

## Apple Valley Model Railroad Club

### Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2026, 10 AM

**President's Remarks** (Rob Wright): (absent) Bill Davies reported. Chuck Batherson passed on Monday, Jan 12<sup>th</sup>. Ray Baldwin will be new engineer in training lead. Lisa Konczal YouTube video of our club was featured in NMRA's December Turntable. Buy embroidered shirts & hats from Randi. Call her directly, catalog is in the office. Planning underway for **Train Day, May 9<sup>th</sup>** and **Polar Express reading Dec 7, 2026**. We will begin inventory of club rolling stock, engines, buildings, etc. in February to update insurance. If you have equipment here, make sure and mark it or remove it until the inventory is complete. Return throttles to the charger when done so other club members can use them. When you use the naphtha bottles, refill and put them back in the shop so others can use them. Clean up after yourself.

**Vice President** (Bill Davies): no report

**Secretary** (Brad Jones): Please update emails and phone numbers if changes are made.

**Treasurer:** (Larry Morton): (Absent)

The club received \$1920 this month and spent \$379 for restroom cleaning. Current bank balance is \$23,100.

**Ombudsman** (Bill Meyers): Looking at replacing lighting system in Piedmont division. Looking at warm light tone bulbs. Several Digitrax throttles were found either not charged or even not plugged in to charge. Follow instructions posted on cabinet to properly charge the throttles when they are returned after use.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership:** (Chuck Place): (absent) Caleb Williams and Joe Corbo were voted in as new members. Several more applications are in the pipeline. The current club roster is posted in the members section of the website. AVMRC.COM

**Mentor Program** (Ken O'Brien): no report

**Good and Welfare** (Earl Hall): (absent)

**Website** (Dan Bails): A public calendar and a member's only calendar is available on our website 102 members are signed in to access our website. If you need help with website access, contact Dan Bails.

**HO Operations** (Bill Raymond): Rolling stock and locomotive inventory will be starting in February. Will also need to inventory artifacts.

**Shop Committee Updates:** (Mason Gempe): (absent)

The following persons have agreed to serve on the Shop Committee Ken O'Brian, Seth May, Tom Duffy and Eli Windsor. We will consult with DCC Chair, Dan Lang as needed.

**Shop Updates:** The shop was deep-cleaned and partially reorganized last month. If you use something, please put it back where you got it, as that helps us out. Thanks in advance!

**Purchase Requests:** Would like approval for the purchase of a minimum 2, preferably four [TRIX Wheel Cleaning Brushes](#), at a cost of \$40 per unit. These should greatly speed up routine maintenance, especially of locomotives with extremely dirty wheels.

A recommendation from the floor was made to look at the Woodland Scenic wheel cleaner as it does not scratch the wheels like the Trix cleaner.

We are looking at other tools that would be generally helpful, and if anyone has any suggestions, please let Mason know.

**Electrical/DCC** (Dan Lang): (absent) Under NO circumstances use any Digitrax controller to turn off the layout. This shuts down the entire layout and must be used to restore the layout. Use the written instructions in the Asheville yard to turn on and turn off the layout ONLY. Using a Digitrax controller to shut down the layout could result in the perpetrator losing operating privileges.

A suggestion was made to mark the kill button with red paint.

**Scenery** (Terry Ketcham): The December clinic was ballast and scenery. Discussion on the poor results of substituting Elmers school glue for regular Elmers glue was held. A follow-up to this discussion was sent via email to members showing a Gorilla clear glue that is available.

Dan Bails will be working on a website link to the YouTube videos of the clinics.

**Thomas layout:** (Romar Taylor): no report

**Building:** (Terry Ketcham): Bens cabinet has been mounted with models on display. We cleaned out under Asheville layout and wire was donated to the N scale club. We will be clearing out old paint in storage room soon.

**Training Workshop** (Tom Hagerty): 5 Workshops have been completed and one left to go. By mid-March the modules should be available to view at the club.

**Outdoor Layout** (Larry Williams): (absent) Terry reported that the car barn built by Doug Miller has been spruced up.

**Club Computers** (Dave Hull, Kelly Orr): (absent) no report

**City Liaison** (Terry Ketcham): North side of building is not insulated so we should have faucets dripping during extreme cold weather.

**Engineer In Training:** (Ray Baldwin): We have 4 EITs and 5 Mentors. It's a commitment of 1.5 hours one time a month. Feb 7<sup>th</sup> is the next session.

**Sales and Donations** (Pete Bain, Steve Anderson, Kevin McGill): A nice Lionel collection has been donated. Feb 20-21 is the next train show in Asheville.

**Artifacts** (Sally Ruff. Callie): (Absent)

**Library:** (Callie): (absent)

#### **OTHER ITEMS**

**Next Meeting:** February 25th at 10AM.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

**Attendees:** 25 members present      Meeting ended at: 11:05 AM