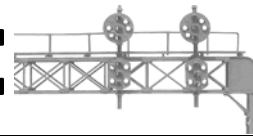


THE SIGNAL BRIDGE



Volume 15

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS CLUB
APRIL 2008 ISSUE

Number 4

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...

Last month's issue of the *Signal Bridge* invited you to identify this locomotive by type and railroad. How well did you do?

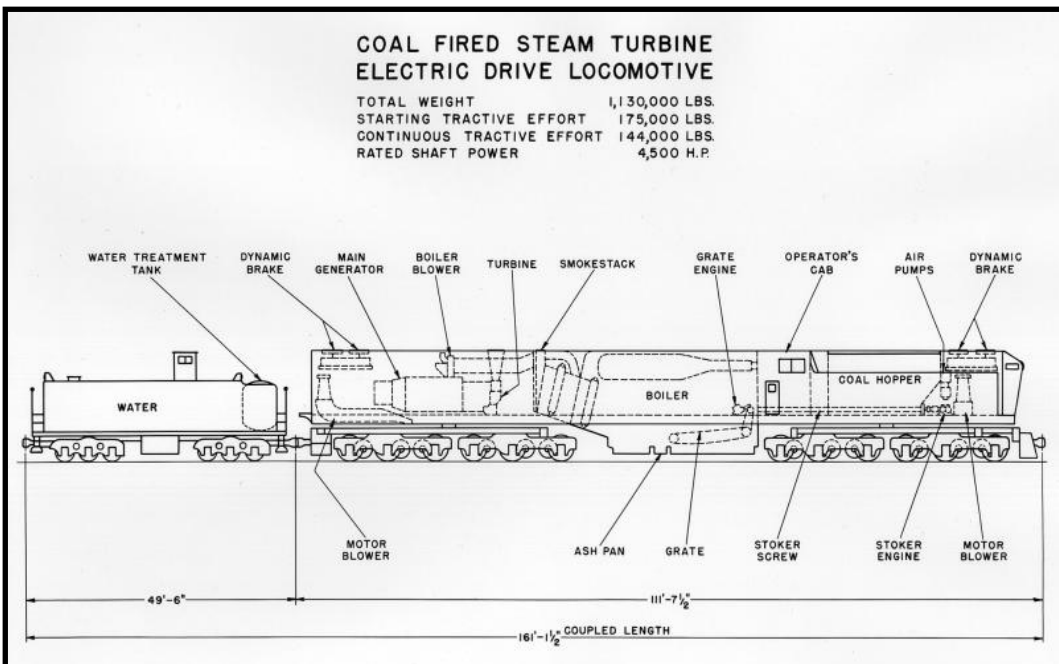


N&W Steam Turbine 2300

The locomotive is of course Norfolk & Western's answer to the diesel, the one-of-a-kind "John Henry" steam turbine No. 2300. Several roads tried to prolong the steam age with their own answers to the diesel. Notably the C&O with their version of a steam turbine, and UP's gas turbine "Veranda."

COAL FIRED STEAM TURBINE ELECTRIC DRIVE LOCOMOTIVE

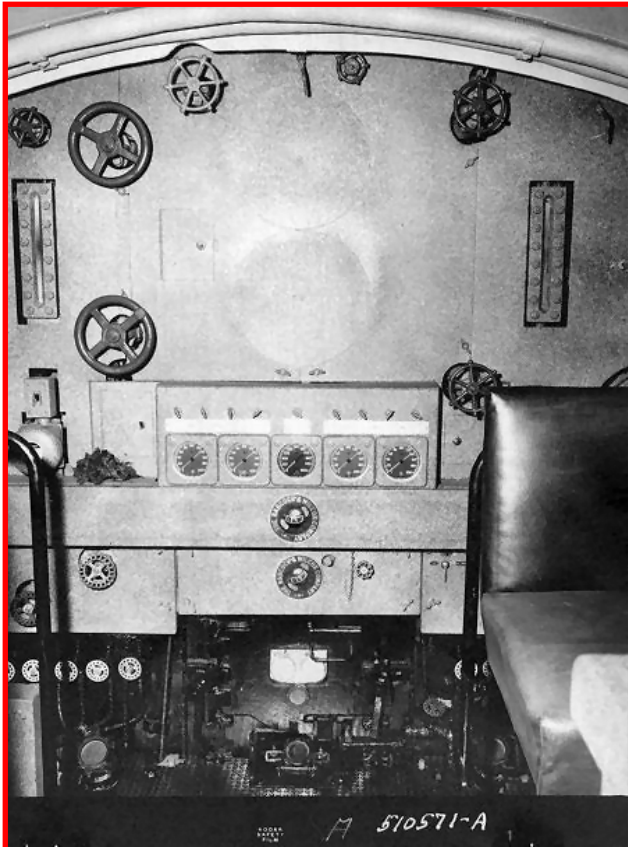
TOTAL WEIGHT 1,130,000 LBS.
STARTING TRACTIVE EFFORT 175,000 LBS.
CONTINUOUS TRACTIVE EFFORT 144,000 LBS.
RATED SHAFT POWER 4,500 H.P.





The weight of the engine was over 1 million pounds! The steam turbine developed 175,00 pounds of tractive effort, with a continuous rating of 145,000 pounds. Its horse power was rated at 4500 hp. Modern diesel outdistance the "John Henry" in rated horse power, but the locomotive was a giant for its day.





PRODUCT REVIEW

Dream-Plan-Build: Volume 12

Kalmbach has produced a new edition of videos in The Dream Plan Build video Series, this one entitled **dream plan build volume 12**. This volume contains video segments you have come to expect in the series with chapters related to techniques, layouts and prototype aspects of the hobby. There are also printable .pdf files containing additional information. Chapters include:

Layouts:

- HO & G Gauge at the Cypress Gardens Model RR
- Realistic Sound on Boggs' On3 Gauge Layout
- An Animated Lionel Wonderland at Trainland USA
- Midwest Mining on Tews' HO Gauge Layout
- Logging Operations on the Miller's On3 Layout

Techniques:

- Creating Realistic Roadbed
- Step by Step: Installing Ditch Lights
- Building a Correctly Proportioned Fleet
- Adding Details to Your Diesel Locomotives
- Maintaining Your Locomotives

Prototypes:

- Restoring the New Hope and Ivyland RR
- A Scenic Ride on the Cumbres and Toltec RR
- A Historic Look at the Electroliners

Cost: \$24.90 (S&H Included)

SIGNAL BRIDGE MEMBER OF THE MONTH MARY DORAN-BLECK LOIS WOODS

E-mail MARY: ted_mary.memrr.org

LOIS:

Occupation MARY - Dental Assistant

LOIS - Home-Maker

Home Layout MARY Yes - Early Stages

LOIS Yes - Early Stages

Guests Welcome MARY Yes - Bring tools

LOIS - not at this time

MEMRR Module MARY - Yes

LOIS - No

Favorite railroad

MARY: Norfolk & Western

LOIS: Baltimore & Ohio

Favorite aspect of hobby

MARY: Scenery & Socializing

LOIS: Scenery

Least favorite aspect of hobby

MARY: None yet

LOIS: spending lots of money

How did you get started in the hobby

MARY: Viewing The Tipton Hanyes Layout

LOIS: Through A Friend

How long have you been a member of the MEMRR

MARY: Two Years

LOIS: Just Over A Year

What got you started with MEMRR

MARY: Husband's interest in the hobby

LOIS: Through my husband

What dreams do you have for your layout or module

MARY: Making beautiful scenery

LOIS: (no response)

What other model railroad or railfan activities do you participate in

MARY: Riding trains, traveling and museums

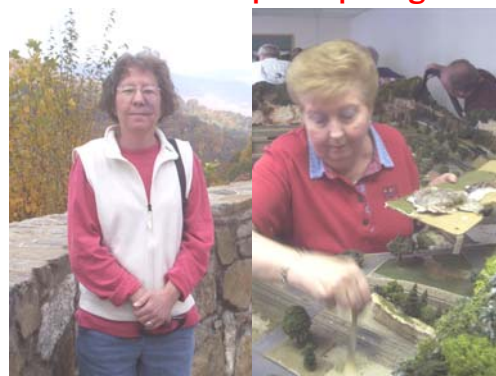
LOIS: Sister-in-Law works on the Blue Ridge Scenic

Railroad

What one thing would improve MEMRR

BOTH: More Socializing

More women participating



Mary Doran-Bleck

Lois Woods

PRODUCT REVIEW**Dream-Plan-Build: Rails Across America Edition**

Kalmbach has produced a new edition of videos in The Dream Plan Build video Series, this one entitled **Rails Across America**. This is the third, **The Sights and Sounds of Sand Patch**. The subject of the video is modern day rail operations at one of the busiest lines in the eastern United States. Videotaped over one weekend, the DVD captures all the action across the Sand Patch line.

Chapters include:

- Starting the Weekend: Keystone
- Mance's Scenic Horseshoe Curve
- East of the Sand Patch Tunnel
- Climbing Towards the Summit
- Gliding Down the Grade
- A Scenic View from the Foley Overlook

If you like modern diesels and big power with long drags and container expresses in the Allegheny Mountains then sit back and enjoy the scenes. You can borrow the club's copy and enjoy an hour or so of watching the big boys operate.

Cost: \$24.90 (S&H Included)



Track Details in Jonesborough

**PRODUCT REVIEW**

**Dream-Plan-Build: Rails
Great American Layouts Edition
Doug Tagsold's D&RGW
Silverton Branch**

Kalmbach has produced a new edition of videos in The Dream Plan Build video Series, this one entitled **Great American Layouts Edition**. This is the first to explore a single model railroad, It features **Doug Tagsold's D&RGW Silverton Branch** layout. The subject of the video is recreating rail operations of the famed Silverton line.

Tagsold's layout is On3 and fills a 24 by 50 foot room. It boasts of a 175 foot mainline set in the 1950's.

Chapters include:

- The History of the D&RGW Silverton Branch
- A Behind the Scenes Tour
The Town of Durango
Technique Creating Quick Trees
The Town of Hermosa
The Town of Rockwood
Technique: Creating Rocks
The Town of Tacoma
Technique: Creating Backdrops from Photos
The Town of Silverton
- Heading Back to Durango

Enjoy an hour or so with a fabulous layout – borrow the club's copy soon.

Cost: \$24.90 (S&H Included)

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:

The Mountain Empire **Model** Railroaders marked a milestone at our March meeting with the adoption of an up dated set of governing bylaws that even gave us a new name. The changing of the bylaws doesn't occur often in the life of any organization, on the average of about every 5 years or so, but they are important adjustments that keep the club running smoothly and they require much thought and discussion of the membership through their several required readings. My thanks to every member who helped us through the 3 months of meetings that fine tuned our bylaws to their current form. Now that they are adopted we can turn once again to the important tasks of improving our layouts and having fun running our trains.

Several exciting events have happened during the past few weeks at the George L. Carter Railroad Museum. The N-Gauge "Gang" has grown in numbers and has become more organized in that they are now making a series of plans to systematically improve the Bankus layout. They should have a short report of their immediate and future goals for our April meeting that includes wiring and track improvement projects. Some of the blank spaces on the layout are now being landscaped as well. The HO part of the club is busy planning and constructing a roundhouse with working turntable inside near the throat of the current yard. We need to discuss these additions as a club and vote on the proposed expenditures for these additions. New plans for a working freight yard and the relocation of the staging yard are also underway. As our HO layout becomes larger and more complex with the growth of the second yard we need to plan for a central control station located so a "trainmaster/yardmaster" can see the layout, mainlines and yards, and assist with the smooth operation of the many locomotives that may be operating at the same time. Module owners on the HO layout have continued to work on modules that needed the most creative work and they are almost all progressing at a steady pace and they are worth everyone taking the time to check them out and talk to their owners about what they are planning for their little corner of our railroad world. The G-gauge contingent is also making some progress on the McGee layout with plans to install the 3 sound systems that have been purchased, and to improve some of the scenery in a few spots. So, everything is moving forward and we have lots of members working and socializing on Thursday nights. If you have missed coming for a while get yourself on down to the museum and join in the fun. We are having a great time and we need you there for work nights and Saturday running sessions

Most of us have noticed that Saturday visitor attendance has dropped off in the past few months. As we point to the reason for this most of us feel that the general public who were made aware of our location back in November are now beginning to forget that we are open on Saturdays or perhaps, that we even exist. I feel we need to do a couple of things. If we try to put out our little "train show" signs on the State of Franklin as we did in August for Johnson Depot Days we stand to get a lot more folks into our museum (that translates into more potential donations that we can use for railroad development). I will see about getting our museum advertised on the university's animated lighted signs by the mini-dome. We should get our website link on the university's homepage. We need to get our brochures designed, printed and out. And lastly, I think we need to plan some kind of railroad event to invite the public too at the museum every 3 months or so. We can advertise these and the university will help. So, think these over as initial suggestions and let's discuss some ideas that we can vote on at our April meeting.

Be sure to greet our new members. The mainline is clear and the signals are green! See you at the railroad museum.

Fred Alsop, President

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS
BYLAWS

Article I. The name of this organization shall hereafter be known as Mountain Empire Model Railroaders (MEMRR).

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, 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 model railroading.

A full adult member 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 which meets the club specifications. Only paid up full members will have access to the museum key box.

A youth member is a non-voting member between 14 and 18 years 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 is part of a full adult member's household, interested in model railroading and who will support club activities. Household members will have one vote per adult over 18 years of age.

An associate member is one who would like to receive the club news letter, supports the club, and will be non-voting.

An emeritus member 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.

An honorary member 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.

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 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 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 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. 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 encouraged to work the equivalent of one full Saturday or two half day Saturdays at the current club display venue per month. Each member is to sign up for scheduled operating days and/or special events in advance so 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 purchaser.

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

Jan. thru Mar.	100%
Apr. thru June	75% (for balance of the current year)
July thru Oct.	50% (for balance of the current year)
Nov. and Dec.	100% (this will include the following

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. Is responsible for monthly club programs.

Secretary:

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 to newsletter editor.
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 members and associate members.
3. Prepare monthly financial report (income and expenditures) and submit it to 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 distribute 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 by the general membership 05/16/2006.

Amended to its present form by the general membership 03/18/2008.

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS**Minutes
March 18, 2008****Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by F. Alsop, club president.

Recognition of Guests and Visitors:

There were no guests or visitors; 19 members were present including one new member, Jesse, a current student at ETSU. A welcome back to Mike Buster and Jim Pahr, both having come through their recent surgeries.

Officers' Reports

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

Newsletter Editor's Report: Ted Bleck-Doran requested information for articles to be published in the Newsletter. Some suggestions are:

- "How to" articles,
- Memories of train trips,
- Rail fan trips,
- Model projects,
- Photos or anything of interest regarding the hobby.

If it is of interest to you, it will be of interest to club members.

Treasurer's Report: Harriet Swank reported in the absence of Duane who arrived later: Balance forward 1,475.96. Income: 408.00,

including dues, donations, gifts, and etc. Expenses were 661.50, including hardware, fixtures for the wish list and DPB supply expenses. A balance for the month of March is of 1,222.46, with a current available balance of 643.64.

Webmaster's Report: John Edwards reported the website is up and running well. Anyone wishing to receive the Signal Bridge electronically can do so by contacting John. This will defray the cost of postage. John E. will also be working to create a website for The George L. Carter Museum at ETSU.

Vice-President's Report: John Carter reported on upcoming programs. A tentative schedule follows:

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

President's Report: Fred Alsop was pleased to be back from his travels. He complimented all on their work on their individual modules as well as noting efforts on the N-gauge. He discussed the possibility of adding more space for displays, storage and special events.

Fred spoke of a reporter from the "Kingsport Times", who had been to the club to take videos of the layouts and interview two of our members. The publicity will bring more public awareness to our club and hopefully, more new members.

He then engaged club members in a lively discussion on how to increase public awareness of the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders and The George L. Carter Museum. Some suggestions included:

- The Great American Clean-up Day in downtown Johnson City (April 12),
- An Adult Continuing Education Program” (April 15),
- An evening with the Tiger Cubs (April 29).
- Exposure is possible during upcoming Festivals (Blue Plum Festival (June 6,7) and Jonesborough Days (July 4 weekend).
- J Edwards suggested a children’s day using our “Thomas the Train” layout.
- Ted Bleck-Doran suggested running table clinics of “how to’s” to introduce new comers to the model train hobby.

Volunteer members are needed and appreciated for all these events. Fred Alsop then asked for volunteers to inventory and place current market value on club assets. John Carter and John Edwards have volunteered to do so.

Club members were encouraged to make suggestions for use of the remaining dollars in our ETSU account (\$300.-\$400) to be used by May 1st.

Old Business:

1. **Engineer Hats for MEMRR Members:** Hobie has the hats for member purchase; tabled discussion on embroidery for club logo.
2. **Purchase of Digitrax Equipment:** Parts discussed at the last meeting have been purchased: still need 4 jack boxes to replace those loaned by members to get the transition up and running. Discussed purchase of a 400 throttle as back up; the 400 is need for system start-up; J. Edwards indicated that the computer interface can start the system. F. Alsop indicated that ETSU funds were available and could be used for purchase. Decision tabled.
3. **N&W Club Coaches Wheel/Truck Problems:** Wheelset/truck problems were again discussed; J. Edwards has replaced the wheelsets; truck frames are still binding; D. Swank recommended replacement of trucks with all-metal wheels and frames; D. Swank to report on cost to replace trucks. J. Edwards to clean axle/journals to see if this will free up the trucks. Some discussion regarding adding interior light sets @ \$65
4. **Framing of Large Pictures for RR Museum:** F. Alsop will have the large posted prints frames by Nelson’s Art Studio; cost will be \$200-250; costs to be covered by ETSU funds; the prints need to be framed to prevent curling.
5. **Brochures:** T. Bleck-Doran has agreed to mock-up new membership brochures for club consideration; F. Alsop will get a quote from the ETSU Print Shop for both B&W and Color runs; T. Bleck-Doran will provide copies of the existing brochure until new ones can be printed.

New Business:

1. **N&W J Class Running Problems:** F. Alsop has a price for repairs to #611. It was suggested that he try a “hard reset” on the decoder before sending the loco in for repairs; the warranty has expired.
2. **Final Reading of the By-laws:** The final reading was held for the by-laws with approval; see by-laws as printed in this issue of the *Signal Bridge*.
3. **Planning of the HO Freight Yard and Engine Terminal:** Tabled to April meeting.
4. **Track & Wiring Needs for HO Layout:** J. Edwards indicated that a 20 amp system is needed to support the number of locos equipped with sound that are run on Saturdays; The main line will be divided into 4 power districts; power supplies from the NCE and Digitrax system purchases will be used to power the proposed engine facilities and freight yard.
5. **G Gauge layout:** Additional Lexan will be purchased to complete the protection screening around the layout.
6. **N Gauge Layout:** The need for additional locos to support Saturday operating session was highlighted. Weekly running is taking a toll on the existing locos.

7. **Websites:** ETSU website for George L Carter Railroad Museum needs to be designed; reference to the MEMRR Club display at Tipton-Haynes needs to be updated on the Tipton-Haynes site.

Announcements:

Southeast Regional Train Center: G. Cameron announced that he has rented the old London Hardware Store at 110 West Main Street in Johnson City. He has plans for filling the location with the largest large scale and tinplate train exhibition in the Southeast. He also described a walking tour of railroad sites in Johnson City.

Program: None due to third and final reading of amended by-laws. These were voted on and unanimously approved.

Club Events:

4/12 – Great American Clean-up
4/15 – Senior Center Adults
4/24 – Tiger Cub

April Meeting: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, April 15th, 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 8:41 PM

