

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of October 06, 2025

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President John Spach.

Board members in attendance in person were Richard Calfee, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Schaefer O'Neill, George Sawyer, John Spach, and Bob Witwer.

2. Recognition of Additional Members and Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Additional members attending in person were Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, Mike Hinman, Clif Kelly, and Alan Servas.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Alex Griswold, Scott Hall, Rich Marrello, Jack McDonald, Phil Michaud, Milo Poulin, and Carl Zetie.

One guest attended in person. Joe Mehrlich has applied to become a Junior member. He models in O gauge and HO scale and likes the Pennsylvania Railroad. This is Joe's first meeting.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

George Sawyer made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

Bob Witwer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by George Sawyer and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

Richard Calfee reported taking one call with a person wanting six tables at the show. The information has been handed over to Bob Witwer.

Calfee also talked to a gentleman who wanted to donate his American Flyer trains to the Club. After discussion with his family, the offer was withdrawn.

Ken Howard reported that we had two walk-in donations over the weekend. These HO items included buildings, locomotives, and rolling stock.

6. Committee Reports

a. Program

Randy Foulke reported that we have programs lined up through June or July of 2026. If you would like to do a program, please let Randy know.

b. Social Committee

The third annual Club dinner is being planned for the evening of January 26th, starting at 6:00 pm. It will be held at the Golden Corral at the corner of S. Wilmington St. and Tryon Road. This is the same location as last year. Estimated price for dinner will be around \$20.00 per person. We will once again have a gift exchange like last year. Look for more details in the future.

c. Membership

Clif Kelly reported that we have 94 members at this time. We also have one new applicant for membership present tonight. Joe Mehrlich has applied as a Junior member. This is his first meeting.

d. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

e. House

Mike Hinman stated that we need a mini to regular HDMI cable for the Raspberry Pi computers we use for the Wi-Fi connection to the HO and N scale layouts.

Mike also reported that portable AC unit in the HO/N room dripped a bit over the weekend. No real damage was done, but members are encouraged to check this unit regularly.

Mike further reported that we need fluorescent tubes for the light in the members' storage room. Bob Witwer stated that he could supply those.

f. Engineering

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported the T-TRAK modules are 95% complete. He anticipates they will be ready for the Fall show.

Bernie also noted that on the permanent N scale layout the two reversing loops have been completed and some scenery has been applied

HO – Ken Howard noted that the cardboard has been put up on the remaining portion of Mount Witwer. Progress has also been made on applying scenery to Module 4 with Richard Calfee and Ted Kunstling applying ballast to the mains 1 to 3 and the engine terminal area.

Bob Witwer wanted to know the location of the screen wire that will be used to complete the scenery on the mountain.

Alan Servas noted that the mountain in progress will be of interest to our guests at our Open House.

Ken noted that the next HO committee meeting will be on October 19th.

S gauge – George List reports the layout is ready to run at the Open House.

O gauge – George Sawyer reported that everything is working as planned. One engine has a problem with one switch on the layout. This may ultimately require the switch be replaced.

G scale – Alan Servas reported that the new engines on the G scale layout run more quietly than the previous ones. This may allow for longer running of the G scale layout during events such as the Open House.

7. Old Business

a. Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that we have 491 tables committed at this time. There will also be 17 operating layouts at the show.

Bob announced that Alan Servas has taken over the task of Sponsor coordination formerly handled by John Wallis.

Bob also reported that Ken Smith of Jonesboro, TN will be at the show filming various activities. Ken has a YouTube channel named Old Guy Having Fun with Trains. He will edit the footage, get our approval, and then post it on his channel.

Randy Foulke reported that he has obtained the information from the layout owners needed to create the scavenger hunt. He will get this information to Pete Donofrio for final form preparation.

Bob informed us that the floor layout will be different this year. The show floor will be divided into four blocks, A, B, C, and D. This should make it easier for attendees to find specific vendors and layouts. Greg Rehe is still getting the final printing jobs done in preparation for the show.

Finally, Bob stated that we need participation in the Craftsman Showcase. We are asked to enter items ourselves and encourage others to do so too.

Bernie Dawson reported that a lot of people have signed up to help at the show. We still need porters, especially on Sunday evening from 4:00-6:00 pm. Finally, we need more hand-trucks and dollies to hasten the loadout.

George Sawyer stated that we need new, better pictures of the show showing more people attending the event.

b. Scale Trains Meet and Greet

Bob Witwer reviewed the plans for our Meet and Greet with Scale Trains. The event will be combined with our October Membership Meeting. In addition to our members, the members of other clubs in the region have also been invited to attend the event. Due to the possibility of a large attendance, we will be meeting in the fellowship hall of the Cary Church of Christ, located at 6640 Tryon Road, in Cary, NC.

The NRV will hold a short Membership meeting, then turn the floor over to Scale Trains for their presentation. Following the meeting attendees will be invited back to our Clubhouse to run trains.

Please note there will be no Zoom link for this meeting.

Please try to take advantage of this rare opportunity and attend in person.

c. Open House

Phil Michaud reminded everyone that our next Open House will take place on Saturday, October 11th. We need members to volunteer to act as hosts and answer questions at each layout at the Club. Also we need people to greet our guests and show them around. We also need some light refreshments brought to the event.

John Spach reminded everyone to make sure our guests are not allowed to go behind the layouts.

8. New Business

Ken Howard reported that the Greensboro show has been shortened to one day and will take place on March 28th. After some discussion it was felt this show might be worth adding to our list of shows that we attend as a vendor. Ken will obtain more information about this show and report back at a future meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.