



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 Oddball Diesels - Part 8 The ALCo Century Series

ALCO Century 630	
Power type	Diesel-electric
Bullder	ALCO Montreal Locomotive Works
Model	Century 630
Buld date	1965 - 1967
Total production	77
AAR wheel arr.	C-C
Gauge	4 ft 8½ in (1,435 mm)
Prime mover	Alco 251
Power output	3,000 hp (2.2 MW)
Locale	North America

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The ALCO Century 630 was a six-axle, 3000 horsepower (2.2 MW) diesel locomotive built between 1965 and 1967. 77 were built: 3 for Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, 4 for Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, 8 for Louisville and Nashville Railroad, 10 (with high noses) for Norfolk and



Western Railway, 15 for Pennsylvania Railroad, 12 for the Reading Railroad, 15 for Southern Pacific Railroad and 10 for Union Pacific Railroad.



Montreal Locomotive Works produced a **C630M** variant of the C630, 4 for British Columbia Railway and 8 for Canadian Pacific Railway. MLW M630s were built by Montreal Locomotive Works from 1967 to 1973: 21 for CPR, 40 for Canadian National Railway and 26 for BCR. Eight of the BCR locomotives were designated **M630W** and were built with a wide nose cab, known as "Canadian safety cab".

Three intact ALCO C630s exist. One each are owned by the Virginia Museum of Transportation, Reading Technical & Historical Society, and by Vintage Locomotive, Inc. (Ed Bowers). Likewise three M-630s exist. One is owned by the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad (WNYP), and two by Vintage Locomotive. In Australia, the rebuilt frames of three

are owned by Robe River Iron Associates. WNYP also has an MLW C630 bought from the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad.

C630

133 Built - 77 US, 56 Canada

Original #	Previous #'s	Last #	Date Bt.	Truck	Notes
N&W 1130-34				Trimount	2
N&W 1135-39				FM Trimount	2

2. High short hood.



From the Chief Engineer's Desk:

Welcome new members Steven Walker, Jim Stucker, and Lyle Montieth. Kudos to everyone who helped us get

through lots of club business at the August meeting in a crisp, efficient manner and with enough time left over for a program. Unfortunately, because the evening's program depended on high-tech computer technology and the university had used the week between the end of the summer classes and the beginning of the fall classes to "scrub" all the multi-media classroom computers, we still did not get to see Hoby Hyder's program (originally scheduled for February). Now all the computers are up-and-running and Hoby will present his program, "Favorite Websites: Model and Real Railroading on the Web" at our September meeting. As a substitute to the hastily aborted program, John Edwards stepped in the breach of our technical glitch and brought us up to date on the cause of the derailment and operating problems we are experiencing on the HO layout that may be due to a combination of the differences in railhead thicknesses, rail joiners, and tie height at the bridge tracks that link our modules together

on the main lines. John's skill and diligence to solving this problem will be applied to our track just as soon as the gandy dancers can get to it. My thanks also for all the membership help we had on Saturday, 6 September, to assist in making Gary Cameron's first annual Regional Railroad Days a success. We had lots of visitors all day long, gained at least one new member, were visited by the presidents and officers of our sister railroad clubs in Crossville and Knoxville/Oak Ridge, and had many well deserved compliments on the exhibits we have created and maintain. We will be exchanging information with the two railroad clubs via our *Signal Bridge* newsletter through the email. We also voted at our last meeting to exchange newsletter information with the Watagua Valley Historical Railroad Society.

Hobie is ready to take Tee-shirt orders (dark forest green with embroidered club name: "Mountain Empire Model RailRoaders") for all members who want one or more. Cost is estimated to be \$6-\$8/shirt for a heavy-duty tee. Please get your orders in soon to Hoby at 423/213-4067 or wbei@planet.com so we can get your shirts back to you pronto. I will have information by the next meeting regarding our desire to sell "George L. Carter RR Museum" engineer hats and tee-shirts after checking with the powers that control vendors at the university.

The work on the roundhouse, turntable, and engine facilities is progressing in room 108, the museum workshop. We have tested the "Jack Cope" layout and everything runs fine powered by a donated duel cab control. Now, we need to see a working group with ideas on decorating the layout with removal "props" so it can be many different railroads in one. This can be a very exciting project, particularly for many of our new members who don't have modules to work on. I look forward to working with you on this layout that will be our "mobile railroad" to take out to groups at schools, malls, retirement homes, the fair, etc., to advertise the club and the museum. The university is removing the stored books, furniture and other things from our newly acquired space, rooms 100B and 110. We are growing both in club membership and in the space we have to work and create railroading exhibits in. I have ordered boxcars in 7 different scales to replace the exhibit now on loan to us from Gary Cameron and will have

information on this at the September meeting. Gary Rabetoy has announced he will be donating much of his HO-n3 layout to the Carter Museum when we have the space (room 100B) to receive and display it. The photos he has shown us of this layout, trackwork and buildings, are outstanding and a tribute to his talent and skill as a model railroader. I look forward to seeing the actual layout with great anticipation.

The Club and the Museum are on the move. I look forward to seeing you all at the September 16th business meeting, on Saturdays at the museum as we operate our layouts and, of course, on Thursday evening work sessions. Come join in the fun and the camaraderie that makes a model railroad club such a special group to belong to. **"Hear the whistle blow and think of all the destinations yet to come".**

Fred Alsop, President, Mountain Empire Modular Railroaders



RTA Music City Star Route Map

There is a Youtube video featuring a simulated train-auto encounter. It was an Operation Life Saver demonstration. The car was probably a scrap yard donation while the Music City Star company donated their time and equipment to help stop people from racing trains at crossings. The F40PH was fine. The car - well watch t he video.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZdF3Rv7evU>

The Music City Star is a regional rail service running between Nashville and Lebanon, Tennessee. The service uses the existing trackage of the Nashville and Eastern Railroad. The line currently has six stops: Riverfront Station (western terminus), Donelson, Hermitage, Mt. Juliet, Martha (Tennessee State Route 109 and U.S. Highway 70), and Lebanon (eastern terminus). The operation covers 32 miles (52 km) of rail line. Service began on September 18, 2006.



The Star is considered a "starter" project to demonstrate the effectiveness of commuter rail service to the metro Nashville area. Expansion plans include as many as six more lines, terminating in Gallatin, Columbia, Murfreesboro, Dickson, Springfield, and Ashland City. All are planned to use existing CSX Transportation railroad lines. The planned seven lines meet in central Nashville in a star formation, hence the name of the system, which also alludes to the city's many country music stars.

The Star's locomotives are EMD F-40 locomotives that were previously used by Amtrak. The passenger cars were acquired through federal transfer of interest from Chicago's Metra commuter rail system, originally built in the 1960s and rebuilt between 1999 and 2000. The color scheme is identical to Metra's.

The Star is the first passenger train service of any kind for Nashville since the discontinuation of Amtrak's Floridian in 1979. The Nashville and Eastern line, part of the former Tennessee Central Railway, had not seen passenger service for many decades prior to the Star

Equipment & Rolling Stock

Music City STAR commuter rail is currently served by 3 rebuilt Amtrak Locomotives and 7 ex-Chicago Metra coaches, all of which are standard gauge.

The coaches are bi-level gallery cars with seating on both levels. Each seat can be easily reversed to face either direction and can also be configured for groups.

System Stations and Routes



Currently there is only one line with 6 more planned to other satellite cities around Nashville.

The current line is 32 miles long with 6 stations. The line is mostly one track, so this limits arrivals and departures to how long each train has to wait for the other to pass. The first "starter line" cost \$41 million, which made it the most cost efficient commuter rail start-up in the nation. By comparison: San Diego Coaster, \$91 million for 41 miles; Seattle Sounder, \$860 million for 33 miles; Salt Lake City FrontRunner, \$360 million for 43 miles; and New Mexico Rail Runner Express, \$125 million for 29 miles.

Schedules

The RTA Music City Star operates Monday – Friday only.

Holiday Operations. The RTA Music City Star does not operate on the following holidays: **New Year's Day; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; Christmas Day.**

Inbound TO Nashville (Mon. – Fri.)						
LEBANON	MARTHA	MT. JULIET	HERMITAGE	DONELSON	RIVERFRONT	
5:45 A	5:56 A	6:05 A	6:12 A	6:20 A	6:35 A	
6:40 A	6:51 A	7:00 A	7:07 A	7:15 A	7:30 A	
—	—	7:45 A	7:52 A	8:00 A	8:15 A	
3:20 P	3:31 P	3:40 P	3:47 P	3:55 P	4:10 P	
3:55 P	4:06 P	4:15 P	4:22 P	4:35 P	4:50 P	
—	—	5:00 P	5:07 P	5:20 P	5:35 P	
Fridays only:						
6:50 P	7:01 P	7:10 P	7:18 P	7:25 P	7:40 P	

Outbound FROM Nashville (Mon. – Fri.)						
RIVERFRONT	DONELSON	HERMITAGE	MT. JULIET	MARTHA	LEBANON	
6:58 A	7:09 A	7:22 A	7:32 A	—	—	
7:45 A	7:56 A	8:09 A	8:17 A	8:26 A	8:40 A	
8:25 A	8:36 A	8:43 A	8:51 A	9:00 A	9:15 A	
4:20 P	4:32 P	4:39 P	4:49 P	—	—	
5:05 P	5:17 P	5:24 P	5:32 P	5:41 P	5:55 P	
5:45 P	5:57 P	6:04 P	6:12 P	6:21 P	6:35 P	
Fridays only:						
9:30 P	9:42 P	9:49 P	9:57 P	10:06 P	10:20 P	

Thursdays
 Are Work Nights - Come join the Fun -
 There's always a project going on from 4:30 to 7:30 or later

Saturdays
 Are Open Sessions for Public Viewing – Sign up to help out for 9:30 -12:30 or 12:00 - 3:00 or stay the day

Mountain Empire Model Railroaders August 19, 2008 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President F. Alsop at 7:12 PM with 20 members present. Two guests were also present and welcomed as new members: J. Stucker and L. Montith.

Officer's Reports:

Secretary: The minutes of the July 22nd meeting were accepted as printed in the August issue of *The Signal Bridge*.

Bewsletter Editor: The August issue of *The Signal Bridge* has been distributed to club members. A call for articles was made.

Treasurer: D. Swank reported a balance of \$1,075.99 was carried forward with income of \$199.00. Expenses were \$180.82. Previously obligated expenditures were \$849.71. Balance as of August was \$1,094.17. Unobligated balance was \$244.46. Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Webmaster: J. Edwards reported that web server fees are \$24 per year and that a two year contract is desired. Motion: to approve expenditure. Passed.

Vice-President: J. Carter noted that the computers were down at ETSU with no internet connectivity available. J. Edwards/G. Woods to check on status.

President: F. Alsop reported the following:

- He has requested a commitment from the ETSU Foundation of \$10,000 for the museum; \$5,000 for exhibit development, \$5,000 for the two new rooms. One of the new rooms would be a children's exhibit. He believes that the funds can be raised. There is a desire to have the Physical Plant prepare the rooms for occupancy so that the display rooms would be in operation by President Stanton's retirement;
- The club needs to prepare for Home Coming since a large attendance is expected and walk throughs are expected to be high.

Old Business:

1. Purchase of 2nd Track-Cleaning Car: There was some discussion of the need for a second track cleaning car. Motion: to postpone purchase. Passed.

2. Hobbytown Relocation: Hobbytown has relocated to a new storefront and is open for business at the new location on N. Roan

3. Regional Railroad Festival: G. Cameron reported on plans for the September Regional Railroad Festival. Festival will run from September 5-7. He is looking for support to run open houses at both clubs, shuttle service for out of town guests between Johnson City business district and ETSU, coordinating swap meet tables. There will be rides on the Doe River Gorge track (former Tweetsie).

4. Childrens Activity Sheet: report was postponed to September meeting.

5. Shirt Patches with Club Logo: Hobie has priced patches at %3.50 similar to front of hat. These will not cover shirt embroidery. Motion: to purchase. Defeated.

6. Other: Hobie has priced T-shirts with new club logo for \$7.00. There is a desire to order heavy duty t-shirts with embroidered

logo. Hobie will explore securing 25-30 shirts. Members are to let Hobie know if they wish to purchase shirts.

New Business:

1. Layout Reports:

- **G-scale:** F. Alsop stated that he is waiting on new ETSU funding cycle to start upgrades.
- **N-scale:** No report
- **HO-Scale:** J. Edwards reported track problems have been identified and will be repaired
- **J. Cope Layout:** needs additional help in developing interchangeable scenic displays.
- **Museum Exhibit:** G. Cameron stated that he will move his exhibit of "all-scales" to his downtown Johnson City location and suggested the club replace with their own display.

2. Newsletter Swap: Motion: to authorize Watauga Valley Railway Historical Society to receive the club newsletter for possible article/event coverage. Passed.

3. Childrens Hats: Motion: to purchase more children's hats with JL Carter logo on front. Discussion: lack of vendor's license; need to check to see if we are permitted to use logo for hats. Tabled - F. Alsop to check; D. Swank to call company for pricing.

4. Narrow Gauge Layout: G. Robetoy has offered to donate an HO-HO_n3 to the club. The layout can become a basis for a representation of the Tweetsie.

5. HO track gauge discussion: J. Edwards indicated that some of the problems with track on the HO layout have resulted from differences in railhead width between the Atlas, Shinohara, Walthers, and Peco track brands. Rail joiners will pull the narrower railhead to the center creating a derailment potential. F. Alsop suggested a survey of all HO track used on the modules to determine where the Atlas track is located and to determine if it is actually causing the derailment problems.

Volunteers for Saturday Operating Sessions: Volunteers were secured for the next 5 weekends; members are reminded that they are expected to sign up for 1 Saturday AM-PM each per month; to count as a session worked, the member should sign up in advance; members unable to work a session they have signed up for must secure a replacement.

Announcements: several train show and meets were announced:

- **Autumn Rails 2008:** October 3 & 4 Bonclatken Assembly Auditorium, Blue Ridge Road, Flat Rock (Hendersonville), NC \$5 Admission
- **Hickory Fall Fling:** September 13, 2008 Hickory NC Metro Center, \$3 Admission
- **Central Railway Model and Historical Association- 2009 Annual Train Show;** February 28th-March 1st 2009; JB Owens Sports Complex Bagwell Gymnasium 111 Walkers Way, Easley SC. \$5 Admission.
- **36th Atlanta Model Train Show,** January 17th, 2009, North Atlanta Trade Center 1700 Jeurgens Court.

Program: Hobie Hyder – Favorite Websites: Model and Real Railroading on theWeb"

Meeting was adjourned 9:15 PM.

September meeting: 7:00 PM Tuesday, September 16th, Room 312 Brown Hall, ETSU. Dinner for those who want to dine and socialize earlier at 5:45 PM at El Toritos Mexican Restaurant on State of Franklin in the Kroger shopping center complex west of the ETSU Campus.



MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS

MEMBER INVENTORY

NAME:

PHONE: (cell) (home)	EMAIL:
HOME LAYOUT? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	MEMRR MODULE? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
VISITORS WELCOME? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	OCCUPATION (Pre-Retirement)?
FAVORITE RAILROAD(S):	FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE HOBBY:
HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN THE HOBBY:	LEAST FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE HOBBY:
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF MEMRR?	WHAT GOT YOU STARTED WITH MEMRR?
WHAT DREAMS DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUR LAYOUT, MEMRR MODULE OR CLUB LAYOUT?	WHAT OTHER MODEL RAILROAD OR RAILFAN ACTIVITIES DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN?
WHAT ONE THING WOULD YOU SUGGEST TO IMPROVE MEMRR?	I AM INTERESTED IN: <input type="checkbox"/> writing for the newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> clinic presentations <input type="checkbox"/> backdrop painting <input type="checkbox"/> prototype operations/operating sessions <input type="checkbox"/> scenery <input type="checkbox"/> model construction <input type="checkbox"/> electrical
WHAT SPECIAL SKILL ARE YOU ABLE TO SHARE WITH THE CLUB?	<input type="checkbox"/> rolling stock/locomotives <input type="checkbox"/> benchwork/construction <input type="checkbox"/> museum displays/curation/archives <input type="checkbox"/> participating in special operating sessions/open houses during the work day <input type="checkbox"/> public relations/promotion <input type="checkbox"/> HO <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> O <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> Tinline