

## **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

### **Minutes of the Membership Meeting of August 20, 2026**

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice President Bob Witwer.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bob Witwer.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Members attending in person included Alan Bradley, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, John Kuchnia, Ted Kunstling, Don McPherson, Greg Rehe, Alan Servas, Jim Smith, Mike Wagner, Ken Wesp, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom included Ed Bottum, Jerry Davis, Bernie Dawson, John Mezera, Len Nieman, Milo Poulin, George Sawyer, and John Spach.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance

We had one guest tonight. Daphne Garren attended in person.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Alan Bradley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report

In the absence of Schaefer O'Neill, Bob Witwer gave the Treasurer's report.

Jim Smith made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by John Kuchnia and passed unanimously.

6. Show and Tell

Ted Kunstling showed a new uncoupler he purchased from the Trains.com store. It is a device with magnets that open metal knuckle couplers. It is offered in S, HO, and N scale sizes. A lighted and unlighted version are available in each scale. The uncoupler can also be ordered directly from [www.gooddealsdcc.com](http://www.gooddealsdcc.com). The product is on page three of that site.

7. Communications with the Club

a. Ted Kunstling shared information he has received about an estate sale in Franklinton this Saturday and Sunday. Among the many items in the estate are several HO train items. Tom Garren will send an email to the membership about this sale and include the link.

b. Alan Bradley reported that the T-TRAK layout will be in Holly Springs this weekend on Saturday from 9:00 – 5:00 along with North Raleigh and the S gaugers.

- c. Alan Bradley reported that we will not be doing a T-TRAK setup at Carol Woods, as the date is too close to the dates of the Fall show.
- d. John Spach noted that we have received several donations recently. John Kuchnia stated that he has priced many of newly donated O gauge items.

## 8. Committee Reports

### a. Membership Committee

George Sawyer reported that we currently have 98 members. There are still sixteen members needing to pay their dues. Those still owing dues will be dropped after this meeting. John Spach asked how many of the unpaid members were Senior members. George replied there were six Senior members in this group. John asked if the Seniors had been reminded to return their keys. George Sawyer stated that he has requested the keys be returned.

George also reported that we have two applications for membership. Each of the applicants needs to attend one more meeting to be eligible for membership.

### 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

Bob Witwer noted that we now have hot water at the Club. The temperature has been adjusted and the plumbing has been adjusted so the controls work as expected.

John Spach has checked and updated any supplies needed in the two first aid kits in the Club. Tom Garren noted an updated copy of the Emergency Contact List will be placed in the first aid kits this weekend.

We still need someone to “weed eat” the area along the front side of the Clubhouse. Also, the bulb in the outside light on the side of the building needs to be checked. Alan Servas asked about the weed that has become a “tree” on the side of the building.

### d. Engineering

N Scale – Milo Poulin reported that work continues on the permanent layout. Ballasting is the main activity currently being done.

T-TRAK – Randy Foulke stated that some of the T-TRAK modules have sustained damage in storage. They are currently being stored under the HO layout.

Milo Poulin stated added that a better place to store the modules is needed, as well as a better way to store the modules.

Bernie Dawson suggested that someone talk to the North Raleigh Club to learn how they store their T-TRAK modules. Milo Poulin agreed to get this information.

Alan Bradley noted that the T-TRAK group would like to obtain a set of plastic folding tables to use for setup of the modules at any location. The consistency of these tables will make set up easier. Tom Garren asked the group to put a proposal together and present it to the Board.

Randy Foulke announced that the T-TRAK layout has been asked to once again participate in the Cary Train Show on March 13-14, 2027. They will likely need help from additional Club members to man the layout during the two-day event.

Alan Bradley stated there is a desire to add a staging yard to the T-TRAK layout, but that will be a request in the distant future.

HO – Greg Rehe reported that Chuck Larnerd has been installing Tortoise switch machines on the wye and logging camp area.

Paul Lebiechowski has been completing the work on a new control panel to operate the new switch machines.

Greg Rehe has been laying track in the industrial area.

S Gauge – Nothing to report.

O Gauge – George Sawyer reported no changes. John Kuchnia stated that he will be in this weekend to operate the layout if needed.

G Scale – John Spach is looking for brass track at a reasonable price. John has made a donation of a small batch of track and continues to look.

Alan Servas stated that at our last show there was some good value on G scale track. Alan will send John Spach contact information so he can follow up. Alan will also see if there is any track available from the New Hope Valley group.

- e. Program Committee – Randy Foulke reported that Ted Kunstling has the program for September. He needs a volunteer for October. Then we are good through January 2027.
- f. Social Committee – Randy Foulke shared information about the America 250 celebration at the NC Transportation Museum, scheduled for August 28–30. This special, one-of-a-kind event may be of interest to members.

## 9. Old Business

### a. Building Committee

Bob Witwer asked the membership to help us find a new building by reporting information about any buildings you may find. We are looking for something in the 8,000 to 10,000 square feet range with adequate parking.

Phil Michaud is head up the Building committee. Please pass that information directly to Phil or to a member of the Board.

### b. Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that we are waiting on the vendor to return their applications. They have until early September to respond. We have received confirmation for pretty much all of the layouts.

John Spach stated that he has half of the volunteers lined up to present clinics at our Education Station part of the show. Need additional volunteers to make twenty minute presentations on subjects of interest to model railroaders. Specific times have not been established yet. Let John know if you have a preference as to when you would like to make your presentation.

Bob also stated that we have received the new flyers for our Craftsman Showcase. Please spread the word on this part of our show. We need more entries for the Craftsman Showcase. If you have built something, please consider displaying it.

## 10. New Business

### a. Outdoor Cleanup

Bob Witwer reminded everyone that we need volunteers to “weed eat” around the building.

George Sawyer stated that he has a roll of landscaping fabric in his garage that will donate if desired.

### b. Webmaster

Bob Witwer noted that we are still looking for webmaster for the Club.

### c. Magazine Rack

John Kuchnia suggested that we obtain and install a magazine rack on the wall to store the magazines that are spread about in the Crew Lounge. This will help keep the room neater.

### d. Groups.io

Tom Garren reported much progress has been made with Groups.io. The first group to be cleaned up, expanded and put into full service is the Club group called NRV.groups.io. We have about one third of the membership currently set up as members of the group. The others will receive an invitation to join the group in the

next couple of weeks. Once we have our members set up as members of the group, Groups.io will become the official way members will receive emails from the Club. Look for more information on Groups.io in the near future.

Once we have the Club level group fully working, we will start to clean up the HO group.

Bernie Dawson stated the for the N scale group, he has found Groups.io to be very effective.

11. Program

Alan Servas presented a program on the New Hope Valley Railroad.

12. Adjournment

Alan Bradley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.