

# NAUSET MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

**Date:** January 8, 2016  
**Place:** Train Room at Hilltop Plaza  
**# of people present:** 37

**Call to Order:** 7:30 p.m.  
**By:** Jay Stradal, President

**Secretary's Report:** The Minutes for the December Business Meeting:

**MOTION:** A Motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes as read.

**VOTE:** The Motion passed.

There is a correction to the Minutes for the December 18<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting:  
In the "Members in Attendance" section: Joe Cardito was present but Jim Seaboldt was not.  
A corrected copy will be sent to members.

**QUORUM for 2016:** 11 Members

As of January 1, 55 Regular members had paid their Membership Dues for 2016.  
(20% of 55 members = 11 members);  
Note: the Quorum is the same as 2015's

**Treasurer's Report:**

1. The report for January, 2016 was accepted as read and filed.
2. Peter again thanked Joe Cerreto for listing on eBay more of the donated O Gauge items.  
These more recent sales have generated an additional \$137.

**New Members:** None

**Visitors:** None

Jay thanked Rich Houghtaling, Alan Berg and Jim Seaboldt for running trains last month at the Nursing Homes -- Harbor Point in Centerville and the Terraces in Orleans.

Also, special "Thanks" to everyone who helped with the (5) Holiday Open Houses.

## **CLUB MEMBER INFORMATION:**

1. Jim Bergeron - recovering from hip replacement surgery
2. Bob Blick's wife, Patty - recovering from surgery
3. Bob Borthwick - recovering from surgery
4. Jan Charlton - recovering from hip replacement surgery
5. Paul Dias - recovering from knee surgery
6. Doug Hill - recovering from surgery
7. Steve Reese - recovering from shoulder surgery (in attendance at tonight's meeting)
8. Bob Watson - (former member) passed away on 1/31/2105. His Obituary is in the January 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Cape Cod Times* and *The Boston Globe*.



# NAUSET MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### 1. **ACTIVITIES:** Ross Hall

#### a. **Clinics:**

Next Clinic is **“Building Structures”** hosted by Andy Reynolds  
**Friday, January 15, 2016 at 7:30** in the Train Room

Sign-Up Sheet is in the Front Room.

NOTE: **ALL members welcome; you do not need to sign up to attend.**

#### b. **Activities Committee Meeting:**

**Friday, January 15 from 7:00 to 7:29 p.m.**

### 2. **FINANCE:** Bob Cortez

#### a. **Finance Committee** met on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

- i. The “Special Announcement” promised at December’s Business Meeting: \$8,000.00 has been moved from the checking account in *Cape Cod 5* to the money market in *Fidelity Investments* to earn some interest.
- ii. Since September, 2014 approximately \$311.00 in dividends have been earned from the funds invested with Fidelity.  
Because of the recent volatility in the Market, no changes in the current strategy of investing will be made at this time.
- iii. As a follow-up to a question asked by Andy Reynolds, Bob Cortez will provide the % Interest (rate of return) on the Fidelity Money Market at the February Business Meeting.

#### b. **NMRC Bus Trip to “Big E” on January 30th:** Peter Adam

Seats are still available. GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN!

**\$45 per ticket.**

**Price includes price of bus, tip for the Bus Driver AND your admission to the Train Show!**

Reservation Forms are available on the counter in the Front Room AND are also available on NMRC’s Website ([nausetmodelrrclub.com](http://nausetmodelrrclub.com)).

**Make checks payable to Nauset Model RR Club and give to Peter Adam <or> mail checks to Nauset Model Railroad Club, P.O. Box 2111, Orleans, MA 02653.**



# NAUSET MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

c. **Financial Statements:** Jay Stradal

The Financial Data will be available on the “Members Only” page of the Website by the Business Meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Roy offered a suggestion that the data from previous years should be available with the same time frames for comparisons.

d. **eBay:** Bob Cortez

An O-Gauge Lionel Bicentennial Set from the 1970’s had previously been donated to the Club. (approximate value: \$500.00)

A suggestion was made to ask Joe Cerreto to include this set with the O Gauge items that he is selling on eBay for the benefit of the Club.

Members agreed to have Joe list the train set on eBay.

### 3. **MARKETING:** John Charlton

- a. Next **Marketing Committee Meeting** is scheduled for **January 22, 2016, 7:30 p.m.** in the Annex. ALL are welcome to attend.

- b. **Items For Sale** – posted on the Bulletin Board in the Train Room  
2 sets of trains: American Flyer and HO

c. **Groups Visiting the Train Room:** \*\*\*

\*\*\* The visit to the Train Room by the Orleans Council on Aging, scheduled for **Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 2:00** had to be **CANCELLED** due to scheduling conflicts.

The following members had volunteered to run the layouts: Alan Berg, Brian Carney, Rich Houghtaling and Jim Seaboldt

John **emphasized the need for Volunteers:**

**To operate the Layouts**

**To interact with the visitors** during these sessions

To facilitate the scheduling of these sessions it would be most helpful if potential dates could be identified and presented to Club members so that the final date would be determined based on those dates when the most members would be available.

Rich Houghtaling mentioned that Harbor Point in Centerville has a bus that transports the residents to various functions. Would it be possible for Harbor Point to bring some residents to the Train Room?

The response is a qualified “yes” as it is dependent on having enough members to run the layouts and also interact with the visitors while providing security.



# NAUSET MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

## 4. MEMBERSHIP: Dick Boberg

### a. Status of Membership:

**2015** began the year with 72 members and ended the year with 81 members

**2016** has begun the year with 80 members (1 member did not renew due to scheduling and work conflicts)

Of these 80 members, 58 have paid their dues as of January 7<sup>th</sup> (72.5%) and 3 more members paid at the meeting, bringing the total of paid members as of January 8<sup>th</sup> to 61 (76%).

The remaining members have been contacted and reminded that their membership needs to be renewed by February 5<sup>th</sup> (first Friday in February) or their membership becomes “inactive.” Payment of Dues “reactivates” their membership.

b. **Membership Cards for 2016** are available. See Jeanne for your Membership Card.

c. **Name Badges** for the new members have been ordered.

## OLD BUSINESS:

### 1. Results of (5) Holiday Open Houses: Jeanne Karaim

<u>Date (2015)</u>	<u># Visitors</u>	<u>\$ Donations</u>	<u>\$ Sales</u>
Nov. 28	274	\$292.	\$ 5.
Dec. 5	84	\$123.	\$148.
Dec. 12	119	\$211.	\$ 65.
Dec. 19	168	\$112.	\$ 10.
Dec. 26	247	\$156.	\$ 85.
TOTAL 2015:	892	\$794.	+ \$313. = \$1,107.

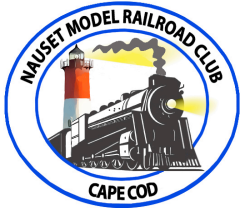
There were 466 fewer visitors (-34%) in 2015 than 2014.

Reference “Visitor Comparisons from 2009 to 2015 for both Summer and Christmas Open Houses” on Page 10 of these Minutes.

Jay pointed out that the unseasonably mild weather in December may have affected attendance, but the negative trend is disconcerting and must be watched.

### 2. Reprint Club Brochures: Jay Stradal

*Background:* At last month’s meeting, members voted to print 5,000 copies of the brochure at a cost of \$710.



# NAUSET MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

As there was a delay in printing the Brochures and there may now be changes to the HO layout this winter (which will necessitate an update to the copy), Jay suggested that 2000 copies be printed now and an additional 3,000 once the changes to HO have been made.

**MOTION:** A Motion was made and seconded to print 2,000 copies of the Visitor's Brochure now and the remainder 3,000 when the HO layout has been modified.

**VOTE:** The Motion passed.

### 3. **Results of Railroad Day at Orleans Historical Society on December 6<sup>th</sup>:** Jay Stradal

The event provided good exposure for both the Nauset Model Railroad Club and the Orleans Historical Society.

### 4. **Bill Pomeroy's Article on NMRC, published in the *Cape Codder*:** Jay Stradal

*Background:* Bill Pomeroy, a photographer for the *Cape Codder*, visited the Train Room on December 5<sup>th</sup> during an Open House to do a feature article on the Club.

The article was published in the December 11th edition of the *Cape Codder*. A copy of the article is on the Bulletin Board in the Train Room. The article also appeared on the "Wicked Local" internet site.

### 5. **Investigate the use of Social Media** (to provide additional exposure of the Club to the public): JayStradal

Currently Jim Seaboldt's wife does Facebook for the Historical Society in Eastham and has mentioned our Club on her posting.

One of the visitors in December mentioned that she learned of us through Facebook.

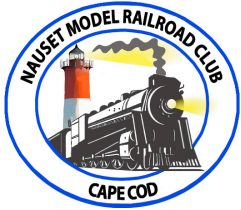
John Charlton and the members of the Marketing Committee will look into this source of publicity.

Use of social media requires the knowledge of, and the willingness to commit the time to monitor and update, the site(s) to make the effort worthwhile.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### 1. **"Undecorating Day":** Jay Stradal

The dates of January 9th or the 16<sup>th</sup> were mentioned to "undecorate" the Train Room.



# NAUSET MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The consensus of the members was to “undecorate” tonight at the conclusion of the Business Meeting. The work was completed.

## 2. Next Train Fairs/Open Houses: Jay Stradal

The next 2 opportunities for a “Train Fair/Open House are:

- February 13, Saturday, of President’s Weekend
- May 28, Saturday, of Memorial Day Weekend

After some discussion, the following Motions were made:

**MOTION:** A Motion was made and seconded to have a Train Fair/Open House on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, of President’s Weekend. A discussion point was made that there will not be adequate time to advertise the event.

**VOTE:** The Motion failed. There will be NO event on February 13.

**MOTION:** A Motion was made and seconded to have a Train Fair/Open House on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, of Memorial Day Weekend from 1-4 p.m.

**VOTE:** The Motion passed by majority vote; there were a few “nay” votes.

## 3. 2016 Goals: Jay Stradal

An Executive Committee Meeting was held on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 that provided an opportunity for regular club members to participate.

- i. Executive Committee attendees: 6 of the 7 voting members, plus the past President
- ii. Regular Club Members: 5
- iii. There was a very good discussion with many ideas as listed in the Minutes for the Meeting that have been distributed to all Members.
- iv. Jay will discuss these ideas with the Committee Chairs in an upcoming meeting.

The following are the **Priorities for 2016:**

### a. **Expand our Marketing, Public Image and Awareness:**

- i. Broader display of our Flyers in stores and organizations such as Councils on Aging, Libraries in Orleans & surrounding towns
- ii. Update Club Website
- iii. Visit organization meetings (e.g. Newcomers) and speak about the Club
- iv. Invite other organizations to visit the Club



# NAUSET MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

## b. **Increase Members' Involvement in the Club:**

- i. Continue to sponsor events that promote camaraderie (e.g. Luncheon Train, Big E Bus, Layout visits)
- ii. Promote Committee involvement, establish/maintain regular meeting schedules for Committees
- iii. Establish and maintain a “mentoring” program to guide new members
- iv. Offer more Clinics, Operating Sessions

## c. **Enhance Club Focus on Involving Children with Model Trains:**

- i. Investigate parent/child, grandparent/child events to get more children interested in the hobby
- ii. Explore building “time-saver-type layouts” for other scales that children could operate at special times
- iii. Continue Boy Scout outreach that was started in 2015; extend the outreach to the Girl Scouts
- iv. Look into sponsoring a bus trip to Edaville; look into whether Edaville does outreach (work with us on a joint event)
- v. Revisit the Proposal for a “Family Plus” membership presented by the Membership Committee in 2014 or perhaps a “Junior Membership” – mindful of security and supervision issues.

## d. **Implement and/or Complete Important “Governance” Items:**

- i. Update and maintain Club financial reports on “Members Only” page of Website
- ii. Per By-Laws, complete Inventories of high-value equipment on each layout; e.g. Locomotives, Control Systems, Structures ; include photos as part of documentation

Jay will be scheduling a meeting of the Executive Committee and the Committee Chairs to address these Priorities.

## 4. **Current Issue of *Prime Time*:** Rich Houghtaling

The current issue of “Prime Time” has an article featuring Max Sarazin.

**NOTE:** Max is the “Founding Father” of the Nauset Model Railroad Club, established in December, 1989.



# NAUSET MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

## GOOD OF THE CLUB:

### 1. **Coffee:** Jack Kuchera

It is time to reorder the K-cups for the Keurig coffeemaker.

Jack has put a List of the “current flavors” on a clipboard next to the coffeemaker.

He has requested that members check off their preferred flavors and those will be the ones reordered.

Remember: The money generated from the coffee sale (\$1.00 per cup) and occasional plates of cookies and brownies is used to offset the cost of the Club’s annual cookout held in September.

### 2. **Suggestion Box:** A visitor at one of the Open Houses wrote the following suggestion: “You should allow the older kids to operate as long as they are careful.”

It was not clear if the reference was for the older kids to be able operate the “Timesaver” or the main layouts.

### 3. **“Tips ‘n Troubles” (Model Railroad Questions):** Jack Kuchera

#### a. **Update on “Troubles”** – Jack tried 2 of the previously suggested “Tips” to resolve the “curled roof on an existing building”:

- i. Spraying water on the back of the “curled” roof sort of worked but was taking too long
- ii. Putting the roof in the microwave for 15 seconds resulted in much smoke and open flame which destroyed the roof. Roof will have to be rebuilt.

This resulted in a new “TIP” - Putting ketchup on a plate for 15 seconds in the microwave absorbed the odor of the smoke in the kitchen.

#### b. **“TIP”:** How to convert an HO turnout to be “DCC-friendly”: Jack Kuchera

One of the issues (either March, April, May) in 2015 *Model Railroading* featured an article on wiring for DCC.

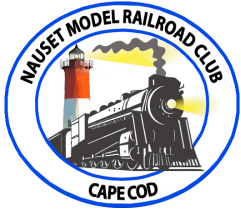
Several suggestions were offered by Members, including buying a new turnout instead of spending the time to convert.

Jack stated that it only took him 30 minutes to convert one turnout and he felt that it was worthwhile to convert the turnout instead of spending money for a new one.

#### c. **“TIP”:** Backorders at Walters: Peter Valle

If you have ordered an item(s) from Walters and there is an extended B/O, call the Manufacturer to check that the item is available. Some items can be ordered directly from the Manufacturer.





# NAUSET MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

4. **Train Sale at Snow's:** Ralph Holcomb  
The Hobby Department at Snow's Home & Garden in Orleans is having a significant sale on their trains and Britain miniatures.
5. **Club Calendar:** Ralph Holcomb  
Ralph asked if the Club has an online calendar so members can go on the website and easily see what has been scheduled.  
Jay explained that specific activities are featured on the website with dates and times, but it is not in the format of a calendar by month. The suggestion of a "calendar format" will be considered.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

**Next Business Meeting will be February 5th, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted:

Jeanne Karaim, Secretary



# NAUSET MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

## NMRC Summer Open House Visitor Comparisons 2009 - 2015

Week	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1	38	64	149	120	79	98	69
2	80	42	142	118	110	62	73
3	71	60	99	115	113	172	82
4	83	126	90	123	120	99	99
5	97	124	191	125	93	151	140
6	114	84	290	109	135	117	140
7	131	104	45	171	99	154	128
8	141	130	177	133	135	113	96
9	132	49	124	117	197	71	105
<b>Totals</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>1,307</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>932</b>

**There were a total of 105 fewer Summer visitors in 2015 compared to 2014 (-10%)**

## NMRC Christmas Open House Visitor Comparisons 2009 – 2015

Week	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1	201	138	238	307	450	389	274
2	94	26	231	138	129	148	84
3	120	ND*	277	204	136	243	119
4	100	102	314	222	230	241	168
5	96	ND*	349	260	435	337	247
6	77	N/A	N/A	294	N/A	N/A	N/A
		* No Data					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>1,425</b>	<b>1,380</b>	<b>1,358</b>	<b>892</b>

**There were a total of 466 fewer Christmas visitors in 2015 compared to 2014 (-34%)**