

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of January 15, 2026

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 Alan Bradley.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Members attending in person included Wayne Aiken, Alan Bradley, Tom Garren, Mike Hinman, Ken Howard, Don McPherson, Phil Michaud, Schaefer O'Neill, Alan Servas, and John Spach.

Members attending by Zoom included Ed Bottum, Richard Calfee, Randy Foulke, Alex Griswold, Haydon Harrison, Tom Magnani, Jack McDonald, Milo Poulin, Greg Rehe, George Sawyer, Gene Sing, and Robert Wall.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance

We had one guest on Zoom tonight. Len Nieman has applied for Senior membership. This is his fifth meeting.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Ken Howard made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Alan Bradley and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

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

6. Show and Tell

John Spach showed two more HO GG1s he has obtained. One is in the bicentennial paint scheme, while the other is in the American Railroads 100th anniversary scheme.

Tom Garren showed a DL109 – 110 pair he has obtained in O scale. The units are painted in the original Southern passenger paint scheme.

7. Communications with the Club

Richard Calfee reported he is working on fifteen different communications.

Ken Howard reported he is working to set up a date to receive a layout donation from Chapel Hill.

Ken also announced the Greensboro show will be one day this year on April 18th. The show is also in a different location from previous years. We will also have the Thomasville show in February and the Mebane show in March.

Tom Garren asked the members present to sign a card for J.R. Fisher. He is in the hospital.

Tom Garren also reported that Bill and Marylou Ferguson have moved into Stone Ridge Senior Living in Cary. They will have an estate sale at their former home on January 31 and February 1. This includes Bill's trains and wood working equipment. Once the times have been confirmed, Tom will put out a note to the members with the details of this sale.

Randy Foulke announced he has been in communication with John Cade with the Cary Train Show. This will once again be a layout only show located in the Herb Young Center near Town Hall on March 21-22. The NRV T-TRAK group would like to participate. Randy noted that everyone who participates should sign up on the Cary Rec Track system. Phil Michaud agreed to also bring his Z scale layout.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Tom Garren reported that we have two applicants tonight who are eligible for membership. Len Nieman has applied for Senior membership. He models the New Haven in HO scale. We also have an application from Angelo Yurko. He has applied for Junior membership. Angelo models the D&RGW in HO scale. Alan Bradley made a motion to accept Len and Angelo as members of the Club. The motion was seconded by Phil Michaud and passed unanimously.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report tonight.

c. Library

Wayne Aiken reported that we have received a donation from Richard Johnson of approximately 60 – 70 books that are new to our Library. This is in addition to an additional donation of magazines from Mr. Johnson. We have also received a donation of magazines from Pete Slugg.

Wayne will provide a list of all the new books once they are processed.

In the Lost and Found box in the Library, Wayne has a couple jackets and a glasses case. If these items are not claimed soon, they will be taken to Good Will.

d. House

Mike Hinman noted that the BLI CV setter has been integrated into the test track in the shop. He is working on a rotary switch setup to make selecting the correct device easier for the users.

e. Engineering

N Scale - Mike Hinman reported that Milo Poulin has been doing a lot of work to improve the permanent N scale layout. Ask Milo for the most up to date information.

HO – Ken Howard reported that Chuck Lernard has completed a lot of track work on the layout. Richard Calfee has also been working on ballasting Mains 1-3 on Module 4. Several of our younger members have been planting trees to improve the scenery.

S Scale – Nothing to report tonight.

O Gauge – George Sawyer reported he is looking for cables for the new MTH control system.

G Scale – Alan Servas is still working to repair the engine that failed during our last Open House.

f. Program Committee

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

g. 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. So far 17 people have indicated to Randy that they will attend. Please let Randy know if you plan to attend.

Randy also reminded everyone about the non-official trio to the Timonium, MD show on January 31 and February 1.

Members were reminded of the Open House for Dr. Lou Monville's layout after breakfast on January 28.

On Saturday, January 17 we will have a sale of HO equipment by Len Neiman at the Clubhouse from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

9. Old Business

a. Annual Charity Donation

As usual this time of year, we finish our Pass the Hat donation collection in January. The Club will match the first \$500.00 of donations. The recipients are The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and the Durham Rescue Mission.

b. Spring Show

John Spach announced that we need volunteers to help with floor setup on Friday, to conduct Train Talks, and to act as Greeters for the show. We will be in Graham building just like the Fall show. This is our chance to grow the Spring show.

10. New Business

a. Android Phone

Mike Hinman reported that he has been able to set up the software needed to make a donated Android phone into a throttle that can be used on either the HO or N scale layouts. Schaefer O'Neill stated that he can probably donate more phones this year. George Sawyer noted that he could use a phone on the O gauge layout once he gets the new MTH system working.

b. Club Throttles

Mike Hinman wondered if this was a good time to discuss the future of the Club-owned throttles from Digitrax. This item will be discussed by the Board at a future meeting.

c. Shop Door

Mike Hinman asked if we could leave the Shop door unlocked during our normal operating hours. For now the answer is No. This item will be discussed further at a future meeting of the Board.

d. Lanyards for HO Operations

Mike Hinman shared that he is making cards to be placed in lanyards to indicate where a person is operating on the HO layout. For instance, if you are using Main 1 you will pick up and wear the lanyard with the 1 in it. This makes it easy for others to identify who is running on which track. Mike plans to begin implementing this change this weekend.

e. Black Box

Schaefer O'Neill requests that members write their names on the envelope when placing money in the Black Box in the Library. If something is sold to a visitor, their name should be written on the envelope and or the credit card slip, if they paid by card.

11. Program

Alan Bradley presented a program on the end of the D&RGW Narrow Gauge operations.

12. Adjournment

Ken Howard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.