

The

Whistle



Post

Official Newsletter of the

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

1615 Old Louisburg Rd Raleigh, NC 27604

Phone: 919-400-5570

“All Aboard”

February 2026

Greetings and salutations to you all from the frozen South. Man it has been cold out there. I moved south to stay warm in winter; I didn't plan on this happening. Oh well, spring is just around the corner, and soon we will be bitching about the heat.

Good news – we had a rather successful day at the Thomasville show. We had reserved 5 tables and were well manned. Thanks to all who braved the bitter wind and worked our area. We sold a bunch of stuff and might have found a couple of new vendors for our Spring Show. We have another one-day show coming up on Saturday, March 14th in Mebane. Ken has informed me we will have 6 tables, so we will need volunteers to haul stuff and man tables. Please let Ken know if you are available.

Speaking of the Spring Show, remember it is also rapidly approaching. Once again, we will be featuring a Craftsman's Showcase as part of the show. This is a great opportunity for all to show off their talents. There will be many classifications, so find something you are proud of, or build something new, and get it entered to win.

Thanks to our cleaning service, the Club is really looking good on a regular basis. Let's all remember to do everything we can to keep it that way. And, as spring gets here we will have to organize a cleanup of the outside area. Volunteers for the cleanup and haul to the dump are needed. A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board on the layout door.

OK enough for now: got some couplers to change out.

All Aboard

John Spach, President

Thomasville Train Show – February 7, 2026

A crew of seven men and two vehicles full of HO and O gauge goodies to sell travelled to Thomasville for Mike's Trains Trainside Train Day. Breakfast at McDonalds on the way into the show was the first item on the day's agenda followed by set up, socializing, and peddling trains. Sales were brisk in the morning, but fell off after lunch. Nonetheless, we sold a considerable amount of merchandise and consider the effort to have been worthwhile. Thanks to Bob Witwer and Randy Foulke for driving and selling, and to Tom Garren, Ken Howard, George Sawyer, Jim Smith, and John Spach for manning the sales tables.



Bob Witwer, Tom Garren, Jim Smith, and Randy Foulke. (Photo by Ken Howard)



Randy Foulke, Jim Smith, and George Sawyer. (photo by Ken Howard)



Overview of our table layout with Lionel in the foreground and HO locos behind. (Photo by Ken Howard)



George Sawyer makes a sale and heads for the cash box past Jim Smith and Schaefer O'Neill. (photo by Ken Howard)

A Reminder to Members and Guests



Privately Owned Equipment Policy To All Concerned:

**Members and Guests operate their own
equipment at their own risk.**

**Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club, Inc.
assumes no risk of any loss to privately owned
equipment operated on any Club layout(s).**

**Further, we suggest you test your equipment
on the test track prior to running on any Club
layout(s). Please do not hesitate to ask for
assistance in the evaluation/testing of your
equipment to ensure proper operation.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

Lionel Donation

Tom Garren, Ken Howard, and John Spach travelled to Chapel Hill after Doc Lou's Open House to pick up a donation of Lionel equipment and miscellaneous O gauge buildings, track, and vehicles.



Photo by Erika Gyori

Annual Club Dinner

The third Annual Club Dinner was held at the Golden Corral in Garner on January 21, 2026. A total of 25 members and guests attended the event. Seventeen of the attendees participated in the Dirty Santa gift exchange.

In Memorium

We note the passing of current and long-time member, and past president Joffre' (JR) Fisher. A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, February 28th, 2026 in St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 101 North Bonner Street, Washington, NC 27889.

Doc Lou Monville - Open House – January 28, 2026

Doc Lou Monville hosted a very well attended Open House to view his recently completed G scale, Standard gauge, and O gauge layouts, the Modoc, Amador, and Mandalay Railroad . The event was well attended by members of the Club and other friends and train fans. For those of you who were unable to attend, here are some photos of Doc's layouts.



Entry to the inner sanctum .(Photo by John Spach)



The layout room. (photo by John Spach)



Greg Rehe, Tom Garren and Paul Lebiezinski watching Doc Lout run the railroad. (Photo by Ken Howard)



Tucked away in a corner is a small layout with beautiful Marx train (photo by Ken Howard)



The upper level G scale. (photo by Ken Howard)



Standard gauge layout. (Photo by John Spach)



Hand-made circus train. (Photo by John Spach)



Detail of living room wall hanging. (Photo by Ken Howard)



Schaefer O'Neill taking it in. Note the flying objects hanging from the ceiling. (Photo by Tom Garren)



Paul Lebiezinski, Tom Garren, other guests, Doc Lou, John Spach, Bill Butler, and Ken Howard. (Photo by Bob Witwer)

Ken Howard's Trivia Question

Randy Foulke is up to his eyebrows in home construction this month, so you'll have to put up with a substitute trivia person.

The American Freedom Train operated twice: the first time in the years 1947-1949, and the second in 1975-1976. What motive power was used to head the trains in the two periods?

See the answer and historical background on **Page 9**

Member's Layout

As those of you who regularly attend the Club on weekends, or perused the layouts at the last Fall show, **Phil Michaud** has constructed a portable Z-scale layout. Here are his photos of the layout.



Upcoming Events

CAROLINA COASTAL RAILROADERS: 30TH Annual Train Show, New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, February 21-22, 2026 from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday. Admission for both days \$10 for 12 and up.

STEAM OVER SPENCER: March 5-7, 2026 from 9 am – 5 pm at the North Carolina Transportation Museum. See “Neat Links” for further information.

MEBANE TRAIN SHOW: Saturday March 14, 2026 from 9 am – 2pm at 209 West Jackson Street, Mebane, NC 27302. Please contact Ken Howard if you are interested in working the Club sales tables at this show.

NRV OPEN HOUSE: We have scheduled out Spring Open House for Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 10 am to 4 pm.

NRV “SPRING INTO TRAINS” SHOW: This year’s dates are May 23-24, over the Memorial Day weekend. Graham Building, NC State Fairgrounds. Plan Ahead!

SOUTHBOUND MODEL TRAIN EXPO 2026: Sponsored by Southbound Model Railroaders and Mike’s Trains. August 29 from 9 am - 4 pm and August 30 from 10 am - 4 pm. Winston-Salem Fairgrounds Event Center, Winston-Salem, NC. Admission for both days \$10 for 12 and up

Neat Links

Tom Garren and **Tom Magnani** both passed along the following information about the Steam Over Spencer event:

March 5-7, 2026: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The North Carolina Transportation Museum will be home to several large operating model train layouts featuring scale model locomotives that are powered by live steam! Locomotives and railroad cars in a variety of scales will be featured during this event, which is included in regular museum admission pricing.

<https://www.nctransportationmuseum.org/steam-over-spencer/>

Jay Raney, a friend from Washington State, sent the following link of a recent train derailment in Oregon. Luckily, it was a slow speed event and no one was hurt. The video also has some shots of an old steam engine.

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

Tom Magnani forwarded the following link from **Rob Rousseau** showing an interesting arrangement of tight turnouts from a public street in Cleveland, OH to a steel plant. The photo is a public street view in Google Maps.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/yrdbXzMrKS2qmzMt5>

Tom Magnani also passed along a link from **Jack Dziadul** about the Aquia and Falmouth Railroad in 1863. If you're interested in Civil War railroading, take a look.

<https://usmrr.blogspot.com/2025/10/october-update-ai-invasion.html>

Phil Michaud shared the link below about the eastern tour for #4014. As Phil says – “A big boy on the East Coast. How cool would that be?”

Big Boy 4014, World's Largest Steam Locomotive, To Make First Coast-To-Coast Tour

<https://share.google/s80yBN2GpTYqGGZOr>

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

March Board of Governors Meeting: The March BoG meeting will be held at the Clubhouse on Monday, March 2nd at 7:00 pm. Attendance via Zoom is optional.

February General Membership Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Ken Howard will give the presentation following the meeting highlighting real railroads and model railroads from his 2025 travels.

March HO Committee Meeting: Scheduled for 1pm on March 15th.

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 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.

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.

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/>

Ken Howard Trivia Question Answer:

The original 1947 to 1949 Freedom Train (7 cars) toured the lower 48 states behind an Alco PA.

The bicentennial (1975-1976) revival of the Freedom Train (26 cars) was powered primarily by three steam engines:

Reading T-1 class 4-8-4 No. 2101
Southern Pacific Coast Daylight 4-8-4 No. 4449
Texas & Pacific 2-10-4 No. 610

In several instances, diesel locomotives had to be substituted because of track limitations.

Source: Wikipedia

NRV Whistle Post
The Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club, Inc.
1615 Old Louisburg Road
PO Box 19573
Raleigh, NC 27619-9573

First Class

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|--|--------------|
| John Spach | President | jtspach@earthlink.net | 919-361-3650 |
| Ken Howard | Vice-President | klhowardjr@aol.com | 919-851-3805 |
| Schaefer O'Neill | Treasurer | schaefer.oneill@gmail.com | 919-740-6923 |
| Tom Garren | Secretary | tomgar@mindspring.com | 919-805-0909 |
| Richard Calfee (Calfee) | At-Large | rhcalfree@yahoo.com | 301-335-1054 |
| George Sawyer | At-Large | gsawyer@ix.netcom.com | 919-469-0442 |
| Bob Witwer | At-Large | bobwitwer@gmail.com | 919-632-0785 |

OTHER KEY POSITIONS

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|--|--------------|
| Bob Witwer | Show Chairman | bobwitwer@gmail.com | 919-632-0785 |
| Clif Kelly | Membership Chair | bkelly11@nc.rr.com | 919-614-8891 |
| Ted Kunstling | Social Media Chair | trkunstling@aol.com | 919-787-5282 |
| Wayne Aiken | Librarian | htomc42@hotmail.com | 919-602-8529 |
| Ken Howard | Newsletter Editor | klhowardjr@aol.com | 919-851-3805 |

WEB SITE www.nrvclub.net