

The Piedmont and Western Railroad Club

January 2017



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.

© 2017. THE BULLETIN IS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
 P&WRR. ALL OPINIONS ARE SOLELY THOSE OF THE EDITOR OR
 CITED CONTRIBUTORS.



ON THE COVER: 611 is back in the Bob Julian Roundhouse at the North Carolina Museum of Transportation being readied for April 8 and 9 excursions. On January 25 the editor caught this image the front of 611's tender. Note the exposed stoker screw and the size of the water hoses. *All images in this issue are by the editor.*

Piedmont & Western Railroad January Club Minutes

The meeting was called to order on January 5, 2017 at 7:40 PM by club president Tim Skidmore.

Members in Attendance: Tim Skidmore, Gene Austin, Frank Steele, Larry Weed, Keith Garrison, Joshua Garrison, Michael DeVore, Reggie Stroud, Jeff Whisenant, Grant Robbins, and Danny Tuttle

After a "Welcome to 2017" and brief discussion of the recent Open House, Tim started the Committee Discussions with a **Track Wiring** update. Tim and Bill Poteat have been buying and gathering parts and materials, and Bryson City and Murphy will be the first areas to address.

New Business: Tim announced an upcoming NEW EVENT by the Town of Valdese - the "April Craft Market" on Saturday, April 8th. We will be open all day, and Tim will be working out a schedule to cover personnel required to operate the Layout and Museum AND accommodate those members who wish to attend the Hickory Train Show that is scheduled for the same day.

Finance: Gene Austin reported that our current balance is \$4,099.64. Gene has paid all major expenditures with the exception of RENT, but we will be able to cover that and maintain a small balance as we move into 2017. Most members have not yet paid any 2017 dues, as is understandable at this first meeting of the new year.

Scenery/Layout: Jeff Whisenant brought up the Snowbird Logging Camp...that as both Narrow Gauge locos that Larry Weed has assembled are DC only, Jeff suggested a plan to segment the Logging Camp as DC Only - and that the new locos would shuttle cars to the transfer area for DCC Locos to pick up and transport. Grant (Robbins) suggested the possibility of installing N Scale Decoders into the locomotives. Tim and Jeff reviewed the locos, and it does appear that a small decoder will fit in the loco. The club had several 4-function N Scale Digitrax Decoders, but only one empty package was located in the storage bin in the work room. A more detailed search will come at our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM

Submitted by Grant Robbins

Next P&W Business Meeting: Thursday February 2, 2017 at 7:30 pm



With the impending May, 2017 demise of the Ringling Brothers circus trains, it might be argued that Norfolk Southern’s work trains will soon be the greatest show on earth in terms of the number of people who live on the rails to be near their work. Major track work projects require large numbers of skilled craftsmen, thus the dozens of bunk and support cars crowding the sidings in and around the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer this month.



Though the lighting and only lens the editor had with him on January 25 obscured the reporting mark but the unusual “Old English” font used on this old heavy-weight dining car was visible from the NCTM grounds.



Part of the NS work train consist residing on the NCTM grounds: three of the cars are converted box cars.



The side streets of Spencer provide nice legal viewing of some of the cars. Most of bunk modules-on-flat cars bear Conrail reporting marks e.g. CR 62153MW.



Left to right: a converted box car; a generator flat; a shorter flat and module, Southern 991353MW; CR 62752MW.



CR 62752MW.



CR 62584MW. Detail modelers should note the mop bucket and trash can.



CR 6215? and CR 62055. A couple more notes for modelers: the green vertical tanks on either side of the doors are fuel tanks, the lights are on even when nobody is home, the bunk cars have at least two roof-top RV- style air conditioners, and most of the cars have satellite dishes...

PORTRAITS OF THE P&W



Frank Steele built the Curry Merchantile building, Reggie Stroud modeled the nice looking street.



Reggie Stroud also modeled the pool scene and houses to its left, Larry Weed crafted the temporary paper gray houses and the wonderful distant house in the background.