



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

**Phone: 919-400-5570**

### **Under the Crown Sheet by John Ragan**

XOn November 5<sup>th</sup>, we open our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Model Train Show and Sale. We know it is the longest running show in North Carolina. I am also confident it is the largest club-run show in North Carolina. It is our 2nd year in the Jim Graham Building; a building that will be 95,000 square feet full of model trains that weekend. We are 55 days and counting down to the opening day of the Show!

George has assured the Board that preparations for the show are on schedule. As a reminder, if you want a table, now is the time to make that reservation. Please hand out show flyers to everyone you know. Have you put up a poster at your local library and community center? We have flyers and posters available at the clubhouse.

The club had successful outings at the Method Community Center and the North Carolina Transportation Museum. Arthur Boone, Bob and Patrick Bradley, Frank Simmons and Michael Irwin went to Method Community Center on August 20<sup>th</sup>. That same weekend, Jim Songer, John Kuchnia, Henry Shirley, Bill Ferguson and I went to the NC Transportation Museum and the Spencer Shops Model Train Show to promote our upcoming show. I want to thank everyone that attended these events and those members that came out to the clubhouse.

On September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, NRV will have a booth at the Great Train Expo Show at the NC State Fairgrounds Exposition Center. The club needs volunteers at both the clubhouse and the show for the weekend. There is a sign-up sheet at the clubhouse or you can email Tom Magnani.

All keyholders need to see me or Tom Magnani as the Board has instituted a new policy regarding key ownership.

There will be a birthday celebration for Frank Mansfield on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the West Raleigh Presbyterian Church, 27 Horne Street, Raleigh NC 27607. It is being held in the fellowship hall from 2pm-4pm .

We look forward to seeing you at these events!

## Minutes of the Membership Meeting

Frank Simmons called the Membership Meeting of August 18, 2016 to order at 7:01 PM.

Michael Irwin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Magnani called the roll and took the minutes.

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

Members present were: Ron Abraham, Joe Austin, John Berninger, Arthur Boone, Patrick Bradley, Scott Gagnon, Scott Hall, Michael Irwin, Michael Johns, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Ted Leonard, Michael McCarthy, Kim Parker, Scott Rexer, Henry Shirley, Jim Songer and Richard Walz.

Our guests were: Robert Bradley, Seth Harris and Eddie Wilder.

### Treasurer's report:

Steve Wills reported that our accounts, while lower than the preceding month, were basically unchanged from a year ago. They will increase over the next few months with the influx from members' dues and vendors' show payments.

Steve asked for the membership to step up to staff the Ways and Means Committee. The Committee's task would be to take a step back and consider the Club's overall finances, dues schedule, expenditures, etc. Michael Irwin volunteered to be the committee's 3<sup>rd</sup> member. The members of the Ways and Means Committees are: Ron Abraham, Michael Irwin and Ethan Quiram.

### Membership

John Ragan announced that:

Probationary Members Michael Johns and Michael McCarthy are present at this meeting and are eligible for elevation to Senior Member.

Eddie Wilder and Scott Hall were eligible for elevation to Probationary Member.

John Ragan asked each of the eligible members to introduce themselves.

Michael Johns main interest is in N and O. He had started with N quite a while ago but had not had the opportunity to do a lot with materials that he had collected over the years. His interest in O originated with his receiving a family Lionel collection.

Eddie Wilder's interest is N with an emphasis on Norfolk & Southern. He learned about us from George Lasley and some of the local hobby shops.

Scott Hall is a former member who has been able to return to the club. His interest is in HO and the technology that enhances the hobby. He also asked that Seth Harris and Robert Bradley introduce themselves.

Seth Harris likes HO. As a young child he rode Amtrak, occasionally on the Accella. He learned about us when he first visited us with his family when we were in the Morrisville Outlet Mall.

Robert Bradley explained that he has become a supporter of the NRV club because his son, Patrick, a Youth member, was a model railroad enthusiast. John Ragan told the meeting that Bob, and his wife Lucy, were the reason that we now have an up to date web site and a Facebook account. They also put together a Power Point slide show for us to use at Spencer and at the Show.

John thanked both of the Bradleys for all that they have done for the club. George Lasley's motion to suspend the rules was seconded by Tom Magnani. George's motion to accept the changes in Membership status for Michael McCarthy, Scott Hall, Michael Johns and Eddie Wilder was seconded by John Ragan and accepted unanimously.

Michael Johns asked if was possible for members to arrange for an automatic payment of their membership dues to one of the Club's accounts. Scott Hall will discuss with Steve Wills in an effort to find a way with minimal cost to the Club. There was a quick discussion of using routing numbers vs. PayPal or WePay.

### Minutes

Tom Magnani apologized to the membership for not having the minutes for July's Whistle Post completed on time. He asked for the Minutes of the past 2 Membership Meetings, June 23<sup>rd</sup> and July 21<sup>st</sup>, and the past 2 Board of Governors Meetings, July 11<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>, to be presented prior to the discussion and vote on the amendments to the By-laws. Michael Johns' motion to accept the minutes was seconded by George Lasley and accepted unanimously.

### Amendments to the By-laws

John Ragan introduced the Amendments to the By-laws. Tom Magnani read the proposed amendments to the By-laws to the meeting attendees. He noted that they were posted on the clubhouse's Bulletin Board and in the minutes that were published in the Whistle Post. He described the process used at the last Membership Meeting to seal the collected ballots, both emailed and submitted by that meeting, in a sealed folder. At that meeting he had given George Lasley all of his in hand ballots, along with an attendance sheet detailing the senior members who were eligible to cast their votes. These were then placed in a folder and the folder was sealed with tape.

To those he added 2 sealed ballots that John Ragan had had in his possession but was unable to deliver to him at the meeting and were given to him by John the next time they met. He stapled those 2 ballots to the sealed folder containing the other ballots. John Ragan appointed Arthur Boone and Michael Irwin to open the sealed ballots, tally the results and report the results to the meeting's attendees. The meeting continued while the ballots were processed.

Michael Johns, the new Senior Member, was not able to cast his ballot as the tabling of the voting at the July Membership Meeting closed the voting as of that evening.

#### Whistle Post

Steve Wills stated that he had been unable to mail, by USPS, the latest copy of the Whistle Post and will endeavor to do so once his workload returns to a more normal pace.

#### Housekeeping

John Ragan described the mess in which he had found the clubhouse over the last weekend in July. He was particularly upset with the state of the lavatories. Michael Johns suggested that the membership use the US Coast Guard procedure for handling such things; ALWAYS SIT DOWN.

There is also an ongoing issue with members not taking their food trash with them when they leave for the day.

#### Weekend Participation

John Ragan asked that the membership make every effort to stop by the clubhouse each weekend, even if only for an hour or two.

#### Amendments to the By-laws - Continued

Arthur Boone and Michael Irwin reported on the results of the voting. 20 of the 26 Senior Members eligible to vote had cast ballots. It was confirmed, by a reading of the NRV Constitution, that a 2/3 majority is required for a change to the By-laws to pass.

2/3 of 26 is 17 1/3.

The tally, by Amendment is:

##### Article II, section 3, part D

Sixty-seven percent (67%) of the votes cast shall be affirmative to elect a Probationary member to Senior membership.

Change 3a to read

Fifty-one percent (51%) of the votes cast shall be affirmative to elect a Probationary member to Senior membership.

19 Yes, 1 No

##### Article II, section 3, part G

- 1) The BoG, at its discretion, may confer on a person a “ Special Circumstances Membership”.
- 2) Special Circumstances to be defined by BoG as necessary.
- 3) All such memberships must be approved by a unanimous affirmative vote of the BoG.
- 4) Special Circumstances Membership shall have all rights and privileges appropriate to age with no voting privileges.
- 5) Expires on the following May 31st.

19 Yes, 1 No

Article II, section 4, part E

- 1) A written petition by 50% of the Senior Members in good standing may be presented to the BoG requesting the removal of a member, with the reasons for removal listed in the petition.
- 2) The BoG, by unanimous approval, may present the petition to the entire membership for approval.
- 3) The member in question may present a defense at this time.
- 4) An affirmative vote by 80% of the Senior Members in Good Standing shall be required for removal of the member.
- 5) If approved the removal is effective immediately.
- 6) Reasons for removal shall include, but not be limited to, conviction of a felony, any action which might endanger the non profit status of the club or any action which would put the club in peril.

18 Yes, 2 No

Article IV, section 2, part B

The treasurer shall prepare a written financial statement closing out the fiscal year. This statement shall be presented at the first regular monthly business meeting of the new fiscal year.

Change to read

The treasurer shall prepare a written financial statement closing out the fiscal year. This statement shall be presented at or before the third (3rd) regular monthly business meeting of the new fiscal year.

19 Yes, 1 No

Article IV, section 6, part B

All withdrawal-type transactions with the bank must be signed by both the President and the Treasurer.

Delete part B

Tom Magnani's motion to accept the 4 amendments that passed and the 1 that failed to pass was seconded by George Lasley and approved unanimously.

#### Acknowledgements

John Ragan thanked the following people for all they have done for the Club:

- Steve Wills for all the electrical adjustments, repairs and solving of computer issues.
- Bill Ferguson for all his varied support every weekend.
- Bob and Lucy Bradley, although not members, for their development of the club's web site, photo montage, Power Point slide presentation and general counsel.
- John Kuchnia and Tom Magnani for their work on the O gauge room and now on the O gauge layout. Tom thanked Jim Songer for his idea to raise the other tables and the turntable to simplify adaptation of the donated bridge and turntable section.

George Lasley's motion to confer Honorary Membership on Robert and Lucy Bradley was unanimously seconded and approved.

Tom Magnani and John Ragan acknowledged Roland Waggoner for his steady contributions over many years, including a long term as the Club's Secretary. Roland is moving to Toledo and he will be missed.

#### Show Report:

George Lasley reported that he has been able to find replacement vendors for most of those who have dropped out. He believes that we will gain a few more from our participation at Spencer and some of the other upcoming events.

In looking for a way to both obtain a better result for our advertising expenditures and to improve our demographics he came across 'Box Top Buzz', [www.boxtopbuzz.com](http://www.boxtopbuzz.com). They have an agreement with Papa Johns and Domino's that allows an entity to share a discount coupon for either pizza vendor. For a bit over \$1,000 we will get 5,000 show flyers at each of 4 stores; 20,000 flyers, for the month of October. Out of a choice of 18 store locations in Raleigh, Cary Durham and Chapel Hill George picked 4 with the greatest evening traffic. He reasoned that lunch time, office, purchases would not be seen by families or children while evening purchase would be seen by the family. We will be reducing our Time Warner Cable advertising this year as the national elections immediately follow our show and the Board does not believe that people will be paying very much attention to advertisements in the week preceding the elections.

He asked for volunteers to work the ticket line to ascertain how people learned of the show, family or modeler purchase, zip code and number of people using the coupon.

He would like ticket sellers, especially hobby stores, to stamp their show coupons.

### Upcoming Club Events

John Ragan reminded the meeting that there are attendance lists for membership coverage at 3 events this coming weekend, Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. They are: Method Community Center on Saturday, Spencer on Saturday and Sunday and, our Clubhouse on Saturday and Sunday.

Arthur, AB, Boone provided a brief description of the Method Community Center, its importance to the historic Method Community (located on both sides of 440). Method was one of the oldest communities in Wake County. More information can be found at <http://www.visitraleigh.com/listings/Method-Community/58861/?maxshow=10> and <https://www.raleighnc.gov/home/content/ParksRec/Articles/Parks/Method.html>.

Michael Irwin will supervise the Thomas HO layout's movement from the clubhouse to Method and back.

AB thanked everyone for their wishes, prayers and cards in support of his wife's operation and recovery.

Frank Simmons asked for those who are at the various events to please take pictures.

Frank Simmons detailed the schedule of the additional events for which the club would like volunteers. They are:

Great Train Expo, September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, need 6 volunteers

CPD13's MER NMRA, our open house, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. We need volunteers,

32<sup>nd</sup> annual NRV Show, at the Fairgrounds, Friday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> setup, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> the show,

TCA, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Fairgrounds,

USO's Holiday in the Hangar, Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at RDU.

The Club will be bringing the Thomas and Lego layouts to the USO's Holiday in the Hangar event. It is an annual event for service members and families in this area.

There will be signup sheets for all these events.

In response to a question about the clubhouse keys, John Ragan said that the Board has decided not to change the keys and is working to finalize its 'key' policy at the September BOG meeting.

### Evening Program

John Ragan announced that the evening's program, following the meeting, will be a presentation by Michael Irwin on cardstock buildings. A version of his presentation is available on our website.

**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 food trash or empty containers, is removed.

The next Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

The next Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, September 15, 2016, at 7:00 PM.

## **Minutes of the Board of Governors Meeting**

John Ragan called the meeting to order of Tuesday, August 6 at 7:04 PM. The meeting was not held on its usual Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> since this was Labor Day.

Tom Magnani recorded the Minutes and called the Roll.

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

Members present: Scott Gagnon, Clif Kelly and George Lasley.

John Ragan reported that the Club's web site is doing well and generating positive results for the Club. We have had several visitors who have learned of the Club or, when learning of it from a local store, checked us out on the web. In the discussion that followed it was decided to assure that we have links to the local train/hobby stores. We already have links to all of the clubs that we know about in North Carolina. He almost all of the way through the process of sending packets of information about the Club and our upcoming show to all of the NC clubs.

The next version of the Club's business cards will have our postal mail address as well as our physical address.

### Housekeeping

John Ragan stated that he found the clubhouse's housekeeping to be considerably improved and thanked everyone for their effort.

### Time Warner Cable Advertising

John Ragan began a discussion of whether or not we should advertise this year on Time Warner Cable, TWC, by listing the planned and approved expenditures for the show.

Following some discussion it was unanimously decided not to advertise with TWC as the national elections will take place the week following the show. The Board believes that most people will tune away from TWC in the days preceding the election and that our 10 second spots will never be seen or heard.

Additionally, John reported that he has had absolutely no calls returned by some of the local television stations after he left messages inquiring about our placing radio advertisements.

Bill Ferguson asked about radio advertising and it was decided that the venue was too fragmented for us to buy time on only a few stations for the number of tickets that would be generated.

#### Treasurer's report:

Steve Wills reported that our accounts, while lower than the preceding month, were basically unchanged from a year ago. The decrease is primarily due to 2 significant items. They are the payments for the Box Toppers advertisements and for the Directors and Officers, D&O, insurance.

Tom Magnani's motion for the Board to permit the Treasurer to withdraw cash for the show was seconded by Bill Ferguson and unanimously approved.

Steve Wills asked Tom Magnani to send out late dues notices to those members who were late on their dues. Presently we have 28 Senior Members, 4 Probationary Members, 3 Sustaining Members and 2 Youth Members.

#### G Scale Sound System

Frank Simmons described a G Scale Sound System that provides independent voice announcements for each of the layouts 2 loops. The system uses 'chips' to store a prerecorded message and is linked to the layouts' loop counter controllers. The present announcements are for the 'Thomas' locomotives and can be changed to support our upcoming NMRA and Open House events to a non-'Thomas' welcome to the NRV Clubhouse. The volume can be easily muted by turning the volume down rather than by shutting down the entire system. There was a discussion over whether or not to provide sound for just one loop or for both as the cost for both loops would be an additional \$350. Frank's motion to spend \$350 for individual sound systems for each loop was seconded by Tom Magnani and unanimously approved.

#### Building Sign

George Lasley presented his idea to have a 3' x 5' sign to be attached to the front of the building. Our Landlord, Tom Fisher, has been contacted and given his permission. The Board asked that George proceed with obtaining the sign.

#### Key Holder Release

John Ragan passed around Doug Alumbaugh's proposed release to be signed by all the clubhouse's key holders. After a short discussion it was decided to ask that all of the clubhouse's key holders each read and sign the form. Blanks are posted on the clubhouse bulleting board.

#### Great Train Exposition

John Ragan opened a discussion about the need to assure staffing of both the Great Train Exposition event and the Clubhouse on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>. He would also like for members to remember that Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, is the celebration of Frank Mansfield's 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party at his church. Anyone planning to attend should contact Bill Ferguson. Tom Magnani has already notified the membership of Frank's party.

Tom was asked to prepare a signup sheet for the weekend to track coverage for both the Great Train Exposition event and the Clubhouse.

### Open House

John Ragan said that, after reviewing the wide choice of layout visits and events for the NMRA's Mid-Eastern Region's 'Tracks to the Triangle' Convention running from October 20 - 23, 2016 he had come to believe that we will not have a large number of visitors for our participation on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. For that reason he is recommending that we combine the NMRA Convention and Open House events and hold them on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will need to be ready to receive visitors beginning at 9 AM through 4 PM that Saturday.

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### Carolina Parent Advertisement

John Ragan presented a first draft of a concept for an advertisement that he is recommending we run in the October issue of the local issue Carolina Parent. Bob Bradley has been working on a draft. John needs to commit to the magazine by tomorrow with an advertisement submitted by Thursday. A ¼ page advertisement will cost us \$735. George Lasley recommended that the advertisement emphasize the show, over the Open House. And, that include a link to our web site as the younger parents who read the magazine will use the web site to learn more about our club and its events. Also, to include the line 'Mention or bring this ad to get a dollar off the ticket price.' This will encourage its use and enable us to track our responses.

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The Board agreed that John and Bob should submit their advertisement to the magazine once they have developed a workable solution.

There was a general discussion about the questions that should be asked of the ticket buyers. The questions are:

How did you learn about the show?

With check off columns for CP, N&O, Box Toppers, WWW, Facebook, Store

Where are you from; Zipcode or Town

Have you been to one of our prior shows?

### Show Status

George Lasley reported that there has been no real change in the show's status since the August Membership Meeting. He is still working to finalize commitments by the vendors. The 5 Corners RiteAid will have a flu shot booth. Operation Lifesaver will also have a booth.

### Miscellaneous

John Ragan and Tom Magnani are to make copies of their files on USB drives and leave them with George Lasley to be stored in his Fire Safe.

### Weekend Coverage

Additionally, coverage this past weekend and several preceding ones this summer has been poor. We now have a steady stream of visitors and our members need to stop by for a few hours over the weekend. PLEASE step up.

Future Meeting Dates:

The September Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

The October Board Meeting will be held on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM.  
Steve Wills' motion to adjourn at 8:25 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](mailto: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/](http://www.facebook.com/Neuse-River-Valley-Model-Railroad-Club-133691203373473/)

Blank on purpose.

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

First Class

**NEXT MEETING - Thursday, September 15th, 2016 , 7:00 pm. At: [1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh.](#)**

**Board of Governors meeting: Monday October 3rd , 2016, 7: 00 pm, at the same location.**

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

<b>John Ragan</b>	<b>President</b>	<b><a href="mailto:trainsndogs@gmail.com">trainsndogs@gmail.com,</a></b>	<b>919-304-5474</b>
<b>Frank Simmons</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>		<b>919-676-2081</b>
<b>Steve Wills</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>		<b>919-845-4968</b>
<b>Tom Magnani</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b><a href="mailto:tommag1@aol.com">tommag1@aol.com</a></b>	<b>914-815-2708</b>
<b>John Kuchnia</b>	<b>At Large</b>		<b>919-675-4172</b>
<b>Bill Ferguson</b>	<b>At Large</b>		<b>919-217-3409</b>
<b>Doug Alumbaugh</b>	<b>At Large</b>	<b><a href="mailto:medxmnaol.com">medxmnaol.com</a></b>	<b>919-602-6548</b>

**CLUB WEB SITE: [www.nrvclub.net](http://www.nrvclub.net)**

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