



The Coal Road

+++++

The Monthly Newsletter of the George L. Carter Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee Volume 5, Number 9, September 2015



The Drawbar

Back from Bolivia on the 17th of August. Missed you all and the Carter RR Museum while traveling in a country with almost no railroads (saw only one short train), but lots of birds as we recorded more than 390 species. Thanks to all of you for keeping the Carter Railroad Museum up and running and making so many visitors welcome. It is with regret that I tell you that MEMRR member, **Michael Delka**, a Viet Nam veteran, lost a battle with cancer on July 29th. Michael attended, and was a strong supporter of, several of our Carter Chapter's rail excursions and was a donor to the Carter RR Museum. I represented us at his military funeral at Mt. Home on August 14th.

Summer time is **PICNIC TIME!** Our annual summer picnic for the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS is once more being hosted by Kim and Tom McKee at their lakeside home (this year it is further from the lake) to enjoy each other's company, watch Tom's G-Scale trains on his garden layout, eat some great food and talk a little railroading. The picnic is at 4:00 p.m. and is open to all members and their spouse/significant others. Pot luck with the McKee's once more furnishing the meat. Don't miss this wonderful late summer social event!

The Carter Chapter NRHS will be co-sponsoring a rail excursion with the Carter RR Museum on Sunday, October 25th to the Big South Fork Scenic Railroad in Stearns, KY. This is a great trip with buses leaving from ETSU and a visit to the Blue Heron Mine, a National Park Service interpretative site, a 3+ hour ride on the former rails of the Kentucky and Tennessee RR, and a visit to the McCreary County Museum. The trip is limited to 168 people and there are cab rides available! Don't wait to get your tickets. All the information you need to join us is on the MEMRR website. Check it out and we have hardcopies at the Carter Railroad Museum if you want to pick them up there. August 29-30th was the annual Railroad Heritage Weekend at the Tweetsie Railroad in Blowing Rock, NC. I got to represent the Carter Railroad Museum and the ET&WNC RR Historical Society at the two-day event with brochures from the museum, the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS. Both locomotives 12 (former ET&WNC RR

engine, and the only locomotive surviving from that railroad) and 190 were working. Locomotive #12 was pulling vintage coach #5 and locomotive #190 pulled the park's regular 5-7 open sided coach consist. Both locomotives were double-headed for much of Sunday morning. The personal highlight for me was a cab ride in #12 made especially memorable because of all the work we are doing on our own Tweetsie HOn3 layout at the museum.

Several members of the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS gathered on Friday, August 28th at the home of the late **Ed Reutling** to dismantle his O-gauge layout, and to gather rolling stock, locomotives, and lots of other model train related materials that his sons, **Eric** and **Fred**, were donating in their father's name to the Carter Railroad Museum. Volunteer workers included **Gary Emmert, Mike Buster, Karl Hacker, Dan McLeod, Jim Pahriss, Roger Teinert, Mark Woomer**, and me (if I omitted your name and you helped out that morning the omission is not because you were not appreciated, only because of my faulty memory; please forgive the omission.). Thank you all for your help. We could not have accomplished the task in the time it took without you. The layout is now stored in the museum's trailer in a barn off of Headtown Road until we can find the space to reassemble it. **Gary** and **Mike** are still in the process of completing an inventory of all that was donated.

Our Station Master, **Taylor Jessee**, has been busy on Saturdays interviewing potential candidates for her position at the museum as well as students who may wish to work with our Little Engineers as Federal Work Study students. We need to fill these positions as soon as suitable folks can be found so that **Taylor** can pursue other avenues of work and get some of her Saturdays back. **Taylor**, we will miss you and you have done an outstanding job for us and the children who visit our railroad museum.

Work continues on the planning of the big train show that will be in the Mini-Dome on the ETSU campus on 3-4 June, 2016. Marketing flyers have been approved and are being printed for distribution to potential vendors and to let the public know of the event. In addition to the vendors we plan to have working model railroad layouts including live steam at the venue. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Tables for members will be available and we can have club tables if the MEMRR wants to do so.

Building a website for the Carter RR Museum is still a work in progress, but I hope to have a new and better site up and running at the university by the end of October. This site will provide links to the MEMRR, Carter Chapter NRHS (that site is also under construction) and the ET&WNC RR Historical Society (site under construction) when it is completed. The linked sites provide the potential for many more hits allowing a greater number of people to become aware of our existence.

At their August 22 Board of Directors meeting, the BOD of the ET&WNC RR Historical Society unanimously approved the drafted MOU that will join that Historical Society with the George L. Carter Railroad Museum as voted by their membership at the June 27th Annual Convention held at the Carnegie Hotel in Johnson City. The document is currently being circulated to each BOD member for signatures and will be returned to me at the Carter RR Museum for my signature. Once the signing is completed the two

organizations will be supporting each other's efforts in bringing railroading and local railroad history to the region. I will provide a copy of the document to the editor of our monthly newsletter for publication and for your review. Many of you are already members of the ET&WNC RR Historical Society and I would encourage you who are not yet members to consider membership with this society. You can download membership materials from their website.

Visitor response to the Carter Railroad Museum is still strong with the average attendance for most Saturdays this summer being around 100 visitors. This is a great testament to your efforts as model railroaders and to the sharing of your talents, skills and knowledge with the public, young and old, who make the railroad museum a destination on Saturdays. Great work fellows, and to your ladies who support your involvement in the hobby and your Saturdays at the museum as well! Thank you for all you do. At this time no decision has been made regarding the potential for a satellite railroad museum as requested by the Town of Jonesborough. ETSU President, Brian Noland, and I had a brief sidewalk chat a couple of Fridays ago regarding it. The president had visited the proposed structure and has some concerns about its usefulness as a potential museum site. The decision will be his and the Jonesborough city manager and the mayor to decide. I shall continue to keep you all posted as this consideration for an additional site continues. If you have not visited Jonesborough lately it is worth a trip to see the progress being made on the relocated Southern depot that is being reconstructed in that town. It is designated to become a railroad museum housing historical railroad artifacts, but not the type of railroad museum that the Town of Jonesborough has been discussing with the Carter RR Museum and ETSU.

A lot of work continues around the museum, especially on Thursday nights. I know that many of you are assisting in some or all of the projects as you are interested in supporting the museum and its activities, and your work is greatly appreciated. Any chapter member is welcome to help and we really need your expertise, your talents, your enthusiasm and your labor to bring all of these layouts up and running. We welcome your assistance on any of the above and really need you to keep coming to the museum on Thursday nights to participate in the continued improvement of all of our exhibits. Saturdays please come to meet our visitors, run some of your trains or the club locomotives and rolling stock, and lend your time to support the MEMRR, the Carter Chapter NRHS and the Carter Railroad Museum. We need you!

Our Historian, **Carolyn Gregg**, has provided me with a 3-ring binder with more than 300 pages of railroad stories and photographs from her interviews, and those of **Dr. Delanna Reed**, ETSU Storytelling, and from her research on personal experiences with Southern Appalachian Railroads. This is part of our ongoing "Tales of the Rails" project. I will proofread the text and get the materials back to her and shortly afterwards we should be ready for publication of our initial volume of these treasured remembrances of life along the regions' railroads.

The Heritage Day event for September 26th is **ChiTown; Midwestern Lines and the Windy City**. Bring your locomotives and consists that would have traveled through Chicago and let's show everyone what those railroad did, and do, represent with their

flashy color schemes and interesting rolling stock. If our chapter members have any suitable display materials we will be happy to provide display space for them for this event or any other Heritage Day event in the future.

On Friday, September 4th, I participated in the ribbon cutting in Elizabethton that formally dedicated the completed 10 miles of the Tweetsie Trail as a member of its taskforce. We will be adding historical and other public information markers along the trail in the months to come. I encourage you to take a walk or a bike ride on it sometime soon if you have not already done so. While we might rather see rails and ties on the right-of-way many people are enjoying the views, the exercise and the social companionship the trail has been providing since it was opened to the public in August of 2014. Elizabethton is negotiating with the owner of the Bemberg Depot to gain ownership and restore it to some of its former appearance when it was an ET&WNC RR station.

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

**Business Meeting
Brown Hall, Room 312
6:30 PM
Monday August 17, 2015**

Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 PM.

Officers Reports

- **President's Report, Fred Alsop.** Fred has been Bolivia the past two weeks and returned just today.

The Tweetsie Historical Society will meet at the Carter Museum on Saturday, August, 22. One item on the agenda is the idea of having the annual convention the same weekend as the Carter Museum Train Show next June, 2016. The Keynote speaker for the convention will be Dean Smith, and will discuss what a great railroad the Tweetise is to model. This weekend, August 22, we also have a birthday party at the museum and a volleyball tournament at ETSU.

- **Vice President's Report, Jim Pahrts.** Nothing to report.
- **Chapter Representative, Charlotte Pahrts.** Nothing to report.

- **Editor's Report, Bill Beagen.** Bill is thinking about using something other than MS Word to put the newsletter together, and may need to use something else to convert the newsletter to pdf format.
- **Treasurer's Report, John Dodge.** Not much activity of late. We have a very positive balance. The NRHS sent a very nice thank you letter regarding the GLCC NRHS gift of \$1,000.00 to the NRHS to be used for grants and the Summer Camp.
- **Secretary's Report, Mark Woomer.** A motion to accept the minutes as published in the Coal Road was 2nded and approved. Mark will continue to follow up with all GLCC NRSH members to verify membership and work with Jim Pahriss and the national NRHS membership group to get all membership discrepancies resolved.
- **Historian's Report, Carolyn Gregg.** Via email. Quotes for publishing collected Tales of the Rails stories is as follows:

George L. Carter Chapter NRHS
Tales of the Rails Quotes
Carolyn S. Gregg
August 16, 2015
Quote for:
100 copies
300 pages
Cardstock cover—color front
Standard paper inside
Black and White inside
Cover bind (soft cover)

Artistic Printers in Greeneville:
100 copies \$2,345.00 \$23.45 each
200 copies \$3,974.00) \$19.87 each

Staples (Store #340 in Newark, DE)
200 copies \$756.90 \$7.56 each
This quote is good until Sept. 10, 2015
A motion was made and 2nded to accept the quote from Staples as stated in Carolyn's email. Discussion:
The content needs to be reviewed and we need to see some samples. If we lock in a price it becomes a binding contract. We need to get waivers from the contributors. Should we make copies available to the contributors at cost? Do we want this to be a 100% club effort, or a shared effort with the Museum? Carolyn has done the bulk of the work

since she came on board. What size will the book be? Eight and a half by eleven.

The motion passed.

- **Librarian's Report, Gary Emmert.** Gary needs a volunteer to catalog the books in storage in room 236. Mark Woomer volunteered. ETSU would like some of the duplicates books to add to their transportation collection. The Museum has some display materials that were on display at the ETSU Library. A motion was made, 2nded, and passed to provide the display materials to the City of Elizabethton, TN.

Current/Old Business

- **Carter Railroad Museum Train Show.** June 3-4, 2016. Bonny Woomer is completing the vendor flyer and attendee flyer. We have received approval for live steam locomotives to run during the train show. Working on getting quotes and pricing for tables.
- **Fall Excursion Planning.** Jim Pahrís proposed that the Fall Excursion be on The Southern Appalachian Railway Museum Railroad. The train ride would be one hour. We would then go to the American Museum of Science and Energy and then on to the Star of Knoxville riverboat for a lunch cruise. The train can seat 154 people. A motion was made, 2nded, discussed, and passed to plan this excursion for Saturday, October 31.
- **Summer Picnic.** The annual Summer Picnic will be at the McKee's, same location as last year.
- **Annual Christmas Party.** The annual Christmas Party will be pot luck at the Tipton-Haynes facility.
- **Tweetsie Convention.** We need to decide on a date. Fred is talking with the Tweetsie organization about scheduling the same weekend as the Train Show.
- **Chapter Web Page and Information.** The Carter Museum has a Facebook page that is being worked on. The previous GLCC web site is not usable. Bill is working with the ETSU Computer Science Department to develop a work schedule and timeline for completion. A web page for the Carter Museum is also being expanded.
- **Carter RR Museum satellite location in Jonesborough.** We need a CPR-certified person for the kids' room. Stipends will be required for this person and for the Director. Details are being discussed with Jonesborough and ETSU.

- **Tales of the Rails.** See Historian Report above.
- **ETSU/UT 2017 Football Game.** Plans are being discussed and formulated for a train excursion from Johnson City to Knoxville for the ETSU / UT football game in 2017.

New Business:

- The NRHS is a 501(c3) organization program. The NRHS has a discount list for train and rail attractions around the country and can be found at this link:

http://admin.nrhs.com/public/general/2015_Member_Discount_List.pdf

- The 2016 NRHS Convention will be in Denver. The 2017 NRHS Convention will probably be somewhere between Nashville and Chattanooga.

The Evening Program

- Provided by Jim Pahriss.

Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

GLCC NRHS 2015 Business Calendar

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| January 19 BOD Meeting Business Meeting | February 16 Business Meeting | March 16 Business Meeting |
| April 20 BOD Meeting Business Meeting | May 18 25 BOD Meeting Business Meeting (Cancelled) | June 15 8 Business Meeting |
| July 20 BOD Meeting Business Meeting | August 17 Business Meeting | September 14 Business Meeting |
| October 19 BOD Meeting Business Meeting | November 16 Business Meeting | December 17 Annual Carter Museum Christmas Party |

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <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 Pahris, Mark Woomer and John Dodge

Editors Note

Due to time restraints, there will be no Note this month.