

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”

May 2025

Once again, yes, once again, we have outdone ourselves. We just had a record setting attendance for our Spring show. Our paid admissions were almost 20 percent higher than the previous record. Very, Very well done! Now, all we have to do is to do it all over this fall and beat the record attendance by 20 percent. Let's get to work and make it happen.

Speaking of work, I want to thank all of you who contributed time and effort in many, many ways. This, and all of our shows, requires an enormous amount of work by a dedicated group of members. Thank you one and all for your efforts.

And, in addition to working at the show, the N-gauge group displayed their recent creation, a really great start on a T-track modular layout. And it was on center stage in the lobby. Great job guys – Well Done!

Back at the Club things are happening too. Check out the HO layout, it changes and develops every week. And the best part is it is all happening with very minimal interruptions in running trains. We are also continually upgrading our electronics and internet presence. But best of all, we are regularly adding new members who bring more skills and experience to our group.

Enough for now, I have to go repair an engine with a bad coupler.

See you on the train.

All Aboard

John Spach, President

Club Fund Raiser

Jim Smith's grandson, six-year old Wesley, has a severe form of epilepsy (Dravet Syndrome) and needs a service dog that can alert him to impending seizures. Sadly, such highly trained animals are very expensive. To assist Wesley and the family, NRV will hold a fund-raising *Pass the Hat* event centered around the May General Membership Meeting. The Club will collect funds from members and aggregate those funds (plus a Club contribution) into a single gift to the family. Members may contribute with cash, check, or credit card to the Club. If you contribute, please be sure that your donation is earmarked for Wesley's seizure dog. If you cannot attend the meeting but wish to contribute, contact Schaefer O'Neill, Treasurer.

What Is a Whistle Post and What Does It Look Like?

By Randy Foulke

A few weeks ago, a Club member asked me, "what is the little white post with a "W" on it near the cement silos on the HO layout for." I realized that even though our newsletter is called *The Whistle Post*, not everyone knows about this common, track-side, and country-wide signpost.

The term **whistle post** originated during steam days (before radios) when engineers used actual whistle signal codes to communicate to the rest of the train crew and the public through various combinations of long and short blasts. The use of the whistle following a whistle post is primarily for safety to warn persons of an advancing train and its impending use of the rails at the crossing or other point.

Whistle posts are located in advance of highway grade crossings, stations, railway crossings at grade, and other points (bridges and tunnels) where locomotive whistles (also called signals) are required to be sounded by rules or laws. The whistle post is positioned based on the maximum speed allowed on that stretch of track and the time required for the signal to be heard. The location depends upon track orientation, layout, and signaling requirements. As long as there are crossbucks, there will be a whistle post, even on a farm or industry road. Whistle posts are generally, but not always, located on the right side of the track.

Other countries use other symbols or letters but also have whistle posts. Some U.S. examples of whistle posts are presented below.



The standard whistle or air horn sound for these locations is two longs, a short, and a long. The last long is to be maintained through the entrance of the crossing. If multiple crossings or points are too close together to allow for a complete signal, the engineer starts from the back of the signal. For example, the next crossing may receive only one long, or only one short and one long, or only one long, a short, and a long.

Memorial Service

A memorial service for Erik Dyke was held Saturday, April 19, 2025 at 4:00 PM at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh, 3313 Wade Ave, Raleigh, NC 27607. Tom Garren, Ken Howard, and Bob Witwer represented NRV at the service.

In Memorium

William (Bill) Hanley, who gave our January meeting program on “The Abandoned Farmhouse,” passed away unexpectedly on May 8th. Bill was a past member of NRV and was well known and liked in the model railroading community. Services will be held on Friday, May 16th at 11:30 am at the Renaissance Funeral Home, 7615 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC 27615.

New HO Rolling Stock

A number of new cars and engines have been added to the Club’s HO collection. Enjoy operating them. The new locomotives have been chipped to the cab number. Thanks to John Spach for taking the time and effort to equip these additions to the fleet.

NRV #	Railroad	Road No,	Type	Notes
390	Norfolk Southern	3613	ET44AC	DCC and B dummy 3101
447	Seaboard	3015	E6	DCC
448	Atlantic Coast Line	106	GP7	DCC
449	Southern	1490	4-8-2	DCC- green livery
450	Heinz Company	72	Pickle tank car	
451	M.A. Brown	-	Pickle tank car	
452	Chesapeake & Ohio	4513	E7A	DCC with sound
453	Erie	15420	80 foot gondola	Pipe load

HO Layout Goings On

For members who haven’t seen **Jake Forbes’** new ScaleTrains’ J Class 611, here are some shots he staged on the NRV HO layout.





“Spring into Trains” – May 1- 4, 2025

Loading Out on May 1, 2025

Thanks to the folks who participated in the loadout event that formally begins the show weekend for the Club: Bill Butler, Daphne Garren, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Johns, Paul Lebiezinski, Schaefer O’Neill, Alan Servas, Jim Smith, and Bob Witwer.



Load out is almost complete. Left to right are Paul Lebiezinski, Jim Smith, Bob Witwer, Schaefer O’Neill, and Daphne Garren (photo by Ken Howard).



The crew relaxes after loadout. Left to right are Paul Lebiezinski, Mike Keelean, Bill Butler, John Wallis, and Daphne and Tom Garren (photo by Ken Howard).

The Show - May 2-4, 2025



Club Sales Table ready to go on Friday at 11:38 am, a new record (photo by Ken Howard).



The ticket table was set up in record time thanks to Alan Servas and Tom Garren (photo by John Mezera).



Wheeler's Trains display of merchandise (photo by John Mezera).



Atlantic Coast S Gaugers layout (photo by John Mezera).



East Carolina Railroaders layout (photo by John Mezera).



Southeast Hobbies vendor table (photo by John Mezera).



Steve Wills LEGO layout (photo by John Mezera).



North Raleigh N-TRAK layout (photo by John Mezera).



Lots of vendors and merchandise (photo by John Mezera).



Rick Allen's Barnum & Bailey Circus diorama (photo by John Mezera).



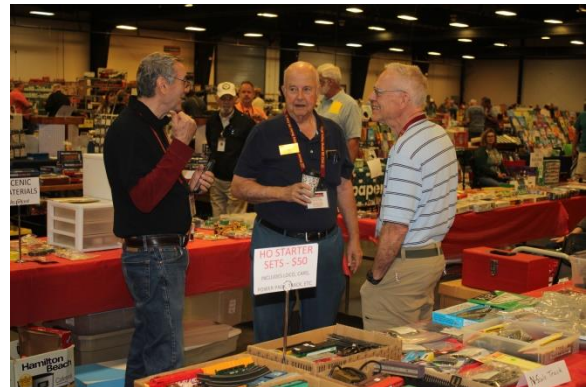
Darrel and Paul Lebiezinski catch a break in a slow time (photo by John Mezera).



Kids enjoyed playing with the wooden trains from Wilmington Railroad Museum (photo by John Mezera).



National Model Railroad Association, Carolina Piedmont Division table (photo by John Mezera).



Chuck Larnerd, Ken Howard, and Greg Rehe discuss sales strategy at the Club table (photo by John Mezera).



Kids got to participate in raffle ticket box stuffing (photo by John Mezera).



Scott Hall (left) gives a train talk on soldering (photo by John Mezera).



John Spach, Randy Foulke, and Jake Forbes present the "Best in Show" ribbon to Geoff Flegel for the North Raleigh T-Trak layout (photo by John Mezera).



John Spach, Randy Foulke, and Jake Forbes present the "Visitor's Choice" ribbon to Rick Allen of Carolina Southern Railroad (photo by John Mezera).

Unloading at the Clubhouse on May 4, 2025



Sunday evening unloading with Wayne Aiken, Jim Smith, and John Kuchnia (photo by Ken Howard).



Lots of empty boxes returned and got stacked in the Crew Lounge (photo by Ken Howard).

N Scale Raffle Layout

During April, the N Scale members completed a raffle layout for the “Spring into Trains Show.” Lots of credit goes to Bernie Dawson, Phil Michaud, Ken Wesp, Milo Poulin, and the other N Scalers who got the layout in running order so that others could help with the final touches.



The finished raffle layout in the shop before transport to the fairgrounds (photo by Ken Howard).



Bernie Dawson oversees finishing touches by George Sawyer, Schaefer O'Neill, Ely Carter-Williamson, and Bob Witwer (photo by John Wallis).



Clif Kelley mixes the raffle tickets for the drawing (photo by John Mezera).



Kyle picks up Jason Smith's raffle layout at the Clubhouse on the Wednesday afternoon (photo by Ken Howard).

Real Railroads

Larry Pearlman continues to contribute his latest photos of active railroads. Larry's latest snaps from the northeast and the South Carolina Railroad Museum follow:



Amtrak 744 GP38-3 at Princeton Junction, NJ.



Awaiting departure through the window in Princeton Junction, NJ.



NJT at Morris Tower, PA.



Pennsylvania Northeastern SD40-2W at Ivyland, PA.



SEPTA Light Rail at 69th Street Terminal in Philadelphia, PA.



Southern Railway Car Norfolk at the South Carolina Railroad Museum



SEPTA Norristown High Speed Line in Norristown, PA



SEPTA Two Car Norristown High Speed Line.



Engine 44 at the South Carolina Railroad Museum



Southern Box Car at the South Carolina Railroad Museum

Ken Howard has been chasing North Carolina railroad action this spring. Here are some shots from Selma and Fuquay-Varina taken in April.



Train 90, Palmetto, arriving at Selma, NC behind Amtrak GE P42DC #182 on April 15th.



Rail King RK320 yard goat switching at Bailey Feeds in Selma, NC on April 15th.



The Northbound Palmetto leaving Selma, NC on April 15th.

SELMA UNION STATION			
DAILY AMTRAK SERVICE			
Servicio Diario de Amtrak			
TRAIN TIME, NAME & NUMBER (Hora de tren, Nombre y Número)			
1:11pm	Palmetto-Train 90	Northbound-Savannah, GA to New York	
10:46am	Carolinian-Train 80	Northbound-Charlotte, NC to New York	
4:38pm	Carolinian-Train 79	Southbound-New York to Charlotte, NC	
3:20pm	Palmetto-Train 89	Southbound-New York to Savannah, GA	

Amtrak Service through Selma Union Station.



Heavy duty maintenance on RJ Corman SD40T-2 #8529, April 23rd in Fuquay-Varina, NC.

Neat Links

Phil Michaud passed on the following link with the comment “Probably good reading:”

<https://www.trains.com/trn/railroads/history/cataloging-the-railroad-hobby/>

Phil also sent along a link to Scale Trains and tariffs:

<https://www.wate.com/news/top-stories/east-tennessee-model-train-company-fears-industry-shutdown-amid-tariff-war/>

Tom Magnani passed this link on from **Fred Krauss**. “Lots of nice steam videos in this link...”

https://www.americanloco.org/2024/10/nyc-3001-announcement/?mc_cid=084c13555b&mc_eid=35cbc8ff4e

Tom Magnani passed along an additional link from **Fred Krauss**. “Video showing how to get a 100- year old steam engine working again: Lots of little details to take care of. “

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnVfevh1nSE>

Tom Garren passed along the following link from **Phil Michaud**. Parallel Systems is building autonomous electric rail for short-distance freight. This is really interesting for "last mile" intermodal. Compete against trucks (if sidings are not removed). Piloting in Savanna soon.

<https://techcrunch.com/2025/04/11/parallel-systems-is-building-autonomous-electric-rail-for-short-distance-freight/>

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

June Board of Governors Meeting: The next BoG meeting will be held at the Clubhouse on Monday, June 5th at 7:00 pm. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

May General Membership Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Peter Jerkewitz from CPD 13 will present a program titled “Arduino Hands-On”.

May N Scale Committee Meeting: The N Scale Committee will meet on Saturday, May 17th at 10:00 am in the Clubhouse.

May HO Committee Meeting: The next meeting will be on Sunday, May 18th 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 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://nrvcclub.net/meeting-minutes/>

NRV Whistle Post
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First Class

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