



The Coal Road

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The Monthly Newsletter of the George L. Carter Chapter, National Railway
Historical Society, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee
Volume 1, Number 8, September 2011



The DRAWBAR OBSERVATIONS FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

We had two special events in recent weeks that were attended by some of our chapter members. On August 21st the Annual Carter Railroad Museum picnic was once again hosted by Tom and Kim McKee at their lakeside home north of Johnson. Members of the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS and the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders (MEMRR) attended and had a great time. There was plenty of food and Tom had his garden railroad in grand operating form. He has done a lot of landscaping on his hillside G-Scale railroad and it is noticeably bigger and better than ever. We truly appreciate the McKees hosting our clubs but also thank them for supplying the fried chicken as well.

Our second event was a railfanning trip to Cass Scenic Railroad State Park in Cass West Virginia over the Labor Day weekend in early September. Members from our chapter and the MEMRR included Fred and Jo Ann Alsop, Gary Emmert, Paul and Kay Haynes, Hobie Hyder, Dan McLeod, and Duane and Harriet Swank. Others in the party included Bob Yaple from the Watauga Valley Chapter NRHS, and Delbert Loudermilk who grew up in Cass when it was a bustling sawmill town. The group stayed in the reconditioned company houses owned and operated by the state park, rode several of the trains pulled by the classic Shay steam locomotives and toured the grounds and the backshops. We also made the trip up to Elkins on Saturday and had a 45 mile ride on the Tygart Flyer pulled by a vintage F7 in Western Maryland colors and teamed with a GP9 in blue and yellow C&O paint. When the Tygart Flyer dropped us off at the station at Elkins around

3:30 in the afternoon they replaced the GP9 with another F7 with Western Maryland colors painted over Clinchfield #200. Seeing and photographing that engine that had run many times through Johnson City was a real treat even if she now had a new identity. The weather during our long weekend was excellent and we took enough photos to share as a program at some future club meeting.

The Fall Semester is well underway at ETSU and with it are fall plans for our new chapter. We will put together the details for helping the local Boy Scouts of America Council's scouts earn their railroading merit badge with a date for the event probably set in conjunction with the Carter Railroad Museum in late October or early November. Vice-President James Pahr is will be coordinating this program and will be working with us to get it underway as one of the two major goals we established for our chapter to sponsor. Please plan to participate and to give Jim and the BSA all the support we can to make this an educational and fun event for everyone.

ETSU professor Delanna Reed, Graduate Program in Storytelling, and I have been discussing the resumption of the successful storytelling interview sessions we began last fall before our NRHS chapter was formed and that we wish to continue with the help of the Carter Chapter and the Railroad Museum during this academic year. We are making plans to conduct more interviews (some at the museum and some in the homes of the storytellers), to seek funding for travel and stipends for the interviewers and transcribers, and to plan a public event in the spring to perform some of the stories that have been collected as was done this spring. We will need the chapter's help with this as well and will get us involved as our plans for the year become more solidified. Chapter members can help us get started by providing contact information of people who they know that may have 'tales of the rails' about the railroads and their personal railroading adventures on this area. One ultimate goal for the collected stories will be to have them archived and preserved in ETSU's Archives of Appalachia.

If you have friends who are interested in railroading please see if you can get them to a chapter meeting in the near future. We would all like to see our new chapter continue to grow and with new members also come new ideas, new experiences, and new opportunities for all of us to expand our knowledge and enjoyment of railroading on every scale. Perhaps one of those potential new members would also like to be an officer as we still have the unfilled position of secretary that we need to remove the 'vacancy' sign from. If you have suggestions for programs or railfanning events, please let us know and we will give them every opportunity to bear fruit.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the September meeting next week. Hear the whistle of the train blow in the night and dream of all the destinations yet to come.

Fred Alsop
President, George L. Carter Chapter NRHS
Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU

George L. Carter Chapter NRHS
Minutes of the General Meeting on August 15, 2011

The meeting was brought to order at 6:30 P.M. by President, Fred Alsop.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fred began the meeting by thanking Vice-President, Jim Pahrís, for conducting the meeting last month. Fred was on a nature (birding) trip with a group of people to South America. While there, Fred and his wife, JoAnn, rode two narrow gauge railroads, the Peruvian and the Inca, which are owned by two British companies.

Fred recognized and gave the floor to Jim Pahrís, who introduced his friend and former co-worker, Dennis Nutting. Dennis and his wife, Debbie, presently from Panama, are visiting the Pahrís'.

Fred read a letter from Bill Miller, a Saturday visitor at the George L. Carter RR Museum, who complimented the RR layouts and displays. Letters of this nature are always welcome.

Fred has not had time to appoint standing committees per Article 11, Section 5 and 6 of the By-Laws but promises to do so very soon.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made by Gary Emmert and seconded by Bill Beagen, to skip the reading and accept the minutes of the July meeting as published in *The Coal Road*. Motion accepted by all.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Duane Swank reported the financial status of the Chapter which was accepted by all.

EDITOR'S REPORT

Bill Beagen has published his second issue of *The Coal Road* and acknowledged a few minor errors that will be corrected in upcoming issues. Bill has also established a deadline for newsletter articles to be in his hands by the 1st of each month. This will enable him time to publish a worthy newsletter for all to enjoy.

Thank you, Bill, for undertaking this responsibility for our infant club.

VICE-PRESIDENT/NATIONAL DIRECTOR

As National Director, Jim Pahrís stated that he would be attending the National Board Meeting in October at Wilmington, DE.

LIBRARIAN

Gary Emmert will be meeting with Ned Irwin from the ETSU Archives of Appalachian Dept. on Tuesday morning to discuss the procedures for preserving and logging photos, etc. into an archive system. Dick Conger is giving the Chapter 300 to 1000 photos of the Delaware & Hudson RR which Gary intends to archive.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Boy Scout Merit Badge Program – Jim Pahrís stated that he will have the program ready for presentation to the Chapter members at the Sept. 19 meeting.
2. Chapter Logo – Bill Hensley’s contact, for a sample shirt with logo, has been ill but hopefully will have a shirt ready for next month’s meeting along with costs. Jim Pahrís stated that if needed he may have a possible supplier who could embroider the logo directly on a shirt. Also, Duane will make contact with the supplier of the MEMRR shirts & patches, for an estimated cost.
3. Cass Scenic Railroad trip over Labor Day Weekend (leaving Sept. 2 and returning Sept. 5). There are still 3 openings in the Company Houses that have been reserved by Fred Alsop. If you would like to go on this outing, please contact Fred ASAP. Train rides are each individual’s responsibility for reservations and should be made ASAP as holiday weekends sell out quickly. There is a Company Store near the houses that contains a gift shop, restaurant, etc. and a model RR.
4. Annual Picnic at Tom and Kim McKee’s lakefront home on Sunday, August 21, is being called The George L. Carter Museum Annual Picnic as it will incorporate both the MEMRR and George L. Carter members. Parking will be in the lot of the Living Word Lutheran Church at the corner of St.Rt. 36 and Rockingham Road and shuttle service will be provided from there to McKee’s. The MEMRR made a \$50 donation to the church for the use of their parking lot as this is the 3rd year they have allowed us to park there. Meat for the picnic will be provided by the McKees, ice provided by Andy Harmon, plates/cups/napkins/flatware provided by MEMRR club, sodas & water provided by Jim & Charlotte Pahrís, sweet and unsweet tea provided by Todd Eaton and everyone else to bring a covered dish. Send information to John Edwards or Jim Pahrís as to what you intend to furnish. Picnic starts at 4:00 P.M. and PLEASE NO CHILDREN.
5. We are still searching for a Chapter Secretary.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Parking passes for the museum. Fred has been contacted by several MEMRR members who have been ticketed while parked to do volunteer work in the museum. Fred has talked with Mr. Bradley, ETSU Parking Director, who will be issuing temporary parking passes for Fred to distribute. These temporary passes will be good through the end of September for Monday thru Friday 7:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Classes will start approximately August 26.
2. Storytelling, RR History - It is hopeful that Delanna Reed and her class will again work with the museum and GLC NRHS to have Storytelling Interviews to collect railroad history. Delanna is still seeking help with the transcribing of these stories and is willing to teach how this is done to anyone interested in helping. Jim Pahrís was asked about the possibility of getting a grant from NRHS to fund the interviewers for all their time and work in collecting these stories. Jim indicated that a modest grant might be possible. Jim also requested that CD carriers be purchased instead of the padded envelopes for the mailing of the CD to the interviewees as his arrived broken in half. Gary Emmert suggested that funding be available to interviewers to travel to Erwin, Bristol and Knoxville to collect railroad history as these are/were prime spots for railroading.

- 3. Jim Pahriss suggested that with the new National By-Laws starting in 2012 by extending the Student membership to 24 years of age that we use the ETSU student media for recruiting student members.

PROGRAM – At 7:30 P.M., a video “The Locomotive” (evolution of the locomotives) was furnished by Duane Swank which proved to be quite interesting.

ADJOURNMENT – Harriet Swank, seconded by Gary Emmert, made the motion to adjourn at 8:15 P.M. All were in agreement.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, SAME TIME AND PLACE (ETSU Campus, Brown Science Hall, Room 312). PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND.

Respectfully submitted by:

Harriet Swank, Acting Secretary

Fred J. Alsop III, President

Editors Remarks

Well, looks like I didn’t live up to my promise last month. Seems that the newsletter did not get out as soon as I planned. With the new School Year starting at ETSU we were a bit late in getting some content into this one. I hope to get it earlier next month.

We are in need of articles for the newsletter and would like to hear from you if you have anything you want to contribute to the Coal Road, please send it to me, my e-mail address is rrbill@embarqmail.com. Thanks for your help.

MEMBERSHIP

Nothing new to report at this writing. However, we encourage anyone who knows someone interested in railroading to please encourage them to join our organization.

Keep those rails clicking.

Harriet Swank,
Membership Chairman

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, September 18th on ETSU Campus, Brown Hall Building, Room 312, at 6:30 p.m. Please try to attend and bring a guest.

Chapter Officers:

President - Fred Alsop (*fredjalsop3@earthlink.net*)
Vice President/National Director - Jim Pahriss (*pahrissj@embarqmail.com*)
Secretary - vacant
Treasurer - Duane Swank (*duaneharriet@charter.net*)
At Large Directors - Bill Hensley and
Dan McLeod (*chardanmcLeod35@comcast.net*)

Appointed Positions:

Editor – Bill Beagen (*rrbill@embarqmail.com*)
Librarian - Gary Emmert (*jbox1015@comcast.net*)
Membership Chairperson - Harriet Swank (*duaneharriet@charter.net*)



The George L. Carter Chapter NRHS

The Monthly Meetings are the Monday preceding the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in room 312 of Brown Hall, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN. The room is on the Third floor entering from the northeast entrance doors. For more information, please write to the Chapter at 1763 Sylvan Hill Road, Elizabethton, TN 37643.

The George L. Carter Chapter NRHS Newsletter is prepared and distributed monthly prior to the meeting. Opinions expressed by the writers are not necessarily the views of East Tennessee State University and its employees, the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS, and its members, officers, and board of directors and the National Railway Historical Society. Contributions are welcome. For permission to use the material in this newsletter, please contact the editor, Bill Beagen. Contributors are Fred Alsop & Jim Pahriss.