



The Bulletin



A wave from eastbound GP-38-2 #5054 in Conover, Tuesday March 3, 2015

All photos in this issue by the editor.

March 2015 Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Joe Bost, Tim Skidmore, Grant Robbins, Joshua Garrison, Keith P. Garrison, Gene Austin, Robert Scism, Alan Coleman, Frank Steele, Mike Outen Sr., Dick Miller, Bill Poteat, Jacob Riley, Ken Humphreys, Jeff Whisenant.

The March business meeting was called to order at 7:37PM on March 5, 2015 by Secretary Alan Coleman.

Wiring Report: Bill Poteat began his report with the reminder that we will need at least \$1,000 and many club member man-hours to initiate the re-wiring project. [Editor's Note: In summary, we plan to install multiple *Train Brains* circuit boards from CTI Electronics (visit the www.cti-electronics.com web site) wired via CAT 5 cables and RJ45 jacks to a central computer to replace our obsolete and difficult to trouble-shoot PLC system currently mounted under Hot Springs and use JRMI® (Java Model Railroad Interface - visit jmri.org) to enable programing the new dispatcher's office computer screens with its Panel Pro software]. This investment will allow the current cramped dispatcher's 'loft' and its dated control panels to be removed and replaced by an expanded Hot Springs while retaining the use of our local yard panels. By using "best practices" in labeling all wiring and components and documenting the new system, we will be ensuring the continued operation of P&W for years to come. As our just-arrived President noted, although the new systems will be both labor intensive and expensive, up-front preparation and scheduled work sessions will minimize the downtime for operations and ensure that as many members as possible are familiar with the new system.

President's Report: Tim commented on the loss of several very good friends of the club- the recent death of Valdese mayor Jim Hatley and the announced retirement of long-time town manager Jeff Morse. Tim also reported that long-time benefactor to the club Herman King of Connelly Springs Electric is facing some serious health problems. Herman and his employees made the moving and installation of our Southern Railway semaphore possible, and his donation of the lumber used for framing the new speeder room made that project possible as well. Tim reminded us that one of the most important things we can do as a club to continue our excellent long-standing relationship with the town is to continue to "always do what we say we are going to do."

Financial Report: Club treasurer Gene Austin reported February revenues of \$80.00 in dues and \$39.00 in donations, bringing our bank balance to \$2,155.33.

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THE PIEDMONT & WESTERN RAILROAD CLUB
THE OLD ROCK SCHOOL, 400 W. MAIN STREET

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TIM SKIDMORE, PRESIDENT; GRANT ROBBINS,
VICE-PRESIDENT; GENE AUSTIN, TREASURER,
ALAN COLEMAN, SECRETARY AND BULLETIN
EDITOR.

OPERATIONS CHAIRMAN: KEVIN STINE
WEBMASTER: KEN HUMPHREYS

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

The next
Piedmont & Western
Business Meeting will be
held on Thursday,
April 2, 2015
at 7:30PM

March 2015 Minutes *continued*

Scenery Report: Bill recommended the use of clear “Loctite® Power Grab” adhesive for installing scenery materials, and proposed that we schedule a spring-time visit to the George L. Carter Museum in Johnson City to see their excellent modeling of the ET&WNC. Tim noted that we are fortunate to have Larry Weed working on updating the Asheville structures for lighting.

Old Business: On the fund-raising front, Ken Humphreys suggested that we try to sell the Jim Beam decanters for at least 60% of the values he has researched. While Ken can eventually offer unsold items on eBay®, their direct sale at the Hickory train show will eliminate packing and shipping costs as well the listing fees. Any members having additional items which could be donated for sale at the show need to let Ken know as soon as possible.

New Business: Members of the Southbound Model Railroaders club of Winston-Salem plan to visit the P&W on Saturday, March 7 on their way home from the Fletcher train show and a visit to the Apple Valley Club in Hendersonville. Ken and Alan will be at the ORS from 2:00PM onwards to host the visit.

Jacob is looking for rolling stock and livery suggestions for a P&W passenger consist; Tim reminded everyone to check the white board outside the work room for one or two-people projects that need completion; Ken reminded us that emptying the trash and NEVER leaving food or drinks around the layout and museum is something we all need to do.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM by President Tim Skidmore.

Submitted by Alan Coleman with an early-meeting assist from Jeff Whisenant

A Visit From (and to) The Southbound Model Railroaders



Eight of the eleven members of the Southbound Model Railroaders who visited the P&W on March 7 are captured above. At left is their club building in Southfork Park, located on Tipperary Lane just off of Country Club Road in Winston-Salem. Below is their beautiful model of Winston-Salem's circa 1926 Union Station.



A March 9 Visit to Spencer...

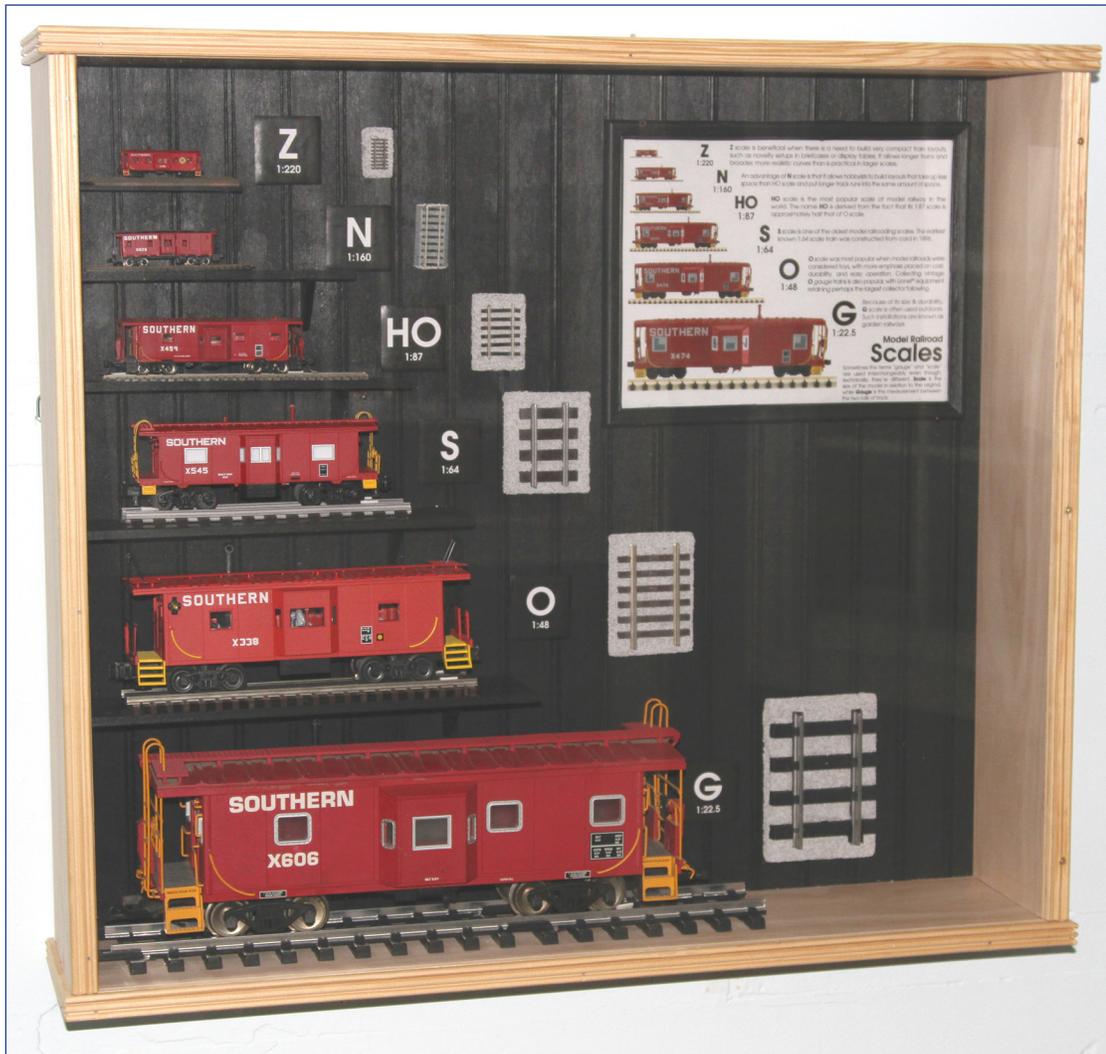


Progress continues on the rebuilding of NS 611. Saturday and Sunday visitors to the North Carolina Transportation Museum can take a 1:30PM guided tour of restoration work for a five dollar donation, which helps cover the costs of the project.

The F7A which began life as Clinchfield #800 has survived over the years as Seaboard Systems and CSXT's 116, and most recently as "C&O 8016," didn't go back home to the Potomac Eagle after last year's Streamliners event. Rumors include talk about a ten -year lease and a restoration to her CRR livery.



The latest addition to the P&W's NC Highland Fair is **Colonel Joe Bost's Shooting Arcade**, which promises customers the opportunity to "Meet the World's Most Acclaimed Marksman." Col. Joe is said to be the gentlemen in the red trousers; the real Joe Bost has approved this message.



One of the best exhibits in our railway museum presents Southern Railway cabooses in the six most common model railroad scales. Created by Grant Robbins and Larry Weed, this exhibit somehow missed coverage in *The Bulletin* when it was unveiled-