



The Bulletin



Chasing the Past

While traces of the Graham County Railroad are increasingly hard to find, a rainy March 23, 2014 visit to Robbinsville, North Carolina revealed how much still remains of the huge, long-derelict mill of GCRR's parent company, Bemis Hardwood Lumber Company. As the images show, some buildings are long gone, and the future can't bright for what remains with track hoes, trucks loaded with scrap, and dozers on site...

Photos by the editor

Now used by the town for recycling and storage, the site is a mix of a few newer metal buildings and the crumbling sheds and lumber kilns that were once served by GCRR's Shays.



Logs still float in the mill pond...
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April 2014 Minutes

The meeting was called to order on April 3, 2014 at 7:40 PM by President Tim Skidmore.

Members in Attendance:

Arlene Koski, Lynn George, Tim Skidmore, Gene Austin, Dick Miller, Bill Poteat, Mike Outen, Jr., Mike Outen, Sr., Danny Tuttle, Larry Weed, and Alan Coleman.

Financial/Membership Report:

Treasurer Gene Austin reported that the club's current bank balance is \$3,494.00, with \$175.00 in dues payable. The president expressed his pleasure that we are ahead of all our bills and that there were no March expenses.

Wiring and Track Report:

Tim and Bill continue to work of the wiring for the Murphy Branch. Two new PLCs are being installed, with improvements to the system to include message boards, alarms, a fast clock, short location, and Tortoise interfaces for the branch.

Tim reported that while no significant wiring has been done on the primary layout in 15 years, lost records and fading memories mean that it now takes more time to chase down electrical problems among the 400 plus input /output points than it does to fix them. Documenting the existing wiring would be a monumental task that Tim and Bill feel would take longer than rewiring the layout which would also provide genuine improvements to the system. Using improved technology and wiring standards, pre-fabricated jumpers, new plugs for Tortoise switches, new "66" blocks, etc., the proposed project would take place after the August Open House. After further discussion, unanimous approval was granted to Bill Poteat's

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

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VICE-PRESIDENT; GENE AUSTIN, TREASURER,
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WEBMASTER: KEN HUMPHREYS

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THE P&WRR. ALL OPINIONS ARE SOLELY THOSE
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Sad News...

After more than 50 years in the model railroad business, **Model Power** has closed its doors- another falling domino in a hobby which is seeing alarming price increases and decreased product offerings.

Next Business Meeting:
Thursday, May 1, 2014
at 7:30 PM



This shot from last year will have to do for LVCC #126's recent visit to the NCTM.

April 2014 Minutes *continued*

motion to get pricing for the needed supplies and proceed with this project which is vital to both meeting our current needs and assuring the long-term future of the layout.

Scenery Report: Dick and Lynn continue their work on the mountain approaches to Bryson on the Murphy branch; Gene's coal mine project continues to see great progress; Bill and Alan do likewise on the new logging scene and "Camp Almond" areas on the other side of the ridge. Bill has offered to use his copy of Edwards software to print out buildings for other members; Alan promised to restore the hallway fairgrounds as soon as possible.

Museum/Facility Report: Tim reported that scheduling problems still delay bring the semaphore display components to ORS; current plans call for using the back door for bringing in the cabinet and semaphore motor after we temporarily cover the duck board. The motor will be mounted on a 5-inch OD pipe sunk into the floor, Mike, Jr. has offered the use of his engine hoist for this project..

Tim reported that we also need to work on the following projects:

- cut and retrieve the two 12-foot pieces of rail for the speeder display
- restore the Fairmont trailer
- install/paint a non-slip surface on the wooden steps
- paint the back door in a off-white, semi-gloss finish
- re-paint the layout/museum floor
- install an additional window at the ticket counter
- install a light in the hall to the work room
- leaf removal and tree trimming are needed at the back door area

Old Business: Two of the drain pans have been installed in the Murphy room and museum room back hallway; the difficult task of installing two pans in the layout room remains a challenge. Bill suggested that we hire "skilled, young, and skinny" professional help for the installation, and moved that the club authorize up to \$200.00 to cover the costs. The motion was approved, and Arlene Koski generously donated the entire labor cost to the club.

New Business:

- We need to find a hard copy of the current bylaws and update our dues structure.
- Informal plans were made for club attendance at the upcoming Hickory train show.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Submitted by Alan Coleman

