

The Piedmont and Western Railroad Club

December 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, WEBMASTER; OUR
OPERATIONS CHAIRMAN POSITION IS OPEN.

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 P&WRRC. ALL OPINIONS ARE SOLELY THOSE OF THE EDITOR OR
 CITED CONTRIBUTORS.



ON THE COVER: The editor shot Western Maryland Scenic Railroad's No. 734 at Frostburg, Maryland in May of 2007. Neither the locomotive nor the location are operable at present: the 1916 Baldwin 2-8-0 (ex-Lake Superior and Ishpeming) ran it's last miles in 2016 pending a 1472-service days FRA inspection; the line to Frostburg was temporarily cut off this year by two landslides. 734 is going to be replaced by C&O H-6 class 2-6-6-2 No. 1309.



< P&W Master Mechanic/
 Motive Power Larry Weed
 has completed one of the
 two Grant Line box cab kits
 the editor found for the 36-
 inch line to the Steele Mining
 Co. site; Larry has also built
 an HOn3 steam locomotive
 for the dual-gauge Snowbird
 logging operation. >



PORTRAITS OF THE P&W



The past passes the future. Keith Garrison captured this 1950's scene of Southern Railway steam overtaking L&N F7's at Bridgewater. Keith made this old Kodachrome-look image during the Christmas Parade Open House.

Piedmont & Western Railroad December Club Minutes

The meeting was called to order on December 1, 2016 at 7:34 pm by President Tim Skidmore.

Members in Attendance: Tim Skidmore, Grant Robbins, Gene Austin, Frank Steele, Larry Weed, Reggie Stroud, Garatt Jackson, Keith Garrison, Michael Devore, Dick Miller, Alan Coleman, and guest Kim Garrison.

Financial Report: Treasurer Gene Austin reported that with the 2017 rent and liability still to be paid, our bank account balance is \$4,211.64, with \$25.00 in dues payable. The balance reflects \$48.00 in donations last month, including the Christmas in November event.

Scenery Report: Frank continues to work on his projects, slowed down a bit by his impending move to a new home. Alan continues to work on buildings for the Bemis complex for Robbinsville; Reggie continues his work on the Bryson City area. Larry presented two new HOn3 locomotives built for the Steele Mining Company narrow gauge line.

Membership Report: Tim used a Power Point presentation to run through some issues he feels the club needs to address in 2017:

- Our current annual overhead
- Current dues base
- Possible rate changes
- Elimination of the membership classes
- Other fund raising venues

Track Report: Tim reported several areas that need track work after the Christmas Parade Open House:

- We have a kink in the first turnout in Bryson which needs realignment.
- Several turnouts need repair, including those leading from Tower 3 to 4.
- There is a pronounced hump at the Almond-end of the large bridge which must be corrected to end occasional coupler separation.

Wiring Report: Tim reported that he and Bill Poteat are working on the wiring behind the scenes. As previously reported, Murphy will wired first. In other matters electrical:

- We have a new DCS-210 installed.
- We have a USB connection for the new Digitrax components
- Work continues on RJ-45 plugs for the Train Brain • The Digitrax 44 card which controls the Bryson wye needs to be replaced- it chatters and cuts off the power supply, creating down times for the whole power section.

Tim will be arranging some work dates as soon his real work schedule permits.

Old Business: Tim covered several topics of old business:

- We need to arrange the return of the late Jesse Koski's table saw and other tools to Arlene and to assume the cost of the web site which she has so generously sponsored since Jesse's passing.
- The back door stair railings need to have the new hand railing installed: a current 2x4 needs to be replaced with a 2x6 to accommodate the upgraded stanchions.
- The Pullman display needs the mirror/lighting update.
- Members were urged to donate additional R-20 track light fixtures and "daylight" LED bulbs.
- We need to acquire the long needed plaques for Herman King and Dr. Ben.
- The rolling stock list needs updating and all cars need wheel cleaning.
- The work room needs a thorough sorting and cleaning.

New Business:

- Tim discussed the urban renewal project for Asheville; other areas in need of scenery investment and efforts include Bryson, Robbinsville, and Sylva.
- In response to a suggestion from Dick Miller re: lighting on the layout, Tim said that the new wiring project includes an 8-channel bus for street lights, etc., with programmable intervals for different rooms in houses and buildings.
- Tim talked about the possibility of additional open houses during the year as a means of publicizing the club- we continue to have local folks tell us that they didn't know about our existence. In a related matter, Tim got a show of hands of those who can work the Christmas Parade Open House this coming Saturday.
- Tim listed his intended format for future meetings: Workshops, instructive videos, field trips, and "eating" meetings
- The Board of Directors was re-elected by acclamation as moved by Larry Weed and seconded by Frank Steele.

President Tim Skidmore adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Submitted by Alan Coleman

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Next P&W Business Meeting: Thursday January 5, 2017 at 7:30 pm



Elmer Killian's Amazing Museum



The 1950's "Sky King" vintage Cessna 310 on the shed roof is the first clue that **Killians** is not your typical hardware and garden equipment store. On November 22, the daughters of the late Elmer Killian held a public showing of their father's incredible private museum which includes a plane, a train, and many automobiles. Walking by old Maytag washers, native American relics, coin collections, old lawn mowers and all things vintage, one realizes that on a very human scale this is our local equivalent of Dearborn's Henry Ford Museum.

Located both next door to and in the basement of the sixty-three year old family business on Springs Road, Elmer Killian's collection is a grand legacy for a gentleman who left us all too early in 1997.



Photos by the editor



Former Southern Railway caboose X-628 dwarfs No.7.



A glimpse of the automotive collection...



No. 7's Crouse-Hinds headlight casting has a patent date of March 23, 1909.

Dixie Construction Co. Number 7 (#65375) is a December 1923 product of American Locomotive's Cooke Locomotive and Machine Works. Opened as Danforth-Cooke in 1852, the company was part of the 1901 merger which formed American Locomotive Company. ALCo closed the Patterson, New Jersey plant in February of 1926.