

The Piedmont and Western Railroad Club

February 2016



# The Bulletin





**THE PIEDMONT & WESTERN RAILROAD CLUB**  
**THE OLD ROCK SCHOOL, 400 W. MAIN STREET**  
**P.O. BOX 513, VALDESE, NC 28690**

**TIM SKIDMORE, PRESIDENT; GRANT ROBBINS, VICE-PRESIDENT; GENE AUSTIN, TREASURER, ALAN COLEMAN, SECRETARY AND BULLETIN EDITOR, KEN HUMPHREYS, WEB MASTER, KEVIN STINE, OPERATIONS CHAIRMAN.**

**THE BULLETIN IS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE P&WRR. ALL OPINIONS ARE SOLELY THOSE OF THE EDITOR OR CITED CONTRIBUTORS.**



**ON THE COVER:** Member **Jacob Riley** caught N&W J No. 611 during and after its trip back to Spencer for its scheduled maintenance and visit. More of Jacob's photography may be found on page 5.

**Next P&W Business Meeting: Thursday  
 March 3, 2016 - 7:30PM at the Old Rock School**

## **Piedmont & Western Railroad Club February 2016 Minutes**

The meeting was called to order on January 7, 2016 at 7:50PM by President Tim Skidmore.

**Members in Attendance:** Tim Skidmore, Gene Austin, Bill Poteat, Larry Weed, Jacob Riley, Josh Garrison, Robert Scism, Keith Garrison, Jeff Whisenant, Frank Steele, Ken Humphreys, Dick Miller, Grant Robbins, and Alan Coleman. Visitors this month were Jamie and Garratt Jackson.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Gene Austin reported a balance of \$2,347.20 in our treasury, with \$100.00 in dues payable. Gene predicts we will have a \$400 shortfall between projected dues and fixed expenses for the year, which calls for fund raising and better results from our August Open House and events like the Christmas in November and the Christmas Parade Open House. Discussion on the admission prices for those events followed, but no motions were made.

**Wiring and Track Report:** Tim reported that two more LNRP's from Digitrax are on order. The problem at Biltmore Junction has been diagnosed as a sneak circuit, placing the AC out of phase. Tim will be spending some time on the system during a week of vacation at the end of this month.

**Scenery Report:** Frank is making progress on three new structures for the Hot Springs expansion, Discussion followed about the scenery work at the high bridge on the Murphy Branch, Bill suggesting the use of a photo backdrop, and mentioned one possible vendor, bigbackdrops .com.

**Business Old and New:** Ken Humphreys is working on the update to the web sites' reporting marks section-our thanks to Ken for this much appreciated and time-consuming labor of love. And again our thanks to Arlene Koski for funding the web site. The dates of upcoming train shows were discussed (see the schedule box on page 3).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23PM.

*Minutes submitted by Alan Coleman*

# Model Train Shows

**The Asheville Train Show** will be held on **March 4 and 5, 2016** at the **Western North Carolina Agricultural Center** in Fletcher NC. Friday hours are Noon to 7 PM, Saturday hours are 9 AM until 5 PM. For more information, go on-line to [asheville-trainshow.com](http://asheville-trainshow.com)

**The 14th Annual NC Railroad Expo** will be held on **Saturday, April 16, 2016** at the **Hickory NC Metro and Convention Center**. The public hours for the show are 9 AM until 4 PM. For more information, go on-line to [tarheelpress.com/trainshow/](http://tarheelpress.com/trainshow/)



## **SMALL LOCO, BIG SHOW:**

Owned and restored by Gramling Locomotive Works, Flagg Coal “75” is shown at work at Spencer a couple of years ago. Built by Vulcan as Flagg’s No. 2 in 1930, the engine was sold in 1935 to Solvay Process Co. of Jamesville, NY which re-numbered as their No. 75.

No. 75 will be back in Spencer from March 5 until April 16 as part of NCTM’s Hand on the Throttle program.

*photos by the editor*

## Miscellaneous items of interest to the editor

In your editor's opinion, few if any purveyors of model trains can match **Rapido Trains Inc.** of Markham, Ontario Canada in terms of scale fidelity and quality. If you aren't already subscribing to company president Jason Shron's on-line newsletter *Rapido News*, do so, as its not just new-product announcements, it is a fascinating inside look into the model railroad industry. For example, Rapido's new HO Amtrak de-engined F-40 NPCU models will come as powered models as the difference between a "dummy" model and a powered one would only be \$6.00....

Jason and the folks at Rapido are not just modelers, they are serious rail fans as well. Last month they saved a Budd RDC, former VIA Rail No. 6133, from the scrappers in Moncton, New Brunswick. As Jason wrote "There is no business case for saving 6133. It just had to be done." And that is where you can help. Rapido Trains has asked its friends and customers to help with non-tax deductible contributions towards the estimated \$25,000 moving costs and \$20,000 for initial restoration.

So far folks like your  have contributed nearly \$25,000 CD...if you would like to help go to:

[rapidotrains.com/saving-6133/](http://rapidotrains.com/saving-6133/)



Several of our museum exhibits are secured with old railroad switch locks, most of which were

probably purchased way-back-when through eBay®. In our post 9/11 world that's not possible. Why? Because eBay says in their prohibited items policy:

"There are strict federal regulations banning or restricting the sale of government, transit, and shipping related-items Along with buyer and sellers

on eBay, we have to comply with those regulations. So most of these items can't be listed on eBay."

Along with some obvious items none of us would like terrorists to misuse, e.g. USPS bins, bags, and uniforms, transit system and police uniforms, current-era mail and commercial delivery trucks etc., eBay policy also states: "Not allowed: Keys locks, tools, or anything (regardless of how old the item is) that can control transit vehicles. Examples include railway switch keys or switch key locks."

Have any readers had better luck than I have in finding the federal regulations eBay is referring to?

Many thanks to Jacob Riley for his photographic contributions to this issue of The Bulletin.



▲ The Ready Mix complex is a mix of kit-bashed and out-of-the-box Walther's kits by the ed. Note the 50+ year-old AHM front-end loader...

▼ Frank Steele built the much-admired Barnstead Lumber Co. in Asheville. *photos by the editor*

## P&W Portraits



**next month:** a visit to Henry Ford's train collection

# 611 comes back to Spencer

Photographs by  
Jacob Riley



