

# Carolina Conductor



Volume 1, Number 5

Monthly Newsletter of the Carolina Railroad Heritage Association, Inc.

May 2014

Preserving the Past.  
Active in the Present.  
Planning for the Future.

### Meeting Site:

**Woodmen of the World**  
721 East Poinsett Street  
Greer, SC 29651-6404  
Third Friday of the Month at 7:00 pm

### Hub City Railroad Museum:

**Magnolia Street Station**  
298 Magnolia Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29301-2330

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864-431-5409

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**Secretary – Mike Saverino**  
814-242-0217

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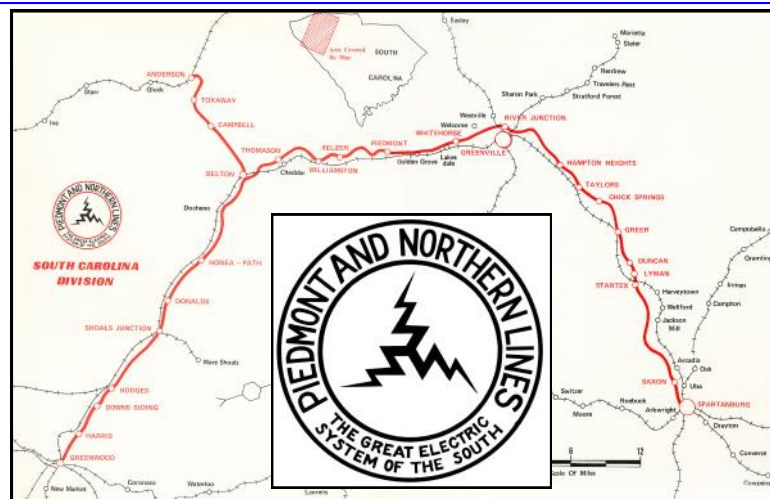
### Editor:

**Bruce Gathman** –  
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Submissions due by 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday.

## Piedmont & Northern—A Unique Railway

by Bruce G. Gathman

Photos from the collection of Bruce Gathman



A map showing the South Carolina division of the Piedmont & Northern.

Although interurban railroads were not nearly as common in the sparsely populated and largely agrarian Deep South, there were a number of small electric networks constructed in the region throughout the early 20th century.

Among them was the Anderson Traction Company, created on June 22, 1904 to build and operate within the city of Anderson. Eventually the railroad expanded to complete construction of an extension to Belton by 1910. The railroad was

P&N #2051 built by the P&N shops in 1928 with Baldwin trucks.



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# Arrivals

## President's Message

Hello everyone and welcome to the May 2014 edition of the *Carolina Conductor*. Spring is here and we have many rail events coming up. I would like to thank all of our members that have been volunteering at the HCRM and Caboose on Wednesday's and Saturday's. If you haven't been out to the museum or caboose lately please come by and spend a couple of hours with us.

As I write this message the board is making final plans for our National Train Day celebration this Saturday May 10th from 10:00am to 3:00 pm at the HCRM and Caboose. This will be the first time that we will have location for our exclusive use, and are planning the largest celebration ever. We will have live steamers, bounce house, motor cars, food and lots of railroad items for sale. Hopefully everyone can come out and help make this the best National Train Day event that we have had. Let me know if you can volunteer some time. Please also invite all your friends.

On Saturday morning June 7, 2014 at 9:00 am the Watauga Valley group will be stopping by to tour our museum and caboose. I would like to invite any members that can come out and help at the museum and caboose to please do so. After the tour of the museum they will check out NS and CSX operations in the Spartanburg area and then head to Wades for lunch. After lunch they will head out to tour the South End of the Ole Clinchfield RR from Spartanburg to Erwin, TN. All of our members are welcome to tag along with the Watauga group.

Remember that the Streamliner event at the N C Transportation Museum will begin on Thursday May 29 and run thru Sunday June 1, this will be a once in a life time event.

Sincerely, Bob Klempner, President

## Annual Club Picnic

Put May the 17<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the annual club picnic on the Greenville & Western Railroad in Belton.

Activities start around 10:00 am with short motor car rides on the club and personal members cars. At noon we will again be treated to Lester Collins' famous cook'n — hopefully some of those great shish kabobs. It is a "bring a dish to pass" type meal

with the meat provided by the organizations.

After a brief meeting there will be a ride on the GRLW



Photo by: Bruce Gathman ©2011

caboose to Pelzer and back, maybe even a working freight train as seen in the photo from a past picnic.

## You Know You are a Railfan If

You've considered contacting the police to obtain permission for using flashing red lights and siren during a train chase.

Your definition of the best type of railroad photograph: the "three-quarter, no-thought, roster shot".

You've been known to stand on the roof of your car to get that shot over the fence.

Your scanner is on 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Your scanner is tapped in to a live internet feed so that the entire world can hear what railroad activity is going on in your little stinkpot town.

You still live with your parents because you spend too much money on Kodachrome or spent too much on a D-SLR and a laptop.

Summer weekends for most men: beer, babes, boats, and barbecue; summer weekends for you.

Your cat's name is "Chessie". Your dog's name is "Conrail".

Your wife threatened to divorce you because you wanted to dye Conrail's fur blue.

It's hot out, the lead unit doesn't have AC, and you still don't understand why the crew has to leave the front door open.

You can tell the difference between a U23B and a B23-7.



# Departures

**STREAMLINERS SCOOP**  
The latest updates on this big event

**STREAMLINERS AT SPENCER**  
May 29 - June 1, 2014

## 2014 SPRING EXCURSION AND SHOW SCHEDULE



**May 17 & 18** ~ Ludlow, KY (Cincinnati area) to Danville, KY  
**May 31 & June 1** ~ Lexington, KY to Oneida, TN  
**June 7** ~ Chattanooga, TN to Stearns, KY

Read more about the excursions at:  
<http://ttrail.com/pages/21st-Century-Steam>

## National Train Day at the Hub City Railroad Museum



Photo by: Bruce Gathman ©2013

Celebrate the first anniversary of the opening of the Southern Railway caboose #X3115 at the Hub City Railroad Museum and Amtrak's National Train Day.

### May 10, 2014

10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
 298 Magnolia Avenue  
 Spartanburg, SC

### Admission Free

See the new Automatic Train Control System (ATCS) display showing all trains between Greensboro, NC and Greenville, SC on the NS main line just as the dispatcher sees them. Listen to the radio communications of the Norfolk Southern and CSX railroads in the Spartanburg area.

Observe the operating HO model railroad and watch videos of historic railroad action in our video theaters. See historic displays of the Hayne Shops and the peach industry in our museum. Ring a real locomotive bell or communicate over our telegraph system.

Watch Norfolk Southern rail traffic from the observation deck.

Many activities for the children. There will be a bouncy house and miniature train rides.

Amtrak giveaways; coloring pages, engineer hats, vacation planners and timetables. Talk to an Amtrak representative.



Photo by: Bruce Gathman ©2013

Check out the gift shops in the museum and the caboose. We will have the new Andy Fletcher print of South Carolina Upstate Railroads and many other new items for sale. Food will be available.

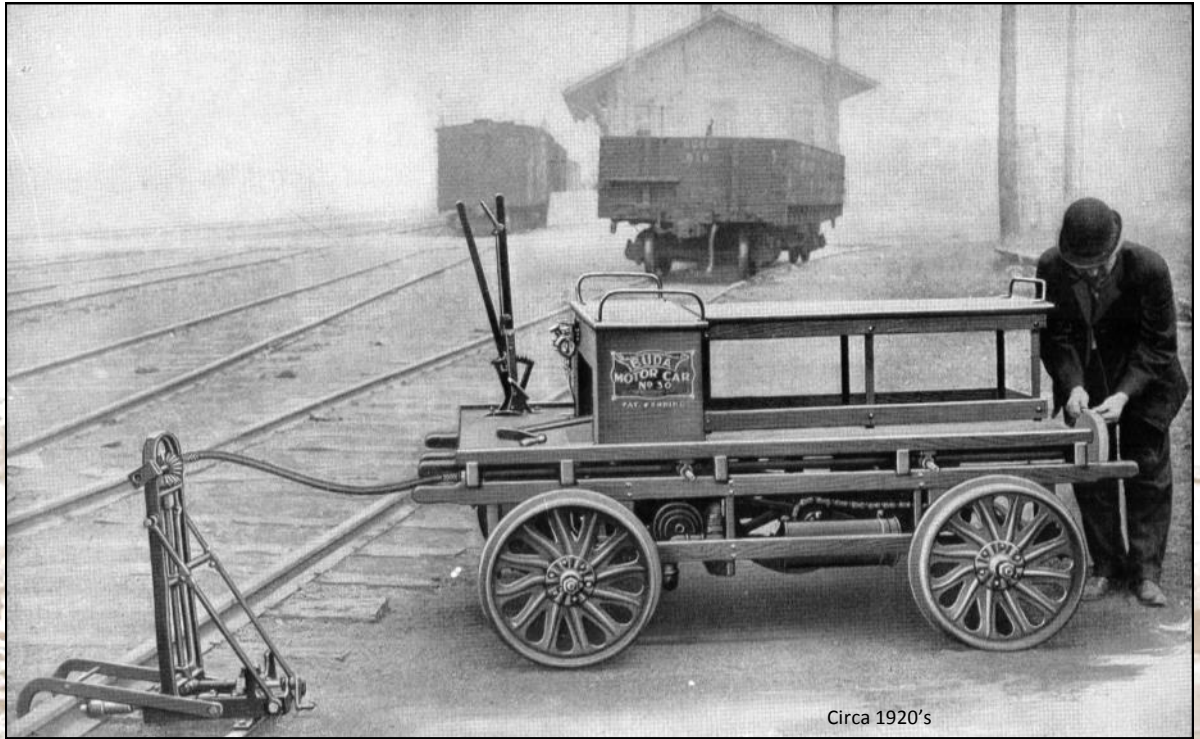


### UP Big Boy on the Move

Go to the UP web site, [www.up.com](http://www.up.com) to follow the move of the venerable #4014 to Cheyenne from Pomona and ultimately complete restoration back to operation on the Union Pacific.



# Rare Mileage



Circa 1920's

Buda section car circa 1920's.



Clinchfield Railroad EMD FP-7 #802.

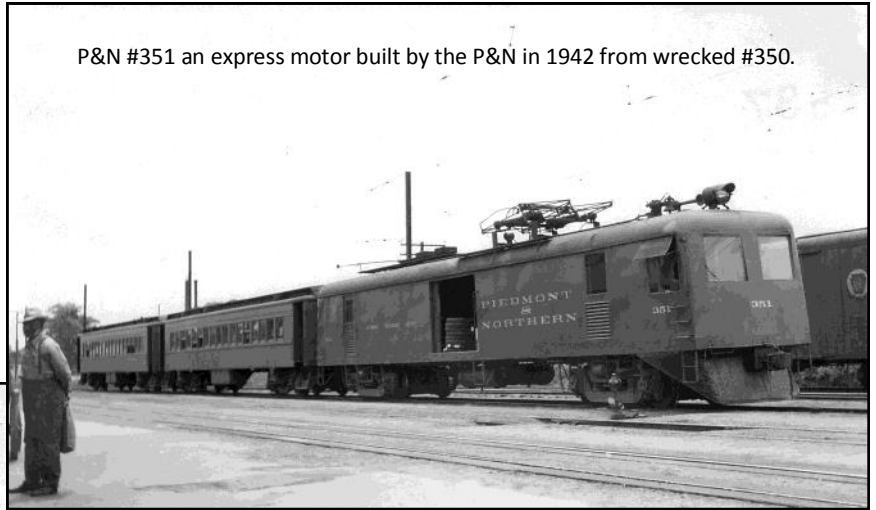
# Manifest

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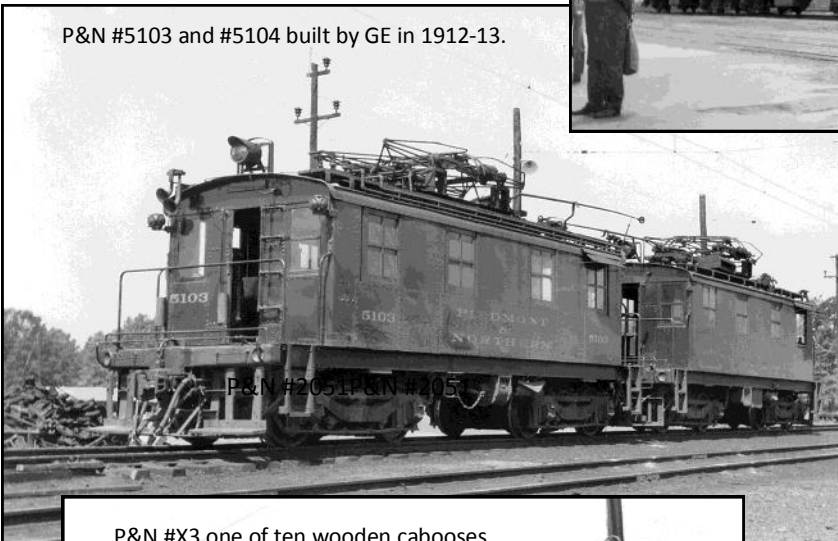
acquired by James B. Duke of Duke Power around the same time.

On March 20, 1909, the Greenville, Spartanburg and Anderson Railway was chartered and presided over by Duke. The company used the Anderson Traction Company rails terminating at Belton as a starting point for northward construction to Greenville and construction toward Greenwood to the south, with both cities connected on November 1912. An extension from Greenville to Spartanburg was completed in April 1914.

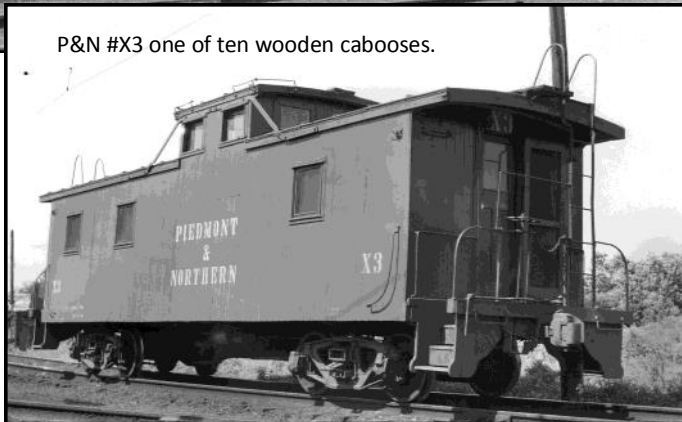
P&N #351 an express motor built by the P&N in 1942 from wrecked #350.



P&N #5103 and #5104 built by GE in 1912-13.



P&N #X3 one of ten wooden cabooses.



P&N #2302 a steel "package express" car waiting to be loaded with LCL cargo.

The North Carolina division started with the Piedmont Traction Company, also owned by Duke, and completed its route between Charlotte and Gastonia, North Carolina on July 3, 1912. Both sections were electrified to 1,500 volts DC with power supplied from mainly hydroelectric sources. Additionally both segments were built to steam road standards with minimal street running.



P&N #5002 built by Baldwin-Westinghouse in 1911-12 with two trolley poles and refitted in 1935 with a pantograph.

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# Marker Lights



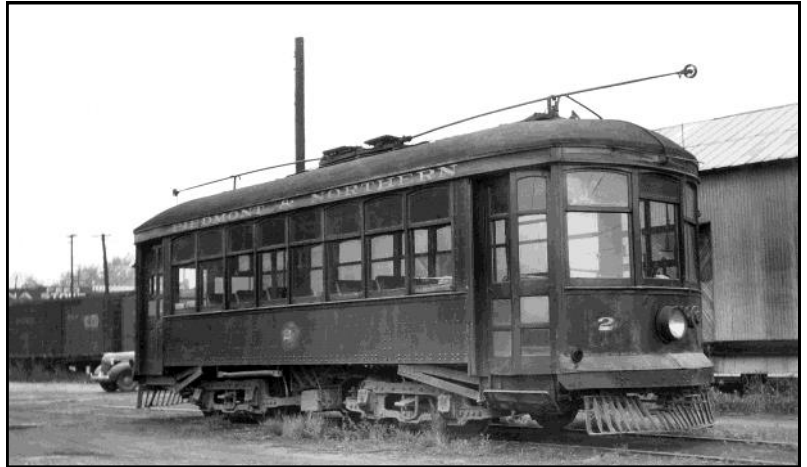
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The Piedmont & Northern was created in 1914 to consolidate both the Greenville, Spartanburg & Anderson in South Carolina and the Piedmont Traction Company in North Carolina. In 1916 the railroad completed a 3-mile spur to Belmont, North Carolina.

On numerous occasions the company sought to link the two disconnected segments and expand to Durham, North Carolina, however, the plans never materialized due to stiff resistance from the Southern Railway, which the P&N paralleled in both states.

Although many railroads were hostile to the Piedmont & Northern, a friend was found with the Seaboard Air Line, which connected with the P&N at Charlotte and Greenwood. Throughout its existence the P&N stressed interchange traffic over its efficient electric lines, and with good reason: the railroad shared numerous interchanges with several major railroads.

The P&N's network in 1964 was connected to the Clinchfield Railroad (CRR), Carolina and North Western



P&N city streetcar #2 built by Stephenson as a wood car in 1917.



P&N 1603 an Alco RS-3 sitting in front of the shops in Greenville.



Railroad (C&NW), Georgia and Florida Railroad (G&F), Norfolk Southern (NS), Seaboard Air Line Railroad (SAL), Southern Railway (SOU), Atlantic Coast Line Railroad (ACL), Greenville and Northern Railroad (G&N), Charleston and Western Carolina (C&WC) and Ware Shoals Railroad.

The interurban #2102, Office Car "Carolina" (formerly Saluda) and Caboose x-23 are preserved and on display to the public at the Railroad Historical Center in Greenwood, SC.

There is more information that will follow in an upcoming article. Sources for this article were obtained from Wikipedia and *Piedmont and Northern* by Fetters and Swanson. Copies of this book are available on the internet from such sources as Amazon and ABE Books.



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