

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

Ehan Quiram will make a slide presentation on discussion of various steam engines, "It's Not a Big Boy."

Under the Crown Sheet by Clif Kelly

As we move into the new year, on February 2nd (Groundhog Day), Punxsutawney Phil of the same township name in Pennsylvania, at last did not see his shadow, ushering in the belief that spring will indeed arrive six weeks early this year. This is in keeping with plans made to date of activities sponsored by the Neuse River Valley Model RR Club. Please note these events and dates: LEGO's Show at the Raleigh Convention Center, 9-10 March; Club Spring Open House 23 March, 10-4:00 pm; and the Club Spring Show at the Scott Building, State Fairgrounds, 4-5 May, 9-5:00 pm both days. These events are eagerly awaited and will require enthusiastic membership participation and support to ensure the very best outcome.

The Membership Meeting is scheduled for this coming Thursday, February 21st at 7:00 pm at the Club House at 1615 Old Louisburg Road in Raleigh. Everyone is encouraged to attend to catch up on all the news and happenings. Of special interest the Subcommittee on "Best Use/Reutilization of Lobby Areas and Other Common Spaces" will report its recommendations to the membership for a final up/down vote.

In addition the Subcommittee on "Ways and Means" will also present its findings to date concerning a review of the dues structure. This review of membership dues has been precipitated by an increase in monthly rental fees paid to the Club's Landlord.

The Club election process for an officer slate for Fiscal Year 2020 (1 June 2019 thru 31 May 2020) will commence this month with the opening of nominations. If you are interested in an officer position yourself or wish to nominate a senior member in good standing please identify your interests. The three Club At-large Officers will be identifying club members about their interests. Nominations for officer positions will close at the April Membership Meeting. Election of Officers will be conducted in May.

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, March 4th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse.

The next Membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse.

Please plan to attend Thursday as we look forward to shared camaraderie and working together to make 2019 a banner year for Club accomplishments.

Minutes of the Membership Meeting

President Clif Kelly call the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

George Lasley lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Magnani took the Minutes and called the roll:

Board Members present were: Michael Johns, Michael Keelean, Clif Kelly, Tom Magnani and Ethan Quiram.

Members present were: Ron Abraham, Shelton Bass, Arthur Boone, Richard Calfee, Preston Cudd, Bernie Dawson, Dan Egy, Bill Hanses, Joe Johnston, Fred Krauss, John Kuchnia, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, Adin Ledoux, Ted Leonard, Collin Martinko, Jim Murrell, Bryan Parrish, Henry Shirley, John Spach and Richard Walz.

Recognition of New Members/Visitors

Visitors: Wayne Atkin, Sarah Abraham, Elvira Brown, Garrett Brown, Trevor Brown, and Ron Wertenberg.

Ron Wertenberg introduced himself. He models in HO and is new to DCC and hopes to learn about DCC from the Club.

Mike Keelean's motion to promote Garrett Brown to Probationary Membership and Trevor Brown to Probationary Youth Membership was facilitated by George Lasley's motion to suspend the membership rules. The motions were seconded by Ethan Quiram and approved unanimously.

Treasurer 's Report

Clif Kelly summarized the Treasurers Report that Steve Willis had provided at the January meeting as Steve was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Steve had been able to complete the books for both November 2018 and December 2018. We have approximately \$4,000 at the end of 2018 than we had at the end of 2017.

Steve asked that the chair person for each layout provide him with an inventory, a count of different types of Club rolling stock and Club Buildings that are designated for each layout. Members property is not to be included. Items that are not being used for the layouts are to be inventoried separately and placed in storage for sale at our shows or to our members.

George Lasley asked for donation to support the hurricane relief work in the eastern part of the state. The Club will match up to \$500 of the members' donations for this effort. The money will be given to the Baptist Men's Hurricane Relief Fund.

Report on November Club Show

George Lasley reported that we cleared \$5,488 from both our November trains how and from our table at the December TCA show. We paid approximately \$16,000 to the

State Fairgrounds for the building, tables and Security. Advertising issues have been resolved by George Lasley and John Ragan to the Board's satisfaction.

At the January Board meeting we closed the book on the 2018 Fall Show and opened the books on the Spring 2019 show. He is planning to sell 150 tables for this show. Set up will begin at about 2 PM on Friday, May 3rd with the show running both Saturday and Sunday of that weekend. The dealers at last May's show and at subsequent venues he has visited had asked for a 2 day show and, after some analysis he and John Ragan decided to have a 2 day show. The name of the show is 'Spring Into Trains'.

There will be a small N scale, a N scale table top layout and a small S Gauge layout. There will be no free pizza at this show for either the vendors or the volunteers.

Review of Election Process and Voting Procedures for May Officer Elections

George Lasley described the composition of the Club's Board. We have a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and 3 At-large Members. All of the Officers are up for election every year as well as 1 of the 3 At-large Members. 2 of the 3 At-large Members serve rotating terms of 3 years each so that there is always some overlap and continuity.

The 3 At-large Members are the Club's Nominating Committee. We need for the incoming Board members to be able to be at every Board meeting as it is the Board who directs and oversees the Club. Mike Johns noted that the Board members serve for the greater good of the club.

If there is only one nominee for each position, we will not need to go to written ballots.

Upcoming Events

Clif Kelly presented the Club's upcoming events for the next few months. They are:

- a. LEGO's Show at Raleigh Convention Center on 9-10 March. Tickets will be available for those who work at the Club table.
- b. Club Spring Open House on Saturday 23 March, 10-4:00 pm. Clean up will be the preceding Wednesday morning and Thursday evening.
- c. Spring Show at Scott Building, State Fairgrounds 4-5 May. Set up will be on Friday, 3 May, beginning at 2 pm.

Report on Findings of Subcommittee on "Best Use/Reutilization of Lobby Areas and Other Common Spaces"

John Spach handed out copies of the building Utilization plan. The Subcommittee would like Members' last comments by February 2nd in order that the Board can have an up or down vote at their meeting on February 4th. The results of that vote would then be presented to the Membership at the February 21st Membership Meeting.

Progress Report of "Ways and Means" Subcommittee on Dues Structure

George Lasley reported for the Committee composed of himself, Bernie Dawson and John Ragan with Steve Wills sitting in as their financial advisor. They had their first major meeting at George's house but did not come to a decision. George described the Club's dues as never covering the Club's expenses. It has always been a matter of deficit control. Our deficits for the past few years have been:

- 2015's deficit was approximately \$4,400
- 2016's deficit was approximately \$5,700
- 2017's deficit was approximately \$5,500
- 2018's deficit was approximately \$6,100
- 2019's projected deficit is on the order of \$5,000

In each year the deficit has been covered first by the show profits and contributions and then by dipping our treasury.

New Business

Jim Murrell presented 'The General Assembly'; a Barbershop Quartet organization, of which he is a member, and who will sing a suitable song on Valentine's day for a reasonable contribution at a person's home.

Ron Abraham announced that the S scale signup sheet is available and that John Kuchnia is the Layout's Chairperson.

Mike John announced that Richard Calfee has been added to the HO Layout Committee.

Mike Keelean reported that 3 HO Train sets were found in boxes under the layout and are available to the club and its membership either for use by the Club or for sale.

Adjournment

Motion for adjournment at 8:25 PM by Clif Kelly with a second by Bernie Dawson. Ethan Quiram presentation tonight will be "It's Not a Big Boy".

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors

Vice President Michael Johns called the meeting of February 4, 2019 to order at 7:00 PM.

Secretary Tom Magnani called the Roll and recorded the Minutes.

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

Members present: Ron Abraham, Don Hunsicker, George Lasley and John Spach.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Wills reported that as of the end of January our Total Assets were \$28,612.77 vs \$30,764.61 at the end of December. A year ago our Total Assets were \$22,632.67. He has mailed a check in the amount of \$906.00 to the Baptist Men's Hurricane Relief Fund. Of that, half, \$453.00, was the club's match of the members' donations. Our Edward Jones account has recovered most of the drop from late last year.

In response to a question about the membership dues collected for this year, 6/1/2018 - 5/31/2019, Steve reported that we have collected \$10,630.00 to date.

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

Club Involvement in Upcoming Events

Mike Johns reported that we have the following events in the next few months:

- LEGO Show at Raleigh Convention Center 9-10 March.
- Club Spring Open House 23 March, 10-4:00 PM
- Spring Show at Scott Bldg, State Fairgrounds 4-5 May.

Steve Wills said that he will bring the LEGO trains and accessories to the show. Mike Keelean will bring some LEGO 'Star Wars' materials to the show.

Mike Johns asked that all members make every effort to support our March 23rd Open House. We will need donations of cookies, soft drinks. etc.

George Lasley announced that Mike's Train Shop in Thomasville, NC and the Thomasville Tourism Commission will be Hosting the 'Thomasville Trackside Rail Day' on Saturday, April 13th, from 9 AM - 5 PM.

Steve Wills said that the Club panned to bring the combined Lego/O layout along with the Club's HO layout to the 'Spring into Trains' show in May.

George Lasley on the upcoming the 'Spring into Trains' show. He has had 1,500 flyers printed with 500 being left with Nick's Trains. He has sold approximately 100 tables so far. Applicable to both are shows is that he and John Ragan learned that our ticket sales do not meet the Fairgrounds' minimum and therefore we do not have to use their ticketing arrangement.

They also learned that the associated costs were greater than they had first been told. E-tix takes 10% of the cost of each ticket as well as a basic charge of \$1.00 per ticket. Door ticket sales are charged an additional \$1.00 per ticket. The person in charge did not want to have to make change and wanted prices rounded up or down to even dollars. The actual charge for ticket takers is an additional \$18.50/ hour and we would have required at least 2 people.

Ticket prices for our May show will be \$7 and \$8 depending on whether or not the purchaser has a coupon.

Ticket prices for our Fall show will be \$8 and \$9 depending on whether or not the purchaser has a coupon.

Review of Election Process and Voting Procedures for May Officer Elections

George Lasley reminded the meeting that the Nominations are opened at March's Membership Meeting. This meeting begins the process. February's

General/Membership Meeting charges the At-Large Board members with the duty of soliciting the membership for candidates. The polling of the Membership is done by the three At-Large Members of the Board. The nominations close at April's Membership Meeting. The voting will be completed at May's Membership Meeting.

Preliminary Report on "Ways and Means Committee" Action to Review the Status for Club Membership Dues Effective for New FY 2020; i.e., 1 June 2019

George Lasley reported that the Ways and Means Committee met in January and have not yet formalized their recommendation. They are still soliciting comments. They are planning to have a report, with a recommendation, for the March Board Meeting. The procedure is that the board makes a recommendation and the Membership votes up or down.

Ron Abraham asked if we had ever sought corporate sponsorship. Steve Wills responded that we have, with George Lasley painting a very nice acknowledgement board, that we displayed at our show and at the Clubhouse.

Ron Abraham asked if we accepted mail or email votes. George Lasley said that we use mail voting for election of officers and for voting on amendments to our By-Laws.

Recommendation/Report on Findings of Subcommittee on "Best Use/Reutilization of Lobby Areas and Other Common Spaces"

Tom Magnani summarized Ted Kunstling's email which may have come too late for the committee to see. George Lasley responded that over the years we've tried 'ebay' and auctions. One of our members, Dan Egy, has sold some of our materials on the web for us. Ron Abraham asked if we had ever sold raffle tickets for items at the show. George and Steve said that we had and almost never broke even. We tend to do far better selling them at the Club's table. Ron asked if we have ever made and sold a club made layout. Tom Magnani responded that one of our vendors, CPD13, has been doing this as their club project for years and that we do not wish to compete against them.

Mike Johns opened the floor to a vote on the Subcommittee's "Best Use/Reutilization of Lobby Areas and Other Common Spaces". Bill Ferguson stated his opposition to the swapping of the Library and Tool Room because the Tool Room is usually a total mess with sawdust and pieces of Styrofoam and that swapping the spaces will only make our messiness more obvious. There was an extended conversation about Clubhouse cleanliness. John Spach proposed having one of the At-Large members be made responsible for Facilities Management.

Mike Johns asked that someone be appointed to be the chairperson of the HO Layout. Tom Magnani's motion to accept the Subcommittee's recommendations was seconded by Steve Wills. The vote carried by 5 to 1 with Bill Ferguson voting Nay.

New Business

Mike Keelean reported that Elvira Brown has volunteered to make the table skirting for the S Gauge layout.

Mike Johns reported that Richard Calfee has created a crib sheet for the Digitrax DCC in response to his request for help in MU'ing (Multiple Unit) Locomotives. John Spach suggested that we ask Richard Calfee if we can laminate and sell them as a club project.

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

Upcoming Meetings

The next Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, February 21, 2018, at 7:00 PM. We do not have a program for this, the next, meeting. It was suggested that we ask Scott Gagnon if he could provide one on the tourist railroads within an 8 hour drive from Raleigh.

Bernie Dawson has volunteered for the March meeting's presentation.

Steve Wills is open for a weekend program, it would take several hours, on bridge building. He would need to charge \$10/person to cover materials as he has done in the past.

February's Membership Meeting will be Thursday, February 21, 2019.

March's Board meeting will be on Monday, March 4, 2018, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

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, February 21st, 2019 at 7:00 pm.
Board of Governors, Monday, March 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm.
LOCATION: 1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh, NC 2760**

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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