



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 6, June 2015

Meeting this Month on the 8th!



The Drawbar

Sold Out!!! Approximately two weeks prior to the deadline for ticket sales for our Spring Rail Excursion in Knoxville **Charlene McLeod** sent word that we had sold the last tickets and had a waiting list for more. We have 162 members and guests going with us on Saturday June 13th to tour the Knoxville Locomotive Works steam shop, ride the 3 Rivers Rambler behind a vintage steam locomotive and cruise the Tennessee River aboard the paddle wheeler *Star of Knoxville* for our luncheon voyage. We will have exclusive use of the train and the boat and will be traveling from ETSU to Knoxville and back aboard the 3 modern buses of Premier Transportation Inc. **Charlene and Dan McLeod** have once again done an outstanding job of handling all the ticket sales with numerous telephone calls, emails, mailings and all the many, many things that go into working with the public to make sure all who have made reservations are accommodated. Please extend your gratitude to these hard working chapter members for a job very well done indeed! **Thank you Charlene and Dan!**

The Chapter Board of Directors held a special called meeting on Memorial Day, Monday May 25th to review the upcoming excursion and to confirm bus host assignments. We have 3 chartered buses and the hosts will be **Charlene & Dan McLeod, Mark & Bonnie Woomer, and Carolyn & James Gregg**. On behalf of the Chapter I thank you all for supporting the Chapter by being participants and taking on the extra tasks for the day to look after our guests on your bus. My wife, **Jo Ann**, and I will be going on this fun-filled adventure and will be hopping between buses to meet as many of our guests as possible. We will soon be planning our annual Fall Rail Excursion and all our members are invited to provide suggestions for the destination for that trip. And, as always, we hope you will support the Chapter with your participation on this forthcoming rail trip.

The Board of Directors also approved my appointment of **Charlotte Pahr** as our **George L. Carter Chapter NRHS National Representative**. Charlotte has been

traveling to various National NRHS meetings, conventions and other events for many years with husband, Jim, as he represented our chapter and others at the national level in several elected posts. Jim now serves on the National NRHS Board of Directors representing the 5th District of the Society. Charlotte has agreed to represent our chapter in this capacity by balancing the duties of this appointed position at national meetings with sight-seeing and necessary shopping in between meetings. Charlotte, we thank you for taking on this new role and we know that our Chapter will be well represented by you as our National Representative.

Our new Chapter logo pins are in and we will have them available on the June rail excursion and at the next NRHS Chapter meeting. Because your president and vice-president were out of the state during our scheduled May business meeting the meeting had to be cancelled, but remember the June business meeting will be early: **June Business Meeting of the Chapter 6:30 in Room 312 Brown Hall, ETSU, on Monday June 8th**. We have scheduled this meeting so the Chapter can make any necessary final arrangements prior to the June 13th Rail Excursion.

Carter Railroad Museum, Carter Chapter NRHS and MEMRR events scheduled include the following:

- Thank you if you helped us on **May 13th** when member **Lanny Norris**'s daughter brought the entire **Jonesborough Middle School 6th grade class**, more than 100 children with teachers and chaperones, to visit our railroad museum. The group was well behaved and our museum volunteers reported everything went smoothly even with the large, energetic crowd of youngsters.
- By the time you are reading this the **Annual Blue Plum Festival** in Johnson City will be history, but we will have participated once more by displaying the **Jack Cope Memorial Traveling Layout** in the Hands-On Museum. **VP Jim Pahr** made the arrangements with the museum for the display space and **Gary Emmert** and **Mark Woomer** co-directed the moving of the layout and its manning during the festival for our volunteers from the Carter Chapter and the MEMRR. **Dan McLeod** once again provided the tow vehicle to move the layout from its home at the Carter RR Museum. Thank you one and all for your support and for "showing the flag" through the display of this layout to the public. We will be doing something similar with it for Jonesborough Days on July 3-4 and will once more need everyone' help.
- On Thursday, June 18th, beginning around 9:45 a.m. , former Station Master at the Carter RR Museum's Little Engineers Room, **Amanda Kelly Blackburn**, will be bringing 145 youngsters from the **YMCA Summer Camp** to the Carter Railroad Museum for a visit. They will come in two shifts so the museum can more easily accommodate them. We will need volunteers for several hours that day from approximately 9:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to operate the layouts and to help with traffic control. Please mark your calendars and come assist us as we really need you to make this all go smoothly.

In addition to doing a yeoman's job as our newsletter editor, **Bill Beagen** has taken on two additional tasks and is making good progress on both. He has executed several drafts for a Chapter brochure that will be used as a potential recruitment tool to advertise the Chapter and to promote what we do to the public. The Board of Directors has approved the final draft and Bill is now seeking bids from several printers to make our new brochure a reality. We will place some at the Carter RR Museum for distribution as well as in several strategic locations in the area. We have long needed a brochure and we appreciate Bill's talents and efforts in making it a reality. It really does look sharp and I am sure you will agree with its professional appearance.

Bill began the task working with an East Tennessee State University graduate student in multi-media on the development of a web site for the Carter Chapter. That site was developed into a stage that was not quite complete when the student graduated a couple of years ago. With the help of the former student's professor, Bill has recovered the work and will soon have a George L. Carter Chapter NRHS website up and running for us. We will crosslink our site with the one we have been using that is operated by the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders, memrr.org, so anyone interested in railroading in this region may find out about us electronically. Having such a working website will open us up to the world and is a tremendous way for us to promote the Chapter and the things the chapter does. We will anxiously await the inauguration of this new Chapter development.

I have a scheduled meeting with Town of Jonesborough City Manager, Bob Browning, on June 8th to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Jonesborough and ETSU towards the establishment of a satellite railroad museum there. I shall keep you informed of any developments.

Summer is just around the corner with all of its opportunities, festivals, events, vacations, etc. As the chapter becomes more involved in supporting the Carter Railroad Museum we can expect to have more growth and more activities for the Chapter and the museum we are affiliated with. These are opportunities for us to promote our NRHS Chapter, National NRHS and our passion for trains and railroading in general. We shall seek to make the most of it. Have a great summer and I'll see you at our Chapter meetings and at the Carter Railroad 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
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Ruby Tuesday, W. State of Franklin Road, Johnson City
Monday, May 25, 2015
6:00 p.m.**

Attendees

Fred Alsop, Carolyn Gregg, Barb and Bill Beagen, Paul Haynes, Gary Emmert, Charlene McLeod, Charlotte and Jim Pahriss, Mark Woomer.

Current/Old Business

- **GLCC NRHS National Representative.** Charlotte Pahriss has agreed to be the GLCC NRHS National Representative. Bill Beagen mentioned that the National Representative is to attend the National Convention each year along with one other national conference meeting.
- **Three Rivers Rambler Excursion.** Charlene McLeod has put together another successful train trip excursion. As of 5-19-15, we are sold out! A BIG THANK YOU to Charlene! The Museum should net over \$4,000 for this excursion.

There are 11 people on a waiting or standby list. A suggestion was made to go ahead and sell the tickets to the 11 people waiting, but seats on the bus and the train ride could not be guaranteed. It was decided to not sell tickets to the people on standby.

The train and buses have been paid for. John Dodge will write a check for the boat.

Bus boarding has changed slightly due to the installation of car counters at the parking lot. The buses will load adjacent to the parking lot as there is now no room for the buses to clear the car counters to enter the parking lot. Anyone can be dropped off at the bus location and the vehicle will then exit and park in the parking lot.

Bus hosts need to be on site between 6:00 and 6:15 AM. Charlene distributed bus host notes instruction sheets. The bus hosts are: Bus 1 - James and Carolyn Gregg; Bus 2 – Bonny and Mark Woomer; Bus 3 - Dan and Charlene McLeod.

- **Summer Picnic.** No new info.
- **Annual Christmas Party.** The GLCC NRHS voted at the April business meeting to have the annual Christmas Party at the Choo Choo Café in Erwin, TN, on Tuesday, December 15. At the May MEMRR business meeting there was a vote to have a group have a Christmas Party at the Tipton-Haynes facility on a different date. So, there may be two Christmas parties this year. MEMRR will get back to us with more info. We will bring this up for discussion at the next GLCC NRHS business meeting on June 8th.
- **Tweetsie Convention.** The convention will be held at the Carnegie Hotel June 26-28. Fred is on the Tweetsie Society Board of Directors. Setup the same way as

last year. The cost is up a little this year, to \$49 *for each person* (there was a bit of controversy last year as some families received special pricing, which will not happen this year), but you'll get more. Chris Robbins, President and CEO of the Tweetsie Railroad, will be the guest speaker at the Friday night dinner at the Carnegie Hotel. Saturday morning the public is invited to a Tweetsie talk and then to walk along the Tweetsie Trail, about a mile out and a mile back. The Carter Museum will be open. There will be no train show. The Tweetsie Railroad will have extended hours on Saturday, to 9:00 PM, but there will be no special privileges. Anyone that has registered for the Tweetsie Convention and brings their convention ID and badge will be admitted to the Tweetsie park free of charge. There is a Norfolk Southern train excursion that weekend as well. 2017 will be the 100th Anniversary of the Tweetsie Number 12 locomotive. 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. The block of rooms at the Carnegie Hotel reserved for Tweetsie Society convention attendees are completely sold out. Gary Emmert will have a number of library items for sale at the convention.

We have invited the Tweetsie Society to become affiliated with the Carter Museum. No word back yet on a decision. However, grapevine response is positive. Jim Pahr is will contact the Society Chair regarding affiliation status.

- **Chapter Brochure Design.** Bill Beagen has to make a couple of changes to the interior and then it will be ready to go.
- **Chapter Web Page and Information.** The web page was designed by a grad student a couple of years ago. We have found a couple of current students who are very interested in getting this completed. There is also a Carter Museum web page on an ETSU server at this link:<http://www.etsu.edu/railroad/default.aspx>. Bill Beagen has been able to negotiate a very reasonable hosting fee for the GLCC web site. Bill Beagen and Mark Woomer will coordinate this.
- **Satellite Carter RR Museum for Jonesborough.** Jonesborough has received the draft memorandum of understanding from ETSU and is reviewing.
- **GLCC NRHS Chapter logo Pins.** We received 200 pins at a cost of \$200, including setup, which is a very good price. We will be selling pins on the Three Rivers Rambler Train Excursion.
- **Carter Museum Train Show 2016.** Fred Coleman from Asheville (he has coordinated a number of train shows in the Southeast) was here last week for the Train Show Committee Meeting. We viewed two ETSU campus venues, the Culp

Center and the Mini-Dome. The Mini-Dome has many more advantages over the Culp Center location including street access, a very large area that can be divided, vendor drive in ability, room for lots of tables, room for many train club layouts, and directly adjacent to the new ETSU parking garage for lots of parking access. There is some overhead costs but not a lot; there would be cost for Custodians on Saturday as that would be overtime and there would be cost for Saturday security. Fred suggested a charge of \$30 per table for the vendors. We will be able to get some very good PR via the ETSU publicity department. We are looking at the first weekend in June, which would be the same weekend as the Blue Plum Festival, June 2-4, 2016, which could work to our advantage as another draw to the Johnson City area over the weekend.

New Business:

- **Chapter Participation in upcoming museum events:**
 - Johnson City Blue Plum Festival, June 5-7. We need to get the Cope Layout to the Hands On Museum. Gary Emmert and Mark Woomer are co-chairs for coordinating this.
 - YMCA Summer Camp Tour of Carter Museum. There will be 140 kids in 2 shifts on Thursday, June 18, beginning at 9:30 AM.
 - ET&WNC RR Historical Society 27th Annual Convention to be held June 26-28.
 - Jonesborough Days, July 3-4.

Announcements:

Paul Haynes talked with Alf Peoples who will have some Tweetsie pictures in a 2016 calendar.

Dan McLeod and Mark Woomer are going to help inventory and value Allan Morton's train collection.

The next GLCC NRHS business meeting will be **Monday, June 8, 2015**. This change from the regular third Monday schedule is necessary so we have one more business meeting prior to the June 13th train excursion.

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
 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 Pahrís, Mark Woomer and John Dodge

Editors Note

Looks like Barb and I won't be attending the Excursion this year, we will be in Oregon for our Granddaughters 13th Birthday and also for our Son's wedding on the 20th. May even get a chance to head up to Seattle to see some old work friends and go over to the Snoqualmie Railroad Museum.