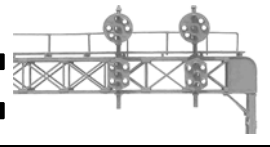


# THE SIGNAL BRIDGE



Volume 17

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS CLUB  
DECEMBER 2010 ISSUE

Number 12

Published for the Education and Information of Its Membership

## Mountain Empire Model Railroaders General Meeting Minutes November 16, 2010

### All Aboard:

President Fred Alsop called the meeting to order at approximately 7:04 with a near perfect  $\frac{3}{4}$  Moon and clearing skies. We had approximately 25 members present and no guests.

### Officer Reports:

**NOTE: your staff of 2010 officers have all graciously accepted to fill respective offices for 2011**

**Secretary Report:** Secretary moved, if no corrections or additions, minutes of previous meeting be approved as published in last Signal Bridge.

**Newsletter Editor Report:** Ted was absent. No report.

**Treasurer Report:** Treasurers report was given, income and expenditures reviewed, and approved. **Note: 2011 dues are now payable. Please do not let your membership expire. Contact Duane Swank for remission of 2011 dues.**

**Web Master Report:** Web site is up and running fine. E-Mail addresses for those wishing to acquire a MEMR web address are available. See John.

**Vice President Report (upcoming programs):** John Carter has requested programs for year 2011. If you want to volunteer for a program during the upcoming year, please contact VP John Carter.

### President Report:

1. Fred successfully reported, **We will have more space available.** We will need to plan the usage of this space to fully utilize it's potential. As soon as the wall is removed, (Christmas holidays) we will have access to another full size room. Planning is underway for our Library Room as is access to workshop from the "new" large room.
2. With our Third Anniversary now complete, Fred reported the museum continues to garner good publicity. We are now listed in the ETSU phone book, and have had stories in the ETSU student paper, J.C.Press, Kingsport newspaper, and, local T.V. interviews.
3. Local Railroad related stories were collected during the month of November on campus for the Appalachian Archives through ETSU.
4. Jiom Pahrns attended the NRHS 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary mtg where the organization approved the establishment of the George L. Carter chapter. Members of that organization will travel the last weekend in January to receive the charter.
5. **!!! IMPORTANT !!!** Beginning in JANUARY 2011, MEMR will hold it's business meetings in room **322.** This room is located in the hall where the elevator is located on the

opposite wall. There will be another group using the room we now use, so please go to room **322** for our monthly meetings in 2011.

6. There will be NO monthly business meeting in December as our annual Christmas dinner is planned for Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm at Tipton Haynes. This is where we had our last year's party, so mark your calendars. Also, should you desire to participate in the "Great Santa Gift Give-away/ Take-back" please bring an appropriate railroad related gift valued in the \$20-\$25 range. Who knows, "Yule Tide Lyle" and his amazing "Holiday Boom Box" may make an appearance for the enjoyment of all.

### Old Business:

1. HobbyTown swap meet went off without a hitch as planned. If you count a downpour of wet snow and outside tables planning. Gary and David sold several club assets at the meet and other vendors were present as well. Bob had items marked down inside the store also.
2. The Cope Layout is in need of DC engines. If you have any you would like to donate, Please see Gary or David.
3. Finally we now know where we are located. GPS wise that is. If an address of 100 Ross Drive, Johnson City, TN is put in your GPS unit, it will bring you to the George L. Carter Railroad Museum at ETSU.
4. A generic member profile is being worked up for each new member to make his railroad likes known to the existing membership. If you see a new member, or a potential one, please be proactive and let's invite them in with good fellowship and friendship.

### New Business:

1. Nominating committee (Alan & Hobie) reported all officers of 2010 year would repeat in their positions for year 2011. Fred acclaimed all had performed well and valued each officers contributions for the club during the past year. Is it really true Ted said he would "pay us" to be "News-letter Editor"?? Ted does a wonderful job each month in the publication of the Signal Bridge. If you have a story, anecdote, or pictures to share, please contact Ted. Also, should you wish to be considered for an "official" position next year, please advise one of the officers for consideration in year 2012.
2. The co-ordinators meeting review mentioned the following:
  - Additional space will be available for better "Tweetsie" layout
  - Emil is working on "New & Improved" trackplan to better accommodate space.
  - The amazing travelling Highway Bridge is now in place on Bankus Layout
  - Cope layout has been updated and cleaned (needs more engines DC power)
  - Jessie Kittle has G-gauge Passenger Train in works
  - Todd has the "Z" scale layout stored in his basement (work in progress)

- Little Engineers room door now swings “outward” giving more inside room
  - Display cases will be updated in early December
  - Engineers hat sales have been “HOT” new order is in and displayed in HO area
  - Christmas Party menu is to be on the “net” so all can sign up to provide food. Club is providing the “meat” and members to provide accompanying dishes.
3. A group outing for the year 2011 is being discussed for a trip to Elkins WV for railfan trip along the CSX rails. More to come on this as information develops.
  4. Brochure rack has been placed in the entryway area just inside the door to museum building. We need railroad related brochures if you know of any that might be available.
  5. A Club embroidered jacket is available in two styles. A light weight jacket or a lined windbreaker. See Duane for more info and pricing. These will have the club logo on them.
  6. The Museum logo is in works to be copyrighted. More on this as it progresses.

#### Volunteer Recruiting for Saturday Operating Sessions:

Bring a train, engine, or just yourself and come run with us on Saturdays. Enjoy the club layouts.

#### Announcements:

## MEMRR COORDINATORS' MEETING

### 11 November 2010

### 235 Campus Center Bldg

**HO Layout (John Carter, John Edwards, Lyle Montieth):** Work is progressing on the HO staging yard. It was decided by the group to concentrate the club efforts on the yard for the next 4-6 weeks to complete as much of it as possible before beginning the Tweetsie layout after that space is renovated. We need a lot of help with track laying, wiring, and building construction.

**Bankus N-Scale (Tod Eaton):** Locos and their wheels have been cleaned, but we need to plan to replace some of the engines due to age and wear. New highway bridge has been painted. We need at least one volunteer from the N-Scale group present each Saturday.

**McKee G-Gauge (Jesse Kittle):** Working on the G-gauge loco and passenger set donated by Dan McLeod and placing “people” in the new varnish.

**Cope Traveling Layout (Gary Emmert):** Will use it for Saturday (13<sup>th</sup>) clinic. Fred will repair plaster scenery. Jerry Dennis has created diagrams (which have been duplicated) for its operation.

#### **Rabetoy HO/Hon3 (Gary Rabetoy)**

1. On October 16, 2010, I was advised by Philip Sloan of Cranberry Car Shops that he has placed an order with David Hoffman for several pairs of the three types of trucks used on the ET&WNC. It is anticipated that these trucks may be available as early as December, 2010. Philip Sloan will notify us when these trucks are available. We will need eleven pairs of trucks as outlined in section 6 of my report of October 14, 2010

2. On October 28, 2010, I was notified by Fred Alsop that the room located between the Ken Marsh Room and the hallway with restroom access had been allocated to the George L. Carter

We discussed the idea of setting up a switching train on Thursday night to be run on Saturdays. Please give us some feed-back on this proposal. This would give the public an idea of how to utilize a model railroad to better imitate the real world scenarios we see each day. If you are “open” to having your module used for this operation, please contact the below listed committee and give a timeframe for completion of any work to be done to enable us to do this. Switch and or Track electrification, switch installation, controls, etc. This would make our Saturday sessions more enjoyable. The people to notify are Gary, David, Allan, or Larry.

#### Program for the Evening:

No program was given due to length of meeting and officer elections.

#### Next Scheduled Monthly Meeting:

**Annual Christmas Dinner/Party at Tipton Haynes Park in Johnson City, TN on December 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 till 9:00.** Bring a \$20-25 railroad gift for exchange if you want to participate and see the Dirty Santa Performance. Please visit the club website [www.memrr.org](http://www.memrr.org) for directions to contact Jim Pahrts for food signup and member attending count.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Don Q. Ramey

Railroad Museum. I was also instructed to discontinue work on the current plan to develop an ET&WNC layout in the Ken Marsh Room at that time and to prepare for a much expanded plan intended to occupy both rooms once the wall separating the two rooms is removed.

3. On October 29, 2010, I notified Emile Hamm to discontinue work on the plan he was developing for the Ken Marsh Room and to prepare for drawing an expanded plan as noted above.

#### 4. Recommendations:

- A. Await the arrival of the above freight car trucks.
- B. Remove the wall between the Ken Marsh Room and the newly allocated room noted above.
- C. When the wall noted in B above is removed, measure the latter room and combine the two rooms (the Ken Marsh Room having already been measured) into a CAD format.
- D. Once B and C above have been completed, commence work on an entirely new plan of development for both the Rabetoy Layout and the proposed ET&WNC layout.
- E. It is requested that a new coordinator be selected for future development of the Rabetoy and ET&WNC layouts. I have spent more than one year on this project and during this time the following has been accomplished:
  - Acquisition of an ET&WNC reference library,
  - Acquisition of ET&WNC motive power, rolling stock, and structures.
  - Development of two (Sloan & Hamm) ET&WNC layout plans (now obsolete).
  - Reassembly of the Rabetoy Layout in accordance with layout plans noted in 3 above.
  - General inventory of acquired and donated equipment.
  - Testing of ET&WNC brass locomotives.
  - Construction of shelf benchwork for the ET&WNC layout plans.

As it now appears that the project for which I originally agreed to act as coordinator has significantly changed, I feel it would be in my best interests and that of the MEMRR club if a new coordinator were selected to oversee the next phase of the project.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Rabetoy

**Little Engineer's Room (Duane Swank):** Duane and Fred repositioned entrance door so it swings out into the hallway, not into the room, to give more space for visitors and as an added safety factor.

**Display Cases (Jim Pahr):** The early Lionel display will be changed out in early Dec. and be replaced with Rock Island RR materials. We are interested in displaying historical items and are soliciting them from the membership. Please contact Jim.

**Sales (Duane Swank/Gary Rabetoy):** Engineer hats have been selling well and more have been ordered. Gary Emmert and Dave Doughty sold 1 CRR print, \$30 in N-Scale and \$105 in HO at the HobbytownUSA swap/sell/buy meet on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Publicity (Hobie Hyder):** 2 separate news releases from ETSU generated several newspaper articles, 2 radio and 2 TV interviews regarding the Carter RR Museum's 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary, MEMRR Clinics, and Storytelling.

**Events (Hobie Hyder):** Annual Holiday Party will be planned at Nov. business meeting. Club purchased enough plasticware, plates and some soft drinks for the July picnic to have on hand for the Christmas party.

## THE VIEW FROM THE ENGINEER'S SIDE OF THE CAB:

The Christmas Holiday Season is coming down the track like a runaway locomotive; unstoppable! Our **Annual Christmas Holiday Party** is scheduled to take place at the **Tipton-Haynes State Historical Site** on South Roan Street. The festivities, including our dinner meal and a visit from Santa bearing gifts on his Polar Express, will begin at **6:30 PM on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**. This is our club's regular December business meeting as well, so there will be a very brief business meeting. Please contact **Jim Pahr** (423/753-8045 or [pahrjs@embarqmail.com](mailto:pahrjs@embarqmail.com)) who has kindly volunteered to be the party coordinator (Thanks Jim) or check the club's website to register for the party (so we can plan for everyone who is coming) and to let us know what food item you are bringing (this is important too!). Spouses and "significant others" are welcome and expected (but leave any little elves at home please). Remember, Santa will be there, but he needs a little help. If you plan to exchange gifts please bring a railroad-related item in any scale with a value of \$20-\$25 that is wrapped to be placed under the tree. We will have an entertaining gift distribution process to see who gets what that does not depend on whether you have been naughty or nice!

November was **National Model Railroad Month** and the **3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the George L. Carter Railroad Museum**. It proved to be the busiest month of the year for the MEMRR at the Carter Railroad Museum. We had lots of local media publicity that generated lots of visitors every Saturday of November and spilled over into December with the 4<sup>th</sup> being a busy Saturday as well.

**Publications (Ted Bleck-Doran):** November edition of *The Signal Bridge* has 14 pages, plus a special Holiday Edition. [Editor looking for materials for December and future editions.](#)

**Library (Gary Emmert):** Received donations of 1940s, '50s editions of *Railroad Model Craftsman*, *Model Railroader*, *NMRA publications*, *Trains* folio for the '40s, railroad books w/all cars and other rolling stock, club newsletters from 1980s for Lexington, KY. Materials are being sorted.

### Group Discussion:

1. The addition of the new space to the museum will mean a new, larger track plan for the Tweetsie layout and any additional work on it will be halted until the renovation of the space is completed sometime early in the new year. In the meanwhile those interested in this project will work on a new track plan.

2. The other major project, now underway, is the new HO freight yard and connected staging yard. This project should have our immediate priority and the club should focus its efforts on completing as much of it as possible over the coming weeks and months prior to the completion of the renovation of the "Ken Marsh/Tweetsie" room.

3. Efforts should be made to recruit as many members as possible by each of the coordinators who have responsibility for current or projected layouts to get involved with their group. We need everyone's help to complete the work we have begun on the HO Club layout, the N-Scale, and eventually on the Tweetsie layout. Please, members, step up and join one or more of these important groups and lend a much needed hand.

The club members conducted **14 model railroad clinics** that had mixed attendance, but were well demonstrated by our volunteer instructors. You all did a terrific job and those of us who had the opportunity to attend not only learned a some new techniques, but were very impressed by your skills and modeling talents. Thanks you all for taking on the extra work to provide these How-to-do-it Clinics for our visitors. **ETSU President Paul Stanton**, his wife, Nancy, daughter-in-law and two grandsons stopped by briefly on the 20<sup>th</sup> and we appreciate his taking time from his busy schedule to check out the museum activities on ETSU's Homecoming Saturday.

Our two **Storytelling events**, held on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> were very successful. Delanna Reed, a storytelling instructor from ETSU's Graduate Storytelling Program, with 3 volunteers from that program, interviewed 26 local people who came in to have their oral histories of railroads of the area, and beyond, recorded to be archived and saved for posterity. They collected stories about the ET&WNC, Clinchfield RR, Southern RR, the yard short line at the Eastman Holston Ordinance Facility, and many others. We have contact information for all our storytellers and will continue to develop this project over the following year with follow-ups of those who have much more information to tell than we could gather in the 30 minutes allowed for each initial interview and with efforts to get additional storytellers to come to our sessions. The newly formed George L. Carter Chapter NRHS will adopt this project as one of its focal goals and assist in conducting it. This new NRHS chapter will have its inaugural meeting at 6:30 on Monday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, in room 312 of Brown Hall (where the MEMRR has been meeting) to elect officers, set club goals and priorities, and to get to know one another. Memberships are open and we





MEMRR  
MEMBER OF THE YEAR  
**Mr. Grinch**

**MEMRR Member Since:** *Joining clubs is overrated. I've been "guesting" for most of the year. I figure I've saved a few dollars*

**Home Layout:** *Yes, having a spacious cave has given me lots of room to build and expand my layout. I'm quite proud of my rock castings. The cave walls make for some spectacular floor to ceiling scenes.*

**Favorite Railroad(s):** *I like most all of the Eastern U.S. Anthracite lines, and those in the Powder River Basin. I just love coal – lumps and lumps of coal... you know... to fill stockings with.*

**Favorite Railroad Memory:** *Coal fired steam locomotives belching that wonderfully black soot-laden smoke across a landscape of new fallen white snow. White snow is just a bit overrated, don't you think?*

**Favorite Railroad Movies:** *Taking Pelham 1-2-3 and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid... I can feel my too small heart skip a beat when Butch and the Kid miscalculate and blow that baggage car to splinters. And, how 'bout that guy who steals that subway train?*

**Favorite Model Railroad Scale:** *I like modeling in Z-Scale, the size suits my heart size. Although I've been considering switching to 1/2-Inch Scale and building a portable layout that my little dog can cart around.*

**Favorite Model Railroad Activity:** *I just love weathering rolling stock. I've developed a weathering technique using real rust and coal dust. My favorite weathering project was to take a model of the Polar Express consist and grime it up real good. My next project is to weather the Hogwart Express."*

**First Model Train:** *Giving train sets to children is way overrated. I didn't get my first train set at 5, I only got it last year when I turned 500 and 5.*

**Pet Peeve:** *Flesh-toned figures. There should be a wide selection of green-hued Whovillians. My biggest complaint is not having to repaint my "little people" but finding the right shade of green. Whovillian skin tones are just so hard to match.*

would be pleased to have you join us for the meeting, or as a new member, on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Allan Morton** has been working on a **letter of welcome and new member's interest form** for our MEMRR club. We have recently discussed the importance of not only increasing our membership, and getting current members to renew their annual memberships, but of making new members feel welcome, learning something about their interests and skill levels in our hobby of model railroading, and getting them involved in our terrific club and into our many projects. Allan is a natural for greeting our visitors with his outgoing personality and he and I are asking you to join us to promote this important, but often neglected aspect, of letting new members feel welcomed to our club and going one step further to becoming real supporting players in our sizable operation. I know many of you are already doing this at every opportunity, but we all need to reach out to all our members, old and new, to let them know how much we value their decision to join the MEMRR. By the way, I would be negligent at this point if I failed to take this opportunity to remind you that **DUES FOR THE 2011 MEMBERSHIP YEAR ARE NOW DUE**, so if you have not already done so, please send your renewal check to the club treasurer, **Duane Swank**, 1763 Sylvan Hill Rd., Elizabethton, TN 37643. Thank you for your continued membership and support of this outstanding model railroad club.

I have met with representatives of ETSU's Facilities Management Office twice to discuss **plans for the renovation of the additional space the Carter RR Museum** will be gaining over the next few weeks. They expect to transition the rooms (100A and 100) to the museum and complete the necessary renovations during the upcoming Christmas Holiday Break. Renovations will include paint and installation of wall book shelving in room 100 (now a small office) for our library; and painting, wall removal, chemical fume hood removal, reopening the door between that room and our large workroom, and other necessary touch-ups to room 100A. When they are finished with their work we will have 1,700+ sq.ft. of floor space to build our Tweetsie layout in beginning in 2011. I'll keep everyone posted on these developments. The university will pay for all the renovations and I am working to find the funding for the proposed layout. Those of you who want to provide your skills and talent on this project in the next year are invited to make those desires known and as soon as track plans are completed and accepted we will begin our tasks. **Gary Rabetoy** is our Tweetsie coordinator and he and his volunteers will be happy to discuss this with you.

At the November Coordinator's meeting it was decided to make the Club's **HO yard rebuilding project a club priority** for the remainder of the year and into the new year. Track laying and wiring are the most critical parts of the work that needs to be done at present and we could surely use anyone's help who wants to lend a hand here. If you are good at putting together plastic building kits we have several that need to be constructed to be placed on the new freight yards when the tracks and wiring are completed. The kits are already purchased and you can start the work at any time. **John Carter** is the coordinator for the HO layout and the electrical coordinators include **John Edwards**, **Lyle Monteith**, and **Joe Roberts**. Please see these guys and set aside some work time to get this big project finished so we can begin switching operations as an added venue to our club operations.

Southern Locomotive #1317 that has provided a lot of interest for our museum visitors for the 3 years the railroad museum has been open has been removed from display by its owners, the

Watauga Valley Chapter NRHS on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. I was recently contacted by the chapter president, **Mike Tilley**, who informed me their chapter wanted to display the locomotive at another location, after using it as a center piece for their annual Christmas Party. We wish to express our appreciation to the Watauga Valley Chapter NRHS for the opportunity they have provided to display their wonderful little engine in the museum and to have it back on the ETSU campus once again (it was displayed for many years in the basement gallery of the Reece Museum). We hope we may have the opportunity to have it returned to the Carter RR Museum sometime in the future if their board so chooses. It will always be a welcome addition to our railroading exhibits.

**The Carter Railroad Museum will be closed to visitors on Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and again on Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.**

These are the first and only Saturdays since the museum opened that we have had a closure, but both these Saturdays fall on holidays. So, enjoy your time off and the holidays with your family

and friends. We already have volunteers to take us through our first club meeting in January.

**Remember, we will have a NEW MEETING PLACE IN 2011.** The room in Brown Hall, 312, has been scheduled for an evening biology class that will be meeting during our regular meeting time. We will be meeting just down the hall (turn right after getting off the elevator) in **room 322**. Nothing else has changed, same night, same time; just in a different room on the same floor. The key box on the door opens to the combination of 318.

**Happy holidays!! Thank you all for all you do for the memrr. See you at the Christmas party on the 14<sup>th</sup>!!!! The santa train is coming down the tracks and we will soon be operating and enjoying our hobby in a new year!**

**Fred Alsop**

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

## TRAIN WATCHING AT MEMRR: AMTRAK PASSENGER CARS – PART 7 THE HERITAGE FLEET

From [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) the free encyclopedia

**Heritage Fleet** was a program started by Amtrak in 1977 to convert its older cars from steam heating to head end power. Head end power conversions were performed at Amtrak's heavy repair center in Beech Grove, Indiana, outside of Indianapolis. The program was completed by the mid 1980s.

Most Heritage Fleet cars have been retired from Amtrak service, but several remain, mostly baggage cars, diners, and sleepers. Others include the "Pacific Parlour" Hi-Level lounges and single-level diners. One former Great Northern Railway full-length dome is occasionally used on special trains. Most of these cars are intended to be retired by the Viewliner order placed in 2010 for delivery starting in 2012.

"I suspect we will see a mix of revenue passengers and crew sharing a "Viewliner" shortly as peak seasons arise on various routes. That is what has been reported - but as always with Viewliner and Heritage cars - I'll see it believe it.

"Best I think we can hope for is appropriation of some sort for a car that combines baggage and crew space.

"But yes, currently, Viewliners are in short supply (I'll continue to say short supply until overnight Viewliner Service is restored on the NEC and other supply/demand issues are rectified with this fleet) and having the Viewliners as "crew only" car makes no sense - to me.

### Heritage Fleet Roster (Not including baggage cars)

Fleet numbers	Type	Builder and year built	Number built	Notes
2500-2524	Dormitory Lounge	Budd 1949-1950	25	Rebuilt from 2800-2900 series sleepers

The following photos are a sampling of car types operated by Amtrak. The photos are taken from a variety of sources.

#### Dormitory Lounge Cars

**NOTE:** The following came from a string on a 2007 chat forum post discussing Amtrak's use of Dormitory-Lounge Cars.

"All Eastern Single Level Long Distance trains operated with a Heritage Crew/Dorm - except the Cardinal (even though there were enough of these cars around to equip the Cardinal). It's not an issue of car shortage that is putting these Crew Cars in storage or out of service.



#2500 Pine Brook  
South Bend IN  
Oct 30, 1999 Dick Leonhardt



#2502 Pacific View  
South Bend IN Oct 5, 2000 Dick Leonhardt





#2503 Pine Hill  
Penn Station New York NY  
Feb 26, 2001  
Jeff Lubchansky



#2510 Pacific Patrol  
Birmingham, AL on the Northbound Crescent.  
ex Amtrak 2924(HEP) ex Amtrak 2624 Ex UP 1431  
April 7, 2001  
Matt Nelson



#2504 Pacific Bend  
South Bend IN  
Jan 27, 2005  
Dick Leonhardt



#2515 Pine Arroyo  
Rochester NY  
built by Budd 1949 ex ATSF 1617 ex Amtrak 2711 ex Amtrak 2983  
July 10, 2000  
Jim Hebner



#2505 Pacific Forest  
Chicago IL  
Dorm Lounge  
May 1999  
Jim Hebner



#2524 Pacific Command  
Elkhart IN  
on the Lakeshore Limited  
Sept 23, 2001  
Dick Leonhardt

“Are the Heritage Dorm Cars worn out? Probably - and for some cars - most definitely. But could this be rectified? What major maintenance attention have they received in the past decade? I deem Heritage equipment while Amtrak cannot seem to operate or maintain the same equipment. VIA even accomplished the task of outfitting the Heritage sleepers with retention toilet tanks - which Amtrak dismissed as too costly.

“I get the feeling that Amtrak always thought a "replacement" car for the remaining Heritage fleet on the road would be forthcoming, have a hard time rectifying the fact that VIA Rail still operates (and forms the backbone of their fleet nonetheless) what Amtrak would have a hard time rectifying the fact that VIA Rail still operates (and forms the backbone of their fleet nonetheless) what Amtrak would but that never happened - even with the short changing of only receiving 50 Viewliner sleepers.

“If VIA has the "know how" on how to fabricate parts to keep the cars running - then perhaps we should leverage off of them to get the Amtrak Heritage Dorm Cars to a "state of good repair" - if that is even the issue!

“Isn't the issue with the Heritage crew car the same reason why no longer the "Budd Streamliner" fleet aka Heritage fleet has been retired because of the retention tank issue?

“Amtrak should have re-equipped the Budd Streamliners for use in the 21st century to have avoided rolling stock shortage. The Budd company knew how to build a sturdy coach – just look at the way the Diners have held up. Outside of the Viewliner # 8400 there's been no replacement available in the single level train sets. And that # 8400 was not a good unit as it was taking out of circulation very quickly.

“The yielding of revenue space for employee use it's not very economical nor should passengers like it.”



#2516 "Pacific Gardens"  
Tampa FL April 7, 2006  
Amin Ricker

## Amtrak Heritage Crew Sleeper Dormitory Cars

These 25 cars were re-assigned from regular sleeper service, to Amtrak crew sleeper dormitory service in about 1982; removed from service in 2003-2007. In late 2006 Amtrak began using space in Viewliners for crew members, and the remaining cars in this series were removed from service.

The 14 former Union Pacific "Pacific" cars were built by Budd in 1949-1950.

Amtrak Number	Amtrak Name	First Number	First Amtrak Number	Second Amtrak Number (HEP)	Notes
2500	Pine Brook	ATSF 1621	2712	2995	1
2501	Beatrice MacDonald	ATSF 1618	2711	2991	1
2502	Pacific View	UP 1447	2640	2940	2
2503	Pine Hill	ATSF 1632	2773	2996	1
2504	Pacific Bend	UP 1404	2603	2903	1
2505	Pacific Forest	UP 1415	2611	2911	1
2506	Pine Peak	ATSF 1639	2728	2992	1
2507	Pacific Northwest	UP 1428	2621	2893	1
2508	Pacific Slope	UP 1441	2634	2884	3
2509	Pacific Terrace	UP 1444	2637	2889	4
2510	Pacific Patrol	UP 1431	2624	2924	5
2511	Pacific Park	UP 1430	2623	2923	5
2512	Pine King	ATSF 1634	2723	2985	1
2513	Pacific Waters	UP 1448	2641	2941	5
2514	Pine Fern	ATSF 1627	2717	2989	5
2515	Pine Arroyo	ATSF 1617	2710	2983	1
2516	Pacific Gardens	UP 1417	2613	2913	5
2517	Pacific Skies	UP 1440	2732	2933	5
2518	Pine Shore	ATSF 1643	2732	2982	1
2519	Pine Gorge	ATSF 1630	2720	2993	5
2520	Pacific Mist	UP 1427	2620	2920	6
2521	Pacific Cape	UP1406	2604	2891	1
2522	Pine Creek	ATSF 1624	2714	2980	7
2523	Pine Lodge	ATSF 1636	2725	2994	1
2524	Pacific Command	UP 1408	2606	2892	1

**General Notes:**

- A. By the time of their being removed from service, at least three cars no longer carried names on their sides: 2523 and 2524 were reported with no names in December 2004. 2509 photographed with no name in December 2006.
- B. When car 2509 "Pacific Terrace" was removed from service on February 21, 2007, it was the last of these 25 cars to be assigned to Crew Sleeper Dormitory service

**Notes:**

- 1. Reported on February 2, 2007 as "Stored"
- 2. Sold to Chris Edwards/Batavia and Ohio Rail Car Company on September 5, 2003
- 3. Reported on August 8, 2003 as "Stored/wrecked"
- 4. Stored on February 21, 2007; converted to Buffer Car 10405 in November 2008
- 5. Reported in October 2006 as "Out of service"
- 6. Reported on January 21, 2003 as "Retired"
- 7. Reported on November 29, 2004 as "Stored/wrecked"



**The engine is fueled and ready to depart  
the station!  
Are you on board?**



**Your membership with Mountain Empire Model Railroaders is about to expire and this may be 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 its expanded quarters at ETSU with both HO, G and N Gauge  
Railroads to operate.  
Come join the fun.**