

The

Whistle



Post

Official Newsletter of the

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

1615 Old Louisburg Rd Raleigh, NC 27604

Phone: 919-400-5570

Next Meeting's Topic

the inside and exit via the O-Scale room and the door will lock behind you

Under the Crown Sheet by Clif Kelly

As summer is drawing to a close we continue to enjoy family activities with the Club even as the commencement of school is in sight. In this issue of the Whistle Post I'm pleased to bring to you a report on recent Club activities and an update to events as planning unfolds in support of the Fall Show, 2-4 November 2018.

A special meeting was convened at the home of Mike Johns on Thursday, July 26 th for the purpose of exploring the feasibility of setting up a Trust Fund for the Club. The recommendations from that meeting will be shared by George Lasley at the Membership meeting on August 16 th .

The family outing at the New Hope Valley Railroad, Bonsel, on Saturday, July 28 th was a big success. Twenty-eight (28) club and family members enjoyed beautiful sunshine, warm temperatures and an hour ride on the local rail line into Chatham County and back. Our Scott Gagnon made arrangements for reduced ticket prices, a dedicated coach car for our enjoyment (draped with the Club banner) and two scoops of ice cream to top it all off. Hot dogs and cold beverages were made available afterwards to all as participants toured the many train car exhibits from yesteryear and observed an operating large G-scale layout sponsored by the Bonsel Garden Train Club. Thanks again to Scott.

Please keep in mind that the 34 th annual Club Train Show is coming up November 2 nd -4 th at the Raleigh Fairgrounds. Mark your calendars for this weekend event. Volunteers are needed for all aspects of the show. Please plan to attend and support your train club. George Lasley will bring all up to date at the Membership meeting on August 16 th . Please plan to attend.

In addition, the Club continues to seek members to sign up for various subcommittee assignments. Share your talents and experiences for the betterment of the Club. See Mike Johns or his representative at the Membership Meeting to sign up for subcommittee opportunities.

A standing invitation is made to all Club members for breakfast every Wednesday morning at 9 am at Big Ed's Restaurant, located at Quail Corners Shopping Center (Raleigh) at the intersection of Millbrook and Falls of the Neuse Roads. The street address is 5009 Falls of the Neuse Road.

Following breakfast, club members make the short drive to the clubhouse to run trains, work on projects or otherwise socialize for a few hours. All are welcome.

As a helpful reminder Club members are advised to continue to do their part to help keep the Club clean and at its best. Liquids from beverage cups should be disposed of properly before being tossed into a trash can, and soda cans rinsed before deposited to the recycling receptacle.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and response.

Our next Membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 16 th at 7 pm at the clubhouse.

Everyone is encouraged to attend to catch up on all the news and happenings. An exciting program will be conducted following the meeting.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 10 th , at 7 pm at the clubhouse. This is a change from the normal scheduled meeting date due to the Labor Day Holiday on September 3rd.

All are invited to attend both meetings.

Until next month happy railroading.

Minutes of the Membership Meeting

President Clif Kelly called the Membership meeting of Thursday, July 19, 2018 to order at 7:00 pm.

Secretary Tom Magnani recorded the Minutes and called the Roll.

Board members present: Michael Johns, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly and Tom Magnani.

Members present were: Doug Alumbaugh, Arthur Boone, Richard Calfee, Jake Forbes, Scott Gagnon, Donald Hunsicker, Joe Johnston, John Kuchnia, Ted Leonard, Collin Martinko, Jim Murrell, John Ragan, John Spach, Richard Walz and Jay Wilson.

Recognition of New Members/Visitors

Our guests were: Jim Frederici, (This is his 2nd meeting.) Bill Hanses, (This is his 1st meeting.) and Bryan Parrish (This is his 1st meeting.) and his Dad, Daaron.

Bill Hanses introduced himself. He has recently retired and moved from Detroit. This is his first Railroad Club. His interest is in 3 rail O Gauge.

Bryan Parrish introduced himself. His interests are in HO in the Pennsylvania and Amtrak. He has a Doodlebug and a GG-1.

Treasurer's Report

Clif reported that the Treasurer's report is unchanged from that of July's Board Meeting when it had been approved by the Board.

Report on Closeout to Märklin Donation

John Ragan reported that the Märklin donation has been received by TrainZ, the auction house, is being inventoried. Pending everything being satisfactory, we expect a check in the near term. He thanked Mike Johns, Mike Keelean, John Kuchnia and Tom Magnani for their effort in sorting and cataloging the entire donation

Update on November Show

John Ragan reported that the table sales are ongoing with approximately 100 tables sold to date. Clif reminded the meeting that the Show begins with setup on Friday, November 2nd. The actual show is Saturday, November 3rd and Sunday, November 4th. Friday is basically 8 AM - 9 PM with a Pizza dinner for all members who have worked the day. Saturday is 8 - 5. Sunday is 8 - closing again with a Pizza dinner for all members who have worked the day.

John reported that he has been playing 'phone tag' with the WRAL representative and is trying to get answers, because of the mid-term elections, as to whether we can be assured as to time slots and prices for the week prior to the show. That is also the week prior to the elections.

We will also run advertisements in the News & Observer. They are not planning to use Carolina Parent as neither he, nor George Lasley, found that the cost covered the associated ticket sales. We will advertise on the Web and on Facebook.

Clif reported that this weekend is a Homecoming weekend and that he did not know whether it was going to be an afternoon or an evening game.

Bill Hanses reported that that weekend is also the weekend of the Lionel Collectors Club of America, LCCA, factory sale.

Clif Kelly reported that the 2019 'Spring into Trains' show will be Saturday, May 4th and Sunday, May 5th, 2019 with a half day of setup on Friday, May 3rd. It will be in the Kerr Scott building as it was this past May.

Report on the Jun 23rd Open House

Clif Kelly reported that he has received 10 Membership Applications from our Open House. He thanked Bill and Mary Lou Ferguson for their work in organizing the day's refreshments. They had also set up a Thomas set for young children that was greatly appreciated and well used. Mike Johns thanked all the members for their support and demonstration of our various layouts.

Club Trip to New Hope Valley Railroad

Clif Kelly emphasized that the club is a family friendly club and that one of our goals is to have club events that will attract the entire family and thanked Scott Gagnon for organizing it and making the arrangements. Scott described the Club trip to the New Hope Valley Railroad which is scheduled for Saturday, July 28th. It coincides with one of their Brew & Choo weekends and the price of admission includes 2 scoops of

ice cream for each ticket holder. He has arranged for the club to have a discount on the 11 AM ride which will also get us the coolest part of the day.

The New Hope Valley Railroad's web site is: www.triangletrains.com. Our Promo Code is NRVNRC.

Tom Magnani will resend the notice club trip to the new applicants.

Scott Gagnon asked the Club members to support the Garden Club's G Scale layout during the 10 days of the State Fair. It provides an opportunity to both increase the public's awareness of our hobby and of our club but is also an excellent location to hand out flyers for our fall show which immediately follows the Fair.

Availability of Sub-Committee Assignments

Michael Johns presented an organizational chart that he had developed to provide structure to the Club's organization while providing an opportunity for all members to participate. He passed the chart around to the membership and asked for members to volunteer in one or more of the committees. A copy of the chart is attached to these minutes.

Need for Club Endowment

Michael Johns presented his reasoning and plans for expanding upon the Club's existing \$5,000 endowment. Successful organizations have endowments that provide the financial ability, once the endowment has reached a reasonable size, to ensure their long term financial security and to eventually fund some their operations.

He would like for each of our members to have a will which can provide a legally recognized organization of their estate for their survivors. If there is no family member with an interest in model railroading he would like for the member's will to designate this club as the recipient of their models, layout(s) and related equipment. Furthermore, he would like for the will to designate some amount, either a fixed amount or a percentage of the estate, to be donated to the Club's endowment fund.

Once the committee is up and running they will visit the club's membership to discuss the Club being named in the member's will.

To begin the effort he is convening a meeting at his house on Thursday, July 26th, at 7:30 PM. He asked that Bill Ferguson, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Tom Magnani and Ethan Quiram attend the meeting.

New Business

John Ragan discussed an email invitation he received from Jeffery Kass to be a part of The Bull City Robotic Rodeo. It is a wild west themed Steampunk event that will be held February 1-3, 2019 at The Durham Convention Center. We were invited to set up a train display and asked to have a few members sit on panel discussions about train history and/or railroad model making. The opinion of most of the Board and some of the more experienced members is that this event is mainly a costume/clothes event and

that most of the attendees . Clif Kelly will contact Mr. Kass to learn more about the robotics part of the event as well as the railroad panel.

The event's site is: www.festivaloflegends.com/roboticrodeo

John Kuchnia stated that he realized that the only major gauge that the club does not have is S, 1:64. He would like to have a simple loop of S Gauge to attract additional modelers. He would construct it in the O Gauge room.

Tom Magnani summarized a one day Trauma First Aid course he had taken and described a strap loop he had been taught to use to move an individual. He thinks it would be useful for the Club to have if it is ever necessary to move a medically disabled member from a tight space. He will provide a safety presentation for our November Membership Meeting.

Clif Kelly asked for members to volunteer for Membership meeting programs for our future meetings.

Evening Program

Tonight's program will be "T TRAK Layouts" by Joe Johnston which will commence 10 minutes following the adjournment of tonight's meeting.

Next Meetings

September's Board meeting will be on Monday, September 10, 2018, at 7:00 PM.

The next Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, August 16, 2018, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

John Ragan's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Doug Alumbaugh at 8:06 PM

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors

Michael Johns called the meeting of August 6, 2018 to order at 6:57 PM.

Secretary Tom Magnani recorded the Minutes and called the Roll.

Board members present: Bill Ferguson, Michael Johns, Tom Magnani, Ethan Quiram and Steve Wills.

Members present: John Kuchnia, George Lasley and John Ragan.

Guest: Donald Hunsicker for his 4th visit.

Recognition of Visitors

There were no new visitors at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Wills reported that our total assets are, as of the end of July, are approximately \$24,369 as compared with \$13,390 a year ago. Most of our \$5,000 Community Grant from the Lenovo Next Generation Hope Fund of Triangle Community Foundation has

not been spent. Tom Magnani reported that he had held up purchase of an HVAC unit so that the O gauge layout crew could complete the construction of their layout.

Steve needs for the Club's Ways and Means Committee to assist Bernie Dawson and Jay Wilson in reviewing our Financial books for the past several years. (That Committee cannot have any Board members as one of its members.) He also wants each of the people who are responsible for the inventory segments to keep the descriptions simple and concise. If the materials are not being held for club use they should be considered for sale at one of our shows.

Clif Kelly, George Lasley, John Ragan and Steve Wills are to meet with our landlord, Tom Fisher, to exercise the option in our lease to extend it for another 3 years and to negotiate a further extension.

Update on November Show

George Lasley provided an update on the upcoming November show. He reported that he has commitments for 150 - 155 tables; about where they were last year at this time.

John Ragan reported that he has contacted the News & Observer, N&O, and that he intends to reuse last year's copy with changes for the date. He has yet to obtain a quote from WRAL.

He had told Carolina Parent that we would not be advertising with them this year and they mentioned that this is their 30th year and that this September they are doing a special in which they are offering their readers a chance to receive gifts from their advertisers. The gifts, to be donated, would have a face value on the order of \$50. In exchange, we would obtain an extra month, September, of advertising in Carolina Parent. In the process of discussing placing the advertisement John was informed of a requirement of 300 dpi (dots per inch) which, although the available photographs are high resolution, they do not meet this specification. John and Donald Hunsicker will work to resolve this.

Report to Club Trip to New Hope Valley for Saturday, July 28th

Michael Johns thanked Scott Gagnon for organizing this Club event. He was impressed by the numbers of family members, children, spouses and grandchildren from our Club who were there. He estimated that there were almost 30 people in total. For many of us, this was a first time there.

Disposition of the Märklin Donation

John Ragan reported that he has not heard from TrainZ and will contact them to confirm that everything arrived.

Report on Sign Up for Sub-Committee Assignments

Michael Johns distributed copies of his Organizational Chart and will provide Tom Magnani with a list of volunteers that can be distributed to the membership. He will approach members as the opportunity arises

Report on Meeting to Establish a Club Endowment

Michael Johns presented his concept for creating an endowment for the club using the Flip Charts he developed for the July 26th meeting at his house. The basis for creating an endowment is to provide for the Club's long term good. His goal is to have the endowment become large enough over time to generate enough funds to cover a substantial portion of our ongoing expenses. It would never replace our dues.

He plans to develop an "Expectancy Book" which would list promised and committed gifts that would be used to record anticipated willed/codiciled donations. In all of these individual plans it is absolutely necessary for the spouse be completely on board, both to avoid family surprises and because, statistically, the wife usually outlives the husband.

The meeting went well. We originally began with an endowment of \$5,000 from a single gift. The meeting, along with an unsolicited donation by a member, has raised 'here and now' donations of approximately \$4,500. His goal for this round of fund raising is to bring our endowment to \$15,000. He also wants to introduce the membership to the concept of including the club in their wills. Anything from as simple as the family knowing, and being authorized, to donate the member's model trains to the Club. His eventual, long term the goal, would be for the endowment to generate enough income to cover our rent and operating expenses.

Don Hunsicker asked that our efforts include a Living Trust which does allow for endowments.

[As I was unfamiliar with this instrument in my capacity as Secretary I did some web research for the sake of clarity. Specifically, the difference between a living trust and a last will is that a living trust (sometimes called an "inter vivos" or "revocable" trust) is a written legal document through which your assets are placed into a trust for your benefit during your lifetime and then transferred to designated beneficiaries at your death by your chosen representative, called a "successor trustee." On the other hand, a will is a written legal document with a plan of distribution of your assets upon your death. Your executor, as named in the will, oversees this process, and notably, nothing in your will takes effect until after you die.]

Maintaining Club Appearance and Cleanliness

Tom Magnani asked that the membership remember to drain coffee cups, soda cups, cans and bottles before throwing them in the trash. All of the clubhouse trash is disposed of by members who consolidate the trash and carry it home for disposal. He will develop signage to be placed above each of the trash receptacles.

Tom reported that the August 2nd transformer replacement and building power outage did not happen due to a guy wire blocking access to the transformer. He thanked Richard Calfee for being on site at 7:35 that morning and locking up once the Pike Electric crew left 2 hours later. A new date is unknown at this time.

Several members noted that our refrigerator is not sealing itself well and is iced up again since the June 23rd Open House. Tom Magnani's motion to approve Steve Wills

to expend up to \$200 to purchase a new mini-refrigerator was seconded by Bill Ferguson and unanimously approved.

Discussion for Program Volunteers/Ideas/Presentations for Future Membership Meetings

George Lasley will provide a slide show for the August Membership meeting.

Scott Gagnon will provide a slide show about his vacation on the Trans-Canadian Railway for the September Membership meeting.

Clif Kelly will provide a slide show about his trip on the Alaska Railway for October's Membership meeting.

Tom Magnani will present a short talk on physical safety and basic first aid.

New business.

Ethan Quiram stated that he realized that he will need to talk with his firm's compliance office to obtain permission to be on our Board because the Board considers and votes on investment decisions and on various expenditures and grant requests.

George Lasley asked for a donation sheet to give to the donor of some S gauge equipment.

Ethan Quiram reported that there are several HO locomotives that are inoperable and discourage visitors and new members when they fail to run. There was a discussion about the most cost effective means to repair various locomotives with some manufacturers offering a repair/replace service for a reasonable flat fee. Ethan will compile a list of troublesome rolling stock for further evaluation. George Lasley suggested that the ones that do not qualify for repair be sold at the Show on an 'as is' basis.

Ethan reported that Andrew Treffer has left the area; having moved to South Carolina. John Ragan reported that Lionel is closing their Factory sales store from their factory in Concord North Carolina to the Concord Mills Outlet Mall.

Steve Wills asked Tom Magnani to send dues notices to those members who are in arrears.

Upcoming Meetings

September's Board meeting will be on Monday, September 10, 2018, at 7:00 PM.

The next Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, September 20, 2018, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

Tom Magnani's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Bill Ferguson at 8:18 PM.

Future Events

The club is open on Saturdays at 10 am. and Sundays at 1 pm.

Also, we meet for Breakfast on Wednesdays at [Big Ed's North](#) at 9 am, then go to the club.

All events at the club site, 1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh, NC 27604

For details on how to arrive at the club, check out our website: <http://www.nrvclub.net>

Notes from the Webmaster and the Editor

Please send [Patrick Bradley](#) recent photos of our club activities, so he can update our [website](#).

Please send articles to Joe at nrvmrrc@gmail.com by the Thursday 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, if you don't have a key.

Neat Links

NRV Whistle Post
The Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club, Inc.
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First Class

NEXT MEETING - Thursday, August 16th, 2018 at 7:00 pm.
Board of Governors, September 10th at 7:00 pm.
LOCATION: 1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh, NC 2760

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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