

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”

August 2025

This has been a very eventful and sad month for all of us in NRV. We have lost several fellow modelers who were close friends to many of us. Their personal interactions and vast knowledge base cannot be soon replaced. We relied on them and their presence for numerous things, large and small. Anytime they were tasked with a project, you were guaranteed of a job well done. May they rest in peace, but not long, as we need them to get the ultimate model railroad in good working order for our own arrival. That train is always running, and always on its own time.

And, as life must go on, we are in the heart of a very busy summer. A group of members took advantage of a great opportunity to take a guided tour of the Lionel facilities - a great experience that will not be forgotten. And we have several additional trips planned before fall. Details are elsewhere in the Whistle Post.

Our younger, and more social media active members, are in the process of building us an Instagram presence. We need to build our list of followers, so please open an Instagram account and follow us. Even if you never login in the future, being counted as a follower will increase our overall presence and aid in the algorithms' placement of our posts.

Just a reminder, the Fall Show is coming. Please sign up for your choice of work session. Bernie is once again in charge of this function and will be contacting all of you shortly. Work times are first come, first choice: so act fast.

OK. Enough from me for this issue. Besides, I have a decoder to install, and the train is coming.

All Aboard

John Spach, President

Help *STILL* Wanted – eBay Manager

The response to prior months' pleas has been underwhelming. The Club still needs a volunteer to handle eBay sales. These sales are an important part of our fund raising activities to keep the Club in operation and to hold down membership dues despite rising costs. Please contact John Spach if you are interested.

Memorial Service



A memorial service for **John Wallis** was held Thursday, July 31st at Brown-Wynne Funeral Home, Cary, NC. John's loss will be deeply felt throughout the model railroad community at both a local and national level. John's knowledge of model railroading, particular things Digitrax, was invaluable and will be hard to replace. We will all miss John as a friend, comrade, and contributor to the Club and the hobby as a whole. His work ethic, willingness to help at any task or event, and his friendship will be difficult to replace.

The service was well attended by members of the numerous model railroad organizations where John was a member and a leader. Ed Bottum, Alan Bradley, Bernie Dawson, Pete Donofrio, Dan Egy and daughter Aimee, Randy Foulke, Tom and Daphne Garren, Ken Howard, Ralph James, Clif Kelly, John Kuchnia, Paul Lebedinski, John Mezera, Milo Poulin, Greg Rehe, George Sawyer, Gene Sing, John Spach, and Bob Witwer represented NRV at the service.

In Memorium – Joe Scales



Joseph Scales III, 87, passed away Friday, August 8th at his home in Ridgeway, VA. NRV members will miss Joe's presence and enthusiasm at the Club show sales tables in Raleigh, Mebane, and Thomasville. Many of us were also privileged enough to have had the opportunity to enjoy operating his magnificent O-scale layout from Greensboro to Danville. Many also remember his live steam locomotive and Southern diesel that were nationally known and made appearances at numerous events. We will deeply miss our "Energizer Bunny."

There will be no formal service at this time. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Windsor Point T-TRAK Exhibit

Randy Foulke and Phil Michaud contributed these pictures of the Sunday memorial running of John Wallis's Amtrak train and the NRV participants at the Windsor Point exhibit on July 19-20. From left to right: Milo Poulin, Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, and Phil Michaud. Sadly missing from the picture is John Wallis, who was instrumental in scheduling the show and helping to set up the layout on Friday afternoon, but passed in his sleep the night before the display.



Memorial Run of John's N scale Amtrak passenger train (Photo by Randy Foulke)



Milo Poulin, Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, and Phil Michaud

Brick Universe

By Steve Wills

We all had a great time. Anne helped with setup and took charge of running Wall-e on Sunday. Preston and Bill helped on Saturday. Preston brought his custom Lego Trains to run. And Anne and Bill helped Sunday and stayed and helped with packing up everything. I really appreciated those that helped. Bill was the only club member who came out.

Announcing Craftsman's Showcase

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club (NRV) and NMRA Carolina Piedmont Division 13 (CPD13) are sponsoring a **Craftsman's Showcase** at the Fall Train Show. The goal of **Craftsman's Showcase** is to build enthusiasm for our hobby by encouraging people of all skill levels to show off what they have created. Bring your structures, engines, rolling stock or dioramas, whether built from kits, scratch built or kit-bashed from some existing products, to show off your modeling skills in a variety of categories in a judged contest. Contest categories are anticipated to include locomotives, rolling stock, structures, dioramas, and "Anything But". The "Anything But" category includes any structure kit in any scale that has been repurposed into anything but the original structure. This is a great way to display and enhance your craftsmanship skills.

Judges, including Master Model Railroaders (MMRs) from CPD 13, will evaluate the entries and determine 1st Place and Honorable Mention awards in each category. A “Best of Show” prize will also be awarded. Models should be entered at the show’s **Craftsman’s Showcase** display by 9:30 am on Saturday morning. Judging will occur on Saturday afternoon. Awards will be presented at 1 pm on Sunday, and models should be picked up at 2 pm.

Lionel Tour – August 13, 2025

Thanks to **Randy Foulke** and **Larry Martin** for driving this successful event to completion. Lionel is celebrating their 125th anniversary and certainly rolled out the welcome mat with an entertaining and informative tour through their 168,000 square foot headquarters in Concord, NC.

Members in attendance included: Brad and Leigh Bouch, Ken Howard, Ralph James, John Kuchnia, Larry Martin, John Mezera, Lou and Marlin Monville, Greg and Susan Rehe, Ted Salamone, Bob Witwer, Ron Wertenberg.

Thanks to **John Mezera** for the photographs of the tour.



NRV members gathering in front of the Lionel facility.



The warranty repair crew.



Testing new prototypes.



Layout for long term testing and repairs.



A run of commemorative cars fresh from the printer.



The warehouse and shipping center.

Trivia Question of the Month

From Tom Garren

What was the only steam engine delivered by Baldwin to a North American customer in 1933?

See **page 11** for the answer.

Upcoming Events



2025 NMRA/MER CONVENTION PHILLY EXPRESS

Hosted by the Philadelphia Division

October 16-19, 2025

Crowne Plaza Hotel - King of Prussia, PA

The goal is to provide a forum for members to learn, share, and enjoy the hobby of model railroading.

20+ Clinics
Operating Sessions
Modular Layout Displays
Prototype tours
Modelling contests

Modeling With The Masters clinics
45+ home/club layouts to visit
Operating sessions
White Elephant Room
Banquet

Admission price includes ALL layout visits/clinics

Website: <https://phillyexpress.org/>

Registration: <https://phillyexpress.org/registration/>



New Doings on the N Scale Layout



Milo Poulin caught working on track on the N scale layout. This is the beginning of a reworking of the layout to include reversing loops, a new yard, and a rebuilding of the trolley line.

Real Railroads

Ken Howard took to the open road again in July. Some of his snaps from a variety of stops in Kentucky, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Missouri, and Kansas are presented below:



The Southwest Chief is only an hour late at Galesburg, Illinois on July 24th. Two GE P42DC units (146 and 78) are leading a nine car consist.



BNSF GE ET44C4 No. 3678 and four Canadian National Dash 9s lead heavy freight bound for Chicago at Galesburg, on July 24th.



Illinois Central Gulf GP8 (GP7 rebuild) at the Bluegrass Railroad depot and Museum in Versailles, KY on July 9th.



BNSF GE C44-9Ws #1061 and #5043 idling on the ready track at Argentine Yard in Kansas City, KS on July 17th.



UP GE ES44AC-H #8251 and two other locos lead a local past the Rieger Distillery in Kansas City, MO on July 17th.



GMTX Group GP15-1 #426 and Camp Chase GP9R #4618 on the service track in Connersville, IN on July 24th.

Milo Poulin caught some local railroad action in Fuquay-Varina on August 2nd. “Who would have thought there would still be an active SD40T-2 Tunnel Motor in NC of all places! Also, found SD40-2s and rolling stock with great graffiti.”



Ex SP EMD SD40T-2 number 8569 awaiting action



Graffiti artistry.



7107 and 7181 taking covered hoppers out of Fuquay.



Graffiti artistry

Neat Links

Tom Garren and **Tom Magnani** each contributed the following link about the merger of UP and NS:

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/union-pacific-buy-norfolk-85-billion-mega-us-railroad-deal-2025-07-29/>

Bernie Dawson via **Tom Garren**: "1952 Durham & Southern Railway steam power 56.8 mile short-line; Durham, North Carolina" on YouTube. It has some 1952 footage of decapod 201.

<https://youtu.be/sfS6gu0UM94?si=f6pBnbMnEw0xx4kk>

Tom Magnani sent the link below about New Jersey Transit motive power:

[Locomotive 4207, on the Rails for 60 Years and Still Hauling Commuters](#)

Tom Magnani: “A very interesting video with lots of older 'subway cars in the photos. Also other video's on the site look interesting.” **Why NYC is Building Elevated Trains Again - YouTube**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hcoYXh9NGcI>

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

September Board of Governors Meeting: The next BoG meeting will be held at the Clubhouse on Monday, September 1st at 7:00 pm. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

September HO Committee Meeting: Sunday, September 21st at 1:00 pm in the Clubhouse.

August General Membership Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 21st at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Bill Butler will present a program titled “Rocky Mountain National Park Railroad”.

September Aberdeen Carolina & Western Railway Shop Tour: Friday, September 5, 2025, in Candor, NC.

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, 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 support the Club's new Instagram site by submitting videos of operations on the NRV layouts to Alec Urban at 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.

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://nrvclub.net/meeting-minutes/>

Trivia Question Answer: The Durham & Southern 2-10-0 number 202. (steamlocomotive.com)

NRV Whistle Post
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First Class

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