



The Bulletin



611: Getting Ready to Return Home





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,
KEVIN STINE, OPERATIONS CHAIRMAN.

THE BULLETIN IS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
P&WRRC. ALL OPINIONS ARE SOLELY THOSE OF THE
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Minutes of the May 7, 2015 P&W Business Meeting

The May, 2015 business meeting was called to order on at 7:36 PM by President Tim Skidmore.

Members in Attendance:

Mike Outen Jr., Jeff Whisenant, Frank Steele, Joshua Garrison, Jacob Riley, Robert Scism, Dick Miller, Tim Skidmore, Gene Austin, Bill Poteat, Larry Weed, Alan Coleman, Grant Robbins, Mike Outen Sr., and Keith Garrison.

Electrical Report: Bill reported that four more wiring runs need to be pulled back to the panel. Turn outs are being wired slowly, to be followed by detectors, and then signals.

Larry discussed progress on the Asheville building improvements. In response to a question from Frank, 5 to 6 12VDC buses will be installed for layout lighting of buildings, street lamps, etc. Tim said that the lighting buses will be computer controlled for dawn to night effects coordinated with a fast-clock system for operations. Bill will be purchasing mini-plugs to make such wiring easier, per Alan's suggestion, Bill and Tim will be conducting a clinic on proper use of small LEDs and resistors for lighting. In other wiring news, Jeff reported that Snowbird is now active, and discussed the need for a Murphy room kill switch. Frank brought up the topic of using programmable greeting card sound units for local sound effects, e.g., machine shops, saw mills, etc.

Financial/Membership Report: Treasurer Gene Austin reported a pre-meeting bank balance of \$2,573.33, with expenditures of \$1,045.00 on supplies for the re-wiring project. Ken Humphreys' leadership behind fund raising efforts for the club's \$2,000.00 goal were noted and appreciated.

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THE P&W AT THE 2015 NORTH CAROLINA RAIL EXPO

(also known as the Hickory Train Show): Ken Humphreys organized the club's sales booth of surplus items to help raise funds for our wiring project. With help from Robert Scism, Larry Weed, Dick Miller, Bill Poteat, and others at the show and continuing eBay® sales, Ken's efforts are well on the way to meeting our \$2,000 goal. The club appreciates the hospitality extended to us by the Alexander Chapter of the NRHS, which made our participation possible.

611's journey home nears...



On May 30, 2015, N&W J-class No. 611 will be leaving the North Carolina Transportation Museum for its home at the Virginia Transportation Museum in Roanoke, Virginia. Work continues on the 4-8-4 and its tender, as seen in these images captured at Spencer on Tuesday, May 13....

All photographs in this issue by the editor



Until 611's makes its departure, the editor urges you to make the trip to the NCTM and enjoy watching the skilled women and men of 611's restoration team bring her back to life.





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Scenery Report: Bill has removed the Plexiglas shield from in front of the Murphy Branch bridge portion of the layout so that the backdrop and lake scenery can be completed by Bill and Alan. The latter has promised to paint the framework of the shield in our “Charcoal Smoke”(green) fascia color, and to install risers beneath its frame to provide for a toe-kick area beneath it.

Old Business: Tim reminded everyone of the job board in the work room hallway. Among other tasks remaining are painting of the back door, installing the back stairway railing, and pouring concrete to eliminate the trip hazard at the top of the steps.

The lighting in the headlight display once again need repairs, this time we will go with LEDs rather than the current halogen bulb system. The Pullman display also needs our attention, i.e., the installation of the mirror and lighting unit.

New Business: Tim brought up the subject of club awareness and publicity, citing the number of local folks who express their amazement that the club has been at the Old Rock School for over twenty years. Discussion followed on possible ways to increase public awareness

of the P&W- possible additional open houses, evening hours in conjunction with ORS concerts, etc. The consensus was that we need to concentrate on current projects and layout improvements before expanding our display hours and to focus on our successful participation with ORS programs like the Christmas in November event.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37PM by Tim Skidmore.

Minutes submitted by Alan Coleman

**Next Piedmont & Western
Business Meeting:
Thursday, June 4 at 7:30 PM
at the Old Rock School**