

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 Program**

Scott Hall - Using Microprocessors for Model RR.

### **Under the Crown Sheet by Clif Kelly**

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> (Groundhog's Day) the nation celebrated the annual appearance of Punxsutawney Phil of the same township name in Pennsylvania. At long last he did see his shadow, and according to legend suggesting six more weeks of winter. On that same date a Raleigh mammal counterpart (unnamed as of this writing) did not see his shadow, ushering in the belief that spring will indeed arrive six weeks early. It is interesting that the truth does lie somewhere in between. Rain, snow or shine, this will not dampen the spirits of the Neuse River Model Railroad Club as we are hopeful to welcome an early spring after all this year.

Some upcoming events include a visit by residents of the Brookdale Assisted Living Center from Wake Forest to our Club House on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Shortly thereafter our Club plans to participate in the Spring's Brick Universe Lego Fan Convention at the Raleigh Convention Center on the weekend of March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The next Open House is scheduled for Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> 10-4:00 pm, with an alternate date planned for the following Saturday on March 28<sup>th</sup> if the weather doesn't cooperate. The Thomasville Train Weekend under the leadership of Mike Keelean is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The "Trains to Spring" Club Show is planned for the weekend of May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Kerr Scott Building, Sate Fair Grounds, under the able direction of our renowned show master, George Lasley. All events are eagerly awaited and will require enthusiastic membership participation and support.

The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for this coming Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 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 particular interest will be a special election to fill the At Large vacancy resulting from the resignation of

Ethan Quiram. Following the close of nominations the election will be conducted at the meeting to fill this position through the remainder of the Club's fiscal year ending on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. We wish to take this opportunity to thank Ethan for his service to the Club. In addition, a signup sheet will be available for anyone interested in participating in the Brick Universe Lego Show.

Club elections are on the horizon for May to elect a slate of Club Officers and one At Large Board member. The currently serving At Large Board members will be seeking information from anyone wishing to serve during the next Club's fiscal year commencing from June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 through May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Nominations of interested persons will open at the April Membership Meeting with close of nominations and the election to be conducted at the May Membership Meeting.

Immediately following the Membership meeting this month's program will be presented by Scott Hall. His subject of interest will be "Using Microprocessors for Model Railroads." All should plan to attend.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse.

The next Membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse.

Please plan to attend Thursday as we look forward to shared camaraderie and working together to make 2020 a banner year for Club accomplishments.

## **Minutes of the Membership Meeting**

President Clif Kelly call the meeting of January 16, 2019 to order at 7:00 PM.

Mike Johns led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Magnani called the roll and took the minutes.

Board Members present were:

Wayne Aiken, Tom Magnani, Clif Kelly, and John Spach.

Those members in attendance were:

Preston Cudd, Bill Ferguson, Thomas Garren, Scott Hall, Mike Johns, Bob Kibbe, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, Aidan Ledoux, Brian Parrish, John Ragan, Zachary Riggs, George Sawyer, Henry Shirley, Richard Walz and Ken Wesp.

#### Recognition of New Members/Visitors

Our guests were Mary Lou Ferguson, Mrs. Parrish, and Scott Schulz, his second meeting.

Scott Schulz introduced himself. This is his second meeting. He has his Dad's pre-war O Ga which he believes is from the late 1930's. His favorite railroad is the Milwaukee. His preferred scale is HO and the N&O.

Mike Johns' motion to suspend the rules and accept Scott Schulz as a Senior member was seconded by John Spach and passed unanimously.

#### Treasurer 's Report

Clif Kelly summarized Steve Wills' Treasurer's Report as presented to the Board at the recent January 6, 2020 BoG meeting. We have benefitted from success of the last two Club Shows.

#### Final Report and Comment on Club Show of 8 - 10 November

George Lasley reported that we cleared approximately \$11,000 from this show between the tickets and the Club table. At January's BoG meeting we closed the books on the November 2019 show and opened the books on the May 2020 show. May's show will be in the Kerr Scott Building at the Fairgrounds. Set up will begin on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and the show will end at 5 PM on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Ted Kunstling asked if someone could contact Micro-Mark and ask if they would exhibit at our show. George will contact them.

#### Upcoming Club Related Events

##### - Proposed Visit from Brookdale Assisted Living (Wake Forest)

Clif Kelly reported on the proposed visit from Brookdale Assisted Living (Wake Forest) set for Wednesday, February 19, 2020. He thanked Bill Ferguson for setting it up. He expects fewer than 10 visitors. We will do cleanup over the weekend and immediately following Wednesday breakfast. We need to have the aisles cleared before the visit.

##### - Spring's Brick Universe Lego Fan Convention

Clif Kelly announced the Spring's Brick Universe Lego Fan Convention at which we will have a LEGO layout and miscellaneous LEGO items. It will be on Saturday and Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> at the Raleigh Convention Center. Members working the Club's table will get free entrance. Parking is not included. Steve Wills is the person to contact if interested.

### - Next Club Open House

We shall have the next Club Open House on Saturday, March 21, 2020 with a snow date of March 28<sup>th</sup>. We will clean the clubhouse following the March Membership meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

### - Thomasville Train Weekend

Clif Kelly, reported for Mike Keelean that there will be a club participation at the Thomasville Train Weekend on April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. George Sawyer said that he and Mike Keelean are planning to stay in the Thomasville area Friday and Saturday night. The details are still a work in progress but they are planning on taking an HO and an O portable layout.

### - Spring Show

George Lasley reported that May's Show will be the weekend of May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2020 with setup on May 1<sup>st</sup>. With the efforts of George Sawyer and Steve Wills he hopes for us to have the ability to process credit cards using the Square system. If everything goes as expected, we will have the use of 1 swipe device and one card reader. Tickets will be \$8 and \$9.

### Resignation of Ethan Quiram, At-Large Board Member

Clif Kelly reported that Ethan Quiram has resigned from his At-Large position. He thanked Ethan for his service. Clif said that 2 members have expressed an interest in filling Ethan's remaining term which expires on May 31, 2020. One of those 2 withdrew his offer. George Lasley's motion to open nominations to fill the open At-Large position with a special election at the Club's February Membership meeting was seconded by John Ragan and passed unanimously. Tom Magnani is to notify the membership of the opening and to ask for nominees to fill the unexpired position.

### Annual Collection for Local Charities

The hat was passed for the club annual charitable donation for Baptist Men's Hurricane Relief. The hat had been first passed at the January meeting. The club will match member donations to this cause.

### Discussion for Program Volunteers/Ideas/Presentations

Tonight's program will be by George Lasley – What's in my tool box?

February's program will be by Scott Hall – Using microprocessors for model railroads.

March's Program will be Songs of the Railroads by Mike Johns.

Wayne Aiken will ask a friend about speaking about being a RR (Amtrak) host.

### New Business

Ron Abraham arranged to have a door lock added to the Tool Room as a safety measure. The room is to be kept locked when not in use and, when the clubhouse is closed. The lock is keyed to accept the front door key. John Spach said that he and the other 2 on the committee, Mike Keelean and Ron Abraham, are sorting out our supplies with the aim of getting rid of junk.

Tom Magnani is to contact Jay Wilson and Trevor Brown about their Club shirts.

#### Next Meetings

February's Board meeting will be on Monday, February 3, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

February's Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

#### Adjournment

George Lasley's motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM was seconded by John Ragan.

### **Minutes of the Board of Governors' meeting**

President Clif Kelly called the meeting of February 3, 2020 to order at 6:50 PM.

Secretary Tom Magnani called the Roll and recorded the Minutes.

Board members present: Wayne Aiken, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, Tom Magnani, John Spach, and Steve Wills.

Members present: Richard Calfee, Bill Ferguson, Tom Garren, Mike Johns, John Kuchnia, George Lasley, Ethan Quiram, and George Sawyer.

#### Recognition of Visitors and New Members

Our guest was Mary Lou Ferguson.

#### Treasurer's Report

Steve Wills provided the Board with a detailed Treasurer's Report. Our net worth is substantially close to last month's having been decreased by our rent, utilities and Board approved expenditures.

In accordance with last month's Board directions he has opened a 2<sup>nd</sup> checking account with our present bank, PNC, to use with our trial of a credit/debit card processing by the Club. It is his recommendation that we use PNC's machine, at a final cost of \$399.00. This machine will not require a cell phone and provides a printed receipt. He would like to use it both for the Club Table and Admissions as well as payment of Annual Member dues.

Steve Wills' motion to purchase the PNC card reader was seconded by John Spach and passed unanimously.

Steve Wills' motion to follow the recommendation of the Ways and Means Committee to only waive the bank fee associated with the card processing for the payment of a full year's, or prorated full year's, dues was seconded by John Spach and passed unanimously.

Steve Wills thanked the Ways and Means Committee for their review of all of the Treasurer's Books. He also thanked Tom Garren for filling in for John Ragan's in his absence.

Tom Magnani 's motion to accept the Treasurers' Report was seconded by John Spach and passed unanimously.

#### Upcoming Club Related Events:

##### a. Visit from Brookdale Assisted Living (Wake Forest)

Clif Kelly reported that the planned visit from Brookdale Assisted Living (Wake Forest) will be on Wednesday, February 19, 2020. He thanked Bill Ferguson for setting it up. He expects fewer than 10 visitors. We will do cleanup over the weekend and immediately following Wednesday breakfast. We need to have the aisles cleared before the visit.

##### b. Spring's Brick Universe Lego Fan Convention

Clif Kelly and Steve Wills presented this year's Spring's Brick Universe Lego Fan Convention which will be held the weekend of March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the Raleigh Convention Center. Set up will be on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, afternoon.

Steve reported that we will be located in the center of the room, away from any walls, which will require 5 – 6 volunteers for each shift to watch the corners, answer questions and present Club literature. Volunteers working the Club's layout will get free admission. Steve recommended that Volunteers bring their own lunches

Clif will distribute a sign-up sheet at February's Membership meeting. Tom Magnani is to do the same by email.

##### c. Next Club Open House (21 March 2020, Snow Date 28 March))

The next Club Open House will be March 21<sup>st</sup> with the 28<sup>th</sup> as a snow date. The 'Back Shop' door needs to be locked for the entire day.

##### d. Thomasville Train Weekend (25 – 26 April)

The Thomasville Train Weekend will be on April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at the Thomasville Civic Building. Mike Keelean is the lead and is working to establish contact with the person running the show to confirm our invitation and the space available for any layouts. He and George Sawyer are planning on staying in the Thomasville area for Friday and Saturday nights. They are planning on bringing the Club's traveling O and

N gauge layouts. If there is room they will arrange for the traveling S Gauge layout to be there as well.

e. Spring Show (2 - 3 May)

George Lasley reported that he has sold all but 23 of the approximately 150 tables as of today. The vendor mailing is due to go out this week. He is considering asking the fairgrounds to put us on the waiting list for the Exposition Building for the first weekend in May for 2021.

The Gov. W. Kerr Scott building has 19,500 square feet of exhibition space. The Exposition Center building 50,000 sq. ft. The Jim Graham building, home of our Fall Show, has 95,000 sq. ft. of space.

The Club's Spring Show, Spring into Trains, will be the weekend of May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with set up being on Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at 2 PM and most likely ending at 8 PM.

Discussion of Development of the Back Shop, Dust Collection System

Mike Keelean thanked his committee for the work they had done while he was out. The power tools have been relocated into the Back Shop. The peg boards are up. A work bench has been constructed. A dust collection system has been designed and the committee recommends purchasing a physically smaller vacuum that will fit under the bench rather than using the present shop vac which would take up valuable floor space. George Sawyer provided a detailed description of the system of hoses, gates (approximately \$10/tool) and fittings that would enable a functional system. He also recommended a power control system so that when a tool is energized the vacuum is already running.

Mike Keelean's motion for authorization to spend up to \$500 for the vacuum system and a few new tools was seconded by Steve Wills and passed unanimously.

John Spach reported that Dan Egy has donated an oscilloscope.

John Spach reported that Ron Abraham has donated safety glasses, hearing protection and masks.

Report on Annual Collection for Local Charities

George Lasley reported that the \$325 collected from the membership has been matched by the club. It was donated to the Baptist Men's Hurricane Relief Fund.

Discussion for Program Volunteers/Ideas/Presentations.

February - Scott Hall - Using Microprocessors for Model RR.

March - Mike Johns - Sing Along Songs of the RR.

April - Wayne Aiken to coordinate an AMTRAC Representative visit.

May - John Keelean and John Spach to Present an Orientation of New Tool Room.

## New Business

Richard Calfee has asked that his name be added to those seeking to fill the remainder of Ethan Quiram's term as an At-Large Director. Voting, by ballot, will take place at the February Membership meeting.

There was a general discussion of the need to develop a backup for the Web site and for the Whistle Post as well as a need for the Secretary and President to get their materials to the Whistle Post editor in a more timely fashion.

Mike Johns invited the club members to see his Railroad to the Sea.

Wayne Aiken pointed out that we have different email addresses for the club on various media, business card, and printed materials. We also need to ensure consistency between the Web site and Facebook.

## Upcoming Meetings

The next Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

March's Board meeting will be on Monday, March 2, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

## Adjournment

John Spach's motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded by Steve Wills at 8:25 PM.

## **Neat Links**

## **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>

Club Open House on Saturday, March 21, 2020

### Spring's Brick Universe Lego Fan Convention

The weekend of March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the Raleigh Convention Center. Set up will be on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, afternoon.

## **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](mailto: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.

NRV Whistle Post  
The Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club, Inc.  
PO Box 19573  
Raleigh, NC 27619-9573

First Class

**NEXT MEETING - Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:00 pm.  
Board of Governors, Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at 7:00 pm.  
LOCATION: 1615 Old Louisburg Rd, Raleigh, NC 2760**

### **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

<b>Clif Kelly</b>	<b>President</b>	<a href="mailto:bkelly11@nc.rr.com">bkelly11@nc.rr.com</a>	919-614-8891
<b>John Sprach</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>	<a href="mailto:jtspach@earthlink.net">jtspach@earthlink.net</a>	937-215-2723
<b>Steve Wills</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	919-845-4968	
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<b>Michael Keelean</b>	<b>At Large</b>	<a href="mailto:keeleanmike@gmail.com">keeleanmike@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Wayne Aiken</b>	<b>At Large</b>	<a href="mailto:htmoc42@hotmail.com">htmoc42@hotmail.com</a>	

### **WEB SITE**

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