

The

Whistle



Post

Official Newsletter of the

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

1615 Old Louisburg Rd Raleigh, NC 27604

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“All Aboard”

April 2026

Well it's here! Pollen season is in full swing with yellow snow, sneezing, coughing, and all the pains in the butt that pollen brings. Don't you just love this time of year?

Anyway, spring also brings us an Open House and our “Spring Into Trains” show. I hope you're ready for both, because we need all of you to pitch in and help all you can, so these important events continue to be wonderful successes for the Club. Please make sure you sign up for a scheduled time you can work. We need to know who can work when, so we can fill in any blanks.

This show, we will be doing something NEW. We are calling it Back Shop Sales. It is where any Club member can arrange to sell their personal items at a special area of our Club tables at the Show. For full details on how to participate in this, please contact me directly. I will be introducing the form to fill out and the procedure to get your materials to the Club at the April Membership meeting.

We also need help at the Open House. We will, of course, need the usual cookies and drinks, plus we need to have people to meet and greet visitors and volunteers to operate all of the layouts during the day. And most important, we need every area of the Club picked up and cleaned up so we look our best.

Wow, we have a lot to do – let's get started and make these events the best yet!

It's time to catch the Train.

All Aboard

John Spach, President

Upcoming Election for Board of Governors

The nominating committee will present a proposed slate for election of officers to the Board of Governors at the April Membership Meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Once all nominations have been received, nominations will be closed. The election will be conducted at the May Membership Meeting. Please remember that to cast a ballot you must be: 1) a Senior Member, and 2) physically present at the Membership Meeting.

The current list of candidates (as identified by the nominating committee) is as follows:

President	Ken Howard
Vice President	Bob Witwer
Secretary	Tom Garren
Treasurer	Schaefer O'Neill
At-Large Board Members (2 seats)	Jake Forbes, Phil Michaud, Greg Rehe

If you wish to make a nomination, or wish to offer yourself as a candidate for any office, please contact George Sawyer, Bob Witwer, or Richard Calfee to toss a hat in the ring. Additional details on voting and terms of service will be discussed at the April Membership Meeting.

Town of Cary Train Show

By Randy Foulke

On March 21st and 22nd, the Town of Cary Parks and Recreation Department sponsored a train show at the Herbert C. Young Community Center. The North Raleigh Model Railroad Club (NRMRC) organized the event. NRV was well represented by our N scale T-Trak layout, Phil Michaud's Z scale layout, and Steve Will's Lego layout. Other layouts participating were NRMRC's N-Trak and T-Trak, East Carolina Railroaders O gauge and the O27 Thomas the Tank Engine, and the Carolina Division of the Atlantic Coast S Gaugers. In addition to **Phil Michaud, Steve Wills, and myself, Alan Bradley, Milo Poulin, and Carl Zetie** worked at the show. Next year we would like to have more MRV Members participate.

On Saturday, over 1,700 people attended between 9 am and 5 pm. On Sunday, over 1,800 people attended between 12 noon and 4 pm. The event was great exposure for NRV with several people wanting to know more about the Club, including visiting the Clubhouse. A few expressed an interest in membership. Many people took information about the Club and the May train show.

Note that this event is another legacy of **John Wallis** as he helped start the first Cary Train Show two years ago. That show had single layout, the NRMRC T-Trak layout, with just a few hundred people attending. Wow, it has really grown in just two years!



Schaefer O'Neill and Milo Poulin became part of the audience (photo by Phil Michaud).



Milo Poulin talks to a guest in front of the Club's Modular T-TRAK layout (photo by Phil Michaud).



Phil Michaud's Z-scale layout - "Bienvenue au Canada Eh?" (photo by Phil Michaud).



NRV Club's T-TRAK layout (photo by Phil Michaud).



Phil Michaud's Z-scale layout attracting visitors (photo by Alan Bradley).



Randy Foulke making adjustment to T-TRAK layout (photo by Alan Bradley).

HO Layout Committee Seeks Member Input

Amidst all the track laying, wiring, plastering, ballasting, and other mischief that you have observed on the HO layout, there is an obvious area of neglect along the aisle just past the “Viewing Area” sign. If your memory has failed you, take a look at the picture below and you will see the area of desolation where the two-stall engine house used to stand.



All Club members are invited to send suggestions on how to utilize this space to the HO Committee for discussion and development of a plan. You can send written comments or submit a map or sketch of your ideas for consideration to klhowardjr@aol.com or bring your ideas to the next HO Committee Meeting at 1:00 pm on April 19th. Spirited discussion is expected and encouraged. We look forward to your ideas. Until a plan is formulated and authorized, the exposed foam will be painted in earth tones before the Open House to at least improve the appearance of this area to visitors.

Randy Foulke's Trivia Question

What was the westernmost point of the New York Central System and the Pennsylvania Railroad for freight service?

Last month's question was the westernmost point for both railroads' passenger service. The answer was the Mill Creek Valley Coach Yard owned by the Terminal Railroad of St. Louis west of St. Louis Union Station. For property actually owned by the NYC and the PRR, it is necessary to look at freight service

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

Real Trains

By Liam Bryant

CSX 1851 (NC&StL paint) on CSX L619 at Cary on April 2nd. L619 is the daily Hamlet-Raleigh job on the CSX Aberdeen Subdivision.



Major Multi-Scale Donation – March 28, 2026

Thanks to **James Bunn** for a monstrous donation of G, O-gauge, O-scale, On30, with minor amounts of HO, N, airplane models, auto models, and library books. Tom Garren, Mike Hinmann, Ken Howard, and George Sawyer picked up the donation and got it back to the Club. Wayne Aiken and Don McPherson assisted with the unloading back at the Clubhouse. The BoG storage locker is now filled to the roof with about 30 boxes that must be sorted, reviewed, priced, or added to the Club inventory.



When it's just a stack of boxes on the donor's floor, it doesn't look too imposing. (photo by Ken Howard)



Ken Howard, George Sawyer, and Mike Hinman trying to figure out straps and bungees. (photo by Tom Garren)



Ken and Mike securing the straps because the tailgate can't close on the load. (photo by Tom Garren)



The donation made it home. (photo by Ken Howard)

Upcoming Events

NRV OPEN HOUSE: We have scheduled our Spring Open House for Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 10 am to 4 pm. Contact Phil Michaud or John Mezera for details.

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! Contact Bernie Dawson to sign up for work shifts!

NMRA The NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW: August 1-2, 2026 at the Chattanooga Convention Center, One Carter Plaza, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The 2026 Company Shops RR Club – “Field Trip” - Tweetsie Railroad and Doe River Gorge Train: August 28 – 30, 2026. Interested parties need to contact Steve Hutchinson (call or text: 336-251-3422 or email smh52wv@gmail.com) **before April 27th**.

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

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

May Board of Governors Meeting: The May BoG meeting will be held at the Clubhouse on Monday, May 4th at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held on Zoom only.

April General Membership Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. John Spach will give the presentation following the meeting titled *A Visit to Northlandz*.

Northlandz bills itself as “The World’s Largest Miniature Wonderland,” and includes the largest layout by square feet, a model train museum, a doll museum, and an outdoor train.

April Show Committee Meeting: Scheduled for 10:00 am on April 18th.

April HO Committee Meeting: Scheduled for 1pm on April 19th.

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/>

Randy Foulke Trivia Question Answer:

For NYC freight service, the westernmost point was a yard on the east bank of the Mississippi River in East St. Louis, Illinois. This yard was one of 14 separate yards owned by 12 different railroads along three miles of the Mississippi River. These yards transferred wheat, corn, soybeans, and coal from rail to barges.



Port of St. Louis grain unloading facility.

The coal was mined in southern Illinois and to a lesser extent Indiana. There was some very minor transfer of freight from barges to rail. The NYC yard was originally constructed by the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railway, known as the Big Four Route. All but two of the 14 yards have been abandoned with trackage removed. The remaining yards were the largest and are owned by the Terminal Railroad of St. Louis (TRRA).

Although the PRR also owned a yard on the east bank of the Mississippi in East St. Louis, this was not the westernmost point of the PRR. The westernmost point was a small yard located on the west bank of the Mississippi River, northeast of downtown St. Louis. This yard was one of 16 individual yards owned by 12 different railroads in a two mile long stretch along the Mississippi River. These yards provided switching service to the greater St. Louis area, including the St. Louis Produce Market. All but five of the 16 yards were stub end with the PRR yard being one of the through yards.

A unique characteristic of the PRR yard was that it was isolated from the rest of the PRR system. PRR used nine miles of TRRA trackage from their big Rose Lake Yard in East St. Louis, north up to the Merchants Bridge across the Mississippi River, and then south to the PRR yard on the west shore. All but one of the yards has been abandoned and the trackage removed. The remaining yard was the biggest and is owned by BNSF.

Next month's trivia question will be about the northernmost point for the NYC and the PRR.

Hint: it is the same for both railroads even though they came from different directions.

Sources:

Walker, M, *Comprehensive Railroad Atlas of North America, Great Lakes West*, Steam Powered Video, Upper Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 9AX. U.K.

Walker, M, *Comprehensive Railroad Atlas of North America, Prairies East and Ozarks*, Steam Powered Video, Upper Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 9AX. U.K.

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
Alec Urban	Instagram Chair	alec.urban@icloud.com	954-296-6211
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WEB SITE www.nrvclub.net