

The

Whistle



Post

Official Newsletter of the

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

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“All Aboard”

The dog days of summer may be upon us, but we need to be planning and preparing for lots of activities and events:

- NRV model railroad display at *All Aboard Holly Springs* on August 22nd,
- America 250 Locomotive Celebration at NC Transportation Museum on August 28-30th,
- NRV Open House on October 17th, and
- NRV Fall Train Show at the Fairgrounds on November 7-8th.

It's not too early to be reserving the dates of these events on your personal calendars. The Club especially needs your help for our Open House and Fall Show Events.

For the Open House, we need members to run trains on all five layouts from 10 am to 4 pm. We also need members to lead tours, answer questions, mingle with, and help entertain our guests. Please contact John Mezera or Phil Michaud (Co-chairs) to volunteer your time. Your participation is valuable because this event commonly produces several new members. Please be sure that visitors **sign the guest book** and receive handouts about the Club.

Now for the big pitch!!!!

Signup sheets are available at the Clubhouse for **YOU** to volunteer your time and services for the Fall Show. The available time slots are currently filling at a glacial pace! While public hours only fall on Saturday and Sunday, November 7th and 8th, our needs for manpower begin on Thursday November 5th and don't end until the Graham Building is empty and the truck has been offloaded at the Clubhouse. **Please volunteer ASAP!** We're hopeful about Bernie Dawson's return as our coordinator, but for now, keep filling in the blanks on the signup sheets.

Remember that the proceeds from the Show are essential to the financial success of the Club and our future acquisition of new quarters. Please contribute as much of your time as possible.

All Aboard

Ken Howard, President

“At Long Last”

Final touch ups are all that remain on our bathroom project to reinstall hot water service to both bathrooms. Thanks to Schaefer O'Neill for spearheading the work. Enjoy the remodeled facilities. John Spach has restocked the first aid kits if you need a band aid, and the first aid boxes contain lists with members' emergency contacts “just in case.” If your emergency contact information isn't on the list or isn't current, please give Tom Garren an update.



(photo by Ken Howard)

Donated Layout for Sale



The Club has acquired a donation of a DCC HO scale layout. It is on a 4 x 8 sheet of plywood and comes complete with track, switches, well made supports, DCC command station, and power outlet box. The Club wishes to sell the layout to a member, members' child, or members' grandchildren for \$250 - complete and ready to run. If there is no interest from the membership, the Club will attempt to sell the layout intact at the November Show. Contact a Board member to get a showing – the layout is in the back storeroom.

Last Chance to Pay Membership Dues

2026-2027 membership dues are now **WAY PAST DUE** and **“nastygrams”** have been sent. If you haven't paid, your status as a member in good standing has lapsed. If you are not going to stay in the Club, please let us know, and we will stop harassing you for payment.

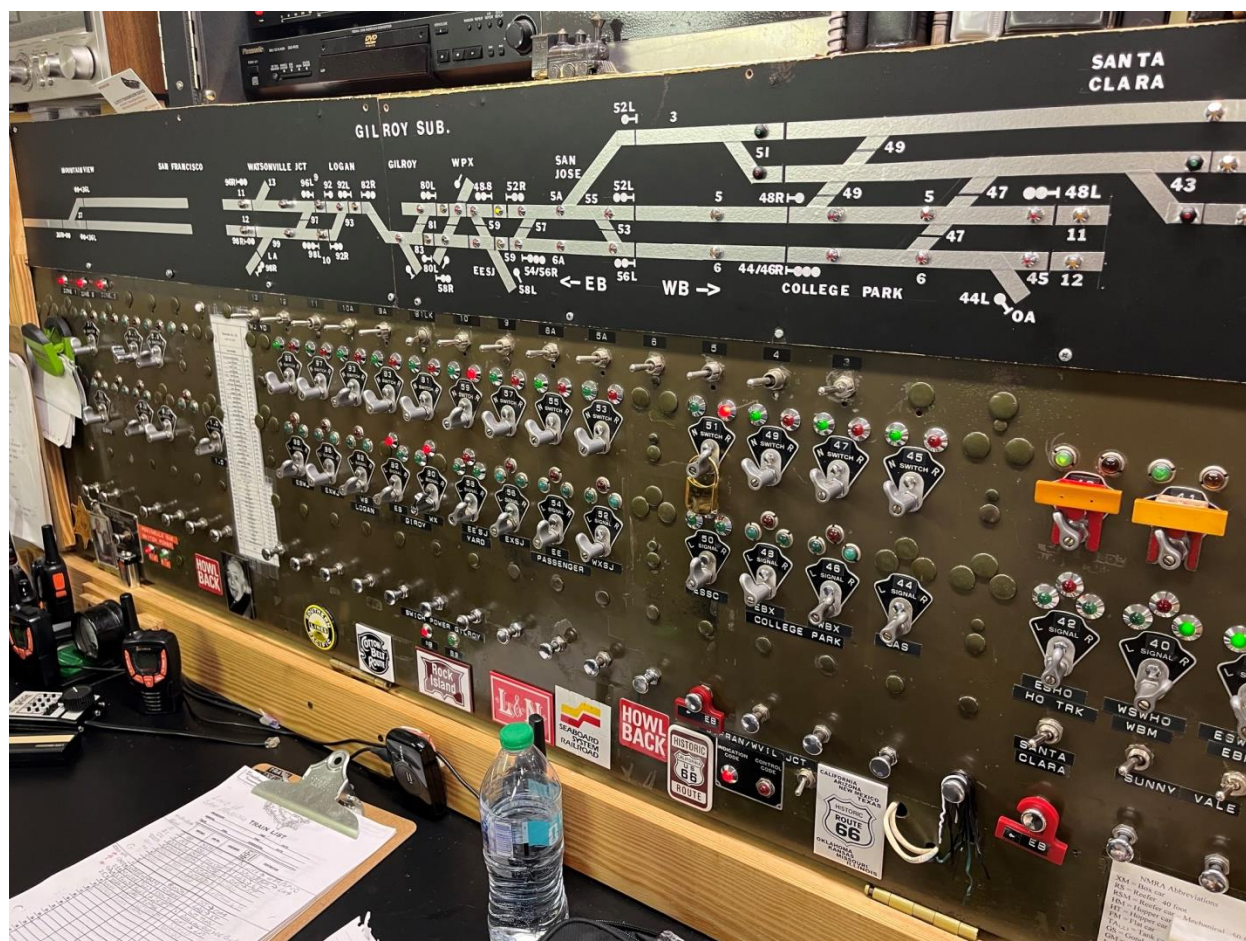
Come on Folks!!

For many years, the Club leadership has been harping about leaving food containers, food scraps, and residues in the Clubhouse. As shown in the pictures, **you're not paying attention.**



(photos by John Spach)

Operating Session with a Real Dispatcher Board



John Spach took this photo of the dispatcher's control board on Ken Reising's HO layout at the July operating session. Even though the switches are numbered, it takes some practice to become proficient in dispatching trains and avoiding collisions in the single track portions of the layout. BTW, this is the board for mainline service only. Individual yards are operated separately from this board except when trains are arriving or leaving yard control. It's a challenge, and Tom Garren and Randy Foulke have gotten pretty adept.

August Trivia Question By Randy Foulke

What was the easternmost point of the Pennsylvania Railroad?

See page 8 for the answer.

America 250 Locomotive Celebration

By Randy Foulke

The NC Transportation Museum in Spencer, NC is hosting the America 250 Locomotive Celebration August 28 - 30 from 8 am to 6 pm daily. The event will include specially painted locomotives from Class I railroads, short lines, and passenger railroads to celebrate America's sesquicentennial.

Each day, certain locomotives will be displayed on the turntable and run through the Museum yard for photo opportunities. I participated in the similar *Streamliners at Spencer* event in 2012, and I can wholeheartedly state that you will not want to miss this event.

The cost is \$40.00 for a one-day pass plus a processing fee of \$4.50 if ordering online. There are no special rates for groups, seniors, veterans, or active military. Due to heavy demand, the Museum recommends purchasing tickets online. Museum personnel also recommend that a group such as the NRV attend on Friday the 28th when crowds should be a little thinner and rest rooms more available.

I propose that anyone interested purchase tickets individually online for the 28th. Members can organize carpools from Barry's and/or the NRV Clubhouse. I also propose a 7:30 am departure time from either location. The drive is approximately 1 hour, 55 minutes. After you confirm your ticket purchase, please advise me by email, text, or in person if you want to carpool. Please advise if you can drive and how long you desire to stay for the day. Food and drink are available at the Museum or nearby restaurants.

Neat Links

George Sawyer passed along the following link about why Big Boy has a diesel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huW7U_0WPZw

Ken Howard came across this link about the historical relationship between railroads and military freight shipments. The video is about 15 minute long.

[Watch how war machines travel 3,300 miles overnight disguised as ordinary freight trains | Watch](#)

Jack Dziadul provided a link to the American 250 Locomotive Celebration:

[America 250 Locomotive Celebration | NC Transportation Museum](#)

Rob Rousseau provided the following links to the All Aboard, Holly Springs! (150th Anniversary Event) on Saturday, August 22, 2026 from 8am - 4pm:

General celebration information:

www.hsnc150.com

Article – “All Aboard: The Railroad Through Holly Springs”

www.hsnc150.com/railroad

Real Railroads



Ken Howard caught this R. J. Corman triple header in Fuquay-Varina on the afternoon of August 7, 2026. From left to right the units are 7181 (GP38), 8569 (SD40T-2), and 7107 (SD40-2).

Upcoming Events

Historical Marker Unveiling: Railroad Through Downtown Holly Springs: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 5:30pm. Join the Town of Holly Springs as a new historical marker honoring the Cape Fear & Northern Railroad is officially unveiled.

All Aboard, Holly Springs! Saturday, August 22, 2026 - 8am - 4pm The Cultural Center theater floor is being transformed into a train station featuring two giant model train sets from three local train clubs: Atlantic Coast S Gaugers, Neuse River Valley Train Club, and North Raleigh Model Railroad Club.

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

Tracks to Tidewater: NMRA/MER Convention from October 15-18, 2026 at the Holiday Inn, Virginia Beach. Events hosted by Tidewater Division.

Upcoming Club Meetings and Activities

August General Membership Meeting: The next membership meeting will be held on August 20th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. **Alan Servas** will give the presentation following the meeting titled: *Everything You Wanted to Know About the New Hope Valley Railway but Were Afraid to Ask*.

September Board of Governors Meeting: Because of the Labor Day weekend, the September BoG meeting will be held on Monday, September 14th at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held on Zoom only.

September HO Committee Meeting: Scheduled for noon on September 13th.

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/>

Answer to Randy Foulke's Trivia Question:

Most Pennsy fans would answer with Sunnyside Yard, and you would be technically correct. Sunnyside Yard is the coach yard that services passenger trains to Penn Station. The easternmost point of the yard is the balloon track on its north end.

Sunnyside Yard is actually two adjacent yards (the North Yard and the South Yard) on 192 acres with a total capacity of 1,078 passenger cars. It is across the East River from Manhattan in the Borough of Queens on Long Island. Besides the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR), the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) owned a portion of the yard, and the Lehigh Valley Railroad used the yard for servicing passenger trains into New York City.

The yard included a Pullman Commissary, a dining car commissary, club/lounge commissary, and cleaning and washing facilities. Mechanical and electrical maintenance and repair facilities were also present. Minor rebuilding of passenger cars, along with maintenance and repair of trucks and couplers could also be performed. Adjacent to the yard, a tract of land for held 700 homes for PRR employees working at the yard.

LIRR sold its share of the yard to PRR in 1961, retaining usage rights. Ownership of the yard passed to Penn Central and then to Conrail. On the same day that Conrail took possession of the yard (April 1, 1976) it sold all facilities to Amtrak for \$87 million payable in equal installments over eight years. Today, besides Amtrak, New Jersey Transit, and LIRR use the yard. LIRR is currently owned by the Metropolitan Transit Authority. Future commuter rail plans in New York City include bringing Metro North into Sunnyside Yard.



Sunnyside Yard under Amtrak ownership



Hell Gate Bridge

Side Note: One can make an argument that the actual easternmost point on the PRR was on rail line that proceeds northeast out of Sunnyside Yard to the Hell Gate Bridge. That line has a big sweeping curve with the easternmost point of the curve just to the south of the Gate Junction Tower. However, the rail line was owned by the New York Connecting Railroad, an entity jointly owned by LIRR, the New Haven, and PRR. I will leave the debate to your discretion.

Source: Walker, M., 1995, *Comprehensive Railroad Atlas of North America, North East U.S.A.*, Steam Powered Publishing, Dawes Road, Dunkirk, Nr. Faversham, Kent ME13 9TP

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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