

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of June 18, 2026

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Ken Howard.
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, Tom Garren, Mike Hinman, Ken Howard, John Kuchnia, Ted Kunstling, Collin Martinnko, Don McPherson, Schaefer O'Neill, Briggs Pratt, Greg Rehe, Graham Rousseau, George Sawyer, Alan Servas, Jim Smith, Mike Troino, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom included Ed Bottum, Jeff Cole, Jerry Davis, Dan Egy, Randy Foulke, Rich Marrello, Len Nieman, Milo Poulin, John Spach, Robert Wall, and Carl Zetie.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance

We had three guests tonight. Christopher Troino and Johnathan Edwards both attended in person. They have applied for Associate membership. This is their first meeting. Also attending tonight as a guest was Rod Martinko.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

5. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

It was also stated that Ken Howard is transitioning into the presidency. He and Schaefer have met with Edward Jones and signed the necessary forms. Truist is next.

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

There were no items for show and tell tonight.

7. Communications with the Club

John Spach reported that Erik Chapman has contacted the Club about a large N scale donation. He is in Person County. More information about this donation will be forthcoming.

Schaefer O'Neill has been contacted by Ken Mitchell of Southeastern TCA. He would like to approach Lionel about creating a box car commemorating the Canes winning the Stanley cup. As proposed, this will not require financial participation from the Club. There was a discussion about options for the car and what the Club would like. No decisions were made tonight. Schaefer will follow back up with Ken Mitchell. Look for more information on this item in the future.

Tom Garren circulated a get well card for Clif Kelly.

Ken Howard announced that Clif is stepping down as Membership Chair. George Sawyer is assuming the role.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

George Sawyer reported that we currently have 101 members. Thirty one of these members have paid their dues for fiscal year 2026-2027. That leaves seventy members yet to pay their dues. Dues were due on June 1st and are desired by June 30th. Anyone not paying dues by the end of July is subject to being dropped from the Club. George also noted there are several ways to pay dues including Cash, Check, Credit Card, or Zelle. For those who have not yet paid their dues, George Sawyer will be sending out a reminder email soon.

George also announced that we have two new applicants tonight. Johnathan Edwards has applied for Associate membership. He models British railroads in OO scale. We also have an application for Christopher Troino for Associate membership. He models NYC in HO scale. This is the first meeting for both Johnathan and Christopher.

b. Ways and Means

Ken Howard noted that once Schaefer O'Neill completes the financial reporting for the past fiscal year, the Ways and Means team will perform their annual audit. John Spach and George Sawyer will do this work.

c. House

Ken Howard reported that the main bathroom is back in operation and much improved. Schaefer O'Neill noted that the contractor will come by and raise the temperature on the water heater.

Ken also reported that Greg Rehe has 1,000 business cards on order with a new printer.

Mike Hinman requested that we get a seasonal check done on the A/C unit. It may be low on freon. The landlord will be called on this item.

Ken Howard noted that we also have auxiliary heating and air conditioning units in the O gauge and HO/N rooms. Members are advised not to put the temperature down to the sixties on these units, and by all means, turn the units off when you leave the Club. Do not leave on overnight.

Mike Troino noted that food and drinks have been left at the Club. A discussion was held reminding members that the standing rule is to take any food and wrappers etc. home with you. Do not leave them in the Clubhouse. Ted Kunstling suggested that members should empty orphaned drink cups, even if they are not their own.

d. Engineering

N Scale – Mike Hinman reported ballast needs to be applied to some of the track on the permanent layout. Randy Foulke stated that a ballasting party will be scheduled soon for the layout. Milo Poulin noted that the event will be held on June 28th.

It was announced the Alan Bradley will be leading the T-TRAK portion of the N scale group.

Ken Howard announced that Bernie Dawson will be having foot surgery in early July. Bernie will be out of service for ten weeks while he recovers from the surgery.

Milo Poulin asked when they need to submit a budget to the Board.

Ken Howard noted that will be after the Ways and Means audit.

Randy Foulke noted that the T-TRAK group may want to build a staging yard. This would create a significant budget request.

HO – Ken Howard reported that the missing set of N&W passenger cars has been located.

Len Nieman reported the Main 4 relocation is in and will be useable this weekend. The yard is still under construction but should be completed soon.

Greg Rehe is working on replacing some track going up to the logging camp.

It was also reported that Chuck Larnerd has repaired a hump in the track under the mountain. This included replacing a turnout. The problem is now fixed.

Ken Howard noted we are waiting for a new control panel being built by Paul Lebidenski.

S Gauge – There are two boxes of donated items to be processed.

O Gauge – George Sawyer reported he is processing a new donation

G Scale – Alan Servas reported he may swap out the Tweetsie engine with a duplicate we have. The trolley runs but is noisy. Mike Hinman has looked at the trolley but cannot figure out how to reduce the noise.

- e. Program Committee – andy Foulke reported that he has programs lined up through September. We are always looking for new volunteers to do programs. If you have something you would like to present, please talk to Randy to get on the schedule. The programs for the next few months are:
 - June – Collin Martinko – SCL passenger trains.
 - July – Jake Forbes – N&W passenger trains.
 - August – Alan Servas – G scale.
 - September – Randy Foulke – TBD.Anyone interested in doing a program, please contact Randy Foulke to get on the schedule.

Social Committee – Randy Foulke reminded everyone that there will a final open house for Rick Allen’s layout on Saturday, June 27th from noon – 4:00 pm.

There will be a Golden East ops session this Saturday afternoon. Let Randy know if you want to attend. Also Randy is looking for more regular ops sessions at the Golden East. Look for more information on this soon.

9. Old Business

a. Behavior

Ken Howard noted that we have recently had several situations where members have gotten upset with each other and had public shouting sessions. These have taken place both at the show and at the Club with visitors present. Obviously, this is not good. If you must have a shouting session, take it outside. Even better, don’t do it at all. This behavior creates stress that simply is not needed. This is a place to have fun and enjoy the comradery of others.

b. Show

Bob Witwer reported that deposits have been made with the Fairgrounds for the Fall 2026 and the Spring 2027 shows.

Bob also noted that Greg Rehe has done a great job getting the information out to the various magazines about the upcoming shows and getting the printing done.

The next Show committee meeting will be held on July 18th.

10. New Business

a. Visit from Stone Ridge

We have a visit scheduled from residents at Stone Ridge Senior Living in Cary on June 24th at 10:00 am. We need volunteers to run all the layouts and welcome our guests. Please try to help out with this visit.

b. Cardboard

We also need volunteers to haul away the cardboard sitting by the S gauge layout. There is also an old layout and a sign sitting behind the building that need to go away. Schaefer O'Neill volunteered to haul away the cardboard. Bob Witwer will try to dispose of the layout. Dan Egy will take the non-broken down cardboard located by the door.

c. Brick Universe

Steve Wills has requested help with his Lego layout at the Brick Universe show on June 27th and 28th. If you can help, please contact Steve Wills.

11. Program

Collin Martinko presented a program on the Seaboard Coast Line's passenger trains.

12. Adjournment

Jake Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.