

The Piedmont and Western Railroad Club

April 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.

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



ON THE COVER: Dedicated to pulling Norfolk Southern's eight-car Safety Train, GP38-2 no. 5642 was built for Penn Central by Electromotive in January 1971. *All photographs in this issue are by the editor.*

Piedmont & Western Railroad Club April 2017 Minutes

The meeting was called to order on April 6, 2016 at 7:48 pm by President Tim Skidmore.

Members in Attendance: Tim Skidmore, Grant Robbins, Gene Austin, Larry Weed, Josh Garrison, Keith Garrison, Joshua Garrison, Frank Steele, Ken Humphreys, Bill Poteat, Dick Miller, Mike Outen Sr., Reggie Stroud, Michael Devore, and Alan Coleman.

Financial Report: Treasurer Gene Austin reported that we have a balance of \$2,6836.264 in our treasury. All members are current through the first quarter and all liabilities for 2017. The club has purchased a new \$79.00 on-board camera to replace its non-functioning predecessor.

Wiring and Track Report: Tim has been working on jumpers; Bill has been busy with new state-level Masonic official duties. Murphy continues to be first on the priority list, which will be an all-in change. There are some possible Java problems with our computer, but DCC programming and power-up are still functioning.

Scenery Report: Tim requested that the scenery committee meet after the business meeting to discuss homogeneity and the level of modeling we want to have buy the 2021 National Narrow Gauge Convention.

Rolling Stock: Grant and Gene have completed a list of "vetted" rolling stock in the work room, a number of cars are side-lined with out of gauge wheels or faulty couplers, etc. Tim reported that Jessie Koski's F-units are nearly ready for operation.

Web Site: Tim is working on new photographs for Ken to place on our web site.

New Business: Tim created the craft event work schedule for April 8. Those needing P&W shirts were advised to visit *Wendy B's Embroidery and Screen Printing* south of Morganton. The club logo is in Bill Poteat's file. [Ed. note: The phone number for Wendy B's is (828) 432-0076; to get to the shop, go south from I-40 on Bethel Road, exit 106. Continue south to 3076 on NC-18].

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Minutes submitted by Alan Coleman

Next P&W Business Meeting:

Thursday, May 4, 2016 - 7:30 pm at the Old Rock School

**Dr. Lynn Darcy George, MD
Colonel, US Army Retired**

June 18, 1932 - February 21, 2017

It was with sadness that I just learned of the passing of longtime club member Dr. Lynn George at his home in Southern Pines.

Lynn was a quiet, dedicated member of the P&W for many years. Lynn made the trek from his home in Blowing Rock to attend work sessions, club meetings, and our special events - many of the latter in the company his bride of wife of 56 years, Ruth. When Lynn and Ruth moved to a retirement community in Southern Pines in 2014 the club missed them both.

Lynn was a master gardener at home, perhaps that passion was reflected in his dedication to scenery work on the club layout. "Lynn's Farm" and his hours of working with Dick Miller to forest the Murphy Branch are just two of his contributions to the club. Ten years ago this month, Lynn joined your club president and secretary at Tweetsie to help load a Baldwin steam locomotive pilot wheel. The three of us had a great time touring the Tweetsie Shops with one of Lynn's former patients, Tweetsie Railroad president Chris Robbins.

From 2-4 pm on Saturday, June 3, 2017, there will be a memorial service for Lynn at Ruple Memorial Presbyterian Church in Blowing Rock. I imagine the church will be filled, as befits a gentleman who served his nation's army for 34 years, served his church as a deacon and elder, served his community as a past chief of the Blowing Rock fire department, and served humanity as a medical doctor and missionary.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Samaritan's Purse, World Medical Missions, Boone, NC.

Portraits of the P&W



The lumber mill at Robbinsville continues its expansion with a new planing building and its sawdust bin, plus a loading shed. Still to come: overhead steam lines, many, many stacks of lumber, a kiln building, and lots of ballasting/scenery work.



The new scratch-built jack slip at the log pond was based on old photographs.



The Graham County Railroad has a new (to them) caboose that still needs lettering and numbering.

Norfolk Southern's "Operation Awareness and Response" GP38-2 No. 5642...

NS' most colorful EMD GP38-2 spent some time at the North Carolina Transportation Museum this year. The always-a-low nose Geep was repainted and introduced to its new role by Norfolk Southern in November 2015. Now in its second year of pulling the Norfolk Southern Safety Train, No. 5642 is part of a first-class effort to train first responders how to handle railroad emergencies.







Above, the OAR nose emblem was still showing road dirt when photographed on February 10.

At right, the control stand of the GP38-2.

5642 is the subject of an MTH model to be released in June of this year. Images of the model indicate a great reproduction of the paint scheme, but sadly MTH seems to have omitted the "Cat®" yellow air conditioner on the cab roof.



...and its train.



The Safety Train consists of 5642, four types of chemical tank cars, two boxcar/ classroom cars, and two flat cars which display the variety of fittings and valves used on current tank cars. In 2016 the free program reached nearly 2,000 first responders with its four-hour training program.

