



Meeting at 1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh

Phone: 919-400-5570

Under the Crown Sheet by John Ragan

As usual, we have interesting programs planned for our NRV monthly membership meetings. Next week, on Thursday, May 18th at 7pm, our program will be presented by Andrew Treffer. Andrew is interested in starting an operation group with our HO layout for NRV club members. Andrew has been working on this plan to hold operating sessions. Please show your support and listen to his proposal.

George Lasley will provide the membership meeting program in June. He will be presenting a slideshow of railroad action in and around Raleigh. This meeting is on June 15th at 7pm.

Our spring Open House was a success. We had 40-50 guests attend, along with many club members. This event also turned into a celebration of having Old Louisburg Road open again.

During the Open House, our 12+ year old DCC command station on the HO layout quit. The Board has made the decision to replace the existing system with an upgraded Digitrax command station. Mike Johns has requested donations from members to pay for the new Digitrax equipment. These donations will completely fund the new equipment. We have already received some monetary support from several members, which was greatly appreciated. If you are interested in making a donation, please see Mike.

NRV representatives also attended the Train Collectors Association show held at the fairgrounds last weekend. We brought the LEGO layout, and advertised our November show.

Last week, the Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club became an eligible charity in the Amazon Smile program. When you make a qualifying purchase from the Amazon Smile website, Amazon will make a donation to the charity you designate. Please remember NRV as one of your charities when you make your purchases.

This weekend, NRV representatives will be in Spencer, North Carolina, at the NC Transportation Museum. The Museum will be holding a model train show along with

other festivities for National Train Day. The event will be held Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13.

We hope to see you at some of these exciting events!

Minutes of the Membership Meeting

John Ragan called the Membership Meeting of April 20, 2017 to order at 7:03 PM. at 1615 Old Louisburg Rd., Raleigh, NC.

Arthur Boone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Magnani called the roll.

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

Members present were: Ron Abraham, Arthur (AB) Boone, Bernie Dawson, Dan Egy, Michael Johns, Clif Kelly, Ted Leonard, Michael McCarthy, Kim Parker, Ethan Quiram, George Lasley, Henry Shirley and Jay Wilson.

Our guest was Robert Bradley.

Treasurer's report:

John Ragan, reporting for Steve Wills, said that the Club's treasury, as of the end of March is up somewhat from February as dues and show table monies have come in. We are down from a year ago primarily due to our largest ongoing cost, rent. The Club's dues year for 2017 – 2018 begins on June 1, 2017.

Show report:

George Lasley reported that we have received confirmed reservations for 75 tables which is about what he expected at this time. We have some dealers returning who had missed last year's show due to the hurricane. Tom Staley, Tom's Trains, will not be at the show. Our advertisement will appear in the May – October issues of Model Railroader and in the August – November issues of O Gauge Railroading.

John Ragan reported that Spectrum, the purchaser of Time Warner Cable, is not as price friendly to not-for-profits as TWC. They are requiring a longer minimum advertisement slot and, at first review, appear to be 15% more costly.

John noted that Spectrum has a package that covers advertising on many of the channels that it carries but that it costs about \$5,000. There was a brief poll of the attendees as to who still had Spectrum as their source of 'TV'. He is looking for an alternative.

Vice President	Scott Gagnon
At Large	Mike Johns
Secretary	Tom Magnani
Treasurer	Steve Wills

Doug Alumbaugh and Frank Simmons are leaving the Board.

The new year will begin on June 1st.

George Lasley's motion to close the nominations was seconded by Arthur Boone and unanimously approved.

New Membership Application:

John Ragan reviewed the new Membership Application and explained the new questions and how it will be handled to the meeting. He then distributed it to the Board and to the Membership. It is due back on June 1, 2017.

Community Relations:

Mike Johns provided a presentation on how the NRV members can most effectively advertise the club and clubhouse to others. He began by describing the:

- External Public - The General Public that you do not know which you can reach through the Mass media approach with fliers, news print, pizza boxes, TV, Radio, Magazines and Internet. A 2% is the best Response Rate attainable.

- Internal Public – The People you personally know. Word of mouth is still the best Community Relationship due to their relationship with someone in our Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club. YOU are the credible authority because you belong to the Club. A 7% – 10% is the usual Response Rate.

1❖ We all know about 200 people

2❖ We must carry the good news of the Club. (Park your attitudes.)

3❖ Use the modern Internet:

a. Take an iPhone picture of the Flier and send it to your Facebook Friends and Groups to which you belong,

Invite them,

Tell them that YOU belong to the Club and emphasize that it is Family friendly, FREE and has refreshments,

b. The Flier will give the location and description,

c. Prospect include houses of worship, fraternal organizations, other types of clubs, groups, etc.

· Good coverage in our Internal Public and Triple or Response at an open house!

Mike emphasized that we, the membership, can be far more effective than we think we can be.

The next Board Meeting will be on Monday, May 1, 2017, at 7:00 PM.

The next Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, May 18, 2017, at 7:00 PM.

Arthur Boone's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Bill Ferguson at 8:02 PM.

Minutes of the Board of Governors Meeting

May 1, 2017, 7:00 PM, 1615 Old Louisburg Rd., Raleigh, North Carolina

Presiding: President John Ragan

Attendance: President John Ragan, Frank Simmons, Doug Alumbaugh, Stephanie Alumbaugh, George Lasley, Mike Johns, William Ferguson, Scott Gagnon, Clif Kelly Andrew Treffer

Excused members: Steve Willis, Tom Magnani

The Meeting was called to Order by President John Ragan at 7:00 PM.

Attendance was called by Mike Johns,.

Acting Secretary Mike Johns 11 souls attended the meeting.

President John Ragan presents the Amazon 0.5% Promotional Plan where members and friends can list us as a charity when making an Amazon order. Our Club will receive 0.5% of the purchase price as a quarterly Premium deposited into our Bank account. John has signed our Club up for this Program. We are all encouraged to List the Neuse River Valley Model Rail Road club when making Amazon on line purchases.

Spectrum advertising would cost \$5000 for our 2017 Model Train Show. Frank Simmons moves that we not use Spectrum Advertisement as the cost is too high and would take away any club Profit. The motion was Seconded by Bill Ferguson.

The motion was approved by a vote.

John Ragan brings up the Train Collectors Association Show on this coming weekend, May 6. John and Steve Wills will set up a booth promoting our Model Train Show. A volunteer board member is needed to open and staff the Club House. Scott Gagnon volunteers with Mike Johns helping.

The Spencer Train Show is scheduled for May 11-13. Frank and Paulette Simmons with John Ragan will handle the setup Thursday at 3pm.

Members at our booth Friday May, 12, 9-noon will be Donna Ragan, John Ragan, Frank Simmons.

Noon to closing John Ragan

Saturday May 13:

9- noon Donna Ragan, John Ragan, Bill Ferguson, Mary Lou Ferguson

Noon to closing Mike Johns, Mike McCarthy, John Ragan, Donna Ragan, Bill Ferguson, Mary Lou Ferguson.

Mike Johns Moved that we raise \$1000 in donations to replace the DCC systems on the HO Scale and N scale tracks. The motion was seconded by Doug Alumbaugh. The motion carried. Mike Johns has headed up the fund drive for this purpose. Board members were invited to join the campaign and they did. To date, members have contributed \$1005. \$555 was turned over to President John Ragan tonight. The balance will come in shortly. Mike Johns will see that all is collected as these pledged contributors are good, reliable, Members who benefit from the DCC.

Frank Simmons moves that we authorize President John Ragan to purchase the New Evolution 240 DCC systems for the HO Layout and a Zephyr System for the N scale Layout. The motion was seconded by Doug Alumbaugh. The motion carried.

Scott Gagnon is heading a club promotion to Senior Groups and asks for support to call the list of contacts he provided. Volunteers are Mike Johns, Doug and Stephany Alumbaugh and John Ragan.

JR will get another post office box key for the club.

Andrew Treffer moved that we implement a Operations Control for the HO Layout.

Frank Simmons seconds the motion. The motion carried.

A discussion is held about our Club Telephone system being down Steve Willis and John Ragan are working to restore service.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Neat links

Here are some great modeling techniques using cheap materials from Ken (silly westies) of Sipping and Switching:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nA4IA1HhOCI&list=TLGGVhDa2y1K5SwxOTA0MjAxNw>

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/

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, May 18th, 2017 , 7:00 pm. At: 1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh.

Board of Governors meeting: Monday, June 5th, 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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Joe Johnston Newsletter editor nrvmrrc@gmail.com

Patrick Bradley Webmaster 4thebradleys@gmail.com

SHOW WEB SITE:

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