



**Meeting at 1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh**

**Phone: 919-400-5570**

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

Spring is finally here! This month, we will nominate members of the Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club to serve as officers and fill a position on the Board of Governors. All candidates must be senior members in good standing. All officers are elected to one year terms and the at-large Board position is a three year term. Attend our meeting on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to meet your candidates. Please participate in the direction of your Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club!

We will be handing out new membership applications for everyone to fill out during the meeting. The Board is updating the personal information of all members for our roster. When this information is collected and organized, our membership list will be available upon request.

Our Spring Open House is on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10am – 4pm. Now that Old Louisburg Road is open again, we can expect a large turnout. Clean up of the clubhouse will be held on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> after our breakfast gathering. We want to thank Mike McCarthy for his attention to the club's janitorial duties.

I know that our membership is filled with many talented individuals. These people, in their professional lives, have convinced others to see things their way. NRV needs your persuasive talent now. The Show Committee needs a letter writing and phone call campaign to targeted manufacturers to obtain either their appearance at our show or a contribution (catalogs, merchandise or monetary). The Committee needs out of the box thinkers to come up with a new exciting advertising campaign for this year's show and beyond.

Next month, NRV will be participating in the National Train Day and Model Train Show at the NC Transportation Museum on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in Spencer, NC. The club will be setting up our display booth and handing out show flyers. We will be

looking for volunteers to help at this fun event. This will be the first time the Model Train Show has been held in May, and Spencer has special events planned.

The club has 8 train tables for sale. They are 81.5 inches x 37.5 inches. They are on folding legs. These tables are \$50 each.

Please make sure you lock up the clubhouse correctly when you leave. Turn off lights and layouts properly. We have the closing checklist posted in the hall. If you have questions about our procedure, please ask.

Our NRV board gives enthusiastic thanks to Patrick Bradley for taking over webmaster duties. Patrick will also be creating a YouTube channel for our club. Please let him know if you have any materials available for him to post.

Please remember George Lasley, our NRV Show Grand Poohbah, as he is recovering from a nasty staph infection.

## **Minutes of the Membership Meeting**

John Ragan called the meeting of Thursday, March 16, 2017 to order at 7:05 PM

Tom Magnani recorded the Minutes and called the Roll.

Jim Songer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Members present: Ron Abraham, Arthur, AB, Boone, Bernie Dawson, Scott Gagnon, Michael Johns, Joe Johnston, Fred Krauss, George Lasley, Ted Leonard, Michael McCarthy, Kim Parker, Jim Songer and Andrew Treffer.

Our guests were Mary Lou Ferguson and Jay Wilson.

### Treasurer's Report

John Ragan reported that Steve Wills had to miss the meeting due to a scheduling conflict and had not left a report.

### Minutes

George Lasley's motion to accept the minutes of the past 2 Board and past 2 Membership Meetings was seconded by John Ragan and passed unanimously.

### Shows

George Lasley asked for help placing mailing labels and stamps on vendor mailings after the evening's presentation.

### Wilmington Train Show

The Wilmington Train Show will be on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, Saturday and Sunday, at the Coastline Conference Center on Nutt Street in Wilmington. The Show's official title is the Coastal Carolina Trainfest.

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### BrickUniverse

John Ragan described the BrickUniverse show which conducts Lego activities with teams of Lego fans. It will be at the Raleigh Convention Center on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Those days the show is selling tickets to sessions that are either from 9 AM to 1 PM or from 2 to 6 PM. Setup will be Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Over 10,000 advance tickets have been sold. (That weekend begins the 'Spring Break' for all Wake County students.) Bernie Dawson volunteered to cover the Saturday morning shift. Tom Magnani will cover the Sunday afternoon shift. Car pooling from here is an option to minimize parking expenses.

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### Dues

John Ragan reminded the membership that, in order to vote, a member's dues must be up to date. He has received dues payments from several members who were in arrears and letters have been sent to all those in arrears. While the Board would prefer full payment of dues at the start of the year we understand that circumstances vary and individual schedules can be arranged with our Treasurer, Steve Wills. Dues can be mailed to:

The Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club, Inc.

PO Box 19573

Raleigh, NC 27619-957

### Mebane Show

Arthur Boone reported that the Mebane train show had went well. While smaller than ours, they had a decent turnout. Their sales seemed good, with a steady stream of people leaving with packages. Almost all their vendors were also at our past shows. He left flyers and business cards. He gave George Lasley information about 2 vendors who he had not seen at our show. Scott Gagnon suggested that we advertise in the Mebane area.

Jay Wilson informed the meeting that the Greensboro train show will be this coming Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Greensboro train station.

John Ragan asked that anyone planning to go there, or any other show or event, to please take flyers.

John Ragan reported on the Club's trip, this past Saturday, to the Chesapeake Bay & Western model train club's Open House. The club layout features a 2,400 foot, double-track mainline, with 5 helixes, a 7' change in elevation, multiple sidings,

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marshaling yards, and around 250 turnouts. It has 80% of its scenery installed. They have 70 members and charge the same dues as we charge, \$25/month, and pay the same rent.

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### O Scale Layout

John Ragan announced that the surplus O Scale tables, measuring 37 ½” x 81 ½”, from the prior O Scale layout will be available for sale for \$50.

### Elections

Bill Ferguson’s motion to open the nominations of Officers to the membership was seconded by Arthur Boone and approved unanimously. The motion will be closed at the April 20<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting.

### Membership Application

John Ragan announced that the new Membership Application will be distributed to the Membership at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

There was a discussion about whether or not to publicly list the Membership’s phone numbers, excluding Youth members, in a public forum. The consensus was not to publicly list the Membership’s telephone numbers. At this time, the Board’s information is on each copy of the Whistle Post as well as our web site.

Tom Magnani will place a list of our members in the First Aid kit.

Bernie Dawson’s request for Tom to print a copy of the Senior Member’s telephone numbers was seconded by AB and unanimously approved.

Tonight’s Membership Meeting Presentation will be by Kim Parker on Lighting – Part 2

### Meeting Dates:

The April Board Meeting will be held on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM.

The April Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

Tom Magnani’s motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM was seconded by Arthur Boone

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

John Ragan called the meeting of Monday, April 3, 2017 to order at 7:00 PM

John Kuchnia recorded the Minutes and called the Roll

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

Members present: Patrick Bradley, Michael Johns and Clif Kelly.

Our guest was Robert Bradley.

## Lenovo Grant

Steve Wills described his employer's (Lenovo) grant program for non-profits. To qualify, and to be eligible, the employee must be at the non-profit site a minimum number of hours. There was a discussion of the required details and our 501C(3) status. After some further discussion, the Board agreed to proceed. Frank Simmons volunteered to write the grant proposal.

## Treasurer's Report

Steve Wills reported that the Club's treasury has remained fairly constant over the past year although, it remains lower than a year ago. Our major, ongoing, expense is our rent. He has sent letters to all those in arrears. He would like to be able to hold our dues at their present amount and having more senior members would considerably ease our finances.

## Miscellaneous

Frank reported that George Lasley is home and recovering from a hip infection. He is getting about and, with some assistance, keeping up with the Show.

John Ragan is reviewing the Club's charter and constitution to assure that the membership is properly informed as to what is required to ensure that the membership adequately supports the Club. We cannot have 2 or 3 members doing all the work. We need backup personnel for all of the positions and tasks.

John asked for a volunteer to draft a form letter to present the Club to manufacturers and to ask them to forward catalogs for use by the membership. It would be ideal if that person could also be comfortable with calling them to follow up with the request.

## Show Advertising

John Ragan began by pointing out that that we need to watch how much, and where, we use our resources. Our choices for the coming Show have been narrowed to TWC, Carolina Parent, Facebook, N&O, Model Railroader and our flyers. The Box Top and Cacalacky advertising will not be used this year. He will talk with Spectrum, TWC's successor to learn if their pricing and/or advertising packages have changed. We've already spent \$210 with Model Railroader beginning with the June issue.

Mike Johns made the point that word of mouth, from our members talking to their friends at other organizations, is the lowest cost advertising. Mike will work on a presentation that we can all use. The brochures that the attendees at the Chesapeake Bay & Western model train club Open House saw were of particular interest and, are an indication of where other clubs are going. Bob Bradley provided some guidance as to the future in other groups advertising. John will obtain prices for both full color and, a better grade of paper.

It was noted that the Wilmington show charged \$10/person although children under 16 were free.

## Wilmington Show Review

John Ragan described what he had learned at this past weekend's Wilmington model train show.

### New Vendors

1. He made contact with the US representative, Stuart Chinnery, of a British product supplier with a line of particularly user friendly scenery products. He may ask him, and Bob Bradley, to do a demonstration at our Show.
2. He met Joshua Crews, who operates Vintage Transportation Company, [www.vintage-transco.com](http://www.vintage-transco.com), that manufactures a line of Railroad themed License Plates, Wall Plates, Vinyl Decals, stickers, key rings, etc. What is particularly unique is that many of their items can be custom made while you wait. He expressed an interest in our Show.

### Other Observations

1. He saw vendors some who missed our last show and learned that they had had problems resulting from Hurricane Matthew but were planning to attend this year's Show.
2. While there was the usual mix of sellers of both new and old stock he became aware, confirmed by random conversations with others in the hobby, that there were almost no sellers of new HO equipment. Most HO that was for sale, was used.
3. He has established a contact with Lionel.

## Our Show

We need to work to establish a reputation for being proactive as a club. New modelers need guidance in the face of everything from traditional DC models to the latest DCC and sound options. We won't get new modelers if the DCC/sound equipped model doesn't meet expectations when run on an old DC power supply. Even more experienced modelers occasionally find another set of eyes, and thoughts, can resolve a longstanding problem.

## Brick Universe - Lego Show

There was a quick organizational discussion to assure that all of the components, brochures and flyers would be in place for the first session on Saturday morning.

## Layout and Building Shutdown

John Ragan reported that there have been several occasions where the last member leaving the clubhouse has failed to assure that all of the layouts are unpowered and all of the lights, except for the main room's floor lamp, are off.

## Equipment and Items for Sale

We are accumulating donation materials for sale to the members and at the Show. We need members to step up to catalog the items so that we know what we have and can, eventually, assign prices. With Mike McCarthy's help we now have O Ga. train tables for sale @ \$50/each. They are 36" x80" hollow core doors with 1' x 4" trim and banquet style legs so that they measure 37 ½" wide by 81 ½" long.

### Computer Guru

Bob Bradley suggested that we ask one of our younger members to head up our various computers and to serve as a backup to Joe Johnston and Steve Wills. After a brief discussion Patrick Bradley was recommended as our Web Master and approved by the Board.

### Meeting Dates:

The March Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

The May Board Meeting will be held on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM.

Steve Wills' motion to adjourn at 8:41 PM was seconded by John Ragan.

### **Neat links**

I had a Model Railroad Show here at Carol Woods, where I now live with the North Raleigh Model Railroad Club. It was T-Track (TabelTop) N-Scale.

Here is the link to the report I made with pictures that the NRMRC members put up <https://nrmrc.org/events/show-reports/t-trak-display-carol-woods-april-1-2017>

### **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](mailto: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/](http://www.facebook.com/Neuse-River-Valley-Model-Railroad-Club-133691203373473/)

I was able to visit with George Lasley and also with Frank Mansfield who is at [Cary Health and Rehabilitation Center' located at 6590 Tryon Rd., Cary, NC 27511](#), Room 320. He would appreciate visits or notes.

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

First Class

**NEXT MEETING - Thursday, April 20th, 2017 , 7:00 pm. At: 1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh.**

**Board of Governors meeting: Monday, May 1st, 2017, 7: 00 pm, at the same location.**

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

<b>John Ragan</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>trainsndogs@gmail.com,</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>tommag1@aol.com</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>medxmnaol.com</b>	<b>919-602-6548</b>

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

**Joe Johnston** Newsletter editor [nrvmrrc@gmail.com](mailto:nrvmrrc@gmail.com)

**Patrick Bradley** Webmaster [4thebradleys@gmail.com](mailto:4thebradleys@gmail.com)

**SHOW WEB SITE:**

<https://nrvclub.net/annual-model-train-show/>