

CLUB OFFICERS

President:
Fred Alsop

Vice-President:
John Carter

Secretary:
Art Daniels

Treasurer:
Duane Swank

Newsletter Editor:
Ted Bleck-Doran

Webmaster:
John Edwards

LOCATION

ETSU Campus, George L.
Carter Museum

HOURS

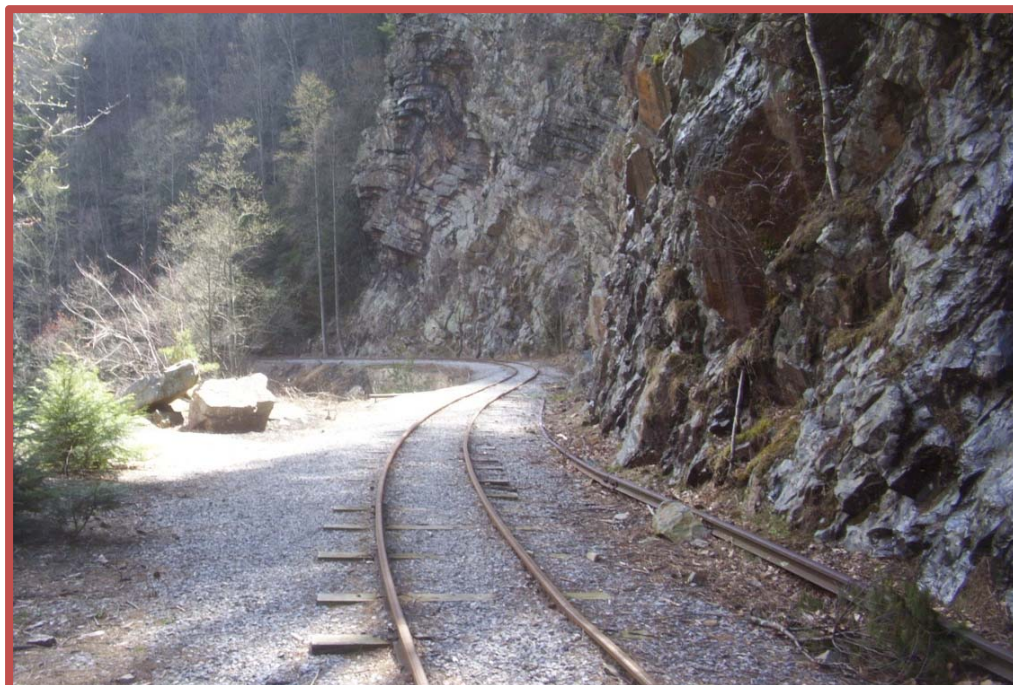
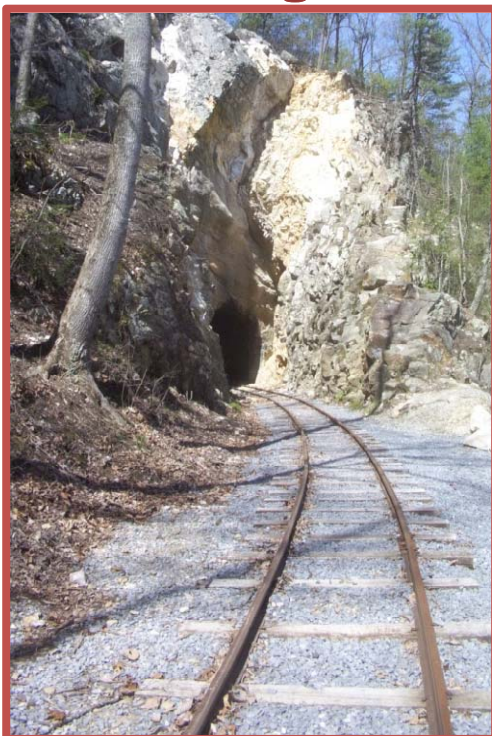
Business Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meetings start at 7:00 PM at ETSU Campus, Brown Hall Science Bldg, Room 312, Johnson City, TN.

- 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.

DOE RIVER GORGE Along The ET&WNC Right-of-Way



Top Left: South Face of Tunnel 2.

Top Right: Approaching Tunnel 3 from the North,

Bottom: Approaching the Curve South of Pardee Pt.



MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS
General Meeting of
November 30, 2009
MINUTES

Meeting brought to order by Pres. Fred Alsop at 7:00 p.m. with 23 members present. New members, Stephen and Christy Brown, attended the meeting and all members present introduced themselves

Fred passed around a proposed lay-out of the HO scale train yard for the museum.

Officer Reports

Secretary: Since Secretary Art Daniels was not present, Harriet Swank volunteered to take notes. Jim Pahrts made a motion to accept the minutes of the October meeting as published in the November Signal Bridge; Paul Haynes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Newsletter Editor: Ted Bleck-Doran is asking for news articles for the Signal Bridge.

Treasurer: The Treasurers Report was read by Duane Swank.

Balance Forwarded	\$1,598.48
Income	\$ 829.64
Expenses	<u>\$ 543.40</u>
Mo. End Balance	<u>\$1,884.72</u>
Available Balance	\$1,505.72

Fred reminded all members that the 2010 renewal membership dues are now payable at any time.

Webmaster: John Edwards, reported that the web site is up and operating with a members only section.

Vice President: John Carter, is looking for programs for upcoming meetings.

Dec. program will be the annual Christmas Party
 Jan. program will be given by Gary Emmert
 Feb. program may possibly be given by Ted Bleck-Doran.
 This one is still undecided.

President: Ilene Street donated 93 train related videos to the club. Fred was given a complete list of these videos as inventoried by Duane Swank. Ted Bleck-Doran made a motion to place these in locked display cases in the Rabetoy room and be signed out to members by an officer of the Club with a \$30.00 or more penalty (the value of the video) for each video signed out if it is not returned. This would be to obtain a replacement copy. John Edwards seconded this motion. After discussion, Jim Pahrts made an amendment, seconded by Lyle Montieth, to hold until January the procedure to handle sign in and out of these videos. This was unanimously passed.

Old Business:

- 2nd Anniversary:** Fred thanked everyone for all the hard work in getting the new kids room ready for the ETSU Homecoming Celebration on Saturday and all those who worked the rooms to make OUR 2nd anniversary at the museum a success.
- Logo Contest:** The MEMRR Logo Contest ended on Friday, 11/14/09. There were 15 entries and a few more may come in that could have been postmarked on or before 11/14/09 but did not make it to the college address as yet. Judges will be selected to choose a winner.

- NCE Equipment Sale:** The NCE discussed last month that the Club has for sale is being sold off in pieces. Joe Roberts has purchased some of it and Don Ramey is interested in some of what is left. There is a man from N.C. who has been in touch with Fred and may want to purchase some of whatever may be left after Club members have gotten what they want. The balance of the NCE will be open for anyone after January 1, 2010, as agreed to in last month's meeting.
- Clarification of ownership:** Joe Roberts brought up the question of who owns the face plates of the NCE. John Edwards explained that the new DCC face plates were all purchased with Club money and therefore would be a trade-off for the NCE plates which were purchased by individual modular owners therefore making the NCE Club property to be sold.
- Graybeal Acquisitions:** Jim Pahrts reported on the purchase of *Along the ET & WNC* from Johnny Graybeal. Of the 7 volume set, volumes 3 and 7 cannot be found but the other 5 have been ordered at \$17.00 each. Tarheel Press is shipping in-stock items only. They are not publishing any items at present due to the economy.
- Tweetsie Volumes:** The purchase of books *The Blue Ridge Stemwinder* and *Tweetsie Country* for the Club as a reference library for the Ken Marsh Room and Tweetsie lay-out were discussed. There is a possibility that Geoff Stunkard may donate *The Blue Ridge Stemwinder* but if not, Gary Rabetoy made a motion to purchase it for \$50 + \$5 S/H and the *Tweetsie Country* for \$42.95 + S/H. The motion was seconded by Jim Pahrts and passed unanimously.
- Roundhouse Stall Board:** Allan Morton has completed the round house stall board but is having some problem locating a spot to hang it.
- Kids Activity Room:** Fred will make out a check list for the Kids Room of what needs to be done in there to be operational each Saturday as well as the switches to turn ON & Off. Also, Fred noted that the DVD & TV in the main exhibit room were left on one day after everyone had gone and locked up. Be sure to double check everything to assure nothing is left on.
- Tweetsie Equipment:** Old Fort Train Shop has 4 narrow gauge brass Tweetsie locomotives for sale at \$699 each; whereas John Carter found some for \$575 each. These would be a great representation of the Tweetsie R.R. which is being planned for the Rabetoy lay-out. Fred would like to buy 4 of these locos, about \$2300, using college funds, outside donors money, etc., and not use the Club's money. Jim Pahrts suggested Fred go ahead with the purchase of the locos, but Fred decided to wait for a little more money to be available.
- Rabetoy Donation:** Gary Rabetoy made a motion to donate to the museum all the unfinished benchwork frames in the Rabetoy room to be finished off with funds by the college. However, if an individual would want to purchase items for the modules and donate them to the museum that could be done as a donation to the museum. This was seconded by Jim Pahrts and passed unanimously.

11. Election of Officers: Nominations for 2010 officers were presented by the nominating committee (Harriet Swank and Allan Morton) as follows:

President	Fred Alsop
Vice President	John Carter
Treasurer	Duane Swank
Newsletter Editor	Ted Bleck-Doran
WebMaster	John Edwards
Secretary	Don Ramey

(the secretary's position was difficult to fill and was a last minute nomination made by Joe Roberts). The members present voted on the nominees and all were voted in unanimously.

New Business

1. December Meeting: The December Christmas Party was discussed. John Carter will head the committee and contact Penny McLaughlin at Tipton-Haynes about holding the dinner there either the 15th or 17th of December if the facility is available. The committee will consist of: Jim Pahriss, Charlene McLeod, Lois Woods, Mary Doran-Bleck, and Harriet Swank. Bill Hensley volunteered to donate a cooked turkey. Harriet & Duane Swank will furnish pulled pork. The menu will be discussed by the committee and members will be contacted about what they will furnish. It was suggested that Dirty Santa be played again this year with a gift exchange of \$15 to \$20 value and having a train related theme.

2. Holiday Decorations: Christmas Decorations for the museum. Duane Swank reminded the group that he had donated a tree last year and it is being stored in his basement. It will be brought to the museum for display. Anyone wishing to help with decorations, donating items and/or helping to put them up are welcome.

3. December Clinics: The first three Saturdays in December will be dedicated to clinics for showing the public ways to paint, weather, make trees, etc. Those clinics will be:

Weathering with oils	Fred Alsop	12/5 and 12/12
Making trees	Paul Haynes	12/5 and 12/12
Making sagebrush trees	Fred Alsop	12/5 and 12/12
Making fir trees	Don Ramey	12/5 and 12/12 (a.m. only ea. day)
Laying track	John Carter	12/5
Tune-up rolling stock	Joe Roberts	12/12 (?)
Build a pond	Fred Alsop	12/5 and 12/12
Soldering tips	Gary Rabetoy	12/19 (?)
DCC controls	Lyle Montieth	12/12
Rock molds	Hobie Hyder	12/5
Little people	Ted Bleck-Doran	12/12
Weathering with acrylics	Ted Bleck-Doran	12/12
Wood kit tips	Ted Bleck-Doran	12/12
Pastels	David Doughty	12/5 and 12/19
Dyeing sawdust	Duane Swank	12/12
Archiving	Geoff Stunkard	??

Fred will check with Geoff about making a model photography video of the clinics for future use by the Club.

4. Club Invite: Dewey Rolland of the Appalachian Model R.R. Club in Appalachia, VA, has extended invitations to MEMRR members to attend their meeting and operation of their trains on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Volunteer Schedule: Saturday volunteer names were taken through 12/12/09.

Program: The program video "In the Land of Giants" about UP's Big Boys was supplied by Tod Eaton was started at 8:45 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted,

Fred Alsop

Official Correspondence:

Art:

We had elections of officers for the coming year at the MEMRR club meeting last night and all the positions were filled with the same officers serving again from the previous year in the same positions...with one exception. The newly elected secretary is long-time club member, Don Ramey.

Art, I want to thank you for the excellent job you did for the club this past year as our secretary. Especially, in light of the personal difficulties you and your wife were challenged with during that period that compounded your service to the club. Your minutes were always forwarded to me within days of each meeting and they were always and accurate and complete record of each meeting you recorded. I appreciate your eye for detail and the professional manner in which you carried out your duties including the cards you posted to members who had lost family members or who were suffering ill health. Thanks to you also for the support you provided me that helped me have a good year as president. Rest assured that your time and efforts are most appreciated.

As we make the transition to a new secretary please make the materials you have, including copies of membership lists (particularly those in electronic format), cards and stamps you may have purchased for the club, any unexpended funds, etc., available to Don Ramey at your convenience. If you have any receipts for purchases connected with you duties as our secretary that you have not been reimbursed for please get them to Duane Swank so that he may repay you.

I look forward to seeing you at the museum again sometime soon.

Best regards,

Fred



**MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS
Operating Group Coordinators Meeting -
November 12, 2009**

To: Fred Alsop III, President, Mountain Empire Model RailRoaders (MEMRR)
From: Gary Rabetoy, Coordinator, Rabetoy Layout Development Operating Group

**Rabetoy Layout Development:
Progress Report:**

1. A. On October 18, 2009, Gary Cameron, Rich Gallaher, and I participated in an excursion to the Doe River Gorge which followed the ET&WNC RR route from the Doe River Ministries, Inc. (which conducted the excursion) at Hampton, Tennessee, to Pardee Point. I took multiple photographs to document the

details of this trip including photos of the two tunnels along the route for later scenic reference.

2. At the MEMRR general meeting on October 20, 2009, members voted to obtain all volumes of Along the ET&WNC by Johnny Graybeal. Volumes 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 were reported to be in stock and available at the author's discount price of \$17.00. Volume 3 (Along the ET&WNC Volume III: Depots) of the latter publication series and The Railroads of Johnson City were apparently not in stock and will be acquired, if possible, in the open market at the current market price but not to exceed \$75.00. I believe that purchase of a copy of neither The Blue Ridge Stemwinder book by John Waite and Chris Ford nor the book Tweetsie Country by Mallory Hope Ferrell were authorized or discussed at the meeting according to the minutes published in The Signal Bridge, Volume 16, Number 11 (November 2009 Issue).
3. Similarly, members voted to approve the MEMRR club joining the ET&WNC RR Historical Society at a cost of \$20.00 per year.
4. It is my understanding that Jim Pahriss was given the responsibility to accomplish items B and C above.
5. The CD entitled 20 Years (1988-2007) of "The Stemwinder" became available on November 6, 2009 at a price of \$42.50 per disk including shipping and handling. This is a collection of all 62 issues of The Stemwinder publication which reportedly contains a wealth of historical information on the ET&WNC RR including photos, maps, scale drawings of equipment and structures, reproductions of historical railroad documents, and stories about that railroad. I have purchased a copy of this CD which I will donate to the MEMRR club to supplement the reference library being assembled. Information with a link to the website for ordering this CD is included with this report.
6. Another CD which will document via aerial photographs the ET&WNC RR route is also planned (link enclosed).
7. On November 6, 2009, I discussed with Chris Ford (telephone number (901) 529-2345) what he considered to be the optimal period of operation and for modeling the ET&WNC RR. He advised me that it was his opinion that the period from 1920-1925 (possibly extending to 1930) was the best period. Ten wheeler locomotives were in use and the iron ore, lumber, and passenger business were all active. Apparently John Waite has also written editorials to the effect in "The Stemwinder" publication reproduced on the above CD.
8. Also on November 6, 2009, I called John Waite (telephone number (573) 659-9192) to inquire about the most optimal period as noted above and to obtain plans (if available) for the Elk Park Sawmill and the Valley Forge Coal Chute. As he was unavailable, I left a message for him to return my call. John Waite is having a model of the Johnson City Furnace

constructed by a professional model maker for his own layout featuring the ET&WNC RR. It is anticipated that there will be a future series of articles in Railroad Model Craftsman which will detail the construction of this model and will include plans.

9. On November 6, 2009, I joined the Yahoo! Groups Tweetsie Group (link enclosed) which reportedly is also an excellent source of information on the ET&WNC RR.
10. It is my recommendation that:
 - a. A copy of The Blue Ridge Stemwinder book by John Waite and Chris Ford and a copy of the book Tweetsie Country by Mallory Hope Ferrell should be authorized for purchase for the ET&WNC RR reference library.
 - b. The period 1920-1930 should be considered as the period to be modeled.
 - c. When the reference library is complete (anticipated possibly by the next regular meeting of this group on December 10, 2009), I plan to request volunteers to commence work on a track plan.
11. Items related to the ET&WNC RR that are available from Cranberry Car Shops
 - HO ET&WNC and Linville River Ry Decals (white/various styles) for
 - Freight
 - Caboose
 - Passenger
 Each sheet will do 13 complete cars at a cost of \$12.00 per sheet
 - HO_n3 Hopper kit at a cost of \$25.00/car
 - HO_n3 38' Gondola kit at a cost of \$22.00/car
 - HO_n3 32' Gondola kit at a cost of \$20.00/car
 - HO_n3 Brass 10 Wheeler ET&WNC Locomotives in various numbers and paint schemes at a cost of
 - o \$650.00/locomotive for one,
 - o \$625.00/locomotive for two,
 - o \$600.00/locomotive for three, and
 - o \$575.00/locomotive for four or more locomotives
 - Tennessee Narrow Gauge DVD (70 minutes in color/A&R Productions) at a cost of \$25.00
 Other items in development include HO_n3 freight car trucks, and ET&WNC 4,500 gallon and 7,000 gallon tank car kits

For further information and ordering contact:

Philip Sloan
Cranberry Car Shops
1430 Cranberry Springs Road
Fleetwood, NC 28626
Telephone: (336) 877-1152
Email: cranberry@skybest.com

Respectfully submitted,

Gary M. Rabetoy

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



From the engineer's side of the cab.

Happy Holidays to all the wonderful members of the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders club and to their families. We have many accomplishments to ponder in front of the

fireside during the cooling months ahead including having just celebrated 2 years in our new home at ETSU. The club has grown larger and the membership has done some wonderful things at the Carter Railroad Museum and for the many visitors who have come to see us from the surrounding region. Thursday night work sessions have taken on a social atmosphere as our nighttime crew has expanded its ranks and the new sub-groups with their coordinators are creating a level of organization that is structuring these work sessions into more efficient and productive evenings. If you have not been to the museum on a Thursday night in a while please drop back around and join in the fun at the creative heart of the hobby.

We had more than 30 top-notch entries for the Carter Railroad Museum Logo Contest, including some outstanding ones from some of our members. All were "winners" and the task of the judges was not an easy one. The grand prize winner was Phillip Brooks, a graphic arts designer in Knoxville, TN. His entry combined the railroad theme and the design structure that made it a great choice for use as a versatile logo that could be used on a patch, shirt, stationary, web site, etc. The 1st Runner-up was Tommy Tidwell, a Johnson City resident, who's stylized diesel loco and consist is a beautiful piece of art work and he will allow us to use it on some tee shirts as well. The 2nd Runner-up was submitted by Sandy Green, a public school teacher in Erwin, and the 3rd Runner-up was entered by a 78 year-old retired teacher, Lillian Brooks, living in Hendersonville, a suburb of Nashville. The entire gallery of entries was on display for more than two weeks in the lobby of the Tennessee Credit Union, Sunset Branch which sponsored the contest. I know you will join me in congratulating the winners and all the talented artists who made this such a quality event.

Our Holiday Party is scheduled for the night of December 15th, our regular club meeting night, but at 6:00 p.m. (not the regular meeting time of 7:00 p.m.) at Tipton-Haynes State Historical Site. For members who might not know Johnson City well enough to know the location; it is on South Roan Street, south of its intersection with University Parkway, and on the right side of the road just a little way past Food City. Watch for the brown and white sign that marks its location and pull in the gravel road and through the wooden gate bordered by rail fencing. Check with John Carter and/or any member of the Christmas Party Committee: Charlene McLeod, Harriet Swank, Mary Doran-Bleck, Lois Woods, and Jim Pahriss, for information on what to bring and

don't forget your gift (optional) for Dirty Santa to distribute (\$15-20 range/railroad theme).

Congratulations to the new officers and a BIG "THANK YOU" to those who served the MEMRR so well during the past year. All the officers' posts were refilled by their previous occupants with the exception of the office of secretary. Long-time member, Don Ramey, is our new secretary and we thank out-going secretary, Art Daniels, for the outstanding job he did with recording the proceedings of our meetings during the past year and sending cards to our members and their families as the occasion warranted.

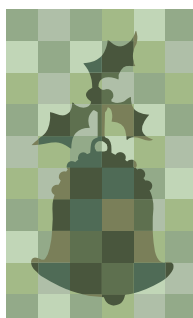
The first 3 Saturdays of December provide special events each day as club members conduct workshops and clinics on the art and techniques of our hobby of model railroading. These 15-25 minute demonstrations cover a wide range of topics and are learning experiences for everyone involved. A special thanks to the MEMRR members who took on the extra tasks of exhibiting some of their special talents to all the visitors who came to learn "how-to-do-it" from our master instructors. These workshops received wide coverage from the local media.

Based on my discussion with the members present at the November club meeting, with the group coordinators, and with others at recent Thursday night work sessions, the museum now owns 4 brass, narrow-gauge, HO_{n3}, models of Tweetsie (ET&WNC) locomotives. They were purchased entirely by museum funds and they will be the primary movers on the yet-to-be-built narrow gauge, dual-gauge, and standard gauge layout in the Ken Marsh Room at the museum. Gary Rabetoy is heading up this group and now is the time to get on board to create our own Tweetsie railroad. See Gary about the project and sign up for his workgroup soon.

Remember that Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on Fridays this year and that the museum will be open to the public both the following Saturdays. We had lots of visitors on Saturday after Thanksgiving as many people who had been to the museum brought out-of-town company with them to see us. We had lots of terrific compliments on the layouts you all have worked so hard to produce and on the static exhibits in the display cases as well. The "Little Engineers' Room" is already a big hit with the kids even though it still is not quite complete.

Have a great holiday season. Be of good cheer. Wish for new train "stuff" for Christmas and enjoy the museum and the company of the greatest railroad club in the country. Happy Holidays; Merry Christmas; Happy Hanukkah; and Happy New Year!!!!!!!

Fred Alsop
President, Mountain Empire Model Railroaders
Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU



Annual Mountain Empire Model Railroaders Christmas Party.

The party will be held on December 15th.
It will start at 6 PM.
Location will be the Tipton Haynes State Historic Site
2620 S. Roan St, Johnson City

All members can help in this endeavor by responding. Please provide the following information by contacting one of the planning committee members by phone or email:

Names of those attending.
What food item(s) you will be bringing.

John Carter	423-477-2562	carterjohn92@gmail.com
	423-946-0244 cell	
Jim Pahriss	423-753-8045	pahriss@embarqmail.com
Charlene McLeod	423-753-8658	chardanmcleod35@comcast.net
Lois Woods	423-757-0272	woodsg@comcast.net

Mary Doran-Bleck 423-753-6056
 Harriet Swank 423-542-8989
 John Edwards 423-612-1149

Ted_Mary@memrr.org
duaneharriet@charter.net
john_edwards@memrr.org

There will also be a Dirty Santa gift exchange this year. Gifts should be railroad related with a suggested price of between \$15 and \$20.

Christmas Ornament on Sale

Hello Mr. Alsop:

In speaking with Gary Cameron we thought some of the members of Mountain Empire Model Railroaders might enjoy adding the historic rendering of the Johnson City Southern Railroad Depot to their collectables.

Attachments show the depot and a train struck in 24K gold on brass. If you or your members are interested, ornaments are available at the JCDA and soon from downtown merchants for a donation of \$10.00 each.

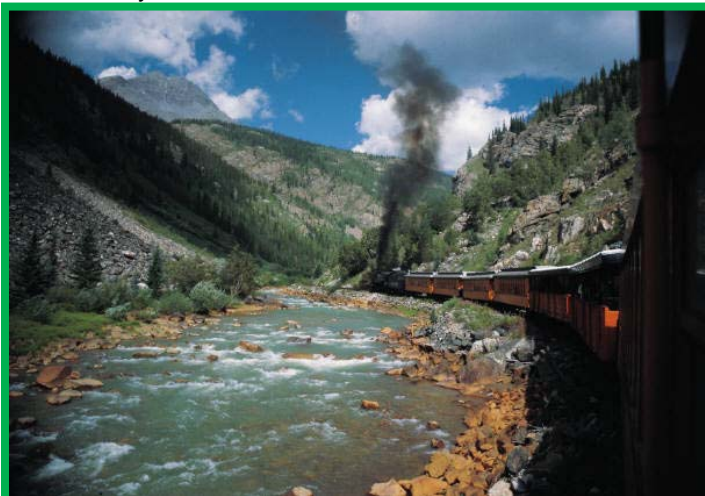
Happy Holidays & Thank You,
 Cate

Cate Abraham
 Marketing Manager
 Johnson City Development Authority
 300 East Main Street (King's Centre)
 Suite 103
 Johnson City, TN 37601
 423.928.2988
cabraham@jcdevelopment.org



Welcome New Members

Ann Lowe and Curtis Lowe. Johnson City	Sandra Pierce Johnson City	Paul Marcum Kingsport
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MEMBER OF THE YEAR



FROSTY THE SNOWMAN

E-mail Frostythesnowman@northpole.org
Home Layout Yes
MEMRR Module No

Favorite railroad:

Alaskan Railroad; White Pass & Yukon

Favorite aspect of the hobby :

Plaster work using "Mountains in Minutes" which I prefer to leave unpainted for greater realism.

Least favorite aspect of the hobby:

I really hate working in those smaller scales, what with stick fingers - I just can't handle those small parts; I actually love large scale modeling from G-Scale to Half-Inch right on up to 12 inches to a foot! Now that's a real snowball.

How did you get started in hobby :

When I was a little snow ball my dad bought me a wind-up toy train that I still have. It didn't get much use you see cause of the "sticks-for-hands" thing. We moved up to an electric train set one Christmas but it took a while to figure out how to avoid getting shocked - it's a real problem when you're 99% frozen water.

How long have you been a member of the MEMRR:

I joined last Christmas but Rudolph beat me out for the "Member-of-the-Month" honor. I guess the red nose has a higher "cute-factor" than a carrot nose and two eyes made out of coal.

What got you started with MEMRR:

I figured if Rudolph could join, so could I.

What dreams do you have for your layout or module:

I'd like to buy a used mechanical reefer and start to build my dream layout of the Alaskan. I figure that I can use real water to model a skating pond if I can get the temperature way down.

What other model railroad or railfan activities do you participate in:

I like to collect old railroad clothes. I guess that started with my first top hat and scarf. I think pinstripes are for more that baseball uniforms and are way retro cool..

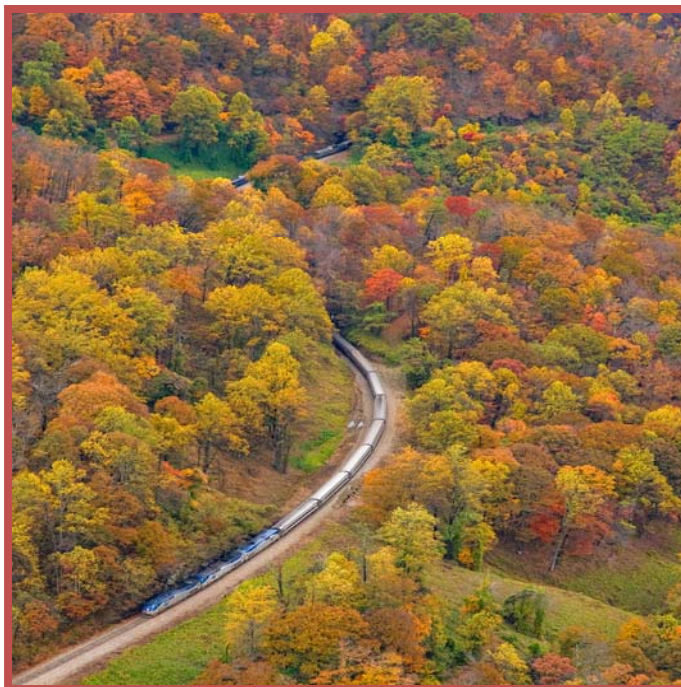
What one thing would improve MEMRR:

The temperature in the club rooms is a tad too warm. I like to see it around 25 degrees. With those wonderful club sweatshirts Hobie and Duane can order the other members who are cold sensitive shouldn't have any problem with the thermometers set back.

From The Watauga Chapter – NRHS *Whistle Stop*

Photographer Nick D'Amato took this scenic picture of the NCTM/Watauga Valley NRHS "Blue Ridge Special" Sunday, November 1, 2009, as the excursion worked its way through the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina from Spencer to Asheville. Permission is granted for one-time use of this image in the Watauga Valley NRHS newsletter; additionally, all rights are retained by the photographer, Nick D'Amato of Durham, NC. Nick says, "I now have a gallery of all my shots from that day on my website, www.diamonddphotography.com." Thanks to Nick for this beautiful picture of our 2009 Asheville trip!

Photo taken by Watauga Valley NRHS Chapter Member Bill Beagen Three P42DC locomotives for Amtrak 40, the Virginia Autumn Flyer, led by engine number 56, at the North Carolina Transportation Museum on Friday, October 30, 2009. See more pictures and read about the excursions to Charlottesville, VA, and Asheville, NC, inside the *Whistle Stop*.



From the ETSU Accent Vol. 58, No.7 November 19, 2009 Carter Railroad Museum celebrates second anniversary

The George L. Carter Railroad Museum at ETSU celebrated its second anniversary Saturday, Nov. 14, in conjunction with ETSU Homecoming and National Model Railroad Month.

Dedicated in November 2007, the Carter Railroad Museum was named in memory of George L. Carter, the entrepreneur and philanthropist who donated 120 acres and \$100,000 to the state of Tennessee for the establishment in 1911 of a normal school, or teacher's college, which eventually became ETSU.

Over the last two years, many visitors have enjoyed the museum's large, intricate, operating model train layouts of towns and scenery, as well as its railroad-related items of historical significance.

A full-sized flashing railroad crossing signal donated by Norfolk Southern Railroad Group stands outside the museum's entrance on the west side (ground level) of the Campus Center Building, and its red lights blink when the museum is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., staffed by Mountain Empire Model Railroaders Club (MEMRR) volunteers.

Since its inception, museum volunteers have continued to add new exhibits and upgrade existing ones. Some significant changes include the establishment of three large operating layouts in different scales, which provides better viewing accessibility for visitors.

The Little Engineer's Room, which officially opened as part of the anniversary celebration, is a brightly painted, child-friendly room. Since the museum's other operating layouts are considered "hands-off," the room gives kids an opportunity to play as they learn. The room features a caboose and a large-screen television showing "Thomas-the-Tank" and other children's railroad programs, as well as a large-scale train donated by Dollywood that circles the ceiling and a "Thomas-the-Tank" railroad play station contributed by Johnson City's Hobbytown USA.

These children, along with Hobie Hyder of the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders Club, enjoy the Thomas-the-Tank play station in the Carter Railroad Museum's new Little Engineer's Room.



The loco is coaled and steam is up! Are you on board?



Your membership with Mountain Empire Model Railroaders is about to expire and this may your last issue of *The SIGNAL BRIDGE*.

December-January-February are membership renewal months.
So please consider renewing your membership today.

Full Membership is \$30.00
Family membership is an additional \$5.00 per member
Associate Membership is \$12.00

Send your check to:
MEMRR
c/o Duane Swank
1763 Sylvan Hill Road
Elizabethton TN 37643

The club is in new quarters at ETSU with both HO and N Gauge Railroads to operate.
Come join the fun.