



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 7, July 2015



The Drawbar

Summer has arrived and it's been a busy time for the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS and for the Carter Railroad Museum. As the days have gotten longer the visitation for the museum we support with our volunteer efforts has increasingly become a destination for not only our visiting public, but for visiting special groups as well. My thanks to all of you who have rallied to the call for volunteers for the many special events the chapter and the museum has been engaged in to meet these demands over the past few weeks.

Many of you supported with your attendance the successful rail excursion on June 13th that was co-sponsored by the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS and the Carter RR Museum. The trip was sold out more than 2 weeks prior to the event with 162 patrons and guests (the limit the train could transport) joining us for the trip to Knoxville and a visit to the Knoxville Locomotive Works steam shop, a ride on the 3 Rivers Rambler RR, and a luncheon cruise on the *Star of Knoxville* paddlewheel boat operated by the Tennessee Riverboat Co. The weather was terrific and a good time was had by almost everyone on board. Let me again thank you chapter members for joining with us to make this trip the outstanding event for the public that it was. A particular round of cheers to **Charlene** and **Dan McLeod** who did the lion's share of the work, particularly all the reservation correspondence and the numerous other jobs, big and small, that made this venture progress so seamlessly. Thank you both from all the rest of our chapter members and from all our guests. You did a terrific job!!!!

Now that the successful spring trip is behind us and the bills have been paid and our profits divided between the co-hosts, our chapter and the Carter Railroad Museum it is time to think of planning for a fall rail excursion. Please bring your suggestions of railroads to visit that would provide adventure, fun and educational experiences for

us and our guests. For the present I would continue to suggest that we consider trips that can be made in one day (these have the potential for more patrons going with us with less cost and arrangements to make) and that are, therefore, reasonably close to our base in Johnson City. We have alternated October trips thus far between the Smoky Mt. Railway in Bryson City, NC and the Big South Fork Scenic Railway in Stearns, KY. But, perhaps there are other railways we should consider. Please be prepared to let us know what your experience or you Google searches have found for us to consider.

The June 26, 27, and 28 runs of the 4501 were most successful here in the Johnson City area. The train was sold out almost immediately after the excursions were announced and it is my understanding that the extra run on Friday was added because of the demand for tickets. The steam locomotive with a diesel helper had a consist of 18 coaches and other passenger cars. **Jim Pahr** and I are planning a trip soon to Chattanooga to talk about the possibility of the Carter RR Museum and, perhaps our NRHS Chapter, contracting the 630 for similar excursions here for next June. If we have made that trip by the time of our July business meeting we will have additional things to talk about.

In addition to our regular visitors to the museum in the past month our club hosted Amanda Kelly Blackburn's YMCA Summer Camp with 182 children and their adult councilors for more than 5 hours on Thursday, 18 June followed by 32 students and teachers at 4:30 that afternoon who were attending at ETSU Governor's School Program at the university. The MEMRR and Carter Chapter NRHS members also hosted on very short notice 36 high school students and their teachers in an Upward Bound Program from Virginia Highlands Community College at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 29th. Thanks to all our members from the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS for coming to the Carter RR Museum to facilitate these special groups who have included our model railroad and other railroading exhibits into their itineraries. Your efforts on behalf of ETSU have not gone unnoticed at the highest levels of the university's administration and President Noland extended his gratitude on behalf of ETSU to me recently to pass on to you. Your continued support of the museum is reflected in the growing numbers of people who visit us on a weekly basis.

Dean Small, MEMRR Coordinator for the Cope Memorial Traveling Layout, spent many hours getting the little HO layout ready for public display at this year's Annual Jonesborough Days Festival. A number of our members helped with moving the layout to the Jonesborough Visitors Center and manning it while it was there. Members included **Dan McLeod**, **Jim Pahr**, **Paul Haynes**, **Dick Conger** and yours truly. Your efforts on behalf of the chapter and the MEMRR are greatly appreciated. For the first time we had full color brochures for the MEMRR, **Carter Chapter NRHS** and the Carter RR Museum available to the public and much of the materials were distributed to interested visitors to our exhibit. In addition to the Cope Layout we also displayed the 6-foot "how to construct a layout" module.

Many of you worked very hard to help us host the 27th Annual Convention of the ET&WNC RR Historical Society the last weekend of June. I am pleased that so many of you have joined this historic railroad society (if you are interested and are not yet a member you can find application materials in our museum or go to the society's website and download an application) and shared the full agenda the society had over their 3 day convention in Johnson City. The society members voted unanimously to accept the museum's invitation to return to Johnson City for a third consecutive year for their 28th Annual Convention in June of 2016. An additional important highlight for us is that the Society voted unanimously to formally affiliate with the George L. Carter Railroad Museum adding their 240+ members to support the museum and, in turn, receive the support that the museum and the university can lend to them. It is to your credit that this 27 year old historic railroad society has assessed the quality of the standing of our museum home to be such that they have chosen to become a part of it. Their membership spans numerous states and provides a wider base of people who are passionate about the little narrow gauge railroad that begin in Johnson City and that brought goods and transportation to Appalachian mountain folks for almost 70 years. An important aspect to the museum of this sought after affiliation is the additional strengthening their cooperation and mutual support brings to the museum in the eyes of the university and the community. This is a great affirmation of the quality of the Carter RR Museum and a testament of the outstanding exhibits you all have helped to create that continues to attract visitors and local media attention.

George Riley, Associate Editor for White River Productions, who was responsible for the Tweetsie Layout coverage in the 2014 *HOn3 Annual, 6th Edition*, visited our museum again as an attendee of the ET&WNC RR HS convention. He spent more than 2 hours photographing our Tweetsie project and still very much likes what we have been doing since his visit last year. He has been working with **Geoff Stunkard** on the photos and text for an 8 page article on the Shell Creek section of the layout for this year's *HOn3 Annual, 7th Ed.* Geoff has submitted an illustrated article to George and the model railroad magazine's editorial and production staff and they expect the edition to be published in September of this year. To be published in a national/international model railroad annual in 2014 was beyond my wildest expectations; to have a sequel on the little narrow gauge railroad in a second edition that will feature our work around the world is beyond words! We are most fortunate indeed to have this opportunity to showcase our work, our model railroad club, the museum and the university. This publicity is priceless and you are all to be commended for the work you continue to do that attracts so many to our little museum and that provides such a public window to your talents and to our hobby of model railroading. Well done everyone!

Two additional important acquisitions related to the ET&WNC RR Historical Society came to the Carter RR Museum in June. As many of you know during my trip to the National Model Railroad Association Central Regional Convention in Jefferson City, MO with fellow MEMRR member, Michael Paschall, I was able to tour the John Waite ET&WNC RR Sn3 layout. John founded the ET&WNC RR HS and authored the

definitive book on the railroad, *The Blue Ridge Stemwinder*. John passed away in 2012 and his wife, Sharon, had his railroad on display for the last time to the public during this convention. I met Sharon at her home and during my visit she made an important donation to our museum. She is donating the section of John's layout that is a professionally constructed model of the Cranberry Furnace that was constructed in the early 1900s in the Carnegie Section of Johnson City by the ET&WNC. It is a beautiful layout and will be coming to the museum sometime in the next year. This will be an important piece of our local railroading history to add to the displays we are creating in the Ken Marsh Gallery ("Tweetsie Room") of the museum.

The second donation was a complete surprise from a donor I had only met minutes before and of a document that I did not know existed. Shortly before he was to give an illustrated clinic at the Missouri Convention on why the ET&WNC RR was a great railroad to model and to operate I met **Dean Smith** who resides in Rolla, MO. Dean is a most enthusiastic modeler of the Tweetsie and has built an operational HOn3 layout from Johnson City to Boone, NC in his basement. We had talked only for a few minutes when I showed him a copy of the *HOn3 Annual* featuring our Tweetsie layout when he said he had something that was his treasured item of Tweetsie memorabilia hanging in his layout room and that he felt it should be in our museum. I visited his layout a couple of days later with **Michael Pascall** and Dean presented me with the original, pencil filled in, final train order for the last run on 16 October, 1950 of the ET&WNC RR. The copy was train ordered for engine #11 by C.A. Johnson, signed by conductor, Cy Crumley, and engineer W.R. (Walt) Allison. I presented the original to the director of ETSU's Archives of Appalachia where it will properly be preserved and available to researchers of the railroad and we have a copy framed now on display in the "Tweetsie Room" of our museum. The trip to Missouri not only gave me some new modeling techniques to try through the excellent modeling clinics I attended, but two treasures for our museum.

Note: Dean Smith will be the banquet speaker for the June 2016 ET&WNC RR Historical Society's 28th Convention in Johnson City where he will be presenting his PowerPoint clinic on modeling the Tweetsie Railroad. I would highly recommend you putting this event on your calendar as it is a great model railroad presentation.

Taylor Jessee, our Little Engineers Room Station Master, has been rehired by the university for the coming fiscal year. This is great news for us as Taylor does a great job working with our visiting children and their parents/guardians every week. She keeps the children busy and the room neat and clean, coordinates birthday parties, and creates special events annually for the little engineers. Her experience and work with this facet of our museum operations is of great value to us and to the educational outreach arm of what our little museum does. Her dedication to her job and her representation of the museum and the university is greatly appreciated and I am most happy that she had decided to remain in this important position for another year. The search for a Federal Work Study Student to replace Danielle who graduated in May continues and we hope to have that position filled very soon to

provide some extra help to Taylor. As you have seen there are days when this little playroom is very crowded and having two people to interact with our little visitors is extremely helpful. Thank you Taylor for all you do for us and for the kids.

It is nice to see our Carter Chapter NRHS members wearing their club shirts, hats and pins to the museum, on our rail excursions, and to other events. These wearing apparels are part of our identity and let our visitors and excursion guests know that you are a member of our railroad historical society. We have a local source for these embroidered shirts in Campus Chalet and in addition to the club logo you can have your name embroidered on the right front side of the shirt as well. Many styles are available from tee-shirts, to polo shirts (with and without pocket), long sleeve and even sweat shirts. Club Treasurer, **John Dodge**, will take your shirt or hat order(s). So if you don't yet have your chapter shirt/hat, or if you want additional ones, please see John and get your order in. The gray shirts are a great way to show others the outstanding NRHS chapter you are a member of and wearing them also presents a great expression of membership in the organization.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ETSU and the Town of Jonesborough to establish a satellite railroad museum in that town is currently bouncing back and forth between the administrations of both entities. This is the usual process of fine-tuning the document so that there is a clear understanding of the responsibilities for each party and to get all the guidelines for the operation of the potential agreed to. I will continue to let you know what I know as the information is revealed to me. Both sides seem to want this to happen and I feel it is just a matter of time until an agreement is reached.

Our little chapter has been busy and is doing wonderful things for itself and for the community. Listen to the sound of the whistle of the train in the night and dream of all the destinations yet to come. See you at the museum or at a chapter meeting soon?

Fred J. Alsop III

President, George L. Carter Chapter NRHS
Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU

George L. Carter Chapter of the NRHS

**Business Meeting Agenda
Brown Hall, Room 312
On the ETSU Campus
6:30 PM
Monday, June 8, 2015**

Announcements

Fred was in Jefferson Barracks, MO, the week of June 1. Fred met with Dean Smith and Sharon Waite. Fred was able to acquire the original last work order for the Tweetsie Railroad, dated October 16, 1950, from Dean Smith. What a fantastic piece of history! Sharon Waite has graciously donated to the Carter RR Museum, a scale model of the Cranberry Smelters that the late John Waite had modeled.

The Carter Museum Tweetsie layout will be featured in the next Hon3 annual. This makes two in a row!!

Current/Old Business

- **Three Rivers Rambler Excursion.** This is the last business meeting prior to the Three Rivers Rambler excursion on June 13. We will start boarding the tour buses at the ETSU parking lot by 6:15 and leave no later than 7:00 AM for Knoxville. The bus hosts need to be at the parking lot between 6:00 and 6:15 AM. We will arrive at the Knoxville Locomotive Works between 8:30 and 8:45 AM for a 45 to 60 minute tour. We will then go to the Three Rivers Rambler boarding platform to start boarding at 9:30 AM. The train leaves at approximately 10:00 for a 90 minute ride. The two coaches and the open air car have more seats than the number of people in our party. Our party will be the only party on the train. After the train ride we will then board the Star of Knoxville river boat for the lunch buffet cruise. Our party will be the only party on the boat. The boat ride will last approximately 90 minutes. By between 3:00 and 3:30 PM we should be back on the bus and ready to return to ETSU.
- **Summer Picnic.** No new details.
- **Annual Christmas Party.** We have a hiccup regarding the annual Carter Museum Christmas Party. The MEMRR has voted to have the Christmas Party at the Tipton-Haynes facility. We have several options to discuss. A motion was made and 2nded to table the discussion to a later date.
- **Tweetsie Convention.** The convention will be held June 26-28. The Tweetsie Society formed a committee to list the pros and cons of associating with the Carter Museum. The Committee is currently reviewing a proposal recommendation document. Fred is on the Tweetsie Board. Tweetsie Society membership is \$20 per year. The convention price has been raised to \$49 but you will get a lot more for your money this year. Included in the presentation during

the convention will be 18 or 19 aerial photos of the Tweetsie route in the 1940s. The Tweetsie carried a variety of freight that other lines would not carry. We will try to get Dean Smith up here to talk about why the Tweetsie is such a great railroad to model.

- **Chapter Brochure Design.** This has been completed. Bill Beagen ordered 5,000 copies to be received later in June. The brochure is very high quality and looks very professional. Thank you, Bill!
- **Chapter Web Page and Information.** The hosting company has been selected and is the same as for the MEMRR web site. Please forward any ideas and suggestions for what should or could be included on the website to Bill Beagen and Mark Woomer. We need to make sure the Carter Museum website is kept up to date as well. A meeting with student volunteers that will work on updating the website has been scheduled for the week of June 13.
- **Satellite Carter RR Museum for Jonesborough.** Fred Alsop had a meeting with the Jonesborough City Manager to review the memorandum of understanding. Jonesborough has a lot going on but this is something the city is very interested in doing. This is progressing.
- **GLCC NRHS Chapter logo Pins.** The pins are \$5.00 each. We have 100.
- **Other Current/Old Business??**

New Business:

- **Chapter Participation in upcoming museum events:**
 - Johnson City Blue Plum Festival, June 5-7. Fred's thanks to all who helped move the Cope layout to and from the Hands On Museum. We do, however, need better volunteer participation.
 - YMCA Summer Camp (140 kids in 2 shifts) Thurs. June 15 (Amanda Kelly Blackburn). We need some volunteers to man the museum to answer questions, supervise, etc.
 - ET&WNC RR Historical Society 27th Annual Convention to be held June 26-28.
 - Jonesborough Days, July 3-4. We need volunteers to help move the Cope layout to and from Jonesborough. An email will be sent out.
 - We had a very good experience with Lanny Norris's daughter's clad visit to the Carter Museum!
- **An Excursion Suggestion.** Dan and Charlene McLeod have suggested a murder mystery train excursion for May-June 2016. They have received a proposal from


the "Murder Mystery Caravan". The group is dying (no pun intended) to do a murder mystery train ride. We will take this up at a future business meeting.

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

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.



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

Penn Station NYC Remembered

My Dad worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad as an Electrician and worked in Penn Station in NYC. I got to know a lot about the inner workings of this great place and I was always fascinated by it. There was a huge concourse where you would wait for your train and the track number to be announced and when it was everyone would head for that track. The Conductor would open the gate and you went down two flights of stairs to get to the train platform. Upon entering the train (Mutts as my Dad called them), you would head for the car closest to where you would get off when you arrived at your station. Ours was usually toward the last two cars as that is where the stairway to the street was at our stop (It's Metropark now, but when I grew up it was Iselin and it was about ½ mile closer to our house than it is now).

Back to Penn Station – There were things I absolutely loved about this place, it was here that I first saw doors that would open automatically when you walked up to them. I think there were about six of them all in a row. A light beam that you walked through sensed you and opened the door, absolute magic! They were on the main concourse and separated the concourse from the waiting room and lunch counter. The lunch counter had to have had over 200 seats and enough waiter and waitresses to take your order. There was also a Nedick's Orange Juice stand on the lower level that had the best hot dogs and orange juice I ever tasted. Nedick's was also in Penn Station in Newark, NJ as well as downtown in Newark and in Journal Square in Jersey City. I believe they also had about 10 places around New York City and one of them was on Times Square! When I was in High School I used to stop by the one at the corner of Broad and Market in Newark and get an orange juice as I walked from the school to the Newark Penn Station. If my memory serves me right, I think it was only a nickel for a 6 ounce glass!

Those were the days!