

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club Minutes of the Membership Meeting of May 15, 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 Wayne Aiken, Richard Calfee, Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Clif Kelly, Don McPherson, John Mezera, Schaefer O'Neill, Greg Rehe, George Sawyer, John Spach, John Wallis, Don Weaver, Ron Wertenberg, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom were Ed Bottum, Bill Butler, Peter Donofrio, Mike Hinman, Paul Lebedinski, Collin Martinko, Phil Michaud, Joe Scales, Adam Servas, Robert Spohr, and Mac Williams.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

We had one guest tonight. Peter Jerkewitz attended to provide the program. Thanks Peter.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

John Wallis 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. George Sawyer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

6. Show and Tell

Collin Martinko showed a SCL caboose from 3D Central that he is building.

Adam Servas showed an original Norfolk Southern whistle post he has acquired.

John Mezera showed pictures of a benchwork kit he recently purchased. The kit is from MIANNE CUSTOMIZABLE BENCHWORK

44A Union Street

Attleboro, M.A. 02703

7. Communications with the Club

Richard Calfee reported talking to a gentleman that wanted us to come to Winston-Salem to help assemble a Z scale layout.

Bob Witwer reported the receipt of a large O gauge donation to the Club from Gene Sing. It was about a pickup load of equipment that has now been delivered to the Clubhouse.

There may be more equipment in the future.

John Spach stated that after the show we found a box of stuff from Whitney's. John took the box to them. He later received a call from them stating that the box contained items purchased at the show by Bernie Dawson. So John went back to their house, got the box which has now been handed over to Bernie.

Ken Howard reported he has gotten back in touch with Bob Kasten about a layout donation. Ken will take a look at the layout at 10:00 o'clock on Friday morning.

John Spach shared the information on Bill Hanley's funeral. The service will be at Renaissance Funeral Home on Six Forks Road at 11:30 on Friday, May 16th. A group will be meeting in Barry's parking lot to go to the service. Please join us if you can.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Clif Kelly gave a report on the status of membership. We have no applicants eligible to be voted into membership tonight. Clif also reminded everyone that dues for the new fiscal year are due on June 1st.

Schaefer O'Neill asked if anyone pays their dues by credit card please add three per cent to your payment to cover the credit card charges.

John Spach reported that we have one locker available if anyone wants to rent it.

John Spach also announced that Ely Carter-Williamson has resigned from the Club.

b. Ways and Means

The Ways and Means committee has presented a proposed budget to the Board.

c. House

Mike Hinman noted that he will schedule a work session in the near future to clean up the weeds around the building and the mud and pine needles in the parking lot.

Alan Servas is working to clean the carpets in the Clubhouse. Alan will set the date in the future and rent the machine. With the help of two or three additional people, he will clean the carpet at such a time that it has time to dry before a heavy traffic period.

Ken Howard announced that he has installed a set of pictures on the exit door in the O gauge room to show people the locked and unlocked position of the mechanism on that door. Several times in the last few weeks that door has been left unlocked. It is hoped that these pictures will help end that situation.

d. Engineering Committee

N scale – Bernie Dawson reported that the N scale group was very happy with the T-TRAK layout at the show. The regular N scale layout has been in a holding pattern because the group was working on both the raffle layout for the show and the T-TRAK layout as well. Their next push will be to get all modules on the T-TRAK layout sceniced.

HO – Ken Howard reported that Chuck Larnerd has been working on the track standards. There is now a moratorium on adding or changing any trackwork until these standards have been finalized. Repairs on existing track are fine.

Be on the lookout for a HO layout survey that will be sent out soon by email. It will be sent to all Club members as a way to gather input to make the HO layout better.

The next HO committee meeting will be Sunday, May 18th at 1:00.

There is a Track subcommittee meeting on Tuesday, May 20th at 11:00.

John Spach reminded everyone to use the established process and write up any bad order cars that we have so they can be repaired. Kudos to Greg Rehe for repairing the bad order cars.

Ken Howard reported three new additions to the HO inventory: a flat car with a load from Wheeler and two engines.

S gauge – Nothing to report.

O gauge – George Sawyer reported the O gauge team is working on the latest donation from Gene Sing.

There was also a group of members who went out and helped Dr. Lou mount a G scale layout over a standard gauge layout. Members included George Sawyer, Greg Rehe, Alan Bradley, John Mezera, Phil Michaud, and Joe Johnston.

G scale – Nothing to report.

Program Committee – John Wallis reported that we have programs through February of 2026, with Collin Martinko taking the program next February.

Social Committee – Randy Foulke reported he has been talking to the Aberdeen, Carolina and Western about events that may be able to offer. Among the possibilities would be a tour of their shops on the first Friday of each month. The cost of this event is currently \$20.00.

Randy is also investigating their dinner train. Look for more information on this possibility in the future.

The Lionel tour looks now like it will be on August 13th. This is a Wednesday. The tour will be divided into groups of no more than 20 people. Randy will get the details and then have an email sent out to the membership. Look for this soon.

9. Old Business

a. Wesley Smith

John Spach announced that Wesley Smith, grandson of member Jim Smith, has a very rare form of epilepsy and needs a service dog to alert the family before a seizure begins, especially when the child is asleep. The cost of such a dog can run around \$25,000.00. The Board of Governors has decided we should do a pass the hat for this cause. The Club will also add an additional contribution. So members who are not present tonight may be able to participate; we will receive donations through the end of May. Members may make contributions by cash, check, or credit card. If you write a check, make it to Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club. In this way, you are donating to us and can take that as charitable donation. After the end of May, the Club will write one check for this cause. Thanks in advance for your support of this need.

b. Show

Bob Witwer reported that we have the first batch of flyers for the Fall show. This will be our 41st year. The paperwork will be returned to the Fairgrounds this week. We are planning to have 400 tables and 12 layouts in the Jim Graham building.

Members are encouraged to advertise and promote the show anyway we can.

A new activity for this show will be a modeling contest for items to be displayed and judged at the show. Awards will be given much like our layout winners. Look for more details on this soon.

Randy Foulke was asked to see if CPD-13 would be a cosponsor of this event. We would like to have two people for each organization to facilitate this event at the show.

Joe Scales stated how much he enjoyed working at the Spring show and getting to see everyone.

c. Apparel

Randy Foulke announced we have a few hats left in stock and have more on order. Randy also stated that he would like to place an apparel order by the end of the month. If you want something, please fill out the order form and pay in advance.

10. New Business

a. Lanyards

Don Weaver asked if we should return our lanyards from the show. Schaefer O'Neill suggested that members should bring their lanyards to the next show. We will give

them a new badge and holder to clip onto the lanyard. If you didn't save your lanyard from the last show, a new one will be provided.

b. Library Update

Wayne Aiken reported the addition of several books to the Library. The books include:

Two Civil War railroading books.

A Lionel 2025 catalog.

Two Norfolk Southern books, one of which is a 1982-1994 locomotive listing. The other is a 30th anniversary book.

A book on the cable cars of San Francisco.

Dining by Rail, a book about dining cars, crews and food.

Two Carstens books: one on the C&O and one on the Western Maryland.

A book on the East Broad Top.

A book on the steam locomotive manufacturers.

A book on the Red Arrow Line in Philadelphia.

A book on shortline doodlebugs.

Three Rio Grande books including two pictorials and one on the Rio Grande Zephyr.

A repro book on The World's Railway, the Columbian Exposition of 1893.

11. Program

Peter Jerkewitz presented a program on the use of Arduinos in model railroading.

12. Adjournment

George Sawyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 pm.