

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”

Greetings one and all. Spring’s almost here, and we are all looking forward to the warmth and activities to come. I thought it would be appropriate to share a little story with you all, as I’m sure we can all learn something from it.

Did You Know

This is a story about 4 people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody**, and **Nobody**.

There was an important job to be done, and **Everybody** was asked to do it.

Everybody was sure that **Somebody** would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but **Nobody** did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was **Everybody**’s job.

Everybody thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn’t do it.

It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

I hope the message is clear.

Well this time the cruise ship is leaving the pier, and I’m on it – see you all in a bit.

All Aboard

John Spach, President

Responsible Adults Wanted

There have been two major breaches of Club security in the first 10 days of March. The first breach involved leaving the outside Member storage room unlocked with the lights on. The second breach was discovered on the morning of March 10th when the back door into the O gauge layout room was left unlocked overnight. **It is the responsibility of the last Senior Member leaving the building to assure that ALL doors are secured. Please take that responsibility seriously!**

Operating Session at Ken Reising's Layout

Ken Reising hosted an operating session on his HO Southern Pacific railroad on February 25th. Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, John Spach, and Bob Witwer met with Ken for breakfast at Jones Café in Clayton followed by mainline, local, and switching operations.



Freight traffic departs Watsonville Junction for San Jose yard (photo by Ken Howard).



Randy Foulke acting as dispatcher to throw main line switches (photo by Ken Howard).



Through passenger train in Watsonville Junction on route to Los Angeles (photo by Ken Howard).



Tom Garren, Ken Reising, and John Spach discussing operations through the helix (photo by Ken Howard).

Inflation Strikes NRV

If you hadn't noticed, the price of soda has risen along with groceries in general. Despite trying to purchase on-sale beverages, the Club has been losing money on each can sold. As a result, the Board of Governors' approved a price increase from 50 cents to \$1.00 per can effective immediately. New signage reflects the increase.

Despite the sign at the credit card machine requesting minimum purchase of \$5.00, someone has apparently charged their \$1.00 soft drink. Please pay for future soda purchases with **cash only**, as swipe fees make the sale unprofitable. Thanks for your cooperation.

Identification of Personal Rolling Stock

A number of members avail themselves of the Club storage shelves for their personal rolling stock in the HO Layout Room. For those who haven't read the signage, or who are unaware that the shelves are even there, please respect the equipment that is stored there. The Club requests that you do not use other member's equipment without their permission.

To facilitate the security of your equipment, and to assure that anything that gets broken or abused can be reported to the proper person, the Club is requesting that each member select a specific identification code for their rolling stock. Each owner can select his own method of identification, but the simplest approach might be small color paint spots (e.g. red, blue, yellow or red, white, green). A sign-up sheet is available the member's shelves. Please add your identification code to the list.

Ted Kunstling's Home Layout

Ted Kunstling sent in these photos of his new service yard and station at town of Hadnot, NC.





Upcoming Open House – April 4, 2025

Planning for our Spring Open House is under way. Please hold the date open and participate in showing off our Club to the general public. Members are encouraged to run Club trains on any of the layouts. Please leave your personal equipment at home so that it is not exposed to possible damage or removal by our guests. The details of the event will be discussed at the March membership meeting. Please plan to attend.

HO Layout Workday – March 1st

We held a third workday to deal with the chaos beneath the HO layout. This session dealt with removing boxes of track, roadbed, and other out-of-use items to the outside storage rooms.

Of greater significance was the consolidation and sorting of buildings into a coherent and useable set of boxes. If you ever looked under the table, you would have noted buildings sitting on shelves, in boxes (both closed and open), in cabinet draws, and just dispersed on flat surfaces wherever they were available. Ely Carter-Williamson, Tom Garren, Alex Griswold, Ken Howard, Greg Rehe, and Bob Witwer became the Building Subcommittee for the day and classified buildings as keepers, sellers, throwers, or repairers. All but the sellers are back under the layout in drawers or plastic tubs with labels for future use. Thanks guys.

As an extra bonus, all plaster materials are now consolidated on a single cart for ease of use. We discovered that additional plaster cloth may be required for completion of Mount Witwer. To complete the organization of the HO layout, an additional work session may be required to complete sorting, sifting, and organization of scenic materials.

Mebane Train Display Show, March 8th

Thanks to the members who packed up, hauled, sold, repacked, and/or unpacked six tables worth of merchandise to the Mebane Train Display spring show for the benefit of the Club: Wayne Aiken, Ely Carter-Williamson, Tom Garren, Alex Griswold, Ken Howard, Ralph James, Mike Keelean, Don McPherson, Schaefer O'Neill, George Sawyer, Joe Scales, Don Weaver, and Bob Witwer.

In addition to the significant income from sales, the participants enjoyed the show and each other's company. The show also provided NRV with an opportunity to promote out "Spring into Trains" show, make contact with vendors, and generally present the Club to the visitors.



Left to right: Mike Keelean, Ralph James, Schaefer O'Neill, and George Sawyer (photos by Ken Howard).



Left to right: Joe Scales, Tom Garren, John Spach, and Bob Witwer,



O-gauge layout at Mebane Train Display.



No trains under this tree-
They're in it!



Tommy Long train collection.

Railroad Trivia Question from Randy Foulke

During the heyday of passenger trains (1930's through 1950's), how much linen, china, and other equipment was required to outfit a dining car?

(answer can be found on page 9)

Real Railroads

If you missed the February Membership meeting, here are a few of the slides that **Ely Carter-Williamson** presented at Show-and-Tell. Snow action scenes are pretty rare in North Carolina, so enjoy the pictures and Ely's captions.



One of the Piedmont Trains zooms along Hillsborough Street too Raleigh after leaving the Cary Amtrak Station on February 20th.



Amtrak's Floridian Passing through Apex, NC on Thursday February 20th.



CSX L620 gets ready to depart Apex after swapping around some cars. ET44AH 3382 and it's older brother ES44AC 876 are the power.



CSX ET44AC 3417 pulls out with L619 on February 22nd.



Uh Oh, Amtrak's Floridian is having some issues. One of the axles on lead ALC-42 340 fouled up. The trailing P42 not only had to push the lead engine to a nearby siding, but also had to pull the train all the way to Chicago on its own. On the bright side, the Charger received some love from the mayor of Apex on Facebook (1/22/25).



Apex's resident caboose in the cold snow, serving as a reminder of the town's ever increasing roots as a railroad town where the Seaboard Air Line and the Durham & Southern once met. (2/19/25).

Train Ride to Charlotte – February 22, 2025 by Adam Servas

On February 22nd, NRV members Adam Servas, Jake Forbes, Liam Bryant, Thomas Charnley, Alec Urban (with Emily Robinson), and our friends Alex London, Devon Mosley, Hunter Johnson, and Graham Rousseau rode the Amtrak Piedmont to Charlotte and back. Adam took the following images from the trip.



March 2025 General Membership Meeting Presentation Railroad Stations of Chicago - Part One

Chicago, Illinois was the railroad capital of the USA from the 1880's to the 2000's. More Class 1 railroads served Chicago than any other place in the USA. It was the major place where the East met the West. Because of the multitude of Class 1 railroads, six major railroad stations and two minor stations provided intercity train service. The presentation at the March General Membership meeting is titled "Railroad Stations of Chicago, Part 1" and will discuss Dearborn Station, Grand Central Station, Central Station, and Randolph Street Station along with a few suburban stations.

Neat Links

For those of you who are not yet on the email list for **Don & Teri Tichy, Tichy Train Group, Inc.**, here are three links about their factory and business in Burlington, NC.

[LINK FOR FACTORY TOUR](#)

[LINK FOR WEBSITE](#)

[LINK TO SEE NEW PRODUCTS](#)

Tom Magnani passed along the following link from **Rob Rousseau** of the “Flying Scotsman arrives at Nene Valley Railway”.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/ce8mv7x0vd6o>

Tom Magnani passed along the following YouTube link from **Joel McCurry** about a Western North Carolina Presentation about the Clinchfield and Southern Railroads:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPTnt_YoS_8

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

March HO Committee Meeting: The March meeting will be held at 1 pm on March 16th.

March General Membership Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Randy Foulke will present a program titled “Part 1: Railroad Stations of Chicago.” Attendance via Zoom is optional.

April Open House: Our next Open House is scheduled for April 5th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Please plan to attend, run trains, and entertain our guests.

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

April General Membership Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse.

April N Scale Committee Meeting: The N Scale Committee will meet on April 19th at 10:00 am in the Clubhouse.

April HO Committee Meeting: The next meeting will be on Sunday, April 20th at 1:00 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, so he can maintain and update our website. Also, don't forget to send your material, especially videos, to Ted Kunstling at tkunstling@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://nrvcclub.net/meeting-minutes/>

Answer to Railroad Trivia Quiz

A fully equipped dining car (not including food and provisions) carried approximately 600 tablecloths, 2,000 cloth napkins, 1,000 towels, 650 pieces of chinaware, 700 pieces of silverware, 240 pieces of glassware, 300 items of pantry and kitchenware, 200 aprons, and 150 waiters' coats.

NRV Whistle Post
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First Class

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