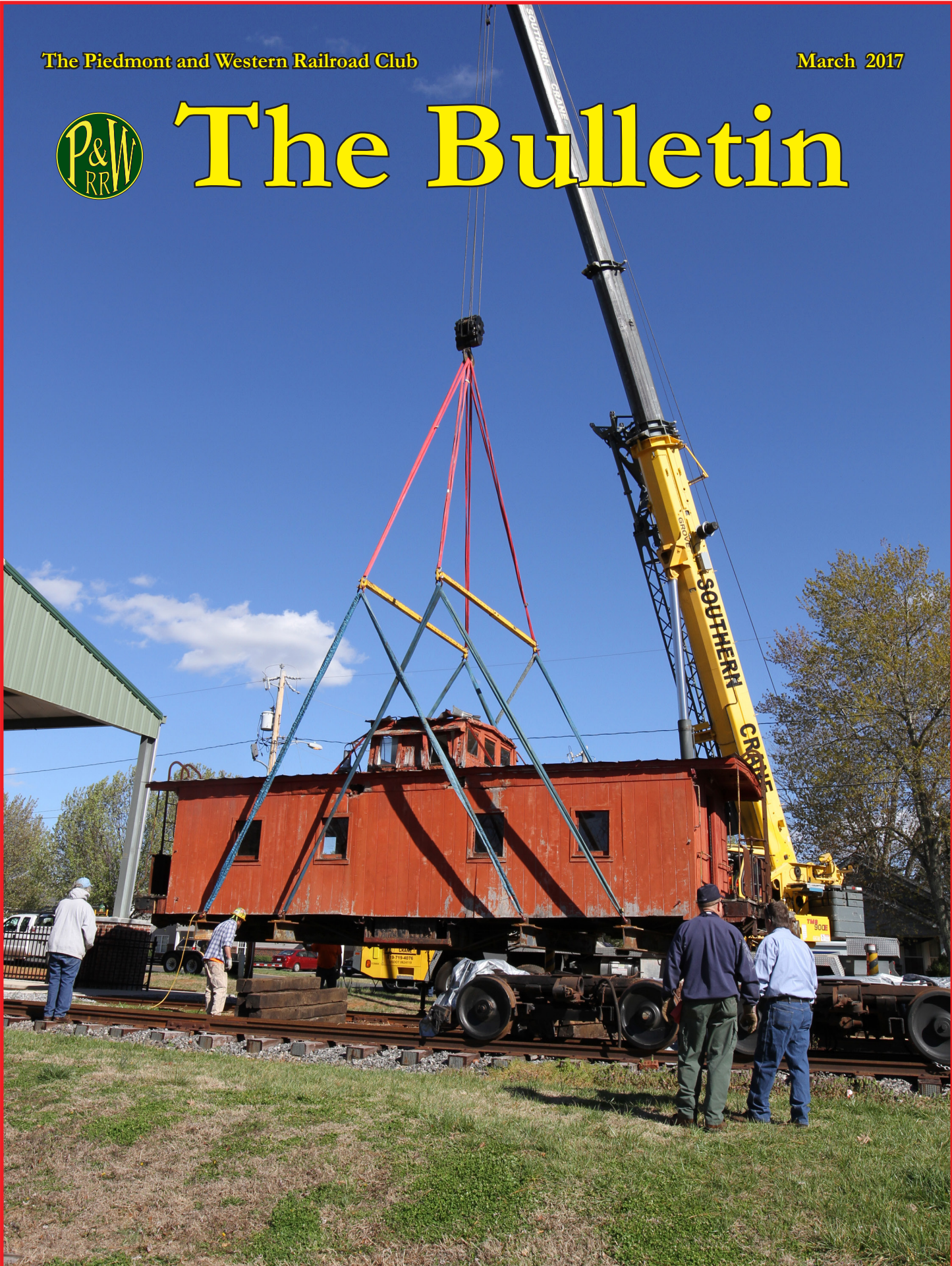


The Piedmont and Western Railroad Club

March 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, WEB MASTER; OUR**  
**OPERATIONS CHAIRMAN POSITION IS OPEN.**

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



**ON THE COVER:** NRHS Alexander Chapter's efforts to add Southern caboose X-2715 to their collection were rewarded on Friday, March 10. Photographs from March 11 are to be found on page 5. *Photograph by the editor.*

## Piedmont & Western Railroad March Club Minutes

The meeting was called to order on March 2, 2017 at 7:40 p.m. by club president Tim Skidmore.

**Members in Attendance:** Tim Skidmore, Gene Austin, Frank Steele, Larry Weed, Dick Miller, Mike Outen Sr., Keith Garrison, Grant Robbins., and Alan Coleman.

**Finance and Membership Report:** Treasurer Gene Austin reported that we have a balance of \$2,783.64 in our account. There are four members who have yet to pay their 1st Quarter dues. As noted earlier, Jeff Whisenant is on hiatus and his turned in his keys; Arlene Koski hopes to be back on active status soon.

**Wiring Report:** Tim has been making jumpers for the layout. All software is currently working, as is the USB to Trainbrain and Digitrax. Both computers are working and DCC locomotive programming is available. Tim reports that the wiring project is proceeding slower than he would like, but work has been progressing.

**Track Report:** The hump in the track/roadbed on the western end of the Tennessee River bridge still needs to be corrected. At present the hump may cause uncoupling of trains.

**Operations Report:** Two trains of cars have been backed into the work room. Tim reported that the Pigeon River bridge area track is very dirty. All rolling stock and locomotives need wheel cleaning before their next use.

**Scenery Report:** Tim has suggested that the Scenery Committee have a planning session in order to get all of its members on the same page. As he noted, layout appearance needs to be "homogenized" in terms of the era depicted, scenery materials, and the level of modeling. Frank shared cell phone pictures of his latest masterpiece, a building which will be placed behind the French Broad Gas and Grocery store. Tim cited this model as the level we should all strive for on the layout, as we will be under intense critical scrutiny during the all-too-soon National Narrow Gauge Convention.

**Museum and Facility Report:** The back door still needs painting three years after the president's first request. Alan noted that if it had been painted at that time it would need repainting by now. Nearly all the interior could use some fresh paint, but Tim said the cabinet area beneath the hallway's fairgrounds needs painting to cover up grime and some errant floor paint.

**New Business:** The club will be an active stop for visitors to the April 8 Valdese April Craft Market. We will be working on a schedule to permit members to attend the conflicting train show in Hickory.

President Tim Skidmore adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

*Submitted by Alan Coleman*



Former Southern E-8 No, 6900 leads an afternoon train at the NCTM on March 24. *Photograph by the editor.*

**Next P&W Business Meeting:** Thursday April 6, 2017 at 7:30 pm

**Next P&W Workday:** Saturday April 8, 2017, 8:00 am- 4:00 pm (In conjunction with the Valdese April Craft Market)

# PORTRAITS OF THE P&W



Frank Steele's latest structures: (top) O'Neil's Fabrication captured during a fitting session behind the French Broad Gas and Grocery; well under construction is a tractor repair shop destined for Sylva. *Models and photographs by Frank Steele.*





**X-2715 HOMECOMING:** After a long Friday evening's work to cut off the I-beams that secured the caboose's underframe to a low-boy trailer, X-2715 was placed on freight car trucks.



< Master woodwright George Ritchie was happy to discover he already has the knives needed to mill the siding that is needed to restore X-2715's sides.

Saturday morning, X-2715 was pushed under the Southeastern Narrow Gauge and Shortline Railroad Museum's pavilion in a strenuous, 10-man effort. Below, one of its four cast-steel steps removed for the caboose's move is moved for storage.

*Photographs by the editor.*

