



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 DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES, PART 2 ALCO ROAD SWITCHERS

ALCO RS-36	
Power type	Diesel-electric
Builder	ALCO
Model	RS-36
Build date	1962 - 1963
Total production	40
Gauge	4 ft 8½ in (1,435 mm)
Power output	1800 hp

Qty.	Road	Numbers	Date	Builder's #s	Notes
4	NKP	865-868	2-4/62	83697-83700	to N&W 2865-2868
2	NKP	869, 870	4/62	84100, 84101	to N&W 2869, 2870
1	NKP	871	6/62	84104	to N&W 2871
1	NKP	872	8/62	84105	to N&W 2872
1	NKP	873	7/62	84106	to N&W 2873
2	NKP	874, 875	6/62	84102, 84103	high nose, s/g; to N&W 2874, 2875
6	N&W	407-412	3/62	84107-84112	high nose, d/b

All RS36 were low-nose and non-dynamic equipped unless otherwise noted.



N&W (Ex-Nickel Plate) 2865 ALCO RS36

Alco built only 40 of these engines and the N&W wound up with 17 of them when the railway merged with the Nickel Plate Railroad. The above is a chop-nosed version still in NKP livery, albeit with the obligatory "Norfolk" stenciled on the side to indicate new owners are in town.

Designated as a "DL701" by ALCo, the 1,800hp RS36 was only slightly more successful than the RS32, with a total of 40 units produced between 1961 and 1963. Interestingly the DL701 designation was also used for the RS11 locomotive, and this has been the cause of some confusion when tallying fleet rosters. The largest purchaser of RS36s was Delaware & Hudson with a total of 12 units. These units served the D&H well, operating in road and local freight service through the 1980s. A few units even lasted into the 1990s holding yard and local assignments, serving their original owner for nearly 30 years. Norfolk & Western eventually amassed a larger fleet than the D&H, with the acquisition of Nickel Plate's 11 units, giving N&W a total fleet of 17 units (some with high short hoods). Other original owners included Tennessee Central, Apache, Atlantic & Danville and Chicago & North Western (single unit order).



N&W RS 36 2869 (Ex-NKP)

Given their very low production numbers, it is interesting to note that a handful of RS32 and RS36 locomotives can still be found in service today on a few US shortlines and tourist railroads.



N&W RS 36 411



N&W 2872 (Ex-NKP)



N&W 2868 (Ex-NKP)



Exercise your vote!
3rd and final reading of the By-Laws
Tuesday, March 18th

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODULAT RAILROADERS

Minutes

February 19, 2008

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by J. Carter, Club Vice-President.

Recognition of Guests and Visitors:

There were no guests or visitors; 22 members (including 3 new members) were present.

Officers' Reports

Secretary's Report: M. Doran-Bleck reported the minutes from the January meeting were published in the February 2008 issue of the *Signal Bridge*. Minutes were accepted as printed.

Newsletter Editor's Report: T. Bleck-Doran reported that the February 2008 issue of the *Signal Bridge* had been mailed or e-mailed to members in advance of the meeting. Articles from members were encouraged, especially personal recollections of members' earliest encounters with trains and railroading. A new series on Norfolk & Western oddball diesels was initiated with the T6 series of Alco switchers featured. More will follow.

Treasurer's Report: D. Swank reported that the club had a balance of \$1,475.96 with an obligated balance of \$235.64 as of February 19, 2008. He reported that donations received since the last budget report in January have begun to decrease due to decreased attendance. Dues renewals for 2008 have been coming in with \$417 deposited. New members have continued to be recruited during Saturday operating sessions and have received membership applications.

Webmaster's Report: Internet users will be able to access club and museum information while browsing the ETSU website. John is requesting pictures and written content for the ETSU Museum and Club websites. J Edwards reminded all that email addresses using the club internet connection are still available to members.

Vice-President's Report: J. Carter indicated that programs for February and March will be postponed until the third reading of the bylaws has been completed. A tentative schedule for programs is as follows:

- April John Edwards "Using the Digitrax System".
- May Hobie Hyder "Exploring Internet Resources For Model Railroading".
- June Ted Bleck-Doran "Norfolk and Western Oddball Diesels".
- July Duane Swank "Wreck of the 611"

J. Carter will alert the membership to changes to upcoming programs through the *Signal Bridge*.

President's Report: Deferred to the March Meeting due to the President being out of town.

Old Business:

1. **Copies of MEMRR/ETSU letter of understanding:** Members have access to Memorandum of Understanding between the club and ETSU. Copies are available in the display holder by the lift bridge on the HO layout.
2. **Donation Forms:** Also in the display rack, members will find donation forms to be filled out when receiving items for display. Members are to indicate whether items are permanent donation or temporary loan and for the Museum

(ETSU) or club use. Some discussion ensued regarding possible revision of the forms.

3. **DCC Conversion:** John Carter and John Edwards provided an update on the progress for converting the HO layout to the Digitrax System. There have been some teething problems and quirks in operating the Digitrax System. However the conversion has been relatively smooth. A wish list of items - e.g. controllers, has been developed.
4. **Engineer Hats for Member and For Sale:** Hats item from January meeting was re-"recapped." Caps had been purchased and in possession of Hobie Hyder. Discussion regarding Logo occurred. Decision was tabled until completion of the by-laws revision and possible name change determined.
5. **Access Code:** Members were reminded the access code for the key bank has been changed. Members will be given the new code upon renewal of membership. Note: Members who do not renew by the end of February will lose running rights on the MEMRR Club layouts.
6. **Other Old Business:** None

New Business:

1. **Digitrax Wish List:** J. Edwards presented a parts list to complete the installation of the Digitrax System. Following discussion regarding available funds and other obligations, a motion to purchase was passed (19 for, 3 against). Additional discussion occurred regarding the need to purchase several of the items to replace parts loaned the club by members.
2. **Trucks for Norfolk Western Club Passenger Cars:** J. Carter and J. Edwards reported that the change-out of metal wheel sets for the N&W passenger cars has not solved the friction problem. Discussion with the manufacturer has led to the recommendation of purchase of new all metal trucks for the cars. A motion to purchase trucks was tabled at the request of J. Edwards who recommended first attempting to thoroughly clean the journals of the existing truck frames.
3. **Member Lists:** Jim Pahris requested a brochure stand to include Membership Application package for the Watauga Chapter-National Railway Historical Society to be placed somewhere in the museum. Motion made and passed.
4. **Member Benefits:** Ed Lockett reminded members to present their member cards when making purchases at Hobbytown. Members enjoy a 20% discount but should remind the clerks of this member perk.
5. **Dues Reminder:** Duane Swank reminded members that the three month grace period is set to expire February 29th. Recommendation to include a notice in the March Issue of the *Signal Bridge* was made. Newsletter Editor agreed to the inclusion.

Announcements: None

Program: None due to second reading of amended by-laws.

Reading of Amended By-Laws: See report elsewhere in March *Signal Bridge*.

February Meeting: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, March 18th, Room 312 Brown Hall ETSU. Social time and dinner for those who wish to meet prior to business session: 5:45 PM, El Toritos Mexican restaurant on State of Franklin in the Kroger shopping center complex west of ETSU campus.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Submitted: Mary Doran-Bleck

Second Reading of By-Laws

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODULAR MODEL RAILROADERS of Upper East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia

BYLAWS

Article I. The name of this organization shall hereafter be known as, Mountain Empire Modular Model Railroaders of Upper East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia (MEMRR), with only the first phrase Mountain Empire Modular Railroaders used in daily reference. The complete full name will be reserved for official use on club stationery, membership cards, business cards and legal documentation only.

Article II. The officers of this organization shall be elected by popular vote of the membership at the November business meeting each year and retain that office for one calendar year. The officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster. The duties of each officer are enumerated in the Appendix to the Bylaws.

Article III. Committees shall be drawn from the general membership with appointments made by the president based on interest of the individual members and needs of the club.

Article IV. Membership is open to any individual with a sincere interest in HO gauge model railroading and who has reached their 18th birthday.

A full adult member (~~(\$30.00/yr.)~~) is defined as one who pays "full member" dues as set by the club in Article VIII and is willing to construct or assist with the building and/or operation of one or more modules or layouts for club use which meets the current club specifications. Only paid up full members will have access to the Museum key box.

Youth members (~~(\$5.00/yr.)~~) are non-voting members between 14 years of age and 18 years old of age and will be accepted if sponsored by a full adult member. The adult member will accept full responsibility, financial and otherwise, for their sponsored youth.

A family member (~~(\$5.00/yr.)~~) is a part of a full adult member's family household, interested in model railroading and who will support club activities. Family household members will have no vote, one vote per adult over 18 yrs. of age.

Associate membership (~~(\$12.00/yr.)~~) is one who cannot or does not wish to construct a module but would like to receive the club news letter, and supports the club, and will be non-voting.

Emeritus membership is one who has been a long time active member who is voted to this lifetime non-voting status by 2/3's vote of the membership present.

Honorary membership is one who has been awarded special non-voting membership for outstanding contribution by a non-member. To be established by 2/3's vote and renewed by similar vote at each November meeting.

Dues structure

Dues will be set at \$30 for a full adult member and \$5.00 additional for each family member. There will be no a \$5.00 charge for youth members since as they are sponsored by full adult members. Associate members dues will remain at \$12.00.

Article V. Election of officers and changes to the constitution or bylaws must be announced to the membership no less than one month in advance. Membership will consist of all individuals listed on the official roll kept by the secretary treasurer. Changes to the aforementioned documents of the club will require a vote "in the affirmative" of one more than half the voting membership. Passage of regular business items will require a majority vote of the members present at the meeting when the item is on the floor. Members must be sent notice of special called meetings no less than one week in advance of the proposed "called meeting" date.

Article VI. The regularly scheduled business meeting of this organization shall be the third Tuesday evening of each month.

Article VII. These bylaws may be amended by the membership, as deemed necessary, by the process set forth in Article V.

Article VIII. Each member will fund his/her share of the club expenses, to be paid to the Treasurer during the first quarter of the year. Each member will pay his or her dues to the treasurer no later than January 31st. An extension may be granted upon approval by the President and the Treasurer. The amount required dues will be fixed for the next year at the November meeting and published in the minutes of that meeting.

Article IX. The President may appoint an Audit Committee once a year to audit the books and physical assets of the Treasurer and to count the "cash on hand" kept by the Treasurer. The audit report will take place after the November business meeting and thereby present the incoming administration an accurate and verified base for the new year.

Article X. All club funds will be kept and maintained by the Treasurer. Expenditures to be submitted to the Treasurer for reimbursement upon receipt of appropriate receipts. All club funds will be maintained by the Treasurer. Upon termination of this club, all funds remaining will be used to pay outstanding debts. Any club-owned property will be sold and the proceeds, along with any remaining cash funds, will be donated to a 501C3 organization.

Article XI. This club has been organized and will operate exclusively for the pleasure, education, and recreation of its members. No part of the club's income and/or contributions will accumulate for the benefit of any member.

Article XII. Each full adult member/family group shall donate 4 railroad cars. Cars are to meet the following specifications: mid

~~40s to 70s era, body mounted kadee couplers, and with metal wheel sets in gauge and free rolling.~~

~~Article XIII.~~ **Article XII.** Unfinished modules shall show substantial improvements in a timely manner. If recommended improvements are not implemented on schedule after advisement from the Executive Committee (officers of the MEMRR), the disposition of the module or modules will be brought to a vote by the membership.

Article XIII. Each full member is expected to work ~~a minimum~~ **the equivalent** of one full Saturday or two half day Saturdays at the ~~George L. Carter Railroad Museum~~ **current club display venue** per month. Each member is to sign up for scheduled workdays in advance so ~~as~~ adjustments can be made to schedule. Showing up unscheduled with staffing already scheduled is encouraged but will not count towards fulfillment of this commitment.

Article XIV. Approved expenditures shall not exceed original estimates by more than 10% unless prior approval by the Treasurer and one other executive officer. (Executive officers are: President and Vice President). No expenditures will be reimbursed without receipt and all receipts must be signed and dated by ~~the~~ **the purchaser.**

Article XV. Pro-rated dues for new members who sign up during the year.

Jan. thru Mar.	\$30.00	100%	
Apr. thru June	\$22.50	75%	(for balance of the current year)
July thru Oct.	\$15.00	50%	(for balance of the current year)
Nov. and Dec.	\$30.00	100%	(this will include the following years dues)

APPENDIX TO THE MEMRR BYLAWS

Duties of the Officers of the Organization

President:

1. Prepare meeting agenda and preside over the Monthly Business Meeting.
2. Appoint Committees for various tasks as necessary.
3. Maintain contact with Train Show operators.
4. Prepare and disseminate monthly "Train News Report".
5. Assign individuals to specific tasks, i.e., Program Director, Recording Secretary, Specification Librarian, etc.
6. Provide contact point for local media, civic organizations and political leaders.

Vice President:

1. Preside at monthly business meeting in the absence of the President.
2. Is responsible for promotional aspects of the club, i.e., club logo, club brochures, media news releases, etc.
- ~~3. Maintain inventory of club owned property and location of same. (move to Treasurer responsibility)~~
3. ~~Maintain club archives. (move to Secretary responsibility)~~

Secretary:

- ~~1. Publish and mail monthly Newsletter, "Signal Bridge". (move to Newsletter Editor responsibility)~~
- ~~2. Maintain current Active Membership Roll. (move to Treasurer responsibility)~~
- ~~3. Compile and keep a roll of inactive and former members. (move to Treasurer responsibility)~~
1. Take minutes at Monthly Business Meeting (a Recording Secretary may be appointed by the President to perform this function.)
2. Send copies of minutes ~~and to newsletter editor, to the President and the Vice President for the archives.~~
3. **Maintain club archives.**
4. **Originates official club correspondence (i.e.: thank you cards/letters, condolences/etc.)**

Treasurer:

1. Maintain club funds and account for same in writing.
2. Collect annual club funds due from ~~module owners~~ **members** and associate members.
3. Prepare monthly financial report (income and expenditures) and submit it to the ~~Secretary~~ **Newsletter Editor** for publication in the monthly Newsletter.
4. Prepare Annual Financial Report.
5. **Maintain inventory of club-owned property and location of same.**
6. ~~Maintain current Active Membership Roll.~~
7. ~~Compile and keep a roll of inactive and former members.~~

Newsletter Editor:

1. Publish and mail monthly newsletter, "Signal Bridge".

Webmaster:

1. **Secure and maintain a suitable web host for the MEMRR web site. (Insure that yearly host fees are paid)**
2. **Design and create MEMRR and George L. Carter Railroad Museum web pages.**
3. **Maintain and update web pages in a timely manner.**
4. **Maintain an E-mail list of all members with computer access.**
5. **Notify all members with computer access of important upcoming club events.**
6. **E-mail Signal Bridge club newsletter to all members who have elected to receive it electronically.**
7. **Maintain MEMRR E-mail server.**

Amended by the general membership 02/20/2001.

Updated 3/21/06 to include approved Amendments of 02/20/2001 and voted changes to bylaws in 2004 by the general membership.

Amended ~~to its present form~~ by the general membership 05/16/2006.

Amended to its present form by the general membership:

Changes for 1st reading in red. Date read 1/15/08

Changes for 2nd reading in green. Date read:

1st DRAFT 1/4/08

2nd DRAFT 1/16/08

3rd DRAFT 2/19/08



From the Desk of the Chief Engineer:

March marks the fourth month we have been operating in our new home since it was officially dedicated as the George L. Carter Railroad Museum. We have seen lots of people come to visit us and watch the operation of the layouts and we have had some of them become our newest members. Our layouts are constantly looking better and the Club HO layout is running better with its new Digitrax DCC system. Every module has shown some improvement and everyone appreciates the work each member is putting into their own modules, but more importantly, the shared work of club members helping each other is really bonding us together. Of course there is still much work to be done and that is one of the aspects of our model railroading hobby that makes it so interesting and rewarding. We will continue to make plans to make the layouts better, easier and more dependable to operate, and fun to run our model trains over. It is terrific to see so many members, guys and gals, who come out each Thursday evening to work on the HO and N-scale layouts, to socialize with each other, and to learn from each other. Every Thursday some track work is being laid, scenery is being created, DCC and analog is being figured out and improved. Some new (and some old) locos are being programmed and tested, wheels are gauged, plans are being made for new creative expressions from tiny details to whole new sections of freight yards. If you have not been coming down to the museum on Thursdays you are missing a lot of what this, or any, model railroad club is about. Lots of things are being done by our members and it is an excellent opportunity to learn new modeling skills while lending a hand on a club project, personal module, or some aspect of our common hobby; or someone may be available to help you on your particular project.

Thursdays are terrific and you really need to be a part of it.

We still have good numbers of people coming each Saturday to see the museum and to interact with our club

members. Being open and operating at full capacity each and every Saturday is a large part of our agreement with the university that provides us the space and the support we are currently enjoying. I am working hard to continue that support and even to expand it with university administrators. To be effective I really need every member to give the museum at least part of one Saturday a month; being there for the entire 5 hours we are open on a Saturday would be even better as it would give some relief to those members who have almost never missed a Saturday running session since November 17th, 2007. Please do your part. The club needs you, your talents, and your commitment, and one Saturday a month is not too much to ask in return for all we have been blessed to receive from the university.

Tuesday night, March 18, is our next club business meeting. It will mark the third and final reading of the amendments to our club bylaws that will be followed by a vote to approve these changes, thereby giving us an up-to-date set of rules to continue to operate by. I want to thank everyone for their suggestions for bylaws improvement and the cooperative spirit you have expressed in working as a club to provide a strong set of guidelines that reflect the current environment our club is operating in. These monthly club business meetings are important for our membership as the "official" meeting to discuss and approve the business, issues, and concerns that every club faces. Don't miss the opportunity to have your voice heard, express your opinions, to make motions on issues important to you that will benefit the club, and to make your vote count. This is the privilege and responsibility each dues paying full-member enjoys and having full participation at each meeting helps to assure that everyone's voice is heard.

We have a great model railroad club and it just continues to get better. Come and meet some of our new members and get to know them, they are terrific people and wonderful additions to the Mountain Empire Modular Railroad Club. See you Tuesday and I hope to see you on lots of Saturdays and Thursdays as well.

Fred Alsop, President MEMRR



Can you identify this locomotive?

What is it?

Who ran it?

Did you renew your membership for 2008?

Don't lose your running rights!

There's lot's to see and do at Mountain Empire Modular Railroaders!