

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of December 18, 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 Randy Foulke.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Members attending in person included Wayne Aiken, Bernie Dawson, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Mike Hinman, Ted Kunstling, Jack McDonald, Don McPherson, Schaefer O'Neill, Adam Servas, Alan Servas, Jim Smith, John Spach, Alec Urban, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom included Pete Donofrio, Chuck Larnerd, George List, Phil Mixhaud, Greg Rehe, and Robert Wall.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance

We had one guest in person tonight. Graham Rousseau has applied for Junior membership. This is his second meeting.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Bob Witwer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jake Forbes and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

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

6. Show and Tell

Jake Forbes showed a new N&W GP9 detailed and painted in the passenger scheme and lightly weathered.

Randy Foulke shared photos from the 150th anniversary of Terra Haute, Indianan, featuring two very nice train stations.

7. Communications with the Club

Bob Witwer reported that Ralph James has completed his chemo and is doing well. He hopes to see us at breakfast soon.

Tom Garren reported that Cat Flynn is having some medical procedures and will be out for a while. Attendees were asked to sign a get well card for Cat.

Tom also reported that Mike and Sherilyn Johns were in an auto accident yesterday. They are not seriously hurt, just banged up a bit. Attendees were also asked to sign a card for Mike and Sherilyn.

John Spach reported that Rob Rousseau has announced the installation of a historical marker in Holly Springs noting the Durham and Southern Railroad. This event will take place later in 2026. In conjunction with this event, the town is hosting a model train show. Our Club will offer our T-TRAK layout plus Phil Michaud's Z scale layout. Bernie Dawson will coordinate.

Schaefer O'Neill reported that he has talked with Jackie Harper about the Thomasville show. It will be in the same facility as it was last year. Information about the show will be sent out soon. Ken Howard will coordinate this event.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Tom Garren reported that we have one applicant present tonight who is eligible for membership. Graham Rousseau has applied for Junior membership. He models CSX in HO scale. Bob Witwer made a motion to accept Graham as a Junior member of the Club. The motion was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report tonight.

c. House

Mike Hinman noted the installation of the plaque commemorating Dick Walz on the wall of the Crew Lounge.

d. Library

Wayne Aiken reported that he has created a naughty list of people that have not returned some books they have checked out.

e. Website

Tom Garren reported that work continues on updating the website. Each layout chairman has been emailed the text describing their layout. They are asked to have updates back to Tom in January. These updates will be applied to the website. We also need to take new photos of the layouts. George Sawyer has agreed to help with this assignment. It is hoped that by February, the tactical updates previously identified will be completed. We still need access to a Word Press expert to help us with more challenging problems.

f. Engineering Committee

N scale – Bernie Dawson reported that work continues on the changes to the permanent N scale layout. The group is also planning some improvements to the T-TRAK layout.

HO – Bob Witwer reported that Chuck Larnerd will reinforce the mountain. Once that work has been completed, the scenery on the mountain will be completed.

Chuck Larnerd reported much track work is being done. Main 1 is getting an extended passing siding. Main 2 is getting a new wye. Mains 1, 3, and 4 are operational now. Main 2 is undergoing construction. Contact Chuck if you would like to help so you can coordinate when to meet. He has recently trained two members in trackwork.

S gauge – George List thanked the Club for removing the empty boxes from in front of the S gauge layout.

O gauge – Nothing to report.

G scale – Alan Servas is working on the Bachman number 12 engine. Mike Hinman has volunteered to help with this project.

g. Program Committee

Randy Foulke reported that programs are scheduled through August of 2026.

h. 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. At this time, there are four people going to the show. Randy stated that the motel rates will open up at the end of the month for reservations, so you have until then to decide if you would like to go. 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 reported that we will have breakfast on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Please attend if you can.

9. Old Business

a. Missing Inventory

John Spach noted that we are still looking for the set of N&W passenger cars that went missing recently. Please help locate these cars and get them returned to the Club shelves.

b. Show

Bob Witwer reported that the Show committee meetings will resume on January 24th at 10:00 am. The Spring show will be May 23-24 in the Graham building.

Bob is looking for volunteers to take the lead on specific features of the show. This does not mean you have to do this task but rather line up the help and details for your specific function. These functions include:

- Greeter organization, set up staff and handouts
- Train Talks, recruit more speakers.
- Advertising
- Venue setup, Friday morning table numbers, layout locations, chairs, etc.

Another new feature of our shows will be Back Shop Sales. This will be an addition to the Club sales table, but with separate accounting. This is where members can sell personal items. We will no longer rent tables to Club members at our shows.

Schaefer O'Neill noted that we make a lot of money at these shows that we use to operate the Club. Dues alone do not cover our expenses. We are a service organization. We need to do everything possible to make our shows fun for the public. We need all members to volunteer and help make the shows a success. This is also another way that we bring more members into the Club.

John Spach added that without the shows the Club would not exist. The dues would be too high to interest enough people to keep going. Please volunteer and help make the shows a success.

Bernie Dawson noted that the shows should be fun for the Club members. This can only be true if we have enough members volunteer to distribute the work.

Tom Garren commented that Sunday at this year's Fall show was exceptionally busy.

10. New Business

a. Hot Water

Schaefer O'Neill has obtained a bid from a contractor to provide hot water and redo the floors and vanities in our restrooms. He will be coordinating with our landlord to obtain permission to make these changes. Schaefer will have a full proposal for the Board at the January meeting.

b. Annual Charity Donation

As usual this time of year, we started our Pass the Hat donation collection in December. The event will continue through the Membership meeting in January. The Club will match the first \$500.00 of donations. The recipients will be finalized at the January Membership meeting.

11. Program

Randy Foulke presented a program on EMD E units.

12. Adjournment

Bob Witwer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.