

The

Whistle



Post

Official Newsletter of the

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

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“All Aboard”

November 2025

Wow – was that a Show or what?

If by some strange reason you missed our Fall Show, like you were off planet on a mission or something, you missed the biggest, best, and most fantastic Show the Club has ever put on. The remarkable Mr. Witwer and team succeeded in producing an amazing event. I can't begin to thank everyone who had a hand in this. The teamwork Bob coordinated was amazing. Everyone who attended was thrilled with the new format. This was a glowing success.

And to make it even better, our amazing Mr. Witwer has secured the large Graham Building for our Spring Show. This man never ceases to bring us bigger and better events. I wonder what he has up his sleeve for his next act.

As we move on into the Holiday Season, remember we have our annual Club Dinner coming up. Now it's time to go shopping for that gift to bring for the secret swap. Last year this was a real fun event, so let's find some unique items for the exchange that will encourage the stealing and surprises

Holiday season generally means there are a lot of members on the move throughout the land. Safe journeys to any and all who will be traveling.

As a matter of fact, I hear my train coming—

All Aboard

John Spach, President

Proposed Timonium Train Show Trip

by Randy Foulke

Several NRV members have approached me about scheduling a trip to Timonium, MD for the next train show on January 31 and February 1, 2026. Show hours are 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 9 am to 3 pm on Sunday. Mike Militello of Makin' Tracks, a vendor at our train show, owns and operates The Great Scale Model Train Show. The show is held at the 150,000 square foot "Cow Palace" on the Maryland State Fairgrounds. The winter show is the largest of three, and is considered to be the second largest train show on the East Coast after Amherst. From my past experience, the quality of the show is much better than Amherst.

Travel time from Raleigh to Timonium from the Clubhouse is 5 hours and 40 minutes (not including stops). Travel can be by carpool or a rental of passenger van, if there is enough interest. There are three options for attending, all of which I have done in the past:

- One option is to make it a day trip, leaving at 4:30 am and returning around 10:30 pm. This is a long day and can be exhausting.
- The second option is to leave Friday late afternoon, stay one night, and return on Saturday night.
- The third option is to leave on Friday early evening, stay two nights and return about 9:30 pm on Sunday. From my experience it is hard to see everything in two days - particularly if one of the Baltimore area train clubs has an open house visitation for train show attendees.

Currently, a special attendees lodging rate of \$84 per night is offered by the Hunt Valley Holiday Inn Express, located just 9 minutes north of the Fairgrounds. In order to get the special rate, arrangements need to be finalized as soon as possible, but probably no later than the Membership meeting on December 18, 2025. If you have an interest, please contact Randy Foulke at Barry's breakfast or by email at randy.railfan@gmail.com or by text to 919-649-8253. Note that this is not an "official" NRV sponsored event.

Randy Foulke Trivia Question

What famous railroad industrial designer is responsible for the current paint scheme on Air Force One and was hired by NASA to be a consultant on the interior design of Skylab?

See the answer on **Page 15**

Ken Howard Trivia Question

What is the fastest train in the world?

See the answer on **Page 15**

Open House – October 11, 2025

The Open House was a success. The star of the event was Phil's Z scale layout, which created a lot of interest. Approximately 30 Club members were present to welcome and entertain some 47 guests. From the guests we received one completed application, two promises, and three RFIs. We expect this will translate into at least three new members. All in all, it was a very good day!



Phil Michaud operating his Z scale in the Crew Lounge (photo by Tom Garren).



All the action wasn't on the layouts (photo by Jeff Cole)..



John Kuchnia assisting a young visitor with the N scale (photo by Jeff Cole).



Randy Foulke dispatched for the HO layout (photo by Tom Garren).



Rich Martello showing a guest how to build a mountain
(photo by Tom Garren).



Never too young to be fascinated with trains! (photo
by Jeff Cole)

Scale Trains Meet & Greet – October 16, 2025

Thanks to **Bob Witwer** for organizing the **Scale Trains/Roadtrip** presentation and securing the excellent venue at **Cary Church of Christ** for the evening. Forty-nine people attended including four members from the Waynesboro Model Railroad Club, four members of CPD13, two members of Golden East Railroad Modelers, and three members of the club from Danville, VA.

Special thanks to Shane and Michelle Wilson from **Scale Trains** for making NRV one of the last stops on their Lower 48 Roadtrip. Sincere thanks for an informative presentation about the history of the company, the process of bringing new models to market, the display of their products, and their openness to questions about their leadership and development processes.



Shane Wilson starts his presentation while Michelle
changes the graphics (photo by Ken Howard).



Shane responding to questions from the attendees (photo
by Randy Foulke).



The presentation was well attended and the venue was terrific (photo by Randy Foulke).



Michelle Wilson passing out gift bags and other goodies to attendees (photo by Ken Howard).

41st Annual Fall Train Show

As **John** pointed out in **All Aboard**, missing the Fall Show required some magical convergence of events. The following pictures are presented to refresh your memories and to share our enjoyment with others in the Model Railroad Community. For a really great recap of the entire setup and show, the Club extends thanks to **Ken Smith, Old Guy Having Fun with Trains**, and his video of the NRV Fall 2025 Show. The video is one hour and 42 minutes long, but don't let that deter you. He's created a wonderful chronicle that's well worth the time.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvq25VxpYdI>



(Photo by Tom Garren)

November 7th Load Out for the 41st Fall Train Show

While there is a lot of preparation that goes on behind the scenes for weeks before the show, the load out of the truck on Thursday evening is the official start of the real work. How many people does it take to load out a 16 foot box truck? Actually not a trivial question, but the answer is nine! Thanks to Paul and Schaefer for picking up the truck and bringing it to the Clubhouse on time for the loadout. Thanks to Jake Forbes, Tom and Daphne Garren, Ken Howard, Paul Lebiedzinski, Shaefer O'Neill, Greg Rehe, George Sawyer, Don Weaver, and Bob Witwer.



Daphne Garren and Don Weaver with the first rows of books and magazines (photo by Tom Garren).



Greg Rehe pushing a load up the ramp into the truck (photo by Tom Garren).



Paul Lebiedzinski, Jake Forbes, George Sawyer and Ken Howard with HO load (photo by Tom Garren).



All done except for the hand trucks – Greg Rehe, Daphne Garren Paul Lebiedzinski, Jake Forbes, and George Sawyer (photo by Ken Howard).

The Show (Photos by Jeff Cole)





Award Winning Layouts

President, John Spach presents awards to the winning layouts (photos by Jeff Cole).



Wilmington Railroad Museum – Best of Show



North Raleigh T-TRAK and NTrak – Honorable Mention



Sipping and Switching Society and Hobby Laser Products –
Best of Show - 1st Place Module

Not Just for Old Guys



Luke Tomberlin and Ethan Markes enjoying helping the Club sell locos (photo by Christine Smith).

Craftsman's Showcase Winners

Text and Photos by Randy Foulke

The winners of the first Craftsman's Showcase are as follows:

Locomotives:

- 1st Place - Liam Bryant - N&W K2a Mountain Steam Locomotive
- Honorable Mention - Ted Salamone - DB (German) 041-3344 2-8-2 Steam Locomotive

Rolling Stock:

- 1st Place - Nathaniel Onandia - Central Pacific 1880's Passenger Train, 4-4-0 Loco, Fruit Car, 4 Open Platform Passenger Cars
- Honorable Mention - Michael Rossi - B&O 50' Flat Car

Structures:

- 1st Place - Daniel Fisher - Chlorine Dioxide Production Facility
- Honorable Mention - Richard King - Aircraft Maintenance Hangar

Diorama:

- 1st Place - Jim Kalenowski - Rail Served Scrap Yard
- Honorable Mention - Benjamin Mosher - United Kingdom Trainshed

"Anything But":

- 1st Place - Kevin O'Connor - Box Car Converted to Diner
- Honorable Mention - Tom Shafer - Abandoned Freight Station Converted from a Revel School House



Liam Bryant



Nathaniel Onandia



Daniel Fisher



Michael Rossi



Kevin O'Connor



Jim Kalenowski

Sunday Night Porters

The most thankless jobs at the show are Sunday night: number one as porters for the vendors, and number two the crew that unloads the truck at the Clubhouse.



Daphne Garren and Joe Mehrlich clearing tables from load out area (photo by Tom Garren).



Larry Martin, Teresa Smith, and Alan Servas assist Mr. and Mrs. John Rose (photo by Tom Garren).



Shaefer O'Neill, Ted Kuntsling, and George Sawyer helping with the unload (photo by Ken Howard).



The bottom line – all these containers came back empty (photo by Ken Howard).

Upcoming Events

BIG NEWS: Our 2026 “Spring into Trains” show will move to the Jim Graham Building. The Club has secured the building in perpetuity for the third weekend in May. Next year’s dates are May 23-24. In 2026, this will be the Memorial Day weekend. Plan Ahead!

Chasing J-611

Thanks to **Jake Forbes** for these shots of Norfolk and Western #611 taken on the Buckingham Branch Railroad in Virginia on October 19-20th. Jake, Liam, and Alec had a great time chasing as the photos attest. The 1938 Ford Pickup in the last picture is great addition.



Real Railroads

Ken Howard hit the road again in September and October. Here are a few of his pictures of railroad action from Virginia through upstate New York.



Amtrak Train No. 94 departing southbound from Ashland, VA on September 27th.



I was not the only rail fan on the tracks at Westport, NY.



Norfolk Southern ES44AC # 8091 and Wabtec rebuild AC44C6M # 4455 leading eastbound freight on Altoona Curve on October 8th.



CSX ES44AH #903 and GP39 #4299 are southbound on the northbound main at Ashland, VA on October 14th.



Adirondack Railroad RS-18u #1835 awaiting action at Thendara, NY on October 7th.



Penn State Altoona, PSU 2020, GP60i on the turntable at the Railroaders Memorial Museum. The locomotive was donated to the Penn State Rail Transportation Engineering Department by Norfolk Southern.

Neat Links

Tom Magnani forwarded the following link from **Jack Dziadul**: "The Railroad Crossings of Cambridge, MA | MBTA Grand Junction Line" on YouTube.

<https://youtu.be/LBLGwhI5b7E?si=BbRoP1ON5RqjjSD>

Scott Hall via **Bob Witwer** and **Tom Garren**: "The Largest Train Show in North Carolina" video of the show from DIY and Digital Railroad.

https://youtu.be/P_r4tehbQiQ?si=EAr58ejpI1HJiSpB

Scott Hall via **Tom Garren**: From YouTube channel DJs Trains on Oct. 18: "The hardest thing for modeling in small spaces is when you don't have a lot of room for straight track. I FOUND THE PERFECT PLACE TO MODEL."

<https://youtu.be/rFNAevmVA3c?si=8yYdGqxOIS8rR9Jq>

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

December Board of Governors Meeting: The next BoG meeting will be held at the Clubhouse on Monday, December 1st at 7:00 pm. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

November General Membership Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Bernie Dawson is scheduled to give the program on *Creating an Early Diesel in N Scale*.

December HO Committee Meeting: Cancelled. See you all after the Holidays.

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, 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 Answer:

Raymond Loewy was personally asked by President John F. Kennedy create a new paint scheme for Air Force One. Loewy worked closely with First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy to implement the preferences of color and typeface of President Kennedy. The paint scheme continues to the present 747 (VC-25A) presidential plane.

Loewy as born in 1893 in France, served in the French army in WW1, became a naturalized US citizen in 1938, and died in Monte Carlo in 1986. His career as an industrial designer spanned 70 years. He was hired by NASA in 1967 and worked until 1973 to assist in the interior design of Skylab. Loewy was responsible (as the Habitability Consultant) to improve the psychology, safety, and comfort of manned spacecraft. The principles he developed continue in manned spacecraft flight today.

Loewy's most recognized railroad designs are the exterior styling of the Pennsylvania Railroad's GG-1, T-1 steam engine, and the Baldwin shark-nose diesels. Loewy was also responsible for a number of exterior color schemes and interior designs of passenger trains including the PRR Broadway Limited, the NP Vista-dome North Coast Limited, and the MP Eagle streamliners.

Loewy also designed corporate logos, many of which are still in use, including Shell and Exxon. Loewy also designed appliances, farm tractor exteriors, truck exteriors, automobile exteriors and interiors, vending machines, and tobacco packaging. The press referred to Loewy as *The Man Who Shaped America*, *The Father of Streamlining*, and *The Father of Industrial Design*.

Source: Northern Pacific Railroad Historical Association

Ken Howard Trivia Question Answer:

The Shanghai Maglev train reaches speeds up to 268 miles per hour between Shanghai International Airport and the city center. The train covers 18.6 miles in seven minutes and 20 seconds.

Source: Recordstrivia.com

NRV Whistle Post
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First Class

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