

The

Whistle



Post

Official Newsletter of the

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

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Phone: 919-400-5570

“All Aboard”

Well, hello again and Happy Valentine’s Day. Hope you and your special someone had a great day.

Here at the Club we are really busy. There are projects going on everywhere. In the Shop there is the N scale group’s layout for the Spring Show raffle. Yes, its Show time again. Bob has everyone working on plans and details for the Spring event. Make sure you sign up for your time contributions to the Show. Bernie will be more than glad to help you select times and events where you can help.

In the layout room, there are numerous projects going on the HO layout from Mount Witwer through the Tiemann Tunnel and on through the new yards. A new diesel shop, coal yard, logging camp, rock quarry, power plant, and many industrial and village situations are growing. There are projects of all kinds and lots and lots of time and effort being given freely. Gentlemen - it is greatly appreciated. Please keep it up. Your work looks great.

We also had a successful trip to the Thomasville show. Our team of sellers did their usual great job and had a great time doing it. If you have not been on one of these ventures, you need to give it a try. See Ken Howard for details on future events.

Oh! Don’t let me forget to mention a group of guys went to the Amherst, Massachusetts Train Fest. Word is they had a great time and came home with some great stuff.

Lots of things do around the Club. Check it out – in person.

Train’s ready – All Aboard

John Spach, President

Second Annual Club Dinner Wednesday, January 29, 2025 - 6:00pm

The second annual NRV Club dinner was held at the Golden Corral restaurant in Raleigh. Approximately 30 members, spouses, and significant others attended the event. We dined in a separate room adjacent to the main dining area. Dinner selections were very good and covered a wide range of tastes and cuisines.

After dinner, John Wallis lead the assembled multitude in a gift exchange that was spirited at times, and resulted in many members taking home some nice railroad related gifts. Congratulations to the members of the Social Committee for staging an enjoyable evening.

Mike's Trains Trackside Train Day," February 8th

Thanks to the crew who packed up and hauled five tables worth of merchandise to the Thomasville Show and sold a bunch of stuff for the benefit of the Club: Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, Schaefer O'Neil, George Sawyer, and Don Weaver. Our merchandise was well received and a number of vendors and attendees were very complimentary of our Fall Show. In addition to the successful sales job, the participants enjoyed the show and each other's company.



Tom Garren manning the cash box and HO car sales display (photo by Ken Howard).



Tom Garren, Mike Keelean, and Don Weaver working at sales (photo by Ken Howard).

Breakfast at Barry's, February 5th

Here's what you're missing if you aren't attending the Club's Wednesday breakfast socials at Barry's Café. The photos were shot by **John Mezera** on February 5, 2025 with 18 members in attendance. If you haven't been to a breakfast, please come and join us. There is room for at least another 15 members to be seated in our meeting room.



Amherst Train Show

John Mezera submitted the following photos from the January 25-26 show in West Springfield, MA. Attendees from Raleigh include Randy Foulke, Alan Bradley, Bob Witwer, Jim Smith, Greg and Susan Rehe, Schaefer O'Neil, and Doc Lou Monville.



S Gauge Happenings

George List reports two new acquisitions to the S gauge inventory:

First is a Santa Fe Alco PA. This unit is wired AC and runs great. It is on the shelf and available if anyone wants to run it.

Second is a Union Pacific 4-8-4. This is the largest locomotive that Gilbert made in the American Flyer S gauge line in the late 1940s. It was available in both AC and DC versions. The one we have acquired is a DC.



HO Layout Goings On

Two work sessions were held despite the snowy and cold weather that limited attendance. Several objectives were accomplished in spite of the inclemency. The piles of cardboard and foam scraps were removed from under the layout and discarded. Trees were salvaged from the model rock formations and consolidated with other vegetation into a single location. Track and switches were examined, sorted, and classified as worthy of sale, reuse, or disposal. The back end of the layout room was vacuumed, and preparations were laid for the next work session that will tackle scenic materials and buildings that remain under the layout.

The next work session is scheduled for Saturday, March 1st at 1 pm.

Model Railroads

Scottsdale, Arizona hosts the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park. The principal layouts are in a single large hall and include major O, N, and HO. Smaller G, S, and Z layouts are also present in the center. The sheer size is enough to cause a severe case of building envy. The individual layouts are built and operated by independent model railroad clubs. The park also hosts static displays of a Magma Copper Railway steam engine, a Santa Fe baggage car, and the Roald Amundsen Presidential Pullman car.



Model railroad displays at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, Scottsdale, AZ (photo by Ken Howard).

Real Railroads

Collin Martinko sent in the following photos and description: CSX is starting a major maintenance project on the Norlina Subdivision north of Raleigh - new ballast, tie replacement, etc. Here are two of the three Herzog rock trains they've run north of Raleigh to dump new ballast. Pretty cool to see since wide cab engines usually don't run up here.





Editor's Note: For you locomotive aficionados, the CSX units in the photos include #16 (GE CW44AC), #542 (GE CW44AH), #714 (GE ES44AH), and #3276 (GE ET44AH).

Neat Links

Ted Kunstling recommends the following link because “we deal with so much old rolling stock.”

[Upgrade old freight cars - Trains](#)

Tom Magnani passed along the following link from **Jack Dziadul (cpd13)**: Sanford railroad history to current date.

[Atlantic and Western Railway - WVNC Rails](#)

Tom Magnani passed along the following link from **Jack Dziadul (cpd13)** about a New Tracks Modeling newsletter.

https://newtracksmodeling.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/1-NTM_Observations_2_2025-Final-1.pdf

Tom Magnani passed along the following link from **Dan Willey** via **Fred Krauss**: Rails to Trails of 30 mile Saluda Grade rail right-of-way.

[Dozens of Carolinians are suing the federal government because of the Saluda Grade - YouTube](#)

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

February General Membership Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Ken Howard will present a program on “Random and non-Random Wanderings in Search of Railroad Action and Oddities.” Attendance via Zoom is optional.

March HO Committee Work Day: The next workday will be on Saturday, March 1st at 1:00 pm in the Clubhouse. Work will focus on cleanup under the layout and organization of scenic materials and buildings into coherent storage formats.

March Board of Governors Meeting: The next BoG meeting will be held at the Clubhouse on Monday, March 3rd at 7:00 pm. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

Mebane Train Show: “The Mebane Train Display,” 10th Annual Train Show, Saturday, March 8, from 9 am to 2 pm. The Club has reserved six tables for sales. If you would like to volunteer to work at our tables, please contact Ken Howard. Otherwise, we’ll hope to see you and your wallets at the show. A food truck has been added to the show this year.

March HO Committee Meeting: The next meeting will be on Sunday, March 16th at 1:00 pm in the Clubhouse.

March N Scale Committee Meeting: The N Scale Committee will meet on March 15th at 10:00 am 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, 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 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.

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://nrclub.net/meeting-minutes/>

NRV Whistle Post
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First Class

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