



The Bulletin



Iredell and Rowan Rails

For obvious reasons, Statesville's old Southern Railway depot is among the safest places imaginable to visit.

All photos in this issue by the editor.

Winter is a season well suited for ferro-equinology and photography in your editor's opinion. Gray days make for even lighting without shadows, cold weather precludes various vipers and yellow jackets, and the absence of leaves makes some summer-time invisible sites easy to find. This issue of the Bulletin captures locations in Iredell and Rowan counties on December 16, 2014....



February 2015 Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Tim Skidmore, Grant Robbins, Joshua Garrison*, Keith P. Garrison*, Gene Austin, Robert Scism, Alan Coleman, Larry Weed, Mike Outen Sr., Dick Miller, Kevin Stine, Jacob Riley, Ken Humphreys, Jeff Whisenant.

The February business meeting was called to order at 7:40PM on February 5, 2015 by President Tim Skidmore.

Financial Report: Club treasurer Gene Austin reported a bank balance of \$2,036.33, with all 2015 operating and fixed expenses paid. Revenues since the January meeting totalled \$750.00 in dues and \$16.00 in donations.

Wiring and Track Report: Jeff reported that the dual gauge line from Robbinsville to the logging camp at Snowbird is now operational since the removal of a scenery backdrop which interfered with car clearance on the line.

Re: the Re-wiring Project: Bill Poteat has completed over fifty of the punch-downs, Phil Lafferty has completed all of the CAT 5 jumpers for which he had materials. Tim noted that we will have a one-month notice prior to the actual "cutover" to the new wiring system.

Scenery Report: Larry has started renovations on several buildings from Asheville, interior painting/light-sealing and the addition of floors, interior lighting and view blocks are among the improvements being added.

Old Business: While noting that winter has delayed several projects like the painting of the back door, Tim reminded everyone that there are a number of projects on the white board which need to be completed.

Minutes continued on page 2



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

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WEB SITE: WWW.PWRR.ORG

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,
March 5, 2015
at 7:30PM

February 2015 Minutes *continued*

On the Operations end of old business, Kevin will be shopping for metal wheels for the club-owned coal train, Tim noted that the train's old MDC hoppers unfortunately had their bolsters cut-down by their previous owner many years ago. Jeff is working on a narrow gauge Mogul for the logging line.

New Business: Valdese Elementary School has asked the club for help on its March 2 "Reading Station" in the form of a portable layout. Our thanks to Larry for making a train and layout available; Tim will help coordinate the choice of the rolling stock.

The Fletcher Train Show at the Western NC Agricultural Center is scheduled for March 6 and 7; the Alexander Chapter NHS show in Hickory will be on Saturday, April 11. P&W club members plan to be at both shows.

Joshua and Kevin Garrison were welcomed as our newest club members-this father and son addition to the club helps lower our median age by several years!

Tim reminded the club of the need to display the American Flyer trains donated to the club last year.; Tim also brought up two "button-pushing" topics, i.e., the need for funding for both the layout re-wiring project and the completion of scenery. Each of these major projects involves a minimum estimate of \$1,000. Ken Humphreys suggested a possible answer to the above issues - selling the club's collection of Jim Beam train decanters. Ken has offered to handle the sale of these items (which he knows well as their original donor); the vacated space in a hallway cabinet will house the American Flyer set. Additional items from other members will also be sold to raise funds for wiring and scenery. Dick Miller suggested we look into selling some of our collective expertise as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM by President Tim Skidmore.

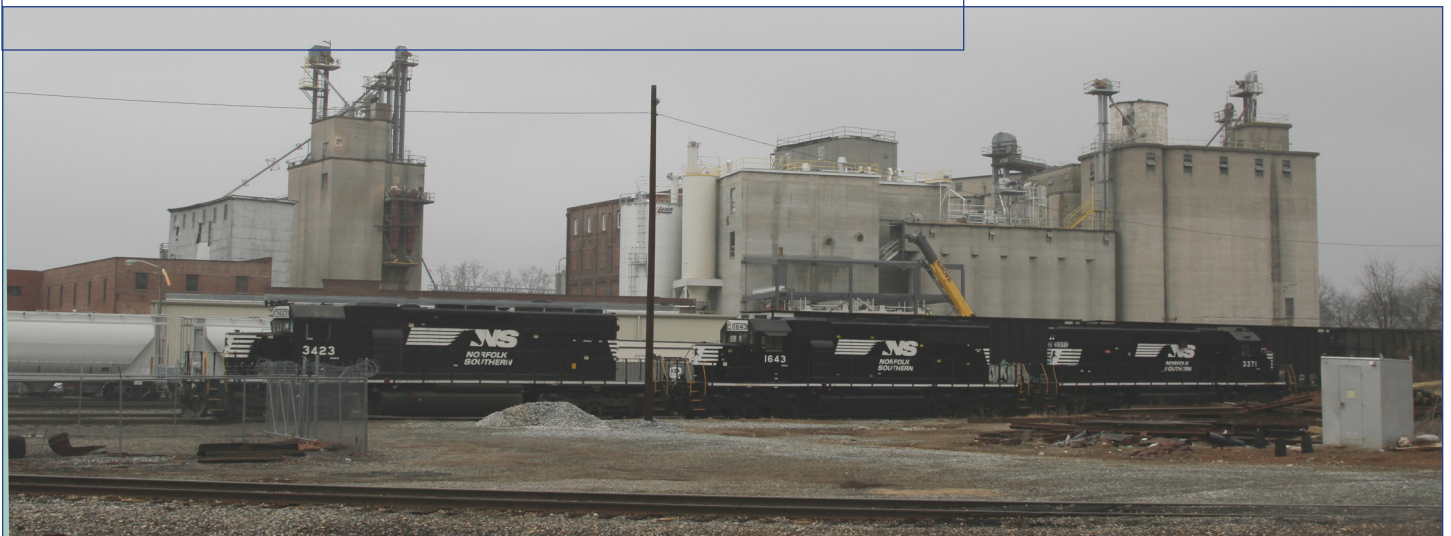
Submitted by Alan Coleman



Above and on the opposite page, Norfolk Southern SD-40-2's 3423, 1643, and 3371 await the call in Statesville.



Present day Barber Junction. The upper image is looking west along the Norfolk Southern mainline; the lower shot is looking north along the old line to Mocksville. Note the signals protecting the main line and the phone box.





What much of the country calls a viaduct is called a bridge around here. The Bastian Bridge has been carrying trains between Salisbury and Statesville since 1857. Built by the Western North Carolina Railroad, the five-arch, 260 foot-long structure has seen more than one tragedy. The August 10, 1891 derailment of west-bound train # 9 claimed thirty lives; on the same date in 2010, one member of a group of trespassing "ghost hunters" was struck and killed by a train on the bridge.



A two-man surveying crew tasked with gathering information about the possible impact of flooding in Iredell County was at work measuring both Third Creek and the structure which has spanned it for 158 years.



The Statesville Cemex terminal is well suited for modeling - cement arrives by rail and departs by truck for area to area ready-mix and block plant operations. Cemex uses a Trackmobile® to shift their covered hoppers.



Exhausts from GP-38-2's 5081 and 5645 help the morning mist obscure the view of the Southern States mill at Barber.

The view looking south at Barber Junction...the mill is just out of sight on the right. GE D8-32B #540 is in the distance; three old deck girder bridge sections molder in the foreground in contrast to what looks like a brand new covered hopper.

