

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

March's Program will be Songs of the Railroads by Mike Johns (Accompanied by Others) Sing Along.

Under the Crown Sheet by Clif Kelly

It is with the most profound note of concern that I open this newsletter recognizing the extreme serious threat that the coronavirus poses to us all. While evaluating all the risks the threat as of this time remains low. In light of the current circumstances the Board of Directors at Neuse River Valley RR Club will endeavor to carry on with the Club tradition and enjoyment that model railroading means to each of us. Recognizing that each member must react in his own best interests the Club will remain open and all planned events will continue as scheduled. Should conditions beyond our control make any event not possible immediate word will be communicated to the membership of its cancellation or rescheduling if possible.

Of special note the Club is recognized for its participation in the Spring's Brick Universe LEGOs Fan Convention at the Raleigh Convention Center this past weekend on March 7-8th. A special appreciation goes out to organizers Steve Wills, Mike Keelean and George Lasley and the many other Club members for the generous use of their time and boundless energy to represent our Club and 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 21st from 10-4 pm. In addition, George Lasley will update us on the Spring to Trains Show at the Scott Building, State Fairgrounds planned for the weekend of on 2-3 May. More details will be given at the Membership Meeting scheduled for this coming Thursday, March 19th at 7:00 pm at the Club House at 1615 Old Louisburg Road in

Raleigh. These events are eagerly anticipated and will require enthusiastic membership participation and support to make these activities a big success.

Of special interest the March Membership meeting opens the nomination process for a new slate of officers to serve in the Club's new fiscal year commencing on June 1st. The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will be open for nomination, as well as the most senior At Large Board position, completing the third year on the Board. 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 with the election results tabulated in May.

Following adjournment of the Membership meeting a program on "Sing-Along Songs of the RR" will be conducted by Mike Johns. All music minded members are encouraged to attend.

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 6th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse.

The next Membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16th at 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse.

Please plan to attend Thursday as we look forward to shared camaraderie, catching up on all the news and happenings and working together to make 2020 a genuine experience for us all.

Minutes of the Membership Meeting

President Minutes of the Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club Membership Meeting February 27, 2020. Held at 1615 Old Louisburg Road, Raleigh, North Carolina.

This Membership meeting that had been originally scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2020 was cancelled due to extensive snow and ice.

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

Bill Ferguson led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Johns called the roll and took the minutes.

Board Members present were:

Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, and John Spach.

Those members in attendance were:

Ron Abraham, Richard Calffee, Paul Caparatta, Preston Cudd, Bernie Dawson, Bill Ferguson, Thomas Garren, Scott Hall, Mike Johns, George Lasley, Brian Parrish, and Ken Wesp.

Recognition of New Members/Visitors

Our guests were Mary Lou Ferguson, Steve Jenkins, and Mike Marsh.

Mike Marsh introduced himself. His preferred scale is O.

Steve Jenkins introduced himself. His preferred scale is also O.

Treasurer 's Report

Clif Kelly summarized Steve Wills' Treasurer's Report as presented to the Board at the recent February 3, 2020 BoG meeting. The club balance remains in the Black after all show expenses. The Club has approved the use of a Square Brand Card Reader for receiving income for the Club at the Shows and for Membership Dues.

Close of Nominations for At Large Board Position, Followed by Elections for New At-Large Board Member

The Nomination for At-Large Board Position was closed with a Proposal by John Spach and a Second By Ken Wesp. The approval was Unanimous.

Ballots where cast for Richard Calfee and Thomas Garren. Tom Garren was elected as the new At-Large Board Member.

Report on Past Club Events

- Visit of Brookdale Assisted Living Facility (Wake Forest) on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020.

Bill Ferguson reported that we had about 10 visitors, family members, and staff. and great support from Members and an appreciative guest and Staff.

- Report on Annual Charity Collection for Baptist Men's Hurricane Relief Fund

George Lasley reported that \$325 was collected for Hurricane relief. That amount of club members donation was matched by the club.

Upcoming Club Related Events

- Spring's Brick Universe Lego Fan Convention

Clif Kelly announced the Brick Universe Lego Fan Convention will be on Saturday and Sunday, March 7th & 8th at the Raleigh Convention Center. We will have a

LEGO layout and miscellaneous LEGO items. Members working the Club's table will get free entrance. Parking is not included.

We are looking for club members to Help Steve Wills. Mike Keelean made a list of Volunteers.

Steve Wills is the person to contact if interested.

- Next Club Open House – March 21, Weather Postponement - March 28

Clif Kelly reported that the Club's open house will be held March 21st from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. We will clean the clubhouse following the March Membership meeting on the 19th. Our 'snow' day will be March 28th.

- Thomasville Train Weekend April 25 & 26

Mike Keelean reported that the April 25-26 Thomasville Train Show has not secured a venue so it is on hold.

- Spring into Trains Club Show, May 1-3

George Lasley reported that May's Show will be the weekend of May 2nd and 3rd of 2020 with setup on May 1st. Tickets will be \$8 and \$9.

Report on the Status of the New Library

Tom Garren presented the New Green Book Self Check out system for the Club's Library. Our Library is current being used for Research. There are 1250 books available plus a collection of Reference Magazines and How To books. The return date of all Library checkouts will be the next General Membership Meeting.

Discussion of Club Web Site and Home Page

Clif Kelly presented some of the problems with our Web Site and Home Page. Bernie Dawson volunteered to look into the Club's Web Page.

Discussion for Program Volunteers/Ideas/Presentations

Tonight's program will be by Scott Hall – Using Microprocessors for Model Railroads.

March's Program will be Songs of the Railroads by Mike Johns (Accompanied by Others) Sing Along.

April's Program - Wayne Aiken will coordinate with an Amtrak representative to speak about being an Amtrak host.

May's program - Mike Keelean and John Spach will present an orientation of New Tool Room.

New Business

The New Bern train show is this weekend.

The Mabane Train Show is March 17th.

Scott Hall mentioned that there will both the Makers Fair and the RARS (Raleigh Amateur Radio Society) Fair on April 11th.

Mike Keelean announced that the Selma Train Days are October 2, 2020, a weekend show.

John Spach is in need of clear Plastic storage boxes no higher than 12” for the club resale stock.

Next Meetings

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

March’s Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

John Spach’s motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM was seconded by Tom Garren.

Minutes of the Board of Governors' meeting

President Clif Kelly called the meeting March 2, 2020 to order at 6:55 PM.

Secretary Tom Magnani called the Roll and recorded the Minutes.

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

Members present: Richard Calfee, Bill Ferguson, Mike Johns, George Lasley, and John Ragan.

Recognition of Visitors and New Members

Our guests were Mary Lou Ferguson and Mike Marsh.

Clif Kelly welcomed Tom Garren to the Board as our newest At-Large Director. Tom Magnani is to research the terms of our 3 At-Large directors. Clif thanked Richard Calfee for offering to serve as an At-large director and for all of his work and support of the Club.

Mike Marsh introduced himself. Both his grandfather and father worked for the Detroit Terminal Railroad, DTRR, Company and he is working to build a 3 rail, O Ga., model of it.

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. He is working to reformat his monthly reports to improve clarity.

He reported that our new credit card reader is basically a miniature Point of Sale, POS, machine. 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 for payment of Annual Member dues. (He tested it by paying a part of his annual dues with it.).

He recommends that it remain with 1 trained person at the Admissions table and that buyers be sent there to make payment. We will need to annotate each receipt for record-keeping.

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

Report on Brookdale Assisted Living Facility (Wake Forest) on Wednesday Feb 19th

Bill Ferguson reported that we had 8 – 10 visitors plus several family members and grandchildren. Mary Lou Ferguson reported that several of the facilities residents thanked her for the opportunity to visit the Clubhouse.

Upcoming Club Related Events:

a. Spring's Brick Universe Lego Fan Convention

Steve Wills presented this year's Spring's Brick Universe Lego Fan Convention will be held the weekend of March 7th and 8th at the Raleigh Convention Center. Set up will be on Friday, March 6th, afternoon. He needs additional volunteers as we are in a central location and need at least 4 people to cover our corners. Volunteers working the Club's layout will get free admission. Steve recommended that Volunteers bring their own lunches.

He will also require help in restoring it for our Open House.

Tom Magnani is to Email a request for volunteers.

b. Next Club Open House (March 21, 2020, Snow Date March 28th)

The next Club Open House will be March 21st with the 28th as a Snow Date. It was decided that we will **not** have a 'Snow Date' as it will be too difficult to manage. It was also decided to leave the Back Shop open, but with the power tools disabled and hand tools out of immediate reach because this room is one of our major membership 'selling points'.

Clean-up will be the prior Wednesday and after the March 19th membership Meeting.

c. Thomasville Train Weekend (April 25 – 26)

Mike Keelean reported that the Thomasville Train Weekend has been relocated from the Thomasville Civic Building, planned for April 25th and 26th to the United Methodist Church on Highway 101, on April 18th. Presently Mike and George

Sawyer are planning on staying over only for Friday night and returning home Saturday. They are planning on bringing the Club's traveling O, S and N gauge layouts. They are considering renting a U-Haul.

d. Spring Show (May 2 - 3)

George Lasley reported that the Club's Spring Show, Spring into Trains, will be the weekend of May 2nd and 3rd with set up being on Friday May 1st beginning at 2 PM and most likely ending at 8 PM. He has sold all but 9 of the approximately 150 tables as of today.

Discussion of Development of the Back Shop, Dust Collection System

Mike Keelean reported that the Back Shop is usable as of now. They need some more storage and, to dispose of non-modeling tools. Mike Johns suggested selling them at the May Show.

A dust collection system has been connected to the power tools and the Committee will show members how to use it. The system is interlocked with the power tools so that a tool cannot be started without the Dust System starting first.

Members were asked to use the safety, ear and eye protection and to **CLEAN UP**.

Update on Library Opening February 27th

Tom Garren reported that the Library was officially opened at the February Membership Meeting. Members will be permitted to withdraw 2 books at a time with the due date being the next Membership Meeting.

Donations for copies of book pages or Magazine articles are accepted.

Clif Kelly thanked Wayne Aiken, Tom Garren and George Lasley for all their work in organizing the Library. He acknowledged and thanked Donna and Pete Hansma for their work creating our original library from which this library evolved.

Discussion for Program Volunteers/Ideas/Presentations

Clif Kelly thanked Scott Hall for his presentation on how to use Microprocessors for Model RR.

The planned programs are as follows:

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.

June – To Be Determined.

New Business

There was a unanimous vote, on Mike Keelean's motion, seconded by Tom Magnani, to award Tyler Wolfe an Honorary Club Membership.

George Lasley reviewed the upcoming regional train events as well as the Club's present annual event schedule and suggested that we have reached the point of membership burnout. Tom Magnani agreed with him that we need to carefully allocate our participating resources and not further increase our event participation count.

John Ragan asked to be replaced as the club's Facebook person. George Lasley said it would be worth it to pay for someone to develop an integrated Facebook and Web site template for the Club. That person could then train Bernie.

That person would also be tasked to improve our presence on the main search engines.

Mike Johns and George Lasley discussed our election cycle. Nominations open in March, close in April with the voting taking place in May. All at the Membership Meetings.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Membership Meeting will be on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

April's Board meeting will be on Monday, April 6, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

Steve Wills' motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded by John Ragan at 8:34 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

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.

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

First Class

**NEXT MEETING - Thursday, January 16th, 2019 at 7:00 pm.
Board of Governors, Monday, February 3rd, 2020 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
John Sprach	Vice-President	jtspach@earthlink.net	937-215-2723
Steve Wills	Treasurer	919-845-4968	
Tom Magnani	Secretary	tommag1@aol.com	
Ethan Quiram	At Large	ejq84@vt.edu	
Michael Keelean	At Large	keeleanmike@gmail.com	
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