



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 4, Number 12, December 2014



The Drawbar

The holiday season is finally here with the recent passing of the American family tradition of Thanksgiving and now that we are into the month of December Christmas is only weeks away. Those of us who are still holding down jobs will look to the holiday breaks in the work schedule to take a relaxing step back and think about the year that is almost past and the new one that we are about to embark on.

It has been another excellent year for the G.L. Carter Chapter NRHS and for the George L. Carter Railroad Museum that we call our “railroading home”. Together, with our sister club, the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders, we have made great progress in 2014 and the future continues to look bright. We have celebrated Heritage Day Events at the end of each month and many people from the surrounding area have come with their friends and family to see our displays at the railroad museum. Some have come back more than once and a few have joined our ranks as new members of the MEMRR. Our recent passenger train event on the Saturday following Thanksgiving drew more than the usual numbers of visitors to the museum with the ladies in the Little Engineers Room counting 96 playful youngsters and their attending adults while the big gallery scored at least 152 patrons seeing the layout exhibits and the dining car china and silver. We have enjoyed excellent media coverage through our press releases that have brought television reporters and newspaper reporters to our museum and very valuable publicity about our model railroad club, the NRHS chapter and the museum to thousands in the Tri-Cities region.

Our annual elections of officers in November saw the reelection of **Fred Alsop** as **President**, **Jim Parhis** as **Vice-President**, and **John Dodge** as **Treasurer**. **Mark Woomer** was reelectioned as **Secretary** and **Membership Chairman**. Our newsletter editor extraordinaire, **Bill Beagen**, agreed to remain in that position and will also continue to serve as our **National Representative**. **Gary Emmert** will continue to serve as our Librarian. **Carolyn Gregg** will continue as our **Historian**, and **Lanny Norris** and **Dan**

McLeod will remain as our **Directors at Large** on the Board of Directors. Once again the election was via ballots distributed to the entire membership. I want to take this opportunity to thank the officers who served us so well in 2014. It is through their leadership that the chapter transitions so smoothly throughout the year and it is with the support of the entire membership that they are able to get their extra chapter responsibilities accomplished. I look forward to working with the newly elected officers in 2015 knowing how much we can all depend on them to do an outstanding job for the Carter Chapter and for the Carter RR Museum. I also wish to thank you all for the confidence you have shown in me to elect me to serve another year as your president. I promise to do the best I can for the chapter and for the museum in 2015, but I shall continue to need your help and guidance as always.

We are in the quarter of the years when the renewal of our dues occurs. Please don't procrastinate and go ahead and renew your membership as soon as possible. The Chapter dues have stayed the same for years and we have no plans and no need to raise them in the foreseeable future so get your money or check to the treasurer soon! Your local dues go into producing and distributing our outstanding newsletter, on postage and for cards to members in poor health and the miscellaneous oddities that arise during the year. You are reminded to send pay your National NRHS dues directly to that parent organization by going to their website and using your credit card for your renewal. Doing it this way ensures that all of the \$50 for your dues goes directly to the NRHS. Paying by check as we have done in the past allows the NRHS's contracted service firm to deduct 20% of your dues for their "servicing costs". NRHS's current financial woes makes it most important that we provide all possible financing directly to them and you are strongly encouraged to use the credit card method listed above for this activity. Its quick and easy to renew on line and only takes a few minutes to do so. If you can donate additional funds to the NRHS this year you are also highly encouraged to do so that they may overcome the indebtedness the new president, Al Weber, has inherited.

It has been an extraordinarily busy fall for our little chapter of hard-working dedicated members and you have pulled together to do some really outstanding events. Congratulations to us, one and all! On October 24th we took 3 buses with more than 160 guests and chapter members to Bryson City, NC to ride the Smoky Mountain Railway and made a good profit for the chapter that we shared (30% by contract) with the Carter Railroad Museum. This was our second successful rail excursion event of 2014 that provides educational and recreational outreach programs for the chapter, the railroad museum and the university. Both of these events have been our most successful in terms of numbers of participants since we began this fund-raising program 3 years ago. Both our trips this year required 3 buses to transport 160+ participants each. It would appear that we are beginning to build a clientele from the surrounding communities who enjoy these events and who not only participate in them, but also tell other friends and family members about them. We are already making plans for the spring of 2015 and **Jim Pahr** and I will follow-up on exploring the possibilities of getting a train of our own to contract for a weekend of rides originating in the Tri-Cities as a possible fund-raising event for the chapter and the museum.

In mid-November we successfully hosted the NRHS National Fall Conference here in Johnson City headquartered at the Carnegie Hotel. More than 60 conference attendees came to our neck-of-the-woods from all over the country, from as far away as the west coast. **Vice President and National Director, Jim Pahr**, organized the event with great skill and was supported by most of the members of the Carter Chapter to the extent that the event was carried off over its 3-day life without any significant problems; in fact, it was almost flawless. The weather was unseasonably bitter cold, but the Friday field trips were carried out as planned and on schedule with lots of enthusiasm for the scheduled stops at the Copper Creek viaduct, **Kenny Fannon's** railroad museum in Duffield, VA, a late lunch at Tupelo Honey Café with the N-Scale layout running well, followed by an icy-cold ride into the Doe River Gorge to Pardee Point in open cars under the leadership of **Ken Riddle** who regaled the group with true tales of the ET&WNC RR. There were business meetings at the Carnegie Hotel on Saturday, visits by conference goers to the Carter RR Museum, and an evening banquet preceded by an hour mixer with a live ETSU Bluegrass band, and followed by an excellent PowerPoint presentation of the "*History of Railroading in Johnson City*" given by the creator of the outstanding local website, Johnson's Depot, **Alan Bridwell**. Sunday morning's activities were completed with a short business meeting at the Carnegie, and last visits to the Carter Railroad Museum before the convention disbanded and participants headed home. Everyone did a great job with their roles at the conference and our personal thanks go to all of you for your support, especially to **Bill Beagen** who handled the registration, **Gary Emmert** and **Paul Haynes** who manned the sales tables, and to **Jim Pahr** for the outstanding job he did for months getting all of this together from the initial invitation to the National NRHS that we would act as the conference hosts to the follow-up thank you letters that he wrote. Very well done everyone!

Our Annual Christmas Party is on the 16th of December and you are going to miss a great evening of fun, food and socializing if you don't attend. Besides, **Dirty Santa** will be in the house providing all kinds of railroading themed gifts for model railroaders, train aficionados and their spouses or significant others. I hope you did decide to come and join us for this merry holiday event. **Jim Pahr** has graciously once more volunteered to be the coordinator of this event making all the arrangements at the Choo-choo Café in Erwin and selling the tickets for the meal.

Those of you who subscribe to *Model Railroad Craftsman* magazine received their second publication since White River Productions took over the publication of the monthly magazine from Carstens Publishers with their November-December 2014 edition. The excitement for us is their full page ad on page 86 announcing the soon-to-be-released 6th annual edition of the *HOn3 Annual*. This is the edition that will carry **Geoff Stunkard's** article and photographs to the world on our Tweetsie Project at the museum. The add states: "*Our biggest issue yet! Now in its sixth year, the 2014 HOn3 Annual from White River Productions is packed with 116 pages dedicated to great HO narrow gauge model railroading. This issue includes a step-by-step article on how to scratch build an award-winning Carter Bros. combine, HOn3 billboard reefers, coaling sheds from the C&S, scale couplers for HOn3 rolling stock, building and operating signal board, a tour of the Tweetsie layout at the George L. Carter Railroad Museum, bonus prototype Tweetsie coverage and much, much more. Don't get left at the station!*" I have personally

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been privileged to see the 10 pages of galley proofs with their photos and the article is outstanding! Geoff has done a terrific job of describing the brief history of the ET&WNC RR and its construction in miniature in our museum and many of our MEMRR members who have been working on the layout and the project will see their names in print in this outstanding publication. Geoff's photographs of the layout are as good as any I have seen in any model railroad magazine and he is to be congratulated on the wonderful work he has done and continues to do for us. This publicity is a spectacular event for us all and should be celebrated!

If you want your own personal copy there will be several ways to get one (or more). We have asked Bob and Mary Barrett at HobbyTownUSA to order 20 copies for sale to our members. You can go directly to the publisher, White River Productions and order by phone: 877/787-2467 (toll free) or by email at: info@WhiteRiverProductions.com. The listed price is \$19.95 plus shipping and handling.

Michelle Kelly who has brought energy and innovation to our Little Engineers Room for more than a year now will be graduating with her degree on December 13th. She has done an outstanding job with the children and their parents and/or guardians who visit the popular playroom and has brought new visibility to the museum with her Facebook page and many new events to us for the kids to enjoy. Please congratulate her on her degree and let her know how much we appreciate all her hard work on behalf of all of us and tell her how much she will be missed. A role very well played Michelle, and an act that will be very hard to follow. Thank you from all of us and from all the children that you made so happy every Saturday. Please come back to see us whenever you can!

On Saturday, December 6th, ETSU celebrated the holidays with a tent with live music, hot drinks and treats outside the administration on campus following the Johnson City Christmas parade. Inside the administration building they had a Santa with helper elves for children to have their photos made with and had asked the Carter Railroad Museum for the second year to have a train display for their guests. **Dan McLeod** once again transported his G-Scale locomotives and rolling stock, his town scene complete with numerous cars and trucks and lots of people to inhabit the village, along with the track and roadbed (the latter loaned by **Jim Pahr**) to the event. **Gary Emmert** and I helped him sit it up in ETSU's Dossett Hall and Dan stayed to man it. Dan is terrific with the children who come to watch the train make its endless circle route and does a terrific job representing the Carter Chapter NRHS, the MEMRR and the Carter Railroad Museum at this and similar events. Gary and I helped Dan take down the display the following Sunday. Dan, thank you so much for all the time you put into these outreach events and for supplying you great layout and train equipment and materials. Your efforts on our behalf and your wonderful helpful personality serve us and those you meet as our representative exceeding well.

The Christmas Holiday Season is bearing down upon us faster than Santa in his reindeer-powered sleigh on Christmas Eve and the icons of the season are everywhere in the merchant's stores, the television advertising, the classic songs on the radio, the shopping we are engaged in and the cards and letters we are writing. The Carter RR Museum is taking on a holiday look with the decorations that have been added marking this winter

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event. The museum will be open each Saturday throughout the holiday season and through the winter on our regular schedule only being closed if winter weather brings snow and ice that would prevent our guests and our members from having safe travel over the roadways to get to the museum. I wish each of you a most merry holiday season and a most happy, healthy and prosperous new year for 2015. May Santa bring you some new trains and/or wanted model railroading paraphernalia, not because you need it, but because you want it and you have been good all year long. You have been very good and most cherished members of the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS all year and the work you do for the club and for the George L. Carter Railroad Museum during the year is priceless. May you continue your memberships in the NRHS and continue to enjoy all the privileges that inexpensive membership brings to you. We look forward to another year with you in our company and to you help in making the club and the railroad museum even better in 2015.

Hear the sound of the whistle of the train in the night and dream of all the destinations yet to come!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!

Fred J. Alsop III

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

George L. Carter Chapter of the NRHS

Minutes of November 17, 2014

Brown Hall, Room 312

On the ETSU Campus

6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by the president at 6:35 PM. Members present: Fred Alsop, Bill Beagen, John Dodge, Gary Emmert, Carolyn Gregg, Paul Haynes, Dan McLeod, Lanny Norris, and Jim Pahris.

Announcements

Fred reminded the members that this month marks the fourth anniversary of the granting of the charter for the Chapter. He noted that the intended goals have mostly been met, and there have been significant accomplishments beyond those goals, including several successful excursions, and hosting the NRHS convention.

Officers Reports

Jim discussed the recently hosted NRHS Convention. He told us that he is tired (discussion regarding proper spelling and pronunciation of the word), but that the Convention was "good." He noted several minor problems with the hotel. He also expressed his gratitude for the assistance given by so many members. He mentioned (by name) Fred, Bill, Dan, Paul, Gary and John. It was noted that book sales were less than expected.

Jim commented on the status of NRHS. He urges members to use PayPal for dues payments, rather than sending money to national directly. There is ongoing work to clean up some old movie footage and slides for future release in digital format. More footage and/or slides may be included in the future.

It was moved and supported to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 20. The motion passed.

Bill said he mailed the minutes, although some said they had not received them, and asked for a re mailing of *The Coal Road*. Bill agreed to do so. He also stated his intent to purchase software that will permit him to prepare PDF files for the newsletter (cost is less than \$100).

Discussion regarding appropriate recognition of the Fannon family for hosting a visit on the prior Friday morning. It was agreed to send a book, Carter DVD, Tweetsie pin and flowers to recognize their generosity toward the guests who visited.

Current/Old Business

The bulk of the discussion was about the financial outcome of the October excursion and hosting of the Convention. The excursion netted a nice profit. Thirty percent was remitted to the Carter Museum (per previous agreement). The Chapter retained the difference. Although final numbers for the Convention are incomplete, it appears that net gain from hosting the Convention.

New Business

Bill gave the results of the nominations for office. It was moved, and supported to close nominations and elect the entire slate of officers by acclamation. The motion passed. Fred will continue as President, Jim as Vice President, Dan and Lanny as Directors, Mark as Secretary, John as Treasurer, Bill as Advisory Council Representative.

In addition, Carolyn agreed to continue serving as Historian, Gary as Librarian, and Bill as editor of the Newsletter.

The Christmas dinner will be at the Choo Choo Café in Erwin on December 16. Likely time is 6:30 PM. The exact time will require the approval of MEMRR members, who will join in the festivities. Jim will handle ticket sales for the event.

Discussion of a May, 2015 excursion. It was agreed to revisit the Three Rivers Rambler and riverboat lunch again. Jim will investigate whether an additional railcar can be added to, which would permit an additional bus (and revenue). Dan and Charlene will handle ticket sales. It was agreed that publicity should begin ASAP, especially local TV coverage.

Discussion regarding chartering of railcars and engines for excursion in 2015. Options of beginning and/or ending in Bristol were included, as well as scheduling to coincide with ETSU Homecoming and the return of football to ETSU. Fred and Jim will discuss with Tennessee Valley Railroad and Norfolk Southern the possibilities of such an excursion. It was noted that the Chapter may need several years of lead time to schedule an excursion.

Due to the lateness of the hour we dispensed with having the video program on steam trains.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Dodge

Secretary *Pro Tem*

MEMBERSHIP

2014 Business Meeting Dates

~~Monday 1/20/2014~~

~~Monday 5/19/2014~~

~~Monday 9/15/2014~~

~~Monday 2/17/2014~~

~~Monday 6/16/2014~~

~~Monday 10/20/2014~~

~~Monday 3/17/2014~~

~~Monday 7/14/2014~~

~~Monday 11/17/2014~~

~~Monday 4/21/2014~~

~~Monday 8/18/2014~~

**12/16/2014 – Christmas
Party –Choo Choo Cafe**

The next scheduled general meeting is Tuesday, December 16th at the Choo-Choo Cafe in Erwin

ETSU's cafeteria "The Market Place" on the 3rd Floor of the Culp University Center will be open for those members who wish to meet for dinner at 5:00 p.m. prior to the Chapter business meeting. Meal price is \$5.45 per person but you must mention that you are a staff member (by volunteering in the RR Museum) in order to get this reduced price.

Editors Note



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:

George L Carter Chapter NRHS
P.O. Box 70697
East Tennessee State University
Johnson City, TN 37614

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 of articles are welcome and encouraged. For permission to use the material in this newsletter, please contact the editor, Bill Beagen (rbill@embarqmail.com). Contributors are Fred Alsop, Jim Pahr, Mark Woomeer and John Dodge

NRHS Convention sales now on line!

The ticket sales function now is operating with a link from the NRHS website. The dome and first class seats are selling fast but, of course, plenty of coach seats are available.

Those of you who are chapter officers, please get the word out to your members.

Thanks,

Walter Zullig

Chairman, VERMONT RAILS 2015

To get to the NRHS site, go to www.NRHS.com and click on the appropriate link.

Editors Note

Please forgive me for getting this out so late, had a lot to do this week and it just got put off so I could fulfill my other obligations.

As editor of The Coal Road, let me add my greetings for a **Merry Christmas** and a very **Happy New Year**.

Bill