



Currently meeting at Cary Area EMS, [107 Medcon Court, NC.](#)

Park at the Doctor's office next store, or across the street at Terry's Floors

Best to carry a flashlight.

Phone: 984-232-1409 (new)

Special invitation from Bill and Mary Lou Ferguson

Bill and Marylou Ferguson will be hosting a soup and salad gathering at their home on Sunday, Dec. 20th, from 4 - 6 PM. It will be for train club members and their significant other.

Their address is: 4042 Landover Lane Raleigh, NC 27616

Their telephone number is: [919-217-3409](tel:919-217-3409) Please RSVP

Under the Crown Sheet by John Ragan

In early 2015 the Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club went through some major layout changes. We introduced a G scale layout. The N scale modular layout was re-wired and re-worked with a new track plan. NRV now has a new HO scale modular layout that offers opportunities for modelers of all levels.

In March, we had a wonderful turnout with 22 volunteers at UNC TV's Winterfest 2015 and put George on television. In November, we had a successful show in a new venue at the fairgrounds that came away with great reviews.

The biggest change in 2015 is our move. We have moved out of the Outlet Mall and are about to move into a building in Raleigh that we control. We now have the opportunity to have a *true* clubhouse.

The upcoming year is full of promise for NRV, beginning in January with the new clubhouse. The club will need everyone's help in the move and set up.

UNC-TV's Winterfest 2016 will be upon us in March, dates to be announced. We will need volunteers. NRV has decided to begin open houses in the spring of 2016 to attract new members and to show off our new clubhouse. We will end the year with our 32nd Annual Show, again in the Jim Graham building. We have a busy and exciting year ahead of us.

From my family and myself to all the members of the Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club; Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Minutes of the Membership Meeting.

John Ragan called the Membership Meeting of November 18, 2015 to order at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was held in the Cary EMS facility at 102 Medcon Court, Cary 27511.

Henry Shirley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Magnani called the roll.

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

Members present were: Joe Austin, Patrick Bradley, Robert Bradley, David Craft, Erik Dyke, Pete Hansma, Joe Johnston, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Henry Shirley, Jim Songer and Roland Waggoner.

Our guests were Donna Hansma and Ethan Quiram.

Ethan Quiram introduced himself to the gathering. He is new to the area and interested in HO; mainly the N&W.

Treasurer's report: Steve Wills.

As of the end of October, the club is basically where it was at October 2014.

Show report: John Ragan

John thanked all the members who had turned out for the show. Their participation enabled us to rapidly, and fairly seamlessly, adapt to the new location. We even managed to find takers for all of our magazines that we brought to the show.

Our attendance was up slightly from last year. Both vendors and attendees liked the new location. We had more vendors and sold more tables than ever before. We had unanticipated problems with flies and with the suspended HVAC units dripping onto tables below.

We had more layouts than at any other show. Sipping & Switching managed to fill 1 5,000 sq. ft., with 1,100' dual track main line and 900' of branch line. Its 155 modules were setup by 23 owners. Our AB supplied 8 of the modules and arranged for Devon

Mosley, Katie Alumbaugh and Hudson Magnani to run trains on its main line.

Patrick and Robert Bradley had a very successful Lego layout and, were invited to set it up at the upcoming TCA show at the Fairgrounds on December 5th and 6th.

George Lasley thanked all those who helped with the work. He and John Ragan didn't leave the Jim Graham building until 11 PM on Sunday. They had waited for the vendors to clear the building and then spent the last hour waiting for the guard to respond. He will be talking to the Fairgrounds office about the flies and some other things.

Our Saturday attendance, specifically ticket purchasers, was 1193; Sunday's attendance was 606, for a total of 1799. We counted 175 return ticket holders on Sunday. While reviewing the results he realized that we provided no charge access for over 300 vendors and layout participants. He will try to limit this in the future.

Donna Hansma reported that she gave away 1115 pencils to children who stopped by the Operation Lifesaver booth.

John Ragan reported that Facebook has proven to be very difficult to use and he is disputing their very excessive charges. He will not be using it next year.

There was a general discussion about the relatively low attendance with respect to the very much expanded advertising in Wilmington, Greensboro, Moorehead City and Jacksonville. The conclusion was that the heavy Saturday rain may have discouraged attendees from making the several hour drive. Sunday's weather was the first decent day in over a week and many people may have used it to catch up on chores rather than spend the day at the show'

Going Forward

John Ragan announced that our goal must become to find a way to increase our attendance to 2,500. AB recommended that we find some midyear activity or event participation that will serve to remind the public of our November, pre-Holiday, show and its vendors. We need to become more children friendly and community friendly. If the move to the new clubhouse goes forward as envisioned we may have an opportunity to improve our visibility.

AB specifically recommended that we attempt to work with the area's children's museums; Marbles, Life & Science, etc. and similar venues.

Bill Furgerson suggested becoming involved with the area's Pre-schools. (His experiences have led him to believe that trying to approach the Wake County Schools is too difficult to be worth the effort.)

Erik Dyke inquired about a 2nd show, 6 months opposite from the annual show. John explained that most vendors work an annual circuit. Additionally, and most important, our show organizer, George, needs the year to organize and run a single show. Two shows would be too much.

Joe Johnston suggested that more Club members join the Amtrak Train Hosting program as it is a way to be involved with the community while also able to spread the knowledge of our Club and Show.

Bob Bradley suggested that we consider some sort of a presence at the Raleigh Union Station once its rebuilding is completed.

New Business:

John Ragan reported to the membership about our progress towards a new clubhouse. The present tenant is expected to be out by the end of this week. John has been playing phone tag with the building's owner while trying to arrange a meeting to obtain a copy of the lease. The owner will clean and paint.

George offered to supply paint chips for ceiling and room colors. The 'Generator' room will require us to install a filler floor to create a surface that will be level with the generator foundation in the middle of the room. It may also require us to hang some additional lighting.

We have a handshake agreement on a new location pending some details. The rent will be \$1,000 a month with the owner assuming all major repairs. Once we sign a lease it will be necessary to increase our dues from \$10/month to \$25/month. This will be back to the level they were at when we were across from the Angus Barn in 2009. We had been able to reduce them to \$10/month only because the rent at the Mall had been so far below market rates.

Tom Magnani reminded the membership that donations to the club can be itemized on a donor's Federal tax return. He challenged the membership to donate to the club.

John Ragan announced that we will hold both December meetings, the Board on December 7th and the Membership on December 16th, at this location. As we will not be able to take the chairs and tables from storage before we remove the layout materials Doug Alumbaugh was asked to inquire as to our use of this location, Cary EMS, for our January 4th Board meeting.

Frank will send thank you cards to the women who worked to support our Cakalacky table at the show.

Following the meeting George will have a quiz about Diesel Locomotives.

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

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

Tom Magnani's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Arthur (AB) Boone at 8:09 PM.

Minutes of the Board of Governors Meeting

The meeting of was called to order at 7 PM by John Ragan.

John Kuchnia recorded minutes.

Board members present: Bill Ferguson, John Ragan, Frank Simmons, Steve Wills, AB, Arthur, Boone.

Members present: Patrick Bradley and Robert Bradley, Pete Hansma, John Held, Clif Kelly, John Kuchnia and Joe Johnston.

Guests: Donna Hansma and Loretta Kuchnia

Treasurer report: Steve Wills:

Our treasury increased after almost all of the accounting associated with the show has been completed. Our current balance, as opposed to last year at this time, reflects this show's income and the expenses associated with moving into storage, and construction of the various layouts.

The State fairground's itemized bill for our show was read by John Ragan.

Agenda:

New Location:

John Ragan: Mr. Fisher, our new landlord, and he have several lease items to iron out:

Is there a financial loading at end of lease?,

Is our renewal going to on a yearly or, on a month to month, basis?

Are there options? (Our previous lease was month to month.)

We want this written out. He will let us know. This is the only thing holding us up.

The Board has the lease's specifics right now: \$1000 deposit and \$1,000/month for rent with the Landlord is responsible for building maintenance items: i.e. HVAC, property tax, etc. We will be responsible for electrical related items such as a security system. Frank asked if there is an option to renew. If not, would it be possible for us to get an option to sustain. John will ask Mr. Fisher.

The City of Raleigh is "signage happy". Any sign will have to be 'permitted'. We will talk about this later. Steve Wills asked about us placing signs in the windows. This will need to be investigated.

John Ragan stated that we are responsible for dealing with neighbors relating to parking.

Frank Simmons asked about approval of inside changes. John said that changes to premises will have to be approved by the landlord.

John Ragan said Mr. Fisher wants to know what the security system we want to install. We will have to receive his approval.

Insurance

AB: initiated a discussion about insurance for the new location. Breakage: The Club carries carry liability for the show. Now we have a building. Do we need to consider stuff inside? The Homeowners policy that members have should cover their personal property at the club. Frank said that 'Hopefully, the club's insurance is for recovery of the club's property.' Steve said: 'What it comes down to is cost.'

Frank suggested that we look into Renter's insurance as an alternative. We do get quite a few donations over the year; which could be used to cover loss of some of our property. AB will follow up on the Renter's insurance.

John Held asked wiring issues. Pete Hansma said that the problem with is that a security signal will not get out of the largest layout room due to its extensive electrical shielding. The room's inside and outside doors were designed to shield the room. Frank suggested that we consider a system of inside locks as a security measure. John has asked George Lasley to help us obtain a security system.

TCA Show Discussions:

Patrick Bradley reported that the Bradley's Lego layout response was well received.

Joe Johnston reported on operation of the modular N gage layout.

The Garden Club has a substantial display.

Some of the features of the TCA show that were discussed were their use of an MRO mobile, an inflatable sign use and, a children's ride. The latter consisted of two circular tracks with battery operated locomotives. This model carries children of up to 60 pounds in weight. It is available on line for about \$400. If considered for our show, we may not have enough of a staff to operate it. Good children's entertainment. A gasoline powered operation is not suitable inside but battery operation inside is acceptable. Our liability insurance coverage is satisfactory. Anything bigger than that would require separate liability insurance and, most likely, safety belts.

Frank noted that management would be a big issue. Someone would have to be appointed as the ride's project manager. AB asked for a definition of the required management. It was observed that TCA had two people running it all day. Donna Hansma provided the details of its operation. Frank proposal that the subject be brought up at the next membership meeting was approved.

Donations:

Steve Wills reported on recommended annual Club donations to Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network and to the Salvation Army. John Ragan asked if the Board, and

Steve, about our financial ability to provide support. Steve said that \$300 was reasonable and in keeping with past years.

John said we should also provide a donation to the Cary EMS. Donna Hansma suggested it should be based on a percentage of our show's surplus. Steve agreed. AB presented a motion to give \$200 to Wake Interfaith and the Salvation Army was seconded and passed.

UNC-TV Winterfest March Fundraising Telethon:

Frank asked that, when participating, each member should bring a spouse. John noted that if we have over 20 people we will be given an opportunity to describe our club to the viewers. Frank said that it would provide an opportunity to advertise the new building. We need a list of volunteers. John will contact Gloria Howell, the UNC coordinator to learn if our time slot will be train related. Frank suggested setting up an O scale layout display for their commercial breaks. We should do it with a 'bang' with displays. We would need project and logistical managers.

John said the UNC event would take place March or April; he would talk to Ms. Howell. Our layout would have to be done quickly. Layout setup and breakdown has to be as quick and trouble free as possible. AB expressed concern that our January building opening puts a lot on our plates. Not just the UNC participation, but overall management of all functions. Steve noted that this is something we've done regularly over years. John noted that to do this successfully we'll have to do it Sunday morning early.

Future Meetings:

John will assess the new building later this month as our new meeting site. In January, the Membership meeting may be there. Not the Board meeting. The December members meeting will be at Cary EMS.

The Ferguson's will host their soup and salad party at their home, Sunday, December 20th, from 4-6 PM. Please RSVP.

Scott Gagnon:

John summarized Scott's progress and future plans. Additional information will be made available in the future.

Show Advertising Effectiveness:

Pete summarized how people/visitors learned about the show. Of the yellow flyers, 136 came back.

The locales from which they originated are:

Spencer

Choo-Choo Train Shop

Nick's

Antique Barn

Some from club

None from mall

Other members summarized their efforts

Morehead City was mentioned as a place where advertising would be good.

It was concluded, that Spencer was a better venue for advertising and will be so in the future due to its improvements attracting more visitors.

Frank noted that the N&O is not doing well for advertising. Donna mentioned that fewer people were reading that newspaper.

Polar Express Ride:

John reported that three more dates have been added at Spencer: December 13th (Sunday), 16th and 17th.

Parade Participation:

Bill Ferguson suggested looking into floats in the local Halloween and Christmas parades. John responded that, to do so, someone has to manage the project. Frank said the cost of getting into the parade would be about \$150. John said we'll look at it later.

AB's motion to adjourn was seconded at 8:05 PM.

Future Events.

The next membership meeting will be Wednesday December 16th at 7 pm at Cary Area EMC at

[107 Medcon Court, Cary NC](#) Use the side door; it's best to carry a flashlight

Please do not park in front of the building. It is for use of the EMC personnel.

Use the doctor's office next door or the lot across the street

Next Board Meeting will be January 4th , at the same location.

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 984-232-1409 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

Last week I was in Chicago to visit my sister and went to the Flower and Train Show at Lincoln Park Conservatory. I was happy to see that they had some Burlington (one of my favorite lines) trains in G-scale:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfUqG90GPic&feature=em-upload_owner#action=share

Fred Krauss sent some pictures of what his club in Roscommon, Michigan does, putting layouts in store windows around town.

[https://drive.google.com/folderview?](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BzAv15Ke1hztZElsWENPNkFjYnc&usp=sharing)

[id=0BzAv15Ke1hztZElsWENPNkFjYnc&usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BzAv15Ke1hztZElsWENPNkFjYnc&usp=sharing)

<http://forums.mylargescale.com/18-live-steam/59906-fall-steamup-raleigh.html>

Lincoln Funeral Train stops at NC Transportation Museum

<http://youtu.be/BV55DcT7MQE>

N-scale version of the Polar Express making an excursion tour:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FatiaLAiynQ>

CSX Santa Train:

<http://blog.railroadphotographer.com/>

Looks like Peugeot solved the problem of tight parking places back in 1927.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/QilY00dCof8>

Picture from our Show



AB helping Tom's grandkids to run trains on the Sipping and Switching layout..

Blank page 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, December 16th, 2015, 7:00 pm. at: [107 Medcon Court, Cary NC](#)

Board of Governors meeting: Monday January 4, 2016, 7: 00 pm, at the same location.

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
Doug Alumbaugh	At Large		medxmn@aol.com

CLUB WEB SITE: www.nrvclub.net

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

SHOW WEB SITE: www.nrvshow.org