



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 12, December 2015



The Drawbar

The weather outside is not frightful; but rather delightful with sunshine and 60 degree weather, but the winter season with its holiday cheer is almost upon us. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday and that you all are looking forward to the shorter days of winter ahead. I always find this a good time to catch up on my reading of my model railroad magazines, some books on the prototype, and to do some model railroading; the kinds of things the colder weather and longer nights seem most suited to.

One holiday event we all enjoy is the **Annual Museum Christmas Party**. Notices have been circulated for weeks and I hope you and your spouse, or significant other, will be attending. We are going to have our festivities at the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site on South Roan Street in Johnson City with pot-luck dishes supplied by our members and the two meats paid for by the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS. Besides the great food and fellowship, Dirty Santa will be paying us a visit and for the first time we will have two piles of gifts, one for the gals and one for the guys (this may be the first year some of the fellows do not get two gifts with the ladies keeping what they receive instead of giving some train-related present to their man in addition to what he picked out). Festivities begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 18th.

We will also present our first annual **Member of the Year Award** at this year's Christmas party. We had 5 very strong nominees provided by our members. The elected officers of the MEMRR and the Carter Chapter NRHS conferred by email and via telephone to vote on this year's recipient. The decision was exceedingly difficult as all the nominees were most worthy of selection, but the tallied vote produced a majority winner and that person will be announced at the party and be presented a plaque marking their selection by their peers. I wish to congratulate everyone who was nominated and only wish we could have honored each for being so well thought of for their service to the museum by those who nominated them. We have begun a

tradition of recognition and that will continue for many years providing the opportunity for this special tribute to those of you who put so much into the success of the Carter Railroad Museum with your talents, your time and your service. We are coming to the close of another great year for the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders and the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS. Both organizations have gained members and both have helped move the George L. Carter Railroad Museum forward. We have held our annual elections for officers and have been fortunate that all agreed to stand for another term providing strong continuity for the leadership of our organization.

I received the museum's order of 50 copies of the *HOn3 Annual 2015* today from White River Productions. The long-anticipated edition has 9 color pages featuring the Shell Creek section of our museum's Tweetsie RR layout. The article was written by **Geoff Stunkard** who also took many of the photos. The magazine sells on the newsstands for \$19.95, but we are discounting the price for our members to \$15.00 (tax included). Be sure to get yourself a copy at the museum's sales table on Saturday or get one from **Gary Emmert** at the museum on Thursday nights. I know many of us have subscribed to model railroad magazines for lots of years and we have looked at the photos carefully to learn how other modelers created their layouts and their structures on them. I have always been interested in seeing how they did their scenery; all phases of it have appealed to my artistic senses. The magazine editors pride themselves on their reputations for having the best information on modeling, often expressed through the model railroad layouts they feature in their pages. It was a wonderful unexpected event to have our Tweetsie layout selected for publication in the 2014 *HOn3 Annual*; to have our work and our museum featured in two consecutive years is more than anyone could have hoped for. All of you are to be commended for the effort, time and passion you have put into the Carter Railroad Museum for 8 years now and I know you share my pride in what we have accomplished together. Get your personal copy of this edition and enjoy it and show it to your friends. You belong to an organization whose contributions to model railroading are being viewed nationally and internationally.

We have another book event to rejoice in as many of you know. Through a lot of passionate work, **Carolyn Gregg**, the Carter Chapter's Historian, has compiled and edited a lot of interviews, many she recorded herself as part of our ongoing oral history of Appalachian railroading initiative, into a book that was published by the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS last month. In addition to the personal stories about railroads and railroading, there are scores of photographs, most never before published, that richly illustrate the 300+ pages of the book. Our *Tales of the Rails* is available for purchase at the Carter RR Museum for \$25 (tax included) and besides making a good read for yourself, will make a good unique gift for someone for Christmas.

East Tennessee State University is finishing its Fall Semester this week (Dec7-10) with final exams. Graduation's commencement ceremonies will be held twice (10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) on Saturday, Dec. 12th. The following 4 weeks will have almost no

students on campus and no classes in session, so parking should be easy, not only on Saturdays when the museum is open, but during the week as well. If the difficulty in finding a place to park has been a reason for you not to visit the museum to run your trains or to help with creating the many exhibits in there, you will not have to worry with this for the next month. Staff and administrators are still working except for the week around Christmas, but most of the parking areas will be open. We will not be closing on Saturdays during the holidays (none fall on a Saturday) and will only be closed if severe weather creates driving hazards that warrant us to do so for safety purposes. We have become a Saturday destination for many folks in the area, and we have recently had some visitors tell us they found us on their travel app. and dropped in to see the museum as they were passing through. We are averaging approximately 100 visitors every Saturday and the MEMRR and Carter Chapter members have been active in their support with 16-20+ members being present in the museum most Saturdays. This is a wonderful tribute to all of us for the outstanding exhibits you have created and maintain and for the warm welcome you extend to the public coming to spend some of their time with us when we are open.

The Carter Chapter NRHS has been gaining new members and the current roll stands at more than 30 paid members. But, **remember, we pay annual dues beginning in November** and we are into that important time period. Many of you have already renewed your personal or family memberships, but I strongly encourage you who have not done so yet to get your checks to our Membership Chairman, **Mark Woomer**, as soon as possible. Our dues are most reasonable at \$10 per individual, and \$5 per additional member sharing a household. Your national NRHS dues can be sent to Mark at the same time at \$50 for in individual and \$7 for and additional family member. **Just make out one check for the total and send it to our Membership Chairman** (check the November edition of *The Coal Road* for complete details). All your chapter dues stay with the Carter Chapter; none of it goes to the Carter RR Museum. Your dues provide you with personal access to the almost ready chapter website, a monthly newsletter that you are reading now produced and edited by **Bill Beagen**, a choice of layouts in 4 scales that you can operate your locomotives and consists over, and 24-7 access to the Carter Railroad Museum for all full members. It also provides you a forum to vote and provide chapter direction at our business meetings and on line. What a bargain for less than the price of taking your family out to a local movie and concession stand for one show! We will be changing the code on the lockbox on the outside museum door at the end of January, 2016, and only paid-up members will have the new code; so, **please renew your membership if you have not already done so and continue to enjoy all your privileges of full membership in a great organization.**

Several months ago we decided to establish a sales table in the museum hallway on Saturdays and **Jim Pahr** has volunteered to be in charge of it on the days we are open that he is in town. In addition to making sales this table has provided a point of interest for many visitors to talk to Jim and for him to make accurate clicker counts of all of the folks who come into the museum. (Our Station Master, Kelsey, and "conductor" Chris, in the Little Engineers Room also keep clicker counts of their

little visitors and their accompanying adults.) Sales have increased dramatically through this new operation and we have been able to keep more accurate headcounts of our visitors as well. The latter is most important for the annual reports I have to make to ETSU administrators that help to justify our existence as a railroad museum, a rare commodity on any university campus, where academic space is a high priority. My thanks also go to **Roger Teinert, Jim Hoit** and other chapter/club members who have operated this table for us in Jim's absence. We will keep any organizational business to an absolute minimum at the Christmas party, but it also serves as the business meeting for the month of December. It will be important to bring everyone up to date on any important news and to solicit volunteers for museum operations on Saturdays bridging the old and new years.

Keep in mind that an important event for our January 2016 business meeting is the establishment of a calendar of events for the year. We will use a template based on past years to work from, but come prepared with ideas for fun things for us to plan to do for 2016 and let's discuss their merits and put as many on the calendar as we can agree to. Our officers will strive to keep the organization running smoothly, but it is largely the desires of our membership that steer the course you want us to take. Bring your ideas and we will have a productive meeting that will create calendar filled with events we can all look forward to participating in.

2015 has been a year in which we have made great strides in our chapters events, our hobbies, and our friendships. The public becomes more aware of our museum and our organizations and many come to visit us and bring their friends; and some decide they want to become members joining us in our hobby and our work. 2016 holds the promise of being even better. Our chapter is strong and our members' cooperative to the projects we engage in. We are strengthened by the affiliation of the ET&WNC RR Historical Society this year and we are planning a big train show for June. I am proud to be a member and look forward to many more years with you all.

Hear the sound of the whistle of the train in the night and dream of all the destinations yet to come.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL AND A GREAT NEW YEAR!

Fred J. Alsop III

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

Business Meeting
Business Meeting Agenda
Monday, November 16, 2015
Brown Hall, Room 312
On the ETSU Campus
6:30 p. m.

Agenda

The meeting was called to order a little after 6:30 p. m. Members present: Fred J. Alsop, III, Bill Beagen, Carl Hacker, John Dodge, Gary Emmert, Carolyn Gregg, Paul Haynes, Bill Hensley, Myra Hensley, Dan McLeod, Charlotte Pahrís, Jim Pahrís

Announcements

Mark Woomer is tied up at work and won't be here. There are no visitors.

Officers' Reports

- **President's Report, Fred Alsop.** Fred will be talking with WETS tomorrow to discuss the Tales of the Rails and Heritage Day. The radio broadcast will be on the 21st and 22nd. Gary Emmert, Dan McCloud, and Jim Pahrís went to Joliet, IL to collect train items for the Museum from the Howard Walker home. They were allowed to stay in the Walker home to save motel expenses. They brought back DVDs and train items in boxes. They left on Thursday and returned Saturday night. Paul help them unload the trailer. Fred thanked them all for their efforts!
- **Vice President's Report, Jim Pahrís.** Jim presented a list of the ways to join the National Organization for 2016. He explained the procedure:
 1. Each member will receive an invite from AMELIA (NRHS cloud based membership software) to activate your own account. [He was not able to use that version.]
 2. Go to NRHS.com and pay via PayPal or using your credit card.
 3. Everyone will receive a RENEWAL NOTICE either by email or USPS (snail mail). Members can renew by check or Money Order—include a copy of your renewal notice.
 4. Mark Woomer, our Secretary, Membership Chairman, and EBC, will receive a spread sheet from NRHS for payment of local Chapter and National Dues. Please make a check payable to GLS Chapter for your chapter and National (NRHS) dues and turn it in or mail it to Mark Woomer, so he can consolidate our payments to NRHS. [He recommended this option.] Pay \$60 for one member and \$72 for member and spouse.

- **Chapter Representative, Charlotte Pahriss.** Charlotte reported on the last meeting:
 1. Rail Camp—Amtrak was very supportive of both the East and West coast Camps; The cost is \$1,290 per camper plus air fare; The camps need counselors for both camps. Applications will be posted on the NRHS website by Jan. 1st.
 2. Grants—Application forms will be on the NRHS website from Nov. 1st; grants@NRHS.com; Applications need to be submitted by Mar. 1st; Recipients are allowed a 2-yr. period for completion.
 3. Procedure Manual—A committee has been established for preparing a manual to include a database for documenting Railroad History to include Historical structures, i.e. railroad depots and buildings, Park Service involvement, and Equipment Preservation
 4. Affiliate Membership—recommended a change to the Bylaws, not required.
 5. Handling Members Without Online Access—leave up to chapters
 6. Future of NRHS Library and Archives—Films are being digitized; possible sale of excess materials (art, etc.)
 7. Format of NRHS News—Two issues of NRHS NEWS to be published in 2016 and two issues of the bulletin
 8. NRHS Fund—Establisher to receive gifts donated to NRHS; tax deductible as a 501c3 organization Maryland Corp., serves as a protection against insolvency; large donors insist on establishment of the Fund; Free service to NRHS since it doesn't cost the society and provides checks and balances to the society.
 9. 2019 is the 150th Anniversary of gold Spike Ceremony in Promotory, UT. Recommend that BOD and AC meet May 9-12 with attendance at celebration on May 10. Big Boy to be on display.
 10. Conferences and Conventions—2016 Spring meeting will be April 20-24 in Cumberland, MD and will need a representative since Jim and Charlotte will be out of the country. Bill Beagen will consider being the representative. A letter will need to be sent a month before the event. The Summer Convention will be in Denver June 12-16.

- **Secretary's Report, Mark Woomer.** Minutes had been mailed and received.

- **Treasurer's Report, John Dodge.** John reported that the October Excursion was one of the most successful ever even though only one bus was taken. John presented a check to Fred for the Museum for 30% of the profits. It was a good public relations event because some people include excursions on their bucket list. Sunday events will be avoided in the future, and the depot at Stearns will be checked out thoroughly before the next arrival to ensure they are prepared to feed the people when they know people are arriving.

- **Librarian's Report, Gary Emmert.** Gary reported that a lot of magazines were brought for the museum and many of them are from other areas. He suggested that we offer them to other clubs in other area. He had a sign from Walker's also. He brought back two more boxes of hardback books. He also brought back DVDs. He will be selling MR binder covers for \$5.00. He will check on the *Blue Ridge Stemwinders* to be sure that the Museum has all the issues and books. He thinks that the museum needs some of the *With No Complaints* [title??] copies.
- **Historian's Report, Carolyn Gregg.** Carolyn reported that the book had arrived very quickly on Tuesday, Nov. 10th and had been brought to the Museum on Thursday night, the 12th. The book contains four main sections—ET& WNC, Clinchfield, Southern, and others railroads. Jim and Gary both have stories in the book. The final price including tax was \$2,153.51 for 200 copies. The books were paid for by John Dodge. Several books were sold on Thursday, and the money was turned in to Fred. He had deposited the money in the Museum's account on Friday and had the tax deducted.
- Fred reminded the members that the project had been begun by the Museum which had received \$4,000 for grants (NRHS) and ETSU. No actual money had come out of the Museum account, and the grant money had been paid to interviewers and transcribers who were hired initially to collect and transcribe stories.

Fred offered four proposals for the money from the book:

1. The Chapter would keep all the money from the books because when Carolyn proceeded with the book, it was the Chapter who agreed to pay for the book and did.
2. The Museum would get all the funds from the book.
3. The monies from the book would be split evenly between the Museum and the Chapter.
4. The Chapter would receive the first \$2,153.51, and after that, the monies would be divided evenly between the Chapter and the Museum.

After much discussion, the chapter approved Option 4. The consensus was to leave the first monies that Fred had deposited in the Museum account. Tax money will be deducted from all the sales at the Johnson City tax rate. Carolyn will sell the books in Greeneville, and the Museum will sell the books on Saturdays. Any other members are welcome to take them to other meetings, etc

Current/Old Business

- **Carter Railroad Museum Train Show.** Bill Hensley reported that he and Roger had spoken with Fred Coleman to encourage him to talk up our show. Some of the vendors were afraid that he was having something, and because of their loyalty to him, they were reluctant to commit to our show. He said that he didn't use email with the vendors. He used snail mail to send them the information and contacted them personally by phone. Bill said that he and Roger would be visiting train shows and would make personal contact with the vendors. The vendors can set up any time on Thursday or as early as 7:00 a. m. on Friday morning. Gary is planning to meet about the tables tomorrow. He asked about chairs. They will decide that after seeing how many tables they will need—probably about 3-4 per table. Fred said that all the information about the tables should be given to Kim Young for her records. They plan to have a CAD drawing of the tables to send to vendors who desire to know more about the setting. Gary said that a man he knew would be willing to bring an Amtrak layout if he could have three free tables. They will check into that.
- **Spring Excursion.** Plans need to be made early in 2016 for the date of the excursion so that a Saturday date can be confirmed to get buses.
- **Election.** Since there were no write-in votes, Bill Hensley, Nominations Committee member, he proposed that the slate of officers be elected by acclamation. The membership concurred. The former officers will be serving again in the new year, and the appointed officers will also be serving. Fred thanked the committee and membership.
- **Webpage, Bill Beagen.** Bill reported that the websites should be up and running by the end of 2015. It is not completed yet but can be accessed at glcarternrhs.com/wordpress.
- **Museum Library, Gary Emmert.** Gary requested a way to back up the inventory in the library. Fred said that he had gotten an external drive for the museum, and if it wasn't currently being used by someone else, it could be given to Gary. Otherwise, one would be purchased for the Library.
- **Annual Christmas Party.** The party will be at the Tipton-Haynes facility on Friday, Dec. 18th at 6:00. Jim Pahr is the coordinator and will set up a page on the MEMRR website for people to sign up for what they want to bring. That way they can see what else is being brought and know what is needed. The Chapters will pay for the meat. It is an adult/member only party.

- **Jonesborough.** At this time, the issue seems dead. The ETSU President didn't think it was large enough and would be too large an expenditure to fix it.
- **Football game in 2017.** Plans will need to be made early in 2016 to determine how the trains can be involved.
- **Carter Museum Award.** Fred reminded everyone to nominate and vote for the member (not officers) who has contributed the most this year to the Museum's Program. Two plaques are being created—one for the award winner, and one for the museum (donor's area). The award will be presented at the Christmas dinner.
- **Rail Camp.** Applications will need to be created after the first of the year and sent to newspapers, school systems, and home school agencies so that a camper can be chosen for the June camp.
- **Angel Tree Donation.** Jim Pahrís introduced the topic of donating 10 \$10.00 train sets to the Angel Tree program (from the Museum). Fred agreed, and it won't cost the chapter anything. They will be wonderful gifts for needy children.

Adjournment at 8:20 p. m.

<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



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

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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