

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of November 20, 2025

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President John Spach.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Clif Kelly.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Members attending in person included Wayne Aiken, Bernie Dawson, Darrell Dennis, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Mike Hinman, Ken Howard, Clif Kelly, John Kuchnia, Ted Kunstling, Larry Martin, Jack McDonald, Don McPherson, Greg Rehe, George Sawyer, Alan Servas, Jim Smith, John Spach, Alec Urban, Ron Wertenberg, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom included Ed Bottum, Cat Flynn, Alex Griswold, Haydon Harrison, Rich Marrello, Schaefer O'Neill, Milo Poulin, Gerald Powell, Gene Sing, Robert Wall, and Carl Zetie.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance

We had one guest in person tonight. Ed Torockio has applied for Associate membership. This is his second meeting.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

5. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

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

6. Show and Tell

Jake Forbes showed a new N&W RPO and a Pullman solarium car he has added to his collection.

7. Communications with the Club

Ken Howard reported that we received two donations at the show that have been processed. He also reported that Rick Calfee picked up a donation from a person in Wake Forest consisting of two boxes of Woodland Scenics trees.

Mike Hinman reported a message from a person we have worked with in the past who specializes in downsizing. We will need to follow up with her for details of this potential donation.

Another message was on the answering machine about some N scale equipment.

Jake Forbes has received a donation of some HO and O equipment. He will bring it to the Clubhouse soon.

Ken Howard also reported taking two boxes of items that we have not been able to sell to Good Will. Items included some Christmas decorations and some empty picture frames.

Wayne Aiken noted that he had received several donations of books and magazines at the show. He was able to process the magazines while at the show. Those that we did not have were added to our collection and those that were duplicates did not come back to the Club.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Clif Kelly reported that we have one applicant present tonight who is eligible for membership. Ed Torockio has applied for Associate membership. He models Conrail in the 1980s in N scale. Bob Witwer made a motion to accept Ed as an Associate member of the Club. The motion was seconded by Ron Wertenberg and passed unanimously.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report tonight.

c. House

Mike Hinman thanked Bob Witwer for repairing the lights in the storage rooms.

d. Engineering Committee

N scale – Bernie Dawson reported that the T-Trak layout made a good showing at the show. It ran well on Saturday and less well on Sunday. Progress continues on the changes to the permanent N scale layout.

HO – Ken Howard reported that during a recent track cleaning session two bad switches were found to be no longer operable by ground throws.

Ken also reported that Paul Lebedenski has brought in a template that proves that the curve on Main 1 which was thought to have been reduced in radius is indeed thirty inches.

Jake is going through the inventory to make sure the items on the shelves match what is on the paper listing. Jake has identified six items on the Club shelves without inventory numbers. It is thought these may be member's cars that were put back in the wrong place.

John Spach suggested that we remove items without identification from the Members shelves and hold them separately. We could then reiterate the need for each member who uses these shelves to establish an identification code for their equipment.

Ken Howard noted that we have received several nice donations that have now been added to the Club inventory. These include an N&W Powatan Arrow set of cars as well as a Seaboard Coast Line set of passenger cars.

There will be work session to work on the scenery on Mt. Witwer on November 26th. This will begin after the usual Club breakfast.

Mike Hinman explained some changes made to the Wi-Fi networks used to run both the HO and N scale layouts by cell phones. The user now will connect to the normal NRVNET or NRVNET5G network and then choose the HO or N scale layout from within their throttle app. This should be more reliable than connecting directly to the specific Raspberry pi devices as we have been doing.

Ken Howard also noted the short detection buzzer that has been installed on the HO layout by Mike Hinman. If you are using the layout and hear the buzzer go off, please try to identify the reason for the short.

S gauge – Nothing to report.

G scale – Alan Servas thanked Mike Hinman for changing out the main locomotive on the G scale layout. Alan also reported that he now has a G scale test track at home that he uses to help service and check out G scale equipment.

e. Program Committee

Randy Foulke reported that we have programs on the books through August of 2026.

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reported that our third annual Club dinner will be held on Wednesday, January 21st at the Golden Corral near Garner. The restaurant is located at the corner of S. Wilmington Street and Tryon Road. It is accessed from Grenelle Street. The meeting room is reserved for us from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. We will once again have a Yankee gift exchange. Please let Randy know if you plan to attend.

Randy also reported he is planning a trip to the Timonium train show on January 31 and February 01, 2026. There are several options under consideration for when to leave and return and how much time to spend at the show. Please let Randy know if you are interested in going on this trip. Also note that this is not an official NRV sponsored trip.

John Spach requested that Randy investigate having another Aberdeen trip like the one we did a couple of years ago.

We also have standing invitations from the Kinston club and the Goldsboro club. Randy will investigate opportunities for this trip, too.

9. Old Business

a. Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that we had a successful Fall show. Even with the increased cost of the building, we still made money. We had over 4,000 people attend the show. We had over 500 vendor tables and sixteen layouts.

Bob thanked everyone who helped and recognized Alan Servas for vendor relationships and door prizes, and Randy Foulke for coordinating the layouts and the Craftsman Showcase. Bob also thanked those who provided a Train Talk at the show.

The Craftsman Showcase was new this year and had 39 entries. This was a good showing for the first year. We will try to promote better next time. Bernie Dawson noted that Liam Bryant won the locomotive contest in the Craftsman Showcase.

Train talks will continue to be improved. We desire to have more people attend these sessions. We will make more announcements to call attention to this event.

10. New Business

a. Spring Show 2026

Bob Witwer announced that we have been able to get the Graham Building for our Spring show. The show date moves to the fourth weekend in May each year. This means that some years, including 2026, will be on Memorial Day weekend. The actual dates are May 23-24, 2026. We need more help to make all our shows successful. We need more porters, especially on Sunday evening.

b. Fall Show 2026

Bob reported that the Fall show in 2026 will take place on November 7th and 8th. These are the same dates as Train Fest in Milwaukee. It is likely that we will lose some vendors due to that show.

c. Open House

Tom Garren requested we establish a date for our Spring 2026 Open House. After some discussion May 02, 2026 was selected. Members are encouraged to spread the word about this event.

d. Closing Procedures

Mike Hinman reminded everyone that the closing procedures are documented and posted on the wall beside the front door. Please check this list to make sure all items are complete before leaving the Clubhouse.

11. Program

Bernie Dawson presented a program on how he kitbashed an N scale box cab switcher.

12. Adjournment

Bob Witwer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jake Forbes and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.