



1001 Airport Blvd, Morrisville, NC, 27560
Phone: 919-460-3003

Under the Crown Sheet

Remember When?

Ever think about that statement? It generally invokes fond remembrances of an event or a time when individuals pulled together to fight and struggle for a common goal. Think about it for a moment. This is my second year as a member of the Neuse River Valley MRR Club, I have spent nearly the past two years hearing all the great stories of what the club was like “way back when.”

Having the space in the mall has been a great experience for all of us, brought many new members and we had many weekends where we were packed with visitors. Just this past summer, I recall a switching layout which was little more than a bunch of track thrown down on a homasote board that seemingly appeared to be in a random pattern. With the operator at point (and sometimes shorting out the HO layout), people would pull up a chair and watch in amazement as the trains see-sawed back and forth, picking up and delivering freight cars to the industries all along this random pattern of track. I recall seeing many of our newer members coming in for the first time, watching their faces light up when we offered to have them run trains. What are we doing now?

Although the mall is “dead”, we are not. The club has existed for over 27 years, it will endure. To facilitate the next steps toward our new direction, the board held a special meeting on this past Friday to discuss five key initiatives we will be presenting to you at the September membership meeting.

Now is the time to start creating new “Remember When” moments. Now is the time to take aggressive action to ensure we will be reading this newsletter far, far into the future. Someday, I would like to be sitting around the table saying “Remember When we were at the Morrisville Mall . . . “ with each of you. What about you?

See you at the September membership meeting!
Doug, on behalf of JR and Your Board of Directors.

Minutes of the Membership Meeting

Doug Tomlinson called the meeting of August 15, 2012 to order at 7:02 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by John Held.

Tom Magnani called the roll.

Board members present: Pete Hansma, Tom Magnani, Doug Tomlinson, Frank Simmons and Steve Wills.

Members present were: Joe Austin, Michael Giles, A.J. Green, Robert Harvey, John Held, Don Jennings, Joe Johnston and John Suhr.

Pre-probationary member Calvin Kuttner was present.

The guests were: Donna Hansma, Mrs. Harvey, David Johnson (HO), his 2nd visit in a row, and Mrs. Kutner.

Steve Wills reported that our funds are comparable to last year. He asked for 2 volunteers to review the remaining 2 financial books. Joe Austin accepted one of them.

Doug Tomlinson asked that members bring themselves up to date on their dues as many are running late at this time.

Pete Hansma reported that there are fewer than 20 - 24 unreserved tables for the upcoming fair. Any club member who wishes to reserve a table should contact him following the meeting.

Pete has handouts and flyers for the show and members are encouraged to take them and distribute them.

Joe Austin reported that he has completed the wiring of the section of the N Scale layout that is closest to the clubhouse's main door. The trolley line will be wired at a later date. He has started work on the mid-section and is maintaining a uniform color code for the layout's wiring.

Steve Wills motion to have Joe Austin be the David Johnson's sponsor was seconded by Doug Tomlinson and unanimously approved.

Doug raised the issue of proceeding with the new HO layout. The initial discussion considered taking down the O Ga. layout but was subsequently modified to consider reducing the O Ga. layout by a single table length on each side. The newer members were brought up to date on the Sipping & Switching standards for layout construction.

Steve Wills reminded the meeting that the plan for the O Ga. layout was to have a 3rd loop that would support either 2 rail or 3 rail operation.

Doug reported that we have yet to be notified to vacate the Mall and that there is nothing to report about the Morrisville Fire House alternative.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM on a motion by Tom Magnani and seconded by Pete Hansma.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors

Doug Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM, September 4, 2012.

Board members present: Clif Kelly, Tom Magnani, Frank Simmons, Doug Tomlinson and Steve Wills.

The members present were: Scott Hall, George Lasley and John Ragan.

Steve Wills reported that our funds, based upon June's bank statement, were approximately the same as last year at this time. The subsequent payments by Vendors have yet to be included in his figures but our balance is comparable to last year at this time.

Steve reported that members who are late with their payments are now overdue and have lost their right to vote. They will be receiving letters in the mail requesting payment. Tom Magnani is to send the letters out ASAP. Checks should be made payable to NRV and given or mailed to Steve.

The club's mailing address is:

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club
P.O. Box 19573
Raleigh, NC 27619-9573

George Lasley reported that our reissued donation of \$100 to "Helping Hand" has been received.

George Lasley announced that we have sold most of our tables. 14 tables, in various configurations and locations, are still available. We have several new vendors. Joe Hahn, our S Scale vendor, has sold his business.

It was agreed that we would continue with the TWC, Time Warner Cable, and N&O, News & Observer, advertising as last year; 3 column inches. The N&O will be the prior Sunday, prior Wednesday and the Saturday of the show.

Frank Simmons opened a discussion of the "Public" side of our web site and its lack of "look and feel" of a 2012 website; especially when compared to sites of similar organizations. George reported that the Table Map on the "Vendor" side is current. After some further discussion the Board requests that Pete Hansma and Joe Johnston meet with the Board to discuss improving the "look and feel" of the "Public" side.

Frank reported that, based upon his observations of the crowds around Don Jennings' switching layout at the recent Maker Faire, there is a considerable interest among young people in model railroading. These young people, and their parents, are web savvy and will be discouraged by our site. Obviously, no changes to either part of the site will be made before the show.

George Lasley read a letter from David Mumford, son and executor of Ray Mumford's estate, concerning a substantial bequest from Ray's estate. George proposed converting it to a multi-year CD to be named "The Mumford Fund". J.R. and George will discuss evaluating the estate's models.

As Tom Magnani will not be able to attend the September 19th Membership Meeting, Clif Kelly will record the meeting's minutes.

There was a discussion about the relation of clubhouse rent to club dues. Steve Wills stated that we can afford a \$600/month rent without an increase in dues. Assuming 30 full paying members, every \$100/month increase in rent will incur a \$40/year increase in member dues. A \$750/month rent would require a Senior Member dues rate of \$150/year.

Doug reported that no notice has been received from the Mall.

Frank noted that Mall traffic has dramatically fallen off as all the stores in the Mall have closed. Other than a place to run our models there is no financial incentive for us to remain at the mall. George suggested that we obtain a storage space as soon as possible and begin to clear out the back shelves, the Library and our boxed models that are stored in the main room under the tables.

John Ragan reported that he was contacted by Richard Weston, an older, HO gauge modeler, who wishes to have some organization remove both his boxed models and his large, 2 room, attic layout. For the pieces that are sold he would like that some portion of it be donated, in his name, to a local food bank or similar organization. After some discussion it was decided that, to avoid member/worker overload prior to the show and, in consideration of the need to store some of our materials, we would propose removing the boxed materials first and then disassembling the layout following the show. Doug thanked John for his follow-up and management of this donation.

Tom is to email the Board, A.J. Green, Scott Hall, Joe Johnston, George Lasley and John Ragan, to announce a special meeting on Friday, September 14th at 7:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss several items:

- Updating the public side of the web site,
- Moving some of our store of materials to storage in anticipation of a possible conflict with the show's preparation,
- Presentation of the new HO layout concept to the board,
- Forming a committee to actively look for a new site,
- Handling of the latest, Dick Weston, donation of HO equipment and layout.

John asked about going to a targeted, web based, advertising. George noted that OGR is a possible free site.

John reported on his recent trip to Grand Strand Model Railroaders Club which is located in Myrtle Beach Mall. They pay \$200/month for 1,500 sq. ft. next to a Bass Pro store. Their hours are Sat. 10 – 5, Mon. 4- 6. Their web site is: <http://www.isfans.com/gsmrrc/index.php>.

Gorge Lasley will present a clinic on weathering at the next Membership Meeting.

There is no more Mall Security. Members are urged to use only the front door and to keep the back doors closed and locked.

On a motion by Tom Magnani, seconded by Clif Kelly, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Future Events

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

Membership meeting on Wednesday, September 19th.

BoG meeting on October 10th.

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/Webmaster

Please send me recent photos of our club activities, so we can update our website.

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.

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so we have an even number of pages

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

First Class

NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

LOCATION: Morrisville Outlet Mall, 1001 Airport Blvd.

Monday, October 1, 2012, 7:00 pm. Board of Governors meeting, at the club at Morrisville Mall.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

J. R. Fisher	President	919-782-3677
Doug Tomlinson	Vice-President	dhtomlins@yahoo.com
Steve Wills	Treasurer	919-845-4968
Tom Magnani	Secretary	tommag1@aol.com
Clif Kelly	At Large	bkelly11@nc.rr.com, 919-614-8891
Pete Hansma	At Large	pkh@bellsouth.net, 919-217-0407
Frank Simmons	At Large	919-676-2081

WEB SITE

Joe Johnston	Newsletter editor & webster	WWW.NRVCLUB.NET joe.nrvmrrc@pobox.com
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