



# 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 3, March 2015

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## The Drawbar

Finally after weeks of snow, ice, cold and university closings (the latter a rare event) it seems that Winter's grip is broken and spring is just around the corner. We will celebrate the longer days ahead with our Second Annual Spring Fling at the Black Olive Restaurant in Jonesborough on Friday night, March 20<sup>th</sup>. **Jim Pahr** has been in charge of selling tickets for the event and there is still time to get yours for a night of good food (Dutch treat) and socializing with our friends and their spouses, or significant others, as Carter Museum, the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS welcome the end of winter.

Please welcome back our former members, **Bill and Myra Hensley**, to the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS! We have missed them as members and good friends. Myra is recovering from knee surgery and they are the members who have to travel the furthest to attend our meetings and other events coming all the way from Sevierville, TN in order to participate. We are most pleased to be able once more to count you as members of the Chapter and look forward with great anticipation to your added strength for our organization.

Some happenings in March at the George L. Carter Railroad Museum that should be of interest to Chapter members are as follows: On March 21<sup>st</sup> **Taylor Jessee**, our Little Engineer's Room Station Master, and her most capable assistant, **Danielle**, are planning a Circus Day for the children. Watch for the press release and check it out on their Facebook page. If you have circus-related items you can bring to exhibit that day please do so.

Our Heritage Day Event Coordinator, **Geoff Stunkard**, has a popular event planned for the museum for March 28<sup>th</sup> when we create the *5<sup>th</sup> Annual Steam-Up*. This is the day that premiers those iron horses that were once the icons of all railroads, big and small, from the earliest days of railroading well into the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Bring your favorite steam locomotives from tiny to behemoth size and your favorite consists for

them to pull and let's make a big day of steam with all the chuffing sounds that signal a great locomotive is coming down the tracks. If you have railroad memorabilia for Geoff to display please bring that in the Thursday night before the event so we can get it properly displayed. This Heritage Day always draws a big crowd and we will need plenty of trains and volunteers in the museum on that Saturday.

I have copies of the *HOn3 Annual, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition* that features the ET&WNC Railroad and our Railroad Museum's Tweetsie Layout. If you don't have a personal copy that should be a collector's edition for the club you can get one the next time you are at the Carter Railroad Museum. Just ask and we will couple you to your own copy for transport to your home station. It is truly a beautiful article written and largely photographed by **Geoff Stunkard**.

At the February Coordinator's Meeting it was brought to the group's attention that we are out of our brochure advertising our Carter Chapter, our sister club of the MEMRR and the museum. Many of our new members have come from visitors picking up one of these brochures and filling out the membership application form that is a part of it. It was recommended that the MEMRR create its own brochure, that the Carter Chapter NRHS also create a brochure of its own, and that the museum, and other club, be mentioned in each of these brochures as cross-referencing. That will provide membership information and applications for each organization. Both the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS now have members working to design these brochures for review by their respective memberships. Additionally, we will also display application materials for the ET&WNC RR Historical Society at the Railroad Museum.

In conjunction with better publicity for the Carter Chapter we have asked **Bill Beagen** to see if he can locate the draft of a chapter webpage that a former graduate student at ETSU was working on as a class project and to get it to **Mark Woomer** who has agreed to work to create a web site for us. Websites are a great way to let the web-surfing public know about us, our activities and our chapter contact information. We will continue to use the link to the MEMRR web site as well and the MEMRR Webmaster, **Bob Jones**, has asked us to monitor that site in order to keep the Carter Chapter information that it contains up-to-date. Mark has agreed to do this task for us as well.

The N-Scale layout, and its trouble-shooting and maintenance, that was created the Tupelo Honey Café in the old CCO (Clinchfield RR) station has now been turned over to the management of Tupelo Honey Café. Thanks again to all our members who worked to create it and to make it the outstanding example of our model railroading skills that it is. Thousands of patrons to the restaurant have already enjoyed seeing it and we have received many compliments on the layout.

Progress towards a possible satellite railroad museum of the Carter RR Museum in Jonesborough is still slowly being made. Currently ETSU's legal staff is creating a document that would be an agreement for the establishment of such a museum by the university and the Town of Jonesborough. If it is approved by the university president it will then be sent to Jonesborough city administrators for their review. If both sides sign

the agreement we will have a green signal to proceed. I will keep everyone informed as I am made aware of what is taking place.

The Carter Chapter NRHS is planning a rail excursion to Knoxville on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Buses from Premier Transportation (formerly Greene Coach Lines) will transport rail fans from the ETSU campus to visit the Steam Shops of Knoxville Locomotive Works, ride the 3 Rivers Rambler Railroad behind a steam locomotive, and dine on a paddlewheel boat operated by the Tennessee Riverboat Co. on the Tennessee River for a two hour cruise before we return to Johnson City. Cost for adults will be \$95 and for children \$80. Publicity and signup will begin in April, but you can reserve your space early by contacting **Charlene** or **Dan McLeod** who are in charge of reservations. This is a popular trip and we sold out the entire train (160 seats) last year, so please mark it on your calendars and plan to join us this year for a great day trip. These rail excursions have been the major fund raising events for the chapter and they all require various degrees of work to make them happen in a professional manner that brings positive attention to the chapter and the university as an important community outreach program. We need everyone in the chapter to participate not only as you are asked to do some of the tasks to make this happen, but as participants on the trips themselves. Your presence in you chapter logo signals that you are someone our guests can turn to to answer their questions and to assist them as needed. Additionally, your support as a participant helps the chapter fill those seats on the charter buses, trains and, in the case of the Knoxville trip, at the dinner table on the boat. Many of us have been to these same rail excursion venues many times before, some of our members have been on every trip. The importance is to provide a great railroading experience for our guests and to make each event as successful as we can financially and otherwise. Even if you have been to that particular destination before we need you to support your NRHS Chapter and go with us again and again. We are somewhat limited in our choice of public rail venues because of many logistic reasons so we will have to rely on day trips to often visited destinations. They cannot all be “new” places to bring excitement to us, but they will be to most of our patrons. Please step up and fully participate with your fellow club members. Do your best to recruit your friends, family, and members of your church, social circle, and other civic organizations. These are great trips that provide wonderful experiences for the public and our members as well as bringing wonderful publicity to our Chapter and providing the potential for finding new members for the Carter Chapter NRHS. These are busy times for the Carter Chapter NRHS and for the Carter Railroad Museum. We have a great organization and a wonderful facility to call its home. Plan a trip to the museum soon if you have not visited the club lately, or operated your favorite locomotives (or one of the club’s) on a Saturday. Lots of terrific things are going on and operations on the layout have become a lot more fun and challenging. You will enjoy the changes and we will enjoy your company. Members are always welcome and it is a great place to spend a Saturday or a Thursday evening. And if these times and days don’t work for you, Full Members have access to the museum any time they want to visit and pursue their hobby and their passion for railroading. Thank you for all you do for the Chapter and the Railroad Museum. Bring a friend to the next meeting and/or to the museum and discuss membership with them.

Listen to the sound of the whistle of the train at 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 February 23, 2015  
Brown Hall, Room 312  
On the ETSU Campus  
6:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order by the president at 6:45 PM. Members present: Fred Alsop, Bill Beagen, Dick Conger, John Dodge, Gary Emmert, Carolyn Gregg, James Gregg, Carl Hacker, Bill Hensley, Paul Markey, Dan McLeod, Lanny Norris, Charlotte Pahr, and Jim Pahr.

**Announcements**

Fred welcomed Bill and Myra as returning members. Jim will be unable to attend National meetings in April, and asked for a volunteer to take his place. Bill agreed to consider doing so. Several birthday parties are scheduled in the near future, and the Museum always needs volunteers. LED lighting is in the works for the building housing the museum. New signage has been emplaced.

**Officers Reports**

The Treasurer reported on the cash position of the chapter. Payments have been made to reserve the Three Rivers Rambler and the riverboat for the June excursion (below).

The minutes for the meeting of January 19, 2015 were approved as published in *The Coal Road*.

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

Gary informed the chapter that there are 921 titles in the library, and encouraged members to use the library.

Carolyn has been busy with interviews and writing.

Bill sent the newsletter, *The Coal Road*, on time, and asked for more contributions from members.

**Current/Old Business**

Dan discussed the status of the Tupelo Honey layout. He expects to hand off operations and maintenance to the restaurant shortly. Another person will perform repairs in the future.

The Spring Excursion is scheduled for June 13, including a tour of the Steam shops. It was agreed to set the price at \$95 for adults and \$80 for children. Dan and Charlene will handle ticketing and reservations.

The meeting dates on the calendar distributed in minutes for January are still valid.

Spring Fling scheduled for March 20, tickets available for a price of \$1

At the coordinators meeting of January 19, it was agreed that it would be helpful if GLCC had its own brochure for distribution in the Museum. Bill agreed to head a working group to create one for the chapter.

The annual convention of the ET & WNC historical society will be in Johnson City June 26-28. All members are encouraged to join it and participate.

Bob Jones, webmaster for the Museum/MEMRR/GLCC, asked for updates to the linked page(s) for the chapter. Fred will ask Mark Woomer to do so.

Jonesborough site: meetings have occurred, but actual progress is slow. However, Fred expects some results in the near future.

### **New Business**

It was moved, supported and passed to have all purchases made under the Carter Museum (including MEMRR and Carter Chapter) be made through the Museum. Discussion included comments about how difficult it is to coordinate multiple buyers and sellers of books, pins, etc. It is understood that the Chapter will still be able to purchase/sell if it so chooses.

Gary will obtain information on prices of shirts, and prepare an order if necessary. Member should contact him if interested.

It was moved, supported and passed to investigate purchase of pins with Chapter logo for purchase by members. Gary will investigate .prices of some options.

**Program:** A DVD on railroads in the area of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was shown.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 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
<del>Monday – 2/16/2015*</del>	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 Notes**

The following notes are reminders from the national Railway Historical Society

In preparation of ending the agreement with Fernley and Fernley on April 15th 2015, we have established a new mailing address:

**National Railway Historical Society  
c/o John K Fiorilla, Esq  
Capehart & Scratchard PA  
P.O. Box 5016  
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054**

**Railcamp Announcement**

**RailCamp East - Newark, Del. – July 5 -11,2015** Longtime partner Amtrak will host campers at its High-Speed Rail Training Facility and National Operations Center in Wilmington, Del., where they will be exposed to the daily operation of the nation’s passenger railroad. Students will also spend two days in Strasburg, Pa. at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania and the Strasburg Rail Road. Here they will learn by hands on experience various work of daily railroad operations. They will also learn about restoring steam locomotives and vintage passenger equipment. The railroad museum has an extensive display of railroad equipment and artifacts. They will also teach campers about the unique history and culture of Pennsylvania railroads and the influence they had on the growth of the United States and of our nation’s rail network. Lodging and meals will be provided at the University of Delaware in Newark, Del.

**RailCamp Northwest - Tacoma, Wash. – August 2-9, 2015** This session will include a day with Amtrak at the newly renovated King Street Station in Seattle and its adjacent maintenance facility. Students will visit the operations center of Tacoma Municipal Belt Line (Tacoma Rail) and participate in a working intermodal operation. Other locations include the Northwest Railway Museum at Snoqualmie, Wash., and the Mount Rainier Scenic Railroad at Mineral, Wash., where campers will help with preservation activities, physical plant maintenance and train operations. Time at Seattle's Sound Transit facility will let them explore the operations of commuter trains and light rail transit. Lodging and meals will be provided at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Wash.

### **Applying to RailCamp**

The NRHS offers two summer RailCamp programs: one at Newark, Del. July 5-11 and a second in Tacoma, Wash. August 2-9. The program is open to high school boys and girls who are currently Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors or Seniors (class of 2015). Individuals who enter their Freshmen year in 2015 will also be eligible to participate.

Cost for either camp is \$1,290 per camper, including a non-refundable \$50 fee when an application is submitted. Transportation arrangements and expenses are the responsibility of the camper. Scholarships are available but do not cover transportation. Applicants do not have to be members of the NRHS to attend.

[Application Forms can be downloaded from here](#) or by USPS at: NRHS RailCamp P.O. Box 1481, Lockport, NY 14095.

## **NRHS Convention sales now on line!**

**LOCATION:** The 2015 NRHS Convention will be based in Rutland, Vermont from June 14, 2015 to June 20, 2015 plus a public excursion on June 21, 2015.

**HOTEL UPDATE (March 8, 2015):** The Rutland Holiday Inn now is fully booked Monday June 15 through Friday June 19. Rooms are available there Thursday June 11 through Sunday June 14 and there are some rooms open on Saturday June 20 through Monday June 22. The hotel is offering a special room rate of \$99 for one person, \$119 for two, \$139 for three and \$159 for four. Rooms include free hot buffet breakfast offered in advance of event departures. Please call the Holiday Inn directly at 1-802-775-1911 to make your reservation. So, if you want to just do the Hoosick trip and/or the Fathers' Day trip, you still can get a room at the Holiday Inn.

**OVERFLOW HOTELS:** The Hampton Inn (Hilton chain) is adjacent to the Holiday Inn. They have set aside some rooms for us at \$139 per night plus taxes but reservations must be made by March 31, 2015. Call them at 1-802-773-9066 and ask for Lannie or Mark. This hotel is 50 yards from the Holiday Inn and breakfast, parking and Wi-Fi are included.

The Best Western Inn & Suites will give us up to 40 rooms. Their special NRHS rate is \$109 for a standard room for 1 or 2 people and \$139 for a one bedroom suite with full kitchen, dining area, living room and bedroom with 2 queen beds. All are plus taxes. Their rate includes breakfast and parking. Call them at 1-802-773-3200 and be sure to request the NRHS Conference rate. The Best Western is 3 miles from downtown and about 4 ½ miles from the Holiday Inn where our buses will arrive and depart. Thus persons using the Best Western are advised to have an automobile available.

**REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION:** Registration information is now available for download and tickets will be on sale shortly.

- [Registration package](#) (Updated March 7, 2015) – includes event information, updated hotel information and other important registration information.
- [Tickets On Sale Now](#) - tickets can be purchased through our online system.
- [A mail-in registration form can be downloaded here](#)

[Sign-up for our mailing list](#) to get updated information on all NRHS events as it becomes available.

**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 (rrbill@embarqmail.com). Contributors are Fred Alsop, Jim Pahr, Mark Woomer and John Dodge