



The Bulletin



The P&W visits the Blue Ridge Southern Railroad- see page 3.

Photo by the editor

James Lee Hatley

On January 9, 2015, a family lost a beloved member, the Marine Corps lost one of its pioneers in information technology, the town of Valdese lost its mayor, and our club lost a very good friend. Much of what our club is today is due to Jim's support over the years as both a councilman and mayor. We shall miss his smile and enthusiasm....

Memorials to honor Mayor Jim Hatley may be made to:

Burke Hospice and Palliative Care
1721 Enon Road
Valdese, NC 28690

or

The Food Pantry
c/o Waldensian Presbyterian Church
109 Main Street East
Valdese, NC 28690

January 2015 Business Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Tim Skidmore, Frank Steele, Gene Austin, Alan Coleman, Larry Weed, Mike Outen Sr., Dick Miller, Kevin Stine, Jacob Riley, Robert Scism, Ken Humphreys, Grant Robbins, Joe Bost and guests Joshua and Keith Garrison

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM on January 3, 2015 by President Tim Skidmore.

Financial Report: Treasurer Gene Austin reported that the club will have a balance of \$ 1,296.33 after paying its 2015 loss/fire insurance premium.

Wiring and Track Report: Tim reported on the rewiring project, noting that many of its components will be prefabricated prior taking out the existing system; the wiring cabinets need to be installed in the service alley, etc. A virtual control system with touch screens will replace our obsolescent control panel, freeing space for the expansion of Hot Springs. Alan reported that new member Phil Lafferty has assembled over two dozen connectorized jumpers using parts supplied by Bill Poteat. Joe Bost inquired how long the project will take - the simple answer is that it will depend on the level of support all members can provide to the effort.

Minutes continued on page 2



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

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

The next
Piedmont & Western
Business Meeting will be
held on Thursday,
February 5, 2015
at 7:30PM
at the Old Rock School.

January 2015 Minutes *continued*

Scenery Report: Many of the build-ings in Asheville need “refreshing”/ updating, i.e., adding floors, curtains and blinds, interior walls, and exterior weathering and detailing. Part of the rewiring project is the addition of power buses for street lights and interior lighting.

Bill and Alan will continue to work on the Fontana Bridge project; Joe Bost suggested that lights be installed on the back of the bridge to eliminate shadows on its nearby backdrop.

Tim reminded everyone to please remove their jackets before cleaning track or dusting the layout - we continue to break signals and scenery features in our haste to run trains.

Museum Report: The light fixture inside the depot is in need of repair; several light bulbs in the hallway passenger train display are in need of replacement as well.

The lighting on the three-aspect signal in the Waldensian Room entry way is in need of repair - Tim thinks it may just be a PLC problem.

The hallway displays are in need of re-painting and our back door still needs prepping and re-painting as soon as the weather permits outdoor work.

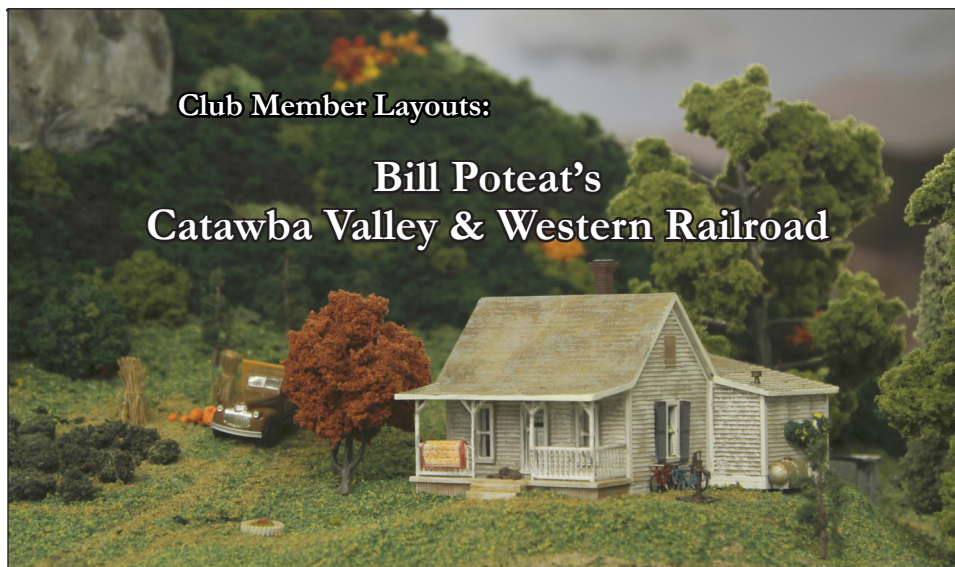
The S-gauge donations remain in the very-cluttered workroom rather than on display, a situation that needs to be changed by the next open house.

Fund Raising Report: Discussion over offering P&WRR cars in HO scale continued; funding such an effort is currently not practical. Member-funding of such an effort is still possible.

New Business: Larry reported that Model Railroader is going to run an article on Bill Warner’s Piedmont & Western in the near future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM by President Tim Skidmore.

Submitted by Alan Coleman



Bill Poteat is making great progress on his personal layout, the CV&W. At right is a view of one scene on January 8, the remaining images show that same area on January 23! Already running trains with Digitrax, Bill will soon be installing a “Train Brain” virtual control system.

Photos by the editor



In Next Month’s Bulletin:
In Search of the Third Creek
Viaduct (and other neat places in
Iredell County)



Watco Transportation Services' **Blue Ridge Southern Railroad** began operations on its ex-Norfolk Southern Asheville-area branch lines on July 26, 2014. A total of 91.8 track miles were purchased: the T Line, which runs west from Asheville; the W Line which runs south from Asheville; and the TR line which branches off from the W line.

On a cool and wet December day, Bill Poteat and I visited the BSR's Arden office and got to photograph two of the road's three GP-39-2s, which serve on the Asheville to Hendersonville runs. Seven SD-40's haul the freight on the company's Asheville - Canton trains.

Our thanks to Kristy Randall and Bridgid Rich of the Blue Ridge Southern for making our visit possible.

All photos by the editor



LOOK HOMEWARD ANGEL? Arden is a few miles away from Tom Wolfe's old stomping grounds in Asheville, but a plastic cherub sitting on a unused rail seems right at home. Editor's note: this shot was unstaged: the angel was an apparent refugee from a neighboring business's trash pile.



Blue Ridge Southern's Andrew Kenopka and Joseph Edwards were performing scheduled maintenance on GP-39-2's 3939 and 3943 during our visit.

