



## North Raleigh Model Railroad Club

# Meeting Notes 2010

### Introduction

Notes of the monthly meetings of the North Raleigh Model Railroad Club are maintained on the News & Information page for a period of six (6) months, after which they are moved to the News Archive pages. The meeting notes archives are listed by year in calendar order.

### Highlights of the Club's 2010 Annual Meeting

Raleigh, January 6, 2010

Eighteen members, eight spouses and two children attended the Club's January meeting, the 2010 Annual Meeting, held at the Golden Corral Restaurant. The club welcomed Dick Buchan as a Member and Hannah Thompson as a Family Member.

Following dinner President Royse called the meeting together at 7:00pm, and immediately started the election process for Club Officers and Directors. Nominations for Officers positions for 2010 were opened, then closed when no further nominations were made. The following are the results of the election:

Position	Elected
President	John Wallis
Vice President	David Derway
Secretary	Joel McCurry
Treasurer	Don Cariss
Director	David McDowell

President Royse then handed the gavel to incoming President John Wallis. President Wallis thanked Bill for his service to the Club during 2009.

With David Derway becoming Vice-President the remainder of his term as a Director (two years) became open. Bill Royse volunteered to fill this position and was confirmed by the Club.

The Treasurer's report for December was approved, and the Treasurer received dues payments for 2010. The minutes of the December meeting, as posted on the web site were approved.

Several members volunteered to host club meetings in 2009, as listed further down on this "News" web page. September and October are still open. Volunteers to present Programs and 5-Minute Modeling Tips for 2009 are solicited.

The World's Greatest Hobby on Tour Show in Chantilly the weekend of January 23–24, 2010 was briefly discussed. Further details will be handled by emails between those directly involved. A show of hands was given by Members intending to participate in the New Bern show in early March. Information on the OpSig Regional NC Weekend to be held February 19–21, 2010 will be sent to Members via the email list; David Koss' ACL Spartanburg Division layout will be one of the operating layouts on this weekend.

Jim Kalenowski reviewed progress on the scenery improvements and mountain track changes to the T-Module. An additional \$85.00 was approved to fund the project.

The February meeting will be hosted by David Koss on February 3. The 5-Minute Modeling Tip will be "Decoder Programming with the SPROG II" by John Wallis, and the Program will be "Turnout Automation using Servos" by David Derway.

The business meeting ended at 7:25pm.

Our annual gift exchange program then took place with nineteen participants. This was an enjoyable event with several steals.

Following the gift exchange a brief meeting of the new Board of Directors was held, per North Carolina law.

## **Highlights of the Club's February 2010 Meeting**

### **Raleigh, February 10, 2010**

Sixteen members and two guests attended the Club's February meeting hosted by David McDowell. Thanks David.

President Wallis called the meeting together at 7:30pm. The Treasurer's report for January was approved. The minutes of the January meeting, as posted on the Club's web site were approved.

Several train shows were discussed:

- World's Greatest Hobby on Tour Show, Chantilly, VA, January 23–24, 2010

The layout from this show will be the layout for Danville in September. While the noise at the Show prevented full operating sessions using radios, several individual operations were run to test concepts. A new operations proposal has been prepared and is now circulation among Danville committee members for comments.

The booking code for the Holiday Inn Express in Danville was provided to members in an email via the list.

Keystone NTRAK from Philadelphia was welcomed as a member of the Eastern N Lines Partnership.

NRMRC modules (Red Rock Junction, Anderson & Harker Corners, Crossovers and Lollipop Farm) for the Danville DCC layout are set. Anyone wishing to have a module in either the analog or T-TRAK layouts should fill in and send in the application forms from the web site.

Some problems encountered with Red Rock Junction in Chantilly were found to be "finger" problems and have been resolved.

The club is looking for a volunteer to build an industry(ies) fro Anderson Corner and Crossovers alternate blue tracks for use in Operations in Danville. A email will be sent to the list with details.

Lynchburg Area N Scalers "Junior Engineer" buttons were presented to Joel McCurry and David Thompson as appreciation for Joel and Dave's participation in the show in Bluefield, VA last November.

- Windsor Point Retirement Home, February 24, 2010

Jim Reske and Jim Kalenowski will be setting up a 10' x 14' layout at Windsor Point Retirement home at 1221 Broad Street in Fuquay-Varina on Wednesday, February 24 from 7:30am to 4:00pm. A copy of the flyer has been sent to members vial the email list. All members are welcome to participate. Both DCC and DC control will be available.

- Carolina Coastal Railroaders Show, New Bern, NC, March 6–7, 2010

Member commitments for modules and attendance were obtained. Detailed discussion of this show will be via the email list. The host club will not offer the usual Saturday night dinner this year so we can make our own plans. Lori Wheatley again offered to cater lunch to those attending; thanks Lori.

- Springmoor Retirement Home Show, March

Don Cariss will meet with the folks at the home and suggest the 4th Saturday in March for this show. The layout will be 8' x 12' as usual.

- NCTM Spencer Rail Days Show, June 12–13, 2010

Our club has been invited to participate in this year's Rail Days in Spencer. Linwood Wells is Superintendent for this show. He has contacted Lynchburg, Richmond and South Hampton Roads Clubs. Lynchburg has confirmed their participation.

- Hamlet, NC

There is the possibility of a show in Hamlet and the Hamlet station and museum site. Our layout would be about 12' x 18' or 12' x 24'. Jim Reske to follow up with the folks in Hamlet to determine dates, etc.

David Thompson mentioned improvements he had made to the T-module leg support that would make it easier to put the T-module in place during layout assembly. Jim Kalenowski has completed the ballasting of the T-module as well as re-construction the Mountain line with a passing track, etc. These need to be tested prior to New Bern to ensure everything works as it should.

Gerry Foster has volunteered to replace Pete Slugg as Education Committee Chairman. Thanks, Gerry. He will be soliciting volunteers for 5-Minute Modeling Tips and Programs for future meetings.

The March meeting will be hosted by Mark Blaustein on March 3. The 5-Minute Modeling Tip will be "Module Track Planning" by Joel McCurry, and the Program will be "Making Trees with Florist Wire" by Paul Ohegyi.

The business meeting ended at 8:13pm.

Following refreshments John Wallis presented a 5-Minute Tip on Decoder Programming with the SPROG. The SPROG is not only an interface between a computer running DecoderPro and a programming track, it has a Command Station that permits Ops Mode programming without the need for a full DCC Command Station. The Command Station in the SPROG puts out 1A current, so can be used as a Command Station for very small layouts. Attendees at New Bern can try the SPROG on the test layout.

David Derway presented the program on using model aircraft servos to control turnouts. These are much lower in cost than Tortoise machines, and smaller in size which is a benefit for NTRAK modules. Controllers are available for normal DC control with pushbuttons or toggle switches, or for DCC control. Dave demonstrated operation of the servos under both DC and DCC control. He also reviewed the pluses and minuses of using a servo as a turnout machine. Thanks David.

## **Highlights of the Club's March 2010 Meeting**

### **Chapel Hill, March 3, 2010**

Twelve members and two guests (Al Guckes, David Harrison) attended the Club's March meeting hosted by Mark Blaustein. Thanks Mark.

President Wallis called the meeting together at 7:30pm. The Treasurer's report for February was approved. The minutes of the February meeting, as posted on the Club's web site were approved.

Several train shows were discussed:

- Windsor Point Retirement Home, February 24, 2010

Jim Kalenowski reported the show was successful with about 50 residents attending and viewing the layout. The Home is interested in a two-day show in the August time frame. Space available is 20' x 38'. Some module issues were encountered which Jim Reske will address.

- Carolina Coastal Railroaders Show, New Bern, NC, March 6–7, 2010

Details of the New Bern weekend were sent to members via the email list, and were reviewed by Bill Royse. Our layout will be 20' x 44', the same as last year, but with some new modules.

- Springmoor Retirement Home Show, April 24

Don Cariss advises this will occur April 24. Information and details will be provided to Members via the email list.

- NCTM Spencer Rail Days Show, June 12–13, 2010

Our club has been invited to participate in this year's Rail Days in Spencer. Linwood Wells is Superintendent. Lynchburg has confirmed their participation.

- 2010 National NTRAK Show & Danville Old 97 Rail Days, September 24-26, 2020

Preparation continues. Members intending to participate in this show and/or bring modules for the analog or T-TRAK layout should register via the Show web site. The question was asked about running train all night on the DCC layout in the Pepsi Building since we have the building key. This will be proposed to the Show Committee.

David Thompson mentioned that the testing of the ballasting of the T-module as well as the re-constructed Mountain line with a passing track, etc. done by Jim Kalenowski is complete. Only minor problems were encountered and fixed. The "new" T-module configuration will be used in the New Bern Layout.

Gerry Foster received commitments for future 5-Minute Modeling Tips and Programs from several members. The sections of this page will be updated when Gerry forwards the details and dates.

Dick Buchan advised the Club that the Carolina Piedmont Division, NMRA MER, will be hosting the 2011 MER Convention the last weekend of October 2011. He invited to Club to bring our layout to the train show which will be held as part of the Convention.

The April meeting will be hosted by Pete Slugg on April 7. The 5-Minute Modeling Tip will be "Peco Turnout Modifications" by Jim Kalenowski, and the Program will be "Weathering with an Airbrush" by Pete Slugg.

The business meeting ended at 8:21pm.

Following refreshments Joel McCurry presented a 5-Minute Tip on Module Track Planning. Some time ago Joel issued some diagrams that can be used as templates in track planning for NTRAK modules, allowing the modeler to determine if a proposed track configuration will fit in the space available. He talked about the need for more crossovers between red–yellow and between yellow–blue, in both directions, plus red–orange and orange–red, and blue–alt. blue and alt. blue–blue transitions. These templates and diagrams will be particularly useful to those finished their lightweight modules from the building sessions held last year. Thanks Joel.

Paul Ohegyi presented the Program on Making Trees with Florist Wire. Paul described the process in detail with examples. The process is not too complicated but is somewhat time consuming, yet produces a beautiful tree. These trees will look very good on a module or layout as foreground trees. Thanks Paul.

## **Highlights of the Club's April 2010 Meeting**

### **Cary, April 7, 2010**

Fourteen members and two guests attended the Club's April meeting hosted by Pete Slugg. Thanks Pete. Al Guckes joined the Club since the March meeting. Welcome aboard Al.

President Wallis called the meeting together at 7:30pm. The Treasurer's report for March was approved. The minutes of the March meeting, as updated and posted on the Club's web site were approved.

President Wallis reported on a private Board of Directors meeting held on March 10, the first such meeting of the Board in the 36-year history of the Club. Several issues were discussed, the results of which will be published in the form of two special programs and several new publications. The two special programs are:

June Meeting: Module Certification and Testing  
August Meeting: Train Show Etiquette

In addition a number of new publications are being prepared and others are being updated. All publications will become PDF documents. A full listing of publications and their status will be provided to members via the email list.

Several train shows were discussed:

- Carolina Coastal Railroaders Show, New Bern, NC, March 6–7, 2010.

This was an overall good show with the layout setup in record time. However, some problems were encountered throughout the show and are being addressed with a view to minimizing or eliminating them in future shows.

- Springmoor Retirement Home Show, April 24

This will be our usual 8' x 12' layout, but with Mark Blaustein's Main Street/Why a Duck modules in place of High Bridge and Swamp. Information and details will be provided to Members via the email list.

- NCTM Spencer Rail Days Show, June 12–13, 2010

Linwood Wells is Superintendent with Mark Blaustein as Assistant Superintendent. Module commitments have been received from both our members and Lynchburg. Linwood will visit Spencer in the near future to view the space allocated to us in the Roundhouse. Our space will be two roundhouse stalls.

- 2010 National NTRAK Show & Danville Old 97 Rail Days, September 24-26, 2020

Preparation continues. Members intending to participate in this show and/or bring modules for the analog or T-TRAK layout should register via the Show web site. Included in the proposed Timetable for the show is late Saturday night running on the Danville Layout. The Danville Tourism folks have appointed a new person to interface with us. Peter Schumann and John Wallis will travel to Danville the last week of April to meet and finalize facility arrangements.

- NMRA MER Regional Convention, October 27–30, 2011

As well as having a layout for this Convention in October 2011 the Club has been asked to host an Operations Sessions for attendees seeking points towards their Dispatcher's Achievement Certificate, as we did in 2005. A question for consideration is whether to use a Club-only layout or a Danville-type layout. This will be discussed with the ENL clubs.

David Thompson has re-loaded the software in the DS64's on the T-module and run some tests. For future shows the software will be posted to the files section of the email list, and those with computers at the show will download and bring so any problems can be rapidly fixed.

The May meeting will be hosted by Dick Buchan on May 5. The 5-Minute Modeling Tip will be "Track Testing & Track Clearance Cars" by John Wallis, and the Program will be "Modeling Steel Mills" by Dick Buchan.

The business meeting ended at 8:05pm.

Following refreshments Jim Kalenowski presented a 5-Minute Tip on Peco Turnout Modifications. The intent was to prevent the switch points from coming lose from the joiners after the throw-spring is removed. As well as showing how to do this Jim also indicated a newer version of the Peco turnouts that have the solution built-in. Thanks Jim.

Pete Slugg presented the Program on Weathering with an Airbrush. He explained the different types of airbrushes and compressors, then showed what he uses and how he does it, along with some excellent examples. Thanks Pete.

Members also viewed Pete's small but very complete and detailed HO scale layout, as well as the under construction modules of the Hullett loader.

## Highlights of the Club's May 2010 Meeting

Raleigh, May 5, 2010

Eleven members and two guests attended the Club's May meeting hosted by Dick Buchan. Thanks Dick.

President Wallis called the meeting together at 7:30pm. He began the meeting by welcoming Lou Mitchell from the Raleigh Convention Center. Lou has asked if the club would be willing to create a NC railroad diorama that would be exhibited in the Center for a period of one year starting in either September 2011 or September 2012. She then answered questions from members. Clearly the Club has an interest in pursuing this opportunity and a number of diorama scenes were discussed, plus how to later incorporate the diorama into a module. Further discussion will take place via the email list.

The Treasurer's report for April was approved. The minutes of the April meeting, as updated and posted on the Club's web site were approved. There was a discussion about our 501(c)(3) status and the fact that members may be able to take appropriate deductions from income taxes for non-reimbursable expenses (travel, lodging, meals) in support of club events. More info via the email list.

Several train shows were discussed:

- Springmoor Retirement Home Show, April 24

This was very successful and enjoyable, as always. We have been invited back next year.

- NCTM Spencer Rail Days Show, June 12–13, 2010

Linwood Wells is Superintendent with Mark Blaustein as Assistant Superintendent. A layout plan has been developed and refined, and transportation for modules and supplies in place — loading at the storage shed will be Thursday, June 10 at 6:00pm. The plan features our largest layout yet at Spencer and module placement will offer the ability for bidirectional running. Further details via the email list.

- 2010 National NTRAK Show & Danville Old 97 Rail Days, September 24-26, 2020

Preparation continues. Members intending to participate in this show and/or bring modules for the analog or T-TRAK layout should register via the Show web site. Peter Schumann and John Wallis traveled to Danville the last week of April to meet and finalize facility arrangements. The operating session at RANTrak in Ashland, VA has been set for Saturday, June 19. Currently 4 of us are planning to attend. Peninsula NTRAK of Newport News, VA has asked to join the Eastern N Lines Partnership. The resultant discussion with other ENL partners has resulted in a web site for the Partnership. Peninsula will be invited to Ashland.

At the Danville meeting we learned that the use of duct tape for anchoring electrical cables to the floor where people will walk will not be permitted. The Club agreed to purchase the necessary cable guard.

David Thompson has shortened the legs on Raleigh Yard slightly and inserted longer bolts so that there is more height adjustment for the yard during setup. This has been a problem a couple of times in the past.

As a supplement to the Show Superintendent's Checklist two additional checklists will be prepared: one will cover items to be transported from the storage shed and the other will cover DCC equipment.

The June meeting will be hosted by David Condon on June 2. The 5-Minute Modeling Tip will be "Building Roads on Modules" by Mark Blaustein, and the Program will be "Module Certification and Grading" by John Wallis.

The business meeting ended at 8:15pm.

Following refreshments John Wallis presented a 5-Minute Modeling Tip on Track Testing and Track Clearance cars. The testing car is made of Plexiglas and is available from Aztec or Micro-Mark; it allows top down viewing of the trucks and wheels as the car is pulled along the track by a locomotive. A bubble weight placed on the car will show deformities in the track. The clearance car is an 89' flat car from Micro-Trains with NTRAK clearance

gauges mounted in the center and one end of the car. Running this car on the layout to check clearance will ensure the safe passage of double stacks and long passenger cars. Thanks John.

Dick Buchan then explained how to model steel mills using his own HO railroad as the example. He also showed his several other layouts under construction and in operation in his home. Thanks Dick.

## **Highlights of the Club's June 2010 Meeting**

**Zebulon, June 3, 2010**

Thirteen members attended the Club's June meeting hosted by David Condon. Thanks Dave.

President Wallis called the meeting together at 7:30pm. Due to a computer problem the Treasurer's report for May was not available. Both the May and June Treasurer's Reports will be reviewed and approved at the July meeting. Treasurer Cariss filed the required IRS Form 990-N on time to ensure retention of our 501(c)(3) status.

The minutes of the May meeting as posted on the Club's web site were approved.

Several train shows were discussed:

- NCTM Spencer Rail Days Show, June 12–13, 2010

Linwood Wells is Superintendent with Mark Blaustein as Assistant Superintendent. Full details of the layout plan, transportation and setup process have been sent to members via the email list. Loading at the storage shed will be Thursday, June 10 at 6:00pm. NTCM has announced a Saturday night photo shoot from 9pm to midnight; see the separate email.

- 2010 National NTRAK Show & Danville Old 97 Rail Days, September 24-26, 2020

Preparation continues. Members intending to participate in this show and/or bring modules for the analog or T-TRAK layout should register via the Show web site. The Peninsula NTRAK Club of Newport News, VA, has accepted the invitation to joint the Eastern N Lines Partnership. The operating session at RANTrak in Ashland, VA will be Saturday, June 19. Currently 3 of us are planning to attend.

- Selma Rail Day, October 1–2, 2010

Setup will be Wednesday, September 29 with the layout operating on October 1 and 2.

- NMRA Mid-Eastern Region Convention, Piedmont Crossing, October 27–30, 2011

The convention committee has asked NRMRC to provide our required space for the Convention layout prior to their next meeting on June 26. We will ask the Eastern N Lines clubs at the Ashland meeting if they are interested in bringing the Danville layout to the convention. Also, NRMRC will have white elephant tables at the Convention.

Although there is interest in pursuing the opportunity to exhibit a railroad diorama at the Raleigh Convention Center no one stepped up to lead the effort. Based on discussion we will raise the issue with CPD13 to see if they would like to go in as a joint venture.

The July meeting will be hosted by David McDowell on July 7. Our White Elephant Sale will be held in place of the normal 5-Minute Tip and Program. Members with items to sell may post a list of these items on the Club's email list the week prior to the meeting.

The business meeting ended at 8:05pm.

Following refreshments Mark Blaustein showed how to make roads for a module or layout using Microsoft Word or PowerPoint. This provides a great deal of flexibility in width, shading, lines and curves. Thanks Mark.

John Wallis then reviewed the requirements for Module Certification and Grading indicating that it has been many years since modules were checked. Modules previously checked were reviewed. The next check of modules will be during setup at the NRV show in November. Certification will be carried out on module arrival,

while Grading (Scenery) will be carried out after setup and during the show. Club member will perform the certification checks, while non-members will be asked to do the grading. Dave Thompson, Joel McCurry and David Derway will investigate the design and production of templates that can be used to check track center spacing and track indent spacing. As an example Breakneck Mountain will be used as an example of the process at the August meeting. Thanks John.

## Highlights of the Club's July 2010 Meeting

Raleigh, July 7, 2010

Fourteen members attended the Club's July meeting hosted by David McDowell. Thanks David.

President Wallis called the meeting together at 7:30pm. The Treasurer's report for June was approved. Steven Cox joined the Club. Welcome aboard Steven.

The minutes of the June meeting as posted on the Club's web site were approved with one correction.

Several train shows were discussed:

- NCTM Spencer Rail Days Show, June 12–13, 2010

Linwood Wells and Mark Blaustein did outstanding jobs as Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of this show. The extreme heat caused some minor problems at module ends, but trains ran well. More trains could have been run, and there were some periods with little activity on the layout. An incident that occurred at the end of the show while loading vehicles has been covered.

- 2010 National NTRAK Show & Danville Old 97 Rail Days, September 24-26, 2020

Preparation continues. Members intending to participate in this show and/or bring modules for the analog or T-TRAK layout should register via the Show web site. The dress rehearsal session in Ashland, VA was very successful and has proven the operations concept for September. A business meeting was also held with all outstanding action items now fully assigned to individuals.

- Selma Rail Day, October 1–2, 2010

Setup will be Wednesday, September 29 with the layout operating on October 1 and 2. Don Cariss pointed out that now that the railing has been removed we can move chairs in the room and make the layout 4' 8" deeper, i.e. 20' x 20' or 24' x 20' instead of 16' x 20'. This will depend on available modules and enough transportation to handle.

- NMRA Mid-Eastern Region Convention, Piedmont Crossing, October 27–30, 2011

At the Ashland meeting the ENL Partnership clubs agreed to bring the Danville layout to the convention. This will enable two or three operating sessions for convention attendees. We should also plan on a Clinic on the layout and operations concept.

Gene Sing of CPD13 has agreed to help us with scratch building and/or kitbashing buildings for the diorama for the Raleigh Convention Center display. He prefers to do the Apex station area for the diorama over the Seaboard Station. Don Cariss has volunteered to coordinate the effort and offered his garage as a construction site. John Wallis to let Lou Whittaker know we will do the diorama. David McDowell and John Wallis to take pictures of downtown Apex needed to plan the project and do the buildings.

David Derway, David Thompson and Joel McCurry have worked on the design of a metal template for checking track spacing on modules. This design has been sent to a machine shop for quote. Additional quotes will be secured.

Mark Blaustein has had a discussion with Our State Magazine about doing a future article on model railroading. He is also looking into a unique NC license plate for model railroaders.

The August meeting will be hosted by Joel McCurry on August 4. The 5-Minute Modeling tip will be Magnetic Uncouplers by Dick Buchan, and the Program will be a practical example of Certification testing using the Breakneck Mountain module.

5-Minute Modeling Tips are needed for September through December, and Programs are needed for October and November. Please contact Gerry Foster if you can do one of these.

The business meeting ended at 8:10pm.

Following the meeting our White Elephant Sale started. Lots of stuff traded hands. We will plan on another in the future.

## **Highlights of the Club's August 2010 Meeting**

### **Cary, August 4, 2010**

Twelve members attended the Club's August meeting hosted by Joel McCurry. Thanks Joel.

President Wallis called the meeting together at 7:30pm. The Treasurer's report for July was approved.

The minutes of the July meeting as posted on the Club's web site were approved.

Several train shows were discussed:

- Lynchburg Rail Day, August 14, 2010  
Dave Thompson (with modules) and Joel McCurry will attend the show.
- 2010 National NTRAK Show & Danville Old 97 Rail Days, September 24-26, 2020

Members desiring to attend the Show are requested to Register as soon as possible. Also, the final day to obtain the guaranteed room rate at the Show hotel is August 23, 2010; after the 23rd the hotel will accept reservations for remaining rooms from the public. Currently 32 dealer tables have been sold. The Friday night dinner in the Crew Lounge will be pizza, and the Saturday night banquet will be at the Outback Steak house (50 seats max).

New ENL shirts are being ordered with the new logo showing all ENL clubs. The color will be deep forest green. A request for names and sizes for the new shirts will be sent via the email list. Price is expected to be \$12.50 with an extra \$2.00 for XXX.

- Selma Rail Day, October 1–2, 2010

Setup will be Wednesday, September 29 with the layout operating on October 1 and 2. Don Cariss pointed out that now that the railing has been removed we can move chairs in the room and make the layout 4' 8' deeper, i.e. 20' x 20' or 24' x 20' instead of 16' x 20'. This will depend on available modules and enough transportation to handle.

David McDowell and John Wallis took photographs of downtown Apex on Saturday, July 31. These will provide details needed to develop the diorama for the Raleigh Convention Center. Rick Dellafave provided the article on the Apex Asphalt Plant from Model Railroader. This will be scanned and sent to members via the email list.

David Derway, David Thompson and Joel McCurry have worked on the design of a metal template for checking track spacing on modules. This design has been sent to a machine shop for quote. Still waiting on additional quotes.

Mark Blaustein has had a discussion with Our State Magazine about doing a future article on model railroading, and will be meeting with an editor to determine their interest. He is also looking into a unique NC license plate for model railroaders; 300 plates are required for the State to issue with about 30 folks interested to date.

The September meeting will be hosted by Jim Reske on September 1. The 5-Minute Modeling tip will be Magnetic Uncouplers by Dick Buchan, and the Program will cover Train Show Etiquette and a preview of the Danville show.

5-Minute Modeling Tips are needed for October through December, and Programs are needed for October and November. Please contact Gerry Foster if you can do one of these.

The business meeting ended at 8:00pm.

Following the meeting David Derway displayed a new control panel design for his Rock 'n Toxin module that can be moved from inside to outside the module yet have the track plan remain in the correct orientation in either location. Clever!

The Program involved using Breakneck Mountain module as an example for a complete run through of the Module Certification and Grading requirements of the Club. Each aspect was discussed with examples on the module. Even though a written record was not kept it is clear that Breakneck Mountain fully meets the requirements, and is one of the best modules in the Club.

## **Highlights of the Club's September 2010 Meeting**

### **Fuquay-Varina, September 1, 2010**

Twelve members and one guest attended the Club's September meeting hosted by Jim Reske. Jim and Peggy also hosted a cook-out prior to the meeting. Thanks Jim and Peggy.

President Wallis called the meeting together at 7:30pm. The Treasurer's report for August was approved. President Wallis showed one of the two Dell laptop computers donated to the Club by David McDowell. Thanks David. Necessary software (Java, JMRI, Adobe Reader, LocoNet Checker and Digitrax Duplex) has been added, and drivers installed for LocoBuffer-II, LocoBuffer-USB and PR3. A full set of Digitrax manuals plus the User Guide and Service Manual for the computer has also been installed. Carrying cases were purchase for a sum of \$53.85; this amount was approved by the Club.

The minutes of the August meeting as posted on the Club's web site were approved.

Several train shows were discussed:

- Lynchburg Rail Day, August 14, 2010  
Dave Thompson (with modules) and Joel McCurry attended and enjoyed the show.
- 2010 National NTRAK Show & Danville Old 97 Rail Days, September 24-26, 2010

Several items were discussed; also see the last paragraph on the Danville Preview:

- Dealer tables are sold out (41 tables) with another 3 tables on the waiting list.
- There will be sign-up sheets for the Friday Pizza Dinner in the Crew Lounge and the Saturday Banquet at The Outback Steak house. These sheets were passed around for sign-up at the meeting.
- The NS Lawmen Band will perform at the Carrington Pavilion on Saturday at 6:30. Free admission.
- Transportation of Club modules and equipment will be covered in emails via the Yahoogroups list.
- Selma Rail Day, October 1–2, 2010

Setup will be Wednesday, September 29 with the layout operating on October 1 and 2. Don Cariss pointed out that now that the railing has been removed we can move chairs in the room and make the layout 4' or 8' deeper, i.e. 20' x 20' or 24' x 20' instead of 16' x 20'. This will depend on available modules and enough transportation to handle. Don Cariss will be contacting members via the email list.

- Jim Reske raised the possibility of doing another train show at Windsor Point Retirement Home, as we did in the Spring. It was suggested that January would be a good time for such as show. Jim will pursue.

The proposed Statement of Work for the Convention Center diorama project was reviewed. It was agreed that the diorama would follow the correct track configuration for Apex, rather than meet NTRAK requirements. Copies of photos taken in Apex were passed out (on CD). Paul Ohegyi has agreed to construct the asphalt plant, plus Rick Dellafave and Gene Sing have offered to construct buildings. The Club also agreed to fill a second display case with display trains and information about model railroading.

David Derway discussed the design of a metal template for checking track spacing on modules. The initial machine shop quote for construction was too expensive for further consideration. Additional quotes will be solicited, as well as an alternate lower-cost design.

Mark Blaustein has had a discussion with Our State Magazine about doing a future article on model railroading; a meeting is planned for October 7. Mark also stated that there has been insufficient interest to warrant pursuing a unique NC license plate for model railroaders; 300 plates are required.

The October meeting will be hosted by Al Guckes on October 6. The 5-Minute Modeling tip will be Building a Jig for Trestle Bent Construction by David Derway, and the Program will be The History of N Scale, by Jim Reske.

5-Minute Modeling Tips are needed for November and December. Dave Koss will conduct the program for November; title to come. Please contact Gerry Foster if you can do one of these.

The business meeting ended at 8:10pm.

Following the meeting we conducted a review of Train Show Etiquette, and recommended that Members read the publication "Railroad Courtesy" available on our web site. This was a timely review just prior to the Danville Show.

The upcoming Danville Show was then reviewed in detail, and many questions answered. The various layouts were discussed and details provided about specific events. It was reinforced this is an unConventioN so no clinics, contests, etc. Members who are not planning to attend the entire Show were encouraged to try to attend for one day, so as to get a feel for the layout configuration and operations capability. This will help with a future discussion about re-directing Club layouts more to the Danville model.

## **Highlights of the Club's October 2010 Meeting**

### **Chapel Hill, October 6, 2010**

Ten members attended the Club's October meeting hosted by Al Guckes. Thanks Al.

President Wallis called the meeting together at 7:30pm. The Treasurer's report for September was approved.

The minutes of the September meeting as posted on the Club's web site were approved, after two grammatical corrections.

Several train shows were discussed:

- 2010 National NTRAK Show & Danville Old 97 Rail Days, September 24-26, 2010

On the whole members enjoyed the Danville weekend and the layout concept. A suggestion was made that set up of the layout should start from anchor points in the center of the layout, such as Red Rock Junction and Overlook Junction, which would have allowed faster layout completion. Having Geezer Gate in the layout would also permit easier movement for operators running trains on the Pine Valley leg. The usual NTRAK issues with joiner tracks, etc. were encountered and fixed. A LocoNet low voltage issue was traced to two faulty UP5 panels on a corner module (not NRMRC modules).

A detailed report will be available in the next few days on the Show web site. Many of the 140 attendees have submitted comments on the Show. About 900 members of the Danville public attended the show on Saturday and Sunday, second only to attendance at the first Danville show in 2003.

- Selma Rail Day, October 1-2, 2010

The Selma layout was setup by three members on Wednesday, operated by four members on Friday and by five members on Saturday. Due to a local mix up no school children visited the layout on Friday. However, due to new and well-placed signs attendance by the public on Saturday was the most yet at Selma. With the flexibility of the moving the chairs and tables in the venue we could easily have had a larger layout if transportation was available.

In view of the small participation by Club members we need to evaluate whether or not to continue to participate in Selma Rail Days. This decision is needed before April 2011 when we must commit or not for next year's show.

- Neuse River Valley Train Show, November 6 – 7, 2010

The Neuse River Valley Train Show will be held at the Fairgrounds the weekend of November 6 and 7, with setup on Friday November 5. Our layout will be 20' x 72' and will follow the same outline as last year's layout. Detailed information will be handled via the Club's Email list.

Note that we will again be located next to the Sipping & Switching Society's HO scale layout which uses NCE radio throttles. This means we will not be able to use our simplex radio throttles in wireless mode (they will work plugged in). Duplex radio throttles should work OK.

- Windsor Point Retirement Home, January 15 – 16, 2011

There will be a train show at Windsor Point Retirement Home on Highway 55 in Fuquay-Varina the weekend of January 15 and 16, 2011, with setup on Friday the 14th. The maximum size layout that can be accommodated is 20' x 38'. Jim Reske is Show Superintendent.

The Statement of Work for the Convention Center diorama project has been updated to reflect the discussion in last month's meeting. Don Cariss will be spearheading this project and will be contacting participants via the Email list.

Club members will be asked to provide input on desired programs and 5-minute tips for 2011 via the Email list.

The meeting with a representative of Our State Magazine scheduled for October 7 has been postponed to a future date to be determined.

Following the Danville show the Club is missing its large clamp bucket. In order to determine the quantity of clamps that need to be purchased prior to the NRV show a count of clamps needed for the layout will be made, then a count of the clamps used in Selma from which we can learn how many we may need to acquire. Members will then be asked how many clamps they can provide which will let us get to a final purchase quantity. It was suggested that we find a method of attaching clamps to modules for transport and storage so that we do not need to have separate clamps in buckets.

The Club's storage shed is a mess and needs cleaning and fumigating. It is proposed to do this task during the NRV show when modules will be out of the shed. As well as cleaning and fumigating the shed, modules and other equipment no longer needed by the Club should be removed and disposed of. It was decided to offer the Mountain Turnaround Straight module to any member who wishes to adopt it and modify into a module that is useful in our layouts.

Notice was provided to members that Elections for Club Officers and one Director will be held at the Annual Meeting in January. Nominations were requested and will be requested at each meeting including the Annual Meeting prior to the vote. Nominated so far are:

Position	Nominated
Vice President	Mark Blaustein
Secretary	Joel McCurry
Treasurer	Don Cariss
Director	David Thompson

The November meeting will be hosted by Don Cariss on November 3. The 5-Minute Modeling tip will be Staining Strip wood by David Derway, and the Program will be a yet unnamed topic by David Koss.

The business meeting ended at 8:35pm.

Following the meeting and break David Derway showed how to use jigs to construct several identical trestle bents, and showed the trestle he constructed for his Rock in' Toxin module that will be in the NRV layout. He also showed a way to construct bents and bridges where only one or two are needed. A detailed handout can be used by members to follow David's methods. Thanks Dave.

Jim Reske presented the History of N Scale using copies of old issues of the NTRAK Newsletter, some containing references to NRMRC layouts back into the late 1970's as well as several pieces of track, locomotives and rolling stock from the early years of N Scale. Thanks Jim.

Al Guckes had his G scale train with sound running around track mounted on brackets fastened to his deck and the rear walls of the house. The steam locomotive with sound and the lighted rear car made a great display after dark. Thanks Al.

## **Highlights of the Club's November 2010 Meeting**

**Raleigh, November 3, 2010**

Fourteen members attended the Club's November meeting hosted by Don Cariss. Thanks Don. New member Andy Zimmerman from Tallahassee, FL attended his first meeting. Welcome to the NRMRC Andy.

President Wallis called the meeting together at 7:30pm. The Treasurer's report for October was approved.

The minutes of the October meeting as posted on the Club's web site were approved.

Several train shows were discussed:

- Neuse River Valley Train Show, November 6 – 7, 2010

The Neuse River Valley Train Show will be held at the Fairgrounds the weekend of November 6 and 7, with setup on Friday November 5. Our layout will be 20' x 72' and will follow the same outline as last year's layout. Detailed information is being handled via the Club's Email list. Members are reminded to bring as many C-clamps as they can, since we have not retrieved our clamp bucket yet.

Note that we will again be located next to the Sipping & Switching Society's HO scale layout which uses NCE radio throttles. This means we will not be able to use our simplex radio throttles in wireless mode (they will work plugged in). Duplex radio throttles should work OK.

- Windsor Point Retirement Home, January 15 – 16, 2011

There will be a train show at Windsor Point Retirement Home on Highway 55 in Fuquay-Varina the weekend of January 15 and 16, 2011, with setup on Friday the 14th. The maximum size layout that can be accommodated is 20' x 38'. Jim Reske is Show Superintendent.

- Carolina Coastal Railroaders, New Bern, NC, March 5 – 6, 2011

Joel McCurry agreed to be Show Superintendent for this show.

- Piedmont Crossing, MER Convention, October 27 – 30, 2011

NRMRC has been asked if any of our members would be interested in presenting a clinic at this Convention. A proposed list was discussed:

- Test Layout — David McDowell
- Lightweight Modules — David Thompson
- NTRAK Operations — Jean-Marc Gadoury/John Wallis

- Troubleshooting DCC Layouts — John Wallis

Dave Thompson has agreed to his clinic, but is wondering if there will be a noise problem with an actual demonstration. This will be checked.

Don Cariss has nearly completed cleaning up his garage to use as a construction site for the diorama for the Raleigh Convention Center. Paul Ohegyi submitted a cost estimate for construction of the asphalt plant model.

The Club's storage shed is a mess and needs cleaning and fumigating. Joel McCurry and Gerry Foster agreed to do this task on Saturday during the NRV show when modules will be out of the shed.

Notice was provided to members that Elections for Club Officers and one Director will be held at the Annual Meeting in January. Nominations were requested and will be requested at each meeting including the Annual Meeting prior to the vote. Nominated so far are:

Position	Nominated
Vice President	Mark Blaustein
Secretary	Joel McCurry
Treasurer	Don Cariss
Director	David Thompson

The December meeting will be hosted by Joel McCurry on December 1. The Program will be our Annual Prototype Railroad Questionnaire.

The business meeting ended at 7:55pm.

Following the meeting and break David Derway presented a modeling tip on staining strip wood so it will look like real life, using readily available materials. Thanks David.

Dave Koss presented a clinic on working with plastic pipe, using the line of refinery kits he produced about 24 years ago as examples. Thanks Dave.

## Highlights of the Club's December 2010 Meeting

### Cary, December 1, 2010

Twelve members attended the Club's December meeting hosted by Joel McCurry. Thanks Joel.

President Wallis called the meeting together at 7:30pm. The Treasurer's report for November was approved. The proposed 2011 Budget and Dues structure was approved; dues for 2011 will be unchanged from 2010.

The minutes of the November meeting as posted on the Club's web site were approved.

Several train shows were discussed:

- Neuse River Valley Train Show, November 6 – 7, 2010

This was a great show with virtually no layout problems. It was agreed that we would adopt the approach of stopping trains on Red Rock Junction while the operator walked around the layout to the other side of the Junction before resuming control of the train. It was also agreed that judicious placement of High Bridge would provide a duck under for operators who choose that approach; this approach will be used rather than constructing a second Geezer Gate at this time. Members were reminded that they should not place their coats on tables at the show, but rather underneath their module or on the back of a chair.

- Windsor Point Retirement Home, January 15 – 16, 2011

There will be a train show at Windsor Point Retirement Home on Highway 55 in Fuquay-Varina the weekend of January 15 and 16, 2011, with setup on Friday the 14th from 12 noon to 4:00pm and Saturday from 8:00 to 10:00am. The maximum size layout that can be accommodated is 20' x 38'. Jim Reske is Show Superintendent and will canvass members for participation. Operating hours are 10:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday and Sunday.

- Carolina Coastal Railroaders, New Bern, NC, March 5 – 6, 2011

Joel McCurry agreed to be Show Superintendent for this show. There is interest in a T-TRAK layout to accompany our NTRAK layout.

- Piedmont Crossing, MER Convention, October 27 – 30, 2011

NRMRC has been asked if any of our members would be interested in presenting a clinic at this Convention. A proposed list was discussed:

- Test Layout — David McDowell
- Lightweight Modules — David Thompson
- NTRAK Operations — Jean-Marc Gadoury/John Wallis
- Troubleshooting DCC Layouts — John Wallis

Don Cariss will host the first working session for the Convention Center Diorama Project at his home on December 4 at 10:00am. The prime purpose is organizing how to proceed with the project.

Based on the success of the T-TRAK layout at the NRV Show there is a lot of interest among members in constructing additional T-TRAK modules and exhibiting them at shows, either separate from or in conjunction with our NTRAK layout. A reference list of T-TRAK material was sent to members via the Email list. The Club has adopted the alternate T-TRAK standard of 33mm track spacing.

Notice was provided to members that Elections for Club Officers and one Director will be held at the Annual Meeting in January. Nominations were requested and will be requested at each meeting including the Annual Meeting prior to the vote. Nominated so far are:

Position	Nominated
Vice President	Mark Blaustein
Secretary	Joel McCurry
Treasurer	Don Cariss
Director	David Thompson

The Club is requesting volunteers to host meetings in 2011 as well as 5-Minute Modeling Tips and Programs for 2011. Please let John Wallis know if you are willing to host a meeting, and for which month(s), and Gerry Foster know about 5-Minute Tips and Programs.


We have learned that there are two versions of the Rev 1.1 firmware for Digitrax DT402 throttles. As we are not sure which version was loaded into throttles at the NRV show we will update all throttles with the correct version at our next train show. The correct version fixes a problem with the throttle pinging the Command Station on a regular basis.

The January meeting will be our Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh beginning at 6:30pm. The meeting will be a Dinner meeting for members, their spouses/significant others and family. Following dinner there will be a brief Business Meeting with Officer and Director elections followed by our annual gift exchange. Membership renewal is also due at the Annual Meeting. Separate announcements will be sent to Members via the Email list right after Christmas.

The business meeting ended at 8:10pm.

Following the meeting and break David Derway presented a modeling tip on remote controlled magnetic Uncouplers, which he will incorporate in his Rock in' Toxin module. Thanks David.

The meeting then featured the Annual Prototype Railroad Quiz. Jim Reske was the winner and will thus select last at the Gift Exchange at the Annual Meeting.



Copyright © 2010 North Raleigh Model Railroad Club. All rights reserved.  
The NRMRC is a Not-For-Profit Corporation incorporated in North Carolina.  
The various logos and heralds shown here are the property of their respective organizations.

