



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 2, Number 8, August 2012



The Drawbar Observations from our Chapter President

Summer heat, humidity and rain showers are the bountiful hallmark for this summer with excessive, sometimes record amounts, of each in our region. Our chapter has used the shirtsleeve weather to good advantage operating a successful railfan excursion trip in June and helping operate our sister club's, the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders (MEMRR), Cope Mobile HO Layout, at Johnson City's Blue Plum Festival in early June and Jonesborough Days in late June/early July. We have sent a short note about the Chapter's rail excursion on the Big South Fork Scenic Railway, along with some photos, to the NRHS Newsletter editor for possible use in their next edition.

The Chapter's BOD met in Johnson City at the Magic Wok Chinese Restaurant on South Roan Street on July 23rd to finalize plans for the Chapter's rail excursion on the Smoky Mt. Railway out of Bryson City, NC, scheduled for October 20th. Following dinner we moved the business meeting to the Campus Center Building on the East Tennessee State University campus. **Duane** and **Harriet Swank** provided drafts of press release, excursion description and registration forms, waiver of liability form, and ticket purchase confirmation forms which the Board reviewed and critiqued. **Fred Alsop** and **Jim Pahr** agreed to handle the publicity and **Bill Hensley** volunteered to arrange the creation of DVDs that can be viewed on the roundtrip bus rides that will entertain and educate our passengers about the Chapter, the MEMRR, the George L. Carter Railroad Museum and some of the rich railroading history of the Tri-Cities region and this part of Southern Appalachia. We have contracted with Greene Coach Lines for two modern 55 passenger buses for transportation and will depart from Lot 22A off Jack Vest Drive on the ETSU campus for this trip just as we did in mid-June. Trip information and ticket applications are available at the Carter Railroad Museum (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.), at

HobbyTownUSA on North Roan Street, Johnson City, and on line where they can be printed off by going to memrr.org website, choose **NRHS News**, then click **Ticket Order Form**. The signed liability waiver from must accompany the ticket request form. This should be an outstanding train ride along the Little Tennessee River and the Nantahala River in the mountains during the spectacular fall color season. Please do all you can to promote this second rail excursion trip sponsored by our George L. Carter Chapter NRHS. We will need your help promoting the trip, so tell your family and friends, your colleagues at work, the members of other clubs and organizations you belong to and the members of your church. We have 110 seats available on the two buses and we need your help to fill them. We will also need chapter members on the buses (sorry no free tickets) to help with our passengers and at the railroad venue in Bryson City. So, please mark the date, **Saturday, 20th October** (you can record the Alabama/Tennessee football game) on your events calendar, buy your tickets early, and come support your chapter while having a great day in the mountains with us. We do need everyone's help. ETSU's Office of University Relations released our press releases on this trip to all local news media offices on August 2nd, so you probably have "read all about it" by the time you are reading this.

Gary Emmert, our Librarian and ex-railroad engineer, woke up recently with his face partially paralyzed. His doctor has diagnosed his condition as Bell's Palsy. Most of the 40,000 people afflicted with this condition in the U.S. annually fully recover in 1-2 months without any treatment; but it is still not fun when you have it. Please send Gary your best wishes for a full and speedy recovery. We all know that this is not something that will keep Gary down for long and we look forward to having him back in our company very soon. "**Get well Gary**" from all of us.

We are well into August 2012 already and we need to look down the tracks a little to see what stops lay ahead. In addition to our regular monthly meetings at ETSU, these are the ones that I am aware of:

- 1) The joint **Annual Picnic** of the George L. Carter Railroad Museum with the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS. To be held at 4:00 PM, Sunday, 9 September, at the lakeside home of Kim and Tom McKee. Details are in this issue of the newsletter.
- 2) The rail excursion described above on 20 October
- 3) A fall railroad merit badge "camp" for the Boy Scouts of America as previously planned.
- 4) Continuation of the "Tales of the Rails" oral railroad history program as previously planned.
- 5) Annual Christmas Holiday Party of the George L. Carter Railroad Museum with the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS in December (date to be decided).

If you can help us with any of these programs please do so by letting one of the officers or BOD members know your willingness to do so. Also please plan to attend the picnic, holiday party and rail excursion. These last are all great social events and an opportunity to visit with members of the MEMRR and to recruit new people to our chapter.

It has been a hot summer, but a very exciting one for our Chapter! Hear the whistle of the train in the night and dream of all the destinations yet to come.

Fred J. Alsop III
President, George L. Carter Chapter NRHS

George L. Carter Chapter NRHS
Called Board Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2012

A delicious meal was enjoyed at the Magic Wok on South Roan in Johnson City.

The board members then adjourned to the conference room above the Geo. L. Carter R.R. Museum where the meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m. Five of the six board members were present with Dan McLeod being absent. This meeting was called for the purpose of finalizing details for the railfan excursion in October.

Duane Swank presented information about the various restaurants and eateries in Bryson City. The decision was unanimous that our patrons be given time to eat in Bryson City rather than making a stop for dinner on the way back to Johnson City. The J&S Cafeteria where everyone could be accommodated is an hour and 15 minutes from Bryson City making it late for some to eat. A rough map of Bryson City showing the restaurant locations will be available.

Harriet will work up the suggested changes to the forms and email them to all board members for final approval before releasing them to the news media. It is the intent to have the first news release out to the public the week of July 30th with a follow-up release on September 1st. Fred will arrange for these through the Office of University Relations.

Jim Pahriss and Fred Alsop will work together making arrangements to have TV and radio coverage.

Bob Jones, the MEMRR webmaster, will be asked to insert the news release, ticket order form, and the liability waiver form into the MEMRR website under NRHS News. The ad and forms will also be displayed in the George L. Carter Railroad Museum for patrons to pick up on Saturdays between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. when the museum is open.

Bill Hensley is working on train DVD's relating to the Geo. L. Carter Museum, NRHS both local chapter and national, and perhaps some local rail lines for viewing as entertainment in the buses during the trip to and from Bryson City.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectively submitted by:
Harriet Swank, Secretary

Fred Alsop, President

Nothing new to report at this writing.
 To all those who have health issues or family members with health issues, we extend our wishes for a speedy recovery.
 Harriet Swank
 Membership Chairman


<u>2012 Business Meeting Dates</u>		
Monday, 1/16/2012	Monday, 5/14/2012	Monday, 9/17/2012
Monday, 2/20/2012	Monday, 6/18/2012	Monday, 10/15/2012
Monday, 3/19/2012	Monday, 7/16/2012	Monday, 11/19/2012
Monday, 4/16/2012	Monday, 8/20/2012	TBD - Christmas Party

The next scheduled general meeting is Monday, August 20, 2012, on ETSU Campus, Brown Hall Science Building, Room 312, at 6:30 p.m.

ETSU's cafeteria "The Market Place" on the 3rd Floor of the Culp University Center may be closed during this time. It was decided at the June meeting for those members who wish to meet for dinner prior to the Chapter business meeting to meet at the El Charolais Mexican Grill at 1805 W. State of Franklin Rd. at 5:00 p.m.

Chapter Officers:
 President - Fred Alsop (*fredjalsop3@earthlink.net*)
 Vice President/National Director - Jim Pahriss (*pahrissj@comcast.net*)
 Secretary – Harriet Swank(*duaneharriet@charter.net*)
 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(rrbill@embarqmail.com). Contributors are Fred Alsop, Jim Pahrís and Harriet Swank.

Picnic Information

Kim and Tom McKee have again offered to host our annual George L. Carter Picnic on Sunday, September 9th at their Boone Lake home. Festivities will start at 4pm. As in previous years this picnic is only for the adult members of the club and chapter their spouses and adult guest. Each member/family is asked to bring a salad, or vegetable, or dessert that will feed at least 10 with serving utensil. The McKee's will provide the meat and the club will provide table ware and soft drinks. Please contact Bob Jones with what you are bringing and how many will be attending. Bill Hensley will be coordinating the picnic and can answer any questions you may have (865- 257-6605).

Because of the limited parking at McKee's and the narrowness of the road leading to their place. We will all park at **Living Word Lutheran Church**, corner of TN 36 (N. Roan St) and Rockingham Road. A shuttle service will be used to transport folks from the church parking lot down to the McKee's. When Tom called Fred with their offer he mentioned that several upgrades have been accomplished on his two garden layouts and he is anxious for us to see the changes.



630 At Susong Road in Jonesborough