



# 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 4, April 2015

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## The Drawbar

Spring-like weather has finally arrived and the changes in the out-of-doors are welcome after the cold, ice and snows of winter. There are new stirrings in the MEMRR and at the Carter Railroad Museum. As we look forward to the longer days of the season we are saddened to reflect on the loss of a member and friend with the passing of **Jack Cope**. Jack and Jeanne have long been supporters of the George L. Carter Railroad Museum and Jack was an active in the museum before his failing health limited his activities including his passion for railroading. His gift of a traveling layout to the MEMRR club made it possible to represent our organizations and our zest for railroading to the public at many local festivals and events. Jack and Jeanne continued to support the Carter Railroad Museum even upon his death requesting that memorials to him be made to the museum in lieu of flowers. We will use any such funds received to honor his memory and his friendship.

I wish to thank all of you who came to the railroad museum on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> to host the walking tour of the Appalachian Studies Conference. The conference recorded more than 800 attendees, but only 7 joined us for a requested tour of the Carter Railroad Museum! We had more volunteers from the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS there than we had visitors! I wish to thank you for coming at the request of the university; coming early to find a parking place on a university class day; and for continuing to support the university and the museum with your service. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and there was no way to predict what the numbers for the turnout for the walking tour of campus would be. As small as the ASC guest list of visitors to the museum was on Friday the direct opposite was true the following day when we held our Heritage Day Event, the "5<sup>th</sup> Annual Steam-up". This Heritage Day event has proved to be one of the most popular of all our special museum train days and we set record numbers of 107 children and grownups in the Little Engineers Room and more than 200 visitors counted in our large gallery. We had people wall-to-wall for most of the day who

showed lots of enthusiasm for the miniature steam locomotives and their consists that plied our scale rails during the day. Everyone was tired by the end of the day and none of our members stayed long after the official museum closing time to run their trains on the layout that Saturday. But what a great day it was and what wonderful crowds came to see the layouts and the exhibits. I had to miss most of it because of my involvement in meetings on a floor above the museum as a member of the ET&WNC RR Historical Society's Board of Directors. We met to finalize plans for the Society's 27 Annual Convention to be held at the Carnegie Hotel 26-28 June with the Carter Railroad Museum again acting as co-host. If you have not yet joined this railroad historical society I would urge you to do so. With their recent conventions held in Johnson City at the Carnegie Hotel it is most convenient for us to be members and with their new officers they seem to be on the upward move once more. Coupled with the success of the Tweetsie Trail and the renovation of the Tweetsie Depot underway this is a most interesting time for any ET&WNC RR Historical Society member.

Our **Second Annual Spring Fling** was held on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Black Olive Restaurant in Jonesborough, TN and was a great success with approximately 40 members of the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS attending. Our thanks are extended to **Jim Pahr** who made the arrangements for us. The food and the fellowship were outstanding and those who attended concurred that this is an event that we should plan for again in 2016. That being the case we are open to suggestions as to where it might take place. Our next joint social event will be our annual summer picnic and we will be planning that sometime later in the year.

A planned visit to the Carter RR Museum by **Robert** and **Helen Majors** in March resulted in their donating more than \$3,000 worth of railroad diner china, lanterns, railroad paperwork and other collectable railroad memorabilia to the museum. Among the items is a piece of Clinchfield Railroad china and a CRR lantern (both are on display in the Carter RR Cabinet just inside the main gallery doorway), but there are many other pieces of china from southeastern railroads to add to the Walker China Collection now on display. The Majors, who are Raleigh, NC residents, saw a newspaper article on our china collection that was sent to them by a friend back in November 2014 and decided to give part of Robert's large collection of railroad materials to us. We will catalog the collection and display it as we can and have expressed our gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Majors for their significant gift to us.

Because of the outstanding work that **Charlene** and **Dan McLeod** have been doing the Carter Chapter NRHS will soon be making public announcements about our planned rail excursion slated for 13 June, 2015. Those patrons who have taken previous trips with the chapter have been contacted by email and many have already secured their tickets. Press releases are set for 17 April and I will be a guest on several local television stations to promote the event. This trip proved to be very popular last year and sold out completely and we expect it to do so again this year. The trip includes bus transportation from ETSU, a tour of the Knoxville Locomotive Works steam shop, a steam powered train excursion on the 3 Rivers Rambler Railroad and a luncheon on the paddle-wheeled *Star of Knoxville* as we cruise the

Tennessee River. Cost of the trip is \$95 for adults and information is available at the Carter Railroad Museum and on our MEMRR website. The trip is limited to 160 people, the capacity of the train, and we will have exclusive use of both the train and the riverboat. **Get you tickets and get on board before they are all gone!** This is a great trip package! We need everyone in our Chapter to support this fund-raising event for the Carter Chapter and the Carter Railroad Museum through your participation in the trip itself to not only help us with our guests for the day, but to enjoy the trip itself. We also need for you to tell your friends, your church, your fraternal and other organizations about the trip and help us recruit to fill the 3 buses as soon as we can.

**Bill Beagen** and others have been working on a new Carter Chapter brochure with the necessary information about our railroad historical chapter, a brief chapter history, contact information, chapter service projects and meeting locations, the association with the Carter RR Museum and an attached membership application form that can be completed and mailed to the chapter treasurer. Bill is updating all the informational materials from our previous handouts and adding new photos. He plans to have a draft of this professional-looking chapter brochure ready for viewing and comments at the next chapter business meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>. When the brochure is approved arrangements will be made for the printing and we will soon have them ready for distribution. Bill has also been working on creating our website and has been making progress in getting that task accomplished as well.

The May ETSU Commencement will have our own **Danielle**, our Federal Work Study Student, who has been helping **Taylor** in the Little Engineers Room this year as one of our graduates. Danielle will be moving to New York and we will be looking for another skilled young lady to take her place to help with all the children who think the Little Engineers Room is one of the coolest places to play and make new friends in the area. Please join me in thanking Danielle for her outstanding service to the museum and the area's children over the past 9 months. Danielle, we wish you the very best as you make your transition from student to working adult and congratulations on your successful earning of your college degree.

We have a great historical railway chapter and we are doing an outstanding service for the Carter Railroad Museum, East Tennessee State University and the surrounding Tri-Cities community. We continue to improve our own chapter's community outreach and our means of letting the public become aware of our chapter. We need to continue to grow our membership and our newest members are welcome additions to our chapter for they bring new experience, new wisdom and fresh ideas along with their passion for railroading. Let's do all we can to keep the momentum going.

Listen to 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**

March 16, 2015

Chapter Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:40pm by President Fred Alsop with 10 members and 1 guest present.

**Announcements and Greeting of Guests:**

Guests: - **John Jenkins**, Johnson City formerly of Long Island, NY guest of **Carl Haclker**.

**Presidents Report:**

- **Robert Majors**, Raleigh, NC has several **Clinchfield RR** items he would like to donate to the Carter RR Museum. Fred is inviting him to bring the items on Thursday evening, March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Minutes of February meeting approved as shown in the March issue of **The Coal Road**.

**National Director/Chapter Vice President Report:**

- Received **NRHS On Board** showing chapter membership at 61% renewed. Should show at 100%+.
- Spring Fling have 40 reservations and 35 signed up to attend.
- Need to identify a chapter representative to sit on the NRHS Advisory Council, Bill Beagen is not available.

**Secretary Report:** **Charlotte Pahr** serving as Recording Secretary of this meeting in the absence of **Mark Woomer** the elected chapter Secretary.

**Treasurer Report:** **John Dodge** absent – No Report.

**Directors At Large:** **Lanny Norris** absent. **Dan McLeod** No Report

**Librarian Report:** **Gary Emmert** there are 920+ volumes in the **GLC Museum Library** available for members to use.

**Newsletter Editor:** **Bill Beagen** – March issue distributed with no editorial. Bill asked if everyone was receiving the other NRHS Chapters' newsletters and received an affirmative on it. It is a great way to exchange information and see what other chapters are doing.

**CURRENT/OLD BUSINESS:**

**Spring Fling:** Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at the **Black Olive Restaurant**. Restaurant told to set up for 40 people.

**Knoxville Excursion:**

- Ride on the **3 River's Rambler** and luncheon cruise on the **Tennessee River Boat** vessel, excursion date Saturday, June 13th.
- Excursion timeline: March – send out emails to prior attendees; April 20<sup>th</sup> – first press release; May 1<sup>st</sup> – TV & radio spots; May 11<sup>th</sup> – second press release. May 31<sup>st</sup> - closing date for reservations.
- Need location for boarding buses.

**Chapter Brochure Design:** **Dick Conger** and **Bill Beagen** working on this project. Brochure to be a tri-fold and given wide distribution.

**Chapter Webpage:**

- **Bill Beagen**, chapter webmaster, has found the website that was established last year for the chapter and is working on updating it. Bill was also directed to contact the chapter secretary, **Mark Woomer** and **John Edwards**, webmaster of MEMRR
- Need to update chapter info on MEMRR webpage.

**Jonesborough Satellite Museum:** ETSU approvals have been sent to **Bob Browning**, Jonesborough Town Administrator. Expect that there will have to be some negotiations done on this issue.

**Chapter Logo Pins:**

- **Gary Emmert**, Librarian, enquired of Campus Chalet on the price to include setup charges for different quantities of pins.
- Pin costs were given: 100 pins - \$2; 200 pins - \$1.50 and 300 pins - \$1.35.
- It was moved and seconded to initially buy 100 pins.

**Gary** also stated the price for having your name sewn on an item was increased to \$5.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The following items would involve chapter member's participation.

- **ASA Conference** - tour of museum 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **Imagine Johnson City**, April 3 – **Carolyn Gregg** preparing PowerPoint program for this event and possible RR interviews.
- **Blue Plum Festival** - June 5-7 at Hands-on-Museum.
- **YMCA Summer Camp** – (140 kids in shifts) Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> (**Amanda Kelly**).
- **ET&WNC RR Historical Society Convention** June 26-28. Want to be involved in Tweetsie Trail – Walk planned.
- **Jonesborough Days** – July 3-4<sup>th</sup>.

**PROGRAM:** US railroads through the eyes of a Brit.

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*
<del>Monday 3/16/2015</del>	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**

(Some of this came in too late for last months Newsletter)

**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 (April 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 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.

### **From Al Weber, President NRHS**

**Effective Monday, March 30, 2015**, NRHS is transferring its business operations from Fernley & Fernley. That contractor will no longer have any further responsibilities for updating and maintaining the membership data base, nor will they have anything to do with NRHS finance operations.

On March 31, please discontinue sending anything of any sort to Fernley & Fernley. As we have already told you, NRHS will receive mail from the USPS at the following address:

National Railway Historical Society

c/o John K. Fiorilla, Esq.

Capehart & Scatchard, Inc., P. A.

P. O. Box 5016

8000 Midlantic Drive, STE 300S

Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054-5016

The NRHS telephone number remains [215-557-6606](tel:215-557-6606). The FAX machine has been disconnected and the FAX telephone number has been discontinued.

Email addresses, Facebook page, and web site will remain unchanged.

Please discontinue sending anything to Fernley & Fernley, and please do not call them for any reason to better ease our transition away from them.

More details about future operations will be forthcoming throughout the next several months.

Thank you,

Al Weber

NRHS President



### ***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](mailto:rrbill@embarqmail.com)). Contributors are Fred Alsop, Jim Pahrís, Mark Woomer and John Dodge