.

c. House

Mike Hinman gathered contact information for people willing to participate in an upcoming work session to clean up vines and growth around the building. Mike will communicate with those on the list when he identifies a specific time to do the work.

Mike also noted that we have a new high-tech magnifier in the Shop. Also, the coat rack behind the door to the HO/N layout room has been cleaned out and is available for use.

John Spach noted that we still have problem people leaving food containers in the trash cans. Members are reminded to take all food containers with them when they leave the building. It would be even better to take the entire bag of trash home and dispose of it as we do not have trash pickup at the Club.

d. Engineering Committee

N scale – Bernie Dawson reported the permanent N scale layout is currently in a holding pattern while the N scale team works on the N scale raffle layout for the May show. The committee is in the process of finalizing the plan for the layout. Once the N scale team has the track installed, they will be looking for help with the scenery. Collin Martinko volunteered to help with the scenery. The group is also still working on their T Trak modules. An inventory of N scale equipment is underway.

HO scale – Ken Howard reported that Mt. Witwer is now snow capped and needs some earth tones applied to it. Bob Witwer is putting the switch machines on the lumber camp. The new tunnel portal is being printed for the area near the cement

plant. Module 4 now has access from the makeup yard to Mains 3 and 4. Chuck Larnerd and Mike Hinman have agreed to tweak the trackwork on Module 4 to improve the operation of that module. The corner of Module 4 will become a facility for servicing diesel locomotives. This will include a shop, fueling and sand facilities. Scenery is being applied to the Main 4 extension.

We are looking for the exposed tank Heinz pickle car.

S scale – John Spach reported that George List is keeping the S scale layout running well.

O gauge – George Sawyer reported that a couple of power feeds on loop one of the O gauge layout have been fixed. There are some other wiring and control system issues that need to be addressed on the layout.

G scale – Alan Servas reported he is looking for a buyer for the G scale track cleaning unit that we have.

Alan also mentioned that it would be nice to have open tables available in the HO room near the staging tracks. These tables could hold equipment and boxes while the owner gets the units transferred to the layout. Ken Howard replied that this will be addressed in the upcoming HO committee meeting. The tables are to be left clean when not being used during work sessions so that members can better utilize the staging tracks.

e. Program Committee

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

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reported six people have signed up to go on the non-Club sanctioned trip to Amherst. They will leave on January 24th and return on January 27th.

Randy is still working on a trip to Concord to the Lionel facility sometime in the first quarter.

John Wallis reported that the second Club dinner has been set for Wednesday, January 29th at 6:00 pm at the Golden Corral on Grenell at the intersection of S. Wilmington Street and Tryon Road. Everyone will pay their own way; we will be in the private room. After some discussion it was decided to have a Yankee Swap for a post seasonal gift exchange.

9. Old Business

a. Upcoming Shows

The Club will once again participate in two regional shows.

Thomasville will occur on February 8th.

Mebane will occur on March 8th.

Ken Howard gathered a list of volunteers. If you would like to help out with either show, please let Ken know.

b. Charity Donation

John Spach announced that, as is our custom, the Club will accept donations from the membership this month to be sent to two charities. The Club will match the first \$500.00. It is suggested that we might consider charities that have been active in helping with the hurricane recovery in Western North Carolina.

After a discussion, it was decided to split the proceeds between Samaritan's Purse and Food Connection. George Sawyer made a motion to make the donation to these two organizations. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

We raised almost \$1,200.00 for the donation.

c. Hot Water

Ken Howard reported that the company for whom Mike Marsh works does not do this type of work. We will need to talk to the landlord and get bids from some plumbers before proceeding.

d. Apparel Update

Randy Foulke reported that he has placed the order for hats with our vendor. He plans on talking to the vendor while at Amherst about some additional clothing items.

10. New Business

Meeting Times

Mike Hinman asked the membership to give some thought to changing the time of the Membership meetings. He cited traffic and not driving at night as reasons for the change. Mike suggested either Saturday or Sunday afternoon for consideration. No action was taken on this proposal at this time. We will discuss further next month. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Mike Hinman.

11. Program

Bill Handley presented a program on weathering with acrylics.

12. Adjournment

Mike Hinman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.