



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

Under the Crown Sheet

It was nice to get back to Raleigh if even for only a few days. My mother is improving and I hope to be spending more time here than in Washington for the next few months. Still, I may have to miss a meeting or so.

Here we are; less than one month until our show in November. I understand that ALL of the vendor tables are sold and that for the first time we have a waiting list. Typically, one or more dealers drop out at the last minute, but if they do and we know it in time, we can fill that hole.

The ads are ready and in position to run at the proper time. Everything looks good except getting the sale items together, which I hope to work on during the final two weeks.

Please make arrangements with your employers and wives to be available to work at the fairgrounds Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Besides the usual help setting up and tearing down, we need a couple of really good salesmen or saleswomen to SELL ALL of the club items. We really do not want to be bringing it back to store until the next show. We seem to be very fortunate in the amount of merchandise that is donated to the club. So we will expect to have a truckload again next year.

I have not been given the date when the mall will begin closing at 6 p.m., but when it does, a keyholder will have to get to the clubhouse and open it before the mall closes on nights we have a meeting or work session. We will have to enter and exit via the back door.

Next up will be our holiday dinner in December. Discussions as to day and time are ongoing, so please show up and express your preferences.

There are several committees at work on various jobs. We will report their findings when known by the Board of Governors.

I would like to thank Doug and all of the board members for taking up the slack in my absence. They did a wonderful job and the club will benefit from their efforts.

The big move will come and we are preparing for it. Hopefully, when we put out the call for "all hands on deck," you will respond and the burden will be shared by many, making "light work" of an otherwise herculean task.

As most of you know, we have had several members suffer personal losses of loved ones this month. Those of you that have attended services: thank you. And we hope you will be able to attend on the 20th as well.

Art and Joe, we extend our deepest sympathies and hope that we can ease your pain by being good friends to you both. Any assistance the club can render will be freely given.

I hope to see you all on Wednesday night.

J.R Fisher

Minutes of the Membership Meeting

Doug Tomlinson called the meeting of September 19, 2012 to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Don Jennings. Clif Kelly, acting as the Secretary, called the roll.

Board members present: Pete Hansma, Clif Kelly, Doug Tomlinson and Steve Wills.

Members present were: Eric Dyke, William Ferguson, Michael Giles, A.J. Green, John Held, Don Jennings, Joe Johnston, George Lasley, John Ragan, John Suhr, Roland Waggoner and Richard Walz.

Probationary members present were: Martin/Calvin Kuttner and David Johnson.

No probationary members were recommended for Senior Membership.

Henry Shirley introduced himself as a visiting guest modeling in HO.

Guests present: Donna Hansma

The minutes were accepted from 15 August 2012 without correction on a motion made by John Held, and seconded by Don Jennings.

Steve Wills reported that our funds are comparable to this time last year. Steve asked that members bring themselves up to date on their dues.

George Lasley was pleased to report that reservations have been received for 214 of 219 available tables for November's show at the Fairgrounds, and that reservations to date are further ahead than bookings for last year. George presented and discussed a charting layout for proposed table locations. George has set aside 5 tables for the Club's use. Doug reminded the members that they should contact George ASAP if they want to rent a table(s). Doug asked for full precipitation by the membership during the 2-4 November weekend to support activities at the fairgrounds. Friday morning beginning at 8:00 am will be devoted to assisting vendors with their individual setups. Dealers are expected at noon or earlier but will be given all day to setup. Showtime is scheduled from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm both Saturday and Sunday. Vendor closeout is scheduled for two hours on Sunday beginning at 5:00 PM. Pizza dine-in will be provided by the Club on Friday and Sunday evenings. Doug stressed that full participation by the members will be greatly appreciated. The event will appear in the News and Observer on Friday October 26th and Friday and Saturday, November 2nd and 3rd. Some concern was expressed over the NC State-Virginia football game scheduled for Saturday at Carter-Finley stadium but as now the kickoff time has not been released. Unlike last year the Raleigh Road Race is not anticipated to be a problem since the course will not block Hillsborough Street in the vicinity of the Fairgrounds.

Doug reported that the mall owners have not provided any new news on the club's departure date from the mall but preparations are underway to complete the inventory and pack as much of the club's train rolling stock, scenery and library materials as possible.

Frank, Doug and Clif have formed a subcommittee to be chaired by Frank to look for a new location. The subcommittee will work to report back to the membership on two proposed site locations at the next meeting. Target rent of \$600/month will be used as

a maximum without the need to raise dues. This assumes 30 full paying members at \$120/year annual dues. Every \$100/month increase in rent will incur a \$40/year increase in member dues. John Held suggested that distressed properties might be considered as possible club locations. Other suggestions included criteria for local foot traffic and availability of local/state/federal properties.

The corner area of the clubhouse currently devoted to Thomas the Train is being dismantled and will be used for temporary storage for packed up items. Notification will be given to Tom Staley for dismantling the exhibit or the Club will take down the layout. John Ragan has agreed to assist with this activity. Additional indoor storage space would be generated by reducing the size of the O Gauge layout, or removing it completely. Tom Magnani has agreed to be responsible for new storage spaces.

Pete will chair a subcommittee to box up the library. Because of the value of library items it was previously decided that packaging and handling of library inventory will be conducted in a supervised, coordinated manner under the Pete's direct supervision. Pete suggested the use of boxes not to exceed 15 pounds each. Library items will be double checked as inventory is packed and stored. Boxes will be placed at the base of the library shelves. Items for sale at the show will be identified, boxed and stored separately. Eric Dyke, David Johnson, Joe Johnston and Martin Kuttner volunteered to serve with Pete.

Doug opened a discussion on the club's two websites. The club website under the supervision of Joe Johnston is in need of updating especially when compared to sites of similar organizations. A.J. Green, Scott Hall and John Ragan have previously agreed to work with Joe on website improvements.

The second website is maintained by Pete for use to advertise the show. It was suggested that pictures from last year's show might be incorporated into the website content.

A.J. Green distributed Phase 1 of an overall track plan, specifically for this clubhouse, but adaptable to any space. All but the corner modules are designed to the "Sipping & Switching" standards, measuring 96" (8') x 30" (2 1/2'); the corner modules are 48" (4'0 x 72" (6'). The mainline radius is 36". Elevation to the top of the rails is 48". It is designed to accommodate member's sectional layouts as module configuration on either a semi-permanent or temporary basis. Poor aging characteristics for use of cork roadbed discouraged its use. He suggested using 1/4" thick Luan plywood strips as roadbed glued down to a 1/8" Luan deck, top, sheet to minimize weight while maintaining rigidity.

Reference is made to further detail of the proposed layout characteristics and standards are contained in a Model Railroader magazine article from April, 2009, pages 48-51.

On a motion made by George Lasley and seconded by Don Jennings, it was agreed to appropriate up to \$1,500 for lightweight layout modules (boxes), bench work and track. All construction will be made with new materials and built to “Sipping and Switching” standards. The era to be modeled will be the 1950’s Raleigh-Durham area. Consideration will be given to NRV/DRV scenery and structures.

The next Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm, Monday, 1 October 2012; and next business meeting for 7:00 pm, Wednesday, 17 October 2012.

No program is planned for October in that final preparations for the show are to be coordinated.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm on a motion by Don Jennings, and seconded by John Ragan.

Immediately following the meeting George Lasley presented a program on rolling stock weathering which was enjoyed by all. George offered many suggestions to improve the quality of every layout with both chalk and painting techniques. Ample opportunity was given for the membership to participate in hands-on demonstrations. The meeting concluded at 9:10 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors

J. R. Fisher called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, October 1, 2012.

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

The members present were: Bill Ferguson, John Held, George Lasley and John Ragan.

Donna Hansma and Henry Shirley were present as guests. This was Mr. Shirley’s second meeting.

George Lasley reported that we have sold all 219 of our tables and have a waiting list. The tin plate layouts have asked for some relief from the drafts in their location at the front entrance and he is working on it.

He will send a copy of our insurance to the Fair Grounds office. The N&O will run our advertisements on Sunday, October 28th, Wednesday, October 31st, and on Saturday, November 3rd. The Time Warner Cable's spots, 190 in total, will be the same as last year's. We will provide a food report to the Fair Grounds.

We have 5 tables and will need our members to work at selling the club's materials. There was a discussion about aggressively pricing the electrified Bulldozer signs to clear them out. J.R. suggested setting one up at the membership meeting to reacquaint the membership with them.

We will need several large cooler chests to store our soft drinks.

J.R. initiated a discussion of the Special Meeting. Frank Simmons is working on 2 leads for a new location. Clif is investigating a site in Raleigh. Clif reported that the Dorcas space in Cary, at the intersection of High House and Old Apex, does not have space available. George Lasley reported that Will Allen had told him the 'Union Station' in Raleigh does not have a clearly defined ownership path at this time. And, although it will not reopen for 4 – 5 years, it still might be advantageous for us to send a letter expressing our interest at this time.

J. R. reported that the Mall is in the process of being sold. As of the afternoon of this meeting there was not a firm date. A letter from them is expected soon. We should anticipate being out by Jan. 1, 2013. He expects that the Mall will begin to close by 6 PM. We will not be provided with a key to the rear, outside, door.

John Held suggested that all members carry the Club's phone number, [919-460-3003](tel:919-460-3003), so that they can phone for admittance through the rear door. Frank suggested that the Board take assignments to be in the Club prior to 6 PM on meeting nights to assure entry for the membership.

Clif asked about the Holiday Party. It was decided to have it as a luncheon on either Saturday, December 8th or Sunday, December 9th. George is to get back to J.R. with a working date.

John Ragan suggested that we take a table at the December TCA show to finish clearing our surplus materials.

J. R. reported receiving a question from someone who knew he had an interest in model trains about an estate with a 10' x 20' locker, in Florida, filled with unopened train sets. He had no other details.

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 8:04 PM.

Minutes taken by Clif Kelly

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Governors

Doug Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. September 14, 2012.

Board members present: J.R. Fisher, Pete Hansma, Clif Kelly, Tom Magnani, Frank Simmons and Doug Tomlinson.

The members present were: A.J. Green, Joe Johnston and John Ragan.

Frank Simmons distributed an Agenda, summarized below:

1. Forming a committee to look for a new site,
2. Moving club packed and labeled material to storage, and hiring of a moving company to that end,
3. Packing and labeling of library materials and moving to storage,
4. Updating the public side of the Club web-site,
5. Presenting HO layout concept for board vote, to prepare proposal for membership approval,
6. Adjournment.

Frank Simmons opened the discussion with a brief explanation of the reason for calling the special meeting. Its purpose is for the Board to decide whether or not place before the membership proposals for each of the items listed in the agenda. It is the Board's responsibility to the membership to present clear proposals for anything that might affect our treasury, dues or the club.

Moving to the first item; forming a committee to look for a new site, Frank asked for 3 Board members to assume the task and for each to commit to bringing to the Board 2 sites that will meet our criteria. We will use Steve Wills' figures from the last Board meeting, \$600/month as a maximum without the need to raise dues. This assumes 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.

Frank Simmons and John Ragan will develop a talking points package based upon the experiences of the Grand Strand Model Railroaders Club, located in the Myrtle Beach Mall. They pay \$200/month, including utilities, with commitments on their end as well, for 1,500 sq. ft. right next to a Bass Pro store. The committee will be led by Frank with Doug Tomlinson and Clif Kelly as members.

John Ragan suggested contacting Bill Bailey's wife, a retired broker of commercial real estate, for assistance.

J.R. questioned why we would immediately go to storage for our already packed materials rather than remove the Thomas Layout and store them in its place. Further indoor storage space would be obtained by reducing the size of the O Gauge layout or, or removing it completely, as it has been the least used layout.

J.R. reported that the cost of controlled environment storage space is increasing due to nearly full occupancy rates. A 10' x 30' space has gone from \$200/month to \$400/month in the past year.

Frank's proposal to remove the Thomas layout was passed unanimously with John Ragan to take it down. Tom Magnani is responsible for the new storage spaces.

The next item on the agenda was the storage of the library. Franks motion to begin packing immediately was unanimously approved. Because there is such a wealth of materials and, their total weight, it was decided that the packing will be handled in a supervised, coordinated, manner under the direction of Pete Hansma. Pete is to develop a schedule/calendar and solicit the membership for support.

Frank 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. Joe Johnston is to prepare a proposal for a new look for our web site drawing from similar organizations' sites. Frank's proposal to have the web committee, headed by Joe Johnston with AJ Green, Scott Hall and John Ragan, was approved unanimously.

AJ distributed Phase 1 of an overall track plan, specifically for this clubhouse, but adaptable to any space. All but the corner modules are designed to the "Sipping & Switching" standards, measuring 96" (8') x 30" (2 ½'); the corner modules are 48" (4'0 x 72" (6'). The mainline radius is 36". Elevation to the top of the rails is 48". It is designed to accommodate member's modules on either a semi-permanent or temporary basis. J.R. recommended not using cork roadbed as it tends to age poorly.

He suggested using ¼” thick Luan plywood strips as roadbed glued down to a 1/8” Luan deck, top, sheet to minimize weight while maintaining rigidity.

On a motion by Tom Magnani, seconded by Clif Kelly, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Neat Video from Bill Bailey

NC Speeder Outing:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH3r2CwJNC8>

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, October 17th.

BoG meeting on November 5th.

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 and call 919-460-3003 to be sure that the doors are open.

I am in the process of making four corners of T-Trak in HO scale. See <http://t-trak.org/holayout.html> for HO info. Click “Home Page” for more general information on T-Trak. These are layouts that can be set up on a table, such as a folding banquet table, or even a dining room table. I'm doing it because I don't have much room at home, and because there is a new [Center for Active Adults at Millbrook exchange park](#), which has a men's morning on Mondays, and has plenty of tables. Joe Austin is building some in N-Scale. Contact me for more information. ~Joe Johnston

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

First Class

NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

LOCATION: Morrisville Outlet Mall, 1001 Airport Blvd.

Monday, November 5, 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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