

Agenda Item – New Business 6

Proposal to acquire battery chargers

After going through another scramble this winter to try and save batteries, and having more time available now, I have looked into acquiring more battery chargers. I have found the manufacturers' web sites for the 4 workhorse chargers we have (2 "Quick Charge" units, and 2 "Associated Equipment" units). Although the Associated units are only 6 amp output, their voltage range covers everything we have. I have also ordered a replacement "coarse adjust" switch, at my expense, for the one Associated unit that is currently bad order, which will get it going again. The "Quick Charge" units we have are 12-amp output at 64 volts, not bad, but still slow to recharge a set of locomotive batteries.

I have found, on the "Quick Charge" website, a charger that puts out 25 amps at 64 volts, as well as one that puts out 25 amps at 32 volts. This 32-volt charger would allow us to run all the DC lights and fans in the Plate and the 105 when on display, and keep the batteries up to boot. The 64-volt charger is basically double the capacity of our current ones, which would really save time recharging low or dead batteries. Another "Associated" charger (or two) would be a big help to me for use in the battery house, or in multiple locomotives. These chargers are similar in size to the ones we have, and all run on 117-volt, single-phase, 60-cycle AC power, so will run from any standard outlet.

I have provided some copies of the website pages describing the chargers I've discussed, with the prices shown. The "Quick Charge" 64-volt 25-amp unit, model QP6425, is \$493.96, plus shipping; model QP3225 (32-volt, 25-amp) is \$404.92, plus shipping; an "Associated" model 6080A is \$425.00. Associated Equipment has distributors in Sparks and Reno (NC Auto Parts), so shipping would not be an issue.

I would like to get at least one of each of these models; however, my priority list would be:

- a) Quick Charge model QP6425 (\$493.96 each, plus shipping)
- b) Quick Charge model QP3225 (\$404.92, only one needed)
- c) Associated Equipment model 6080A (\$425.00 each)

I realize that \$1500-\$2500 is a lot of money, but we're trying to prevent losing multiple sets of batteries, each set costing around \$5000. If and when we do buy new batteries, these chargers will be needed to maintain them. The cost code for these would be 51055-batteries, or possibly 51060-tools.

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Student of all things Battery