

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”

October 2025

A group of members attended a Celebration of Life for a fellow member, Joe Scales. For those of you not familiar with Joe, we who knew him called him the Energizer Bunny. If you were at the Spring Show, you saw him with his portable Oxygen and powered scooter, working for the Club, selling locomotives to young modelers. He loved doing it, and it showed. We will miss him, his spirit, his sense of humor, and his lust for life.

Now, we have work to do! Our Fall Open House is scheduled for October 11 from 10 am – 4pm. Please be there to help with guests and run all layouts. We also need people to bring some refreshments: cookies and soda are our usual fare. We are looking forward to a large turnout.

Also remember it's getting close to Show time. Please get with Bernie to coordinate your work schedule for the show. We have had a good response so far but still have areas that need coverage. Please work with Bernie to maximize our support system.

Oh yeah, I almost forgot - - we have a special event happening at our October member meeting. We are welcoming Scale Trains at a special meet and greet. To make this happen, we have invited anyone interested to attend, and we will hold the meet and greet at a larger venue. We will meet at the Cary Church of Christ on Tryon Road. Full details are posted later in the Whistle post. To accommodate this amazing experience, we will hold a very abbreviated member meeting. Following the meeting all are invited back to the Club to run trains with the Scale Trains crew.

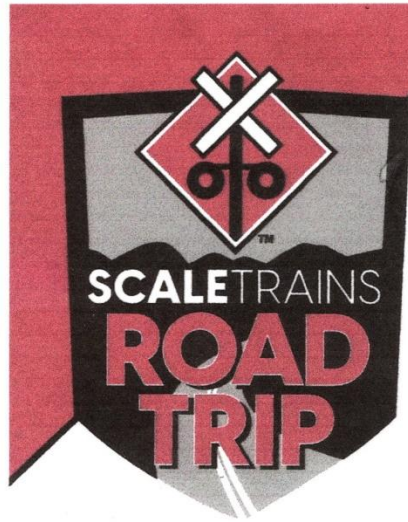
WOW WHAT A MONTH

See you on the train

All Aboard

John Spach, President

Short membership meeting will precede the Meet & Greet. No Zoom will be available for this meeting – come in person!



MEET & GREET

Neuse River Valley Model
Railroad Club Hosts
SCALETRAINS™

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025 • 7 PM

LOCATION: CARY CHURCH OF CHRIST
6640 TRYON RD., CARY, NC 27518

- See SCALETRAINS' latest models
- Meet the SCALETRAINS team
- Hear the amazing SCALETRAINS story
- Learn How Model Trains Are Made
- Question & answer session
- Gift bags plus giveaways
- And more...



**SCALE
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Operation Lifesaver Encounter – September 16, 2025

If you aren't aware, there have been three recent fatalities on the tracks in Clayton, NC in the past month. On September 16th several members encountered a large police presence at a grade crossing that gave us all pause lest another incident had occurred. Fortunately, the law enforcement effort was to pass out reminder cards from AMTRAK's Operation Lifesaver rail safety education program. The card is presented below in the hope that all our members and friends will observe the safety recommendations.

Railroad Trespassing

- **Only** cross railroad tracks at designated crossings.
- **Never** walk, run, play or take pictures on the railroad right-of-way. If you are on or near the tracks, you are trespassing on private property and breaking the law.
- **Never** attempt to outrun an approaching train.
- **Never** stand on the tracks. Trains are quieter and move faster than you think.
- **For** more safety tips, visit oli.org



Amtrak is a registered service mark of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.



Grade Crossing Safety Tips

- **Never** drive or walk around lowered grade crossing gates.
- **Never** attempt to outrun an approaching train.
- **Never** stop your vehicle on a grade crossing waiting for traffic to move.
- **Never** begin to drive across the tracks unless you can get all the way across.
- **Always** call the Emergency Notification System (ENS) number 24 hours a day to report problems or obstructions at the crossing. Look for the number on the blue sign near the crossing or on the crossbuck.
- **Always** remember a train can take a mile or more to stop.
- **Remember** trains overhang tracks. Stay back.
- **Always** slow down and stop your vehicle prior to train tracks when lights begin to flash.



Randy Foulke Trivia Question

What are the longest continuous curves in the USA and the world?

See the answers on **Page 9**

Upcoming Events

October 11, 2025: NRV OPEN HOUSE

At the Clubhouse from 10 am to 4 pm

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

7 pm @ 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."

HO Layout Questionnaire Results

Earlier in 2025, the HO Committee circulated a questionnaire to members requesting input about the HO layout. Responses to the first four questions were easily tabulated because they asked for specific inputs about the "best" and "worst" features of the layout. Tabulated results clearly indicate that track work is the most important aspect of the layout. Overall results indicate that members are most concerned with the quality of track and layout operation. Scenery comes in as a secondary concern.

QUESTIONS 1 - 4	TRACK	OPER	SCENERY	SIZE	OTHER	NO RESP
1 What's MOST important?	14	8	6		1	
2 What's LEAST important?	3	3	4	4	4	8
3 MOST LIKED feature of layout?		7	3	6	4	6
4 LEAST LIKED feature of layout?	11		3	3	4	5
	28	18	16	13	13	19

Answers to questions five through seven did not lend themselves to easy tabulation because they asked members to make specific recommendations. However, the overall pattern of responses clearly showed that track and operations were again of primary importance to the membership.

QUESTIONS 5 - 7	TRACK	OPER	SCENERY	SIZE	OTHER	NO RESP
5 Things to add, modify, or remove	9	6	5		1	5
6 Features to keep	5		7	1	7	6
7 Other comments- miscellaneous	5	5	1	1	10	4
	19	11	13	2	18	15

The HO Committee would like to thank all of the members who contributed their thoughts and suggestions for consideration. This summer, the primary focus of the committee has been on development and implementation of standards to assure that the layouts track and operations will be maintained or improved. Chuck Larnerd is the head of the Track Committee. Please contact him with any issues about the continued successful operation of the HO layout.

Celebration of Life for Joe Scales – October 4, 2025



A Celebration of Life was held on October 4th at the Spray, NC Baptist Church. About 100 family and friends attended the luncheon in remembrance of Joe and to support Becky and the rest of the family. Many of Joe's friends from local and distant railroad groups were in attendance.

Two cars of NRV members attended the event. Those in attendance were Jerry Davis, Darrel Dennis, Tom and Daphne Garren, Ken Howard, John Spach.

Model Railroad at Kentucky Railway Museum

Ken Howard stopped in New Haven, Kentucky this July to view the museum's large collection of locomotives but couldn't pass up a few pictures of the large, well-sceniced, HO layout housed in the museum/train station. As expected, there's a lot of Louisville & Nashville motive power.



Western Maryland #1309 Action

Thanks to **Jeff Cole** for these shots of Western Maryland 2-6-6-2 #1309 taken at Railfest 2025. This locomotive was built in 1949 - the last steam engine made by Baldwin Locomotive Works. WMSR acquired the engine from the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum in 2014.



#1309 approaching the Cumberland, MD station during Railfest 2025.



Detailed view of the main drivers.



Taking on water at the station in Cumberland, MD.



Heading up a railfan tour toward Frostburg, MD.

Real Railroads

Here's a final batch of **Ken Howard's** photos from his July road trip. These pictures focus on mainline operations of BNSF and UP in Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri with a few snaps from Illinois and Indiana thrown in just to confuse the reader.



BNSF SD40-2 #7157 heads eastbound double stack at Union Station in Kansas City, MO on July 19th. Following units are C44-9W # 5103, and ES44C4s #8220 and #6532.



Westbound UP freight in Union Station passing a work crew on the siding. Mid-train units include GP40X #9002 and AC4460CW #7318.



Overhead view of the lead units shown at left (#s 7157 and 5103). Scrambling across the bridge to catch the train coming and going is a mandatory exercise.



Union Pacific SD40N #1795 and GP38-2 #578 running light on interchange track in Santa Fe Junction on July 17th.



UP AC45CCTE #5486 if on the tail of a mixed freight as it passes a BNSF double stack at Union Station in Kansas City, MO on July 19th (photo by Ken Howard).



A pair of trains wait for clearance out of Arlington Yard into Santa Fe Junction. Covered hopper train on left is headed by C44-(W # 5183 – tank train on right by ES44DC #7658.



BNSF Chicago-bound auto carrier train at Galesburg, IL with 7 units on the head end. SD40-2 #6805 leads 5 BNSF Dash 9s and a CSX AC4400 CW on July 24th.



In a view we seldom see on camera from the Crew Lounge, SD40-2 #1974 and SD60M #1952 have drawn the tail end straw at Santa Fe Junction on July 17th (photo by Ken Howard).



The yellow BNSF on the cab of a War Bonnet paint scheme gives away the history of C44-9W #692 at Galesburg, IL on July 24th (photo by Ken Howard).



It's 7am in Connersville, IN as CSX #7905 (GE C40-8W) and #5439 (GE ES40DC) prepare to depart with a freight on former Nickel Plate trackage (photo by Ken Howard).

Neat Links

Milo Poulin sent the following link to ZoomTRAK:

“ZoomTRAK is YouTube channel dedicated to all things N Scale that John Wallis contributed to since its inception. The latest episode began with a tribute to John and a very interesting history of his contributions to the hobby. I hope you enjoy this tribute.”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIIZaD7KQ_I&t=466s

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

November Board of Governors Meeting: The next BoG meeting will be held at the Clubhouse on Monday, November 3rd at 7:00 pm. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

October HO Committee Meeting: Sunday, October 19th at 1:00 pm in the Clubhouse.

October General Membership Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 16th at 7:00 pm at the Cary Church of Christ. The normal program will be replaced by a Meet and Greet with Scale Trains. **No Zoom for this meeting – come in person!**

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/>

Randy Foulke Trivia Question Answers:

Longest continuous curves in the USA –

1st - 9.45 miles on the Canadian National (formerly Illinois Central) from Ruddock to Tunity, LA, skirting the western shore of Lake Pontchartrain. The curve varies between 8 and 12 minutes.

2nd - 9 miles on the Norfolk Southern (formerly Southern [New Orleans & Northeastern]) from X Tower (near Little Woods) to near Seabrook, LA, skirting the southern shore of Lake Pontchartrain. The curve varies between four and six minutes.

Longest perfectly Uniform Curve in the USA – 30,100 feet, or 5.7 miles, in length on the Union Pacific (formerly Texas & Pacific) from Alexandria to Cheneyville, LA, with a uniform curve of 10 minutes. (Note: Local legends have longest curves located in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Wyoming, but these curves either have short tangent sections or reverse direction.)

Longest continuous curve in the world - Unlike the record for the longest straight track, a record for a *single, unbroken* curve is not a commonly tracked statistic. Many railroad historians believe the longest continuous curve may be on the Trans-Australian or the Russian Trans-Siberian Railways. Others believe that the longest continuous curve may be on the Bernina railway line in Switzerland/Italy on the Rhaetian Railway as it curves up and around a mountain.

Source: Association of American Railroads

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First Class

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