

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of April 17, 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 Clif Kelly.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance and on Zoom

Members attending in person were Ely Carter-Williamson, Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Brian Heaton, Ken Howard, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, Don McPherson, Schaefer O'Neill, George Sawyer, Alan Servas, Jim Smith, John Spach, John Wallis, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom were Ed Bottum, Alan Bradley, Liam Bryant, Chuck Larnerd, Rich Marrello, Milo Poulin, Gerald Powell, Greg Rehe, Joe Scales, Adam Servas, Robert Spohr, and Elliot Susseles.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

We had two guests tonight. Mac Willams attended in person and Carl Zetie attended tonight by Zoom. This is the second meeting for Mac and the third meeting for Carl. Both guests are eligible to be voted into membership tonight. Mac models in HO and likes British trains, N&W, and UP. He has applied for Associate membership. Carl models in N scale and likes B&O. He has applied for Senior membership.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

5. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report. John Wallis made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Ely Carter-Williamson and passed unanimously.

6. Show and Tell

Carl Zetie showed a water tank he had built from a Tichy kit.

John Spach showed a new RJ Corman GE Dash 8 locomotive he has recently purchased.

7. Communications with the Club

Ken Howard reported on a layout donation the Club has received from a donor in the Fearrington Village community. The layout is approximately 5'x10' in size. With some work it may become the raffle layout for the Fall show. In addition to the layout, the donation included several boxes containing a few locomotives, rolling stock, tools, and other supplies.

Randy Foulke reported talking to Tom McKay about a donation of eight boxes of S gauge equipment. Mr. McKay will drop this donation off at the Clubhouse on a weekend.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Clif Kelly reported that we have three applicants eligible to be voted on for membership tonight. They are Brett Bankhardt and Mac Williams applying for Associate memberships, and Carl Zetie applying for Senior membership.

Bob Witwer made a motion to accept these applicants into the Club as members. The motion was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously.

b. Ways and Means

John Wallis reported that the Ways and Means committee has presented a proposed budget to the Board. This proposal will be voted on at the next Board meeting.

c. House

John Spach reported that Alan Servas has done a great job cleaning the spots in the carpet.

He also thanked Mike Hinman for hanging the Southern Railway picture on the wall in the Crew Lounge.

Finally, there is a heavy 4'x 8' "layout" being offered for free. It has some track on it but it is really some very heavy plywood. Someone should either take it home or take it to the dump. Please help dispose of this item if you can.

d. Engineering Committee

N scale – Bernie Dawson reported that the N scale group had a fantastic weekend at the Cary train show. Over 1,100 people attended. The Club T-Trak layout ran well. The guys were able to promote both the Club and the Spring show.

Bernie also hopes to have a work session this weekend to complete the scenery on the raffle layout. Please help if you can.

HO – Ken Howard reported the lost Heinz pickle car has been found and upgraded with Kadee couplers and metal wheelsets. There is also more new equipment coming to the HO layout.

Track work continues on the layout. Paul Lebedinski is installing switch machines on the staging tracks under the mountain. He is also building a panel to control the switches with Arduinos. This will simplify the operation of this yard area.

S gauge – Nothing new to report. The layout is running well.

O gauge – George Sawyer has purged many locomotives from a DCS controller. The device can now be used on the O gauge layout.

- G scale – Alan Servas reported success in cleaning the track on the G scale layout. Once he finishes this task he will see if the track cleaning car can be utilized to maintain the track cleanliness and make the equipment run better. He also hopes to repair the broken coupler on one of the engines this weekend.
- e. Program Committee
John Wallis reported that we have programs lined up through January of 2026.
 - f. Social Committee
Randy Foulke reported that he is still working on a trip to the Lionel facility in Concord. This will probably be on the second or third Friday in July. Look for more information on this trip in the near future.
9. Old Business
- a. Spring Show
Bob Witwer reported that we only have 19 tables left to sell for the show. There is a chance that the Aberdeen, Carolina, and Western Railway may want one or two tables.

Bernie Dawson reported that staffing is going well, but we need more personnel on Friday for both setup and porter duty.

Bob reminded members that if their name is not on the staffing list they must buy a \$10.00 ticket to get into the show.

Bob also shared a sign showing our donors for the show. There are a couple of additional sponsors that need to be added to the sign. Greg Rhee will take care of this. We will have more door prizes than ever before.

We are in good shape on signs and Train Talks for this show. Also, Eventbrite is up and running for the purchase of advance tickets, and RAL Today is ready to go as the show date nears.
 - b. Inventories
John Spach reminded layout chairmen that inventories of their assets are due in May. This will also include the Shop and the Library.
 - c. Apparel
Randy Foulke announced the prices for hats. Regular hats will be \$13.00 each. Mesh hats will be \$18.00 dollars each. Let Randy know if you want one of the few hats we currently have in stock. There are also trucker hats on the way that will also be \$18.00 each.

Randy also reported that we now have a new apparel order form that includes three new items. These are a crew neck sweat shirt, a coach's jacket, and short sleeve polo shirts with pockets. Look for the order form in the rack just inside the Library door.

You can have your name embroidered on an item for a \$2.00 additional charge. In the event that you have a piece of clothing on which you would like the Club logo embroidered, this can be done for \$6.00. Randy is also working on getting patches for us too.

Ultimately, Alec Urban will be taking over the coordination of apparel orders.

Finally, Randy reminded everyone that orders must be prepaid. We will not place an order without the money in hand. Put the completed order form back in rack near the Library door.

Schaefer O'Neill requested that you write clearly on the envelope and state what the funds are for. In the case of apparel, write hat, shirt, etc. rather than just clothing so he knows what was purchased.

10. New Business

a. Groups.io

John Wallis reported that Groups.io groups have been set up for the overall Club and also for the N, HO, S, and O teams. These are email chat groups that can be used to pass information around. They are better than text messaging, but users should still limit the length of their discussions and stay on topic.

John Spach encouraged all members to accept the invitation they have received and join the Groups.io. If you did not receive the invitation, look for the article with the links in the April issue of the Whistle Post.

Bernie Dawson commented on how well the Groups.io was working for the N scale team.

Tom Garren stated that members will receive their meeting notices and Whistle Posts in both email and Groups.io for the foreseeable future.

b. Nominating Committee

John Spach announced that the Nominating Committee had been charged with coming up with a slate of officers for next fiscal year.

Tom Garren made a motion to open the floor for nominations. The motion was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

Bob Witwer announced that the nominating committee put forth the following people for office:

John Spach – President
Ken Howard – Vice President
Tom Garren – Secretary
Schaefer O'Neill – Treasurer
Bob Witwer – At Large Board Member

There being no additional nominations from the floor, Randy Foulke made a motion to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Brian Heaton and passed unanimously.

John Wallis made a motion to accept the slate of officers by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Ted Kunstling and passed unanimously. The new term begins on June 1st, 2025.

c. Memorial Service for Erik Dyke

John Spach announced the memorial service for Club member Erik Dyke will be held Saturday, April 19th at 4:00 pm. The location is at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh, 3313 Wade Ave, Raleigh, NC 27607.

A group will meet in the parking lot at Barry's Café at 3:00 to carpool to the service.

d. Helping Dr. Lou

George Sawyer is putting together a group of volunteers to go to Doc Lou's house on April 30 and help move layout pieces and attach legs. George needs four to six people to help another member adjust his layout. The group will depart from Barry's after breakfast on April 30th. Please let George Sawyer know if you can help.

11. Program

Randy Foulke presented a program entitled A Primer on Headend Passenger Cars.

12. Adjournment

John Wallis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Ely Carter-Williamson and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.