



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 10, October 2015



The Drawbar

About 40 of us had a great time laced with wonderful food at the annual Carter Railroad Museum picnic in mid-September. The feast and festivities were once again hosted by **Kim** and **Tom McKee** at their lakeside home (the lake was a little lower this year). Our thanks go out to the McKees for the fine chicken they furnished and the great picnic site they provided us with. If you missed this annual event be sure to plan to join us next summer and begin your plans for our Christmas party on 18 December at Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site on South Roan Street in Johnson City. Dirty Santa will be there to visit us and to help spread the season's merriment. We extend a special thank-you to **Jim Pahr** for once more coordinating the event for the museum.

It was with deep felt sadness that we learned of the passing of **Rev. Howard Walker** of Joliet, Illinois in late September. Rev. Walker donated more than 900 volumes of railroad books, and numerous DVDs and VHS tapes on railroads, from his personal library to establish the majority of the holdings in the Carter Railroad Museum Library that bears his name. He also donated much of the railroad china, a number of conductor's hats, and other railroad memorabilia to the museum's collections. His wish was to be buried in his railroad conductor's uniform and our museum may send the family one of the conductor's hats he donated to complete request. Rev. Walker also has left his HO scale model railroad rolling stock, locomotives, and buildings to the museum. **Jim Pahr** is in the process of organizing a trip to Howard's home to pack and retrieve these items for the museum. If anyone is interested in making the trip and helping bring Rev. Walker's donation to Johnson City please let Jim know. The museum will take care of lodging and gasoline expenses, more if possible, for any of our members willing to undertake the journey.

ETSU's Dr. Ron Roach brought his **Appalachian Studies class** for a special tour of the Carter Railroad Museum on Monday afternoon, October 5th. The class is focusing on the Clinchfield Railroad and George L. Carter and wanted to see our Clinchfield collection as

well as the rest of the museum exhibits. Thanks to **Roger Teinert, Gary Emmert, Dan McLeod, Mike Buster, Bob Jones, Jim Pahris, Paul Haynes, Gary Woods, Carl Hacker** and anyone whose name I may be forgetting as I write this for being there for these students. Jim gave a short lecture on the history of early railroading in the region and the students had their note pads out and took copious notes. Thank you all for the educational services you render on a regular basis to our many visitors.

The Railroad Museum welcomes our new Station Master, **Kelsey Shubert**, and Ticket Agent, **Chris Runyon**. Both began full-time Saturday duties on October 3rd with **Taylor Jessee** spending half a day with them to get them oriented to the little engineers and the duties they are expected to perform. We will miss Jessee who has worked for us more than two years now, but she is leaving us in good hands and we are fortunate to have Kelsey and Chris working with us. Make them welcome!

All of you are most aware that **we are planning a huge train show** sponsored by our Carter Railroad Museum right here in Johnson City in early June 2016. We are using the ETSU “mini-dome” with 64,000 sq. ft. of floor space as the venue. **Roger Teinert** is chairing the Train Show Committee and the planning began many months ago. We need several things from our members. We need any contacts or suggestions you may have for potential vendors for the show. We need any contacts or suggestions you may have for clubs with layouts that we can invite to participate in any scale and in any layout size including live steam. More importantly, we need volunteers to do a lot of things while the show is going on. Many of us spend many hours each year driving to, and participating in, train shows in several adjoining states. We need you to spend some of those hours next year helping us bring about the biggest train show ever held in East Tennessee to Johnson City. With your help we can do this and the more help we have the easier it will be for everyone. Please plan to help us in any way you can and, remember, we need your suggestions to make this a really special event that, if successful, may become an annual big train show in our own backyard. Think of it; of not having to drive for hours to get to a great train show because one will be happening every year right here in Johnson City with vendors, manufactures, and super layouts coming to the area where you live!

Next month we will be commemorating the **8th Anniversary of the George L. Carter Railroad Museum**. We have become a Saturday destination for many citizens of the region with more than 8000 visitors last fiscal year and with a sustained average of approximately 100 visitors each day we are open to the public. Our MEMRR club has grown from an average of 35 members to more than 100 in each of the last 5 years. The G.L. Carter Chapter NRHS was created and affiliated with the museum and this year the ET&WNC RR Historical Society chose to affiliate with the museum. We have expanded our gallery space from 2,400 sq. ft. to more than 5,000 sq. ft. and could use much, much more. Our library has grown from a score of hardback books to almost 1,000 volumes, mostly through the generosity of donors. Donors have also greatly expanded our collection of exhibits and have created a working foundation account through the gifts of their dollars. The quality of our model railroading is not only being admired by our visitors, some of whom have joined us as members, but is being exhibited nationally in prestigious model railroad magazines. As we celebrate 8 years on the ETSU campus next

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month reflect on how far we have come, how much we have grown, and what an impact you and your love of railroads and model railroading has made on this community. Thank you for all you do and for the continued support you give to your hobby, your fellow members and to the museum.

The Carter Chapter NRHS and the Carter Railroad Museum are once more co-sponsoring a rail excursion from ETSU to the **Big South Fork Scenic Railroad**. This is a Sunday trip on 25 October and will be the first one that has not taken place on a Saturday when our museum is open to the public. We hope all of our member will join us for this bus ride to Stearns, KY and the 16 mile roundtrip rail ride in the Daniel Boone National Forest and the Big South Fork National Scenic River during the fall color season. The trip is only \$85 for adults (\$65 for children) and includes the roundtrip motor coach ride from ETSU, the train ride and tickets to the McCreary County Museum in Stearns. This is a great trip and there are still seats available, but the cutoff date to get tickets is October 19th. You can pick up ticket applications at the Carter RR Museum or download them at home on your computer by going to the memrr.org website, clicking on NRHS News and then on the ticket information link. If you have gone on this favorite trip with us before please consider coming again and bringing friends or family. If you have not made this scenic trip to an important coal mining and timber harvesting region that established the Tennessee & Kentucky Railroad where 4501 once worked, you need to take advantage of this opportunity. It is a full day trip that is filled with fun and regional history.

We have our **annual election of officers in the month of November** and at the September business meeting a nominating committee was created. This committee will present a slate of officers to be placed in nomination at the October business meeting. The floor will be open for additional nominations. Once the slate of nominees has been accepted by those present at this meeting a ballot will be created and emailed to all our members so they may cast their votes that will elect our officers for 2016. Anyone wishing to be nominated should let the committee, or any of the current officers know of your desire to serve and for which office you would seek to fill. All elected positions are open each year for nominations and election by the organization.

The **Board of Directors of the ET&WNC RR Historical Society and the Director of the George L. Carter Railroad** have all signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** that formally links the Historical Society and the Railroad Museum in an agreement of mutual support. The Historical Society will use our ETSU Museum/MEMRR/Carter Chapter NRHS mutual mailbox as their permanent mailing address and we will exchange ideas, newsletters, exhibit items, information and other things that pertain to the promotion of both the museum and the Historical Society with the ET&WNC Railroad as the major focus of our mutual interest. A copy of the MOU is on file in my office. This mutual agreement creates a wonderful pledge of support and cooperation between an important historical organization that keeps the memory of the "Tweetsie" alive and our efforts at the Carter RR Museum to create the largest and most historically accurate operating model railroad layout of this famous narrow gauge railroad as an educational exhibit for all our museum visitors. I look forward to a positive growing relationship between our two entities. I enthusiastically recommend to all our

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members who are not now members of the ET&WNC RR HS that you seriously consider joining the society that has a passion for the little 3-foot gauge railroad that had its origin in Johnson City, TN. Their 2016 annual convention will be in early June 2016 (to coincide with our museum train show) with **Dean Smith** who models the Tweetsie RR in HO_{N3} at his Missouri home being the keynote speaker for their Friday night banquet. This will be a great opportunity for the Society members to focus on modeling the ET&WNC, and you are urged to join and be a part of this meeting in our backyard. In 2017 ET&WNC locomotive #12 will be 100 years old and the society will join with the Tweetsie Railroad in Blowing Rock, NC for a big celebration of that engine's anniversary. Membership is only \$30 annually and there are application forms available at the Carter RR Museum or you can download them from the Society's website. The **Tales of the Rails** program will soon take legs as **Carolyn Gregg** has been working hard to compile a manuscript in book form of the many stories she and **Delanna Reed** and others have been gathering from scores of interviews over the past 5 years or so. Soon that work will be sent to a publisher and we will have copies to read and to distribute. I have had the pleasure of proofing the manuscript in the past few weeks and I know that the personal stories we have saved through this project have been well worth the time, money and effort of all involved. Carolyn has enriched the memories of those interviewed with lots of photographs of people, places, trains and railroading to add to the context of this work. We will keep everyone posted on the progress in making the transition of the text into a published work.

Our **Heritage Day Event** for October focuses on the **Clinchfield Railroad**. So, bring you CRR locomotives and rolling stock, those long coal drags and mixed freight consists; passenger cars if you have them, and let's do George L. Carter's railroad up right for ourselves and for our visitors. I know many of our members are CRR fans and there are lots of steam locomotives, gray yellow-nosed F and GP locomotives, and some black painted diesel engines available that should vie for trackage time on our HO layout and a few on the N-Scale as well. So, fellows, get out and lubed up and bring them to the museum to operate on Saturday, October 31. If you have Clinchfield memorabilia that we can display, please make it available to **Geoff Stunkard** so we can get it in the exhibit cases or out where it can be shown to our guests on Heritage Day.

We are already into the fall season with train shows on the horizon to visit, new things to find and purchase for our hobby of model railroading and a lot of activities on the layouts continuing at the Carter Railroad Museum. We invite all our members to come and participate. Join us in our mutual hobby. Operate your trains, or the club trains, on our layouts (4 scales are available), help us create our exhibits, give us your time and your talents, or learn some new things about the hobby from the members you find at the museum when you come. Exercise all the privileges of your membership and remember, November is the month when we renew our memberships for the following year and we want you to remain a part of us by being among the first to pay your dues for 2016. We have a wonderful museum that we have all had a hand in creating a venue that attracts a host of visitors every Saturday and is a model railroading laboratory that is becoming a destination not only for our Saturday guests, but for our members as well. We have created exhibits that have attracted national attention via major model railroading

publications. There is always something going on at the museum and we want you to remain an active part of it.

We have been growing for almost 8 years now in the Carter Railroad Museum and some of us have been a part of this history since the beginning, and members of the MEMRR for many years before that day in 2007 when the doors opened and we begin to fill the space with layouts, exhibits, display cases and dreams. Where will the next 8 years take us? **Listen to the sound of the whistle of the train at 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
Monday, September 14, 2015**

Agenda

The Meeting was called to Order at 6:30 PM.

Announcements and Visitors

- **Bob Dunn.** See Current/Old Business below.

Officers Reports

- **President's Report, Fred Alsop.** See Current/Old Business below.
- **Vice President's Report, Jim Pahrts.** Nothing to report.
- **Chapter Representative, Charlotte Pahrts.** Nothing to report.
- **Editor's Report, Bill Beagen.** Out of town.
- **Treasurer's Report, John Dodge.** We have a very positive balance.
- **Secretary's Report, Mark Woomer.** Motion was made, 2nded and passed to accept the minutes from the previous business meeting.
- **Historian's Report, Carolyn Gregg.** Out of town. Fred has been proofing Carolyn's compilation.
- **Librarian's Report, Gary Emmert.** We have over 1,000 items in the Library with some duplicates that can be sold.

Current/Old Business

- **Carter Railroad Museum Train Show.** The Train Show Committee has had monthly meetings. The brochure has been completed and a list of vendors is being compiled. The Tweetsie Society will have a booth. The MEMRR will have a booth. Fred Alsop asked Jim Pahrts to setup and man an NRHS booth. The Train Show Committee is an amalgamation of people in the MEMRR and the GLCC NRHS. Bonny Woomer did a great job of putting together the vendor flyer show notice and registration form. Mark Woomer will send out the vendor notice and registration forms via email and snail mail. This could very well become an annual event. Gary Emmert and Bill Hensley will start to contact railroad and model railroad company representatives to gauge interest in those organizations to have a booth at the Train Show. Some additional ideas discussed were door prizes such as 1 year club memberships and excursion tickets. A motion was made, 2nded, discussed, and passed to have the GLCC NRHS provide 6 door prizes: 4 excursion tickets (we will still require waivers to be submitted) and 2 GLCC memberships to include one family membership. We will be asking vendors if any would be interested in providing a door prize.
- **Fall Excursion Planning.** Fred Alsop will contact local media in each of the Tri-Cities cities. The excursion will be a very nice ride through The Big South Fork Park and Recreation Area National Park, and near the Blue Heron Mine. There is lots of mining memorabilia in the museum across from the train station. We have 9 people signed up so far. The McLeod's and Woomer's are hosting buses. We need one more bus host. There will be a silent auction for a locomotive cab ride. We need to include Train Show flyers in the bus packet to be given to excursion attendees.
- **2016 Officer Elections.** We need a nominating committee for the officers and directors election coming up in November. Four GLCC NRHS officers and two directors will be elected. The names must be ready for review at the October business meeting. Bill Beagen, Gary Emmert, and Mark Woomer will serve on the Nominating Committee.
- **Summer Picnic.** 24 people were at the picnic at the McKee's. Our thanks to the McKee's for hosting the picnic, and to Jim Pahrts for organizing!
- **Annual Christmas Party.** No changes. The Christmas party will be potluck and held at Tipton-Haynes on December 17.
- **Tweetsie Convention.** No new information at this time. Continue to note that the Tweetsie Convention will be held the same weekend as the Train Show, June 3-4, 2016.

- **Chapter Web Page and Information.** Chapter information is available on the NRHS website:
<http://www.nrhs.com/chapters/george-l-carter>
The George L. Carter Railroad Museum is on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/GeorgeLCarterRailroadMuseum>
- **Carter RR Museum satellite location in Jonesborough.** ETSU President Nolan toured the building and came away disappointed in the size of the building. He had hoped it would be bigger. We may have to explore an alternative location. More info to follow.
- **Tales of the Rails.** No new information.
- **ETSU/UT 2017 Football Game.** No new information.

New Business

- **Emily Miller.** Emily Miller, widow of Jack Miller (Jack Miller’s Train Shop, Johnson City), contacted Jim Pahrís about donating the VHS tape railroad video collection to the museum. Jim will follow up.

The Evening Program

- **Video Provided by Jim Pahrís.** A video of the California Western Railroad in Fort Bragg, California.

Meeting Adjournment

<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 Woomeer and John Dodge

Editors Note

The following article was brought to my attention by Jim Pahrís. Lets hope it actually does happen!

September 25, 2015

RELATED TOPICS: PASSENGER | SOUTH | AMTRAK

BRISTOL, Va. – The Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission recently approved \$250,000 for the city of Bristol to study extending Amtrak service from Roanoke to Bristol and beyond, the Bristol Herald Courier reports.

The commission unanimously approved the funding at a meeting this week. According to the article, the funds represent about half of the expected feasibility study cost. The comprehensive study would be the first step in trying to attract passenger service into southwest Virginia local officials say.

In addition to the \$250,000, the city of Bristol has already earmarked \$50,000 toward the project and believes the remaining cost can be paid for with funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The first phase of the study will first look at the ridership component using preliminary data already available. Project leaders hope to have this phase of the study completed by the start of the Commonwealth's General Assembly in January. The city is also trying to link communities in Virginia and neighboring states to present a larger picture of interest in extending passenger rail.

Passenger rail service to Roanoke is expected to return in late 2016 or early 2017.

