



THE SIGNAL BRIDGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS CLUB

November 2017 - MEMBERS EDITION

Volume 24 - Number 11

Published for the Education and Information of Its Membership

CLUB OFFICERS

President:

Fred Alsop

ALSOPF@mail.etsu.edu

Vice-President

John Carter

carterjohn92@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Gary Emmert

jbox1015@comcast.net

Secretary:

Greg Mundkowsky

fleetsaylor1981@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor:

Ted Bleck-Doran

Ted_mary@memrr.org

Webmasters:

John Edwards

webmaster@memrr.org

Bob Jones

bobjonesmemrr@gmail.com



LOCATION

ETSU Campus
George L. Carter
Railroad Museum

HOURS

Business Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meetings start at 6:30 PM in:

Brown Hall
Room 223
ETSU Campus,
Johnson City, TN.

Open House for viewing every Saturday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Work Nights are held each Thursday from 4:00 pm until ??

SPECIAL FOCUS THIS ISSUE ANNIVERSARY MONTH

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS'

25th

GEORGE L CARTER RAILROAD MUSEUM AT ETSU'S

10th

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 19, 2017

The MEMRR meeting was called to order by President Fred Alsop at approximately 6:35 pm.

Officer's Reports are as follows:

Secretary's report: Gregg Mundkowsky requested that the minutes be accepted as posted in the newsletter. Voted and passed.

Newsletter Editor's Report: Theodore Bleck-Doran was absent, the newsletter was 17 pages this month and had some very good articles on modeling by Ted, along with showing us how he is doing things he is also found a new vendor, Rusty Rails, who donated some items to the museum. Ted, we thank you for your dedication.

Treasurer's report: Gary Emmert was out of town. Fred made the monthly report provided by Gary.

Webmaster's Report: John Edwards was absent recovering from his ankle surgery, Fred spoke with John and he reported that everything was working fine, and he is waiting on drawings to fire up the laser cutter again. Our other webmaster, Bob Jones, has been working on the excursions.



Ken Harmon, Gregg Mundkowsky look on as Mike Buster adds some trees to the ET&WBC layout near Hampton

Vice-President's Report: John Carter reported that Gregg Mundkowsky will be presenting a program on using an air eraser. This will be demonstrated in the museum workshop following the business meeting. The air eraser is basically a small sand blaster that uses baking soda to remove decals and paint. In a couple of months Gregg will be presenting a class on using an airbrush.

President's Report: Football is back on campus and there were a few hiccups with the parking staff which had to be ironed out on the first game day. There are some tailgating parties starting at 8a.m. and some ETSU parking lots set aside for them. Fred became aware of the problems getting on campus when Gary Emmert called him and told him the

only reason they let him on was because he said he was delivering water to the club. Fred contacted security and spoke with an officer there who said he were not the first person to complain about the parking problems. Later at the game Fred spoke with the president about the parking and it is being taken care of. Two of the lots in question are the ones we use for parking and loading buses for train trips. Fred will be checking in with University Parking and find out what changes need to be made. The galley proofs are being approved for the next *HOn3 Annual*. The photos and article for the magazine have been sent to Geoff and Fred for their approval. Hopefully, the annual will come out around November. As in the past we will offer the annual to members for \$15 and to non-members \$20.



Some of the detail going into the bluffs along the Doe River and ET&WNC Railroad right-of-way

Old Business:

The next rail excursion is to the Big South Fork Scenic Railroad, Sterns Ky. It is part in a national forest and part in a national recreational. There is a museum show life in the area which was a mining area. There is a display with scale models of the local railroad, The Tennessee & Kentucky Railroad. The ticket price also includes entrance to the McCreary County Museum across from the depot

Remember that we have an operating session on the 1st Tuesday of the month, it has been brought up that maybe a different night would be better. If you feel a changing the operating session to another night would be better please let Ted or Geoff know.

Summer picnic was held at the McKees. About 20 people attended and a good time was had by all. Tom had several trains operating on his expanded garden G-Scale layout. We are grateful to Kim and Tom McKee for once again hosting this annual museum picnic.

New Business:

Our Heritage Day was for heritage paint-schemed locomotives, models of the NS prototypes. I would like to

thank everyone who brought in their engines to help make this a success. Please remember that it takes all of us to make these Heritage Day events work. If you have equipment suitable for a future one, please bring them in and run them for our visitors at the RR Museum.



Fred Alsop, Mike Sager, Mike Buster and Gregg Mundkowsky have all contributed to the sandstone bluff south of the Doe River Gorge on the ET&WNC layout

We are still looking for modelers to help assemble rolling stock for the ET&WNC. Okay, this is not as hard as it sounds. Most of the kits are laser-cut and we have a few plastic

passenger car kits so please think about helping out and building one or more.

The 25th anniversary of the MEMRR and the 10th anniversary of the George L. Carter Railroad Museum on the ETSU Campus is coming up in November. A plan is being put together for a celebration on the Saturday closest to the date. The university sends out invitations to local and state dignitaries, they make a big deal about special events and we should be proud to be included. We still need to decide if we are going to do pins to show years in the club in 5 year increments. Administrators of the university, leaders in the community and others will be invited. It was brought up that Ted suggested that everyone who is a member this year gets a pin and Roger suggested that members still in the club from the beginning gets the pin. A suggestion was made to make a banner with the old logo and new logo and saying something like “25 year and still steaming”, “25 years and still on track”, etc.

Respectfully submitted
Gregg Mundkowsky
MEMRR CLUB SECRETARY
George L Carter Railroad Museum

‘RAIL STARS IN ROANOKE’ SHOWCASED AT ETSU CARTER RAILROAD MUSEUM’S HERITAGE DAY ON OCT 28

THE N&W, VIRGINIAN AND THEIR SUCCESSORS TAKE CENTER STAGE FOR SATURDAY EVENT



Norfolk Southern’s Heritage Paint Unit for the Virginian RR at Natural Tunnel

The George L. Carter Railroad Museum, located in the Campus Center Building of East Tennessee State University, will go north but not far on October 28 when it operates the railroads of Roanoke, Virginia. Known as the Star City, this legendary railroad town will be the focus of equipment operated as replicas of some of the museum’s model layouts thanks to participating members of the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders club.



Norfolk Southern No. 3639... the “Greenville Switcher”... runs light westbound towards Jonesborough

“The coal industry feed the industrial revolution in America, and railroads were the primary way to move it to power plants, steel mills, manufacturing firms and even for home heating suppliers back in that era; Roanoke was the heart of some of the companies who did that,” notes Geoff Stunkard, the Heritage Day coordinator for the museum. “The Norfolk & Western was the largest operation in that city, but the Virginian also played a role before the two firms merged together in the late 1950s. Today, Norfolk Southern still maintains a huge presence in Roanoke, made even more popular by the recent restoration of a streamlined steam

engine, the J-class 611, by the Virginia Museum of Transportation.”

Models of these trains are favorites among the museum's supporters and some examples will be in operation by volunteers on the museum's 24x44 foot HO scale layout. As Heritage Day events focus on older railroading, that era will be showcased, though a few more modern NS trains could find their way into the mix on October 28. The N&W was best noted as the last major stream railroad in the nation, retiring its final operating engines in 1960. Both the Virginian and the N&W used electrified locomotives on some of their more challenging mountainous and long tunnel lines as well.

The Carter Railroad Museum is open on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and includes model railroad layouts, a special child's activity room, and ongoing programs. There

is no admission fee but donations are welcome for its upkeep. The museum is also seeking artifacts for display, including the newest addition dedicated to the long-defunct, but well-remembered 'Tweetsie' line, the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad; this room, still under construction, again will be open for guided tours during event days.

**REMAINING CARTER MUSEUM HERITAGE DAYS
2017 – FINAL SATURDAY EACH MONTH
OCTOBER: ROANOKE RAILS
NOVEMBER: CLINCHFIELD
DECEMBER: FALLEN FLAGS**

CARTER MUSEUM HERITAGE DAYS 2018 - PROPOSED FINAL SATURDAY EACH MONTH

Due to participation issues during 2017, any change requested to this list other than movement of scheduled date will require requesting member to be commit to being on hand for the day of that event

- **JANUARY:** Vintage Northeast (NYC, PRR, B&O, etc)
- **FEBRUARY:** Short Line – Industrial lines (logging, mixed trains, all eras)
- **MARCH:** Steam UP! All Steam
- **APRIL:** Streamliners – Steam and Diesel Passenger trains
- **MAY:** 50 years of Vintage All diesels 1925-1975

- **JUNE:** Tri-Cities (vintage CRR SOU ET and modern NS CSX)
- **JULY:** Vintage Western (ATSF, UP, SP etc)
- **AUGUST:** Vintage Midwestern (IC, WAB, NKP, etc)
- **SEPTEMBER:** Appalachian (L&N, N&W, C&O, IRR, etc)
- **OCTOBER:** Vintage Southern Lines (inc Florida – SOU SBD, ACL)
- **NOVEMBER:** Clinchfield
- **DECEMBER:** Vintage Fallen Flags (any line pre-1970 only)

A RIDE IN THE DOE RIVER GORGE FALL RAILFANNING ALONG THE ET&WNC TEXT AND PHOTOS BY BOB SULLIVAN AND PAUL HAYNES



Doe River Gorge (former box car)

Robert and Paul bought tickets to travel on the shortline. To our surprise, we were invited to ride it twice, on a nice Sunday afternoon. After speaking with Gorge rail personnel, they explained that the open passenger car had at one time been a Union Pacific box car. The diesel locomotive was traveling slowly, so that we could enjoy the scenery and curves



Doe River Gorge (maintenance of way/vehicle)

When Paul and Robert completed the second train trip, they were invited to ride the maintenance of way (Service vehicle). Basically, a wild ride on an electric train. The trip reminded-me of my childhood years of Disneyland and the Matterhorn ride. Even though the speeds were low, we did derail and helped putting it *back on track*. This final trip actually took us further down to the bridge.



Doe River Gorge (The Bridge) – End Of The Line



As you can see, the fall colors were at their best for our journey on the rail. Towards the slowdown, we came upon the bridge. A part of railroad history,

that will one day, be fully operating (if funding can be located). Recently, a couple were married up here, which gives you hope that more great things are possible for this lonely railway



THE CONNETTICUT TROLLEY MUSEUM

10 YEARS AFTER

Part 2 : The Visit

Photos and text by Ted Bleck-Doran



Montreal Tramways Car #4, an open touring car used in Montreal Canada for city tours and special occasions. This was one for four similar cars.. all have been preserved making their class of traction cars the only street railway class the be preserved in their entirety. No. 4 is operate3d at The Conneticut Trolley Museum.

In 2006 Mary and I made the journey of Hertford CT to visit my son and his wife... This was their BC Period (before children). Knowing my attraction to things railroading they took us to the Connecticut Trolley Museum. This past August we repeated the itinerary with another visit to son and family. Ten years after our first visit we found ourselves once more at the museum. I've thought that it would be interesting to compare this year's visit to note the changes that have taken place over the years.



Unlike some railroad museums where there is limited protection from the elements leaving the restored cars to intermingle with rusted hulks, this museum has nicely separated the prize pieces from the yet-to-be restored and equipment destined to provide parts for other restorations.



The museum is a small operation when compared with the Illinois Railway Museum at Union IL or the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport ME. However, their collection is well focused on regional traction pieces and reasonably well maintained. They have a small yard in front of their working car barn with the ability to display the restored and operational cars in their collection.



Since our first visit they have added well lighted display building to their nicely appointed Office/Store/Visitors' Center. The building houses nearly a dozen street cars in varying states of restoration as well as displays, and a children's activity area. All the cars are accessible for close inspection. The building is clean and neat making for a comfortable place to view a significant portion of the collection and a relief from inclement weather should the day be too hot or rainy.



New to their collection is a pair of driverless trolleys from Bradley International Airport, Boston MA on display. They represent an evolution in people moving and are comparable to Jacksonville FL's Skytrain, and Vancouver's airport shuttle.



Safety appears to be an important part of the museum's operation philosophy... there are safety railings of stairs allowing entry to several available for viewing.





Several of the older more fragile cars in the collection are housed in the display shed... for example the partially restored wooden open trolley.



Looks like a bus, but is an excellent example of a PCC car.



Under going restoration is a unique Northern Ohio Traction and Light parlor car 1500 .



The newest addition to the museum is a building exhibiting the Connecticut Firefighters Museum



It holds around a dozen rare fire trucks albeit in cramped quarters. In the collection is an Areins pumper and a Ford ladder trunk with a tileman position above the 85 foot extension ladder.



PAUL'S PICS PAGES
PHOTOS THROUGH THE LENSE OF PAUL HAYNES
PHOTOS COURTESY OF DWARF SIGNAL PRODUCTIONS





GEORGE L CARTER LIBRARY BOOK SALE OF CULLS AND SECONDS

The George L Carter Museum Library will be offering a selection of railroad related titles for sale to MEMRR and GL Carter Chapter-NRHS members. These are second copies and culls from the core library holdings. The library has over a thousand volumes presently available to members. This thanks in large part to the donations from Pete Morriset, John Waite, Rev. Walker and others who have made donations to the museum. The Library's policy is to retain 1st editions and/or best copies of duplicate titles. The seconds and culls are available for purchase by contacting Gary Emmert. The asking price is solid and for volumes "as-is". The price listed is the minimum price expected.

TITLE	AUTHOR	PRICE	COPIES
The History of the Santa Fe	Pamela Berkman	\$15.00	
Modern Locomotives	Brian Hollingsworth	\$15.00	
ST. Louis Union Station & its Railroads	Norbury L. Wayman	\$5.00	
Illustrated Book Of Steam & Rail	Collin Garratt & Max Wade-Matthews	\$15.00	2
Chesapeake & Ohio H7 Series	Thomas W. Dixon, Jr.	\$5.00	
When the Railroad Leaves Town	Joseph P Schwieterman	\$20.00	
More Classic American Railroads	Mike Schafer	\$15.00	
The Last Steam Railroad in America	Thomas H. Garver	\$15.00	
The Locomotives that Baldwin built	Fred Westing	\$15.00	
Classic American Railroad Terminals	Kevin. Holland	\$20.00	
Railroad Artistry of Howard Fogg	Ronald C. Hill & Al Chione	\$35.00	2
The Old Patagonian Express	Paul Theroux	\$2.00	
The Electric Interurban Railways in Ame.	George W. Hilton & John F. Due	\$2.00	
Building The Clinchfield	James A Goforth	\$15.00	
Steel Rails to the Sunrise	Ron Ziel & George Foster	\$10.00	
The Road to Paradise	William M. Moedinger	\$5.00	
Train Wrecks	Robert C. Reed	\$15.00	2
History of the Pennsylvania Railroad	Timothy Jacobs	\$20.00	
American Locomotives 1900-1950	Edwin P. Alexander	\$10.00	
Tall Tales of the Rails	J. L. Lonon	\$10.00	
Complete Book of Model Railroading	David Sutton	\$10.00	2
When STEAM ran the Clinchfield	James A. Goforth	\$15.00	
CSX Clinchfield Route in the 21st Century	Jerry Taylor & Ray Poteat	\$20.00	
Portrait of the Rails from Steam to Diesel	Don Ball, Jr.	\$15.00	2
America's Colorful Railroads	Don Ball, Jr.	\$15.00	
Tweetsie Country	Mallory Hope Ferrell	\$15.00	
This Was Railroading	George B. Abdill	\$10.00	
A Locomotive Engineer's Album	George B. Abdill	\$10.00	
The History of Union Pacific	Marie Cahill & Lynne Piade	\$10.00	
The History of the Southern Pacific	Bill Yenne	\$10.00	
Narrow Gauge Railroads in Colorado since 1870	Frederic Shaw	\$15.00	
High Iron a book of trains	Lucius Beebe	\$10.00	
North American Steam Locomotive Builders	Harold Davies	\$40.00	

Trains Trestles & Ties	Lou Harshaw	\$5.00	
MAKIN' TRACKS	Lynne Rhodes & Kenneth E. Voss	\$15.00	
CINCINNATI UNION TERMINAL	Linda C. Rose production manager	\$20.00	
PA4 LOCOMOTIVE	Norman E. Anderson & C. G. MacDermot	\$15.00	
THE AGE OF STEAM	Lucius Beebe & Charles Clegg	\$10.00	

THE SAGA OF CLINCHFIELD No. 3619
SURVIVOR OF THE WRECK AT BOSTIC
 PHOTOS AND TEXT BY ROBERT GRAHAM
 AND
 THE CLINCHFIELD RAILROAD GROUP ON FACEBOOK

EDITOR’S NOTE: An interesting series of posts appeared on the Clinchfield Railroad Group on Facebook.com. It focused on the CRR No. 3619, the lead engine sideswiped in the wreck at Bostic on the CRR mainline. The postings contained a series off photos of 3619 throughout its history as well as photos from the wreck. What follows is the Facebook posts. Photos and text are used with premission.

The previous photo and the next three show the cleanup efforts by the Clinchfield following the wreck at Bostic. 3619 looks worse for the damage to the cab and front wheelset.



CRR SD45-2 3619 Erwin TN June 30 1975 (c) Bob Graham photo
 Wrecked at Bostic, sometime in late 70's ... Repaired repainted Family Lines. To SBD/CSX 8977... Retired 1989 to MRL 303. Scrapped by Schnitzer Steel in 2011.



The efforts included calling out the big hook as well as the smaller MOW tractors... the second track to the left in the photo appears to require a total reconstruction of the right-of-way.



Rolling stock took heavy damage as evidenced by the bent and twisted hopper cars pushed aside and shorn of their trucks.



3619 is being towed back by a sister SD. It will be several months before 3619 receives a new cab and rebuild and is returned to service.



After putting up a couple of shots of Clinchfield SD45-2 3619, a sideswipe wreck victim at Bostic NC in the late 1970's, in its subsequent owner liveries, it might please a few folks to see 3619 when she was still new, and pre-Bostic accident. In this Kodachrome view at Erwin TN I made on the west side of the old diesel shop on June 30 1975, CRR 3619 is still relatively clean and new a little more than a year after she left EMD's LaGrange IL plant in Feb 1974. This was my first encounter with CRR 3619, back in much better times.



Clinchfield SD45-2 3619, damaged in a sideswipe at Bostic NC, was repaired and sold as Seaboard System 8977, seen here leading 2 SBD SD40-2's and train #R460 down the west departure track passing through MC Jct (later renamed Warmac Jct) in a Kodachrome I made at Hamlet NC on a fine Carolina fall day Oct 18 1986.



Clinchfield SD45-2 3619 was repaired after the sideswipe at Bostic NC and received Family Lines paint, as seen in my previous post. SBD 8977 became CSX 8977 and was sold to Montana Rail Link as MRL 303. In this photo I made at MRL's helper terminal and yard at Helena MT on Oct 15 2000, MRL SD45-2 303 is in service as part of a helper set for the grade west up to the continental divide at Mullan Pass tunnel



HAZMAT TRAINING

NORFOLK SOUTHERN'S 9-1-1 FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING TRAIN

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAUL HAYNES

EDITOR'S NOTE: In September of 2017 Paul Haynes and Gary Emmert had the opportunity to tour the First Responders Training Lab. The Lab is a special train provided by Norfolk Southern and travels the system to train fire, police, and emergency medical personnel on handling the complexities of derailments and leaking tank cars.



Even the tank cars are fitted out as instructional spaces with seating and displays built into the curved walls.



The train is powered by NS 5642, the special paint unit "Training First Responders." The locomotive is an EMD GP 38-2 painted in a scheme similar to NS 9-1-1.



The train consists of several box and tank cars which provide classrooms, hands-on examples of equipment such as shut-off and discharge valves.



THE VIEW FROM THE ENGINEER'S SIDE OF THE CAB THE MEMRR PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

WOW! IT'S NOVEMBER!!! We are back on Standard Time and it seems to be getting darker earlier as the days shorten in our travels toward winter. But, it's November and we have a lot of train-things to celebrate and train-related activities to participate in!

IT'S NOVEMBER AND WE ARE HAVING A BIRTHDAY, AND A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION. THE GEORGE L. CARTER RAILROAD MUSEUM IS 10 YEARS OLD.

Many of you have been there since we opened the doors with a dedication ceremony in mid-November back in 2007. Ten years have passed and we are going to have a party to celebrate it. Mark **Saturday, November 18, 2017** on your calendar and plan to come to help us celebrate. You will all soon be receiving your personal invitation with the festivities beginning at 11:00 a.m. that morning. All our MEMRR and Carter Chapter NRHS members and their spouses/significant others are invited. Many of the top ETSU administrators will be joining us as well as many of the Johnson City administrators. Together we have grown in physical size, in our MEMRR membership to the approximately 120 members we now enjoy annually, and we have become a destination for the region on Saturdays. Our ET&WNC RR layout has gained national and international attention and we have become a repository for a wonderful railroad library.



Fred works on the Chimney Bluff north of tunnel No. 5

The George L. Carter Chapter NRHS was created as an affiliate of the railroad museum 5 years ago and their co-hosted rail excursion programs have extended the outreach programs of the museum as well as raising operational funds for it. We have had the strong support of two ETSU presidents that have encouraged the unusual situation of a railroad museum hosted by volunteers to be a part of a university of higher education. The museum has had the unparalleled support of its members to establish a big and successful annual train show that is now well into the planning stages for its third year. We will have guests,

speakers and lots of good food, in addition to party favors, decorations and balloons all centered in our main gallery. It's a big benchmark that we have made together and we hope you will be there as we make this historic occasion. It does not seem possible that we have been open to the public and had this place to embrace our hobby for a decade, but it is real and we are still expanding our ideas and creating new exhibits as we practice our hobby of model railroading and learn more of the prototype that gave the initial spark to each of us to engage in this venture.

777, whose home was on his 120 acre farm on the southwestern side of that railroad town of Johnson City, TN. Mr. Carter gave his land to the State of Tennessee in 1909 as the site of the normal school that would become East Tennessee State University.



Mike Buster, Gregg Mundkowski (the gang of four more or less) and Mile Sager have also had a hand in creating the sandstone bluffs using photographs to "get it right"

November 17th is also "National Take A Toy Train To Work Day", so plan to bundle a train to the job site if you don't already have one there and invite you co-workers to join us at the Carter Railroad Museum the following day to tour the museum, see all the trains running in several scales and participate in our birthday party.

November is also important for both the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders and the George L. Carter Chapter NRHS as **this is the month that we elect our officers** who have the responsibility to lead us for the coming year. These ladies and gentlemen take on the added mantle of planning programs and monthly meetings, paying bills, collecting dues, contributing to monthly newsletters, recording the activities, motions and votes at our meetings and publishing them, and meeting all the demands of active organizations while meeting deadlines and steering the organizations down successful and productive pathways. We have always been fortunate to find members willing and able to take on these added roles for the success of the organization and fortunate to have elected members who take their roles

seriously and dispatch them with skill and effectiveness. If you would like to put your hat in the ring to be an officer in the MEMRR or the Carter Chapter NRHS let the members of our current *ad hoc* nominating committees know of your interest. All positions are open for election each year and we are often seeking new officers to take up the role for those who have held these positions and now wish to step down and give another the opportunity to serve. The roles of our officers are critical to the success of our organizations and I encourage you to accept a nomination when it is offered and to express your appreciation to each of our officers, elected and appointed, for the work they have done for our clubs, the museum and for our members over the past year.



It's the little details that matter... the stable between the Cranberry General Store and Station could have been easily overlooked

November is the month that our treasurers begin to accept your renewal of your ANNUAL DUES for the coming year.

While there is a window of several months for your to pay these dues, which are minimal and which have not been increased for many years, our treasurers and I urge you to pay them as soon as possible. Your dues provide you a lot of privileges for only a few dollars a year. Allow me to list some, but not all in the following bulleted listing:

- Membership in a club of talented, skilled, experienced, knowledgeable and friendly folks who know model railroading and prototype railroading and like to share their knowledge.
- Outstanding monthly newsletters
- Access 24/7 to the layouts and facilities of the G.L. Carter Railroad Museum
- Use of club and museum layouts, locomotives and rolling stock
- Annual social events
- Rail excursions 2 to 3 times a year
- A wonderful railroad library with more than 1,100 hardback books and hundreds of DVDs available to members
- Interactions with weekly visitors to our museum with the opportunity to provide them with information about railroads and model railroading and the potential to recruit new members

- Special events hosted by the Railroad Museum for special visiting groups
- Monthly meetings to create the business and direction for the club or chapter and to be an active voice in your organization, and always with an instructive program
- Club logo clothing and pins that promote your membership to others
- Monthly Heritage Day Events to participate in that focus on particular railroads, railroads of a particular section of the country, specialty railroads, particular types of locomotives and rolling stock, different eras of our railroad history, and many more.
- Okay, you get the idea, so renew soon. Your dues go directly into the support of your club for use only by that club and not a penny by the railroad museum.

Heritage Day Event for November is always a celebration of Mr. Carter's railroad so we will be focusing attention on that 277 mile mountain coal-hauling railroad named the Clinchfield. Please plan to bring your CRR locomotives and rolling stock for this home town railroad event to run for ourselves and our guests on November 25th. This is always a big local attraction for the citizens of the area.



The chimney bluffs take shape as color is added to the rock castings and ground cover is applied

Santa Clause is Coming Soon and we have Two Big Events Scheduled:

- **Polar Express Storytelling and Tweetsie Christmas Train.** On December 2nd we will be hosting **Storyteller Linda Poland** in the ETSU Culp University's Forum Room (third floor of the Culp) with a storytelling performance at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Linda will engage her audiences with the Christmas tales of this fantasy train. Cost for admission is \$10/person. Following her event we will board passengers at 3:30 p.m. on a Premier Transportation bus for the round trip to Blowing Rock, NC for a Christmas decorated Tweetsie Railroad theme park adventure and a ride on their **Tweetsie Christmas Train**. Your ticket for this event is \$90, a price that includes the bus transportation, Christmas train ride and full access to the park. Bus will board for our return trip to Johnson City around 8:30 p.m. These should be exciting holiday special events for young and older alike

and this will be a first for the Carter RR Museum and for the Tweetsie Railroad. **Please consider doing two things for yourself and the museum; plan to be a participant at one or both events, and help us promote this holiday fundraiser by telling everyone you know about it so that we can make this a successful venture for everyone.** We have lots of information flyers that include ticket applications and waivers of liability in hardcopy at the Carter RR Museum and this information is also posted on our club/chapter websites under "events". I hope to see you at the storytelling and at the theme park.

- **Museum's Annual Christmas Party.** *Jim Pahr* has once more agreed to coordinate our Annual Christmas and we will be having it again this year at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Jonesborough. The date is **Friday, December 15th with the meal and the festivities beginning around 6:00 p.m.** This social event is form members and their spouse or significant other; not for children. Everyone is to bring a covered dish and the club/chapter will furnish the meats, the plates, cups, flatware and drinks. If you want to help with the decorations please come early around 4-4:30 p.m. to help Santa's elves bring the room a splash of Christmas ornamentation. Dirty Santa will be making his appearance so please bring a gift that is gender-oriented, for men and ladies, to put under the proper tree. Each wrapped gift should be railroad-themed and have a value of approximately \$20 dollars. This is a fun event filled with cheer, merriment, good food and friendship and a great way for us to end the year in each other's company. Please put it on your calendar and come join in the fun!



The approach tunnel No. 5 while unfinished takes shape in this past month's work sessions

We should be receiving the 2017 edition of the *HOn3 Annual* in the museum any day now. This issue contains another 9-10 pages on our ET&WNC Railroad layout in full color with text by **Geoff Stunkard** and photos by Geoff and Fred. This is our 4th consecutive year to have a feature story about our narrow gauge railroad and the work of the members of our MEMRR and Carter Chapter NRHS in our railroad museum and all of us should be proud of what we have accomplished and continue to do for our hobby, the university and our surrounding communities. We will have the magazine

available at a discounted price for our members so be sure to get your copy as they sell out fast.



There has been progress elsewhere on the layout as seen in the photo above... Mike Buster and the "Gang of Four" are always willing to add to their number of workers. Give Mike a call to find out when they plan to get together

The leaves are finally beginning to show some muted fall colors and to slip from the trees to carpet the ground. The air is turning colder and the days are getting shorter. It is time to turn our attention to more indoor activities and model railroading, reading railroad books and watching railroading DVDs are some ideal indoor pastimes. Come join us at the Carter Railroad Museum and at our club/chapter meetings. Don't forget train operations on the MEMRR HO layout on the first Tuesday night of each month. The more train operators we have the more fun and more complex the running of our trains become and the only time we operate the layout like the prototype railroads.



Tennis anyone?

We are approaching the end of another fun-filled and action-packed year in our organizations and at the Carter Railroad Museum. A New Year, 2018, is just ahead. 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, Mountain Empire Model Railroaders
Director, George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU

GEORGE L CARTER RAILROAD MUSEUM COORDINATORS' MEETING OCTOBER 12, 2017

Call to Order: 6:15 p.m. by Fred Alsop in Campus Center Building room 235, ETSU.

MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

November 2017 is the 25th Anniversary of the founding of MEMRR and the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the George L Carter Railroad Museum at ETSU.

November is also National Model Railroad month and it could not be more fitting that it is the month of our museum's founding. Additionally, our Heritage Day Event for the month has always been a nod to the Clinchfield Railroad that was created by George L. Carter

*Jim Pahr*s has once more agreed to coordinate our Annual Christmas and we will be having it again this year at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Jonesborough. The date is Friday, December 15th with the meal and the festivities beginning around 6:00 p.m.

Polar Express Storytelling and Tweetsie Christmas Train. On December 2nd we will be hosting *Storyteller Linda Poland* in the ETSU Culp University's Forum Room (third floor of the Culp) with a storytelling performance at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Linda will engage her audiences with the Christmas tales of this fantasy train. Cost for admission is \$10/person. Following her event we will board passengers at 3:30 p.m. on a Premier Transportation bus for the round trip to Blowing Rock, NC for a Christmas decorated Tweetsie Railroad theme park adventure and a ride on their Tweetsie Christmas Train. Your ticket for this event is \$90.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT:

Ted Bleck-Doran reported that the newsletter was only 24 pages, featured this month was croquet. This cover different variations of the game. The tweetise layout will have a croquet field between the Tennis court and company store in Cranberry. And yes there was one there. Also in the newsletter were photographs of a circus train taken by Jeff Stuckurds father.

LIBRARIAN

Emmert is out of town

HO LAYOUT:

John Carter, HO Layout work being done on the wiring to include soldiering and applying liquid electrical tape. Mike Buster and Gregg Mundkowsky have volunteered to help paint and ballast the track in the yard.

N GAUGE

Jesse Kittle reported that the N scale is running fine

G GAUGE LAYOUT:

Mke Baker was absent

RIP TRACK COORDINATOR:

Jim Hoit was absent.

LOCOMOTIVE REPAIR: Gary was absent following surgery.

ELECTRONICS:

Frank Fezee was absent.

TRAIN SHOW:

Roger Tienert reported that the committee is getting fliers together, working on getting the signs in order. Fred said we may have to remove the George L Cater logo from the fliers because ETSU may want the Large E on them. We will be doing more local advertising here to include some signage on billboards

ET&WNCRR LAYOUT:

Gregg Mundkowsky reported the Rabatoy Layout; has been repaired and trains are running again. We are also looking for period correct freight cars for the standard gauge part of the layout. So if you have some laying around or you see some at a train show for a small price please let us know these would be pre 1930

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Fred ALSop the 25th anniversary of the MEMRR and the 10th anniversary of the George L. Carter Railroad Museum on the ETSU Campus is coming up in November. A plan is being put together for a celebration on the Saturday November 18th. We will have pins made to commemorate the occasion

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Gregg Mundkowsky*

Secretary, Mountain Empire Model Railroaders Club



Firefighters douse a CSX locomotive that caught fire

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2017

The MEMRR meeting was called to order by President Fred Alsop at approximately 6:35 pm.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Secretary's report:

Gregg Mundkowsky reported that the minutes were not printed in the newsletter and would be in the November issue.



CSX ballast train drifting down the Shenandoah Branch at Harper's Ferry

Newsletter Editor's Report:

Ted reported that the newsletter was only 24 pages, featured this month was croquet. This cover different variations of the game. The tweetsie layout will have a croquet field between the Tennis court and company store in Cranberry. And yes there was one there. It will represent American 9 pin. Also in the newsletter were photographs of a circus train taken by Jeff Stuckurds, thanks to Paul for photos

Treasurers report:

Gary Emmrett September income was 48.00 and expenses were 72.61 October income was 125.03 and expenses of 101.74. REMEMBER YOUR DUES ARE DUE AGAIN.

Webmasters Report:

John Edwards was absent while recovering from his 2nd ankle surgery, Our other webmaster Bob Jones has been working on the excursions

Vice-Presidents Report: John Carter reported that Gregg Mundkowsky will be presenting a program on using an air eraser. This will done in the workshop after the business meeting. The air eraser is basically a small sand blaster that uses baking soda to remove decals and paint. In a couple of months we will be presenting a class on using an airbrush. We are hoping to get Scale Trains out of Knoxville to come up and give a presentation.

President's Report:

November 2017 is the 25th Anniversary of the founding of MEMRR and the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the George L Carter Railroad Museum at ETSU.

November is also National Model Railroad month and it could not be more fitting that it is the month of our museum's founding. Additionally, our Heritage Day Event for the month has always been a nod to the Clinchfield Railroad that was created by George L. Carter

*Jim Pahr*s has once more agreed to coordinate our Annual Christmas and we will be having it again this year at the 1st Presbyterian Church in Jonesborough. The date is Friday, December 15th with the meal and the festivities beginning around 6:00 p.m.

Polar Express Storytelling and Tweetsie Christmas Train. On December 2nd we will be hosting *Storyteller Linda Poland* in the ETSU Culp University's Forum Room (third floor of the Culp) with a storytelling performance at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Linda will engage her audiences with the Christmas tales of this fantasy train. Cost for admission is \$10/person. Following her event we will board passengers at 3:30 p.m. on a Premier Transportation bus for the round trip to Blowing Rock, NC for a Christmas decorated Tweetsie Railroad theme park adventure and a ride on their Tweetsie Christmas Train. Your ticket for this event is \$90.



A CSX southbound crossing the Potomac River at Harper's Ferry using pooled Union Pacific power.

OLD BUSINESS:

Remember that we have an operating session on the 1st Tuesday of the month, it has been brought up that maybe a different day would be better. If you feel a different would be better please let Ted or Geoff know.

NEW BUSINESS:

We are still looking for modelers to help assemble rolling stock for the ET&WNC. OK this is not as hard as it sounds. Most of the kits are laser cut and we have a few plastic passenger car kits so please think about help out and

building one.

The 25th anniversary of the MEMRR and the 10th anniversary of the George L. Carter Railroad Museum on the ETSU Campus is coming up in November. A plan is being put together for a celebration on the Saturday closest to the date. The university sends out invitations to local and state dignitaries, they make a big deal about special events and we should be proud to be included. We still need to decide if

we are going to do pins to show years in the club in 5 year increments. Administrators of the university, leaders in the community and others will be invited. .

Respectfully submitted
Gregg Mundkowsky
MEMRR CLUB SECRETARY
George L Carter Railroad Museum



A Bileverl autorack with a load of International Harvester pickups



A bilevel autorack with a load of panel delivery truck for the United States Postal Service

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE MODEL RAILROADERS

DECEMBER OPERATING SESSION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th, 2017



5:30 PM – SETUP AND JOB ASSIGNMENTS
 6:30 PM – OPERATION SESSION BEINGS
 9:00 PM – WRAP-UP AND BULL SESSION

Set the date – **DECEMBER 5th** - Mountain Empire Model Railroaders will sponsor an Operating Session at the George L Carter Railroad Museum. Club members will use the MEMRR Club HO layout in the Fred Alsop Gallery along with club locomotives and rolling stock.

Those attending will be randomly assigned job duties including:

Dispatcher/Trainmaster Engineer/Conductor Brakeman Hostler

Assignments will include:

Classification Yard	Steam Facilities and Roundhouse	Passenger Trains
Mixed Trains	Diesel Facilities and Transfer Table	Local Switcher
	Priority Trains	

Radios and headsets will be used for communications using everyday language. Simplified train orders will govern train operations.

PLAN ON JOINING THE FUN
PREREGISTGERING IS NOT REQUIRED
BUT LET US KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND

A REMINDER

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER – JANUARY
ARE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTHS



**DON'T LET RED MARKERS HALT YOUR MEMBERSHIP
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY**

SEND YOUR DUES IN TODAY!

Make Checks payable to:

“MEMRR”

Gary Emmert, Treasurer

PO Box 70697

East Tennessee State University

Johnson City, TN 37614.

Dues are payable during the months of December, January and February. Don't miss out on a single issue of *THE SIGNAL BRIDGE* or the opportunity to run you favorite lash-up on the club layouts.

The George L. Carter Railroad Museum at East Tennessee State University invites you to its

TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**Saturday, November 18, 2017
11 a.m.**

At the Carter Railroad Museum, located on the lower level of the Campus Center Building.

Refreshments will be provided.

Thank you for all the ways you have supported the Carter Railroad Museum and ETSU!



 **GEORGE L. CARTER RAILROAD MUSEUM**
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Holiday Special Event: Polar Express Storytelling and Tweetsie Christmas



The George L. Carter Railroad Museum on the campus of East Tennessee State University will host renowned storyteller Linda Poland to tell the story of the POLAR EXPRESS at 11am and 2pm on Saturday December 2, 2017. The cost will be \$10.00 per person. The presentations will be in the Forum Room 311 of the ETSU Culp University Center with admission by ticket only. Following the last storytelling presentation the George L. Carter Railroad Museum will host a bus to the Tweetsie Railroad at Blowing Rock, NC to their new "Tweetsie Christmas". This excursion will include one ride on the Tweetsie Railroad plus a visit with Santa in his Ginger Bread House. You will enjoy a dazzling holiday light display during a 3-mile train ride through the Blue Ridge Mountains in an open-air train car pulled by an historic steam-powered locomotive. This trip will include full access to the Tweetsie Railroad theme park. The bus will depart ETSU from the railroad museum parking lot at 3:30pm to arrive at Tweetsie Railroad at 5pm. All attendees that ride the George L. Carter Railroad Museum bus will ride the train at a time of their choice at the theme park. The cost of this excursion is \$90.00 person. If you choose the full package; storytelling event plus the Tweetsie Christmas train & theme park, the cost is \$99 person. The bus will depart the Tweetsie Railroad at 8:30pm to arrive back at the ETSU campus around 10pm. Those attending the storytelling presentation only may purchase available tickets up to the day of the event and some may be available at the door. Ticket order forms and liability waiver forms can be picked up at the George L. Carter RR Museum (open Saturday's only from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.) in Johnson City or printed off by going to the memrr.org website, choose Excursions, then Ticket Order Form. The signed liability waiver form must accompany the ticket request form. Please have your package ticket requests in by November 17, 2017. Space is limited so hurry and join us. Make check or money order (no cash please) payable to: George L. Carter Railroad Museum. Please mail the ticket request form along with the signed liability waiver form to:

George L. Carter Railroad Museum
ATTN: Carolyn Gregg
460 Plainview Heights Circle
Greeneville, TN 37745