



Meeting at [1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh](#)

Phone: 919-400-5570

Under the Crown Sheet

The end of the year is quickly approaching. It is time to get caught up on your dues with the club so that you can start off our new year with a clean slate. Please see Steve about your dues if you have questions. Remember dues starting in June are \$25.00 a month for senior members.

May is election month for club officers however since everyone is running unopposed that event will be anticlimactic. I do want to thank the Board for their work this past year. Finding a new clubhouse and moving into and getting set up has been a major effort that would not have been accomplished without their determination.

I know that summer is a difficult time to get members to come to the clubhouse and greet visitors, but it is still something that needs to be done. I hope you will bring your trains, kits, or whatever you need to work on out to the club and enjoy the camaraderie that is shared on the weekends. Besides WE HAVE AIR CONDITIONING NOW !!

May 21st is our second Open House of the year. Posters have been printed and distributed and I hope everyone is as excited about this as I am. New things at the club this time are the G scale layout will be running. Progress in the O scale room, the floor is finished and the carpet has been laid. There is also progress on the N scale layout. The Thomas layout has more buildings and Thomas rolling stock.

The November show is fast approaching, believe it or not. We only have five months before it is here. The notices have gone out to dealers, fliers and posters have been printed. Many of the dealers have already reserved their tables. If you intend to get a table now is the time to reserve your space. See George now to reserve your space. Fliers are available in the Crew Lounge for your distribution.

Please remember several of our members in your thoughts and prayers. Arthur Boone's brother Earl passed away on May 1st. John Kuchnia's wife Loretta recently had her gall bladder removed and Tom Magnani has had cataracts removed from both eyes. He's got a good story to tell about the first one.

Minutes of the Membership Meeting.

John Ragan called the Membership Meeting of April 21, 2016 to order at 7:00 PM.

George Lasley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

John Ragan called the roll and took the minutes.

Board members present: Doug Alumbaugh, Bill Ferguson, John Ragan and Frank Simmons.

Members present were: Patrick Bradley, Erik Dyke, Scott Gagnon, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Devon Mosley, Kim Parker, Ethan Quiram and Henry Shirley.

Our guests were: Jim Amerault, John Berringer, Robert Bradley, Robert Daniels, Mike Johns, Ted Leonard, Mary Ann Loss and Andrew Treffer.

John Ragan asked our new visitors to introduce themselves. Robert Daniels and Ted Leonard introduced themselves.

Treasurer's report:

John Ragan presented the Treasurer's report for Steve Wills. Our treasury, as of the end of February, is about where it was a year ago at the end of January allowing for the decrease due to our paying the Fairgrounds our deposit and the monies spent for the new HO and G scale layout in the past year.

John reminded the membership that their dues must be up to the end of May for them to be eligible to vote in our upcoming election. Tom Magnani has sent out dues letters to those who are in arrears.

Show Report:

George Lasley reported that the work on this year's show is proceeding as usual. The letters to the Vendors have been mailed. He is hoping to be able to add several new vendors to this year's roster.

New Members

John Ragan introduced Ethan Quiram as a Probationary Member who has met the requirements for Senior Membership by attending meetings and his active participation, mainly on the HO. George Lasley's motion to suspend the usual voting procedures and rules was seconded by Bill Ferguson and adopted unanimously. Ethan Quiram was approved as a Senior Member.

John Ragan introduced John Berringer as a prospective new member who has met the initial requirements for attending meetings and participation. George Lasley's motion

to suspend the usual voting procedures and rules was seconded by Doug Alumbaugh and adopted unanimously. John Berringer was approved as a probationary member.

Evening Program

John Ragan announced that the evening's program, following the meeting, will be a presentation by Kim Parker on the subject of passenger car coupler conversion.

Layout Reports

HO

The HO layout is coming along. John Ragan thanked Dan Edgy for continuing his work on the various electrical issues. He thanked Henry Shirley for his scenic work on the end nearest the door. He would like more members to handle the landscaping and scenery.

N

On the weekend of April 23rd and 24th the Ladies, led by Mary Ann Loss, will be at the clubhouse to put skirting on N scale layout. Help is required with cutting, hemming, ironing and hanging.

O

John Ragan reported that one of Arthur Boone's brothers had donated commercial grade carpet tiles for the room. These will be glued down on top of the OSB floor once all the panels have been secured. John Kuchnia is working on a layout that will fit in the room yet unimpeded allow access to the rear, fire, door and to the electrical panels. The goal is to have a working O Gauge layout by the date of the NMRA tour.

G

Frank Simmons reported that the work on the layout in the main room is under way.

Library

George Lasley reported that duplicates of the books and bound copies of the duplicates of our magazines are for sale. We prefer to retain unbound copies of the magazines as they easy to copy whereas the bound copies are extremely difficult to copy.

NOTHING IS TO LEAVE THE BUILDING!

Elections

Nominations

The following members are standing for office:

President	John Ragan
Vice President	Frank Simmons
Secretary	Tom Magnani
Treasurer	Steve Wills
At-Large	Bill Ferguson
At-Large	John Kuchnia

Introduction of Candidates

John Ragan, Frank Simmons and Bill Ferguson introduced themselves to the Membership and summarized their history with the club and the hobby.

John Ragan reported that Tom Magnani, our present Secretary has volunteered to continue in the position and is absent today due to recovery from a cataract operation yesterday.

Steve Wills, our present Treasurer has agreed to continue in his position.

John Kuchnia has agreed to step in to replace Arthur Boone in Arthur's At-Large position. John's interest is in O gauge and he has worked with Tom Magnani to install the flooring in the O gauge room.

The voting will take place at the next Membership Meeting on May 19th. Shirts and Hats

John Ragan announced that we are assembling, with the help of Doug Alumbaugh, another order for shirts and hats. There are 2 colors for the polo shirts and the hats: burgundy and green.

Polo shirts prices are:

SM - XXL at \$21, with 3XL at \$23.

Denim short sleeve shirt prices are:

SM - XXL at \$23, with 3XL at \$26.

Denim long sleeve shirt prices are:

SM - 2XL at \$31, with 3XL at \$34.

See, or email, Doug Alumbaugh to order your shirts. His email is: medxmn@aol.com

New Business

USO - Holiday in the Hangar

Mary Ann described a program with the USO, Holiday in the Hangar, which is held at the RDU Airport for military personnel traveling through the area on Saturday, December 10th, from 11:30 AM to 2 PM. The Club will be setting up the traveling layout.

Open House.. May 21st

John Ragan announced that the Club will hold an Open House on Saturday, May 21st from 10 AM to 4 PM. The club will furnish the basic food for an afternoon cookout. The membership is encouraged to bring salads and desserts. A sign-up sheet has been posted.

Building Committee

We need to have a Building Committee to be in charge of landscaping and, repair and upkeep of the building. A one time task will be to add parking stripes along the fence and in front of the building. The committee will report to the BOG. You can volunteer, or you can be voluntold, with volunteers preferred.

New Website

John Ragan thanked Robert Bradley for very graciously accepting our request to develop a new website for the club.

Sewer Project

The City of Raleigh will begin sewer project on Old Louisburg Rd very soon. (We have been unable to get even an approximate date.) This will affect the lot where the landscaper had his equipment stored. Please be aware of the situation as it develops.

Facebook

We have a new Club Facebook page. It is [Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club](#). John asked that the membership and their friends visit the page, “Like” it, “Friend” it and ‘Tag’ it.

NMRA’s Mid-Eastern Region Convention

The Club will participate in the NMRA’s Mid-Eastern Region Convention. It will run from Thursday October 20th, 2016 through Sunday October 23rd, 2016. The Club will participate in the open house on Saturday, October 22nd and Sunday, October 23rd. A sign-up sheet will be posted.

Note that:

CPD 13 is part of the National Model Railroad Association's Mid-Eastern Region (MER). The MER includes Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Mid-Eastern Region Conventions

<http://mer2016.org>

Thursday October 20th, 2016 through Sunday October 23rd, 2016

Tracks to the Triangle - Durham, NC

Watch for details: <http://www.mer2016.org/>

Closing Checklist

The Clubhouse Closing Procedure (Check Off List) is by the sign-in book at the front door. We need to always assure that the last person leaving the clubhouse makes sure that it is locked down, trash, especially any food trash, is removed and that the heat turned down to 55 degrees.

The next Board Meeting will be on Monday May 2, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

The next Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, May 18, 2016, at 7:00 PM.

George Lasley’s motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Scott Gagnon at 8:05 PM.

Minutes of the Board of Governors Meeting

John Ragan called the meeting Monday, May 2, 2016 to order at 7:02 PM

Doug Alumbaugh recorded the Minutes and called the Roll.

Board members present: Doug Alumbaugh, Bill Ferguson, John Ragan, Frank Simmons and Steve Wills.

Members present: Scott Gagnon, Joe Johnston and Clif Kelly.

By-laws changes and additions

John Ragan initiated a discussion about bringing the proposed changes to the Club's by-laws to the Membership. As a result of the discussion it was decided to bring the proposed changes to the membership at the June Membership Meeting.

Show Status

John Ragan presented George Lasley's report. George has already received a lot of the vendor's response cards back, along with several vendor checks; reserving their tables. He was at the TCA show this past weekend and has received confirmation from one new vendor.

Treasurer's report:

Steve Wills reported that there has been no change since Membership Meeting report. The amount we are down from a year ago is directly traceable to our moving expenses and the new HO layout. Dues reminder letters have been sent to the membership.

David Craft submitted his resignation. John Ragan believes that Deborah Kintzing will not continue her membership. Steve researched the payments of one member who had thought that he had paid in full. Steve determined that he had not. Scott Gagnon confirmed this independently. Steve will contact the member directly.

John Ragan reported that Frank Mansfield, our oldest member, is not doing well. He needs someone to sit with him from 1-5 most days. Clif Kelly was asked if he had an update about Frank Mansfield and his current needs and or wishes. Clif reported that Frank's health is about the same or a bit worse. He has other individuals that stay with him in the morning and evening and these times are open. Clif referred to Bill Ferguson for further information about whom to contact regarding what days and or times are needed. Bill said that Frank's companionship is being coordinated through his church. If anyone is interested and available to be with Frank, they should contact Becky Blazin, the church person coordinating Frank's schedule, at 919-632-3373.

John Held is reported to be doing better as he was able to travel this past weekend.

Train Show Advertising

John Ragan, reporting for George Lasley, said that we needed to move quickly on the show's advertising, and that we need to get it set soon. George would like to approach

WRAL and suggested that we approach other stations about show advertising. He questioned whether we received value from Time Warner Cable's expanded coverage. We need to decide if we should expand our advertising with the News and Observer. Specifically, how much and where should we spend the money if we cut back on Time Warner?

Steve Wills commented that he would like us to spend more locally and consider trying to reach a different population demographic. He also talked about radio costs, station time, possibly, AM. Doug Alumbaugh suggested that if George is going to talk with WRAL, he might inquire if they have a package deal with radio coverage. John brought up several different magazines, with one of the biggest being Carolina Parent. Steve was asked if there is a set advertising budget. John and Steve both responded that there is none at this time. The Board was trying to define how to measure our results vs. the monies spent. Presently, we do not have a good way to track attendance back to locality (i.e.: zip codes).

A suggestion was made to ask our non-member supporters if they would canvass the show's visitors with a questionnaire. There was a discussion of other ideas such as a raffle table to obtain tracking information from visitors. It was suggested beginning with a free raffle in exchange for information this year and possibly paying \$1 per questionnaire next year to determine see what kind of feedback we can obtain.

John Ragan was asked about the Carolina Parent magazine's on-line site. He said that they get approximately 100,000 web hits a month. Steve reasoned that if it costs \$400-\$500 that we should take funding from the Time Warner funds to make it possible. This could possibly add to the 'stroller' crowd attendance.

Steve Wills recommended an advertising budget closer to \$3000 for this year. Last year's was much higher due to the increased cost for Time Warner Cable along the coast.

John Ragan talked about the Great Train Show coming to the Fairgrounds on September 17th and 18th this year. He asked the Board to consider if we need and/or want to set up a booth to distribute Show flyers. We need someone to contact them and ask about the cost for a nonprofit getting table space to set up a video about club and to have flyers present. We need to put this to the membership and see if we can get some members interested in picking this up.

Frank is going to follow up with the club being at the Spencer summer show, as going to this show does not cost us anything and we may get a vendor or two for our show.

He is not sure if we had any gain from the club having a booth at Spencer, but all that went had a good time. John would like to get a better spot in the round house if possible.

John asked the Board if we consider having a presence at Bonsal about 1 - 2 months ahead of our show. Similarly, if we should consider having a representative at the

Garden Railroad exhibit during the State Fair. Frank and Scott will talk to the Garden Railroad club.

John suggested putting a team together for contacting local manufacturers such as, Factory Direct, Tangent, Scale Trains, etc. to determine if they would be interested in coming to the show. We need to know how many tables we have and we need to decide if we will offer a discount or free table if they are not going to sell any merchandise.

Some discussion about other big prototype railroads, we have Amtrak at the show, should would look at getting NS and CSX. Have someone check on contacting reps and see if they are interested in booths and or tables.

Open House

John Ragan opened a discussion of the Open House planned for May 21st. He is concerned about everyone already being committed to other things. He will send out a mass email to membership about availability and being present for most of the day, with a response back by May 9th. He was considering a member cookout afterwards; the club will purchase the hot dogs, hamburgers and buns. He would like the membership to provide drinks, condiments, side dishes and desserts. Several Board Members have offered to lend their gas grills.

Club Telephone:

The Club's new telephone number is 919-400-5570.

Future Meeting Dates:

The May Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19th at 7 PM.

The June Board Meeting will be held on Monday, June 6th at 7 PM.

Steve Wills' motion to adjourn at 8:10 PM was seconded by Bill Ferguson.

Editor's Notes

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 **919-400-5570** to be sure that the doors are open.

Our Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/Neuse-River-Valley-Model-Railroad-Club-133691203373473/

Links

One of my favorite railroads is the Chicago South Shore and South Bend. I've ridden it from Chicano to South Bend Airport, its current terminus. Here's a video from its earlier days. The video includes "Little Joes", electric locomotives, made for Russia, Hence the name, which refers to Joseph Stalin, but were not allowed to be sent there, and were sold to the South Shore and the Milwaukee, both of which had DC electrification.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeFTGqF_pX8

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SHOW WEB SITE: www.nrvshow.org