

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of July 16, 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, Alan Bradley, Liam Bryant, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Ted Kunstling, Chuck Larnerd, Collin Martinko, Jack McDonald, Don McPherson, Schaefer O'Neill, Greg Rehe, Graham Rousseau, George Sawyer, Jim Smith, John Spach, Mike Wagner, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom included Ed Bottum, Jerry Davis, John Mezera, Bela Nemeth, Len Nieman, Briggs Pratt, Robert Wall, and Carl Zetie.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance

We had two guests tonight. Ken Mitchell, VP of TCA attended in person as well as Rod Martinko. This is Ken's first meeting.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

5. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

Ken Howard reminded Schaefer that we need to get the guy back to adjust the thermostat on the water heater and to raise the floor drain cover to where it is flush with the floor.

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

Graham Rousseau shared some slides he had recently taken of 4501 in the newly applied green paint scheme.

7. Communications with the Club

Ken Howard reported that we have several members that are in either hospitals or rehab facilities at the moment. These include Doc Lou, Clif Kelly, and Bernie Dawson. We wish all of them a speedy recovery.

Ken also reported that we have received a number of donations: some are in hand, and some are still to be picked up.

Jerry Baker from Fuquay donated some O gauge equipment.
Roy Cooper from Holly Springs donated some HO scale equipment.
Another donation is scheduled for pick up in Chapel Hill on Saturday.
Jane Shelbe will be bringing an HO donation to the Club on Saturday.
George List is investigating a potential S gauge donation from a gentleman in South Carolina.
We have also received a nice N scale donation.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

George Sawyer reported that we currently have 101 members. As of 07/06/2026, thirty seven of these members still need to pay their dues.

George also announced that Chris Troino has applied for Associate membership and has satisfied the two meeting requirement. Bob Witwer made a motion to accept Chris Troino as an Associate member of the Club. The motion was seconded by Alan Bradley and passed unanimously.

George also noted that we have one more active application from Jonathan Edwards.

b. Ways and Means

The Ways and Means committee is still waiting on the financial records for the last FY. Once available the audit will be performed.

c. House

John Spach will check and update any supplies needed in the two first aid kits in the Club.

Ken Howard reported that the annual fire extinguisher inspection has been completed.

Ken also noted that Greg Rehe has gotten us 1,000 new business cards available for use.

George Sawyer asked that members who have not given their emergency contact information, please do so. Tom Garren asked that they see him so he can update and print new copies of the list to be stored in the first aid kits.

John Spach noted that the vegetation area on the side of the building needs to be sprayed. We have Roundup in the storage room. Bob Witwer volunteered to take care of this item with the help of Mike Hinman.

It was also reported that an outside light on the side of the building is not working. Bob Witwer will work with Mike Hinman to get this fixed.

Ken asked a question as to the location of the post office for the 27604 zip code. It was determined that the post office is located at 2777 Millbrook Rd.

Wayne Aiken reported that the construction of new shelving for the Library is ongoing.

d. Engineering

N Scale – Alan Bradley reported that bridges have been installed over the river. More work is needed to complete the bridges as well as more work is needed to complete the ballasting. All the tracks run well. Next steps include cleaning the layout from the North side to the South side.

T-TRAK – Alan Bradley shared several upcoming dates where the Club T-TRAK layout will be displayed.

Either July 31 or August 1 at Barbour Court Rehab Center in Smithfield. Date will be firmed up soon.

August 22 at the Holly Springs Community Center. We will be joining with North Raleigh at a celebration to dedicate a historical marker commemorating the Durham and Southern Railway.

NRV Fall show on November 7-8. NRV T-TRAK will display separately from North Raleigh.

The Cary show in April 2027. Date to be determined.

Alan stated that the T-TRAK group would like to obtain a set of tables on which to display their modules. He was advised to bring that request to the Board.

Finally, Alan suggested that the small N scale layout in storage be used by the N scale group for speed matching locomotives. It was also suggested that this be a demonstration in Education Station at the Fall show.

HO – Ken Howard reported that the missing DT602D throttle has been found and returned to service.

Chuck Larnerd reported that Len Nieman, Dan Egy, Greg Rehe, Chuck, and others have been working all week long on the track at bottom of Main 2. They also added a turnout to go into the center yard from Main 3. Legacy Mains 2, 3, and 4 are operational. Main 2 extension is not in service, but it is hoped to be operational again by the weekend.

Chuck also invited anyone who wants to learn about wiring to let him know. There are many drops that need to be added to the layout. Also, for now some switches are still routing power for the tracks. This will change as the new drops are added to the wiring.

The HO committee meeting has been moved to the second Sunday of each month at Noon. This will put the meeting before the monthly Membership meeting and allow important information from the HO committee to be shared with the membership more quickly.

S Gauge – Nothing to report.

O Gauge – George Sawyer reported he is still processing donations.

G Scale – Ken Howard reported that the problems we are having with the G scale layout appear to be related to aluminum track. He noted that we have received a donation of brass G scale track from John Spach. We will need more sections of brass straight track to complete the conversion of the entire G scale layout. Collin Martinko suggested that we replace the track on one loop, perhaps the inside loop, first. Then work on the outer loop.

- e. Program Committee – Randy Foulke reported that he has programs lined up through September. Following the meeting, Randy got additional volunteers and we now have programs lined up through the end of the year.
- f. Social Committee – Randy Foulke noted that Jim Klueg with the Sandhills Central in Aberdeen would like to have another get together with the NRV. Look for more details on this in the future.

Also, planning for the annual Club dinner will begin soon. It will probably take place in January. Stay tuned for more details.

9. Old Business

a. Emergency Contacts

Tom Garren noted that we need to get information from several members to get the list up to date. We have recently had several situations where members have gotten hurt and we needed to call contacts.

b. Club Documents

Ken Howard noted that he and Tom Garren have been going through many old files and keeping the documents that need to be preserved.

c. Building Committee

Ken Howard reported that Phil Michaud has agreed to head up the Building committee. If you know of a building that might be of use to the Club, please pass

that information directly to Phil or to a member of the Board. We are looking for something in the 8,000 to 10,000 square feet range with adequate parking.

Ted Kunstling noted that several of his friends that are realtors are using AI to help with searches for properties.

d. Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that the vendor letter for the Fall show has been mailed out to the 155 vendors. The table capacity for the show is 525. We also have early commitments from five or six layouts. We expect to end up with up to sixteen layouts.

Bob stated that Train Talks has been renamed to Education Station and will be reworked to have more information available throughout the show. John Spach will take charge of developing Education Station.

Bob also stated that we need more support for the Craftsman Showcase. This will be its third show and we need to find a way to expand the enthusiasm for this event. The showcase was promoted strongly at the last CPD-13 meeting.

It was noted that on Saturday of the Fall show there will also be an NCSU/Duke football game, and an 8:00 pm Hurricanes game too. Parking will be at a premium on Saturday.

Bob also noted that Backshop Sales will be back and headed up by Len Nieman. We want to build up this event for members to sell their equipment at the show.

Bob remarked that we are working on staffing for the Fall show. We hope Bernie can once again head up the staffing effort. We may have to get another volunteer to take the lead on this effort. Tom Garren volunteered to print out the sheets from last time, update them, and get them on the table at the Club.

e. Ken Mitchell

Ken Mitchell, National VP of TCA attended this meeting. He shared information about several upcoming events.

A Day with Thomas at the NC Transportation Museum on September 26th, with setup on the 25th. This would be good chance to show an NRV layout.

Selma Railroad Days in the Selma Civic Center on October 3rd, with setup on October 2nd. Another chance to show the T-TRAK layout.

The TCA Southeastern Division is looking forward to the NRV Fall show.

Ken is still working with Lionel on a car to commemorate the Canes winning the 2026 Stanley Cup. This may be difficult to achieve on a short time line.

Schaefer O'Neill met with several vendors at the National TCA meet to try and get them to come to our shows.

f. Webmaster

Ken Howard made a request for anyone with Word Press skills to please volunteer to become the Club Webmaster. If you have any questions or interest, please see either Ken or Tom Garren.

10. New Business

a. Slip Switches for HO Layout

Chuck Larnerd requested that the HO team be allowed to get one slip switch to determine how well it will work in our application before buying several of them. These switches are expensive and we want to be sure they meet our need.

Len Nieman has found one for \$75.00 plus shipping. Ken Howard said funds are available in the HO budget from last year to support this. Len will go ahead and get one switch and the Club will reimburse him for this purchase.

b. Trash Removal

Ken Howard asked members to take trash (by the door and the S gauge layout) out when they leave the Club. We do not have a dumpster.

11. Program

Jake Forbes presented a program on the Norfolk and Western's passenger trains.

12. Adjournment

Bob Witwer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.