

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of November 03, 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 Wayne Aiken, Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, Mike Hinman, Clif Kelly, and Alan Servas.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Cat Attack, Alex Griswold, Scott Hall, Haydon Harrison, Mike Hinman, Tom Magnani, Rich Marrello, Joe Mehrlich, Milo Poulin, Greg Rehe, and Bob Wall.

There were no guests in attendance tonight.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Ken Howard made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted. It was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

Tom Garren made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

Richard Calfee reported talking with an Edward Schmude who was wondering if the Fall show was going to be big this year.

Calfee is also playing phone tag with a Richard Johnson who wants to make a donation of a large quantity of books to the Club.

A call was taken from a person named Glenda concerning the show. The call was given to Bob Witwer who has taken care of it.

Schaefer O'Neill talked to a person who wanted to buy any unused tables at the show for less than half price. Schaefer told him we don't work that way.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Clif Kelly reported that all notes have been sent out to those who dropped membership in this fiscal year. We have 96 members at this time. We have a list of some nine people who have shown an interest in joining the Club. We are waiting on these people to either complete their two meeting requirements or submit an application.

Randy Foulke asked how many honorary members we have. Tom Garren reported three.

Schaefer O'Neill reported that we have one check for dues that was written in pencil. The bank will not take this check. Efforts will be made to get a new check from that person.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. House

Ken Howard noted that thanks go out to Bob Witwer for fixing the lights in the rear storage rooms.

d. Engineering

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported the T-TRAK modules are complete and ready to go to the show. The permanent layout continues to grow and be improved. The new track plan is pinned to wall behind the layout.

HO – Ken Howard reported that Mike Hinman has created an obnoxious alarm to announce shorts on the HO layout. We have a number of members who are practicing using this new feature. Sunday afternoon was a short fest. The problem occurs most often when people decide they can make up their trains on powered tracks rather than use the staging tracks.

Wayne Aiken noted that we have seen a couple of engines that run fine on the test track but will short when placed on the layout. Ken acknowledged the problem and noted it is under investigation.

Ken also noted that it appears that we have lost one decoder in a Club engine as a result of the most recent short fest.

Ken Howard reported that ten cars have been added to the Club HO inventory in the last week. Nine of these cars are Norfolk and Western Powatan Arrow cars. There is also a set of Seaboard Coast Line passenger cars that will be added to the inventory after the show.

We are waiting on the return of Chuck Lenard to evaluate the inventory of switches to see if they meet the needs we have on the layout.

It was also noted that we had problems with the WIFI last weekend on both layouts, the N and HO. Bernie Dawson will work with Mike Hinman to see if this can be resolved. Tom Garren suggested the creation of a check list that can be used to troubleshoot these problems should they occur in the future.

S gauge – John Spach reported that the S gauge layout is running well per George List.

O gauge – George Sawyer reported that O gauge layout is working OK at this time.

G scale – Alan Servas reported that he is fixing the engine that failed during the October Open House. He also suggested that we replace some of the steel rail we currently have with brass track, should some become available.

e. Program Committee

Randy Foulke reported that he is working to get Bernie Dawson to provide the November program. Additionally, we have programs scheduled through August of 2026.

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reported that the annual Club dinner will be held on January 21st from 6:00 - 9:00 pm at the Golden Corral in Garner. They will set up tables for the gift exchange.

Randy is also investigating the possibility of a trip to the Timonium, MD train show on January 31st and February 1st. Look for more information on this in the near future.

7. Old Business

a. Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that he has turned the revised floor plan over to the Fairgrounds for setup. He will get all the hanging banners to the Fairgrounds office by Thursday so they have time to get them hung before our setup day.

Bob has also verified the food concession with coffee on Friday, and food on Saturday and Sunday.

The guard is lined up for the show.

Bob has also met with the PA owner and verified we will have wireless mikes for our use this weekend.

A floor plan has been sent to each vendor with their location highlighted. Bob has received no complaints about this floor plan.

Further, Bob was contacted by Bob Barbara who wants to donate an N scale bridge as a door prize.

Bob Witwer stated the hours for the weekend of the show.

Friday the doors open at 8:00 am for us to perform final table adjustments. Layouts should start arriving for setup at 10:30 am. The vendors can start to arrive at 11:30 am. The doors will close at 7:00 pm.

Saturday, the doors open at 7:00 am for vendors. The doors will close at 8:00 am to allow time to set up the Craftsman Showcase. Doors open for the public from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Sunday the doors will open at 9:00 am for the vendors with the public being admitted at 10:00 am. The show will close at 4:00 pm on Sunday.

Bernie Dawson stated that we need more volunteers on Friday morning.

Bob Witwer thanked Greg Rehe for doing a great job getting all the printing done. He also thanked Schaefer O'Neill for getting the ribbons that will be awarded to the various winners.

We appear to have one ticket sold through Eventbrite at this time. This may increase as Saturday draws closer.

Bob Witwer stated that the show has been advertised on many websites. John Spach will try to contact the UNC-TV Carolina Traveler.

Tom Garren suggested that since our show is now on the second weekend of November, we should add an additional ad in the December issue of Model Railroader. Greg Rehe will follow up with Fire Crown on this item.

Ken Howard noted that we are planning to load the truck on Thursday starting at 4:00 pm. It is likely that we will actually start as soon as the truck arrives.

Ken also noted that we need more people at the Clubhouse to unload the truck when it returns from the Fairgrounds on Sunday afternoon. All items will be unloaded into the Crew Lounge. It will then be sorted out on Monday and put into the proper areas.

It was mentioned that we can use extra dollies, some of which will be left at the Clubhouse to be used on Sunday night.

Bernie Dawson mentioned that we have three T-TRAK modules at the Clubhouse that need to be transported to the Fairgrounds.

8. New Business

None

9. Adjournment

George Sawyer moved the meeting be adjourned and the Board go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously. The public portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.