



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

Phone: 919-400-5570

Under the Crown Sheet by John Ragan

Welcome to the new year of the NRV! Our first meeting of the fiscal year is June 16th at 7pm. I look forward to seeing all of you then.

Did you know that the constitution of the Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club was adopted in February of 1984? The remaining charter members are George Lasley, JR Fisher, Jerry Davis, and Wayne Olson. When you see these guys, please thank them for starting the NRV 32 years ago. In the following years the by-laws have been amended 3 times. At the June meeting, the Board will present to you, our members, 2 new amendments and 3 changes to existing amendments for your consideration. Procedure dictates that these are read at this meeting. Senior members will then be emailed ballots before the July meeting with a final reading at that meeting. The ballots will then be counted, and the changes that win a 67% majority will be implemented.

Speaking of the number 32, we are now less than 5 months from our 32nd Annual Train Show. Table sales are going well, if you need one, contact our Show Grand Poobah, George Lasley. It's also time to start talking to your wives and employers about having time for the train club from November 4th to 6th. Besides the usual help setting up and tearing down, we always need a couple of really good salespeople for the club tables.

I also want to thank Frank Simmons and his crew for his work on our G scale project. We now have Thomas in the ceiling! If you haven't seen this new layout, it is spectacular, and definitely worth coming to the club this weekend to admire.

This summer is the perfect time to work on those modeling projects. When it gets hot outdoors, bring that project over to the clubhouse. If you don't have that special modeling project or are looking for one, we have plenty of projects in the HO layout

and the N scale layout. We are working toward presenting an impressive layout for the Open House in October organized by the Mid Eastern Division Convention of the NMRA.

We also want to give condolences to Joe Johnston on the passing of his sister. Joe, we are all thinking about you. Frank Mansfield is still in rehab and doing as well as can be expected.

Minutes of the Membership Meeting.

John Ragan called the Membership Meeting of May 19, 2016 to order at 7:00 PM.

George Lasley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Magnani called the roll and took the minutes.

Board members present: Bill Ferguson, Tom Magnani, John Ragan and Frank Simmons.

Members present were: Arthur Boone, Patrick Bradley, Scott Gagnon, Michael Johns, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Michael McCarthy, Kim Parker, Ethan Quiram, Scott Rexer, Jim Songer and Richard Walz.

Our guests were: Robert Bradley, Robert Daniels, Mike Johns, Joe Gibson, Ted Leonard and Mary Ann Loss.

John Ragan asked our new visitors to introduce themselves. Joe Gibson introduced himself.

John Ragan thanked Michael McCarthy for his donation of the large, railroad themed, clock that is now hanging in the HO/N/Lego room.

Treasurer's report:

John Ragan reported, for our Treasurer, Steve Wills, that our accounts were basically unchanged from Last month's report.

John reminded the membership that the new year begins on June 1st. Their dues, \$300/year, \$25/month begin on June 1st.

Show Report:

George Lasley reported that he has, as of earlier this week, 28 confirmations either by post card or with a check. There have been several new vendors as well as several 'No's'. We are on track with last year's rate. He will post the map of the tables on the show's web site.

New Members

John Ragan introduced Mike Johns and Ted Leonard as prospective new Probationary members who have met the initial requirements for attending meetings and participation. George Lasley's motion to suspend the usual voting procedures and rules was seconded by Bill Ferguson and adopted unanimously. Mike Johns and Ted Leonard were unanimously approved as probationary members.

Evening Program

John Ragan announced that the evening's program, following the meeting, will be a presentation by George Lasley on the subject of painting backdrop scenery.

Elections

John Ragan announced the slate.

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

George Lasley's motion to vote by acclamation was seconded by Arthur Boone. The vote to accept the slate was passed unanimously.

Layout Reports

N

Jim Songer reported that he has started scenery work and is being assisted by John Berringer and Mike Johns.

HO

John Ragan reported that the HO layout is experiencing problems with random short circuits. John Ragan thanked Kim Parker for offering to help tracing them. Dan Egy 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.

O

Tom Magnani thanked Mary Ann Loss, Mary Lou Ferguson and Donna Ragan for their work in gluing down the carpet tiles and working to install the vinyl base molding around the room. He reported that there has been the offer of a major O Gauge, mainly Lionel with some spectacular bridges, donation by Bill Youngblood. Bill is a former show vendor who is in the process of downsizing. In its present form it is far too big to be reassembled in our O Ga. room. This has placed John Kuchnia's work on a layout plan on hold. The goal remains to have a working O Gauge layout by the date of the NMRA tour.

G

Frank Simmons reported that the work one loop is operational. The two loops are not tied together. His plan is to have an electronic, push button controlled loop counter with a sound system and a video display from the train.

Shirts and Hats

John Ragan announced that we are assembling, with the help of Doug Alumbaugh, another order for shirts and hats. He passed around a sign-up sheet.

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

Advertising

John Ragan reported that the club is looking for a different advertising venue. Kim Parker suggested that we consider Facebook. It costs him approximately \$100 for 30,000 – 40,000 hits. For that cost he gets a statistical report. Bob Bradley suggested using the N&O's club listing which is free. Bob Bradley and Tom Magnani will use their 'Next Door' accounts to advertise the Club's attractions and events.

Open House

Bob Bradley reminded the membership that our open house will be this Saturday, May 21st from 10 AM to 4 PM. He would like the members to get here at 9 AM to assist with set up and cleaning. He would like the members to bring snacks. The Ladies of the Club are bringing drinks, ice, cups and plates. He recommended that the membership use their Facebook page accounts to invite friends and family.

By-law Changes

John Ragan reported Board is working on changes and amendments to the Club's By-laws. He is hoping that they will be able to provide a first reading to the membership by the Board's June 7th meeting; with a 2nd reading thereafter.

New Business

George Lasley is looking for a 'Revell' HO Engine House.

Arthur Boone thanked the club for their cards, flowers and prayers for his brother and family.

John Ragan reported that Roland Waggoner is having health complications. John Kuchnia's wife is doing better. Frank Mansfield is in the 'Cary Health and Rehabilitation Center' located at 6590 Tryon Rd., Cary, NC 27511. (Near the intersection of Cary Parkway and Tryon Road.)

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 participation 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/>

NOTHING IS TO LEAVE THE BUILDING!

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 June 6 , 2016 at 7:00 PM.

The next Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, June 16, 2016, at 7:00 PM.

George Lasley's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Bill Ferguson at 7:40 PM.

Minutes of the Board of Governors Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors of Monday, June 6, 2016

John Ragan called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

Tom Magnani recorded the Minutes and called the Roll.

Board members present: Bill Ferguson, Tom Magnani, John Ragan and Steve Wills.

Members present: Arthur Boone, Patrick Bradley, Clif Kelly, George Lasley and Jim Songer.

Robert Bradley was our guest.

Treasurer's report:

Steve Wills reported that he is still working on closing the year end books. His preliminary numbers support the ongoing estimate of our total expenditures for the Morrisville G gauge layout, our moving and temporary storage expenses and, the new HO layout.

There was a discussion as to which expenses should be classified as 'Building Expenses' such as the steel sheeting that was used to cover the building's original diesel-generator air intake, the donation of the wood for the raised floor in the O Ga. room, the toilet seats vs. 'Layout Expenses' such as skirting, wheels, etc.

Steve reported that he had been unable to locate the back-up materials for the Club's books which he remembered storing in the interior storage room. John Ragan sent emails to various people asking if anyone remembered moving them from their original location.

Show Status

George Lasley's reported that he has received 37 return post cards. Most confirmed for this year's show. Gains from new vendors are replacing older vendors who are dropping out of the show circuit. We are on track with last year.

Keys

It was agreed that the Club needs to maintain a tighter control over our building keys. We need to verify that only senior members are key holders and to have an up to date list of key holders. There should be a yearly recheck of the key holder status. We also need to actively retrieve keys from members who drop out or resign. Tom Magnani was instructed to begin the process of retrieving keys from recently resigned members. It was decided to have key holders sign for their keys acknowledging their responsibility for the cost, at the Board's discretion, of rekeying the locks if the key is lost. Members will be asked not to overtly label their Clubhouse key with the Club's name or address.

Show Advertising Budget

John Ragan initiated a discussion about the Show's advertising budget. Last year's expenditures were approximately \$5,500. Steve Wills would like it reduced to approximately \$3,000 as the general belief was that we did not get value for our expenditures. Additionally, we will be competing with election advertising for TWC's advertising time. If we do use TWC it will only be for the RTP area. George Lasley recommended that we continue to use the N&O and that we contact WRAL as a possible replacement for TWC. Another possibility would be the Automobile Association of America, AAA, magazine. We should have the membership plaster the bulletin boards in their local stores, super markets and libraries beginning in late August to early September.

Bob Bradley described his contact with 'Carolina Parent Magazine' which led him to think that they major obstacle we have is how they perceive us vs. their demographics at our last several shows. They think of us as a just hobby for older gentlemen as contrasted with the number of children we see with their parent and the attraction of our Lego layout at recent shows and to our members' children. Additionally; there is also 'Macaroni Kid' which is a web based weekly local newsletter of kid-friendly events and activities with specific regions such as South Raleigh, Triangle, Cary-Apex-Holly Springs, etc.; WRAL's 'Out and About' web site; the 'NC Early Childhood Association' (NCECA) which is a preschool, home school network which ties into the common core requirements for mathematics, science, technical subjects, history, etc.

There was a discussion about tying into Scouting's Merit badge program. The point was made that scouting badges are usually a 'check the box' activity with few lasting ties to a subject. Steve reminded the group that in the past our experience was that it tied up an enormous amount of member resources and cost the club quite a bit of materials for which we had fiscal issues. It was suggested that we should specifically make scouts aware of the show but not to become involved with their Merit Badge program.

There was a general discussion of corporate programs such as the CSX Community Outreach and similar rail organizations. At George Lasley's recommendation it was decided to ask Frank Simmons to contact Spencer's Site Superintendent rather than go through the NC State administration. George asked about us trying to obtain listings in Model Railroader, Railroad Model Craftsman, O Gauge Railroader, O Scale News, N Scale, the N&O's Club's page, etc.

Bob Bradley discussed his ideas for the layout of a new Club page. Michael Irwin will be asked to write a blurb on the use of card stock buildings of which a prime example are on the 'Thomas' HO layout.

By-laws changes and additions

John Ragan distributed copies of his summary of the proposed changes and amendments to the By-laws for preliminary review and comment by the Board.

Great Train Show

The Great Train Show, also listing their Raleigh show for Sept. 16th and 17th on their site has yet to appear on the Fairgrounds' calendar. George will research it as we would like to have a table there.

NMRA's Mid-Eastern Region Convention

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O Gauge Layout

Tom Magnani reported that there has been the offer of a major O Gauge, mainly Lionel with some spectacular bridges, donation by Bill Youngblood. Bill is a former show vendor who is in the process of downsizing. Its major features are: an 054 hand built trestle, a bridge copied from the North Boggy Creek Railroad Bridge in Atoka County, Oklahoma, approximately 8 – 072 Lionel turnouts with controllers, 2 – 042 turnouts which will require replacement, quite a bit of Lionel tubular track and the underlying tables. The layout is presently in a bonus room over his garage and, except for the trestle section, is designed to be lowered through a removable 4' x 8' floor/ceiling panel. The curved trestle will need to be carefully carried down the stairs to the ground floor. In its present form it is far too big to be reassembled in our O Ga. room.

He, AB and John Ragan were able to see it and to discuss our moving it with Bill. Bill has asked to take it apart and has sent us sketches of the layout and its various modules. This has placed John Kuchnia's work on a layout plan on hold. The goal remains to have a working O Gauge layout by the date of the NMRA tour.

Future Meeting Dates:

The June Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16th at 7 PM.

The July Board Meeting will be held on **TBD** at 7 PM.

Tom Magnani's motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM was seconded by John Ragan.

Editor's Notes

Please send me recent photos of our club activities, so we can put them in 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/

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

First Class

NEXT MEETING - Thursday, June 16th, 2016 , 7:00 pm. At: [1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh.](#)

Board of Governors meeting: Monday July TBD , 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
John Kuchnia	At Large		919-675-4172
Bill Ferguson	At Large		919-217-3409
Doug Alumbaugh	At Large	medxmnaol.com	919-602-6548

CLUB WEB SITE: www.nrvclub.net

Joe Johnston **Newsletter editor** **joe.nrvmrrc@pobox.com**

Bob Bradley **Webmaster**

SHOW WEB SITE: www.nrvshow.org