

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

HO Committee Meeting of August 9, 2026

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Chuck Larnerd.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Members in attendance: Wayne Aiken, Liam Bryant, Peter Donofrio, Jake Forbes, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Chuck Larnerd, Collin Martinko, Don McPherson, and Len Nieman.

3. Old Business

- a. Goal is the get the best layout we can produce
- b. Replace the “good enough, it will do” attitude with the “best I can do
- c. Quality work takes time
- d. Help is welcome, appreciated, and expected
- e. To work independently, you will have to demonstrate skill
- f. We will start having work sessions to share knowledge and accomplish work
- g. Communication Wall: Any comments or suggestions
- h. Still waiting for Groups.IO to be working

Tom Garren reported that he and Ken Howard are the owners of the group. It should be relatively simple to get it going once the members of our HO committee have joined the HO group. Watch for more from Tom on this in the near future.

i. COME to the meeting and discuss and vote

j. HO Room protocol and etiquette

- i. Don't forget to ID your trains if you use the shelves
- ii. Do not use the layout for holding boxes, etc. while staging trains
Ken Howard noted that we have a new three drawer rolling cabinet. This can be used for staging trains.
- iii. If you see someone staging with containers on the layout, speak up
- iv. Stay with your train if there are others running trains
- v. Don't just put defective equipment back on the shelf. Indicate the problem on a card
- vi. Work Shop: let's make the HO group a good example of using the Shop

1. Put your tools away

2. Clean up after yourself

3. Let someone know if you use up something

4. Spare parts are NOT for your personal use

Tom Garren suggested we create a price for frequently used parts for members.

The details of implementing this change will still need to be worked out.

- vii. Collin Martinko noted that many of the people continue to make the same mistakes over and over again.

k. Track Guidelines: Read it. Provide feedback. Ask about exceptions

l. Project submission Form and Checklist

- i. ALL changes to the layout require a submission AND approval
- ii. A new form will be on the wall in a holder for your convenience

- iii. Projects will be prioritized but are subject to change
- 4. New Business
 - a. Height of Plexiglas
 - i. A key point is how to protect the layout and still be able to use the layout
 - ii. Should the height be uniform or variable
 - iii. the Plexiglas be no more than two or three inches high
 - iv. Members must be encouraged to be more careful with the layout, including scenery
 - v. Edge scenery, should we do it?
 - vi. Collin Martinko suggested that the edge of the layout should have very simple scenery, such as just grass or gravel, etc.
 - vii. Len Neiman will provide a printout of the layout that members can use to indicate their preferred height of Plexiglas. These printouts will be evaluated and used to help make a final decision.
 - viii. Ken Howard reminded everyone that the two purposes of Plexiglas usage are to protect the layout and to keep trains from falling off the layout.
 - ix. Collin Martinko also suggested that throttle holders be installed wherever Plexiglas is used on the layout. Liam Bryant stated that he had a supply of holders that he had 3D printed. He will sell to the Club at a low price. The group agreed to buy Liam's supply of throttle holders.
 - b. Naming of features on the layout.
 - i. Chuck Larnerd stated that there has been some concern expressed about naming of features on the layout for some members. The concern was that everyone doing the work may not have something named for them. Committee members are encouraged to think about:
 - ii. Criteria for naming such as contributors (work/donations/ideas) / Criteria needs to be developed.
 - iii. For locations or features (Actual or Imagined). We need to determine what we are modeling.
 - c. Elevation of track roadbed
 - i. Continue bring Main 1, Main 2, and Main 3, up to ho roadbed as new work is done?
 - ii. Creates a complexity to bring Main 3 down to Main 4 level where they interface.
 - iii. Think about it and be read to discuss next month.
- 5. Active Layout projects
 - a. Mountain
 - i. Reduce size of mountain portals for forced perspective. There was no objection to this and further it was determined that a stone portal is also acceptable.
 - ii. Map for surfacing of Mountain (existing timber, clear cuts w/ stumps, new growth)
 - iii. Mountain road to camp
 - b. Mod 9 Yard
 - i. Ballast needs to be cleaned up
 - ii. Remaining power feeds need to be connected

- c. Mountain staging tracks
 - i. Electrically isolate three outer tracks for staging. Chuck Larnerd will handle this item.
- d. Center Yard
 - i. Install slip switches to test functionality. This has been successfully completed.
- e. Industrial area to South of reversing loop
 - i. Complete siding to cement plant/remove turnout
 - ii. Level and install street with track
 - iii. Populate with industrial buildings
- f. Logging camp
 - i. Track work
 - ii. building modifications.
 - iii. Len Nieman will prepare and present a plan to show the new track alignment in the lumber camp as well as the placement of the buildings there. Len will work with John Spach to see if the diorama of buildings John has put together can work in this location.
- g. New switch panel for the reversing loop, wyes, and associated turn outs
 - i. Add tortoise motors for missing main2 turnouts.
 - ii. When using the panel look for green lights to show your path when using the wye.
- 6. New Layout if / when we move
 - a. Modular size (not modular concept). “E” shaped layout
 - b. Benchwork (Butt Joint, L girder, other)
 - c. Substrate Flat top, open grid, cookie cutter, other)
 - d. Vertical levels
 - e. Height above the floor (Walk under?)
 - f. CLUB imaginary historical line... updates?
 - g. Straight edges or a natural flow
 - h. What features do we want (prioritize based on size)
 - i. Who can do the work?
 - j. Cost / Time

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.