

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**

The Program following out next Members' Meeting on August 17th will cover the resetting and setting of DCC CV's for Digitrax Digital Command Control.

### **. Under the Crown Sheet**

We seem to be surviving another HOT summer; but this year, we have had the added help of five ceiling fans installed by Bill Oram. It has really made a difference; thank you, Bill.

November is fast approaching. Are you ready for the show? Please plan ahead and be available to help us.

We have a lot of new people joining us this year. Please be sure to introduce yourself and make them feel a part of our club.

Progress continues on both the HO layout planning and actual construction on the N layout. Plus you may have noticed that we have a neat little N layout that is portable. Thanks to Joe Austin and Bernie for getting it up and operating.

Please be sure to get up-to-date with your dues. They pay the bills for the clubhouse and are most necessary. If you have any questions as to your status, please check with Steve.

We hope we will see everyone on the 17th. Stay cool.

JR Fisher

## Minutes of the Membership Meeting

J.R. Fisher called the meeting of July 20, 2011 to order at 7:03 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Don Jennings.

Frank Simmons provided the Board with an outline for a standard agenda.

The Secretary called the roll.

Board members present: J. R. Fisher, Clif Kelly, Thomas Magnani, Frank Simmons and Steve Wills.

Members present were: Joe Austin, Bernard Dawson, Erik Dyke, Bill Ferguson, Scott Hall, Bill Hanley, Robert Harvey, Thomas Harvey, John Held, John Herzog, Tyler Herzog, Don Jennings, George Lasley, John Suhr, Doug Tomlinson, Roland Waggoner and Richard Walz.

Steve Wills reported that our treasury is basically unchanged from last month and somewhat ahead of last year.

George Lasley's motion to make Doug Tomlinson a Senior Member was seconded by Bernie Dawson and unanimously approved.

Steve Wills will replace Doug's badge to correct a misspelling. Erik Dyke requested a replacement for his lost badge. Steve reminded the membership that the annual dues are due. The dues are \$120/year for Senior Members, \$60/year for Sustaining Members and \$24/year for Junior Members.

George Lasley reported we have reservations for 129 tables for November's show at the Fairgrounds and that things are proceeding as expected. He will begin making calls to the remaining vendors within a few weeks

George reported on the status of the City of Oaks Marathon that is in conflict with our Fairgrounds show on Sunday, November 6th. Hillsboro Street will be reopened at 10 AM on Sunday, November 6th. The Raleigh City Council Minutes of July 5, 2011 have yet to be posted; granting official status to the agreement. J. R. noted that because of the Muslim observance taking place that Sunday morning, involving an expected 9,000 people expected for a 9 am observance, there will initially be a large influx of parked cars that morning. Pete Hansma noted that that Sunday morning is also the beginning of Daylight Savings Time.

Pete Hansma brought in the first run of the Show's flyers to be distributed to the local train/Hobby shops and within the Mall.

Bernie Dawson described his project to develop a Club video loop to run during the show. He would like someone to loan him a video camera. He reported that Don Jennings had created a video of the HO layout using a small camera and a flat car.

Don Jennings suggested powering another one of the HO wireless jacks as almost all of them are in use on the weekends.

Roland Waggoner offered 4 tickets (2 adult, 2 children) for the Maryland Science Center.

Steve Wills thanked those who stayed at the club while 6 members attended the July 9th tour of the Tichy facilities.

Steve Wills reported that there is an ongoing effort to develop the new HO layout. We need to sort through all of the HO buildings and track to support the layouts development. Don Jennings has put together a proof of concept 2' x 8' industrial switching layout which he is trying out with members and visitors. The next HO planning meeting will be at 2 PM on Sunday, July 24th.

Following the meeting Steve will be auctioning our surplus steam and diesel locomotives.

John Held announced that the program for our next meeting will be about setting CV's for Digitrax DCC systems.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM on a motion by George Lasley, seconded by Don Jennings.

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors**

J. R. called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. August 1, 2011

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

Members present were: Bernard Dawson, Don Jennings and George Lasley.

Guests present were A. J. Green and Wlad Perdomo.

Steve Wills reported that as of the end of July our balance was essentially unchanged from last month and is somewhat ahead of last year at this time.

George Lasley reported that Pete Hansma has updated the Club's web site with respect to the show's table occupancy. We have commitments for 132 tables including some new vendors. Following a discussion of the News & Observer's advertisement rates it was decided to run advertisements for the show on Sunday, Oct. 30th, Friday, Nov. 4th and Saturday, Nov. 5th.

George would like some of the members to exit 440 at the Hillsboro Street exits at 10:05 am on Sunday, Nov. 6th, to confirm their agreed upon opening at 10:00 am and the information about routes to the show that the officers on duty are supposed to provide.

Bernie Dawson reported that one video of the HO layout has been shot by Don Jennings and more are planned. Don reported that there is a link to his video on the Club's web site. It can be accessed either through the Club's "Links" page, "Trip around Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club Layout", or directly at "[www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsDds10cvGw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsDds10cvGw)". Additionally, quite a few video's of Will Allen's old 3 Rail O Gauge layout, the Duckunder Terminal Railway, and its equipment can be found at "[www.vimeo.com/1768226](http://www.vimeo.com/1768226)".

J. R. announced that Doug Tomlinson has been appointed the head of the HO Layout project.

The Program following out next Members Meeting on August 17th will cover the resetting and setting of DCC CV's for Digitrax.

On a motion by Joe Johnston, seconded by Tom Magnani, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

## **Future Events**

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

Membership meeting on Wednesday, August 17.

BoG meeting on TBD

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](mailto: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.

## A Camera Car for Your Railroad Tours

“A Trip Around the Neuse River Valley Model RR Club Layout”

A very important car to have.

by Don Jennings

After an important meeting about The Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club’s HO Scale layout, Bernie Dawson and myself got together to talk about the meeting. Both of us were thinking about taking pictures of the club’s layouts for our website.

*{NOTE: We have two Thomas- the tank engine layouts –One with two tracks in HO Scale and the other is two tracks in a G Scale, an 8 foot by 32 foot HO Scale layout, a large O-gauge layout of two tracks, and a Garden Railway layout. There is also a Legos layout in the middle of the O-gauge table and a Marklin HO three rail AC layout that can be viewed from the front widow. All of this is for viewing by the public when we are open.}*

We wanted pictures of the N Scale layout that he works on and the 8 feet by 32 feet HO Scale layout that I like. Bernie said he knew of someone who could edit the pictures we take so it would be best presented on the website. I took many pictures of the layout with the trains that were running on those busy Saturdays and Sundays. To me the pictures were not quite right for what I wanted to show for the layout.

This got me thinking about taking a video of the layout rather than just pictures. With my small movie camera mounted on a train car, it could show the entire layout as it traversed the trackage of our club’s empire railroad. I went to my home layout, the Atlantic & Western Railroad - Rallec Division, to try to find ways to mount the camera to a train car. My first attempt was to just place the camera on a coal hopper car, which I weighted so it would not topple over while the train was running.

This sort of worked but gave me a lot of roof top views. It also showed me that I had to move some structures so the camera would not be bumped or fall off the car. Two important things learned by this attempt.

Next attempt was to place the camera on a gondola car. This has a lower profile to the track than the coal hopper car. This should give a more realistic view. The view was better but the camera needed to be **mounted** to the gondola car in some way that it would not bounce around while running. My camera lens is offset, not in the middle of the camera body, to the middle of the gondola. [Pic # 2] I came up with a small piece of furring strip wood and drilled a hole to accept the camera's mounting screw. [Pic # 1] This is similar to the mounting on a tripod. Drilling two small holes through the wood and into the gondola car attached the piece of wood and holds the camera firmly. [Pic # 1] This worked but I had to use lead weights on the car's one side to counterbalance the weight and size of the camera to keep it balanced on the car. [Pic # 3]



I was happy with the results, but again I wanted to try one more idea for this. I found in my supply of rolling stock an old Ulrich trailer on a flat car. This metal car had a hole already drilled in the middle of the car to hold the truck trailer. This seemed perfect to my use. I filed off the fifth wheel support and was able to mount a toggle bolt through the bolt hole, from the top down, with a couple of nuts on the bottom of the car. [Pic #4] Having the toggle bolt rigid on

the car, I am able to use a rubber band around the camera body that secures the camera to the toggle bolt and holds my camera in a horizontal position. [Pic # 5]

It really works and gives good photography of your layout. Try this for yourselves. You can see the video I did by going on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsDds10cvGw>

