



The Bulletin

Railroad News

“Could Rail Line Between Andrews and Murphy Return to Life?”

The Andrews Chamber of Commerce is encouraging local residents to attend a meeting concerning the possible reactivation of the rail line from Andrews to Murphy. The Chamber explains that Stantec, the host, is working with NCDOT Rail to assess the feasibility of the rail reactivation project.

There will be an interactive Q & A session and mapping exercise after the Project Team makes a brief presentation of the study approach and early findings. This is a fact-finding exercise to gather input and ensure that all relevant areas are included in the study effort.

Your time and effort to provide input on this project will be appreciated.

Location: L&N Depot in Murphy (at Hiwassee St. & Railroad St.)

Time: Monday, March 31, from 4 to 7 pm.

Please RSVP to Gail.Aldridge@stantec.com or 980-297-7652.”

(Posted on March 18, 2014 by WKRK)

Good Things Are Happening at Spencer



On March 1, volunteers at the NCTM worked on a soon-to-be working visitor operated display which includes a wig-wag crossing signal.



Winter at Spencer

all photos in this issue by the editor

March 2014 Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Tim Skidmore, Frank Steele, Gene Austin, Alan Coleman, Bill Poteat, Larry Weed, Dick Miller, Danny Tuttle, and visitor Jacob Riley .

The weather-postponed March business meeting was called to order at 7:41PM on March 13, 2014 by President Tim Skidmore.

Corrections to the Previous Minutes: The late A tardy Larry Weed was indeed at the February meeting.

Financial Report: Treasurer Gene Austin reported that the club has a bank balance of \$3,284.64, with all 2014 fixed expenses paid. Operating expenses in February were \$173.85 for electrical items for the layout. Visitor donations in February totaled \$78.00. Only five members have yet to pay their 1st Quarter, 2014 dues.

Scenery Report: Gene reported that the coal mine spur has been installed, the mine building placement has been roughly fixed, with more work to come on the conveyor placement and additional buildings. Lights in the form of LEDs were suggested around the scene by Larry Weed.

Alan is working on the paperboard plant structures for Sylva; that area can not be completed until one of the four 30 x 50-inch drain pans donated by Bill Poteat and Alan are installed under the heating/air conditioning units which create major condensation problems during the summer. Bill and Alan have been working on additional mountain scenery on the Murphy Branch to provide a more realistic setting for the narrow-gauge logging spur.

Wiring and Track Report: Tim and Bill continue to trouble shoot existing and install new wiring on the layout; Tim is still working on the PLC and the new

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A Place You Should Visit If You Haven't Already Been
(or visit again if you already have).....

HENDERSONVILLE



With the Apple Valley Model Railroad Club operating a huge HO-scale layout in the 1902 vintage Southern depot (complete with a Southern caboose outside), a neat museum of local history, and fine local shops and restaurants, your editor can't think of a good reason for you not to visit the club in Hendersonville on Saturdays 10 am until 2pm and Wednesdays 1-3pm. The depot is at 650 Maple Street. For those folks with better eyes than the editor's, check out Hendersonville's local N-gauge club, the French Broad e'N'pire Club, at <http://fbe-ntrak.com/about-us>



The Apple Valley club has built a nice N-gauge diorama of the Saluda Grade as part of the "Coming of the Railroad Exhibit" for the **Henderson County Heritage Museum** located in the old courthouse. It's open 10am-5pm, Wednesdays-Saturday and 1-5pm on Sundays.



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

P.O. Box 513, VALDESE, NC 28690
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

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March 2014 Minutes *continued*

dispatcher's station; problems with wiring or cards remain to be fixed before Tim can animate the virtual screens to resemble CTC machines, etc. Additional push-button panels need to be constructed as well.

Old Business Tim reminded one and all that we only have about six month before the 2014 open house, all agreed we need to press on with our projects like the Fairmont trailer and leave several weeks before the event for clean-up/painting. Tim expressed hopes that our friends at Connelly Springs Electric will be able to help us install the semaphore control cabinet in the near future.

Alan will contact Matt Bumgarner re: the availability of two 12-foot rail sections for the Fairmont display.

New Business:

As the fluorescent lights in the P&W's area of ORS get older, supply problems will get worse for both the tubes and the transformer style ballasts which power them. Our current lights are no longer being produced by federal decree- we will be looking into electronic ballast units and the appropriate tube as replacements.

Gene has purchased a new rail-borne camera; a Sperry Rail car has been suggested as the best new motive unit to carry it.

Larry has acquired a vintage Akane brass 4-8-2 via Danny which is well-suited for use on the layout.

Last month's Bulletin article on trees was brought up by Dick Miller, and it was agreed that we need to have tree-construction workshops and sessions- if anyone knows a local source for sedum and sage brush, let us know.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM by President Tim Skidmore.

submitted by Alan Coleman

Next Business Meeting:
Thursday, April 3, 2014
at 7:30 PM