

April 25, 2025

Latest News from **B.T.S.**

Howdy Y'all

I'm rapidly approaching the end of my 46th year in the hobby business. Year 47 starts in July and I greatly appreciate all of you who have been with me on this interesting journey. After a lot of pondering, I have decided to hang around for another year . . . maybe two. I've got too many promised projects that need to be finished to stop now. ***That's the good news.***

More good news is that y'all are keeping me very busy cutting, packing, and shipping product. Extremely appreciated! With over 500 kits in production, I'm still getting most orders out the door within a day or two.

And even more good news is as I write this, the glue is drying on the sample builds of two C&O Quinnimont structures in O scale, a logging kit for S scale, and a couple more businesses for Cabin Creek in HO. More parts to proof as I finish the sample builds and instructions to write, but they will be released soon. And CAD work for an On2 Box Car is coming along nicely.

Now on to the bad news . . . over the next few months I will be reevaluating the pricing on most of the kits. Many have not had a price increase in well over a decade, some multiple decades, and you know what has happened to costs . . . especially over the last four years. Hate to do it, but things cannot continue as is.

And it is past time to evaluate the shipping structure. When I set the \$5.00 flat rate back in 2001, it covered a large percentage of the USPS Priority Mail fees for the average shipment. Not even close today.

So rather than spring this on you as a 'done deal,' **you have been alerted and now have the opportunity to pick up more kits at the current price and shipping levels.** My goal is to have the new price structure in place by the end of Summer if not before.

On a slightly different subject, I just published my third *Fair Winds* novel. Getting three military crime fiction books written in just over four years ain't bad for an old guy. ***Fair Winds of Doubt*** takes place in West Virginia and features Commander

Colt getting involved with a local murder spree in his hometown. Both the Virginian and Norfolk And Western rail lines are mentioned. Take a look when you get a chance . . . <https://www.wadepublishing.com/fairwindsofdoubt.htm>

And to squash a few nasty rumors, I work at *B.T.S.* 6.5 days a week and do the book writing late in the evenings; my writing, an escape mechanism from the stress of life, does not impact *B.T.S.*

BTW – if all my *B.T.S.* customers purchased this new book next week, it could make the NY Times Best Seller List. 😊 They do make for good reading while waiting for the glue to dry on your next *B.T.S.* kit build.

Again, thanks for your support and keep having fun with our hobby.

Bill

