



THE SIGNAL BRIDGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS CLUB
DECEMBER 2012 - MEMBERS EDITION

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CLUB OFFICERS

President:
Fred Alsop

Vice-President
John Carter

Treasurer:
Duane Swank

Secretary:
Hobie Hyder

Newsletter Editor:
Ted Bleck-Doran

Webmaster:
Bob Jones



LOCATION

ETSU Campus
George L. Carter
Railroad Museum

HOURS

Business Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meetings start at 6:30 PM in:

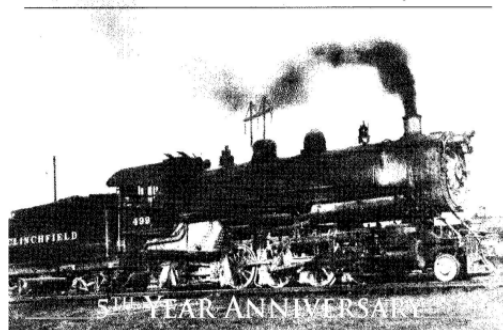
Brown Hall
Room 312
ETSU Campus,
Johnson City, TN.

Open House for viewing every Saturday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Work Nights are held each Thursday from 5:00 pm until ??

THE GEORGE L. CARTER RAILROAD'S 5TH ANNIVERSARY MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS GET SET TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS IN 2013

GEORGE L. CARTER RAILROAD MUSEUM
East Tennessee State University



GEORGE L. CARTER
1857-1936

Railroad Magnate
Industrialist
Visionary
Philanthropist
ETSU Benefactor



Dr. Brian E. Noland, President
East Tennessee State University
and
Dr. Fred J. Alsop III
Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum

cordially invite you to attend the
5th Year Anniversary Celebration
of the George L. Carter Railroad Museum
Saturday, November 17, 2012
1 p.m.
Campus Center Building-ETSU Main Campus
George L. Carter Railroad Museum
100 Ross Drive

Refreshments will be served after the ceremony.
For more information, contact the
George L. Carter Railroad Museum Director
(423) 439-6838

*Disability parking along Ross Drive at front entrance
General parking available in lot between Railroad Museum and John Robert Bell Drive*



Cover photo courtesy James Dowdy Collection, Archives of Appalachia, ETSU

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

Photos Courtesy of Charlene & Dan McCloud

Happy Holidays to all of you and your families!!!!

The weather outside has not been frightful, but the work of the club on many fronts has been delightful and another year is almost at its end. I want you wish you the merriest of holiday seasons as we look forward to Christmas, some welcomed breaks from our jobs and our regular routines, and the joy of family and tradition that this time of the year brings. We have had another great year for the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders and for the George L. Carter Railroad Museum that has become our model railroading home.

I want to thank the MEMRR officers, elected and appointed, for all the hard work you did for our organization in 2012 to keep the club and the museum on track, going forward, and improving. With your leadership we accomplished a lot of good things during the year and expanded our outreach to the public, who also responded by visiting us in ever-increasing numbers. We have been very busy with our visitors and guests and some of them have joined the club as new members. We welcome them to our model railroading fraternity and are enjoying their companionship and the talents and new ideas they have shared with us.

I also want to express my appreciation to those of you who have been elected and reelected to be the officers for the club for the coming year. We are, indeed, fortunate to have such strong experienced leadership to take on the extra demands and responsibilities of our large, active organization to guide us through the new year of 2013. I feel very comfortable in the knowledge that as president I will have strong dependable officers to assist me with all the challenges of holding this office you have once more elected me to will bring as we continue to work on our many projects, meet and greet the public and improve our working layouts as we build new ones.

For the first time in its history, the Carter Railroad Museum has university employees, and they have been outstanding in their appointed roles in the Little Engineers Room. Sisters, **Amanda Kelly Blackburn** and **Michelle Kelly** have brought leadership and a new dimension to the activities of our smallest museum visitors. Amanda is a university employee trained to work with children and certified in CPR and first aid. Michelle is a Federal Work Study student who is a full-time student at the university and assigned to the railroad museum for her work-study hours. We are most fortunate to have both of these incredible young ladies and you all have seen the outstanding work they are doing for the children and their parents who visit our museum. Great work ladies, and we look forward to many more years with you.

delicious food, holiday music, great company and the long-awaited visit from Dirty Santa. Notices of the party have been circulated for several weeks now and **Jim Pahr** has volunteered once more to act as the event coordinator. If you are reading this prior to Tuesday, 18 December, there is still time to make arrangements to join us by contacting Jim (pahrjsj@comcast.net or 423/753-8045). It is a very nice social event and will be enriched by your attendance, so what are you waiting for?



The ETSU Express on the MEMRR Layout

With your dedicated help and continued support, the George L. Carter Railroad Museum reached an important milestone on 17 November 2012. We celebrated our 5th Anniversary as a museum on the East Tennessee State University campus. We estimate more than 10,000 visitors have now seen the museum and your outstanding work as a club who provides all the volunteer work for the exhibits and the operating layouts. It is you, and not the museum, who are to be congratulated for the outstanding contributions you have made to the university and the surrounding communities it serves. We had a wonderful party. Hundreds of invited guests attended during the day and the 1:00 p.m. ceremonies celebrating the event included the running of the President's train, the *ETSU Express*, with its added coaches for **ETSU President Brian Noland** (we regret that his illness prevented his attending the celebration as he had planned) and the ETSU Centennial observation car, and the **Paul E. Stanton, Jr.** coach. In addition, a Donor's Plaque wall was unveiled with 7 plaques bearing the names of supporting donors ranging from the \$100 level to more than \$50,000 in monies or in-kind-gifts. The



The George L. Carter Museum Donor Wall

By the time you are reading this our Annual Holiday Christmas Party will be about to happen or will be just passed. I hope you will take this opportunity to be a part of it. It is always a fun-filled event with plenty of

plaque categories bear railroad-themed heralds from *gandy dancer* to *railroad baron*. Stop by and check out this wall at your first opportunity. We have been most fortunate in the outside support we have received for the museum and for our activities. The highlight of the celebration was the naming of several rooms for outstanding contributions to the museum with picture plaques on the walls and the gentlemen's names over the doors as follows: The library is now the "**Rev. Howard M. Walker Library**" in honor of Rev. Walker's generous donation of more than 800 railroad-themed books, videos, and historical papers to the Carter RR Museum. The new gallery that has become the home of the "Tweetsie" model railroad project is now officially named the "**Ken Marsh Gallery**" for Ken's continued monetary support and the gifts he will be making of most of his railroad photo and paper collection to the museum and the university. I am most humbled that the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS nominated me the honor of having the large, original exhibit hall that the railroad museum began its existence in, named the "**Dr. Fred J. Alsop III Gallery**". Thank you so much for your kindness and thoughtfulness in this deed on your behalf that means so much to me and my family. We had a wonderful celebration accompanied with light refreshments, press and television coverage, and party balloons. Now we continue to work towards the next bigger party that will be 5 years down the tracks. What will the club and the railroad museum look like then?

section, that are open for sponsorship. The minimum donation required is \$1,000.



The Bankus N-Scale Layout

To date the Cranberry Section is being sponsored by **Drs. Rollin and Janet Williams** and the Johnson City Section is being sponsored by **The Gump Family**. My deep appreciation to these fine people who feel so strongly about the future and the importance of the Carter Railroad Museum, and what we are doing there, that they are willing to invest in us at this level of support. Thank you.



The President Brian Nolan Commemorative Car



The Tom McKee G-Gauge Layout

Our Tweestie model railroad project has a new venue for sponsorship. We have 9 20+ foot sections of the layout, not including the **Dr. Gary Rabetoy** yard

Our January meeting will be an important one for all who can make it to attend as that meeting will be used to plan our calendar of events for the coming year. Heritage Day Events Coordinator, **Geoff Stunkard**, has already submitted for review and comment a draft of these events for 2013, and we will place our final approval on them as well as all the

other special happenings for the coming year. If you can't make the meeting, be sure to forward your ideas and suggestions to any of the officers for discussion at this meeting. This is your club and your dues, efforts and skills support it, so let us hear from you and come to as many business meetings, Saturday operating sessions, Thursday work nights and special events as you can. We need your participation to keep the organizations strong and active.



Ken Marsh – Recognized by Naming the Tweetsie Room the Ken Marsh Gallery

We have had another great year as a model railroad club and we have lots of exciting projects underway. Not only do we continue to improve our operating layouts in the Railroad Museum, but we have the club's big freight yard still under construction, the complete rewiring of that layout underway to improve operations, the G-Scale layout and the N-Scale layout are constantly being upgraded to improve their appearance and their operations. The big "Tweetsie" railroad project is moving along and taking shape. In short, lots of things are happening that require a great variety of modeling skills and we need your help in all phases of these.

There are opportunities at all levels for every member. Come on down to the museum and get to know your fellow club members who are actively engaged in these projects and get involved in 2013. You will enjoy working with these fine folks and we, in turn, will delight in getting to know your better and profit from the model railroading and life-experience talents you can bring to the organization.



ETSU Videographer Presents a Video History of George L. Carter and the Museum's Development

2012 has been a great year for the MEMRR, but 2013 promises to be even better. Be sure you are one board, beginning with paying your dues that have not increased a penny in recent memory, and get involved with actively with a great club with an outstanding membership of friendly, helpful people. Hear the sound of the whistle of the train in the night and dream of all the destinations yet to come.



Fred Alsop Honored by the Naming of the Dr. Fred Alsop Gallery

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

PS. A couple of "thank you" messages from a couple of presidents to the MEMRR Membership and the Carter Chapter NRHS that I would like for you to circulate. The

first one is from me as President of the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS. I wish to extend my most heartfelt gratitude to all of you for the honor you have bestowed upon me with your nomination that the large, original gallery room in the Carter Railroad Museum be named for me. You have presented me with a gift of extreme thoughtfulness and support and I am humbled by your act of kindness toward me. It is a pleasure to work with you all in our clubs and at the Carter Railroad Museum and you have forever made my long association with the clubs and with you something very, very special. I look forward to many more years of being a model railroader and a friend to you all. Thank you.

Fred

I also have the following card from the Office of the President of East Tennessee State University dated November 19, 2012:

Dear Dr. Alsop

I would like to thank you and all the modular railroad volunteers and enthusiasts for the tabletop display recreating the newest addition to the ETSU Express. The Brian E. Noland 2012 Pullman car celebrating the continuing legacy of George L. Carter and East Tennessee State University will be prominently displayed in my office. It is a significant compliment to be so tangibly recognized by the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS and the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders. Moreover, I anticipate sharing the Museum's promotional video with family and friends.

Although I deeply regret being unable to participate in the Museum's fifth anniversary ceremony and celebration on Saturday due to illness, I am honored by your gift, and I look forward to the months and years to come as we work together to promote the rich history and heritage of railroads and railroading in the region.

*Sincerely,
Brian Noland
President*

A HOLIDAY REMINDER MEMRR & Geo L. Carter Chapter NRHS Team Up For Holiday Party At Tipton-Haynes

To All MEMRR Members:

Happy Holidays!!! This is just a reminder that there will be no MEMRR business meeting in December. The Christmas Party on December 18th at Tipton Haynes State Historical Site on S. Roan St. in Johnson City at 6:00 p.m. will be in lieu of the meeting.

Please contact Jim Pahris if you are planning on attending. Jim would like to have your information no later than Monday, December 10, in order to purchase enough tableware, soft drinks, etc. (no alcoholic beverages allowed).

Call Jim at **423-753-8045** or email him at pahrisj@comcast.net with the following information:

How many will be in your party (yourself plus spouse or significant other—remember, adults only; no children)

What covered dish you will be bringing (salad / desert / vegetable)

Remember, if you plan on playing the Dirty Santa Game, bring a wrapped train related gift of \$15.00 value, but do not put any name on it.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to each of you and I hope to see you a

*Fred J. Alsop III
Professor of Biological Sciences
Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum
Box 70703*

Mountain Empire Model Railroaders BUSINESS MEETING November 20, 2012

Call to order 6:38 Fred Alsop Coordinator calls order to meeting – No visitors. Motion to accept minutes of last business meeting: **Motion passed.**

Officers Reports:

Secretary Report: Hobie Hyder- Not present

Newsletter Editor's Report: Ted Bleck- Doran

Will need pictures and commentary on the 5th Anniversary celebration.

Treasure's Report:

Duane Swank
The treasury is in good shape. It's time to collect yearly dues.

Webmaster's Report:

Bob Jones
Mark Womer suggests we let ETSU handle website- suggest scheduling a meeting with everyone involved to work out details.

Vice President Report:

Upcoming Programs:

- December - Christmas Party

John Carter

- January – yearly planning
- February - Video from Ted *“Whistle Over the Mountains”* a historical account of the Little River Railroad out of Townsend, TN.
- Following months to feature “Winners of the Weathering Contest”

President’s Report:

Fred Alsop

The Anniversary Celebration and Room dedication went nicely. Large number of people attended. Fred would like to thank everyone for their support. Fred will be responsible for keeping his own sign cleaned. Several venues of media reported on the Anniversary Celebration

Old Business:

- 1) The Carter RR Museum’s 5th Anniversary was a big success and well attended
- 2) Last foot of the demonstration module needs to be finished – work on this for the next few Saturdays for clinic. Maybe consider doing it in the hallway so others can see it. Rafel off G Scale instead of building an N scale layout. No schedule to work on Thursday before Thanksgiving.
- 3) Student membership dues level. Bob Jones set motion for dues to be set at \$12.00. Jim Pharis states student are not present year round. Suggest the students receive a copy of the “Signal Bridge” electronically and set dues at \$12.00 as well, with a full membership. Gary Emmert suggest members age 14-18 be a voting member and must be an enrolled in educational institution. Motion was passed at \$12.00 with student membership.

New Business:

- 1) Railroad Heritage Days “The Fabulous Steam Locomotives – the return of steam to the Carter RR Museum”.
- 2) Parking during sporting events: Check with Security concerning barriers at the end of entrance to Museum. Make sure they are aware that we are open and parking needs to be made available to our guests.
- 3) Coordinator Meeting for November was used for cleaning and preparation for the Anniversary Celebration. All Table skirts have been cleaned and pressed. Hooks have also

been added for existing skirts. We are waiting the material to arrive to make new skirts.

- 4) Christmas Holiday Party will be held at Tipton Haynes Park on December 18 at 6 PM. Jim Pharis will be the coordinator for this event. He may be contacted at PharisJ@comcast.net or call 423-753-8045. Please let him know who will be attending along with number of guests in addition to what you will be bringing. Covered dishes will be needed everything else will be supplied. We will be playing “Dirty Santa” if you would like to play please bring a wrapped gift with a limit set at \$15.00.
- 5) Election of officers for 2013. Reporting for the nominating committee will be Gary Emmert. Duane will continue for 2013 and all other officers will remain the same as voted in 2012. Jerry Dennis made motion to accept and Geoff Stunkard second. Motion Passed.
- 6) Memorial Cars- Memorial Cars have been located by Gary Emmert. Each of these will be dedicated in memory of Bill Harr, Jack Miller and Earnie Vanhuss. Mike Buster will be responsible for placing name on each car.

Other New Business:

- 1) Membership cards- Topic was to keep them or delete them. Cost is \$30.00 per card. Motion made by John Carter to delete them. Gary Emmert second.. Motion was also made By Ted Bleck- Doran to make them electronically and was voted down. Motion made by Jerry Dennis to keep it the same and it was passed. Bob Jones will print and distribute.
- 2) Jim Pharis is selling the battery operated train sets on Saturdays. He will be out of town Dec 1 and 22. Need a volunteer to manage sales in his absence. Gary Emmert will be taking Dec 1 and still looking for coverage Dec 22. Please note that checks for these sets should be made payable to “Carter RR Museum” as a donation.
- 3) Fred Alsop would like you to check the donation board to see if your name should be there. If it is not please let him know so he can correct this.

Program: Jim Hoit did a presentation on *“Fixing rip –track cars”*.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:32 By Fred Alsop.

ROCK SLIDE ON THE CN IDEAS FROM THE PROTOTYPE





"This is quite a rockslide in the Canadian Rockies on the CN Mainline line at Mileage 109.3 of the Ashcroft Subdivision.....in the first picture, if you look closely enough, you can see the mainline on each side of the slide, which missed the slide shed on the west side.

In the first picture, the single dozer working on the east side has a lot of work to do!! However in subsequent pictures you will see more equipment has arrived.

Meanwhile, CN trains are running on the opposite side of the Fraser River on CP's Thompson subdivision, causing massive congestion for the CP train dispatchers.

Both CN and CP are single track railroads in this area. CP has short sidings, so some CN train lengths are being reduced. CN had a lot of sidings removed under the direction of EHH. Normally, CN and CP share directional running through the canyon."



MEMRR MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2012 Max the Sleigh-Dog

MEMRR Member Since: 2012

Home Layout:

I don't have a home layout 'cause Mr. Grinch and I live in a cave. But I do have a wonderful source for rock castings if anyone in the club wants to make rock molds for casting rocks.

Favorite Railroad(s):

Any road that was narrow gauge. It kind of matches my diminutive size. Roads like East Broad Top, the Rio Grande, Tweetsie....

Favorite Railroad Memory:

While growing up my litter mates used to chase cars. However, I was always attracted to speeders and hi-rail vehicles. By the time I was a teenager, I was chasing locomotives. I'm just sorry I as too young to chase trains during the steam-to-diesel transition era. It was only later in life that I discovered chasing trains meant with a camera to get a photograph.

Favorite Railroad Movie:

"Murder on the Orient Express" 'cause my dad was part bloodhound.

Favorite Model Railroad Scale:

Any scale is fine so long as it's a Christmas tree set. You know, the sort of railroad that goes under the tree. When the train goes round and round it reminds me of trying to catch my tail... and just like me, the train never does.

Favorite Model Railroad Activity:

I like making trees 'cause they are like staples for dogs you know... they are great for marking territory...their branches are neat to chew on... and they provide lots of wonderful "fetch" toys.

First Model Train:

My first train set had E and F units from Electro Motive Division. The reason I liked them right off is that the Aussie's call them "Bulldogs." Now that congers up images of power!

Pet Peeve:

Cats...! Everyone thinks cats are cute, Just look at the mileage the C&O got with "Chessie the Cat." I mean, just how cute can a cat asleep on a pillow be? Just think of the hairballs Chessie hocked up on that pillow. Give me a contented mutt in a pooch-pillow bed and I'll show you contentment! That would have been the marketing plan of the century.

DIORAMA DELIGHT Anders Malmberg's 1:87 Scale Machine Shop



A 1930s MACHINE SHOP

BY ANDERS MALMBERG PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR BY VOICE

CHAPTER 1 Anders Malmberg's 1:87 scale machine shop is not too small for me. The main building is 50 by 81 feet and the shed is 27 by 15 feet. The lot includes two pieces of machinery and an underground parking garage for a truck. The main building is just a work area with shelves, workbenches, and a workbench in the middle.

I started to rebuild the scene. With a lot of help from my wife, I built the main building with the machine shop in mind. I began to rebuild the main building with the machine shop in mind. I began to rebuild the main building with the machine shop in mind. I began to rebuild the main building with the machine shop in mind.



plenty of parts for my plans of mine. The distance from the floor to the roof is 10 feet. I had to build the main building with the machine shop in mind. I began to rebuild the main building with the machine shop in mind. I began to rebuild the main building with the machine shop in mind.

The main building with the machine shop in mind. I began to rebuild the main building with the machine shop in mind. I began to rebuild the main building with the machine shop in mind. I began to rebuild the main building with the machine shop in mind.

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Remember this is HO Scale Modeling



Incredibly Detailed



Lathes, Boring Mills, Presses all belt driven



There is even a tarp draped off a bench



I expect there is club talent enough to create something like this



The weathering is superb



Anyone want to give it a try in 2012



Anders has loaded the shop with details would give Fred the chills



How about a diorama contest this May?

GEORGE L. CARTER RAILROAD MUSEUM
East Tennessee State University



NOVEMBER 17, 2012

ETSU Salutes

GEORGE L. CARTER
1857-1936

Railroad Magnate
Industrialist
Visionary
Philanthropist
ETSU Benefactor



The George L. Carter Railroad Museum
5th Anniversary Ceremony

George L. Carter Railroad Museum
Campus Center Building
Saturday, November 17, 2012
1:00 p.m.

Presiding **Dr. Fred Alsop**

Professor
Department of Biological Sciences
Director
George L. Carter Railroad Museum
President
George L. Carter Chapter NRHS
President
Mountain Empire Model Railroaders

Remarks **Dr. Brian Noland**

President
East Tennessee State University

Dedications **Dr. Brian Noland**

Donors Wall
Benefactors Galleries & Library

*Please join us for refreshments and guided tours of the Museum
on the ground level of this building.*

*Thank you for helping ETSU pay tribute to George L. Carter
during National Model Railroad Month.*

*Train photo courtesy James Dowdy Collection, Archives of Appalachia, ETSU
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