

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”**

May 2026

Well one thing is certain, Time Flies, and it seems to fly faster every year. It is very hard for me to believe that five years have passed since I was first elected President of the Club. That means that this is the 60<sup>th</sup> issue of All Aboard I have written. I can't believe that all this is possible, but it has happened.

I hope you are all ready to participate in this Spring's Show. Bob and his crew have done an amazing job in moving us up to fill the Graham building at the fairgrounds. You all should have contacted Bernie to set your work schedule by this time, but if you have not done so, please contact Bernie now. Remember we are all needed to lend a hand or two over the whole show. Let's make this a huge success. Remember we have moved up to the Graham Building. That is a huge step, and we need all the help we can get to make it work.

Please note, we have moved the member meeting back a week to avoid a conflict with the show. It is election meeting; all Senior members in attendance in the Clubhouse will be eligible to vote. The election is to fill 2 expiring Board member seats. There are 3 candidates. The 2 with the most votes will get the seats.

Well I think that's all from me. I hear the train coming.

Thank You all for all your support over the last 5 years.

**All Aboard**

**John Spach, President**

## Attention: May Membership Meeting has Been Moved to May 28<sup>th</sup>

The May Membership Meeting has been moved from May 21<sup>st</sup> to May 28<sup>th</sup>. The change will avoid interference with this year's date for the Spring into Trains Show. Packing and loadout will start on the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup>. If you can help with the truck loading, please sign up on the sheets in the Crew Lounge or contact Bernie Dawson directly.

**Senior Members:** Don't forget that **you must be present at the Clubhouse to vote** for the vacant Board of Governors positions.

### Club Members Receive Award from NMRA



Ken Howard, Bob Witwer, John Spach, and Tom Garren received their NMRA Golden Spike Awards at the CPD13 luncheon on April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Tramway Dinner. (photo by Peter Jerkewitz)

### NRV OPEN HOUSE – May 2, 2026

We held a very successful and well attended Open House. Thanks to John Mezera and Phil Michaud for organizing the event. Thirty-four Club members were present in the Clubhouse at one time or another during the day: Wayne Aiken, Richard Calfee, Jeff Cole, Peter Donofrio, Dan Egy, Sam Ely, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Cass Gajewski, Tom Garren, Jimmy Hall, Ken Howard, Ralph James, Calder Johnson, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, Chuck Larnerd, Paul Lebiezinski, George List, Larry Martin, Don McPhenson, Joshua Metzl, Phil Mezera, Phil Michaud, Leonard Nieman, Schaefer O'Neill, Milo Poulin, Greg Rehe, George Sawyer, Jim Smith, Mike Troino, Robert Wall, Bob Witwer, and Carl Zetie. Thanks to those who ran trains, ushered guests, sold merchandise, or just ate cookies.

As a measure of our success, we set records for donations received and sales of merchandise. More importantly for the future of the Club, we received two membership applications and six RFIs from an estimated pool of 100 guests.



Guests during a quiet time in the HO room – four include Jake, Jim, Jeff, and Joe (photo by Ken Howard).



Wayne Aiken and George List talking with guests while Paul Liebedinski takes a break (photo by Ken Howard).



The O gauge room was a popular stop for visitors. George Sawyer kept lots of guests entertained running trains and viewing the carnival (photo by John Mezera).



Jake Forbes (HO dispatcher) and Dan Egly setting up the HO layout operation before the guests arrived (photo by John Mezera).



Phil Michaud helped several guests take home operating HO gauge starter sets (photo by John Mezera).



The S gauge layout received a lot of attention from our younger visitors. George List gave lots of kids a chance to blow the whistle (photo by John Mezera).

## In Memorium – Rick Allen

Rick Allen, a longtime model railroader and prominent member of the local railroad community, passed away in hospice on May 7, 2026. Rick was a master modeler, former member of NRV, founder of CPD13, and the division's first superintendent. Even if you didn't know him personally, you have probably seen his work. The huge bridge and circus modules displayed at the last two NRV shows as part of his and Sipping and Switching's layout was his creation. Rick's talents and skills will be greatly missed by the local model railroad associations.

[Obituary information for Rickie Leon Allen](#)

## Randy Foulke Made Len Nieman Curious

Randy Foulke's "Show and Tell" at the April Membership meeting on PRR shovels piqued Len's curiosity, so he did a bit of digging. He found that the shovel number refers to the width and length of the shovel blade, +/-1/2", depending on the manufacturer. This does not include the point area of digging shovels. He compiled the following charts from several sources to summarize shovel dimensions and nomenclature.

Shovel Sizes		
#	Width(in.)	Length(in.)
0	6	7.5
00	7	9
1	8.5	11
2	9	12
3	11	12
4	12	12
5	13.5	12
6	14.5	12
7	15	13
8	15.5	13

"Scoop" Shovel Sizes*		
#	Width(in.)	Length(in.)
8	13	17.375
10	14.75	17.75
12	14.75	18.75
14	15.25	19.75

### \*Scoops:

Have higher sides than standard shovels.

Generally used for handling grains.

'Eastern' and 'Western' refers to the number and style of reinforcing ribs.

## Neat Links

**Jack Dziadul** via **Tom Magnani** both passed along the new website for NMRA Division 14 Chesapeake.

[The Chesapeake Division – of the NMRA Mid-Eastern Region](#)

**Dutch Tubman**, Editor, CSRRC News passed along the links to the last two CSRRC Membership Meeting presentations:

*Rail Adventure to the Great White North* by Dutch Tubman

<https://youtu.be/L2DbZNCmFW0>

*The McKean Motor Car Company* by Gene Lewis

[https://youtu.be/Yh8\\_NmFe4w](https://youtu.be/Yh8_NmFe4w)

## New HO Layout Urban Scenes

**John Spach** has undertaken a major urban renewal project on Module 3. The photos below show what the renovation will look like after final installation in early June. If you want to see the buildings before they are placed in the layout, you'll have to come to the show and see them in the Craftsman Showcase.



(photo by John Spach)



New street scene (photo by John Spach).



New street scene (photo by John Spach).



New street scene (photo by John Spach).



New gas station scene (photo by John Spach).

## Real Trains By Ken Howard

While we railfans tend to concentrate our photography on motive power and action, there are a number of neat (and sometimes unique) cars out there, as well. **Ken Howard** encountered several at the Railroader's Memorial Museum in Altoona, PA as shown in the following photos.



Railway Express refrigerator REX 7375 owned and restored by National Railway Historical Society.



Pennsylvania Class BM-70nb baggage-RPO car #6509.



Pennsylvania Class FD2 16 axle depressed center flat car #47245 built in 1952 at the Altoona shops.



Tare weight of #47245 was 500,400 pounds. The load capacity was 250,000 pounds.

## Upcoming Events

**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.*

**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 General Membership Meeting:** The next membership meeting will be held on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. This is a date change to avoid interference with our Spring Into Trains show. **Senior Members must be present in the Clubhouse to vote in the election for two Board of Governors At-Large Seats. You cannot vote via ZOOM!**

Len Nieman will give the presentation following the meeting titled *New Haven Railroad Midway Yard – Then and Now.*

**June Board of Governors Meeting:** The June BoG meeting will be held on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held on Zoom only.

**June HO Committee Meeting:** Scheduled for 1:00 pm on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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://nrvcclub.net/meeting-minutes/>

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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

## OTHER KEY POSITIONS

Bob Witwer	Show Chairman	<a href="mailto:bobwitwer@gmail.com">bobwitwer@gmail.com</a>	919-632-0785
Clif Kelly	Membership Chair	<a href="mailto:bkelly11@nc.rr.com">bkelly11@nc.rr.com</a>	919-614-8891
Ted Kunstling	Social Media Chair	<a href="mailto:trkunstling@aol.com">trkunstling@aol.com</a>	919-787-5282
Alec Urban	Instagram Chair	<a href="mailto:alec.urban@icloud.com">alec.urban@icloud.com</a>	954-296-6211
Jake Forbes	Facebook Chair	<a href="mailto:jakecraft26@gmail.com">jakecraft26@gmail.com</a>	919-995-8131
Wayne Aiken	Librarian	<a href="mailto:htomc42@hotmail.com">htomc42@hotmail.com</a>	919-602-8529
Ken Howard	Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:klhowardjr@aol.com">klhowardjr@aol.com</a>	919-851-3805
Randy Foulke	Program Chair	<a href="mailto:randy.railfan@gmail.com">randy.railfan@gmail.com</a>	919-649-8253

**WEB SITE** [www.nrvclub.net](http://www.nrvclub.net)