

The

**Whistle**



**Post**

*Official Newsletter of the*

**Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

**1615 Old Louisburg Rd Raleigh, NC 27604**

**Phone: 919-400-5570**

### **Program for October Membership Meeting**

No formal program is planned for the October Membership Meeting. However, Steve Wills has made a generous donation of HO items to the Club which will be made available to the membership to view and purchase following the meeting. Be sure to bring your check book or credit card. Any items not purchased will be destined for sale at the November Show Club Table.

### **Under the Crown Sheet by Clif Kelly October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The calendar on the wall tells us that fall is finally here. As we enjoy the crisp morning hours and the changing of colors noted by the season, we turn our thoughts toward our annual Fall Show, scheduled this year at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, the long weekend of 6-8 November. Friday is set aside for vendor setup. Show times are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturday and Sunday. George Lasley, our Grand Pooh Bah, continues to be extremely excited about this year's event. Despite the State Government announcement to cancel this year's State Fair, a special vote conducted by the Club's Board of Directors rendered an enthusiastic and unanimous decision to continue with the planning and execution of the Club's involvement and sponsorship of the Fall Show. George continues to seek Club members to work and support the Fall Show. If you have not already given your name to George, please consider making this commitment for November.

Vendor response to participate has been excellent. Table sales have been all but sold out with fewer than thirty tables remaining for sale.

Protocols will be in place to conduct temperature checks of Club members, vendors and show goers alike. The wearing of face masks will be mandatory. Social distancing will be practiced and several hand sanitizer stations will be available.

The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Clubhouse. Start time is 7:00 pm. We will be operating under the Governor's revised guidance for indoor

activities currently limited to twenty-five persons. In the event participation exceeds the maximum the meeting will be moved to the outside parking lot. The use of face masks, social distancing protocols and hand sanitizers will continue to be observed.

If you believe that you may have a fever, have been exposed to someone with the virus or suspected of having the virus, please protect yourself and others you may come in contact with by staying isolated at home. A special teleconference telephone number will allow you to attend the meeting. Please contact Tom Magnani, 914-815-2708, if you wish to join by phone. Please dial in a few minutes prior to 7:00 pm.

**Tele Conference Dial-in Number: 712-775-7031**

**Participant Access Code: 175235# (Don't forget the # sign at the end)**

I'm pleased to announce the Club's new website has been up and running since the first of September. A special recognition goes out to George Lasley, Tom Garren, John Ragan and Bernie Dawson for their hard work, boundless energy and leadership to coordinate and complete this effort with the WRAL Digital Design Team. You can judge the results for yourself by visiting the website at <http://www.nrvclub.net>. Bernie Dawson has been designated as our "Web Master." Any suggestions and comments can be directed to Bernie.

For those who have not yet settled their dues for the Club's new Fiscal Year (1 June 2020 through 31 May 2021) or made special arrangements for their collection, please contact Treasurer Mike Keelean at the email address you'll find on the last page.

As a reminder Senior Rate = \$360.00, Associate Rate = \$216.00, Junior Rate = \$108.00, Youth = \$72.00.

It is with a heavy heart that we recognize the recent passing of Paul Caparatta. While Paul enjoyed a short tenure with the Club he will be remembered for his companionship and easy-going manner. He quickly made friends, shared many railroading experiences and was a regular at Wednesday morning breakfast gatherings at the North Raleigh location of Big Ed's Restaurant.

For those with an interest in good food and service we are now meeting in west Raleigh for breakfast every Wednesday at 9:00 am at Barry's Café, located at 2851 Jones Franklin Road in the Swift Creek Shopping Center (intersection of Jones Franklin and Tryon Roads). If you have not yet participated in this event you are encouraged and invited to join us.

Best regards for now and everyone stay well and safe. See you this Thursday.

## Articles of Special Interest

This month we begin a new feature. Articles created and submitted by our members are now stored on our new website.

To check out these articles click on the link below and scroll down to the Member Articles section. <https://www.nrvclub.net/newsletter/>

### **This month we feature two articles:**

My Home Layout, an Inheritance in the Shed behind the House by Mike Johns

Why I Build Paper Models by Michael Irwin

### **Minutes of the Membership Meeting of September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call – Tom Garren (Acting Secretary).

Clif Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Attendees In person: Wayne Aiken, Richard Calfee, Tom Garren, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, George Lasley and Ken Howard (new member)

Call in: Tom Magnani, Larry Pearlman

1. Recognize Visitors and Applications for Prospective Members – Richard Calfee and Mike Keelean.

The club welcomed a new senior member, Ken Howard. Ken has satisfied the two-meeting requirement and submitted an application. Mike Keelean made a motion to accept Ken as a senior member. The motion was seconded by George Lasley. It passed unanimously.

Ken models Colorado standard gauge in HO.

3. Treasurer's Report – Mike Keelean

Mike Keelean presented a new simplified treasures report. He also announced the addition of a new lock box for receipt of dues and funds from club sales. This will make it easier to distinguish between dues, club sales and donations. Donations should still be placed in the fish bowl.

The board needs to discuss the credit card charges for the show.

4. Update on Collection of Dues

Mike Keelean reported that we are not charging a fee for full dues payment by credit card. Less than a full year's payment will incur a charge. Tom Magnani reported that he has started to send out emails to members who are in arrears in their dues and is answering questions as to the amounts owed.

5. Report on Debut of Club's New Website (nrclub.net) – Tom Garren, George Lasley,  
The Club's new website went live early in September. We have already received several compliments on the look and the ease of navigation of the site. The next step is for the webmasters to learn the techniques and procedures used to maintain and update the website.
6. Update on Fall Show, 6-8 November 2020 – George Lasley  
There are only 30-40 of the 300 tables left for the additional vendors to secure for the show.  
The TCA is not holding their show this December. In their announcement to this effect they will include some information on our show. At this time the final amount of space allocated for layouts is still under consideration. This decision should be made in early October.
7. New Business  
Mike Keelean recommended we have the carpet at the clubhouse cleaned during the time of the fall show. It is desired that this work be done on Friday, November 6 which will give the carpet two days to dry while we are working the show. This item will be taken to the board for expenditure approval.
8. Meeting Adjournment  
A motion to adjourn was made by George Lasley and seconded by Tom Magnani. It passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.  
  
Following the adjournment Tom Garren gave a demonstration of the club's new website.

### **Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of October 5, 2020**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call – Tom Garren.  
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.  
In attendance: Wayne Aiken, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Johns, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, John Ragan and Steve Wills  
Call in attendees: Bill Ferguson, Mike Irwin, Tom Magnani, John Spach, Larry Pearlman and Ron Wertenberg
2. Recognition of New Members and Visitors –Clif Kelly.  
New member Ken Howard was welcomed to the Board meeting.
3. Note on Passing of Paul Caparatta—Clif Kelly  
Clif circulated a card for all to sign that will be sent to Paul's family.

4. Treasurer's Report – Mike Keelean.

Mike Keelean presented the Treasure's Report to the attendees.

5. Status on Membership Dues Received to Date – Mike Keelean.

Mike Keelean and Tom Magnani reported that dues continue to be received. In one case a member has withdrawn from the club. In other cases letters have been sent to members letting them know that they are now delinquent.

6. Update on Fall Show (6-8 November) – George Lasley.

The G scale and S scale layouts have decided not to attend the show this year. This leaves Sipping and Switching, the two North Raleigh N scale layouts, and our club's own O scale, N scale and LEGO layouts.

There are only 15-20 tables still available for sale at the show. There will be spacing between groups of tables.

A lengthy discussion was held on the precautions that will be in place at the November show. These include:

- Signage and walkway markings approaching the entrance
- Checking for/selling masks at the door
- Children two or under not in a stroller will be required to wear a mask.
- If the child is in a stroller, the stroller must have a shield.
- Temperature checks will be made immediately inside the door.
- People with a temperature of 100.4 F or higher will be denied admittance to the show.
- On Friday there will be someone taking temperature of the vendors at the rollup doors.
- On Saturday and Sunday the vendors will be required to use the main entrance where temperatures will be taken.
- The ticket table will have an acrylic shield installed starting at 6 or 8 inches above the table top. The acrylic will cost an estimated \$200.00.
- There will be three or four people needed to man the ticket table including one to run the credit card machine.
- There was some discussion concerning whether we should charge a fee for credit card use at the show. From the discussion it seemed that the opinion of the group was not to charge a fee for credit card usage.
- To formalize this decision a motion was made by Tom Garren and seconded by Tom Magnani to not charge any fees for credit card use at the show. It was passed unanimously.
- It was determined to have specific doors for entrance and exit. Also, signage will be used to direct attendees to the restaurant and the restrooms.
- Groups of tables will be spaced out to achieve desired separation.
- There will be a few six-foot floor markings on the show floor. This will help attendees gauge safe distance.

- Tables will be rented to place hand sanitizer at six or eight locations throughout the show.
- Masks must be worn at all times, no exceptions.
- It was decided to obtain gloves to be able to provide where needed. We will start with 1,000 pairs.
- Reach tools will be provided for policing items that fall onto the floor.

7. Update on Club Website – John Ragan and Tom Garren.

The website delivered is a good starting point. It is now up to us to make it our own. We are gathering improved descriptions for each club layout. The N scale description has already been updated. Mike Keelean has submitted an improved description for the O scale layout. We are awaiting new descriptions for the other layouts. We will also need additional pictures to keep the website fresh.

We have encountered problems linking a Google calendar to a Word Press website. To provide a workaround, Tom Garren is creating calendars and placing them on the Events page. There are three months of calendars showing our upcoming meetings, breakfasts and shows. This practice will continue until we can solve the linking problem.

A new version of the Membership Application was presented. This will include the consent form for new members to approve sharing some or all of their contact information. Two minor enhancements were suggested. A motion was made by Mike Keelean and seconded by Wayne Aiken to approve the new membership form. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Revisions to Club Duty Assignments and Responsibilities—Mike Johns and Clif Kelly.

Mike and Clif shared an organizational chart with the club that is under development. It shows the members of the board and the standing committees as outlined in the By Laws. Additionally, it shows the subcommittees under the proper standing committees. In all cases the chart lists who is currently actively involved with each committee or subcommittee.

It was acknowledged that the org chart is a work in progress and is not yet complete. It offers at a glance the people actively engaged in club activities.

9. Updates to Whistle Post Newsletter Publication—Clif Kelly.

Clif reported that Joe Johnston will continue as our newsletter editor for now. Clif will help with the newsletter preparation and Ken Howard will serve as a proofreader.

10. New Business.

Mike Keelean reported that the roofer is gathering information to create an estimate for a total roof replacement to be taken to our landlord.

He also reported that both the phone and internet service to the clubhouse are down. AT&T is expected to be on-site tomorrow to fix the problem. It was also suggested that we investigate other alternatives we may have for this service.

Tom Magnani reported a case for special consideration that will be brought to the Board.

Mike Johns requested reimbursement of \$58.97 for a new water tower to be placed in a scene on the HO layout. Mike Keelean made a motion seconded by Tom Garren to approve the expenditure. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Wills announced a very large HO donation to the club from his sister and her husband. It was decided to offer this collection to the membership during the October 15 Membership meeting. Anything left over from the meeting will be taken to the show for sale at the club table.

It was reported that ants have been seen again in the area of the N scale layout. George Lasley volunteered to call the exterminator.

John Ragan shared the ad budget for the fall show with WRAL. The ads will run from Wednesday through Saturday the week of the show. A motion to accept the proposal for TV advertising was made by Mike Keelean and seconded by John Spach. It passed unanimously.

At this time we are not sure if we will also use newspaper advertising. George Lasley will investigate this option.

We have noticed tow away signs on the lot adjacent to the clubhouse. We will investigate to make sure we are not the problem.

#### 11. Adjournment.

Mike Keelean made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Tom Garren. It passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

### **Neat Links**

Ted Kunstling advised that his presentation on Civil War railroads has been updated and is available for viewing on the website of the Raleigh Civil War Roundtable.

Go to <http://www.raleighcwr.org/monthly-meeting-videos/> Enjoy

The New Hope Valley Railroad has a partial reopening. Go to <https://www.trianglettrain.com/>

Drone footage of the 9-19-20 NARCOA (North American Railcar Operators Association) Excursion from Schuylkill Haven to Jim Thorpe on the Reading & Northern Railroad seen at RBMN Hometown Highbridge.

Go to <https://youtu.be/gleQ8uJDUuA>

## **Future Events**

The Club is open to friends and guests most Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Club has resumed most social activities with a current limitation of twenty-five persons. Protocols calling for social distancing, face masks and use of hand sanitizers continue to be in effect. If you do not have a key to the Club please call 919-400-5570 to ensure that the Club is open.

The Club anticipates planning for an Open House in the spring 2021, depending upon status of the Corona Virus.

We are currently meeting for breakfast every Wednesday at 9:00 am at Barry's Café, located at 2851 Jones Franklin Road in the Swift Creek Shopping Center, Raleigh 27606.

All events and meetings are held at the Club House, 1615 Old Louisburg Road, Raleigh, NC 27604. For directions to the Club, check out our website at <http://www.nrvclub.net>.



## **Notes from the Webmaster and the Editor**

Please send Bernie Dawson recent photos of our club activities, by email at [nrvwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:nrvwebmaster@gmail.com), so he can update our website.

Please send articles to Joe Johnston, Whistle Post Editor, at [nrvmrrc@gmail.com](mailto:nrvmrrc@gmail.com) no later than Tuesday, one week prior to the next scheduled Membership Meeting.

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.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

Membership: Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm inside or, if necessary, outside, at the Clubhouse. Be prepared to bring your own chairs, masks and hand sanitizer if outside.

Board of Governors: Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 pm inside or, if necessary, outside, at the Clubhouse. Be prepared to bring your own chairs, masks and hand sanitizer if outside.

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Clif Kelly	President	bkelly11@nc.rr.com	919-614-8891
John Spach	Vice-President	jtspach@earthlink.net.	937-215-2723
Michael Keelean	Treasurer	keeleanmike@gmail.com	919-886-9238
Tom Magnani	Secretary	tommag1@aol.com	914-815-2708
Calfee (Richard Calfee)	At Large	rhcalfee@yahoo.com	301-335-1054
Tom Garren	At Large	tomgar@mindspring.com	919-805-0909
Wayne Aiken	At Large	htomc42@hotmail.com	919-602-8529

### OTHER KEY POSITIONS

George Lasley	Spring and Fall Shows	glasley@bellsouth.com	919-757-4503
	Grand Pooh Bah		
Calfee (Richard Calfee)	Membership Chair	rhcalfee@yahoo.com	301-335-1054
Tom Garren	Librarian	tomgar@mindspring.com	919-805-0909
George Lasley	Historian	glasley@bellsouth.net	919-757-4503
Joe Johnston	Newsletter Editor	nrvmrrc@gmail.com	919-918-3356

### WEB SITE

[www.nrvclub.net](http://www.nrvclub.net)

Bernie Dawson	Webmaster	<a href="mailto:nrvwebmaster@gmail.com">nrvwebmaster@gmail.com</a>	919-275-2144
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