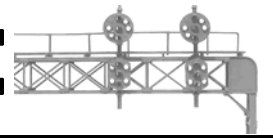


THE SIGNAL BRIDGE



Volume 14

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODULAR RAILROADERS CLUB
DECEMBER 2007 ISSUE

Number 13

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....

This month our feature is a photo essay on the Southern Railway Depot in Johnson City. The images are found on the Johnson's Depot web site maintained by Alan Bridwell (www.johnsonsdot.com). Southern Railway suspended passenger service to Johnson City in 1970 and the brick depot originally constructed in 1912 was dismantled in 1973. Our thanks go to Alan Bridwell for his efforts at preserving images from the past. His web site is a treasure trove of information on Johnson City and its surroundings across the years.



SOUTHERN R. R. STATION, JOHNSON CITY, TENN.

**Mountain Empire Modular Railroad Club
Minutes of Business Meeting
November 20, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Vice-president John Carter with 14 members present. Alan Bridwell was recognized as a guest of the club.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Secretary's Report & Approval of Minutes: M. Doran-Bleck reported that the minutes of the October 16th meeting were published in the November issue of the *Signal Bridge*. Minutes were approved as printed. There has been no additional correspondence or communications since the previous meeting.

Newsletter Editor's Report: T. Bleck-Doran reported that the November Issue of the *Signal Bridge* has been distributed to the membership with 26 posted by surface mail. A. Morton was complimented for his submission of a "Rail Memories" article. Other members were encouraged to submit their recollections of rail adventures. Articles should be 100-250 words. The editor will search for appropriate photographs if needed. Publication schedule will be moved up two weeks to December 3rd to accommodate the December 6th meeting date. The December issue will of necessity have fewer pages due to the short lead time. To round out the year special holiday issue may be in the works if time permits.

Treasurer's Report: D. Swank reported a carryover balance since the last meeting of \$473.88 with income of \$285.78. There was significant income from donations of \$115.00 during the month. Dues for 2008 have also started to trickle in with \$119.00 received to date. The club had expenses of \$291.36 leaving a balance of \$468.30. Obligations approved but not spent total \$151.62 leaving a reserve of \$316.68. Members were reminded that the annual dues cycle begins in November and runs until February. Members were encouraged to remit dues as soon as possible. Last year's dues collection was prolonged into April and May. Dues checks should be made out to **Duane Swank** not MEMRR.

Web Master's Report: J. Edwards reported that the club website (www.memrr.org) is functioning well. One visitor from out of state reported that he came across the club while searching the web. J. Edwards indicated that the *Signal Bridge* came up on a Google search. Newly added links to historic advertising signs and other features on the web site were demonstrated. Members were encouraged to sign up for email accounts with the club web site. An article with instructions on how to access email n club accounts will be printed an upcoming issue of the *Signal Bridge*. Members receiving copies of the newsletter electronically were encouraged to keep their email addresses current. Several members mailing have bounced with the demise of Earthlink.

Vice-President's Report: J. Carter reported that the December meeting would be moved to **Thursday, December 6th**, and held at **Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site**. H. Hyder was recruited to provide a possible clinic on the Clinchfield RR for January's meeting.

President's Report: F. Alsop was absent due to family commitments; his report was deferred to New Business.

PROGRAM:

A. Bridwell presented a discussion with slides on the history of the early development of Johnson City from 1870 through 1930. He traced the development of the city and the influence of the railroads (Southern Ry, Virginia & Eastern Tennessee, ET&WNC, CCCRR, and the Clinchfield). Highlights included photos and postcard views of Johnson City and surroundings. Many of these photos can be found at www.johnsonspot.com.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The George L. Carter Railroad Museum was officially dedicated on November 16th. Membership support was greatly appreciated with all three layouts operating. ETSU President P. Stanton received a commemorative passenger car and ran the first train (the ETSU President's Special) around the layout. The event was well attended with excellent press coverage. T. Bleck-Doran volunteered to collate a collection

of articles and memorabilia from the event; J. Edwards has video recordings of the Cable Country segment from November 14th and the Channel 5 late evening broadcast of the dedication ceremonies. Members were encouraged to share newspaper clippings and photos to add to the club archives.

2. M. Buster reported the nominating committee's slate of officers for 2008. The floor was opened for nominations. The following officers were elected

President – Fred Alsop
Vice-President – John Carter
Treasurer – Duane Swank
Secretary – Mary Doran-Bleck
Newsletter Editor – Ted Bleck-Doran
Web Master – John Edwards

3. G. Cameron reported that he has ordered 8 mini-cams and expects delivery in time for the holidays. All eight have been spoken for. He is willing to make an additional order. Cost is \$27.87.

4. Possible need for a change in name for the club was discussed. Recommendation that no change be made at this time since the club's focus is still the HO modular display. The By-laws committee will report out their recommendation in January.

5. Members were reminded that the university has installed security cameras in the museum. These are operational 24/7. Campus Security will monitor the video feeds closely, especially between 11 PM and 7 AM daily.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The possible addition of club merchandise with club logo and George L. Carter Museum label was discussed. H. Hyder has checked into pricing for patches and railroad caps (in addition to the club polo and sweat shirts). There was confusion as to whether the items were for sale to the public or would be offered to club member only. There was consensus that the club should not get into retail sales of items, especially if related to the museum. F. Alsop noted in his written report that the club could sell items with club logo for a couple of dollars over cost to members with the proceeds going to the treasury. Motion to table for further review passed.

2. Plans for the MEMRR Christmas Party were discussed. M. Buster agreed to coordinate the menu for the meal. Program will be the return of the "Dirty Santa Gift Exchange." Members interested in participating in the exchange should bring a wrapped railroad themed present not to exceed \$15 in value. The party will be held at **Tipton-Haynes Sate Historic Site, December 6th, at 6:00 PM.**

3. G. Cameron requested the club open early (9:00 AM on December 15th to host visitors from a S Scale Modelers group who will be in town . Motion made and passed to accommodate the request.

4. Saturday Schedule for December and early January was discussed with members signing up for all dates except December 22nd. Sign-up roster will be posted by J. Edwards to the website. Hours of operation will be 10 AM - 3 PM. Volunteers should arrive at least 30 minutes early to insure layouts are operational.

5. F. Alsop recommended that members should program locos on work nights. Motion passed to prohibit programming locomotives during Saturday operating sessions.

6. F. Alsop reported that Campus Security will provide parking passes. Motion passed to make passes available to members with paid up dues for 2008.

7. F. Alsop recommended that Associate Member Category (\$12.00) be dropped so that all members have voice and vote. D. Swank indicated that several members have already renewed at the associate level for 2008. It was agreed that their membership would be honored if any changes were made. The need to change the by-laws regarding dues and membership classes was raised. Motion to refer to the By-Laws Committee for report out and action in January 2008 passed.

8. Security of key box was discussed. G. Cameron noted that the Knoxville club issued keys to interested members concurrent with dues payment. It was noted that the university wants a limited number of keys in circulation. Motion passed to change key box code January 1, 2008 and issue new code to paid up members. This would encourage prompt payment of dues and increase security.

9. D. Swank indicated that he had a 4 foot artificial Christmas Tree he would bring to the club. J. Carter recommended the tree be decorated with some of the N-Gauge cars we have available. Motion passed.

10. Motion to establish a by-laws committee passed. Committee to consist of F. Alsop, D. Swank, H. Hyder and 1-2 other members appointed

by the president. Initial report from the committee of its recommended changes to come before the membership at the January meeting.

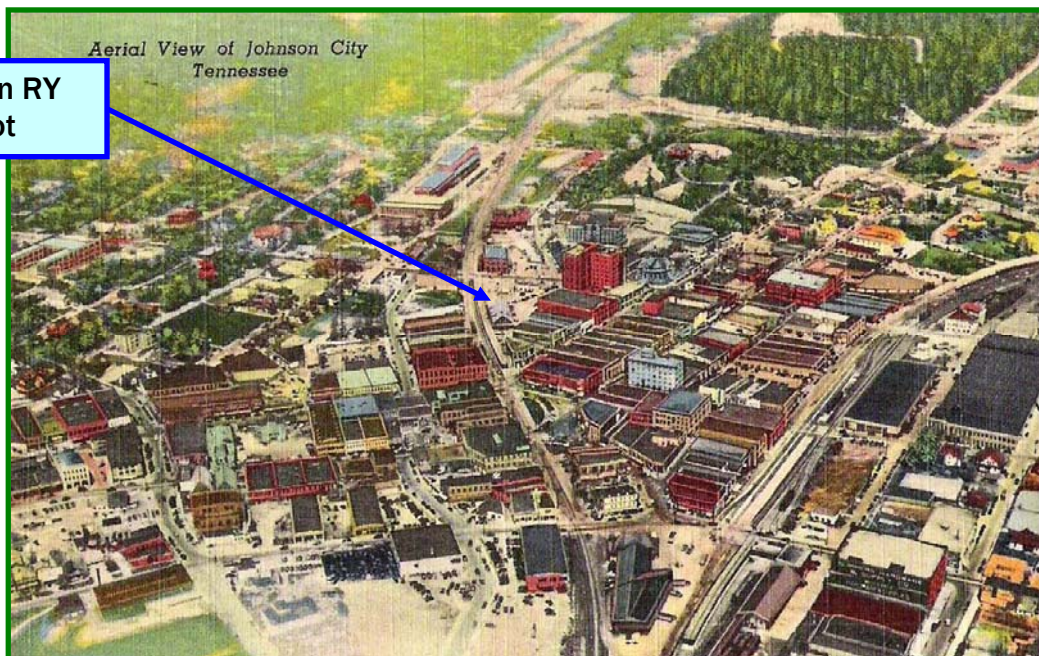
11. G. Cameron was acknowledged by the club for his efforts in creating the numerous displays of toy and scale train equipment.

12. Motion to table to January 2008 other recommendations suggested by F. Alsop.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM

Next Meeting:

**Tipton-Haynes Sate Historic Site,
December 6th, at 6:00 PM.**



**Southern RY
Depot**

**SIGNAL BRIDGE
MEMBER OF THE MONTH**



SANTA CLAUS

E-mail KRIS.KRINGLE@ELFMAIL.COM

Occupation SEMIRETIRED SEASONAL WORKER

Home Layout UNDER TREE WINTER THEME LAYOUT

MEMRR Module NO – THOUGH THE WHITE PLASTER WINTER LANDSCAPES ARE MY SPECIALTY.

Favorite railroad

POLAR EXPRESS; ALASKAN RR; NORTHERN ALBERTA RR, TRANS-SIBERIAN RR

Favorite aspect of hobby

BUILDING MODEL TRAINS AND DELIVERING THEM TO GOOD LITTLE BOYS AND GIRLS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Least favorite aspect of hobby

I DON'T MIND LOCOMOTIVE SOOT, BUT THOSE DIRTY CHIMNEYS GET TO ME BY MIDNIGHT.

How did you get started in the hobby

THE MASTER TOY-MAKER ELF GAVE ME MY FIRST WOODEN TRAIN SET AND I WAS HOOKED.

How long have you been a member of the MEMRR

HONORARY MEMBER SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CLUB BUT BUSINESS TAKES ME AWAY FROM MANY OF THE CLUB FUNCTIONS; I'M USUALLY AROUND LATE AT NIGHT OR EARLY IN THE MORNING – THOSE ARE MY BEST HOURS.

What got you started with MEMRR

SEEING THE JOY IN THE CHILDRENS' EYES WHEN THEY VISITED THE LAYOUT – THE WONDER WAS INFECTIOUS; AND THOSE DANG ELVES CAN BE SUCH A PAIN, IT'S NICE THE BE AROUND BIG FOLK TOO!

What dreams do you have for your layout or module

WHEN VISIONS OF SUGAR PLUMS AREN'T DANCING IN MY HEAD, I'D LIKE TO RECREATE A WINTER THEME LAYOUT COMPLETE WITH SNOW BLIZZARD, REINDEER, AND ARTIFICIAL FROST EFFECTS.

What other model railroad or railfan activities do you participate in

TRAIN WATCHING IN FLORIDA IN THE OFF SEASON; RIDING THE NUMEROUS "SANTA TRAINS" ACROSS THE COUNTRY; VISITING THE SEASONAL MALL TRAIN DISPLAYS

What one thing would improve MEMRR

KEEPING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT GOING ALL YEAR ROUND SO THE CHILDREN WHO VISIT WILL BE CAPTURE BY THE MAGIC OF THE HOBBY.... HO – HO – HO (MY FAVORITE SCALE)

Setting up E-mail Account

By Webmaster John Edwards

Getting a MEMRR E-mail account (MEMRR Members only)

- 1. Decide what you want for an E-mail address and password. (It is suggested that you use a recognizable form of your name so that other members can easily find your address.)
2. Send an E-mail to the Webmaster at webmaster@memrr.org
3. Including your desired account name and password.
4. A new E-mail account will be set up for you free of charge.
- 5. You will then get an E-mail notifying you that your account has been set up.

To configure email in Outlook Express:

1. Start Outlook Express and either follow the install wizard or go to the tools drop-down menu and select accounts.
2. Click "add" and select mail.
3. When the wizard starts, enter the name you would like your messages to appear from.
4. On the page that shows, enter your email address and click next to proceed.
- 5. In the drop-down box, choose POP3 as your incoming server.
6. Enter the mail server name (mail.memrr.org) for both incoming mail and outgoing mail.
7. Make sure to enter the full email address (including the @memrr.org extension) in the account name field.
- 8. Enter the mailbox password in the password field.
9. Check the remember password box to avoid entering it every time you check or send email.
10. Click finish to save settings.

Configuring Outlook 2003

To find your email information:

1. From your control panel click the email icon.
2. Select the domain, if you have more than one.
3. Note the mail server address, email address and password.

To configure email in Outlook 2003:

1. Start Outlook 2003 and either follow the install wizard or go to the tools drop-down menu and select accounts.
2. Select to setup POP3.
3. Enter the name you would like your messages to appear from.
- 4 Enter your email address.
5. Enter your full email address for your user name
6. Enter your account password.
7. Enter the mail server address, (mail.memrr.org) for both the incoming mail and outgoing mail.
8. Click more settings and then outgoing server.
9. Select my outgoing (SMTP) server requires authentication.
10. Then select the very last option to log on to incoming server before sending mail.
11. Click ok to more settings.
12. Test the connection to see if you get everything is setup correctly.
13. Click finish to save settings.

VISIT THE CLUB WEBSITE AT

www.memrr.org

There is always something new to see... look for announcements of upcoming events, club activities and more... Let your friends know about the site as well. It's a great way to introduce others to the club!



E A S T T E N N E S S E E S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y

Office of the President • Box 70734 • Johnson City, TN 37614

Phone: (423) 439-4211 • Fax: (423) 439-4004

November 16, 2007

Dr. Fred Alsop and Members of the Mountain Empire Modular Railroaders
Department of Biological Sciences
Campus Box 70703

Dear Fred and Model Member Volunteers:

Thank you so very much for allowing me to be part of the George L. Carter Railroad Museum dedication ceremony today. The work that you and club members have done is truly an incredible achievement.

I personally believe that what you have accomplished and will continue to accomplish in the Museum will be a site visited by people from all over the world who are interested in model trains.

I also want to thank you so very, very much for the special ETSU Express Train honoring George L. Carter and all the presidents of East Tennessee State University. I am privileged to be one of those presidents and to work with individuals such as you.

Thank you so very much for making me a part of the "National Take a Model Train to Work Day" as part of the National Model Railroad Month.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Stanton, Jr.
President

JOIN THE FUN

THURSDAYS ARE WORK NIGHTS THE CREW GATHERS BEGINNING AT 5:30 OR SO...

COME WORK ON THE LAYOUTS - OR -

SATURDAYS WE ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - GET IN THE ACTION AND RUN SOME TRAINS

WE ARE OPEN 10 AM UNTIL 3 PM

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO LEARN - SEE - OR - DO IN N Gauge - G Gauge - and HO



From the Chief Engineer's Desk:

Our club took a huge step forward in mid-November with the dedication of the George L. Carter Railroad Museum on the ETSU campus. All the many hours of effort by our dedicated members has earned big dividends with a great museum in which to house our own club layout, but with the added bonus of two great additional layouts and cases full of collectable model railroad classics as well as prototype collectables. What a wonderful place for any club to be located in and what terrific publicity we received from the media. Now all we have to do is concentrate on improving the layouts

and showing the museum to the public on Saturdays and special occasions. We have attracted a few new members and we now are forming groups who want to be responsible for each of the 3 different gauge layouts. We are growing in a very good way. But this new phase for the MEMRR also brings added responsibility. We must have everyone doing their fair share at Thursday evening work sessions and volunteering to come out on Saturdays to have the Carter RR Museum open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are getting lots of visitors, more than 650 by conservative estimate, in the first 3 Saturdays we have been open. Our new-found public has been most enthusiastic about our model railroads and the museum; many have been back more than once and brought friends and family; and they have been most generous with their donations.

We need some volunteers for a pizza lunch and special museum showing for the crew from the ETSU physical plant who wired, painted, moved cabinets, and remodeled our museum to be at the museum on Friday, 7 Dec. Arrive at 11 a.m.; have lunch and run trains until 12:30. Park on the street in front of the building. RSVP to Fred.

Our annual Christmas party and December meeting is **Thursday, Dec. 6 at 6:00 p.m. at Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site.** The club will furnish the meats and Mike Buster will contact everyone to ask you to bring the items to fill in the food gaps to make it a great holiday feast. Remember to bring a wrapped gift (max value \$15) for "Dirty" Santa to distribute and come prepared for lots of fun. This is a party and we want you to bring your spouse or significant other to share in the festivities.

In November we elected our officers for the coming year. All the slots were filled by the same officers who had served the previous year in the same positions so we have lots of experience to lead us. I want to express my appreciation to each of our officers for the wonderful job each did last year and I look forward to working with each of you again in 2008. Officer elections also mean that our membership needs to pay their annual dues once more so please send your checks made out to **Duane Swank, 1763 Sylvan Hill Road, Elizabethton, TN 37643.** We formed a By-Law Committee (Gary Cameron, Hobie Hyder, and Duane Swank) to review our current bylaws and suggest changes that accurately reflect our club as it currently exists. They will make their report early in 2008 and we will vote on their recommendations over three separate readings.

As we chug into December we should pause and reflect on what has been a very good year for the MEMRR indeed and express our thanks to everyone who has helped to make this excursion down the mainline possible. Have a great holiday season and happy new year!! See you at the rr museum.

Fred Alsop, President MEMRR

DEDICATION DAY - NOVEMBER 16TH 2007



**DON'T FORGET
THE 2008 DUES ARE DUE
PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECKS
MADE OUT TO:
DUANE SWANK
1763 Sylvan Hill Road,
Elizabethton, TN 37643
DON'T DEADHEAD INTO THE
NEW YEAR!**