



Meeting at 1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh

Phone: 919-400-5570

Under the Crown Sheet by John Ragan

The Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club is still busy! It's hard to believe that we have less than 90 days until our 33rd annual show. Please mark your calendars for set up on November 3rd, and the show on November 4th and 5th. The Show Committee needs volunteers in all areas to ensure this show is our best ever. Table sales are continuing along at a good pace, but we still have some available. Anyone interested in a table or tables please contact George Lasley for information.

The next meeting is Thursday, August 17th at 7pm. Scott Hall will present a program on "Arduino, Raspberry Pi, Launchpad, Beaglebone and other single-board computers and microcontroller starter boards and their uses in model railroading." This will be an interesting program on a new way to enhance your layout.

Our next Open House is Saturday August 19th from 10am until 4pm. The NC Garden Railway Club will be holding their August meeting at the clubhouse during our event. Bring a train to run, invite your family and friends. Please let a board member know if you will be available to help or to bring refreshments.

Over the summer months we have had many visitors of all ages to the clubhouse. Please remember there could be young, sensitive, impressionable ears listening to everything going on around them. Let's continue to make sure that our NRV gives everyone a positive experience.

Courtney's restaurant is closing, so our Wednesday morning breakfast group is moving to Big Ed's North, at 5009 Falls of Neuse Road in Quail Corners Shopping Center. This starts Wednesday, August 16th. We look forward to seeing you there; remember, visitors are always welcome. You can find directions and menu

options at www.bigedsnorth.com. As usual, we will continue to meet at 9:00 am then go to the clubhouse after our meal. If you have a suggestion for a different restaurant, please contact me or one of the Board members.

September's meeting, on Thursday, September 21, will be presented by Jay Wilson. "How not to Build a Layout" is always an informative program for us. It's always full of "what not to do" and "what I'd do differently".

Frank Mansfield, our oldest club member, passed away on Tuesday August 1st. He was a WWII veteran, an amazing woodworker, and an enthusiastic model railroader. Memorial donations can be sent in Frank's name to the West Raleigh Presbyterian Church or The Occoneechee Council, Boy Scouts of America, 3231 Atlantic Avenue, Raleigh NC 27604.

Minutes of the Membership Meeting

John Ragan called the Membership Meeting of July 20, 2017 to order at 7:05 PM.

Michael Johns led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Magnani called the roll and took the minutes.

Board members present: Scott Gagnon, Michael Johns, John Kuchnia, Tom Magnani and John Ragan.

Members present were: Ron Abraham, Richard Calfee, Joe Johnston, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Ted Leonard, Ethan Quiram, Henry Shirley and Jay Wilson.

Guests

Our guests were: Jake Forbes and his father, Norbert Hubig, Jim Murrell and John Spach.

New Members

John Ragan noted that this is Jim Murrell's 3rd meeting and John Spach's second meeting. George Lasley's motion to suspend the rules and to admit both as Probationary Members was seconded by Mike Johns and approved unanimously.

Jake Forbes introduced himself. This is his first meeting. He has a small HO layout at home as well as some O. His railroads of interest are the N&W and Southern and likes 611.

Norbert, Joe, Hubig is on assignment in the area for several months from his company's home base in Germany. His interest is in Gauge 1, (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1_gauge) which runs on our G scale track but with a lighter gauge rail. It is 1:32 in scale.

Approval of the Minutes

Mike Johns' motion to accept the minutes of the last membership meeting was seconded by Scott Gagnon and approved unanimously. [Note: Following the meeting

John Spach noted that the Secretary had incorrectly spelled his name in the minutes for June's membership meeting.]

Treasurer's report:

John Ragan reported that, based upon the information provided by Steve Wills, our accounts were down several thousand dollars from a year ago and basically unchanged from what had been reported to the Board at their July meeting.

Show Report:

George Lasley reported that the show is coming along although vendor responses are somewhat slower than in prior years. Don Tichy is not attending this year as he will be at another, bigger, show. He, and the Board, will decide at the August Board meeting about which advertising media to use.

Advertising

John Ragan passed around a copy of the proposed Carolina Parent advertisement for the membership to proofread. The Carolina Parent advertisement would run in the October issue which would be out in time for the show. The November issue is too late for us.

The Board is considering advertisements on WRAL (TV) and 2 radio stations; WPTF (AM) and WPTK (FM). The TV spots would run for 30 seconds over 2 weeks. The radio spots would be over 2 weeks.

John Ragan passed around 4 ideas of 'Banner' advertisement signs to facilitate discussion and a vote for the 2 best. The white background was the winner with the burgundy background with the white lettering second.

Ron Abraham asked if we had ever considered an advertisement in a local sporting event's program. John answered that we had and could not afford the fee. Jim Murrell will ask at one of the local venues if we could set up a boot prior to the beginning of a sporting event without any fee.

Scott Gagnon reminded the meeting that the NC Garden Railroad Club will be at the New Hope Valley's State Fairgrounds exhibit and will need volunteers. Our participation provides an opportunity for us to distribute fliers and present our upcoming show. Volunteer shifts would be in 3 hour blocks from 9 AM to 9 PM from October 13th to the 26th. Parking is free for those over 65 years old.

Club Outings

There will be a club outing the Goldsboro YMCA on Saturday, August 5th, where the Sipping' and Switching' group will have a layout. We will be allowed to run our own trains if they are DCC equipped, have metal wheels and metal, knuckle/Kadee couplers. As with our layout, the road rule is to reset all turnouts after passing.

We will also be visiting the Waynesboro Model Railroad Club in Goldsboro. They have a 20'x56' layout using Digitrax for DCC control. They are in the process of

doubling the size of their layout. Although they do not have a web page they have a FaceBook page:<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Waynesborough-Model-Railroad-Club/241139285972115>.

Their physical address is 118 West Mulberry St. Goldsboro NC 27530. Their contact person is Alan Outlaw.

Club Shirt Order

John Ragan reminded the membership that we are gathering an order for polo shirts and light colored denim shirts. He will confirm prices and minimum order requirements.

Open House

The next NRV Open House will be on Saturday, August 19th from 10 AM to 4 PM. Membership will meet at the clubhouse at 9 AM for last minute cleaning and setup. The NC Garden Railroad Club may hold their monthly meeting during our Open house.

Holiday in the Hangar

Scott Gagnon reported that there has been no change in the planned USO's Holiday in the Hangar. It will take place on Saturday, December 9th at the Eddie Smith Field House at UNC Chapel Hill. Scott has not received any answer from the USO as to which of our layouts would be most welcome.

Evening Programs

Tonight's Membership Meeting will be a slide presentation by George Lasley of railroading in Raleigh over the years.

August's program will be by Scott Hall on Arduinos, Raspberry Pi, Launchpad and other small single board embedded systems and their use in model railroading.

John Ragan would like for volunteers for September and October programs. Mike Johns requested a program about building a temporary layout or seasonal layout. For example, a Christmas layout employing the family china in the layout, gourds, pine cone and stuff you have around for the occasion.

Jay Wilson will provide a program 'How Not to Build a Layout' for our September meeting

Mike Johns agreed to provide a motivational talk at the October membership meeting in advance of our Show.

New Business

Mike Johns announced the Golden Spike ceremony for his 'Apalachia to the Sea' O gauge layout on Friday, July 28th at 10 am. Tom Magnani will send an email with the details.

George Lasley reported that the New Hope Valley Railroad found that someone has stolen the horns for 7 of their 9 locomotives. He also described seeing a rather large purple colored big top circus tent at the state fairgrounds.

August's Board meeting will be on Monday, August 7, 2017, at 7:00 PM.

The next Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, August 17, 2017, at 7:00 PM.

Tom Magnani's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by George Lasley at 7:57 PM

Minutes of the Board of Governors Meeting

President John Ragan called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. August 7, 2017.

Secretary Tom Magnani recorded the Minutes and called the Roll.

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

Members present: Arthur Boone, Richard Calfee, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Jim Songer and John Spach.

Our guest was Norman (Jeep) Dean. This is his first meeting; having been here on a weekend. He has a shelf style HO switching layout built by George Lasley. During the course of his working life he had worked for the Aberdeen Carolina & Western RR for approximately 18 months.

John Ragan announced that the Bradley family had offered to sell us an almost new portable HVAC unit which is presently being used to cool the HO/N/Lego layout room. It is also capable of heating as well as cooling and includes a rolling A/V stand. Steve Wills' motion to buy the unit and any attachment pieces for up to \$250 was seconded by Tom Magnani and unanimously accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Wills reported that our treasury, at the end of July was about the same as the end of June. It is down from a year ago.

O Gauge Train Salvage

Tom Magnani reported on the donation of O Ga. Track and miscellaneous equipment by Terry Campbell. As a part of the agreement the club is taking down the physical layout. There are 3, of the original 5 sections, remaining to be taken to the dump this coming Wednesday. We will go to his house after our Wednesday breakfast. We will need a truck or van with a 4' wide bed.

Goldsboro Trip

Steve Wills reported on the club outing to Goldsboro this past Saturday, August 5th. Approximately 17 members were there. (The number was reduced by the simultaneous funeral for Frank Mansfield.) The group visited 2 places there. The Sipping & Switching Summerfest which was held at the Goldsboro Family YMCA. It could be viewed from an upper level and offered an opportunity to take many overhead photographs. They saw many modules they had never seen before; including an extensive canal scene covering several modules.

In the afternoon, they visited the Waynesborough Model Railroad Club. The club is located in a room/storefront on the ground floor of a building owned by one of their members. The upper floor houses apartments. Their center piece is a HO scale DCC Digitrax layout measuring 20' x 56'. It is currently under construction with the goal of doubling the size. They have an N scale layout but only one member with an interest in it. They had hoped to have an O scale layout but the interested member dropped out

They have 14 members and Steve spent some time talking to them about ways to increase their membership and how to better advertise the club. He also took photographs of their layout. John Ragan will have Steve's photos posted on our Facebook page.

Club Shirts

John Ragan reported that he has new prices for club shirts. They are:

Polo Shirts

Small – X Large	\$21.00
XX Large	\$23.00
XXX Large	\$24.00

Long Sleeved Denim Shirts

Small – X Large	\$31.00
XX Large	\$33.00
XXX Large	\$34.00

Short Sleeved Denim Shirts

Small – X Large	\$23.00
XX Large	\$25.00
XXX Large	\$26.00

Monogramming a single name to the shirt adds an additional \$2.00/shirt.

WRAL, WPTF, WPTK Proposals

John Ragan summarized the WPTF/WPTK and WRAL advertising proposals. All are for 30 second spots. WRAL's, for \$1,570, would get us

50 spots over 2 weeks reaching approximately 700,000 total viewers. There would be no charge for the production of the TV spot. The radio spots, available in 3 levels, Gold, Silver and Bronze, would reach, at most 170,000 listeners.

He asked John Spach, who has extensive experience in the advertising industry, to present his views. John Spach observed that the WRAL TV Viewers are a much different audience than the listeners to these 2 radio stations. The TV viewers tend to be families, with children present. The radio listeners of these 2 stations, especially the AM station, tend to be much older men without children present. He recommends that we go with the TV medium and that WRAL be asked if they would give us a price for their affiliated radio station. The Board, following a short discussion, chose the TV advertisement medium.

John Spach said that we would write the script and provide high resolution images of our own layouts, those from our last show. The images should show running trains, full scenery and the Lego layout. He also recommend that we, on our letterhead, send to the ‘events editors’ of the local print and other media outlets a notice about the show which should also mention that we are child oriented and are a 501(c)(3).

Arthur (AB) Boone suggested that we give out stickers and hats to the children at the show. AB asked if we could contact the ‘World’s Greatest Hobby’ show organizer and ask them if they had fliers or stickers we could distribute. John asked John Ragan for the club’s emblem in as high a resolution format as possible and he will try to get us a quote for stickers.

Walter Magazine

We are being featured in the September issue. John Ragan was interviewed by telephone earlier that day. Over the next several days he would like to have several volunteers for phone interviews. John Spach suggested asking them if they would give us space for a short advertisement.

Their creative director was at the clubhouse this past Friday. 18 members we on hand. An added bonus was that WRAL was videoing a short spot about the photographer which was on that day’s 4 PM news. The club was on screen for a few seconds.

Large O and Standard scale donation

We recently received a large O and Standard scale donation. Because of their value there is a question as to whether we sell them at show or by other means. George Lasley described the donation and its overall condition. He noted that

we have made no attempt to determine whether they still work and would be sold 'as is'.

One of the Standard gauge items is a 4-4-2 with a damaged cab side and some zinc rot that was manufactured between 1920 and 1923. He estimates that, although it is in fair to good condition, it is the most valuable piece of the donation.

There is also a box of standard gauge track and turnouts which are in excellent condition. There is a per-war Lionel box with a 1952 set that has a non-set car. He noted that is normal for that time as dealers would often swap cars for a buyer.

There are several Bing clockwork items, some 2 rail O Gauge and standard Gauge track.

Based upon a 1980's Greenberg book he estimates the value, at that time, to be approximately \$2,600.

There was a discussion as to whether or not to bring the items to the show. The concern being that any handling will affect the paint. It was agreed that we need to have them there to attract an impulse buyer but need to keep them out of easy reach. John Spach suggested a sign such as 'You handle me, you break me, you pay for me and, you own me.' It was noted that the Mebane club has a 'show' after ours and would be a good sales venue. If these sales approaches don't work we will consider going to a professional seller/auction house.

We have also received some high quality audio equipment (2 - Onyko Audio/Visual Receivers) and a DVD player from our latest O Gauge donor. If they can't be sold at the Show we will consider selling them through Craig's List.

Open House

John Ragan reminded the Board that our 2 Open House events will be on Saturday, August 19th, and Saturday, October 21st. The Membership will meet at the clubhouse at 9 AM for last minute cleaning and setup. The NC Garden Railroad Club will hold their monthly meeting during our Open house. We expect 20 of their members to be here.

New Business

We will be cleaning the 2 outside storage room following the Wednesday breakfasts in September. It was decided to bring some of the salvaged O Ga.tables, measuring 37 ½" x 81 ½", to the show and attempt to sell them for \$50 each. Each table includes folding, banquet style, legs.

The next Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, August 17, 2017, at 7:00 PM.

September's Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 5, 2017**, at 7:00 PM.

Tom Magnani's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by John Ragan at 8:20 PM.

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/

