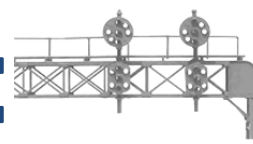


THE SIGNAL BRIDGE



Volume 18

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS CLUB
AUGUST 2011 BUSINESS EDITION

Number 8A

Published for the Education and Information of Its Membership

Mountain Empire Model Railroaders General Meeting: Minutes July 19, 2011

All Aboard

Vice-President John Carter called the meeting to order at approximately 7:04p.m. in room 312 the weather outside was a toasty 88 degrees and sunny. There were 20 members and no guests, present.



Southern Ry #401
Photo Courtesy of Jim Pahrns

Officer Reports:

Secretary Report: Secretary moved that without corrections or additions, previous minutes be approved as published in the previous edition of the Signal Bridge.

Newsletters Editors Report: Ted was absent. Please forward any ideas, contributions, pictures etc to "Ted the Terrible" for consideration in future editions of the Signal Bridge Newsletter.

Treasurers Report: Duane gave his accounting of our funds and expenditures were approved.

Web Masters Report: Web site is an important part of our communications and If you want an "@MEMR.org" e-mail address, please see John Edwards.

Vice Presidents Report (upcoming programs): John Carter reported on a current listing of upcoming programs as follows:

- **Freight train "blocking" (pre 1970), Gary Emmert**
- **Freight train "consisting" (1970 to date), Gary Emmert**
- **DCC installs on non-dcc ready equipment-**

Presidents Report:

Fred was off home rails this month. His excursion is scheduled to return for the August Meeting.

Old Business:

1. Cope layout had a good turnout at Jonesborough Days but it now needs a new power pack. The heat was in full force inside the building and they had a few switch machine issues. Group is looking to receive a donated power pack.
2. Club Picnic August 21st at 4:00 p.m. Tom McKee's.. Jim reported more to come before 9-16 meeting, check website for details. Club will furnish drinks, plates, utensils, etc.. Membership is on Covered Dish Patrol.. Again, check website for who is bringing what and make you arrangements known to Jim Pahrns. Jim also made a motion for a \$50.00 donation to the church for parking rights.. motion passed.
3. Railfan trip to CASS is on-track for the Labor Day weekend.. see Fred for more details or to reserve a space in one of the company houses.
4. President's Train upkeep was discussed with the decision made to purchase four L&N style (10-5, 12-5) sleepers to use as required for consist updates.. motion passed.

New Business:

1. There will be a Train show and sale at the Erwin Armory this September 17th (10-5) and 18th (12-5). Volunteers are needed to work with Cope Layout. Tables are available for \$20.00 There will also be N, HO, S, O and Live-Steam displays. Friday set-up day with Monday being teardown. Club will respond to Gary Cameron's invitation (Cope) at August Meeting.
2. Hand-out flyers have been suggested to advertise the George L. Carter Railroad Museum and our Club Layout along with map and driving directions. Any suggestions???
3. Jim has arranged a donation of 85 VHS tapes to the Museum along with some Railroad Memorabilia...

CLUB OFFICERS

President:
Fred Alsop

Secretary:
Donald Ramey

Newsletter Editor:
Ted Bleck-Doran:

Vice-President:
John Carter

Treasurer:
Duane Swank

Webmaster:
John Edwards



LOCATION

ETSU Campus,
George L. Carter
Railroad Museum

HOURS

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

Open House for viewing every Saturday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. Work Nights each Thursday from 5:00 pm until ??

4. Discussion on the wiring woes continued. John Edwards resigned as electrical co-ordinator. Committee was to meet the following Thursday and start strategy discussions of how best to approach our electrical problem. Gary Cameron and Rich Gallaher are now the new module owners of the "Town" section previously owned by John Edwards.

Volunteer Recruiting for Saturday Operating Sessions:

Next 4-weeks Operator Volunteers.

Thanks to all you engineers for your unselfish desire to come out and run your trains. This is what makes it fun for all. With summer time upon us and vacations and outside work going on, it is sometimes hard to have enough volunteers available to properly man the museum and layouts. If you can spare the time, please come out and help whenever you can.

Announcements:

ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC ANNOUNCED **Set for Sunday August 21st**

The Mountain Empire Model Railroaders annual Picnic will again be hosted by Tom and Kim McKee. The date is set for Sunday August 21 2011 and the festivities will begin at 4 PM. The McKees have asked that we park at the Living Word Lutheran Church at the corner of N. Roan (TN36) & Rockingham Rd. Shuttle vans will be provided from the church parking lot to the McKee's house.

If you are planning to attend please reply to this E-mail with your name, how many will be coming with you and what dish or food item you will be bringing. A list of those who have already signed up can be found on our web site at <http://memrr.org/Picnic.html>

August 14 will be the cutoff date for signing up so that we can give the McKee's time enough to plan for the number of people attending.

Thank You
MEMRR Picnic Committee

Coordinators Meeting **July 13, 2011** **Minutes**

Sales: (Duane Swank): Same. Sold some hats In Jonesborough and 7 pieces of brass track.

Kid's room: (Duane Swank): The shelf has been installed in the kid's room. Everything else is good.

Displays: (Jim Pahriss): Last month was Southern Railroad. This month is Midwestern Railroads. October 29, 20011 are Clinchfield Railroad displays are needed. Jonesborough Days was busy. Stanchions for the cope layout was not used but went good.

Electrical: (John Edwards): John Edwards has resigned his position an Electrical Coordinator. He has agreed to complete the

- Remember "dinner before meeting" will be held at the **Firehouse Restaurant at 5:30**
- With no further new announcements being made, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Program for the Evening:

.. program was not viewed due to hour of adjournment..

Next Scheduled Monthly Meeting:

August 16th, 2011
Program: Gary Emmert:
Consisting Freight Trains
Prior To 1970 Rules.

Respectfully Submitted:
Don Q. Ramey



Clinchfield RR #1
Photo courtesy of Ron Flanary

LED Lights in the staging yard. Bill Hensley has currently stepped into the Electrical Coordinators position. For Instructions on operating turnouts in the staging yard please see John Carter, John Edwards or Bill Hensley.

Publicity: (Hobie Hyder): October needs to be a special event. Will line up a feature with Tim Cable from Cable Country.

Events: Picnic Sunday August 21 at 2 PM. Jim Pahriss is in charge of organizing food and supplies. Jim Pahriss will host a layout tour in September. There will be a Train Show in Erwin in September. The sponsor of the show has requested to use the Cope Layout. The Cass Trip on Labor Day has only a couple of openings left. Please contact Fred Alsop if interested in attending.

Tweetsie (Duane Swank and Rich): A great amount of the wood work is complete. Things are moving along well. Members of the narrow Gauge convention on September 10th will be stopping by to view the layout.

Newsletter (Ted Bleck-Doran): No extra issues for summer will continue in the fall. July edition will feature Heislors of Cass, WV. August edition will feature Shays Cass of Whitaker Ted has requested that information continue to be sent to him. Focus will be on Midwestern Railroads and Illinois RR Museum.

Cope Layout (Gary Emmert): The Transformer is going bad. Ted is going to see check to see if he may have one. Needs some track work? Glass around the cope layout worked out well.

Library: (Gary Emmert): Three new books added. All books have been scanned in by Bob Jones. Additional boxes will need to be ordered for incoming magazines.

N Scale (Tod Eaton): Progress on track work is being made. New controls are currently working. A damaged engine was returned.

G scale (Jessie Kettle): Installing coal in several of the engines. One of the turnouts is not making good contact suggest that one of the points may be the issue.

HO Scale (John Carter) Staging yard is complete. Beginning next phase around the curve into the next yard. Bill Hensley, Electrical Coordinator, along with other members is currently working on the electrical problems of the layout. The DT400 is currently at the manufacture and is being repaired and updated. It should be completed and returned to us by the middle of August thanks to Alan Morton.

Submitted by
John Carter
MEMRR Vice-President

NRHS 2011 CONVENTION REPORT

On Sunday, June 19th, your National Director and his wife flew from Washington Dulles International Airport to Tacoma, Washington to attend the 2011 National Railway Historical Society Convention. There was a pre-convention trip **Monday** on the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad. Our motive power was a 1916 Baldwin oil-fired "Mikado" (2-8-2) that originally served as a logging locomotive on the Cowlitz, Chehalis & Cascade Railroad. The right-of-way used by the Chehalis-Centralia is the former Milwaukee Road line between Centralia and Ruth, Washington.

Early Tuesday morning we were up to catch the Amtrak Cascades train from Tacoma to Vancouver, Washington. This Vancouver is located on the Washington side of the Columbia River across from Portland, Oregon. If you have the opportunity to ride the Cascades, do so as they are unique trains here in the States. They are built by Talgo in Spain. There is a power unit (locomotive) on each end and each car has only one axle. The cars are comfortable and roomy. Because of the early hour we ate breakfast on the train. The buffet car had a good selection of breakfast items to include oatmeal, hot sandwiches and pastries. The purpose of our trip was to meet the Convention Train, headed by 4449 a former Southern Pacific GS-4 (4-8-4), which headed up the **Freedom Train** during 1975-76. We had about an hour layover before heading north behind 4449. That evening we had a reception at the Foss Waterway Seaport, a maritime museum in a former Northern Pacific warehouse building. The area where the convention hotel (Murano) was located was a former industrial and warehouse district for the city of Tacoma. Many of these structures have been renovated and converted into offices and apartments. Remnants of railroad sidings were present in many locations.

Wednesday gave us a selection of three different events as well as an evening dinner cruise on Puget Sound.

1. Northwest Railway Museum – Snoqualmie, WA: This is the largest railroad museum in the Northwest, formed in 1957 as the Puget Sound Railway Historical Association.

2. Seattle Traction Tour: This tour involved four distinct traction operations: King County Metro's trolley coaches, the Seattle Monorail, South lake Union Streetcar, and Sound Transit's Central Link light rail line. The light rail line currently runs from King Street Station to SeaTac Airport. I chose to participate in this event and found it quite informative and an enjoyable experience.

3. Lunch at Paradise Lodge on Mt. Rainer: This was a non-rail event attended by many wives (including mine) and several male members. The focus of this event was the mountain scenery and a relaxing lunch setting with great vistas of the mountains still covered in snow.

Thursday was also a three event day culminating with Meet the NRHS Officers, Evening Reception and NRHS At-Large Member Meeting.

1. Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad (MRSR)/Tacoma Rail Trip: We left Tacoma in Tacoma Rail's four car 50's light weight train pulled by a SD45 and a GP40 because as we left the station, we began to climb Tacoma Hill, a 3.8% grade. Tacoma Rail operates on ex-Milwaukee Road trackage between Tacoma and Eatonville, WA. At Eatonville we transferred to the heavy weight coaches of MRSR pulled by a Willamette. A Willamette looks very similar to a Shay but is covered under separate patents. (Don't ever call a Willamette a Shay as it can get you into all kinds of trouble.) MRSR has the world's most complete collection of geared logging locomotives (Climax, Heisler, Shay and Willamette) as well as a collection of rod engines and early diesels.

2. Woodinville Winery Tour: This was a seven hour tour, visiting three wineries: Brian Carter, Columbia and Ste. Michelle. Washington is the second leading producer of wine in the US.

3. Tacoma Rail Night Photo Session: The high light of this event was having SP 4449 under steam as well as vintage Tacoma Rail equipment

Friday was a potpourri of Seminars, Board of Directors' Meeting, Annual Membership Meeting, and Banquet. The main thing that came out of the Annual Membership Meeting was the adoption of the new National By-Laws. Now we are in a transition period. The current officers and Board of Directors (BOD) are still in place and will serve until the 2012 election is conducted as set forth in the

new By-Laws. The BOD will elect the National Officers for this transitional period at its Fall Meeting in Willington, Delaware. In 2012 the President, Vice President and a 23 member BOD will be elected by the membership. The next step in our transition is the establishment of districts from which the BOD members will be selected by the members of the districts.

Saturday was Mainline Steam with 4449 over Stampede Pass, a round trip distance of 180 miles. Our photo run-by was conducted at Easton after the locomotives were turned and re-connected to the train. Easton was a great location to take pictures and the sun was out and shining.

Sunday was the reverse of Tuesday as folks rode the convention train behind 4449 to Portland. There a lot of members returned home from Portland. Those individuals returning to Tacoma rode the Amtrak *Coast Starlight* back to Tacoma.

The convention was conducted during the major floods in the Dakotas. On Tuesday when we reached Vancouver, WA, to pick up 4449, the Amtrak Agent told us that the *Empire Builder* had been embargoed and would not run until July 6th. This caused problems for a lot of folks who were booked on the train for their return east. Carl Jensen had his son's car the *Getchi Gami Club* (sp?) as part of the convention consist. It was scheduled to return

behind the *Empire Builder* and had to return behind the *Sunset Limited* out of LA several days after the convention.

Jim Pahriss
Vice President/National Director



Southern Ry # 401
Photo Courtesy of Jim Pahriss

Electrical Committee Report of July-August Actions

Fellow MEMRR club members:

There has been much recent discussion with lots of valid points being made and positions being taken regarding the continued electrical problems with the club HO layout. It is the consensus of all the members I have talked to that fixing the electrical problems so our trains run as they should is the number one priority for the club. Based on those discussions and the need to solve this problem I am asking the electrical group to become organized with the following charge:



Clinchfield #1
Photo Courtesy of RonFlanary

- 1) Bill Hensley has volunteered to coordinate the group and I have asked him today to assume the role of coordinator for the HO Scale Electrical Working Group.
- 2) Since the decision was made to postpone the offer of assistance by an outside consultant, Dan Lang, of Hendersonville, NC with the desire to attempt to solve our electrical problems ourselves, I am asking the group to do the following:
 - a) Establish a weekly working schedule that is agreeable to the majority of the group (Bill Hensley, John Edwards, Lyle Montieth, Ed Champion, Don Ramey, and any others who want to be part of this group) and get to work. Time for discussion is over and we need to show progress.
 - b) Establish a set of prioritized goals and needs.
 - c) As each problem to be solved is identified obtain permission by email vote from each module owner (each having one vote) and the club having one vote as a whole, before proceeding so that permission to do the work is granted or rejected as set forth by a recently passed motion at a business meeting. John Edwards will establish a quick method for this vote on the web site and each voting person will have only 24 hrs to respond with his vote so progress on each problem is not delayed.
 - d) Consultation with club officers on progress and problems is expected from the group so we all stay on the same page.
 - e) Fixes that require funding will be handled in the same manner unless the cost is greater than \$50. Sums larger than \$50 will be taken to the entire membership for approval.
 - f) An electrical schematic series of drawing will be generated as work progresses and all wiring will be

clearly labeled so future trouble-shooting can be expedited.

- g) If the group feels the need for outside consultation the club officers will attempt to arrange for it.
- h) The HO layout is to be brought forward into step with current model railroading technology which includes DCC and sound operation.

Electrical Committee Organizing Announcement

Respected Members,

Fred Alsop has directed us to take action and get the electrical problems on the HO layout corrected and behind us.

The first step will be to assemble a committee that is experienced in soldering, electrical theory, electronic theory, DCC and wiring. We are calling for volunteers who will be willing to work on this project through its completion. We don't expect any one volunteer to have all the above skills and even if you only possess one of these skills please consider volunteering.

Next this committee will need to identify the problems and plan workable solutions. Solutions will be presented to the committee of module owners and then to and the voting members. An E-mail poll will be taken to decide the preferred plan of action. Majority vote will rule and a course of action will be set.

As decided by membership vote at the June 2011 business meeting the module owners will each have one vote (owners of

Electrical Committee Action Report August 4, 2011

Many thanks to everyone participating in the Thursday night HO electrical meeting. Thanks to Joe Roberts for adjusting the wye feeds thus allowing for connection to the main track bus, to Don Ramey for "protecting" the Digitrax equipment in the cabinet, and John Edwards for spearheading the DB150 change over. These projects are scheduled for completion 11 August. Understood is some minor time adjustment based on equipment purchase. Next comes the yard wiring. Under consideration is relocation of the Digitrax cabinet or relocation of associated DCC equipment to provide more working space and

Website Enhancements Membership Polling Option Announced

As Fred has requested I have set up an easy method for polling the Voting (full) Members. To do this I set up a special mail account (members@memrr.org)

If we have need to poll the members I will send out an E-mail from this account and all you the members have to do is hit reply add your response and hit send.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or suggestions related to the above group charge.

Thank you all for your willingness to serve on this important working group and we all wish you the very best as you strive to make our layout's electrical operation second to none.

Best regards,
FredAlsop

multiple modules still count as 1 vote) and the club as a whole will have 1 vote.

We will then plan our work schedule. Since we are about to undertake quite a large scope project and the HO layout needs to be operational each Saturday may I suggest that each phase of work be started on Sunday afternoons. That will give us a safety net of time should a phase not be completed on a Sunday session.

This coming Thursday August 4th we plan to put together the committee and plan workable solutions. If you have any interest in helping on the electrical problems please be at the museum this Thursday. The earlier the better but we will hold off on official decisions until 6PM to allow everyone who wishes to be there time to get there.

If you feel you have a solution you would like considered either E-mail it to owners@memrr.org before noon on Thursday or bring it with you to the Thursday evening work night.

Thank You,
Bill Hensley
HO Electrical Coordinator

better equipment location. This change will do away with the floor wiring.

A master project notebook is located on the layout near the dispatch station. Please feel free to review it and place notes in it for consideration.

All club members are welcome to help with the projects and encouraged to attend the electrical planning sessions. All ideas are WELCOME.

Thanks
Bill Hensley
Memrr Voting Members

Your response will automatically be addressed to members@memrr.org

If you are a voting (full) member please reply to this E-mail so I can see that it is working properly.

Thank You,
John Edwards
MEMRR Webmaster

MODEL RAILROAD TOUR Birmingham Alabama

All Members,

Many thanks to Gary Rabetoy!

Through his work with Mr. Smith of the Birmingham Model Railroad Club, we have been invited down for a day of model railroading. Mr. Smith is working with Gary on some ET&WNC HOn3 cabooses for our layout. His club at one time featured as many as six master modelers and has one of the Southeast's largest layouts.

After talking with Mr. Smith, he has said that we would take a tour of his club's layout in the Science Center (?) then go and see at least 3 or 4 club members' layouts. All of these layouts are museum quality. Lastly, we will have the opportunity to go to one of the area's best model railroad stores. By the way, one of the layouts we will be viewing will be an HOn3 layout.

Mr. Smith has suggested sometime in September. Therefore with that in mind, I would like to suggest either the 10th or 24th. We will have to leave very early or go down on Friday and spend the night. Please e-mail me as soon as possible if you have any interest in going and what date you would prefer?

JULY HERITAGE DAY UPDATE

Our members have asked that we add four more Midwest Railroads. They are the four at the end of the following list:

Chicago & Eastern Illinois (C&EI)
 Chicago & North Western (C&NW)
 Chicago Great Western (CDW)
 Chicago, Burlington & Quincy (CB&Q)
 Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific (ROCK ISLAND)
 Gulf, Mobile & Ohio (GM&O)
 Illinois Central (IC)
 Monon (M)
 Nickel Plate
 The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific (MILWAUKEE ROAD)
 Wabash
 Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern (EJ&E)
 South Shore Line
 Belt Railway of Chicago
 Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range (DMIR)
 Minneapolis and St. Louis (MSTL)
 Soo Line (SOO)
 Chicago North Shore & Milwaukee (NORTH SHORE LINE)
 Indian Harbor Belt (IHB)

Thanks,

Hobie Hyder,
MEMRR Public Relations/Event Coordinator

Member Response:

I have driven to Birmingham on a number of occasions. Birmingham is approximately half way between Johnson City and New Orleans. It is about 350 miles from Johnson City to Birmingham. The drive can take from 6.5 to 7.5 hours depending upon number of stops, traffic issues, etc.

I think it would be totally impractical to think about a one-day turn. I recommend that a plan be made to drive down on Friday, stay overnight, spend what sounds like all day Saturday touring, shopping, etc., then leave at the end of the day Saturday and drive part of the way back. There are convenient motels in Gadsden and Fort Payne, AL and Chattanooga. In fact, why not drive to Chattanooga on Saturday evening, then spend part of Sunday at the Choo Choo complex.

Just my thoughts and experience.

Art Daniels

Toledo, Peoria & Western (TP&W)



Clinchfield RR #1
Photo Courtesy of Ron Flanary

This gives us 20 Midwest Railroads. So far I have 4 Passenger Trains and 4 Freight type Trains scheduled for Saturday. If any one has cars for those railroads listed, please bring.

Bob Jones
bobjones@memrr.org

Little People Member Recommendation

Several of the members have asked me where I purchased the small painted sitting people for my passenger cars. The internet site is: <http://www.modelleisenbahn-figuren.com/>

The HO scale is from 1/87 to 1/100 and the cost is in USD, \$19.98 for 100; \$89.00 for 500; & \$139.00 for 1000 sitting painted people. On the web site you will find two types of sitting people, these are the cheapest. This site has railroad figures from Z to G scale.

Bob Jones
(bobjones@memrr.org)

LABOR DAY WEEKEND RAILFAN TRIP September 2-5, 2011 Sponsored by the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders



Purpose: To have a great railroading experience in the mountains of scenic West Virginia. We will lodge in the restored company houses of the Cass Scenic Railroad State Park in Cass, West Virginia. There we can explore the company town, ride behind the shays of the CSRR to the top of Bald Knob the third highest mountain in the state, and have the opportunity to ride the train at Elkins, WV as well. How you choose to spend your Saturday and Sunday will be up to you, but here are the options listed below.

Destination: Cass Scenic Railroad State Park, Cass, West Virginia. Optional destinations for additional train rides at nearby Durbin and Elkins, West Virginia.

Whose going? Members of the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders club are going and they are inviting the members of the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS to participate.

Lodging: Fred Alsop, president of both clubs, has made reservations in the Cass Scenic Railroad State Park in 2 of the restored company houses. One house sleeps 8 and the other sleeps 6 in double-occupancy bedrooms. Currently, there is reserved housing for 14 people on a first-come/first-served basis.

Additional housing may be available through the state park, but any additional reservations will be the responsibility of those who want to join us after the above spaces have been filled. If we fill all 14 spaces in the 2 houses the approximate cost will be \$55/person total for the 3 nights. If you plan to go and you have not already notified Fred please do so quickly. *Phone: 423/929-3733 or cell: 615/604-8759 or at fredjalsop3@earthlink.net*. Several members have already secured their spaces on the trip, so don't delay if you want to join us for this outstanding railroading venture.

Getting there: Travel will be by personal vehicle, but we will attempt to carpool for those who would like to share a ride. We will work out these details after the group is established.

National Holiday: Lots of folks will be traveling over this long holiday weekend. It is very important that you make your reservations early in order to get the lodging and the train tickets you desire. Spaces will fill up quickly and fast action on your part will go a long way in staving off the disappointment of not getting to do all the things you want to do.

Train Rides:



Cass Scenic Railroad

Check out their web site at: <http://www.cassrailroad.com> for all their information including schedules, location, fares, events, etc. or tickets call 800CALLWVA and then ask for 'Cass Scenic Railroad'. You can get additional ticket discounts if you book more than one train ride in a 7 day period. Here's what available on Saturday and Sunday, 3-4 Sept.:

- *Whittaker Station*-4 miles, 2 hrs with stop at the outdoor Whittaker Station logging museum. Cost \$21 for adult ticket. Departures at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.
- *Bald Knob*- 11 miles, 4.5 hrs with stops atop Bald Knob and at Whittaker Station. Cost \$27 for adult ticket. Departure and Noon.
- *Bluegrass Buffet*- Saturday evening only with departure at 5:15 p.m. Check web site for prices and reservation information.

Durbin and Greenbrier Valley Railroad

website <http://www.mountainrailwv.com> and ticket information at ticketinfo@mountainrail.com; phone: 877/686-7245

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- *Durbin Rocket:* powered by rare Climax, old #3, built in 1910. Ride is 10.5 miles; 2.5 hrs. Departures from #3 E. Main Street, Durbin, WV at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets \$22 adult (\$20 senior—65 and +). Reservations: <http://rezweb.com/durbin/> or toll-free: 877MTNRAIL or 877-686-7245.



- *Cheat Mountain Salamander:* Trip is 88 miles roundtrip and takes 6.5 hrs, through one of the largest wilderness areas in

the eastern U.S. Ticket prices: adult \$58 (senior \$56—65 and +). Check their website for schedules at <http://www.mountainrailwv.com>

- *New Tygart Flyer:* Trip is 4 hrs and covers 46 miles round trip and departs from Elkins, WV at 11:00 a.m. Ticket prices: adult \$45 (senior \$43—65 and +), includes buffet service. Parlor car with meal (limited seating) \$56 (\$54 for seniors). Departure 315 Railroad Ave, Elkins, WV. Reservations <http://www.mountainrailwv.com> or by phone: 877MTNRAIL.



- *Mountain Explorer Dinner Train:* 4 hour ride, gourmet dinner meal. Price \$70 (upgrade to parlor car \$80). Departs Elkins Depot, 315 Railroad Ave. Elkins, WV at 5:00 p.m. Make reservations at above web sites or toll-free phone number.



Fred's Personal Plan: Arrive at houses in Cass, WV, on Friday evening,
 Sept 2nd. Ride the New Tygart Flyer in Elkins (approximate 1.5 hr drive from Cass) on Saturday,
 Sept 3rd. Ride the Cass Scenic Railroad train to Bald Knob on Sunday,
 Sept 4th; and perhaps take the Dinner train at 5:30 that evening.
 Depart for Tri-cities on Monday,
 Sept. 5th. Have a great time with some outstanding railroading buddies.

Are you getting on board?