



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 5, May 2015



The Drawbar

This has not been a good month for the long-time membership of the Carter Chapter as we have lost two dear friends in a very short period of time. We were saddened to learn of the death of our friend **Jack Cope** who had long supported the Carter Railroad Museum with his presence when he was more active and with the gift of the traveling layout to the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders that bears his name. He bequeathed that any memorials to him be made not in flowers, but in donations to the Carter Railroad Museum and we have received many from his friends. We were stunned to learn of the passing of our friend **Allan Morton** who was always such a free spirit when we were in his company. He was quick with a smile, one of the first to greet visitors to the museum and to engage them in conversations about railroading. We will miss Allan and his infectious enthusiasm for our hobby and for us as members of the club he brought so much joy to. If we can be of any help to Jeanne Cope and to Margaret Morton they have only to let us know how and we shall be ready to assist them in any way possible.

It seems that the warmer weather of spring's promise is finally here and we must turn our attention to some of the events that we engage in for the public every June and July for many years now. The Blue Plum Festival and Jonesborough Days will be upon us before we know it and **Dean Small** has been devoting a lot of his time, effort, talent, and some money (both his and the MEMRR's) to get the Cope Traveling Layout ready for display. This should not fall to Dean to do a one-man job and he can really use some help not only with the new displays he is planning for the layout to give it a new and fresher look, but with the existing scenery, track, locomotives and rolling stock to be sure everything is ready for the layout's 2015 public showings. The layout belongs to the MEMRR, but it also represents the Carter Railroad Museum and the Carter Chapter NRHS when it is on display and serves as a vehicle to attract potential members and visitors to join us at the museum. We need

some members to step up and put in some hours with Dean to get this layout ready so that it represents us all in the best possible way.

Carter NRHS Chapter members please welcome our newest member, **Alf Peoples**. Many of you know Alf as the co-author of two recent books on the Clinchfield Railroad's famous steam locomotive number 1 that he wrote with Mark Stevens and you probably have a copy on your bookshelves. Alf promises to be a great addition to the chapter and we look forward to having him at our meetings and working with us to promote railroading in the Tri-Cities.

Taylor Jesse, our Little Engineers Room Stationmaster, planned a Thomas' 70th Birthday celebration for her little engineers at the museum on May 2nd. The event included popcorn and drinks, coloring and crafts, games and a lot more. We got media coverage that included WJHL television and the kids and their parents turned out in droves. Taylor exhausted her 16th bag of microwave popcorn before 11:30 a.m. and had to go out for more. At least 165 little engineers and their parents/grandparents/guardians were counted in the Little Engineers Room that day, a new all-time record for attendance, and we had around 200 visitors to our main gallery. Our friend **Stacey Wild** brought her son, **Lowell**, to spend the day helping Taylor and his assistance was certainly needed and appreciated. Lowell is doing the public service required of all seniors at ETSU's University School and will be back for one more day of volunteer service on May 9th. Taylor is without help most of the summer so stop by on Saturdays and see if you can give her a hand.

Bill Beagen presented a draft of the new Chapter brochure he and others have designed at the April business meeting and it met with the approval of those in attendance who voted monies for its printing. Bill is currently getting bids from several local printers to get as many copies produced as his granted funds will allow. We should soon have a brochure with lots of color that will be most attractive to the public and that will not only promote the chapter but will be important for recruiting potential new members. Thank you, Bill, for using your considerable talents to craft this excellent brochure for us. Bill is also working on creating a website for the Chapter with help from **Mark Woomer**.

By the time you are reading this the 2015 Spring Semester at ETSU will be history. Graduation ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday, May 9th and parking will be much easier for all of us with far fewer students on campus. Some of the university's programs run on a year-round schedule, but only a few thousand students attend summer classes outside of these programs. This is also the time of the year that I conduct some bird identification workshops for state and federal employees and this May will be no exception. I will be in South Carolina for the better part of the weeks of May 9-14 and May 18-21. I will be back both weeks for Thursday evening work sessions and for our public openings of the museum on Saturdays. **However, I will not be in town for the regularly scheduled May Carter Chapter NRHS business meeting and Vice-President Jim Pahris will also be absent.** Because of this unfortunate situation caused by having lives and,

sometimes other obligations outside of the chapter's meeting schedules I have sent out a notice that we will have to cancel the May business meeting. Because of our planned public rail excursion to Knoxville on June 13th, we will move the June meeting to Monday June 8th (meeting at the regular time and place in Brown Hall on the ETSU campus) so we can go over last minute details, responsibilities and assignments prior to that rail trip. We will also need a called meeting of the Board of Directors in late May. So, please mark your calendars as follows:

1. The **May 18th Chapter Business Meeting is cancelled**. We will have no chapter meeting in May.
2. I am asking the **Board of Directors to meet on May 25th** (yes, I know that is Memorial Day and some of you may be away) to make plans for the rail excursion and any other business that needs to be done for the Chapter. The meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. at the Magic Wok Restaurant on South Roan St. in Johnson City.
3. The **June Chapter Business Meeting will occur on June 8th** with dinner for those who want to join us at the ETSU Market Place at 5:00 p.m. and the business meeting at 6:30 in room 312 Brown Hall, ETSU. This will allow us to finalize plans and assignments for the rail excursion trip on the following Saturday, June 13. I apologize for these disruptions to your calendar and **we will be back on our regular schedule of the 3rd Monday of the month beginning in July**, but we feel this is the best schedule we can make to keep the organization functioning as the well-oiled machine we know it to be during May and June.

A reminder that the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS is co-sponsoring a spring rail excursion with the Carter RR Museum on June 13 and the last day for ticket purchase is May 30th. The trip is a good one with fancy motor coaches from Premier Transportation taking us from ETSU to the Knoxville Locomotive Works to tour their steam locomotive shops, followed by a ride behind steam along the rivers in Knoxville on the 3 Rivers Rambler and then a luncheon boat ride on the paddle wheeler, *The Knoxville Star*, on the Tennessee River before returning home. Contact **Charlene McLeod** chardanmcleod37@comcast.net, or pick up an application form at the Railroad Museum or download one at home from the MEMRR.org website. If you go to the website to download your ticket application and waiver of liability forms it's easy. Go to **memrr.org**. Click on the **NRHS** box in the lower right corner of the homepage. Click on "**Excursions**" and download your forms. Send them to Charlene McLeod at the address provided on the forms. It's a great trip and you need to be on it with us! I have released to press releases to the local media through ETSU's Office of University Relations and have made television appearances on WJHL and WCYB promoting the event. At this writing ticket response has been good with approximately 100 seats sold and we have a limit of 160 capacity on the 3 Rivers Rambler. As a church sign I once saw along a local county roadside stated, "visitors welcome; members expected" please plan to join us on this fund-raising and fun-raising event for the chapter on June 13th by purchasing tickets for you and your family and get your friends involved as well. We will also need a lot of help assisting 160 guests through the day's itinerary and we need every Chapter member to do their part.

I also wish to thank all of you who so willingly respond to my calls for volunteers for the special events that periodically happen when outside groups want to come to the museum on days other than when we are normally open. We had 90 6th graders coming from the Jonesborough Middle School, the grade that **Lanny Norris'** daughter teaches, to visit us on Wednesday, May 13th.

In June our first Station Master, **Amanda Blackburn**, will bring 145 YWCA Summer Camp youngsters to visit us. The East Tennessee Railfan NRHS Chapter from Kingsport is planning a visit soon. As our popularity and our reputation grows in the region we can expect more and more of these requests for visits. It is part of the community outreach that we have fostered as a small arm of ETSU and a service to our fellow citizens. But it takes your time and effort to represent our club and the Railroad Museum and you need to realize how much you are doing for our visitors and how much they and I appreciate what you do. But, after all, the local newspaper, *The Times-News*, featured us as one of the "Five Coolest Places" in the Tri-Cities region to visit in a Sunday edition, so we can expect to continue to be a destination for a lot of folks. What better way to introduce youngsters, and others not so young, to our hobby of model railroading?

The **ET&WNC RR Historical Society** is coming back to Johnson City for their 27th Annual Convention headquartered at the Carnegie Hotel. Convention dates are 26-28 June and they have a lot of neat things to participate in on their agenda. I had Mark Woomer circulate a copy of their spring newsletter so you can see what they will be doing with the hope that some of you who are not members of this historical society might wish to join them. Membership is \$30/year and the convention with a lot of perks and dinner at the Carnegie is only a \$49 registration fee for members. I think you will agree after reading all the events you get for that registration fee it is truly a bargain. Please consider joining this society based on a Johnson City narrow gauge railroad. The Carter Railroad Museum will be co-hosting and we can use your help that Saturday in the museum.

We have a lot of things to do with our volunteer work in the museum and in other places as we slide towards summer. There are train shows, public events, modeling to do, and people to meet and engage in discussions of our hobby and our passion for railroading. We have an outstanding club with lots of great members and a good place to call "home". We wish for all of our members to come down to our meetings and our train museum and get engaged at any level that is comfortable for them. Come join in the fun!

Times are good for the MEMRR and the museum. 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
Meeting Minutes
Brown Hall 312 on the ETSU Campus
Monday, April 20, 2015
6:30 p.m.**

Announcements and Greeting of Guests:

Officers Reports:.

- President – *Fred Alsop*. The Board of Directors Meeting is schedule for May 18th.
- NRHS Director *James Pahrts*. Out of town.
- Chapter VP *James Pahrts*. Out of town.
- Secretary *Mark Woomer*. Previous meeting minutes approved. Membership for the GLCC NRHS is back up to where we were in 2013.
- Treasurer *John Dodge*. Out of town.
- Directors at Large (*Dan McLeod/Lanny Norris*). Dan: . Lanny not present.
- Historian *Carolyn Gregg*. Looking to gather stories about the Lost Cove. There was a story event scheduled but was cancelled.
- Librarian *Gary Emmert*. Not present.
- Newsletter Editor *Bill Beagen*. The newsletter has been distributed and contains a couple of articles about the NRHS and Fernly and Fernly.

Current/Old Business:

- *Jack Cope* recently passed away. In lieu of flowers, it was requested that any donations be made to the Carter Museum. A memorial service to be held at the Jonesborough Presbyterian Church on Thursday, April 23, at 2:00 PM.
- **Spring Fling** Friday, 20 March, 6:00 p.m. Black Olive Restaurant, Jonesborough. Was a great success!
- **Summer Picnic**. We will have a Summer Picnic again this year, to be determined.
- **Christmas Party**. We need to start thinking about the annual Christmas party again. A motion was made and approved to have the annual Christmas Party at the Choo Choo Café in Erwin, TN, on Tuesday, December 15.
- **Three Rivers Rambler Excursion**. June 13th Rail Excursion (publicity campaign and schedule). Charlene & Dan McLeod – the press release went out

on April 17. WJHL and WCYB will both have spots. WCBY is to be the first week in May. Mark and Bonny Woomer will host the 2nd bus.

- ***Tweetsie Convention.*** The convention will be held at the Carnegie Hotel June 26-28. Fred is on the Tweetsie Society Board of Directors. We will setup the same way as last year. The cost is up a little this year, to \$49, but you'll get more. Saturday morning the public is invited to a Tweetsie talk and then to walk along the Tweetsie Trail, a mile out and a mile back. The Carter Museum will be open. There will be no train show. There is a Norfolk Southern train excursion that weekend. Keep in mind that 2017 will be the 100th Anniversary of the Tweetsie Number 12 locomotive. Also note that The Tennessee Valley Railroad in Chattanooga is running a steam excursion the same weekend as the Tweetsie Convention, which could complement what we are trying to do with hosting the Tweetsie Convention. We need to get everyone in the GLCC on board to support and be involved with the Tweetsie Society and Convention.
- ***Chapter Brochure Design.*** Bill Beagen. A draft has been completed. A couple of items need to be moved around but it is looking pretty good.
- ***Chapter Web Page and Information.*** Bill Beagen. The excursion information has been updated on the MEMRR web page. We need to find a hosting provider for a GLCC NRHS website. Bill has contacted NRHS to update GLCC officer information on the NRHS website. Bill has talked with a couple of grad students regarding continued development of a GLCC website and will contact Mark Woomer.
- ***Satellite Carter RR Museum for Jonesborough.*** Fred Alsop. No new information.
- ***GLCC NRHS Chapter logo Pins.*** Fred Alsop. The pins will look like the embroidered shirt logo. Ordered 100. Should be able to sell for \$5.00 each. We should have the pins by our next meeting.
- ***Chapter NRHS Representative.*** Fred Alsop. We are looking for a new chapter representative. We'll go to 2 to 4 national meetings per year.
- **Other Old Business??**

New Business:

- **Bucky's Food Pantry.** Some ETSU students can't afford 3 squares a day. Classes for the current term end the end of April. A lot of kids are not telling anyone they need things (some food items, tooth paste, deodorant, etc.). There is

a room in the student center where students can go to get some things they need but cannot afford, and where items can be donated.

- **Chapter Participation in upcoming museum events:**
 - Blue Plum 5-7 June
 - YMCA Summer Camp (140 kids in shifts) Thurs. June 15 (Amanda Kelly)
 - ET&WNC RR Historical Society June 26-28
 - Jonesborough Days July 3-4
- **May 13th 5th Grade Class Visit.** Lanny Norris’s daughter’s 5th grade class will visit the Carter Museum on May 13th. We will need some volunteers.
- **ETSU Summer Activity.** ETSU has a lot of construction activity going on this Summer.
- **Murder Mystery Caravan.** Dan and Charlene McLeod went to a murder mystery dinner Bellagio’s restaurant. Dan suggested a murder mystery train ride. We need to investigate and research.

The Evening Program

“All Aboard!: The legends of Trains. Streamliners, The Story of Passenger Trains, 1934 to 1971”, was provided by Jim Pahriss.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Woomer
Secretary

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>		
2015 Business Meeting Dates		
Monday 1/19/2015	Monday – Cancelled	Monday – 9/14/2015
Monday 2/16/2015*	Monday – 6/8/2015	Monday – 10/19/2015*
Monday 3/16/2015	Monday – 7/20/2015*	Monday – 11/16/2015
Monday 4/20/2015*	Monday – 8/17/2015	12/15/2015– Christmas Party
Dates with an * indicate B.O.D. Meeting also		
There was a BOD meeting Scheduled for 5/18/15, it has been moved to 5/25/15		

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. This will be for the June 8,2015 meeting.



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

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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 Pahrís, Mark Woomer and John Dodge

Editors Note

As most of you know, the derailment of the Washington to New York train was and is still in the newspapers and on the air. I would like for you to take a moment and say a prayer or some sort of remembrance for those that lost loved ones in this tragedy. As railroad enthusiasts we sometimes forget that accidents happen and when it does, it affects all of us.

Bill