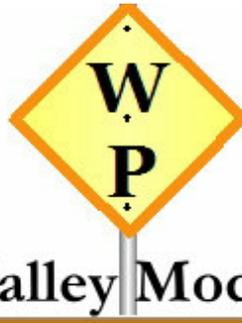


The

Whistle



Post

Official Newsletter of the

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

1001 Airport Blvd, Morrisville, NC, 27560

Phone: 919-460-3003

. This Month's Program

This month's meeting on Febuary __ will feature Geroge Lasley presenting selected slides of historic Raleigh railroads..

. Under the Crown Sheet

. I would like to thank all of you that have offered prayers and words of encouragement to me over the last few months in regards to my mother's health. I am happy to say that she is doing much better than she was at Christmas and I am hopeful that she will continue to improve in the coming months.

I also thank those of you who have responded to my pleas of assistance and have come to the club on weekends to greet our many visitors and help run the trains. We can still use more help as it gets a little thin late in the day.

We have several plans to create more activities at the clubhouse and it seems that the best time to do them is on the weekends when we are open to the public. This is OK. We may get some new members by having clinics, etc.; but we will need even more members to man the layouts and greet visitors to be able to do these other events.

Please plan to spend one day per month at the clubhouse to enable the load to be more evenly shared by the entire membership. If you will come forward and commit to doing so, we can come up with a schedule and everyone can have some time off.

We are very close to achieving several of our financial goals and I would like to have frank and open discussions about the situation over the next several months. We are at another crossroads and it is important that each member give the Board their input so that the club moves in a positive direction.

We will be manning the phones for UNC-TV during Festival again this year and our slot is Sunday, March 6th, 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. We would like to have 20 members participate. Please sign up at the meeting on the 16th.

Time permitting we will offer a number of HO cars donated to the club to the membership at auction on the 16th.

I am sure I have forgotten at least one item but perhaps someone will remind me of it at the meeting. Please note the new mall hours as stated in the minutes. I hope to see you all on the 16th.

What's your ID?

.John Held is asking you to pick an "ID", (one or more colored dots on the bottom of your equipment that you run at the club. We will post your choice on the club bulletin board. Two red dots and two purple dots are taken. See John to register your choice.

Stuff for Sale

Frank Mansfield still has some train items and other things for sale at a reasonable price. Call him at (919)-828-4721.

Minutes of the Membership Meeting

J. R. Fisher called the meeting of January 19, 2011 to order at 7:07 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Rich Trumper.

Board members present: J. R. Fisher, Joe Johnston, George Lasley, Thomas Magnani, Frank Simmons and Steve Wills.

Members present were: Joe Austin, Bernard Dawson, Erik Dyke, Robert Harvey, Thomas Harvey, John Held, Don Jennings, Arthur Katz, Clif Kelly, Fred Krauss, Frank Mansfield, Tom Staley, John Suhr and Richard Walz.

Franco Venturi attended his second Meeting. J. R. suspended the meeting rules and there was a unanimous vote to accept Franco as a Probationary Member.

J. R. noted that there was an error in the minutes of the January 3, 2011 Board meeting in that only videos were donated; books were not donated.

Steve Wills reported that the amount of our funds is basically unchanged from last month. He described the Treasurer's duties as paying bills, filing taxes, making payments for the annual show, tracking membership and collecting dues. He

estimated he writes 3 – 5 checks/month with the exception of the months around the show when he writes 12 – 15 checks. The work normally requires 6 – 8 hours/month.

George Lasley reported that that there was no update on this year's show and that he was working on our insurance carrier. He brought plumbing parts with him to repair the restroom faucet.

Joe Austin asked about creating some “hands on” activities for small children; e.g. a switching layout geared to children. To be discussed at the next Board meeting.

J. R. reminded the meeting that we need people on weekends; especially on Saturdays.

Frank Simmons stressed the need that we need enough people to not only greet visitors but to work on our layouts. We need to keep our clubhouse clean. Leftover food and similar materials should be disposed of in the mall's receptacles so that vermin are not attracted.

J. R. mentioned that this might be his last term as President, depending on his mother's health, and that we need to consider raising our dues; from the present \$10/month for senior members to \$15/month.

Fred Krauss described the “Craftsman” ½” drill press that he would like to sell and asked if any members who might be interested to please contact him.

Don Jennings described the CD software for “PC Game” style switching layouts that he had purchased from Fred Miller for \$10/CD. John Held suggested that the CD's contents be the subject of a presentation at a future meeting.

George Lasley will have a presentation at our February 16th meeting about the Raleigh of 35 – 40 years ago.

Frank Mansfield announced that he had brought in a box of HO items for sale after the evening's presentation.

J. R. introduced Tom Staley's presentation about his recent trip to the upper Midwest's railroads.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM on a motion by J.R., seconded by Clif Kelly.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors

J. R. called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM, 02/07/11

Board members present: J.R. Fisher, Pete Hansma, Joe Johnston, Tom Magnani, Frank Simmons and Steve Wills.

Members Scott Hall, John Herzog and Don Jennings were present.

Steve Wills provided a Treasurer's Report. Our position is basically unchanged from a year ago. The subject of whether or not to raise the dues was discussed.

Pete Hansma was asked to update the web site to reflect this year's show dates of November 5th and 6th.

J.R. informed the club that Jesse Barbour's initial donation of six to eight U Haul book boxes of mainly Model Railroader and Railroad Model Craftsman with a few issues of some other model railroad titles as well has grown in the past week. It also includes a large quantity of Trains and Railroad and Railfan Magazines now as well as a donation from Earl Gulledge of his Railroad Model Craftsman magazines from the 1980's and 1990's. Fred Kraus will pick them up for the Club.

Donald Deuel has donated several sets and pieces of HO equipment. Steve converted the couplers on Mr. Deuel's John Bull Bachman set and it has been running on our layout. There are several unpainted Rivarossi passenger cars that J. R. would like painted with the Club's name.

Richard Hagan wishes to donate 3 cases of HO trains to sell to the membership on February 16th.

J. R. presented, for George Lasley, the results of George's effort to improve our insurance coverage. Following some discussion Tom Magnani's motion to accept George's proposal to change insurers was seconded by Steve Wills and unanimously approved. Steve is to contact George so that a check can be issued.

J. R. asked for volunteers for the Club's participation at WUNC-TV on Sunday, March 6th from 7:30 am to 11:30 am. Our goal is 20 participants.

There was a discussion about the dates for Board meetings as the usual first Mondays in July and September conflict with National Holidays. The meetings were moved to Tuesday, July 5th and Tuesday, September 6th.

Frank Simmons' request for the Garden Club to meet at our facility at 1 PM on February 19th was approved.

Frank presented the board with a general proposal to expand our library shelving by 2 bays. One for video, the other for magazines. Steve's motion to approve the expansion with a limit of \$200 was seconded by Joe Johnston and unanimously approved.

J. R. presented the new time rules that are now in effect because the Mall has moved its closing to 8 PM from 9 PM. The only evening for which he currently has an

agreement for us to stay beyond 8 PM is for Wednesday. Visitors must be gone in time for them to leave the Mall by the 8 PM closing.

After 8 PM the only door we can use is our back door. The Mall will be blacked out and its facilities will be unavailable.

The new rules for Wednesdays are:

Mall visitors should be requested to leave by 8:00 PM.

1. **A board member must be present after 8 PM.**
2. The front, Mall corridor, door is to be locked tight and tested.
3. All members are to be accounted for.
4. When leaving, double check that the taps in the lavatory sink are fully off.
5. Confirm that our Rear door is locked tight and tested.
6. Confirm that the outside Stationary Door's Top & Bottom Pegs are driven home!!

The Stationary Door must be pulled in for its bottom peg to seat.

TEST THE STATIONARY DOOR!

Close the exit door and retest.

Scott Hall inquired about a work shop/presentation about adding a DCC decoder to a locomotive. He suggested that it be either a weekend or an early evening and be open to non-members which would also improve the Club's exposure to the model railroading public. He was asked to send a proposal to Joe for inclusion in the next Whistle Post.

On a motion by Tom Magnani and seconded by Pete Hansma the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Wiring Management Suggestion

After helping a fellow model railroader, Pete Wehr, with the planning and layout construction of his first DCC model railroad, it came time to go under the table to start

the wiring process. The first thing that had to be done was the running of a bus wire for the DCC System. How to attach this bus wire to the table was the question. There are many methods of doing this and they have probably all been explained in the model magazines. But here is one that we came up with and you may not have thought of.

This is so ingenious and a simple remedy to the problem. He decided on using the type of plastic cloths pins that squeeze open and closed.

He went to a local hardware store to purchase the packages of cloths pins. Two different colors of pins were decided upon to indicate the Plus side and Negative side of the train track rails. The white pins to be used for one rail and the blue pins for the other rail. Each pin has a spring coil in the center of it. That hole of the coil is large enough to place a screw through and attach the pin to the bottom of the table joists.

So simple and easy, just a one-inch sheet rock screw and a drill with a Phillips head bit is all that is needed to attach each pin. One thing to be careful of is the spacing of the pins on the joists. In particular, far enough apart so the wires do NOT touch each other. This is especially important when the wires have to follow the curves of the tables.

Hopefully you will try this on your current layout to improve it or for sure on the next and better layout in the near future.

“Help Us Educate the Youth of Tomorrow
With Our Hobby of Model Railroading Today”dhj
Don Jennings

Future Events

The club is open every Wednesday, starting about 7:00 p.m. Also on Saturday at 10 a.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m.

Membership meeting on Wednesday, February 16.

BoG meeting on March 7.

All events at the club site, 1001 Airport Blvd. Suite 120..

For details on how to arrive at the club, check out our website: <http://www.nrvclub.net>

Note from the Editor

Please send articles to me at joe.nrvmrrc@pobox.com. by the Wednesday before the next meeting, so I can do the newsletter on Thursday. Check out our website at:

<http://www.nrvclub.net>

Check the [website](#) to see when the club will be opened.

On Monday, February 28 at 8 pm until 11 pm, WUNC-TV will show “**Great Scenic Railway Journeys: Celebrating North America’s Steam Railways**”.

NRV Whistle Post
The Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club, Inc.
PO Box 19573
Raleigh, NC 27619-9573

First Class

NEXT REGULAR MEETING - Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: MORRISVILLE OUTLET MALL, 1001 AIRPORT BLVD. Next to Izod

Monday, March 7, 2011, 7:00 p.m. BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING, at the club at Morrisville Mall.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

J. R. Fisher	President	919-782-3677
George Lasley	Vice-President	glasley@bellsouth.net, 834-5531
Steve Wills	Treasurer	919-845-4968
Tom Magnani	Secretary	tommag1@aol.com
Frank Simmons	At Large	919-676-2081
Pete Hansma	At Large	pkh@bellsouth.net, 919-217-0407
Joe Johnston	At Large	joe.nrvmrrc@pobox.com

WEB SITE

Joe Johnston

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