

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of September 18, 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 George Sawyer.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance and on Zoom

Members attending in person were Wayne Aiken, Alan Bradley, Darrell Dennis, Jake Forbes, Tom Garren, Mike Hinman, Ken Howard, Ted Kunstling, Larry Martin, Don McPherson, Greg Rehe, George Sawyer, Alan Servas, Jim Smith, John Spach, Alec Uban, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom included Ed Bottum, Pete Donofrio, Alex Griswold, Haydon Harrison, Chuck Larnerd. Paul Lebedinski, George List, Tom Magnani, Rich Marrello, Phil Michaud, Schaefer O'Neill, Milo Poulin, Adam Servas, Elliot Susseles, Ben Wallace, and Carl Zetie.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

We had three guests tonight. Bob Wall attended in person. He has applied for an Associate membership. This is his second meeting. Jack McDonald and Mike Troino both attended by Zoom. Jack and Mike have also applied for Associate memberships. This is their second meeting. All three guests have satisfied the two meeting requirement for membership.

4. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

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

5. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Alan Bradley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by George Sawyer and passed unanimously.

6. Show and Tell

Mike Troino showed a new AC44 engine he has obtained. This is his first engine. John Spach showed a hammer labeled New York Central and Hudson River. The hammer dates to about 1870. It is over 150 years old and still works.

7. Communications with the Club

Ken Howard reported that we have received several donations recently. This included several boxes of items from Doc Lou, mostly a G and O scale donation of four or five boxes. Tom Garren brought in a small HO donation he had received from a friend of Darrell Dennis.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Tom Garren reported that we have three guests tonight. Bob Wall, Jack McDonald, and Mike Troino are all attending their second meeting tonight. Bob is interested in N scale with no particular favorite road. Jack models HO and likes the Santa Fe. Mike also models HO and likes the CSX and NS. All three have applied for Associate membership.

George Sawyer made a motion to accept Bob, Jack, and Mike as members of the Club. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report tonight.

c. House

Ken Howard reminded everyone to be sure and follow the closing procedures if they are the last person to leave the building. On Monday, Ken arrived to find the O gauge layout was left powered up, the lights were on in the drink room, food was left in the Crew Lounge, and all the power strips were left on in the Shop.

Mike Hinman pointed out the Closing Procedure is posted on the wall to the left of the front door for easy reference. Mike also noted that we now have better access to the members storage room thanks to a layout that was stored there being scrapped. John Spach reminded everyone that items may be salvaged from this layout. This includes some Bachman steel easy track and some Luan plywood.

Alan Servas noted that he has been able to get the spot out of the carpet in the Crew Lounge.

John Spach reminded everyone that we now have a cleaning lady who comes in twice a month to clean the public areas in the Clubhouse. Please help keep these areas clean.

George Sawyer noted that we have an Open House coming up in a few weeks and we need to clean all the layout rooms in the Clubhouse.

d. Engineering Committee

N scale – Mike Hinman reported that the layout is expanding. Mike also shared there will be weekly N scale meetings on Thursday afternoons at 3:00 pm. Milo will be sending out notices for these meetings on the N scale Groups.io.

There will be additions made to the N scale layout, approximately four inches in width on the back side and fourteen or sixteen inches in length on the end towards the Crew Lounge.

The command station has been moved to the back side of the layout. This may change to the end of the layout after the extension is in place.

Everything on the layout including the reversing loops is now in service.

Mike also noted that once the extension is in place, Milo will install several more feeders to enhance the performance of the layout.

Milo Poulin reported that all the T-TRAK modules are expected to be ready for the show.

HO – Ken Howard reported that a lot of track work and wiring and some scenicing have been done recently. Ken Howard, Chuck Larnerd, and Mike Hinman have fixed several track problems on the legacy layout. There are still some problems to be fixed on the extension.

Ken requested that anyone that finds a problem on the HO layout, please report it in the green book so that it can be addressed.

Chuck Larnerd reported that he has made much progress on creating a digital drawing of the layout. He has done all of the legacy except Module 4. He has also finished the bus on Main 1. He needs to complete the feeders on Main 1 and the bus on Main 2 to have the wiring complete.

Mike Hinman complemented the work that Chuck is doing under the layout to straighten out the wiring. It is work that no one can see, but all of us who run on the layout benefit from this work being done.

Bob Witwer asked for help from our younger members to help on finishing the plaster work on the mountain. Thursday may workout. Bob will coordinate with several younger members to get this work done.

Ken Howard noted that we have several new additions to the inventory including a pair of Atlantic Coast Line E8/E9s DCC with sound. There are several additional freight cars as well. More on the inventory at the next HO committee meeting on Sunday.

Chuck Larnerd asked for the Track committee members to plan on meeting after the HO committee meeting.

S gauge – George List reported that we have received a large donation of S gauge equipment: three locomotives and around fifteen cars, all in good shape. There were also several S gauge accessories that may be sold once they are checked out.

O gauge – George Sawyer reported all the lines are working on the layout. George has also gone through the recent O gauge donations and priced most of the items for sale.

G scale – Mike Hinman reported that we are running several of the pieces from the Larry Pearlman donation. There are several more pieces to be gone through and priced. Alan Servas will have the lead on this activity.

e. Program Committee

John Spach reported for Randy Foulke that we have programs lined up through June of 2026.

f. Social Committee

John Spach also reported that Randy Foulke is now working on the plans for our annual dinner. He will bring a recommendation to the next Board meeting.

9. Old Business

a. Lockers

John Spach reminded everyone that we still have two lockers available to be rented. If interested, see any Board member.

b. Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that we have 480 tables sold for the show with seven more requested. We also have a 99% commitment from Don Tichy to come to the show this year.

We now have flyers and registration forms for the Craftsman Showcase. These will be sent out to area clubs and hobby shops. Also, our own members are encouraged to enter items in this portion of the show.

Please remember to sign up to work at the show. We still need people for porters on Sunday afternoon. We also need people as monitors in the Craftsman Showcase. This is our major fundraising event. Every member is asked to put in at least four hours during the show.

Peter Donofrio is working on the scavenger hunt for the show.

Alan Servas has taken over the role of sponsor coordination that was previously done by John Wallis.

Next Show committee meeting is on Saturday, September 20th at 10:00 am.

c. AC&W Tour

Ken Howard reported that we had fifteen members and wives go on the tour of the Aberdeen Carolina and Western shop. This was a great trip. The tour guide was knowledgeable and friendly. They opened up the shop so we could see everything they had there, including on the shop floor and grounds. The highlights of the trip were the two restored passenger cars that are certified to be pulled on Amtrak trains.

All in all, this was a tour that was well worth the money.

d. Open House

Phil Michaud will chair the October 11th Open House. Phil will bring in a Z scale layout that he has built. This will give us another scale to show at the Open House. We, of course, need some refreshments for the event. Please bring drinks, water, and cookies etc. for refreshments. Make sure all layouts are clean and running. Members should be available to show people around and answer questions.

e. Library

Wayne Aiken reported that he has picked up several new books for the Library:

An interesting book on trolleys.

A book on the Stone Mountain Railroad.

A book on utility buildings for the side of the railroad.

A book on air brushing techniques.

f. Website

Tom Garren reported that a committee has been formed and work has begun to update our website. We are looking at tactical items that can be accomplished quickly to improve the existing website. We are also looking to define more strategic items that may go so far as to include changing the platform of the website. Look for more information as this committee gets further into their work.

10. New Business

a. Scale Trains Meet and Greet

Bob Witwer announced that we will have Scale Trains Meet and Greet session on October 16th. This will also be our October Membership meeting. The event will be held in the fellowship hall of the Cary Church of Christ, located at 6640 Tryon Road, Cary, NC.

Following the program we will go back to the Clubhouse and run trains.

Scale Trains will send out flyers. We may want to do the same to notify clubs and hobby shops in our area.

b. Tarheel Traveler

Ted Kunstling reported seeing a video on WRAL for Will Allen's layout. This was a rerun shown again due to Will passing recently.

11. Program

Jake Forbes presented a program on the Norfolk and Western J type locomotives.

12. Adjournment

Bob Witwer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Alan Servas and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.