

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

Scott Gagnon will speak on on the Canadian Railroad.

Under the Crown Sheet by Clif Kelly

At this writing we are seeing the effects of Hurricane Florence come to a final conclusion. North Carolina has endured high winds and record levels of rain and flooding for several days. The Triangle area has generally escaped widespread damage and loss of life. We hope our Club members and families both near and far are safe and have not sustained serious property damages.

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.

The O Scale under the able leadership of Michael Keelean and Shelton Bass and others has been transformed during the recent month. More track, switches, mountains and an innovative layout design have contributed to this new and exciting look. Please stop by and see for yourself.

In addition, the Board of Governors has selected Saturday, November 17th as the date for the next Open House. We were looking for the best opportunity to show off the Club to interested visitors and followup on enthusiasm generated from the annual Show.

Please keep in mind that the 34th annual Club Train Show is coming up November 2nd-4th at the Raleigh Fairgrounds. Mark your calendars for this weekend event. Volunteers are needed for all aspects of the show. With less than 60 days before this event George Lasley will bring all up to date at the Membership meeting on September 20th. Please plan to attend.

In addition, the Club continues to seek members to sign up for various subcommittee assignments. Share your talents and experiences with 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 and interested visitors 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.

The Membership meeting is coming up on Thursday, September 20th at 7 pm at the Clubhouse. Everyone is encouraged to attend to catch up on all the news and happenings. Following the business meeting an exciting program will be given by Scott Gagnon on the Canadian Railroad.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 1st, at 7 pm at the Clubhouse.

We look forward to seeing all.

Minutes of the Membership Meeting

Tom Magnani called the Membership meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Secretary Tom Magnani recorded the Minutes and called the Roll.

Board members present: Bill Ferguson, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly and Tom Magnani.

Members present were: Doug Alumbaugh, Shelton Bass, Patrick Bradley, Richard Calfee, Dan Egy, Scott Hall, John Kuchnia, George Lasley, Ted Leonard, Collin Martinko, John Ragan, Henry Shirley, John Spach, Richard Walz and Jay Wilson.

Recognition of New Members/Visitors

Our guests were: Stephanie Alumbaugh, Bob Bradley, Preston Cudd (His 1st meeting.), Bill Hanses (His 6th Meeting visit including past Wednesday meetings.), Rod Martinko, Bryan Parrish and his dad, Daaron, George Sawyer (His 2nd Meeting visit including past Wednesday meetings.) and, Tyler Wolfe (His 4th Meeting visit including past Wednesday meetings.) and his mother, Grace.

Preston Cudd introduced himself. He has been in Raleigh for years. He had been in HO for a long time. 2 years ago he found that Lego had trains and has since merged his overall interest in Lego with Lego's trains.

Membership Elections

Tom Magnani explained that most of the prospective members up for membership at this meeting had made their required attendance by being at our Wednesday morning breakfasts and/or working sessions. George Lasley's motion to suspend the rules to

vote to accept Bill Hanses and George Sawyer as Senior Members, Bryan Parrish as a Youth Member and Tyler Wolfe as a Sustaining Member of the Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club was seconded by Doug Alumbaugh and approved unanimously. It was noted that Jim Frederici was not in attendance and a vote on his joining may be taken at another meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Magnani reported that the Treasurer's report is unchanged from that of August's Board Meeting when it had been approved by the Board. He noted that we have not spent very much of our grant money as he has been waiting for the O Gauge group to finish their work on that layout before we tie up the vent wall side of the room installing an HVAC unit.

Update on November Show

George Lasley reported that the table sales are ongoing, and on track, with approximately 160 tables sold to date. He reminded the meeting that we need volunteers. 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.

There will be 3 Historical Societies at the show. The old NS, the ACL/SCL and the NW Historical society.

Mike Keelean asked as to the number and types of layouts that will be there. There will be Sipping & Switching, possibly a Club HO, Garden, our Lego, S, several N and, most likely, a 3 rail O Ga. by the Club.

Scott Hall asked if there was any synergy between the May show and this show. George answered that we have had some vendors from the May show express an interest and sign up but that they tend to be different vendors.

John reported that he is trying to get complete answers from the WRAL representative as to the time slots that our advertisements will run irrespective fo the mid-term election advertisements.

Report on the Club Trip to New Hope Valley

Tom Magnani thanked Scott Gagnon for organizing this Club event. We were all impressed by the numbers of family members, children, spouses and grandchildren from our Club who were there.

Report on Sign Up for Sub-Committee Assignments

Tom Magnani distributed the latest copy of Michael Johns' Organizational Chart. It had not been included with the August Whistle Post issue and he will distribute it by email.

Report on the Meeting to Establish Club Endowment

Tom Magnani reported on the meeting that Michael Johns held at his house to establish a club endowment. It was attended by Bill Ferguson, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Tom Magnani and went rather well with donations both made and committed.

Report on Closeout to Märklin Donation

John Ragan reported that he is waiting for the check for the Märklin donation from TrainZ, the auction house.

Maintaining Club Appearance and Cleanliness-Proper Disposal of Beverage Cups

Tom Magnani asked that everyone remove all liquids and ice from their drink containers and coffee cups prior to placing in our trash. All of our trash is taken home for disposal by various members and they need for the trash to be dry. Also, please remove all used food containers from the clubhouse so as not to encourage insects and mice.

He reminded the membership that all drinks, from bottled water to soft drinks, are \$0.50.

New Business

Scott Hall offered to provide a Membership Meeting presentation on basic model railroading electronics and soldering at one of the meetings in the new year.

Bill Hanses offered a donation of some O Ga. Videos and a specific video for O Ga. repairs.

George Lasley announced that Nick's Trains is going to hold its 1st Modeling Contest. The theme will be a flat car, in any gauge, with a 'space' related load. The load can be real or imaginary in any gauge from Z to G. Entrants will be judged in one of two age categories. Either 16 years and under or, over 16. The models must be a new build.

The model will be judged professionally along the NMRA's guidelines as well as by popular vote at Nick's booth at our show on Saturday, November 4th. The prizes will be gift certificates of \$100, \$50 and \$25. The entry forms are at the Clubhouse, by the front door, and at Nick's.

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

Bob Bradley announced that BrickUniverse will be held again at the Raleigh Convention Center on Saturday, March 9, 2019 and Sunday, March 10, 2019. It will be Robotics and Trains oriented. Setup will be on Friday March 8th.

George Lasley reported that 611 will be under steam on the Labor Day weekend at Spencer. He expects that once it operation on the museum grounds is completed it will be pulled from service as Amtrak has ended excursion runs and that the liability insurance requirements have become unmanageable.

John Ragan described a private sale of Atlas 2 Rail O Ga. and a small selection of HO equipment that he had been asked to post in the clubhouse. Photographs and an equipment list were available for viewing along with the sellers contact information. Scott Hall announced that SPARKcon will be from September 13 - 16, 2018 on Fayetteville Street, From Davie to Morgan streets, in front of the Capital Building in Raleigh.

George Lasley reported that one of China's major model railroad manufacturers has closed. In late July Affa Technology Ltd., a Hong Kong-based manufacturer of model trains, radio-controlled toys, scale cars, and other items, announced it had closed. Some of the model railroad manufacturers impacted by this news include American Z Line, Atlas Model Railroad Co., Bowser, ExactRail, Fox Valley Models, InterMountain Railway Co., Trainworx, and Wheels of Time. The closure will affect the locomotives and rolling stock that these manufacturers sell. It will not affect Atlas' track.

John Ragan announced the news that Lionel was closing its Factory Store in Concord, NC and moving it to the Concord Mills Shopping Mall in Concord, NC. Also, that Lionel has purchased the Mantua and Model Power lines to get back into HO.

Evening Program

Tonight's program will be Research and Bridge Building by George Lasley 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, September 20, 2018, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

John Ragan's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Henry Shirley at 7:36 PM.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors

Clif Kelly called the meeting of September 10, 2018 to order at 7:02 PM.

Secretary Tom Magnani recorded the Minutes and called the Roll.

Board members present: Bill Ferguson, Michael Johns, Clif Kelly and Tom Magnani

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

Recognition of Visitors

Our guests were: Robert Bradley, Trevor, Garrett (his son), Mrs. Elvira Brown and, Chris Diaz from Edward Jones.

Trevor Brown's primary interest is HO Steam with O and N as his other interests.

Garrett Brown's primary interest is N with HO as his other interest.

Chris Diaz from Edward Jones provided a brief summary of our account. While it is slightly down from its opening amount by about 1%. This is because, as a conservatively oriented investment, mainly in bonds, their face value has dropped as overall interest rates have risen. Experience has shown that they will catch up in the long term.

Steve Wills said that our accounts are now linked and he is able to transfer money from our checking account into our Endowment account.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Wills reported that our total assets, as of the end of August, are \$25,625.22 up from a month ago and considerably higher than a year ago.

He had to replace the Wi-Fi router and magicJack and there is a new access code. It is on the side of the Router. Tom Magnani will make some placards with the new code.

Disposition of the Märklin Donation

John Ragan announced that the check from TrainZ arrived at his home after he had left for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Clif Kelly's motion to approve the Minutes as published in the August Whistle Post was seconded by Michael Johns and approved unanimously.

Update on November Show

George Lasley provided an update on the upcoming November show. He reported that he has commitments for approximately 200 tables; about where they were last year at this time. He has the track plan for the Show's Sipping & Switching layout.

John Ragan reported on his discussions with WRAL. WRAL explained that they structure their longer, minute and a half (90 second) and 2 minute and a half (150 second) spots by bracketing one minute and two minute spots with 15 second spots at the beginning and end. It was recommended that we switch from 30 second spots to 15 spots that could be used as these leading and trailing filler spots. (It was noted that these are the spots that people see before they channel surf and see when they come back to the show they were watching.) We would get 50 spots per week and no charge for updating our advertisement. For another \$1,000 we will get a week of spots, 525 spots, on WRAL's live streaming service. They also offered to trade \$500 worth of show tickets for \$500 in advertising fees. It total, both the TV and live streaming spots with our giving them \$500 in tickets would cost us \$3,000.

Steve Wills provided a summary of our advertising costs for the 2017 show where we spent \$4,500.

Tom Magnani's motion to allot \$5,000 for advertising was seconded by Michael Johns and approved unanimously.

Steve Wills' proposal to accept the package, proposed by WRAL, of the TV Spots plus the Live Streaming Spots plus the offset of \$500 in show tickets was moved by John Ragan, seconded by Michael Johns and approved unanimously.

Report on Sign Up for Sub-Committee Assignments

Michael Johns asked Tom Magnani to distribute his latest copy of the Organizational Chart.

Steve Wills asked for a 3rd member to be added to the Ways & Means Committee to assist Bernie Dawson and Jay Wilson.

Report on the Progress to Establish a Club Endowment

Michael Johns presented the Flip Chart he developed to summarize why we should actively support the Club.

The chart is summarized below:

How I can help!

1. Annual Membership
2. Make a donation
3. Put us in your Estate/Will

Reasons

1. Strength \$
2. Operations \$
3. Legacy
4. Longevity
5. The Greater 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.

He has received 3 donations so far. We are on our way towards \$20,000. He will be visiting members to ask that each of us consider including the NRV in their estate. The simplest thing is to will one's shares and to be sure several family members know how to contact us. Next easiest is for us to be included as a gift. The preferred is to have this all done through a will or similar vehicle.

Discussion and Selection of Date for Fall Open House

Clif Kelly initiated a discussion of a date for Fall Open House. After some discussion it was decided to hold it after the Fall Show as it would present an opportunity to showcase the club to people who will have learned about us from the show. The date of Saturday, November 17th was arrived at as it afforded us some time in which to clean the clubhouse after the show and to avail ourselves of the November Membership

Meeting's attendance for further housekeeping. Tom Magnani's motion to hold the Fall Open House on Saturday, November 17th, was seconded by Mike Keelean and approved unanimously.

Discussion of Plans to Update/Renew Club Lease with Landlord

Clif Kelly reported on his preliminary discussion with our landlord, Tom Fisher. Mr. Fisher will forward the materials that he has to Clif. Clif will set up a date to meet with him. Clif asked that, if possible, George Lasley and John Ragan join him when he meets with Mr. Fisher.

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

There was a general discussion about outings that might attract a large number of members and North Carolina Museum of Transportation, the Spencer Shops, was the agreed upon choice. It was decided to combine it with a trip by train. Currently the train trip cost is \$76, round-trip, from Raleigh. It was decided to ask the Membership to consider this for a mid-January outing.

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

Michael Keelean will provide instruction on how to turn on and turn off our various layouts for the October Meeting. This is a skill we all need so that we can fully demonstrate our Club's capabilities to visitors.

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

New business.

George Lasley announced that Nick's Trains is going to hold its 1st Modeling Contest. The theme will be a flat car, in any gauge, with a 'space' related load. The load can be real or imaginary in any gauge from Z to G. Entrants will be judged in one of two age categories. Either 16 years and under or, over 16. The models must be a new build.

The model will be judged professionally along the NMRA's guidelines as well as by popular vote at Nick's booth at our show on Saturday, November 4th. The prizes will be gift certificates of \$100, \$50 and \$25. The entry forms are at the Clubhouse, by the front door, and at Nick's.

Michael Johns reported that the Chesapeake Bay and Western Model Railroad Club has expressed an interest in visiting our club. (They had hosted a visit by our members last year.) Their interest is primarily HO but it would be an opportunity to show off all of our layouts. Tentatively, it was decided to ask if sometime in January or February would work for them.

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

In anticipation of the coming storm Tom Magnani was asked to be ready to announce the Clubhouse's closing on Saturday.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, September 20, 2018, at 7:00 PM. October's Board meeting will be on Monday, October 1, 2018, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

Steve Wills' motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Michael Keelean 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.
PO Box 19573
Raleigh, NC 27619-9573

First Class

NEXT MEETING - Thursday, September 20th, 2018 at 7:00 pm.
Board of Governors, October 1s at 7:00 pm.
LOCATION: 1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh, NC 2760

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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