

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of July 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 Bob Witwer.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance and on Zoom

Members attending in person were Wayne Aiken, Bernie Dawson, Tom Garren, Mike Hinman, Chuck Larnerd, Larry Martin, Don McPherson, Alan Servas, Jim Smith, John Spach, John Wallis, Don Weaver, Ron Wertenberg, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom included Ed Bottum, Pete Donofrio, Randy Foulke, Alex Griswold, Haydon Harrison, Ted Kunstling, Phil Michaud, Gerald Powell, George Sawyer, and Carl Zetie.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

We had two guests tonight. Ben Wallace attended in person. This is his second meeting. He has applied for Associate membership. We also had Ted Salamone attend tonight by Zoom. This is Ted's second meeting. He has also applied for Associate 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

John Spach gave the Treasurer's report. We have paid the deposits for the 2026 shows at the Fairgrounds. eBay sales are doing well. In the first week of the current posting, the Club has made \$1,500 on eBay sales. Bob Witwer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Larry Martin and passed unanimously.

6. Show and Tell

Wayne Aiken showed a brass pulpwood car he has recently acquired.

Carl Zetie showed a project on which he is working to add sounds to some of the buildings on his layout. This is being done with the use of Arduinos.

7. Communications with the Club

Wayne Aiken has taken a call from a lady who needs help wiring a layout at her home. It is a 4x8 layout using true track. She lives up 401 north of Raleigh. If anyone is interested in taking on this project as an individual, please let Wayne know.

John Spach reported that Ken Howard is working with a gentleman in Hurdle Mills that is donating us an HO layout. The pickup date was postponed due to the recent flooding in that area. Watch for more on this donation coming soon.

Tom Garren reported that Joe Scales' condition has improved in rehab, and he will be going home tomorrow. Please keep Joe and Becky in your thoughts and prayers.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Tom Garren gave a report on the status of membership. Dues are now past due. If you have not yet paid your dues, please get them in by the end of the month.

We have two applicants that have satisfied the two-meeting requirement for membership. Ted Salamone and Ben Wallace have both applied for Associate membership. Bob Witwer made a motion to approve these two members' applications and welcome them to the Club. The motion was seconded by Ron Wertenberg and passed unanimously.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report tonight.

c. House

Library – Wayne Aiken reported that we have two new books for the Library. One is on trolley busses, and the other is called American Railroad Freight Cars. This is a good reference book, especially for cars of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Inside – Mike Hinman asked everyone to be careful in the Library. The filing cabinet has been moved to allow the carpet to dry from the AC condensate drain being plugged earlier in the week. Thanks to Mike for detecting the AC problem and fixing the clogged drain line.

Chuck Larnerd complimented whoever cleaned the bathroom. The work was done by a cleaning service that we are in the process of retaining to clean the Clubhouse every two weeks.

Outside - After some discussion, it was determined that we will have an outside work session after the Show Committee meeting on Saturday, August 2nd. We need to trim the bushes and figure out how to dispose of an HO layout that we don't need. The work session should begin around 11:00 am. Please come and help if you can.

Wayne Aiken noted the hole in the driveway where the water line was replaced several years ago. John Spach added that we will get in touch with our landlord about the problem.

Alan Servas noted the return of a spot in the Crew Lounge carpet. He will try to clean it again with his equipment.

d. Engineering Committee

N scale – Bernie Dawson reported that the N team has a meeting on Friday. They will be showing the T-TRAK modules along with North Raleigh at Windsor Point this weekend.

The N scale team's goal is to have all of the NRV T-TRAK modules sceniced by the Fall show in November.

HO – Chuck Larnerd stated that the HO team will begin to use the HO Groups.io message board for communication. There is also a new procedure that requires approval before any work is to be done to the layout. Work, both maintenance and new construction, will be approved before work begins. It will be inspected during and after construction and finally approved for use. Forms will be available on the bulletin board on the HO/N layout door. Please fill one out if you wish to perform work on the layout. You can't work on the layout without permission.

Tom Garren noted that if the HO team wants to use Groups.io for their communication vehicle, they need to make sure all of the HO team is on the HO Groups.io page.

Bob Witwer noted that he wants to get some of the young guys to help scenic the mountain.

S gauge – Nothing to report.

O gauge – George Sawyer is working to relabel the control panel. In addition, he is checking in the contents of some recent donations.

G gauge – Alan Servas noted that we have received a number of G gauge items in a recent donation from Larry Pearlman. With the help of Mike Hinman, they have a new engine and several cars set up on the number 1 track of the G gauge layout.

e. Program Committee

John Wallis reported that we have programs lined up through June of 2026.

f. Social Committee

Lionel Tour - Randy Foulke reported that the Lionel trip will be August 13th. We have eighteen signed up with four volunteering to drive. Larry Martin will be the team lead for this event. The tour has been scheduled to begin at 1:00 pm. All attendees should arrive in Concord no later than 12:45. yet to be determined, but Randy is shooting for 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

AC&W Shop Tour – Randy Foulke noted this trip is scheduled for September 5th. The tour will begin at 1:00 pm at the AC&W shops in Candor, NC. The cost of the

tour is \$25.00 per person. There is an August 4th deadline to sign up and pay for this tour.

Randy also stated that he is still investigating the possibility of a trip on an AC&W train. Look for more information on this event in the future.

John Spach reminded everyone that October 11th is our next Open House. Please plan on helping make this event a success.

9. Old Business

a. Lockers

John Spach reminded everyone that we have two lockers available for rent. If interested, let a Board member know. Cost is \$50.00 per year.

b. Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that the reservations now exceed the number of tables, so he is adding an additional 35 tables to the show floor. This will make 440 tables available for vendors at the show. This year we have added a hat vendor and several other new vendors to the Fall show.

We will be adding a scavenger hunt to the show this year. A volunteer is needed to head up this activity this year.

The next Show committee meeting will be on August 2nd at 10:00 am.

Bob reported that Steve Milley with the Craftsman Courtyard is excited about the Craftsman Showcase feature of the Fall show. Steve said that several members of the Courtyard group of vendors are willing to donate kits as prizes for the Showcase winners.

Randy Foulke stated that we need one more volunteer to be on the planning committee for the Craftsman Showcase. At the moment, we have Jim Smith from NRV and Kevin O'Connor and Don Roback from CPD13. Please contact Randy if you are interested.

c. Instagram Account

John Spach announced that we have an Instagram account. Several of our younger members have volunteered to take on this activity and populate it with videos from the Club. John asked all members to get an Instagram account and follow the NRV account as a way to increase Club exposure. The same goes for Facebook. The Club's Instagram account is NRV_Model_RR_Club.

d. eBay Sales

John Spach reported that he has taken over the Club's eBay sales for now. We need a volunteer to take over this responsibility. It is not hard but requires some effort and attention to detail. Please let John Spach know if you are interested.

e. Bill Hanley's Sale

Tom Garren reported the sale of the late Bill Hanley's train stuff occurred last weekend. It was very well attended and there were many items from which to choose. The downside was the heat. The sale was held in a garage facing the afternoon sun. The heat became so oppressive on Saturday that the sale hours were shortened on Sunday. Nevertheless, it was a good sale.

f. Member Handbook

John Wallis reported this project is coming along with a target date of Labor Day for completion.

10. New Business

None this month.

11. Program

Bernie Dawson presented a program on consisting locomotives with Digitrax.

12. Adjournment

John Wallis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.