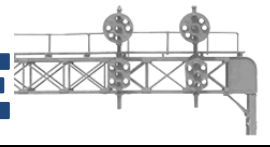


THE SIGNAL BRIDGE



Volume 18

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS CLUB

Number 9A/B

SEPTEMBER 2011 BUSINESS EDITION

Published for the Education and Information of Its Membership

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

The last few weeks provided two special opportunities for our club members and their guests as well as members from the newly formed George L. Carter Chapter NRHS. We offer special thanks to **Kim and Tom McKee** for hosting our annual club/museum picnic at their lovely lakeside home for the 3rd consecutive year and for going the extra mile by serving up fried chicken to the party-goers as well. We had a great time socializing with the McKees and getting to see each other with spouses and 'significant-others' in a setting that did not involve trains and model railroading other than the newly landscaped and much improved G-Scale garden railway that Tom has built and shared with us in his wooded back yard. Tom has done a lot of work in the past year improving the setting for his railroad and his efforts highlighted the little trains that moved along their shinning tracks. We all had a great time and we send our warmest thanks to our hosts for providing such a relaxing setting for us to have our picnic.

Several of our members and some other nice folks made the trek to the Cass Scenic Railroad State Park and on to Elkins, West Virginia over the long Labor Day Weekend to ride the trains, see the railroads and supporting stations, backshops, water tanks and rolling stock. MEMRR members **Duane & Harriet Swank, Hobie Hyder, Paul & Kay Haynes, Dan McLeod, Gary Emmert, and Fred and Jo Ann Alsop** were joined on the adventure by Watauga Valley NRHS member, **Bob Yapple**, and our 'guide', **Delbert Loudermilk**, who grew up in Cass, WV, when it was an active sawmill town. It was a special homecoming for Delbert who pointed out all the sights in the small company town and found some of the people he knew who were still living there who could share in his memories of the past. We road trains at Cass and at Elkins, smelled the smoke from the Shays and brushed the cinders out of our hair and off our clothes, made lots of pictures, ate a lot of good food, and truly enjoyed each other's company. It was a really good trip and we can highly recommend it for anyone interested in getting close to steam geared locomotives in a setting with lots of railroading history from logging shortlines to majors railroads like the C&O and Western Maryland. We even got to see a working Clinchfield RR F7 diesel locomotive, #200, but wearing Western Maryland paint, as it hooked up to a dinner train in Elkins as we exited our ride on the Tygart Flyer. That was a highlight moment for all of us who have put so many hours into the Carter Railroad Museum.

By the time you read this several members of the club will have helped dismantle the HO layout that is in Brenda Wood's

basement at her home in Blountville. It has been donated to the RR Museum through the university and will be put in storage for several months with the hopes that we can find a home for it with the proceeds from the sale going into the RR Museum's foundation account for use in the museum (the Tweetsie project will still need dollars to bring it to completion and selling this layout will be a big boost in that venue). So, if anyone has space for a nice HO layout, see me for details and we shall be happy to make you the proud owner. This is the layout that we have been discussing in the newsletter and at club meetings for some time now. There are pictures and drawings of the layout track plan at the museum courtesy of **Bob Jones** if you are interested. Thanks to everyone who helped with getting this layout ready to be moved for your volunteer work on Friday, 16 September. The extra efforts are much appreciated.

We have two special events coming up that I need for you to put on your calendars because I need a few volunteers to come in and have the Carter Railroad Museum open for them during a couple of weekdays. Both openings are connected with special events at the university and they are a very small part of the 'rent' we pay to have the railroad museum. **Event #1:** For the 4th consecutive year we are being asked to participate in the President's Classroom. Approximately 20 prominent business people in the Tri-Cities area will be invited to be 'students' in a 4-week series of visits on Tuesday evenings to selected special sites on the ETSU campus. Each year of this event we have been chosen to be the first visit they make on campus following their initial orientation meeting in the university library. This will take approximately 1 hour of your time as they only have 15-20 minutes at each site. They will be at the Railroad Museum at approximately **5:15 on Tuesday, September 20th**. We need 4-6 volunteers minimum (as many of you as want to come are certainly welcome to do so) to be present around 4:30 (that's a great time because parking opens up then as the regular staff leaves for home at the end of the work day and you will be able to get a parking spot rather easily) to run some trains and talk to our special visitors. This is an important activity and we have had good participation from our club members, so please volunteer. **Event #2:** The official ending **Centennial Celebration date is Monday, October 10th**. Lots of events are scheduled to take place on the campus all day in celebration of our first 100 years. A lot of visitors, invited guests and alumni are expected to be on campus that day. We have been asked to be a part of these happenings by having the Carter RR Museum open from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. I need volunteers for this event to again have the museum open and trains operating. Parking close to the building will most probably be a problem, but use your 'volunteer parking' passes and park in any legal parking space. There is a shuttle service on campus that goes on regular routes to the furthestmost parking lots on campus; out on the west end across from the soccer fields, so parking is possible. If you park

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 ??

illegally and get a ticket (please not in handicapped, loading zones, fire lanes, etc.) I can probably get it taken care of. So, please forgive the possible parking inconveniences and volunteer to come in and show off your terrific work in the Carter RR Museum.

Thanks to **Jim Holt** for volunteering at the August business meeting to become the HO Rolling Stock Coordinator. Jim will work to get all the 'bad order' rolling stock in good order and rail-worthy by doing necessary repairs, checking weight & balance, adding & gauging metal wheel sets, installing kadee couplers, etc. to our club car fleet. If you have problems with our club cars that you cannot fix yourself please give it to Jim, or bring it to his attention. I think he will establish a space to put cars in need of TLC into so they can be attended to as he has time to do so. Please help Jim as you can and thank him for taking on this much-needed job.

Jim Pahr is preparing his outstanding home O-Gauge layout for our open house visit on Sunday, September 25th, from 2-4 PM. Please mark your calendars and plan to come see what he is creating in his basement as he operates the wonderful color schemes of the Central of Georgia RR. Jim lives just west of Jonesborough so the ride to his house is not a long one. Thank you, Jim, in advance for inviting us over.

Our special **Railroad Heritage Days** event for August featured **The L&N 'Old Reliable and the NC&StL 'Dixie Line'**. We got great publicity through the efforts of the Office of University Relations, but there were lots of other area events to compete with and

turnout was modest. However, quite a few club members brought these fallen flag lines back to life in HO-Scale on our big layout. Our **Railroad Heritage Day Event** scheduled for September 24th is **How the West was Won—Railroads West of the Mississippi** coordinated by **Geoff Stunkard**. So, all your model railroaders running UP yellow, Santa Fe red/silver, SP bloody nose, BNSF green and orange, etc., etc. Get your locos and consists ready and let's rodeo!!! Let Geoff know what you are bringing so we know what and who to expect and provide display materials for the display cases and baggage cart as well. Let's go cowboys!!

Summer is winding down and fall is fast approaching, but it allows us to turn our attention more and more to the indoors and model railroading is a super indoor activity that we all enjoy. Come on down to the museum and operate your locomotives. We have track in 3 gauges you can use. We have lots of projects underway ranging from big to small. There is a place and invitation to exercise your special model railroading talents or to learn new ones. We have an active group working every Thursday night and operating every Saturday. Come join us. We need your help and we want to learn from you. I hope to see you soon and often at the Carter Railroad Museum. Come join in the fun of model railroading with us. Hear the train whistle blow and dream of all the destinations yet to come.

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

Mountain Empire Model Railroaders Minutes of General Meeting August 16, 2011:

All Aboard

President Fred Alsop called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 p.m. in room 312 the weather outside was 80 degrees and Partly Cloudy. There were 18 members and one guest, Dennis Nutting, present.

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: Please forward any ideas, contributions, pictures etc to Ted 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 reported on his latest meeting with President Stanton of ETSU and their discussions of our Heritage Days as well as the day-to-day operations of the Museum. Our "needs" were discussed (more room, student worker for kids room) and we are awaiting feedback.
- A new "MUSEUM OPEN" sign was discussed and Alan Morton volunteered to make it so.
- Day Parking permits will be available soon – see Fred for more details. A "volunteer" decal for window placement is forthcoming.
- The new DT400 series throttle is now on the layout.
- The repaired DT400 is in transit and should be here soon.
- Battery covers are delicate. Be extremely careful when removing the covers as they are no longer available for purchase.

Old Business:

1. Erwin Armory train show is progressing nicely. They have had good vendor response. The listed times are 9-17 (10-5) & 9-18 (12-5) Tickets are \$4.00 at the door. See Gary Cameron for more information.
2. Flyers are needed for the club showing a map and directions as well as brief details on Museum.
3. Presidents train motion made for sleeper purchases and redo the tail-end car as the ETSU Centennial car. New cars will run ahead of this end car.
4. Memorial car for Jack miller is to be purchased and placed in service.

5. 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.
6. 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. August co-ordinators mtg. was cancelled due to wiring efforts in progress. Wiring group continues to make good headway and improvements.
2. Narrow Gauge visitors on Sept. 10th.
3. The trip to Birmingham to view layouts has been moved to October. If interested see Hobie, Plans are tentatively set to travel down Friday (approx 6 hrs) and return Sunday. Car-pooling has been suggested and
4. The "homeless" donated layout is to be moved in August to a storage unit. See Fred for details if you can help.
5. Club currently has approximately 15 cars on the RIP track in need of couplers and wheels. Club will purchase wheels and couplers to get these "club cars" back on track.
6. Jim Pahriss will host an "O-Scale" open house at his home on Sunday Sept, 25th. From 2-4 p.m.
7. Club is to start making plans for national Model Railroad month At Sept meeting.

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:

- 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 8:50 p.m.

Program for the Evening:

- Gary Emmert gave a very interesting discussion on Passenger train Line-up. With examples on the Tennessean and others..

Next Scheduled Monthly Meeting: September 20, 2011

Program: Gary Emmert: consisting freight trains prior to 1970 rules.

*Respectfully Submitted:
Don Q. Ramey*

**Railroading in the Days Before Radio
Submitted by Gary Emmert**



The lanterns we had before these just had a plain aluminum tubing handle on them. When giving a signal for a long period of time, the older lanterns tended to "drift" through your fingers, and you were always trying to re-position the dern thing for a better grip. Some guys wrapped friction tape around the bail (handle,) but all that did was make a complete mess of things, and then they wouldn't slide on your jacket sleeve when you were climbing up the side or end of a car.

These lanterns with the yellow rubber handle were ugly, but they eliminated the "drift" problem. I think they came out sometime around 1966 or 1967.

Mine was wrecked one night on a 3rd trick job. We were kicking cars uphill at Roanoke, on a very cold Winter night. I was hanging on the side of a box car, holding the cut lever up with my foot. We had hold of probably 35 cars and were switching with two big 6-axle Alcos. I waved down the engineer and nothing happened, ... he just kept coming hard. I glanced back and discovered that I had lost sight of the engine due to a slight curve in the track. Only thing I knew to do was fling my lantern sideways and high up into the air, out into the engineman's field of view. This I did, giving it some "English," so that it did a cartwheel through the air. He saw it and put the brake into emergency. We stopped before we hit anything, but those 15 or so cars I cut off made a terrible crash when they impacted cars already standing in the track. I'll bet it knocked a couple of them off center... but that was for the car inspectors to find. When I went to retrieve my lantern, I found that it had come down hard on the ball of a rail, and the rail had put a HUGE, deep dent in the side of the case, the battery had split open, and the lantern was no longer usable. Next lantern I got was not as good as the ugly yellow handle one.

And you know what? I'll take in a heartbeat railroading back in those days, over the garbage that passes for "railroading" today...

These are the frequency for the NS.

Ch. 1 Road and Ch 2 road get the most action

Norfolk	Southern
160.245	S. Disp. To train
160.290	Sevier yard pulldown
160.365	Car Dept
160.425	E Tenn RR
160.440	Ch. 3 Road
160.470	Knoxville yard
160.590	yard
160.740	Active

160.830	Ch.2 train to disp
160.920	Active
160.950	Ch.5 Road
161.190	Ch. 1 road
161.205	police
161.250	Ch. 2road
161.295	Car Dept
161.490	Ch. 9 M of W
161.535	signal dept

-- adb

RAILROAD HERITAGE DAY September 24

Big-time Western Railroading Comes to East Tennessee
ETSU's George L Carter Railroad Museum will Feature:

‘How the West Was Won – Railroading West of the Mississippi’

This year's very popular Railroad Heritage Days at the George L Carter Railroad Museum in ETSU's Campus Center building will continue on the last Saturday of the month (September 24), showcasing western railroads. Working in collaboration with The Mountain Empire Model Railroaders and the Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, the museum will host a special program of events for this day.

The museum's layouts, in HO, N, and G scales, will have equipment from railroads like the Union Pacific, Southern Pacific, Santa Fe and others, while the display cases at the multi-room facility will feature rare artifacts from the past, including narrow gauge operations in Colorado, a rare Lionel Super Chief set from 1959, and native American promotional items from several lines. Videos featuring western railroading action will also be shown.

"The legacy of railroading across vast expanses of the western United States tied our nation together following the divisiveness of the Civil War," says Geoff Stunkard, the museum's Heritage Days coordinator. "Access to the pacific coast resulted in major engineering works that created not just physical challenges but opportunities for America, whose population rapidly expanded westward as a direct result. We are very pleased to have a day honoring that effort."

Beyond the well-remembered 1869 'golden spike' ceremony at Promontory Point, Utah completing the first transcontinental line that ended in the Bay Region of California, others took a more southerly route to Los Angeles and San Diego, and several more connected across the northern tier into Washington and Oregon.

Every single passage required a Herculean effort to cross the Rockies and associated mountain ranges, resulting in some of the most dramatic railroad mileage in the world.



The 2011 Railroad Heritage Days were initiated because the University is celebrating 100 years since being founded with the generous support of George L. Carter, who was a railroad and mining magnate at the turn of the century. Due to their popularity, plans for the Heritage Days to continue into 2012 are now being finalized and will be released soon. The Carter Railroad Museum is open on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and includes the aforementioned layouts, a special child's activity room, and ongoing programs. There is no admission fee but donations are welcome for its upkeep. The museum is also seeking artifacts for the newest addition, a 1300-sq. foot room dedicated to the long-defunct, but well-remembered, East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad, the 'Tweetsie' narrow gauge, which is now under construction. In addition to the displays, there is also a growing research library, a National Railway Historical Society chapter, membership docent opportunities, and an oral history archive being established as part of the museum's programs. Info can be found online at

<http://etsu> or

<http://johnsonsddepot.com/glcarter/cartermuseum.htm>

The MEMRR club works in conjunction with the museum to demonstrate and maintain the model layouts, museum exhibits and other projects. More info can be found at www.memrr.org. Membership opportunities are available to adults, and include special benefits and model railroading enjoyment.

2011 Railroad Heritage Demonstration Days at the Carter Museum

- Sept 24 How the West Was Won - Lines West of the Mississippi River
- Oct 29 Our 100 Year Heritage - Carter's Fabulous Clinchfield Lines
- Nov 26 Nights & Weekends - Long Trains on the N&W (special evening session - start time 3:00PM-8:00PM)
- Dec 17 New York State Of Mind - The New York Central's Glory Days (final day of 2011 season)

2012 Railroad Heritage Days to be announced Soon!

The George L. Carter Railroad Museum is located on the campus of East Tennessee State University, Campus Center Building, 100 Ross Drive. For more information contact the Museum Director, Dr. Fred Alsop, at telephone 423/439-6838.



On September 24, the heritage of Western railroading will come to life at the George L Carter Railroad Museum in ETSU's Campus Center building; shown is member Rich Gallagher's Rio Grande passenger train on the MEMRR club's 24x44 HO scale layout.

DRAFT SCHEDULE 2012 HERITAGE DAY EVENTS

From our coordinator for those events, Geoff Stunkard, on our MEMRR website and ask our members to respond to the following:

- 1) Please look over the Draft of the proposed Press Release and make comments to Fred or Geoff ASAP
- 2) Please look over the Draft of the proposed 2012 Heritage Day Event Schedule (page 2) and offer suggestions on any of these events as you see fit. However, we are not seeking additions or deletions to the calendar, only suggestions for improving them. The one exception to the above would be the special December event an our ability (or inability) in your judgment to be able to do such an event given our present condition of room lighting and model lighting.
- 3) If you have suggestions for the 2013 Event Calendar of railroads or railroading eras that are not on the above, please let us have them so we may keep these popular events fresh and interesting for everyone, members and the community.
- 4) Review the participant sheet (page 3) and recommend changes for improvement. Download several if you wish to have them on hand and fill them out for any of the Heritage Events you want to actively participate in and pass them on to Geoff.

Thanks. We look forward to your comments. We need your input by the end of September so we make put out a press release on next year's special events.

*Regards,
Fred J. Alsop III*

CARTER RAILROAD MUSEUM 'RAILROAD HERITAGE DAYS' WILL CONTINUE FOR 2012

Highly popular program will encompass different subject, more coverage, and new exhibits

The George L. Railroad Museum on the campus of East Tennessee State University, in conjunction with the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders (MEMRR) and the George L Carter Chapter NRHS, will continue the monthly Heritage Days into the 2012 year. Originally intended for the university's 2011-based 100th anniversary, the popularity of the events among the public and museum members has confirmed these programs will not end with the Railroad Museum's final event for 2011 in December. Once again in 2012, one Saturday of each month will be set aside as a special tribute day to specific American railroads and regions.

On each special day, club members are committing to bring specific models for operation on the extensive 20' x 44' HO railroad, which is made up of modular sections that were detailed by their sponsoring owners and scaled to a 1.87:1 standard. Members are now bringing equipment for the extensive N-scale line as well.

"We were very happy with both the participation and the public's response to the 2011 program," says Geoff Stunkard, an MEMRR member who is coordinating these special events. "There are a huge number of people who recall and appreciate the heritage the museum has offered, so we are very excited to be able to bring these programs to life for another season and beyond."

While the overall program is still being developed, two events will remain in place for 2012 - the **Steam UP All-Steam Train Day** in

March, and the **Clinchfield Railroad Day** in October. Tentatively, events for the Southern and Norfolk & Western lines will also continue. A schedule will be released shortly.

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2012 Railroad Heritage Demonstration Days at the Carter Museum

January TENNESSEE'S Mountain Railroading Romance – Stemwinders and Steel (formal unveiling of the ET&WNC room to the public)

February Mixed Train Daily – Short Lines & Industrial Railroading (with logging railroad demonstrations)

March 26 - 2nd Annual STEAM UP – Steam Railroading remembered

April 30 Yankee Rivals – NYC, PRR and so-called Friends

May 28 Here to Stay – Modern American Railroading (in honor of National Train Day May 7)

June 25 Song of the South – Serving Up The Southern Railroad

July 30 Meet Me in St. Louis – Great Railroads from a Great Town

Aug 27 Appalachian Conquest – Mountain Coal Roads from Tidewater to Timberline

Sept 24 Stainless & Steam-less – Streamliners and 1st Gen Diesels

Oct 29 Our 100 Year Heritage – Carter's Fabulous Clinchfield Lines

Nov 26 Steam's Finest Hours – Articulated Locomotives from Coast to Coast

Dec 17 Nights & Weekends – Long Trains on the N&W (special evening session – start time TBD)



John Edwards and Gary Emmert sent along these two photos: one of a woman cleaning a steam locomotive; the second of a highrail vehicle. Both would make for interesting model scenes.

MEMBERS ONLY

**JUST ANNOUNCED! 2011 MEMRR
RAIL DEMONSTRATION DAYS**

EVENT DATE (use one sheet per month you will attend) _____

WE NEED YOU! If you are willing to commit to operating for part or an entire Demonstration Day with your favorite DCC-compatible equipment, log on and get your listing put on the month shown above. We may need to require scheduling train ‘appearances’ to allow set-up and take-own in the staging yard area, so get your name and equipment in ASAP if you want to operate. Please contact Geoff Stunkard (stunkard@memrr.org or 423-943-8455) if you have questions. Due to the nature of publicizing these events beforehand, please make sure you HONOR your commitment to make this day a special one for your friends and our visitors. We will be forwarding the above press release to the national magazines. Thanks!

NAME _____

PHONE (to confirm) _____ Email (for schedule) _____

PLEASE CHECK WHICH APPLY – we will have to cancel or consolidate events with little or no commitment. Demonstration Days are FOR YOU, our club members. Set up will be on the normal Thursday work session before the event.

- HO Equipment Other gauge equipment (see _____ Memorabilia
 That layout coordinator, please)
 DVD 30-day Museum Cabinet Display Item (honoring subject)

Describe if possible details (ie complete 12-car Crescent passenger train, double-headed)

Hours you will be on hand _____ SCHEDULED TIME _____
 Leave blank please!

Inside Loop operation possible? _____ Performing Turntable Switching? _____

Is Thursday set-up a problem _____ or prefer Saturday afternoon reset to layout _____

SPECIAL NOTES (Use back of page if necessary)

