

CLUB OFFICERS

President:
Fred Alsop

Vice-President:
John Carter

Secretary:
Mary Doran-Bleck

Treasurer:
Duane Swank

Newsletter Editor:
Ted Bleck-Doran

Webmaster:
John Edwards

LOCATION

ETSU Campus, George L.
Carter Museum

HOURS

Business Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meetings start at 7:00 PM at ETSU Campus, Brown Hall Science Bldg, Room 312, Johnson City, TN.

- A social gathering is held prior to the business meeting at *EL TORITO* on State of Franklin near ETSU in the Kroger Plaza starting at 5:45 PM. Visitors and those interested in joining MEMRR are invited to attend.

- Work nights are held weekly on Thursday evenings starting at 4:30 PM and lasting until ???

- Open viewing and operating layout is available every Saturday from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

From the Conductor's Desk...

Norfolk & Western Oddball Diesels - Part 7 The ALCo Century Series

Century 424	
Power type	Diesel-electric
Builder	Alco Products Montreal Locomotive Works
Model	Century 424
Build date	April 1963 - May 1967
Total production	190
AAR wheel arr.	B-B
Gauge	4 ft 8½ in (1,435 mm)
Prime mover	Alco 251
Power output	2,400 hp (1.8 MW)
Locale	North America



C424

190 Built - 53 US, 92 Canada, 45 Mexico
Codes: PH = Phase (1), DB = Dynamic Brake

Original #	Previous #'s	Last #	Date Bit.	PH	DB	Notes
WAB B900-06		N&W 421-27		II	N	

ALCO Century 424

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Century 424 was a four-axle, 2400 horsepower (1.8 MW) diesel locomotive of the road switcher type. 190 were built between April 1963 and May 1967. Cataloged as a part of Alco's Century line of locomotives, the C424 was intended to replace the earlier RS-27 model and offered as a lower-priced alternative to the C425. Montreal Locomotive Works also built this locomotive as MLW Century 424.

ALCO C425	
Power type	Diesel-electric
Build date	October 1964 - December 1966
Total production	91
AAR wheel arr.	B-B
Gauge	4 ft 8½ in (1,435 mm)
Length	59 ft 4 in (16.2 m)
Width	10 ft (3 m)
Height	14 ft 5 in (4.4 m)
Prime mover	Alco 16-251C
Power output	2,500 hp (745 kW)
Tractive effort	40,425 lbf (271 kN)



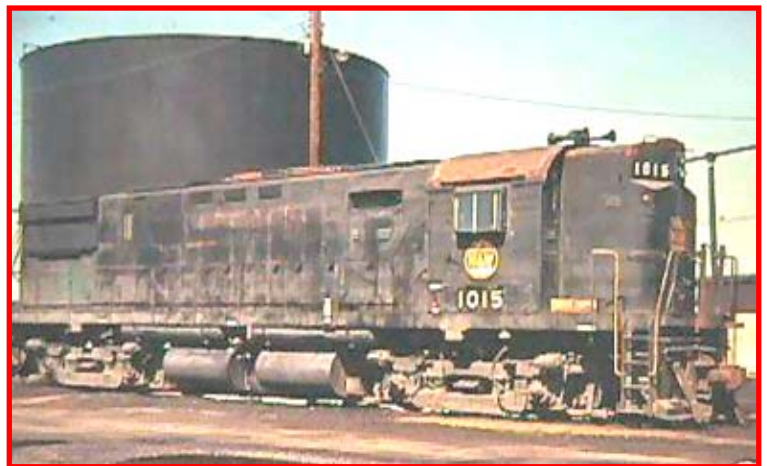
ALCO Century 425 C425

91 Built - 91 US

Codes: PH = Phase (1), DB = Dynamic Brake

Original #	Last #	Date Bilt.	PH	DB	Notes
(WAB 582-588)	N&W 1000-06	10/64	I	N	1
N&W 1007-16	NY&LE 1013		II	Y	2,3

- 12 foot fuel tank bulge.
- 6'3" fuel tank bulge in front, 5'3" bulge in rear.
- High short hood.
- N&W owned 10, added 7 in merger with Wabash



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The ALCO Century 425 was a four-axle, 2500 horsepower (1.875 MW) diesel locomotive of the road switcher type. 91 were built between October 1964 and December 1966. Cataloged as part of ALCO's Century line of locomotives, the C425 was an upgraded version of the C424. The C425 employed the same main generator found in General Electric's U25B model.

ALCO Century 628

ALCO Century 628	
Power type	Diesel-electric
Builder	ALCO
Model	Century 628
Build date	1963 - 1967
Total production	186
AAR wheel arr.	C-C
Gauge	4 ft 8½ in (1,435 mm)
Power output	2800 hp (2.1 MW)



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **ALCO Century 628** was a six-axle, 2800 horsepower (2.1 MW) diesel locomotive. 186 were built between 1963 and 1967.

Cataloged as a part of ALCO's 'Century' line of locomotives, the C628 was intended to replace the earlier RSD-15 model.

C628

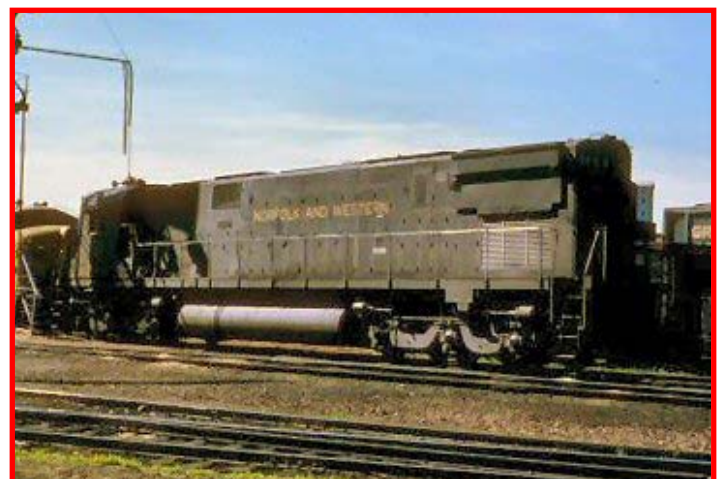
185 Built - 135 US, 46 Mexico, 4 Australia

Codes: PH = Phase (1), ES = External radiator shutters, PN = Access panel over D/B intake, SF = Number of sand fills on low nose.

Original #	Last #	Date Bt.	PH	ES	PN	SF	Notes
N&W 1100-09	CNW 6701-10	10/65	IIB	N	Y	1	1
N&W 1110-29	CNW 6711-30	3/66	IIB	N	Y	1	1



1. High short hood.
2. N&W owned 30 C628's



Thursdays

Are Work Nights - Come join the Fun - There's always a project going on from 4:30 to 7:30 or later

Saturdays

Are Open Sessions for Public Viewing - Sign up to help out for 9:30 -12:30 or 12:00 -3:00 or stay the day



From the chief engineer's desk:

JoAnn and I are back from birding the Andes of Ecuador and I am ready to put my binoculars and bird guide down and pick up my engineer's hat and modeling tools.

Thanks to Vice

President John Carter for conducting the July meeting. ETSU Facilities Management will begin cleaning out our two newest rooms in the Railroad Museum very soon. We will have to do some of the painting and remodeling on our own. I can supply funding for the materials we will need, but we shall have to provide the "elbow grease" to get the children's railroad room and our additional display area in order over the coming months. ETSU has installed a telephone with voice message capability in the museum. You can use it for local calls only and you should post it at home so you can be called at the museum. The number is: 439-3382 (that translates to E (for engine) and 382 is the number of Casey Jones' last locomotive. The OIT technician who installed our phone came up with that suggestion as appropriate for a railroad museum. What do you think?

Jim Pahr's got a donation of wooden Thomas The Tank accessories from a donor, Mr Gary Green, of The Toy Box, Inc. in Asheville, NC, that will become part of our Children's RR Room and he has also been discussing this project with Bob at Hobbytown USA. Thanks Jim. We have set up room 108 across the hall as a work room. Mike Buster and I have been spray-painting the walls and floors of the 21 stall roundhouse over there and it will be assembled in that room. Come by and lend a hand if you want to help out. David Firestone has been adding lots of detail to the G-gauge layout including figures, lighting, furniture, and certain wanted posters. Check it out. Gary Cameron is planning a big regional train festival for the first weekend in September as he told the MEMRR Club at our July meeting. Details will continue to be worked out in the coming weeks but we will help by being open to the public on Saturday, September 6th (a regular work day for us—but perhaps with a few more members present to operate all the layouts). He is planning a train ride in the Doe River Gorge on Sunday, and a swap-&-sell meet sometime on Saturday afternoon. He is also asking that if anyone has a spare bedroom they can offer visitors for the weekend to let him know to encourage out-of-town participation by avoiding motel stays. Telegraph poles have been painted (Larry Fraser and Fred) and installed along the right-of-way on all the HO modules. The club has previously purchased the "wiring" (spandex) to string the lines. Anytime you want to get started on your module's telegraph lines everything is ready for you to do so. Who wants to be first (Hobie already has a head start and you can check his module out to see the enhanced effect these little details add to the scene).

Members manning the museum on Saturdays report public visitation has been light to moderate, but steady. The donation boxes reflect that (see the new one that Duane built to replace the one we had borrowed from Gary Cameron) as well. We have had some new members from these summer visitations and the prospects of more. I will advertise the museum when the Fall Semester at the university begins in the campus newspaper and we can expect an upswing in visitors on Saturdays. I have the promise of more publicity from the local media that will help as well.

You will read the minutes of the July meeting in this edition of the *Signal Bridge*, and you all realize the importance of the monthly meetings of the club to discuss and vote on the business operations of the club, and of the museum that houses our layout. I encourage all of our members to attend every meeting you can and to come to dinner at El Toritos beforehand for the social fellowship it provides when you can. In addition to the club business that is conducted and the announcements of coming events of interest, we want to continue to have entertaining and informative programs as a part of each meeting. Because all of this has to be done once a month in a fairly narrow, 1.5-2 hour time frame, I am asking each of us to try to limit out thoughts and discussion to the motions on the floor only so that we can accommodate a balanced program for each monthly meeting. I shall do my best as president to conduct the meetings in the most efficient manner to this end and I ask everyone to respect our time and the opinion's of others so that each meeting includes time for the person who has volunteered to present the month's program to be able to provide it for us. We have a great group of people in this club with a wide range of model railroading talents, experience, and interest and we are blessed with the energy and enthusiasm that makes us such a strong organization. Sometimes it is difficult to put the brakes on all of that steam to slow the engine into the station, but that is what is needed to get us all down the tracks. I shall do my best as the conductor of the meetings and look forward to your energy and spirited interactions.

Don't forget to come to the museum on the Saturdays you signed up for and anytime the spirit moves you. We always enjoy your company there. Thursdays are the nights most of the work is done and there is lots to do. I still need a group of 6-8 to be the committee to design the multiple scenes we need to make the Jack Cope 5 x 9 HO layout all that it can be. Got ideas! Want to work on a layout. See me, I'd like to talk to you about it and hear you ideas!!! I look forward to the August meeting with you all.

Fred Alsop
President MEMRR
Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum



Cass to Elkins Historic Steam Train

By: Gary Rabetoy

Steam returned to Elkins, West Virginia, on July 10, 2008. My wife and I were among the 175 or so passengers aboard the inaugural run. Western Maryland # 6, which was built by LIMA in April, 1945, provided the motive power from Cass to Elkins. It was the last Shay built by LIMA and, at 150 tons, apparently the second largest. It went up an 11 % grade like it was flat! The 67 mile long trip through the Cheat Mountain wilderness passed over the old logging ghost town of Spruce (now buried), and by the Cheat Bridge and Linan Mines (among others) featuring two run-bys along the way. To avoid asphyxiating the passengers (and crew), Western Maryland BL-2 #82 and F-7 #67 pulled the consist through the 1,780 foot long S-shaped Kelly Mountain tunnel.

Interestingly, there was some concern that Shay #6 might not fit through the tunnel. Luckily for everyone involved, it did. Also, an auxiliary water car was coupled behind the Shay to provide water while a number of local fire departments were at the ready along the route just in case. A one-way bus ride (from Elkins to Cass), three delicious meals (breakfast and supper in Elkins and lunch on the train), an Elkins to Spruce track guide, complimentary water and snacks, and a commemorative Western Maryland brass tool tag were provided in the \$190.00 ticket price. The return trip to Cass was planned for July 13th. The excursion was sponsored by the Mountain State Railroad & Logging Historical Association, Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad, and Cass Scenic Railroad State Park. There was talk of maybe even making the excursion a regular event. Let's hope they do.



MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS

Minutes
July 15, 2008

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Vice-president J. Carter at 7:05 PM with 17 members present and 1 guest, Walter Mills (HO Gauge modeler).

Officers' Reports:

Secretary: Minutes from the June 17th meeting were published in the July issue of *THE SIGNAL BRIDGE* and were accepted as printed.

Newsletter: July issue of the newsletter *THE SIGNAL BRIDGE* have been mailed and electronically distributed. Articles are always needed and can be submitted either by email or in hardcopy to Ted Bleck-Doran

Treasurer: D. Swank reported a starting balance of \$973.74 with income of \$ 389.00 (Donations \$229.00, Dues \$95.00, Hats \$65.00); Expenditures of \$ 286.75; Obligated Expenses of \$ 745.03. Balance on hand for July was \$1,075.99. Unobligated balance was \$330.96

WebMaster: J. Edwards reported that August is renewal of the contract with the server provider. Motion made T. Bleck-Doran/seconded J. Pahrts to renew contract for 2 years. Passed.

Vice-President: J. Carter reported the following line-up of programs:

August: Hobie Hyder - "Favorite Websties" - demonstration clinic

September: T. Bleck-Doran - "When the Mail Moved by Rail" video clinic

President: The president's report was received as published in the July issue of *THE SIGNAL BRIDGE*.

Old Business:

1. Demonstration HO Layout (J.Cope): Interchangeable footprints for scenery and buildings were discussed: themes of Thomas the Tank Engine; Hogwarts; regional railroading were discussed; standards need to be established; committee of J. Pahrts, G. Rabenoy, M. Buster, A. Daniels established

2. Layout Reports:

a. G-Gauge: The Heisler is out for maintenance and repair; Turnouts need work; interior lighting and details for saloon have been installed by D. Firestine.

b. N-Gauge: The N-Gauge team recommends re-tracking the roadbed under several of the tunnels; some discussion; still needs some sort of remote control system and primary power cutoff switch

c. HO-Gauge: Power glitches have been reported (sticking key of controller pad); J #600 has wheel gauge problems; turnouts for the passenger station and REA Express Agency spur need to be purchased; D. Swank may have a curved turnout for the passenger station; M. Buster has moved the turntable and roundhouse into the workroom to weather parts before assembly.

3. Club Brochures: No update; current brochures are available in the horizontal file under the HO layout.

4. Other Old Business: None.

New Business:

1. Track Cleaning Car: Motion to purchase 2nd track cleaning car made -L. Frazer/seconded J. Edwards. Passes. J. Carter to check on final price and order.

2. HobbyTown Move: B. Berrett will be relocating HobbyTown in August. Members were encouraged to assist with move. Check with B. Berrett at the store to determine what needs to be done and when.

3. Visitor Rules: Members were reminded that only members (associate and full) are authorized to run equipment on the layout; visitors are not to run their equipment during operating sessions and open houses; youth should not be given control of the handhelds – but can be instructed to blow horns and other sound features under the direct supervision of a club member. Motion that only club members are to run club equipment, guests may run member owned equipment with permission and direct supervision during non-operating sessions – made T. BleckDoran/seconded M. Buster. Passed.

4. Regional Railroad Festival: Extended discussion of Regional Railroad Festival September 5, 6, 7 proposed by G. Cameron; MEMRR was asked to have the George L Carter Museum open additional hours. The East Tennessee Train Center will be open as well. Festival involves rail related activities in Johnson City, Kingsport, Elizabethton, Erwin. Looking for potential overnight host for members of the Knoxville Railroad Club. Need for volunteers to sell tickets for a Doe River Gorge Excursion along the former Tweetsie right-of-way tentatively scheduled for Sunday September 7th 1:30-3:00 PM.

5. Other New Business:

a. Membership Cards: A. Daniels inquired about membership cards; D. Swank prints them and places the completed ones in the file hanger near the entrance to the HO layout.

b. Children's Activity Sheet: A "Seek and Find" activity brochure was suggested to increase youth participation and interaction with layouts. Members to come up with themes, interest areas, descriptions of modules/layouts; this would replace the brochure developed for the HO layout at Tipton-Haynes; module owners were encouraged to develop

descriptions of their module themes and any "look for" elements; G-Gauge and N-Gauge layouts will also be included in the brochure; Submissions are due to the newsletter editor in September.

c. Message Board: G. Woods announced the donation of a public message board from the former Southern Ry station in Johnson City. Donation forms will be obtained.

d. Shirt Patches: several member requested iron on patches be made available similar to those on the hats incorporating the revised Club Logo for use on shirts. Motion to purchase; made J. Pahr/sseconded G. Woods. Passed

e. Donation of Layout: G. Rabetoy indicated that he was switching scales and was willing to donate his HO layout for the club to use and display.

f. Meeting length: the length of business meetings was discussed; suggestions for shortening the meetings included: discuss only items that need action, set time limits on topics, create an "order of the day" for program (this would cut off the business portion at a specific time to allow for the program to proceed at the scheduled time e.g., 8:00 pm). Motion to limit business meeting to 90 minutes. Made D. Swank/seconded ????. Passed.

Saturday Work Schedule: Volunteers for Saturday work schedule were solicited and schedule will be posted on website and at the club. All members are reminded that they are obligated to work the equivalent of 1 Saturday (9:30-3:30) each month with special events and open houses the only substitutes.

Announcements: None

Program: Video clinic - "*The Wreck of 611*" was postponed for lack of time.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM with next meeting schedule for Tuesday, August 19th Room 312 Brown Hall, ETSU. Dinner for those who want to dine and socialize earlier at 5:45 at El Toritos Mexican Restaurant on Sate of Franklin in the Kroger shopping center complex west of ETSU.

Submitted by Mary Doran-Bleck, Secretary



L&N Depot – Nashville TN



CSX Depot – Berea KY