



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 11, November 2015



The Drawbar

After a beautiful October with lots of color splashed on the trees and some unusually mild temperatures those bright leaves of yellows, reds, and oranges are falling into all our yards and the bearing of the trees means many of our activities will turn toward the indoors. That also means we may be devoting more of our time to our common hobby of model railroading and learning more about the prototype railroads. We welcome our newest members. Thank you for sharing your common interest in railroading with our organizations and our Carter Railroad Museum. We look forward to your company and extending our friendship through our hobby. . November is an important month for us in many ways and the month marks milestones both locally and nationally. It is the anniversary month for the dedication of the George L. Carter Railroad Museum which will celebrate its 8th birthday on the 14th. We will have a little party to celebrate the event as we continue to build toward the museum's future. November is the month when we elect our officers for the coming year and we have nominating committees in place who have delivered a slate of officers and ballots that have been distributed to all our full members to cast their votes to elect those who have volunteered to lead our organization in the coming year. November is the month that begins the renewal of our memberships for 2016 and our treasurer is ready to accept your dues as soon as you can submit them. Dues levels have remained the same for many years now and the monies collected remain in the club's treasury to be spent on club projects and the expenses of maintaining the organization. November is National Model Railroad Month and November 18th is National Take a Toy Train to Work Day.

Lots of visitors continue to come to the Carter Railroad Museum on Saturdays. With our efforts to keep track of their numbers we have been using clicker-counters and we are averaging about 100 visitors each time we are open. As happy as I am to see these steady numbers that demonstrate the popularity of the exhibits and the railroad-themed experience we provide to the public for the university, the number

of members who are present each Saturday to operate the museum and to interact with our guests is most impressive. We have been keeping a sign-in sheet for members for a number of weeks now and we are recording between 16 and 23 of our members each Saturday! That is terrific support for the hobby that we are all engaged in and important in sharing the responsibilities for having a public museum open and operating at full capacity. Our Little Engineer's Room continues to be a popular meeting place for children and we have the good fortune to have **Kelsey** and **Chris** actively engaged with their little charges and carrying on the tradition of having great support for our visiting children.

The great weekly turnout of our members is allowing me and others to work on the Tweetsie Project exhibits for many hours on Saturdays that serves to move us towards completion and smooth operation of that layout. **John Edwards, Mike Buster** and **Frank Fezzie**, with the help of other members are working on improving the operations of the little narrow gauge railroad by running the short consists over the layout from end-to-end to find and correct the trouble spots. **Dean Small** continues to make scores of puffball trees while **Ken Harmon** is excelling at creating more realistic miniature trees for the mountain forests that will dominate much of the layout. I continue to work on the scenery that will be the Appalachian backdrop for our 2-8-0 and 4-6-0 locomotives to travel through. I have most recently been working on the Pardee Point and adjacent sections that former member, **Bear Anderson**, began prior to his moving to North Carolina. The huge rock cliffs of that part of the railroad are beginning to take shape. We still could use a lot of help constructing the kits that will create the rolling stock that these locomotives will be transporting to various destinations between Johnson City and the Cranberry Mines and will gladly supply you with the materials necessary to let you construct as many as you would like to do. By the time you read this we should have received 50 pairs of RTR trucks from Blackstone to outfit our freight cars and a few for our passenger coaches as well. We will outfit each car with Sargent couplers to make all the coupling connections uniform for our trains.

George Riley, Marketing Director for White River Productions, told me in a recent email that the 2015 *HOn3 Annual, 7th Edition* will soon hit the newsstands with our 9 page article on the Shell Creek section of our Tweetsie Layout written by **Geoff Stunkard**. I have ordered 50 copies of the magazine for sale at the museum. They retail for \$19.95 and I will make them available to our members for \$15.00; so save a few dollars to purchase one for yourself, and perhaps others for a gift for a friend. It was terrific to have our museum's Tweetsie Project featured with a 10 page spread in this national/international model railroad publication in their 2014 edition; an accomplishment I am sure we are all very proud of (after all, how many model railroad clubs get their layouts into national publication?), but to be featured two years consecutively borders on being unbelievable! Congratulations to all of us and especially to those of you who have continued to work so hard on this layout that is becoming a terrific model railroad for us to operate, but that is important to the region for its historic context.

One more bit of information on the future progress of the Tweetsie layout. **George Riley** has agreed to use his Micro-Mark LaserKnife to fabricate some of the wooden sections that we will need to produce the dozen or so structures that will be the buildings that will represent the Cranberry Mine. **John Edwards** will work with me to create the scale drawings of the necessary buildings in a Corel-Draw format. These will be send to George and he will use this state-of-the-art machine to laser-cut the pieces that will then be sent back to us for assembly. If this volunteer arrangement works we will use it to create the mine structures, the Cranberry store, several buildings for the Roan Mountain section of the layout and other wooden structures. If we find this arrangement is not working for us we will look into purchasing our own LaserKnife and doing all the work in-house. The advantages to doing the work here would provide more flexibility in the creation and assembly of the needed structures with refining them as necessary to fit the layout as well as perhaps producing a few kits that could be sold commercially. The big disadvantage would be the approximately \$2,000 the instrument costs that would have to be taken from museum foundation funds. So, we will try working on this through the generosity of George and see where it takes us. George has strongly indicated that if we do the Cranberry Mine structures in wood using this new technology we may get another article on the Tweetsie Layout in his magazines in 2016.

Jim Pahr is once more coordinating the **Annual Christmas Party** for the Carter RR Museum and our organizations, the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS. We have chosen to go back to Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site (a place where our HO layout was housed by the site director, **Penny McLaughlin**, for 18 months just prior to our coming to ETSU) with the party scheduled for Friday, December 18th. This will be a pot-luck, covered dish affair with the clubs furnishing the meats and the flatware and dishes to eat our meal with. Dirty Santa will be there with a suggested \$15 value on the gifts if you want to participate. Some of the ladies have asked that there be two piles of gifts; one the traditional railroad themed versions that we have shared in the past, but also one for “ladies only”. It appears that the women are tired of getting railroad gifts that go to the spouse or significant other, and would appreciate having some feminine things to exchange. So, this will be what we do; guys get a railroad gift for other guys, and ladies do what you feel is appropriate for your gift exchanges. Everything will work the way Santa has directed it in the past so choose and wrap you gift accordingly. Some folks will be coming around 4 p.m. to decorate the venue and get things set up. The meal will begin at **6:00 p.m.**

The Carter Chapter NRHS's rail excursion was successful despite the slow ticket sales. We have had the good fortune to have sold out 3 buses for each of our last 3 rail trips, but this one only filled one 56 passenger bus (we had a few more late requests for tickets, but not enough to justify contracting a second bus). The trip was a Sunday trip, our first ever, that that may have influenced ticket sales. The day began with some misty rain, but cleared enough for a dry trip on the Big South Fork Scenic Railroad. However, we did experience some slowdowns and frustrations once we got to Stearns in the form of only the café at the ticket station being open for meals (the other restaurant in town was closed due to a recent fire) with only

one waitress and a small cook staff. Our 56 hungry folks, plus the scores of other train riders brought food production almost to a standstill causing some not to be fed and a delayed train departure for everyone. The story was much the same when the train returned at 3:45 p.m. with strained food service for us before boarding the Premier Transportation bus for the ride back to Johnson City. We had a great train ride and the bus transportation was excellent, but the Sunday railroad management at Stearns was not up to the service we had in the past. We will use our January calendar session to plan next year's rail excursions.

Museum benefactor, the late Rev. Howard Walker, gave his HO model railroad to the museum prior to his passing. A crew of **Jim Pahr**, **Dan McLeod**, **Gary Emmert** and **Paul Haynes** are planning to make a road trip up to Howard's home in Joliet, IL over the weekend of November 14th to collect the HO locomotives, rolling stock, buildings and other accessories and bring them to the Carter RR Museum. The layout itself will be left in the basement of the home for any of Howard's railroading friends to have that may want it. Howard custom painted some of his locomotives and rolling stock for a personal railroad and they will be part of the collection we will receive. You all are aware, I am sure, that Rev. Walker donated most of the railroad books and many of the videos from his personal library for the museum library that bears his name as well as his collection of railroad china and conductors' hats. I appreciate our members making the long trip up to his home near Chicago to bring the remainder of his donated collections back to Johnson City.

At our October business meeting **Jim Pahr** presented a recommendation that we begin to recognize the outstanding service of many of our members to the George L. Carter Railroad Museum with the establishment and awarding of a plaque for a **Member of the Year** award. Following an enthusiastic discussion on the merits of such an award and some of the criteria for nominating individuals to receive it the motion was seconded and unanimously approved. We will begin accepting nominations from our members based on the information and criteria to be found in another section of this edition of *The Coal Road* and present the award to our first "Member of the Year" at the Christmas party in mid-December. I solicit your nominations and look forward to honoring one of our members annually with this new recognition of your outstanding service to the railroad museum.

The Carter Chapter NRHS has voted to sponsor one high school student to the NRHS's RailCamp program for the 2015 session. The chapter will establish criteria to select a student from one of the city or county school systems in the 6 counties of upper East Tennessee and will pay the tuition for that student. The following information from the NRHS website will tell you more about this well established program for youngsters interested in railroading in North America.

About RailCamp: The NRHS RailCamp is a unique program for high school students to learn about 21st Century operations and dispatching in the modern world of railroading and in the same week experience the historic role of early US railroads in the development and settlement of our country, learn how diesel, electric and steam locomotives function, how track is built and maintained, and how early freight and passenger cars were constructed.

RailCamp is a program combining varied experiences where students learn both modern and historic elements of America's vital transportation mode for over 150 years. High school students attend a week-long camp where they will participate in railroad operations, interact with railroaders and learn about preservation techniques, railroad history, career opportunities and get the opportunity to work with real railroad equipment. They will get "hands-on" with a state-of-the-art modern day railroad, take a course in railroad operations and dispatching and learn how to inspect a working steam locomotive on a real railroad. Where else can high school students learn how to inspect a working steam locomotive in a real roundhouse, get "hands-on" with a state-of-the-art modern day railroad, or take a course in railroad operations and dispatching? Every year, the NRHS sends lucky high school students to a week-long camp where they'll participate in railroad operations, interact with railroaders and learn about preservation techniques, railroad history and career opportunities.

2015 Session Schedules: RailCamp East (Wilmington, Del.): July 5 - 11, 2015

If you know an area high school student who is especially interested in railroading and railroads please make them aware of this opportunity. The Carter Chapter will be advertising this sponsorship to all the local school systems.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for all you do for the Carter Chapter NRHS and the George L. Carter Railroad Museum. More than 4 years as a historical railroad society chapter whose membership is currently more than 35 is something to be very proud of for sustaining your organization and growing it as the National NRHS has gone through a period of shedding members. The National NRHS seems on its way back financially and is once again growing membership. Its excellent cadre of current officers under the leadership of a capable president is quickly turning the organization in the right direction. I am most proud of the Carter Chapter for the generous support you have provided to National over the past few years with you donations to its general fund, its RailCamp and Heritage Grant programs, and your continued membership. Having established and grown the Carter Railroad Museum over the past 8 years is also an important achievement as it has become a destination for many area residents on Saturdays and it has earned the respect and support of the administration of East Tennessee State University. I especially want to thank the officers of our organizations who in addition to maintaining their own interest in their railroad-themed hobby, have given their extra time and energies to take on the added responsibilities of administrating our chapter with skill and dedication to sustaining and improving them. The keeping of additional responsibilities of maintaining membership rolls, collecting dues, balancing budgets and financial books, recording the organization's

activities, creating newsletters, the Tales of the Rails initiative, the rail excursions and arranging programs and activities, conducting monthly meetings and the countless other activities that make any organization successful. It is a pleasure to be able to work with such talented and devoted individuals who make our organizations run so seamlessly and do it so well and with a smile. Thank you for your service and your continued support.

Hear 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
October 19, 2015
On the ETSU Campus
6:30 PM**

Agenda

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

Announcements and Visitors

Roger Tienert is our newest member.

Officers Reports

- **President's Report, Fred Alsop.** CXS is closing the Erwin facility. Jim Pahrns was interviewed by local TV regarding this, the video is on Facebook. Gary Emmert indicated that CSX will most likely mothball the facility in case the coal industry comes back. UP has done the same thing with a number of their small yard facilities around the country over the years. To our current knowledge, the Santa Train will not be affected.

It is not often that a biologist receives an award from a historical association. Fred Alsop received an Award of Merit from the Washington County, TN, Historical Association in recognition of establishing the George L. Carter Railroad Museum at ETSU. During the award ceremony, Fred was very complimentary of all the members that volunteer at the Museum. There seems to be a growing awareness and interest in model railroading all around the Tri-Cities area. Bristol wants to form a

model railroad club. Kingsport received a train collection from a local resident and is trying to establish a local Kingsport model railroad club.

- **Vice President's Report, Jim Pahrís.** Nothing to report.
- **Chapter Representative, Charlotte Pahrís.** Will be leaving to go to the National Conference.
- **Editor's Report, Bill Beagen.** Bill is looking for additional articles and stories to include in the club newsletter.
- **Treasurer's Report, John Dodge.** We have a very positive balance.
- **Secretary's Report, Mark Woomer.** Prior meeting minutes were approved.
- **Historian's Report, Carolyn Gregg.** Carolyn is adding one more story and Fred is working on a final review. Hope to have to the publisher by November 1.
- **Librarian's Report, Gary Emmert.** We received a DVD collection of the CSX Railroad and some additional videos. We have some duplicates of videos of CSX and Norfolk Southern that are for sale. Jim Pahrís has a great DVD of the trains of Algoma Country that we need to get in our collection.

Current/Old Business

- **Carter Railroad Museum Train Show.** Mark Woomer sent out 129 flyers via email and 6 via USPS to potential vendors. We are looking for sponsors, door prize sponsors, and groups to bring train layouts; and are identifying train show sponsors to send flyers and show flyers to. We have received permission for a live steam layout. We also need more tables. Roger Tienert will be calling another train show meeting in November.
- **Fall Excursion.** Today was the last day for ticket sales. Sales were halted on Wednesday, 10/14, as we had sold tickets to fill one bus. The 2 other buses were cancelled.
- **2016 Excursion Planning.** Planning will be done at the January business meeting.
- **2016 Officer Elections.** Need to prepare ballots. A motion was made, seconded, discussed, and passed to have on the ballot the names of all current officers and directors. Each candidate section will have a line for the current candidate and a line for a write-in candidate. Fred's thanks to all who have served and being on the Nominating Committee.
- **Annual Christmas Party.** The party will be at the Tipton-Haynes facility on December 18th, and will be pot luck.

- **Tweetsie Convention.** This will be the same weekend as the train show, June 3-5, 2016. There will be an excursion to Blowing Rock and Linville, NC. Permission has been received to go partway into the old Cranberry Mine.
- **Chapter Web Page and Information.** We have an ETSU student working on the web page. Bill Beagen is asking for pictures of club activities to be posted on the website. The website is still under construction and can be viewed at: www.glcarternrhs.com/wordpress.
- **Carter RR Museum satellite location in Jonesborough.** No additional news. ETSU President Nolan was not very enthusiastic about the house in Jonesborough.
- **Tales of the Rails.** See the Historian's report above.
- **ETSU/UT 2017 Football Game.** Fred Alsop is talking with the Tennessee Valley Railroad in Chattanooga to bring a train to Johnson City, go to Knoxville, back to Johnson City and Bristol after the game, and then back to Chattanooga. The idea has been very well received by ETSU Marketing. The University will contact the TVR and Norfolk Southern.
- **2016 Football Train (Decide on a location and contact AMTRAK or TVRM to provide a train.)** Additional football-related excursion ideas included Kennesaw State, Wofford College, VMI, Citadel, and Mercer. VMI is the only school on a local Norfolk Southern line so this one would probably be the least complex excursion to plan.
- **Emily Miller VHS RR Tape Collection.** Jim Pahriss will pick up the videos, books, and other items from Emily Miller.
- **Establish a Member of the Year Award.** This is to recognize for 2015, and subsequent years, a member of either club, MEMRR or GLCC NRHS, that has provided outstanding work and service to the Carter Museum during the year. Only non-officers of either club will be eligible for nomination. Recognition will take place at the annual Museum Christmas Party with the name of the winner placed on a walnut plaque to be kept in the Museum. The idea came to mind from past experience to recognize rank and file club members that do a lot of the work and go the extra mile at the Museum. A motion was made, 2nded, discussed, and passed to establish a Member of the Year award. An email will go out to members of both clubs.
- **Send a teenager to NRHS Rail Camp.** The NRHS has rail camp locations at East Dover, DE, and West Tacoma, WA. Entering High School Freshmen through graduating High School Seniors, including home schoolers, that have not attended a Rail Camp previously are

eligible to participate in a contest by submitting a written essay on why you would want to go to the rail camp, along with a recommendation from a teacher. The camp in DE sponsors 24 campers each year, the camp in Tacoma sponsors 12. The GLCC BOD will act as the judges. We need to decide how long the essay should be. A motion was made, 2nded, discussed, and approved to select and sponsor a student to attend the Rail Camp in DE. Students from Washington, Johnson, Unocoi, Sullivan, Carter, and Greene counties will be eligible. We will promote the contest via local media. This will provide a big media opportunity to promote the Museum and ETSU.

- **Provide personnel to collect Rev. Howard Walker’s train’s and building’s.** We need some folks to collect Rev. Walker’s train items. Contact Jim Pahriss. The items are in the Chicago, IL, area.

New Business. None.


The Evening Program. Provided by Jim Pahriss.

Meeting Adjournment at 8:30 PM.

<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 (rbill@embarqmail.com). Contributors are Fred Alsop, Jim Pahrís, Mark Woomer and John Dodge

Editors Ramblings

As all of you might know, I rode the Pennsylvania Railroad a lot! I was brought home to Iselin by my parents in July of 1939 and they had no car. Having been born at Margaret Hague Hospital in Jersey City I will surmise they took the Hudson and Manhattan Tubes from Journal Square in Jersey City to Newark. From there they changed trains and took the local from Newark to Iselin on the New Brunswick local. From the train station in Iselin, it was only a two block walk to the apartment on Cooper Avenue.

From then on whenever we went to Jersey City, Elizabeth, Newark or New York City, it was by train. My Dad even took me into New York to get haircuts! Of course we rode on my Dad's pass so it was a no brainer to go to the city for the day. As a family member, my Mom had her own pass and she used it to go grocery shopping at the A & P in Rahway NJ. It was the second stop after she left Iselin and she had to make sure she didn't overload herself so she could carry what she bought. I loved Rahway Station because the PRR was on a raised grade (no grade crossings from Newark to Philadelphia and beyond) and they had six tracks that ran East//West. We always arrived on the rightmost track and departed on the leftmost, as that was where all the locals stopped.

As you can guess by now, I was brought along to help with the groceries, Mom could now get a few more items with the extra hands available. Of course this wasn't until I was about 7 or 8. Other times we would take the 134 Public Service bus to Metuchen and shop at the A & P there. It was a little bigger store and carried a few more items. We also had an A & P in Iselin run by Mr. Cosgrove. This was the one we used to get our staples, as it was only about ¼ the size of the one in Rahway and about 1/8th the size of the Metuchen one.

To say I was excited about riding the trains is an understatement. I loved it! I can remember waiting for the local in either direction and then a clocker would go by, being pulled at around 60 MPH by that wonderful GG-1! Man I loved that motor!