

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

Clif Kean will give an exciting program featuring the Alaskan Railway passenger service.

Under the Crown Sheet by Clif Kelly

With 2018 drawing to a close the year has been very eventful with the Club participating in numerous activities.

The Club Open House conducted on Saturday, November 17th was met with great public appeal with 23 visitors and family members responding to the occasion. I wish to extend my appreciation for a great turnout of Club members serving to greet guests, operate the many layouts and generally conveying a welcoming atmosphere to all who attended. This event may well net two or three potential new members.

George Lasley and John Ragan were pleased to report that the club's participation in the TCA Show (Train Collectors Assoc) conducted 1-2 December (Saturday and Sunday) at the Fairgrounds was a success. The Club table netted in excess of \$1000.00 and provided as opportunity to advertise the Spring Show scheduled for May 4-5th, 2019, at the Scott Building, State Fairgrounds. Thanks are extended as well to Steve Wills, Mike Keelean, Ethan Quiram and others for their setup and operations of the LEGOs and HO layouts.

Scott Gagnon has reported that the "USO Holiday in the Hangar" at the Raleigh Durham Airport on Saturday, December 8th, was a big success and a good example of the Club's outreach to the community. Numerous military families participating in the event enjoyed operations of the LEGOs and HO layouts. The event was capped off by a surprise helicopter arrival from Santa Clause.

Finally I wish to express the Club's genuine appreciation to Bill and Mary Lou Ferguson for opening their home to the membership on Sunday, December 16th for a Christmas Gathering featuring soup, salad, homemade desserts and punch. The well

attended event of club members and spouses has become an annual treat at this time of year. Again, thanks for the generous hospitality shared by the Fergusons.

The Membership Meeting is coming up on Thursday, November 20th at 7 pm at the Clubhouse. Everyone is encouraged to attend to catch up on all the news and happenings. The meeting will feature a discussion for reutilization of the lobby area spaces and highlight other upcoming events planned for 2019. Following the business activities an exciting program featuring the Alaskan Railway passenger service will be given by Clif Kelly.

As a remainder a standing invitation is made to the membership and interested visitors for breakfast every Wednesday morning at 9:00 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 next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 7th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse.

The next Membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse.

As we enter this Holiday Season make us all truly thankful for all the blessings we enjoy with family and friends.

Minutes of the Membership Meeting

Clif Kelly called the Membership meeting of Thursday, November 15, 2018 to order at 7:00 PM.

Bill Hanes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Magnani recorded the Minutes and called the Roll.

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

Members present were: Ron Abraham, Garrett Brown, Trevor Brown, Dan Egy, Jake Forbes, Scott Gagnon, Scott Hall, Bill Hanes, Donald Hunsicker, Fred Krauss, George Lasley, Ted Leonard, Collin Martinko, Bryan Parrish, John Ragan, Henry Shirley and John Spach.

Recognition of New Members/Visitors

Our guests were: Elvira Brown, Paul Caparatta (His 5th meeting.), Preston Cudd (His 4th meeting.), MaryLou Ferguson, Rod Martinko and Daaron Parrish.

Membership Committee

Mike Keelean, noting that both Paul Caparatta and Preston Cudd have more than met the attendance requirements for membership, proposed that they both be considered for membership. George Lasley's motion to suspend the membership initiation rules was seconded by Michael Johns and unanimously approved.

Mike Keelean welcomed the Brown family, Elvira, Garrett and Trevor, to their second Membership Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Clif Kelly reported that the Treasurer's report is in relatively good shape with the Treasury basically unchanged from last month.

Report on November Show

George Lasley reported that our paid attendance was 1740 with an additional estimated 600 - 800 children. We had an additional 163 return attendees who had bought tickets on Saturday and returned on Sunday.

He thanked all those Club members who helped with the loading, setting up on Friday, working over the weekend and then the taking down of what remained on Sunday afternoon and evening. He left at 9:45 when the last of the vendors had finally loaded and left.

It will take a while for all the bills to clear. Tentatively it appears we cleared about \$3,000.

George reported that we had problems with the way in which WRAL ran, or didn't fully run, our agreed upon advertisements. Many of the ads that did run ran from 5 am to 6 am.

A major change coming is how we will be processing tickets after January 1, 2019. For various reasons the Fairgrounds will be handling all the ticket sales at next year's shows. They will handle credit cards. Much more information is needed before we can fully understand how we will be impacted. They will have a 10 cent printing charge for tickets, a ticket processing fee, no credit card fees, a \$15/hour charge for ticket takers and, TBD (to be determined). The club will be completely out of the ticketing process and will not need to handle ticket money. Our use of coupon will need to be evaluated going forward.

Mike Johns thanked George Lasley and John Ragan for all their work that went into running the show.

Preplanning for May Club Show

George Lasley reported that our next show will be the weekend of May 4th and 5th 2019 in the Scott Building. This show was expanded to 2 days partially as a result of some of the dealers specifically asking for a 2 day show to cover their costs. Our incremental cost for a 2nd day will be on the order of \$2,200. The only way we make money on these shows is due to the volunteer help of our members.

He and John Ragan will evaluate the effects of the new ticketing policy as the Fairgrounds staff answers their questions and provides a contract.

Club Participation in TCA Show 1-2 December

George Lasley briefly described the upcoming TCA (Train Collectors Association) Show for which he is assisting a friend in its running. That show begins with setup on Friday, November 30th. The actual show is Saturday, December 1st and Sunday, December 2nd. The Club will have a sales table and a LEGO Layout.

Fall Open House Set for November 17th

Clif Kelly reminded the membership that our Fall Open House is set for this Saturday, November 17th, from 10 AM to 4 PM. We need volunteers to run our layouts, greet guests and answer their questions. Our prior Open House netted us 3 or 4 new members. We need snacks. He asked the Membership to park towards the bottom of the hill.

Soup & Salad at the Ferguson's

Bill Ferguson reminded the Membership that he and his wife are hosting their annual Soup & Sald on Sunday, December 16th, from 4 - 6 PM. He asked attendees not to bring food. However, if you feel obligated to bring something, please bring canned food that they can donate to a local food bank. Tom Magnani is to send a reminder and directions to all.

Discussion of Lobby Utilization Plan

Mike Keelean distributed a copy of an email “Decorating Committee Question” that presented his proposal to make more pce available in the clubhouse lobby and Mary Ann Loss’ response. His goal at this meeting is to have everyone review the entire email discussion before we vote on a path forward at the December 20th Membership meeting. His motion to put a discussion and a vote on this matter on record and on the Agenda for the December 20th Membership meeting was seconded by Clif Kelly. Tom Magnani reminded the attendees that the overall goal is to keep the main room as neat and clean at all times as possible.

Further Topics for Discussion

Paul Caparatta presented his design of a carrier for coupled locomotives and tenders. He got to this design because he found that separating or connecting many of the locomotives and tenders involved repeatedly trying to mate the electrical connectors between them with not very good results.

The holder is composed of a length of plastic downspout with sections cut from plastic downspout couplings on each end. Inside the downspout is a cardboard sleeve which is lined with a thin foam, weather stripping, plastic. The locomotive and tender are then inserted into a standard newspaper plastic bag which acts as a bonnet to protect the model from the chemical effects of the foam.

Each of the end pieces has a cardboard end wall which is glued in place to act as a seal. These coupling pieces **ARE NOT** glued in place and will not prevent the contents from sliding out if tilted.

The plastic, PVC, downspout and couplings are best cut with a hacksaw or a razor saw. Scott Gagnon suggested using the cut off ‘insert’ end of coupling, with a cardboard end wall, as a way to avoid paying for 2 couplings per holder.

Interest was also expressed that larger sized downspouts might handle O Gauge models.

Scott Gagnon announced that this year’s ‘Holiday in the Hanger’ will be at RDU on Saturday, December 8th. He would like for the Club to bring the Lego layout and, space permitting, the HO Gauge Thomas Layout. Bill Ferguson’s motion for the Club to support ‘Holiday in the Hanger’ was seconded by Mike Keelean and unanimously approved.

Scott Hall will try to work out a mutually agreeable date for a Beginning Electronics workshop at one of our Membership meetings.

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

Evening Program

The presentation of Tonight’s Program will be about “Scratch Building with Styrene” by George Lasley and will commence 10 minutes following the meeting.

Next Meetings

November's Board meeting will be on Monday, December 3, 2018, at 7:00 PM.

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

Adjournment

Tom Magnani's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Mike Keelean at 8:04 PM.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors

Clif Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:57 PM.

Secretary Tom Magnani called the Roll. Tom Magnani and Donald Hunsicker recorded the Minutes

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

Members present: Scott Gagnon, Donald Hunsicker, George Lasley and John Ragan.

Recognition of Visitors

Our guests was Aidan Ledoux. (His Second Board Meeting.)

Treasurer's Report

Steve Wills reported that this month's Treasurer's report is not ready as he has not had time to work on it. At the end of October we had approximately \$18,390 vs approximately \$28,000 at the end of September. This was due to our payment of bills and the deposits from the show, which were made in November, not being recorded in October. This is our usual lowpoint in cash flow. It will take approximately another month for all the Show's money to settle out. What is clear is that we made a reasonable profit between the admissions and the Club's table.

He will move a \$100 donation, made by check and deposited in our checking account, to our endowment account.

Tom Magnani's motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was seconded by Clif Kelly and approved unanimously.

Interim Report on 3 - 4 November Show

George Lasley reported that there is no change from his prior report. The Fairgrounds has yet to submit the expected invoices. He has learned the name of the person with whom he needs to discuss the new ticketing procedure.

The N&O has sent an invoice for an additional \$860. The amount that we had prepaid for our advertisements this year was in line with that of prior years and George intends to escalate this matter if it is not dropped.

Report on Status of the Club's Open House on November 17, 2018

Clif Kelly reported that we had 23 individuals, some representing families, sign our guest book during our open house. His estimate is that we had a total of approximately 75 visitors including children. Mike Keelean reported that we had 5 applications with a reasonable chance of the Club gaining 2 - 3 new members. Clif thanked Mike Johns and Mike Keelean and all the club Members who helped with the Open House.

Report on Renewal of the Club Lease

Clif Kelly reported that he had sent the signed lease back to Tom Fisher, our landlord. Our rent has increased from \$1,000/month to \$1,200/month. From his conversations with Mr. Fisher he thinks that at the end of this lease, December 2020, there will be another rent increase. He is asking the Ways & Means Committee to begin a review of our dues structure with this in mind.

In response to several questions he stated that repeated attempts over the years to find a similar space with a similar lease duration have always been unsuccessful.

Report on Train Collectors' Show on 1-2 December 2018

John Ragan and George Lasley that attendance at the show reflected the lack of advertising. Saturday's attendance was 400. Sunday's was 100 before noon and then came to almost a halt. Many vendors either never set up on Sunday or left early on Sunday. The Club netted \$1091 from our sales table. John was cautiously optimistic about our May show. This is based in part on comments made by vendors at this show and their desire to have a 2 day show in the Spring.

Steve Wills reported that the Club's layouts, LEGO and HO, were well received. He thanked Mike Keelean for his set up off the LEGO Layout. Disassembly went smoothly. Steve reported that interest in our clubhouse was expressed by both vendors and the attendees.

Ethan Quiram thanked George Sawyer for his help in transporting the Club's HO layout to and from the show.

The 2019 TCA December Show will be on December 7th and 8th, 2019.

Participation in the "USO Holiday in the Hangar" at RDU, 8 December 2018

Scott Gagnon summarized the Holiday in the Hanger support set for December 8th. Tom Magnani will distribute the exact information, location and directions, by email. Mike Keelean and Steve Wills will bring the LEGO Layout. Bill Ferguson asked that we remember the Club brochures and the May Show Flyers.

Christmas Gathering with Bill and Mary Lou Ferguson, 2 - 4 PM, 16 December 2018

Bill Ferguson announced the Soup & Salad gathering at his home set for December 16th from 4 - 6 PM. Tom Magnani will distribute the exact information.

Discussion of New Monthly Club Rent - Ways and Means Committee

Mike Johns opened the discussion with the observation that our 'dues year' of June 1 to May 31 does not match our Rent year of January 1 to December 31 and that a dues

increase will always lag a rent increase. Steve Wills noted that our annual dues never matched our annual rent. We have always depended upon the Annual train show to cover the difference. Ideally, the dues would cover the rent and utilities. Mike said that another solution would be for us to grow to 50 senior members.

Discussion for Reutilization of Lobby Area Spaces - A Motion Proposed by Mike Keelean

Mike Keelean stated that his motion, made at November's Membership Meeting is open for modification during the December Membership Meeting. His goal is to keep the main room clean and open. We need to be far more proactive as to where we leave things. We all tend to use any flat surface as a shelf rather than put an object back in its proper storage place.

In response to a question about the state of the S Ga. layout it was noted that it is still a work in progress with construction rushed to support the recent Open House. The design goal is to change the scenery to match the seasons. Once it was up and running it was found that the trains on this layout are subject to derailment from the slightest jostling. After the Open House the track that was used developed shorts that required some disassembly to trace to missing paper insulation at the ties.

There was a discussion of developing standards for all new layout.

New Business

An old, outstanding, Safety Recall, on our radial arm saw. The problem is that if the blade catches the entire motor and blade are driven in the direction of the person using the saw. If possible, it needs to be fixed. If not it needs to be removed and junked.

A suggestion to have John Spach put in charge of our storage areas was approved unanimously.

A request/proposal to cut the locks on the tool room lockers was considered and deferred until an email describing the intention can be distributed and members given time to respond. Tom Magnani will distribute the proposal.

Next Open House - The date for the next Open House is **March 23, 2019**.

A motion by George Lasley to match contributions of up to \$500 for the Baptist Men's Hurricane Relief fund was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Don Hunsicker is to prepare a report on his trip to the Myrtle Beach Grand Strand Model Railroad club.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, December 20, 2018, at 7:00 PM. The presentation will be about the Alaskan Railroad by Clif Kell

January's Board meeting will be on Monday, January 7, 2019, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded at 8:50 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, December 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm.
Board of Governors, Monday, January 7, 2019 at 7:00 pm.
LOCATION: 1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh, NC 2760**

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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