

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

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Under the Crown Sheet by Clif Kelly

The results of the ACC Basketball Tournament have been decided with Duke being once again crowned the Tournament Champion. Now that March Madness is upon us (if you are from the south and are an ACC basketball fan) bids have been awarded to the 68 field of teams that will compete for the NCAA Basketball National Championship. Concurrently with the sporting world and more importantly to our many railroading enthusiasts the Neuse River Valley Model RR Club has many activities planned as well for this coming spring. This month the Club will report on many activities both completed and planned in the coming days, to include the LEGO's Show at the Raleigh Convention Center, the Club Spring Open House 23 March, and the Spring Show at the Scott Building, State Fairgrounds, 4-5 May. These events are eagerly anticipated and will require enthusiastic membership participation and support to make these activities a big success.

Of special note the Club is recognized for its participation in the Raleigh LEGOs Show at the Convention Center this past weekend on March 9-10th. Appreciation goes out to Steve Wills, Mike Keelean, George Lasley and the many others for the generous use of their time and organizational skills to make this event a big success. Our LEGOs exhibit was well received by all attendees and kids and provided an opportunity to promote the Club in other planned activities this spring.

Our first Club Open House of the year is planned for this coming Saturday, March 23rd from 10-4 pm. All club members are encouraged to attend. More details will be given at the Membership Meeting scheduled for this coming Thursday, March 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 Ways and

Means Subcommittee will report its recommendation on the new membership fees effective June 1st, 2019 which will be given a final up/down vote by the membership.

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. Nominations for officer positions will close at the April Membership Meeting. Election of Officers will be conducted in May.

Following adjournment of the membership meeting a program on “Building the Empire” will be given by Bernie Dawson.

As a remainder a standing invitation is offered 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, April 1st at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse.

The next Membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 18th 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 great experience for all.

Minutes of the Membership Meeting

President Clif Kelly Called the meeting of February 21, 2019 to order. At 7 :00 pm Mike Keelean lead the pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Johns, Acting Secretary, called the roll. Those present where:

Ron Abraham, Wayne Aiken, Shelton Bass, Paul Caparatta, Preston Cudd, Erik Dyke, William Ferguson, Michael Johns, Michael Keelean, Clif Kelly, Fred Krauss, Ted Kunstling, Collin Martinko, Eathan Quiram, John Ragan, John Spach, Richard Walz, Ron Wertenberg, Kenneth West and Jay Wilson.

Treasurer 's Report

Treasurers report by Clif Kelly noted that we had in the bank approximately \$28,000. We have since payed our contract deposits for the May Show and the Fall Show Contracts amounting to \$6,700. These shows are at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds. All expenses are payed for current operations.

Report on May and November Club Shows

George Lasley reported that the Spring into a Model Railroading Show to be held May 4-5, 2019 has 150 Tables sold and it looks like a full two day show in the Kerr Scott Building at the State Fairgrounds. Club Members are asked to help.

May Officer Elections

Nominations can be presented to the Secretary of the Club or any Officer for Club Officers for the June 2019 to May 31, 2020 term of office.

Upcoming events:

The Lego Show March 9-10, 2019 at the Raleigh Convention Center. At least 6 volunteers are needed. Volunteers to date are Steve Willis, Bill Ferguson, Mike Keelean, the Bradley's and George Lasley.

Spring Open House will be March 23, 2019 10 - 4 at the club house. All hands need to host participants in running trains and supplying cookies and Soda Pop.

Thomasville Rail Days is April 13, 2019. Clif Kelly suggests that this might be a good event for a Club Outing by riding over to Thomasville and back on the train. George Lasley will check into details.

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

A vote was conducted on the Best Utilization of the Clubs Building space as reported by John Spach and Mike Keelean. The motion carried by a majority vote with only one objection.

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

The Ways and Means Subcommittee has been meeting regarding the Club Operational costs due to the increase in our building rent. They are looking into club fees and ask for members' recommendations to be given to George Lasley, Bernie Dawson or John Ragan.

New Business

Club Presentations for future Club Meetings:

March -Bernie Dawson on the N scale

April - a presenter is needed with a recommendation that we have a presentation on the Regional Tourist Trains.

John Ragan presented a list of Train Shows regionally and he will get the list published on our Facebook Website.

John Ragan encourages members to donate to the club by listing the Neuse River Model Railroad Club when making purchases on Amazon.

Inventories are needed on each Layout for our Tax exempt records. Please get them to Steve Wills.

A volunteer Chairman is needed for the HO Layout.

The Meeting was Adjoined with a Motion by George Lasley and second by John Ragan. The Motion carried.

Mike Johns presented a training at the HO Layout on how to Multi-Unit Locomotives. Richard Calfee has prepared a guide to use for the Digitrax UT4 and DT500 Throttles. Mike presented a sheet to list your Multiple-Units in order and on the back are listed YouTube training on the subjects with the Digitrax System.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors

President Clif Kelly called the meeting of March 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, Clif Kelly, Tom Magnani, Ethan Quiram and Steve Wills.

Members present: Ron Abraham, Aidan Ledoux and George Lasley.

Our guest was Brock Bowden (1st meeting).

Treasurer's Report

Steve Wills reported that as of the end of February our Total Assets were \$22,143.61 vs \$28,612.77 at the end of January. A year ago our Total Assets were \$17,331.37. Our Edward Jones account continues to recover the drop from late last year.

Steve reminded the Board and the attendees that the club inventory **MUST** be completed ASAP. For each layout he needs account of modules, Locomotives, Rolling stock, Power supplies and DCC controllers, etc. Anything that is not for sale **MUST** be included in the inventory.

Steve asked the Board to authorize his purchase of 200 Pieces of Lego style railroad straight track, estimated cost of \$60 - \$64 per 100 pieces, and 1 Lego style charger, estimated cost of \$25. Tom Magnani's motion to approve the expenditure for the requested materials, not to exceed \$200, was seconded by Mike Keelean and approved unanimously.

Mike Johns' motion for the Board to approve the purchase of 3 basic Digitrax DCC controllers, UT-4, for a not to exceed cost of \$225 was seconded by Tom Magnani and approved with 1 Nay vote. A suggestion was made for the club to clearly identify all of our throttles.

Update on Upcoming Club Events

Steve Wills reported that we can use additional volunteers for the BrickUniverse Lego event at the Raleigh Convention Center this weekend; March 9th and 10th. Set up will be on Friday, March 8th beginning at 10:30 am with a break for lunch and leave the Clubhouse around 1 PM. Show times are 9 Am - 1 PM and 2 PM - 5 PM on both days.

The Club's Spring Open House will be Saturday, March 23rd, from 10 - 4:00 PM. We will prep the Clubhouse following the Wednesday Breakfast meeting and the Thursday Membership Meeting.

Report on May and November Club Shows

George Lasley reported that May show, May 4th and 5th, has reached 'sell out' status in terms of confirmed, and not fully confirmed, vendor registrations with approximately 150 tables sold. Presently he has 2 vendors wait listed. The space for the layouts, in the rear of the Scott Building, is going to be tight. Friday, May 3rd, will have set up beginning at the Fairgrounds around 2 PM. Both days the show will run from 9 AM to 5 PM. Pizza will not be provided.

Ticket prices for the May show will be \$7 and \$8 depending on whether the purchaser has a coupon.

The November show will be November 9th and 10th with set up on Friday, November 8th.

Ticket prices for the Fall show will be \$8 and \$9 depending on whether the purchaser has a coupon.

Conduct of Election Process and Voting Procedures for May Officer Elections

George Lasley explained that the Nominations are opened at March's Membership Meeting; beginning the election process. At February's General/Membership Meeting the At-Large Board members were charged with the duty of soliciting the membership for candidates. The polling of the Membership is done by the 3 At-Large Members of the Board. [The 3 At-Large Board Members are: Bill Ferguson, Michael Keelean and Ethan Quiram.] The nominations close at April's Membership Meeting. The voting will be completed at May's Membership Meeting.

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, for Bernie Dawson and John Ragan that the Ways and Means Committee recommends that the annual dues be raised to \$360/year for Senior Members. While this will cut into our annual deficit it will not eliminate it. Our current shortfall is approximately \$6,000/ year. The Club will still need the proceeds from our shows to make up the shortfall. The Committee foresees a need to raise our Senior Member dues by \$5/month, \$60/year, in the following years to keep up with increases in rent and utilities.

The procedure is that the board makes a recommendation and the Membership votes up or down.

Mike Johns' motion for the Board to accept the recommendation of the Ways and Means Committee was seconded by Tom Magnani and approved unanimously.

Discussion for Program Volunteers/Ideas/Presentations

- Clif Kelly asked for suggestions for presentations for our upcoming Membership meetings. Bernie Dawson has agreed to have one for the March Meeting.
- George Lasley will have one about York for the April Meeting.
- Aidan Ledoux will have a presentation about the History of British Railways for the May Meeting.
- Steve Wills offered to run a Saturday “Bridge Building Shop”. He would need to charge \$10/person to cover materials as he has done in the past. It would run from 10 AM to 2 PM with a break for lunch

New Business

Mike Keelean reported on the membership composition of some of the Layout Committees.

- O-SCALE is: Michael Keelean (Chair), Sheldon Bass, Bill Hanses, Tom Magnani and George Sawyer.
- HO-SCALE is Michael Johns (Chair), Brock Bowden, Richard Calfee, Dan Egy, Ethan Quiram and Henry Shirley.
- THOMAS HO is: Garrett Brown and Trevor Brown.
- S-SCALE is Ron Abraham (Chair) and John Kuchnia.
- N-SCALE is Bernie Dawson.

There was a general discussion about the need for a Membership Meeting that is not a Thursday evening or Wednesday morning to accommodate recognizing new members who are unable to make consecutive regular meetings. Steve Wills suggested announcing several for 1 PM on the last Sunday of March, April and May; March 31st, April 28th and May 26th. George Lasley recommended incorporating the Wednesday and Sunday General Membership Meetings into the next revision of the By-Laws.

Steve Wills’ motion to have General Membership Meetings to qualify prospective new members at 1 PM on the last Sunday of the month until June 1, 2019 was seconded by Ethan Quiram and approved unanimously.

Mike Johns reported that Richard Calfee’s crib sheet for the Digitrax DCC is in a Yellow folder and provides a step by step template of instruction on setting the Digitrax for both our Model UT4 and DT500 throttles.

Mike Johns reported that Ted Kunstling prepared laminated the instructions for UT4 throttle.

Mike Johns also reported that a donation arrived over the weekend of HO items, cork boards, scenery materials and other items.

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

Upcoming Meetings

The next Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, March 21, 2019, at 7:00 PM. Bernie Dawson will be the presenter.

April's Board meeting will be on Monday, April 1, 2019, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

Clif Kelly's motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded by Mike Keelean at 8:10 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.

Spring Open House will be March 23, 2019 10 - 4

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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Raleigh, NC 27619-9573

First Class

**NEXT MEETING - Thursday, March 21st, 2019 at 7:00 pm.
Board of Governors, Monday, April 1st, 2019 at 7:00 pm.
LOCATION: 1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh, NC 2760**

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Clif Kelly	President	bkelly11@nc.rr.com	919-614-8891
Mike Johns	Vice-President	scootermikej@gmail.com	937-215-2723
Steve Wills	Treasurer	919-845-4968	
Tom Magnani	Secretary	tommag1@aol.com	
Bill Ferguson	At Large	919-217-3409	
Ethan Quiram	At Large	ejq84@vt.edu	
Michael Keelean	At Large	keeleanmike@gmail.com	

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