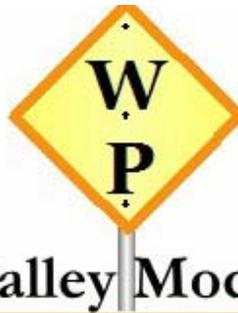


The

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 December 17th Membership Meeting

The Club will not offer a Program following this month's Membership Meeting due to the Governor's revised Covid-19 policy to implement a curfew effective at 10:00 pm. The Club intends to reinstate Programs at future Membership Meetings once relaxed policies will allow.

Under the Crown Sheet by Clif Kelly December 17th, 2020

The next Membership Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 17th at the Clubhouse. Start time is 7:00 pm. Protocols will be in place to conduct temperature checks of Club members prior to the meeting. The wearing of face masks will be mandatory. Social distancing will be practiced and the use of hand sanitizer will be available. 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.

I'm pleased to announce the Club has successfully negotiated a new lease with our landlord, extending our current agreement through December, 2024, at a moderate increase in the monthly rental beginning in January, 2022. We will continue to pay our electric bill and other utilities but water will be provided under the agreement. Major expenses associated with the building and property will continue to be paid by the landlord. The Club will continue to fund minor repairs and improvements from our funds.

In addition to his monthly treasury update Mike Keelean will report on the final numbers from the Fall Show conducted at the State Fairgrounds on 5-7 November 2020. George Lasley, acting in his capacity as Exalted Grand Pooh Bah and Show Chairman, will report on other significant high lights, and will present a general overview of our preliminary plans for the Spring into Trains Show, also scheduled for the State Fairgrounds (Scott Building) over the long weekend April 30 to May 2, 2021. Make your plans and mark your calendars to participate in this event.

A special teleconference zoom video link shown below will allow you to attend the meeting remotely if you do not feel comfortable attending the meeting in person. All that is needed is a lap-top, note-pad or cell phone that receives your email. Please contact Ted Kunstling, 919-787-

5282, who has graciously offered to host the video, if you have any questions. Dial in will begin at 6:45 pm. In order to ensure some degree of order and minimize background disturbances each participant is asked to mute his microphone which is found in the lower left portion of the screen.

Ted Kunstling is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: December Membership Meeting of the Neuse River Valley Model RR Club

Time: December 17, 2020, 07:00 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83805491565>

For those who have not been informed I'm sad to report the passing of John Held this past week following a short illness. For all who knew John he always had a happy smile and was ready to give a helping hand in many Club activities. John will be remembered for his many long years of service extending back to the early beginnings of the Club.

As has been our custom over the years the Club has supported local charities during the Holiday Season. This year we have selected the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. We ask that our members be generous within their means to support these nonprofit organizations which are working to alleviate hunger in this area. The Club will match the first \$200.00 of member donations. Donations may be made directly at the December 17th Membership Meeting either by cash, check or credit card, or may be mailed to the Club' PO address as follows:

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club, PO Box 19573, Raleigh, NC 27619-9573.

Let me remind everyone again that 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 volunteering their time, 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.

As a final word of safety concern that while the Club encourages its members to pursue individual projects and take advantage of Club tools and assets it has been noted that in certain instances tools and materials have not been secured prior to the members' departure. This creates an environment of individual irresponsibility and jeopardies safety to both Club members and visiting guests. Your attention to continue prudent safety measures and cleanup prior to your departure is greatly appreciated.

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

BOOK REVUE by George Lasley: *Extra South, An Unscheduled, Unhurried Look At Dixie Steam Railroading* by H. Reid, 1964

H. Reid is one of the finest railroad authors in recent times. This book is one of his best, along with *The Virginian Railway*. This truly is a look at railroading in the south in steam days. There are chapters on Tweetsie, the Graham County, the Santa Claus train on the Virginian among others. One of the most interesting chapters is on the 2-8-4 Berkshire type locomotives of the Norfolk Southern Railway (the real NS, not the current NS Corp). This is the only place I know of to find any information on these pocket Berkshires. You will also learn of Claiborne Rice Mason, a remarkable individual.

The book is illustrated with many photographs by Reid and others. Reid lived in the tidewater region of Virginia and worked as a journalist for many years on newspapers in that area. What the H stood for is known to only a select few, and I am not one of them. This is a fun book and can provide inspiration for many layouts and other modeling projects.

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

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of November 19th, 2020

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:07

Clif Kelly led the Pledge of Allegiance

Those attending in person: Wayne Aiken, Tom Garren, Bill Hanses, Ken Howard, Mike Johns, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Mike Marsh, Bob Patterson and guest Richard Haake.

Those attending by Zoom: Doug Alumbaugh, Jerry Davis, Bill Ferguson, Scott Hall, Mike Irwin, Ted Kunstling, Tom Magnani, Larry Pearlman, John Spach and guest Willard Sehorn.

2. Recognize Visitors and Applications for Prospective Members – Clif Kelly.

Two guests attended the meeting. Richard Haake in person and Willard Sehorn by Zoom.

3. Treasurer's Report (Less Fall Show) – Mike Keelean.

Mike Keelean shared the treasurer's report with the membership.

4. Report on Fall Show (6-8 November) – George Lasley and Mike Keelean.

We had 1087 paid admissions at the show.

Sales at the club table contributed substantially to the small profit we made.

Both vendors and attendees were happy that the show occurred.

We received many thanks for having the show.

5. Ken Howard named as new Editor for Whistle Post Newsletter Publication--Clif Kelly.

The newsletter is now a collaboration of several people, led by Ken.
One goal of the team is to have the newsletter posted on the website around the same time it is sent out.

Members are encouraged to submit articles to be included in the newsletter/website.

6. Resignation of John Ragan as Social Media Chair – Clif Kelly.

John Ragan has resigned as Social Media Chair effective with this meeting.

We are actively seeking a volunteer to take over this role.

Anyone interested should let Clif Kelly know.

7. Update on Current Status of Club Rental Agreement -- Clif Kelly.

We are coming up on the end of a two-year lease.

We have received a new proposal from our landlord.

The new proposal will be evaluated by the board at their December 07 meeting.

At a minimum we have a base agreement to continue at our current rate for 2021.

8. Call for New Business – Clif Kelly.

Mike Keelean brought up the need to have the floor cleared of items so that we can have the carpet cleaned. Mike Johns suggested that we calendarize a day for cleaning up the clubhouse. George Lasley suggested that we set a date in January for the cleanup.

Wayne Aiken had a question about some cars that have stickers on their underside. It was determined that the cars are now club property and any stickers found should be removed.

Some questions were raised about non-railroad items (books and magazines) received from donations. It was determined that many of these items were actually sold at the show.

Mike Marsh suggested that we send Thank You cards to the people that made the large HO donations before the show. After some discussion it was suggested that we send Thank You cards to people who make significant donations to the club. Mike Marsh volunteered to get a supply of cards for us.

9. Adjournment.

George Lasley moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mike Keelean. The meeting was adjourned shortly before 8:00 PM.

10. Program

Immediately following adjournment of official business, the program was presented by George Lasley. It was entitled, "More Photos from the Flash Drive." This presentation was the second installment of these pictures continuing from the September Membership Meeting. The presentation was shared via Zoom for the remote attendees, a first for us.

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of December 7, 2020

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call – Tom Garren

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

In attendance in person: Wayne Aiken*, Tom Garren*, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean*, Clif Kelly*, George Lasley and Mike Marsh.

Attending remotely by Zoom were: Jerry Davis, Mike Irwin, Ted Kunstling, Tom Magnani*, Larry Pearlman and John Spach*.

* Indicates a member of the Board of Directors.

2. Treasurer's Report – Mike Keelean

Mike Keelean gave the treasurer's report.

Dues collection is going well. There are only a couple of members still owing dues.

We are a bit below our normal amount of money collected from dues. We are attributing this to COVID.

After some discussion it was decided to send another email out to any members that still haven't paid their dues. Further, we will give them until the January 2021 Board meeting to pay before they are dropped from the roster.

3. Report on Status of Club Rental Agreement – Clif Kelly

The club has received a new lease proposal from our landlord. It covers calendar 2021-2024.

After discussion, Tom Garren made a motion to accept the new rental agreement. It was seconded by Mike Keelean and passed unanimously.

A second motion was made by Tom Magnani and seconded by John Spach to authorize Clif Kelly to sign the agreement on behalf of the club. It passed unanimously.

Mike Keelean also mentioned the need for us to minimize expenses including our electricity consumption.

4. Final Report and Closeout of Fall Show (6-8 November) – George Lasley

George Lasley reported that all bill for the November show have been paid.

The Club actually made a small profit on this show.

Tom Magnani made a motion to close the books on the Fall Show. It was seconded by John Spach and passed unanimously.

George brought up the matter of providing a gift card to the owner of the truck and trailer that was loaned for our use to transport club table items to and from the show.

John Spach made a motion to provide a \$100.00 gift card to the truck owner. Seconded by Tom Magnani, it passed unanimously.

It was further suggested that the owner be given the choice of a gift card or a check from the club. Doug Alumbaugh will be asked to verify the owner's preference.

5. Preliminary Report and Opening of Spring Show (30 April-2 May 2021) – George Lasley

George reported that he has evaluated the Spring Show with different models and determined that we should be able to at least break even with 150 tables. This allows for COVID required spacing.

We will also limit the space for layouts to create needed spacing between tables.

It was suggested that we should use the shows as a recruiting tool for club membership. To do this will require more membership participation manning the shows.

6. Discussion of Christmas Donation to a Selected Charity Organization – George Lasley
As has been the custom, we will solicit donations from the membership for donation to selected charities. This year the charities are the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. The money will be split evenly between the two charities.
Donations should be mailed to the club PO Box. Donations may also be made directly at the December meeting. The donation period closes at the end of the December membership meeting.
Tom Garren made a motion that the Club should match the first \$200.00 of donations. It was seconded by John Spach and passed unanimously.
7. Update on the Club Website – Tom Garren
The website has been updated to reflect the 2021 shows rather than the 2020 shows. We are having a problem changing a picture on the homepage. This has been turned over to the WRAL development team for a solution.
We are still searching for a Social Media Director. An email will be sent to the membership requesting a volunteer.
8. New Business – Clif Kelly
The Board held a brief executive session. The issue was tabled pending further discussion.
It was mentioned that we are running low on brochures for the club. John Ragan will be contacted about having more brochures printed.
9. Adjournment
Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mike Keelean Garren and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.
10. After adjournment Mike Irwin presented a short video of a Yellow Submarine train on his layout.
This was our first experiment using Zoom for video sharing.
Thanks are again extended to Ted Kunstling for use of his Zoom account.

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 limitation of ten persons per room. Protocols call for social distancing, face masks and use of hand sanitizers. If you do not have a key to the Club House, please call 919-400-5570 to ensure that the Club is open.

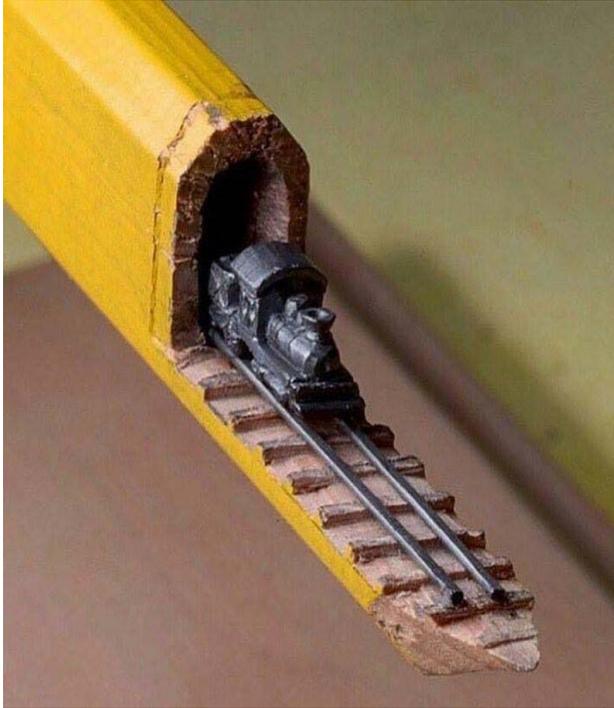
The Club anticipates planning for an Open House in Spring 2021, depending upon status of the Corona Virus.

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>.

Neat Links

Thanks to Scott Hall for the following photo, description, and blog site.

A train carved from the tip of a pencil by artist Cindy Chinn



It takes skill love, and a whole lot of patience to carve something so detailed from a piece of pencil lead, and Cindy Chinn is the foremost pencil lead artist of the 21st century. On her site, Chinn writes that she can finish about four carvings in about a month, but it depends on the amount of detail that each train requires.

If you love these carvings, Chinn makes trains specifically for people, although she tries to make each one different from the last. She writes ([Cindy's Train Art Blog](#)): "It's hard to imagine but each engine is about 3/16" tall (less than 5mm) and each engine is a different design. Some trains will have a trestle in the middle, and in some cases, I'll add a caboose the end of the pencil. I like to make each one unique and try to find interesting pencils to work with."

Notes from the Editor and Webmaster

Please send recent photos of Club activities to Bernie Dawson, at nrvwebmaster@gmail.com, so he can update our website.

Please send articles to Ken Howard, Whistle Post Editor, at klhowardjr@aol.com no later than Tuesday, one week prior to the next scheduled Membership Meeting (January 21st).

Check out our website at: <http://www.nrvclub.net> to see when the club will be open and call 919-400-5570 to be sure that the doors are open, if you don't have a key.

Upcoming Meetings

Membership: Thursday, December 17th, 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Be prepared to bring your own chairs, masks and hand sanitizer.

Board of Governors: Monday, January 4th, 7:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Be prepared to bring your own chairs, masks and hand sanitizer.

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), Cary, NC.

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	keeleanmake@gmail.com	919-886-9238
Tom Magnani	Secretary	tommag1@aol.com	914-815-2708
Calfee (Richard Calfee)	At Large	rhcalfree@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 Grand Pooh Bah	glasley@bellsouth.net	919-757-4503
Calfee (Richard Calfee)	Membership Chair	rhcalfree@yahoo.com	301-335-1054
Tom Garren	Librarian	tomgar@mindspring.com	919-805-0909
George Lasley	Historian	glasley@bellsouth.net	919-757-4503
Ken Howard	Newsletter Editor	klhowardjr@aol.com	919-851-3805

WEB SITE www.nrvclub.net

Bernie Dawson	Webmaster	nrvwebmaster@gmail.com	919-275-2144
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