

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”**

July 2025

Hot enough for you? Well, what did you expect for July in the Carolinas? Anyway, we have A/C in the Club with a few boosters, so all is fairly cool and trains are running. What more can you ask for?

Some really good news – our Club will be making itself known on Instagram. Several of our younger members will be making videos and posting them on Instagram. Alec Urban will lead a group including Adam Servas, Jake Forbes, and Colin Martinko. Please, if you would like to be a part of this group and share videos of the Club running trains, contact Alec. In any case, we need all of you to go on Instagram and follow us [nrv\\_model\\_rr\\_](#). We need all the followers we can get to start attracting new viewers.

Speaking about following us, please do the same on Facebook, if you have not already done so. Thanks to our efforts, we now have over 1299 followers, and the site is growing in popularity every day.

And of course, it's time for the gentle reminder – Dues were due in June. So, it is now July, and if you have not paid, you are in arrears. So, please get your payment in, and let's move on to enjoy the Club and run some trains.

I personally have taken on the role of eBay coordinator again. While we are making progress on this account, we still need someone to take on this role going forward. I will be glad to work with you to get you started. Please contact me if you have an interest.

If you have the opportunity next weekend, our NRV T-TRAK group will be exhibiting the layout in Fuquay – details are in the following pages – try to stop by and help man the layout. They have worked hard and it's looking great – let them know you appreciate their efforts.

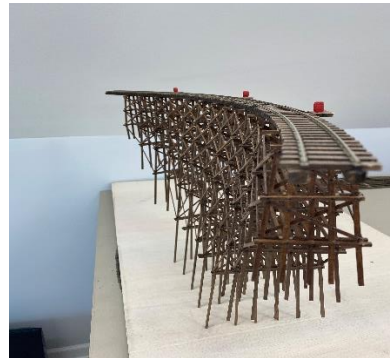
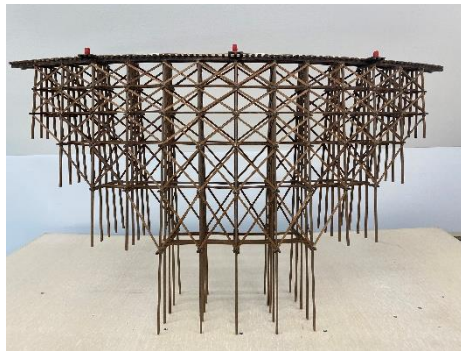
Well, enough for now – have a cold one for me – see you on the Train.

**All Aboard**

**John Spach, President**

## 36" Long Scratch Built Curved Wood Trestle

By Bob Witwer



I have always liked the look of a wood trestle, so I planned to build a tall trestle with a 30-inch radius one for my proposed HO layout. So if I ever have a Big Boy or similar sized large engine, there should be no problems with the curvature. So, having never scratch built anything like that, I turned to You-Tube, books, and fellow modelers for help.

After a lot of research, I purchased a JV Models 18" high by 36" long wood trestle kit. What I received was a lot of different sized basswood, 18" in length, two pages of drawings and some minimal instructions, but with one great piece of advice – build a jig to construct the Bents. So that is what I did.



The Bents are the supports for the Deck and are made up of 1/8"x 1/8" posts (the vertical supports), the Sash (the horizontal cross piece across the posts), the Cap (top piece on the posts) and 1/32" x 1/8" Sway Braces (the cross pieces). Each Bent has 5 posts, tapered from a 1 7/8" wide Cap with the Posts angled out to form the base. Using a jig provides a uniform and consistent set of Bents, all at the same dimensions except the length which can be varied by obviously adjusting the length of the Posts.

The first step was to stain all of the wood (over 150, 18" long pieces and 200 ties). I chose a medium brown stain. Construction of the Bent was then started by cutting all the pieces for the Bents from the 1/8" square wood. Each Bent required 1 Cap, 6 to 10 Sashes (one set for each side), and 5 Posts of varying lengths. The Posts and Cap were placed in the jig, but when applying the wood glue, I found that I needed to place wax paper under the Cap area that joined at the Post top edges or else I would glue the Cap to the jig. I slightly tapered each of the Post's tops with a few passes on sandpaper to flush-fit them flat onto the Cap. After the wood glue

dried, I removed the Bent from the fixture, flipped it over, and glued the Sashes to the other side. When the glue was set, I cut the Sway Braces to length with an Xacto knife and glued them in place, first on one side, then the other side. The Bent was ready for one final step.



To add detail, I placed a simulated bolt head at each attachment point of a Sash or a Sway Brace to a Post. I cut the head off a track nail and gently tapped it through a small, pre-drilled hole through the Sash or Sway Brace into the Post. I'm not sure how many were used, but two 500-piece packages were consumed (probably a third were lost).

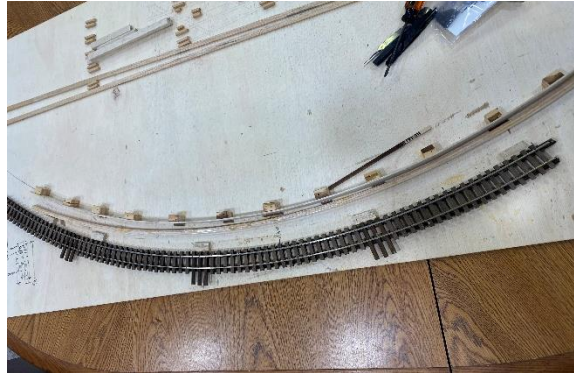


But how many Bents did I need? I figured with a 30" radius and a 36" arc, there would be room for about 13 Bents spaced about 2 1/2" apart. I started with one 18" high Bent in the middle of the arc and added 2 sets on either side. Then the next 2 Bents on either side of center were made 1 section shorter followed by reducing each of the next Bents by one more section.

With Bents complete, the next step was the Deck. It would be composed of 2 Stringers, each made from 3 pieces of 3/32"x1/4" basswood glued together to make a 9/32" thick by 1/4" high glue lam, which would attach to each Bent's Cap and angled to form the 30" radius curve while support the ties. I didn't think I could make a smooth curve by adjusting 12 sections by angling the joints to form a smooth curve. After looking at a number of different approaches, I decided to make the Stringers by bending each 3/32" x 1/4" Stringer, and gluing the 3 pieces together to make the 30" radius.

For this, I needed another jig. I glued 12, 1/2" square x 1/4" thick wood blocks to a 30" radius line drawn on a thin sheet of plywood. I screwed the blocks to the first stringer piece, starting in the

middle of the curve, and working out towards both ends. This formed the 30" radius curve. Then, the second piece of the Stringer was glued and clamped to the first. After the glue dried, the third piece was added in the same fashion. When the screws were removed, I had a nice, curved Stringer, so I built another one.



To place the Ties, I wanted to make sure they were properly spaced on the Stringers and still formed a smooth curve. I placed a 1/2" tall, thin piece of balsa wood against the blocks forming the curve to form a fence and then glued a 1/8" spacer block the thickness of the tie overhang of the Stringer, to hold the thin fence in place (Fig. 4). I laid the inboard Stringer on the fixture and added 1/2" spacer blocks to separate the two stringers. Then it was just a matter of gluing one Tie down on the center line, and using one Tie as a spacer, work my way down the length of each side.

Next came hand laying the rail, something else I had never done before. I cut a couple of small wood blocks .300" thick to space the rail to the edge of the ties. Starting in the center, I spiked the inside rail down - working toward the end of the curve. Then to place the second rail, I used two track gauges to maintain the proper spacing and spiked the outside rail. Other than placing the 3 fire water barrels, the deck was finished.

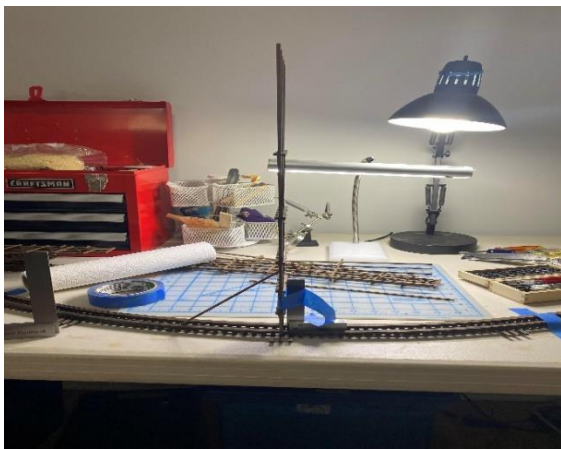


Now came the challenge of assembling the trestle. How to evenly space the Bents, angle them properly along the curve, and keep everything square was not easy. I did not see an easy way to install the Girts (the support bars between the Bents) with the trestle standing up correctly, while



keeping the Bents perpendicular to the Deck, angled correctly along the curve and parallel with the adjoining Bent. I finally cheated some by starting the building the trestle upside down and attaching one set of extra Girts on each bottom section. Once everything was glued in place and squared up, then the trestle was set upright, and all of the Girts were cut to length and glued in place. Two rows of Girts were assembled on the top of each of the middle left and right posts of each Bent onto each Sash – this formed the attachment of two Bents together and provided the rigidity and strength to the trestle.

Working with the Deck face down, I started with the center Bent, using a square to make sure it was perpendicular to the Deck. Then I made a 2 ¼" long trapezoidal spacer to position the next Bent, held it in place with the square and glued the supporting Girts on the highest section in place. This continued until all the Bents and Girts were completed.



The next step was to install the 1/32" x 1/8" Sway Braces on the outsides of the trestle between the Bents. Laying the trestle on its side with some rigid supports, individual Sway Braces were cut and glued in place. Simulated bolt heads were added using cut off track nail heads.

The final step was to install the plastic fire barrels painted red on the Deck. The trestle was now ready to be installed on the layout. This was a very challenging project for me. I learned a lot and stepped out of my safety zone into new interesting modeling skills which I am thankful to have experienced.



## **Volunteers *STILL* Needed to Plan and Organize the “Craftsman’s Showcase Event” at the NRV Fall Train Show**

“Craftsman’s Showcase” is a new activity for the Club’s train shows. The NRV Club is inviting the NMRA local CPD13 Division along with the Mid-Eastern Region, other model train clubs, and anyone else to bring their crafts to display with the hope of attracting more enthusiasm for our hobby.

**Randy Foulke** will head NRV’s efforts, but help is needed to design and implement the program. Please let Randy at [randy.railfan@gmail.com](mailto:randy.railfan@gmail.com) or Bob Witwer at [bobwitwer@gmail.com](mailto:bobwitwer@gmail.com) know if you would like to participate.

## **Windsor Point T-TRAK Exhibit**

The combined North Raleigh and NRV T-TRAK modelers will set up a T-TRAK layout at Windsor Point Retirement Home, the weekend of July 19 and 20 for residents and families of the home. Hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday, and 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday. Members are welcome to support this show.

## **Aberdeen Carolina & Western Railway Shop Tour – 9/5/25** **By Randy Foulke**

The Club is proposing to take a tour of the Aberdeen Carolina & Western shops on Friday, September 5, 2025, in Candor, NC. The cost is \$25 per person, and all ages are welcome. The tour begins at 1 pm and lasts approximately 2 hours.

I have personally been on this tour, and plan to go again. It is that good! As mentioned in an article in the June 2025 Whistle Post, the shop contains many historical passenger cars, some dating back to the early 20th century along with some historical diesel locomotives. Some pictures were included in the Whistle Post article.

If interested, please let Randy Foulke know via email or in person. Deadline for taking reservations will be August 4, 2025. Randy's email is [randy.railfan@gmail.com](mailto:randy.railfan@gmail.com). Payment of \$25 will be required immediately after August 4th. No exceptions. No payment means no reservation. Thanks.

## **Results of Special Sale to Club Members**

Overall, the sale was a success. Approximately \$500 of merchandise was sold, mostly HO locos and rolling stock, but even the music box sold. Items that didn’t sell to members were consigned to John Spach for sale on eBay. Ebay sales have been brisk with over \$1500 in merchandise moved. Kudos to John!

## Lionel Tour – August 13, 2025

By Randy Foulke

Tickets are confirmed for August 13, 2025. The **Event Captain** for the trip is **Larry Martin**. He will distribute the tickets at the Lionel Headquarters in Concord, NC, and handle all future communications. Larry's email is [lomartin@earthlink.net](mailto:lomartin@earthlink.net), and his phone number is 919-215-5029.

The tour will start in the lobby of the Lionel headquarters at 1 pm sharp. Please arrive at the parking lot by 12:45 pm and gather in the lobby area after arrival. The tour is approximately 1.5 hours. We have 18 going, and we have three people who have volunteered to drive, but we need two more people for carpooling. The plan at present is to leave from the Clubhouse, from Barry's Cafe in Cary, and from the Brier Creek area. The drive is approximately 2 hours 45 minutes from the Clubhouse, and 2 hours 30 minutes from Barry's Cafe. Please let Larry know your preferred departure point, and if you can drive. Larry will work out the details.

You will enjoy this tour, even if you are not a 3-rail guy! Let Larry know if you have any questions.

## Real Model Railroad Store

**George Lasley** sent photos and captions of the construction progress of the new buildings at Nick's Trains.



June 12<sup>th</sup> official ground breaking for the new addition to the shop. George, Nick w/shovel, Pete w/ Raccoon, and Frank.



Work in Progress on June 17th





June 3th pouring of 14 cubic yards for the slab began at 7:15 am.



The finished slab at day's end.

## Real Railroads

**Ken Howard** has been rambling in the northeast states again. Some of his snaps from a July trip to Maryland, New York, and New Jersey follow:



Ma & Pa EMD SW-9 parked at Airville, PA. It was the last of Ma & Pa's locomotives to be saved and restored. The unit pulls tourist excursions on summer weekends.



A pair of Norfolk Southern GP38-2s southbound under the New York State Thruway at Suffern, NY with a container train.





AMTRAK Train 68, the southbound Adirondack, pulling into the Plattsburg, NY station one minute early. Miracles do occur! The motive power is number 98, a GE P42DC



The North Creek Depot museum and a restored Delaware and Hudson caboose. The depot's claim to fame is that Teddy Roosevelt learned of the 1901 assassination of President McKinley while standing on the platform.



New Jersey Transit southbound passenger on the Bergen County Line from Suffern, NY. Loco 4546 is an Alstom ALP45-DP.



New Jersey Transit trains 5127 and 5438 meet at the Westfield, NJ station on the Raritan Valley Branch.

## Help *STILL* Wanted – eBay Manager

**The response to last month's plea has been underwhelming.** The Club is still in need of a volunteer to take over eBay sales. John Spach has taken on the load temporarily to clear our backlog, but doesn't have the time to take on the continuing duties. His effort has generated significant revenue for the Club in the past two weeks. Contact John Spach if you are interested.

## Neat Links

**John Wallis** passed along an interesting video from **Jim Kalenowski** that Provides useful info for our next layout in our new building!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDXZX876-nU>

**Tom Magnani** forwarded the following link to a New York Times article: “Britain’s Royal Train, Once a Symbol of Luxury and Modernity, Is Being Retired.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/01/world/europe/uk-royal-train.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

## **Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities**

August Board of Governors Meeting: The next BoG meeting will be held at the Clubhouse on Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

July HO Committee Meeting: **Cancelled**

July General Membership Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Bernie Dawson will present a program titled “Consisting with Digitrax Throttles”.

July North Raleigh and NRV T-TRAK Display: Modelers will set up a T-TRAK layout at Windsor Point Retirement Home, the weekend of July 19 and 20. Hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday, and 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday. Members are welcome to support this show.

Breakfast Social: Join us for the breakfast social every Wednesday, 9:00 am at Barry’s Café, Raleigh, NC.

## **Notes from the Editor**

Please send photos of Club activities to Brian Heaton, Webmaster, at [bheaton1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:trkunstling@aol.com) so that he can keep our Facebook site current.

Please support the Club’s new Instagram site by submitting videos of operations on the NRV layouts to Alec Urban at [alec.urban@icloud.com](mailto:alec.urban@icloud.com). Alec is managing the new site.

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](mailto: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  
The Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club, Inc.  
1615 Old Louisburg Road  
PO Box 19573  
Raleigh, NC 27619-9573

First Class

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

John Spach	President	<a href="mailto:jtspach@earthlink.net">jtspach@earthlink.net</a>	919-361-3650
Ken Howard	Vice-President	<a href="mailto:klhowardjr@aol.com">klhowardjr@aol.com</a>	919-851-3805
Schaefer O'Neill	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:schaefer.oneill@gmail.com">schaefer.oneill@gmail.com</a>	919-740-6923
Tom Garren	Secretary	<a href="mailto:tomgar@mindspring.com">tomgar@mindspring.com</a>	919-805-0909
Richard Calfee (Calfee)	At-Large	<a href="mailto:rhcalfree@yahoo.com">rhcalfree@yahoo.com</a>	301-335-1054
George Sawyer	At-Large	<a href="mailto:gsawyer@ix.netcom.com">gsawyer@ix.netcom.com</a>	919-469-0442
Bob Witwer	At-Large	<a href="mailto:bobwitwer@gmail.com">bobwitwer@gmail.com</a>	919-632-0785

### OTHER KEY POSITIONS

Bob Witwer	Show Chairman	<a href="mailto:bobwitwer@gmail.com">bobwitwer@gmail.com</a>	919-632-0785
Clif Kelly	Membership Chair	<a href="mailto:bkelly11@nc.rr.com">bkelly11@nc.rr.com</a>	919-614-8891
Ted Kunstling	Social Media Chair	<a href="mailto:trkunstling@aol.com">trkunstling@aol.com</a>	919-787-5282
Wayne Aiken	Librarian	<a href="mailto:htomc42@hotmail.com">htomc42@hotmail.com</a>	919-602-8529
Ken Howard	Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:klhowardjr@aol.com">klhowardjr@aol.com</a>	919-851-3805
Brian Heaton	Webmaster	<a href="mailto:bheaton1@gmail.com">bheaton1@gmail.com</a>	765-427-6541

**WEB SITE** [www.nrvclub.net](http://www.nrvclub.net)