

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of April 16, 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 George Sawyer.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Members attending in person included Wayne Aiken, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Ted Kunstling, Don McPherson, Len Nieman, Schaefer O'Neill, George Sawyer, Alan Servas, John Spach, Mike Wagner, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom included Alex Griswold, Chuck Larnerd, Rich Marrello, Collin Martinko, Jack McDonald, Josh Metzl, Phil Michaud, Milo Poulin, Gerald Powell, Robert Wall, and Ben Wallace.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance

We had one guest, Cazz Gajewski, attended in person tonight. This is Cazz's second meeting. He has applied for Senior membership.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Bob Witwer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Randy Foulke 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 Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

6. Show and Tell

Randy Foulke shared stories about coal scoops on a hand-fired locomotive and a railroad maintenance of way shovel.

Jake Forbes showed an Athearn Genesis F9 painted in Southern Green.

Ted Kunstling noted that the upcoming 161st anniversary of Johnston's surrender at the Bennett Place will be commemorated there on April 25th. Ted will provide a presentation on Civil War railroads at Noon.

7. Communications with the Club

Nothing to report.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Tom Garren reported that we have two applicants tonight who are eligible for membership. Cazz Gajewski has applied for Senior membership. He models in HO scale. Calder Johnson has applied for Youth membership. He models in both O and HO.

Bob Witwer made a motion to accept Cazz and Calder as members of the Club. The motion was seconded by Jake Forbes and passed unanimously.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. House

Wayne Aiken reported that we now have almost 3,200 books in the Library. We have many duplicate books for sale in the Crew Lounge. Tom Garren pointed out that we have a copy of the Original Norfolk Southern available for sale.

John Spach requested that members bring yard tools and clean up outside starting this weekend. This will be done in preparation for the May 02 Open House.

d. Engineering

N Scale – Phil Michaud reported that work is ongoing on the permanent N scale layout. Most of the work is being done by Milo Poulin and Ken Wesp.

Phil also reported that the NRV N scale T-TRAK layout will join with North Raleigh at the Spring Into Trains show.

Finally, Phil stated his personal Z scale layout will be at the Spring show too.

Randy Foulke noted that some security stanchions are needed to protect the small scale layouts.

HO – Ken Howard reported that wiring and track work continue. Also, Mt. Witwer has taken on some soil colors and is beginning to look like a mountain. Chuck Larnerd has been working on the wiring. We are hoping to get ballast installed on the new Main 1 along with some additional painting and cleanup to make the layout more presentable for the upcoming Open House.

In the Whistle Post there is a request for ideas for how to complete the area formerly occupied by the two stall engine house. This will be discussed at the upcoming HO committee meeting.

We are looking for people to run trains at the May 02 Open House on the HO layout. Jake Forbes has created a sign up sheet to better organize this activity. Please sign up if you wish to run trains on the HO layout during the Open House.

Len Neiman continues his work on the scenic items for the team track on Module 4.

Ken Howard also reported that some buildings have been moved back to the old Angier town area. There are also some new buildings that will be placed on the extension.

Chuck Larnerd stated that he has tape down where he has yet to lay track. Please allow him to install the track before any additional scenicing begins in these areas.

S Gauge – Nothing to report tonight.

O Gauge – George Sawyer reported he has installed new traction tires on one locomotive. He also stated that he has help lined up to assist with the O gauge layout during the Open House. George is also busy repairing items.

G Scale – Alan Servas reported that he and Mike Hinman have cleaned the G scale track and the layout is running nicely at the moment. He also stated that he has less trouble with brass track than steel track. He would ultimately like to replace any steel track we have in the layout with brass track.

- e. Program Committee – Randy Foulke reported that he has programs lined up through September. We are always looking for new programs. If you have something you would like to present, please talk to Randy to get on the schedule.
- f. Social Committee
Randy Foulke also noted that there is an upcoming event in Holly Springs in which our N scale T-TRAK layout will be shown with the North Raleigh T-TRAK. Look for more details of this event soon.

9. Old Business

a. Spring Show

Bob Witwer reminded everyone that five weeks from tonight we will gather to load the truck for the Spring show.

Bob noted that this is the same day as our regular Membership meeting. A subsequent special meeting of the Board moved the May Membership meeting to May 28th so it does not conflict with the show events.

Bob also noted that while we need to be fully staffed for the show, our greatest need is for porters on Friday and Sunday.

We have sold 361 tables for the show, with several being sold within the last few days.

A new feature of the show will be a table where members can sell their personal items. John Spach will be in charge of this area. Sales will be cash only. Members selling items will need to fill out a form for each item and have the item(s) to John Spach by Sunday May 17th. Please see John Spach for more information. Members wishing to sell items will also be required to work for some time at the Backshop Sales area in addition to any other job you may be working. Schaefer O'Neill suggested that Backshop Sales items be brought to the Club in a closeable box to protect the merchandise and make transport easier.

The Craftsman Showcase will be returning to this show. We need entries for the showcase, so please consider entering an item or two. Categories will include locomotives, rolling stock, structures, and dioramas.

Bob Witer noted that he will be calling the folks on Zoom to get them signed up for a job at the show.

b. Open House

John Spach reminded everyone of the May 2nd Open House. We need members to attend and show our guests around as well as running all our layouts. The event will be chaired by Phil Michud and John Mezera. Please let them know if you will be attending and bringing refreshments to the event.

c. Nominating Committee

John Spach reminded everyone that the nominating committee has been charged to come up with a slate of nominations for the next fiscal year. This list has been published in the Whistle Post.

George Sawyer led the Nominating committee and reported the nominations:

President – Ken Howard
Vice President – Bob Witwer
Secretary - Tom Garren
Treasurer – Schaefer O'Neill

At Large Board seat expiring 2029

At Large Board seat expiring 2028

Three people have agreed to run for the two At Large Board seats.
These folks are Jake Forbes, Phil Michaud, and Greg Rehe.

The two candidates for the At Large Board seats receiving the most votes at the May meeting will be selected to serve. The person with the most votes will fill the term expiring in 2029 and the person with the second highest number of votes will fill the term expiring in 2028.

John Spach announced that the floor is now open for any additional nominees from the membership.

George Sawyer noted that a nominee must be a Senior member of the Club and be willing to serve.

John Spach then announced that he would entertain a motion to close the nominations.

A motion was made by Randy Foulke and seconded by George Sawyer to close the nominations. The motion passed unanimously.

John Spach then requested a motion to accept the non-contested slate of officers by acclamation. The motion was made by Bob Witwer and seconded by Randy Foulke. The motion was passed.

John Spach then went over the particulars of the election that will be held in May for the two open Board seats. Only Senior members present in person at the May Membership meeting will be eligible to vote.

10. New Business

a. Member Marketplace

Tom Garren shared that he has had a few requests from members to advertise items for sale. Tom stated that he thinks this would be a good benefit to offer members but would like to discuss how best to proceed with its implementation. After some discussion it was decided to place these ads in the Whistle Post. Any member wishing to sell something should submit the information to Ken Howard for inclusion in the Whistle Post.

b. Business Cards

Tom Garren also noted that he had been requested to get some more Club business cards to Nick's Trains as they are out. Tom provided a stack of cards to be taken to Nick's and asked if anyone was available to take them there tomorrow. Jake Forbes volunteered to deliver the cards. Thanks Jake.

11. Program

John Spach presented a video on Northlandz, the largest indoor layout in the USA. It is located in Flemington, New Jersey.

12. Adjournment

Bob Witwer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.