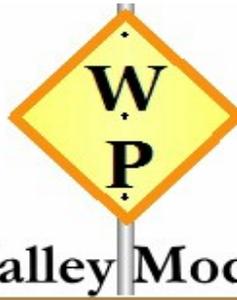


The

Whistle



Post

Official Newsletter of the

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Meeting at 1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh

Phone: 919-400-5570

Under the Crown Sheet by John Ragan

Happy New Year everyone!!! The Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club finished 2016 with grace and compassion, as demonstrated by our contributions to two worthy charities. The Board allocated two hundred dollars for charitable contributions; they also agreed to match up to an additional two hundred dollars in member donations. I am proud to announce that club members donated three hundred seven dollars. The Board picked two charities, the Salvation Army and the NC Baptist Ministry Disaster Relief Fund, and they received equal checks of three hundred fifty-three dollars and fifty cents.

2017 presents new opportunities, celebrations and challenges, starting with our first Open House of the year, set for January 21st, from 10:00 to 4:00.

On January 29th we will have our annual holiday pot luck meal at Scott Gagnon and Mary Ann Loss's house, 11808 Pembridge Lane, Raleigh NC 27613. The time is from 1pm to 4pm. Check with Scott, Mary Ann or Sign up Genie for what to bring.

We will be volunteering at UNC-TV's Festival again this year in March. I'll announce the dates as soon as they are confirmed.

We have multiple layouts at the club that need scenic attention from our members.

A new opportunity this year is our traveling layouts. We have a Thomas layout and the possibility of another layout that can be taken to assisted living centers and community centers on the weekends. The second layout needs work, so it's an opportunity for someone who is interested in that project.

George Lasley, our Show PooBah, is looking for an assistant to work with him on our 33rd Annual Show that is scheduled for November 3rd through 5th, 2017.

Our January 19th meeting will include a program on DecoderPro given by our own Joe Johnston. Our February 16th meeting will include a program on layout lighting by Kim Parker. The March 16th meeting has a tentative program waiting on confirmation. I'm looking for members to suggest topics of interest or volunteer for April and beyond. Please contact me or any board member with your suggestions.

Stay warm this month!

Minutes of the Membership Meeting

John Ragan called the Membership Meeting of December 15, 2016 to order at 7:00 PM.

Arthur Boone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Magnani called the roll and took the minutes.

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

Members present were: Arthur Boone, David Johnson, Joe Johnston, Clif Kelly and George Lasley.

Our guest was: Bernie Dawson.

Minutes

John Ragan's motion to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of the Membership of Thursday, November 17, 2016 and of the Meeting of the Board of Governors of Monday, December 5, 2016 was seconded by Arthur Boone and unanimously accepted.

Treasurer's report:

Steve Wills reported that he has not had time to prepare this month's report.

Show Report:

George Lasley provided a brief summary of the show's expenses. He expects, after talking with Steve Wills, that the Club's net will be about 20% less than in prior years. During a short discussion of where our 'coupons' had been sourced Tom Magnani suggested that we take flyers to all of the area hobby stores; not just to model train stores.

Club Donation

John Ragan described the Borad's decision, as in past years, to set aside \$200 of the Club's for a donation to a charitable organization. He also announced that he would 'pass the hat' for any additional sum that a member might want to contribute. The Board will match up to \$200 of whatever is collected. The recipients, to be divided equally, are the Salvation Army for the damage by Hurricane Matthew and the Wild Fires in the Western part of NC and, the NC Baptist Ministry Disaster Relief Fund.

New Member

John Ragan introduced Bernie Dawson, a former member who is returning and this is his second meeting. George Lasley's motion to suspend the rules and make Bernie a Probationary Member was seconded by Arthur Boone and unanimously accepted.

Soup & Salad

Bill and Mary Lou Ferguson will be hosting a Soup & Salad this Saturday afternoon beginning at 4 PM at their home at 4042 Landover Lane, Raleigh NC 27616.

Clubhouse Weekend Closure

The Clubhouse will be officially closed Christmas weekend.

Presentations

Following the meeting Steve Wills' presentation "How to make Highways on your Layout".

The presentations for the following months are:

January 19th Joe Johnston How to use Decoder Pro

February 16th Kim Parker Lighting

Upcoming Club Events

The schedule of the additional events for which the club would like volunteers are:

 Soup & Salad at the Ferguson's, December 18, 2016,

 Open House, Saturday, January 21, 2017,

 Holiday Pot Luck Lunch at Scott & Mary Ann's, Sunday, January 29, 2017.

Future Meetings

The next Board Meeting will be on Monday, January 2, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

The next Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, January 19, 2016, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

George Lasley's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Steve Wills at 7:41 PM.

Minutes of the Board of Governors Meeting

John Ragan called the meeting of January 2, 20 to order at 7:01 PM

Tom Magnani recorded the Minutes and called the Roll.

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

Members present: Michael Johns, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Michael McCarthy and Jim Songer.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Wills reported that the treasury, as of the end of November, is slightly lower than the year before. He has renewed our Hotspot data card that enables our MagicJack phone. He recommended that we increase our Senior Member roll as we need 40+ Senior Members to fully cover our rent.

Club Advertising

The group discussed the effectiveness and costs of the various advertising venues. Pizza Box Top flyers will not be repeated as we had very few of them presented at the Show and we did not come close to recovering their cost. We will advertise in Carolina Parent and the News & Observer. The plan for next year's Show will include advertising in Carolina Parent's magazine, possibly TV; but not Pizza Box Top flyers. Tom Magnani recommended that we also place flyers at non-model railroad hobby stores. Another hobby store that was suggested was the Hobby Lobby store on Capital Boulevard in Raleigh. Michael McCarthy suggested that we seek to place our flyers and club information at the New Hope Valley Railroad.

There was a discussion about a 'booth' at the state fairgrounds but the realization was that we do not have enough members to cover such an effort over the 10 days of the Fair.

John Ragan played a video by the Shane Wilson, the founder of Scale Trains, in which he asked for groups to contact him with request for clubs and shows that his company might visit. Tom Magnani was asked to prepare an email to Mr. Wilson inviting him to both our clubhouse and to our show. Michael Johns suggested that we stress that we have our own clubhouse. It was decided that if he accepts, we will invite other, regional organizations and find a venue with enough seating and projection facilities.

Shows

Steve Wills' motion to close the books on the 2016 Show was seconded by Bill Ferguson and approved unanimously.

Steve Wills' motion to open the books on the 2017 Show was seconded by Tom Magnani and approved unanimously.

George Lasley graciously agreed to run the 2017 show with the Board's agreement to provide a motorized scooter and to have someone create a computerized database of our vendors to facilitate mail labels, tracking and billing. John Ragan agreed to create the database and Tom Magnani will proofread it.

George recommended that we increase our rates for both vendors and for attendees. Tables will be \$50 and Admission will be \$8 and \$9. Tom Magnani's motion to approve the change in rates was seconded by Steve Wills and approved unanimously. Michael McCarthy recommended that, in light of this year's accident outside of the building, that the club walk the outside area to assure that the building's exterior lights are lit after dusk and that there is no trash left in the outside loading areas.

Request for Club Participation

The Carolina Coastal Railroaders club, located in New Bern, will be having their show in the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center on March 4th and 5th. Setup will be on the 3rd. John Ragan reported that he was contacted to ask if we would be interested in having a table. After a lengthy discussion the Board's opinion was, in light of the 2 ½+ hour drive from our area and the cost of overnight accommodations, that we would not be participating. Additional factors considered were that the 'stroller' crowd that would be there would, most likely, not be making the reciprocal drive to our show and; modelers from that area already know about our show. Additionally, this may be the weekend of the UNC-TV fund raising telethon. John Ragan will contact UNC-TV for clarification.

Spencer Train Show

This year's show at Spencer will be a single day, May 13th, coinciding with Train Day. This is also the day before Mother's Day.

Membership Application Revision

John Ragan introduced his plan to revise our Membership Application. After much thought, and several prior discussions with both our Board and with other organizations, he is recommending that we add a list of standard background questions relating to a member's full background. Michael Johns briefly iterated the Boy Scout of America's list of questions and described its confidentiality protocol. The Board agreed that the application should be revised and that a draft submitted for consideration.

Work Zones

John Ragan requested that a rough map/plan be made of the HO layout so that specific work areas can be identified and their 'owner's name' listed so that there will not be an overlap of work areas.

January Open House

The January Open House will be on Saturday, January 21, 2017 and will be held at the clubhouse from 10 AM to 4 PM. Club members will be asked to bring in light appetizers; dessert items and nibble stuff. We will set up a table in the corner for

selling items such as club kits, hats, etc. We can also clear one of the shelves in the main room to use as the ‘Company Store’.

Membership Meeting Presentations

The presentations for the following months are:

January 19th Joe Johnston How to use Decoder Pro

February 16th Kim Parker Lighting

Pot Luck Lunch

The Pot Luck Lunch will be at the home of Scott Gagnon and Mary Ann Loss on Sunday, January 29, 2017 from 1 – 4 PM. Registration will be through ‘SignUp Genie’.

NRV Charitable Donations

Steve Wills reported that the recipients of the Club’s charitable donations are the Salvation Army and the NC Baptist Ministry Disaster Relief Fund. He has sent checks to each in the amount of \$353.50. John Ragan thanked all the members who added their individual donations to the Club’s donation.

Meeting Dates:

The January Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19th at 7 PM. The presentation at this meeting will be by Joe Johnston . The subject will be ‘How to use Decoder Pro’.

The February Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 6th at 7 PM. Tom Magnani’s motion to adjourn at 8:44 PM was seconded by John Ragan

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 **nrvmrrc@gmail.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, January 19th, 2017 , 7:00 pm. At: 1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh.

Board of Governors meeting: Monday, February 6th , 2017, 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

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Bob Bradley **Webmaster**

SHOW WEB SITE: www.nrvshow.org