



# 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 5, Number 2, February 2015

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## The Drawbar

February finds us with roller coaster weather patterns that seem to be leaning towards spring for a few days and then back to winter with very cold temperatures and snow flurries the next. A very good time to be a railroad fan to begin to plan some rail adventures for 2015 and perhaps to become more involved in the multiple projects that are underway at the George L. Carter Railroad Museum that the chapter calls home.

Carter Chapter NRHS members please welcome our newest member, **Carl Hacker**. Carl is primarily an HO scale modeler as well as having a long-time interest in trains and railroading and he will be helping us get some of the kits for the ET&WNC RR rolling stock put together so we can have some freight for our little narrow gauge engines to pull. Carl is a great guy and I know you will find him an easy, knowledgeable fellow to talk to about railroading. He is ready to contribute to the chapter so please seek him out at your earliest opportunity and introduce yourself. Speaking of the Tweetsie Project, the long-anticipated 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *HOn3 Annual* finally was published by its new owner, White River Publications, and **Geoff Stunkard's** terrific photos of our museum's layout grace the 10 page article he wrote about our modeling of the ET&WNC RR in HOn3 scale. The article is outstanding and is preceded by two articles in the same edition that also cover 10 pages written by Johnny Graybeal, author of many books on the Tweetsie, about the history and the locomotives of the prototype railroad. Geoff's article gives a brief history of the Tweetsie railroad and carries the reader through some of the history of the Carter Railroad Museum's being established on the campus of East Tennessee State University and then into the layout itself. Everyone should take pride in our joint accomplishment and the outstanding achievement of creating a layout that has been judged worthy of being in a model railroad annual (not one of the monthly

published model railroad magazines that many of us subscribe to—but a publication that only sees print once a year!). Geoff did a great job of giving many of our members the credit they richly deserve for their continued contributions to the layout that is still a work in progress. *This is a big deal!* How many model railroad clubs/museums do you know personally that have had their layout featured in a national/international publication? Kudo's all around! We had Hobbytown USA order 20 copies for us and they sold out in the first week. I have 50 additional copies coming to the Railroad Museum that will be delivered by the time you are reading this. So, if you missed getting one of the Hobbytown copies please see me, **Jim Pahr** or **Gary Emmert** and we can sell you one or more. I also have one copy that was purchased just for the museum's library and you may check it out from our librarian. I have had the opportunity to present a copy of the annual to **ETSU President Brian Noland** and have made an appointment for later in the month to present one to **ETSU President-Emeritus Paul E. Stanton, Jr.** Both presidents have been extremely important in the establishment and in their continued support of our museum and Geoff has indicated this in his article.

We will be hosting our first **Birthdays Party** at the railroad museum since the summer on Saturday, **February 21** for two Little Engineers and **Taylor** and **Danielle** and I could really use some help to decorate the Party Room we will be using in Brown Hall (room 131) and getting everything ready so the children and their guests have a great time on the honorees' birthdays. These children and their parents are "regulars" at our museum so please help us show them a great time. The Little Engineers room will also be the site of a special Valentine's Day event for children on February 14<sup>th</sup>. **Taylor** and **Danielle** will have a Thomas the Tank special going on for the children who look forward to their Saturday museum visits. Wait until you see what they have planned!

Our Heritage Day Coordinator, **Geoff Stunkard**, has created a list of great 2015 Heritage Day events for us and we will be celebrating ***Appalachian Conquest: Coal and Mountain Railroads on the Blue Ridge*** on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. So, make your plans to celebrate this popular event by bringing in your favorite display items for our display cases and your favorite locomotives and consists to run on the museum and club layouts on that day. Our visitor traffic has increased greatly since we have been doing these special publicized events each month and this one should be no exception. Please plan to participate as we are sure to draw a lot of visitors (weather permitting—it's still winter) to see your long coal drags and the passenger and mixed consists that typify the railroads of this part of the Appalachians. Bring in your L&N, Southern, N&W, Clinchfield, CSX, NS, B&O, C&O, Interstate, etc. and the short lines that penetrated and conquered these mountains to carry out their resources to distant markets and run them for your fellow members and our visitors.

We have a big social event for the Carter Chapter NRHS, MEMRR and the Carter RR Museum coming up in March. When we put together our annual calendars (MEMRR and Carter Chapter NRHS have been distributed and can be found on the club

website) at our club's January business meeting we jointly decided that we would like to have another **Spring Fling** similar to the first one we had in 2014, but at a different venue. The consensus from both clubs was that the restaurant of choice for 2015 would be the **Black Olive Restaurant** in Jonesborough, TN. **Jim Pahr** agreed to organize the event and to make the reservations for us. He is selling reservation tickets for \$1 to get a headcount for the restaurant, each participant will order their choice of meal items from the restaurant menu after we are seated and each of us will pay for their own meals (or wash dishes later). The date is set for the evening of **Friday, 20 March**. Details and a map to the restaurant have been distributed via email. Please contact Jim if you are interested and make your reservation for the evening through him. This should be a fun evening for all of us, including our spouses and/or significant others and I urge you to plan to attend. Our first rail excursion for 2015 will be on June 13<sup>th</sup> and we will be once more taking our guests by bus to Knoxville to tour the Knoxville Locomotive Works, ride behind steam on the 3 Rivers Rambler Railroad and dine on the Tennessee River on the sternwheeler *Miss Knoxville* of the Tennessee Riverboat Company. **Vice-President Jim Pahr** has made all the Knoxville arrangements, I have chartered the 3 buses from Premier Transportation, Inc (formerly Greene Coach Lines), and **Charlene & Dan McLeod** have once more agreed to do the work of collecting all the ticket applications and communicating with all our guests for the trip. We will be getting publicity and all the necessary paperwork organized in the coming weeks. We will need some bus hosts and we really need for every Chapter member to make yourselves available for this event and to participate as members on the trip itself.

Our chapter has long supported the National NRHS and we worked diligently to promote administrative change at the very top in the last national election. Additionally, we successfully hosted the National Fall Conference in Johnson City last November. I am very proud of all the work this chapter has done to not only promote our own local interests, but to be actively involved in the interactions of the National NRHS. We demonstrated our continued commitment to the success of the National NRHS in January when we voted to donate \$1,000 to be used by National as they try to solve the dire financial situation that was disclosed to the membership in 2014. Well done Charter Chapter! With regard to National NRHS we need to find a member willing and able to be our **National Representative** very soon. As you are aware with the 2014 election of **Jim Pahr** to the National Board of Directors for the 5<sup>th</sup> District, the position of National Representative that he had held for some time had to be vacated by him. Our newsletter editor, **Bill Beagen**, accepted that position temporarily for the Chapter as an interim National Representative and in this capacity he has attended two meetings. We need to encourage Bill to continue in that role, or if he is unable to do so, to find someone in the chapter who is willing to go to 3 or 4 national meetings annually to represent our chapter. Please don't hesitate to make your willingness known to us if you would like to fill that important position for us. If you feel you know a member who you would like to encourage to step forward and "throw their hat in the ring" please discuss it with them and urge them to become a candidate. Thank you.

The next time you come to the Carter RR Museum from the north side off State of Franklin Rd. via Jack Vest Drive on the ETSU campus, or from Southwest/Seehorn streets on the south side of the university campus; look for the rectangular signs that point to the "Carter RR Museum". New signs have been created and installed at every intersection on the campus from these two boundary roads to get visitors to our museum doorstep. You will also notice on the west end of the building we are housed in a big new sign that marks the museum. All this is further recognition of the value the university is placing on our railroad museum that is the result of your volunteered work and the outstanding exhibits you have helped to create that are bringing a lot of visitors to the university campus on weekends. There are 4 other museums on campus, but we are now the best signed one making it much easier for our train enthusiasts to locate us on a very complex campus.

I attended a meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> with two ETSU vice presidents and the university's legal counsel to begin the process of creating an agreement between ETSU and the Town of Jonesborough that would seek to detail the requirements and conditions for both parties to join in with the goal of establishing a satellite of the Carter Railroad Museum in Jonesborough. You have been kept aware of these proceedings based on the town's request of the University for such a Museum since early last spring. This meeting is just another step in providing the documentation necessary for a formal agreement that would have to be approved by the Town of Jonesborough and then by the President of ETSU before any further plans for implementation would be made. The final decision will be that of ETSU President Noland. As I become aware of any news on this possible undertaking I will do my best to keep you updated in a timely fashion.

If you know of members who have not yet renewed their memberships for 2015 please use your influence to urge them to do so, and as soon as possible, so they will not miss editions of *The Coal Road* and the opportunities membership in the NRHS affords to us all. I asked **Mark Woomer**, our Membership Chairman, to write letters to everyone on our treasurer's list of members in arrears in late January to remind them that we need every member in our small Chapter and asking them to renew with us. Many of our members have responded and will continue with us this year. Some have not, including two important couples who left the chapter at the end of 2013, and it is these folks that I need your help with to keep them with us as we continue to explore and enjoy the privileges of membership in an outstanding NRHS Chapter and its affiliation with a wonderful little railroad museum.

Hear the sound of 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  
Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU

**George L. Carter Chapter of the NRHS  
Minutes of January 19, 2015  
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, Carl Hacker, Paul Markey, Dan McLeod, Charlotte Pahriss, and Jim Pahriss.

**Announcements**

Fred reviewed the 2014 year and the highlights, including two excursions and hosting a national conference of the NRHS. One matter of note is the strong financial condition of the chapter. He also noted the presence of a new member, Carl, who gave a brief introduction of himself.

**Officers Reports**

Jim discussed the state of the NRHS. (His email report was sent separately several days earlier.) The theme from NRHS is “give us one more year.” Change is in the works, but will take some time to proceed. Member renewals are proceeding at a pace that exceeds that of previous years, and that is a positive sign from the membership. The national treasurer reports that bills are being paid in a timely manner. Members who renew with NRHS should use website instead of mailing a check.

The Treasurer reported on the cash position of the chapter.

The Membership Chair reported by email message that he will continue efforts to encourage members to renew. Fred said he will likewise actively encourage renewal.

Bill sent the most recent version of *The Coal Road*.

Gary informed the chapter that there are 913 titles in the library, some doubles and triples of titles in addition. The Library is in active use by many.

**Current/Old Business**

Dan discussed the status of the Tupelo Honey layout. It seems to be running more consistently. He and Fred will seek to arrange a service contract for maintenance of the layout in the restaurant with a third party.

The Christmas Party in December was successful, there were 45 attendees.

**New Business**

The one hundredth anniversary of the completion of the Clinchfield RR connection to Johnson City will occur on February 9. Regrettably, this is not enough notice to arrange a celebration of the event.

Dan asked if it possible to arrange announcement at public events on the ETSU campus that the museum is open and free. Fred will investigate.

It was moved, supported and passed to sell books purchased for sale at the NRHS Conference to the Library at cost, i.e., with no markup.

It was moved, supported and passed to donate \$1000 to the NRHS. Discussion included the distinction between NRHS and NRHS Fund (which was *not* the intended recipient.

Discussion of May, 2015 excursion. It was moved, supported and passed to set the primary date of June 13 at the Three Rivers Rambler and riverboat lunch. Also included is a tour of the steam shop. Jim will investigate whether the riverboat is available. Pending that information, he will also seek to reserve the entire train for the date (vice individual seat sales).

Discussion regarding the calendar for 2015. These are the dates we discussed and approved (We have included the Heritage days for the MEMRR so you know what is coming up)

**JANUARY 2015**

- January 8 - Deadline for newsletter submissions
- January 15 - Coordinators meeting
- January 19 - Business meeting
- January 19 - Board of Directors meeting
- January 31 - Heritage Day: Yanks go Railroading; Northeast Lines

**FEBRUARY 2015**

- February 8 - Deadline for newsletter submissions
- February 9 - 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the driving of the last spike on the CRR
- February 12 - Coordinators meeting
- February 12 - RR Museum visit by Appalachian Christian Village residents
- February 14 - Valentine's Day with Thomas the Train
- February 16 - Business meeting
- February 28 - Heritage Day: Appalachian Conquest: Coal and Mountain Railroads on the Blue Ridge

**MARCH 2015**

- March 8 - Deadline for newsletter submissions
- March 8 - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the last spike driven on the CRR at Trammel
- March 12 - Coordinators meeting
- March 16 - Business meeting
- March 20 - Spring fling, Black Olive Restaurant in Jonesborough
- March 21 - Circus Day
- March 28 - Heritage Day: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Steam-Up

**APRIL 2015**

- April 8 - Deadline for newsletter submissions
- April 16 - Coordinators meeting
- April 20 - Business meeting
- 20 - Board of Directors meeting
- April 25 - Heritage Day: Song of the South; Southern Railway Heritage

**MAY 2015**

- May 2 - 70 Years of Thomas the Train - Birthday Party for Thomas
- May 8 - Deadline for newsletter submissions
- May 9 - National Train Day
- May 14 - Coordinators meeting
- May 18 - Business meeting
- May 30 - Heritage Day: Modern Railroads; Moving Mass in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**JUNE 2015**

- June 8 - Deadline for newsletter submissions
- June 5-7 - Blue Plum Festival
- June 11 - Coordinators meeting
- June 13 - GLCC NRHS rail excursion 3-Rivers Rambler/steam shop/river boat
- June 15 - Business meeting
- June 26-28 - ET&WNC RR Historical Society Annual Convention, JC
- June 27 Heritage Day: For Power and Glory; Passenger Trains of Yesterday and Today
- June 27 - Special: 2<sup>nd</sup> section of Walker china collection debuts

**JULY 2015**

- July 8 - Deadline for newsletter submissions
- July 3-4 - Jonesborough Days
- July 16 - Coordinators meeting
- July 20 - Business meeting
  - Plan annual picnic
  - Poll members for site for annual Christmas party
- July 20 - Board of Directors meeting
- July 25 - Heritage Day: Go West Young Man—Big Country Railroading West of the Mississippi

**AUGUST 2015**

- August 8 - Deadline for newsletter submissions
- August 13 - Coordinators meeting
- August 17 - Business meeting
- August Annual picnic (date to be announced)?
- August 29 Heritage Day: Little Engines That Could; Industrial and Shortline Rail Operations

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

- September 8 - Deadline for newsletter submissions
- September 10 - Coordinators meeting
- September 14 - Business meeting
- September 26 - Heritage Day: ChiTown-Midwestern Lines and the Windy City

**OCTOBER 2015**

- October 8 - Deadline for newsletter submissions
- October 15 - Coordinators meeting
- October 19 - Business meeting
  - Nomination of offices committee formed
  - Planning of annual Christmas party
- October 19 - Board of Directors Meeting Carter
- October Chapter Fall Rail Excursion (date ??)
- October 31 - Heritage Day: Precision Transportation; N&W and NS Glory
- October 31 - Press release for Take a Toy Train to Work Day



**NOVEMBER 2015**

- November National Model Railroad Month
- November 8 - Deadline for newsletter submissions
- November 12 - Coordinators meeting
- November 13 - Take a Toy Train to Work Day
- November 14 - Carter RR Museum’s 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—Homecoming at Carter’s Place (tie to 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CRR last spike driven at Trammel)
- November 28 - Heritage Day: George L. Carter’s Fabulous Clinchfield Lines: Harvest Fest for Little Engineers
- November 16 - Business meeting
  - November Election of officers

**DECEMBER 2015**

- December 8 - Deadline for newsletter submissions
- December 10 - Coordinators meeting
- December 15 - December Annual Christmas Party
- December 26 - Heritage Day: Home for Christmas; Railroading in the Cold Weather States

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Dodge  
Secretary *Pro Tem*

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>		
<b>2015 Business Meeting Dates</b>		
<del>Monday—1/19/2015</del>	Monday – 5/18/2015	Monday – 9/14/2015
<b>Monday – 2/16/2015*</b>	Monday – 6/15/2015	Monday – 10/19/2015*
Monday – 3/16/2015	Monday – 7/20/2015*	Monday – 11/16/2015
Monday – 4/20/2015*	Monday – 8/17/2015	<b>12/15/2015– Christmas Party</b>

Dates with an \* indicate B.O.D. Meeting also

**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

Due to the editor being away for 10 days prior to publication (sunning in the Caribbean aboard the Allure of the Seas) there will not be a note this month.

**NRHS**

***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](mailto:rbill@embarqmail.com)). Contributors are Fred Alsop, Jim Pahrís, Mark Woomer 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](http://www.NRHS.com) and click on the appropriate link.