

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of February 19, 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 Clif Kelly.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Members attending in person included Wayne Aiken, Liam Bryant, Jake Forbes, Tom Garren, Mike Hinman, Ken Howard, Clif Kelly, Jack McDonald, Don McPherson, Len Nieman, Schaefer O'Neill, George Sawyer, John Spach, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom included Ed Bottum, Pete Donofrio, Alex Griswold, Haydon Harrison, Chuck Larnerd, Tom Magnani, Colin Martinko, John Mezera, Gene Sing, Robert Wall, and Carl Zetie.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance

We had three guests tonight. Joshua Metzl and Bela Nemeth attended by Zoom tonight. This is their second meeting making them both eligible for membership. Joshua has applied for Associate membership and Bela has applied to be a Senior member. We also had one guest, Mike Wagner attending in person tonight. This is Mike's first meeting. He turned in an application for Associate membership at the meeting.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

5. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

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

6. Show and Tell

Jake Forbes showed a N&W 10/6 sleeper he has obtained.

Len Neiman showed two volumes of the official Pullman Standard library, volumes 7 and 11. If the Club library does not already have these books, Len will donate them to the reference section, not for sale.

Don McPherson showed several cabooses from his collection of HO equipment.

7. Communications with the Club

Tom Garren shared a note he received from Bernie Dawson. Bernie will not be at the Club as much as usual for the next few weeks due to a medical issue.

Mike Hinman took a call from a person wanting to verify our hours. He will bring some Model Railroader magazines to donate to the Club.

Ken Howard reported that we have received an N scale donation of some track and a few other items.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Clif Kelly reported that we have two applicants tonight who are eligible for membership. Joshua Metzl has applied for Associate membership. He models in HO scale and likes the Pennsylvania and NS railroads. Bela Nemeth has applied for Senior membership. He models in both S gauge and N scale. Bob Witwer made a motion to accept Joshua and Bela as members of the Club. The motion was seconded by Jake Forbes and passed unanimously.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report tonight.

c. Library

Wayne Aiken reported that we have received a large donation of approximately seventy to eighty books. Wayne will provide a list of all the new books once they are processed.

The total number of books in the Library is just under 3,000.

d. Engineering

N Scale - Mike Hinman reported that work is ongoing on the permanent N scale layout. Milo Poulin has been doing a lot of work to improve the permanent N scale layout. Milo's schedule has shifted, so he will be working more on weekdays and not on weekends as in the past.

HO – Ken Howard reported that much work has been happening on the HO layout. The Main 1 siding has been extended from the extension to the Angier freight station. The plan is to keep Main 1 operational as work is done on other areas of the layout.

Mike Hinman, Chuck Larnerd and Paul Lebedinski are working to solve the problems of accessibility for switch motors on the new wye.

The framework is up on Mt. Witwer. Wire screen and plaster should be added next.

Greg Rehe has finished putting in the bridges and the grade of the Main 4 extension. Track will be next.

Len Neiman submitted a suggestion for the track plan on the backside of Module 9. This plan gives a better way to get in and out of the yard and gives the users better access to the cars so that reaching over other cars is not required to get at the yard. This plan was approved and will be worked into the construction schedule.

Other planned changes include removing several existing crossovers and making changes to the interior yard so that it will be brought out to Main 4 on the West end.

Mike Hinman replaced the fan on the power supply for the HO layout.

Chuck Lernard reported that starting Monday, Main 1 will be down for maintenance, but the siding can be used to keep the line open.

S Gauge – Nothing to report tonight.

O Gauge – George Sawyer reported he has been working on a new donation. If anyone is interested in a Lionel coal loader, coal ramp, or dispatch station let George know.

G Scale – Nothing to report.

e. Program Committee – Nothing new to report.

f. Social Committee

Our next Open House will be on May 02, 2026. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend and help.

Schaefer O'Neill reminded everyone that the New Bern train show will take place this weekend for any who care to attend.

9. Old Business

a. Area Shows

The Club attended the Thomasville show in February and set up with five tables. It was determined to be a profitable venture for the Club. Thanks to all who attended and helped man the tables.

We will also need help to man tables at the Mebane show which takes place on March 14th. If you would like to help please contact Ken Howard.

It has been decided not to participate in the Greensboro show this year.

Ken Howard and John Spach have completed going through the last 600 cars from the Ken Ross donation. These items will now enter our HO for sale inventory.

b. Privately Owned Equipment Policy

John Spach noted that the new policy for privately owned equipment has been posted in the Club on the front door and the door to the HO/N layout room. John also went over the new policy for operating privately owned equipment on Club layouts. People are encouraged to test their equipment on the Club test tracks before trying to run on a Club layout. Equipment owners that run on the Club layouts do so at their own risk.

c. Spring Show

Bob Witwer reported we have sold 239 tables and that we are hoping to sell 350 vendor tables for the Spring show. We are also still recruiting layouts as some of those previously used are not available on the weekend of the show.

Advertising for the show is well underway with ads being placed in the usual magazines and with manual distribution of flyers. We are still looking for more ways to advertise to get the word out to even more people.

This year we will create a Backshop Sales area as part of the Club tables. This area will be for members who wish to sell their own equipment. Members selling equipment will be required to help man the Backshop Sales tables for four hours in addition to their other show duties. No separate tables will be sold to Club members.

Bob Witwer stated that we are still working to secure more sponsors for the show.

He also asked about ideas for additional topics for Train Talks.

d. Swap Meet

Mike Hinman suggested we consider having a monthly or bimonthly swap meet for members at the Club. It was decided to refer this item to the Board for consideration.

10. New Business

a. Zoom Board Meetings

John Spach announced that we are converting the monthly Board meetings to Zoom only. This worked well last month and it has been decided to continue holding the Board meetings only by Zoom.

b. Groups io

Bob Witwer brought up the fact that with the passing of John Wallis we need someone to take the lead on our Groups.io groups so we can better manage the groups and begin to use this tool effectively. Collin Martinko stated that he might be interested to take on this role.

11. Program

Ken Howard presented a program entitled "Random Wanderings in Search of Real and Model Railroad Oddities."

12. Adjournment

Bob Witwer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by John Spach and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.