



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

Under the Crown Sheet

It is September and NRV faces a series of challenges. To meet these challenges the club needs active members.....

As many of you know, Joe Austin stepped down from the Board. Joe, the Board and I appreciate the hard work you've put in over the years...thank you. There will be a special election on Wednesday, September 16th to fill his position on the Board. We have had 2 members express interest in the position, Doug Alumbaugh and John Kuchnia. Please be ready with your nominations on Wednesday evening. Remember to participate in this election you must be a member in "good standing" with your dues paid through August, 2015.

If you have been to the clubhouse recently, you can see we are moving.

NRV needs your help. There are boxes to pack and trips to the storage space to make. Don't be a stranger, don't be shy, come on by and we will gladly put you to work. See Arthur Boone for a schedule.

The search for a new clubhouse goes on and the Board continues to look at every possibility. I appreciate the suggestions and support from all of you, please keep them coming. We will find our next clubhouse together.

As I write this, NRV is 58 days away from its largest show ...EVER.

George reports that we have 280 tables reserved and he expects more to be sold before the show starts. We have several new vendors and layouts this year. Now, we need member volunteers to run the show from Friday morning thru Sunday evening. For the club to make this the most successful show in our history, we need everyone to be all aboard.

I'm pleased to announce a fundraising opportunity provided by Page and Caroline Skelton at [Cackalacky](#). There will be more details at the September meeting.

These are our challenges, are you ready?

Note from Tom Managni

There is a locked locker with a Lock. Whatever is in there needs to come out ASAP or it will be put in storage.

If items are not removed from the lockers by the 13th, the items with the lockers will be put into storage and the club will not be responsible for damages during the move or storage.

Tom

Minutes of the Membership Meeting.

John Ragan called the Membership Meeting of August 19, 2015 to order at 7:05 PM. John Held led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Magnani called the roll.

Board members present: Joe Austin, Arthur (AB) Boone, Bill Ferguson, Tom Magnani, John Ragan, Frank Simmons and Steve Wills.

Members present were: Doug Alumbaugh, Patrick Bradley, Robert Bradley, Erik Dyke, Scott Gagnon, Pete Hansma, John Held, Joe Johnston, John Kuchnia, George Lasley, Devon Mosley, Henry Shirley, Jim Songer, Roland Waggoner and Richard Walz.

Guests were Donna Hansma, Deborah Kintzing, Fati Mosley and John Schneider.

John Schneider introduced himself. His interest is in HO, DCC, set in California, with a 12' x 8' main layout and a 2' x 12' yard.

John Ragan thanked all those who helped with the move from the clubhouse in Suite 120. We will be here, in Suite 295, rent free and with AC until September 30th.

Treasurer's report: Presented by Steve Wills.

The club is, as of the end of May, basically where it normally at this time of year. Our finances are in line with where it should be as compared to last year in March with allowance for our prepayment of next year's show in the new building, an increased advertising budget for the 2014 show and, for the construction of the G and HO layouts.

Steve and Frank Simmons reminded all that their dues are now due.

Show report: Presented by George Lasley.

There is no change in the Show's status since August's Board meeting. He continued with a presentation to the membership of the advertising options that the Board is considering. He would like to increase our expenditures for Time Warner Cable,

TWC, from last year's RTP and Greensboro to include Wilmington and Moorehead City as his observation is that most of our show attendees are either from this area or east of here.

Our presence at Spencer on August 22nd and 23rd will help has been chosen to advertise our show to the middle and western parts of the state.

We have always been a bit 'skinny' on our advertising and, while we have never been able to match tickets sold to specific advertising, after much thought he has decided to recommend that we increase our advertising budget. John Ragan reported that he had spent \$30 to boost a post on Facebook and had a bit more than 1,000 'hits' in one week as a result. George would like to spend an additional \$2,000 this year in the hope of gaining another 300 ticket purchases.

ALL CLUB MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO WORK ON CLUB

ASSIGNMENTS DURING THE SHOW. Set up is on Friday, November 6th with the full show on November 7th and 8th.

Layouts:

There were no layout reports.

AB reminded the membership about the need to maintain our housekeeping. John Ragan asked that no food, food packages or open soda containers be left in the clubhouse; either on tables or in the trash, as the demolition work around us will be stirring up insects and rodents.

New Business:

Frank Simmons reported that we have a table at Spencer for the weekend of August 22nd and 23rd at which to promote our November show. Our table will be provided with free electricity and table.

To help commemorate the Cackalacky® Railroad's new digs, the incredibly nice folks at the museum are hosting a canned food drive at the "Golden Spike" dedication at noon on Saturday, August 22nd. (The food drive will benefit Rowan Helping Ministries in nearby Salisbury.) Frank asked for donations of food or money to support the museum's fund raiser.

The Golden Spike ceremony celebrating the opening of the Cackalacky® Railroad will be at noon on Saturday and will be attended by the director of the Virginia Transportation Museum.

The Lincoln Funeral Train, with the 'Leviathan' locomotive will be at Spencer from August 28th to the 30th. Tickets are available on line at:

<http://www.nctrans.org/Events/2015-Lincoln-Funeral-Train.aspx>

John Ragan reported on his work to find us a new clubhouse. He is in talks with the owner of one of the commercial spaces, Suite 113, at the Atlantic Park Office Center at 2210 E. Millbrook. It is behind the "Sonic" at the corner of E. Millbrook and Atlantic Ave. It is approximately 1,500 sq. ft and the negotiated rent is \$1,000/mo. (We are competing with another offer and he is waiting to learn the

results of the negotiations.) If we rent a space at \$1,000/mo. it will be necessary to raise our dues back to the \$300 per year that they were when we were in the industrial area off Glenwood Avenue, near the Angus Barn. Over our history we have always used some of the Show surplus to cover our clubhouse costs. Even \$300/year will not cover all of our costs but will keep our total cash flow in line with what it was when we were renting in this mall.

Erik Dyke asked if would be advantageous to go back to the smaller building at the Fairgrounds. Both John and George acknowledged that, while we might save some money, we have sold more tables than we had at the smaller building. This complements what George has observed in every move to larger show venues over the years. Our table count grows as the venue grows.

Doug Alumbaugh's motion to raise Membership dues to \$25/month, \$300/year, once we have a lease for a new facility, was seconded by George Lasley and approved unanimously

George Lasley's motion to suspend the rules and accept Deborah Kintzing as a probationary member was seconded by Steve Wills and approved unanimously.

The next Board Meeting will be on Monday, September 6, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

The next Membership Meeting will be on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, at the usual 7:00 PM.

Arthur Boone's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by John Ragan at 8:35 PM.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors.

John Ragan called the Board Meeting of September 2, 2015 to order at 7:04 PM.

Tom Magnani took the minutes and called the roll.

Board Members Present: Arthur Boone, Bill Ferguson, Tom Magnani, John Ragan, Frank Simmons and Steve Wills.

Members present were: Scott Gagnon, John Held, Deborah Kintzing, John Kuchnia, George Lasley and Jim Songer.

Treasurer's report: Presented by Steve Wills.

As of the end of July, 2015 we are comparable to the end of June and, consistent with July of 2014.

Show report: George Lasley:

We have sold approximately 280 tables with the possibility of more table sales.

Advertising for the November Show

George described his discussions and email with a representative of the News & Observer. A replication of last year's 2 column, 3.24" tall x 1.5" wide, advertisement would be \$702 for Sunday, Friday and Saturday. To run it, as had TCA, with a yellow background, would be an additional \$1745. The N&O has recently changed its page formatting to better facilitate their pages layouts and sales. A 4 column inch add,

measuring 3.24" wide x 2" tall, with a yellow background will now be \$624 for the same 3 days.

He would like, if it fits within our advertising budget, to add another day for an additional \$192. The Board needs to agree upon, and confirm, our expenditures for Time Warner Cable before it can decide about purchasing another day of N&O advertising.

With respect to TWC, he said that after much thought, and viewing their web based advertisements, he has decided against using that specific service. His observation was that once you click on the TWC news page whatever banner was there when you clicked stops and remains there. Additionally, most of their advertisements are automobile related and, unless you know to watch and wait, a train show add would be barely noticed. That has led him to recommend that the only TWC advertising medium we use is their 10 second spots.

Referring to the TWC pricing sheets that John Ragan had provided to the Board and, after much discussion, it was decided that John should contact our TWC representative with the following counter proposal:

Raleigh, as offered, at \$1,425, Greensboro at \$700, Wilmington, Moorehead City and Jacksonville at \$500 each. The Board's assumption, awaiting confirmation by John, is that the number of spots in each market would be proportional to the number quoted for each at the original, larger, amount. It was also assumed that the quoted \$210 production, editing, fee would be unchanged.

Once John has learned TWC's answer the Board will decide on the N&O advertising budget.

John Ragan described his experiences with a 'boosted' 'posting' on Facebook. He had 'posted' the club's loss of the clubhouse in Suite 295 and then paid \$20 to 'boost' the 'posting'. He described 'boosting' as the sending of our Facebook 'post' to a series of groups and people with stated interests as selected by him. In this case he had asked for any Facebook user who, in North Carolina, had expressed an interest in model railroading, belonged to a train club, was interested in one of the model gauges, belonged to a model train club, etc. In a week, for \$20, he had a bit more than 1,000 viewers, 'hits', on his 'posting'. It was possible to discern information about who these people and what their association was with model trains. He recommended that the Board approve an expenditure of \$200 to 'boost' a 'post' about the show in the week prior to the show. The Board unanimously approved the expenditure.

George Lasley reported that the Fairgrounds sent him a letter announcing increases in their rental charges for 2016. The Graham building is increasing from \$4,000/day to \$4,500/day. The Exposition building will increase from \$3,000/day to \$3,300/day. The offset we pay for the pizza we serve will increase to \$2/diner. Their charges for other items, electricity, tables, etc. are basically unchanged.

John Ragan announced that Joe Austin has resigned from his At-Large position on the Board, but not from the club. John has reviewed our by-laws and we will need to hold

a special election to replace him. Joe has the remainder of this year and all of the following year remaining in his 3 year term of office. John announced that we are officially open to accepting nominations for someone to complete Joe Austin's term as an At-Large member. Tom Magnani was asked to send an email to the membership asking for volunteers for the open position.

John Kuchnia expressed an interest in serving on the Board.

Frank Simmons reported on a fund raising tie-in with Cakalacky. Cakalacky will provide us with an opportunity to have a fundraiser that will tie us in with both the North Carolina Transportation Museum and, Cakalacky. We will provide a table at which we will be able to sell, at retail, some of their sauces, hats, shirts and peanuts. They will provide them to us on consignment at a wholesale price with the difference going to the club. George asked that Cakalacky display some of their G scale cars, painted in their logo, that are at the museum as well as flyers for the Museum.

Frank's wife, Paulette, has volunteered to be one of the people staffing the table. Deb Kintzing volunteered to staff the booth. Frank asked that the Membership's discuss the table staffing with their significant others and get back to him so that schedules can be created.

Tom Magnani's motion to have a Cakalacky fundraiser table at the Club's November train show was seconded by Arthur Boone and unanimously approved.

George Lasley presented the idea of changing the day of the month of the Club's Membership from the 3rd Wednesday to some other day of that week. He has observed that, over the years, we have lost members, and potential members, due to churches usually having choir practice on Wednesdays. Tom Magnani was asked to poll the membership by email and to report back to the Board.

Deb Kintzing asked if the Board would agree to her walking a marionette, costumed as a conductor, around the show. Permission was enthusiastically granted.

George Lasley informed the meeting that Dos Taquitos will be opening a new establishment at 6101 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. It will have the Salsa and Chips delivered by train to the customers.

Bill Ferguson suggested that we consider how to directly gather geographic information from our ticket sellers. He suggested that we ask how/where they heard about the show and their zip code.

Bill Ferguson's motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM was seconded by John Ragan and unanimously adopted.

Future Events.

The club is open on Saturdays at 10 am. and Sundays at 1 pm.
a meeting on Wednesday, September 15 2015 at 7:00pm ,at the club site, 1001 Airport Blvd. Suite 295., NEW, near the food court.
BoG meeting, a October 5th 7 pm..THE SITE for this meeting HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED.

Note from the Editor/Webmaster

Please send me recent photos of our club activities, so we can put them n the newsletter.

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(as of Saturday, September 12, it was not working; should be transferred soon) to be sure that the doors are open.

Pete Hansma has set up a club Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Neuse-River-Valley-Model-Railroad-Club-Inc/620489421310389?fref=ts>

Neat Links

611,with the Powhatan Arrow, Roanoke to Lynchburg:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lc7Ozh8obvs&feature=em-uploademail>
611 with the Powhatan Arrow in HO
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XM-hFgCGa4>
611 with revenue freight, July 2015:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEDyOJx80fY>

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

First Class

NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, September 15, 2015 at 7:00 pm. at: Morrisville Outlet Mall, 1001 Airport Blvd. Suite 295 , near food court.

Board of Governors meeting: Monday October 5 at 7: 00 pm, location TBD

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

John Ragan	President	trainsndogs@gmail.com,	919-304-5474
Frank Simmons	Vice-President		919-676-2081
Steve Wills	Treasurer		919-845-4968
Tom Magnani	Secretary	tommag1@aol.com,	914-815-2708
Arthur Boone	At Large		919-452-8660
Bill Ferguson	At Large		919-217-3409

CLUB WEB SITE: www.nrvclub.net

Joe Johnston	Newsletter editor & co-webster	joe.nrvmrcc@pobox.com
Pete Hansma	Librarian & co-webster	pkh@bellsouth.net

SHOW WEB SITE: www.nrvshow.org