

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”

September 2025

Believe it or not, Fall is in the air! No I'm not crazy – it really is that time. No matter what the weather is telling us, it really is Fall. And you all know what Fall means - - Yep, it's time to get ready for our spectacular Fall Train Show. This year promises to be our best ever. Bob has a great format for the show which will feature 17 working layouts, about 500 sales tables, and a first ever Craftsman Showcase. This really will be the biggest and best ever and it's our 41st annual event.

Now, making all this happen requires all of you to pitch in and help make it all happen. Bernie is in the process of signing up volunteers for all areas where we need help. And all members are expected to roll up their sleeves and lend a hand. Sign up now so we can see where we need to recruit additional help. As a gentle reminder, any member who chooses not to work at least one 4 hour shift at the show will be expected to pay for a ticket if they attend. We need one and all to pitch in and do their fair share to support this event. It is the primary funding source for the Club, along with the Spring show, so please sign up now and let's make this the biggest, best, and most profitable show we have ever done.

Other than that, things are moving along at the Club. I am seeing major work being done on the N scale layout, which is receiving a major re-imagination. As they say, a layout is never finished. And watch the HO layout, especially in the new mountain area where the logging camp, coal mine, and quarry are all showing signs of activity.

A large group had a great time on the road trip to the Aberdeen Carolina & Western's Back Shop Tour – Thanks Randy for organizing this. Let's do more fun things like this.

It's that time again. Train's leaving the station.

All Aboard

John Spach, President

Model Railroads – Kansas City, MO - Union Station

Union Station hosts an 8,000 sq. ft. room filled with model railroad layouts built and maintained by Union Station Volunteers, so only open on Saturday and Sunday (photos by Ken Howard).



The great hall in Kansas City, MO Union terminal still supports Amtrak service.



The model railroad exhibition room in the terminal houses G, O, HO, N, and T layouts.



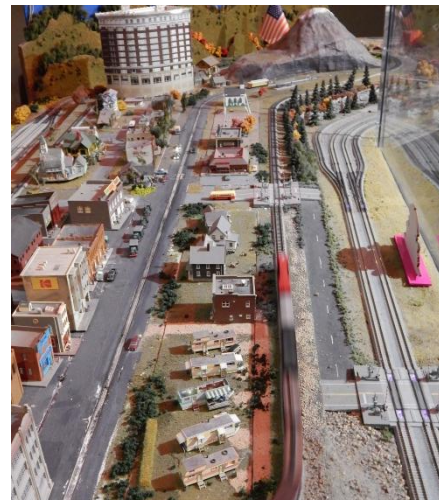
Three G scale loops surround the O gauge layout. Here's a White Pass & Yukon freight consist.



HO layout designed for kids.



Engine house, turn table, and passenger terminal on HO layout.



Urban scene on N scale layout.

Operating Session at Ken Reising's SP Layout – August 19, 2025

Ken Reising has selectively opened his layout to monthly operation by select NRV Club and CPD-13 members. Ken's HO layout models the Southern Pacific from San Francisco to Watsonville Junction with thru service to Los Angeles. The layout is operated with train orders, radios, and a central dispatcher. Switching operations, train building, and dispatching occur at Bayshore, San Jose, and Watsonville Junction yards. The objective of operations is to be as prototypical as possible, and over the course of several operating sessions, a twenty-four hour period of operating freight and passenger trains is replicated. Pictures of Ken's layout, the dispatcher's board, and happy train buffs follow:



Randy Foulke commonly operates the dispatcher board for operating sessions. This picture is from a 2024 operating session (photo by Ken Howard).



Tom Garren has become the backup dispatcher for operating sessions in Randy's absence. Notice the improved track layout on the upper section of the dispatcher's board (photo by Ken Howard).



John Spach turns a freight over to Bob Witwer for sorting (photo by Tom Garren).



Ken Reising on his way to troubleshoot a scheduling issue (photo by Ken Howard).



Bob Witwer as the yardmaster at San Jose about to break a train (photo by Ken Howard).

In Memorium

Will Allen, a long-time honorary member of NRV, passed away on September 4, 2025. No services have been scheduled.

Aberdeen, Carolina & Western Railway Tour - September 5, 2025

Thanks to **Randy Foulke** for organizing the tour. Fifteen Club members were able to participate: Bill Butler, Jeff Cole, Randy Foulke, Tom and Daphne Garren, Ken Howard, Ralph James, Mike Keelean, John Mezera, Lou Monville, Schaeffer O'Neal, Ken Reising, Jim Smith, Don Weaver, and Bob Witwer. A number of members and wives also shared a pre-tour lunch at the Tramway Diner en route to Candor. Everyone enjoyed the tour, our knowledgeable guides, and the ability to view the restoration process in a clean environment.



Jeff Cole, Bob Witwer, Bill Butler, Ken Howard, and Ken Reising gather at ACWR (photo by John Mezera).



The entire NRV contingent poses in front of the restored "The Menzies Vista" dome car (photo by John Mezera).



Mike Keelean and Bill Butler share a virtual speeder experience (photo by John Mezera).



New window glass installation on former Hiawatha observation car (photo by John Mezera).



Restoration of wooden truss-rod coaches on the shop floor (photo by John Mezera).



"The Roamer" is a fully restored private car (photo by John Mezera).



Schaeffer O'Neal, Ralph James, Bill Butler, Randy Foulke, Don Weaver, and Ken Reising boarding "The Menzies Vista" (photo by Ken Howard).



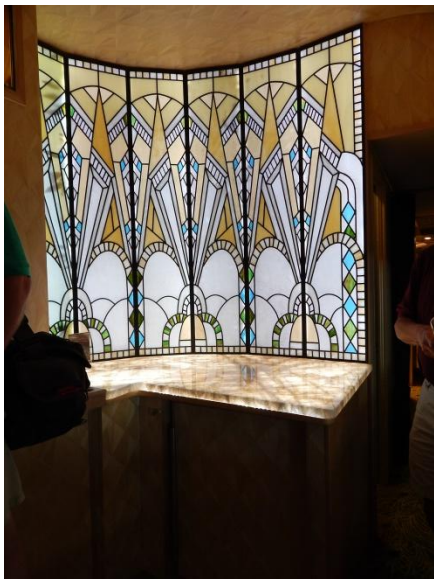
Tom Garren poses in front of the restored velocipede (photo by Ken Howard).



The interior of the rebuilt "Roamer" - if you have to ask, you can't afford it (photo by Ken Howard).



The interior seating in the dome makes the Carolinian look like a freight car (photo by Jim Smith).



Stained glass and lighted counter top typify the opulence of the car restorations (photo by Ken Howard).



Restoration requires knowledgeable people and hard labor (photo by Ken Howard).

Phil Michaud Trivia Question

What was the easternmost railroad milepost in the United States?

See **page 10** for the answer.

Upcoming Events

October 4-5: Southeastern Train Collectors Association,

Selma Model Train Shows & Displays - Civic Center, 9 am, Selma, NC

October 10-11: French Broad E’N’Pire N-Scale Club

25th Annual Autumn Rails Train Show - WNC AG Center, Fletcher, NC

October 16-19: 2025 NMR/MER CONVENTION PHILLY EXPRESS

Crowne Plaza Hotel, King of Prussia, PA

October 16: 2025 NRV/Scale Trains Meet and Greet

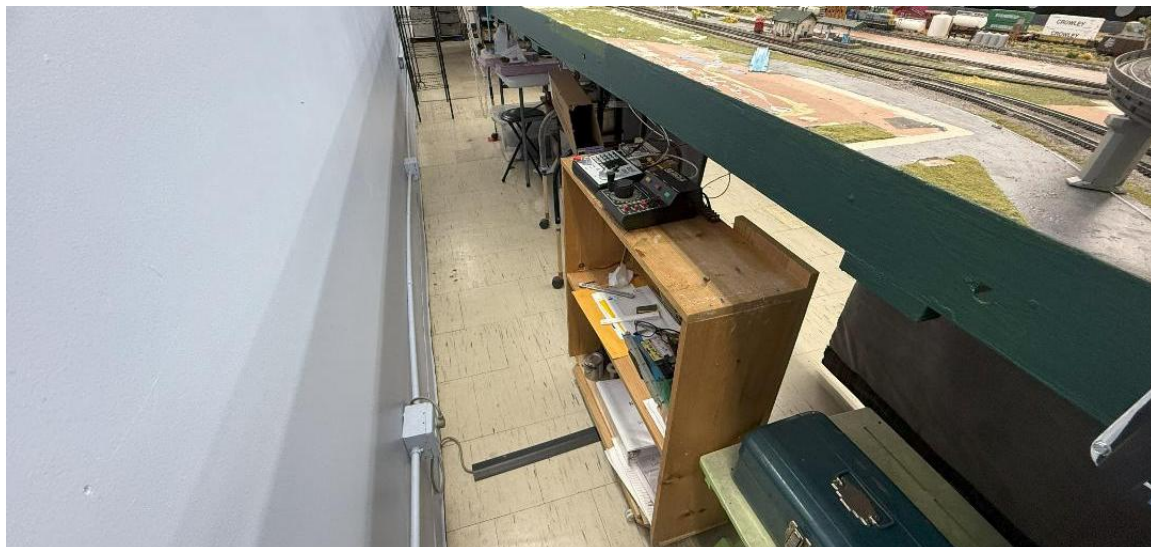
Cary Church of Christ, 6640 Tryon Road, Cary, NC 27518

November 8-9: 2025 NRV Fall Train Show

Bob Witwer reminds everyone that signups are still needed for Sunday evening porters and both days for Craftsman’s Showcase monitors. **Sign up!** Then post show flyers at all your favorite watering holes, markets, and anywhere else you frequent. We need to build up the attendance. Remember to spread the word about all the kid and family fun activities we have - the scavenger hunt, kid’s coloring table, and “Train Talks.”

New Doings on the N Scale Layout

Milo Poulin has relocated the N scale Command Station to the back wall aisle to make room in the main aisle for visitors and operations of both N and HO layouts (photo by Milo Poulin).



Real Railroads

Here are some more of **Ken Howard's** photos from his July road trip. This set of pictures focusses on short lines and old diesels. Mainline operations on BNSF and UP will resume in next month's issue.



Burlington Junction Railway SW1500 #1501 running light beneath Mississippi River bridge at Burlington, I on July 10, 2025.



EMD SW1200 MDLX 8934 awaiting the harvest at Heartland Co-op, in Des Moines, IA on July 15, 2025.



Iowa Interstate Railroad GP38 #702 westbound from Des Moines, IA on July 15, 2025.



RMEX GP10 #16 awaiting maintenance in Connersville, IN on July 24, 2025.



Camp Chase GP9 #7042 on siding in Connersville, IN on July 25, 2025.



ARMC Steel Corp Lima LS-750 #709 on Whitewater Valley Railroad track at Connersville, IN on July 25, 2025.

Randy Foulke Trivia Question

What are the longest tangent (straight) tracks in the USA and the world?

See the answers on **Page 11**



Mike Hinman was kind enough to capture this screen shot from the Virtual Railfan camera at Santa Fe Junction in Kansas City, MO. Check the lower right corner of the frame and you will find your newsletter editor and his sister caught in the act of watching trains on July 17th.

More Aberdeen, Carolina & Western Railroad

Here are photos of the engines that Club members saw (or didn't) on our September 5th outing.



Ex UP EMD SW1500 #1476 (photo by Ken Howard).



Ex CN GMDD SD40-3 #6922 (photo by Ken Howard).



The running gear of a 2-8-2 that was outside the back of the shop (photo by Jim Smith).



The cab of the torn down steamer SLSF (Frisco) number 1352 (photo by Jim Smith).



Restored EMD GP7 number 896 on display outside the corporate headquarters and shops (photo by Ken Howard).



EMD E8A #1C101(photo by Ken Howard).

Neat Links

Phil Michaud sent the following link about new service out of Goshen, Virginia (four hour drive). "The Shenandoah Valley Limited will operate for five consecutive weekends (on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays) starting September 26, 2025."

<https://share.google/TgvLPcB0nniBWqI1i>

Bernie Dawson: "The Model Railroad Hobby is growing, just different than before."

https://youtu.be/zB6cxdQ1JhI?si=HDKYqinYpy8Xj_Vy

Tom Magnani sent the link below from **Jack Dziadul**: "Here is a great video for those who know Boston well or are planning just to visit."

https://youtu.be/4R8b07SqcnE?si=FJGwc_QhkYZaVP1I

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

October Board of Governors Meeting: The next BoG meeting will be held at the Clubhouse on Monday, October 6th at 7:00 pm. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

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

September General Membership Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 18th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Jake Forbes will present the program on “Norfolk and Western J class locomotives, the history, design, and available models on the market and how accurate they are.”

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

Phil Michaud Trivia Question Answer: Eastport, Maine

Source: New England Diesels, 1975, Albert & Melvin)

Randy Foulke Trivia Question Answers:

Longest tangent tracks in the USA:

- 1st - 78.86 miles on CSX (formerly SAL) from Wilmington to Hamlet, NC.
- 2nd - 71.94 miles on Union Pacific (formerly Rock Island) from Guymon, OK to Dalhart, TX.
- 3rd - 68.49 miles on the Norfolk Southern (formerly NYC) from Butler, IN to Air Line Junction, OH (near Toledo).
- 4th - 64.52 miles on the Monon (now abandoned, but ROW still exists) from Brookston to Westville, IN; and
- 5th - 62.92 miles on the Canadian National (formerly IC) from Edgewood to Aiken Junction, IL.

Longest tangent track in the world

297 miles (478 km) on the Trans-Australian Railway on the Nullarbar Plain in Australia.

Source: Association of American Railroads

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First Class

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